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Year 28, No. 1456 Sunday Nov. 1, 2026 / Tel: +251-11 618 3253 | 11 661 0976 / Mob: +251-944 73 2300 / P.O. Box: 95/1110 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia / Price 100.00



Traders blame tax assessment disputes for business closures in Addis

By Eyasu Zekarias

Small businesses in Addis Ababa say disputed tax assessments and concerns over compulsory value-added tax (VAT) registration are forcing some traders to close their shops, while the city's Revenues Bureau maintains that its assessments follow established procedures and can be appealed.

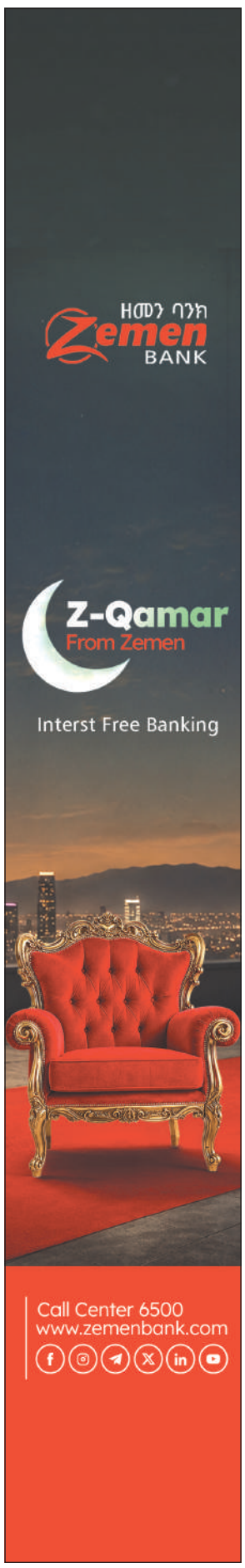
Business owners interviewed by Capital said estimated sales figures often exceed their actual receipts, adding to financial pressures from rising operating costs, commercial rents and narrow profit margins.

Three former business owners—a children's clothing retailer and two construction materials dealers—said they had closed their businesses after being unable to meet newly assessed tax obligations. Speaking on condition of anonymity, they said they continued to face lease liabilities for their vacated premises.

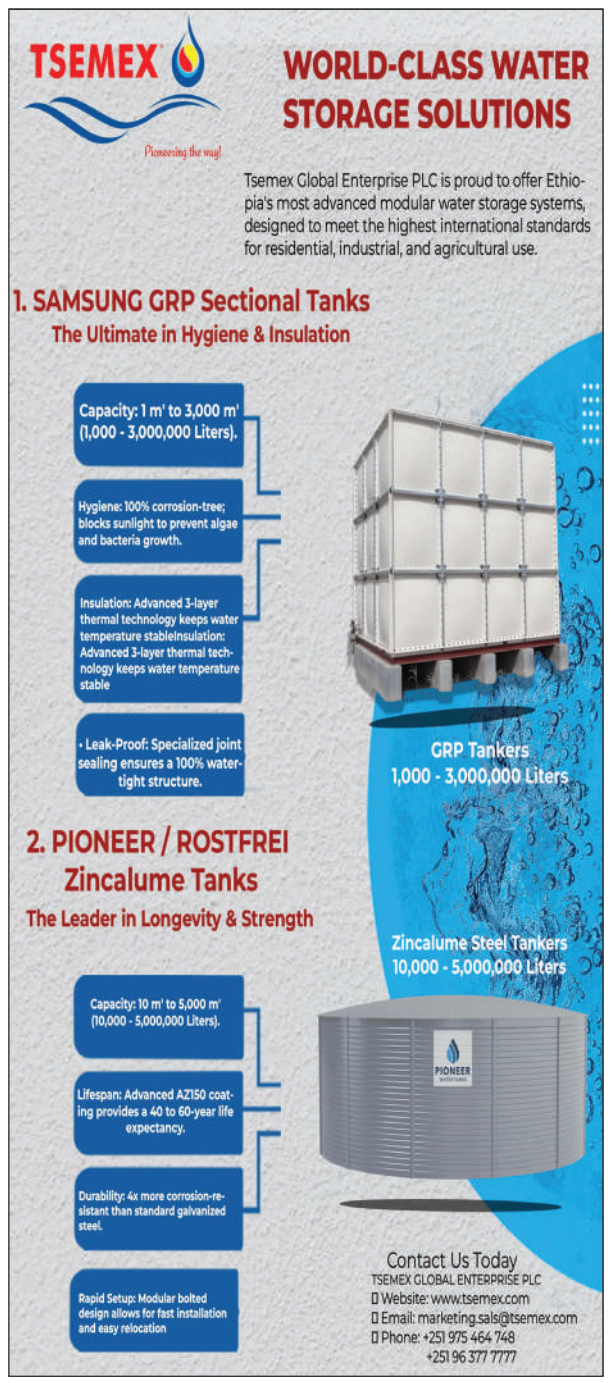
The Addis Ababa City Administration Revenues Bureau rejected

Page 6

Advertisement









Power for every home, opportunity for all

Electricity should not be a privilege determined by birthplace, household income or proximity to a transmission line. For Ethiopia, bringing reliable, affordable power to every home is among the most important investments the country can make. It is not the final destination of development, but it is a necessary foundation for prosperity.

Ethiopia's challenge is no longer simply to produce electricity. It is to deliver useful power to households, farms, schools, clinics and businesses. Generation capacity means little to a family living beneath power lines without a connection. National achievement must ultimately be measured at the household meter.

Ethiopia's National Energy Compact reports that 65 per cent of households had access to at least one electricity source in January 2025. However, only 29.3 per cent were connected to the national grid, while 35.7 per cent relied on off-grid solar solutions. These figures reveal both progress and the distance still to travel.

A solar light can improve an evening. Reliable electricity capable of powering refrigeration, machinery and irrigation can transform a livelihood. Ethiopia should therefore measure access not merely by whether a household has electricity, but by what that electricity enables people to do.

The first priority must be the last mile: distribution lines, transformers, meters and household wiring. Communities near existing networks should not wait indefinitely while institutions debate responsibility or procurement stalls. Connection programmes need public deadlines, transparent budgets and clear accountability for delays.

Remote communities need a different approach. Solar home systems and renewable mini-grids should complement national grid expansion, not be dismissed as temporary substitutes. Planning should match technology to geography, population density and productive demand, while setting standards for service quality and future upgrades.

Affordability must sit at the centre of this effort. A power line passing a village does not create access if families cannot afford connection charges. Ethiopia should expand instalment payments, targeted connection subsidies and support for safe household wiring.

Tariffs require equal care. Electricity utilities need enough revenue to maintain equipment and extend service. But reforms that balance utility accounts while disconnecting poor households defeat the purpose of electrification. A protected basic-consumption allowance, combined with transparent subsidies, would offer a fairer approach.

Public financing alone will not close the gap. The government should welcome private investment in mini-grids, equipment supply and service delivery, while maintaining clear consumer protections. Investors need predictable rules; households need affordable prices, dependable maintenance and somewhere to take complaints.

Ethiopia should insist that international financial institutions recognise electricity as productive infrastructure, not merely another expenditure to restrain. Debt assessments must take development needs seriously. But criticism is stronger when it is accurate.

It would be misleading to say the World Bank was wholly opposed to universal electrification. Its Ethiopia Electrification Program received US$375 million in initial financing and another US$250 million in 2023. In 2025, the Bank approved a further US$400 million credit for a programme intended to bring electricity to nearly six million people, alongside a Danish grant.

The IMF's historical concerns about Ethiopia's debt-financed infrastructure investment should likewise not be equated automatically with opposition to electricity access. Its assessments have acknowledged that infrastructure investment supported growth, while warning about repayment risks.

The legitimate debate concerns financing terms, policy priorities and how quickly investments deliver benefits. Ethiopia should resist advice that unnecessarily delays essential services, but it should also reject borrowing without credible implementation and repayment plans.

International partners should provide more grants, affordable long-term finance and practical technical assistance. Domestic authorities must match that support with transparent procurement, sound project selection and published results.

Universal access must connect households to opportunity. Electrification plans should include financing for productive equipment: grain mills, refrigeration, irrigation pumps, sewing machines and workshop tools. Otherwise, connections may increase without producing the incomes needed to sustain them.

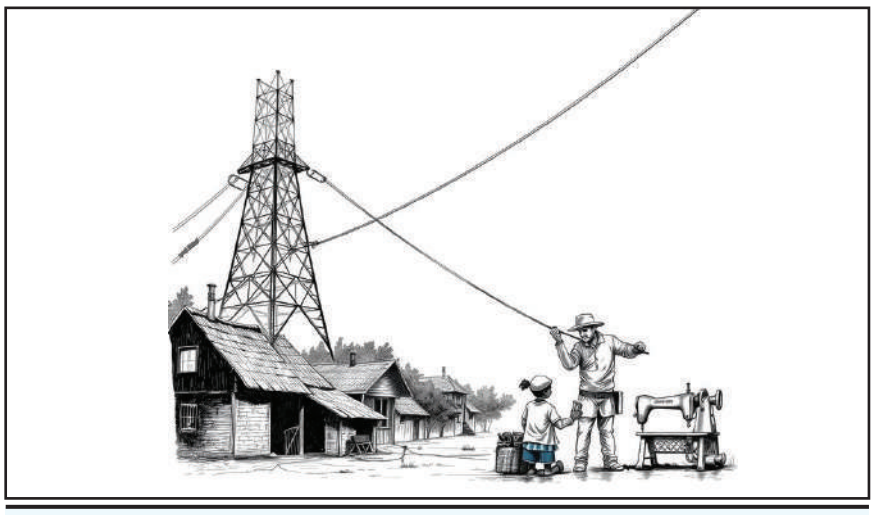
Schools and health facilities deserve priority, alongside markets and agricultural processing centres. Training electricians and local maintenance businesses should accompany installation. Equipment that cannot be repaired locally risks becoming another stranded investment.

Reliability is equally important. Governments should publish outage information and service-restoration targets, while utilities invest consistently in maintenance. For a small business, unpredictable electricity can undermine the value of a connection.

The task is substantial. World Bank programme documents estimate that reaching universal access by 2030 requires an average of roughly 3.1 million connections annually across grid and off-grid approaches. That demands delivery at an entirely different scale.

Ethiopia needs a household-level electrification roadmap, publicly monitored and protected from political distraction. Progress should be judged by functioning connections, affordable bills and productive use.

Light is not prosperity itself. But leaving people in darkness makes prosperity harder to reach. The next national achievement must be electricity that reaches everyone—and works.



By Tom Achoki, Nebiyu Dereje and Jean Kaseya

COMMENT

The World's Perilous Ebola Complacency

A catastrophic threat is exploding in the heart of Africa. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is currently battling the deadliest, fastest-moving Ebola outbreak in its history. In mid-May, the World Health Organization and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention declared a public health emergency of international concern and continental security. As of October 27, there were 10,193 cases and 4,960 deaths.

Yet amid rising geopolitical factionalism, the international response remains inadequate. The rest of the world is treating this ticking biological time bomb as a distant, localized problem, despite the risk of a catastrophic global health failure with massive socioeconomic consequences.

This political malaise is all the more alarming given the biological features of the current outbreak. Unlike past epidemics driven by the well-known Zaire ebolavirus strain, this one is caused by the rarer Bundibugyo virus, for which there are no fully licensed vaccines or proven antiviral treatments. Owing to the severity of the outbreak, health agencies have rushed to deploy a mix of cross-strain vaccines and rapid clinical testing. In most cases, responders are left with nothing but the most basic tools of containment, contact tracing, and isolation.

But in this conflict-torn region, containment is nearly impossible without massive, unified support. The epidemic is concentrated in northeastern DRC, where decades of armed conflict have displaced millions of people and severely weakened existing health systems. In these dire circumstances, health responders are able to trace only a fraction of contacts, well below the 95% operational target required to break the chain of transmission. The situation does not augur well for global biosecurity.

Worse still, funding cuts and fragmented global health strategies have undermined humanitarian operational capacity across the region. Humanitarian agencies, including the United Nations, are warning that the current funding situation is untenable given the pace of the virus's spread. Judging by other recent epidemics, political authorities around the rest of the world are inviting disaster by continuing to treat global health security as a discretionary line item.

In a hyper-connected world, an unchecked viral outbreak anywhere is a threat everywhere. The COVID-19 pandemic should have permanently dispelled the fallacy that border controls or geography can protect us. Donor countries must recognize that funding the Ebola response is an urgent matter of national security. The most effective way to safeguard global health is to control outbreaks at their source.

The international community must stop treating this crisis as an arena for geopolitical competition. Viruses do not care about the balance of power. The various donor countries supporting this response must set aside their rivalries and pool their resources under a unified command.

That command must be African. True global solidarity means stepping back so that national and continental leaders can take charge. With its Africa Health Security and Sovereignty Agenda, the Africa CDC has outlined a critical shift toward African-led public-health sovereignty. Acting as the central nervous system for the continent's health security, the agency commands the local trust, institutional mandate, and regional networks necessary to coordinate a cross-border defense.

The Africa CDC has not waited for a slow-moving global apparatus to deploy. Instead, it has rapidly orchestrated a joint continental response plan, driving regional cross-border surveillance, synchronizing health protocols between the DRC and its neighbors, and mobilizing epidemiologists and logisticians where they are needed most.

Crucially, the success of this defense relies on a national response plan anchored in the Africa CDC's strategic blueprint, which treats health security and regional socioeconomic stability as closely linked. Rather than deploying top-down, detached public-health interventions, the Africa CDC strategy relies on community-centered epidemiologic containment through a village-centered approach. Embedding local religious leaders, youth advocates, and trusted community health workers directly into the strategy actively preempts the toxic misinformation that often curtails the effectiveness of public-health responses.

The Africa CDC has established a clear plan to secure humanitarian access and halt this virus. But even the most well-conceived strategy is hollow without immediate financial backing. Pledges and commitments need to be converted into actual resources. To sustain the response, donors and regional partners must immediately bypass parallel aid networks and route financial support directly to African-led systems.

Even as the Ebola epidemic rages on, other health needs—including the prevention and treatment of common diseases such as malaria, HIV/AIDS, and tuberculosis—remain a pressing priority in the region. A well-coordinated, integrated approach that addresses overall population-health needs remains imperative.

The exponential trajectory of the DRC's Ebola outbreak is an urgent reminder that infectious diseases do not wait for ideal geopolitical alignments or balanced budgets. Global leaders face a stark, defining choice: fund the Africa-led regional response today, or pay an immeasurably higher price in human lives and economic devastation tomorrow. Solidarity is the only global defense. The health security of us all is too high a price to pay if the international community chooses complacency.

Tom Achoki, a former Sloan fellow at MIT, is a physician and Co-Founder of the Africa Institute for Health Policy.

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CAPITAL is a weekly business newspaper published and distributed every Sunday by CROWN PUBLISHING PLC.

CAPITAL is a registered newspaper with the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Ministry of Trade license number **14/673/21142/2004**.

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CROWN PUBLISHING is a private limited company registered with the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Broadcasting Authority under registration no. **34/2001** and with Addis Ababa City Administration Trade and Industry Development office under registration number **14/673/21142/2004**.

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Hibret Insurance targets market expansion and revenue diversification

By Eyasu Zekarias



Hibret Insurance S.C. is preparing for a new phase of expansion, with plans to diversify its revenue sources, strengthen its market presence, accelerate digital transformation and pursue a potential listing on the Ethiopian Securities Exchange (ESX).

The plans follow a strong financial performance in the 2025/26 fiscal year, during which net profit increased by 14.5 per cent to 965.32 million birr. Gross written premiums across its non-life and life insurance businesses, together with General Takaful contributions, rose by 24.18 per cent to 3.42 billion birr.

According to its 2025/26 annual report, Hibret is preparing a five-year strategic plan covering the 2027/28–2031/32 financial years while implementing its 2026/27 annual business plan. The plans will guide its next stage of development, focusing on financial resilience, operational efficiency, business diversification and long-term value creation.

One of the company's most significant strategic developments is its preparation to enter Ethiopia's emerging capital market.

On June 29, 2026, the Ethiopian Capital Market Authority (ECMA) approved Hibret Insurance's share registration statement, making it the first insurance company in Ethiopia to receive such approval under the country's capital market regulatory framework.

The share registration approval is distinct from a listing on the ESX, which remains a potential next step in the company's expansion plans.

Hibret has also strengthened its financial foundation through a substantial capital increase. Following a shareholder decision in December 2025 to raise its capital to two billion birr, paid-up capital increased by nearly 40 per cent, from 1.34 billion birr in 2024/25 to 1.88 billion birr by June 30, 2026.

The increase is expected to support business expansion, reinforce the company's ability to meet policyholder obligations and provide greater financial capacity to pursue its strategic priorities.

Wondwossen Teshome, chairman of the Board of Directors, said expanding the customer base and reducing dependence on non-life insurance are among Hibret's major priorities.

The annual report identifies life insurance and General Takaful as important growth areas. The company plans to target high-potential market segments and strengthen distribution partnerships with insurance brokers, banks, microfinance institutions and other financial service providers.

During the 2025/26 financial year, non-life insurance generated 3.17 billion birr in gross written premiums, accounting for approximately 93 per cent of the company's combined premium and contribution income. Life insurance contributed 196.8 million birr, while General Takaful generated 54.34 million birr.

Despite their smaller contributions, both segments recorded strong growth. Life insurance premiums increased by 38.69 per cent, while General Takaful contributions rose by 70.07 per cent.

The results indicate opportunities to expand in less-developed insurance segments and build a more balanced business structure. However, the company still faces challenges in making its emerging businesses financially sustainable.

General Takaful recorded a loss of 7.31 million birr during the year, although this represented a 37.4 per cent improvement compared with the previous financial year.

Hibret's planned partnerships with banks and microfinance institutions could help it reach customers through established financial networks and introduce insurance services to individuals and businesses with limited access to formal insurance products.

Digital transformation is another central pillar of Hibret's strategy as it seeks to improve service delivery, reduce operating costs and respond to changing customer expectations.

The company plans to accelerate implementation of its new core insurance system, upgrade digital platforms and customer service channels, expand self-service capabilities, and automate key operational and reporting processes.

According to Wondwossen, the Information Systems Management Department completed nearly all its core-platform readiness and departmental automation projects during 2025/26.

The company also upgraded software and hardware across its branches to improve connectivity and strengthen data centre capacity.

However, the transition to the new core insurance system experienced delays, while the acquisition of a separate life insurance system was postponed to the following financial year. Completing these projects has consequently become a priority for 2026/27.

Hibret also intends to strengthen cybersecurity, information governance and business continuity systems to support secure and reliable operations.

The company is seeking to increase income from rental properties, recoveries, salvage disposals and other sustainable sources.

During the reporting period, Hibret acquired the Alpaulo Building, a commercial property comprising a basement, a ground floor and five additional floors in the Beklo Bet area of Addis Ababa.

It also acquired office space at Kazanchis Real Estate, to which its Kazanchis Branch Office relocated and began operating.

The properties are expected to strengthen the company's asset base, support its operational requirements and generate additional income over time.

Hibret also plans to manage excess liquidity through short-term investments and, where commercially viable, income-generating real estate investments.

Investment activities already make a significant contribution to its financial performance. Net investment income increased by 32.64 per cent to 722.12 million birr during 2025/26, supporting growth in profit before tax.

Despite its expansion ambitions, Hibret faces financial and operational pressures that could affect the sustainability of its growth.

Insurance service expenses, before net reinsurance expenses, rose by 41.84 per cent to 1.74 billion birr during the reporting year. This exceeded the 24.18 per cent growth in combined gross written premiums and General Takaful contributions.

The increase was particularly pronounced in non-life insurance, where service expenses rose by 51.74 per cent to 1.61 billion birr.

Wondwossen said the company would maintain strict cost discipline across operational, administrative and capital expenditure while strengthening underwriting standards, claims management and risk assessment.

Hibret had 614 employees at the end of the reporting year, compared with 584 a year earlier. During the period, 523 employees participated in training programmes designed to strengthen their professional and operational capabilities.

The company plans to continue recruiting experienced insurance professionals, improving technical skills, developing leadership capabilities and expanding succession planning.

It also identifies a shortage of experienced professionals in Ethiopia's insurance industry as a challenge affecting operational efficiency and service delivery.

Customer retention, timely claims settlement, complaint resolution and insurance awareness campaigns will remain important components of its efforts to strengthen customer relationships and market confidence.

Global IP treaties targeted to boost export competitiveness

By Samuel Abate

Ethiopia is stepping up efforts to join international intellectual property agreements, seeking to help local businesses protect their products, technologies and brands abroad and strengthen their competitiveness in export markets.

The Ethiopian Intellectual Property Authority (EIPA) is coordinating with international organisations on participation in frameworks covering patents, trademarks, industrial designs and copyright, alongside reforms to the country's domestic intellectual property system.

EIPA Director General Woldu Yemessel told Capital that the initiative was progressing alongside Ethiopia's efforts to join the World Trade Organization (WTO).

"Intellectual property is fundamentally territorial," Woldu said. "Without participating in the international framework, a country cannot fully realize or capture the commercial value of its domestic innovation."

The plans were outlined following a three-day Cross-Regional African-Arab Forum hosted in Addis Ababa in collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

Held under the title Intellectual Property and Export Competitiveness: Leveraging the PCT, Madrid and Hague Systems for Market Access, the forum examined mechanisms for helping businesses and individuals seek protection for intellectual property across borders.

In his opening address, Woldu highlighted three WIPO-administered frameworks: the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), the Madrid System for trademarks and the Hague System for industrial designs.

Officials presented the systems as tools for streamlining applications across multiple jurisdictions and supporting businesses seeking to commercialise their products internationally.

