

GROUP OF ETHIOPIAN MEDICAL DOCTORS ARRIVES IN ASMARA



A group of 35 Ethiopian medical doctors, comprising 35 new graduates and 5 experienced doctors arrived in Asmara on 30 December. The group, led by Dr. Liya Tadesse, the Deputy Minister of Health of Ethiopia and other government officials, is in the country to provide free medical services.

at Asmara Palace, Ms. Amina Nurhussen, Minister of Health, stated that the Eritrean and Ethiopian governments have agreed to work together in all sectors in order to strengthen peace and friendship, and that the medical group's visit is a reflection of growing cooperation.

During their stay in Eritrea, the doctors will have the opportunity to At a welcoming ceremony held

work alongside Eritrean doctors and exchange experiences, she added.

Expressing the occasion as "historical", Dr. Liya Tadesse said that the historic peace and friendship agreement reached between President Isaias Afwerki and Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed is the biggest gift to the peoples of the two countries. She noted that the visit, which is the first instance of cooperation in the health sector, attests to the developing good neighborliness and far-sighted relation between the two countries.

The Ethiopian doctors will provide free medical services for two months at referral hospitals in the Central, Anseba, Southern, and Northern Red Sea regions.

GOVERNOR MEETS RESIDENTS OF GALA NEFHI SUB-ZONE



Major General Romodan Osman Awliyyay, Governor of the Central region, held talks with the residents of Gala Nefhi sub-zone on 28 December. The meeting was focused on the implementation of development drives planned for 2019.

Stating that the new era of peace is the result of unparalleled resilience on the part of the people and Government of Eritrea, Major General Awliyyay called on residents to enhance their contributions in order to ensure the successful implementation of the planned development programs.

In a report he presented regarding social services, Mr. Mesfin

Gebretinsae, managing director of Gala Nefhi sub-zone, indicated that there are 63 educational institutions in the sub-zone, ranging from preschool to secondary school level and that 51% of 21,000 students enrolled in the institutions are female. Mr. Mesfin also called on parents to enhance their efforts to increase the enrolment of preschool students.

In terms of the health sector, Mr. Mesfin indicated that the number of pregnant women delivering in health institutions is increasing, vaccination coverage has reached about 85%, and that the measles and rubella vaccination campaign in the sub-zone was successfully conducted thanks to public commitment.

ERITREANS WELCOME 2019 WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM

The people of Eritrea have welcomed 2019 with enthusiasm and expressed great hopes for peace and development during the upcoming year.

peace and friendship between Eritrea and Ethiopia and also with the lifting of sanctions that were unjustly imposed on Eritrea for nearly a decade.

Participants at the public concert held on New Year's Eve at Bahti Meskerem Square said that the 2019 is particularly special as it comes during the unfolding of

Eritreans also expressed their commitment to make-up for lost opportunities and to play their part in efforts to establish a prosperous and developed nation.

MEETING RECAPS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN GASH BARKA DURING 2018

Important development programs were conducted during 2018 in Gash Barka region through the coordination of the Western Development Zone and strong public participation. The report was made by Brigadier General Tekle Kiflai, Coordinator of the Western Development Zone.

At an activity assessment meeting conducted on 27 December, attended by senior committee members of the Western Development Zone and heads of the regional administration, activities worth over 24 million Nakfa and featuring the participation of over 282,000 residents were implemented.

The activities included the construction and maintenance of dams, micro-dams, roads, and bridges, the upgrading of social service institutions, work on potable

water supply projects, construction and maintenance of residential houses, agricultural initiatives to increase production, soil and water conservation campaigns, and environmental sanitation projects.

The various development programs were successfully implemented through the integrated efforts of the public, Bidho and Segen Construction Companies, the National Service Training Center, Crops and Livestock Corporation, and administrations at various levels.

Brigadier General Teklai called on all concerned bodies to strengthen their participation in order to build on past progress and ensure the success of future national development programs.

ERITREAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOLDS 24TH CONFERENCE

The Eritrean Medical Association (EMA) held its 24th conference on 29 December in the capital Asmara.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Mismay Gebrehiwet, advisor to the Minister of Health, said that the EMA is conducting commendable activities in management of medical facilities, providing health services, organizing training programs, and conducting research.

Indicating that the priority of the EMA is to ensure the health of the society, the President of the EMA, Professor Negasi Leake said that focus is being given to expand

membership, organize sustainable training programs, and provide up-to-date medical information.

He went on to say that the reduction in maternal and child mortality rates, the expansion of vaccination coverage, the control of HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria,

and improved health services are some of the EMA's significant achievements.

At the conference, research papers were presented on several topics, including causes, consequences, and treatment of Hemophilia, TB, Fistula, and intestine diseases.



Happy New Year 2019!

Development

Dimtsi Hafash: Voice of Truth and Lifeblood of the Revolution

Simon Weldemichael

Dimtsi Hafash Eritrea (Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea), the popular radio broadcasting service that was established by the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) in 1979 marked its 40th anniversary on January 1st, 2019. *Dimtsi Hafash* has been very important to Eritrea and its people for the last 40 years. From its inception, the EPLF understood the importance of media and it published journals and magazines. To effectively support the print media, it began to broadcast on *Dimtsi Hafash*, on January 1st, 1979, from a tent in Sahel. During that time, the EPLF was in the midst of a strategic withdrawal, and *Dimtsi Hafash* helped raise the people's morale and counter Ethiopian propaganda.

