

## PRESIDENT ISAIAS AFWERKI HOLDS DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN



President Isaias Afwerki and President Vladimir Putin held extensive discussions in the Kremlin in mid-afternoon hours of May 31 on enhancement of bilateral ties as well as on international issues and developments of interest to the two countries.

President Putin welcoming President Isaias Afwerki and his delegation, underlined that President

Isaias' first official visit to the Russian Federation will contribute highly to the development of bilateral ties.

President Putin further noted that the visit was occurring at an auspicious time of Eritrea's 32nd Independence Day Anniversary and 30 years of formal diplomatic ties.

President Putin also expressed full satisfaction at the progress

and development of the bilateral ties between the two countries and extended an invitation to President Isaias to participate in the Second Russia-Africa Summit that the Russian Federation will host in July this year.

President Isaias thanked President Putin for the invitation to visit the Russian Federation and the warm welcome extended to him and his delegation, further stating that the current visit reflects the high level partnership and consultation, occurring as it does after the visit of Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov to Eritrea and subsequent visit of Eritrea's senior delegation to Russia.

President Isaias further noted that the uni-polar world order has endangered spiral of crises and destruction in the world and urged Russia to play its appropriate role with peace and justice aspiring peoples to ascertain transition to civilized international order which was not an option but a historical

responsibility.

The meeting was attended on Eritrea side by Mr. Osman Saleh, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Zemed Tekle, Commissioner of Culture and Sports and Mr. Petros Tsegay, Eritrea's Ambassador to the Russian Federation, and on the Russian Federation side by Mr. Yuri Ushakov, Foreign Policy Counselor, Mr. Dimitry Peskov, Press Secretary and Mr. Rudenko Andrei, Deputy Foreign Minister.

Also in the morning hours of that

day, President Isaias laid wreath at the Tomb of the unknown martyr at the Red Square in Moscow and visited the Army Expo.

The Patriots Park is a tribute to the sacrifices and martyrdom that the Soviet Army paid during the 1,418 days war against the Nazi during the Second World War.

The Army Expo also displays the historical evolution of the Russian Army since the Soviet era to the modern Day Russian Federation.



## NATIONALS CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY ANNIVERSARY

National in Kenya, Italy, Germany,, the US, Sweden and South African countries celebrated the 32nd Independence Day anniversary with patriotic zeal under the theme "Heroic Feat Anchored on Cohesive Ranks".

The celebratory event organized in Nairobi on 28 May was attended by members of the Diplomatic community, friends of Eritrea as well as a number of nationals.

Speaking at the occasion, Mr. Beyene Russom, Eritrea's Ambassador to Kenya, indicating that concerted effort will be exerted to develop and strengthen the agreement reached between Eritrea and Kenya during the official visit of President Isaias Afwerki to Kenya and commended the members of the Diplomatic community who participated at the celebratory event.

The honorary guest, Dr. Korir Sing'Oei, Secretary General at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

of Kenya, appreciating the role of Eritrea in the regional peace and stability as well as its decision to renew its membership in the Inter-Governmental Authority on development, said that Kenya will

open its Embassy in Asmara in the near future.

Likewise, nationals in the Italian cities of Milano, Bologna, Firenze and Genoa enthusiastically

celebrated the 32nd Independence Day anniversary under the theme "Heroic Feat Anchored on Cohesive Ranks".

Speaking at the celebratory

event in Milano, Mr. Fesehatsion Petros, Eritrea's Ambassador to Italy, indicating that Eritrea has reached into a promising stage foiling all the external overt and covert hostilities and that the future prospect is to develop the country and improve the livelihoods of citizens.

At the event, Italian politicians and journalists friends of Eritrea delivered messages of solidarity.

In the same vein, nationals in South African countries including Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa celebrated the 32nd Independence Day anniversary with patriotic zeal under the theme "Heroic Feat Anchored on Cohesive Ranks".

Nationals in various cities of Germany, as well as in Ohayo, the US, and Stockholm, Sweden, celebrated the 32nd Independence Day anniversary featuring cultural and artistic programs as well deliberations depicting the day.



32 Eritrean Independence Day Stockholm

# Understanding Eritrean Language Policy

*Simon Weldemichael*

Last Wednesday, Eritrea Profile published an article titled, “the benefits of multilingualism”, authored by Delina Yemane. The well-written article gives an enlightening overview of the advantages of multilingualism and offers a great understanding of language. Taking off from Delina’s informative article, this article deals with Eritrea’s language policy. Because of its central role in giving identity and dignity to human beings and developing a culture, language has long been a concern in discussions about nation building.

Like many African countries, Eritrea is rich in indigenous languages. Located in a strategically important location of the Red Sea, the Eritrea society is composed of nine ethnic groups -- Afar, Bilen, Hidareb, Kunama, Nara, Rashaida, Saho, Tigre, and Tigrigna – who are identified by the nine different languages they speak.

As a multilingual country, Eritrea has adopted a language policy that promotes linguistic diversity in a given socio-cultural context. Its language policy is a reflection of the sociolinguistic situation of the country. Eritrea is one of the very

few countries in Africa that use local languages rather than colonial ones in their primary schools.

Eritrea’s take on language can be easily gleaned from a number of national documents. The National Education Policy, for example, stipulates that the language of instruction at pre-school and elementary levels will be the child’s mother tongue. In multi-ethnic/multi-lingual school environments, the medium of instruction would be the language of the majority of the residents of the particular area where the school is situated. The medium of instruction for all middle schools and above is English.

