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ETHIOPIA LAUNCHES A THREE YEAR INITIATIVE OF ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

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MANUFACTURING AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN ETHIOPIA:

EMPIRICAL EVIDENCES FOR KALDOR'S FIRST GROWTH LAW

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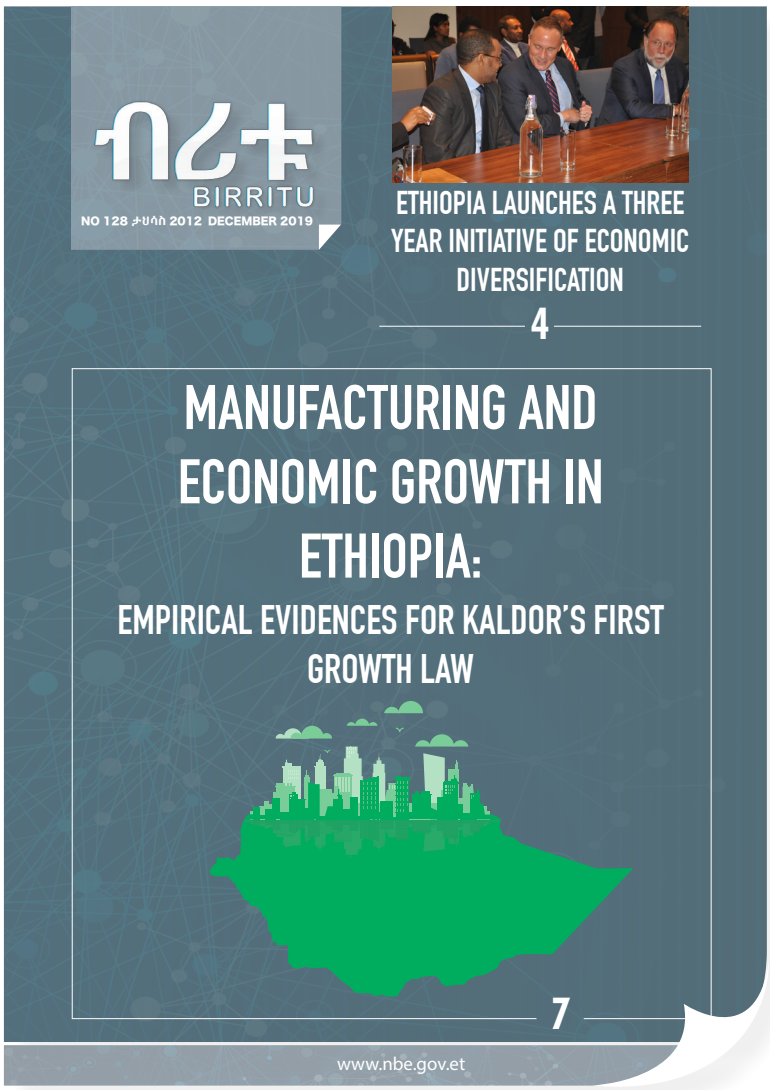

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Address:
Birritu Editorial Office
Tel
+251 115 17 51 07
+251 115 53 00 40
P.O.Box
5550
www.nbe.gov.et
Addis Ababa , Ethiopia

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Dear esteemed readers, we are happy to meet you with the 128th issue of Birritu which consist of relevant and timely topics.

In the News and Information section, there is two news under the title "Ethiopia Launches Three Year Initiative of Economic Diversification" and "NBE gets three Vice Governors"

The topics selected for research article is "Manufacturing and Economic Growth in Ethiopia: Empirical Evidences for Kaldor's First Growth Law". The Educational and Informative Article contains one interview which is "Ethiopia's Homegrown Economic Reform: Overview" and an article about "Ease of doing Business". Finally, on miscellany section there is a short story.

Dear readers, your feedbacks and comments are invaluable for enriching the next of Birritu. Please keep forwarding your comments and suggestions.

Birritu Editorial Offfice
Tel +251 115 175107
+251 115 530040
P.O.BOX 5550
www.nbe.gov.et
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

ETHIOPIA LAUNCHES A THREE YEAR INITIATIVE OF ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

Abel Solomon

Addis Ababa: The National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE), in collaboration with Harvard University, has launched a three-year initiative; "Advancing Economic Diversification in Ethiopia."

The initiative was unveiled at the Addis Ababa Hyatt Regency Hotel on August 23, 2019 in the presence of Governor of the National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE), Dr. Yinager Dessie and US Ambassador to Ethiopia, Michael Raynor.

The initiative, which is supported by USAID, is believed to enhance of the implementation of the Ethiopian Economic Reform endeavor.

In his remark, Dr. Yinager, Governor of the National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE), said that the project is expected to contribute to the policy dialogue and to craft plausible professional recommendations for the new economic reform which was started recently.

Though remarkable socio-economic growth has been registered in Ethiopia over the last 16 years, macro-economic imbalance, such as poor export performance, deficiency in revenue collection, severe shortage of foreign exchange, high level of external debt, and current account deficit needed to be rectified in the coming years, according to the Governor.

"The new economic reform focuses mainly on monetary and fiscal policy stability, structural and sectoral transformation, job creation and poverty reduction" Dr. Yinager added.

DR. YINAGER DESSIE

US Ambassador to Ethiopia, Michael Raynor on his part said that Ethiopia's economic policies in recent years have resulted in important infrastructure investments including roads, universities, health care facilities, and industrial parks.

However, according to Ambassador Raynor, these gains were made at the cost of incurring significant external debt and without commensurate progress in job creation or private sector investment.

The Ambassador added, today, Ethiopia's reform agenda promises to build upon its past achievements while addressing its structural challenges to catalyze private sector-led economic growth in the days ahead.

Ambassador Raynor said "the US is deeply inspired by the Ethiopia's reform agenda, which puts the interests of the Ethiopian people up front, and which has already made massive gains in broadening Ethiopia's political space and economic opportunities.

"I'm particularly excited by the prospect for Ethiopia's economic reforms to attract a critical mass of world-class private sector investments," he said.

Over the past year, the US has enhanced over 100 million dollars in new resources directly focused on supporting Ethiopia's reform agenda, he added.

The initiative is facilitated by Harvard University's Center for International Development under the leadership of world-renowned Professor Ricardo Haussmann, Director of the Growth Lab at Harvard's Center for International Development.

Professor Ricardo Haussmann in his brief presentation said that the three-year will see the experts consult the government in the areas of monetary and fiscal policy stability, structural and sectoral transformation, job creation and poverty reduction.

Professor Haussmann advises Ethiopia to focus on diversification rather than pursuing comparative advantage. For capital accumulation, the ultimate gearing power is the pursuit of diversification which bears fruit more.

Ethiopia's potential, according to Prof. Haussmann, still relies on agriculture and agricultural transformation. Textile industry, as Ethiopia presumed, will be an alternative for foreign exchange source, instead of traditional practice of its advantage for big employment opportunity.

ATO FIKADU DIGAFIE

ATO SOLOMON DESTA

ATO EYOB GEBREYESUS

NBE GETS THREE VICE GOVERNORS

By Abel Solomon

FDRE Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) has appointed three new Vice Governors for the National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE).

The appointees are Fikadu Digafie, V/Governor and Chief Economist, Solomon Desta, V/Governor for Financial Institutions Supervision, and Eyob G/Eyesus, V/Governor for Corporate Services.

Ato Fikadu's appointment fills the vacant position unoccupied for almost a year, while Ato Solomon and Ato Eyob elevated from their previous positions and replaced the outgoing Tiruneh Mitafa and Yemane Yosief, respectively.

Ato Fikadu Digafie is a graduate of Addis Ababa University, Faculty of Business and Economics, Master of Applied Economic Modeling and Forecasting. He got his BA in Economics from Mekelle University.

Working in various positions, from junior researcher to chief researcher, Ato Fikadu has produced various researches papers published in various publications. Prior to this new position, he has been serving NBE as Director of External Economic Analysis and International Relation.

Ato Solomon Desta did his MSc in International Economics, Banking & Finance from Cardiff University. He got his BA from Addis Ababa University in Business Management. He also attended numerous short-term trainings in Ethiopia and abroad.

In his career, Ato Solomon was in charge of Banking Supervision Directorate from April 2010 till October 1, 2019, the new appointment, V/Governorship. Prior to directorship, he served NBE as Principal Bank Inspector, Senior Bank Inspector, Senior O&M analyst.

Ato Eyob Gebreyesus, did his MBA in Japan, got his BA from Addis Ababa University in Economics. He attended various international trainings.

As Director of Payment and Settlement System Directorate, Ato Eyob served for more than 10 years in NBE. He also served as Manager and Team Leader of International and Domestic Banking areas at Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE).

The new V/Governors took their new offices as of October 1, 2019.

MANUFACTURING AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN ETHIOPIA:

EMPIRICAL EVIDENCES FOR KALDOR'S FIRST GROWTH LAW

Mulualem Eshetu

Chief Research Officer

Domestic Economic Analysis and Publication Directorate

The empirical analysis provides no evidences for a strong positive relationship between the manufacturing output growth and national GDP growth against the Kaldor's first growth hypothesis of "manufacturing an engine of growth". The results also confirmed the non-existence of causality link running from manufacturing output growth to both aggregate GDP growth and non-manufacturing output growth.

ABSTRACT

The expansion of manufacturing industry is generally viewed as the most significant engine of growth process. Kaldor (1966, 1967) posits a strong positive causal relationship between the growth of manufacturing output and economic growth (GDP). This relationship rests on certain special characteristics of the manufacturing sector, which makes it the engine of growth and of living standards. This paper attempted to empirically investigate the validity of the first Kaldor's growth law of "manufacturing an engine of growth" in Ethiopia during 1981–2018 using Kaldor's original equations and Granger causality test techniques. The empirical findings suggest the insignificant role of the manufacturing output growth in promoting the growth of national output (GDP). The results derived from Granger causality test also confirmed the non-existence of causality link running from manufacturing output growth to both GDP growth and non-manufacturing output growth. Both empirical investigations provide no evidences for a strong positive relationship between the manufacturing output growth and economic (GDP) growth in contrast to the first Kaldor's growth law of "manufacturing an engine of growth". Therefore, the government should intensify efforts for the manufacturing industry to play an important role in driving the country's economic growth through strengthening policies aims at addressing the problem of raw material & skilled manpower shortages; enhancing technological capability; productivity, and hence, competitiveness of the manufacturing sector; diversifying the manufacturing exports towards high value products and improving infrastructural facilities. Attracting foreign direct investment could also be useful for transfer of technology and foreign capital.

MANUFACTURING AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN ETHIOPIA:

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I. INTRODUCTION

The sources of economic growth have long been a subject of discussion among economists and empirical literature provided evidences suggesting that the growth of manufacturing sector has played a major role in the economic transformation of countries through promoting the shift from activities based on natural resources with low productivity and low value addition to more productive activities that generate higher profits and are suitable for innovation, technological change and human capital formation. Through its derived demand for labour resources, manufacturing helps in transfer of labour resources from low productive sectors (or disguised employment) in agriculture and informal sectors to more productive economic segment of industrial sector.

The evidence from both theoretical and empirical literature emphasizes technological advancement as being important for expansion of manufacturing industry and the accumulation of capital and productivity of both capital and labour are crucial to accelerate the growth of manufacturing activities in an economy[1]. The benefits that the manufacturing sector exhibits today are the

[1] Manufacturing is defined as an economic activity which entail the physical or chemical transformation of materials or components into new products, whether the work is performed by power driven machines or by hand, whether it is done in a factory or workers' home or whether the products are sold in wholesale or retail.

consequence of the rapid technological change, increasing open markets and the fragmentation and internationalization of production.

The characteristics of manufacturing sector with respect to economic growth is the foundation of what now is known as Kaldor's first growth law after Nicholas Kaldor (1966, 1967) first put forward his structural theory of why growth rates differ among countries. Kaldor posits a strong positive causal relationship between the growth of manufacturing output and economic growth. According to Kaldor, this relationship rests on certain special characteristics of the manufacturing sector, which makes it the engine of growth and of living standards for two main reasons. Firstly, manufacturing sector itself is characterized by both static and dynamic increasing returns to scale while non-manufacturing activities are subject to diminishing returns. While the static returns relate essentially to economies of scale internal to a firm, the dynamic returns refer to increasing productivity derived from learning by doing, induced technological change and external economies in production. Secondly, as the manufacturing sector expands, it draws labour from non-manufacturing sectors where there are diminishing returns, resulting in a rise in productivity in these activities because the average product of labour is above the marginal product. Thus, the faster manufacturing output growth, the faster the growth of productivity in the economy as a whole, which is the major source of GDP growth and living standards. This law has often been summed up in *"manufacturing an engine of growth"*.

The essential contribution of the Kaldor's engine of growth hypothesis is the proposition of a theoretical foundation for a development strategy, which locates manufacturing output growth as the fulcrum for both efficient physical and human capital accumulation and factor productivity growth. If productivity growth in both manufacturing and non-manufacturing sectors of an economy is positively related to output growth in the manufacturing sector as proposed by Kaldor (1966, 1967), then a transfer of resources from other sectors to manufacturing sector will result in more rapid aggregate growth. Evidence of this dynamic shift effect in developing countries is unambiguous as productivity growth in manufacturing has been more rapid than in primary sector[2].

The strong causal relation between manufacturing output growth and economic (GDP) growth is also well established in the growth and development literature. This is illustrated not only by direct test of the relationship between manufacturing and GDP growth, but also by side-tests (to avoid the charge of spuriousness) which relate the growth of GDP to the excess of manufacturing output growth over non-manufacturing output growth, or the growth of non-manufacturing output as a function of the growth of manufacturing output.