The long struggle for liberation featured military confrontation, mass mobilization, and propaganda war. In the contest for the hearts and minds of people, *Dimtsi Hafash* played a significant role which other entities of the EPLF could not. Information warfare, in many ways, was just as important as direct armed confrontation. Despite their significance, the role of information and communication, particularly *Dimtsi Hafash*, are underexplored in the analyses of Eritrea's long struggle for liberation.

The EPLF's spectacular military victory has often been described as hard to believe. The political,



ideological, and organizational prowess of the EPLF was also remarkable. The EPLF's victory was not only a conventional military triumph, but a victory for justice. Eritrean freedom fighters, equipped with pens, pronounced cameras, and microphones, and using effective methods of information dissemination and collection, were able to win the hearts and minds of Eritreans.

Dimtsi Hafash managed to spread the truth about the revolution to Eritreans everywhere. The better-equipped Derg intelligence agencies left no stone unturned in trying to disrupt the communications of the EPLF. Armed by the Soviet Union and supported by numerous others, the Derg had powerful communication and surveillance equipment at its disposal to jam and cut the nerve center of the EPLF. However, *Dimtsi Hafash* continued to broadcast the truth about the struggle with virtually no headquarters and with very limited material resources or personnel. Despite all of the attempts to suppress its broadcasts, *Dimtsi Hafash* did not stop sharing the message of truth and freedom. It became the reliable bridge of

information between the EPLF and the population, and it played a key role in strengthening the political awareness and morale of the people and the fighters. Despite the difficulties and risks associated with tuning into its broadcasts, *Dimtsi Hafash* became so popular that Eritreans could not live without.

Dimtsi Hafash was born during a critical period of the Eritrean struggle. By the end of 1977, Eritrean fighters were able to capture the whole of Eritrea except five cities: Adi Keih, Asmara, Assab, Barentu, and Massawa. However, the tide soon turned in Ethiopia's favor as the Soviet Union sent in massive military, tactical, technical, and financial support. In 1978, faced with successive Ethiopian offensives, Eritrean revolutionaries made a strategic withdrawal from the outskirts of Asmara. *Dimtsi Hafash* was established when the Eritrean revolutionaries were back in their stronghold, Sahel. Thus, the establishment of *Dimtsi Hafash* came at a critical juncture of the armed struggle, as it helped raise the morale of the people and fighters. The Eritrean revolution would not probably have reached

the finish line and succeeded had the independence movement not had the flow of information provided by *Dimtsi Hafash*. In many ways, *Dimtsi Hafash* was the lifeblood of the revolution.

For the period, radio was one of the most effective means of communication. It was relatively easily accessible and affordable and allowed for messages to be quickly shared with the entire spectrum of the country's population. *Dimtsi Hafash* provided its audience with a steady diet of political awareness. Listeners tuned in not only to hear the news and latest developments, but also because it allowed them to be or feel a part of the struggle. By disseminating information across Eritrea, *Dimtsi Hafash* helped strengthen the sense of identity, patriotism, and nationalism of the population. It facilitated communication between different geographical and cultural regions, and it helped in the exchange of ideas between different groups of people. This, without doubt, played a role in socialization and helped support the process of strengthening the population's sense of national identity.

Dimtsi Hafash, as the voice of the voiceless and a transmitter of reliable information, preserved the hope and dignity of the people. It was pluralistic, participatory, and democratic and it worked for social justice and national emancipation. Its programs were focused on an array of topics, including development, education, culture, independence, and more. The program was able to reach listeners and touch the audience in a way that traditional print media could not. It also aimed to strengthen the nation's identity and preservation

of culture through the promotion of Eritrea's various national languages. During Ethiopian colonization, Amharic was imposed on Eritrea. No other language was allowed to be taught, printed, or broadcasted. Thus, *Dimtsi Hafash*, by helping to preserve Eritreans' culture, identity, and language, can be seen as an indispensable instrument for nation-building.

Eritreans have a long tradition of using journalism as a weapon of resistance against any form of injustice. In the 1940s and 1950s, Eritrean newspapers, written in Tigrigna and Arabic, defended and expressed Eritreans' interests and aspirations. These newspapers played an important role in strengthening the Eritrean national identity. They offered the public with an opportunity to explore important national issues and they became a platform for political debate. Undeniably, they also contributed to Eritrean nationalism.

When the repressive Ethiopian imperial government closed the newspapers and tried to muzzle Eritrean voices, many nationalist Eritrean writers like Ato Weldeab Woldemariam were forced to flee their country. However, some continued to advocate for Eritreans. Ato Weldeab, for example, began broadcasts from Cairo in the mid-1950s. This helped enlighten Eritrean youth and it encouraged them to think about how to resist Ethiopian aggression. Commenting on the influence of the radio, Markakis notes that "The broadcasts created a sensation in Eritrea, and provoked Ethiopian complaints to Cairo." Decades later, the EPLF began its own broadcasts. When the ruling Ethiopian regime outlawed the broadcasts, this only served to increase the population's desire to tune in.

Dimtsi Hafash continues to play a great role in Eritrean society. Moving forward, it should continue to work to define and strengthen Eritrean national identity and preserve our culture. Eritrean history is still being created and *Dimtsi Hafash*, like other media, has an important role to play in giving us an account of that history. Over the years, it has demonstrated its commitment to truth and justice. Moving forward, may the mighty voice of the masses continue to speak loudly and proudly.

