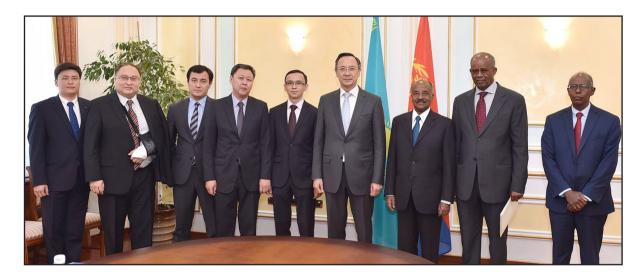


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SENIOR DELEGATION ON WORKING VISIT TO KAZAKHSTAN

A senior Eritrean delegation comprising Foreign Minister Osman Saleh, Presidential Advisor Mr. Yemane Gebreab and Ambassador Petros Tsegai are on a working visit to Kazakhstan. At the meeting the senior Eritrean delegation held with Mr. Kairat Abdrakhnanov, Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan, on 28 June in Astana the two sided reached an agreement to strengthen cooperation in political, diplomatic and economic sectors.

They also reached to understanding on the priority areas of cooperation in the sectors of trade, investment mining as well as agriculture and transportation.

The Eritrean delegation also visited the Astana International Expo 2017.

Eritrean nationals in South

Africa, France, the UK and the

Republic of Sudan have conducted

The Eritrean Ambassador to

South Africa and the Southern African countries. Mr. Saleh Omar,

participated at the conference of

African City Mayors in Pretoria.

He gave briefings on the historical

development of Asmara City and

its heritages as well as the effort being made to put Asmara in the

UNESCO World Heritage List.

different diplomatic activities.

COMBATING GLOBAL WARMING

The Ministry of Land, Water and Environment stated that Eritrea is exerting concerted effort along with partners and international organizations to combat global warming.

Mr. Kibrom Asmerom, Director of Research in the Department of Environment, said that emission of carbon dioxide, Ammonia and other pollutant gases has been the root cause for global warming resulting in degradation of biodiversity,

drought, underground water resources, and prevalence of infestation.

He further noted that introduction of renewable energy, expansion of public transportation, soil and water conservation and reforestation activities have been underway in Eritrea in a bid to prevent the dire consequences of global warming.

DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES OF ERITREAN NATIONALS ABROAD



Mr. Kibrom explained that research conducted in 2010 indicates that global warming has been increasing by 0.17 in every decade, while the emission of pollutant gases in Eritrean is only 0.023 and as such not comparable to the level of emissions from industrialized countries. He also indicated that Eritrea is making due preparation to combat possible threat due to global warming.

NEWS BRIEF

SKILL UPGRADING FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

The Health Ministry's branch in Gash-Barka region has conducted a month long training at Barentu Referral Hospital to staff members to upgrade their skills.

The training program provided to healthcare professionals in different healthcare institutions in Gash-Barka region mainly focused on the prevention of communicable diseases in general and controlling HIV/ AIDS in particular.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony, Dr. Leul Banteyirga, Director of the Helath Ministry's branch in the region, said that the training focused on enhancing counseling skills of healthcare professionals.

Likewise, Sister Nigsti Tesfamichael, Coordinator of HIV/AIDS control program at the Ministry, said that endeavors to control the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and prevent new infections have been underway.

BIDHO ASSOCIATION HOLDS 5TH CONGRESS

Bidho National Association of citizens living with HIV/AIDS held its 5th Congress on 29 June at the assembly hall in Orotta Referral Hospital.

development endeavors.

The Charge d'Affairs at the Eritrean Embassy, Mr. Ibrahim Idris, said that external conspiracy to demonize Eritrea and derail it from its development path have been foiled through the strong resilience of its people. He also called on the nationals to strengthen organization and back up national development drives.

Similarly, the YPFDJ branch in Leeds, the UK, conducted congress on 18 June. The chairman of the organization, Mr. Berhane Semere, presented a research paper on "Source and Strength of Youths Movement". He also called for strengthening awareness and organizational capacity.

Still more, the Eritrean Embassy in France organized a photo exhibition from 15 to 19 June depicting Asmara's art deco buildings. During the opening session, in which the UNESCO Permanent Representative, diplomats and invited guests took part, the Eritrean Ambassador to France, Ms. Hanna Simon, explained that Eritrea possesses long history, culture and historical heritage as well as societal values rooted on living in harmony and

Speaking at the congress, Ms. Amina Nurhussien, Minister of Health, explained that substantial investment and relentless effort are being exerted to provide efficient healthcare service.

She also indicated that concerted effort has been made to provide consultation and testing services for HIV/AIDS patients and the provision of anti-retroviral medicine so as to boost the immune system of individuals living with HIV.

Expressing appreciation for the active role the general public is playing in the reduction of HIV/AIDS, Mr. Ghebrehiwet Ghirmai, Chairperson of the Association, presented report regarding the training programs organized in a bid to improve the living standard members.

Bidho is a national association established in 2002 and is currently playing due role in the reduction of HIV/AIDS in partnership with the Ministry of Health.

In the course of a seminar Eritrean nationals in Khartoum and its environs held, they expressed resolve to live up to expectations as regards promoting national respect to one another.

The Congress participants voiced support to ongoing endeavors for placing Asmara City in the UNESCO World Heritages List.



Development

From one Cow to Industrial Farming, the Journey of a Woman Entrepreneur

Mela Ghebremedhin

Women are often the main food producers in agriculture-related activities especially in the 'Global South'. Research by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) through participatory rural appraisal (PRA) shows that in Eritrea women work on average more than 15 hours a day during the cropping season (FAO 2016).

According to findings by the Ministry of Agriculture (2016) 16 to 24% of Eritrea's GDP comes from the agricultural sector which is the main source of income for more than 60% of Eritrea's society. Within this sector, the participation of women is high especially at the lower level in farming, livestock, and search for rural energy among other activities. However, at the high-level or managerial position; participation of women in agriculture continues to be low. For instance, within the bee farming cooperatives of the Central region; out of the 84 members only 6 are women. The long hours spent by women in agricultural-related activities plays a significant role in a household's income; yet only few women upgrade themselves to largescale productivity in Eritrea. The Eritrean Women in Agribusiness Association (EWAA), established in 2013, is currently working to narrow the gender gap with its 76 members engaging in different areas of agriculture.