Like many other developing countries, the manufacturing industry in Ethiopia has, to a great extent been concentrated in small and local resource base firms, low value and low technology products and weak inter-sectoral and intra-sectoral linkages. The sector has generally been characterized by a large number of very small, typically informal enterprises and a small number of large firms that account for the bulk of the manufacturing output, employment and export. It has faced the difficulty of low capacity and lack of huge investment which prevents large scale manufacturing production from meeting the international demand for manufactured goods and restricting entry in to foreign markets and hence, outputs mainly for domestic markets. Micro and small firms tend to record low value added output, low wages, virtually no exports and little technological progress. Moreover, it is uncommon for the small manufacturing firms to transform themselves into large firms that invest, export, offer skilled jobs and pay high wages.

The government of Ethiopia has put a lot of emphasis on industrialization, not only to enhance the export diversification strategy but also to act as engine of economic growth. In 2002/03, it has formulated and launched a comprehensive Industrial Development Strategy (IDS) which has put in place the principles that primarily focus on

[2] The concepts of Kaldor's first growth law are taken from the various empirical studies on manufacturing and economic growth nexus in different countries.

the promotion of agricultural-led industrialization, export led development and expansion of labour intensive industries and value adding private sector is considered the engine of manufacturing growth. Moreover, the government has provided attractive incentive packages and extensive support as important tools to promote the growth of manufacturing output and exports. The tax law of the government also allows a duty free importation of machinery, equipment and raw materials for manufacturing activities.

Despite due focus given to the development of large, medium and small scale manufacturing industries underscored in the successive national development plans, the growth performance of the manufacturing sector has so far been unsatisfactory. For instance, the manufacturing value added as a proportion of aggregate output (GDP) has not only erratically been contracting but also remained low compared to many African countries and the average of SSA countries. The export products of the manufacturing sector have also been limited to a few non-durable consumer goods; very few in number or type and small in size or volume relative to the total manufacturing output of the country[3]. As a result, the manufacturing exports have very small share in the total merchandise exports and far below that of SSA average and most African countries (WB Database).

In fact, the performance of the manufacturing industry has commonly been attributed to the low level of productivity and hence, low competitiveness resulting from variety of reasons, the major ones being the sector's use of obsolete machinery, lack of skilled man power and the application of backward production technology (AACCSA Survey, 2014). The structure of the manufacturing sector, in particular the concentration of activity in very small firms and small number of large firms, has also been an important factor for the insignificant contribution of the manufacturing sector to the country's economy.

Given the positive association between manufacturing output and economic growth, the underlying objective of this paper is therefore, to empirically ascertain whether the growth of manufacturing output is positively related to the growth of GDP and confirm whether the first Kaldor's growth hypothesis of *"manufacturing an engine of growth"* is valid or not in Ethiopia. The evidences derived from this empirical analysis could have an important policy implication for the manufacturing industry to play a key role in structural dynamics and transformation in the form of increased share in aggregate output and export, leading to accelerated growth and reduced volatility. The findings could also be evidences for the first Kaldor's growth law being valid or not in developing countries like Ethiopia.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. The next section presents overview on the policy reforms and performance of the manufacturing sector and economic growth in Ethiopia since 1992. The third section reviews the findings of similar empirical studies conducted in various countries based on Kaldor's first growth hypothesis. The methodology and data sources are described in the following section. The fifth section reports the empirical findings and analysis. The next section summarizes the major findings. The last section provides a few policy propositions.

II. MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN ETHIOPIA: OVERVIEW

2.1. Development in Manufacturing Industry

Before the 1974 revolution, the manufacturing industries in Ethiopia, characterized by import substitution and largely owned by domestic private and foreign investors, were expanded and reached 273 in number. Among which, 101 enterprises (37 percent) were fully owned by foreigners who also had more than 50 percent share in another 42 manufacturing enterprises. The government of Ethiopia had full ownership in only 13 manufacturing plants, more than 50 percent share in 5 firms and less than 50 percent share in another 7 enterprises. This shows that majority of the manufacturing enterprises, especially the large scale establishments, were private owned while the government had a relatively small ownership in manufacturing industry (MEDaC, 1999).

[3] Ethiopian manufacturing exports are mainly leather & leather products, food & beverage and textile & apparels.

The military government which came to power in 1974 nationalized all private large and medium scale manufacturing enterprises. In 1975, the government nationalized 87 manufacturing enterprises which increased to 137 in the following few years. The number of nationalized manufacturing enterprises increased to as many as 159 by 1983. However, many of the nationalized enterprises were very old and already operating beyond their technical life as well as financially weak. The regime also established a number of more manufacturing firms with strong emphasis on medium and large scale manufacturing enterprises. As a result, the manufacturing sector had undergone through radical change in the structure of ownership and management whereas its structure remained with no significant change and still dominated by light and consumer goods producing manufacturing plants (MEDaC, 1999).

Moreover, the manufacturing enterprises were seriously constrained by shortages of foreign exchange, raw material supply and the like. The financial position of state owned manufacturing plants became increasingly weak and relied on government subsidies and overdraft facilities for their working capital requirements. Most of them were forced to operate far below their installed capacity and because of the poor quality of product, they were unable to meet the local demand let alone compete in the international market.

The socialist regime was grossly inefficient marked by the outright discouragement of private sector participation and poor performance of the manufacturing industry. For instance, the manufacturing output in real value increased merely by 4.4 percent annual average over 1980/81-1985/86 and contracted by 1.8 percent during 1985/86–1990/91 while its share in the overall GDP declined from 5.2 percent to 3.4 percent. Moreover, the number of large and medium scale manufacturing establishments which were 419, comprising 189 public and 230 private enterprises in 1981/82, shrunk to 275 (144 public and 131 private) manufacturing enterprises in 1990/91 (Table 2.1). The policy choices of the regime include price controls for a wide range of products, highly labour market regulation, high import tariffs, export taxes, currency overvaluation and the use of marketing boards for agricultural commodities, also played out simultaneously in severely undermining the performance of the manufacturing sector during the regime period. It was also attributed to the hostile policies toward the private sector, large inefficiency in the public sector and intensification of the then undergoing conflict in the country (MEDaC, 1999).

The crisis of the 1980s called for substantial economic, political and institutional reform to reverse the retrogression. Since 1992, a number of measures have been introduced as part of Structural Adjustment Program (SAP) with the aim of reversing the command economic system through fostering competition, opening the economy and promoting the private sector. The shift in economic system was accompanied with major economic reforms encompassing devaluation of the local currency, abolition of interest rate ceilings, removal of subsidies, tax reform, reduction of tariffs and removal of non-tariff barriers, simplifying licensing procedures, reorganizing the customs authority, deregulation of prices, privatization of public enterprises, state owned enterprises (SOEs) reform and removal of restrictions on private sector participation. A new investment code was also issued and has been underway to attract private investment particularly foreign direct investment in local resource base manufacturing activities. Most importantly, the government demonstrated unprecedented commitment to public investment in economic infrastructure, education and health services.

Table 2.1: Development Indicators of Manufacturing Industry in Ethiopia

Growth in %, Values in Million USD and Share in % of Total Commodity Export

Years	No. of establishments*			Manufacturing Value Added Growth			% of GDP	Manufacturing Export		Capacity Utilization*	Import Intensity*
	Public	Private	Total	LMSMI**	SSIH**	Total		Values	Share		
1980/81	-	-	501	5.8	2.5	4.4	4.4	-	-	-	0.59
1985/86	203	199	402	10.9	15.5	12.7	5.2	-	-	-	0.40
1990/91	144	131	275	-39.6	-13.8	-29.8	3.4	-	-	-	0.37
1991/92	152	131	283	-9.0	0.3	-4.7	3.3	-	-	-	0.33
1992/93	148	131	279	49.0	16.3	33.1	4.0	-	-	-	0.44
1993/94	154	323	477	12.7	1.4	7.9	4.3	-	-	-	0.55
1994/95	174	327	501	9.4	8.0	8.8	4.4	47.1	11.2	-	0.46
1995/96	169	473	642	7.8	7.1	7.5	4.3	-	-	53.8	0.48
1996/97	154	574	728	-2.1	1.7	-0.6	4.1	56.6	9.6	48.6	0.44
1997/98	155	607	762	-1.1	-1.5	-1.3	4.1	37.9	6.8	47.3	0.43
1998/99	147	624	771	17.1	6.6	12.8	4.3	31.3	6.7	50.2	0.54
1999/00	145	643	788	3.6	2.8	3.3	6.0	47.5	9.8	57.2	0.52
2000/01	139	657	796	2.1	6.5	3.8	6.2	61.1	13.4	49.0	0.46
2001/02	143	766	909	0.2	3.2	1.4	6.2	68.7	14.3	47.8	0.45
2002/03	147	818	965	1.4	-0.4	0.7	6.2	56.5	11.4	50.4	0.44
2003/04	151	923	1,074	7.7	4.5	6.4	5.8	26.0	3.8	54.7	0.47
2004/05	154	1,053	1,207	11.6	15.0	12.9	5.2	41.4	4.6	60.7	0.46
2005/06	154	1,090	1,244	13.7	4.9	10.2	5.0	55.9	5.4	55.2	0.50
2006/07	147	1,296	1,443	9.5	6.0	8.2	4.9	175.6	13.8	55.4	0.58
2007/08	-	-	1,930	12.6	5.6	10.0	4.4	144.4	9.0	-	0.54
2008/09	127	2,076	2,203	10.3	6.4	8.9	4.1	140.0	8.7	67.4	0.53
2009/10	138	2,034	2,172	13.6	7.0	11.3	1.6	207.5	8.9	-	0.51
2010/11	121	2,049	2,170	14.1	24.7	17.6	4.0	298.1	10.4	66.9	0.44
2011/12	-	-	2,452	15.9	4.2	11.8	4.1	295.6	8.8	-	0.37
2012/13	-	-	2,655	24.2	1.9	16.9	4.4	268.1	8.6	-	0.44
2013/14	155	2,603	2,758	21.6	4.3	16.6	4.6	231.9	6.8	65.6	0.51
2014/15	-	-	-	23.1	3.8	18.2	4.9	223.6	7.3	-	-
2015/16	-	-	3,596	22.9	2.5	18.4	5.4	365.8	12.5	-	-
2016/17	-	-	3,627	19.2	-	24.7	6.7	-	-	-	-

Source: Central Statistic Agency (CSA), National Planning Development Commission (NPDC) and World Bank Database includes only large and medium scale manufacturing industry.

**: LMSMI refers to Large and Medium Scale Manufacturing Industry while SSIH denotes Small Scale Industry and Handcrafts..

The favorable policy environment created by the economic reforms, coupled with macro-economic stability, revitalized the manufacturing sector and the economy in general. For instance, the number of large and medium scale manufacturing industries expanded rapidly from 279 (148 public and 131 private) in 1992/93 to 909 (143 public and 766 private) in 2001/02. Accordingly, the real manufacturing value added in 1992/93 grew markedly by 33.1 percent, reversing the declining trend of the output in the preceding years. However, the high growth pace of manufacturing output did not last long and slowed down sharply to 7.5 percent in 1995/96. The real output of the manufacturing industry registered 0.6 percent and 1.3 percent marginal deceleration in 1996/97 and 1997/98 respectively. Over this period, the share of manufacturing output in the aggregate economy (GDP) remained around 4.2 percent (Table 2.1).

In 1998/99, the real manufacturing output made a promising recovery, growing by 12.8 percent largely due to a significant growth in large & medium scale manufacturing output (17.1 percent) and small scale industry & handicrafts (6.6 percent). Its share in national GDP slightly improved to 4.3 percent. The pace of total manufacturing value added growth slowed down to 0.7 percent in 2002/03 from 3.3 percent in 1999/00 wholly owing to 0.4 percent output contraction in small scale manufacturing & handicraft. However, the share of manufacturing output in GDP rose unprecedented to high level of 6.2 percent (Table 2.1).

In 2002/03, the Ethiopian government adopted a comprehensive Industrial Development Strategy (IDS) which has been more concretized into action by the successive national development plans. The strategy declares such manufacturing as textiles & garments, leather & leather products, meat, sugar and other food products to be largely export oriented based on the ground that they are labour intensive and having strong linkages to the agricultural sector and their comparative advantage in competing in foreign markets. The government has provided extensive support programs including economic incentives such as foreign exchange retention scheme to those wholly engaged in supplying their products to foreign markets; export credit guarantee scheme; external loan and suppliers' or foreign partners' credit and export duty incentive schemes such as duty drawback on items imported for export production; voucher or bonded manufacturing warehouse; pre- and post-shipment credit guarantee.

The first medium-term strategy –*Sustainable Development for Poverty Reduction Program (SDPRP)* –was implemented during 2002/03–2004/05. Though declined slightly by 0.7 percent in 2002/03, the real manufacturing value added registered 6.4 percent expansion in 2003/04 and further accelerated strongly by about 13 percent in 2004/05; averaging 6.7 percent over the program period. Output in large and medium scale manufacturing increased continuously and recorded about 7 percent average growth while that of small scale industry & handicrafts 6.4 percent. However, the contribution of the manufacturing sector to the national output (GDP) contracted to 5.2 percent from 6.2 percent (Table 2.1).

The government's program under the *Plan for Accelerated and sustained Development to End Poverty (PASDEP)* focused on strengthening the small-scale manufacturing enterprises, as they are the foundation for the establishment and intensification of medium and large-scale industries in addition to opening the opportunity for employment generation for those not engaged in the agricultural sector. It also serves as alternative/additional income source for those involved in agriculture. The government envisaged to provide support to micro, small, medium and large scale manufacturing industries and, particularly, to manufacturing industries that used agricultural inputs and were capable of generating foreign exchange.

The manufacturing sector maintained the high growth momentum and registered 9.7 percent average growth in real value added during the PASDEP period (2005/06–2009/10). This was driven by the strong output growth in medium & large scale manufacturing output (12 percent) relative to that of small scale industry & handicrafts (6 percent). The share of manufacturing output in aggregate output (GDP) stood at 4 percent averege despite shrinking from 5 percent to 1.6 percent over the plan period (Table 2.1).