The advantage of Eritrea’s educational language policy is that every student gets to enjoy the benefits of learning in the dominant language of the community in which the student lives. Although the quality of education is affected by many factors, language is undoubtedly a determining factor. The majority of African countries continue to allow a single foreign language, the language of their former colonizer, as a language of instruction in schools.

The National Charter of Eritrea recognizes the importance of developing culture for nation-building, and one of its objectives, as stated in the charter, is “to make sure that Eritrean cultural heritage, customs and languages are properly studied and developed to enrich our culture.” The belief in the equality of languages existed long before Eritrea’s independence when Eritreans were fighting for their right of self-determination. For instance, one of the aims of the National Democratic Program of the EPLF was to ensure equality and consolidate national unity by “encouraging all nationalities to preserve and develop the positive aspects of their cultures and traditions.”

It is common knowledge that successive colonial rulers deliberately imposed harsh measures to destroy the cultural treasures of the Eritrean people. The idea of imposing a single language on a diverse linguistic community was practiced by all forces that colonized Eritrea. Both Italian and Ethiopian colonizers did what they could to undermine the indigenous languages of Eritrea. This was attempted by either directly killing



the speakers of the languages or by issuing government legislation to prohibit the use of a language by its speakers. For example, in the mid-1950s the imperial government of Ethiopia eliminated Tigrigna and Arabic as official languages in Eritrea and replaced them with Amharic (the national language of Ethiopia). During the dark period of colonization, our forefathers fought furiously over what should be the official/working language of Eritreans.

Language policy and planning in Eritrea began to gain in fresh interest again in 1996 when the First National Conference on Eritrean Languages was held in Asmara. The conference discussed the historical development of Eritrean languages, language and society, Eritrean languages and literature, and research that had been carried out on Eritrean languages. At the opening speech of the conference, President Isaias Afwerki said that besides the nine national languages, Italian, English, Amharic and Geez are also spoken in Eritrea because of many reasons. When we consider the case of the Eritrean diaspora, then the number of languages

spoken by Eritreans as first or second language abounds.

Languages are said to be part of the heritage of humanity. Unfortunately, although attractive rhetoric is often made by governments and international organizations such as UNESCO, we are actively killing diversity in favor of homogenization. This should not be allowed to continue unabated because languages, large or small, are part of the heritage of humanity. We need to be reminded that with the death of every language, a vast library dies.

UNESCO’s Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (2001) states that as a source of exchange, innovation and creativity, cultural diversity is as necessary for humankind as biodiversity is for nature. Making mother tongue the medium of instruction in schools helps in efforts to revive indigenous languages, promote equality among languages and deliver education in the language that the students can best understand. The government of Eritrea adopted a progressive language policy not only for educational purposes but also to show its commitment to

cultural diversity and equality.

Children’s language acquisition depends in large measure on the language practices to which they are exposed. Eritrean students have many ways to experience their rich multilingual backgrounds as an advantage and as a means of thriving in a multilingual region. Exposing children to the language spoken in their homes as well as the language spoken by the larger community is having enormous individual and collective benefits. Many Eritrean freedom fighters are bilingual or multilingual because of the opportunities they had during the armed struggle to interact with different ethnic groups that lived in the liberated areas controlled by the freedom fighters. And today, the national service is providing a similar opportunity to young Eritreans both at Sawa Training center, where they can mingle with speakers of other languages, and elsewhere in the country when they are assigned to give their national service at settings where communities speak diverse languages.

Linguistic diversity is seen by many as a curse in nation building. However, if it is very well managed, it is a wealth. The Eritrean experience attests to the fact that linguistic heterogeneity in and of itself is not a disadvantage. In fact, as a multilingual and multiethnic nation, Eritrea is blessed to be endowed with numerous languages. This is because the government’s policy is based on respect and appreciation for language as a vehicle for enhancing national unity and national development.



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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  
Marta Bedali**

## Lighter Side

# Jokes and laughing out loud

Natnael Yebio W.

Sense of humor varies from place to place. Arab humor may make Eritreans laugh most of the time, but English humor does more often than not tend to leave us cold. I don't know what would be our reaction to Japanese or Malay Humor. It all depends on culture mentality and universality of mind.

There is refinement in humor. The joke section in the reader's digest is not for the simple. You need to be well-read and somehow conversant with American culture to get the joke and laugh or smile like a crazy person. Some people simply laugh at the jokes and if you ask them what made them laugh they are afraid to explain. They laughed, because they had to. It is a humor section after all.

Eritreans in general tend to laugh more at foolish incidents or anecdotes. It has to be simple and culture oriented. But here also one can discern between city and village jokes. The former are mostly copies from western jokes books or films, the latter are deeply rooted in the surrounding customs and traditions.

For example, to a peasant the story of the mirror would solicit more laughter than the histrionics of Charlie Chaplin. In my previous article I told youmy fellow readers about a village man who one day upon a visit to the city, had humorously tried to shake hands with his own image reflected in a mirror. For the old man had never seen his own image before. Jokes like that would bring about uncontrollable laughter to villagers.

In our culture, one is supposed to laugh at jokes or funny incidents told by the elderly. Not doing so is a breach of propriety. Most of the time, the jokes are stale and do not relate to the young generations. But you laugh just the same, using the wrong facial muscles. At least, the respect is in its place.

