



PRESIDENT ISAIAS MET AND HELD TALKS WITH ITALIAN OFFICIALS

President Isaias Afwerki and his delegation, as part of their series of meetings with Italian officials and institutions, on 31 January and 1 February, met and held talks with several Italian officials.

During discussions with the Italian Minister of Enterprises, Minister of Sports and Youth, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and other institutional leaders, President Isaias highlighted Eritrea's commitment to enhancing its transportation infrastructure, water management, railways, irrigation farming, and energy sectors. He provided detailed updates on the advancements

expressed a keen interest in fostering cooperation in these areas to bolster economic and social development.

In the meeting with the Italian Minister of Sports and Youth, both parties agreed on initiatives to enhance infrastructure, scholarships, and facilitate experience sharing. They also agreed to draft, in the near future, a document outlining the understanding and future collaboration.

This series of meetings marks a significant step towards deepening the bilateral relations between Eritrea and Italy, with both nations looking forward to a future of shared



The Italian Ministry of Culture announced plans to establish a museum in Asmara to preserve these documents, aiming to bolster the historical connections between Italy and Eritrea.

The meeting also resulted in agreements to enhance and expand ongoing archaeological research and excavations in Adulis by Italian and Eritrean experts. The understanding also includes that Italian experts to travel to Eritrea to share their

expertise, provide training for Eritrean artists in music and arts, the organization of joint festivals, and the formation of a committee to oversee these initiatives.

They also agreed to conduct meetings in the near future and draft a document for mutual understanding.

Furthermore, President Isaias and his delegation held discussions with Mr. Antonio Paretti,

representative of Italian Agricultural Entrepreneurs. During this meeting, President Afwerki emphasized the importance of producing high-quality products and acquiring technological knowledge to enable Eritrean farmers export their goods, which would significantly benefit local agriculture.

President Isaias also highlighted Eritrea's rich agricultural potential and expressed a willingness to collaborate closely in this area.



made in water conservation and management.

Italian officials expressed significant interest in Eritrea's development and assured that they would encourage Italian businesses to explore opportunities.

President Isaias also elaborated on Eritrea's progress in various sectors, including fisheries, tourism, education, health services, mining, and natural resources. He emphasized the favorable investment climate in Eritrea and

growth and cooperation.

Meanwhile, President Isaias Afwerki and his delegation, in the evening hours of 30 January, met and held talks with Mr. Gennaro Sangiuliano, Minister of Culture.

At the meeting agreement was reached to have access to the national archives and obtain documents that Eritrea has been seeking especially regarding the files of the thousands of Eritreans that were unwillingly conscripted by Italy in its war in Libya and Ethiopia.

AWARDS TO OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

Bisha secondary school in Barentu gave awards to 36 outstanding students who demonstrated excellence in the eighth-grade and school leaving national examinations.

The awardees include students that scored 90 points and above in the eighth-grade national examination and those that scored from 3 to 4 GPA in the national school leaving examination.

Pointing out that the commendable performance of the students in the national examination has been the result of the strong effort on the part of the students, parents and teachers, Mr. Kahsu Fikre, director of the school, called on parents and stakeholders to strengthen participation for the continuity of the program.

Mr. Yemane Mehari, acting administrator of Barentu sub-zone, indicating that the objective of the award was in recognition of the effort carried out by the students and to motivate fellow students, called on the students to concentrate on their education and become competitive.

FUNERAL SERVICES FOR AMBASSADOR AHMED TAHIR BADURI

The funeral services for veteran fighter Ambassador Ahmed Tahir Baduri was held at Asmara Martyrs Cemetery in the presence of Ministers, senior Government and PFDJ officials, Army Commanders, family members, as well as a number of nationals.

Veteran fighter, Ambassador Baduri joined the EPLA in 1970 and served his nation and people with distinction as Commissioner in the EPLA, representative of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front in Aden, Kuwait and Sudan, head of information, as well as Secretariat at the Foreign Relation of the EPLF Central Committee.

Following Independence, Ambassador Barduri served his country and people as Commissioner of Commission for Eritrean Refugees, Commissioner for Investment and Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the

United Nations.

Ambassador Negasi Sengal on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Yemane Ghebreab, Head of Political Affairs of PFDJ, on behalf of the Front, Mr. Yemane Gebremeskel, Minister of Information, on behalf of the Ministry, and Ms. Zahra Ahmed Tahir Baduri, daughter of the veteran fighter, laid wreath on the

tomb of the late veteran fighter.

Member of the National Assembly, veteran freedom fighter Ambassador Ahmed Tahir Baduri passed away on 30 January at the age of 78 due to illness.

Veteran Fighter Ambassador Ahmed Tahir Baduri is survived by his wife and two children.



LOCAL NEWS

ERITREAN NATIONALS ORGANIZE PUBLIC DIPLOMACY MEETINGS



Eritrean nationals in Stockholm, Sweden, and Kuwait convened for public diplomacy meetings on January 21 and 26, 2024, respectively, to discuss community engagement and national affairs.

In Stockholm, Mr. Idris Taha, Chairman of the PFDJ organization, addressed the annual gathering, highlighting the significant efforts made to enhance organizational capacity and expand membership. Emphasizing the deep-rooted history of the Peoples Front as intertwined with Eritrean generations, Mr. Taha urged members to preserve and pass down this legacy while remaining vigilant against external hostilities.

The Stockholm meeting also included a presentation of the 2022/2023 activity report and featured in-depth discussions. Additionally, a new executive

committee comprising five members was elected to lead future initiatives.



Mr. Sirak Bahlibi, Head of Public and Community Affairs at the Eritrean Embassy, echoed the

call for increased organizational strength and active participation in national affairs.