The first *Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP I),* launched during 2010/11-2014/15, aimed at strengthening micro and small scale manufacturing enterprises as they are the foundation for the establishment and expansion of medium and large scale manufacturing industries and open opportunities for employment generation, expansion of urban development and provide close support for further agricultural development. It also planned to provide major support to establish and expand medium and large scale manufacturing industries as they encourage technological transfer to bridge the link between micro and small enterprises and improve competitiveness of domestic based large scale industries. Medium and large scale manufacturing industries also well serve the domestic market and produce higher value added products for foreign market.

The manufacturing sector also continued on the high-growth trajectory of the previous years and recorded 16.2 percent average growth in real output over the plan period. Large and medium scale manufacturing industries were the major contributor sub-sector where real output expanded robustly from 14.1 percent in 2010/11 to 23.1 percent in 2014/15, averaging 19.8 percent during the plan period. In contrast, output growth rate in small scale industries and handcrafts sub-sector slowed down sharply from 24.7 percent to 3.8 percent and averaged 7.8 percent in the same period. The contribution of total manufacturing output in the national GDP marginally improved to around 4.4 percent (Table 2.1).

In the second *GTP period (2015/16–2019/20),* the growth of manufacturing industry has been considered critical in order to ensure sustainability of the economic growth and to realize the vision of becoming a middle income country by 2025. The manufacturing industry has been envisaged to play a leading role in terms of production and productivity, contribution to export earnings, technology transfer, skills development and job creation. The accelerated growth of the manufacturing industry would be promoted through expanding new investments mainly in export-oriented manufacturing and improving the productivity and competitiveness of domestic manufacturing firms. Consequently, the real manufacturing value added has been anticipated to register 21.9 percent average growth per annum while its share in the overall GDP is projected to increase from less than 5 percent in 2014/15 to 8 percent by the end of the plan period.

The growth pace of manufacturing output improved slightly to 18.4 percent in 2015/16 relative to the preceding year. Its share in GDP also increased marginally to 5.4 percent from about 5 percent in 2014/15. However, the manufacturing output showed a strong expansion in 2016/17, registering 24.7 percent annual growth and 6.7 percent share in the aggregate GDP relative to the previous year (Table 2.1).

Overall, the manufacturing industry showed a robust output expansion, registering 13.2 percent average growth per annum during 2003/04-2016/17, largely driven by the strong growth in large & medium manufacturing output (15.7 percent) relative to moderate growth in small scale industry & handicrafts (6.7 percent). However, the manufacturing industry has very insignificance contribution to the national economy, despite the pervasive notion that the country needs to maintain manufacturing output at a sizeable share in GDP.

With respect to export, a few manufacturing firms producing non-durable goods including mainly of leather & leather products, food & beverage and textile & textile products have moved in to foreign markets. This is due to the fact that the production of these exports has largely relied on locally available raw materials. This has also helped the export firms to set the prices competitively in both domestic and international markets. However, the manufacturing export sector has still dominated by finished and partially leather & leather products, which for instance, accounted for 48.7 percent while food & beverage and textile & textile exports constituted 20 percent and 24.3 percent of the total manufacturing exports in 2013/14 respectively. Moreover, the share of the manufacturing exports in total commodity exports of the country has been low, ranging between 3.8 percent in 2003/04 and 12.5 percent in 2015/16. The performance of manufacturing export sector has generally been poor and the export earning has remained too small to stabilize the variability in the primary export proceeds.

The most distinguished feature of the Ethiopian manufacturing industry is the high dependency on imported raw materials and intermediate goods. In fact, the dependence on imported raw materials differs across the manufacturing sub-sector. Manufacturing of paper & paper products & printing; chemical &equipment; plastic & rubber; basic iron, motor vehicle, trailer & semi-trailer have heavy dependency on imported inputs. On the other hand, the reliance on imported inputs is relatively low in food & beverage, textile & apparel, leather, tobacco, wood, furniture and non-metallic mineral manufacturing enterprises. Moreover, the manufacturing industry has faced difficulty of under capacity utilization. For instance, large and medium manufacturing industry operated on average at 65.5 percent of the yearly average capacity utilization in 2013/14. Manufacturing of textile, wood, paper & printing, chemicals and machinery & equipment industries have operated below the average capacity utilization of the sub-sector (CSA Statistical Annual Report).

A number of constraints have generally been mentioned for poor performance of the large and medium scale manufacturing industry. These include limited access to finance to fund manufacturing projects; shortage of foreign currency; low productivity of laborers & machineries, low capacity utilization, poor quality of finished products, shortage of skilled manpower; high cost of importing raw materials, shortage of intermediate inputs & spare parts, lack of market demand for manufacturing products, high logistics &transportations costs; poor tariff protections laws to encourage domestic investment; power shortage & frequent interruptions; poor infrastructure (electricity, road, water, telecommunication and internet), bureaucratic red tape, corruptions & lengthy process to execute new investments; length bureaucratic procedures in customs clearance, limited promotional activities with regard to incentives plans; market opportunities, information on new regulations and legislations; lack of R & D for most manufacturing industries; weak industry-university, inter-industry & industrial-sectorial-institutes level linkages and limited capacity building activities & trainings both at firm level & by other concerned bodies (CSA Annual Survey Report and AACCSA Survey, 2014).

2.2. Economic Growth

Since 1992, the Ethiopian government has introduced a more liberalized market-based economic policy with significant institutional reforms in view of reviving and accelerating the country's economy growth. The government adopted a medium term development plan known as *"Agricultural Development-Led Industrialization (ADLI)"* strategy in order to stimulate farm output and rural incomes, thereby generating broad-based growth and reducing poverty. The strategy focused on increasing production and productivity of smallholder agriculture through complementary intervention such as promotion of improved agricultural technologies, provision of credit services, development of infrastructure and improvement in primary education and health care services. Moreover, increasing the role of private sector in the economy has been one of the major objectives of the transition towards market based economy since the early 1990s.

The economic performance of the country was improving during the 1990s, relative to the situation in the 1980s (Table 2.2). The real GDP grew on average by 5 percent per annum during 1991/92-2000/01 compared to the 2 percent average growth in the 1980s. Agricultural output increased slightly from yearly average of 1.4 percent in the 1980s to 2.6 percent during 1991/92–2000/01. Growth in industrial value added averaged at about 6 percent during 1991/92–2000/01 relative to the 2.4 percent average growth in the 1980s while service sector accelerated by 7.1 percent vis-à-vis 3.6 percent. However, the overall growth during the 1990s was extremely volatile, experienced both contraction and recession mainly due to variability in weather phenomenon and the war with Eritrean government, which started as a border skirmish and intensified into a full-fledge conflict, likely resulted in some slowing in non-agricultural activities (IMF Staff Country Report No. 98/99).

Table 2.2: Real GDP Growth and Sectors' Growth & Contribution to GDP (in percent)

Growth and Shares are in percent

Fiscal Year	Real GDP Growth	Agriculture		Industry		Service	
		Growth	Share in GDP	Growth	Share in GDP	Growth	Share in GDP
1980s Average	1.9	1.4	59.8	2.4	10.0	3.6	30.2
1991/92	-3.7	-2.7	65.9	-8.6	7.6	-6.6	26.5
1992/93	12.0	6.1	62.7	27.1	8.6	20.7	28.7
1993/94	1.7	-3.7	60.2	4.9	9.0	7.6	30.8
1994/95	5.4	3.4	59.2	7.9	9.3	7.6	31.5
1995/96	10.6	14.7	60.9	5.6	8.8	7.6	30.4
1996/97	4.7	3.6	59.9	4.4	8.7	8.6	31.3
1997/98	-1.44	-11.1	55.5	3.7	9.4	7.2	35.0
1998/99	5.9	3.8	54.9	7.0	9.6	6.4	35.5
1999/00	5.4	2.2	54.0	1.4	9.4	7.4	36.7
2000/01	8.3	9.6	55.1	5.2	9.2	5.0	35.8
2001/02	-1.5	-1.9	53.6	8.2	9.8	3.3	36.7
2002/03	-2.2	-10.5	49.4	6.0	10.7	5.5	39.9
2003/04	11.5	16.9	51.6	10.8	10.6	5.9	37.8
2004/05	12.6	13.5	51.9	9.3	10.3	12.4	37.5
2005/06	11.7	10.9	51.5	9.9	10.1	13.7	38.0
2006/07	11.5	9.4	50.5	7.8	9.8	15.3	39.3
2007/08	11.6	7.5	48.8	10.7	9.7	16.1	41.0
2008/09	9.8	6.4	47.3	9.8	9.7	13.8	42.6
2009/10	10.3	7.6	46.1	12.7	9.9	12.9	43.7
2010/11	11.4	9.0	44.7	18.6	10.4	17.0	45.5
2011/12	8.7	4.9	43.1	19.6	11.5	9.6	45.9
2012/13	9.7	7.1	42.0	24.1	12.9	9.0	45.5
2013/14	10.3	5.4	40.2	17.0	13.7	13.0	46.6
2014/15	10.4	6.4	38.8	21.7	15.2	10.2	46.6
2015/16	8.0	2.3	36.7	20.6	16.7	8.7	47.3
2016/17	10.9	6.7	35.9	18.7	25.6	10.3	39.3
2017/18	7.7	3.5	34.9	12.2	27.0	8.8	39.2

Source: National Planning and Development Commission (NPDC)

The economy started showing sign of recovery since the end of severe drought in 1996/97 that led to 1.5 percent real GDP decline in 1997/98. The economy rebounded and recorded about 6 percent growth in 1998/99. Agriculture began a slow recovery from the drought effect and registered 3.8 percent in 198/99. While the industrial output increased significantly by 7 percent relative to the preceding year, service sector expanded by 6.4 percent in the same year. However, the pace of the real GDP growth declined marginally to 5.4 percent in 1999/00, reflecting the significant poor growth of industrial value added and the slower agricultural outputs growth relative to the previous year (Table 2.2).

The economy continued making a steady progress in economic growth since emerging from the border conflict with Eritrea in 2000. The real GDP registered a robust growth of 8.3 percent in 2000/01 relative to the preceding year. The growth performance was attributed mainly to the sharp increase in agricultural harvest; higher inflows of external aid that helped the country withstand the shortfalls in export earnings and improved its macroeconomic environment–narrow fiscal deficit and slow growth of monetary aggregates. The economic growth in 2000/01 was reflected in the main sectors of the economy. Agricultural output increased strongly by 9.6 percent vis-à-vis its growth in 1999/00 largely supported by favorable weather condition. Similarly, growth in industrial value added improved to 5.2 percent, largely supported by the growth in agricultural output through increasing supply of raw materials mainly for food processing industries. It also reflects the success of the government's privatization program that brought some hitherto dormant manufacturing and agro-processing industrial establishments into production (African Economic Outlook, 2003).

However, the Ethiopia's economy was hammered by a series of droughts in the subsequent two years. As a result, the pace of real GDP growth sharply fell to 1.5 percent in 2001/02 from its robust growth in 2000/01, owing to the drought effect that declined the agricultural output by about 2 percent. However, industrial output accelerated by 8.2 percent in contrast to the slowdown of growth in service sector to 3.3 percent relative to the preceding year (Table 2.2).

The Ethiopian government has focused on broad-based growth and poverty reduction through enhancing growth and transforming the structure of the economy. This was underscored in its successive national blueprints–Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Program (2002/03 – 2004/05), Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty (2005/06 – 2009/10) and two phase Growth and Transformation Plans (2010/11 – 2014/15 and 2015/16 – 2019/20) –implemented since 2002/03. As a result, the economy has achieved a strong and sustained growth during 2003/04–2017/18, registering 10.4 percent average growth per annum, basically driven by public sector-led development strategy that focused on investing heavily in infrastructure development. The expansion in agricultural and service sectors were playing significant role while the manufacturing sector was relatively modest in accelerating the economic growth over the period (Table 2.2).

Moreover, the economy has experienced noticeable structural changes during this period. The significance of agriculture in GDP declined continuously from 51.6 percent in 2003/04 to 35 percent in 2017/18. On the other hand, service and industry sectors, which accounted for 37.8 and 10.6 percent of GDP in 2003/04, constituted 39.2 and 27 percent of GDP in 2017/18 respectively, indicating the increasing role of the sectors in the national economic growth over the period. However, the economy has still been highly responsive to the growth performance of the agricultural sector, signifying the significance of this sector in driving the national economy (Table 2.2).

III. EMPIRICAL EVIDENCES

Empirical literatures are undeniably divided on *"manufacturing an engine of growth"* hypothesis. While some supports the engine of growth hypothesis of the manufacturing sector, others argued that the recent surge in service sector expansion in some developing countries and early de-industrialization experienced by others appears to suggest that manufacturing is not the only engine of growth. However, empirical economic growth literature using different econometric models had tested and confirmed the validity of manufacturing an engine of growth hypothesis. Moreover, studies conducted at national and regional levels largely agreed that output growth in the manufacturing sector is uniquely important to the process of national economic growth as aggregate economic growth positively relates to both output and productivity growth in manufacturing sector.

Rioba M. E (2014) empirically tested the importance of manufacturing output growth for Kenyan aggregate outout (GDP) growth during the period 1971-2013 from Kaldorian perspective and regression research design. The estimated results do not appear to support the Kaldor's first growth law of "manufacturing is the engine of growth" is not proven in Kenya. The paper confirmed that the empirical findings concur with the earlier similar studies carried out using Kaldorian approach for developing countries like Kenya.

Daniel F and Richard T (2017) studied the relationship between manufacturing output, total GDP and employment in South Africa using quarterly secondary data for the period covering from 1994-2015 and Vector Autoregressive (VAR) model together with Multivariate cointegration approach. The co-integration test results indicated that the manufacturing sector has a positive long-run relationship with GDP and employment. However, the relationship is significant only with GDP but insignificant with employment. The Vector Error Correction Model (VECM) results suggested the non-existence of short-run relationships among the variables. The absence of such relationships was also confirmed by the results obtained from Granger causality test. The paper argued that the overall results indicated that the increase in manufacturing output leads to GDP growth and it has also the potential to establish an enabling environment for employment creation.