One of those women entrepreneurs





Mrs. Azieb Tsegay, owner and founder of Azieb Poultry

is Mrs. Azieb Tsegay, an illustration of the motto "hard-work pays off." Azieb founded the Azieb Poultry farm in the outskirts of Dubarwa and over the years she has established a reputation for herself. In today's edition, I will give you a glimpse of our conversation.

Azieb started her business with the idea of poultry farming and chicken meat production. From 2001 to 2007, her business focused on producing and selling eggs and chicken meat at the local market. Poultry farming wasn't as satisfactory as Mrs. Azieb and her family had thought. The outbreak of the bird flu epidemic at a global scale which caused fear locally and high expenses in poultry feed and farming discouraged Azieb to pursue her original plan.

"In 2007, I bought two cows for our home consumption and quickly bought three more", the owner said. She couldn't keep up with the high amount of milk produced, averaging 15 liters per cow a day. "It was too much for private use so I started to make homemade cheese", she added. From then on, Azieb slowly shifted her business from poultry to dairy farm and transformed her production capacity from homemade products, Azieb is willing to expand her business. Her son, Abraham, studied agriculture and broadened his know-how by pursuing his master's degree in the Netherlands and by taking several courses in Italy and the Netherlands, specifically in dairy farming. "We wanted to make high quality products, and, we brought an expert from the Netherlands to teach us the job and give us advice on best practices", Azieb said.

Shifting towards dairy production and expertise allowed this family business to grow through time. "It's a family affair, everyone is passionate about the job and I couldn't ask for more than having my son on our side to run the company", she added.

Situated in the outskirts of the town of Dubarwa Azieb's farm accommodates about 55 cattle and about 67 calvesare growing up with 17 others in Dogoli. Each day, her cattle produce a total of 700 liters of milk and the rest is bought from milk producing cooperatives located in Mendefera, Dekemhare and Dubarwa. The important amount of cattle requires a high amount of animal feed products where an impressive warehouse was built up for storage. As I continued walking around the factory, I saw high quality machineries and enforcement of sanitation rules prior to entering any rooms. Her employees where busy working in the yogurt production department. "When it comes to yogurt, the production line applies strict rules to keep the products for a maximum of two weeks.

While we continued our conversation, I noticed this immense compartment and freezers where chees and milk are stored. "We accept any amount, be it big or small as we have the appropriate infrastructure for storing", the founder said. Azieb Company produces mozzarella, ricotta, butter, provolone cheese, semi-hard with a firm texture and mild, smoky flavor; fontina cheese, a semi-soft cow cheese; grana, a hard and mature cheese; cream cheese, yogurt and also the traditional clarified herbedbutter locally known as tesmi flavored with onion, garlic and ginger. As a result, the amount of milk needed remain significant and on average the industry receives about 1500 liters of milk per day while enjoying tasting some of Azieb's cheeses, I noticed an area for employees only. She explained to me that there are 16 staff, including 4, women who stay on site. The work requires waking up at night; hence, accommodating workers was the best solution. The dairy farm created jobs for the local communities. "There is a cook and cleaners and they have a common area where they have their daily coffee time together", she



Some of Azieb's storage of cheeses ready for sales

and during the fasting season, when many people do not consume dairy products, Azieb receives up to 4000liters of milk per day. As the milk comes directly from the cooperatives of milk producers, it goes through strict quality control mechanism under the loop of the Ministry of Agriculture.

With rising demand for her fresh products, Azieb opened up a shop in the market area of Asmara close to Independence Avenue. Her son is in charge of the marketing and winning bids as superior to Bisha and Zara Mining companies, big hotels such as Asmara Palace Hotel and pizzerias around town. Many individual customers also choose added.

Azieb also built her own home by the factory. "It's not just a common 8 to 5 job but a life-long commitment, and I have to be present at all times, waking up with my employees", the entrepreneur said.

Starting with just two cows and aiming big allows this woman entrepreneur to set an example to others on how commitment and hard work in addition to strong family ties in business leads to success. Azieb's business did not go unnoticed and is often visited by Minister of Agriculture and members of EWAA. The company will be expanding and bring more machineries to move

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foodstuffs to small-scale industrial daily products.

Gaining in popularity for her fresh



Azieb's employees engaged in their daily activities at the dairy farm

Azieb's products for wedding or t other events.

As we took the time to sip a tea

towards a large-scale and highly developed factory able to serve the whole nation.

CORRIGENDUM

Dear readers, in our last issue of June 28, 2017, in the article entitled "I will move back and buy 50 chickens" by Mela Ghebremedhin; we introduced you with Dubarwa Animal Feed Factory and how Mr. Teklu Ghebrehiwet founded his business by coming back to his homeland after independence. We would like to highlight that on the third column, second paragraph, there is a change to be taken into account. In fact, the company can produce up to 400 quintal per day and it used to be 136 quintal per day instead of "per month" as we mislaid in our last edition. With apologies, the fact written in this corrigendum is the correct one. We are also talking about ruminants rather than rudiments in the article. We thank you readers for your understanding.

Eritrea Profile

NUEW Symposium: Assessing Opportunities and Challenges

Makda Solomon

The national union of the Eritrean women (NUEW) organized a two-day symposium at it's headquarter in ASMARA. The symposium which was held on 29th and 30th June, was declared open by a young members of the NUEW, Ms. Winta Ghebre. After a minute of silence in remembrance of Eritrean fallen heroes, Mrs. Zaid Mesfin gave an opening speech on behalf of the organizing committee. In her speech, she highlighted that the symposium was made possible through the partnership and hard work of seven ministries and four firms that produced ten research papers to be presented and discussed during the course of the two day event.

With more than 300 participants at this national event, it was clear from the beginning that it would be filled with lively debates and discussions. Mrs. Tekea Tesfamichael, Head of NUEW, gave a keynote speech welcoming all participants and stakeholders. The Head of the Union went on by stressing the long struggle of independence in which Eritrean women played a great role and gained their equality within the society by fighting alongside their male counterparts. Women continue to play important roles in Eritrea's path for sustainable development and to advocate against cultural beliefs and practices that harm women and girls.

Assessing the achievements of women in the past 25 years will allow stakeholders to identify two months to finalize, and all stakeholders greatly appreciated the event and the big work done in a short period of time.

