

EID AL-FETIR AL-MUBAREK CELEBRATED NATIONWIDE



Eid Al-Fitr Al-Mubarak was colorfully celebrated nationwide on Sunday, 30 March.

Salat prayer, led by Sheik Salem Ibrahim Almukhtar, Mufti of Eritrea and Chairman of the Higher Assembly of Eritrean Iftae and Islamic Affairs, was conducted at Bahti Meskerem

Square in the capital. The event was attended by senior Government and PFDJ officials, members of the Diplomatic Corps, as well as a number of the faithful.

On the occasion, Sheikh Salem Ibrahim Almukhtar gave a briefing on the background of the holiday.

He wished the people of Eritrea, both at home and abroad, a happy Eid, especially to followers of the Islamic faith and members of the Eritrean Defense Forces.

The entire event was broadcast live on Eri-TV and Radio DimtsiHafash.

Eid Al-Fetir Al-Mubarek was also colorfully celebrated in other cities, semi-urban centers, and villages across the country.

TRAINING ON BEEKEEPING IN SEREJEKA SUB-ZONE

The National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students has provided three months of training on beekeeping and beehive construction to youth in the Serejeka sub-zone.

Ms. Tekea Goitom, head of the union branch in the Serejeka sub-zone, said the trainees were selected from the administrative areas of Embaderho and Beleza and have an interest in the sector. Each trainee was also provided with two beehives.

Ms. Senait Mehari, head of the socio-economy department at the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students central office, said the objective of the training was to enable youth to become self-reliant and productive members of society. She also encouraged the trainees to share the knowledge they gained with fellow youth in their communities.

Mr. Kiflemariam Gebremeskel, administrator of the sub-zone, expressed the sub-zonal administration's readiness to support the union branch in all its endeavors.



ENCOURAGING UTILIZATION OF HEALTH FACILITIES



Thanks to ongoing awareness-raising campaigns, the health facility in Edirba, Elabered sub-zone, is now providing exceptional service, with public utilization steadily increasing, according to reports.

In an interview with Erina, Mr. Seid Humeda, head of the Edirba Health Station, shared that the number of pregnant women visiting the health station has increased by 51%. In contrast, the utilization of the maternity waiting home, located within the health station premises, has quadrupled. He also noted a significant improvement in both prenatal and postnatal visits.

In related news, Mr. Simon Bokretsion, area administrator of Edirba, highlighted that other social service institutions in the area are expanding and providing encouraging services. He also reported that the 23 km dirt road linking the Halib Mentel and Belo areas has been renovated, improving accessibility.

Commending the public's active participation in the development of social services, Mr. Simon emphasized the need for further expansion of Eri-Tel services, improved transportation infrastructure, and the implementation of village regrouping programs.

Edirba, one of the 14 administrative areas of the Elabered sub-zone, is located 30 km northwest of Elabered town.

BARENTU ASSISTANT NURSING SCHOOL GRADUATES STUDENTS

Barentu Assistant Nursing School graduated 82 students from its certificate program on 29 March. The graduates, who are members of the 34th and 35th rounds of national service, received both theoretical and practical training over a period of 18 months.

Mr. Thomas Zerimariam, the school's director, congratulated the graduates and their parents. He also urged the graduates to live up to the expectations of the people and Government that provided them with this educational opportunity free of charge.

Mr. Michael Jahray, Coordinator of Assistant Nursing Schools, stated that over 12 rounds, the assistant nursing schools in the Northern Red Sea, Southern, and Gash Barka Regions have graduated 3,645 students—58% of whom are female—who are making significant contributions to the ongoing efforts to expand healthcare services across the country.

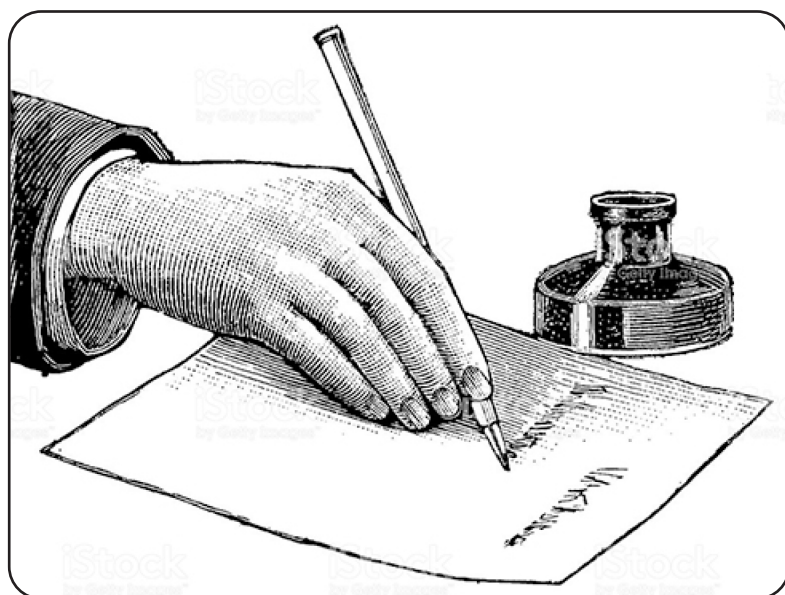
A representative of the graduates expressed their readiness to meet the expectations of the people and the government that provided them

with the educational opportunity.

Dr. Berhane Debru, Director General of Planning and Human Resources Development at the Ministry of Health, noted that assistant nurses currently constitute 40% of the healthcare workforce and play a significant role in helping the Ministry achieve its goal of expanding healthcare services nationwide.

Barentu Assistant Nursing School, established in 2005, has so far graduated 1,244 students and 126 barefoot doctors.





