

AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES ASSESSMENT MEETING



Integrated effort and initiative taken to control pests in general and Fall Armyworms in particular in the Southern region have registered commendable achievement. The statement was made during an agricultural assessment meeting conducted in Mendefera.

During the meeting in which the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Arefaine Berhe and Governor of the Southern region, Mr. Efrek Gebrekirstos took part, reports on agricultural activities including soil and water conservation, animal resources, select seed development,

and forestation activities conducted over the past six months were presented.

It was also reported that 88 administrative areas in the region have conducted rigorous activities to control the expansion of Fall Armyworms and that the threat of the armyworm has declined to its lowest level.

Regarding soil and water conservation activities, it was indicated that the residents of 12 sub-zones have constructed 2,359 hectares of terraces and water diversion schemes, 584 hectares of agricultural land have been leveled and water diversion schemes worth 3 million Nakfa has been

constructed in Adi-Qedo and Bete-Mariam administrative areas.

Speaking during the event, Mr. Efrek Gebrekirstos, Governor of Southern region, underlined the need for integrated effort and control mechanism with the view to timely implementation of charted out programs.

Mr. Arefaine Berhe, Minister of Agriculture, on his part stressed on coordination of efforts on the part of farmers, agricultural experts and government institutions to control the prevalence of pests, and called for proper utilization of natural fertilizers and reinforced effort to encourage nationals to invest in honey and meat production.

MEMBERS OF 32ND ROUND NATIONAL SERVICE LEAVE FOR SAWA

Members of the 32nd round national service have left for Sawa to complete their national service duties and pursue their 12th grade education.

The national service members that are arriving in Sawa beginning from 24 July include 6,069 students from 25 schools of the central region alone.

The students said that they are going to Sawa at a time of promising peace prevailing in the region and expressed readiness to complete their duties and education with commitment.

The students were seen off from the place of their departure by thousands of nationals.

“PRESIDENT’S VISIT TO ERITREA: A NEW ERA IN THE RELATIONS OF BOTH COUNTRIES”, SOMALI MINISTER OF INFORMATION

The Minister of Information of the Republic of Somalia, Mr. Tahir Mohammed Gile, said that the visit of President Mohammed Abdullahi to Eritrea would make significant contribution in heralding a new era of relation between Eritrea and Somalia.

Noting that President Mohammed Abdullahi visited Eritrea for the first time, Mr. Tahir added that the visit would have important contribution in the development of mutual relations and cooperation between the two countries and peace and stability in the region.

Mr. Tahir underscored that peace and stability is a priority to the peoples in the region and that the prevailing strong relations in the region would be a center stage in the development of peace and stability.



NEWS BRIEF

WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK OBSERVED NATIONWIDE

World Breastfeeding Week observed nationwide yesterday, 3 August in Berik sub-zone.

Dr. Tesfai Solomon, Head of the Ministry of Health branch in the Central region, said World Breastfeeding Week is an annual event which is being held every year in August with the goal of emphasizing the value of breastfeeding for mothers as well as children.

Noting that breastfeeding is closely linked with gastronomy and food security, Dr. Tesfai underlined the importance of breastfeeding and enhancing effort to reinforce the culture of breastfeeding.

Dr. Geoffrey Acaye from UNICEF-Eritrea on his part stated that health is taken as basic human rights and breastfeeding should also be taken as basic child right as it ensures the child’s health and growth.

Representing the WHO in Eritrea, Dr. Tedros Tekeste, recommended exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months and then supplemented breastfeeding for up to two years. Dr. Tedros also called for the sustained continuation of the culture of breastfeeding practice in Eritrea.

World Breastfeeding Week is being observed for its 26th time in the world and 22nd time in Eritrea.

DENDEN CAMP HOSPITAL GETS MATERIAL SUPPORT

59 Eritrean nationals in Cincinnati, the United States, organized under “Martyrs Trust Association” and other two nationals have contributed material support to the Denden War Disabled Veterans Hospital.

The material support includes desks, chairs, freezers, sound systems, television and other materials worth 111 thousand Nakfa.

Noting that Eritrean nationals residing in various countries have the willingness to assist war disabled veterans and families of martyrs, the Chairman of the “Martyrs Trust Association”, Mr. Abraham Teame, said that the contribution the association has made attests to the readiness of nationals.

According to report, the Denden War Disabled Veterans Hospital has recently been renovated and has established recreation center.

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION ACTIVITY

A number of popular activities including soil and water conservation, construction of a dam and renovation of roads have been conducted in Nakfa sub-zone since mid-January 2018.

Noting that the popular campaign is a continuation of the community based activities that have been carried out in the sub-zone, residents said that the objective of the activities is to redress the environment and increase agricultural production.

The residents also indicated that construction materials the administration of Nakfa provided them helped in effectively conducting the popular campaign.

The branch Head of Agriculture Ministry in the sub-zone, Mr. Mohammed Saleh Mohamed Ali, on his part, indicated that the initiative the residents took to alleviate potable water and transportation problems in their area is an example to others.

OPINION

Eritrea and Ethiopia: Towards Economic Cooperation

Natnael Yebio W.

Peace is poised to deliver significant economic gains for both Eritrea and Ethiopia. While it embodies the spirit of both countries, peace also signals progress in the region. In terms of economy it promises great investment and trade opportunities, as well as the possibility to boost physical infrastructure. It is time for sustained peace through economic development.

The Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship that was signed on July 9th, 2018, states: 1. The state of war between Ethiopia and Eritrea has come to an end. A new era of peace and friendship has been opened. 2. The two governments will endeavor to forge intimate political, economic, social, cultural and security cooperation that serves and advances the vital interests of their peoples; 3. Transport, trade and communications links between the two countries will resume; diplomatic ties and activities will restart; 4. The decision on the boundary between the two countries will be implemented. 5. Both countries will jointly endeavor to ensure regional peace, development and cooperation; will see both governments work towards economic cooperation built on a framework that will be beneficial for both countries in the medium and long term.

Based on this agreement, the rapprochement between the two



governments has been established over the last two weeks. Telephone lines are open; President Isaias Afwerki made a historic three day visit to Ethiopia and reopened the Eritrean Embassy in Addis Ababa for the first time since 1998.

As a result, peace between Ethiopia and Eritrea is set to have a calming effect on the Horn. Stability in the region could transform it into a united economic powerhouse. The hard work starts now, as both governments look forward towards economic cooperation and development.

Emphasizing on both countries' long-standing common history, both governments will work to strengthen economic partnership between the two countries and to contribute to regional peace and prosperity.

Moving forward, the emphasis will be on creating a modern, technologically advanced, and internationally competitive economy by way of improving agricultural productivity and establishing export oriented industries as well as vibrant financial and tourism sectors. Both will work towards facilitating private investment in all sectors of their economy, while pursuing sound financial policies. Operationally, cooperation between the two governments conveys the idea of voluntary collective actions. The concept of cooperation refers to the implementation of intergovernmental institutions. In this sense, economic, political, and institutional cooperation will be vital in order to successfully pool together resources and efforts for the achievement of their goals.

In an interview the former Prime Minister of Ethiopia Mr. Hailemariam Desalegn, stated that both countries are endowed with comparative and competitive advantages. Knowing this, they must work together in identifying these

advantages by pooling experts from both countries. In doing so, both governments will first work towards tackling inflation, reducing cost of goods, and working to augment the needs of the population and sustain market price volatility of goods and services.

Given that the transportation sector is a strong factor in terms of economic and regional balanced development, the former Prime Minister also noted the development of well linked transportation system between the two countries will be pivotal in achieving economic development; this will in return help the facilitation of free movement of people between the two countries.

As a result, Ethiopian Airlines resumed flights to Eritrea on the 18th of July, its flight to Asmara being the first in over 20 years. "It is a joy to see Eritreans and Ethiopians come together once again", said Mr. Tewolde Gebremariam General Manager of Ethiopian Airlines. It is time to move on and work as one towards the realization of economic, trade, investment and tourism development between the two countries with an outlook towards reaching the international market, he added, while hoping the airline to play a broader role in helping the two countries connect not just on social

levels but also economic.

Speaking at the official ceremony held in connection with the flight resumption of the Ethiopian Airlines Mr. Osman Saleh, Eritrean Minister of Foreign Affairs stated the resumption of the airlines will usher a new era of friendship and cooperation between the countries.

Free movement of people between the two countries will be beneficial. For example, it will enhance business and investment. Cross border trade will increase as free movement of labor and capital boosts economic activity. In terms of investment, understanding the importance of foreign direct investment to sustainable development and economic growth, both sides have to cooperate in enhancing investment flows and in developing an investor-supportive environment through joint efforts such as: industrial linkages promotion, networking, information sharing and human capacity building development.

The Joint Declaration of Friendship and Cooperation signed between the two governments will also see the two countries engage in trade. As a result, of duty-free and low-tariff imports, consumers in each country will have more choices of goods and services at lower prices. Imports may also encourage domestic producers in innovation and technological advancements, especially those who face competition from these imports, resulting in economy-wide benefits.

As cooperation between the two nations strengthens, the use of ports in the region will result in higher output of goods and passengers in the region, paving the way to the development of more infrastructure and associated services. These in turn will bring varying degrees of benefits to the economy and to the region. Ports are also important for

the support of economic activities in the hinterland since they act as a crucial connection between sea and land transport. As a supplier of jobs, ports do not only serve an economic but also a social function. In terms of load carried, seaway transportation is the cheapest and most effective transportation system compared to other systems. Industries require a safe and cheap means of exporting finished goods and importing raw materials. Hence, the majority of industries in the world are located in the coastal belts, in the vicinity of major ports. These industries, in turn, influence the lives of the employees and other indirect benefactors.

In the long run cooperation between the countries of the horn will aim at sharing a commitment to regional cooperation as a means of fostering regional stability, building prosperity, and addressing regional challenges. The recent state visits by President Isaias Afwerki to Saudi Arabia and UAE are a further indication that regional cooperation will not be confined to the horn but will also include countries on the other side of the Red Sea. Subsequent visit by Somalia's President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed to Eritrea, and the signing of the Joint Declaration of Brotherly Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation between the two governments this week and Dr. Abiy Ahmed's prior visits to Egypt and Somalia are also signs that point towards an all-inclusive, holistic approach taken by Eritrea and Ethiopia that peace and stability in the region can only be achieved if all countries in the region spearhead the agenda together.

Thus a stronger Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Egypt, Djibouti, Sudan and South Sudan will pay dividends in achieving sustained economic growth, trade and prosperity needed throughout the region.



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Interesting Times in the Horn of Africa

Sofia Tesfamariam

"May you live in interesting times" sounds like a blessing, doesn't it? It is not.

Some have attributed this curse to the Chinese, but wherever its origins, interesting times are said to be fraught with cynicism and danger, making it an apropos description for the bleak and troubled Post-Cold War era in the Horn. Eritrea's independence came in 1991, with the end of the Cold War. Barely 7 years after independence, Eritrea found herself embroiled in yet another conflict with Ethiopia.

The TPLF regime launched its war of invasion and occupation in 1998. Thousands were killed and injured in that "border conflict". Vital infrastructures were destroyed and millions were displaced from their homes.