Similarly, during the Kuwait meeting, Mr. Humed Yahya Hali, Eritrea's Charge d'Affaires in Kuwait, provided a comprehensive update on Eritrea's current situation, along with regional and international developments. Mr. Hali highlighted Eritrea's resilience in overcoming various external challenges and noted the positive progress in development efforts.

Mr. Salim Abdulkerim Safi, Chairman of the Eritrean Community in Kuwait, pledged to enhance community involvement

and strengthen participation and contribution for national development programs.

COMMENDABLE SOCIAL SERVICE PROVISION

At an activity assessment meeting conducted in the port city of Massawa on 29 and 30 January, it was reported that in 2023 commendable progress has been registered in the implementation of development programs, use of social services especially on potable water supply.

According to the reports presented by the heads of departments, sub-zonal administrators, heads of line ministries and others, over 88 thousand water catchment schemes have been renovated as part of the soil and water conservation effort. The reports also indicated that extensive construction of terraces and water diversion schemes have been constructed and the construction of four dams in Afabet and Ghinda sub-zones has been finalized.

The reports further noted that the desert locust invasion that has been detected in the month of June and cross border locust invasion that was observed in October was put into control with integrated effort on the part of the residents and agricultural experts.

Regarding education sector, schools in Gelalo sub-zone have been renovated, five schools have been constructed in the remote areas of the sub-zone and class rooms for hearing impaired students have been constructed in Nakfa and Ghinda sub-zones.

The meeting also discussed on the strengths and challenges encountered in the health service provision including mother and child treatment, vaccination programs and efforts to control communicable diseases among others.

As regards to social welfare programs, the report indicated that about 13.6 million Nakfa has been disbursed to families of martyrs, 1.7 million Nakfa contributed by workers of the National Insurance Corporation of Eritrea and other Government employees was distributed to disadvantaged families.

Speaking at the occasion, Ms. Asmeret Abraha, Governor of the region, said that encouraging progress has been registered in the implementation of the charted out development program and especially in soil and water conservation and construction of water reservoirs through integrated efforts on the part of the concerned institutions, the public and members of the Popular Forces.

At the event, Ms. Fauzia Hashim, Minister of Justice, gave extensive briefing on the activities implemented by the ministry in 2023 and programs for 2024.

REGULAR MEETING OF NRS REGION ASSEMBLY

The Northern Red Sea Region Assembly convened its 19th regular meeting on 31 January and 1 February in the port city of Massawa. The assembly's focus was on reviewing the achievements and challenges of the past year, as well as setting a direction for future development efforts.

Mr. Ibrahim Ali Sheik, in his annual report, highlighted the region's initiatives in 2023, emphasizing the need for increased community involvement in ongoing development programs. He urged Assembly members to inspire their constituents to actively participate in these initiatives, which span across various sectors including water supply, health, education, agriculture, and environmental conservation.

the progress and obstacles of the previous year's projects. Notable among these were efforts to ensure access to potable water, the enhancement of health and educational services, agricultural advancements, and soil and water conservation activities. The Assembly also acknowledged the community's significant contributions to the refurbishment of health and educational facilities, support for families of martyrs and

underprivileged citizens, and the campaign against detrimental practices.

The participants conducted extensive discussion on the report presented and adopted various recommendations including further mobilizing public engagement in developmental and environmental conservation efforts, promoting sports, improving social service facilities, addressing water

scarcity issues, and reinforcing the greening campaign.

Speaking at the event, Ms. Asmeret Abraha, Governor of the region, underscored the importance of upcoming projects for 2024. Special attention will be given to repairing agricultural infrastructure damaged by erosion and other factors, marking a significant step towards sustainable development in the region.



ERITREA PROFILE

Published Every Wednesday & Saturday

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The Assembly also examined

An Important Chapter of the Eritrean Story

Dr. Fikrejesus Amahazion

Earlier this past week, President Isaias Afwerki, and his delegation, attended the Africa-Italy Summit. The gathering, held in Rome under the theme, “A Bridge for Common Growth” and drawing leaders and representatives from 45 African nations, focused on fostering partnership and cooperation across various areas including, economy and infrastructure, food security, energy security and transition, vocational training, and culture.

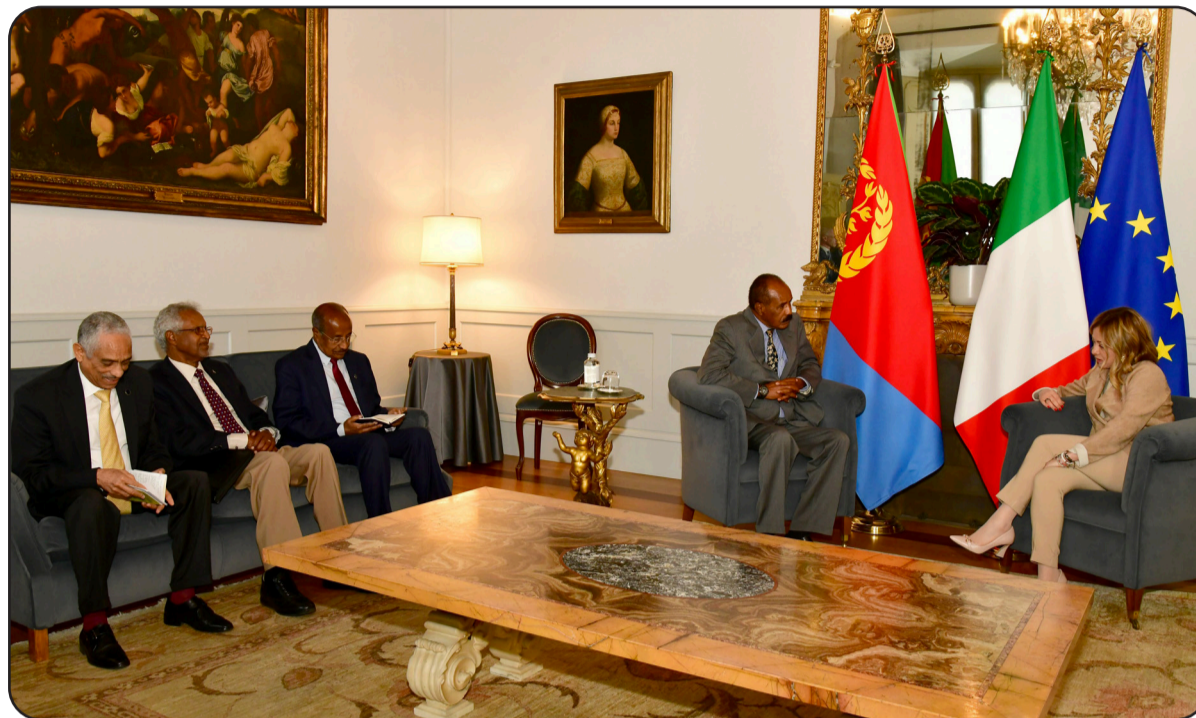
During one of many meetings with Italian officials and representatives, President Isaias highlighted important aspects of Eritrea’s history, particularly Italian colonial rule over the country and subsequent British military administration.