Nuraddin Farah

Part I

Shall we let the flames illumine the unlit sections of our memory? If we do that, we shall learn, for instance, that there have been wars fought for the control of the Horn of Africa and its long coastline. We learn that for centuries, foreign powers have alternately come, conquered, and colonised the peoples of the area. For centuries, the Horn has been the scene of big-power showdowns, manoeuvre diplomacy, of conquests and re-conquests. The Ottoman Empire. The Khedive of Egypt whose viceroies controlled the entire stretches of the Somali and Eritrean coastlines. Italy. France. Britain. Portugal (even if briefly). Name one colonialist, and you needn't name them all. But why all these diplomatic manipulations? Why these wars for the Horn? Why? Ensclosed in the darker shades of the fire's flames, there are the ghostly figures of Yohannis, Menelik and Haile Sellassie. Soft are their

voices; hesitant, too. Quiet their movements. Now you meet them in the corridors of diplomacy, initialing sealed letter to the Kings and Emperors of Europe. Now you meet them amass firearms. But let us take a break while we can, let us ask a question: Is today's war in the Horn significantly different from the previous ones? Granted, it rains a skyfull of MiGs, it shells T-62s and polemicised accusations. Granted, it is a war in which a world superpower fully backs a 30-million Ethiopia against a 3-million Somalia. But think of Shoa, a small inland kingdom, Tigre another. Think of Somalia whose sandy shores smell of the incensed fire, and Eritrea, too. Imagine

I suggest we turn a few pages of documented history. Indeed, I suggest that we let Ethiopia's Kings and Emperors come out of their hiding places and speak for themselves. I suggest we watch Ethiopia change her leopard's skin; that we listen to her kings contradict themselves. I am afraid, however, that before we are in position to do that, we need to clear a jungle of present-day contradictions. For example: Has Somalia any reason to fear that Ethiopia (supported by a foreign power, give it whatever name you please) might invade Somalia with the intention of taking Berbera and Zeila? Has this incident any precedent in the history of the Horn: some incident, some event which leads one to think that Ethiopia might stretch its long arms solely to grab and occupy the ports of Berbera and Zeila? I shall dismiss the Soviets and the Cubans if you don't mind, as a latter-day invention of history 'of ideology if you will, or better still, of twentieth century technology. But has Ethiopia in a recent or distant past ever used a foreign power or the services of a foreign power to take any port on the Horn of Africa? Has Ethiopia ever connived or interested other powers in occupying ports which belonged to other countries directly or indirectly? Has she ever planned to diplomatically manoeuvre the conditions in order to acquire an outlet to the sea? To answer these questions, I shall let Ethiopia speak for itself through

Which Way to the Sea, Please?

Editor's note: As part of our ongoing remembrance of Said Samatar, Nuruddin Faraah, Somalia's eminent writer, and a longtime acquaintance of Prof Said was gracious enough to once again republish his timeless essay for this occasion. It is befitting that this piece, the third in a series, which initially appeared on the Horn of Africa Journal in 1978, a Journal managed by the late Said, reinforces our objective of remembering Said through Somalia's political history. WardheerNews previously published this piece in 2010.

its Chieftains, Kings, Kings of Kings, and Emperors.

Part II

Shoa had been an inland kingdom, small in size as was her king in stature, a king who, although small, had grand ambitions, large and uncontainable like the waters of the sea. A small kingdom, Shoa was isolated, for centuries sandwiched between the highland mountains like saxifrage. Encircling it were rival kingdoms such as Gondar, Gojjam and more importantly that of Tigre. There were constant seismic wars between these kingdoms, seismic wars which shook the foundation of these feudal eggshell state-structures. History had taught these rulers a few things. For instance: whoever had arms and European assistance had an upper hand in case of conflict. Yohannis, the King of Tigre, had proven this. His kingdom had been for a time the strongest because he had received the benevolence of the British Government and gifts of arms in abundance for having done unto the British a favour. In return for these services, it was promised that he would be granted the free use of a port. Yes, after all these years a port of import-export, a port of importance, a coast.

But the coastline had always remained the possession of other peoples, whether they were foreign powers that had conquered or local peoples such as the Eritreans, the Somalis and the Danakils. And so we see these Abyssinian Kings, their Emperors and their aides change tactic, change strategy, tone of voice, and request; we see them assume different positions; we see them change stands. We listen to them appeal to the Christian solidarity of Europe when it is the Turks and the Egyptians (Muslims) who have control of the Red Sea coast. Then we listen to them as they make gross and unfounded territorial claims later when a European power doesn't, for political reasons, allow them the free use of the coast. Menelik, the King of Shoa and later Emperor of conquered territories, for example, makes declarations defining the boundaries of his dreamed ideal when astraddle a bed of high fever and anger. Whether for Menelik or for Yohannis we note with sufficient

documentation that the Kingdom's essential "commodities" are the coast and arms. Who has the latter, they believed, has a chance of gaining access to the former by conquering it. Who has the coast (or easy access to it on account of a European power's granting the use of it) has more of a chance to acquire arms to help him expand territorially.

Yohannis and Menelik, to cite only two kings for now, play their trumps, they both play hands of aces. Ranking high amongst these aces are favors the European powers bestow on the king in question, European powers who play one against the other, European powers who arm one and not the other, European powers who, regardless of whether or not they consent a Yohannis or a Menelik to use the ports, never consult the subject peoples, say, the Eritreans, the Somalis, the

Danakils, subject peoples who are kept unarmed, unconsulted and unprotected from Abyssinian raids. Be he a prince of Tigre, or its King; be he a King of Shoa or a self-proclaimed Emperor; be he a Haile Sellassie of modernity: the shackles of this need for an outlet to the sea, the shibboleth of diplomacy, the Ave Maria, a word most often repeated, the coast. We watch each King play all the aces in order that his dream is washed in the launderette of the sands of the Red Sea shore, in order that his land is whipped clean with the healthy saltiness of the Indian Ocean. The coast. And arms. And these Kings hold the Cross of Christ in full vision as though the European powers would otherwise lose sight of the issue; they paint the Cross on the foreheads of their mountains as though it were a lighthouse.

Continued on page 4

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**Editor-In-Chief
Amanuel Mesfun**

**Asst. Editor-In-Chief
Sirak Habtemichael**

P.O.Box: 247
Tel: 11-41-14
Fax: 12-77-49
E-mail:
eritreaprofilemoi@gmail.com
Advertisement: 12-50-13

**Layout
Azmera Berhane
Betelhiem Tadesse**

From Social Media



Yemane G. Meskel
@hawelti

Excellent/Must Read Article - Which Way to the Sea, Please?
by Nuraddin Farrah; Horn of Africa Journal October/December 1978

The author blends profound historical research with witty sarcasm to demonstrate and amplify the outlandish and grotesque connivance of Abyssinian chieftains and Kings with European colonizers to acquire territories and ports of their neighbours - from Port Sudan, to Massawa, Assab, Aden, Tajura, Zeila, Berbera, the Benadir coast... etc.

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Eritrea's Progress in the Fight Against Tuberculosis: a Commitment to Health and Equality

Dr. Fikrejesus Amahazion

World Tuberculosis Day, observed annually on March 24, serves as a powerful reminder of the global impact of tuberculosis (TB) and the urgent need for intensified efforts to eliminate the disease. Eritrea, often underreported in global health discussions, has made significant strides in this fight, employing a multifaceted and comprehensive approach. This article highlights the country's ongoing efforts to combat TB, enhance public health, and ensure the well-being of its people.