The Algiers Agreements signed between Eritrea and Ethiopia in 2000 silenced the guns. The Eritrea Ethiopia Boundary Commission established in pursuant to the Algiers Agreement was mandated to delimit and demarcate the common border. The EEBC rendered its final and binding delimitation and demarcation decisions on April 2002 and November 2007 respectively. While Eritrea accepted the decisions, it took 20 years for Ethiopia to do so.

Dr. Abiy Ahmed, the new Prime Minister of Ethiopia, broke the 20 year spell by agreeing to abide by the Algiers Agreements, paving the way for normalization of relations with Eritrea. The leaders of Ethiopia and Eritrea signed a declaration saying that the state of war between the two countries is over. Soon after, the Somali President was in the Eritrean capital, where a similar peace declaration was signed. The 20 year long Eritrea Ethiopia conflict made for some interesting times in

the Horn region...

Eritrea's President Isaias Afwerki characterized the "interesting times" in Horn of Africa, as an "epoch of crises, conflict and instability". In the Statement made during the recent visit to Eritrea of the Somali President, President Isaias highlighted a few markers of that era:

- "...Cohesive nation building was eclipsed by ethnic and clan cleavages, and destruction..."
- "... economic development and prosperity were replaced by the scourges of poverty and hunger spurred by external pillage and internal thievery..."
- "...consolidation of independent and sovereign governments and institutions suffocated by micromanagement of anarchy through UN agencies and NGOs..."
- "...regional partnership and harmony supplanted by intractable border crises and strife; regional peace and stability based on internal resources and capabilities undermined by spiraling crises under the rubric of "peace keeping"..."
- "...interventionist and expansionist regional agendas in the name of religion; cultural intoxication under various extremist ideologies; terrorism; piracy; human trafficking, as well as trade in weapons and narcotics



those beyond their own borders. Youth and migration became the "cause celebre", as thousands

became the New Normal or "business as usual"...

- "...This New Normal continues to be peddled and

propagated, day-in and day-out, through media outlets of lies and mendacity. The perplexing developments of the past quarter century, which essentially stemmed from the misguided policies of powerful countries, would not have materialized without the harmful role and complicity of domestic surrogates..."

These interesting times introduced us to the "war on terror" that overshadowed the war on poverty in the region. The Horn bore witness to vicious cycles of frustration, polarization, and fragmentation. It experienced, first-hand, the ruthlessness of those who convinced themselves they know what is best for all, even

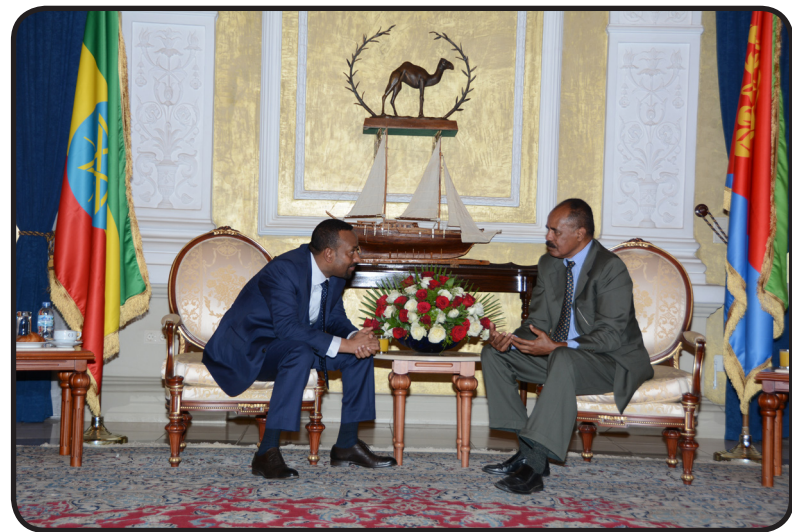


those beyond their own borders. Youth and migration became the "cause celebre", as thousands



left in search of greener pastures, only to end up in more dire straits. Citadels in Europe cried foul, as the tired and weary knocked on their glass doors and barren hearts, seeking refuge.

Considered the "anchor" in the Horn region, the minority regime in Ethiopia was the recipient of the West's largesse, which included diplomatic, financial, military and political shield and support. This emboldened the regime to act with impunity in its domestic, as well as in its external affairs. In Ethiopia,



ethnic and religious strife engulfed the country; atrocities and human trafficking were committed right under the noses of the international

"interesting times". Democracy and human rights served as pretexts for the knights with a "responsibility to protect", grazing villages and bunker buster bombing states back to the Stone Age. These "interesting times" bore witness to the fraying of international relations and the weakening of regional and international organizations.

These interesting times introduced us to Julian Assange and the Wikileaks cables. For Eritrean's, the cables were an eye opener, as they were able to trace the ugly trails between Addis Abeba and New York- pin pointing and deciphering the origins of the sanctions against Eritrea and how Ethiopia and its surrogates used IGAD, the regional organization, and the African Union (AU), the continental organization African Union, to engineer the illegal and unjust sanctions regime against Eritrea. It should be recalled that Susan E. Rice shamelessly labeled it as being as an "African Initiative". Wikileaks exposed the truth and the efforts to pit African states against each other.

It is a new dawn in the once troubled Horn of Africa region. Joy is the signature emotion on display throughout the region, and wherever its citizens are found. The rapid changes have surprised many who had long decided it was a hopeless region. The Horn, the learned pundits said, was "turbulent", a "hotbed for terrorism", and "ridden with conflict". These labels served as pretexts for interventions that exacerbated and perpetuated conflict-making for decades-long of interesting times...that have cost the peoples in the region much.

