Media occupies center stage in instilling democratic values: Premier

BY ABDURRAZAQ MOHAMMED

ADDIS ABABA — Press and media occupy center stage in instilling democratic values in society, ensuring transparency in the mechanisms of the government and encouraging citizens on major issues of national concern, said Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed.

Addressing the “UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize” state dinner at Sheraton Addis Hotel Thursday evening, Dr. Abiy noted that the government of Ethiopia has no misconception that a free, independent and responsible media — augmented by the efforts of citizen journalism — is an imperative prerequisite for building a viable democratic political order.

It is important to highlight that freedom comes with responsibilities, he said, “Media establishments and citizen journalists need to seize this current enabling environment and use their voice and pen with ethical consideration.”

He emphasized that we need to move away from sensationalism towards responsible reporting and information sharing. And also, Ethiopia’s growth and democratization process will further be advanced when the focus of attention of media entities is geared towards news analysis, knowledge sharing and building the critical engagement skills of a society in transition.

The price that many have paid in life and freedoms for this opportune time to achieve a moment that needs to be capitalized on for peace and growth dividends, he said.

When press and media play a role in catalyzing society to bridge the lines of divide, build understanding and tolerance, and unite in a common cause, then we are serving the people in whose name we raise our press and our voices, he added.

The need to redouble effort, renew commitment towards press freedom

BY ZELEALEM GHIMA

The significant forward in reading under the 2019 world press freedom index is the clear recognition for the remarkable progress made in Ethiopia over the last twelve months, and an inspiring power to redouble government’s effort and renew its commitment to build a democratic nation, officials and journalists asserted.

From May 1-5, thousands of journalists, media activists, officials and other prominent stakeholders gathered in African Union Head Quarter to celebrate and evaluate the fundamental principles of press freedom around the world, and to pay tribute to journalists who lost their life in the exercise of their profession.

On May 2 morning session, President Sahlework Zewde started making a speech on the podium by asking everyone what they feel when their country falls at the bottom of press freedom index.

In this regard, President Sahlework said that obviously, our record of accomplishment of the past was far from reassuring freedom of expression, as explained in the constitution, that is the reason why the country ranked at the bottom of the world press freedom index.

Expressing various reform measures taken over the last twelve months, President Sahlework said that the one that expands freedoms, particularly in ensuring the right to freedom of expression, is among the major steps taken to make significant.

See The need to... — page 2

Japan regards Dr. Abiy’s initiative for regional peace, stability: FM Taro Kono

Taro Kono to arrive here today for official visit

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA — Japan highly regards the initiatives of Prime Minister Dr. Abiy for peace and stability in the region, according to Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Foreign Minister Taro Kono further said the potential of Africa is drawing attention in Japan because of its population growth, natural resources, and high economic growth, and there is rapidly growing interest regarding Africa for investment and business aspects.

Kono is scheduled to arrive here today for an official visit to Ethiopia, it was learnt.

In an exclusive interview with The Ethiopian Herald conducted through email before his state visit, Kono reiterated that Japan places importance on the peace and stability of the Horn of Africa and surrounding regions. He further praised the leadership role of Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed. His further remarks are... — page 3
Japan regards...

In August 2019, Japan is planning to hold the seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7). Kono said adding the important themes of TICAD7 include business promotion and innovation, resilient and sustainable society, as well as peace and stability.

Negasso, spiritually

Ethiopia Mekan Yepes Betel Synodos of West Wellega told The Ethiopian Herald that, Ethiopia lost great person which is unique in his behavior. He did not act as a president, lived as an ordinary person, and even did not own a car. I believe that there is no one who did not own one while holding presidential title. This indicates that, how much he is pure and he commits and stands for the development of the country. Chaddi stated that, as he knew him, he is a loving individual by Ethiopian peoples.

Rev. Teferi Berkessa Ethiopian Mekane Yesus Betel Synodos at Addis Ababa for his participation in religious sector beyond political activity is so interesting. He works both in religious institutions apart from politics. His commitment towards shaping youth is good.