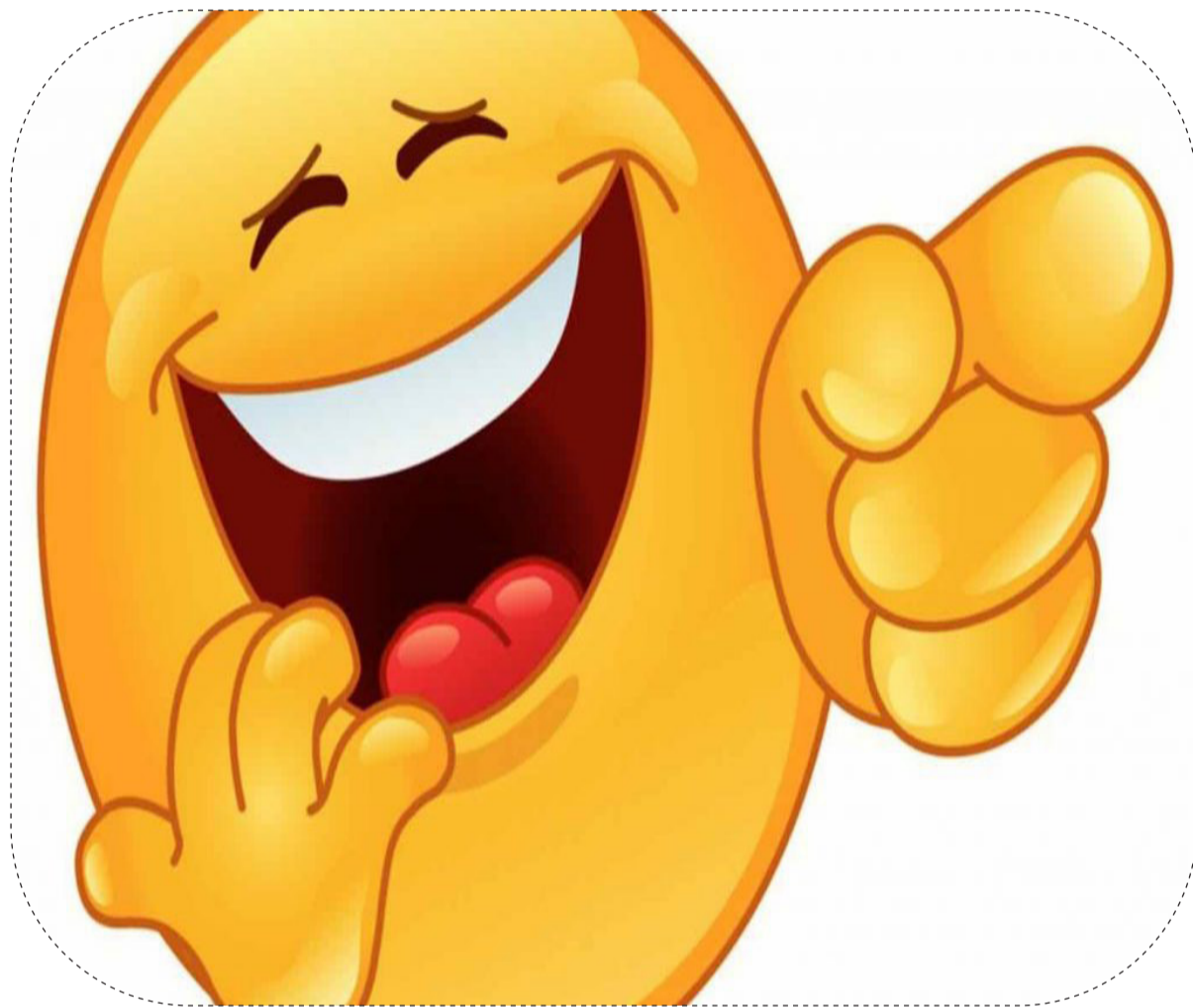
Have you heard this one? It made many an Eritrean double up with laughter in the past. It is about the peasant who went to town and imitating the city dwellers strolled

into a restaurant and asked for the menu of the day. If there was one dish the peasant could not stand,

Keshi Tesfasilasie was beyond himself with joy and exhilaration. "How's the radio, Keshi

a loved one, is now shedding tears caused by excessive laughter. If the loved one was a decent person, he

by his speech and congratulated him for his presence of mind. But worst was yet to come.



it was cucumber stew (dubba), for he ate it all his life and he hated it from the depth of his heart.

"Potato, shiro, hamli, quanta, silsi, zucchini," shouted the waiter.

Foreign to his ear, the peasant asked what the last one was.

"ZUUUCCHINI!" reaffirmed the waiter sounding out the letters.

"Okay, bring me ZUUUCHINI and make it fast," drooled the peasant.

When the zucchini stew was brought to our friend from the country side, he took one morsel, rolled his eyes and murmured to himself:

"You dirty old cucumber; I knew that once in town you would change your name..."

Some jokes have to do with modern technology, like this one: Keshi Tesfasilasie lived alone in a small village in the 1950's. One day his son who happened to live in the UK sent him a radio, which was a rarity in Eritrea at the time.

Tesfasilasie?" asked a neighbor one day.

"What can I say, the entire world wants to talk to me telling me this and that, one in English, another in Arabic, still another in Hindi, and I tell them, will you please stop talking to me at the same time!"

Keshi Tesfasilasie had problems tuning his radio.

And when his wife, who suffered from motion sickness, boarded an air-plane to go to visit her son, it is said that she asked the hostess to allow her to sit with the co-pilot as she always sat in front when she traveled to Keren.