EIPA said stronger cross-border protection would help Ethiopian exporters safeguard the intellectual property associated with their products as they pursue new markets.

Alongside the treaty initiatives, the authority is pursuing institutional and regulatory reforms intended to support innovation and the development of a knowledge-based economy.

According to figures presented by EIPA, Ethiopia recorded approximately 230 patent filings during the latest reporting period. Trademark registrations reached about 6,000, compared with 2,500 three years earlier.

The figures indicate increased use of intellectual property protection, although officials say further work is needed to expand participation by local innovators and businesses.

The authority's priorities include raising the commercial value of locally developed technologies, brands and creative work through stronger legal protection.

EIPA is also prioritising Geographical Indications (GIs), which link a product's quality or reputation to its geographical origin.

According to the authority, Ethiopia currently has no registered GIs, despite opportunities associated with its agricultural diversity and regional products.

EIPA plans to register between 10 and 15 GIs annually during an initial pilot phase. Its longer-term ambition is to increase registrations to between 1,000 and 2,000.

Officials said achieving those targets would require participation from producer cooperatives and regional trade associations, together with a supporting regulatory framework.

The initiative forms part of the authority's effort to help producers protect the identity and commercial value of products associated with particular locations.

EIPA officials said aligning domestic rules with international intellectual property frameworks would strengthen legal safeguards for Ethiopian businesses as the country expands trade under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

The proposed treaty participation and domestic reforms are intended to give exporters stronger tools to protect their products and brands while helping local innovators pursue commercial opportunities beyond Ethiopia.

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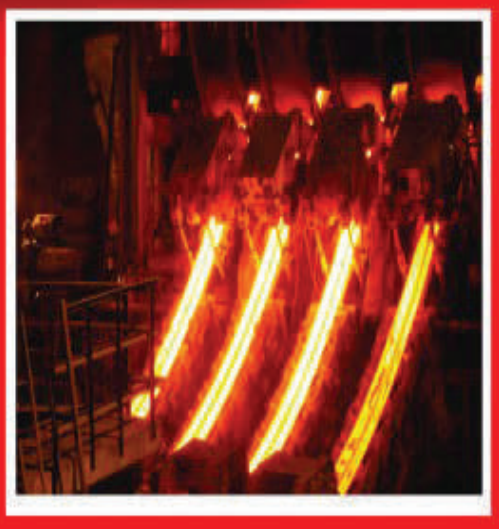
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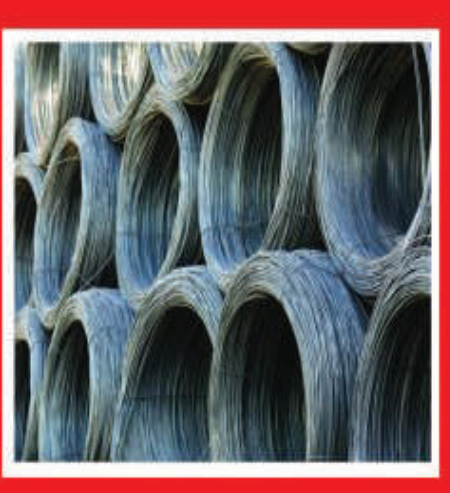
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Traders blame tax ...

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claims that businesses were being indiscriminately required to register for VAT. It said registration decisions were based on sales assessments conducted by committees, with opportunities for taxpayers to challenge the findings.

The concerns are particularly pronounced among small businesses selling mobile phone accessories, stationery, construction materials, clothing and general consumer goods.

Traders argue that assessors apply sales estimates that do not adequately reflect differences in location, customer traffic, inventory turnover and operating costs.

Biniyam Ashenafi, who operates a small retail and repair stall in the Akaki market, said assessments should distinguish between businesses selling expensive electronic devices and those offering low-cost accessories or repair services.

"Assuming that small mobile phone repair shops and retailers selling chargers, earphones, and phone covers earn a net profit of two million Birr per year is completely detached from reality," Biniyam told Capital. "There is a massive distinction between selling expensive electronic devices and running a small shop offering low-cost accessories or basic repair services."

He said earnings fluctuate depending on demand and operating expenses. Applying similar assessment methods to small accessory shops and larger electronics businesses, he argued, could create tax obligations that micro-enterprises cannot afford.

Meaza Alemu, who owns a stationery business, also called for a review of the assumptions used to estimate taxable income.

"The study used to establish income estimates must differentiate between large retailers operating in central commercial districts and small businesses operating in lower-traffic neighborhood areas," she said.

Meaza said the revenue figures assigned to her business did not correspond with the receipts recorded in her accounts.

Other traders interviewed by Capital said uncertainty over tax assessments had influenced decisions not to renew shop leases. Some said they were moving to online and social media sales to reduce the costs associated with physical premises.

The interviews point to individual business closures and changes in trading practices, although they do not establish the citywide scale of either trend.

Much of the concern centres on assessments used to determine whether businesses must register for VAT.

Traders say inflated daily sales estimates could bring them into the VAT system even when their actual turnover falls below the applicable threshold. Some said uncertainty over registration requirements and appeal procedures had prompted them to suspend operations.

Sewnet Ayele, communications director at the Revenues Bureau, told Capital that the registration exercise targets selected sectors and relies on committee-led assessments.

He said approximately 13 commercial sectors had been identified for closer assessment, including consumer electronics, cement, building materials and vehicle spare parts.

Sewnet emphasised that VAT registration is determined by turnover, rather than profit.

"In this context, VAT is not linked to profit. The primary metric is sales volume," he said.

According to Sewnet, the criteria being applied cover businesses assessed as generating daily sales of 7,000 birr or more, corresponding to annual turnover of approximately two million birr or above.

He said an appliance retailer selling televisions and refrigerators could record substantial gross sales even when the profit margin on each item was relatively small.

The distinction addresses a central point of disagreement: traders are describing pressure on their earnings, while the bureau says its VAT registration assessments concern the value of sales.

According to the bureau, assessment teams inspect individual shops, examine available inventory, consider local market conditions and compare businesses with similar enterprises before estimating daily sales.

Sewnet said taxpayers who disagree with an assessment can submit a formal appeal to their respective sub-city administrations.

A second team then revisits the premises, reviews inventory and reassesses market conditions before a final decision is made, he said.

"Traders are provided the opportunity to contest the assessment before any VAT registration certificate is formally issued," Sewnet said.

He maintained that the exercise was intended to promote fair competition and consistent treatment of businesses, rather than force small enterprises out of the market.

"The goal is to prevent unfair competition, ensuring that businesses operating in the same sector and at similar operational levels bear equivalent tax obligations," he said. "The administration's policy is not designed to eliminate small businesses, but to ensure equity while holding large taxpayers to their legal obligations."

The bureau is also introducing digital tax administration services. Sewnet said taxpayers could declare and pay taxes electronically, reducing the need for office visits, although some physical documentation and receipt collection remained necessary.

A bureau document issued in September 2026 outlines special declaration arrangements for selected Category A and Category B taxpayers who have struggled to prepare complete financial statements and maintain the required accounting records.

The document provides an alternative declaration pathway for the reporting period it covers, subject to taxpayers signing a commitment to establish the required audited accounting records in the following fiscal year.

It also sets out adjusted calculation methods for certain businesses, including transport operators and government contractors.

Some Category B transport businesses are permitted to calculate their obligations using adjustment factors applied to previously declared figures. Transitional arrangements are also outlined for taxpayers moving from Category C to Category B.

The document cites income tax and tax administration proclamations, amendments and related regulations as the legal basis for the measures.

Revenue officials cautioned, however, that the arrangements did not exempt businesses from compliance obligations. The bureau warned that deliberate underreporting or tax evasion could result in administrative penalties and criminal proceedings. According to the bureau, penalties for certain violations can reach 200 per cent of the tax liability.

For traders challenging their assessments, the immediate concern remains whether the review process will produce figures that reflect their actual business activity. The bureau, meanwhile, maintains that individual inspections and appeals provide a mechanism for correcting disputed estimates.

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New electrification index shows clean power advantage held back by limited access and infrastructure

By our staff reporter

Ethiopia has abundant, affordable clean electricity, but limited energy access and underdeveloped networks are holding back electrification across its economy, according to new global analysis.

The findings come as Ethiopia prepares to host COP32 in Addis Ababa in 2027 and as parliament approves a US$145.8 million concessional loan from the International Development Association to modernise electricity infrastructure and expand access to reliable power.

The analysis finds that Ethiopia generates almost all its electricity from clean sources, primarily hydropower, and has achieved rapid electric vehicle adoption. Electric cars accounted for 60 per cent of new passenger car purchases in 2024.

However, around 40 per cent of the population still lacks electricity access, while inadequate grid infrastructure, limited industrial electrification and low household electricity use are constraining wider progress.

The Electrification Competitiveness Index assesses how far electrification has progressed in different countries, examining both developments on the ground and the conditions needed for further progress.

Ethiopia scores 45 per cent for deployment and 38 per cent for enabling conditions, making it the only country in the Index where progress on the ground outpaces the policies and other conditions supporting further growth.

It falls within the Index's "risk of stalling" group, alongside Australia, Brazil, South Korea and the United States.

The Index says Ethiopia's abundant clean electricity and progress in electric transport provide a foundation for growth. However, extending electricity access and improving infrastructure will be essential to unlocking wider economic benefits.

Electrification combined with clean power can reduce reliance on fossil fuels, strengthen energy security, reduce exposure to volatile fuel prices, support growth and productivity, cut emissions and improve health through cleaner air.

Ethiopia scores 19 out of 30 for deployment in grids and power markets, but 12 out of 30 for enabling conditions.

The country generates almost all its electricity from clean sources, mainly hydropower, providing relatively affordable power. Yet only 55 per cent of the population had electricity access in 2023.

The Index says electricity network development remains limited despite major expansion in generation capacity. It identifies faster delivery of the National Electrification Programme and greater investment in grid and off-grid electricity systems as priorities.

Ethiopia scores 8 out of 20 for both deployment and enabling conditions in industry.

Abundant low-cost electricity offers opportunities to reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels, but industrial electrification remains limited and much of the sector continues to use oil and coal.

The Index identifies grid reliability, greater investment and stronger equipment-efficiency standards as priorities.

In buildings, Ethiopia scores 7 out of 20 for deployment and 5 out of 20 for enabling conditions.

Electricity accounts for only 2 per cent of residential energy consumption, with biomass remaining the main fuel for cooking. Limited electricity access and insufficient appliance standards are restricting progress, despite the potential for affordable clean electricity to support a shift to electric cooking and other technologies.

Road transport is Ethiopia's strongest area in the Index, scoring 9 out of 20 for deployment and 11 out of 20 for enabling conditions.

Electric vehicles accounted for 60 per cent of new passenger car purchases in 2024, following a ban on imports of combustion-engine vehicles alongside tax and tariff incentives.

The country is also expanding charging infrastructure, although nationwide coverage remains at an early stage.

The Index identifies several priorities for Ethiopia, including accelerating the National Electrification Programme, expanding grid connections and off-grid electricity access, and attracting investment through electricity market reforms.

It also recommends strengthening industrial and appliance efficiency standards, increasing training for electrical workers, extending transport electrification success to industry and buildings, and continuing reform of fossil fuel subsidies.

Molly Walton, Director of Energy at We Mean Business Coalition, said Ethiopia has a major advantage in its abundant, affordable clean electricity.

"Ethiopia has a major advantage in its abundant, affordable clean electricity, providing an opportunity to strengthen industry, reduce dependence on imported fuels and support economic growth," she said.

"But much of that potential remains untapped because electricity networks are not reaching enough businesses and households."

She said the priority now is expanding access to reliable electricity and building the infrastructure needed to support wider electrification.

"Accelerating grid development, investing in rural electricity access and attracting more private investment would help Ethiopia make greater use of its clean power resources," Walton said.

"Stronger industrial policies, efficiency standards and workforce development would also help extend the benefits of electrification beyond transport into businesses and homes."

The Index was developed by We Mean Business Coalition with support from RMI. It assesses 16 countries: Australia, Brazil, China, Ethiopia, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, the Philippines, Poland, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States.

China leads the Index on electrification deployment, while the United States risks losing momentum amid federal policy reversals and grid bottlenecks.

France and Spain combine strong policies with progress on the ground, while other major European economies, including the UK, Germany, Italy and Poland, have yet to translate their policy frameworks into comparable results.

The research finds a sizeable global implementation gap. The median Enablers score across the 16 countries is 67 per cent, compared with 45 per cent for Deployment. Fourteen of the 16 countries score higher on Enablers than Deployment.

The gap reflects different challenges across countries, including the recent introduction of some policies, policy uncertainty, grid-connection delays and incentives that remain misaligned between fossil fuels and clean electricity.

María Mendiluce, Chief Executive Officer of We Mean Business Coalition, said electrification is becoming a test of economic competitiveness and energy security.

"Those countries like China, France and Spain with strong deployment and enablers show what can happen when investment, infrastructure, industrial strategy and demand move together," she said.

"Elsewhere, governments have put many of the right policies in place, but businesses still need affordable clean electricity, grid connections and the confidence to invest. The competitive advantage now comes from turning policy into delivery."

The findings are released after the COP31 Presidency's call for electricity to supply 35 per cent of global final energy demand by 2035, up from just over 20 per cent today.

They also follow the first six months of the Hormuz crisis, during which fossil-fuel importing countries paid an additional US$330 billion for seaborne oil and LNG.

According to the International Energy Agency, faster electrification could cut fossil import costs by around US$400 billion a year by 2035.

The Index assesses 52 indicators covering grids and power markets, road transport, industry, buildings and cross-cutting readiness. It measures Deployment and Enablers separately to show not only how electrified countries are today, but whether they are creating the conditions for further investment.

African travelers embrace digital travel, but visa rules remain major barrier

By our staff reporter

African travelers are among the most satisfied with air travel globally, but they are also the most likely to be discouraged from visiting a destination because of immigration requirements, according to the International Air Transport Association's (IATA) 2026 Global Passenger Survey.

The survey, released on October 28 in Macao, found that 89 per cent of African travelers reported overall satisfaction with air travel, unchanged from 2025. However, 52 per cent said immigration requirements had discouraged them from visiting a particular destination, the highest proportion of any region.

Complexity was the leading concern among African travelers deterred by entry requirements, followed by cost.

"Passengers are embracing technology to make travel easier. AI is becoming a mainstream travel planning tool, while biometrics and digital identity are creating a faster and more seamless airport experience," said Nick Careen, IATA's Senior Vice President for Operations, Safety and Security.

"Yet many travelers continue to face barriers from complex immigration and visa processes."

Although biometric adoption in Africa remains among the lowest globally, interest in digital travel solutions is among the strongest.

The survey found that 49 per cent of African travelers had experienced biometrics at an airport in the past 12 months, up four percentage points from 2025. This compares with a global average of 58 per cent.

Despite lower use, 82 per cent of African travelers said they would be willing to share biometric information if it allowed them to skip showing a passport or boarding pass at airport checkpoints. This is above the global average of 78 per cent.

Interest in digital passports is also strong. Some 87 per cent of African travelers said they would be interested in using a digital passport for online check-in, compared with 84 per cent globally.

In addition, 52 per cent of African travelers reported using artificial intelligence (AI) for travel planning, above the global average of 49 per cent.

Globally, nearly half of travelers—49 per cent—have used AI to plan travel. The most common use is searching for flights to a specific destination, reported by 21 per cent of passengers. Another 19 per cent have used AI to find the cheapest flights, while 17 per cent have used it for destination inspiration.

IATA said airlines need to ensure their offerings are visible in AI tools and provide convenient links that allow travelers to move from an AI conversation to an actual booking.

"People are using AI to plan their travel. It's important for airlines not only to ensure their offerings show up in AI, but also to develop convenient links to convert an AI conversation into a real booking," Careen said.

Nearly six in 10 passengers globally reported experiencing biometrics at least once in the past 12 months, up from 50 per cent in 2025 and 24 percentage points higher than in 2022.

Satisfaction among users has also reached its highest level, with 87 per cent saying they were happy with the experience.

Some 78 per cent of travelers globally said they would be willing to share biometric information if it meant they could avoid showing a passport or boarding pass at airport checkpoints.

Of these, 75 per cent prefer to register once in advance so they can be recognised automatically throughout the airport journey.

However, trust remains a major issue. Globally, 59 per cent of passengers cited data breaches as their main concern, while 49 per cent worried about information being shared with other organisations. A further 41 per cent said there was insufficient clarity on how their personal information is handled.

The survey found that entry requirements are an increasing barrier to travel. Globally, 43 per cent of passengers said immigration requirements had discouraged them from visiting a destination, up from 33 per cent in 2025.

Among travelers discouraged by immigration requirements, 53 per cent said the process was too complex. Privacy and cost were each cited by 17 per cent.

Passengers increasingly want visa processes to be digital, faster and completed before they reach the airport.

Globally, 86 per cent said they would be willing to share immigration information digitally before departure to speed up processes, up from 83 per cent in 2025.

Some 45 per cent would prefer to complete immigration procedures before arriving at the airport, while 60 per cent prefer applying for a visa online rather than in person at a consulate or embassy.

IATA said more than 100 countries issue eVisas, but there is little consistency in how they are checked. It urged governments to adopt common standards to allow airlines to verify digital travel documents efficiently.

"eVisas can deliver that, but airlines can only verify them efficiently if governments use common standards," Careen said.

Asia-Pacific travelers reported the highest overall satisfaction at 90 per cent, followed by the Middle East, also at 90 per cent, and Africa at 89 per cent.

Europe recorded the lowest overall satisfaction at 84 per cent, down one percentage point from 2025. European travelers were also the most cautious about adopting digital travel technology, with below-average use of AI and biometrics.

North American travelers reported the highest use of biometrics at 63 per cent, but also the strongest concerns about data breaches.

Travelers from Latin America and the Caribbean reported the largest improvement in satisfaction, rising five percentage points to 85 per cent.

Middle East travelers were the most likely to use AI for travel planning, at 72 per cent, and showed the strongest interest in digital passports and biometric identification.

IATA said governments can support travel growth by simplifying entry requirements, eliminating duplicate checks and accelerating the issuance and acceptance of secure digital travel credentials.

For Africa, where interest in digital solutions is high but biometric use remains comparatively low, the findings suggest a major opportunity to modernise airport processes and visa systems.

The association said a common framework for issuing and accepting digital passports—or Digital Travel Credentials—would be essential to making biometrics the norm for international travel.

Deposit Insurance Fund collects 2.61 billion birr in first-quarter premiums

By our staff reporter

The Ethiopian Deposit Insurance Fund (EDIF) collected 2.61 billion birr in deposit insurance premiums during the first quarter of the fiscal year, meeting its quarterly target and recording a 25.48 per cent increase compared with the same period last year.

The Fund attributed the increase primarily to growth in deposits held by member banks and microfinance institutions, according to its first-quarter financial performance report.

The latest collections bring cumulative premium receipts to 26.03 billion birr since the Fund began operations. Of this amount, 23.55 billion birr came from conventional deposits and 2.48 billion birr from interest-free deposits.

Private commercial banks accounted for the largest share of cumulative premium contributions, providing 13.17 billion birr, or 50.60 per cent of the total.

The Commercial Bank of Ethiopia contributed 12.55 billion birr, representing approximately 48.1 per cent, while microfinance institutions contributed 310 million birr, or 1.19 per cent.

Premium contributions form part of the financial resources the Fund accumulates to compensate eligible depositors when a covered financial institution fails.

EDIF also reported continued investment of its accumulated resources in government treasury bills and Mudarabah investment accounts.

Its total investment portfolio reached 27.24 billion birr, comprising 24.88 billion birr in government treasury bills and 2.36 billion birr in Mudarabah accounts.

The Fund said it has generated cumulative investment income of 4.97 billion birr since commencing operations.

Investment returns supplement premium collections and help strengthen the Fund's capacity to meet potential obligations to depositors.

EDIF has been operational for more than three years, providing deposit insurance for individuals and businesses holding funds in member banks and microfinance institutions.

Under the existing arrangement, the Fund provides compensation of up to 100,000 birr per depositor if a covered financial institution fails.

The scheme is intended to protect eligible depositors and strengthen public confidence in the banking and microfinance sectors.

The first-quarter results show growth in both premium collections and invested resources as the Fund continues to build its financial capacity. Its ability to meet future obligations will also depend on effective investment management and the financial soundness of participating institutions.

Ethiopia seeks $11 billion for National Electrification Plan

By Samuel Abate

Ethiopia is seeking nearly US$11 billion from the World Bank and other development partners to help finance a national electrification plan aimed at achieving universal electricity access within 10 years.

The third National Electrification Plan (NEP 3), unveiled following 18 months of discussions, requires more than US$18 billion, according to the Ministry of Water and Energy.

External partners are expected to provide approximately 61 per cent of the financing.

Mesfin Dabi, the ministry's executive director of Energy and Electrification Information, said the plan targets electricity access for 32.5 million households over the next decade.

Approximately 4.4 million households would receive electricity through off-grid solutions, including solar power, while the remainder would be served through the national grid.

Mesfin said government resources alone would be insufficient, making development financing and private investment essential. The government aims to raise electricity access to 75 per cent within five years before achieving universal coverage.

Private investors are expected to contribute about US$800 million towards off-grid solutions. Additional financing for these systems would be sought through carbon credit sales, according to the ministry's presentation.

Mesfin said the World Bank had previously provided more than US$1.6 billion in concessional loans to support electricity access.

Nora Kipwala, a senior energy specialist at the World Bank, said the institution would continue supporting Ethiopia's electrification efforts alongside reforms to strengthen sector performance.

She said support extended beyond household connections to institutional capacity, tariff reforms, technical efficiency and affordability.