Johannes, Teboho, Diteboho and Thatoyaone (2017) empirically investigated the relationship between manufacturing output growth and economic (GDP) growth in South Africa using quarterly data ranging from 2001 to 2014. The Johansen cointegration test technique was employed to validate the Kaldor's hypothesis of manufacturing is an engine of growth. The Johansen cointegration test results revealed the existence of long run relationship between GDP, manufacturing, service and employment while Granger causality results indicated the unidirectional causality link running from manufacturing output growth to GDP growth. Based on the overall empirically findings, the study confirmed that the first Kaldor's growth law is applicable in South African economy.

Chukwuedo S and Ifere E (2017) empirically examined the relationship between manufacturing output and economic growth in Nigeria using time series data for the period of 1981-2013. The study employed an eclectic model consisting of both the Kaldor's first law of growth and the endogenous growth model. The findings from the study showed that manufacturing output, capital and technology were the major determinants of economic growth. Moreover, the results provided evidences for that quality of institutions and labour force do not exert any impact in driving economic growth. The study concluded that the provision of capital in the form of financial resources to fund the manufacturing sector could greatly improve the manufacturing activities in Nigeria.

Celina, Eze, Onyebuchi, Nweke and Abraham (2018) studied the influence of manufacturing sector output on economic growth in Nigeria during 1981-2016. Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) model and Granger causality techniques were utilized. The results showed that manufacturing output positively affects economic (GDP) growth. In contrary, evidences from Granger causality test revealed the unidirectional causality relationship running from economic growth to manufacturing output growth.

Using Cointegration and Pair Wise Granger causality techniques and annual time series data covering the period 1980-2015, Edwins Edson Odero (2017) tested the causal relationship between manufacturing value added and economic (GDP) growth in Namibia to determine whether there exists any forecast ability among manufacturing and economic growth. The results confirmed that manufacturing value added and economic growth are integrated of order zero and have long-run relationship among themselves but no causality link flowing running to or from any of the variables.

Yaya Keho (2018) tested the validity of this law for eleven ECOWAS member countries over the period 1970-2014 by employing an Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) bounds test approach to cointegration and Granger causality test technique. The results suggested that manufacturing output growth positively causes economic (GDP) growth and non-manufacturing output growth and hence, confirmed the validity the first Kaldor's growth law of "manufacturing is an engine of growth" in ECOWAS countries.

Olumuyiwa and Oluwasola (2016) investigated the importance of manufacturing sector for economic growth in 28 African countries, employing the first Kaldor's growth law and panel data over the period 1981-2015. The results obtained from Pooled Ordinary Least Squares, Fixed Effects and System Generalized Method of Moments provided evidences in support of the Kaldor's first growth hypothesis of "manufacturing an the engine of growth". Moreover, the Fagerberg-Verspagen (1999) criteria show that despite the falling share of manufacturing in GDP, the difference between the coefficient of manufacturing output growth and the share of manufacturing in GDP is positive and significant. The analysis concluded that de-industrialization adversely affect the growth of non-manufacturing sectors as well as the growth of the whole economy of the countries.

Maria Elena Ayala Egüez (2014) investigated the evidence for "manufacturing an engine of growth" hypothesis for a sample of 119 countries categorized by income level over the period 1990-2011 using an econometric technique (system GMM) that treats endogeneity bias. The results showed that manufacturing is the only engine of growth for low income economies, while manufacturing can be considered a source of growth for middle income countries. In contrary, manufacturing does not explain the overall economic (GDP) growth any more in the case of high income countries.

Mehmet, Oktay and Burak (2014) studied the validity of Kaldor's first growth law of "manufacturing an engine of growth" in the Newly Industrialized Countries (NICs) using second generation panel data methods with structural break under cross section dependency and annual data for the period 1965-2012. Cointegration test confirmed the long run relationship among the manufacturing output growth and GDP growth. Moreover, the analysis found that the increase in manufacturing output growth had a positive effect on economic (GDP) growth. The result supported that the first Kaldor's growth law is valid in NICs and the assertion that manufacturing sector is an engine of growth as Kaldor (1966, 1967) stated.

Gilberto Libanio and Sueli Moro (2007) analyzed the relation between manufacturing output growth and economic performance from the Kaldorian perspective for a sample of eleven Latin American economies during the period 1980-2006. The estimation employed four different methods –pooled OLS, fixed effects and random-effects panel and Arelano-Bond dynamic estimation including a lagged dependent variable –for robustness purpose. The empirical results were supportive evidences for "manufacturing is the engine of growth" hypothesis, and the existence of significant increasing returns in the manufacturing sector in the largest Latin American economies.

IV. METHODOLOGY AND DATA SOURCES

According to Kaldor's first growth law, there is a strong positive causal relationship between manufacturing output growth and the growth of aggregate output. The law again states that the direction of causality link runs from manufacturing output growth to national GDP growth. The positive correlation between the two variables is not simply because manufacturing output is a component of total GDP but in a fundamental causal sense related to the production characteristics of manufacturing activities. Kaldor specified his equation in linear form as follow:

$$ggdp_t = \alpha + \beta(gmfg_t) + \mu \quad \ldots\ldots (4.1)$$

Where ggdp and gmfg represent the real growth rates of aggregate output (GDP) and manufacturing output, respectively, μ denotes residual error term and t is the time period.

The regression coefficient β represents the functional relationship that Kaldor hypothesized to be significant, positive and less than unity implying that high economic growth rates is found where there is excess growth rate of manufacturing output over the growth rate of non-manufacturing output. In other word, the correlation between the growth of manufacturing and GDP growth is not only due to manufacturing output constituting a large component of GDP, rather that high economic growth rate is positively associated with the excess of manufacturing output growth over non-manufacturing output growth. Kaldor expressed this claim in equation form as:

$$ggdp_t = \delta + \lambda(gmfg_t - gnmfggdp_t) + \varepsilon_t \quad \ldots\ldots (4.2)$$

Where (gmfg−gnmfggdp) refers to the excess growth rate of manufacturing output (gmfg) over non-manufacturing GDP growth rate (gnmfggdp), δ is constant, ε is error term and t is the time period. Equation (4.2) eliminates spurious correlation that could be emerged from regression of Equation (4.1) as manufacturing output has been assumed to constitute a significant part of the total GDP although it is low in the case of developing countries.

The idea that the high correlation between GDP growth and manufacturing output growth does not depend on manufacturing being a large part of total output is also supported by the positive relation between manufacturing output growth and non-manufacturing output growth, considering the backward and forward linkages that the manufacturing sector establishes with the other sectors of the economy. Hence, Kaldor, to further support his first law of growth, showed that non-manufacturing output growth also responds positively to the growth of manufacturing output, resulting in growth in the overall economy (GDP). This is expressed in equation form as:

$$gnmfggdp_t = \eta + \gamma(gmfg_t) + \varepsilon_t \quad \ldots\ldots (4.3)$$

Where grnmfggdp denotes the growth rate of non-manufacturing GDP, η is constant and t is the time period. The evidence obtained from Equation (4.3) in support of the Kaldor's first growth law is when the growth of non-manufacturing GDP responds positively to the growth of manufacturing output growth.

This study employed the Kaldor's original equations to empirically examine whether there is a strong positive correlation between the growth of manufacturing output and the growth of overall output or GDP in Ethiopia. The study used Ordinary Least Square estimation technique and time series data for the period 1981-2018 to investigate the impact of manufacturing output growth on economic growth and confirm the validity of Kaldor's first growth law. All the time series data are gathered from National Planning and Development Commission (NPDC).

V. EMPIRICAL RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

Kaldor(1966, 1967) suggested that the estimated coefficients for independent variables in his first growth law equations signify the strength and size of impact of manufacturing output growth on economic growth of a country. Kaldor viewed this coefficient as the main indicator of the engine of growth hypothesis. He also considered the coefficient of determination (R-squared) as evidence in support of his first law. Based on this approach, this paper tries to analyze the empirical findings derived from regression of Kaldor;s original Equations (4.1)–(4.3) presented below in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1: Regression Results based on Kaldor's First Growth Law Equations

Equation (4.1) – Dependent Variable – ggdp

Independent Variable	Coefficients	Std. error	t-stat	Prob
gmfg	0.1119	0.0753	1.4860	0.1466
c	4.9005	1.1570	4.2355	0.0002
R-squared	0.0592		Normality : JB	3.3286 (0.1893)
Adjusted R-squared	0.0323		Serial Correlation	1.3299 (0.2569)
F-statistic	2.2045		Heteroskedasticity	0.1979 (0.6591)
Prob(F-statistic)	0.1465		Ramsey RESET	1.6673 (0.2053)
DW stat	1.6400			

Source: *Own Computation Using E-view*

Numbers in parenthesis are probabilities

The regression results of Equation (4.1) shows that the estimated parameter for gmfg –the growth of manufacturing output –is found positive and statistically insignificant at the conventional level of significance. The result suggests that the output growth of the manufacturing sector has no significant role in stimulating the growth of aggregate output (GDP). The coefficient of determination is about 0.06 percent, signifying the non- existence of strong relationship between the growth of manufacturing output and economic (GDP) growth.

Equation (4.2) – Dependent Variable – $ggdpt_1$

Independent Variable	Coefficients	Std. error	t-stat	Prob
(gmfg – gnmfggdp)	0.0163	0.1274	0.1282	0.8987
c	5.7852	1.0351	5.5890	0.0000
R-squared	0.0004		Normality : JB	3.4395 (0.1791)
Adjusted R-squared	-0.0280		Serial Correlation	3.4933 (0.0703)
F-statistic	0.0164		Heteroskedasticity	0.1932 (0.6629)
Prob(F-statistic)	0.8987		Ramsey RESET	0.7609 (0.3891)
Durbin-Watson stat	1.3615			

Source: *Own Computation Using E-view*

Numbers in parenthesis are probabilities

In regression Equation (4.2), the coefficient estimated for (gmfgt–gnmfggdpt) variable, denoting the excess growth of manufacturing output over that of non-manufacturing output, emerged positive but insignificant, implying that the excess growth of manufacturing output growth over that of non-manufacturing output is insignificantly related to the national GDP growth. The small value of R-squared or coefficient of determination also supports the insignificant coefficient derived from regression of Equation (4.2) for the independent variable (gmfgt – gnmfggdpt). Hence, the empirical result contradicts the priori prediction that the excess growth of manufacturing output growth over non-manufacturing GDP growth has a strong positive influence in accelerating the overall output or GDP growth.

Equation (4.3) – Dependent Variable – gnmfggdpt

Independent Variable	Coefficients	Std. error	t-stat	Prob
gmfg	0.1199	0.0876	1.3688	0.1798
c	4.2688	1.3453	3.1730	0.0031
R-squared	0.0508		Normality : JB	3.2244 (0.1994)
Adjusted R-squared	0.0236		Serial Correlation	0.7519 (0.3920)
F-statistic	1.8736		Heteroskedasticity	0.0032 (0.9553)
Prob(F-statistic)	0.1797		Ramsey RESET	1.5241 (0.2255)
Durbin-Watson stat	1.7163			

Source: *Own Computation Using E-view*
Numbers in parenthesis are probabilities

From regression Equation (4.3) the estimated coefficient for gmfg variable is found positive and statistically insignificant at the conventional level of significance, suggesting the insignificant contribution of the manufacturing output growth in stimulating the growth of non-manufacturing output. The R-squared or coefficient of determination also indicates the absence of relationship between the growth of manufacturing output and non-manufacturing output growth.

Overall, the empirical investigation provide evidences for that the manufacturing sector is not the driving force behind the aggregate output (GDP) growth and non-manufacturing output growth in contrast to the Kaldor's first growth hypothesis of "manufacturing is an engine of growth".

Kaldor's law again argues that the direction of causation between the two variables runs from manufacturing growth to economic growth. Therefore, the estimated results for manufacturing output and GDP growth relationship displayed in Table 5.1 above are further confirmed through examining the direction of causality link between the two variables. This is carried out using Granger Causality test technique where the null hypothesis of no causal relationship between the variables is rejected at 5 percent significance level, i.e., the null hypothesis is rejected if the computed probability value is less than 0.05, otherwise accepted. The results of Granger Causality test for estimated equations (4.1)–(4.3) are reported under Table 5.2.

Table 5.2: Results of Granger Causality Test
Equation (4.1)

Null Hypothesis	Obs	lags	F-Stat	Prob.	Inference
gmfg does not Granger Cause ggdp	36	1	0.1024	0.7510	Fail to reject the null hypothesis
ggdp does not Granger Cause gmfg			14.1241	0.0007	Reject the null hypothesis

Source: *Own Computation Using E-view*

In Equation (4.1), the null hypothesis that gmfg does not Granger cause ggdp cannot be rejected at 5 percent significance level. The result implies that the growth of manufacturing output (gmfg) has no impact in driving the real GDP growth (ggdp). On the other hand, the null hypothesis that ggdp does not Granger cause gmfg is rejected at 5 percent significance level. This signifies that the growth of national GDP is one of the factors deriving the growth of manufacturing output.

Equation (4.2)

Null Hypothesis	Obs	lags	F-Stat	Prob.	Inference
(gmfg – gnmfggdp) does not Granger Cause ggdp	36	1	1.1828	0.2847	Fail to reject the null hypothesis
ggdp does not Granger Cause (gmfg – gnmfggdp)			0.0376	0.8473	Fail to reject the null hypothesis

Source: *Own Computation Using E-view*

The null hypothesis that (gmfg–gnmfggdp) does not cause ggdp for Equation (4.2) cannot be rejected at 5 percent level of significance, suggesting that the excess growth of manufacturing output over non-manufacturing output growth (gmfg–gnmfggdp) is not the cause for aggregate economic growth (ggdp).

