



HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESIDENT ISAIAS AFWERKI'S INTERVIEW WITH LOCAL MEDIA OUTLETS

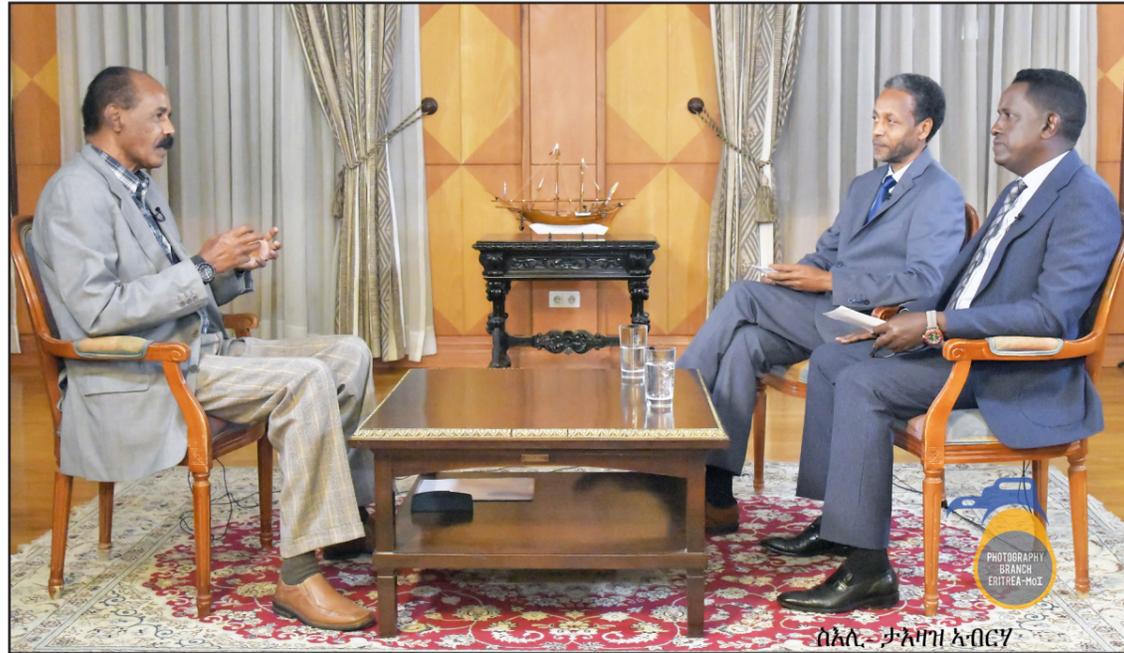
National Media outlets conducted an Interview with President Isaias Afwerki, on 30th November, 2024 on timely and important global, regional, as well, as domestic issues.

On the implications and ramifications of the election of President Donald Trump to the global order

President Isaias underlined that policy forecasts and analysis must be predicated on the wider framework of global and geopolitical realities that have unfolded in the past three decades. In this perspective, President Trump's signature policy stance of MAGA (Make America Great Again) contains an implicit recognition that the US is not the dominant power – in terms of key economic, military, technological and influence/soft power parameters – as envisaged by the architects of a unipolar world order whose hallmark was unassailable and overbearing US dominance in all the determinant parameters and manifestations of power. US containment policies, primarily geared towards China due to its rising pre-eminence in the economic and technological domains and growing international influence as well as against Russia have not evidently achieved their pronounced objectives. It is doubtful now whether envisaged protectionist policies will reverse the trend. The aspiration of the vast majority of the world's peoples is for a new international order based on justice and that promotes fairness and the collective well-being of humanity; not architectures of confrontation under the rubric of bi-polarity or multi-polarity. Within this broad framework, and as one cannot throw the dice to decipher, at this early stage, or map-out all the possible scenarios on how the policy of the Trump Administration will ultimately pan out, it would be inappropriate to make premature conclusions. And while doing our homework, we must strive to foster constructive engagement with an open mind.