This article delves a bit deeper into this period, which although extremely important and relevant – both to the present and to the country’s national identity – is sometimes overlooked or forgotten.

Looking back at an important chapter of Eritrea’s history

Located in the volatile Horn of Africa and possessing a long, pristine coastline on the Red Sea, Eritrea is a country with a rich, complex, and turbulent history. Prior to Italian colonial period, over a duration of several centuries, different parts and regions within what is now regarded as Eritrea were ruled or repeatedly invaded and pillaged by the Ottoman Turks, the Egyptians, and various warriors, feudal lords, and kings from areas in what later emerged as present-day Ethiopia and Sudan.

By the late 19th century, the Italians had begun to purchase and lay claim to parts of the country, steadily penetrating from the coastal areas into the interior highlands in their aim to establish a settler colonial state. Italian colonization of Eritrea, in the words of G.K.N. Trevaskis, “was connived at and, indeed encouraged by the British, who saw in the development of Italian influence in the Red Sea a useful counter to the French.” Eventually, on 1 January 1890, Italy’s King Umberto proclaimed Eritrea as Italy’s “colonia primogenita (first-born colony)”, with Massawa, a historic port city, declared as its capital. (Asmara would be made



the Eritrean capital in 1897 – a status that it has retained until present.)

Over the next half century, Eritrea remained firmly under the grip of Italian colonial rule. However, the period also sparked rapid socioeconomic transformation, urbanization, and significant industrial progress, including the construction of modern port facilities, health centers, airports, workshops and factories, roads, railways, communication facilities that were among the best in Africa, and other infrastructure. This economic drive was prompted essentially to benefit and for the purposes of the relatively huge Italian settler community which numbered around 70,000 at its peak.

An illustrative look is provided in a book written by Brigadier Stephen H. Longrigg, a civilian who served as chief administrator of the British Military Administration in Eritrea from 1942 to 1944 (and also engaged in deceitful actions aiming to impede Eritrea’s prospects for independence). In his book, *A Short History of Eritrea*, published in 1945, he describes Eritrea as, “highly developed,” and as having, “superb roads, a railway, airports, a European city as its capital, [and] public services up to European standards.” Similarly, other scholars expressed that, “In 1935 Asmara was the most modern and progressive city in Italian East Africa.”

Eritrea remained an Italian colony until April 1941, when the British-led Allied victory over Fascist Italy at the famous Battle of Keren, extending from 5 February to 1 April, led to the dissolution of

the Africa Orientale Italiana – the Italian East African Empire. With the demise of Italian colonial rule, Eritrea was placed under a British caretaker military administration pending an international decision on its long-term fate.

The British forces, led by Lieutenant General (Lt. Gen.) William Platt, had promised forcibly-conscripted Eritreans independence if they would help their forces defeat the Italians, who were led by Lt. Gen. Luigi Frusci. Once the latter had been defeated, the British reneged. As part of a propaganda campaign targeting Eritrean troops, the British even produced and distributed leaflets which declared, “Eritreans! You deserve to have a flag!...This is the honourable life for the Eritrean: to have the guts to call his people a Nation.”

Subsequently, as so-called war compensation, the British proceeded to dismantle many industries and most of the infrastructure that had been developed in Eritrea. What is more, the period of British administration in Eritrea was marked by countless British interventions and underhanded attempts to sow local division, instigate havoc, and fragment Eritrea in a variety of ways, including through political sabotage and stoking violence.

This skulduggery, a key element of British practice across its far flung colonies and territories, was planned and implemented to portray Eritrea as internally fragmented, economically weak, and unviable as independent – all with the ultimate aim of ensuring that Britain’s recommendations

to the international community regarding the quashing of Eritrea’s sovereignty and independence would be accepted.

In the end, following a drawn-out international deliberation process that sought to determine the fate of Italy’s former colonies, on 2 December 1950, UN Resolution 390A(V), passed by the United Nations General Assembly, under US tutelage, extinguished Eritreans’ hopes and aspirations for independence, linking Eritrea in a bogus federation with Ethiopia.

The United States (US) determined, within the context of the emerging geopolitics of the Cold War, that its strategic military interests and foreign policy aims could be better protected and served by federating Eritrea with Ethiopia, an increasingly close ally and key partner for America in the fight against the Soviet-led spread of communism in Africa. As was so unambiguously explained by John Foster Dulles, then the US Secretary of State, in a well-known and (in)famous September 1952 speech to the UN Security Council (UNSC) shortly before the resolution was to come into effect,

“From the point of justice, the opinions of the Eritrean people must receive consideration.