**ERITREA
PROFILE**

**Published Every
Wednesday & Saturday**

**Acting Editor
Amanuel Mesfun**

P.O.Box: 247

Tel: 11-41-14

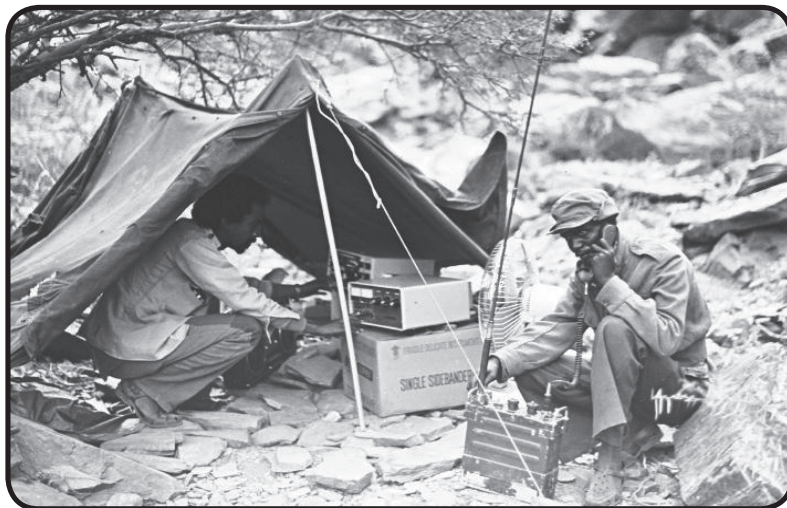
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Advertisement: 12-50-13

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A Look Back at an Extraordinary Year - Part II

Dr. Fikrejesus Amahazion

Undeniably, 2018 was an extraordinary year for Eritrea and the Horn of Africa. The powerful winds of change swept across the region, ushering in the possibility of lasting peace, stability, and security. The year's rapidly unfolding, momentous events have been both highly encouraging and a greatly welcome development in a long-troubled region. For Eritrea, in particular, the year was especially eventful. This article is the second in a three-part series that looks back at some of the important events that unfolded in the country over the past twelve extraordinary months. Part I, reviewing the months from January to April, was published in the last issue of *Eritrea Profile*. In this issue, a review of May to August is presented, while part III of the review will be published in the next issue of *Eritrea Profile*.

May

For Eritrea, May is about

Other important days recognized during May included the commemoration of International Workers Day, celebrated on May 1st at the Coca-Cola Factory, National Afforestation Day, which featured a one-day workshop from the Ministry of Agriculture, and African World Heritage Day.

The month also saw many important diplomatic activities. An Eritrean delegation, composed of representatives from several ministries and the National Union of Eritrean Women presented a national report during the 62nd Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights, held in Mauritania. As well, the Eritrean Ambassador to the Republic of South Africa and Southern African countries participated at the Japan-Africa Economic Development Forum, held in Johannesburg, while the Embassy of China in Eritrea celebrated the 25th anniversary of the establishment of China-Eritrea diplomatic relations and officially

development-related activities were also conducted, including, among others: the construction of a four million Nakfa dam in Habero sub-zone; environmental sanitation programs in numerous villages; women's empowerment seminars; awards for outstanding students in various regions; and a PFDJ-sponsored workshop on the preservation of ancient manuscripts.

June

While May is about independence, June is, above all, about reflecting on the great sacrifices made to bring about that independence. On June 20th, Eritreans paid their respects to the thousands of martyrs who sacrificed their lives during the independence struggle and to safeguard Eritrea's sovereignty. However, this year's Martyrs' Day was not only an occasion for solemnly reflecting on the past, but also one of looking to the future with optimism and hope.

Events were set in motion on



independence. Eritreans know freedom does not come free. A glance at the Eritrean history shows how independence was not simply handed to the country. Rather, Eritreans worked tirelessly and sacrificed greatly for it. As has become customary, large celebrations were held, both in the country and around the world, to mark the 27th anniversary of independence. This year, the theme of celebrations was "Vision through Toil", reflecting that achievement of Eritrea's grand visions and lofty goals required – and still does – much toil and effort. Not to be forgotten, this year's celebrations coincided with the 20th "anniversary" of the TPLF-led regime's invasion of Eritrea.

opened its newly-built embassy in Asmara.

Numerous community and

June 5th, when Ethiopian PM Abiy surprised many by announcing that "Ethiopia is now willing to

abide by the Algiers Agreement and the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission boundary decisions". On June 20th, at a national commemoration service in Asmara, President Isaias Afwerki addressed the momentous unfolding developments in Ethiopia and the related statement on June 5th by PM Abiy. Remarkably, President Isaias announced Eritrea would send a delegation to Addis Ababa "to gauge current developments directly and in depth as well as to chart out a plan for continuous future action." According to President Isaias, the move reflected Eritrea's "readiness to actively engage in the positive developments" and was in response

to "positive signals issued...by the Government of Ethiopia."

Hours later, speaking in Ethiopia, PM Abiy replied to President Isaias' comments, thanking him for his decision, describing it as "historical news on a historical date," and committing "to personally receive Eritrea's delegation graciously". Less than a week later, on June 26th, a high-level Eritrean delegation, composed of Osman Saleh, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Yemane Gebreab, Presidential Advisor, travelled to Addis Ababa for a two-day visit – the first time in over two decades that a top-level delegation from Asmara had visited Ethiopia. During the historic visit, the delegation delivered a message from President Isaias to PM Abiy and also held extensive discussions with the PM and other senior Ethiopian officials.