Thursday morning the research papers began to be presented. Mrs. Senait Mehari, Director General of NUEW's social services, opened with her paper looking at NUEW's achievements in a historical context which included challenges and opportunities of the Union from now onwards. The paper explained briefly women's activities at work, education, their participation in peace and security, politics, health and economic empowerment, amongst others.

As she continued, Mrs. Senait said that NUEW is a legal and Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs) active on international platforms. For instance, NUEW is a member of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and has been a member since 1995. It has led NUEW to participate and report its activities and achievements at various United Nations meetings and is working in parallel with the government to implement the drafted policies enabling NUEW to assess its achievements and challenges in the past 25 years.

Mrs. Senait's presentation led to lively discussion in which many recommended focusing the discussion on challenges and solutions for the next 25 years. The importance of engaging further the youth within the Union as well as campaigning against traditional beliefs and genderbased stereotypes and harmful



Mrs. Tekea Tesfamichael

the country. Senait explained to the gathering how NUEW as a grassroots union makes it efficient to organize awareness and sensitization campaigns by the creation of committees from bottom up. As a matter of fact, NUEW has branches nationwide but also enjoys a transnational network with branches in all continents. In the last 25 years, NUEW has conducted 65,779 conferences within the country including seminars and trainings to over 3,717,453 citizens, from 90% of whom are women.

In today's Eritrea, despite many major achievements such high female participation and gender-friendly policies in all sectors, including equal access to education, health, work among others, women continue to face numerous challenges, especially in relevant to maternity, child bearing and rearing.

Mr. Hagos Mebrahtu, Director of the Employment Division at the Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare (MoLHW) followed with his presentation entitled "Growth and Development of Women in the World of Work". His interesting research looked at the discrimination, opportunities and challenges women face in the professional world. He focused his presentation on occupational discrimination and the difficulties educated women, are facing in moving towards managerial positions and how the lack of social services such as daycare at government institutions and lack of maternal benefits often influence women to leave the workforce and instead take care of the household.

After lunch break, presentations continued with Mr. Kflay Andemichael, Mrs. Senait Alazar, and Mr. Samsom Eskndir representing the Ministry of Education.

Their research looked at the achievement of the Ministry and of women and girls in education. They presented the challenges of women in the past 25 years in relation to education some of the challenges mentioned are like poor economy and lack of transportation in remote areas pushing girls to drop out from school. Topics of discussion continued throughout the day with a focus on health where Dr. Mismay Ghebrehiwet, Dr. Habte Hailemelekot and Dr. Tsegereda Mehari gave briefs of the work of the Ministry of Health in promoting women's health with a specific focus on reproductive health and harmful practices as well as the creation of waiting home for pregnant women in all corners of the country, the importance of continuing work on sensitizing women on the importance of giving birth in health centers to avoid complications such as fistula, prolapse and death as Dr. Habte, head of the Fistula Centre in Mendefera explained. Dr. Tsegereda, on her

to push women to enhance their skills to be promoted to more managerial levels.

Others research papers focusing on women within the agricultural sector were also discussed. A paper on access to micro-credit scheme under the SMCP was presented by SMCP's Acting Manager, Mr. Tafla Asmerom, which was appreciated by the audience as this area is not very well known to many. Further studies on women in trade by Mrs. Zeferworq Fessehaye, and informal sectors by Dr. Fitsum Ghebregergis also raised questions on social protection and how to ensure safety for those women as well as understanding the trend. Lively debates followed under the theme of "Dynamics of Network and Growth Women Owned firms in Eritrea - Opportunities and Challenges" by Dr. Abel Tedla. After passionate comments and questions, time for a tea break where participants continued discussing topics informally. The symposium came to an end with a last presentation on "Development of Eritrean Women in Ministry of Defence" by Mr. Araya Ghebregziabher and Mr. Daniel Araya. Their paper focused on the role women played during the armed struggle, the border war and today in ensuring peace and security nationwide.

As all participants agreed the topics of discussion moved the audience and pushed discussions further by engaging all under one umbrella. The organizing committee and its rapporteur gave a wrap up of these two-day event which gave an important insight to stakeholders and policymakers on areas for improvement and the way forward within the new phase of development that the nation is engaged in placing gender and women within this new path towards prosperity. The conference was attend by Ministers, high ranking officials, PFDJ officials, representatives of national civil societies from all regions, representatives of the police and defense forces, intellectuals, the media and invited guests. The symposium was concluded with handing awards of recognition and appreciation to seven ministries and three firms for their contribution in making this event fruitful.

the challenges and come up with new favorable policies which can benefit women and the society as a whole. Woman is the backbone of society. This motto was continuously repeated and, thus, through this symposium, it will give a glimpse and recommendations on how women can better contribute to Eritrea's economic development and increasing productivity.

Dr. Tesfay Haile, managing director of SMAP, gave a glimpse of the program presentation through a synopsis. According to Dr. Tesfay, the research papers and the organization of this event took practices were highlighted. In fact, many expressed concern about the return to negative practices in many regions of part, stressed how women starting from the lowest health related profession to the top continue to be significant and there is a need

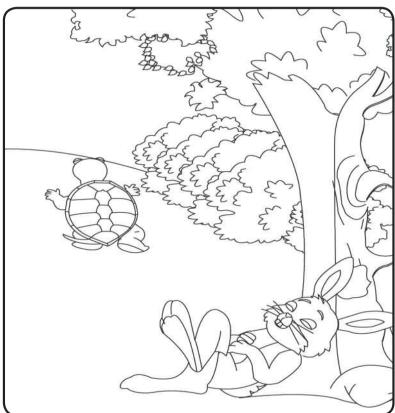






Semir Seid

Locally a fairytale is called Tswtsway. The main targeted audience for such stories are children though I am not sure if doctors recommend it for other ages in other parts of the world. A formal fairytale telling has a protocol in the tradition. Kids gather and the story teller (most of the time elders) get in front to get attention and make sure everyone listens. Fairytale telling dates back to the Greeks and it is as old as philosophy, even it is titled as a preand facial expressions and this way the kids are more likely to be attentive and develop the sense of hearing which boosts their creativity and remembering skills. Wisdom is required when forwarding any message. Fairytale tellers are careful and skillful in the ways they address their intentions. They claim fairytale telling needs fun approaches, capturing words and voices. When this is correctly applied in front of the kids, it is mission accomplished. They get the message and it feels real.



philosophical culture.