Nevertheless, the strategic interest of the United States in the Red Sea basin and considerations of security and world peace make it necessary that the country be linked with our ally, Ethiopia.”

During a large luncheon organized to celebrate the resolution, the Ethiopia emperor even publicly thanked the American ambassador

to Ethiopia, and it was widely and gratefully acknowledged that the UN decision was largely down to the influence and efforts of the US.

Over the next decade, Ethiopia’s imperial regime, led by Haile Selassie, systematically violated numerous terms of the international resolution and worked to steadily dismantle the federal arrangement. Finally, in November 1962, Haile Selassie fully dissolved the Eritrean parliament under force of arms and annexed Eritrea, proclaiming it as the empire’s “fourteenth province”.

Rather than representing a fatal blow, however, the move by the imperial regime only inspired greater nationalism among Eritreans and served to give further impetus to Eritrea’s nascent armed struggle for independence, which had emerged in September 1961. During the following three decades, Eritrea’s independence fighters – receiving little external aid or support, and being largely ignored, if not opposed outright, by the international community – battled first American- and then Soviet-backed Ethiopian regimes in a bloody, protracted struggle.

In 1991, after one of the longest national wars for liberation in modern African history that exacted the precious sacrifice of over 60,000 of Eritrea’s best sons and daughters; numerous more injuries; and much devastation and destruction; Eritrea defeated Africa’s largest, best-equipped army and finally won its freedom. Two years later, in 1993, Eritrea was formally welcomed into the international community of nations as Africa’s 52nd nation-state following an internationally monitored referendum in which Eritreans voted overwhelmingly in favor of independence.

History informs the present and the future

History does not remain history. It is revelatory: the past teaches us about the present. And, of course, it can inform our future. What is more, for collectives, such as families, communities, and nations, learning and understanding one’s own history is vital to ensuring a common identity and retaining pride in their heritage. Indeed, as has often been stated: “A people that lack knowledge of their history and culture is like a tree that has no roots.”



The Evidence of Oligocene Elephants from Eritrea

Elephants are massive mammals. They can reach a height of about 3 - 4 meters and a weight of 4,000 -7,000 kilograms. These gigantic creatures are known for their thick bodies, stocky legs, floppy ears, trunks, and tusks. Those big ears help elephants stay cool in hot, dry conditions. Their trunks serve as a fifth limb, which they use to breathe, grasp objects, lift water, and even suckle for comfort. There are approximately 40,000 muscles in the elephant's trunk alone, giving him exceptional flexibility and maneuverability. The skeleton of an elephant is made up of 326–351 bones. Over 99 percent of all terrestrial mammals have hair, but elephants are bald.

The earflaps are enormous, especially in the African variety, which has the largest Earflaps of any animal in history. The main reason is that elephants live in some of the hottest climates on earth, and their bodies produce enormous heat. Although they have adjusted their thermostats to reduce the heat output of their cells, it is still not enough. Baldness helps them eliminate heat faster, but that is also not enough. Hence, the vast earflaps function as a cooling device. The elephant ears are loaded with blood vessels, mainly where the skin is thin. This allows for faster heat dissipation, helping to keep the animal cooler when temperatures seem impossibly hot. East African elephants flocking in groups alongside a river.

Elephants are herbivores that live in many different habitat types, from savannah to marsh to forest. They are considered keystone species due to their impact on the environment in which they live. They have the longest-known pregnancy of any living mammal. Mothers carry their babies for 22 months in the womb and then care for their babies for several years after birth. Elephants have been known to communicate via touch, sight, smell, and sound. Over long distances, they can use seismic communication - or vibrations made by stomping their feet - to communicate dangers to other herd members.

Elephants usually have 26 teeth: the incisors, the tusks, 12 deciduous premolars, and 12 molars. Unlike most mammals, which grow baby teeth and

then replace them with a single permanent set of adult teeth, elephants are polyphyodonts that have cycles of tooth rotation throughout their lives.

In general, there are two recognized subspecies of elephants - the African elephant and the Asian elephant, with the greatest difference being their physical location. African elephants are scattered throughout sub-Saharan Africa, while Asian elephants are found in southern and southeastern Asia. Among African elephants, the forest form is smaller than the savannah form.

Brief Evolution of Elephants

Proboscideans (a relative of the modern elephant)) have been a part of the Afro Arabian landscape since at least the early Eocene, ~55 Mya. "Proboscidea" is a Greek word that means "having a nose". Over 350 Proboscidea have been identified as having existed over the last 50 million years. Elephantidae is the only surviving family of the order Proboscidea; other, now-extinct members include deinotheres, gomphotheres, mammoths, and mastodons. The only areas where Proboscidea was not found to have been home to at least some of these species are Antarctica and Australia. Most of these species are extinct, leaving only the Asian Elephant, African Savanna Elephant (the world's largest land mammal), and African Forest Elephant.

The evolutionary tree of proboscidea, a taxonomic group that unites all elephantid lineages and mammoth and mastodon species, can now be constructed with higher certainty than ever before.

Two distinct clades seem to have formed 6 million years ago. The first clade included the hypothetical ancestor of savanna and forest elephants. The two seem to have diverged sometime during the miocene-pliocene transition 5 million years ago.

The second clade consists of the, Asian elephant and the now-extinct woolly mammoth. It is important to note that these two diverged from their common clade later than savanna and forest elephants diverged from theirs, making them genetically closer to

each other than the two species of *Loxodonta*.