"The private sector shouldn't be an observer," Kipwala said, calling for conditions that encourage investment.

She cited the ADELE and PRIME programmes and highlighted the need to link electricity access with productivity, employment and improved livelihoods.

Ethiopia also participates in Mission 300, a joint World Bank and African Development Bank initiative targeting electricity access for 300 million people in sub-Saharan Africa by 2030.

Kipwala said the ASCENT Ethiopia programme supported the country's access ambitions. She urged programmes that incentivise private investment, describing business participation as critical to delivering NEP 3.

The proposed external financing remains a funding target, rather than an announced commitment from development partners.

Advertisement



Dashen Bank's profit more than doubles to 15.2 billion birr

By our staff reporter

Dashen Bank reported a 127.6 per cent increase in profit before tax to 15.2 billion birr for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2026, supported by growth in revenue, deposits and digital banking activity.

The bank announced the results at its 33rd ordinary and 29th extraordinary meetings on October 29. Total revenue rose by 49.2 per cent to 46.9 billion birr, while assets increased by 37.4 per cent to 350 billion birr, from 254.5 billion birr a year earlier.

Deposits reached 280 billion birr, up 36.9 per cent, after the bank mobilised an additional 75.4 billion birr during the year. Gross loans and advances, including interest-free banking financing, stood at 165.4 billion birr.

Dulla Mekonnen, chairman of the bank's Board of Directors, said the performance reflected continued investment in digital transformation, customer expansion and resource mobilisation.

The bank also reported generating more than US$1.4 billion in foreign currency during the period.

Dashen's customer base exceeded nine million across conventional and interest-free banking services, following the addition of 1.35 million customers during the year.

Its nationwide network comprised 900 branches, 1,206 automated teller machines and 4,081 point-of-sale channels, alongside an expanding merchant network.

The Dashen Super App processed more than 29.4 million transactions worth over 309 billion birr during the reporting period. The bank said daily transaction values on the platform exceeded 2.5 billion birr.

Chief Executive Officer Asfaw Alemu attributed the results to customer confidence, employee commitment and the bank's ability to adapt to changing market conditions.

He said Dashen would continue expanding its customer base, accelerating digital adoption and investing in its next phase of growth.

Dashen is also preparing to enter investment banking through its subsidiary, Dashen Capital S.C., which is intended to offer asset management, securities trading and corporate finance services.

Dulla said the bank was awaiting final regulatory approval to launch a dedicated investment banking unit. Documentation has been completed, while recruitment of specialist staff is underway.

The proposed investment banking licence is separate from the share registration approval granted by the Ethiopian Capital Market Authority in December 2025.

During the fiscal year, Dashen said it continued providing financing to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, women-led businesses, and businesses operating in agriculture, trade, healthcare and manufacturing.

The bank also allocated 200 million birr to community development and environmental protection initiatives.

It said it was strengthening its environmental, social and governance practices, including the management of climate-related risks and the expansion of green and inclusive financing.

Dashen said technology investment, broader financial access and service improvements would remain priorities as Ethiopia's financial sector evolves.

Study identifies four promising sites for wind power development

By Samuel Abate

Gode, Mega, Arerti and Sela Dingay have been identified as promising locations for utility-scale wind power development in Ethiopia, according to research presented at the 3rd Ethiopian Water and Energy Week in Addis Ababa.

The study found that Gode and Mega have the strongest wind resources among the five locations assessed. However, it recommended prioritising Arerti for near-term development because of its proximity to major electricity consumers and existing transmission infrastructure.

Dr. Solomon Feleke of Debre Berhan University presented the findings during the event, held from October 26 to 30, 2026, at the Addis Ababa Science Museum.

The research assessed Gode in the Somali Region, Mega in Oromia, and Arerti, Sela Dingay and Debre Berhan in the Amhara Region. It examined how wind generation could diversify Ethiopia's electricity supply and complement its predominantly hydropower-based system.

According to figures presented with the study, Ethiopia has 8,419 megawatts of installed hydropower capacity, representing 94.1 per cent of total generation capacity. Wind power accounts for 504 megawatts, or 5.6 per cent.

The assessment drew on meteorological mast measurements, NASA data and the Global Wind Atlas. Researchers analysed wind speed, power density, wind frequency and statistical distributions to evaluate the suitability of each location.

Gode and Mega recorded the highest wind power density, at approximately 500–600 watts per square metre. At a height of 100 metres, Gode had a mean wind speed of about 8.6 metres per second, while Mega also demonstrated strong wind potential.

The study estimated the annual electricity output of a three-megawatt turbine at each site, assuming an 80-metre hub height and a 20 per cent loss factor to account for turbulence, mechanical and electrical losses, and downtime.

Under those assumptions, a turbine in Gode could generate approximately 9,461 megawatt-hours annually, with a capacity factor of 36 per cent.

Mega followed with an estimated 9,040 megawatt-hours and a capacity factor of 34.4 per cent, while Arerti could produce 8,619 megawatt-hours, with a capacity factor of 32.8 per cent.

Estimated annual output was 7,358 megawatt-hours per turbine in Sela Dingay and 5,886 megawatt-hours in Debre Berhan.

The figures are modelled estimates, not measurements from operating wind farms.

The study also found relatively stable wind patterns in Gode and Arerti, while Mega's winds frequently came from a dominant direction. These characteristics could inform turbine orientation, spacing and wind farm design.

Despite the stronger wind resources in Gode and Mega, the research recommended Arerti as a priority for near-term investment.

Its proximity to major electricity users and existing 132-kilovolt and 230-kilovolt transmission lines could reduce the need for additional transmission infrastructure and associated costs.

The study also recommended pursuing large-scale commercial investment opportunities in Gode and Mega.

For Debre Berhan, where wind resources at a height of 100 metres were assessed as marginal, researchers suggested considering taller turbines to improve generation potential.

Gode, Mega, Arerti and Sela Dingay were identified as viable candidates for utility-scale commercial generation, although further assessments would be required before projects could proceed.

The research highlighted wind power's potential to complement hydropower, particularly during dry seasons when reduced water availability may constrain hydroelectric generation.

A more diversified generation mix could help reduce exposure to drought and changes in rainfall while supporting energy security.

The presentation recommended further work to optimise turbine placement, assess wind farm layouts and determine how additional wind generation could be integrated into the national grid.

Titled Assessment of Potential Wind Sites for Power Integration in Ethiopia: A Case Study of Arerti, Sela Dingay, Debre Berhan, Mega, and Gode, the study was presented during a high-level session on universal electrification, energy security and affordable energy access.

The findings identify potential development sites rather than approved projects. Decisions on which plants to develop will rest with the Ministry of Water and Energy as it assesses options for meeting electricity demand and expanding access.

ICAO urges Ethiopia to strengthen incentives to retain aviation inspectors

By Samuel Abate

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has urged Ethiopia to improve incentives, working conditions and resources for aviation inspectors, warning that recent compensation increases may not be enough to retain experienced technical personnel.

The recommendation followed a safety oversight audit conducted from October 14 to 27, 2026, which identified staffing, training, organisational capacity and regulatory implementation as areas requiring further attention at the Ethiopian Civil Aviation Authority (ECAA).

The audit team, led by Ousman Kemo Manjang, welcomed improvements in inspectors' compensation but called for additional measures to recruit, train and retain qualified staff. It also highlighted the need for appropriate equipment, training and working facilities to support inspectors in carrying out their responsibilities.

ECAA Director General Yohannes Abera said the government had approved a new incentives and benefits package for regulatory staff two weeks before the audit debriefing.

The ICAO team emphasised that support should extend across the authority's technical divisions to help it meet growing oversight demands.

The staffing recommendations come as Ethiopia's aviation sector expands, increasing demand for inspectors capable of monitoring compliance with national regulations and international standards.

According to the audit results presented, Ethiopia recorded an overall effective implementation score of 85.76 per cent, up 22.84 percentage points from the 62.92 per cent recorded in the previous audit in 2015.

Yohannes said the sector had grown substantially over that period.

"In 2015, when ICAO audited us, we had only 99 registered aircraft, nine air operators and four aviation schools. Today, we have 269 registered aircraft, 13 air operators and six aviation schools, and our capacity has increased to accommodate 700 aircraft," he said.

"The results we have achieved are encouraging, and we hope to reach 100 percent in the coming years."

Despite the overall improvement, the results presented showed declines in several technical and organisational categories.

The organisational oversight score fell from 77.78 per cent to 72.73 per cent, while airworthiness oversight declined from 98.06 per cent to 89.38 per cent.

Air navigation services dropped from 87.38 per cent to 80 per cent, operations declined from 83.9 per cent to 80.16 per cent, and personnel licensing edged down from 88.61 per cent to 87.91 per cent.

By contrast, the legislation score increased from 76.19 per cent to 90.91 per cent, while aerodromes and ground aids improved slightly from 91.6 per cent to 91.97 per cent.

Beyond staffing, the audit identified shortcomings in the country's aviation legislation.

The team raised concerns about provisions in the 2020 aviation law concerning the recognition of certificates and licences issued by other states under arrangements associated with Article 83 bis. According to the auditors, the wording makes recognition discretionary where it should be mandatory under the relevant international framework.

The audit also found that Ethiopia had not formally notified or published significant differences between its national aviation regulations and ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices in its Aeronautical Information Publication.

Yohannes said a draft revised aviation law had been submitted to the Council of Ministers for approval.

The proposed revision is intended to address deficiencies in the existing framework. The authority will also need to demonstrate consistent implementation of the updated requirements.

The assessment of Ethiopia's State Safety Programme recorded a score of 81.25 per cent.

The ICAO team said the country had established much of the necessary documentation but needed to strengthen safety data collection and analysis to support a more mature, risk-based oversight system.

Auditors also called for improved record-keeping, guidance materials and implementation of oversight procedures across aviation divisions. These measures are intended to ensure that regulations are applied consistently and that safety risks are identified and addressed.

Aircraft accident and incident investigation was excluded from the latest assessment. ICAO said a separate audit would cover that area, with its findings subsequently combined with the current assessment in a consolidated report.

Lessons from Africa's Drone Wars

The rapid diffusion and growing use of inexpensive, attritable unmanned systems by Africa's armed nonstate actors is reducing governments' longstanding advantage in airpower. Armed nonstate actors across Africa are rapidly expanding their employment of commercially modified small unmanned systems, giving them an advantage over government forces. African military drone capabilities remain concentrated on imported long-endurance platforms and possess limited counter-unmanned aerial systems (C-UAS) capabilities. African governments should adopt a risk-based doctrine for countering the armed nonstate actor drone threat that combines layered C-UAS defenses, efforts to restrict illicit drone supply chains, and the integration of small unmanned systems into force structures optimized for irregular warfare.

Africa Center for Strategic Studies

Drone Attacks Hit Sudan's Um Dabaker Power Station, Cutting Electricity to Two States

Drone strikes hit the Um Dabaker thermal power station in Rabak early on Thursday, cutting electricity to Sudan's White Nile and North Kordofan states. The strike is part of an escalating series of attacks on energy facilities in areas controlled by the Sudanese army. ... The attacks targeted the main feeders and the station's control room, knocking the facility offline, local sources said. ... The escalation represents a continued targeting of civilian infrastructure that threatens basic services, including water, health facilities, and food supplies, the legal group said. ... About 13 power stations have been targeted in October, worsening the humanitarian crisis, the group noted.

Sudan Tribune

Ethiopia Acquires Russian Fighter Jets and Air Defence Systems amid War in Tigray

Ethiopia has received 12 Su-35 fighter jets from Russia, as fighting intensified in the northern Tigray region neighbouring Eritrea. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, who is attending the Russia-Africa summit in Moscow, described the acquisition as a "milestone" that would boost Ethiopia's defence capacity. He said Ethiopia and Russia agreed on the deal several years ago and the warplanes had come ahead of schedule. He also said that Ethiopia had plans to acquire four S-400 air defence systems from Moscow. ... Ethiopia has extensively used military drones, including those sourced from Turkey and China, in recent conflicts.

BBC

UN Political Mission Ends in Somalia with No Agreed Replacement to Handle Election Dispute

The United Nations' political mission in Somalia ends Saturday, closing more than three decades of successive U.N. missions that helped rebuild a country shattered by civil war and leaving no agreed replacement to help rival leaders resolve disputes. The government calls the closure a milestone in Somalia's ability to manage its own affairs. But opposition figures and analysts warn that it comes at a time when the president's right to remain in office is contested, militants fight on and drought deepens humanitarian needs. Somalia's government asked the U.N. to close the mission in 2024. The Security Council approved a two-year handover of its work to Somali institutions and other U.N. bodies. The departing United Nations Transitional Assistance Mission in Somalia has advised Somali leaders and helped resolve political disputes. African Union troops will continue supporting Somali forces fighting militants, and U.N. aid agencies will remain in the country. A separate U.N. office will continue providing supplies, transport and other support to African Union troops and some Somali security units.

AP

Number of People Fleeing Ethiopia into Kenya Rises to 36,000 as Local Leaders Appeal for Support

The number of people fleeing violence in Ethiopia into neighboring Kenya has risen to 36,000, the United Nations said Tuesday, as fighting near the border town of Moyale continues to displace civilians, mostly women and children. The Kenya Red Cross said the displaced people were sheltering in six camps and villages within host communities. ... The fighting on the Ethiopian side of the border stems from a territorial dispute between the Oromia and Somali regional administrations, aggravated by the killing of a 13-year-old girl in an area administered by the Somali regional administration. ... Local leaders in Kenya's Marsabit County expressed concern that the influx could overwhelm communities hosting thousands of those fleeing and appealed for support. The violence has raised security concerns on the Kenyan side of the border, with police reporting three incidents involving stray bullets in Moyale last week.

AP

UN Commission Warns of 'Constitutional Coup' in South Sudan

The UN Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan called on member states and regional and international partners to take urgent action to prevent renewed conflict and secure lasting peace, irrespective of the electoral timetable. The commission warned that the political settlement established in 2018 to prevent another war is being undermined, putting civilians and the country's fragile transition at grave risk. "A negotiated settlement has been displaced under cover of elections. This amounts to a constitutional coup through legislative reforms: the unilateral dismantling of the inclusive power-sharing settlement and concentration of all authority in the President," Yasmin Sooka, chair of the commission, told the UN General Assembly's Third Committee.

Radio Tamazuj

Term of the Day

JUMBO LOAN

Definition

A jumbo loan is a loan that exceeds Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) conforming limits for conventional mortgages. It's often used for luxury or high-cost properties in highly expensive real estate markets.

Advertisement



Spotlight

Ever catch the perfect picture with your digital camera or camera phone and wish you could find a way for others to experience it? Here is your chance. If you find yourself at the right place at the right time and happen to catch an amazing scene you believe someone else should see, send us your news pictures with no more than 30 words to spotlight@capitalethiopia.com and we will publish it.

PHOTO: Anteneh Aklilu

SITA strengthens its position in airline operations with agreement to acquire Flightscape

SITA has agreed to acquire Flightscape, CAE Inc.'s airline operations software business, whose solutions help airlines plan flights, manage crews, control operations, coordinate ground activities and deliver in-flight services. The acquisition will help airlines make better operational decisions and coordinate recovery more effectively across the aviation ecosystem.

As aviation grows, so does the complexity of running it. By 2050, more than 10 billion people are expected to fly each year, while disruption continues to affect daily operations. Every flight depends on the different partners across the industry working together, yet each sees only part of what is happening.

"Airlines need to make the best possible use of their aircraft, crews and infrastructure while responding to increasingly complex operational challenges," said David Lavorel, Chief Executive Officer, SITA. "With Flightscape, we will bring together our respective complementary capabilities to strengthen what we offer airlines and connect their operational decisions with insight from across the aviation ecosystem. That will help our customers anticipate disruption, recover more effectively and run more resilient operations."

Kenya becomes first African country to join the Dengue Alliance

Kenya has become the first African country to join the Dengue Alliance, with the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) becoming part of the global partnership dedicated to advancing dengue treatment research. The country's entry into the Alliance was formally announced during its meeting held on 27 October in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Established in 2022, the Dengue Alliance brings together research institutions in dengue-endemic countries to accelerate the development of safe, effective, affordable, and accessible treatments for dengue. Its membership includes the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi) and research institutions from Brazil, Malaysia, India, and Thailand, with Kenya now joining the international collaboration.

'Dengue is a growing public health concern in Africa, but its true burden remains underestimated due to underdiagnosis and underreporting. Through the Dengue Alliance, KEMRI will contribute African expertise and evidence to strengthen global efforts to advance dengue research, surveillance, diagnostics, and clinical management,' said Dr Erick Muok, Acting Director of Research and Development at KEMRI.

This new membership will expand the geographic and scientific reach of the Alliance, creating new avenues for dengue research on much-needed treatments, and ensure patients from the African continent are prioritized in future studies.

Off-Grid Solar Gains Ground as Least-Cost Driver of Energy Access, Jobs and Growth

Off-grid solar is reaching more people than ever and increasingly powering more livelihoods, businesses, and essential services. According to the Off-Grid Solar Market Trends Report 2026, released today by the World Bank Group's Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) and GOGLA, the global off-grid solar association, at the Global Off-Grid Solar Forum and Expo in Kigali, the number of people using solar home systems, water pumps, generators, lanterns and other off-grid solar products rose by 26% over the past two years, from 118 million to 149 million*.

The report finds that off-grid solar remains the least-cost solution for at least 398 million people without access to electricity and a strong complement to the grid, often serving communities beyond its reach. Reaching those populations by 2030 will require sustained public and private investment, supported by policies that improve affordability and expand access to financing.

Long considered a bridge to the grid, off-grid solar is now recognized as infrastructure. As energy prices rise, off-grid solar offers a secure, resilient and affordable source of power for households, farms, schools, health facilities, and small businesses, while complementing investments in grid expansion and mini-grids.

THE REAL HEROES



FEEDING THE HORSE



TRAFFIC CONTROL???



Spiro and ESP kick off pilot programme in Rwanda, aiming to support 5,000 women entrepreneurs across Africa

Spiro, Africa's leading electric mobility company, and Entrepreneurial Solutions Partners (ESP), a pan-African firm specialising in entrepreneurship development, have launched the Women in E-Mobility programme in Rwanda, an initiative designed to help women become professional electric motorcycle riders, develop their own businesses and generate sustainable income.

The programme is already underway, with the first 50 women having started training October 2026. They form the first cohort of a pilot targeting 500 women in Rwanda, before a planned expansion to other African markets to reach 5,000 participants by 2030.

This initiative reflects Spiro's ambition to ensure that the growth of electric mobility in Africa creates new opportunities for women. While motorcycles are a major source of employment in transport, delivery and logistics, women remain largely underrepresented in the sector. In Rwanda, women account for just 4% of transport workers, despite a 2025 study in Kigali finding that 47.7% of women surveyed would consider becoming motorcycle taxi drivers.

EIB Global, Dashen Bank to unlock €40 million for green agribusiness and women-led enterprises

The European Investment Bank Group's international development arm, EIB Global, and Ethiopian lender Dashen Bank are joining forces to make €40 million in financing available to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Ethiopia, with a focus on agriculture, the environment and women's empowerment.

EIB Global is providing a €20 million loan to Dashen Bank, which will match the sum and channel the total to Ethiopian SMEs. The financing will be offered to SMEs with better terms – including longer maturities – than in the domestic commercial market. This feature tackles a persistent barrier to private-sector growth in Ethiopia: limited access to finance.

At least 70% of the financing will be directed towards agriculture and related activities. Priority beneficiaries will include SMEs exporting to Europe and elsewhere and operating in sectors such as coffee, pulses, horticultural products and cereals.

ECA-Djibouti Study Reveals AfCFTA's Potential to Drive Industrialization and Diversification

The UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), through its Office for Eastern Africa, in partnership with the Ministry of Economy and Finance in charge of Industry of the Republic of Djibouti, today presented and launched a study examining the impact of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) on Djibouti's industrialization and economic diversification.

The study provides a comprehensive assessment of how Djibouti can leverage the opportunities offered by the AfCFTA to accelerate structural transformation, expand industrial production and strengthen its participation in regional and continental value chains. The findings come at a time when Djibouti is seeking to diversify an economy that has traditionally been driven by transport, logistics and port services.

Andrew Mold, Director of ECA's Office for Eastern Africa, highlighted the country's remarkable economic progress over the past decade. Djibouti's real GDP has more than tripled, increasing from US$1.34 billion in 2010 to US$4.15 billion in 2025, while GDP per capita rose from US$1,605 to US$3,501 during the same period.

Natural Capital: The Life We Depend On but Often Fail to Protect

By Enideg Damtie Yewerew

Human knowledge, soil, water, trees, air, and ecosystems are among the fundamental forms of capital upon which life, economic growth, human civilization, and sustainable prosperity depend. Human knowledge enables people to understand, develop, and manage resources; nature provides the essential foundations that sustain humanity and other living things. Their relationship is indispensable to lasting development.

Nature: The Original Foundation of Life and Prosperity

Humanity must recognize a fundamental reality: our lives and livelihoods depend on nature. Fertile soil supports food production; water sustains living organisms and economic activities; trees protect soil, support water cycles, and provide essential ecological benefits; clean air sustains breathing; and functioning ecosystems maintain the natural processes upon which humanity and other living things depend.

These are not merely resources available for human consumption. They are the foundations of survival, health, agriculture, industry, livelihoods, and civilization. Without them, neither human knowledge nor technological advancement could independently sustain life.

Yet humanity faces a profound paradox: we pursue wealth, luxury, economic growth, and prosperity through natural capital while destroying the very foundations upon which our lives, wealth, and future depend. Forests disappear, water becomes polluted, fertile soil is degraded, ecosystems are damaged, and biodiversity is lost, even as societies continue to rely on these resources for food, health, production, and prosperity.