Equation (4.3)

Null Hypothesis	Obs	lags	F-Stat	Prob.	Inference
gmfg does not Granger Cause gnmfggdp	36	1	0.0232	0.8798	Fail to reject the null hypothesis
gnmfggdp does not Granger Cause gmfg			8.5974	0.0061	Reject the null hypothesis

Source: *Own Computation Using E-view*

For Equation (4.3), the null hypothesis of no causality running from gmfg to gnmfggdp is not rejected at 5 percent level of significance. This means that the real growth of manufacturing output (gmfg) is not a contributing factor for the growth of output in the non-manufacturing sectors (gnmfggdp). In contrary, the null hypothesis that gnmfgggdp does not Granger cause gmfg is rejected, implying that the growth of non-manufacturing output could induce growth in manufacturing output.

Similar to the empirical findings reported in Table 5.1 above, Granger causality tests also provide supportive evidences for that manufacturing output growth has no relationship to both aggregate output (GDP) growth and non-manufacturing output growth, against the first Kaldor's growth hypothesis of "manufacturing is an engine of growth".

VI. CONCLUSION

Manufacturing industry is the principal source of economic growth, the leading edge of modernization and skilled job creation, fundamental cause of positive spillovers and thus, the foundation for industrialization. Kaldor's first growth law –well known as *"manufacturing an engine of growth"* –states that there is a strong positive relationship between manufacturing output growth and economic growth (GDP) and the causality relationship flows from manufacturing output growth to GDP growth.

This paper attempted to empirically investigate the validity of the first Kaldor's growth law of *"manufacturing an engine of growth"* in Ethiopia during 1981–2018 using Kaldor's original equations. Granger causality test technique is also employed to further confirm whether the manufacturing output growth induce growth in both aggregate (GDP) output and non-manufacturing output. The

empirical findings suggest the insignificant role of the manufacturing output growth in promoting the aggregate output (GDP) growth in contrast to the first kaldor's growth law of *"manfacturing an engine of growth"*. The results derived from Granger causality test also confirmed the non-existence of causality link running from manufacturing output growth to both aggregate GDP growth and non-manufacturing output growth.

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS

The empirical analysis provides no evidences for a strong positive relationship between the manufacturing output growth and national GDP growth against the Kaldor's first growth hypothesis of *"manufacturing an engine of growth"*. Therefore, the policy drive towards manufacturing development should be anchored on a number of imperatives aimed at increasing access to finance; addressing foreign currency, raw material and skilled manpower shortages; enhancing technological capability; productivity and hence, competitivenesss among both existing and upcoming manufacturing industries; investing in labor intensive light manufacturing industries with global standard of quality & efficiency; promoting market opportunities; diversifying exports towards light & heavy manufacturing products; improving infrastructural facilities and attracting foreign direct investment which could also be useful for transfer of technology and foreign capital.

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ETHIOPIA'S HOMEGROWN ECONOMIC REFORM: OVERVIEW

Birritu has talked to Ato Melesse Minale, Senior Macroeconomic Advisor, at the National Bank of Ethiopia, about the newly unveiled economic program: the country's homegrown economic reform. It is believed that the reform aims to unlock the major development potentials of the country and address the macroeconomic imbalances. Ato Melesse here explains about the uniqueness of the reform (from the previous ones,) pillars of the reform and its ultimate goal. Here follows the questions and answers.

Birritu: What does a 'homegrown economic reform' mean?

Ato Melesse: Thank you for asking this question, which is very important to address at the outset since it may not be clear what is meant by homegrown for many readers. The reform agenda is labeled as 'homegrown' because the reform measures respond to the country's current economic challenges and are calibrated taking into account our political economy context. In other words, the reform measures are designed based on our past experience with the aim to build on successes factors while addressing pitfalls and emerging challenges to ensure continuity of the success. For instance, the reform agenda takes into account the important role of the state in the country's development process, but aims to create a healthy balance between the roles of the government and the private sector through strengthening the role of the private sector and fostering public-private partnerships. Similarly, while capitalizing on the infrastructure and human capital achievements of our past economic model, the current reform agenda aims to address the macroeconomic imbalances and other distortions created as a result of this model.

The word 'homegrown' is also meant to reflect the fact that the reform agenda is prepared based on collaboration and shared understanding, on the need for and content of the reforms, by various government agencies. To strengthen it further through reflecting public feedback as well as to create common understanding and ownership by the broader-public, the reform agenda is being discussed publicly at various forums.

Birritu: How does it differ from the previous policy reforms?

Ato Melesse: The current reform agenda differs from past reforms in a number of ways, including in its orientation, contents, and comprehensiveness and completeness. By orientation, I mean the direction to which the reform aims to take the economy. Ethiopia's economic growth so far has been driven primarily by the public sector, in particular public sector investment. A good indicator of how the public sector had a disproportionately large role in the economy is the credit allocation, which shows that two-third of the stock of credit in the economy is held by the public sector. While this growth model has built highly needed infrastructure and improved access to health, education, and other basic services, it cannot continue to be a sustainable source of growth and job creation for three reasons. First, the primary sources of finance for the public investment, namely external borrowing, directing local financial resources to the public sector, and NBE's direct advance to the budget, have reached their limits with already high debt burden, limited access to financial resources for the private sector, and high inflation. Second, the tenure of jobs created by public sector projects is often limited by the duration of the projects; as a result, public projects are not the sources of secure job opportunities. Finally, a growth model that relies heavily on investment (capital accumulation), in particular by the public sector, would ultimately run out of steam due to inefficiencies associated with such large investment projects in the context of limited capacity.

Consequently, the current reform agenda aims to rebalance growth from investment-driven to productivity-driven and create a healthy balance between the roles of the public and private sectors in the economy through addressing macroeconomic imbalances as well as structural and institutional bottlenecks to productivity growth and private sector developments.

In terms of content, the current reform agenda augments reforms that have been launched recently such as fiscal consolidation (controlling the growth of public sector debt), doing business reforms, and the privatization agenda with additional reforms such as foreign exchange, capital market development, financial sector and monetary policy, and other sectoral reforms.

Finally, the current reform agenda is different from past reforms in that it is comprehensive and complete. It has also been developed based on discussions, debates, and common understanding by concerning government agencies. This is a deviation from past reform practices, where each agency issues its own reform agenda in isolation; and reforms that are implemented in isolation often have limited success for various reasons. First, economic problems are often intricate and cannot be addressed by isolated or sectoral reform measures. For instance, the foreign exchange imbalance cannot be addressed simply by adjusting our foreign exchange management system. Instead, foreign exchange market reforms need to be coordinated with monetary policy and fiscal policy. Monetary policy is important because the supply of Birr in the economy affects the exchange rate (price between Birr and foreign currencies); and fiscal policy is important for the foreign exchange imbalances because the public sector is an important source of demand for foreign exchange.

Second, a reform measure intended to address a particular economic problem could have unintended negative economic consequences and such consequences need to be offset by other complementary reform measures. For instance, controlling inflation may require monetary policy tightening, and one of the means to do so is reducing the amount of NBE's direct advance (lending) to the budget. Even if this measure succeeds in achieving its intended objective (i.e. controlling inflation), it will have the unintended consequence of creating a shortfall in budget financing. Overcoming this unintended consequence necessitates developing a deep and well-functioning government securities market where the Ministry of Finance can raise funds to fill the void left by the reduction of direct advances from the NBE.

Hence, the current reform agenda complement previously launched and important, but not necessarily complete, reform measures by making them deeper, more comprehensive, complete, and well-coordinated. Certain reform measures will be implemented as a package or bundle to leverage on complementarities and mitigate potential adverse consequences of isolated measures. The reforms will be rolled over in the course of the next three years with careful calibration of the pacing, sequencing, and timing of specific reform measures.

Birritu: Why does the Ethiopian economy need reforms now? What are the driving forces for the economic reform agenda?

Ato Melesse: The reform agenda was motivated by various factors. First, after investing so much on infrastructure and human capital for over 15 years, it is time to leverage the achievements of this investment for sustainable and high quality growth and job creation. While the human capital and infrastructure outcomes resulting from this investment are important platforms for growth, the public investment itself cannot be sustained at such a large scale and could not continue to be the driver of growth for the reasons that I explained earlier.

Sustaining the rapid economic growth necessitates rebalancing the sources of growth from capital-driven to productivity-driven, leveraging on the achievements of past investments (the educated labor force, roads, internet and power connections, etc).

The good news is that Ethiopia's success in building these platforms along with the potentially large market size (with over a hundred million residents) has already raised significant interest and appetite in the investors' community.

However, converting this interest into a reality and creating high-quality job opportunities for the rapidly growing workforce calls for economic reforms to address remaining bottlenecks to private sector development such as foreign exchange shortages, limited access to finance, bureaucratic and regulatory burdens, and logistics and power supply problems among others.

Second, the remarkable economic progress of the past decade and half has not been associated with structural transformation. For instance, two-thirds of the Ethiopian labor force is still engaged in agricultural activities despite a declining share of agriculture output to GDP, which stood at about 31 percent in 2017/18. Similarly, the share of manufactured goods in Ethiopian exports is very low at about 10 percent, compared to about 60 percent in lower middle income economies. The limited progress in structural transformation, despite rapid economic growth, reflects the fact that income growth has been driven by capital accumulation (investment) and not so much by productivity growth. Economic reforms aimed at easing structural bottlenecks as well as creating new opportunities and sources of productivity and job growth would be need to stimulate structural transformation and leapfrog Ethiopia into a middle income economy.

Third, sustaining the economic progress of the past decade calls for overcoming emerging macroeconomic imbalances. Efforts to finance large-scale public investment programs through a rapid accumulation of external debt and directing domestic financial resources to the public and priority sectors coupled with poor project execution have brought to the four macroeconomic imbalances such as foreign exchange shortages, high inflation, external debt burden, and limited access to finance for the private sector. These imbalances have become major risks to the sustainability of our economic progress and are disproportionately affecting the economic well-being of poor and middle class citizens. For instance, the high rate of inflation recorded over the past 15 years has eroded the purchasing power of poor and middle class consumers, especially those whose income growth has not matched the rate of inflation.

Similarly, the foreign exchange shortages and limited access to finance have become detrimental to the private sector's ability to grow their businesses and create job opportunities for the unemployed youth. Consequently, macro-financial reforms are needed to correct these imbalances and ensure a sustainable and equitable growth.

Finally, realizing Ethiopia's goal of building a middle-income level economy over the medium term requires upgrading our policy and institutional frameworks. As the economy becomes more modern and sophisticated so should our policy and institutional frameworks. Outdated policy frameworks and inefficient public institutions would not be able to support a vibrant and growing economy. For instance, a monetary policy that relies on reserve money targeting would not be effective as financial sector development deepens and non-cash monetary instruments such as certificates of deposit, money market funds, government treasury securities, etc become more widely used. For this reason, our monetary policy framework needs to be upgraded by introducing indirect monetary policy instruments such as term deposits and central bank securities with the aim to influence interest rates that have wide-ranging effects across the financial system.

Birritu: What are the major pillars of the reform agenda and how do they address challenges facing the Ethiopian economy such as macroeconomic imbalances and structural bottlenecks?

Ato Melesse: The economic reform agenda has three pillars, macroeconomic, structural, and sectoral reforms. Macroeconomic reform aim to correct prevailing imbalances and safeguard macro-financial stability through stepping up ongoing efforts to improve public sector finances, correcting foreign exchange imbalances, modernizing the monetary policy framework, strengthening financial sector regulation, gradually phasing out the NBE bill, and developing capital and financial markets.

On the other hand, structural reform measures aim to ease institutional and structural bottlenecks to productivity and job growth. Such reform measures will include streamlining bureaucratic and regulatory procedures, improving governance of public institutions, improving power reliability and access, allowing private sector operators in the telecom sector, expediting WTO accession and strengthening regional trade integrations, improving logistics efficiency and infrastructure, and enhancing the efficiency of domestic markets for goods and services.
Finally, sectoral reforms aim to ease sector-specific institutional and structural barriers to investment and productivity in agriculture, manufacturing, mining and tourism. In addition to reforming these traditional sectors, efforts will be geared towards exploring new sources of productivity and job growth such as in ICT and creative industries, levering on the rapidly growing educated young labour force.

Birritu: What is the ultimate goal of the reform agenda and how do the different pillars help achieve this?

Ato Melesse: The ultimate goal of the reform agenda is to achieve and sustain inclusive growth and job creation and pave a path to prosperity in Ethiopia. A stable macro-financial system, which is the immediate goal of the macroeconomic reforms, supports growth and job creation by: (i) enabling savers to invest their financial assets in the financial system with confidence; ((ii) providing investors the predictability and finance they needed to invest in job-creating projects; and (iii) allowing consumers to utilize the financial system and smooth their consumption. In other words, macroeconomic reforms help achieve the ultimate goal of sustainable growth and job creation through building the confidence of savers, investors, and consumers alike. On the other hand, structural and sectoral reforms promote growth and job creation by easing structural and institutional bottlenecks to productivity and business growth.

Birritu: What is the role of the National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE) in the homegrown economic reform agenda?

Ato Melesse: As an institution whose primary mandate is to secure price and financial stability, the NBE plays key roles in macroeconomic reforms. In particular, the NBE will be the main driver of foreign exchange, monetary policy, and financial sector reforms. On foreign exchange reforms, the NBE will continue to improve the incentive structure for remittance inflows such as by allowing banks to pay competitive interest rates and facilitating creation of long-term saving instruments, easing controls on foreign exchange sales to private sector importers as forex availability improves, and improving the forex management and functioning of the interbank market based on further study.