With only two living species left, the African (*Loxodonta africana*) and the Asian (*Elephas maximus*), it is hard to believe that this order, the proboscidea, was once one of the most successful mammal groups on earth. While they originated in Africa, the proboscidea conquered almost every continent. They are known for their ability to adapt to various environments, which has allowed them to evolve and survive till the present. They are still considered one of the most adaptable animals in the world. Some lived in the rainforests, while others resided in the desert. The pieces of evidence from the fossil sites of Dogali and Kudo-Felassi (in Eritrea) and the Chilga site (in Ethiopia) are the only known late Oligocene mammal sites from the whole of Africa.

The Evolution tree of the elephant family is based on evidence of fossils.

The discovery of fossil mammals on the coastal and highlands of Eritrea represents the earliest evidence for today's favorite African mammals, the elephants. These evidences are known from two prominent sites: the Dogali (near the port city of Massawa) and Kudo-Felassi (Mendefera). These sites preserved fossil evidence of a primitive Proboscidea, a very old relative of modern elephants.

Scientists know that early elephant evolution occurred entirely in Africa, and these new fossils from Eritrea provided new evidence on the early phases of the evolutionary history of these fascinating animals. Such ancestral early elephants were much smaller than today's African elephants, reaching about 1000 kg in body size. This elephant species thrived in the Miocene from the Arabian land mass to Africa; during this period, Africa and Arabia were still joined as a single continent. This period is part of the African mammalian evolutionary history, which is substantially unknown to science.

Dogali Elephants

In November 2006, a team led by the late Paleontologist Dr. Jeheskel Shoshani published in the online Journal of Proceedings

of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) a stunning discovery of fossil remains of an extinct Elephant species from the site of Dogali (locality of Wedeg Melatse Farm) near the port city of Massawa. According to these researchers, this extinct elephant belongs to a late Oligocene proboscidean species, dated to ~27 Million years. Throughout Africa, there is a gap in the proboscidean record in the late Oligocene, 34 to 24 million years ago. Whenever there is a gap in the record, it's significant when you find specimens from that period. These specimens date from precisely the time when there is a gap. In this account, the discovery of the Eritrean Elephant taxon points to the importance of East Africa as a significant area for the knowledge of the early evolution of Elephants before the faunal exchange between Eurasia and Africa. Also, it helps to understand better the biogeographical inferences of early proboscidean radiation between Africa and Arabia.

Restoration of Eritrean *melakeghebrekristosi* from Dogali (small individual) and the more significant individual *Gomphotherium angustidens*, an extinct genus of proboscidean that evolved in the Early Miocene of North America.

An Eritrean farmer discovered the fossil jawbones belong to a "missing link" species that connects modern elephants to their ancient ancestors. These fossil bone fragments belong to an animal in the order Proboscidea (large mammals with trunks), which is the same order that includes living elephants. The name Eritreum represents the name of the nation of Eritrea, and *Melakeghebrekristosi* is in honor of the farmer, Melake Ghebrekristos, who found the specimen and realized its importance. Therefore, the researchers named the new elephant species *Eritreum melakeghebrekristosi*.

This is a small-sized elephantiform proboscidean. The molars are smaller than those of all other early elephantiform proboscideans. The jawbone pieces were discovered with teeth in place, allowing researchers to hypothesize that the animal replaced its teeth through horizontal tooth displacement—the same "conveyor belt" style seen in living elephants.

If this theory is correct, *E. melakeghebrekristosi* would be the earliest known proboscidean to exhibit this characteristic. The size of the teeth is another indication of the intermediate evolutionary stage of the species. These fossil specimens are currently housed at the National Museum of Eritrea paleontological laboratory in Asmara.

Present times

Today, elephants, both the African and Asian species, are some of the most critically endangered creatures on earth. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) lists African elephants as vulnerable, while the Asian elephant is considered endangered. In Africa, where they were prevalent south of the Sahara, their range and numbers have shrunk as human population, development, and poaching have increased. By the early 1980s, approximately 1.3 million African elephants were in the wild. As Ivory became more valuable, an indiscriminate killing of elephants occurred, and by the end of that decade, 80% of the African elephant population had been decimated.

What about in Eritrea? Recent research on Eritrean Elephants shows that only about 100 elephants persist in the Gash-Barka administrative zone. The study reports that Eritrean Elephants are the most completely isolated species, with no gene flow from other elephant populations. They are mostly savanna elephants, with closer genetic affinity to Eastern than North Central savanna elephant populations. Today, habitat loss is a great threat to Eritrean elephants and faces their existence. As a result, human-elephant conflicts have increased over the years as humans have encroached more and more upon elephant habitats and migratory routes. Researchers recommend, in addition to the conservation activities underway with the collaboration of the government and the public to protect Eritrean elephants and their habitat, it important to note the need for restoration of habitat connectivity and genetic diversity as long-term goals.

Lighter Side

The folly of Pleasing Current Wants At the Expense of the Future

Simon Weldemichael

I found last Sunday's episode of *Etmet*, a weekly Tigre language television sitcom aired on Eri-TV, refreshingly enlightening about the harmful effects of bad consumer behavior. In the story, one family likes to spend more than the income it earns believing that all that they have to worry about is satisfying their current desires and God knows about the future. The family devotes a great deal of time, energy and money to buying based on a view of life that the more you spend the better life gets. They spend so much money on food and clothing that they have no money left for emergency. They consider thrift antithetical to wellbeing and happiness. At the other end, there is a family that has a different consumer behavior. This family sets its priorities in such a way that it can reduce unnecessary expenses. It is not wise, for this family, to consume goods and services in excess of its basic needs.

The episode reflects the consumer behavior of the Eritrean society. It demonstrates the stark contrast between the lives of those that squander their money and those that spend their money with great prudence. The purpose of the episode is to advise the public to avoid spending their money unwisely.