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Another Dog! You've got to be kidding me!

Natnael Yebio W.

At the risk of sounding a lot like Darth Vader, I am going to write about how I don't understand why people keep pets of any sort. This is about to sound a bit curmudgeonly, so forgive me.

We (my family) are currently harboring three dogs in our house. Until three days ago, we used to have two. Now we have three. And the new addition is just three months old. Adding a third dog in the house annoys me half to death. Wait! Let me rephrase that. It annoys me to death.

I am a very sane human being who happens not to believe in pet ownership. The rest of my family believes otherwise. Do I hate dogs? No I do not. I just don't understand people who treat them as if they were human beings, in the same way I don't understand selfies and Justin Bieber.

The other members of my family, walk the dogs, feed them, take them to the vet once a month, wash them twice a week, clip their finger nails and so on. While I, on the other hand, just try to go on with my life as if the three dogs don't exist, all in vain of course. You just cannot avoid three slobbering and loud dogs. And then there is the constant kissing them and talking to them as if they understand, which is just borderline nauseating. You see there is the paradox at the heart of having a pet: owners love them because they aren't human, and then spend their lives treating them like people.

"Jun-Jun (name of one of our dump dogs) why did you pee here? You are supposed to pee outside." said my sister speaking in a rather soft voice so as not to upset 'the dog'. Just so you know she happens to yell at me if I did not make my bed.

Why, why on God's green Earth are you kissing the Dog?! You did just see him kissing his own butt right!

To give you a sense of how I feel when I am accosted by our dog, let me put it this way, on any objective scale of socially acceptable dog behavior—if there is any— he is the worst. He's loud. He's inconsiderate of people's personal space—if he's left free he won't watch where he's walking and will run into you, either on purpose or accidentally. He's jumpy and



fidgety in confined spaces; in a car it is physically impossible to restrain him from going nuts. He bits himself often, and I'm quite sure he kisses his own butt a lot.

Weirdly, irrationally, despite all this, my siblings love him unconditionally and they just don't understand why even strangers wouldn't want him around all the time. Indeed, they think almost everything he does, even the inappropriate things, is the cutest behavior ever exhibited in dog history. They are protective of their dogs just as much as Taxi drivers are protective of their car doors.

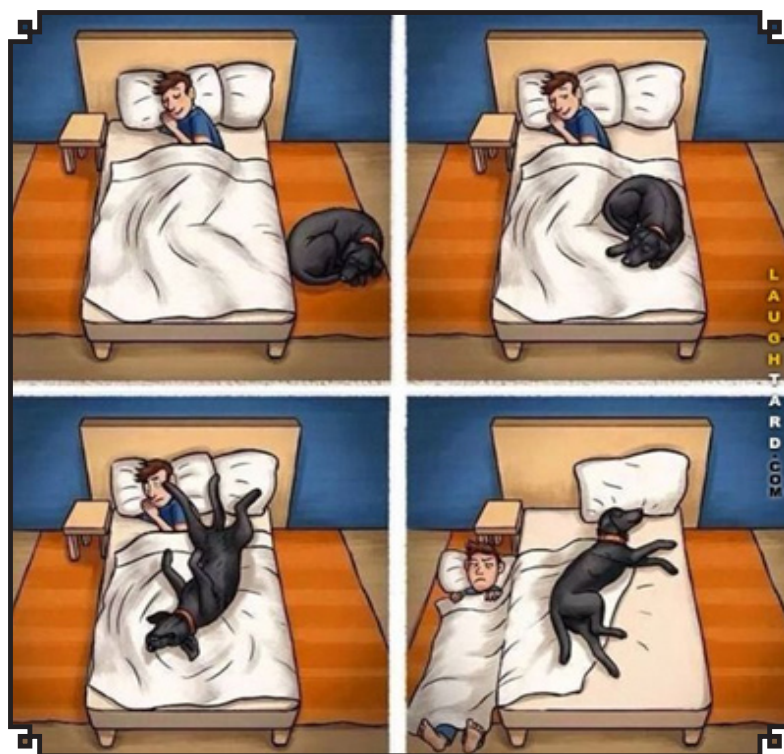
It was Charles Darwin who said our domestic dogs descended from wolves and jackals, and though they may not have gained in cunning, and may have lost in wariness and suspicion, yet they have progressed in certain moral qualities such as affection, trust-worthiness, temper, and, probably, in general intelligence.

But when the dog next door keeps

barking for no reason at all, and gets lost when he somehow escapes out of the house, it makes you question if dogs really have advanced in any sort of general intelligence.

Barking dogs have always been a source of great annoyance. Our next door neighbors used to have a big dog. Their dog is so stupid that he barks, and then barks at the echo, thinking it is another dog barking back. The fact there is an echo tells you how loud the dog is and how it intrudes into the lives of everyone within roughly a one-kilometer radius.

Based on what I have witnessed, it's the majority of dogs that seem to be problematic. Otherwise, isn't it a massive coincidence that roughly half of my immediate neighbors throughout my entire life have owned annoying dogs? If it is only a minority, then I must be the unluckiest person on the planet to come across so many bad dogs and dog-owners.



During holidays, the other idiotic dog in the house keeps barking. His problem, we have a sheep in the house to be slaughtered for the holiday. The dog barks probably because he doesn't want to be mistaken for a sheep. In the night like that when ovine world is under attack, the only means for animals to save their skins is to identify themselves correctly.

It's Friday night, and my sister is running around our neighborhood, barefoot, screaming, "Apu!" (The name of the other mug in the house) at the top of her lungs, and shaking the dog's little toy over her head like a maniac doing a rain dance. Usually when our dog runs away, the sound of her toy brings her home, and tonight is no exception. She streaks down the street like a bolt of lightning, skidding to a stop in front of our house. The look on her face reminds me of an obnoxious next door teen busted for going around the neighborhood ringing everyone's doorbells: Who, me?