Eritrea's quiet progress in TB control

Despite facing numerous challenges, Eritrea has quietly achieved significant progress in the fight against TB over the past few decades. While the global TB burden remains overwhelming, Eritrea's TB-related indicators now rank among the best in the region – and even compare favorably with global standards. According to local and international estimates, Eritrea's TB incidence rate stands at approximately 65 cases per 100,000 population, a significant improvement from previous decades. In 2000, the rate was nearly 180 per 100,000, and in 2020 it was approximately 80 per 100,000. In stark contrast, the global TB incidence rate rose by nearly 5 percent between 2020 and 2023.

Moreover, Eritrea's national TB cure rate has steadily increased and is now at about 90 percent, surpassing the global recommended target. This exceptional cure rate is a testament to the country's commitment to achieving lasting health outcomes for its people.

Success rooted in a multifaceted approach

Eritrea's success in reducing TB incidence and mortality cannot be attributed to a single intervention. Instead, it is the result of a holistic, multi-pronged strategy that focuses on prevention, early diagnosis, treatment, and addressing the underlying factors that exacerbate TB transmission.

One of the key pillars of Eritrea's TB control program



is its national health policy, which prioritizes the well-being of all citizens, irrespective of age, gender, religion, or socioeconomic background. The government has ensured that TB treatment is essentially free for all citizens, thereby preventing the catastrophic financial burden that often accompanies TB care in other countries. By eliminating the cost barrier, Eritrea upholds its commitment to equality and social justice. It ensures that people with TB, as well as their families or dependents, are not financially devastated by the disease – which is a situation all too common in many parts of the world. According to global health data, TB can lead to an income loss of more than 50 percent for affected individuals, making Eritrea's approach both noteworthy and impactful.

Focus on prevention and early detection

Eritrea has placed a strong emphasis on preventing the spread of TB by focusing on early diagnosis and treatment. Preventing TB infection before it leads to illness is not only life-saving but also reduces the risk of community transmission. TB preventive treatment (TPT) helps protect individuals from developing active TB and prevents its spread within communities. Globally, it is estimated that people with active TB can infect between 5 and 15 others through close contact over the course of a year, making effective prevention strategies essential.

campaigns are conducted regularly throughout the country. They include the participation of local communities, health-related institutions, government departments, schools and youth groups, local media, and international development partners. They not only raise awareness and encourage individuals with symptoms to seek timely medical attention, they also help reduce stigma surrounding TB. In parallel, the country has focused on enhancing early detection through the training of community health workers in rural and urban areas alike. By enabling prompt and accurate diagnoses, these initiatives ensure that patients receive the most effective treatment as soon as possible, improving recovery rates and reducing transmission.

Addressing prominent risk factors

Eritrea's success in combating TB is further bolstered by its

comprehensive efforts to address key risk factors, particularly HIV and malnutrition, both of which can weaken the immune system and increase susceptibility to TB. The country's coordinated approach to combating HIV has been instrumental in reducing TB-related deaths. Worldwide, people living with HIV are approximately 18 times more likely to develop active TB than those without HIV, making the dual fight against both diseases crucial.

Over the years, Eritrea has made substantial progress in HIV prevention and treatment. According to estimates, HIV prevalence and incidence have declined dramatically since independence in 1991, while the number of AIDS-related deaths has also decreased, reflecting the effectiveness of the country's HIV/AIDS interventions.

In addition to combating HIV, Eritrea has prioritized food security and nutrition, which are critical components of its TB

control strategy. Malnutrition is a well-known risk factor for TB, contributing to delayed recovery and higher mortality rates. The country's Ministry of Agriculture, in partnership with other government institutions and international development partners, has worked tirelessly to promote nutrition security. Eritrea's Health and Nutrition Program, which targets malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies, further supports the population's resilience to TB.

Vaccination: playing a key role in prevention

Another vital element of Eritrea's TB control strategy is its high coverage rate of Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccination. The BCG vaccine, first introduced in the early 1900s, is primarily used to protect children from severe forms of TB. Though it offers limited protection against TB in adults, the vaccine is considered a cost-effective and essential intervention in low- and middle-income countries.

In Eritrea, nearly all newborns receive BCG vaccination shortly after birth, ensuring high levels of immunity in young children. Since 1998, the country has maintained a BCG vaccination coverage rate of around 97-98 percent – substantially higher than the global and sub-Saharan African averages. This widespread vaccination effort plays a crucial role in reducing the burden of TB in the population.

A sustained commitment to elimination and a healthier future for all

Eritrea's progress in the fight against TB is a remarkable example of what can be achieved through sustained commitment, strategic planning, and a focus on equity. The country has demonstrated that, even in challenging circumstances, significant improvements in public health are possible with the right policies, interventions, and partnerships. By maintaining its focus on prevention, early diagnosis, and treatment and addressing the underlying social determinants of health, Eritrea is paving the way for a healthier, safer, and more equitable future for all its citizens.



Which Way to the Sea, Please?

Continued from page 2

I answer. Therefore, I quote:

My country is far distant from your country. My road to the coast, to Zeila, Tajura and Aden is at present closed by the Muslims. They prevent my receiving into my country provisions, arms, agricultural implements, artisans or even messengers of the Gospel. Will you kindly raise your powerful voice in order that I may have this way opened to me, for I desire to inaugurate in my country European civilisation, intelligence and arts. [2]

This is not 1978. No. We are in 1878, yes, a hundred years ago. And the passage quoted comes from a letter written by Menelik, then King of Shoa. It was addressed to the heads of the governments of Italy, France, Germany, and England. The Muslims who had closed the way to him were not the Somalis of Zeila and Tajura, but the Khedive of Egypt whose power controlled the entire stretches of the Somali coast, and who held the key to Babel Mandab, Hafun, Zeila, Berbera and the Ogaden including the city of Harar. [3] And Menelik, like his rival and contemporary, Yohannis the King of Tigre, shows the Cross of Christ and plays the diplomatic hands he can in order to have direct access to the coast. During this period, we note, however, that he doesn't make any territorial claim of any city on any coast. I wouldn't exclude the possibility that Menelik hadn't even heard of Mogadiscio, of Merca or Brava, three city states on the Somali coast, to mention only a few, city-states which had known the splendor of world fame as grand centers of commerce. [4] But he had heard of Zeila and Tajura (the former now in the Republic of Somalia, the latter in the Republic of Djibouti, ex-French Somaliland) for these were the ports through which his kingdom imported "provisions, arms, agricultural implements, artisans or even messengers of the Gospel."