Beyond the developments with Ethiopia, numerous local activities were conducted in June, including: a workshop for law enforcement officials on countering human trafficking and smuggling, jointly organized by the UNODC and the Government of Eritrea; environmental sanitation



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Shingrwa Academy: Discovering Talent and Bringing the family together

Natnael Yebio W.

At the end of a grueling 18-month journey, which saw it tour the entire country in search of talented artists, proceed through 4 rounds and 660 contestants in three different categories, Shingrwa held its final round on December 29th at Cinema Roma, one of the capital's most beautiful cinemas. Finalists from Asmara, Massawa, and Gash-Barka dance groups battled it out for the title, and a visually-impaired contestant won the musical instrument category.

Shingrwa's first edition was broadcasted on Eritrean television when satellite dish channels were increasing in number. Compared to the previous era when Eritreans watched Eri-TV together as a family, the satellite dish led to new viewing habits. Specifically, it divided the family. Shingrwa at the time offered a chance for families to come together. When Shingrwa became popular, the television audience began to be divided into little categories: grandparents and parents wanted to watch the news, older males preferred to watch football, the females would rather watch movies, and the little ones preferred cartoons. However, Shingrwa brought these different groups back together.

With Shingrwa, multigenerational television watching was suddenly back in vogue: mom, dad, grandparents, and the kids all gathered in one room to see participants perform covers of older songs which were remixed. The show quickly became one of the most-watched programs in Eritrea.

Shingrwa was a truly beautiful show. Eritrean viewers, both in the country and around the world, could imagine that there was something quite Eritrean about the way the

program used former talented artists to find up-and-coming artists and inspire them to achieve fame and wealth.

According to Mr. Asmelash Abraha, director general of Eri-TV, the recent edition of Shingrwa (which was fourth), saw the largest-ever number of participants and reflected cultural diversity. Eri-TV staff sometimes worked for 15 continuous hours in order to broadcast the show to viewers. Over the course of the last 18 months, Eri-TV produced 44 hours and 54 episodes which were beamed to viewers across the globe.

Notably, the program helped rising artists to present themselves to the public. On the show, contestants performed covers of other peoples' songs. The format of the competition also illustrated the role that talent, hard work, and intangibles play: the things that can't be faked are what set contestants apart. The singers, judges, and fans were constantly negotiating the fine line between personal expression and widely accessible entertainment, between maintaining an identity and hitting the notes.

There were few people who were able to change history with the power of their voice and message. In our own case, we could think of the late Yemane Baria and Dr. Bereket Menghisteb. The voice of the former was used as one of the most effective weapons by Eritreans against the Derg during the struggle for independence. The latter, distinguished and defiant, galvanized Eritreans, first Yikealo, and then Warsai. He is cherished by his compatriots.

It was not a surprise, then, that during the finale of the Shingrwa singing contest, two of the six finalists

chose to sing a song originally sung by Yemane Baria, while Bereket Mengisteab performed the first song of the afternoon to officially open the 5th and final round of the show.

The cinema was packed with people lucky enough to get a ticket, while the unfortunate had to settle for the comfort of their couch. The cinema cheered loudly as Dr. Bereket performed one of his early hits, "Dehai", which he wrote when he was in Addis Ababa. Dr. Bereket, who was my brother's favorite singer growing up, still sounds the same as ever. I guess that it is true what they say about having the gift to sing: it neither withers nor disappears with age, it only gets better like fine wine. Such was the case when Dr. Bereket took to the stage on Saturday. He wowed the audience with his legendary voice. At the end of his performance, he told the audience and the judges to do him a favor: look after the upcoming new generation, he asked.

Soon after, the finalists – Awet Teklemariam, Merhawi Tewelde, Meron Estifanos, Filmon Mahray, Fiori Daniel, and Huruy Ghirmay – took the stage, one after another.

Notable performances came from Awet Teklemariam, who won the competition by the end of the night, and Merhawi Tewelde. The first sang Yemane Baria's famous song "Stehaina Berika", which transported the older segments of the audience back to their younger years and brought a positive vibe to the younger viewers who still play Baria's hit songs on their car stereos. Merhawi performed the late Abraham Afwerki's love song "Bebizelenayo". To this very day, Abraham's songs are powerful. They are works of art equivalent to those of Bob Dylan.

One of the most endearing stories of this year's Shingrwa was the participation of Meron Estifanos, who is the son of one of the judges on the show, Estifanos Abraham. The kid not only has his father's height and looks, but his singing talent as well.

The dance category saw performances from Aklilu Mussie's group, Osman Hussien, Haben Tesfai's troupe, Jezira Hassen, and Ruta Mulubrhan.

The dance category was included in Shingrwa for the first time. However, dance is not new or unique. It is unlikely that any



Mr. Asmelash Abraha

human society has denied itself the excitement and pleasure of dancing. Like cave painting, one of the earliest purposes underlying dance was probably ritualistic. But losing oneself in rhythmic movement with other people is an easy form of intoxication and pleasure that was surely also a factor.

During the long struggle for liberation, the freedom fighters danced between battles. It heightened their morale and helped them to temporarily forget some of the devastation they experienced. They danced also for joy, as when a battle was won and when casualties were avoided. They danced to entertain the masses and also for the simple sake of dancing.