Although most of the time dirty jokes which are funnier than decent jokes are frowned upon by people of good breed, they are mostly used by people with acute lack of creativity and are usually told in funeral parlors by people who come to console the bereaved. In a society where sex and all that are related to it, is taboo, dirty jokes are sort of emotional release. The girl, who had been crying her eyes out the day before for the loss of

would be turning in his grave.

As to sick jokes, they neither exist in our culture nor are they welcome by the majority of our society. These are jokes about the poor, the dead, the ailing and the underprivileged of this world. And they are jokes made at their cost. They are cruel jokes.

There is one that I know which is remotely related to sick jokes, and which is commonly told without raising eyebrows. It is about a certain man who went to a funeral of his friend's dearest mother and was told to deliver a speech, a sort of a funeral oration, like a elegy.

He stood up and went on to praise the deceased mother for her wisdom and generosity.

"This very day we have lost a dear woman, for Kedes (name chosen for expediency measures) was not only mother to Tekle (complete fictitious name), but the mother of us all here gathered today to pay our last respects."

The mourners were all amazed

It so happened that the same person had just lost his dear wife. Again funeral procession. Wailing. Burial. Speech again. The same friend was asked to deliver the speech as he did it superbly before.

"You can do it," encouraged his friends, "you have done it last time." "Plus you are good with words."

When the officiating Priest rebuked the wailing women to stop, the friend stepped forward:

"Dear mourners," went on, the over confident friend,

"This day we have lost a dear Woman, Almaz (fictitious name) was not only the wife of Tekle, but the wife of all who are mourning at this very moment....."

The mourners were flabbergasted by his speech, and felt, starting from the husband, like punching him in the nose.

Humor is the best medicine, and this biblical statement antedates the Readers Digest. The combatants have used it to good use during the 30 years of armed struggle for liberation. Most of the time they laughed at the enemy, and sometimes at themselves.

This writer remembers being told by his uncle the following field joke: A teacher was one day giving math lessons to his students under a tree. Thinking he was being savvy and witty by putting Ethiopian soldiers into an equation, he asked his rather smart little students, how many coffee cups would be left if Ethiopian soldiers invading a house took five coffee cups from an old lady who had fourteen in her cupboard.

The answer to the quiz given by one of his students was not nine but simply zero. How come? There were fourteen coffee cups and the Ethiopian soldiers' took only four cups, wondered the teacher. The answer was again simple: When Ethiopian soldiers' barge into a house, they take everything away.

# Emerging Literary Voices

Sona Berhane

Every Thursday at 5:00 in the afternoon, the Da'ero Hall of NUEYS serves as a forum for talks and lectures about wide-ranging topics that touch on areas of technology, academia, the arts, cultural issues and personal growth.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of May, in celebration of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Independence Day anniversary, a group of young writers known as *Hadesti Gexat ab Qrat Men'esezat* (ሐደስቲ ገጽት ኣብ ቅርፃት መንግስታት) held a reading event at the Hall. All ten members of this group had previously been the first batch of students to take the literature course taught by the writer Ghirmay Abraham at Satreb Art School.

The event was organized to showcase original writings of short stories and poems read by the writers themselves. Between readings, the wonderfully talented Henok Fitsum strummed his *Krar* as he sang the iconic *Lemin Leminey*.

Although members of this

remarkable group hail from different fields of study (some are teachers, and some others musicians and aspiring filmmakers, while one is a high school student), their passion for the written word and for storytelling brings them together. All that were read were the original works of the presenters, with the exception of the late Issaias Tsegay's poem *Seb'ye Ane* that was read by Habtom Gebrehiwet.

In her four-stanza poem, Marta Fessehaye explored the meaning of independence, and began her poetry recitation by describing independence as a gift – more precisely, our gift. The semantic ambiguity of this designation asks us for more consideration: is independence a gift bestowed on us, or are we the ones bestowing the gift of freedom? Both, answers the poem. Because by acknowledging the price that was exacted to achieve it, we enjoy independence's privileges just as we guard its existence.

This was followed by Yoel Andemichael's short story, which again lingered on the meaning

of freedom but turned inward to find out. The narration follows the story within a story format where a scrawny group of rebels tell one another tales of battle and victory every night before they sleep. The oldest of the lot relates a story of three travels trying to find a way out of a dark and morbid jungle. When they emerge from the jungle, the travelers are not frightened of the sunlight but of what they believe they see of one another. They stop their journey and begin to fight. It is a slightly different take on Plato's Allegory of the Cave which is used to illustrate the plight of "decolonized" Africa. The old man ends his tale by stating that the struggle for freedom has two ends: attaining it and maintaining it.

Adelina Hailemichael, the youngest member of the group, presented a colorfully expressive short story wherein she takes us along on a bizarre dreamscape of descriptions. Eritrea's colonial history in its entirety is retold with the clarity and certainty of a dreamlike journey across time and space. This imaginative 10th grader is a surrealist in the

making.

In his enthralling poem, Tsinat Mahmud, relates the country's long and arduous march towards independence, and the subsequent threats it endured. The poem, beautiful in a simple and straightforward way, abounds with highly creative use of symbolism and metaphor.

Senait Oqbe, with her clear and calm voice, read her short story that was rather interesting in that it told of a character who recalls a brief but profound personal moment in the armed struggle, not the vast expanse of Eritrean history. Senait, whose natural disposition appears to be that of an orator, has an excellent command of the language.