Generally, we tend to ridicule someone who manages his money carefully and refer to him as "someone that has a spider in his pocket," implying that he doesn't put his hand in his pocket often enough to take out money to spend. The Tigrigna proverb *ጽባሕ ዝብል ኣየጽብሓሉ*, which is roughly translated as "May those who worry about tomorrow not live to see the next day," and *ካብ ንዓመታ ደርሆ ሎሚ እንጃቁሉ*, roughly translated as "better have an egg today than a hen the following year" demonstrate the philosophy of life and economic understanding of the people.

It is common for people to spend a lot of money on religious and cultural festivals, wedding ceremonies, baptism, and rituals associated with death. The expenditure is very much exaggerated that it is



undermining the social and cultural meaning and significance of the ceremonies. It is true that ceremonies play a significant in bringing people together and consolidating relationships, but the way they are being held is cause for concern and need to be reevaluated. Attempts made by government authorities, religious leaders and elders to encourage people to spend less on feasts have not yet brought about the desired effect.

Saving constitutes an important component of economics. Important personalities in the field of economics such as Keynes have studied extensively the motives for saving that help to improve the economic wellbeing of people. One of the eight motives Keynes states is "to build up a reserve against unforeseen contingencies." Saving increases our sense of independence and the power to do things in times of need. Insufficient savings may expose individuals and households to financial vulnerability. There is a widely circulated saying that "it's much harder to manage than to earn money." There is doubt that we work to earn money, but money is a means not an end by itself. Therefore, we must understand the value of money and know how to utilize it to have a better and secure future. The financial stability and independence of an individual and a family is determined by, among other things, the amount of income and management skills.

People are inclined to consume more believing that personal wellbeing and happiness depend, to a large extent, on the level of personal consumption, particularly on the purchase of material goods. The idea is that someone's wellbeing

depends upon a standard of living above some threshold, and that at the center of happiness is consumption and material possessions. Many people seem to have taken it as a rule to increase their consumption whenever their income increases although there are few whose consumption habits don't change regardless of increases in their income.

During the past couple of decades the Eritrean society has gone through transformations that affect consumer behavior. An increase in the number of the youth who work in government organizations,

remittance, incessant exposure to advertisements and the use of communication technology are some of the factors that are causing the consumer behavior. Many goods that are now taken for granted were luxuries not long ago.

There is a correlation between saving and investment. Saving enables us to make investments in order to achieve economic growth. The reliable source of investment is saving. Some people transform their savings from cash to fixed capital such as a house. This relationship also works at the national level. A government with high expenditure can't have sufficient resources for investment. Therefore, it is important for governments to make sacrifices in current consumption to have capital accumulation that can be used for investments and to address uncertainties in the future.

The choices individuals and families make about how to use their savings are fundamental

determinants of national savings. Therefore, a careful decision is extremely needed on our consumption, the satisfaction of current wants, and savings. Saving influences someone's ability to effectively navigate the future. And for this reason it is imperative to make a smart choice on the trade-offs between satisfying wants now and later. Individuals and households face various uncertainties that affect their welfare, and in the face of such uncertainties saving provides some sort of redemptive resource.

It is true that it's impossible to have a life devoid of consumption. However, present day consumption habits seem to be exceeding people's income, leading people to the pursuit of happiness of today at the expense of tomorrow. Happiness should not be defined in terms of abundance and indulgence. As a society it is incumbent upon us to spend in moderation and lead secure lives and contribute towards our national development.

"When I am dancing . . .

Continued from page 8

What resemblance have you noticed between your country and ours?

I am honored to be given such an opportunity that only started as a dream. This opportunity has a bigger assignment that I would like to share not only with the dancers but also with the country. I believe that we have a lot of similarities. In terms of loving our culture, you and us love our culture so much to represent it well; we don't want to compromise when we are presenting it to other countries because we want them to understand exactly what it is. When it comes to cultural diplomacy, discipline is very important. When it comes to history, Eritrea managed to fight and end up being independent just like the youth of 1976 in our country were trying to achieve.

You are able to manage your own resources, and all of you are like

securities for your country. You are protective and the beautiful thing about it is that it is a zero crime country, and that is rare. I don't think there is any other place except Asmara, Eritrea. When I get to tell other people about this they always say that I am lying because most of us are so used to social illnesses as there is a lot happening in the world. I have also noticed that you can just ride your bicycle with no pressure and bump to a minister. I believe that's what we've lost, simplicity. And I believe the cause for this is that we have allowed ourselves to be dominated by social media.

What are your next moves in relation to this program in particular?

I am grateful to work with a large group that is humble and willing to learn. I would really like it to be a long term one as this could become one of the greatest starts for us. Like I highlighted, in South Africa we have a lot of musicals,

and growing it here would mean bringing other team members that will also come toward pro and live the experience because you do have theatres like Cinema Roma. It can't always be international people that come and perform for different occasions. It would be great to have one big special musical show that is homed here and when they grow enough after taking all the information and experience, they can also pass the information as skills transfer. The exchange program is one of the game changers. Nobody is better; we're all the same regardless of where we come from. We're all trying to include our identity and show it in a way of storytelling, through dance. I believe that cooperate companies, politics, sports have played their parts but when it comes to dance have we mastered that? That's where I am trying to come in with that angle. My vision is to keep skill transfer as a long term an engagement as possible. It should never be stopped in one trip. I really would like to see it grow.

Thank you for your time, Nubaini.



ASMARA MINING SHARE COMPANY
 Abo Street, No. 178, House No. 16
 Gejeret, P.O. Box 10688
 Tel. ++291-1-153986

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Asmara Mining Share Company is inviting applicants for the following position;

Concentrate Logistics Supervisor
 Number required – (01)
 Type of contract – Indefinite

Major Duties and responsibilities.