How can humanity build a better future while destroying the natural foundations that make that future possible?

This contradiction exposes a fundamental failure to connect the benefits people derive from nature with their responsibility to protect it. Natural resources are often valued according to their immediate market prices, while their indispensable life-supporting functions receive insufficient attention. Gold, diamonds, and other minerals can generate substantial financial wealth, but their market value does not make them more fundamental to biological survival than fertile soil, clean water, breathable air, and functioning ecosystems.

The true wealth of nature lies not only in what it can produce or sell, but also in what it makes possible: life itself.

Natural Capital and the Strength of Nations

A nation's strength is not determined solely by the abundance of its natural capital, but also by its capacity to understand, utilize, conserve, restore, and manage these resources wisely, responsibly, and sustainably.

Natural wealth creates opportunities; human knowledge, practical skills, wisdom, responsible leadership, accountability, and effective institutions help determine how those opportunities are translated into lasting benefits. A nation may possess abundant natural resources yet undermine its development through careless exploitation, pollution, waste, and mismanagement. Conversely, responsible stewardship can transform natural wealth into productive capacity, sustainable livelihoods, ecological resilience, and lasting prosperity.

The strength of a nation therefore depends not only on what nature provides, but also on how its people value, use, protect, regenerate, and sustain it. Human capital and natural capital are distinct but interdependent: human capabilities can improve resource management, while natural systems provide the foundations upon which human health, productivity, and development depend.

The true value of natural capital extends beyond its market price or extractive potential. It includes its contribution to human survival, agricultural production, economic resilience, ecological balance, and the well-being of present and future generations.

Natural wealth creates possibilities; human wisdom and responsible stewardship help turn those possibilities into sustainable prosperity.

Human Responsibility: The Power to Create or Destroy

Human beings are among the world's most powerful agents of transformation. Through knowledge, creativity, labor, cooperation, science, and technology, people have developed agriculture, crafts, industries, medicine, infrastructure, and institutions that have advanced civilization.

Yet this same transformative power can become destructive when guided by greed, ignorance, short-sightedness, or irresponsibility. Human ingenuity can improve resource efficiency and restore degraded environments, but it can also accelerate deforestation, soil erosion, pollution, biodiversity loss, and the depletion of natural resources.

This is one of the central challenges of development: humanity possesses the capacity to improve living conditions while simultaneously undermining the ecological foundations upon which those improvements depend.

The answer is not to reject economic growth, technological progress, or improved living standards. It is to direct human capabilities toward development that respects ecological limits, reduces avoidable environmental damage, and protects the resources essential to future prosperity.

The measure of genuine progress is not merely how much humanity can produce, extract, or transform, but how wisely it uses its capabilities to improve life without destroying the foundations of life.

A Shared Responsibility to Protect Life

Protecting natural capital is a shared responsibility. Farmers and agricultural workers have a particularly direct relationship with the soil, water, trees, and biodiversity that sustain food production. However, environmental stewardship cannot be left to farmers alone. Governments, businesses, industries, scientists, medical professionals, engineers, educators, community leaders, households, and all other members of society benefit directly or indirectly from nature.

Every individual, profession, institution, and nation must contribute according to its responsibilities, capabilities, and environmental impact. This requires environmental awareness, responsible consumption, efficient resource utilization, pollution prevention, restoration of degraded land, protection of biodiversity, sustainable production, and effective enforcement of environmental laws.

Governments must establish and enforce appropriate policies. Businesses and industries must account for the environmental consequences of their activities. Educational and research institutions must strengthen knowledge and practical solutions. Communities and individuals must support responsible resource use and conservation.

Commitment must become action, and action must produce measurable results. Environmental policies and public promises are insufficient when implementation, accountability, and responsible behavior are absent.

Protecting natural capital is therefore not merely a technical or environmental task. It is also a question of leadership, ethics, commitment, cooperation, and responsibility.

The Central Principle: Never Destroy the Foundations of Life for Short-Term Gain

Humanity must not destroy the foundations of life in pursuit of the benefits those foundations provide.

Natural capital is the wealth of nature, a foundation of production, and an indispensable inheritance for future generations. Its responsible use can support economic growth, employment, innovation, and improved living standards. Its careless destruction can undermine these same achievements.

Sustainable development requires humanity to recognize that economic activity and human well-being ultimately depend on functioning natural systems. Conservation and restoration should therefore be integrated into development planning, productive activities, public investment, education, and everyday decisions.

The objective is not to preserve nature by preventing all beneficial use of resources. It is to ensure that their use is responsible, that environmental damage is prevented or minimized, that degraded systems are restored where possible, and that future generations retain the natural foundations necessary for their own lives and prosperity.

Protecting natural capital is not an obstacle to development. It is a condition for development that can endure.

Conclusion: Protect Nature, Sustain Life

Human knowledge and natural capital together offer extraordinary opportunities to improve living conditions, strengthen economies, advance civilization, and sustain life. But these opportunities cannot be secured through resource abundance or technological advancement alone. They require wisdom, ethical leadership, accountability, practical commitment, cooperation, and responsible stewardship.

Soil, water, trees, air, and ecosystems are not disposable inputs to be consumed without regard for consequences. They are indispensable foundations of life and an inheritance that humanity has a responsibility to protect.

Protecting natural capital is not merely an environmental responsibility; it is an investment in national development, human well-being, ecological sustainability, and the continuity of life.

Know nature. Value nature. Protect nature. Use its resources wisely. Restore what has been degraded. Sustain life for present and future generations.

The writer can be reached via enideg2003@yahoo.com

Capital features a variety of independent voices; the opinions articulated in this column are the author's own and operate independently of our corporate viewpoint.

Entrepreneur PROFILE:

RESUME



Name: Estifanos Worku

Education: Diploma in Celestial Navigation and Astronomy

Company name: HYPATIA Astronomical Equipments Manufacturer

Title: Owner

Founded in: 2025

What it does: Design & Manufacture different types of telescopes for personal & commercial use

Hq: Addis Ababa

Number of Employees: 9

STARTUP CAPITAL

50,000 BIRR

CURRENT CAPITAL

Growing

BIG PICTURE

Reason for starting the Business: To bridge the Knowledge gap in Astronomy

Biggest perk of ownership: Being my own boss and living the dream

Biggest strength: Quick learner, huge imagination and problem solver

Biggest challenge: Finance due to rising cost and material supply shortage

Plan: To be the biggest Astronomical equipment manufacturer in Africa

First career: HR

PERSONAL

Most interested in meeting: Science equipment Importers and successful businessmen

Most admired person: Carl Sagan and Neil deGrasse Tyson

Stress reducer: Music

Favorite pastime: Star Gazing and Designing

Favorite book: The Witcher & A Brief History of Time

Favorite destination: None

Favorite automobile: Mercedes Smart Roadster

Contact: Tel: 0953991734/0933973377

DAILY EXCHANGE RATE

Oct. 31, 2026

Wegagen Bank

CURRENCY	BUYING	SELLING
US DOLLAR	162.49	165.74
POUND STERLING	217.51	221.86
EURO	181.71	185.34
SWISS FRANK	197.52	201.47
SWEDISH KRONER	16.52	16.85
CHINESE YUAN	24.40	24.89
UAE DIRHAM	44.24	45.13
JAPANIS YEN	1.02	1.04

Tax relief for low-income workers: What can Ethiopia learn from Kenya?



By Solomon Zena

When Kenyan President William Ruto recently announced a proposal to exempt workers earning up to KSh 32,333 a month from Pay As You Earn (PAYE) income tax, he raised an important question for governments across the region: how can tax policy help low-income workers cope with rising living costs?

The proposal, which is still subject to the legislative process, is intended to leave more money in the pockets of workers earning modest incomes. For households struggling to cover food, housing, transport and other essential expenses, even a relatively small increase in take-home pay can make a difference.

Ethiopia has a similar question to consider. How effectively does its tax system protect low-income workers, and what further measures are needed to ensure that people who work can meet their basic needs?

Kenya's proposal offers a useful starting point for this discussion. But the lesson is not simply that Ethiopia should copy another country's tax policy. It is that tax relief should be assessed in relation to workers' actual earnings, their tax obligations and the cost of living. Reducing taxes can help, but the benefits depend on who receives the relief and whether the additional income is sufficient to improve household welfare.

What Kenya's Proposal Means for Ethiopia

Kenya's proposed exemption would raise the amount of monthly employment income that workers can earn before paying PAYE tax to KSh 32,333. Under the existing system, the first KSh 24,000 of monthly income is subject to a 10 per cent tax rate, alongside a personal relief arrangement. The proposed changes would alter this treatment, although their final impact will depend on the legislation adopted.

The proposal reflects a policy choice to reduce the tax burden on lower-income earners while adjusting the wider tax structure. Its significance lies in the recognition that taxation affects workers' disposable income and their ability to meet household expenses.

Ethiopia has also revised its employment-income tax system. Income Tax Amendment Proclamation No. 1395/2025 increased the monthly employment-income tax-exempt threshold from 600 birr to 2,000 birr and adjusted the income-tax brackets.

This change provides tax relief to workers whose earnings fall within the revised brackets. However, its effect must be considered against the level of wages and the cost of essential goods and services. A higher tax-free threshold can increase take-home pay for workers who would otherwise pay tax on the exempt portion of their earnings. Yet the benefit may remain limited when wages are low and household expenses are high.

The relevant question, therefore, is not simply whether Ethiopia has introduced tax relief. It is whether the relief is sufficient to protect workers with modest incomes and whether the broader tax system distributes the burden fairly.

Kenya's proposal provides an opportunity for Ethiopian policymakers, trade unions and researchers to examine these questions more closely.

Tax Relief Can Help, but Who Benefits?

Tax relief is an important policy instrument because it allows eligible workers to retain a greater share of their earnings. When the cost of living rises, reducing the tax burden can provide some immediate breathing space for households.

However, the benefits are not the same for everyone.

Workers who pay income tax may gain from a higher tax-exempt threshold or lower tax liability. But workers whose earnings are already below the taxable threshold may receive no direct benefit from a further exemption. They may be among those facing the greatest financial difficulties, yet changes to income tax alone may do little to improve their circumstances.

This distinction matters for Ethiopia, where workers' earnings vary considerably across sectors and occupations. A tax measure that benefits formal-sector employees who pay income tax may not directly assist workers who earn too little to be taxed. It may also fail to reach people in informal employment who do not benefit from the same arrangements as formally employed workers.

Tax policy should therefore be assessed in terms of its actual impact on different income groups. Policymakers need to consider how many workers benefit, how much additional income they retain and whether that gain meaningfully improves their capacity to meet essential expenses.

The aim should be to design a tax system that provides meaningful relief to low-income earners without overlooking those whose earnings are already too low to generate a direct tax benefit.

Lower Prices Do Not Always Mean Greater Affordability

The discussion of tax relief also connects to a wider question about how Ethiopia measures the cost of living.

Government officials have at times highlighted Ethiopia's relatively low prices for selected services, including electricity and water, as well as measures to subsidize fuel. Such interventions can reduce household expenses and should be recognised when assessing economic policy.

However, a comparison of prices alone does not provide a complete picture of affordability.

A litre of fuel may cost less in Ethiopia than in a neighbouring country. But if workers in that country earn substantially more, they may find it easier to afford the same quantity of fuel. What matters is not only the price of a product, but also the income available to purchase it.

One way to assess this relationship is to calculate how many hours a worker must work to afford a litre of fuel or another essential item. This approach can provide a more meaningful comparison of purchasing power than nominal prices alone.

Ethiopia could use this method to examine the relationship between wages and the prices of fuel, electricity, transport, food and other necessities. Such an assessment would require reliable, comparable data on prices, earnings and working hours.

The point is not to dismiss subsidies or lower utility tariffs. These measures can provide genuine relief. Rather, their benefits should be evaluated alongside workers' earnings and the overall cost of living.

The same principle applies to taxation. A reduction in tax liability may increase take-home pay, but its practical value depends on the amount saved and the expenses that income must cover.

Economic protection should be assessed not only by how much essential goods cost, but also by whether workers can afford them with the income they earn.

Tax Relief Cannot Replace Fair Wages

Tax relief and fair wages serve different purposes. Tax relief reduces the amount of income tax eligible workers pay, while wage policy addresses the level of earnings workers receive for their labour.

For a worker who pays income tax, a reduction in tax can increase disposable income. But if the wage itself is inadequate, the additional amount may not be enough to cover basic expenses. For a worker who pays no income tax because their earnings are already below the taxable threshold, further tax relief may provide no direct financial gain at all.

This is why tax reform should be considered alongside wage policy. Improving take-home pay is valuable, but it cannot by itself guarantee that workers earn enough to maintain a reasonable standard of living.

Ethiopia's Labour Proclamation No. 1156/2019 provides for the establishment of a Wage Board comprising government, employer and trade union representatives, together with other relevant stakeholders. The Board is intended to help determine and periodically revise minimum wages based on economic development, labour-market conditions and other considerations.

Making this mechanism operational would provide an institutional foundation for evidence-based minimum-wage determination. It would also create a formal process through which workers' needs, employers' circumstances and broader economic conditions could be considered.

Tax relief and a national minimum-wage system should not be viewed as competing policies. One concerns the share of earnings workers retain after tax; the other concerns the minimum level of remuneration covered workers should receive. Both can contribute to improving living standards when designed and implemented effectively.

Building a Fairer and More Effective Policy

For Ethiopia, the policy challenge is to combine tax reform with measures that address low earnings and the cost of living.

First, the government should assess the effects of the revised employment-income tax thresholds on workers across different income groups. Such an assessment should examine the amount of tax saved, the number of workers who benefit and the extent to which the relief improves disposable income.

Second, tax policy should be considered alongside reliable evidence on household expenditure and purchasing power. Comparing Ethiopia's prices with those of other countries can be informative, but comparisons should also take account of differences in wages and income. This would help policymakers determine whether lower nominal prices translate into meaningful affordability for workers.

Third, the Wage Board provided for in the Labour Proclamation should be operationalised, with meaningful participation by government, employers and trade unions. Its work should be based on transparent criteria, credible economic and household data, regular reviews and effective enforcement.

Finally, social dialogue should play a central role in shaping these policies. Trade unions can contribute evidence about workers' earnings and living costs, while employers can provide information about productivity, employment and the capacity of different sectors to pay. Government should use this engagement to develop policies that protect workers without ignoring the wider economic conditions in which businesses operate.

These measures would help move the debate beyond isolated tax changes towards a more comprehensive approach to workers' economic security.

Beyond Tax Cuts: Protecting Workers' Purchasing Power

Kenya's proposed income-tax exemption is a timely reminder that tax policy can play an important role in protecting low-income workers. By allowing eligible employees to retain more of their earnings, governments can help households manage their expenses.

But tax relief is not a complete solution to low wages or the rising cost of living. Its benefits depend on workers' tax liabilities, the amount of income they earn and the prices they face. Those who already pay little or no income tax may need other forms of support, including fairer wages and stronger labour protections.

Ethiopia has already revised its employment-income tax thresholds. The next step is to assess the practical effects of that reform while strengthening the policies and institutions needed to improve workers' living standards.

That means looking beyond nominal prices and tax rates to the relationship between earnings and essential expenses. It also means turning the legal provision for a Wage Board into a functioning mechanism for evidence-based minimum-wage determination.

The objective should not be to choose between tax relief and fair wages. It should be to ensure that workers retain a reasonable share of their earnings, receive fair remuneration for their labour and can afford the necessities of life.

Tax relief can put more money in workers' pockets. Fair wages and sound economic policies must help ensure that the money they earn is enough to live on.

Capital features a variety of independent voices; the opinions articulated in this column are the author's own and operate independently of our corporate viewpoint.

INTERVIEW

FAYDAVERSE EXPANDS BEYOND NATIONAL ID REGISTRATION

Ethiopia's national digital ID programme has registered more than 52 million citizens and is expanding beyond registration to provide identity verification and other digital public infrastructure services.

The institution, formerly known as the National ID programme, has changed its name to FaydaVerse to reflect its expanding role in digital identity services and infrastructure development. It has also joined Ethiopian Investment Holdings as a government development organisation.

In an interview with Capital's Samuel Abate, Saminas Seifu, the institution's Stakeholder Engagement Director, discussed the progress of national ID registration, the introduction of identity verification fees, data protection and future plans.

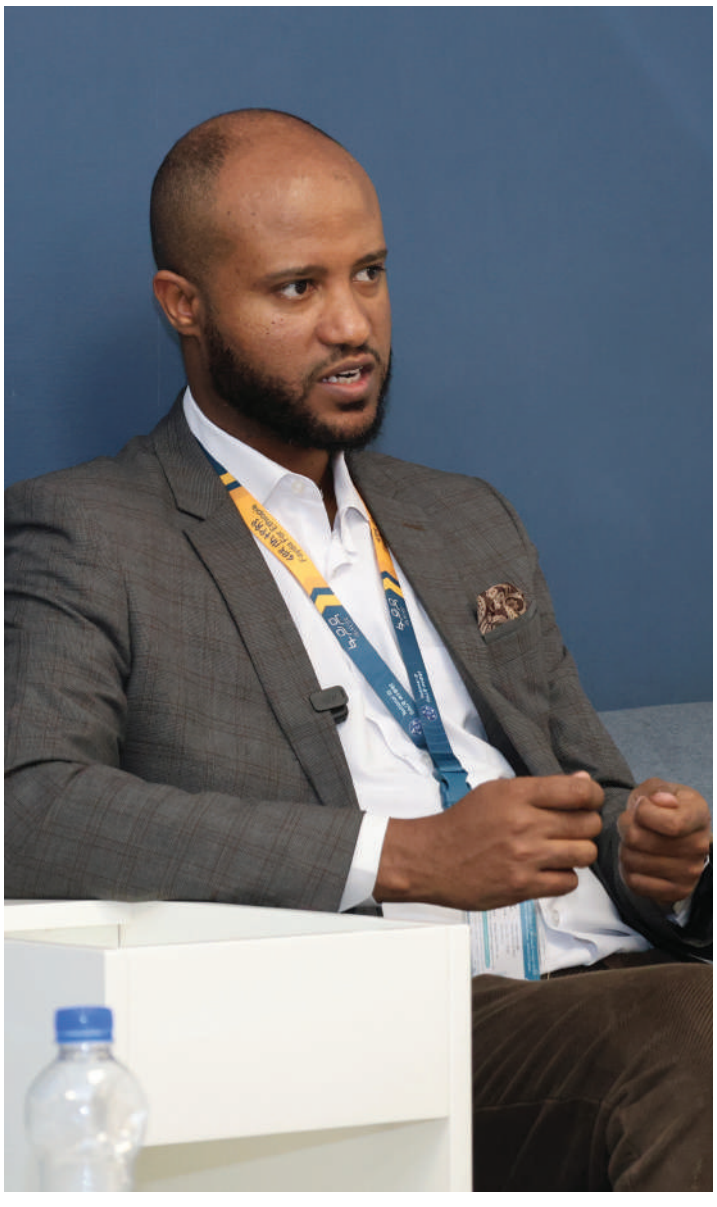


Capital: You recently changed your name from National ID to FaydaVerse. Why?

Saminas Seifu: ID registration was designed as a five-year project. In addition to issuing IDs, we provide services that allow institutions to verify the identities of their customers. As a result, institutions and countries have increasingly approached us for additional services.

We can provide solutions beyond registration, but the growing demand for identity verification and other digital services requires an institutional structure that goes beyond a project office. The number of institutions seeking to work with us has reached 150.

Digital infrastructure is not something that is built once and left unchanged; it requires continuous innovation. We therefore changed our name to FaydaVerse to provide a broader range of services, from consultancy to the implementation of digital infrastructure systems.



The programme will continue to provide national IDs free of charge. So far, more than 52 million citizens have registered. We are registering citizens, including members of the diaspora, while excluding tourists.

The programme is designed to be inclusive. People with disabilities, homeless people and those without residence identification documents can also register by providing witnesses. Studies indicate that 40 per cent of people in Ethiopia do not have proof of identity.

Capital: Has Fayda ID registration been accessible everywhere?

Saminas Seifu: We started with fewer than 100 registration machines, but we now have 15,000. We are expanding registration through partnerships with private-sector institutions, including Safaricom, ABH and BlueSpark, particularly in rural areas.

We have been engaging with institutions about the use of FaydaVerse services. Making these services mandatory must follow the expansion of registration and ensure that people can access the system.

Registration has been widely implemented in cities such as Addis Ababa, Dire Dawa and Harar. We are now moving registration machines to other areas to expand access.

Capital: What will happen after the five-year national ID registration period?

Saminas Seifu: The number of registered citizens has reached 52 million, but not everyone may be registered by the end of the five-year period.

Registration will no longer be conducted mainly through a campaign. Instead, it will continue as a regular service. We will keep registering citizens who reach the legal age for registration, as well as new generations.

Capital: What services does the change to FaydaVerse enable you to provide?

Saminas Seifu: Institutions want to verify the identities of their customers. Other countries have also approached us to develop digital public infrastructure, including citizen wallets, digital IDs, government wallets, cybersecurity systems and credential wallets.

To provide these services, we needed to expand beyond the mandate associated with the original project. As the identity verification needs of institutions and countries continue to grow, the services

INTERVIEW

we offer are also expanding.

Capital: What services are you providing to foreign countries and institutions?

Saminas Seifu: Our relationships with other countries are not limited to trade or sharing experiences. They also involve commercial partnerships and investment.

Countries initially approach us to learn from our experience, but cooperation can go further. They may subsequently request services tailored to their needs, including consultancy, system deployment, legal preparation, data centre development and assistance with technology procurement.

Zambia, Mozambique and other countries have expressed interest in this kind of cooperation.