And it was these ports which he used for his country's exports. [5] Menelik, then a mere pawn on the chessboard of international politics, Menelik an unknown entity, Menelik a small man with grand ambitions, yes, we see that the man is capable of sending off an appealing letter to the Heads of European governments in order that they raise their "powerful voice" so that "I may have the way opened to me," the way to the coast. He doesn't recommend their raising a hand, no, just their

powerful voice, and he hoped the way to the Red Sea might open. Like one of the miracles of Moses! He wishes to possess the coast, religiously speaking ... the sea itself a giant beauty, the sea itself life's enormity! Maybe we shouldn't get carried away, maybe it is high time we asked: but why should these European powers help Menelik? What credential has he?

"Although my country is very distant from yours, I, too, am a Christian like you are." [6] The tone is still mild, the request very simple: the point very clear: Menelik would like the European powers not to take arms against the Egyptian Muslims, not to take these ports for themselves or to give it to him. He would like them to show their Christian solidarity by raising their powerful voices.

I suggest, however, that we leave Menelik for now; I suggest that we let the taste and falsity of this phrase linger on the periphery of our tongue; I suggest we return further and further into the womb of mother-time. We shall find history generous, we shall find her a faithful companion to the oblivious. We are in Tigre, a prominent kingdom later and always in the Abyssinian (or Ethiopian) mosaics of gain-access-to-the-coast politics, her king Yohannis then a major rival of Menelik's. But this before Yohannis' days. The year is 1827. It is fifty years before Menelik had written his letter to the Heads of the European Governments. This, as a matter of fact, is during the first quarter of the year 1827. And a prominent political figure of Tigre Dejjazmach Sebagadis Weldu writes a letter to King George III that his (the Dejjazmach's) country "needed fire arms which could only be obtained with European assistance through Massawa." [7]

Fire-arms again? We'll let this pass for now. Although I must remind you that Massawa is now in the hands of the Turks and not the Egyptians – the Turks themselves Muslims. But what suggestion has Dejjazmach Weldu) "We want you to take Massawa from the Turks and either hold it (yourself) or hand it over to us as our country is lost by it ... and the Muslim on the Red Sea coast." [8] The same predicament as Menelik's, the same need but a different prescription. The Dejjazmach takes a much more decisive position. Although he, too (and neither will Yohannis when we come to him), makes no territorial claim on the coast. Nor, like all the others, does he speak about the people of the coast. Menelik wishes "the way open to

me," but the Dejjazmach suggests King George's government taking the coast then "either hold it or hand it over to us." It is worthwhile remembering that the Tigrean chiefs and kings don't mention the ports of Berbera and Tujura by name – presumably because they had never used them. Although again, years later, another Tigrean voice, this time that of Yohannis corresponding with a British envoy (General) Gordon says that in the event that the taking of any of the ports is rendered impossible, the King of Tigre would be satisfied if granted at least "territorial, and not only functional, access to the sea." [9]

Part III

If we now return to Menelik again!

Although Menelik had sown the seeds of his dreams when asleep, we discover that he had reaped none when awake. By this time, the city-states on the Somali coast had fallen into the hands of Italy and those included the Sultanates of Obbia and Mejjertenia, and smaller and less significant Somali kingdoms. The ports of Tajura and Obok had gone to the French. The ports of Berbera and Zeila to the British. Massawa and Asseb: the Italians. Menelik, we find, hasn't as yet found an outlet to the coast and it pains him enormously. He had sown the seeds of his dreams when asleep but reaped none when awake. [10]

Part IV

I am about to die from anger because I have remained without bringing one (new) skill, imprisoned (as I am) I am a man who has been sentenced to imprisonment for life and prevented from bringing into this country rifles, cannon and workers. [11]

Rifles. Cannon. We see him desperate as ever, we see him grope in the dark impossibility of an impasse. He had fought wars and won almost all. He had conquered and taken Harar by force. It had dawned upon him that perhaps there was a way out of all this, perhaps there lay hopefully a way to the sea. And he took the idea to the French. Menelik said to the French putting it in the frankest of terms that he was willing to give the city of Harar (which had become his because he had conquered it) in exchange for a port. [12] The French weren't ready to buy the idea, but they had one of

commerce and of compromise. The French would sell to him all the firearms Menelik had been in need of. However, that, too, on one condition: he should use for his imports and exports the French-held ports of French Somaliland, and not Berbera and Zeila which were British-held. [13]

The French trade in arms was a great boom for the economy of France in the colonies. Arthur Rimbaud in one of his letters talks of "24,000 guns of various kinds" sold to Menelik. [14] Italy complained to Britain about this great influx of arms which the French had sold to this "barbarous nation." [15] Menelik had begun riding the real horse of the expansionist and there was no stopping him. However, he hadn't as yet developed the articulateness to verbalise his dreamy thought of a grandiose Shoa King who had vast territories annexed, a man who had proclaimed himself King, then King of Kings, then Emperor. The guns and firearms which he had imported from France gave him supremacy over all the other minor entities in the region. The Italians and the British forbade the Somalis and the Eritreans under their protectorate to procure arms; neither would they do much to protect their protectorates from being raided by Menelik. [16] Whereas the Abyssinians were heavily armed with the most modern of weapons [17], the Somalis, wherever they were found, were specifically kept unarmed and helplessly defenceless; they would have risen against their oppressors. Gordon's plan to "procure an outlet to the sea for Abyssinia" failed again, and Menelik had had to continue using Djibouti's port for the country's foreign trade and importations of arms. A few more wars, a few more promises. The wars were won on the battlefield, Shoa had grown bigger, Menelik had now conquered and annexed other kingdoms. The small man gave himself grand titles; he had christened the territories; he had annexed "Ethiopia," and crowned himself "Emperor."

On the other hand, if we return to Yohannis, himself an emperor, too, we find him as have been all Tigrean princes and Kings, much more determined-a man who wants to take a coastal city come what may. From him we have: "I do not wish (to open) a counsel in Massawa – I wish Massawa itself." [18]

However, when writing a letter to Queen Victoria, Yohannis [19] is determinedly less aggressive. For after the usual flattery and we-are-Christian-brethren-bit, he says that he doesn't very much mind sharing the pagan districts around the coast with

the British, but with no one else. [20] Yohannis was unfortunate in that he had fallen out of favour, the European powers had found him persistent in his asking for an outlet to the coast – is cost what it might.