And then there is the issue of stray dogs. Growing up, if we ever encountered a crazy looking dog around the neighborhood, our parents advised us to avoid eye contact with the dog and walk away subtly. So we did.

Although humans have kept pets since time immemorial, in traditional Eritrea companion animals were unheard of. Domestic animals such as dogs, cats and other animals, had jobs to perform; they were not companions. Cats kept mice and rodents in check. And dogs, which are doted on by loving owners today, were used for hunting, herding and guarding. Dogs were utilitarian animals, not necessarily members of the family.

In Rudyard Kipling, Just So Stories book, the Woman picked up a roasted mutton-bone and threw it to Wild Dog, and said, "Wild Thing out of Wild Woods, taste and try." Wild Dog gnawed the bone, and it was more delicious than anything he had ever tasted, and he said, "O my Enemy and Wife of my Enemy, give me another."

The Woman said, "Wild Thing out of the Wild Woods, help my Man to hunt through the day and guard this Cave at night, and I will give you as many roast bones as you need..."

Wild Dog crawled into the Cave and laid his head on the Woman's

lap, and said, "O my Friend and Wife of my Friend, I will help your Man to hunt through the day, and at night I will guard your Cave."

Around the world, in England the dog has been a member of the Royal Family for ages. So much so, the social status and unlimited funds of kings and queens often meant that pooches were given the full royal treatment. In America, there are around 78 million domesticated dogs, while a lot of dogs owned by former Presidents have spent majority of their lives chasing balls in the green yards of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Presidential Dogs have been part of American Politics to the extent where September 23rd is Dogs in Politics Day.

In the ancient world, dogs were around before the written word. The ancient temple of Gobekli-Tepe in Turkey, dated to at least 12,000 years BCE, has provided archaeologists with evidence of domesticated dogs in the Middle East corresponding to the earliest evidence of domestication, the Natufian Grave, (c. 12,000 BCE) discovered in Ein Mallaha, Israel, in which an old man was buried with a puppy. In ancient India, Mesopotamia, China, Mesoamerica and Egypt, the people had deep ties with their dogs; this was also common in ancient Greece and Rome. Ancient Greeks thought of dogs as geniuses, as 'possessing a certain elevated spirit'. Plato referred to the dog as a 'lover of learning' and a 'beast worthy of wonder.' The philosopher Diogenes of Sinope loved the simplicity of the dog's life and encouraged human beings to emulate it. In many cultures throughout the ancient world, dogs figured prominently and, largely, were regarded in much the same way that they are today.

So, why my dissatisfaction with the domestication of Dogs. Well, for one, I am allergic, also I'm not very patient. I'm too self-absorbed to ever think of having a dog or any pet for that matter and I'm not really that interested in or fascinated by dogs, let alone talk to them as if they understand every word I am saying.

You obviously want to shake me and tell me to snap out of it, to get over myself and just love dogs already. But that's because you like dogs and don't see anything but good in them. For you, a dog is like ice cream. What churl doesn't like ice cream? Well, I'm that churl—I'm canine intolerant.

SpotLight

“Work on Progress” Eritrean Film Workshop

Billion Temesghen

One of the most dominant forms of communication, since the twentieth century, has been film. Film has allowed the art of visual and motion pictures to evolve in being a real form of science and a massive industry. It is fair to say that film became a form of art that comprises several fields of study ranging from the disciplines of sound, to the areas of research, history, social studies, engineering, geometry and the ever mystifying domain of dreams, thoughts and tastes; the subconscious. This is what film is.

Throughout the years, filmmakers' bizarre imaginations and endless efforts to give sense to their peculiar fantasies gave birth to countless techniques and innovations in the making of cinema. As a result, they harbored a language, a method of communication, which best fits the people involved in the making of films. We refer to it as cinematic language. This language broke all the linguistic barriers worldwide. It is indeed a language that can be spoken and understood worldwide. That is where the greatest importance of film is. Film breaks borders, cultural walls and racial differences. Film is language of the mind that gloriously delivers its essence to the conscious cognizance of all peoples. And, as such, it is a field that is shared by persons worldwide. It is a field that bestows a vast platform for a myriad of talents to be generated and manifested without out any limits.

In a country like Eritrea where there is a rich history that needs to be told, film would be one of the best media to showcase Eritrea's chronicles to the rest of the world that knows so little about Eritrea.

On such account, the Cultural Affairs of PFDJ and stakeholders are investing notable attention to Eritrean filmmakers' trough ongoing trainings.

The film workshop “Work on Progress” has now been going on for three consecutive years. The one-month long workshop takes palace in summer. That is when Eritrean volunteer professionals come to Eritrea and train artists in film production. Artists come together twice a week, through the year, to follow-up the workshop. They watch recommended films and analyze the cinematic language of the films they watch together. In the long run this

particular activity became an exercise for the mind and a reminder of the trainings offered in the workshop.

Assistant professor at the Howard University in Washington DC, Ambessa Jir Berhe, and Isseyas Tesfamariam are the main instructors of the summer workshop. Ambessa Jer normally takes on the technical instructions of film making, while Isseyas Tesfamariam focuses on the historical part of the art. He also refers to hundreds of historical episodes worldwide.