- Oversee, and manage the inbound and outbound retainer movements to and from Debarwa and Emba Derho Mine at Massawa Port.
- Liaises with the Linesmen and Stevedore crews.
- Supervision
- Fuel Station

Oversee, and manage the inbound and outbound retainer movements to and from Asmara Mine at Massawa Port.

- Once movements are 100% correct, confirms this with designated counterpart based at Asmara Mine for data entry into “mineman”.
- Ensures that records of specific containers loaded are correct.
- Authorize after appropriate checking of the shift receipts of consumables and fuel issued.

Liaises with the Linesmen and Stevedore crews.

- Ensure that each shipment is correctly prepared for and booked to match Ship arrival ETA, so that the areas in front of berths 5 and 6 are clear, so that loading operations may start on time.
- The Vessel Stow Plan to be provided and distributed to the Stevedore Supervisor before ship loading starts.
- Assists Logistics Manager with Negotiations for any “last minute” changes to the stevedores, in order to maximize load rates and minimize demurrage costs. BSMC to receive a rebate from owners for achieving a faster load time than allocated.

Supervision

- Reports any accident to the Safety & Health Department.
- Ensure all staff comply with Asmara Mine and Port Health & Safety standards at all times.
- Attending and supervising the stevedoring during ship loading on a 24/7 rotating basis with Peers

FUEL STATION

- Manage the issuing and accurate recording of fuel issued to Asmara Port Equipment and LV’s and as well as the Trans horn concentrate and general cargo trucks.
- Provide a daily summary to the Administration assistant of fuel issuance and a delivery order to each Trans horn truck once refueled and loaded with a container empty or full.

Qualifications and Experience

Formal Education, Certifications or Equivalents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 12 • Degree / Diploma in Business / Supply Chain Management is an advantage
Working Experience – Nature & Length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 - 10 years Logistics/Port experience (Stevedoring essential) • Customs knowledge and experience (Customs Permit will be an advantage) • Clearing and Forwarding and shipping Experience
Technical Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer Literacy (MS Office – Intermediate, Excel – Advanced) • Supervisory Skills • Numeracy Skills • Administration skill • Planning, Analysis and problem solving • Analytical Thinking ability • Logistics/port skills
Behavioral Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication (English; local language; Arabic) • Interpersonal skill • Decision making

General Information and other requirements:

- Place of Work:** Massawa
- Type of contract:** Indefinite Period
- Salary:** As per the Company salary scale

Additional requirements for Nationals:

- Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provide evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defense.
- Present clearance paper from current/last employer.
- Testimonial documents to be attached (CV, work experience credentials, a copy of your National Identity Card, etc.).
- Only shortlisted applicants would be considered as potential candidates for an interview.
- Application documents will not be returned to the sender.
- All applications should be sent through the post office.
- Deadline for application: 7 days from the day of publication in the Newspaper.

- Address: Please mail your applications to;**
 Asmara Mining Share Company,
 P. O. Box 10688 Asmara, Eritrea

- Applicants shall be required to send a copy to:**
 Mineral Resources Management
 P.O. Box – 272
 Asmara

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



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 Abo Street, No. 178, House No. 16
 Gejeret, P.O. Box 10688
 Tel. ++291-1-153986

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Asmara Mining Share Company is inviting applicants for the following position;

Port Equipment Maintenance Supervisor
 Number required – (01)
 Type of contract – Indefinite

Major Duties and responsibilities.

- Planning
- Implementation
- Reporting
- Supervise/Manage team

Planning

- Responsible for forecasting and planning of maintenance and repairs of all allocated Equipment.
- Makes use of “Planned Maintenance Schedule”. (Planned Task Document Observation).
- Tracks the use of maintenance and repair parts and orders accordingly.

Implementation of the Plan

- Identify the highest priority for each week and focus on completing relevant tasks.
- Ensures good housekeeping.
- Ensures maintenance and repairs of Maintenance Equipment are carried out in an efficient and effective way in order to minimize downtime, possibly effecting production.
- Performs regular inspections in order to detect potential problems before they cause breakdowns.
- Controls downtime by ensuring the best techniques are being used to repair breakdowns.
- Ensure safety requirements are fulfilled at the work place, including leading Field Level Risk Assessment (FLRA) and proper use of the appropriate PPE. Report any safety issues/incidents.
- Comply with AMSC’S cardinal rules and other Port safety, environmental or other rules and standards as directed. Identifies any hazards in the work place.
- Maintains equipment; parts and supply stocks by carrying out regular stock takes and ordering replacements as required.

Writing Reports & Data Control

- Compile daily; progress reports for the department. (Action Tracker)

Supervise team

- Provide technical support/motivation for the team, by supervising various activities.
- Provide training for the team (especially safety standards and procedures); schedules technical training.
- Conducts daily “Tool Box” meetings with the team.
- Manages time and attendance.

Qualifications and Experience

Formal Education, Certifications or Equivalents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 12 for locals (Technical School) • Technical College Mechanical Diploma • Candidate must be physically medically fit • Must be able to work outside exposed to Heat, wind and dusty environments • Must be able to work at Heights • Must have Driver’s License minimum Code 2
Working Experience – Nature & Length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5+ years minimum relevant experience working with Gottwald Harbor Cranes and Kalmar Mobile port Equipment
Technical Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer Literacy (MS Office – Intermediate,) • Attention to detail • Analytical skill • Mechanical & Maintenance experience • Problem solving skill • Supervisory experience
Behavioral Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication • Interpersonal Relations • Prioritizing skills & multi-skilling • Ability to work towards strict deadlines • High level of accuracy • Self-motivation

General Information and other requirements:

- Place of Work: Massawa
- Type of contract: Indefinite Period
- Salary: As per the Company salary scale

Additional requirements for Nationals:

- Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provide evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defense.
- Present clearance paper from current/last employer.
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- Note to Eritrean applicants:**
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“When I am dancing I feel alive” Nubaini

Luwam Kahsay H.