Capital: What additional services do you plan to introduce in the future?

Saminas Seifu: We will continue expanding our digital public infrastructure services. These include digital registration, credential wallets, citizen wallets, digital signing, stakeholder engagement and the development of digital infrastructure for public services.

Capital: Are banks charged fees for identity verification?

Saminas Seifu: Digital infrastructure needs to grow and improve, and identity authentication is a utility service. We provide these services on a fee basis because a reasonable charge is necessary to sustain them. Our prices were determined with reference to international practices.

We started charging for identity verification services in August, 2026.

Previously, when customers visited banks, institutions often asked for an ID and made a copy without verifying its authenticity. Banks could spend between 10 and 20 birr making a copy, yet this did not necessarily prevent identity fraud.

Fraud imposes significant costs on institutions. It also limits their ability to innovate because they cannot always be confident about the identities of customers. For example, financial institutions may hesitate to provide loans quickly or expand lending because of concerns about fraud and repayment.

With verified identity information, institutions can reduce fraud and develop new services. People can also open bank accounts from the comfort of their homes, which is one example of the opportunities created by digital identity.

The national ID system helps build trust between institutions and their customers. It has also helped reduce risks associated with fraudulent small loans.

It would therefore not be appropriate to expect the infrastructure that supports this trust to operate indefinitely without revenue. We charge a very small, reduced fee intended to cover basic operating costs. The price was set after considering practices in other countries.

Capital: Does introducing fees undermine financial inclusion?

Saminas Seifu: Research indicates that 40 per cent of citizens did not have identification documents. The national ID programme has enabled these millions of people to obtain identification and access banking services.

The system is designed to reduce costs and prevent fraud. Citizens are not charged for receiving their national ID, just as they are not asked to pay us for providing essential identification services. However, when institutions request identity verification services, we charge a small service fee of around five to 10 cents.

The service is available to government institutions, private companies and start-ups.

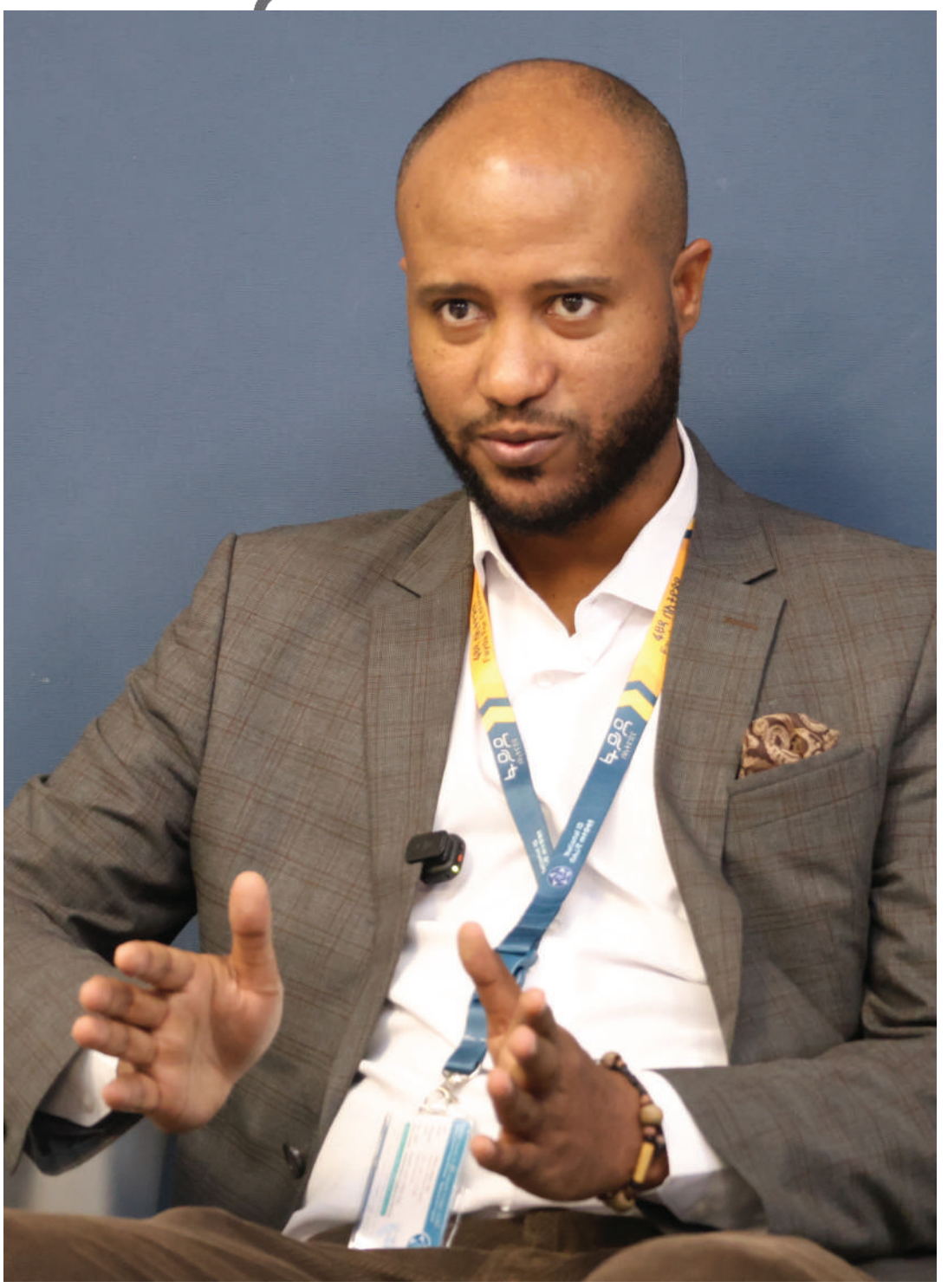
There are different types of information requests. Some institutions need to verify information to provide services such as opening or linking bank accounts, while others may need to confirm details about people seeking their services. The applicable arrangements depend on the service requested.

We also use one-time passwords (OTPs) for verification in accordance with the Personal Data Protection Act. There is a system that records how institutions use the service, including what information they access and the duration of access. This allows us to monitor information use and the associated payments.

Capital: Could the fees charged to banks be adjusted?

Saminas Seifu: We have established infrastructure and services intended to be trusted by both institutions and individuals. Setting the prices involved a lengthy process, including research and decisions by management and the board, as well as consideration of the relevant regulatory and investment structures.

Although we cannot predict every future development, our decisions are studied carefully, including their potential economic impact.



We have no plans to adjust the prices at the moment. In the future, we will continue considering how to build trust and accountability in the sector.

Capital: How much revenue do you plan to generate?

Saminas Seifu: We are a start-up institution with our own plans and objectives. We are introducing services that are relatively new to the country.

Our plan is to generate revenue from services provided to domestic and foreign institutions. Meanwhile, the government is providing national IDs free of charge through commitments and loans for this project.

Capital: Are citizens required to print and carry their national ID cards?

Saminas Seifu: We believe this is largely a matter of public perception that can be addressed through awareness creation.

We believe that knowing your 16-digit identification number is sufficient. However, individuals can print and carry their ID cards if they wish. Many people prefer to have a printed copy.

The ID can be printed on paper, while a digital copy is sufficient for someone who has a smartphone. It is not appropriate for institutions to insist that citizens present only a printed ID card.

Capital: How secure is the system against attacks?

Saminas Seifu: Having an ID is a right, and the government has a responsibility to provide it. That is what we are doing.

Our work is governed by the Digital Identity Act and the Personal Data Protection Act. Individuals own their information, while we administer the data. We do not share personal information without the individual's consent.

External parties and our experts cannot view the complete information of individuals. The system is encrypted, and when information is provided to institutions, access is limited according to the needs and characteristics of each institution.

Institutions do not receive unrestricted access to individuals' complete information. This approach helps protect personal data and limit security risks.

Capital: Can the national ID system be used for other purposes, such as animal registration?

Saminas Seifu: We are currently working with the Agricultural Transformation Institute on farmers' profiles. This work includes organising information about farmers and pastoralists, with the aim of supporting benefits such as access to finance.

The number of farmers included in this work is gradually increasing. However, animal registration has not yet started. Land registration and other related uses would require further development.

ART & CULTURE

Pasta Festa to bring Italian food and culture to Addis

Addis Ababa will host Pasta Festa 2026 on Saturday, November 7, bringing Italian cuisine, live entertainment and family activities to the Addis Ababa Exhibition Center.

The one-day festival, scheduled to run from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., will feature pasta and pizza from participating Italian restaurants, alongside desserts, speciality ingredients and activities for children, according to an event announcement.

Organisers say the festival aims to bring together residents, families, food enthusiasts and members of the international community, using food as a platform for cultural exchange and social interaction.

The programme will showcase a variety of pasta dishes and flavours, while vendors will offer cheeses and speciality ingredients for visitors interested in preparing Italian dishes at home. Ice cream, cotton candy and other sweet treats will also be available.

Beyond its culinary offerings, Pasta Festa will feature live music and DJ sets throughout the day.

A dedicated children's area is planned, with bouncy castles, trampolines, water slides, an inflatable pool, a toy train and face painting among the advertised attractions.

Organisers describe the festival as a celebration of the cultural connection between Italy and Ethiopia, with an emphasis on bringing people together through food, hospitality and shared experiences.

The Addis Ababa Exhibition Center will provide space for the food stalls, entertainment and family activities. Organisers say parking will be available and security arrangements are being put in place for visitors.

Imagining African stories, culture, with AI

■ By Vera Chidinma, bird story agency





After Engineer Nzube Ndiokwelu has sketched ideas on paper at his studio in Enugu, southern Nigeria, he turns for help not to an assistant but to his AI, typing prompts into a picture generator. If the results fall short of his expectations, he revises his instructions and creates new graphics, fine-tuning his creations until they better portray the cultural references he has in mind.

This is the approach Ndiokwelu has utilized to create graphic representations of Igbo deities, traditions, and indigenous identity, with the goal of conserving his culture and assisting African communities to better see themselves.

When Ndiokwelu initially started experimenting with AI picture generators in December 2022, he discovered that representations of African people tended to resemble black Americans rather than the communities and customs he wished to depict. When he looked for Igbo culture, the results tended towards visual stereotypes.

"Some of the models are going to start leading with beads and cowries. And our society is much more than that; we have our clothing patterns, headgear, and so much more," he explained.

Instead of abandoning the technology, Ndiokwelu decided to lead it with his knowledge of Igbo history and custom. He outlines his ideas, converts them into prompts, checks the created visuals, and modifies his directions if the results fall short. Through this method, he is creating visual representations of his culture while also exploring how artificial intelligence may assist African communities in documenting and sharing their past.

His experience speaks to broader issues about how artificial intelligence depicts African people and traditions. A 2024 Nature article revealed an experiment in which an AI picture generator represented an African man with a tiny mud house, despite a prompt requesting a "fancy house".

According to a study involving 130 creatives and other industry players in Kenya, more than 75% employed AI technologies. However, participants expressed worries about Western biases and a lack of African information in AI systems. The findings highlighted the significance of incorporating African artists and cultural specialists in the design of visuals that these technologies use to generate graphic representations of Africans and African society.

Chidi Igbokwe, creative director and founder of the Dusky Arts Foundation for Creative Development, refers to visual art as a way of helping societies remember their history, beliefs, and ways of life. AI might expand on that function by making cultural information easier to preserve and access, he explained, if the material used to guide the technology is accurate.

"Why AI will still help preserve our culture is because of the information we, the culture, the tradition, or the custodians pass on to it. AI will store and preserve that information for our future use. Do you understand? That is actually how it works. So, in the future, when our children want to ask what Mkpurumma is, AI can tell them what it is, because that information will always be available to them," he said.

Ndiokwelu's passion for art developed during childhood vacations at his aunt's house, where he saw his artist cousin at work. His aunt collected art, and chats with his cousin. This exposed him to international artistic traditions, such as pointillism and Renaissance art. Although he obtained no formal art education, his experiences impacted his passion in visual expression.

He later studied electrical engineering at the University of Nigeria in Nsukka. Following graduation, he relocated to Lagos in 2021 to work as a technical assistant to Nest Oil's group managing director. His exposure to technology and growing digital technologies inspired him to explore.

In 2022, he resigned his job and went to Enugu to start The Beaconsmith Collective, a community for people working in creative and technological industries. The collaborative offers a forum for creators to exchange ideas, gain new skills, and study how technology could improve their work.

Through this group, Ndiokwelu began experimenting with AI-generated art. He recognized an opportunity to integrate his technological knowledge with his cultural interests, utilizing the resources at his disposal to create visuals that conveyed his personal interpretation of Igbo identity.

With a deep interest in Igbo philosophy, history, and cosmology, Ndiokwelu feels that techniques based on cultural knowledge should guide how African traditions are portrayed in digital contexts.

For him, AI is another medium through which people can express ideas. He sees its use in art as part of a longer history of changing artistic tools.

"During prehistoric eras, art was expressed on cave walls, and during the Renaissance, art moved onto the canvas," he said.

Igbokwe encourages artists to use correct cultural references and to consider copyright when choosing material for their work. His statement emphasizes a crucial distinction: AI-generated images can help with cultural preservation, but their utility is dependent on the quality of the knowledge that informs them and the care shown by those who create them.

He believes that the technology utilized to create an artwork does not determine its worth. Even when a machine contributes to the final image, the artist's goal, knowledge, and creative decisions are still important.

According to Ndiokwelu, people occasionally mistake his AI-assisted pieces for hand-painted works.

"Ninety-nine per cent of the time, they mistake the AI arts for hand-painted arts," he says. Some ask to touch the surface or inspect the work for brushstrokes."

Ndiokwelu's work has also generated commercial attention. He showcased some of his AI-assisted artworks at the 17th National Council on Industry, Trade, and Investment, which took place at the Hotel Presidential in Enugu. The hotel manager then commissioned him to create 20 framed artworks, which are now on display in various locations of the hotel.

The commission allowed Ndiokwelu to build a collection based on a client's specifications rather than simply selling individual works he had previously done. It also demonstrated how AI-assisted art may be used to create commissioned visual creations.

He has created over 5,000 AI-assisted artworks, some of which have been sold, while others remain in his digital library or are presented through the Beaconsmith Collective. The tangible items are priced based on size, printing materials, frame, and finish.

Smaller works typically sell for ₦30,000 to ₦40,000 (around 23 to 30 US dollars), while larger pieces might cost between ₦80,000 and ₦120,000 (around 60 to 90 US dollars).

"What we charge is basically post-production. We don't charge for something we feel we had fun producing," he said.

Beyond his own work, Ndiokwelu encourages other young Africans to investigate the artistic and practical applications of AI. At Beaconsmith, he has assisted younger creators in moving beyond utilizing technology to just ask questions or generate textual responses.

Chisom Bierechukwundu Okechukwu, a graduate and the collective's ecosystem and growth manager, is one of them. Before joining Beaconsmith, Okechukwu saw AI primarily as a tool for asking questions and receiving responses. He has subsequently learnt to utilize it to build websites and mobile applications, develop graphics and fliers, and experiment with new applications.

'Before now, I would typically pay a graphics designer or beg my designer friends for a flyer, but right now, I don't do that anymore. I create time and create my artworks myself. I use the voice record prompt options to express myself and it creates. I've been able to create an app from scratch to full deployment with Ai. Also with knowledge of AI and the things I've learnt at the Beaconsmith house, I have won a competition in this niche. I'm not just looking at (what) AI can do for me, but how it can help me do most of the things I want to do for myself," Okechukwu said.

This experience highlights another option for African communities: providing young people with the ability to use AI in ways that address local needs, such as artistic creation and cultural documentation.

Ndiokwelu's work is ongoing. He believes his trials and feedback have helped to improve the representation of Igbo and African culture in the photos he creates. However, he admits that getting the art seen remains difficult.

Among the most difficult tasks: "marketing, getting the word of what we do out there, and visibility."

As the day comes to a close, Ndiokwelu adds the finishing touches to a sketch on a piece of paper, meticulously polishing the lines and details. The last strokes signal the conclusion of a day spent exploring how art and AI might bring cultural history to life.

As Ndiokwelu combines his mechanical skills with his knowledge of Igbo customs to create visual representations of cultural figures and stories that may otherwise be forgotten in digital spaces, he envisions a future in which African artists actively shape AI-generated pictures rather than simply consuming them.

Society

Ethiopia and Eritrea at a Crossroads: Who Wins, Who Loses, and What Comes Next?

■ By Assegid Habtewold

Two Nations, One Unavoidable Strategic Reality

Ethiopia and Eritrea are approaching another dangerous crossroads. Renewed fighting in northern Ethiopia, deteriorating relations, competing accusations, and increasingly confrontational rhetoric over access to the Red Sea raise the possibility of another devastating war. Decisions made in Addis Ababa and Asmara could affect not only their peoples, but the Horn of Africa, the Red Sea, the Middle East, and international commerce.

I have witnessed such a crossroads before. When the Ethiopia–Eritrea war erupted in 1998, I was President of the Addis Ababa University Students' Union. Initially, like many civic organizations, we called for peace and restraint. After Eritrean forces crossed into Ethiopian territory, our executive committee debated the crisis and concluded that Ethiopia's territorial integrity had been violated. We mobilized thousands of students to protest the invasion. I remember those deliberations vividly, and I remember the terrible human cost of the war that followed.

Ethiopia and Eritrea share centuries of history, intertwined cultures, families, and economic interests. Yet their relationship also carries deep wounds from Eritrea's three-decade struggle for independence against successive Ethiopian governments, the devastating 1998–2000 border war, and the years of hostility that followed. Their dramatic rapprochement in 2018 demonstrated that former adversaries could become partners. Their renewed confrontation, however, reveals how fragile that progress was and how easily unresolved historical grievances can threaten both nations' future.

At the heart of the dispute is Assab. For many Ethiopians, it is not simply a convenient foreign port. It was once an Ethiopian gateway to the sea, and its loss remains a painful, contested national question. For Eritrea, it is part of the territory it controls as an internationally recognized state. Ignoring either reality will not produce a lasting settlement.

Why I Am Applying a Strategic Lens

In my book Strategic Edge, I argue that sound leadership requires three complementary disciplines:

- Critical thinking, which challenges assumptions and tests competing claims;
- Strategic positioning, which examines strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats; and
- Scenario planning, which prepares leaders for several plausible futures instead of betting everything on one outcome.

I have facilitated strategic planning processes in which diverse stakeholders spend days examining evidence, challenging one another, weighing alternatives, and turning priorities into accountable action. A serious national exercise would require officials, historians, economists, military and security experts, lawyers, diplomats, and affected communities from both sides. This article cannot substitute for that process. It is an independent, public-source assessment intended to ask questions that deserve attention.

My objective is not to pretend that I have no position. Instead, I subject my position, and both governments', to strategic scrutiny.

1.What is each country trying to achieve?

2.What could each lose?

3.How might the other respond?

4.And which choices could deliver results that last?

Ethiopia's Strategic Position: An Advantage and an Unresolved Grievance

Ethiopia has a large population and wider domestic market, significant military capacity, regional influence, and substantial long-term economic potential. Yet it remains landlocked and heavily dependent on Djibouti for its international trade. That dependence imposes costs and exposes the economy to decisions made beyond Ethiopia's borders. Internal conflicts, fiscal pressures, and competing development needs further complicate its strategic choices.

- Strengths: Market size, economic potential, military capacity, infrastructure, and regional influence.
- Weaknesses: Landlocked geography, concentrated trade routes, internal insecurity, and limited fiscal flexibility.
- Opportunities: Assab access, diversified ports, infrastructure partnerships, and regional integration.
- Threats: War, disrupted commerce, prolonged resistance, external involvement, and resources diverted from development.

But reducing Ethiopia's case to the needs of a landlocked country misses something essential. I believe the way Ethiopia lost Assab during Eritrea's separation was a historic failure of Ethiopian leadership. I remain deeply troubled by the decisions made under Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and by the unanswered questions about whether Ethiopia's interests and the constitutional process received adequate consideration.

Such a consequential decision involving millions of people should never have been made through what many Ethiopians regard as a nontransparent, win-lose process, without adequately involving the broader Ethiopian population or ensuring proper constitutional and legal procedures. The resulting sense of an unequal settlement was not only a disservice to Ethiopia; it also planted grievances that could threaten Eritrea's long-term security and prosperity. The consequences were enormous, and Ethiopians have every reason to demand a serious examination of that history.

Over the years, I have heard accounts, including from people I regarded as credible, that American negotiators urged Meles to put Assab on the negotiating table and that he declined, believing Ethiopia could simply purchase port services later and elsewhere. I cannot independently establish the details of those conversations, and I do not present them as documented fact. But the persistence of such accounts reflects a larger, legitimate question: Who made the decisions that left Ethiopia without Assab, on what authority, and after considering which alternatives? Records, testimony, and serious historical and constitutional analysis should investigate that question rather than dismiss it as nostalgia.

My criticism of those decisions does not settle the port's present legal status. Eritrea's independence and subsequent recognition created international realities that any responsible Ethiopian strategy must confront. But recognition does not erase Ethiopians' right to scrutinize their own leaders or to argue that a consequential national interest was mishandled.

Ethiopia must also separate the justice of its grievance from the effectiveness of its response. Suppose it captured Assab militarily. Could it then keep the port, connecting roads, shipping services, and investors secure at an acceptable cost? Military control is not the same as commercially dependable access. Nor is a negotiated agreement automatically dependable if it lacks credible guarantees. The test is not merely what Ethiopia can obtain, but what it can sustain.

Eritrea's Strategic Position: Control Today, Uncertainty Tomorrow

Eritrea holds a long Red Sea coastline and the ports of Assab and Massawa. Its location offers commercial and geopolitical leverage, and its armed forces have extensive territorial-defense experience. Yet its small domestic market, limited economic diversification, infrastructure needs, and relative isolation limit the benefits it can draw from those assets.