In Ethiopia, one of the milestones of Dr. Negasso’s political activities in early ‘90 was to become a member of the Constitutional Drafting Committee, which was tasked to draft the present Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE). Meanwhile remains of former president Dr. Negasso Gidada will arrive home from Germany this morning and be laid to rest here in Addis tomorrow, according to the National Funeral Ceremony Task Force.

Negass youth and disabilities communities, religious leaders, and friends.

Prior to the funeral, Dr. Negass will be accorded official farewell ceremony at the millennium hall Sunday morning, it was learnt.

Negasso’s activity
crucial to set the system on the right course, says Adaneh.

The Authority has recently launched a National Tax Revenue Movement under the theme “Delivering on my responsibility I demand my rights!” across the

Japan regards...

Ethiopia Mekan Yepes Betel Synodos of West Wellega told The Ethiopian Herald that, Ethiopia lost great person which is unique in his behavior. He did not act as a president, lived as an ordinary person, and even did not own a car. I believe that there is no one who did not own one while holding presidential title. This indicates that, how much he is pure and he commits and stands for the development of the country. Chaddi stated that, as he knew him, he is a loving individual by Ethiopian peoples.

Rev. Teferi Berkessa Ethiopian Mekane Yesus Betel Synodos at Addis Ababa for his participation in religious sector beyond political activity is so interesting. He works both in religious institutions apart from politics. His commitment towards shaping youth is good.

In Ethiopia, one of the milestones of Dr. Negasso’s political activities in early ‘90 was to become a member of the Constitutional Drafting Committee, which was tasked to draft the present Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE). Meanwhile remains of former president Dr. Negasso Gidada will arrive home from Germany this morning and be laid to rest here in Addis tomorrow, according to the National Funeral Ceremony Task Force.

Negass youth and disabilities communities, religious leaders, and friends.

Prior to the funeral, Dr. Negass will be accorded official farewell ceremony at the millennium hall Sunday morning, it was learnt.

The need to...

Approached by The Ethiopian Herald Ato Li Melkele Nyirsa, the President of Ethiopian Patriots Association, stressed that the current generation should recall the history of those patriots since it has greater association with the history of Ethiopia. The patriots had a solid stand in fighting against enemy of their country.

Li Melkele underscored that this generation also needs to stand firm in fighting against internal and external enemy of our country in order to rebuild a stronger Ethiopia. The people of Ethiopia are renowned by hospitality and tolerance.

Some of the veteran patriots and family of patriots stressed that these heroic patriots need to be remembered by Ethiopians throughout history. There are some patriots who have played a vital role in the fight, but forgotten are not being cited as patriots. A lot should be narrated about these patriots, as to them.

Workineh Aklilu, Advisor at the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, appreciated the bravery of the patriots to block the ambition of Italy to colonize Ethiopia and control East Africa through her. They have paid whatever it costs to keep the sovereignty of this great nation, he said.

The councilor explained that Italian troops waged war for the second time in the world, to invade Ethiopia as the world witnessed the two years to avenge of the defeat at the battle of Adwa. The strategic modern Italian troop embarked into our country from four corners. However, these brave Ethiopian patriots have stood against the advancement of the troops. They have been fighting against the fascist strategically, as to them.

Vice-professor Ahebew Ayalew, Director at Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage, described these fears as a result of the course of the war between the patriot and the colonial power in the year 1936 to 1941. Besides the strong confrontation from the patriots, these brave patriots of the country, dense population settlement have played their part in ousting the ambition of Italy.
An exclusive interview conducted through email with H.E. Mr. Taro Kono, Foreign Minister of Japan prior to his official visit to Africa and Ethiopia

Herald: We would like your Excellency to reflect on the meaning of your visit to Africa and Ethiopia on this occasion.

Taro Kono: In August 2019, Japan plans to hold the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7). The important themes of TICAD7 include business promotion and innovation, resilient and sustainable society, as well as peace and stability. On my visit to Africa this time, I would like to promote cooperation with African countries toward the success of TICAD7.

Ethiopia is a country that has long enjoyed exchanges with Japan. His Majesty the Emperor Emeritus and Her Majesty the Empress Emerita, who abdicated last month, visited Ethiopia in 1960, when they were Crown Prince and Crown Princess. This is my second visit following last one in August 2017, and I am pleased to set foot on Ethiopian soil again.