On the conflict in the Sudan

President Isaias underlined Sudan's pivotal regional status as well as its historical ties with Eritrea that goes back to the period of the liberation struggle. Religious agendas coupled with external meddling precipitated cyclical crises in the country culminating in the spontaneous rebellion of 2019. While the solution to the conflict in the Sudan naturally rests with, and remains the sovereign



prerogative of the Sudanese people, this cannot inhibit us from making modest contributions due to our historical ties and overarching policy of promoting a stable and safe neighborhood. In this spirit, Eritrea had originally submitted its non-controversial and widely accepted proposal in mid-2022. The broad outlines of the proposal essentially envisaged entrusting the transition to the Sovereign Council – which had in fact earned the mandate if only by default - and which would act as a bridge to a Safe Path to ensure that the situation does not spin out of control. This would also preclude potentially dangerous rivalries among fractious traditional political parties and groups. President Isaias further stressed that the war, which had no rationale in the first place and that has been fueled by external intervention, must come to an immediate end. External interventions and the proliferation of initiatives which essentially exacerbate the tragic situation must also come to an end. Efforts must be directed towards cultivating consensus in the region.

On the Tripartite Eritrea, Egypt and Somalia Summit

President Isaias alluded to the intensive distortion and disinformation campaigns peddled in mainstream and social media on the event by external powers/pundits bent on stoking conflict in the region. These did not emanate from genuine concern for Ethiopia. The scheme involved deliberately ignoring or glossing over the true and positive dimensions of the Tripartite Summit for cultivating consensus for enduring regional stability. Eritrea's core interests and attendant constant policies are predicated on fostering and pursuing an agenda of

promoting stability, cooperation and complementarity in the wider Horn of Africa, Nile Basin and Red Sea neighbourhood. Eritrea has indeed no interest whatsoever to destabilize Ethiopia. Mutual consultations pursued at various levels among the countries of the wider neighborhood will dispel mistrust and create conducive climate for positive and fruitful interaction among the constituent parties.

On the situation in Ethiopia and divisions within TPLF leadership

President Isaias underlined that focus on isolated current episodes and trends outside the underlying political framework will not be fruitful. The primary cause of the periodic tension and conflicts in Ethiopia as well as with its neighbours is the institutionalized policy of ethnic polarization enshrined in the constitution of 1994. This is a recipe for perpetual tension and cannot certainly promote nation-building. And if Ethiopia is not at peace with itself, it cannot contribute positively to regional stability, cooperation and complementarity. The border war between Eritrea and Ethiopia in 1998 on a presumed dispute in Badme etc. was, in essence, a byproduct or fallout of this misguided policy. The sanctity of inherited boundaries in Africa is not indeed controversial. The other dimension is, of course, external meddling which, in the case of the border war, continued to compound the problem even after the matter was settled through final and binding arbitration. The war that erupted after the installation of a new Federal Government with a pronounced policy of reform must also be seen within the same context. The TPLF rejected the reform agenda and opted for war which included attacking

more than 70 targets in Eritrea with long-range rockets. Our pleas for them to refrain from unleashing this reckless war came to no avail. And even after the Pretoria Agreement, we have seen a new round of conflicts in the Amhara Region. Without going into extensive details, we have no interest in digressing into acrimonious allegations. Our primary preoccupation has always been to prevent and avoid costly wars. In this spirit, we will not lose hope and we have to work for and foster stability, cooperation and complementarity in the region. Also because, these problems essentially emanate from and serve external agendas.

On Domestic Developmental Programmes

President Isaias elaborated

in greater detail, GOE's developmental priorities as well as blueprints and operational plans in the critical sectors of water infrastructure, energy, housing, road transport, and investment for 2025. In water infrastructure, President Isaias described the extensive, nation-wide, water conservation programmes that have been implemented in the past years that include big dams with 330 million cubic meters as well as extensive network of smaller dams and water reservoirs. These were accompanied by rigorous re-forestation programmes. Operational plans for 2025 and beyond include expansion of irrigation schemes. In energy, GOE's approach revolved around installation of thermal, solar, wind as well as geothermal hybrid systems. Construction companies will be restructured for better implementation of new housing schemes. Similarly, the Government will invest in procurement of buses which will serve, especially deprived areas, at subsidized prices. The Government will also redouble its efforts to revitalize the manufacturing sector geared on value-addition. In investment, the GOE will encourage private local investment and especially from the Diaspora, who may have better financial capabilities, not only in traditional hospitality sector but also in agriculture, manufacturing, mining, etc. (First Part of the interview is on page 2)

ERITREA PARTICIPATES IN CONFERENCE OF PARTIES OF UN CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

Eritrea is participating in the Sixteenth Conference of Parties (COP16) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), being held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from 2–16 December 2024, under the theme "Our Land-Our Future."