- Strengths: Red Sea geography, ports, strategic leverage, and defense experience.
- Weaknesses: Small domestic market, infrastructure constraints, limited diversification, and economic isolation.
- Opportunities: Ethiopian transit trade, port investment, jobs, revenue, and regional partnerships.
- Threats: Military escalation, damaged infrastructure, persistent hostility, and shifting regional alliances.

Eritrea's leaders may believe that international recognition and military readiness are sufficient to preserve their position indefinitely. That would be a dangerous assumption. I am not predicting that Ethiopia will reclaim Assab, nor advocating another war. I am asking Eritrean decision-makers to consider a possibility that strategic planners cannot ignore: the balance of military power, regional alliances, diplomatic support, and domestic politics can change. A settlement available today may become much harder to achieve after another crisis.

For Eritrea, the question should not be simply, "How do we deny Ethiopia's claim?" It should also be, "How do we turn Assab into a lasting source of prosperity and security while the opportunity to negotiate from a position of control remains?" Ethiopia's vast market could help make Assab commercially valuable. A well-designed agreement could generate revenue, employment, and infrastructure investment without requiring Eritrea to accept an arrangement it considers a surrender of sovereignty.

Eritrea's security concerns are real, and any agreement would need to address them. But indefinite refusal to discuss Ethiopia's historical grievances or practical access needs could deepen resentment and leave the dispute to a future generation under less favorable conditions. Maintaining control of an asset is not the same as maximizing its long-term strategic value.

Where Their Interests Intersect

Ethiopia needs reliable maritime access. Eritrea possesses maritime infrastructure that could serve a large neighboring market. Their interests are complementary, but their fears are not imaginary. Ethiopia worries that dependence on another government's decisions can become a strategic vulnerability. Eritrea worries that a larger neighbor, economically and militarily, might eventually turn access into a demand for control.

This is why a simple promise to reopen Assab will not be enough. Both countries need enforceable commercial terms, predictable transit rights, infrastructure investment, credible security safeguards, and a way to settle disputes without threatening one another. They also need room to examine Assab's history without letting every disagreement about the past block every practical step toward the future.

Four Plausible Futures

Scenario planning does not predict the future. It forces leaders to confront possibilities they might prefer to ignore. Two uncertainties matter most here: whether the governments choose confrontation or negotiation, and whether the wider region encourages stability or fuels competition.

1. Contained Rivalry

Both governments remain hostile but avoid a major war. Accusations, military preparations, and periodic incidents continue. Ethiopia remains dissatisfied with its maritime position, while Eritrea bears the costs of permanent vigilance. This may look manageable for a time, but a single miscalculation could end it.

2. Strategic Peace

The governments negotiate a durable arrangement for Assab, with clear access rights, fair commercial terms, infrastructure commitments, and security guarantees. Historical and legal disagreements receive a separate, credible forum for examination. Neither side gets everything it wants, but both secure benefits they could not reliably obtain through confrontation. This is the most desirable future, not necessarily the most likely.

3. Regional Crisis

Confrontation escalates into war, possibly drawing in armed groups and/or outside interested powers. Ethiopia might win battles yet inherit an insecure port and enormous costs. Eritrea might defend its position yet suffer severe human and economic losses. Instability could spread through the Horn and Red Sea region. The central lesson is that a tactical victory can become a strategic defeat.

4. Fragile Rapprochement

The governments reduce hostile rhetoric, restore communication, and test limited confidence-building or commercial measures without resolving the central dispute. Progress remains vulnerable to setbacks, but the risk of accidental escalation declines. Modest cooperation can be the first step toward a more ambitious settlement.

At present, contained rivalry seems more likely than comprehensive peace, but the risk of a regional crisis cannot be discounted. Border activity, developments in northern Ethiopia, outside military support, official rhetoric, and willingness to reopen dialogue will be important signals to watch.

A Roadmap Worth Considering

For Ethiopia: Commission a serious, independent review of the historical, constitutional, and diplomatic decisions surrounding Assab. Establish what can be documented, what remains disputed, and what peaceful remedies may be available. In parallel, compare the full costs of military confrontation with negotiated access to Assab and diversified maritime corridors. The objective should be secure, affordable, dependable access, not a symbolic victory that proves impossible to sustain in the long run.

For Eritrea: Recognize that Ethiopia's grievance is deeply felt and will not disappear if Eritrea rejects it. Examine whether today's negotiating position offers a better opportunity than an uncertain future. Consider long-term access arrangements that generate substantial economic returns while addressing security, jurisdiction, and operational concerns. Negotiation need not mean capitulation; it can be strategic foresight.

For both governments: Separate immediate de-escalation, historical review, and commercial negotiation into coordinated but distinct tracks. A practical Assab framework could address port modernization, transport links, transit rights, fees, customs, security, independent dispute resolution, and phased implementation. A mutually acceptable group of historians and legal specialists could examine the contested record without predetermining its findings. The African Union and other partners could facilitate dialogue, but neither nation should outsource its future to foreign powers.

These negotiations would not be easy. They would require sustained work, multiple stakeholders, and leaders prepared to hear uncomfortable truths. That is what serious strategic planning looks like. The goal is not a beautiful agreement announced for the cameras. It is a workable arrangement that survives political changes and delivers measurable results.

The Leadership Test

I do not believe Ethiopians should be asked to forget Assab, suppress questions about its loss, or treat past leaders' decisions as beyond criticism. I also do not believe that the answer to a historic wrong, real or perceived, must be another devastating war. Ethiopia should use its strength to expand its strategic options, not narrow them to one costly confrontation.

And I would urge Eritrea's leaders not to confuse today's position with a permanent guarantee of tomorrows. The most prudent time to negotiate may be when a government still has the greatest freedom to shape the terms. Waiting until circumstances become more dangerous is not always a demonstration of strength.

I remember 1998. I remember how quickly calls for restraint gave way to mobilization, and how many families paid the price. My Ethiopian identity is part of why I write this. My experience in strategic leadership is why I insist that convictions must be tested against consequences.

The real strategic victory is not merely to win the argument over Assab. It is to secure a future in which Ethiopia's legitimate aspirations and Eritrea's enduring security can be addressed without condemning another generation to war.

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Capital features a variety of independent voices; the opinions articulated in this column are the author's own and operate independently of our corporate viewpoint.

The political economy of waste crisis in Africa

Alazar Kebede

Africa stands at a critical crossroads. As the world confronts an escalating waste crisis, the continent faces a troubling question: will it inherit the waste generated by the global economy, or will it transform this challenge into an opportunity for sustainable development? From discarded electronics and plastic packaging to overflowing landfills and polluted waterways, waste is becoming an increasingly visible symbol of global inequality. Yet, beneath this environmental crisis lies a deeper political and economic question about who produces waste, who profits from its disposal, and who ultimately bears its consequences.

The World Bank's What a Waste 3.0 report estimates that global municipal solid waste reached 2.56 billion tonnes in 2022 and could rise to 3.86 billion tonnes by 2050. Sub-Saharan Africa is projected to experience the fastest growth, with waste generation increasing by 124 per cent under a business-as-usual scenario. These figures expose a fundamental contradiction: Africa contributes relatively little to global waste generation per capita, yet it faces some of the greatest challenges in managing its waste. The question is no longer whether Africa will confront a waste crisis, but whether it will be allowed to determine its own response.

The global waste economy is deeply unequal. Wealthier countries consume more resources, generate more waste per person and possess more advanced infrastructure for waste collection and treatment. Meanwhile, developing countries frequently bear the environmental consequences of inadequate waste management and international waste movements.

The electronic waste sector illustrates this imbalance. According to the "Global E-waste Monitor 2024", Africa generated approximately 3.5 million tonnes of electronic waste in 2022, but only 0.7 per cent was documented as formally collected and recycled. Electronic waste contains valuable materials, including copper, gold and other recoverable metals. However, it can also contain hazardous substances that threaten workers, communities and ecosystems when processed without adequate safeguards.

The problem is compounded by the international movement of discarded electronics. Some equipment enters African markets as second-hand goods, offering affordable access to technology. However, products that are obsolete, damaged or unsuitable for reuse can become waste almost immediately. The distinction between legitimate reuse and disguised waste exports is therefore essential.

The Basel Convention provides an international framework for controlling hazardous waste movements. Nevertheless, enforcement remains a challenge, particularly where customs authorities lack sufficient resources and technical capacity. Since January 2025, European Union rules have prohibited exports of all electronic waste to non-OECD countries, while imposing prior informed consent requirements on exports to OECD countries. Such measures are important, but regulations alone cannot eliminate illegal shipments or prevent waste from being mislabelled. Africa must therefore demand greater accountability from exporting countries and multinational corporations. Environmental responsibility cannot end at the border of a wealthy nation.

However, portraying Africa solely as a victim of foreign dumping would be misleading. The continent also faces a rapidly expanding domestic waste challenge driven by urbanisation, population growth, changing consumption patterns and inadequate infrastructure.

The World Bank identifies Sub-Saharan Africa as one of the regions most vulnerable to the consequences of poorly managed municipal waste. Low collection rates, open dumping and insufficient treatment infrastructure create serious environmental and public health risks. In many African cities, waste accumulates in informal settlements, drainage channels and open spaces. During heavy rainfall, blocked drainage systems increase flood risks. Plastic pollution contaminates rivers and coastal environments, while the open burning of waste releases harmful pollutants into the atmosphere.

These consequences are not distributed equally. Low-income communities often live closest to dumpsites and have the least access to reliable waste collection services. Informal waste pickers, who play a crucial role in recovering recyclable materials, frequently operate without adequate protective equipment, social security or recognition.

The paradox is striking. Waste represents both an environmental liability and an economic resource. Yet, without appropriate institutions and investment, its economic value is captured unevenly while its environmental costs are transferred to vulnerable communities.

Africa must reject the assumption that economic development requires reproducing the resource-intensive consumption patterns of industrialised countries. Instead, the continent should pursue a circular economy in which materials are reused, repaired, recycled and recovered for productive purposes.

African governments must also strengthen regional cooperation. Waste does not respect national borders, and fragmented regulatory systems create opportunities for illegal trafficking. The African Union, regional economic communities and national governments should coordinate waste trade regulations, strengthen customs enforcement and establish common environmental standards.

The African Continental Free Trade Area offers an opportunity to develop regional markets for recycled materials and circular-economy products. However, such markets must be supported by reliable infrastructure, transparent regulations and investment in local manufacturing. Crucially, the informal sector must not be excluded from this transition. Waste pickers and community-based recycling enterprises already perform essential environmental services. Formalisation should provide workers with safer conditions, fair compensation, training and access to social protection rather than displacing them in favour of large private operators.

The international community must recognise that Africa cannot resolve a global waste crisis through domestic action alone. Wealthier countries must reduce waste generation, improve product design, enforce export restrictions and provide adequate financial and technological support. Climate finance and development assistance should support waste infrastructure, including modern recycling facilities, composting systems, sanitary landfills and waste collection services. Such investment must be accompanied by transparent governance and meaningful community participation.

At the same time, African governments must demonstrate political commitment. Waste management should not be treated as a secondary municipal service but as a fundamental component of public health, urban planning and economic development. The continent's growing population and urbanisation present an opportunity to build sustainable systems before unsustainable practices become entrenched. Investments made today can create employment, recover valuable resources and reduce the long-term costs of environmental degradation.

Will Africa inherit the waste? The answer depends on the decisions made today. If current patterns continue, the continent risks becoming both a destination for the world's discarded materials and a producer of increasingly unmanageable domestic waste. However, this future is not inevitable.

Africa possesses the demographic potential, entrepreneurial capacity and natural resources to develop a different model of economic growth. The challenge is to ensure that these advantages are supported by effective institutions, responsible investment and environmental justice. Waste should not be understood simply as something to be discarded. It is a reflection of the economic systems that produce it and the political choices that determine its management.

Africa must therefore refuse to inherit the waste of an unequal global economy. Instead, it must inherit the opportunity to build a cleaner, more inclusive and more sustainable future. The continent's legacy should not be a mountain of discarded materials, but a generation capable of transforming waste into wealth without sacrificing the environment or human dignity.

Understanding office politics: How unspoken rules shape success at work



By Samson Worku Teshome

"If you scratch beneath the surface, you'll often find out how work really gets done."— Aoife O'Brien

1. What Is Office Politics?

If you walk into any company, you will usually see an official organization chart hanging on the wall or listed in the employee handbook. This chart shows who the top boss is, who manages each department, and how reports move up the line. On paper, everything looks clean, logical, and simple. But anyone who has worked in an office for even a few weeks knows that the official picture is only part of the story. Beyond the official chart, there is an unspoken web of relationships, personal trust, and informal influences that dictates how decisions are actually made. This human reality is what people call office politics.

For a long time, business books and management advisors treated office politics like a bad disease. Many workers believed it only meant selfish behavior—like taking credit for someone else's work, whispering behind backs, or playing dirty games to get a promotion. But in reality, office politics is simply what happens when human beings work together under one roof. Whenever people gather to share budgets, compete for limited job openings, and try to build their careers, personal relationships and differing priorities will naturally come into play.

At its core, office politics is just the process of building connections, explaining ideas, and persuading others to take action. It is the human side of business operating alongside everyday tasks. When used well, political skill helps teams agree on shared goals, solve conflicts, and move important projects forward quickly. When used poorly or selfishly, it creates confusion, breeds distrust, and hurts the performance of the entire company.

2. Why Does Office Politics Happen?

Office politics does not happen by mistake, nor does it mean a company is completely broken. Instead, political behavior grows naturally out of common situations present in almost every organization.

First, resources are always limited. No company has infinite money, endless time, or enough executive titles for everyone. Departments must naturally compete for their share of the company budget, new hires, or high-profile client projects. When rules for sharing resources are not 100% clear, managers must convince senior leaders to support their teams. In these moments, strong personal relationships and executive trust often matter just as much as hard numbers and project proposals.

Second, job roles and targets are often unclear. In complex businesses, it is not always easy to measure exactly who contributed what to a successful project. When employees are not sure how their performance is being evaluated, visibility becomes crucial. People quickly realize that making sure their hard work is seen and appreciated by senior leaders is just as vital as doing the work itself. As a result, employees spend extra effort building their internal reputation.

Third, organizational changes create fear and uncertainty. When a company brings in a new chief executive, merges with another firm, or changes its main strategy, established routines dissolve. During these times of change, employees worry about job security and lost authority. People naturally begin forming alliances, keeping close guard over key information, and protecting their positions until the dust settles.

3. Good Politics vs. Bad Politics

A common mistake made by new workers and technical experts is trying to stay completely neutral and ignoring office politics altogether. They believe that if they simply do good technical work, success will automatically follow. While hard work and high skills are essential, ignoring personal dynamics can leave great ideas completely ignored. It is critical to recognize the difference between helpful influence and harmful behavior.

Helpful influence—often called good organizational awareness—is about bringing people together to achieve common goals. In large companies, great initiatives frequently stall because different departments have different priorities. A worker with strong relationship skills takes time to talk with colleagues before big meetings, listens carefully to their concerns, and frames proposals so that everyone benefits. This kind of thoughtful communication builds trust, removes roadblocks, and helps the business succeed faster.

Harmful behavior, on the other hand, puts personal gain above the health of the team. Examples include hiding important information from teammates, taking sole credit for group work, or spreading rumors to weaken a rival. When harmful politics dominates an office, employees become cautious and defensive. Instead of focusing on customer needs and fresh innovation, workers waste energy writing endless emails to protect themselves from blame.

4. The Four Types of Influence at Work

People often assume that power in a company comes only from formal job titles and salary levels. In practice, however, authority is much broader. Employees build real influence in four distinct ways:

·Title Power: The official authority that comes with a position, such as approving department budgets, signing contracts, or hiring staff.

·Information Power: Having access to key company news, upcoming changes, or financial results before others do. Information holds immense weight in decision-making.

Connection Power: Being well-connected across different teams. People who bridge gaps between departments—such as connecting sales, legal, and engineering—can solve problems quickly because they know who to call.

·Skill Power: Possessing deep expertise in a critical topic. When senior managers depend on a specific analyst or engineer to solve difficult technical problems, that expert gains high natural influence regardless of their job title.

5. The Hidden Cost of Bad Office Politics

When bad politics runs unchecked by leadership, the entire company suffers a heavy, hidden cost. While this cost does not show up directly on financial statements, it erodes business growth over time in two major ways:

·Flawed Choices: In politically charged offices, project ideas are often judged by who proposed them rather than their actual value. Great ideas from quieter or less-connected employees are ignored, while weak ideas pushed by favorite managers get full funding. Over time, product quality drops and the company loses its competitive edge.

·Loss of Top Talent: High-performing workers want to stay where fair results, creativity, and hard work lead to career growth. When they notice that promotions and bonuses depend on flattery and favoritism instead of true performance, they quietly resign. The company is left mostly with people who care more about playing internal games than doing quality work.

6. How Leaders Can Build a Healthy Workplace

·Company executives and department heads cannot eliminate human politics entirely, but they can set clear rules to ensure workplace dynamics stay positive and fair:

·Set Fair and Clear Promotion Rules: When employees clearly see how performance is measured and how promotions are earned, they do not feel forced to rely on secret favors or backroom deals.

·Reward Cross-Team Cooperation: If managers are rewarded only for their own team's numbers, they will hoard resources and compete with other departments. Rewarding joint projects encourages leaders to share ideas and work together.

·Encourage Honest and Open Talk: Leaders should actively invite feedback, listen to different opinions, and address problems directly. When management acts with total transparency, toxic political behavior loses its power.

7. Practical Tips for Everyday Professionals

Navigating office politics effectively does not mean changing who you are or sacrificing your values. Instead, it is about being smart and proactive about how you build professional relationships at work. Here are four practical ways to build positive influence every day:

·Focus on Mutual Wins: Whenever you present a new project or ask for help, think about how it benefits the other department too. When people see that you care about their success, they become eager to support your ideas.

·Communicate Early and Often: Never wait for a major meeting to present a big proposal for the very first time. Walk over to key decision-makers beforehand, share your initial thoughts informally, and ask for their advice. This simple step makes people feel included and reduces resistance.

·Build Networks Across Departments: Do not limit your workplace friendships to your immediate team. Take time to get to know colleagues in finance, legal, customer service, and IT. A broad internal network helps you solve unexpected problems much faster.

·Stay Above Gossip: Workplace rumors and negative chatter can ruin reputations quickly. Always remain professional, protect confidential details, and speak respectfully about colleagues even when they are not in the room.

8. Conclusion: Finding the Right Balance

Office politics is not automatically good or bad—it is simply a natural part of working in any group. For individual workers, learning how to build positive relationships, communicate clearly, and present ideas effectively is just as vital as mastering technical tasks. For business leaders, the objective is to build an environment where honesty, hard work, and good results are always recognized and rewarded. When companies combine clear rules with open communication, workplace politics becomes a positive force that drives success for everyone.

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COMPANY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AND PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME REPORT OF HIBRET INSURANCE S.C FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2026 PUBLISHED IN COMPLIANCE WITH ARTICLE 33/2(B) OF PROCLAMATION NO.746/2012.

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HIBRET INSURANCE

Hibret Insurance SC
Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income
For the year ended 30 June 2026

	Notes	30 June 2026 Birr'000	30 June 2025 Birr'000
Insurance Revenue	6.a	3,137,326	2,337,309
Insurance Service Expense	6.b	(1,744,933)	(1,230,222)
Net Expenses from Reinsurance Contracts Held	6.c	(294,949)	(341,716)
Insurance Service Result		**1,097,444**	**765,372**
Net Investment Income	12	722,121	544,434
Finance Expenses from Insurance Contracts	6.d	30,428	164,002
Finance Income from Reinsurance Contracts	6.d	(31,326)	(48,158)
Net Financial Result		**721,223**	**660,278**
Other income	13	17,032	8,481
Wakala fee income		19,018	11,183
Opearating expenses	7.2	(474,527)	(437,993)
IFRS 9 ECL Impairment		75	729
Profit Before Tax		**1,380,264**	**1,008,050**
Income Tax Expense		(414,944)	(164,901)
Profit for the Year		**965,320**	**843,149**
Other Comprehensive Income			
Revaluation gain/loss on Equity Investments		419,676	72,747
Re-measurement gain/(loss) on retirement benefits obligations	33	(3,470)	(4,399)
Deferred tax (liability)/asset on Re-measurement gain or loss		1,041	1,320
Profit for the year		417,247	69,668
Total comprehensive income for the year		**1,382,567**	**912,818**
Basic earnings per shares (in Birr)		672.07	685.56

Wondwossen Teshome
Chairperson, Board of Directors
26 October 2026

Meseret Bezabih
Chief Executive Officer
26 October 2026

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HIBRET INSURANCE

Hibret Insurance SC
Statement of financial position
For the year ended 30 June 2026

	Notes	30 June 2026 Birr'000	30 June 2025 Birr'000
ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	14	517,422	417,738
Investment properties	15	685,311	267,150
Intangible assets	16	23,847	15,314
Right-of-use assets	28	26,491	26,051
Investment securities :			
Financial asset at FVOCI	17	795,120	426,324
Financial asset at amortized cost	17	269,306	163,281
Statutory deposits	18	289,325	204,576
Insurance Contract Assets	8	112,757	76,494
Reinsurance Contract Assets	8	1,007,830	855,279
Policy holder loans	21	61	92
Salvage property held for sale	22	17,978	13,038
Other assets	23	223,625	128,815
Deposits with financial institutions	24	3,880,735	3,156,538
Cash and cash equivalents	24	589,841	288,914
TOTAL ASSETS		**8,439,648**	**6,039,603**
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
Liabilities			
Insurance Contract Liabilities	8	3,295,025	2,611,430
Reinsurance Contract Liabilities	8	450,607	358,481
Other liabilities	26	672,819	376,095
Current income tax liabilities	27	274,015	117,933
Lease Liabilities	28	13,085	14,619
Defined benefit obligations	29	16,562	12,759
Deferred income tax	27	84,819	73,926
TOTAL LIABILITIES		**4,806,933**	**3,565,243**
EQUITY			
Share capital	30	1,877,003	1,341,598
Share premium	30	35,728	15,202
Retained earnings	32	868,788	707,394
IFRS Adoption Re-measurement Reserve		65,940	65,940
Legal reserve	33	374,505	277,973
Revaluation Reserve-Equity Investment	11	419,676	72,747
Other reserve	35	(8,925)	(6,495)
TOTAL EQUITY		**3,632,715**	**2,474,359**
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		**8,439,648**	**6,039,603**

The financial statements shown on pages 39 to 42 were approved and authorized for issue by the board of directors on 26 October 2026 and were signed on its behalf by:

Wondwossen Teshome
Chairman, Board of Directors
26 October 2026

Meseret Bezabih
Chief Executive Officer
26 October 2026

UNHCR
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

TENDER NOTICE

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Representation Office in Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, invites qualified and registered Suppliers to participate in the following tenders:

SN	Tender Subject	Closing Date
1	**Request for Proposal** **UNHCR RFP No. 3814** For the provision of beneficiary-owned SIM cards, including registration, activation, and twelve (12) months of mobile connectivity services for refugees in Ethiopia	**8 November 2026** at 23:59 hours (East Africa Time, UTC+3)
2	**REQUEST FOR QUOTATION** **UNHCR RFQ 3816** FOR THE PROVISION OF TRANSLATION AND LOCALIZATION SERVICES FOR THE CARING FOR CHILD SURVIVORS (CCS) GUIDANCE, TRAINING PACKAGE AND E-LEARNING MATERIALS INTO TIGRINYA AND SOMALI	**6 November 2026** at 23:59 hours (East Africa Time, UTC+3)

Interested suppliers are invited to visit the following links:

How to become a supplier | UNHCR - information on supplier registration and eligibility.