Dancing not only kept fighters' morale high, it consolidated feelings of patriotism among the Diaspora. Special dance troupes toured Europe and North America and through their music and dances assured the people that everything was okay and that independence was around the corner.

Perhaps the inclusion of the dance category in the 4th edition of Shingrwa was a way of paying homage to that proud legacy.

The participants, all of whom performed cultural numbers from Eritrea's different ethnic groups, caught the imagination of the crowd. In the end, Ruta Mulubrhan dance group, which performed a dance routine from the Kunama ethnic group, won the category.

The dances of the Kunama group showcase great variation and complexity. The Kunama way of dancing has its own particular rhythm and carefully coordinated steps, which involve unique taps of the feet to the rhythm of the song.

Ruta Mulubrhan dance group wowed the audience that evening. Dressed in bright clothes and unique straw hats, the men danced and vigorously beat their feet on the stage. The female dancer in the group, who was clearly the focal point of the routine, danced her heart out. By the end, she was overwhelmed with joy when she found out that her group won the contest.

Playing musical instruments, the last category of the night, saw amazing performances from three amazing individuals.

Bereket Goitom fine-tuned his kirar (a traditional musical instrument) and performed a well-known Eritrean song, "Lilo" (Dancing Falcon). This was a category to demonstrate one's talent. Memorably, Bereket upped the ante on the night when he discarded his pick and began playing the kirar with kitchen utensils. He began with a spoon, before going on to use a tea cup and then a spatula. Later, traditional drummer Alamin Ibrahim, from Agordet, played drums of different sizes using only his hands.

However, the winner of the category was Daniel Tesmichael. As he strummed the kirar, Daniel, although visually-impaired, demonstrated a 6th sense. He astonished the audience with his control and enjoyable melodies. At times, it was as if he was telling a story through his music.

As one of the directors of the show, Mr. Barnabas Mebrahtu, stated during a speech he gave on the occasion of the finale, in an era where playback singing is resulting in aesthetic decadence, where singers hide behind music studios and produce music that is auto-tuned and then uploaded to YouTube for money or fame, Shingrwa Academy still focuses on talent and skill in its nationwide search for artists. Artists that have originality, character, perseverance and, of course, musical talent.

While watching Shingrwa brought many families back together, the most striking and important aspect of the show was the genuine talent that it has discovered. Shingrwa Academy is certainly on the right track. As the curtain came down on another edition of the program, many Eritreans were already looking forward to its next installment.



A Look Back at an . . .

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campaigns in several sub-zones; a freshwater fish farming workshop by the Ministry of Agriculture in Anseba; a skills-training program in Adi Guadad; graduation ceremonies at the Wina Technical Boarding School in Nakfa and the College of Marine Science and Technology in Massawa; the extension of over 1.1million Nakfa in interest-free loans to disabled female veterans by the National Association of Eritrean War Disabled Veterans; the launch of a three-month training program for naval cadets; the commemoration of World Blood Donor Day; and the national celebration of Eid Al-Fetir Al-Mubarek.

July

Historic events continued to unfold in July. On July 8th, PM Abiy, accompanied by a small delegation, made a visit to Asmara for historic talks with President Isaias. At the airport, he was warmly greeted by President Isaias. The two embraced before they walked down a red carpet. Later, the streets of Asmara were filled with tens of thousands of people, who cheered on the leaders' convoy and waved the twinned flags of Ethiopia and Eritrea. Flowers and popcorn were tossed in jubilation. In the evening, an official state dinner was held in honor of PM Abiy.

On the morning of July 9th, the two leaders signed the "Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship", which formally ended the "state of war" between their two countries and "opened" a "new era of peace and friendship." The countries also agreed to forge political, economic, social, cultural, and security cooperation; resume transport, trade, and communications links; restart diplomatic ties and activities; implement the EEBC boundary decision; and jointly endeavor to ensure regional peace, development, and cooperation.

Less than a week later, on 13 July, President Isaias gave a keynote address to the 31st round of youth graduating from Sawa. There, he announced that he would lead a delegation to Ethiopia the following day. Upon arriving in Addis Ababa, his first visit in 20 years, he was warmly welcomed and his visit sparked excitement and jubilation. The trip included visits to development and historical sites, President Isaias receiving numerous gifts and accolades, and a brief joint-address by President Isaias and PM Abiy at the Millennium Hall in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

On July 16, the two leaders officially reopened the Eritrean

Embassy in Addis Ababa, while two days later, Ethiopian Airlines made its first trip to Eritrea after two decades. Former Ethiopian PM Hailemariam Desalegn and the Patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church were among the passengers on the historic flight. When it landed, there were emotional scenes as relatives and friends were reunited after decades, while traditional dancers waved flags and flowers. On July 20, Semere Russom, the Minister of Education, was appointed as Eritrea's Ambassador to Ethiopia.