The delegation, led by Mr. Semere

Amlesom, Director General of the Agricultural Extension Department at the Ministry of Agriculture, is expected to participate in the high-level segment, plenary discussions, and technical sessions addressing desertification, land degradation, and drought.

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INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT ISAIAS AFWERKI: ON GLOBAL, REGIONAL, AND DOMESTIC ISSUES

Part I

On November 30, 2024, national media outlets conducted an interview with President Isaias Afwerki, discussing timely and important global, regional, and domestic issues. First part of the interview follows.

Mr. President: currently, our world is facing numerous crises and conflicts. The situation in Ukraine, the geopolitical rivalry in the South China Sea, and the ongoing conflicts involving Israel, Hamas, Hezbollah, Iran, and the Houthis are resulting in significant loss of life. Additionally, the circumstances in the Horn of Africa are increasingly alarming, with the civil war in Sudan and internal strife in Ethiopia and Somalia raising serious concerns. In this brief interview, we intend to field questions on global and regional issues as well as domestic matters of greater relevance to our people.

We will begin our interview by addressing significant global and regional issues. The first question pertains to the recent Presidential election in the United States, where President Trump has secured a decisive victory, (after an interlude of four years), for another term. With the inauguration of the new Administration, what potential changes or implications might we expect in the current policies of this superpower and the existing global order?

The United States has historically played a significant role in global affairs, and the return of Donald Trump to power should be examined within this broader context. What was the role of the U.S. following the end of World War, and how has its position evolved in the realm of

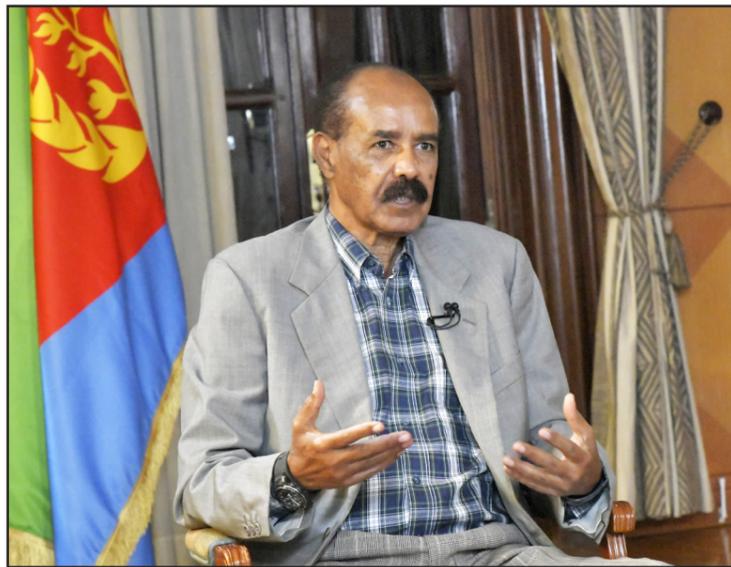
global politics? What impacts has it had on international relations? In the past three decades, particularly in the post-Cold War era, how have various administrations in Washington sought to establish a unipolar world order? What influence have changes in presidential leadership had on this effort? During his first term, what signals did Trump convey regarding U.S. foreign policy? Looking ahead his Presidency after his re-election, what can we anticipate? Will there be changes, and if so, what type of changes might we expect? It is essential to analyze these questions in relation to past and historical policies.

Let us begin with the concept of "Make America Great Again" (MAGA). This slogan has been prominently featured throughout the election, manifesting in various forms, including symbols on apparel, and has been a cornerstone of Trump's campaign rhetoric. Essentially, MAGA embodies a commitment to restoring America's preeminent strength and influence on the global stage. This perspective implicitly acknowledges that the United States is no longer the dominant global power it once was. Trump's support among many Americans reflects a shared sentiment that the U.S. is no longer the unchallenged leader in international affairs.

What are the primary factors contributing to the decline of American power? Why is it essential to restore that power at this juncture? These questions merit thorough examination. Presently, the United States does not wield the same level of influence it did during and immediately after the Cold War. While it is challenging to generalize, there is a prevailing perception among American elites that resonates with these realities.