There were unsettled accounts between him and Menelik. The Italians wanted him punished. At one point, the Italians offered Menelik 5,000 rifles on condition that he attacked Emperor Yohannis-after which, the two agreed, they would divide the territorial conquests between themselves.

Let us, however, close this section with a Menelik a great deal stronger: If I cannot take Tajura by sea, it is not difficult for me to seize the port from this side (overland). However, without coming to blows, I hope that civilised Europe will render me justice and give satisfaction

A little later in the same letter: "we hope that our crown which honours Jesus Christ will never be trampled to the ground by the children of Mohammed." And yet a little more: "If truly you are the protectors of Christians, it is today that you must give us proof." [21]

Part V

Came the scramble for Africa, the slicing of Somalia with Ethiopia being given her share. But no outlet to the sea, yet. We re-encounter Europeans famished like locust, the Ethiopians more so. But still no outlet to the coast for Menelik's Kingdom. And it is now that the territorial claims over the coast, over any of Africa's watery expanses, begins. Khartoum. Lake Nyanza. Lake Sambura. The Indian Ocean. The Red Sea Coast. The waters are the limit.

Part VI

Menelik again but in 1891. This is another famous letter he sent to the Governments of Britain, Italy, France, Germany and the Czar of Russia. We note there is a change of voice, a change in the man, a change in the form of request he makes. It is a long letter which mentions in the grandest detail the boundaries of his (dreamed) Ethiopia. Let us comment no more, let us have it straight from him: "Ethiopia has been for four centuries a Christian island in a sea of pagans." [22] A determined voice, a subtle reference to the war fought for the control of the city of Harar during the fifteenth century by Ahmed Gurey, the Somali warrior. [23] But let

Continued on page 5

Which Way to the Sea, Please?

Continued from page 4

us stay with Menelik. Stand warned and firm: don't ever be surprised by Menelik who writes, "Formerly, the boundary of Ethiopia was the sea ... our frontiers on the sea coast fell into the power of the Muslims." [24]

We shall note one thing: that at this stage, the sea remains so far unnamed, the coast as well. The boundary of Ethiopia was the sea. When? What sea? And when did the frontiers of Ethiopia (if even we accept the concept as Menelik had), specifically the frontiers on the sea, fell into the power of the Muslims? But who are the pagans that surround him? The Somalis? The Gallas? The Eritreans? And had he considered it his duty as a Christian to carry the pharos of Jesus Christ to the heathen peoples of the coast? I am afraid we shall have no answer from him. But we have this; we have a mention of intentions; we have Menelik's word for it:

At present, we do not intend to regain our sea frontiers by force but we trust that the Christian powers guided by our Saviour, will restore to us our sea coast-line ... at any rate, certain parts of it. [25] We've seen above that he said he could "take Tajura by sea. . (or) to seize the port from this side" but wouldn't do it because he had faith in civilised Europe's rendering Caesar what is a Christian's! And now: "the Christian powers guided by our saviour will restore to us our sea coast-line ... at any rate, certain parts of it." But these powers wouldn't be guided by Christ the Saviour, these powers were guided by their colonial interest. Use of the port facilities of Djibouti: is that the best these brothers in Christ would offer? (As though) from his death-bed a message: "If God gives me strength, I shall re-establish the ancient frontiers (tributaries) of Ethiopia up to Khartoum and as far as Lake Nyanza with all the Gallas included. [26]

There were other grotesqueries of irrationality and erroneous claims he had made, other places he had mentioned in this circular-letter of his when defining the boundaries of Ethiopia. Arafle. Lake Sambura. Rivers Mareb and Arated. Atabar and Setet Rivers. Khartoum. Lake Nyanza. Perhaps, he had fallen under the influence of the high fever of Ethiopian expansionism. God, though, did not give the strength to invade and annex Khartoum, the capital of the Republic of

Sudan. Nor did he take Lake Nyanza. But he had conquered and taken a grand portion of the Horn including the Somali province of Harar. And things remained more or less the same from the death of Menelik until the coming of Emperor Haile Sellassie on the political scene.

Part VII

Haile Sellassie would prove himself a more able manipulator of political events, a manipulator of the ouiji-board of international diplomacy. And when we encounter him in 1948, we listen to him present a Memorandum to the United Nations in which he says:

Prior to the race of European powers to divide up the continent of Africa, Ethiopia included an extensive coastline along the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean. It was only the last 15 years of the 19th century that Ethiopia had been deprived of access to the sea by the loss of Somaliland and Eritrea. The first step in this direction was to seize Massawa by the Italians in 1885. This was followed by a similar seizure of the Benadir and the areas of Somaliland as well as a series of agreements concerning Ethiopia but in regard to which she had not been consulted. It was under these conditions that agreements were concluded in 1880, 1890, 1891, 1894. [27]

The Sudanese and the countries surrounding Lake Victoria must have noted this with sufficient relief: that Erne perm Haile Sellassie had dropped Ethiopia's claim over Khartoum and Lake Nyanza and Lake Sambura but the Somalis, no. He put his finger squarely on Benadir, then British Somaliland's Red Sea coast and the Indian Ocean's Somali coast, and Eritrea.

Was it during the 14th /15th centuries that Ethiopia was deprived access to the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean (according to the latter Menelik, the Menelik of 1891)? Or was it during the last 15 years of the 19th century that Ethiopia had been deprived of access to the sea (according to Haile Sellassie)? And since it was before the "irreligious" body of the United Nations, Emperor Haile Sellassie sensibly drops the Christian/Saviour motif much used by Menelik. What stands out rather like a tumor, to my mind, is Ethiopia's (be it in its Shoan wear, or Tigrean, or Abyssinian) leader's obsession with water-as-element, the obtaining of which

tempers the rise and fall of one's temperament. I suggest we list them thus:

(1) Menelik's: a) my road to the coast, to Zeila, to Tajura and Aden; b) If I cannot take Tajura by sea, it is not difficult for me to seize the port ...; c) Formerly, the boundary of Ethiopia was the sea ...; d) Our frontiers on the sea-coast ...; e) ...restore to us our sea-coast-lines; f) I shall re-establish the ancient frontiers to Ethiopia up to Khartoum (i.e. the Nile) and as far as Lake Nyanza ...; a mention must be made of the place names which occur in the quoted passages: they usually are a town on the coast, the name of a river, the name of a lake or a settlement of strategic importance.