The historic developments were widely applauded by the international community. Eritreans and Ethiopians, in their own countries and around the world, held rallies to express support for the developments. Support was also expressed by the United Nations Security Council, the General Assembly, the UN Secretary-General, the African Union and the European Union, IGAD, COMESA, the Pope, and countless international leaders. Notably, on July 24th, at a tripartite summit in Abu Dhabi, President Isaias and PM Abiy were awarded the highest Abu Dhabi honor, "The Zayed Award", by the Crown Prince of the UAE and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Sheik Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

The month finished as it began: with history being made. On July 28th, Mohammed Abdullahi Mohammed, President of Somalia, visited Eritrea. He became the first President of Somalia to formally visit Eritrea. In scenes similar to those that broke out weeks earlier, the Somali leader was warmly welcomed by tens of thousands of Eritreans. During President Mohammed's visit, the two leaders agreed to establish diplomatic ties and exchange ambassadors. On July 30th, they signed the "Joint Declaration on Brotherly Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation".

While the month's remarkable developments were welcomed by most, certain elements aimed to work against the positive changes. Additionally, while the sanctions on Eritrea had become largely unnecessary, some still lobbied for their maintenance. Finally, important local activities also took place, such as the Eritrean Pharmaceutical Association's annual conference, a workshop by the NUEW to strengthen capacity, a visit by an Egyptian medical delegation to train local health professionals, and graduation ceremonies at Hamelmalo College of Agriculture, the Eritrean Institute of Technology, and Asmara College

of Medical Science.

August

August, like the months preceding it, was historic. Early in the month, President Isaias held talks with a senior Ethiopian delegation composed of Lemma Megersa, President of Oromo Region, and Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, Ethiopia's Foreign Minister. He would also meet with a Japanese delegation led by State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Masahisa Sato, a senior Saudi delegation led by Foreign Minister Adel Al- Jubeir, and Germany's Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development, Gerd Muller.

Importantly, the month also featured efforts to consolidate the progress of previous months. On August 10th, an Eritrean delegation composed of Osman Saleh and Yemane Gebreab visited Ethiopia. They delivered a message from President Isaias to PM Abiy and discussed the implementation of the agreement between the two countries. The delegation visited Somalia from August 13th to 15th. In Somalia, they met with President Mohammed, while the Joint High Level Committee of Eritrea and Somalia, established in July, held its first meeting in Mogadishu on August 14th.

On August 18th, Asmara again played host to a regional leader, as Salva Kiir, President of South Sudan, arrived for an official visit. Upon arrival, Kiir was given a warm welcome by President Isaias and senior government officials.

Notably, the month saw a series of important peace agreements concluded in Asmara. On August 7th, Ethiopia and the Oromo Liberation Front signed a reconciliation agreement, while on August 16th, the Amhara Regional State and Amhara Democratic Forces Movement signed a reconciliation agreement. Then, on August 28th, the Tigray People's Democratic Movement completed an agreement with the Government of Ethiopia.

Countless local activities took place in August. These included a forestation campaign in Berik sub-zone, the commemoration of World Breastfeeding Week, the beginning of the 32nd round of national service and academic year at Sawa, a vocational training program for youth in Logo Anseba sub-zone, the nationwide celebration of Eid Al-Adha Al-Mubarek Hejira year 1439, the introduction of new vaccines against polio, measles, and rubella, and the kickoff of Festival Eritrea at the Expo Grounds.



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- Fluency in English and good report writing skill as well Arabic is preferable.

Position Title: Drivers

Required: 3 (Three)

Place of work: Fanco

Salary: As per company scale

Type of Contract: Indefinite

Duties and Responsibilities

- Notify supervisors about any major repairs and maintenances.
- Report any accidents or injuries to Supervisors immediately.
- Perform vehicle inspection such as checking fluid level and tire pressure before and after each trip.
- Maintain driving log, prepare vehicle performance forms and complete daily paperwork

Qualification and Experience

- Have 3rd or above driving license.
- Complete 12th grade, High school.

Requirements

- 5 years or more work experience on a field.
- Fluency in English and good report writing skill as well Arabic is preferable.

Position Title: Executive Secretary

Required: 1 (One)

Place of work: Asmara with trip to Fanco site.

Salary: As per company scale

Type of Contract: Indefinite

Duties and Responsibilities

- Take charge of jobs to deal with the government agencies that facilitates the activities of the company.
- Liaise with the Department of Mines to get paper work of the company done.
- Undertake the task of sourcing of supplies required for Asmara office and Fanco site.
- Follow-up permits and clearing of supplies imported from Abroad.
- Handle work permits, visas and travel permits for expats at the required government agencies.
- Handle tickets for travel for expats staff.
- Take care of annual vehicle registration and

*C*ontinued on page 7

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insurance.

Qualification and Experience

- Diploma or BA degree in Management, Public Administration or related field from recognized organization.
- Have good knowledge computer application (MS word, MS excels).
- Have good knowledge with Arc GIS, Map Info., and GPS.

Requirements

- 7 years for Diploma and 5 years for BA in related work.
- Fluency in English and good report writing skill as well Arabic is preferable.

Position Title: Chemist

Required: 2 (two)

Place of work: Fanco

Salary: As per company scale

Type of Contract: Indefinite

Duties and Responsibilities

- Would select, specify and perform qualitative and quantitative analysis.
- Responsible for using chemicals or other analytical methods to determine the presence of metals under strict laboratory conditions.
- Perform statistical analysis.
- Responsible for determining the value of various metals.
- Prepare reports and submit to management.

Qualification and Experience

BSc Degree/ MSc in Chemistry.

- Able to use analytical adsorption and fire assay.

Requirements

- 10 years or more work experience as chemists especially on mining organization.
- Fluency in English and good report writing skill as well Arabic is preferable.