Following the conclusion of World War II, U.S. administrations played a dominant role in global affairs during a tumultuous period. For nearly 50 years, the world was marked by intense power rivalry known as the Cold War, whose hallmark was the competition between the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact and the U.S.-led NATO Alliance. Ultimately, the Cold War came to an end with the collapse of the Soviet Union.

This outcome was not solely a result of U.S. strength; rather, it stemmed from the policies of Perestroika and other reforms introduced by Mikhail Gorbachev, alongside strategic miscalculations by Soviet leadership. Consequently, this period is often perceived as a



victory for leaders such as Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher.

The end of the Cold War fostered a desire for a unipolar world order, which in turn gave rise to the US notion and predilection of "dominating and conquering the world." This mindset was accompanied by the belief that no power should compete with the United States in terms of economic, military, or technological capabilities. It can be said that the end of the Cold War led to a misguided perception regarding U.S. global standing. The ambition to impose and consolidate a unipolar system and the aspiration to assume a role as the "global leader and enforcer" resulted in significant miscalculations. As a response, the policy of "containment" emerged, aimed at limiting the influence of those perceived as rivals. Over the past three decades, particularly during the Administrations of Bill Clinton and his successors, U.S. foreign policy has been fundamentally shaped by this principle.

Indeed, the ramifications of this philosophy are evident in ongoing conflicts such as the situation in Ukraine; the tensions surrounding Taiwan; as well as in the various other global disputes which have been fueled by the desire for increased influence and power. For the past 30 years, this policy has been executed through direct interventions or by utilizing proxies or "Anchors". The consequences can be assessed in greater detail and on a case by case basis.

Initially, Trump introduced the concept of "Make America Great Again" during his first-term so as to restore America's dominant and unassailable global power; which had diminished in his perception. He identified China and Russia as the principal rivals of the United States, with China being viewed as the foremost competitor. While Trump believed that relations with Russia could be improved to some extent, he regarded China as the primary challenge to U.S. dominance.

The pronounced intention of

imposing tariffs - ranging from 10% to 25% - is rooted in the objective of strengthening America's position and containing China's expanding global influence. The details can be further elaborated with accurate statistical figures. In any case, the indisputable fact remains that it is China which has constituted the greatest threat to U.S. preeminence; indeed, the principal cause of America's loss of power relative to China's ascendance. One may skim through various statistical data and indices on global ranking of nations. But the fact remains that no nation surpasses China, at this point in time, in economic power. Those who contend otherwise must provide persuasive metrics that establish their claims. The United States is not in a position to compete with China on economic grounds.

When it comes to military power, the question does not revolve around the sheer number of nuclear warheads; this is not the sole determinant of superiority. First, it is essential to define what constitutes military power? Globally, what criteria must a nation meet to be considered as a superpower in terms of influence and dominance? In this context, the economy emerges as a primary factor.

While the United States has historically been seen as a military powerhouse, China's advancements cannot be overlooked. The notion of a unipolar world, predicated on perceived technological, economic, and military superiority, does not align with the current reality. Since the 1990s, China has significantly enhanced its role on the global stage, making substantial strides economically, technologically, and militarily, as well as increasing its influence across Asia, Africa, Europe, and even within the United States.

Compared to the Chinese economy, the U.S. national debt has soared to approximately \$32 trillion, with projections suggesting it could rise to \$34 trillion or even \$36 trillion. This raises critical questions: Why has this debt escalated to such

levels? How did the United States arrive at this point? What factors have contributed to the decline of the world's former leading economy?

Notably, 25% of this debt is owed to China. This situation emerged from a prevalent assumption in the West that regarded itself as "superior" while underestimating China's capacity for innovation; viewing it primarily as a nation limited to copying or reverse-engineering rather than possessing the endowment and capability for original invention. The perception that China's labor and energy costs were low prompted many companies to relocate factories offshore in order to capitalize on these perceived operational advantages.

Ultimately, economic strength is measured by production capacity. In this regard, China's industrial output has grown exponentially, positioning it as the world's leading economy. Furthermore, China operates without the burden of a national debt. The case of Europe can be discussed later. To revert to the main point and in view of the factors spelled out above, it is evident that America is no longer the preeminent economy globally and has diminished in its status as a superpower.

At the onset of the unipolar global system, Russia was viewed as a significant threat due to its vast geography, technological advancements, and military capabilities. However, this perception has evolved, and the current landscape presents a different reality.

