**A WELL STARTED JOB IS HALF DONE**

**Maryihun Tsegay, 07-18-16**

Ethiopia has already designed effective policies and strategies that lead the development of the country to reach the middle income level in 2025.Some of the policies and strategies are economic, political , social ,and cultural. Based on the Ethiopian Constitution, the Nations , Nationalities and Peoples of Ethiopia have the right to fairly benefit from the development.

One of the policy and strategy is the INDUSTRIAL  POLICY. The baselines as laid down in the first phase of GTP were, road construction, and railway lines including the construction of sugar factories in different regions. These are also stepping stones for the next GTP2.Some of the infrastructures are finalized, some are in their final stage. Having the GTP1 as a cornerstone for the development strategies, the Federal Government has ratified the GTP2.

According to the priorities of the country for poverty reduction and creating  job  opportunities ,the federal government has designed the Industrial Park Development Program in selected regions by fulfilling the necessary  pre-conditions for industrialization. One of the pre-conditions is the availability of skilled labor which is covered by the education policy. This policy is the 70+30 policy for Science and Technology and Social Sciences respectively. This policy facilitates the development of skilled labor force.

**STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF THE INDUSTRIAL PARKS**

Industrial parks could play a significant role in the country's transition  from agricultural led economy to industrial led transformation. According to the GTP2, different industrial parks will be built in different regions within the coming five years.

Some of the strategic importance of the INDUSTRIAL PARKS  are:

-Creating ample job opportunities for the youth

-Attracting best investors in different manufacturing sectors such as textiles, leather, steels etc

-Transfer of technology and knowledge

-Being the source of foreign currency by exporting quality goods or products

-Encouraging and enhancing domestic investment

-Bringing economic transformation by allocating money to the sector

-It ensures our Environment Friendly policy and CLIMATE RESILIENT GREEN ECONOMY

-It makes ETHIOPIA the HUB of manufacturing industry in Africa

-It uses the local natural resources wisely

-It can be used as the basis for sustainable development

A typical example is the HAWASSA INDUSTRIAL PARK which was inaugurated on July 13, 2016. It is said fifteen foreign and six domestic investors willbe involved in the industrial park. The industrial park would be a model for the remaining industrial parks to be built next in terms of its performance and management. It is expected that it will create 60,000 job opportunities for the young people who are graduating from the Universities and Colleges as well as the TVETS in the country.

The completion of the construction within 9 months shows the extraordinary political commitment of the leaders of EPRDF and the SNNP government.

Therefore, we can say that  *a well started job is half done*.