UNHCR Supplier Portal - Tender Opportunities:

UNHCR encourages companies to also register on the United Nations Global Marketplace (UNGM) to receive announcements only. This portal may not be used by vendors for submitting offers.

The above tender opportunities are also advertised through the following platforms:

1. United Nations Global Marketplace (UNGM)
2. Merkato: https://www.2merkato.com

Companies interested in engaging with UNHCR for business opportunities and tender processes are invited to register (Supplier Registration Portal) or Supplier portal log -in on the How to become a supplier | UNHCR (https://www.unhcr.org/get-involved/work-us/become-supplier/how-become-supplier) or UNHCR Supplier registration portal (https://bit.ly/482Fqam). New suppliers need to be registered first others please login using your existing username (email address) and password, if you forgot your password, you could click forgot password.

SUPPLY MANAGEMENT SERVICES
UNHCR ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

UNHCR
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

TENDER NOTICE

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Representation Office in Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, invites qualified and registered Contractors / Suppliers to participate in the following tender:

#	Tender Subject	Closing Date
1	**REQUEST FOR PROPOSSAL (RFP) UNHCR RFP:3824** **AGRICULTURAL WORKSHOP CONSTRUCTION FOR DOLLO ADO TVET COLLEGE**	**11TH November 2026 17:00 Hrs. EAT**
2	**REQUEST FOR PROPOSSAL (SRFP) UNHCR SRFP 3815** **For Engineering Consultancy Services for Buramino Water Supply System**	**6th October 2026 17:00 Hrs. EAT**

Tender Document Request Instructions

Interested suppliers are invited to visit the following links:

How to become a supplier | UNHCR – information on supplier registration and eligibility.

UNHCR Supplier Portal – Tender Opportunities:

1) **UNHCR SRFP: - Negotiations - Oracle Fusion Cloud Applications**
2) **UNHCR SRFP: 3815- Negotiations - Oracle Fusion Cloud Applications**

UNHCR encourages companies to also register on the United Nations Global Marketplace (UNGM) to receive

announcements only. This portal may not be used by vendors for submitting offers.

The above tender opportunities are also advertised through the following platforms:

1. United Nations Global Marketplace (UNGM)

2. Capital Newspaper - Sunday English Edition

3. 2Merkato: https://www.2merkato.com

Companies interested in engaging with UNHCR for business opportunities and tender processes are invited to register on the **UNHCR Supplier registration portal (https://bit.ly/482Fqam).**

United Nations Nations Unies

UNECA

Title of the EOI: HP Color and black LaserJets Printers, cartridges, drums, image transfer kit, ADF roller maintenance kit andpreventive maintenance kits	
Date of this EOI: 23 October 2026	**Closing Date for Receipt of EOI:** 30 October 2026
RFI Number: RFIUNECA24842	**Beneficiary Country/Territory:** Ethiopia
Commodity/Service category: Office Equipment & Supplies	
For queries & to submit RFI response through: shiferaw3@un.org;	
UNSPSC Code: 744000000 - Office Equipment and Accessories and Supplie; 44100000 - Office machines and their supplies and accessories; 44103100 - Printer and facsimile and photocopier supplies	

DESCRIPTION OF REQUIREMENTS

This Request for Information (RFI) is issued solely for information and planning purposes to conduct market research. It does not constitute a solicitation or a commitment to implement a procurement process, nor does it bind the United Nations (UN) or the Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) to issue a contract or pay for any costs incurred in the preparation or submission of responses.

The primary objective of this RFI is to evaluate market capabilities, determine commercial viability, and obtain industry feedback on the most appropriate operational and procurement structure for UNECA's food and beverage services. Information provided will be treated as strictly confidential and used exclusively for internal UN planning only.

INFORMATION REQUESTED FROM VENDORS

1. Vendors are requested to indicate whether they would be interested in participating in a future similar bid.
2. Company Profile & Capabilities and relevant Experience.
3. technical verification
4. Financial information
5. Delivery and supply flexibility

For more details and for the Response Format, please use this link:UNPD Internet Site:**https://www.un.org/Depts/ptd/sites/www.un.org.Depts.ptd/files/pdf/rfi24842.pdf or https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/319544**

UNHCR
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

TENDER NOTICE

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Representation Office in Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, invites qualified and registered Contractors / Suppliers to participate in the following tender:

#	Tender Subject	Closing Date
1.	**REQUEST FOR QUOTATION REF. NO.: UNHCR RFQ 3798** **FOR HOST COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY LINE REHABILITATION WORK, CONSTRUCTION OF BOOSTER PUMP HOUSE, CHEMICAL STORAGE HOUSE AND SHADE FENCE AND GATE FOR DOSATRON PUMP AT BURAMINO**	**6th November 2026 17:00 Hrs. EAT**

Tender Document Request Instructions

Interested suppliers must request the tender documents for by email only.

Please send your request to **ethmksms@unhcr.org** clearly stating the respective Reference Number in the email subject line.

Submission of bids must also be made through **ethmksms@unhcr.org**

Tender documents will be available for collection from **Tuesday, 27th October 2026**, during the following working hours:

- **Monday to Thursday: 09:00 -12:00 and 14:00-16:00**
- **Friday: 09:00 - 14:00**

All tender submissions must comply with the requirements stated in the tender documents and must be **typewritten, computer-generated, or in PDF format. Submissions received after the deadline (6th November 2026) will not be accepted.**

SUPPLY MANAGEMENT SERVICES,
MELKADIDA, ETHIOPIA

APPLY for 2027

University of South Africa

Unisa

Application Dates:

1 September - 20 November 2026

Master's and Doctoral qualifications

www.unisa.ac.za/apply

Hundreds of students have completed master's and doctoral degrees and other open distance and e-learning programmes through the University of South Africa (Unisa) in Ethiopia.

Unisa offers master's and doctoral degree programmes in: Accounting, Management, Economics, Social Sciences, Humanities, Education, Public Health, Law, Science, Engineering, Technology, Environmental Sciences, Agriculture,and many other disciplines.

All applications are done online at: **www.unisa.ac.za/apply**
Visit the website for detailed admission requirements and qualifications on offer.

Documents needed for admission application*

For a master's degree:

- Bachelor's/Honors degree certificates and academic records
- For a master's degree that involves research only, an outline of proposed master's research (3–5 pages)
- Copy of passport or national ID
- CV

For a doctoral degree:

- Master's and bachelor's degree certificates and academic records
- Outline of proposed doctoral research (3–5 pages)
- Copy of passport or national ID
- CV

*Applicants for programmes in the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences need to complete a departmental questionnaire.
*Applicants for programmes in the College of Science, Engineering and Technology need to first contact professors in the college and get a confirmation letter that should be uploaded together with other documents at the time of online application.
*If you are admitted, you will be required to get your qualification evaluated by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) and submit the certificate of evaluation to Unisa within your 1st year of registration.
* Other requirements may apply.

For further information:

Telephone: +251936812181, +251948262076, or +251938487101
E-mail: mokongb@unisa.ac.za, ahmedze@unisa.ac.za, or tadesss@unisa.ac.za

Visit our Campus in Beklo Bet (Lancha) Area, Kirkos Sub City, Addis Ababa
(50 meters behind the NOC petrol station)

Define tomorrow.

UNISA university of south africa

Safaricom
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PROVISIONING OF DAYCARE SERVICE, IN-HOUSE GYM & FITNESS SERVICE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) REQUIREMENTS

EOI Reference:	
Issuing Date:	October 21, 2026
Closing Date:	November 2, 2026
Issued by:	Safaricom Ethiopia
Submission Email:	**bids@safaricom.et**

1. BACKGROUND

Safaricom Ethiopia is looking forward to having a qualified Inhouse day care and Gym and fitness service providers to its employees with designated premises for the gym and daycare facilities to be provided by Safaricom Ethiopia. The service provider shall be responsible for supplying the necessary equipment, providing qualified staff, managing daily operations, and delivering the agreed fitness and childcare services in compliance with applicable safety, hygiene, and operational standards. Safaricom Ethiopia shall coordinate facility-related matters through the relevant internal departments. This is therefore an expression of Interest to invites qualified and experienced service providers to demonstrate their interest and capability to establish, equip, operate and manage an in-house gym and fitness service including the day care to Safaricom Ethiopia's Staff.

A. Gym Service Provider EOI Requirement

The Gym service provider shall supply, manage, and maintain the necessary fitness equipment and provide qualified fitness personnel to ensure safe, effective, and reliable service delivery in coordination with Safaricom Ethiopia's Facilities Department. Interested gym and fitness service providers shall express their interest and submit as per the minimum requirements outlined below.

B. Daycare Service Provider

The daycare service provider will operate the service with designated employees and equipment required at daycare centers within Safaricom's provided facility. Interested firms should have qualified childcare professionals, relevant experience, robust health and safety standards, and the capacity to deliver high-quality childcare services in a safe and engaging environment. Interested daycare service providers shall express their interest and submit as per the minimum requirements outlined below.

1. EOI REQUIREMENTS

1. **Legal and Regulatory Compliance**
   - Valid Business Registration Certificate.
   - Valid Business License authorizes the provision of gym, fitness or related services.
   - Valid Tax Compliance/Tax Clearance Certificate.
   - Evidence of a minimum of two (2) years' experience in providing daycare or early childhood care services.
2. **Organizational Information and Experience**
   - Company profile, including services offered and years of operation.
   - Evidence of providing gym and fitness services including client references where applicable.
   - Details of the proposed management and operational structure.
   - Information on current daycare operations, including enrollment capacity, age groups served, operating hours, and facility location(s).
3. **Personnel Qualifications**
   - CVs of proposed fitness trainers, instructors and management personnel.
   - CVs of key caregivers, supervisors, and management personnel.
   - Copies of relevant academic qualifications and professional certifications.
   - Evidence of relevant fitness training certifications.
   - Evidence that caregivers hold valid First Aid certification.
   - Any additional supportive accreditations or documents associated with the service type.

3. SUBMISSION OF RESPONSES

Interested suppliers should submit their response, comprising the documents listed above and the statement of compliance to the following email addresses bids@safaricom.et **no later than November 2, 2026, at 5 pm.**

All submissions to email should be less than 20MB in size, and if larger should be shared on a zip folder / link. Please indicate the mail title as "

Lot#1 Provision Daycare Service,
Lot#2 In-House Gym & Fitness Service"

NEXT STEPS

Once the responses are received the further process will follow the steps below.

1. Review of submitted Expressions of Interest
2. Prequalification of shortlisted suppliers
3. Issuing 'Request for Proposals' to pre-qualified suppliers.
4. Proposal evaluation and award for project commencement

NOTE The Following:

- Only the suppliers that meet our minimum requirements will be considered for further discussions.
- No prices should be provided with this EOI.
- The receipt of the response shall not bind Safaricom to any contractual agreements with the prospective bidder. Such arrangements shall only come in place once a tender process has been completed, and an award issued to a successful bidder after technical evaluation.
- Any costs associated with preparing and submitting the response to the EOI shall be borne by the respondent.
- EOI responses shall be submitted through the channel and by the deadline communicated in the invitation notice. Each response shall be signed by an authorized representative and shall include the respondent's full legal name, registered address, contact person, telephone number and email address. Respondents shall state the validity period of their submission and clearly label any confidential information.

NOTE

Safaricom Ethiopia reserves, at its sole discretion, the right to select or reject, either in totality or partially, any or all proposals made in the context of this EOI. Any such decisions will be final, and no correspondence will be engaged in, other than to inform the bidders of the outcome of the process. Safaricom Ethiopia and its authorized representatives are hereby authorized to conduct any inquiries or investigations to verify the documents and information submitted in connection with this application.

INVITATION FOR BID

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) is one of the world's leading humanitarian and development organizations, operating in over 40 countries to deliver relief, rehabilitation, and post-crisis recovery services. Since initiating operations in Ethiopia in 2000 in response to severe drought, the IRC has implemented integrated emergency and development programs across six regions of Ethiopia. Its programming spans health, water and sanitation, economic recovery, women's protection and empowerment, education, child protection, and multi-sectoral responses.

IRC invites the sealed bids from all eligible and qualified bidders, technically competent, and having valid licenses for the current Ethiopian FY 2018/ 2019 EC/2026 GC to provide the service below:

Consultancy for Cost-Effectiveness of the Indigo backpack cold chain system in six conflict-affected fragile and hard to reach regions, Ethiopia.

The Complete set of bidding documents in English for the Consultancy service above can be obtained from the **IRC Addis Ababa office located at:**

International Rescue Committee, Addis Ababa Office

SETS building 7th floor

Jackros to Salitemihret Road, Around Robera Coffee

Tel: 0116 63 83 02, 0116 636 735/6/7

Fax:0116 62 00 19

Addis Ababa Office

Late bids cannot be accepted. Tender will be closed on November 16, 2026, at 4:00 PM.

The prospective vendor shall present with their company name and sign to acknowledge receipt of the bid documents.

IRC shall not be bound to accept the lowest-priced bid or any bid submitted, and any form of canvassing will lead to automatic disqualification.

IRC Ethiopia country Program reserves, at its sole discretion, the right to select or reject either totally or partially any or all proposals made in the context of the request for proposal.

TENDER NOTICE

UNHCR
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Representation Office in Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, invites qualified and registered Suppliers to participate in the following tenders:

SN	Tender Subject	Closing Date
2	**Request for Proposal** **UNHCR RFP No. 3667** For the Provision of Construction Works for Healthcare Waste Management Facilities in Dollo Ado Refugee Camps, Somali Region, Ethiopia	**11 November 2026 at 11:59 AM,**

Interested suppliers are invited to visit the following links:

How to become a supplier | UNHCR - information on supplier registration and eligibility.

UNHCR Supplier Portal - Tender Opportunities:

UNHCR encourages companies to also register on the **United Nations Global Marketplace (UNGM)** to receive announcements only. This portal may not be used by vendors for submitting offers.

The above tender opportunities are also advertised through the following platforms:

1. **United Nations Global Marketplace (UNGM)**
2. Merkato: **https://www.2merkato.com**

Companies interested in engaging with UNHCR for business opportunities and tender processes are invited to register (Supplier Registration Portal) or Supplier portal log -in on the **How to become a supplier | UNHCR (https://www.unhcr.org/get-involved/work-us/become-supplier/how-become-supplier**) or

UNHCR Supplier registration portal (https://bit.ly/482Fqam). New suppliers need to be registered first others please login using your existing username (email address) and password, if you forgot your password, you could click forgot password.

SUPPLY MANAGEMENT SERVICES
UNHCR ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

AMCE VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

AMCE would like to fill the following vacancy in the Customer & Technical Service Department and invite those qualified to apply for the post.

Job Title	Auto Mechanic
Grade Level	Grade Seven
No. of Posts	Three
Education, Experience and Skill	Graduation from Level IV or 10+3 from TVET, four years Commercial Vehicles Repair and Maintenance experience of which at least two years as a Junior Mechanic II, Or Graduation of Level V TVET Education with two years of Commercial Vehicles Repair and Maintenance experience.
Requirements	**Knowledge** Thorough knowledge of the theory and complexity of automotive technology, thorough knowledge and skill in the use and operation of shop tools and equipment; ability to detect by inspection any work or broken vehicle parts. **Ability & Skill** • Determine appropriate repair and maintenance; • Effectively use hand tools and vehicle diagnostic equipment; • Interpret manufacturers specifications; • Inspect completed work for conformance with job order; • Perform heavy physical labor; • Train and direct other Junior mechanics; • Maintain cooperative working relationships, • DRY II valid driving license is advantageous.

- ✓ **Salary:** As per the company's scale
- ✓ **Terms of Employment:** Indefinite Period
- ✓ **Duty Station:** Addis Ababa

How to Apply

Interested & qualified applicants who strictly meet the set requirements are invited to apply with non-returnable copy of qualification & supporting documents with covering letter, in person to the HR, Admin. & Legal Dept. of AMCE. Or send to the following email address emebet.adugnachew@ivecogroup.com within 10 consecutive working days from the date of announcement of the vacancy.

SOMALI REGIONAL EDUCATION BUREAU
Invitation for Local Competitive Bidders

Somali Regional Education Bureau invites interested bidders for the construction size works listed below.

1:-construction for site works at hargeele, lay, marqaan, bookh, dhuxun dhoobaweyn guradhaamole boarding schools and Godey A-level secondary schools With Ref- SREB/NCB/ENG/W/0020/2019

2: maintenance and renovation site works at jigjiga high school (corridor) and sh.abdisalan secondary school (corridor) With Ref- SREB/NCB/ENG/W/0021/2019

3: Completion of the construction of jigjiga public library With Ref-SREB/NCB/RC/ENG/0022/2019

The Bid document shall be obtained commencing after the journal comes out for each Item from Somali Regional Education Bureau; Procurement & Property Directorate; Ground Floor and You can access the bid document. Online from https:/REB.gove.et against payment of a non-refundable fee of Birr1000 (One Thousand birr only) for each of the above works which shall be paid of finance 'Somali Regional State Education Bureau. The bid document shall be collected during office hours (**Monday to Friday 8:00-12:00pm and 2:00-5:15pm**) by presenting the payment advice. Presenting **copy of renewed Trade License 2019, Tax Clearance Certificate and VAT Registration Certificate** is a must.

Bidders who do not have any poor performance history on previous Bureau's Projects can participate in this Bid. (For Item 1). Bidders shall be quite sure to state direct line phone number, cell phone number, fax number and e-mail address of their organization correctly while collecting bid documents. Failure in receipt of bid communication due to incorrectness of the above will not be the responsibility of the bureau. Bid proposal shall be accompanied by the bid bond/Earnest Money Deposit of **2%** of the item contract in the form of **Unconditional Bank Guarantee or Cash Payment Order (C.P.O.)**. Bid bond/ EMD in any other form is not acceptable. Bids must be deposited in the tender box prepared for this purpose at Somali Regional Education Bureau, logistics department during office hours before 2:00 pm. Bid opening shall be held in the presence of bidders and/or their legal agents who wish to attend, on 2:30 p.m. at the place mentioned under no. 2 above. Failure to comply any of the conditions from 2-5 above shall result in automatic rejection. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from

Logistics Department, P. O. Bo 210, Jigjiga, Ethiopia, and Tel: 025 775 2069, Fax 025 775 3524, or Visit:
The Somali REB Reserves the Right to Accept or Reject Any or All Bids

BANK OF AMERICA | great ethiopian run

Presenting Partner of the Children's Races



2026 CHILDREN'S RACES
PRESENTED BY BANK OF AMERICA

SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2026

VENUE:

ETHIOPIAN SPORT ACADEMY

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ውሃን እንንከባከብ፤ የልጆች ነገን እንጠብቅ።
unicef

REGISTRATION FEE: 400 BIRR INCLUDING VAT

PAY WITH TELEBIRR - COLLECT T-SHIRT FROM GREAT ETHIOPIAN RUN OFFICE : BEHIND ALEM CINIMA OR LAMBERET MARATHON BUILDING

AGE CATEGORY : UNDER 11

BANK OF AMERICA | great ethiopian run

Presenting Partner of the Great Ethiopian Run 10km

SUNDAY
22 NOVEMBER 2026



BANK OF AMERICA | unicef | Ethiopian የኢትዮጵያ | ethio telecom | telebirr | SOFI MALT | Ethiopia LAND OF ORIGINS

sossi | Fab Bathing & Beauty | HYATT REGENCY ADDIS ABABA | TOP PURIFIED NATURAL WATER BEYOND PURITY | EUROPEAN UNION | EBC | AFRAN HOSPITAL

Why we are designed for communication and how to bridge the invisible divide



By Gezahegn Anbelu

In the late eighteenth century, deep in the forests of southern France, hunters captured a young, naked boy roaming entirely wild among beasts. Known to history as Victor of Aveyron, this child had grown up detached from human society, surviving without speech, culture, or communal touch. When he was brought into civilization, well-meaning educators and physicians attempted to rescue him, hoping to teach him the ways of humankind. But despite years of patient, heroic rehabilitation, Victor could never fully integrate. He remained profoundly alienated, unable to master language, process abstract thought, or navigate the complex currents of human society.