Fairytale is an art of imagination and story telling people create using animals and people as characters to please and guide kids. It is an oral form of literature particularly designed to enlighten and relax kids. Tswtsway, is one way of telling good from evil in an artistic way children can actually understand and accept. For instance a good act is rewarded but an evil deed, no matter how long it takes, would never get rewarded and is often punished.

Aesop, one of the prominent Greek philosophers, was renowned for his creativity, and his fairytales are properly documented and distributed across the world. Fairytales were commonly abandoned as false or fictional. This connoted meaning is however a consequence of the later emerged philosophy's response to fairytale which doesn't indicate the original meaning. There is logic in fairytales, a coherence with in which the world is organized and understood. Further, there is a form of culture, communication and agreement in fairytales.

chats from the father of the house, and twtsways or other forms of oral stories (like conundrum) start to comfort the children. Many of the tswtsways are related to culture and lifestyle of the particular society, yet are imaginary with a complete message tied to them.

No Eritrean child missed this in their childhood days and is still passed to generations. Some of the fairytales derived from foreign cultures and are translated to local languages to be narrated to children. Like the universal fairytale of the race between the turtle and the rabbit that carries a message of patience by which success is achieved.

Many Aesops are born in our traditional Tswtsway. Baba Halib, Aboy Nway were among the famous personalities of fairytale tellers children admired and liked and now Tekle Clown is taking the part. Their telling is fun, message contented and forwards up-to-date advice.

Tswtsway helps to enrich love among people, family-neighbor ties besides increasing the kid's habit of listening quietly. When a fairytale starts the story teller asks for attention of the listeners by saying "Tswtsway"...and gets a loud reply of "Wedokoy Tslmay". Then the teller proceeds with his creative storytelling. Tswtsway is made for children through some animals such as dog, rooster, goat, sheep, fox, wolf, hyena, lion, tiger, monkey, turtle, snake, mouse and others which the kids can accept without a second thought.

Long as these animals have characters connected to nature, kids enjoy their part as real. Dog for instance is considered a loyal friend of a man, fox as prudent, rooster as naïve in character, the wolf as rascal, hyena as greedy, the lion as icon of bravery, the opportunistic monkey, goat as hasty...and the sheep as fool. Even people use to insult each other through animals sometimes. When these characters are reflected, it is obvious where the route of the story might lead. That way the advices is passed to those who listen. negatively influences the stories, as some things are added or cancelled that contribute to changes in contexts and meanings. It is encouraging to see some fairytales documented. Meanwhile, some moves were made to convert some fairytales into films. The one most native fairytale of our country which made it from oral into the screens is Milenu, presented by the late artist Isaias Tsegay.

Fairytales these days are commonly told in festivals such as Children's Day. I was amazed last December when a big crowd of children were eagerly listening to what Tekle Clown had to say in the G3 Hall in Expo. It showed that fairytale has an immense impact when it comes to the hearts of children.

These special stories have made our childhood days memorable and shaped us in an interesting manner. Fairytales should be documented in a proper manner just like the other literary forms. So that these stories remain guidelines for coming generations.

Wild Speculation packaged as Nuanced Analysis

Writing jointly for Al Jazeera website, Professor Barakat Sultan, Director of the Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies at the Doha Institute; and, Dr Sansom Milton, a senior research fellow at the Doha Institute, offer a number of superfluous conjectures on the abrupt and apparently hasty withdrawal of Qatari troops from the Djibouti-Eritrea border.

The gist of their proposition is that a rather random confluence in time aside, the withdrawal of Qatari troops was imminent, long sought-out and not in any way "associated with the Gulf Crisis". The authors tell us, with a straight face, that the "resultant diplomatic rift and downgrading of the diplomatic relations of both countries (sic?) With Qatar" did not feature in the calculus of the decision to withdraw.

This wild conjecture does not tally with the facts. Indeed, it is clear that the authors are neither privy to an inside track nor familiar with the genesis and dynamics of the Qatari mediation. They lack critical information on key components of the original agreement as well as subsequent progress in its trajectory. They have even failed to check recent documents that are now broadly available in the public domain as the facts below illustrate:

1. As Eritrea underlined in its measured press statement, Qatar has not to date provided Eritrea with full information on the reasons behind its withdrawal of troops. But Qatar had reportedly sent letters prior/on the date of its withdrawal to Djibouti and later to the UN. The contents of the first letter are now in the public domain. In this letter to Djibouti, Qatar explicitly attributes its action to "the evolution of the situation in the Gulf… and to Djibouti's related decision to downgrade its diplomatic ties with Qatar".

2. The authors' presumptuous and unsubstantiated claim of an impasse in the mediation process due to the reluctance of the parties, "especially Eritrea, to heed calls for demarcation" is speculative and patently wrong. Indeed, the authors do not tell us the details of this purported demarcation/mediation decision; when it was made; and how and when it was communicated to the main protagonists.

Tswtsway favors an individual skill of telling the children in an appealing and credible way. It demands special facial expressions to accompany the words uttered, movements of the hands and body when necessary, changing tonal pitches, crying or laughing. All of these qualities and gestures determine whether the fairytale becomes interesting or boring for the children listening.

The story tellers know how to use their gestures, body movements

Fairytale in Eritrea dates back to centuries. The habit of telling a fairytale was there before modern education started. It is not as simple as the bed time story parents tell their children. As most of the Eritrean population is agrarian back in the days, every family member spends the day in the farms raring the livestock. The only time a family gathers together is in the evening lights of bonfire or Megarya. This hour children await for some chit-

However, since most of our country's tswtsways are only orally delivered, they are not documented and can be lost. What is transferring from generation to the other is few in number. The oral form of telling our fairytales without documenting them Furthermore, the authors gratuitously drift to discuss "a geostrategic game of shifting alliances" to bolster and spice up their proposition. Here again, their familiarity with the complex realities and dynamics of the region is too shallow and patchy to merit serious analysis in this brief response. For senior political pundits of their stature, one would have expected meticulous attention to facts and events as well as thorough validation of their conjectures through indispensable interaction with primary sources. Unfortunately, this is sorely lacking in the article in question.

> Paulos Netabay Director Eritrean News Agency Asmara 23 June, 2017

The Heart of 'Tegadalai'

By convention, amongst our community 'Tegadalai' is a word referred to the freedom fighters of the years of the armed struggle for independence. However, in its lexicon meaning it stands for anyone who strives at the cost of life. Eritrea is simply lucky to have people that don't hesitate to put their hearts out for any national calls. And their hearts confess an endless desire of wellbeing for the sake of others, peace and stability.