Feriha Ahmed's poem *Hamed Semaye Semayat* speaks of the dignity inherent in dying for freedom. Indeed, those who were martyred for this cause lie, as the title suggests, under noble, celestial grounds. Feriha's choice of scenarios and words that lend themselves to more than one meaning deepen the impact of this poem.

It is evident that these writers

have relied heavily on national icons and symbols. You may recognize all the icons and symbols in their writings but you will not find them used identically. Eritrean history, it may be said, is a mine of iconography. But what is impressive about these writers is their ability to write about them using dramatically different points of view and without deviating at all from the theme of Independence Day. The pieces were by turns thought-provoking, dry, colorful, heartwarming, matter-of-fact, and poetic. Not to mention the particularly delightful use of wordplay and double-entendre they all employed to emphasize the message of their writings.

I was told this exceptional group of writers has taken the initiative to meet monthly to exchange comments on what they have written and share reflections of what they have read. They will continue to work on their craft within this circle of creativity. Clearly, much is to be expected from their creative pens. I sincerely hope that this writing-reading event is to be the first of many more to come.



# Vacancy Announcement

Eritrea-Sichuan Mineral Construction Company is inviting qualified and competitive applicants for the following positions: -

- Geological Engineer:**
- Number Required – One (01)
  - Place of work: Debarwa
  - Type of contact: Definite period of two years
  - Salary: As per the company salary scale

**MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- (1) According to the construction and pre-stripping plan within the project, implement the geological related works, organize the professional survey, guide and supervise the project construction progress;
- (2) Organize the preparation of all kinds of geological survey data required for mine production, be responsible for organizing the technical innovation and solve the problems during the geological survey, and actively apply the new process and new experience of geological survey;
- (3) Compile geological technology management specifications, guide and supervise geological personnel to do a good job and provide accurate geological data for mining production;

- Qualification Requirement**
- Education:**
- (1) Master degree or above
  - (2) Engineering survey, geotechnical engineering, geological exploration and related majors

- Work Experience:**
- (1) At least 10 years of project management with related geology work
  - (2) Relevant certificate is preferred
  - (3) People who have the Working experience in Chinese companies
  - (4) Excellent English and Chinese

- Other skills and abilities:**
- (1) Excellent language skills
  - (2) Proficient in operating the OFFEICE office software
  - (3) Have Personnel management and leadership skills
  - (4) Have the knowledge of the local human resources market and government-related labor law policies

- Language:**
- (1) Language fluency in English and Chinese is required.

- Additional requirements for Nationals:**
- (1) Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provide evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defence.
  - (2) Present clearance paper from current/last employer
  - (3) Testimonial documents to be attached (CV, Work experience credentials, a copy of your National Identity Card, etc.).
  - (4) Only shortlisted applicants Would be considered as potential candidates for an interview.
  - (5) Application documents will not be returned to the sender.
  - (6) All application should be sent though the post office.
  - (7) Deadline for application: 5 days from the day of publication in the newspaper

▪ **Address: please mail your application to**

Eritrea-Sichuan Mineral Construction Corp. Ltd.  
P.O.Box 4832 Asmara, Eritrea

**Note to Non-Eritrean applicants: Please send a copy of your application to**

Aliens Employment Permit Affairs  
P.O.Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea

- HR Manager:**
- Number Required – One (01)
  - Place of work: Debarwa
  - Type of contact: Definite period of two years
  - Salary: As per the company salary scale

**MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- (1) Responsible for the specific implementation of the routine work in the recruitment, salary, performance, training, labor relations and other aspects of local personnel;
- (2) Assist in developing and improving internal system and operation process;
- (3) Collect the resource information of the local workers and manage the local workers;
- (4) Responsible for the visa of Chinese personnel and other related matters;
- (5) Complete other tasks assigned by the superior leaders;

- Qualification Requirement**
- Education:**
- (1) Master degree or above
  - (2) Major in Human resource management or administrative management

- Work Experience:**
- (1) At least 10 years of HR management or related work
  - (2) Relevant certificate is preferred
  - (3) People who have the Working experience in Chinese companies
  - (4) Excellent English and Chinese

- Other skills and abilities:**
- (1) Excellent language skills
  - (2) Proficient in operating the OFFEICE office software
  - (3) Have Personnel management and leadership skills
  - (4) Have the knowledge of the local human resources market and government-related labor law policies

- Language:**
- (1) Language fluency in English and Chinese is required.

- Additional requirements for Nationals:**
- (1) Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provide evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defense.
  - (2) Present clearance paper from current/last employer
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Eritrea-Sichuan Mineral Construction Corp. Ltd.  
P.O.Box 4832 Asmara, Eritrea

**Note to Non-Eritrean applicants: Please send a copy of your application to**

Aliens Employment Permit Affairs  
P.O.Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea

# Vacancy Announcement

Eritrea-Sichuan Mineral Construction Company is inviting qualified and competitive applicants for the following positions: -

## Cost Control:

- Number Required – One (01)
- Place of work: Debarwa
- Type of contact: Definite period of two years
- Salary: As per the company salary scale

## MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- (1) Prepare preliminary construction drawing budget, design change, site work completion acceptance, and cost budget claimed with the owner;
- (2) Conduct project cost management, and review the project progress payment and design changes of each project item;
- (3) Prepare the project audit report, and be responsible for the project situation connection with the Employer;
- (4) According to the relevant national and local regulations and the implementation of the project, responsible for the project budget and settlement audit work, as well as the whole process of the cost control work;
- (5) Material reserve, allocation, consumption statistics, turnover, disposal and other resource management;
- (6) Participate in the completion settlement, prepare and submit the completion settlement document;
- (7) Complete other work assigned by the project leader;