The workshop's aim goes beyond ‘just’ filmmaking. The overall objective is to make film that best represents Eritrea and Africa to the world. Based on shared conviction Eritrean artists, Eritrean volunteer instructors, Cultural Affairs of PFDJ, sponsors and stakeholders embarked on this mission in the summer of 2016 with eighty-six artists. The following year the number of participants reached one hundred three and this time around, ninety six people joined the workshop. This year was different in terms of participants as for the first time in three years the organization office of the workshop invited journalists and TV program producers.

Generally, the workshop participants are divided in two sections; the beginners and advanced. The program is prepared accordingly for the two sections. As it is multidisciplinary, several Eritrean professionals collaborate and join hands in sharing their knowledge. Last year, Mahlet Habte, an Eritrean sound engineer and film maker, based in London was one of the visiting instructors. Her stay was a memorable one as she made music out of various native cultural vocal sounds and hums. This year, Sara Tracy Meretab brought authentic and constructive criticism as the young Eritrean-American film maker is a novice to Eritrea's film production prototypes.

Clearly the schedule extended throughout the month is packed. Morning shifts are reserved for section one, the beginners, and the afternoon for section two, advanced artists and journalist, who've participated in film or documentary making. Moreover, the evening is booked for film viewing at Cinema Asmara. Everyone gathers to watch movies followed by a group discussion late at night. The movies selected for the film viewing are



analyzed before screening in order to have the workshop program and film composition match for better understanding of the theories explained in class. However, not only are they analyzed for their technical composition but also for their historical relevance. The story of Lucia in three stages of Cuba: 1885, in the war versus Spain, 1932 the introduction of Socialism, and, 1960, amidst the Cuban revolution, is an emotional journey that to some extent can be linked to that of countless Eritrean female freedom fighters. ‘Teza’ a multi awards Ethiopian film was also in the list followed by a film of Ousmane Sembène.

The multi-disciplinary intense workshop takes into consideration general production, storytelling and its relevance to history and national, regional and continental factual events that are worth mentioning, cultural gems and way of how to produce film that remain true to the Eritrean and African Identity rather than making films that copy others like, for instance, Hollywood. Besides, we can all agree that imitating Hollywood or any other giant film makers would be impossible when speaking in terms of local capacities and, more importantly, when asking who's responsible for telling Eritrean and African stories. Thus, expanding expertise in cinematic language to be able to eventually formulate an etymology for African narratives is the ultimate goal and vision of the workshop.

This particular message of staying true to your identity and determination topped by hard work for self-development, was highlighted in the speech Mr. Zemhired Yohannes

delivered in the closing ceremony of the workshop held at the premises of the iconic architectural beauty Cinema Asmara. Mr. Zemhired Yohannes quoted renowned Italian film maker Fellini who compares the language of film to that of dreams. Mr. Zemhired Yohannes praised Ambessa Jir Berhane, Isseyas Tesfamariam and

Sara Meretab for their devotion towards a shared dream. He also gave much praise to the artists and their work so far after recalling the paramount importance of further dedication of everyone involved. The celebratory closing ceremony night was made colorful by short films produced by participants of the workshop.

Interesting Times . . .

Continued from page 3

Today, Horn citizens are negotiating the peace on their own terms. The alignments in the Horn region have restored hope for over 100 million of its inhabitants. Endowed with rich resources and a youthful population, if they put their minds and energies to it, the future looks really bright. No doubt there will be spoilers... but at this juncture in history, with a much more conscious population in the Horn, equipped with painful but recent lessons under their belt, they will not allow a reversal of their peace....

For Eritrea, the “curse” entailed complicated ramifications.

At least three generations of Eritreans have lived through these interesting times- a privilege of sorts-with millions benefitting from the extended survey and qualia of experiences- eye witnesses to history. Not saying it was an easy journey, or that time and opportunity were not lost. It

was a difficult and frightening time, and some of the damage is irreversible, but knowing with certainty what the outcome would be, kept Eritrea from succumbing to the unprecedented pressure. Eritrea would prevail, victory was certain. It was inevitable. As President Isaias correctly stated in his Statement, it, the interesting times, was “not inherently sustainable”.

The trying and interesting times of the last 20 years provided Eritrea with the opportunity to seek solutions from within. Relying on Eritrea's time-tested values and principles, the nation has achieved much and has emerged more confident. Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia have embarked on a new journey to bring an end to these interesting times... they have found their place under the sun... on their own terms...and have chosen to give peace a chance to reign in the region.

Is the world ready for a peaceful Horn of Africa? Only time will tell...



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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Bisha Mining Share Company is looking applicants for the following positions:-

1. **Position: Plant Operator**
Department: Process Stream - Process Plant
Number required: Ten (10)

PRIMARY PURPOSE

- Operate a number of areas in the plant from Crushing circuit to Grinding, Reagent mixing, Flotation and Filtration.(Plant operations are carried out based on the training of work areas which includes all operational activities onside process plant).

TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS

- **Planning**
 - After daily toolbox meeting, plan day’s activities.
- **Implementation of the Plan**
 - Control the various sections of plant, Monitor the equipment,
 - Ensure machines/equipment is safe and operating effectively.
 - Measure density and samples as required
 - Monitor addition of reagents as per the giving target/parameters,
 - Report defects/failures of equipment’s and arrange maintenance,
 - Maintain good housekeeping,
 - Prepare reagents for mixing and maintain consumption as required
 - Follow all operational discipline’s as per the SOP and instructions from supervisor/management
 - Always work as a team , for other duties that may be required as per the business needs
 - Communicate any problems/irregularities with the equipment to the control room or the supervisor.
- **Writing Reports**
 - Compile daily reports for
 - Prestart cheek list

- Defects equipment’s
 - Consumption of reagents
 - Shift production report.
- **Supervise/Manage team**
 - Provide technical support for the team, by supervising various activities.
 - Provide training for the team (especially safety standards and procedures).