Victor's tragic fate is not merely an isolated historical anomaly; it is a stark, haunting reminder of a fundamental biological truth: human beings are not merely social by choice—we are hardwired, from our neurobiology to our survival instincts, for communal life.

The Lifeblood of the Mind: Communication, Brain Health, and Longevity

We often treat human communication as a practical tool used simply to exchange information, negotiate tasks, or express daily preferences. Sustained interpersonal communication and rich social life are the absolute lifeblood of cognitive vitality.

Modern neuroscience has revealed that active, deep communication is one of the most complex workouts the human brain can perform. When we engage in meaningful dialogue, our brains are simultaneously decoding linguistic symbols, interpreting micro-expressions, regulating emotional responses, and anticipating another person's perspective in real time. This continuous cognitive friction builds what neuroscientists call cognitive reserve—the brain's structural resilience and ability to route around neurological damage.

Extensive epidemiological research demonstrates that individuals who maintain robust social networks and engage in regular, intellectually stimulating communication enjoy markedly lower rates of stress, sharper cognitive performance well into old age, and a significantly delayed onset of neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's and dementia. Conversely, chronic isolation acts as an accelerant for cognitive decay. Just as Victor's brain failed to wire properly without early human contact, an adult brain deprived of deep interpersonal discourse slowly begins to wither. We require communicative connection to keep our minds alive, coherent, and resilient.

The Paradox of Proximity: Why Miscommunication Happens

Given that we are biologically designed for connection, it remains a profound paradox why two people who speak the same language, share good intentions, and act in a spirit of cooperation so often end up struggling to understand each other. Ironical as it may seem, physical or emotional proximity often exacerbates this divide: closeness breeds the illusion of transparency, convincing us that those nearest to us must naturally view the world through our exact lens. When that assumption inevitably shatters, miscommunication breeds deep frustration, fracturing families, marriages, and lifelong relationships.

Focusing on the causes of these breakdowns, one of the most common culprits is unexamined semantic assumption. This occurs when two people further their dialogue assuming both share the exact same definition of a particular word or concept, failing to account for the background baggage each person brings to the table. For instance, when two individuals discuss "marriage," their understanding is often limited to the intimate lens of their own upbringing. If one witnessed a toxic, broken dynamic while the other experienced a blooming partnership, their internal definitions diverge wildly, sparking immediate friction.

Beyond semantics, interpersonal conflict is frequently driven by subconscious trauma and psychological undercurrents. Consider the chilling account of a man who faced severe childhood abuse because his father irrationally blamed him for his mother's death in childbirth. Growing up under constant brutality, his definition of a "father" became inextricably linked with terror, trauma, and helplessness. For someone bearing that history, discussing a "loving and caring dad" is entirely foreign and deeply triggering. A traumatized mind may even subconsciously provoke conflictual conversations to protect itself from ancient childhood wounds.

Finally, friction arises from hidden cultural currents. Even when two people speak the same language, divergent cultural backgrounds create colliding expectations. Consider two individuals from the same nation—one who spent decades abroad as a diaspora and another rooted entirely in traditional local customs. In marital relations within diaspora communities, for example, a husband may expect his wife to fulfill traditional domestic roles through a conventional lens, while his partner operates under a modern, Westernized framework of partnership. If these unspoken cultural assumptions remain unmasked, resolving the impasse becomes an uphill battle.

How to Bridge the Unseen Gap

Recognizing that miscommunication is rarely just about superficial vocabulary fundamentally changes how we approach resolution. If the true roots of interpersonal conflict are buried beneath unspoken personal history, subconscious trauma, and divergent cultural conditioning, superficial fixes will never suffice. Overcoming these invisible barriers requires a deliberate, uncompromising commitment to intentionality, curiosity, and emotional discipline.

The first step in this journey is a conscious shift from lazy assumption to explicit definition. Whenever a dialogue touches on high-stakes, deeply loaded concepts—such as marriage, respect, commitment, or success—we must abandon the illusion that our vocabulary is universally shared. Instead of reacting with frustration when a term rubs us the wrong way, we must cultivate the courage to pause and unpack it. Making the implicit explicit disarms hidden assumptions before they can ignite an unnecessary fire.

"When you use that word, what does it look like in your actual experience?"

Beyond words, we must learn to untangle our present-day interactions from the ghosts of past trauma and cultural conditioning. As demonstrated by the scars of childhood abuse or the clashing expectations of diaspora life, emotional triggers often drag old wounds into a completely unrelated current debate. This demands rigorous metacognition—the discipline of stepping back to examine our own internal weather. When a minor disagreement provokes a disproportionately fierce emotional reaction, we must interrogate our own motives: Am I truly responding to the person sitting across from me right now, or am I violently reacting to an old script, an unhealed wound, or an unexamined cultural reflex? Recognizing these subconscious defense mechanisms allows us to lay down our emotional armor and respond with rational, empathetic presence instead of reflexive hostility.

Ultimately, bridging the gap of miscommunication calls for the cultivation of epistemic humility—the profound acceptance that two people can look at the exact same reality through completely different lenses and both remain "right" according to the architecture of their individual worlds. We must approach dialogue not as a courtroom trial to be won or a debate to be dominated, but as a mutual excavation project. By honoring the validity of another person's internal archive, even when it violently contradicts our own ,we transcend the limitations of language and construct the structural foundation for a safe psychological sanctuary where true human understanding can finally take root.

The famous motivational speaker and author Stephen Covey once wrote that we usually expect others to understand us before we seek to understand them. However, this communication paradigm is problematic because it assumes our perspective is superior to our listener's. This condescending expectation often drags conversations into friction and misunderstanding. Instead, we should always aim to gain a deeper understanding of the motives, aspirations, and both the visible and invisible expectations people bring to a conversation.

Consider a common scenario where a husband comes home late from work and his wife angrily exclaims, "You never care about me, you only think about yourself!" To which the husband retorts, "You never understand how stressful my work is, you always complain!" Both individuals expect to be understood, but neither makes an effort to understand the other. The wife wants her husband to recognize her loneliness and concern, while the husband wants his wife to acknowledge his stress and responsibilities.

If the wife had instead asked, "Was work particularly difficult today?" and the husband had asked, "Were you worried when I came home late?", they might have connected through mutual understanding before driving each other away with judgment. The underlying lesson is simple yet profound: we frequently demand empathy from others while failing to offer empathy ourselves.

Interpersonal communication is a biological and social necessity for human beings. While conflict, misunderstanding, and hurt might tempt us to retreat into our shells, abandoning human communication entirely is virtually impossible and unsustainable. Instead, by learning from both our mistakes and our successes, we should strive to become competent communicators to enhance our mental health, foster a healthy social life, and articulate our ideas effectively in our professional lives.

Gezahegn Anbelu is a communication expert specializing in multiculturalism, the synthesis of diverse perspectives, and the promotion of peace, and human flourishing.

Capital features a variety of independent voices; the opinions articulated in this column are the author's own and operate independently of our corporate viewpoint.

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency | Ethiopia

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia wishes to inform the general public as follows.

It has come to our attention that there has been several incidents / occurrences of people in town masquerading as Humanitarian staff and purporting to be issuing out tenders for goods and services on behalf of UNHCR, and asking unsuspecting members of the public to either buy tender documents at a fee or deposit some amount of money in a fake bank account supposedly for UNHCR in order to be positively favoured and awarded the contract.

We therefore wish to inform the general public that these unscrupulous people do not represent or work for UNHCR; that UNHCR does not sell its tender documents, nor does it ask any company or business entity to purchase its tender documents or pay any money to UNHCR upfront. UNHCR tender documents are FREE OF CHARGE and open to any legally established business entities either registered with the government of Ethiopia or based globally. When UNHCR launches a tender for goods or services, it is openly advertised in the local news papers and loaded onto the UN Global website from where companies can register and access the tender documents for FREE.

Based on the above therefore, UNHCR advises the public to take note and be careful about people selling fake tender documents. UNHCR does not take any responsibility for any such occurrences and or loses thereof. The public is advised to report such incidents to the national security offices (police and others) for assistance. Any entity / company interested in doing business with UNHCR legally is advised either to contact UNHCR Offices directly or follow the guidance provided in the tender notice periodically published in the local newspapers and online on UN Websites / platforms.

SUPPLY MANAGEMENT SERVICES,

UNHCR BRANCH OFFICE, ADDIS ABABA

የህዝብ ማስታወቂያ

በአዲስ አበባ የሚገኘው የተባበሩት መንግስታት ድርጅት የስደተኞች ከፍተኛ ኮሚሽን (ዩኤንኤችሲአር) ለሰፊው ህዝብ እንደሚከተለው ማሳወቅ ይፈልጋል። በዩኤንኤችሲአር (UNHCR) ስም የሸቀጦች እና የአገልግሎት ጨረታዎችን እያወጡ ነው በሚል ተጠርጣሪ/አጭበርባሪ የህብረተሰብ ክፍሎች የጨረታ ሰነድ እንዲገዙ ወይም በአምንታዊ መልኩ ጥቅም ለማግኘት እና ውሉን ለመስጠት የተወሰነ የገንዘብ መጠን ለ UNHCR በሃሰተኛ የባንክ ሂሳብ ውስጥ ገንዘብ እንዲያስገቡ በመጠየቅ በአዲስ አበባ ከተማ ፡ በአካባቢው እና ከአዲስ አበባ ከተማ ውጭ መኖራቸውን ሰምተናል።

ጉዳዩ የሚመለከታቸውን ሁሉ UNHCR የማይወክሉ ወይም ለUNHCR የማይሠሩ፣ እንዲሁም UNHCR የጨረታ ሰነዱን የማይሸጥ መሆኑን፣ ማንኛውም ድርጅት ወይም የንግድ ድርጅት የጨረታ ሰነዱን እንዲገዛ ወይም ማንኛውንም ገንዘብ ለUNHCR በቅድሚያ እንዲከፍል እንደማይጠይቅ ለማሳወቅ እንወዳለን። የዩኤንኤችሲአር የጨረታ ሰነዶች ከክፍያ ነፃ እና በኢትዮጵያ መንግስት የተመዘገበም ሆነ በአለም አቀፍ ደረጃ ማንኛውም በህጋዊ ለተቋቋመ አካል ክፍት ነው። UNHCR ጨረታውን ለሸቀጦች ወይም አገልግሎቶች ሲከፍት በአገር ውስጥ በሚገኙ የዜና ወረቀቶች/ጋዜጦች ላይ በግልጽ ማስታወቂያ ይወጣል እንዲሁም በ UN Global ድረ-ገጽ ላይ (UNGM.org) ይጫናል።

ስለሆነም ከላይ በተገለፀው መሰረት ህብረተሰቡ በሀሰተኛ የጨረታ ሰነድ ከሚሸጡ አጭበርባሪዎች ጥንቃቄ እንዲያደርጉ UNHCR ይመክራል። UNHCR ለእንደዚህ አይነት ክስተቶች ምንም አይነት ሀላፊነት አይወስድም ። ህብረተሰቡ መሰል ጉዳዮችን ለብሄራዊ ደህንነት ቢሮዎች (ፖሊስ እና ሌሎች) ጥቆማ እንዲያደርግ ይመከራል። ከዩኤንኤችሲአር ጋር በህጋዊ መንገድ የንግድ ስራ ለመስራት ፍላጎት ያለው አካል/ኩባንያ በቀጥታ የዩኤንኤችሲአር ቢሮ እንዲያነጋግር ወይም በየጊዜው በአገር ውስጥ ጋዜጦች እና በመስመር ላይ በ UN ድህረ ገጽ ላይ በሚወጣው የጨረታ ማስታወቂያ ላይ የተሰጠውን መመሪያ እንዲከተሉ ይመከራል።

የአቅርቦት አስተዳደር አገልግሎቶች፣

የዩኤንኤችአር ቅርንጫፍ ጽህፈት ቤት፣ አዲስ አበባ

UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

TENDER NOTICE

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Representation Office in Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, invites qualified and registered Suppliers to participate in the following tenders:

SN	Tender Subject	Closing Date
1	**REQUEST FOR QUOTATION REF. NO.: UNHCR RFQ 3826** **FOR THE SUPPLY OF 11,000 LONG-LASTING INSECTICIDAL MOSQUITO NETS (LLINS)** Please be informed that the deadline for submission of quotations under the above-mentioned Request for Quotation (RFQ) has been extended. **The revised submission deadline is 13th November 2026.**	**13 November 2026 at 23:59 hours, Ethiopia Time (EAT+3)**

Interested suppliers are invited to visit the following links:

How to become a supplier | UNHCR - information on supplier registration and eligibility.

UNHCR Supplier Portal - Tender Opportunities:

UNHCR encourages companies to also register on the **United Nations Global Marketplace (UNGM)** to receive announcements only. This portal may not be used by vendors for submitting offers.

The above tender opportunities are also advertised through the following platforms:

1. **United Nations Global Marketplace (UNGM)**
2. Merkato: **https://www.2merkato.com**

Companies interested in engaging with UNHCR for business opportunities and tender processes are invited to register (Supplier Registration Portal) or Supplier portal log -in on the **How to become a supplier | UNHCR (https://www.unhcr.org/get-involved/work-us/become-supplier/how-become-supplier) or UNHCR Supplier registration portal (https://bit.ly/482Fqam).** New suppliers need to be registered first others please login using your existing username (email address) and password, if you forgot your password, you could click forgot password.

SUPPLY MANAGEMENT SERVICES
UNHCR ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

TENDER NOTICE

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Representation Office in Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, invites qualified and registered Suppliers to participate in the following tenders:

SN	Tender Subject	Closing Date
1	**REQUEST FOR QUOTATION REF. NO.: UNHCR RFQ 3724** **FOR THE SUPPLY OF REGISTRATION AND DOCUMENTATION MATERIALS** **Please be informed that the deadline for submission of quotations under the above-mentioned Request for Quotation (RFQ) has been extended.** **The revised submission deadline is 13th November 2026.**	**13 November 2026 at 23:59 hours, Ethiopia Time (EAT+3))**

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SUPPLY MANAGEMENT SERVICES
UNHCR ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia's newest infrastructure runs on Fibre



By Moges Mekonnen

Mobile broadband reaches 94 percent of Ethiopians, but only around 25% of Ethiopian's regularly use the internet. Closing that gap is the next job.

Ethiopians understand what national development looks like. Dam walls, highways and transmission lines running up ridges have been developed, photographed and debated across decades. This is why Ethiopia is developing infrastructure. Most of it is unseen however. Cable, Data Centers, national ID and mobile networks have been established. This infrastructure is now seen as the foundation in the same way roads and power lines are.

The most important figure in this is not how much cable or towers there are. A study by Addis Ababa Science and Technology University published in 2025 looked at the internet universality indicators by UNESCO. The results showed that 94% of the population has access to mobile broadband but only 25% of Ethiopian's regularly use the internet. This is because having access to a signal is not the same as having service. Many cannot afford handsets and data bundles and have never been taught how to use them.

Starting off

Getting off the ground was challenging. In 2008 only 360,000 people had internet access (0.4% Penetration Rate). However, by 2019 the statistics have changed. Ethiopia has a penetration rate of around 20% with 39 mobile subscribers for every hundred people across a population of over 110 million. Despite having one of the oldest telecom companies in Africa since 1894, Ethiopia's telecom industry is one of the most advanced in the world according to researchers.

There have been changes. The Ministry of Innovation and Technology in Ethiopia have stated that there has been an increase in internet users across the country. From 17 million to 42 million under the Digital Ethiopia 2025 program. Another source shows that there are 29.5 million internet users in Ethiopia (21.7% of the population in 2025). Comparing the sources shows similar trends in the stats. Both show the same trend and therefore we can see positive trends.

What has been developed?

Many policies and investments have been implemented. Over 800 services are now online according to the government. Data centers have been created. Three Tier-3 data centers have been created through private funding. More data centers will be created in Adama, Hawassa and Bahir Dar. Ethiopia aims to become a regional data center and reduce reliance on foreign facilities.

Opening up the telecom industry is also very important. For many years Ethio Telecom was the only operator. However due to partial privatization and granting Safaricom Ethiopia a license, new companies have appeared. Observers have said the market is becoming more appealing to investors. We can see this in shops and service centers selling new SIMs and data packages.

Public digital infrastructure has been developed. The Digital Ethiopia 2030 strategy highlights the creation of Fayda ID and EthioPay. Mobile money has grown due to Telebirr and M-Pesa (by Ethio Telecom and Safaricom Ethiopia) gaining licenses as Payment Instrument Issuers. During the reform years the volumes of transactions have grown massively, going from millions to 6 billion. The amount of money transferred has also grown from 4 trillion birr to 17.5 trillion birr. According to GSMA research mobile money could contribute between 0.7-2.5percent of GDP in Ethiopia by 2030. This is around 1.5 billion US dollars.

Economically, optimism is not too high. International research has shown that for every 10% increase in broadband access in middle income countries there is an increase in GDP of 1.38%. This shows how broadband can contribute to the increase in GDP more than other ICT services. By 2025 Ethiopia's digital economy will be 5.3% of the country's GDP according to the World Bank. The average across Africa will be 5.2% so this is just the percentage of GDP.

Issues with Connectivity

Ethiopia are honest about the issues which is great. This means money goes towards solving the real issues.

According to the AASTU report 79% of residents do not have access. This shows that although there is coverage, this is not enough. Also key issues such as affordability, digital skills and device access are ignored. Quality is a big issue. In 2025, Ethiopia's median fixed broadband download speeds were 9 Mbps compared to nearly 79Mbps globally.

Gender and rural/urban divide are also an issue. Generally rural women have less phones (as claimed by some experts) meaning there is a divide in connectivity. Complex SIM card registration also doesn't help. Imagine a woman from an agricultural area who is in 4G coverage but does not have a phone. She asks for documents which she doesn't have.

Data governance is currently being developed. Experts believe that without clear rules for the sector and transparency in the actions of state bodies, businesses and individuals there will always be issues when using services. The lack of data protection systems, despite the increase in use of digital services, is still a large issue according to UNESCO.

Four Key Issues

Affordability and digital skills should be taken seriously. I can see how important they are.

Make affordability and digital skills a priority. I understand how important they are in everyday life. Closing the gap in affordability of devices, reducing data cost and providing useful training will help close the gap better than adding more towers. Only 25% of people actually use the signals despite 94% coverage.

Address the gender issue. We cannot let anyone fall behind. Funding programmes for women, simplifying registrations and providing digital skills training will address this known issue rather than waiting for the network to get to rural areas.

Provide quality. Speed is just as important as coverage. If speeds aren't improved then Ethiopia's digital economy will be nothing but on paper.

Create rules about data protection. Trust is extremely important in any digital services sectors. The more Fayda and EthioPay look at peoples' personal data the more clear and enforceable rules will determine whether people trust them and use their services. These will be closely aligned to global rules.

The Next Chapter

Ethiopia's leaders have decided. They believe digital connectivity should be seen as the same as roads, electricity and clean water for the positive impact on the growth of the nation. Clearly they are correct. 20 years ago Ethiopia was almost cut off. Millions of people across the country are now connected to the internet. Mobile transactions are in trillions of Birr each year. However this will not be an easy next step. Whereas the first stage focused mainly on getting people connected, the next stage will ensure all Ethiopians have the opportunity to use the internet.

Capital features a variety of independent voices; the opinions articulated in this column are the author's own and operate independently of our corporate viewpoint.

የጨረታ ማስታወቂያ

በዮሴፍ የልጆች ቤት ያገለገሉ በዚሁ በታች የተዘረዘሩ ዕቃዎችን አወዳድሮ መሸጥ ይፈልጋል፡-

ተጫራቾች ማሟላት ያለባቸው መስፈርት

1. ሕጋዊ የታደሰ የግንባታ ፍቃድ
2. (TIN) No. የግብር ከፋይ መለያ ቁጥር

ተጫራቾች ለጨረታ የተዘጋጁ ያገለገሉ እቃዎችን፡-

መኪና ፣ ሶፋ፣ ፍርጅ ፣ ቴሌቪዥን ፣ ኮምፒውተር ፣ ሞተር ሳይክል ፣ የብረት አልጋ፣ የብረት በሮች፣ የብረት መስኮት እና ሌሎች ያላቸው ብረታብረቶችን ከላይ የተገለፁ መስፈርቶችን አሟልቶ መወዳደር የሚችል ተወዳዳሪ ይህ የጨረታ ማስታወቂያ ከወጣበት ቀን ጀምሮ ባሉት ተከታታይ 10(አስር) ቀናት ለውድድር የሚቀርቡትን ዕቃዎች መጎብኘት የሚችሉ መሆኑን በአክብሮት እንገልፃለን።

አድራሻ፡- አዳማ ከተማ ደደቻ አራራ ወረዳ ደራርቱ ህንፃ ጀርባ

ማስታወሻ፡- ድርጅቱ የተሻለ አማራጭ ካገኘ ጨረታውን በከፊልም ሆነ ሙሉ በሙሉ የመሰረዝ መብቱ የተጠበቀ ነው፡

ለተጨማሪ መረጃ 0911017510 / 0989326988

DORALEH MULTI-PURPOSE PORT

PORT DE DJIBOUTI S.A.

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The Natural Gate of COMESA and Hinterlands

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