## Qualification Requirement

### Education:

- (1) Master degree or above
- (2) Major in project cost management or the similar

### Work Experience:

- (1) At least 10 years work in project cost and budget management
- (2) Familiar with the relevant engineering cost software (Glodon Software)
- (3) Good at CAD, EXCEL PPT and other computer software
- (4) Familiar with the budget quota and the budget quota
- (5) Understand the relevant policies and regulations of the project host country

### Other skills and abilities:

- (1) Excellent language skills
- (2) Proficient in operating the office software
- (3) Have Personnel management and leadership skills
- (4) Have the knowledge of the local human resources market and government-related labor law policies

### Language:

- (1) Language fluency in English and Chinese is required.

### Additional requirements for Nationals:

- (1) Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provide evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defense.
- (2) Present clearance paper from current/last employer
- (3) Testimonial documents to be attached (CV, Work experience credentials, a copy of your National Identity Card, etc.).
- (4) Only shortlisted applicants Would be considered as potential candidates for an interview.
- (5) Application documents will not be returned to the sender.
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- (7) Deadline for application: 5 days from the day of publication in the newspaper

### ▪ Address: please mail your application to

Eritrea-Sichuan Mineral Construction Corp. Ltd.  
P.O.Box 4832 Asmara, Eritrea

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

## ERITREA

### Specific Procurement Notice

### Invitation for Bids [IFB] Goods

### (One-Envelope Bidding Process)

IFB Number: PMU/SSDEE/ADF/OCBI/G/002/2023

Purchaser: Project Management Unit of Ministry of Education (PMU-MoE)

Project: Support to Skills Development for Employability and

Entrepreneurship (SSDEE) Project

Contract title: Supply, Delivery, Installation, Commissioning and Training of Workshop Equipment, Tools and Supplies for the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Workshop (ACR) for Asmara, Dekemhare and Maihabar Technical Schools.

Loan No. / Grant No.: Loan number 2100150032843 & Grant no 210015029467

Procurement Method: Open Competitive Bidding (International) (OCBI)

OCBI Reference No: SSDEE/ADF/G/OCBI/002/2023

Issued on: May 27, 2023

1. The Government of the state of Eritrea has received financing from the African development

Bank hereinafter called the Bank towards the cost of the Support to Skills Development for

Employability and Entrepreneurship (SSDEE) Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for Supply, Delivery Installation, Commissioning and Training of Workshop Equipment Tools and Supplies for the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Workshop (ACR) for Asmara, Dekemhare and Maihabar

Technical Schools. The Borrower shall process the payments using the Direct Payment disbursement method, as defined in the Bank's Disbursement Guidelines and procedures for

Investment Project Financing.

2. The Project Management Unit of Ministry of Education (PMU-MoE) now invites sealed Bids

from eligible Bidders for Supply, Delivery, Installation, Commissioning and Training Equipment, Tools and Supplies for Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Workshop (ACR) Shops for Asmara, Dekemhare and Mai-Habar Technical Schools.

3. Bidding will be conducted through the Open Competitive Bidding (International), (OCBI)

method as specified in the African Development Bank's

Procurement Policy for Bank Group

Funded Operations, dated October 2015, which is available on the Bank's website at [www.afdb.org](http://www.afdb.org) and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Framework.

4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the Project Management

Unit of Ministry of Education (PMU-MoE), Mr. Mebrahtu Gilagaber, General Manager ([mgilagaber2019@gmail.com](mailto:mgilagaber2019@gmail.com)) and/or Mr. Yosief Tekeste, Procurement Manager ([yosieftekeste90@gmail.com](mailto:yosieftekeste90@gmail.com)) and can collect the bidding document during office hours Monday-Friday i.e. 7:30 to 13:00 hrs. At the address given below.

5. The bidding document in English language may be received by interested eligible Bidders

upon the submission of a written application with company headed paper signed and sealed

to the address below.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 a.m. Local time on Thursday

27 July 2023. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be

publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who

chooses to attend at the address below 10:00 a.m. Local time on Thursday 27 July 2023

7. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of USD 35,000.00 (Thirty-Five Thousand

USD or equivalent.)

8. "Attention is drawn to the Procurement Framework requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful bidder's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award

Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document."

9. The address (es) referred to above is (are):

Project Management Unit of Ministry of Education (PMU – MOE)

Attention: Mr. Mebrahtu Gilagaber, General Manager of PMU-MOE and/or

Mr. Yosief Tekeste, Procurement Manager of PMU-MOE

Street Address: Hday Street No.: 748-1, Floor/Room number: Dembe Sembel, Block "A" First Floor, ZIP Code: 748-1, Asmara, Eritrea

Telephone numbers: 00291-1-151614/ 002917218050/ 002917262014

Facsimile number: 00291-1-152181

Emails: [mgilagaber2019@gmail.com](mailto:mgilagaber2019@gmail.com) and/or [yosieftekeste90@gmail.com](mailto:yosieftekeste90@gmail.com)



22/5/2023

The European Union Delegation to the State of Eritrea, Asmara is looking for:

A Driver in the Administration Section.

We are

The European Union (EU) is an economic and political partnership between 27 European countries. It plays an important role in international affairs through diplomacy, trade, development aid and working with global organizations. Abroad, the EU is represented through more than 140 diplomatic representations, known also as EU Delegations, which have a similar function to those of an embassy.