Qualifications
Grade 12 and above
Technical School graduate and above
Knowledge and Experience
Basic knowledge of flotation or metallurgy
1 year experience in ore processing plant.
3-5 years’ experience with crushing, milling and other industrial equipment’s.

Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
Computer Literacy (MS Office – Intermediate)	Communication (English, Local language)
Understanding relevant policies	Interpersonal Relations
Attention to detail	Integrity
Analytical skill	Prioritizing skills & towards strict deadlines.
Fit and healthy	High level of accuracy
Problem solving skill	Discretion
Knowledge of process plant equipment’s	Self-motivation

2. **Position: Field Equipment Operator**
Department – Exploration
Number required - (01)

PRIMARY PURPOSE

- Operate Class 4 vehicles, including remotes areas of the Exploration license.

TASK DESCRIPTIONS

Operate and Maintain Water Truck

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- Operate the Water Truck in areas as requested by Supervisor/ Manager.
- Ensure that the Water Truck is filled with water at all times.
- Ensure that truck is maintained in accordance with the maintenance requirements and daily pre-start inspection is completed.
- Responsible to ensure that truck is washed and always tidy in the inside.
- Sign logbook when truck is used and kilometres should be indicated.
- Ensure all mechanical issues and damage is reported immediately to supervisor

Operate Front-end Loader/Backhoe for Site Preparation / Remediation Activities if qualified.

- Responsible to ensure that drill sites are prepared by clearing the area as indicated by supervisor and all environmental guidelines are followed.
- Responsible to ensure drill sumps are excavated as indicated by supervisor and all environmental guidelines are followed.
- Responsible to ensure all access tracks are constructed as indicated by supervisor and all environmental guidelines are followed.
- Responsible to ensure that all remediation work is completed as indicated by supervisor and all environmental all environmental guidelines are followed. Remediation work will include the back filling of all excavated drill sumps, the levelling of the disturbed area and the installation of drill hole cover plates and rods.
- Ensure the front-end loader / backhoe is maintained in accordance with maintenance requirements and daily pre-start inspections are completed.
- Sign logbook when front-end loader / backhoe is used and machine hours should be indicated.
- Ensure all mechanical issues and damage is reported immediately to supervisor.
- Responsible to ensure that the front-end loader / backhoe are washed and always tidy in the inside.

Assist with Field Logistics (geology, geophysics, drill etc.)

- When required, assist with core movement (moving core boxes) and processing (meter marking, RQD, XRF, Mag Sus and SG).
- When required, assist with geophysical ground survey, field geological mapping and sampling. E

Transfer of Core Boxes

- Pick up core boxes from drill sites and transfer to core logging shed, transport empty core boxes and consumables to drill sites as requested.
- Ensure all drill core is transported safely and securely, load and unload core boxes from light vehicle.

Qualifications:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grade 10• Class 4 drivers licence, qualified to operate wheeled backhoe advantageous	
Knowledge and Experience:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ability to operate wheeled backhoe loader• Valid driver’s licence – class 4 necessary• Several years’ operating backhoe advantageous• LV licence	
Technical Skills	Behavioural Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Driving skills• Operation of class 4 vehicles• Mechanical skills• Knowledge of Health and Safety policies and procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communication (English and local language)• Interpersonal relations skill• Physically fit

General Information and other requirements:

- **Place of Work:** Bisha.
- **Salary:** As per Company salary scale.

Additional requirement for Nationals:

- Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provide evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defense.
- Present clearance paper from current/last employer.
- Testimonial documents to be attached (CV, work experience credentials, a copy of your National Identity Card etc.).
- Only shortlisted applicants would be considered as potential candidates for an interview.
- Application documents will not be returned to sender.
- All applications should be sent through the post office.
- Deadline for application: 10 days from the day of publication in the Newspaper.
- **Address:** Please mail your applications to;
Bisha Mining Share Company,
P. O. Box 4276 Asmara, Eritrea
- **Note to Non-Eritrean applicants:**
Please send a copy of your application to
Aliens Employment permits Affairs,
P. O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea.



Q&A with Prof. Ghidewon Abay

Billion Temesghen

Prof. Ghidewon Abay is a mathematics professor at the University of Commonwealth in Virginia. Ever since 2004 he has been a visiting instructor at the Eritrea Institute of Technology (EIT) gaining much respect and love from his Eritrean students. The professor is also highly involved in several activities of the YPFDJ in the Diaspora. We have asked him to share his perspectives on the Eritrean youth both in Eritrea and abroad as he is extremely fond of them.

Q: You have been teaching at EIT for several summers now. Lately, you took part in the newly installed postgraduate education in the institute. From your perspective, what is the inspiration of the institute? And also, tell us about your experience teaching in both the undergraduate and postgraduate level at EIT?

A: The postgraduate program at EIT, if I am correct, has biology, chemistry, physics, chemistry and mathematics in it. There could be other departments with postgraduate programs. But, these ones, I am quite certain have postgraduate programs. My involvement is in the Department of Mathematics.

The aim of postgraduate programs at EIT is to realize self-sufficiency by having enough instructors. I have been involved with EIT since 2004. Then, the ratio between indigenous versus non indigenous instructors was very disappointing. Now it is much better. Out of twenty four instructors only one quarter are from Eritrea. The purpose of the postgraduate program is to train mathematics instructors and then from masters program in EIT they would pursue PHD abroad.

In the previous years I was coming to EIT every summer to teach graduate elective courses that include optimization and theory of ordinary differential equations. This year's summer program was rather short and focused on mathematical research in discrete math.