Tell us how you were introduced to art.

Before embarking on performing arts, I wanted to develop my career in human resource management, but it didn't go as well as I intended. Luckily, though, I already had a talent that I had developed since my early childhood, when I was five years old. I have been performing in church communities. I've done different musical shows in Sarafina, the Broadway hit musical performed all over the world, and other big ones in South Africa. I've worked with legends, highly respected directors who have made an impact not only in South Africa but also around the world.

One of the biggest musicals that I have done is with African Umoja, a musical and theatrical show group, as a lead singer and a dancer. The group came to Asmara in 2011.

I have performed with the biggest theatre show called

We educate the public by taking serious issues. It is like history being shared. What we do is not different from reading a book. You never go back home without grasping something out of what is shared. I am not into classical contemporary because I believe as Africans it is us who must take what is African to the world to see? I am here to share my journey as authentic and honest as possible from what I have experienced, and for me to learn back from them as an African not to grow something which is not originally ours. If not we will be departing from who we are. I am here to facilitate not to teach. Anything that you are passionate about doesn't become heavy on you. Therefore, I believe musical theatre shows are one of sharing of our passions in our own ways. We understand one another when it comes to what is that we like to achieve.

What is the objective and final expectation of “Dance to Unite”?

I am passionate about youth development because the future

already gained. You can come and develop some young people and see what comes out of it. When it comes to our youth in South Africa, we own up the current issues that we have. We can also imagine this getting to grow and the very same youth we are working with start taking issues like that through a performance, which I believe is very interesting and a proof that art is still alive. It is more like a therapeutic thing done by the director's way because that's what art is supposed to do. It is supposed to heal and unify people.

A person can come and sing next to me in Tigrinya and I don't understand, but I still receive the song warmly. It is an exchange from an African to an African -- my giving them what I have from the experience I have drawn all over the world, and their sharing of what they have gained on their part. It is more like an exchange program of what they have and what we have and uniting them and see what comes out of it.

So “Dance to Unite program”



Nubaini Saba is a 2021 Naledi Theater Awards winner for costume designing in South Africa. She has a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, majoring in marketing and human resources management. Nubaini, mother of an eight-year-old girl, works as a director, script writer, choreographer, stage manager, a dancer and an all-rounded performer. She has been performing for over a decade and is currently working with

Eritrean dancers on a project named “Dance to Unite.”

What is special about this project?

For me, it is all about authenticity. I believe everything reciprocates back to you because what you fake always bites you

and absorb as much information as possible for yourself to grow as well.

Normally you see a one-year-old dancing as you can see a 90-year-old do so. Why do you think that is?

It is the beat within us that originates from the heart. Even the heart, on its own, has the clock, the beat and the timing when you move. It is like that dynamic that makes people open their eyes and look at you. I believe it has its own thing. Dance has a way of showing who you are. You can see the most introverted person flying, when put on the stage, with hundreds of people wanting to jump on them, But after the performance they become a different person, it is as if they have shrunk. That energy they had at that time had a way of bringing life. As I am one of these type of a person, I feel alive when I am dancing, that I am here for a better purpose. Our program can also be considered as dancing to change lives. As it is a discipline on its own, it can help people develop character and confidence. It is a tool that unifies dance cultures, connecting people to become one. It is positive with its own vibe helping you to overcome your fears and shyness. It helps you to conquer the world through energy exchange among you and the rest of the world.



“Freedom the Musical,” which is not that much different from Sarafina. It highlights recent issues like gender-based violence and women being raped by leaders who call themselves comrades. It is an educational music covering all kinds of issues South Africans were facing. The energy is high and the music is great. Our work is so great we have received 12 nominations for awards and we received an award for the best arrangement of music. The latest work I am working on is “Schiarazula the musical” where I received the award for dressing the cast. It highlights the history of Zulu nation.

belongs to them. Besides that, I just want to see myself in a space with a lot of young people. I called it “Dance to Unite” program because dance can be used as a powerful means to unite diverse cultures. For instance, kunama ethnic moves are more like South Africa's Tsuana dance. It is one of the interesting parts I saw when I came here for the 23rd Independence Day celebration. It was received well and people really loved it. Though we came to perform, after watching how they were presenting it I understood that there was a lot of skill transfer that could be done.

is about giving little about my South African flavor and getting one back from them, mixing and creating something beautiful out of it and see if it growth. If it grows, we might hopefully in the future create the first musical show in Eritrea. I think that would be amazing though it takes a lot to prepare a musical show. It is really about pouring back to the journey that I have wanted to do in transferring skill and getting a new artistic direction to refine, to be trained and try to understand the body language and avoid the little habits that can destroy a performance, bringing dynamics in to the performance and just bringing emphasis on the individual's expectations, sharing and mentoring.

back. This is one of the biggest projects where I am willing to just pour and share because I believe that there are rare projects like this where you just come and share your experience and go. Others are structured in a formal way where you are given a manual to follow. That is where we lose our authenticity and just get guided by the information and get caged. So this is one of the projects where I am not only teaching but learning. We feed each other through an intense training. An intense training is sufficient training that you can also pass on to others. It is more like skill transferring where you need to have a teachable spirit. You really need to open up, relearn by forgetting all about that you know so that you can be a sponge

Why emphasize on musical theatre shows?
It is not just musical shows.

I believe there is no harm in trying to fill the gap by putting whatever experience you have

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