The EU Delegation to the **State of Eritrea, Asmara** works in close coordination with the Embassies and Consulates of the 27 EU Member States. We are a fully-fledged diplomatic mission and represent the European Union in dealings with the Eritrean government in areas that are part of the EU’s remit.

We offer

The post of Driver (Local Agent Group 5) in the Delegation’s Administration Section. The team consists of around 20 people and there are occasional atypical working hours.

Under this post, the recruited person will be attributed functions depending on the needs of the Delegation, and on the changes of these needs. The successful candidate **will serve under the supervision and responsibility** of the Head of Administration Section, providing support, expertise and assistance in driving service vehicles and .

Following main tasks and duties are currently required:

- General driving duties for the Delegation, using the Delegation’s service cars and truck, which include 2 SUVs, a pick-up, a van (9-seater) and an IVECO truck
- Drive Delegation’s staff and other EU officials to meetings in Asmara
- Drive Delegation’s staff and other EU officials to projects throughout Eritrea (missions of sometimes several days)
- Drop and pick up staff going on mission and visiting EU officials to and from Asmara airport
- Drive the water truck of the Delegation (IVECO) and ensure water distribution to office and accommodations when needed
- Distribute and collect official mail (e.g. to and from Ministries and other Missions), deposit payments of the Delegation’s utility bills and others
- Run errands on behalf of the Delegation
- Ensure that the service cars are clean inside/out and in perfect condition for safe driving at all times. Involves cleaning of the cars by the driver him/herself, who will also check the fluid levels, the tyre pressure, etc.
- Ensure daily maintenance checks and report any need for repair or replacement
- Ensure safekeeping of vehicle accessories (jack, first aid kit, spare tyre, hand sanitizer, etc.)
- Fill in the vehicles’ logbook on a daily basis and indicate all moves
- Use the Delegation’s specific IT tool for the organization of all moves (DRIVER)
- Ensure regular re-fueling of the service cars and of the truck
- Ensure back-up of the Office Support Agent (Receptionist) during her absences
- Assist administration in minor works or tasks of miscellaneous nature and/or secretarial tasks as assigned by the Head of Administration or his authorized staff. Perform any other ad hoc task assigned by the Head of Administration or the Head of Delegation. These tasks might include but will not be limited to: lifting of boxes, small repairs, moving furniture, etc.

**Remuneration:** As per the salary scale of the Delegation and relevant

Vacancy Announcement

experiences

The expected start date will be beginning of July 2023.

Minimum requirements / eligibility criteria (necessary for the application to be considered)

- Certificate of completion of Secondary School.
- Valid driver’s license Grade IV (Driving License must be valid for regular cars, 4x4s, passenger vans and trucks)
- Minimum 3 years of professional experience as a professional Driver, preferably with an international organization or embassy.
- Proven experience in driving trucks.
- Excellent command in English and Tigrinya language i.e. speaking, understanding, reading and writing.
- Proven computer literacy in MS Word, Excel & Outlook
- Very good knowledge of the streets and roads of Asmara.
- Good knowledge of the primary and secondary roads in Eritrea
- Solid knowledge of traffic rules and regulations in Eritrea. Knowledge of defensive/safe driving practices.
- Basic technical knowledge of car and truck maintenance. Able to adjust minor problems and capable of supervising repairs and maintenance works carried out by the garage/ workshop.
- Ability to communicate and understand instructions correctly and liaise with outside organizations and official visitors to the Delegation.
- Good knowledge of general functioning of vehicles.
- Proven experience in driving 4x4 vehicles.

Assets / selection criteria (basis for awarding points to select the best applicant)

- Grade V driving license
- Defensive / Safe Driving Training Certificate.
- B6 armoured car driving license or certificate
- Experience as a professional Driver with an international organization or embassy.
- Experience in driving armoured cars
- Experience as a car mechanic
- Advanced technical knowledge of car and truck maintenance

How to apply

Please submit your **application, consisting of a cover letter, CV and copy of reference letters proving 3 years of professional experience as a professional driver and to provide evidence of completion or exemption of National Service, by post or by hand-delivery (Reference “Driver post 48322”) to the Delegation of the European Union to the State of Eritrea, Marsa Teklai Street 192 House no. 20/22, POBOX 5710, to the attention of the Head of Administration no later than 17:00hrs on Monday 12/06/2023.** Only complete applications received on time will be considered.

The successful candidate will be subject to a medical check.

The process

After the deadline for applications, the **eligible** applications will be admitted to the Selection by the Committee set up for this purpose.

Depending on the number of applications received, successive phases of Selection may include shortlisting of candidates based assessment of the information provided in the cover letter, CV, practical testing and interviews. The best candidates (maximum 5) will be invited to the final interview.