(2) Yohannis'/Weldu's: a) I wish Massawa; b) pagan tribes on the coast ...; c) We want you to take Massawa ...; d) ...European assistance through Massawa ...;

(3) ...territorial, and not only functional, access to the sea ...; f) ...the Muslim on the Red Sea coast ... And now Haile Sellassie's: a) Ethiopia's frontiers included an extensive coast-line along the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean; b) Ethiopia had been deprived of access to the sea by the loss of Somaliland and Eritrea! c) Bmadir (coast of Somalia); d) Massawa. A student of Freud's might find stimulating clues to the Ethiopian King's and Emperor's watery sub-and unconscious map of the obsessed.

Part VIII

Eritrea or the Benadir coast. Ethiopia lusted after any coast, any water-way, be it the Somali coast, the Eritrean, Lake Nyanza (Victoria) or the Nile. Year after year, whether men or governments change, whether the claims are altered, Ethiopia needs a coast, a watery expanse – however contradictory the claims, however unconfirmable the dates they offer. Nothing. Promise after promise. No progress. Negotiations after negotiations. No port. In fact, Ethiopia is herself an Italian colony. We are in the second World War. Italy is on the losing side, and Haile Sellassie has enlisted the help of Britain whose Royal Air Force showers leaflets of propaganda proclamations on the Italian colonies. We read:

Eritrean people and the people of Benadir! You were separated from your mother Ethiopia and were put under the yoke of the

enemy and under the yoke of the enemy, you still remain.

I have come to restore the independence of my country, including Eritrea and the Benadir whose people will henceforth dwell under the shade of the Ethiopian flag.

In this struggle, We are neither alone nor without arms. We have the help of Great Britain, therefore I summon you to strive to deliver yourselves from the alien slavery ...

Eritrean soldiers in the ranks of Italy, do not fire a single shot against the British who come to help us. [28]

Vociferous claims. Somalia part of Ethiopia, when) When was Benadir ever part of Abyssinia? Haile Sellassie's declaration of intention in the above quotation, in Haile Sellassie's proclamation of leaflets which the Royal Air Force had distributed, we learn of a direct involvement of Britain whose soldiers have come to help and to restore the independence of his country. We are neither alone nor without arms. We have the help of Great Britain. With the war over, however, Britain stayed on as Caretaker Administration over the former colonies of Italy and this included Ex-Italian Somaliland, the Ogaden, Ex-British Somaliland, (the now) Kenyan Somaliland, and Eritrea. It was during this period that there was talk of uniting all the Somali peoples under one flag. That having failed, it was then that the U.N. agreed to place Ex-Italian Somalia and Eritrea under a U.N. Mandate Trusteeship. The idea didn't please Haile Sellassie in the least. Ethiopia's Red Sea/Indian-Ocean thirst, Ethiopia's lust after coasts. "Emperor Haile Sellassie stated in an interview that Eritrea should be given to Ethiopia." [29]

Remember what his predecessors have said. Remember what has been quoted above. Eritrea now. Benadir later. But what happens if Eritrea isn't given to Ethiopia? Neither Eritrea nor Somalia would subsist as separate entities (according to the Emperor). [30] Further, if either isn't given to his country ...

Ethiopia would be compelled in the interest of her own self-preservation to build up armed forces with funds she would otherwise devote to the progress of the people of Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somaliland [31]

Eritrea. Finally, Emperor Haile

Sellassie altered his country's demands. Eritrea could become a UN Mandate Trusteeship provided it fell to Ethiopia to administer the country. Somalia came under the Italian-Cum-UN Trusteeship, in the meanwhile. A stop-gap federation between Ethiopia and Eritrea. Then in 1962 annexation of Eritrea-and with it, the ports of Massawa, Asseb, etcetera. At last.

The United Nations, which I here call "organised hypocrisy" [32], voted against his doing so. And in the meantime. Haile Sellassie's government studied in great detail how best she could annex Djibouti. That is too recent a history to skin.

Part IX

Says Mengistu at a press conference very recently: "(Ethiopia) difenderà la sua via di accesso al Mar Rosso anche se questo mare dovesse diventare ancor più rosso per il sangue versato dagli etiopici." [33]

And the war goes on. The war for the coast. A war which began centuries ago. Will Mengistu negotiate for peace with the Somalis and Eritreans in whose territories the coasts are found? Or will he be unoriginal and follow the footsteps of Sebagiss ("We want you to take Massawa from the Turks and give it to us"), Yohannis ("I do not wish a counsel in Massawa -I wish Massawa itself"). Menelik ("If God gives me strength, I shall reestablish the ancient frontiers of Ethiopia up to Khartoum as far as Lake Nyanza Victoria ..."; or "If I cannot take Tajura by sea, it is not difficult for me to seize the port ...") or Haile Sellassie (We've been "deprived of access to the sea by the loss of Somaliland and Eritrea"). History, they say, repeats itself. I say it doesn't. It is we who are not original.

Will Mengistu request the Russians and Cubans to take the ports of Zeila and Berbera, keep them for themselves or give them up to Ethiopia? Russia would certainly love to take full possession of the port of Berbera again.

In the meanwhile, the war goes on. And the world looks on with sufficient indifference.

*Horn of Africa – Journal,
October/December 1978
Volume 1, Number 4, Pgs
31-36
Republished by Wardheer
News
March 4, 2015*