You can say that this time around it was a workshop that made emphasis on discrete mathematics. The ranges of courses given in the postgraduate math program of EIT are broad and extremely interesting. Therefore, I can affirm that the newly introduced

graduate programs are very promising. I believe that it takes four major components for any educational program to succeed: students, curriculum, instructors and resources. In terms of students Eritrea has a big number of dedicated and hardworking students, and that is based on my experience. The students' resourcefulness is extremely impressive. Of course you cannot compare a fourteen years old educational system with those of Europe or America which have been running for centuries. So, as far as I am concerned what I have seen is that the colleges of Eritrea are on the right trajectory thanks to the enthusiasm of Eritrean students and instructors. These centers of higher education will certainly be epicenters of research and learning not only for Eritrea but for the region as well.

Q: I am curious to know the difference between students of developing countries, such as Eritrea, and those in Europe or America. Through the several years of your career as an instructor, have you, perhaps, felt any differences between students who study with all imaginable commodities and students who learn with the little they have?

Mathematics is a poor person's course. It doesn't require a lab and much resources. The only thing you need is a good text book and also passion. In that sense I taught high school in Ethiopia. I also taught as graduate assistant when I was a college student in Kenya. I have been teaching in the USA ever since I started my graduate program. I have taught Eritrean students, Ethiopian, Kenyan and American students. I don't find Eritrean students to be any less capable than the ones I teach in the US. If there is any difference that would be of individual interests and, sometimes, background. I

can say that the twenty years of no war no peace situation has made life tough on Eritreans. Therefore, instructors and students did suffer a lot trying to make ends meet but despite all difficulties the educational system in Eritrea is a remarkable one. The government has been investing, within given constraints, heavily on education. And the outcomes show in the diligence of Eritrean students and teachers. With peace on the horizon, I truly hope for a speedy advance for Eritrea so that people can work on and execute different studies, research and projects to the maximum of their capabilities and desires.

Professor, you are also highly involved with Eritrean youth abroad. What can you say about them and the connections they have with the homeland?

My involvement with Eritreans in the Diaspora is little compared to the role they have in fortifying a strong sense of identity within the Eritrean community abroad. Growing up in a foreign land is hard. The first thing one does if born and raised there is try to break the stigma and melt in that big melting pot, as they call it, and in every possible way look like and act like an Anglo-Saxon. For most Eritrean youngsters the scenario is different. They'd rather mold themselves to be representatives of Africa and particularly Eritrea. They feel that it is their responsibility to carry on the torch of the identifiable identity that was attained through heavy prices. The young diaspora Eritreans' inspiration are the young Eritreans in Eritrea. The heavy burden of defending sovereignty and nation building that they carry with modesty and patriotism is probably the greatest source of motivation for Eritreans abroad to be proud of their origins. They need Eritrea as much as it needs

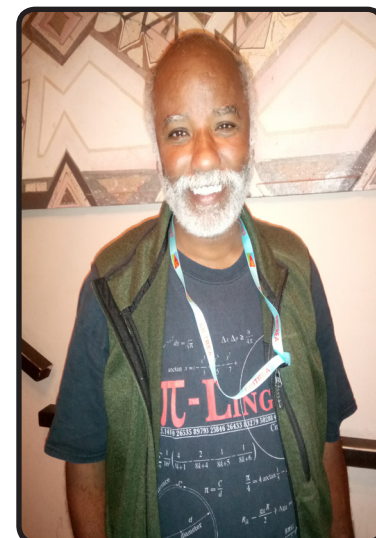
them. Therefore, the work they do, especially in public diplomacy, is admirable.

What is the involvement rate? Do all Eritreans partake in YPFDJ and its efforts?

It is hard to expect hundred percent participation of every Eritrean abroad. But those who do take part are indeed stellar youth raised and brought up in the Diaspora who, nonetheless, reserve a grand place for Eritrea in their minds, hearts and soul. Eritrea is their true home. I'd like to make a note directed to the Eritrean youth abroad to come and give back in any capacity. Come to Eritrea and share knowledge and experience. You would receive more than what you give as there is a lot to benefit from Eritreans and Eritrea.

You have closely worked with Eritrean youth here in Eritrea and abroad on several occasions. And I know you are fond of them. What would your recommendation be for Eritrean youth both in the country and abroad now that it finally looks like the time for peace and stability has come?

It is, now, the perfect time for Eritreans to join hands in developing our home. First of all, let me praise the Eritrean youth in Eritrea that has been altruistically selfless, generous and courageous in defending and building our country. They truly are dedicated, steadfast and unique. And these words would describe the youth of now and yesterday. Only Eritrean youngsters would withstand the pressure of life we experienced in the past half century, particularly in the last twenty years. The country is surviving thanks to our unwavering youth. As far as the youth in the Diaspora, I have high regards for them too. These are youth that could have melted in the big melting pot of the west and



lose their identity, but they didn't and choose to remain true to their identity. And that is admirable.

Going back to your question, peace comes with its own form of challenges. Many ups and downs await us ahead. Eritrean students who've been working hard to improve themselves, while building and safeguarding the nation, have now reached the time to manifest their wits. It is time for them to think innovatively and implement everything they have learned to research and discover many things as Eritrea is a virgin land full of opportunities. It is also time for the youth abroad to give back to the nation. I urge them to make time for their country and share their knowledge and ideas with their compatriots here. If the peace situation we have just embarked on is sustainable, and I heartily hope so, I believe that Eritrean youth will make miracles once again in building Eritrea.

Thank you for your time Professor. Any closing remarks?

Congratulations to the Eritrean people. You have withstood a lot. Moreover, best wishes to the people of Eritrea and Ethiopia. If we learn from the past and work together the future is bright and the sky is the limit.