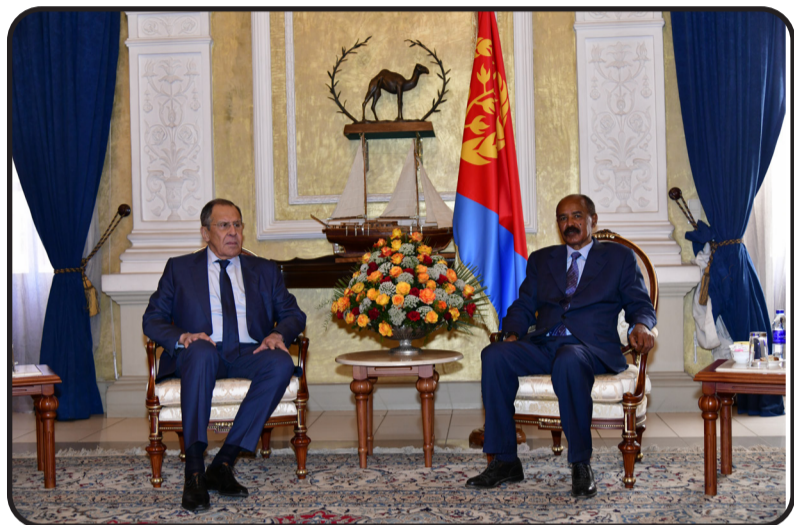
Only candidates admitted to each successive selection phase will be contacted individually. The Delegation will use the same means of publication as for this job advertisement to inform the remaining candidates once the recruitment procedure has been completed and that a candidate has (or has not) been recruited.

The Delegation will not supply additional information or discuss the selection procedure. During the selection process, please do not contact the members of the Selection Committee, but address your questions and comments to the Delegation’s Administration.

## LETTER to the EDITOR

# Russia - Eritrea: 30 Years of Diplomatic Relations

Russia and Eritrea established diplomatic relations on May 24, 1993, exactly on the day of the national holiday of the State of Eritrea – Independence Day.



The two states actively began to develop relations in many areas: educational, humanitarian, medical, military-technical,

In 2001, the Ministries of Health of Russia and Eritrea signed an Agreement on sending Russian medical specialists to Eritrea. At various times, Russian therapists, surgeons, gynecologists worked here. Russian medical personnel have proven themselves highly professional and responsible specialists. Now the Russian Embassy in Asmara is working

on the selection of a new team of doctors from Russia requested by Eritrean partners. Since 2014, Russia has been actively supporting Eritrea in the international arena. We have made efforts to lift UN Security Council sanctions from the country. In February 2014, a Protocol on consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Russia and Eritrea was signed.

After the lifting of sanctions from Eritrea in 2018, bilateral cooperation began to gain momentum. During 2018-2019, numerous delegations from the Sverdlovsk and Chelyabinsk Russian regions visited Eritrea. For the first time in history,

and Africa, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs M.Bogdanov to Eritrea gave them a new meaning. Delegations of interested Russian bodies and organizations began to come to the country. Two meetings of the foreign ministers of our

countries were held during the year. Asmara became a stable supporter of Moscow in the international arena. Eritrea was also the only country other than Russia to vote against the decision of the United Nations Human Rights Council to establish a commission to investigate possible human rights violations during Russia's special operation in Ukraine.

The year 2022 was a breakthrough in our relations. The visit of the Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation for the Middle East

A new quality to the bilateral agenda was introduced by the first ever visit to Eritrea by a Russian



Foreign Minister. On January 26, 2023, the President of Eritrea, H.E. Isaias Afwerki, received Sergey Lavrov. The Eritrean leader told Russian Minister that Eritrea is fully open for cooperation with Russia. It is on this basis

that we will develop our further cooperation in all areas of the bilateral agenda. A draft document has been developed on the creation of a mechanism for consultations in the economic sphere; we expect certain changes in cultural and humanitarian cooperation and in the field of sports.

On the humanitarian track, memorandums of understanding between the relevant Ministries in the field of culture, physical culture and sports, interaction between a number of universities in Eritrea and Russia have been prepared for signing. A significant cultural link between Russia and Eritrea is the monument to Alexander Pushkin, the largest in Africa, installed in 2009.

Large-scale changes in world politics open up opportunities for the two countries to build qualitatively new mutually beneficial relations that will operate on the principles of equality and respect. Eritrea's stable and consistent policy despite threats and pressure from the West, its firm position in the UN and other international organizations have demonstrated that Eritrea is our close partner and ally on the African continent.

*Igor N. Mozgo, Russian Ambassador*

## LOCAL NEWS

### MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE PRODUCES TWO ANIMAL VACCINES

The Ministry of Agriculture has announced that it has produced two internationally certified animal disease vaccines through the National Animal and Plant Health Laboratory based at Villagio in Asmara.

According to Mr. Efreem Gebremeskel, Director of the National Laboratory, the two vaccines produced are PPR-against small ruminant disease and Newcastle-an important poultry disease.

Mr. Efreem further explained that the two vaccines were selected for

production because they can address two very important diseases which otherwise have been imported at a much higher cost.

Mr. Efreem outlined the importance of these two vaccines in terms of self-reliance, saving hard currency, shortening the procurement process during outbreaks of diseases, and also strengthening the country's production capacity with young experts taking center stage.

Regarding the quality of the vaccines, Mr. Efreem indicated that standard quality control measures were conducted at the national

level through the National Animal and Plant Health Laboratory Quality Control, and the Ministry's Regulatory Services as well as internationally by the African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Center, an international quality control institute delegated by the Food and Agricultural Organization and World Animal Health Organization.

Mr. Efreem further noted that the National Animal and Plant Health Laboratory has plan to produce two more vaccines for infectious bronchitis and sheep and goat pox. Mr. Efreem also commended

the all-round support the National Animal and Plant Health Laboratory provided by the relevant Government institutions and partners.

The National Animal and Plant Health Laboratory was established in 1903 and used to produce vaccines until 1972, subsequently was ruined due to Ethiopian colonialism and the war for Independence.

After Independence, the Government of Eritrea in cooperation with partners made a concerted effort to renovate the



laboratory, which has led to this success story.