Alemseged Tesfai, a highly regarded author, inked the words of a fallen Tegadalai's heart. The piece was published in his collection book "Two Weeks in the Trenches: Reminiscences of Childhood and War in Eritrea". The book was published by Red Sea Press, Inc in 2002 and later by Hidri publishers. Last year the book was also translated in Italian.

Here follow the excerpts of the passage 'The Heart of Tegadalai'.

One hour after the capture of Afabet, my companions and I climbed down the hills of Ad Sherum to march towards that town. Jet fighters were flying very low, attempting to patrol the main road. They had such a threatening demeanor that we were forced to avoid their attention by moving as far west off the road as we could.

We were overwhelmed by the magnitude of the victory. Our internal joy was too laded with emotion to find verbal expression. So our conversation could be nothing but disjointed. We simply kept uttering words and mumbles in dazed wonderment.

Throughout the two days of fighting, I had been with the division command that had led the attack

As we sped through the plains of Afabet, however, I started to get the eerie feeling that I might not, after all, find the right words to suit the occasion. [...] As a writer, I started to feel inept and, as a reporter, incompetent. Walking side by side with Ali Ibrihim, the Division Commander, I said, "And now what do we say?"[...] "Come on," he replied. "Can't you see how we are? If at all, we may occasionally jot a few things in a diary. But to write extensively..." he did not even finish his sentence. Obviously, his attention was already focused beyond Afabet, where his troops were chasing the enemy towards Keren. [...]

Before long, however, under indistinguishable shrub, we came across a pool of half dried blood on a flat spot dotted with scattered stones and pebbles. The flow of the blood was out of the ordinary. It had not only covered the larger part of the flat spot, but had also branched out in different directions before drying up at the edges. It had thus created a strange and awesome shape. Naturally, all three of us were attracted by the sight. At first, we thought it was a continuation of the enemy blood and corpses that we had been encountering throughout the two days. After staring at the gory sight for a while we were about to proceed when one of us pointed to a piece of flesh lying on the left edge of the drying blood. All of us bent down to examine it. It was a human heart. No bone, muscles or any other body parts, just a heart –an oily, bright and red human heart with its arteries extended towards the pool it had obviously let go. A few meters away was tattered jacket. "This is ours. It is the heart of a comrade," Ali Ibrihim said, almost in a whisper.

To be frank, at the beginning a cold current went down my spine and all through my body. It felt like another malaria attack. I am not the nauseous type, but this time, probably out of deference for that piece of flesh, I stepped away from it and the blood it had so strangely squeezed out. My eyes would not stop staring, even as we started to move on. [...]

f full force.

What is this cold spell, this disquiet and feeling of guilt, I asked myself. Where does this conscience come from that keeps reproaching me for not having buried that fallen heart? Its oily luster I started to see as nothing but the expression of its inherent love and goodness, and what else can its flaming redress signify but the hatred and anger it has been forced to harbor for so long? From the blood it has so generously given, will flourish the heritage and cause for which it chose to lie down there so dramatically, so defiantly.

I admonished myself for my initial feelings. A surge of pride enveloped my whole being, thus blowing away the cold shiver and disquiet, just as the winds clear the clouds to open sky. My whole body warmed up as if a new volume of warm blood had entered my veins. Secure in the knowledge that I have finally found the very symbol that had been eluding me [...].

There was no indication of who that graceful heart had belonged to. No trace, whatsoever, of its origin sex, religion, age, rank, or whether its owner had been a veteran or a novice. So my first reaction, naturally, was to ask who it may have been giving life to. Which direction could it have come from? Maybe with those who had rolled down steep slopes and jumped precipices to evict the enemy from the heights of the Rora; maybe with those who blitzed through the center to throw bombs at Amba, the Roret and the Hartetet: maybe, again, with those who survived the thirst of the coastal desert to attack by way of Azhara... Try as I did, I found it impossible to give it flesh and bones and associate it with a face. [...] It was, after all, just a heart, I told myself, a heart that had extracted itself from the other organs of human being. A heart that had refused to be buries, so it could tell its story, express its defiance and make its behest. It was simply the heart of a patriot, the heart of tegadalai. Although finding it in that position is deeply moving, this is by no means the first time this heart is shedding tears of blood for this land. [...] Patriotism does not descend like manna from heaven, nor can it be created from naughty by a magic wand. Our fallen heart has its origins in history, through generations. This land of ours has never seen, nor has it enjoyed for ages, the benefits of normal peace and ordinary life. Centuries of foreign rule, invasions and internal strife have seen to it that our people do not breathe the air of peace and tranquility. Consequently, the love of country that tegadalai has inherited is not merely one of the ordinary love of compassion. Hate and defiance claim an equal share in his or her passions and emotions. History has pushed the tegadalai to quick and ferocious in retaliation to any threat, any provocation that endangers Eritrea's rights.

[...] Who could ever count the enemy corpses lying at every turn, every ravine and every hill in the most grotesque of postures? Who could tally the captured tanks and burnt out weaponry? Would I be accused of mystification if I were to declare that this heart actually spits fire to burn metal and that it is destined for loftier deeds? [...] And when I noticed the terror of its venom in the eyes of newly captured enemy soldiers, I swear that, although my own side and my own shelter, I too trembled with awe.

If I had seen anger and terror alone, I would have had caused to worry. I would have paused to wonder whether life in the wilderness had not extracted every bit of compassion from the heart of tegadalai. Once in Afabet, however, I noted with relief that beneath all that battlefield cruelty lay an inherent softness, a sea of compassion. Its handling of Ethiopian prisoners of war is too well known for me to dwell on here. One would expect, though, that its reaction to the three captured Soviet officers would be different. It was not. These were part of the system that had helped drive the Eritrean revolution from fringes of Asmara to the foxholes of Sahel. These were the very officers whose bombs had rained on trenches and villages, on fighters and unarmed civilians with indiscriminate fury. And yet, the tegadalai that I saw flocking around them were there just to see what they looked like. I saw no hostility in them, neither was there

For this heart that is capturing their weapons and even men with their own weapons. Indeed, it is a heart that has risen its head to defy their awesome power for one quarter of a century. And like the piece of flesh and the symbol of courage that we found resisting the scourge of the morning sun, it will not be long before the mighty accept that the heart of tegadalai is not about to disintegrate or to burst out of existence even when trampled on. That they have not done so till now, that they are not pausing to listen to its beat, it is a waste.