On monetary policy, the NBE will adjust the growth of reserve money, which is the base

for growth of money supply in the economy, as needed to control inflation. To enhance its ability to effectively conduct monetary policy, the NBE will strengthen its analytical capacity and introduce new and more effective monetary policy and liquidity management instruments.

On financial sector reforms, the NBE will enhance its regulatory framework and supervisory capacity to safeguard financial stability. It will also play a role in deepening financial sector development and promoting financial access. In this regard, it will facilitate the development of capital and financial markets through establishing a competitive market for government securities (i.e. Treasury bills), upgrading the financial market infrastructure through gradually phasing out the NBE bill and supporting the development of inter-bank money markets, facilitating the development of secondary bond markets and a stock exchange market, and supporting the development of mobile banking to promote financial inclusion.

Birritu: Any final thoughts?

Ato Melesse: Let me make three remarks as a conclusion of our conversation. First, with notable progress in building the hard infrastructure (roads, airports, railways, power plants, telecommunication, etc), a growing educated labor force, and a potentially large market size (as the second most populous nation in Africa), Ethiopia has become an attractive destination for investment (both for local and foreign investors). What is needed to realize this growing investment interest and to unlock the country's economic potential is to address remaining barriers and focus on upgrading our 'soft infrastructure' such as policies, institutions, and quality of education. This is what the current economic reform aims to achieve. Second, by their very nature reforms tend to be painful in the short term but promise long-term gains and economic returns to not only the current but also future generations. For this reason, successful implementation of the current reform agenda relies on broader public ownership, participation, as well as patience and perseverance. It is very important to understand that reform is not a luxury choice for Ethiopia today; it is the only option for sustaining the economic progress, creating job opportunities for the millions of unemployed youth, and ensuring food security for millions of poor people. Finally, it is important to acknowledge that the success of the economic reform agenda also relies on factors that are beyond the scope of this reform agenda such as peace and security in the country and the global economic environment.

EASE OF DOING BUSINESS INDEX

The ease of doing business index is an index created by Simeon Djankov at the World Bank Group. The academic research for the report was done jointly with professors Oliver Hart and Andrei Shleifer. Higher rankings (a low numerical value) indicate better, usually simpler, regulations for businesses and stronger protections of property rights. Empirical research funded by the World Bank to justify their work show that the economic growth impact of improving these regulations is strong.

"Empirical research is needed to establish the optimal level of business regulation—for example, what the duration of court procedures should be and what the optimal degree of social protection is. The indicators compiled in the Doing Business project allow such research to take place. Since the start of the project in November 2001, more than 3,000 academic papers have used one or more indicators constructed in Doing Business and the related background papers by its authors.

METHODOLOGY

The report is above all, a benchmark study of regulation. The survey consists of a questionnaire designed by the Doing Business team with the assistance of academic advisers. The questionnaire centers on a simple business case that ensures comparability across economies and over time. The survey also bases assumptions on the legal form of the business, size, location, and nature of its operations. The ease of doing business index is meant to measure regulations directly affecting businesses and does not directly measure more general conditions such as a nation's proximity to large markets, quality of infrastructure, inflation, or crime.

The next step of gathering data surveys of over 12,500 expert contributors (lawyers, accountants, etc.) in 190 countries who deal with business regulations in their day-to-day work. These individuals interact with the Doing Business team in conference calls, written correspondence, and visits by the global team. For the 2017 report, team members visited 34 economies to verify data and to recruit respondents. Data from the survey is subjected to several rounds of verification. The surveys are not a statistical sample, and the results are interpreted and cross-checked for consistency before being included in the report. Results are also validated with the relevant government before publication. Respondents fill out written surveys and provide references to the relevant laws, regulations, and fees based on standardized case scenarios with specific assumptions, such as the business being located in the largest business city of the economy.[4]

A nation's ranking on the index is based on the average of 10 subindices:

- Starting a business – Procedures, time,

cost, and minimum capital to open a new business
- Dealing with construction permits – Procedures, time, and cost to build a warehouse
- Getting electricity – procedures, time, and cost required for a business to obtain a permanent electricity connection for a newly constructed warehouse
- Registering property – Procedures, time, and cost to register commercial real estate
- Getting credit – Strength of legal rights index, depth of credit information index
- Protecting investors – Indices on the extent of disclosure, extent of director liability, and ease of shareholder suits
- Paying taxes – Number of taxes paid, hours per year spent preparing tax returns, and total tax payable as share of gross profit
- Trading across borders – Number of documents, cost, and time necessary to export and import
- Enforcing contracts – Procedures, time, and cost to enforce a debt contract
- Resolving insolvency – The time, cost, and recovery rate (%) under bankruptcy proceeding

The Doing Business project also offers information on following datasets:
- Distance to frontier – Shows the distance of each economy to the "frontier," which represents the highest performance observed on each of the indicators across all economies included since each indicator was included in Doing Business
- Entrepreneurship – Measures entrepreneurial activity. The data is collected directly from 130 company registrars on the number of newly registered firms over the past seven years
- Good practices – Provide insights into how governments have improved the regulatory environment in the past in the areas measured by Doing Business
- Transparency in business regulation – Data on the accessibility of regulatory information measures how easy it is to access fee schedules for 4 regulatory processes in the largest business city of an economy

For example, according to the Doing Business (DB) 2013 report, Canada ranked third on the first subindex "Starting a business" behind only New Zealand and Australia. In Canada there is 1 procedure required to start a business which takes on average 5 days to complete. The official cost is 0.4% of the gross national income per capita. There is no minimum capital requirement. By contrast, in Chad which ranked among the worst (181st out of 185) on this same subindex, there are 9 procedures required to start a business taking 62 days to complete. The official cost is 202% of the gross national income per capita. A minimum capital investment of 289.4% of the gross national income per capita is required.

While fewer and simpler regulations often imply higher rankings, this is not always the case. Protecting the rights of creditors and investors, as well as establishing or upgrading property and credit registries, may mean that more regulation is needed.

In most indicators, the case study refers to a small domestically-owned manufacturing company—hence the direct relevance of the indicators to foreign investors and large companies is limited. DB uses a simple averaging approach for weighing sub-indicators and calculating rankings. A detailed explanation of every indicator can be found

through the DB website, and a .xls archive that simulates reforms.

Some caveats regarding the rankings and main information presented have to be considered by every user of the report. Mainly:

- Doing Business does not measure all aspects of the business environment that matter to firm or investors, such as the macroeconomic conditions, or the level of employment, corruption, stability or poverty, in every country.
- Doing Business does not consider the strengths and weaknesses of neither the global financial system, nor the financial system of every country. It also doesn't consider the state of the finances of the government of every country.
- Doing Business does not cover all the regulation, or all the regulatory requirements. Other types of regulation such as financial market, environment, or intellectual property regulations that are relevant for the private sector are not considered.

The Doing Business report is not intended as a complete assessment of competitiveness or of the business environment of a country and should rather be considered as a proxy of the regulatory framework faced by the private sector in a country.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ease_of_doing_business_index

እፉኛት

አጭር ልብወለድ

በዚህች ምድር ካይ እንደ እናት አፍቃሪ የለም።
ሳየው አይደለም፤ ሳስበው እንደ ለ-ሀጭ ነሚቀፈኝ ወንድ የወለድኩትን ሃፃን እንደ ወለላ ማር እልሰዋለሁ።
ልጄ ነዋ!
ልጄ።

ነተገላገልኩ ዛሬ ዘጠኝ ቀኔ ነው። ጀነበር የአድማሱን ጠርዝ፤ በብርሃናማ ቀይ ነናፍሯ ስማ ልትሰናበተው ነው... ኪመሽ። የንጋቱን መምጣት ያበሰሩት የማለዳ አዕዋፋት የምሽቱን መቅረብ በአጫጭር ፉጨት መሰል ዜማቸው ያረዳሉ። ቤቱ ዝም ብሏል። እናቴ የሚጥም ወፍራም፤ ትኩስ እጀ በፔርሙስ ነጎኔ አኑራልኝ ግንባሬን ስማ የጎረቤት ሰልስት ሌዳለች። እርጥብ ፤ ልጄን እቅፌ የተወለደኩበት አልጋ ላይ ተኝቻለሁ፡
ገና በአስራ ዘጠኝ ዓመቴ ፍቅርን፤ ነፃነትን፤ ሽንፈትን፤ እናትነትን...አየሁ።
ይደነመኛል።

ሩጫውን መቼ፤የት፤እንዴት ጀመርኩት? ያከፉት አስራ ሦስት ወራት እንዴት ብዙ ነስተቶች የታመቁ ሆነው አለፉ?
(በፊት)

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ይሄ ማትሪክ የሚሉት መግቢያው እንደ ገነት በር የጠበበ ባለ እንድ ቀዳዳ ወንፊት አጥልሎ አስቀርቶኝ እንጂ ድፍን ደርዘን ዓመት ተማሪ ቤት ቆይቼ ነበር። ምናባቱ! ሳይሆን ቀረና፤ ሳይሳካ ቀረና አባቴ ዕድሜ ልኩን አገልግሎ ጡረታ የወጣበት ትልቅ ድርጅት ውስጥ በተካካኒነት ተቀጠርኩ።

ገና የገባሁ ሰሞን ደስ ተሰኝቼ ሁሉን በሥራዬ ለማጥገብ ወደ ካይና ወደ ታች ስበር አይተው ነው መሰል ወደ ኃላፊዎቹ ቢሮ አካባቢ ከመካካክም፤ሻይ ቡና ከማቅረብም ብለው ሰባተኛ ፎቅ ሰቀሉኝ። ነዚያች

ዕለት ጀምሮ ያሳለፍኩትን የህጋ-ጠባ ፍዳ አሁን ተመልሼ ሳስበው አንድያዬን እንደ መድኃኔዓለም እንጨት ላይ ግራና ቀኝ ቢቸነክሩኝ ይሻለኝ ነበር እላለሁ።

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አምስቱም አለቃ ተብየዎች ከተፈጠሩ የቆዩ ናቸው። ከእኔ ጋርማ ሲተያዩ በቅርስነት መዚየም ያልተቀመጡት ያው እንደ ሌሎቹ ያገራችን ጥንታዊ ቅርሶች ሁሉ አስታዋሽ ከማጣት ብቻ እንደሆነ ከማንም ተመልካች ግልፅ ነው።

አራቱ የሚመሳሰሉበት አንድ ነገር በመስሪያ ቤቱ የያዙት የስልጣን ደረጃ ሲሆን ሌላው አምስቱን አንድ የሚያደርግ (ዋና አለቃውን ጨምሮ) ደግሞ ከእኔ ገላ ያላቸው ዕለት ዕለት በሚያሽበር ፍጥነት መውቀቱ ሲግም የሚሄድ መመኘት ነው። የቢሮዋቸውን በር ከምንም ጉዳይ ተራምጀ ሳልፍ ተላላኪ ሳይሆን ባለ ባላ የተላጠ ሙዝ ፊታቸው የቀረበ ነው የሚመስላቸው። ከሴሰኝነታቸው የተነሳ ከመታጠቂያቸው በታች ሁሉም ዕብዶች ለመሆናቸው እችን ታክል አልጠራጠርም።
ከእነዚህ ሁለት ነገሮች ውጪ ግን እንደ እነዚህ አምስት ያረጁ ፍየሎች ፍፁም የተለያየ አፈጣጠር፤ ባህርይና ስብዕና ያለው አንድ ላይ የተሰማቸ የፍጡር ስብስብ እስካሁን አልገጠመኝም።

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አንደኛው ቀላ፤ረዘም ብሎ አለባበሱን ከማሳመር የተቻለውን ያክል የሚጥር ባይነት ነው። በዚያ ላይ <<... መልከ-መልካም ከእኔ ወዲያ ላሳር! >> ብሎ የሚመላ። ከነገሩ ትንሽ ሰበብ አያጣም... በተለይ ወደ አፍንጫና አይኑ አላባቢ። ምን ያረጋል ታዲያ ! ተደራርበው የተጋገሩ የደግ እናት የቡላ መልመሎች የሚያህሉ ወፍራም ጥንድ ከናፍሮቹ ፊቱን ክፉኛ ረብሸውታል።
የአስተዳደር ክፍል ኃላፊ ሲሆን መልጭ ያለ ከሀዲ ነው። ይሁዳ። ሰውን ለመሸጥ ከሰላሳ ብር በታች ቢሰጡትም አነሰኝ አይልም። ልብ አርጉ እግዲህ በአሁን ዘመን ምንዛሪ!
አንድ ዕለት ሻይ ልቀዳለት የሱ ጠረጴዛ ላይ እንዳንነበስኩ ሳላስበው <<... እስኪ ሳሚኝ፤ >> አለ ያን ከባድ አፉን አገጩ ስር አንከርፎ።

<<... ምንልክ ...? >> አልኩ ከድንጋጤዬ ብዛት አንቱታውም ተዘንግቶኝ። እንደ፤ ምን ይላል እናንተ! እንደ ብርንዶ ከአዋዜና ቢላዋ ጋር ቢሰጡኝ እንኳ ከቁርሴ የማሳድረውን ነገር ጨርሰሽ ሳሚኝ ሲለኝ!
የሻሂ ብርጭቆው ሳይሞላ ስበር ወጣሁ...