Starting with the inauguration of Prime Minister Dr. Abiy, various epoch-making developments have been made both in and around Ethiopia. On the diplomatic front, Prime Minister Abiy is leading the country towards peace and stability in the Horn of Africa region, including the reconciliation with Eritrea and resuming diplomatic relations. Positive changes are also witnessed in Ethiopia’s social life. Ethnic harmony as well as reforms in various areas are being promoted in Ethiopia under freedom and democracy.

Japan holds in high regard Prime Minister Abiy’s efforts in diplomatic and domestic affairs. During my visit to Ethiopia, I would like to exchange views on how Japan can support these initiatives by the Government of Ethiopia.

Herald: As Your Excellency is well aware that the security situation in the Horn of Africa, including Ethiopia, is significantly improving. Your Excellency Prime Minister Dr. Abiy came to power, and Japan is also known for supporting peace-building efforts in the region. Can you reflect on these issues? What do we expect from this visit in terms of supporting peace and stability in the region?

Taro Kono: Japan has been supporting peace and stability in the Horn of Africa and its surrounding regions through (1) dispatching personnel to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), (2) promoting the peace process in South Sudan, and (3) supporting counter-terrorism measures in Somalia through the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), (4) dispatching instructors to the Peacekeeping Training Centers in Kenya and Ethiopia, (5) conducting anti-riot training, and (6) supporting peace and stability in the Horn of Africa region.

Japan, which places importance on the peace and stability of the Horn of Africa and its surrounding regions, highly regards the initiatives of Prime Minister Dr. Abiy who has reestablished diplomatic relations with Eritrea and taken leadership for regional peace and stability.

Last year, when Ethiopia and Eritrea reestablished diplomatic relations, the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan was signed. Based on such developments, Japan believes that now is the time for Africa itself to move forward on its own conflict resolutions. This year, Japan provided 1 million USD as the first country to the new country in the main group of the Government of South Sudan, and also invited the new country to Japan for business cooperation.

Herald: The Nairobi Declaration of TICAD6 recognizes the importance of private investment as a vital social engine of economic and social development on the continent. However, the reality on the ground shows that private investment from Japanese companies to Ethiopia and other African countries is lagging behind, compared to some other countries. Your Excellency, can you tell us what your government has planned to improve Japanese private investment in Ethiopia as well as other African countries so far, and what are the future prospects in this regard? And also if you could tip us on the promises of the upcoming TICAD 7?

Taro Kono: The potential of Africa is drawing attention in Japan because of its population growth, natural resources and high economic growth, and the rapid post-war reconstruction of East Africa. In addition, Japan is actively promoting its own investment projects in Africa. At TICAD7, Japan will highlight its commitment to promoting private investment in Africa and improve relations with African countries.

Herald: At TICAD7, we are excitedly anticipating one of the plenary sessions to a public-private business dialogue, in order to hold a direct discussion between Japanese and African companies and leaders regarding requests and views concerning the improvement of the business environment, investment policies, and more. Other high-profile business-related side events are also being envisaged.

In this way, the Government of Japan is ready to encourage companies in the African countries, including Ethiopia, to invest in Africa through the TICAD7 process. Meanwhile, there is a need to focus on the issue of private business promotion in Africa, as well as the lack of transparency in administrative procedures, regulations on foreign investment such as demands for local content and foreign currency remittance regulations, and other complex problems such as corruption and counterfeit products. Furthermore, the lack of basic infrastructure for accepting large-scale private investment needs to be dealt with.

In order to encourage private investment by Japanese companies, resolving such issues is crucial. Japan will utilize tools such as the Official Development Assistance (ODA) and provide support that are unique to Japan for African initiatives. In Ethiopia, the government is providing assistance for improving productivity, key to the development of manufacturing. The Ethiopian Kalele Institute (EKI), a center established to promote Japanese "kaizen (continuous improvement) spirit" with the people of Ethiopia, is one example of such assistance.

Published every Saturday in cooperation with The House of