Letter of Invitation for Bids

1. The State of Eritrea, Ministry of Agriculture, and National Project Coordination Office (NPCO) has received financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) towards the cost of Integrated Agricultural Development Project (IADP) and intends to apply part of the financing for the purchase of these goods. The use of any IFAD financing shall be subject to IFAD’s approval, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the financing agreement, as well as IFAD’s rules, policies and procedures. IFAD and its officials, agents and employees shall be held harmless from and against all suits, proceedings, claims, demands, losses and liability of any kind or nature brought by any party in connection with Integrated Agricultural Development Project (IADP).
2. The Integrated Agricultural Development Project (IADP) includes three components and has six years’ lifetime. The overall goal of the project is to contribute to poverty reduction and food and nutrition security of rural households. The project Development objective is to enhance small holder agricultural production and productivity in sustainable way and improves rural livelihoods.
3. This IFB follows the general procurement notice that appeared on the IFAD website on *20 January 2025, the United Nations Development Business (UNDB) web site on 20 January, 2025* and a national newspaper *Haddas Eritrea/ Eritrean profile on 25 January, 2025*.
4. The purchaser now invites sealed bids from eligible entities (“bidders”) for the provision of **Procurement of starter and layer feed and concentrate premix assorted in 3 lots, Procurement of sprayers and personal protective equipment in 2 lots, Procurement of veterinary drug, Procurement of stove parts, Procurement of laboratory reagents, chemicals, supplements, controls and consumables and supply, installation and commissioning of food technology laboratory**. More details on these goods and related services are provided in the schedule of requirements in this bidding document.
5. This IFB is open to all eligible bidders who wish to respond. Subject to the restrictions noted in the bidding document, eligible entities may associate with other bidders to enhance their capacity to successfully deliver the goods and related services. Potential bidders should first request for a registration form using email address below. Upon filling the form, Potential bidders should be return through a reply email and set of the bidding document will be provide immediately thereafter at no charge.
6. Bidding will be conducted using the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) method, the evaluation procedure for which is described in this bidding document, in accordance with the IFAD procurement handbook, which is provided on the IFAD website www.ifad.org/project-procurement. The ICB process, as described, will include a review and verification of qualifications and past performance, including a reference check, prior to the contract award.
7. Please note that a pre-bid conference will not be held as described in the bid data sheet BDS, Section II of the bidding document.
8. Bids must be delivered to the address below and in the manner specified in the BDS ITB 25 no later than **9:30 am local Asmara, Eritrea’s time, 15 May 2025**.
- Ministry of Agriculture, Procurement and Supplies Management Division (PSMD)
- Lidia Russom (Procurement officer)
Sawa Street, Asmara, Eritrea
Lidyarusomlidu1221@gmail.com
Tel Number: 00291181076/00291189266
Fax Number: 1048
Block number: 6
Room number: 8
Asmara, Eritrea
9. Bidders should be aware that late bids will not be accepted under any circumstances and will be returned unopened to the bidder. All bids must be accompanied by a bid securing deceleration.
10. Please note that electronic bids shall not be accepted as defined in ITB BDS 25.
- Yours sincerely,

Ministry of Agriculture, Procurement and Supplies Management Division (PSMD)
Lidia Russom (IADP Project Procurement officer)
Sawa Street, Asmara, Eritrea
Lidyarusomlidu1221@gmail.com
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2. The Integrated Agricultural Development Project (IADP) includes three components and has six years’ lifetime. The overall goal of the project is to contribute to poverty reduction and food and nutrition security of rural households. The project Development objective is to enhance small holder agricultural production and productivity in sustainable way and improves rural livelihoods.
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4. The purchaser now invites sealed bids from eligible entities (“bidders”) for the provision of Procurement of Total stations, Procurement of artificial insemination and horse equipment, parent stock pigs, horse semen and automatic debeakers assorted in 4 lots and Procurement of frame hives and their accessories and food grade honey container assorted in 2 lots. More details on these goods and related services are provided in the schedule of requirements in this bidding document.
5. This IFB is open to all eligible bidders who wish to respond. Subject to the restrictions noted in the bidding document, eligible entities may associate with other bidders to enhance their capacity to successfully deliver the goods and related services. Potential bidders should first request for a registration form using email address below. Upon filling the form, the bidders must return the filled form through a reply email and the bidding document will be provided immediately thereafter at no charge.
6. Bidding will be conducted using the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) method, the evaluation procedure for which is described in this bidding document, in accordance with the IFAD procurement handbook, which is provided on the IFAD website www.ifad.org/project-procurement. The ICB process, as described, will include a review and verification of qualifications and past performance, including a reference check, prior to the contract award.
7. Please note that a pre-bid conference will not be held as described in the bid data sheet BDS, Section II of the bidding document.
8. Bids must be delivered to the address below and in the manner specified in the BDS ITB 25 no later than 9:30 am local Asmara, Eritrea’s time, 8 May 2025.
9. Ministry of Agriculture, Procurement and Supplies Management Division (PSMD)
10. Lidia Russom (Procurement officer)
11. Sawa Street, Asmara, Eritrea
12. Lidyarusomlidu1221@gmail.com
13. Tel Number: 00291181076/00291189266
14. Fax Number: 1048
15. Block number: 6
16. Room number: 8
17. Asmara, Eritrea
18. Bidders should be aware that late bids will not be accepted under any circumstances and will be returned unopened to the bidder. All bids must be accompanied by a bid securing deceleration.
1. Please note that electronic bids shall not be accepted as defined in ITB BDS 25.

Yours sincerely,

Lidia Russom
IADP Project Procurement officer
Ministry of Agriculture, Procurement and Supplies Management Division (PSMD)
Lidyarusomlidu1221@gmail.com
Asmara, Eritrea



Vacancy Announcement

Rida Engineering and Construction Co. Ltd. is seeking qualified professionals for the Kerkebet North Project.

1. Driller (1 Position)

- **Experience:** 8+ years
- **Responsibilities:**
 - Operate and maintain drilling rigs, ensuring smooth and safe drilling operations.
 - Monitor and record drilling parameters such as depth, pressure, and flow rates.
 - Troubleshoot and resolve mechanical or operational issues during drilling activities.
 - Ensure compliance with environmental regulations and safety standards.
- **Requirements:**
 - Strong mechanical aptitude and field experience in challenging environments.
 - Ability to perform maintenance and repairs on equipment.

Unique Requirements:

Qualifications	Knowledge and Experience	Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
Diploma or Technical College	8+ years in drilling operations	Proficiency in MS Office, drilling equipment knowledge, minimum 3 rd grade driver’s license	Strong communication skills in English
	Experience in challenging environments	Mechanical and troubleshooting skills	Ability to work in a team and under pressure

2. Drilling Supervisor (1 Position)

- **Experience:** 8+ years
- **Responsibilities:**
 - Lead, manage, and supervise a team of drillers, ensuring efficient and safe operations.
 - Oversee daily drilling activities and ensure all operations align with project plans and timelines.
 - Coordinate with other departments to ensure smooth operation and resolve any issues that arise.
 - Manage risks, implement preventive measures, and ensure safety compliance.
- **Requirements:**
 - Proven leadership skills and advanced drilling knowledge.
 - Excellent communication, decision-making, and problem-solving abilities.