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ሁለተኛው፤ የሊሳብና ግምጃ ቤት ኃላፊው በመልክም ይሁን በአለባበስ እዚህ ግባ የሚሉት አይደለም። ከነገሩ እሱም <<ልግባ>> አይልም። አሳምሮ ያውቀዋል። ብቻ፤ ክፉኛ ጥበበኛ፤ብልህና አዋቂ መሆኑን በማሰብ ሁሌ እጅግ ይገረማል። ከዚህ የጥበብ ምንጭ ቀድቶ ከተጠማ የማጠጣት ብርቱ ትጋት አለው።

በተለይ ለእኔ!
ሲበዛ አሉባልተኛ ነው። ሐሜት ከመውደዱ የተነሳ ገዢ-መሬት ላይ የተቀመጡ ዘበኞች፤ሾፌሮችና ሌሎች የበታች ሹማምንት ጋር የጠነከረ የዜና ልውውጥ ያካሂዳል። በመስሪያ ቤታችንም ከጥበብ ይልቅ በወሬ መልካም ዝና አትርፏል።
ይሄ ደሞ እዚያው መዝገቡ ስር የልቤን ካላደረስኩ የሚል ተናካሽ አውራ ዶሮ ነው። እንዲያው ዘሎ አፍ ይቀናዋል። በዚህ ባህሪው አንድ ፈርጣማ የቀድሞ ፀሐፊው አንስታ አፍርጣው እንደ ተገረዘ ሀዋን ታዝሎ ወደ ቤቱ ላዲል።

እኔም ይቺ መረጃ አስቀድማ ስለደረሰችኝ ገና <<እንቺ ልጅ...፤ በቃ-እንቢ አልሽ አይደል? >> እያለ ከወንበሩ ተነስቶ ወደ እኔ መንጋፈፍ ሲጀምር ቶሎ ፔርሙሴን ጣል አደርግና ቡጢዬን ወጥሬ እጠብቀዋለሁ።
ተመልሶ ቁጭ ነው የሚላት!

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ሦስተኛው ፈሪ ነው። የእመ-ብርሃን ያለህ! ፍርሀቱ ምክንያትም፤ምሳሌም፣ የሌለው ነው። እንድ ዕለት ቢሮው የሆነ መልዕክት ላደርስ ብገባ<<... እንዴ ኪዘንም ነው እንዴ...>> ብሎ ነብዶ የጠቆረውን ደመና በመስኮቱ አሻግሮ እያየ ምጥ ባስጨነቃት ወላድ ድምፅ ቢጠይቀኝ እንጀቴ ድረስ ወርዶ በላኝ።

ታዲያ ቢዘንብስ - ምን ነበረበት?
ሻይ ስቀዳ በዚህ ዕድሜው እንደ ልጃገረድ ዓይኑን ዓይኔ ካይ ሰበር ነደን እያደረገ ነመሸነርመም የነፋ ነገር እያደርግም። ግና ዳሩ... እንደ አልቅት ጭንና ጡቴ ላይ የሚያጣብቀው ዓይኑ ነመኝታ ይብሳል።

መጀመሪያ ሰሞን<<... ሻንዚንና ሻርፕ መግዣ ይሁንሽ፡>> እያለ አስርም ሀያም ብር ኪሽጉጥልኝ ሞክሮ አስደንብሬዋለሁ። ሆኖም የአይን ልመናውን እስነመጨረሻው አላቀመም ነበር።

ነጋዴም ንግድም ይወዳል። ሕልሙም ቅዠቱም መቼ ነሥራ ለቆ፤ የራሱን ድርጅት ነፍቶ ነው። በሕይወት ነዚህ የሚልቅ ራዕይ አለ ብሎ የሚጠረጥርም አይመስለኝ። የገበያ ነፍስ ኃላፊ ነው። በሥራም ሆነ በትርፍ ሰዓቱ የድለላ ተግባሩን በብቃት ያጧጡፋል።

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አራተኛው ተንኮለኛና ጠጪ ነው። መጠጡ የገዙን ቀለም ቀይሮት <<ነለሩ ይሄ ነው>> ብሎ ለይቶ ለመግለጥም ይቸግራል። ሦስት ቀን ውጪ ያደረ ጨንራ ነው የሚመስለው። ከነገሩ ቤቱ የማያድርበት ቀን ይበልጣል። ነባለቤቱም ጋር ብዙ ጊዜ እሱ ቢሮ ነው የሚገናኙት። አሽሙረኛ ሚስት አለችው።<<... ምን እንደ ፀበል ዕቃ ውጪ በስተቀር አላድርም አልክ... አይደል?>> ስትለው እንድ ማለዳ ሰምቼ ሳቁን ላፍን ስታገል የሻይ ማቅረቢያውን ልለቀው ነበር። እንደአሸዋ ፈሳሽ ነገር ጠጥቶ የማይጠግብ ፍጡር... እንተን አየሁ...>> ያለችው ዕለት ግን ነሷ ጋር እነዱል አብሬ ነው የሳቅሁ። እህ... ልፈንዳ እንደ ታዲያ?
በዞረ ድምሩም መሀል ግን ለኔ አይሰንፍም። ሁሌ አርብ ወደ መውጫችን ይጠራኛል። ያው እንደ ልማዱ አፉን ነጣሪያ-ወለል በላይ ነፍቶ በሰፊው ሲያፋሽክ እደርሳለሁ። መቸም ምላሱን ላየው ደረቅና፤ አሮጌ ያደፈ ፎጣ ነው የሚመስል ። ላንቃውን እንደ ምንም ወደ ቦታው መልሶ ነገጠመ ኋላ <<... እሺ ነገ ቅዳሜ የት ነሽ?>> ይለኛል።
<< ቤተክርስቲያን!>>
<< እንዴ ... ነሰዓት እኮ ነው>>
<< እኮ ነሰዓት ፤>> እለዋለሁ<<... ሰንበት ትምህርት ቤት አለብኝ።>>
<<... ቀረብሽ!!>> ይለኛል ያ ኮቾሮ።

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አምስተኛው ዋና ኃላፊው ሲሆን በግብሩም በስብዕናውም የአራቱን ጭፍሮቹን ነክፉ ነክፉ አጣምሮ፤ እንዲሁም እግዚሀር<<... እኚህንስ ለሰይጣነም ቢሆን ... አልሰጣቸውም! ምን ብንጣላ፤... የኔው ፍጡር አይደል!>> ሲል የሸሸጋቸውን ነውር ምግባሮች አሸክሞ ወደዚች ጉደኛ ዓለም የሰደደው ጉድ ፍጥረት ነው። እኔማ ስፈራው ለትንግርት ነው።

ፀባዩ እስስትን እንኳ ቀለመ-ቢስ የሚያሰኝ ዓይነት ነው። ለበላዮቹ ውሻ፤ለበታቾቹ እንበሳ፤ ለጥቅም ጊዜ ፊታውራሪ፤ለሥራ ጊዜ ደጀን የሆነ ሰነፍ! ለአዲስ መጪ መልአክ ለነረመ ዲያብሎስ። ለገንዘብ ያለው ፍቅር <<እስነ ...!>> ተብሎ የሚለካም አይደል።

ጢሞቴዎስ በመልዕክቱ ምዕራፍ 6 ቁጥር 10<< ገንዘብን መውደድ የኃጢአት ሁሉ ስር ነው>> ያለው የዚህን ነይሲ ልብ -ስር አጢኖ ሳይሆን አይቀርም።
ታዲያ እኔንም የሚያስቸግረኝ በብላሽ የሚገኝ መዝናኛ አርጎ ቆጥሮኝ ይሆናል።

ለረዥም ጊዜ እንደ ጨዋ<<.. እንቺ አባትሽ ደህና ነው?>> ሲለኝ ይሰነብትና እንድ ያላሰብኩት ዕለት የቡና ሲኒ ላነሳ በዘረጋሁት መዳፍ ስቦ ደረቱ ላይ ይጥለኛል።

ሁሌ ተንኮል ሲያደራ የሚውል ሴት ሽሪሪት ነው።

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ነደረቱ ላይ እንደተነሳሁ ስሮጥ ናሁሰናይ ጋር እላዳለሁ። ነዮኒቨርስቲ ተመርቆ እኖ ዘንድ ሥራ ነያዘ ገና ሁለተኛ ዓመቱ ነው። ዓመሉ ዕርጎ የሆነ፤ ሰላምተኛ የእግዚሀር ሰው። ሀገሩ ትልቅ ደብር ቀድሷል አሉ፤ ዲያቆን ሁኖ። እንድ መኝነጡ የበዛብኝ ቀን ጥግ ይዤ ሳለቅስ አይቶኝ ቢሮው ወሰደኝና የልቤን አጫወትኩት።

ነዚያ ወዲህ ለረዥም ጊዜ ነትነዘየ የማርፍበት መነዳ ሆነኝ። አቤት የእንደበቱ መጣፈጥ! ችሎታውስ! በዚያ ላይ ታማኝነቱ። ምንም እንኳ በመስሪያ ቤቱ

ከገፀ-በረከት የተመቸ ሥፍራ ካይ ቢቀመጥ እንዲች ብኬ ጉቦ አይነካም። ወር ከመድረስ እንዳንደ ነቢር ሰዎች ይበደራል። ከእናቱ ገጠር የሚልከውን ድርጎ አያስታኑልም። በድፍን መሥሪያ ቤቱ ያካረገ ቅዱስ ተደርጎ ነው የሚቆጠር።

አከቆቹን ሲጠላና ሲረግምልኝ ይውላል። በሌሰኝነታቸው፤በሆዳምነታቸው፤ በስንፍናቸው፤<<... አንድ ወንድ በሕይወቱ ደስተኛ ከመሆን ቀላል ነገሮች ይበቁታል፤ የሚያፈቅራት ሚስት፤ የሚወደው ሥራ፤ የወለዳቸው ልጆች፤ የሚያነብሩትና የሚያነብራቸው ጎደሞች። በቃ፤>> ይለኛል አዘውትሮ።

እየወደድኩት ብመጣም የተፈጥሮ አውሬነቴና አፋራምነቴ ገድቦ ይዞኝ ቆየ። በዚያ ላይ ምንም እንኳ እሱ ከእኔ ያለውን ውዴታ መጀመሪያ በዓይኑ ቀጥኬ በቃኩ ቢያረጋግጥልኝም እጄን ከመስጠት ረዥም ጊዜ አመነታሁ።

<<ተ... ተው ዕረፍ፤>> አለዋለሁ <<...አንተ የተማርክና ደረጃህ ከፍ ያለ ነው፤ አልመጥንህም>> ብዬ አሻፈረኝ አልኩ።

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<<እህ!>> ይለኛል በመደመም ፈገግታ <<እኔ እኮ ቁርበት አንጥፌ መደብ ላይ አተኛ የነበርኩ መናጢ የገበሬ ልጅ ነኝ። ምነው መኳንንት ባትሰሪኝ።>>
<<ቢሆንም>> አለዋለሁ <<ቢሆንም አሁን አንተ የት የምትደርስ፤ እንጀራህ ከፍ የሚል ትልቅ ሰው ነህ። እኔና አንተ መንገዳችን ከየቅል ነው፤ ከማያዛልቅ ነገር ከምን...? ብለውም አልሰማኝ አለ።

<< አያገባኝም ብለሽ እንደሆነ እሱን እኔም አንቺም የምናውቀው ነገር አይደለም፤በሀያኩ እግዚሀር እጅ ያለ፤እንደ ሀያኩ እግዚሀር ፈቃድ ብቻ የሚወሰን ነገር ነው፤ የትዳር ጎደኛ ከእግዚአብሔር ዘንድ የሚሆን ስጦታ እንጂ እኛ ፍጡሮች እንደ ጨው ቀምሰን፤ እንደ ወጥ ልሰን በጣዕሙ የምንመርጠው ነገር አይደለም፤>> ይለኛል።

ቀስ እያለ ሸረሸረኝ። በሚገባ የተጠኑ አሳማኝ ክርክሮች ነበሩት፤ <<ይኸውልሽ ዓለሚ፤ አሁን እኔ እና አንቺ እንጋባለን ብለን ነልባችን ወስነን የፈለግነው ያህል ዝግጅት ብንፈፅምም አምላክ ካላለ አይሆንም።
እኔና አንቺ ደግሞ <<ነቶ ምንም ቢሆን እንጋባም! >> ብለን ወደ ሁለት የምድር ዳርቻዎች ተለያይተን ብንሰደድም እግዚአብሔር ካለ መገናኘታችን አይቀርም፡ ፡>>

ክርክሩ ሊያሳምነኝ ባይችልም ግር እንዲለኝ ግን እያረገ ነበር። <<እንዴ እውነቱን እኮ ነው! ማነው እሱ የወደደውን ያገባ?>> እያልሁ ነሱ ጋር አድሜ የእኔን አቋም መፈተን ጀመርሁ። ዕለት ተዕለት እንደ ተኩላ ሊናጠቁኝ ነሚያደቡት አውሬዎች ጋር የእሱን ንፁህና በሳል አስተሳሰብ አወዳድሬ እጄን ልሰጠው አቅማማ ገባሁ።

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አንድ ዕለት ያ ወሬኛ በጠዋት ተሸቀዳድሞ ጠርቶኝ ቢሮው ገባሁ። ባለረዥም አንገት ምቹ የቆዳ ወንበሩ ላይ ተለጥጦ በግማሽ ተኝቷል።

<<... አቤት ...>> አልኩት በውሸት ትህትና አንገቴን ሰበር አድርጌ።

<<እሽሽ...>> አለኝ እንደ ነብር ዓይን አንሰው በበቀኩ ዓይኖቹ አጨልቆ እያየኝ። በቀጫጭን ጣቶቹ ብዙር የምታህል ቦርጩን ያሻል፤<<...እሽሽ...፤ ይኸውልሽ... አንድ ቀዝቃዛ አምቦ ውሀና ጥቁር ወፍራም ቡና አምጪልኝ፤>> ሲል አዘዘኝ።

<< እሺ ጌታዬ>> ወደ በሩ ልዞር ስጀምር ጮኸና መለሰኝ።

<< እኔ እኮ የሚገርመኝ፤ ምንድነው የሚያጣድፍሽ? ይልቅ በሩን መለስ አርጊ፤ በብርድ አትጨርሺኝ!>> ያው እንደ ልማዱ ዘሎ ኪነመርብኝ፤ከብልጠቱ መሆኑ ገብቶኛል። የኋሊት ቀስ ብዬ ተራምጄ መዝጊያውን ዘጋሁና ፈንጠር ብዬ በተጠነቀቅ ቆምሁ።