It is a big one then, this heart of tegadalai; and because adversity, fortitude and flames of war have fomented it into maturity, it has reached a new height. However it will need careful handling especially in this, its moments of victory, lest it get intoxicated with glory, forget what it has gone through, swell out of proportion and just blow up. True, the fact that the people of Afabet could welcome it safe from any harm to their person or property is relieving and encouraging. It is also an indication of its future relations with its people.

Nevertheless, a heart without a guide may prove fickle and flighty and we will need to cultivate, expand, educate and make it wise. A product of the people, it was nurtured by the people. In return, it has shed tears of blood for them. It has fallen for their sake. It is, therefore, incumbent upon this heart to tune its beat with theirs, to preserve their culture and protect their honor, to understand their problems and seek solutions for them. It has the obligation to approach them, not from an attitude of superiority and disdain but with modesty and humbleness. Above all, we have the duty to guarantee that it renews its oath and lives up to its responsibility never assume the role of dispenser of freedom and never to ride over its own people.

from the heights of the Itahalbeb, Roret, the Hartetet and Ad Sherum. [...] As I witnessed hills and ravines being penetrated and captured with pre-planned and amazing speed and precision, I had been faithful chronicler. From time to time, I would take my notebook out of my pocket and jot down details I thought I should not miss-captured positions, isolated enemy units, spots of stiff enemy resistance, the challenges and cruelty of nature, the number of tanks captured... you name it, I registered with painstaking care. Since my intention was to leave an exact account to future generations, I also attempted to interpret events of that battle as I saw them unfold in front of me.

The extreme heat and the deafening screech of the jet fighters above did not deter our rapid pace. We also resumed our discontinued, disjointed chat. But the heart refused to leave my vision. At first, I thought it was my conscience blaming me for not having buried it. Therefore, I attempted to shake it off my mind, to just forget about it. When, like a living thing, it stuck inside my mind along with its blood and arteries, however, I tried to give meaning to it. Before long it came to me with

any verbal abuse.

Theirs is not a heart of grudges and evil intentions. Afabet convinced me that this is a heart of mercy and forgiveness -a heart, indeed that does not spend sleepless nights in gnawing plots of hate its enemies, the pain and ordeal it has had to suffer. Nor would it covet from others what is not rightfully its due. The world has yet to recognize this heart that so willingly sheds all that it possess for peace amongst men and women. As to powerful of our age who are intent on crushing it for it for the success of their own global strategies, I say that they do not understand its nature. Or, possibly, they are deluging themselves.

Above all, though, I have a behest to uphold. A behest made that charming and purple heart of tegadalai, which I found lying at the gates of Afabet, as if to represent all the martyrs who had fallen from Sidoha Eila to Ghergir Sudan, from Semhar to Barka, on the front lines or in the base areas, in towns or in the countryside, for the very land that it had so bloodied.

From the EPLF magazine Harbenya, No 7, May 1988

Alemseghed Tesfai



P.O. Box 4276 Asmara

+291) 1124941

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMEN

Bisha Mining Share Company PLC is inviting interested applicants for the following positions.

1. POSITION: HME (HEAVY MOBILE EQUIPMENT) MECHANIC **Department: Engineering** Number Required: (1)

Type of Contract: Indefinite Period

MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Planning

- Follows the daily work reports/job cards.
- **Implementation of the Plan**
 - Identify the highest priority for each day and focus on completing relevant 0 tasks.
 - Ensures good housekeeping. 0
 - Carries out actual maintenance and repairs of HME in an efficient and effective 0 way in order to minimize downtime.

Performs regular inspections in order to detect potential problems before they 0 cause breakdowns.

Minimizes downtime by ensuring the best techniques are being used to repair 0 breakdowns.

Ensure safety requirements are fulfilled at the work place, including leading 0 Field Level Risk Assessment (FLRA) and proper use of the appropriate PPE. Report any safety issues/incidents.

Comply with mine's cardinal rules and other safety, environmental or other rules 0 and standards as directed. Identifies any hazards in the work place.

Conducts preventative maintenance on the HME by checking engines; 0 motors; pneumatics; hydraulic systems by following diagrams, sketches, operation manuals, manufacturer's instructions and engineering specifications. Troubleshooting malfunctions.

Carries out "Fault finding" by using precision measuring and testing 0 instruments.

Removes defective parts by using hoists, cranes and hand and power tools. 0 Examines form and texture of parts to determine causes of failure.

Determines changes in dimensional requirements of parts by using rulers; calipers; micrometers; and other measuring instruments.

Understands and is familiar with basic hydraulic systems. 0

Attends technical and other training as required by supervisor. 0

Reporting

Compile daily; progress reports as requested (completing Job Cards).

KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS

- Qualifications:
- Grade 12 for locals
 - Formal Trade for Ex-Pats (Diesel Mechanic/Auto electrician)
- Grade 2 or higher driving license

• Knowledge and Experience

3 - 5 years relevant experience

• Technical Skills

- Computer Literacy (MS Office Intermediate,)
- Attention to detail
- Analytical skill
- Mechanical & Electrical experience
- Problem solving skill

o Behavioral Skills

- Communication (English)
- Prioritizing skills & multi-skilling
- Ability to work towards strict deadlines
- High level of accuracy
- Self-motivation

Field Level Risk Assessment (FLRA) and proper use of the appropriate PPE. Report any safety issues/incidents.

Comply with mine's cardinal rules and other safety, environmental or other rules 0 and standards as directed. Identifies any hazards in the work place.

6

Attends technical and other training as required by supervisor.