Unique Requirements:

Qualifications	Knowledge and Experience	Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
Diploma or Technical College	8+ years in drilling and supervision	Proficiency in MS Office, drilling technology knowledge	Strong communication and leadership skills
	Experience in managing teams	Problem-solving and decision-making skills. minimum 3 rd grade driver’s license	Ability to work under pressure

3. Maintenance Technician (1 Position)

- **Experience:** 6+ years
- **Responsibilities:**
 - Perform scheduled preventive maintenance on drilling and exploration machinery.
 - Diagnose, troubleshoot, and repair mechanical and electrical issues.
 - Ensure all equipment operates smoothly to minimize downtime and maintain operations.
 - Adhere to safety standards and maintain accurate maintenance records.
- **Requirements:**
 - Strong mechanical and electrical troubleshooting skills.
 - Ability to work independently and handle physically demanding tasks.
 - Willingness to work in remote areas and challenging conditions.

Unique Requirements:

Qualifications	Knowledge and Experience	Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
Diploma or Technical College	6+ years in maintenance operations	Proficiency in MS Office, machinery repair skills	Effective communication skills in English
	Experience in mechanical and electrical maintenance	Ability to perform diagnostics on equipment. minimum 3 rd grade driver’s license	Independent and self-motivated

General Information and other requirements:

Place of work: Kerkebet North

Salary: as per company scale

Type of contract: Indefinite

Additional requirement for Nationals

Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provided evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defense

Candidates must be medically and physically fit.

Present clearance paper from current/last employer

Testimony documents to be attached (CV, work experience credentials, a copy of National ID etc.)

Only short listed candidates will be considered as potential candidates for an interview.

Application documents will not be returned to the sender.

Applications should be sent to the addresses provided below.

Dead line for application: 10 days from the day of publication in the newspaper.

Address:

Interested candidates should submit their detailed resume, including relevant work experience and qualifications, to **SA Building Office (Al Hashmi Building) No. 803** during working hours.

Tel: 112927, Fax: 07528434

Note to Eritrean Applicants: please send copy of your application to:

1. Aliens Employment Permits Affairs,
P.o.box 7940
Asmara, Eritrea.
2. Mineral Resources Management
P.o.box 272
Asmara, Eritrea.



Eritrea: the Struggle is Long, and Victory is Certain

Sabrina Solomon



What inspired you to write your second book, “The struggle is long, and victory is certain”?

It's the collective journey of the Eritrean people. We have undertaken numerous initiatives in the diaspora, including demonstrations and campaigns to defend and promote Eritrea, and I was chronicling that and writing articles that became the journals of Eritrea. Eventually, I wanted to write about the Eritrean people, and asked “How did these people come to America, Europe and other places?” When I started tracing the journey of the Eritrean people, I realized it all started in 1941 when the Italians were defeated by the British.

I did the research and learned about the United States' post World War II agenda and why they wanted to come to Africa. Initially, I thought it was going to be just a chapter but it ended up becoming a book -- “The History of the USA in Eritrea.” I found a lot of the information after it had been declassified and have put it together in a paper for young Eritreans and the future generation to read and understand their history.

While doing the research, I learned so much that instead of going back to doing the refugee stories, I ended up wanting to write about the Eritrean story.

What do you hope to achieve through the book?

As you know, our story is not told worldwide. So, I want every university in the world to get a copy of the Eritrean perspective. I want government representatives and law makers of other countries that judge Eritrea superficially to understand its history and the global context

Our guest today is Amanuel Biedemariam, an author and social media activist. His dream was to become a professional football player in Asmara, where he was born and raised, but he had to flee in the late 1970s due to the war, eventually settling in the United States. Now living in Washington, DC, Amanuel is a very active member of the Eritrean diaspora community. He is the author of The History of the USA in Eritrea and has recently published his second book Eritrea: the struggle is long, and victory is certain. Amanuel has also written numerous articles aimed at empowering Eritrean communities and advocating for various causes.

to be able to understand Eritrea. And I would like Eritreans to engage in distributing the books and making sure that they go to every library in the world so that Eritrea's true story is known.

The number one thing your enemies do in order to undermine you is to undermine your history. So we need to be able to tell our story to counter the negativity and we need to put the good stories in there to make sure that people understand..

In today's world, war is all about winning the narrative. How can the Eritrean people at home and in the diaspora contribute towards efforts to have control over their own story in a world dominated by narratives disseminated by the Western media?

We, Eritreans, are very well organized in the country and elsewhere in the world. But we need to organize our communities better to be able to create media and financial institutions from the ground up. Then our collective voice is going to be very powerful.

What would you say to young Eritreans in the diaspora to help them protect their identity?

We need to have more entertaining programs that focus on our culture to appeal to the young. It can be done through artistic works like music and drama. We need to make sure that the youth don't think that other stuff from other countries is better than theirs. It's their responsibility to develop theirs and put it in the world rather than becoming consumers of others' products and be taken advantage of. Eritrea is in a very strong position politically, financially, economically, militarily and in terms of security. We can do the media and the entertainment. This is a really good time to start.

As you know, books or documentary films on legendary Eritrean figures aren't common in Eritrea. What's your thought on this and what do you think should be done?

The very people that accomplished so much in Eritrea's history that I described in the book are too modest to come out and talk about their achievements. I think they have to tell the story as it is theirs and be able to create a perspective about it. I think we need to press for that and those legends should start writing.

We need to encourage people to tell their stories not only in our mother tongue but also in English.

Do you have plans for further engagement with Eritrean communities to expand the subject matter that is discussed in your book?

Writing encourages others to

write, and people are messaging me through social media inviting me for discussions to help one another in so many ways. I'm currently doing that, but we need to make it more formal and create a supporting network and encourage others to join. For instance, we can help by editing one another's works and grow together. We need to somehow institutionalize our relationship to be able to support people better.

It is very important that we create a platform for publishing and distribution. We are organized and have the possibilities to make it a reality. As a step towards that, I'll have both of my books translated into Tigrigna. And I would like the proceeds to go to war-disabled and veteran fighters. We would also like to expand Haben Eri globally to help Eritreans publish and distribute books. This way our stories and narratives could be distributed worldwide.

I am going to have a book

signing event at Hotel Asmara Palace and then go on a tour around the world. I hope people will be receptive.

Is there anything else you'd like to add, Amanuel?

Thank you for taking the time to talk to me. I am so happy and honored. This is a very important opportunity for Eritrea worldwide. This is the time for every Eritrean to come together. The Eritrean journey is the journey of victory. It is really amazing and people need to realize that. So, you should read the book, and I'll be available to engage with anybody that wants to. We have to be dedicated to getting our information out and empowering our youth with our history because the first thing that enemies do is destroy your history. So know your history, understand it, own it and promote it.

Thank you so much for your time. I wish you all the best.