<<አሄሄ...>> አለኝ፤ <ለማያውቅሽ ታጠኝ፤> በሚል ቅላፄ፤<<... ያላየንሽ መስሎሻል! >>
ጀመረ ደግሞ የወሬ ድሩን!<<... ይልቅ ብታርፊ ይሻልሻል፤ አሁን ነዚህ እንደወጣሽ እዚያ ደብተራ ጉያ ልትሸጎጪ...፤ ብሎኝ ሳይጨርስ በድንጋጤ ምላሴ ከነማሰሪያው ወጥቶ ተንጠለጠለ።

ልጅ ነኝ እኮ!
ነት ብሎ ነክቦ ሣቀብኝ <<... ሰይጣን ለብልሀቱ ነመጽሐፍ ይጠቅሳል>> ይባላል ያም የቀበሮ ባህታዊ እንዴ እስኪ ኮረሽምሽ ነው።>>

ምንም አለቃ ቢሆንና ብፈራውም ናሁሰናይ ሲዘለፍ ያውም በዚህ ነይሲ፤በንዝምታ ዳር መቆሙ አሳፋሪ ፈሪነት መስሎ ስለታየኝ መነካነክል ጀመርሁ።

<<ንሪ ሹሱ ቅዱስ...፤>> የላመቱን እንደኛ ቀልድ የሰማ ያነክል የበለጠ ይሰቅ ጀመር።

ትቼው ልወጣ ስል አይቼበት በማላውቀው ዕርጋታና ቀምኖ ነገራምነት ይነግረኝ ጀመር።

<<... ይኸውልሽ አንቺ ልጅ! እኔ ቀልቀል ወርጄ አንቺን የምመክርበት ምንም ምክንያት የለምኀ ግን ዓይኔ እያየ ያ ዕባብ ጠልፎ ሲጥልሽ ዝም አልልም። ከመሆኑ ነሥራ እየከቀቀ መሆኑን ታውቂያለሽ?>>
<< ብቻ አይንሽን ክፈቺ፤>> አለኝ።

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ማታ ነሥራ መልስ ተገናኘን። ነአንድ የአሞራ ቤተሰብ በላይ የማታስተናግድ ጠባብ የሸንበቆ ጎጆ ውስጥ ተቀምጠናል። ነበሯ አናት አርበ-ጠባብ አንድ ነጠላ በመጋረጃ መልክ ወርዷል። ነክፍኪ መጥበብ የተነሳ ሳይሳሳሙ ከመቆየት እጅግ አደጋች ነው።

ትንፋሽ እስኪያጥረኝ ነሳመኝ በኋላ<<... ምን ነው ዓለሚ፤ ካልተገናኘን ብለሽ ዛሬ ያጣደፍሽኝ? ምን መጣ? አለኝ በስብከት በታቃኘ ቃና - መልካም ድምፁ።

<< ናሁዬ አንድ ነገር ብጠይቅህ አትቀየመኝም?>>
አልኩት

<< አልቀየምሽም>>
<< እስኪ ማርያምን በለኝ>>
<< አልቀየምሽም ካልኩ አልቀየምሽም፤>> አለኝ ደበብ ባለ ድምፅ። <<በሚቴዎስ ወንጌል ምዕራፍ ቁጥር 37 < አዎን ወይም አይደለም በሉ እንጂ አትማሉ>> ሲል ነልነክኪል...>>

<< እሺ በቃ አትማል፤ናሁዬ ... ነሥራ የምትወጣው ዲቪ ገዝተህ ወደ ውጪ ልትሄድ ስለሆነ ነው አሉኝ>> ማልቀስ ጀመርኩ፤ << ውሸታቸውን ነው አይደል? እኔ እኮ አላመንኳቸውምኀ ግን ...፤ ግን ...>> በጣም፤ በጣም ስለፈራሁ ተጠምጥሚበት አለቀስኩ።

<<ዓለሚ ... እመኚኝ>> አለኝ ሁለት እጆቹን ደረቱ ላይ አመሳቅሎ ፍፁም በሰነነ ድምፅ።<< ... ነሰነፎችና ነኀጢአተኞች እንደበት ስለምን መልካም ነገር ትጠብቂያለሽ? የእውነት ነንፈር ለዘላለም ትቆማለች፤ ውሸተኛ ምላስ ግን ለቅጽበት ነው።! >>
እንዲህ ያለውን ራሱን ለፈጣሪ ያስገዛ ዓድቅ ለእንድ አፍታ እንኳን በመጠራጠሬ ብርቱ ኃዘን ተሰማኝ...
ነፍሴንም ስጋዬንም አሳልፌ ሰጠሁት...

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ናሁ ነሻ መሥሪያ ቤት ለቋል። ሌላ ሥራ ለማመቻቸት ሲባዝን ስለሚውል እምብዛም አንገናኝም። ዓይኑን ማየት ናፍቆኛል።ለአፍታ ካላየሁት የሚጨንቀኝ ሴት ሁለት ሦስት ቀን እንገናኝ ጀመር።
አንደ ወትሮው ደስተኛ አልሆን ብያለሁ። እህል አይበላልኝምኀበዚያ ላይ ሆደ ውስጥ ተውሳክ ገብቶ ነው መሰል ይህን ሰሞን ማለዳ ማለዳ አዘውትሮ ያስመልሰኛል። የአበሻም የፈረንጅም መድኃኒት ብወስድ ፈውስ አልሆነኝም።
አልፎ አልፎ ናሁን አግኝቼው እኔ ስለወደፊታችን ሳወራ እሱ የዘላለም ህይወት የሆነውን የእግዚአብሔርን ቃል ሲመግበኝ መነፈሴ ዳግም ያንሰራራል።
እንደ ማንኛውም ድሀ ተስፋን ተስፋ አድርጌ ግማሽ መንፈቅ ያህል ደስ ብሎኝ ኖርኩ። ሳገባ፤ ስወልድ፤ ባሌ ሥራ ውሎ ደክሞ ሲገባ፤የላመት በላል በግ ሲያርድ ... እያለምኩ ደስ ብሎኝ ኖርኩ።

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ናሁ ሠናይ ወደ ውጪ ሀገር መሄዱን ስሰማ ተዝረክርኬ አለቀስኩ። ነፍሰ-ጡር መሆኔንም ያወቅሁት በዚሁ ሰበብ ታምሚ ሆስፒታል የገባሁ ጊዜ ነበር።

አባቴ ሊጠይቀኝ መጣ አርጅቷል። ትክ ብሎም ተመለከተኝ። እንደ ዱሮው እኔን ሲያይ ዓይኖቹ ውስጥ ፍንትው ብለው የሚበሩት ብርሃኖች አሁን የሉም። ፅንሱን ልጅ ሆኖ ቢያየው ምናልባት በሕይወቱ ሳለ ነኔ የሚጠብቀው የመጨረሻ መልካም ነገር ሊሆን እንደሚችል ነግሮኝ ሄደ።

ከሱ ስልጋ ከአባቴ ብቻ ስል ልጄን ልወልድ ወሰንኩ።

(ዛሬ)

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እስካሁን ያልገባኝና ወደፊትም ነቶ መቼም ቢሆን ልረዳው የማልችል ነገር አሁንም በልቤ አለ።

ያን ሰው አላውቀውም ነበር። በኔና በሱ፤ በቤተሰቤና ቤተሰቡ መሀል እንኳን ከበቀል የሚያነሳሳ ጥል ይቅርና ከእግዜር ሰላምታም የሚያበቃ እውቂያ አልነበረም።

ግን ለምን? ለምን እኔን ሊያረክሰኝ መረጠ? በትምህርትም በአስተዋይነትም ዝቅ ያልሁት ደቅድቆ መጣል በእሱ ላይ የሚጨምረው አንዳችም ክብርና ሞገስ አልነበረም። ወይም ነእኔ ነንፈርና ሰውነት የሚፈልቅ የተለየ ጣዕም ያለው የወይን ጠጅ።

ምናልባት አለቀቹ ሌት ተቀን ዳክረው ያላገኙትን ፍሬ እሱ በቀላሉ ሊበላው እንደሚችል...

<<ምነው ዛለሚ...?>> እናቴ ነሰልሰት ተመልሳ ገባችና ፊት ለፊት ግድግዳውን በስተው ያፈጠጡ የሚይረግቡ ዓይኖቼን አይታ ነው መሰል ራስጌዬ ቁጭ ብላ ግንባሬን ታሻሽልኝ ጀመር።

ሆድ ብሶኝ እያለቀስኩ በዝምታ ረገምኩት <<አይቅናህ ...፤ በሄድክበት ሁሉ አይቅናህ...?

ብሪቱ መጽሐት ጥቅምት 1993

CAPITAL GOODS FINANCE COMPANIES

No	Name Of Company	Address	Phone	Fax
1	Waliya Capital Goods Finance Business S.Co	Bahirdar	058-2206780	0582 205 342
2	Oromia Capital Goods Finance Business S.Co	Addis Ababa	0115-571307	251-0115571411
3	Addis Capital Goods Finance Business S.Co	Addis Ababa	0111-262445	251-0111263479
4	Debub Capital Goods Finance Business S.Co	Hawasa	046 2125191	251-462 125 170
5	Kaza Capital Goods Finance Business S.Co	Mekelle	0344 40 00 85	0342 40 00 84
6	Ethio lease Ethiopian Goods Finance Business S.Co	Addis Ababa	0116 393 397	0116 392 730

Capital Goods Finance Bussiness Licensing and Supervision Team

Information on Micro Finance Institutions

NBE MFI No.	Name of Institutions	Telephone No.	Fax No.
001	Amhara Credit and Saving Institution S. Co.	058-2201652 / 0918340256	251-058 – 2201733
002	Dedebit Credit and Saving Institution S.C.	034-4409306 / 0914702214	251-034-4406099 251-034-2400208
003	Oromia Credit and Saving Institution S.Co.	0115571158/18/33/ 0911771023 (GM)	251- 011- 1571152
004	Omo Micro Finance Institution S. Co.	096619611 GM 046-2202053/ 0462207384	251-046 – 220-20-52
005	Gasha Micro Financing S. Co.	0118952389/90/91 0911240437	
006	Vision Fund Microfinance Institution S. Co.	0116463569 0911211823 (GM)	251-011 – 6293346
007	Sidama Micro Finance Institution S.Co.	046-2200850 / 0462206151 0916836687 (GM)	251-046 – 2204704
008	Africa Village Financial Services S. Co.	0116532052 / 0113204732 0911296401 (GM) 0913113446	
009	Buusaa Gonofaa Micro Financing S. Co.	0114162491 0911223679 (GM) / 0912017087 (FM))	251-011 – 4162501
010	Poverty Eradication & Community Empowerment Micro Financing Institution S. Co.	0116678059 / 0911219506 (GM)	251-011 - 4654088
011	Addis Credit and Saving Institution S. Co.	0111572720 011111512/13 0911406174 (GM)	251-011 – 1573124
012	Meklit Micro Finance Institution S. Co.	0113484152 / 0113482183 0911318625 (GM)	251-011 – 5504941
013	ESHET Micro Finance Institution S.Co.	0113206451/52 0911677434 GM)	251-011 – 3206452
014	Wasasa Micro Finance Institution S.Co.	0911-67-38-22 / 0113384133	251-0113679024
015	Benishangul-Gumuz Micro Financing S.Co.	057-7750666 / 057-7752042 0911951484 Gm	251-057 – 7751734 251-057 - 7750060
016	Kendil Micro Finance Institution S. Co.	046 1105952 / 3831 / 5663	251-046-11015
017	Metemamen Micro Financing Institution S. Co.	6615398/6635801/0913460432(GM)	251-011 – 6186140
018	Dire Micro Finance Institution S. Co.	0251129702/1127072/1119246/47 0911353890 (GM)	251-025 – 1120246
019	Aggar Micro Finance S.Co.	6183382/3104 0911689457 (GM)	251-011 - 6183383
020	Letta Micro Finance Institution S. Co.	0911658497 (GM) / 0911169263 (Finance GM) 0911418280 (Aster)	
021	Harbu Micro Financing Institution S. Co.	0116185510 / 0911512633 (GM)	251-011 - 6630294
022	Digaf Micro Credit Provider S. Co.	0112787390/2782252/0910-27-52-34 0911936785 (GM)	
023	Harar Micro Microfinance Institution S. Co.	025-6663745/025-6664078/0912401911	251-025 - 6661628
024	Lefayeda Credit and Saving S.Co.	0116296976 / 0118237179	
025	Tesfa Micro Finance Institution S. Co.	0115526205 / 0911831882	251-011 - 5512763
026	Gambella Micro Financing S. Co.	0475511250/0475512252 / 0917823153	0475511271 / 0475512390
027	Dynamic Micro Finance S. Co. (Approved 23/03/09)	01155491585540390 / 0915766908(GM)	
028	Somali Micro finance Institution S.Co.	0257752122257-756976/77 0915768505 (GM)	0257780462
029	Specialized Financial and Promotional Institution S. Co.	0116622780 0911625576	251-011 - 6614804
030	Lideta Micro Finance Institution S.C.	0914788554 0344450064/32	0344452829 /0344450383
031	Nisir Micro Finance Institution S.Co.	0115500700/701 /0912364092 0911059722 / 0911875165	305/1250
032	Adaday Micro finance Institution S.Co.	0342405095/69 /0914749064	0342405217
033	Rays Micro Finance Institution S.Co.	0913386180	496/1110
034	Afar Microfinance Institution	0913399644	0336660748
035	Kershi Micro Finance Institution S.Co.	0118 721106/02	
036	Debo Micro Finance Institution S.Co.	0911758872	
037	Sheger Micro Finance Institution S.C	0113 698998	
038	Yemsirach	0118312404	
039	Grand Micro Finance Institution S.Co.	0912116101	

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National Bank of Ethiopia