Position Title: Cashier

Required: 1 (one)

Place of work: Fanco

Salary: As per company scale

Type of Contract: Indefinite

Duties and Responsibilities

- Collect payments whether in cash or credit.
- Issue receipts, refunds, change or tickets.
- Track transactions on balance sheets and report any discrepancies.
- Prepare daily cash transactions.

Qualification and Experience

- Certificate or diploma in accountancy from recognized organization.
- Able math.
- Good knowledge of PC application (Ms Word, Ms Excel).

Requirements

- 3 years or more work experience as cashier.
- Fluency in English and good report writing skill as well Arabic is preferable.
-

Additional requirements for Nationals:

- Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provide evidence of release paper from Ministry of Defense
- Present clearance paper from current/last employer
- Testimonial documents to be attached (CV, work experience credentials, 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
- Deadline for application: 10 days from the day of publication in the Newspaper
- Address: Please mail your applications to;
Fanco Mining Share Company, SA Building fifth floor H.
No. 502

Asmara, Eritrea

Note to Non-Non Eritrean applicants:

- Please send a copy of your application to Aliens Employment Permit Affairs,
- P.O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea



DIMTSI HAFASH, THE RADIO OF THE PEOPLE

Youthful memories of one of its earliest members from 35 years back

Billion Temesghen

We will take time, today, to look back at your early days as a journalist in Dimtsi Hafash. You joined the team five years after Dimtsi Hafash began to air. How did you join the armed struggle? And how did you make your way in to the radio station?

I joined the armed struggle in 1975 when I was twenty two years old. On the second half of 1983 I was appointed to work with Dimtsi Hafash. Dimtsi Hafash, the radio station, functioned in ways that went beyond the dissemination of information about the war serving as a link between the freedom fighters in the fields and the Eritrean community. It served far more than an information dissemination station.

Dimtsi Hafash became one of the Front's most efficient political and social tools. Therefore, the broadcasting station was one thing but there were other departments functioning under its umbrella. For example, there were units in different parts of the Front. Every brigade had a journalist and a photojournalist.

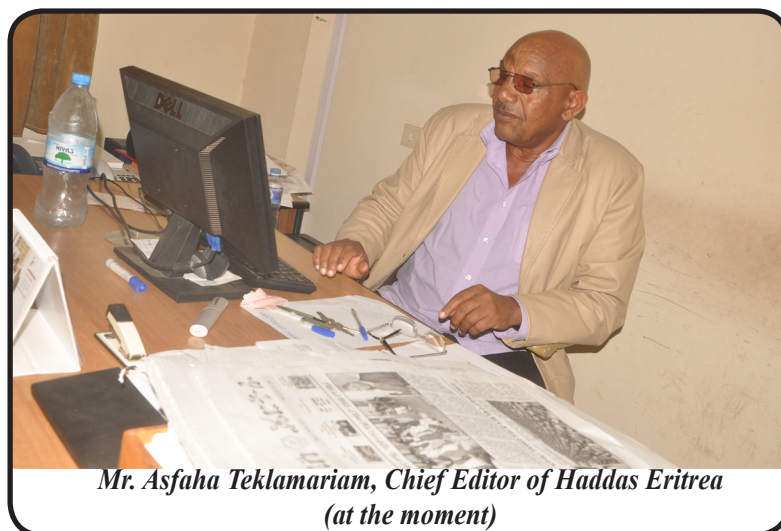
Dimtsi Hafash Eritrea (Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea), celebrates its 40th anniversary this first week of January. The radio broadcasting service began its operations in 1979 from the fields during the armed struggle for Eritrea's independence. From small mobile tents in Sahel, Dimtsi Hafash's role in disseminating information from the fields and in mobilizing the Eritrean people in the country and abroad makes it one of the great legacies of the struggle for liberation. Forty years later, today, Dmsti Hafash continues to be one of the most popular local radio stations.

In his career as a journalist, Mr. Asfaha Teklamariam worked as Head of different media departments including the news agency, television and radio. Currently working as Haddas Eritrea's Chief Editor, Mr. Asfaha Teklamariam was one of the pioneers who worked at Dimtsi Hafash as a young enthusiast. He is Q&A's guest on the commemoration day of the radio of the people.

Department. The branches in this specific department were categorized by language. The department's main task was to keep an eye on what international media said about Eritrea to eventually fix the distorted narratives about the Eritrean struggle for independence. I was assigned to the Tigrigna and Amharic branch. We monitored foreign news.

What do you remember about your time working as a journalist in Dimtsi Hafash?

I run out of words to explain what Dimtsi Hafash was and what it really meant to us journalists working there and to the people of Eritrea. Its contribution towards building national identity and



Mr. Asfaha Teklamariam, Chief Editor of Haddas Eritrea (at the moment)

Hafash its own voice. There is a lot more to be said about the legacy of Dimtsi Hafash. But, in few words, I would define it as a demonstration of how advanced and just the Eritrean struggle was.

What would be a memory you would like to share with our readers from back then?

My favorite program. I was, in due course, reassigned in Dimtsi Hafash's Studio. I was making radio programs and going on air covering news, editorials, other programs and more. My favorite program was called 'Ethiopia with its Vail'. I worked on it with great enthusiasm and luckily the program was assigned to me. Ethiopia was generally described by many as one great and flawless African nation. In my program we worked to investigate the myth behind this narrative. As I

had already gained some experience in the international News monitoring department it was easier for me to deliver good coverage. The program was aired until 1986.