Writing Reports & Data Control

Compile daily; progress reports as requested KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS

• Qualifications:

- - Grade 12 (Technical School) Technical College Mechanical Certificate •
- Knowledge and Experience
 - - 3 5 years relevant experience
- o Technical Skills
 - Fit and Healthy
 - Attention to detail •
 - Boilermaker and Welding experience ۰
 - Problem solving skill
- **o Behavioral Skills**
 - Communication (Follow instruction)
 - Prioritizing skills & multi-skilling
 - Ability to work towards strict deadlines .
 - High level of accuracy
 - Self-motivation

3. POSITION: PROJECT CONTROLS & PROCUREMENT ASSISTNAT

Department: Engineering Number Required: (1) **Type of Contract: 6 months**

MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Become familiar and adhere to the project health, safety & environmental 0 regulations/procedures

- To enforce the BMSC HSE policies and procedures. 0
- All project related administration work, 0

All project related document control, including filing printing and archiving of 0 documents

- Liaisons with the financial department and facilitating payment of suppliers,
 - Updating of the relevant financial control documentation and files,

Preparation, submission and filing of all required project payment 0 documentation,

Assistance with preparation of the project cost report,

Preparation of all documentation for project department employees, contractors 0 and vendors as per BMSC policies and procedures including business visas, travel permits and arrangements, site entry forms, hotel and flight bookings, expat drivers licenses, leave request forms, Bisha identity cards, etc.

- Assistance in the development of all procurement related documentation; 0
- Assistance with managing logistical matters on all imports for the project; 0
- Expediting of all on-shore and off-shore orders and contracts; 0

Capture, checking and submission to payroll department of employee 0 timesheets.

Liaise with project personnel in Asmara office to submit, expedite and issue all project related documentation required by Governmental Departments.

Internal purchase requisition for office items required by project team, 0

Liaisons, organizing and booking of inductions and FLRA training with the 0 Training and Development department for project personnel, vendors and contractors.

- KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS
- Qualifications:

0

0

0

- Accounting Diploma or equivalent. •
- Knowledge and Experience

Minimum 1 year experience in a project environment on large projects with project controls, document control and administration.

Sound knowledge and experience of the BMSC project execution systems and procedures.

- o Technical Skills
 - Computer Literacy (MS Office Intermediate)
- o Behavioural Skills
 - Communication (English and Local language)
 - Team player while being able to work individually and without supervision.

2. POSITION: HIGH DENSITY POLYETHYLENE (HDPE) BOILERMAKER/WELDER **Department: Engineering** Number Required: (1) **Type of Contract: Indefinite Period**

MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Planning

- Follows the "Planned Schedule". Follows Job Cards. 0
- Makes a list of parts and equipment required. 0

Implementation of the Plan

- Identifies the highest priority for each day and focus on completing relevant tasks.
- Ensures good housekeeping 0
- Lays out, positions and secures parts and assemblies according to specifications, 0 using "straight bridge"; combination square; callipers; and ruler.
- Operates manual and automated welding units and equipment. 0
- Uses facing tool to smooth out, weld, or grind parts prior to welding. 0
- Heat up pipes and press together to join. 0
- Fabrication of new or replacement parts for equipment. 0
- Assembles component parts, using hand and small power tools. 0
- Follows other instructions relating to the position. 0
- Ensure safety requirements are fulfilled at the work place, including leading 0

Good interpersonal skill, communications skill, fluent in English General Information and other requirements:

- Place of Work: Salary:
- Bisha. As per Company salary scale.
- Additional requirement for Nationals:
- Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provide evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defense.
- Present clearance paper from current/last employer.
- Testimonial documents to be attached (CV, work experience credentials, a copy of your National Identity Card etc.).

Only shortlisted applicants would be considered as potential candidates for an interview.

- Application documents will not be returned to sender.
- All applications should be sent through the post office.
- Deadline for application: 10 days from the day of publication in the Newspaper.
- Address: Please mail your applications to; **Bisha Mining Share Company,** P. O. Box 4276 Asmara, Eritrea
- Note to non- Eritrean applicants: Please send a copy of your application to Aliens Employment permits Affairs, P. O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea

ADS

Furkish Airlines Announcement



Turkish Airlines feels proud to announce a new direct flight to its clients starting from 3rd of July. The direct flight of Istanbul-Asmara-Istanbul is scheduled as follows:

The arrival time in Asmara will be at 12:30 am local time.

Departure from Asmara is scheduled at 1:30am local time.

As usual, days of operation remain unchanged.

The check-in time at the Asmara International Airport will be at exactly 9:00pm local time on every Tuesdays, **Thursdays and Saturdays.**

Passengers in connection with flights to Europe are kindly requested to report to the sales office located in Saba Building.

For further information, you may contact the Airline with the telephone numbers- 184949 / 184925 or clients can possibly contact the Airline through personal Travel Agencies.

Turkish Airlines Widen Your World!!



INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) Livestock Branch and Dighe 1. Kr2 Integrated Agricultural Development Project Zoba Gash Barka now invited sealed bids from eligible bidders for the SUPPLY OF DAIRY COWS

Barentu - Tel.731121 or (07235224)

Dighe Kr2 Integrated Agricultural Development Project - Tel. 731280 Zone Gash Barka, Barentu.

URKISH AIRLINE

Bidders are requested to have their licenses renewed.

2. Bids must be accompanied by a bid security of 2% of bid amount in the form of CPO check or bank guarantee consisting your account number and bank address in the form attached on section V and must be delivered to the address below at or before 11:00 am local time on July 06, 2017.

To this effect therefore, your esteemed firm is invited (through this 3. advertisement) to participate in this bid and you may collect the BIDDING DOCUMENTS from the office of Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) Livestock Branch / Dighe Kr2 Integrated Agricultural Development Project, Zoba Gash Barka.

For any Request Bidders may contact the Ministry of Agriculture 4. Livestock Branch /Dighe Kr2 Integrated Agricultural Development Project Zoba Gash Barka at the following address:

Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) Livestock Branch Zoba Gash Barka,

6. Sealed envelopes shall be delivered on the above address on at or before July 06, 2017 at 12:00 pm local time and shall be opened in the presence of bidders or their representatives who wish to attend.

Bidding document may be purchased by interested bidders from 7. Ministry of Agriculture(MOA)Livestock Branch/Dighe Kr2 Integrated Agricultural Development Project Zoba Gash Barka, Barentu by depositing a non-refundable fee of Nakfa 300.00 (three hundred) in the Commercial Bank of Eritrea, Barentu branch account number Pub 526.

Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) Livestock Branch/ Dighe Kr2 8. Integrated Agricultural Development Project Zoba Gash Barka reserves the right to accept or reject the bid partially or in full for any reason what so ever, without needing to justify the grounds for it's doing so and without any compensation to the bidder for the expenses it may incur while preparing the bid.