After Independence you still kept working with Dimtsi Hafash, but it was obviously not the same as it was in the field.

Organizational changes were implemented and the radio station started assuming standard calibration to match international standard. The station grew and new radio stations also emerged. From humble beginnings Dimtsi Hafash has gotten bigger in many ways including personal, equipment, and sophistication. Now, Dimtsi Hafash covers more hours, more programs, more languages and areas. It has a global rate connecting Eritreans in the world. Dimtsi Hafash is not what

it used to be. However, that being said, it continues to be a cherished broadcaster of the people.

Even if I don't work in radio anymore it gives me pleasure to see Dimtsi Hafash doing great. Most of the journalists now are young and devoted to keep its legacy. I would like to remind them to learn and understand the deep roots Dimtsi Hafash sent in the hearts of the Eritrean people. I am really proud of them and I applaud them with respect.

Like you said, you no longer work there. Your profession has extended in different areas of specialization in mass media and communication. You were head of news agency and had some responsibilities on television. Currently you are the chief editor of Haddas Eritrea. What do you have to say as the Chief editor of the Tigrigna quotidian with the highest circulation in Eritrea?

Haddas Eritrea is a newspaper that has more than 30 columns. Every day it hosts eight columns alongside daily local and international news. The readership of the newspaper is encouraging as there is a wide coverage of topics that interest different kinds of people of different ages. Topical issues, culture, sports, development, women's issues, social rights.... The list of topics covered in the newspaper is quite long. Our journalists are devoted to meet the readers' expectations. I would like to commend them for it.

At the end, Mr. Asfaha, would you like to pass on your greetings both on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of Dimtsi Hafash and the festive season of the New Year?

Dimtsi Hafash has a special place in my memories. I congratulate every member of the radio broadcasting service for making its 40th anniversary so laudable. Hello to all of my colleagues from then. Also, let me pass my kind regards to my children. And my best wishes to the Eritrean people for the New Year.



Big smiles! Young Asfaha and his companions at Dimtsi Hafash rejoicing (1989)

Dimtsi Hafash was also primarily established to assist the printed media of the Front. Moreover, the network of the radio station was intense. Any clandestine missions would be disclosed in the Radio almost in real time. Anything that happened outside the front would be transmitted right away. The team's ability in gathering and broadcasting information was exceedingly swift. Local news was molded in prolific manners that made Dimtsi Hafash the rarest of its kind.

I was first appointed to work in the International News Monitoring

intensifying relations between the freedom fighters and the people was extraordinary. Moreover, it played crucial roles in raising political awareness and knowledge about social and national issues. Dimtsi Hafash was and still is broadcasted in several ethnic languages promoting the nation's identity at all levels.

The expertise might have been there but the materials we had were basic. The enthusiasm, passion and dedication of the people working there was the real power driving Dimtsi Hafash ahead. Above all, the Eritrean people made Dimtsi



A Swedish newspaper, Goteborgs-Posten, covers an interview with Asfaha (1996)

Gerillakämpen blev journalist

Asfaha är nyhetschef på Eritreas enda dagstidning

I Eritrea bygger befolkningen upp sitt samhälle efter 30 år av befrielsekrig. En viktig byggsten i demokratins utveckling är media. Suget efter tidningar, radio och TV är stort.

Asfaha Teklamariam är nyhetschef på tidningen Haddas Eritrea. Han har varit på besök på Göteborgs-Posten för att se hur journalisterna arbetar i Sverige och hur tidningarna är organiserade. Praktiken ingår i en utbildning som institutet Fojo (fortbildning för journalister) anordnar för journalister från tredje världen.

– När tidningen kommer ut står i kö för att köpa den, den räcker inte till alla som vill ha, säger Asfaha. Ett 50-tal personer arbetar på tidningen och av dem är 30 journalister. Halften av dem är kvinnor. Det finns fyra datorer, vilket betyder att journalisterna får skriva sina artiklar för hand och sedan lämna dem till en inskrivare. Lönen för en journalist ligger på mellan 800 och 1 200 birr och för en vanlig arbetare på 400-500 birr. Men journalisterna på Haddas Eritrea har inte fått någon lön förän det här året. Förut skänktes de lönen till återuppbyggnaden av landet. Det finns för få journalister i landet. Asfaha arbetar sex dagar i veckan, ofta tio-tolv timmar varje dag. Hustrun arbetar som polis. I Asmara finns två dagbladen, men de flesta ordinarie beaktas inte. Sammanlagt är upplagan på 37 000 exemplar, de flesta på tigrigna. – Vi skulle vilja ge ut tidningen fler dagar i veckan, men det finns för få journalister i landet, säger Asfaha. Därför skall man starta en journalistutbildning på universitetet. I juni börjar den första kullen. Men eleverna får bara studera på sommaren, resten av året får de arbeta. Haddas Eritrea ges ut av informationsministeriet och är den enda nyhetstidningen. Många organisationer ger ut tidningar. Den eritreanska radion sänder tre gånger per dag på fem lokala språk. TV har utsländningar tre timmar per dag sex gånger i veckan på tigrigna och arabiska och en timme vardagsutskändningar på BBC. – Det är mycket viktigt med tidningar och radio/TV när man skall bygga ett demokratiskt samhälle, säger Asfaha. Men det är svårt med resurserna, 60-70 procent av befolkningen har inte ens ett eget hem.