His ambition of writing poems and stories as a little kid started when he joined a church quire. He is a famous and devoted Eritrean artist and journalist. His ability to give life to his poems, short stories, stage dramas, coupled with his interest in historical writings, makes him among the distinguished writers in the country. I present you the talk I had with Tesfalem Gebreslasie (Chare).

Would you please describe Chare for us?

Most of the time, I would say, my life has been connected with Writing. When I was a 4th grade student, I joined a church group. I participated in most activities of the quire. What I remember and inspires me the most is when my first poem won at a contest that was prepared every summer. It was my first competition and winning over that meant the world.

Still more, I got punished for a poem I wrote when I was in 7th grade. The teacher didn't believe it was mine, he thought I copied it from a journal. That poem got me into a lot of trouble. Just to prove his point, the teacher asked me to write another one in his presence. I proved him wrong. My teacher felt sorry and apologized, also my very own poem was presented at a competition of the junior schools and eventually became the winner. That is my foundation for becoming the writer I am today.

So, I assume joining the church quire initiated your passion?

Without a doubt! I mean, sure, I loved reading so much even before joining the quire which inspired my passion. Apart from writing I studied musical instruments and singing in the church. Besides, there were some books I read and enjoyed much, books my uncle left in my house when he joined the struggle for independence. Moreover, I was a constant customer of the then American library or Public library as we call it today, and even British library. I frequently visited these libraries to read literature books, especially poem books. I guess I always had it in me, but the church group undeniably was a stepping stone for me.

important. I had a poetry teacher Fsiha (Langa) who used to teach us the rhythms, and ways of critic. One day, I gave my teacher a poem I had put a lot of effort on; he copied it but he tore the paper in front of my eyes. He told me that the poem was worthless. I was devastated. At last he taught me that people may say a lot of bad things about your best work. That was my best work but he wanted to prepare me for audience criticism. Henceforth, I never ceased writing poems until today.

You also moved to drama writing...

When I was in High School, I wrote a script for a stage drama titled "Libi Arsiema" The Heart of Arsiema. The drama got encouraging feedback from the audience. Again after receiving my diploma in Agriculture, I was

assigned to work in Denkalia. In the

days that followed, I wrote another

stage drama in Assab. I was also

working at Meka'elilen and Bada,

where I familiarized myself with

the Afar culture. All in all, I wrote

a number of dramas on different

national holidays. In 2002, I wrote

many dramas and won awards for

I took several art related courses.

Starting from the short courses I had

at the church to much bigger courses

organized by different individuals

and institutions. Besides, I have

had the opportunity of participating

most of them.

Courses taken...

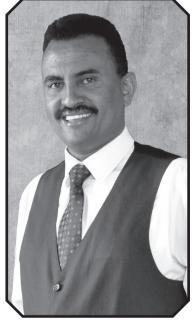
at different workshops when I was working in Denkalia.

You spent 11 years in Sawa...

Eleven precious years of great knowledge in my life. Sawa is definitely the turning point in my life as I met the most important people and benefitted from different courses. I was with the 6th round. There were numerous renowned artist in my division which were previously active in literature. We spent the six-month long military training with artistic works, writing poems and dramas and presenting it to our division. We even had new artists grown in Sawa. Some of these great friends were martyred during the wars. We had fierce competitions as well in this place. Later, I was assigned as the editor of a magazine "Dehay Sawa". I was in charge of the magazine and drama during the



the book inauguration of 'Black Ice'



Tesfalem Gebreslasie (Chare)

Well I have written lyrics for several Eritrean singers of whom they are great names such as; Tesfalem Arefaine (Qorchach), Temsgen yared, Henok Teklay(Nago), Robel Haile, Seid Brhanu and many others. Overall, I have worked over 100 songs.

About your journalism career?

In 2003, I received an offer from a colleague to start working at Hadas Eritrea newspaper on the critic column. It was challenging, but with some motivation I started writing critics about some artistic works that were produced then, particularly on poems and books. What made the column challenging was, when the artists started to take it personally. I never intended to make it like that, when I criticize a work, I don't place hate or love, it is all about analyzing the work. But some people couldn't understand it. People hated me for criticizing their works, I didn't feel anything at all. In addition, I was able to write historic writings in another column. The page was interesting since it told a story of our fore fathers and brothers and their heroic deeds they passed to get freedom. I became interested about our past history when I find out about my two freedom fighters uncles who lost their lives at a same time, same place and same date. I heard the story when I grew up. Listening their stories made my

interest in history grow more. That is why I wanted to write and share about our freedom fighter's stories. I have written over eight hundred articles about it.

After working for the newspaper for a while, I moved to the Eritrean Television (Eri-Tv). This is the moment I engaged myself working on some big political and educational works. I started the program Mahder. It is a program that presented history of the armed struggle, and some biography which I think is a deep and interesting program. Another program I worked was Mizan Wergi: a documentary that reflects the letters exchange between the EPLF and TPLF from the beginning. In addition to these programs I came up with documentaries of the game changers in Eritrean independence struggle which included the demise of Nadow, Wqaw, Meqyro, finale wars and Fenkil. I worked on the Nadew part with a colleague of mine, Isaq Mehari (Wedi Qeshi). Once in a symposium I prepared the documentaries for the Ministries. I have also the program known as "Elal Tbebat" which I interview artists. In 2011, I was assigned as board member of the Radio Numa.

About your book

My plan was to publish two or three books at the same time, since I had a novel, short stories and poems. However, I wanted to do something better sooner, so I chose to publish my book, "Tselim Bered" (Black Ice) in 2015. As my first experience, the book inauguration was epic at Cinema Roma. The book sold over 1000 copies just at the inauguration event. The poems inside the book reflected real lives of people.

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Writing a poem ...

Since I was studying the bible at the church, I was able to express words. Poetry can be challenging, a story has to be told in a few words, where rhymes and designs are

time of our military graduation.

Afterwards, I stayed there participating as the editor and board of different magazines, a political education teacher and I organized entrainment activities. I wrote historical scripts and military writings. We had all the materials we could put our hands on and support our articles.

While working as an editor, I presented poetry as well as original and adopted short stories at the Eritrean Radio.

Of the songs you have written so far?

Any last words?

I want to thank Eritrea Profile for inviting me on this page, it really is an honor. I also would like to express my sincere regards to the Ministry of Information, Ministry of Defense, the Cultural affairs, NUEYS and various organizing bodies for the support they have extended to me all this years.