To restore the United States to its previous status as the greatest power, it must regain dominance in the global economy. In this context, the U.S. has sought to counter China's rising influence through increased tariffs and taxes. The objective is to reclaim lost power, which is likely to involve restricting the entry of Chinese products into the U.S. market. This approach is predicated on and emphasizes bolstering domestic production, both in terms of quantity and quality. Furthermore, the declared intention of applying similar measures to imports from Mexico and Canada, including proposed tariffs of up to 25%, illustrates the extent of volatility in the US economy. These strategies highlight the vulnerability of the U.S. economy, which has increasingly transitioned from being a dominant producer to a consumer market. Consequently, the U.S. is pursuing a protectionist policy aimed at limiting foreign products from entering the domestic market. It can be asked, however, whether such measures are feasible.

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**ERITREA
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INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT ISAIAS AFWERKI . . .

Continued from page 2

The current Administrations in Washington, particularly under President Biden, have faced challenges, and the US economic, technological, and diplomatic stature appear to have diminished in global prominence, revealing signs of weakness.

This situation prompts further and related inquiries: Is NATO a reliable alliance? Is the European Union still strong? What are the underlying dynamics of these alliances? Are they still perceived as sources of support for the United States? These issues warrant critical analysis from various perspectives.

It is not surprising that the challenges currently facing the United States can be traced back to policies implemented over the last 35 years. The concept of MAGA represents a reactive

advancements in countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia, and Vietnam, cannot be overlooked. Additionally, North Korea's technological progress poses a significant concern. The economic resurgence of Japan and South Korea also raises uncertainties for the United States, as these nations have emerged as strategic economic competitors. Consequently, a pressing issue has become what the future portends even to these alliances.

Implementing the MAGA initiative is not a straightforward or easy task; it requires a nuanced understanding of how to navigate these emerging dynamics effectively. The situation in Europe is similarly precarious, raising critical questions about the extent to which the U.S. can rely on its European Allies. Furthermore, NATO's role in military, technological and economic

issues raised by Trump regarding Canada and Mexico can be viewed as its regional concerns. The historical confrontation between the United States and Latin America can be traced back to the Cold War era, particularly during the crises involving Cuba.

The current landscape across much of South America is marked by instability. One of Washington's major policies has become the restriction in the flow of migrants, primarily through initiatives such as building barriers and seeking collaborative solutions with South American nations. But these approaches fail to address the root causes and potential remedies for migration. The discourse surrounding migration has become heavily laden with emotional considerations.

US much-diminished production capacity has contributed, so to speak, to a superficial and artificial quality of life. It is no longer a matter of what you earn for the work that you do. The notion of America as a "promised land" drives the mass exodus from Latin America, including Mexico. Indeed, many migrants from Latin America find themselves unable to support their families back home through remittances. The political landscape, combined with manipulation of the migration narrative, has further exacerbated the issue, making it a prominent item on the agenda.

Moreover, domestic challenges in the United States are becoming increasingly pronounced, particularly regarding access to healthcare and other essential services. These issues compound the difficulties faced by both migrants and the broader American populace.

What is expected of Trump in such circumstances? What measures could he implement on a global scale across critical sectors – military, technological, political, diplomatic, and, above all, economic? What position might he adopt regarding Europe? What actions could he pursue concerning the ongoing crisis in Ukraine? How will he handle relations with Putin? In which areas might they find opportunities for collaboration? What new proposals can they develop together?

These questions are numerous and complex. Therefore, it is essential to reference historical contexts to analyze whether Trump, following his significant electoral victory, can bring about meaningful change. The challenge of making America great again is substantial. What responses

or outcomes might arise from Trump's efforts to implement the MAGA agenda?

The international landscape is not a "one-player game." How might other nations react? What position will China take? What is Russia's trajectory amid its current circumstances? How will Europe respond? Additionally, how will key players in Asia—such as India, Pakistan, South Korea, Japan, and Australia—react? What does the future hold for Latin America?

One has to put all these factors into consideration to have a clear image. Can the attempt to revive the previously unsuccessful unipolar world order succeed after 30 years since its inception? How much support can this concept garner? Were the foundational pillars of the unipolar world system effective, and where are they currently headed? What changes may emerge from these shifts? These pivotal questions necessitate thorough exploration. Trump's initiatives could potentially come to new developments, but the critical concern is where these efforts will ultimately lead?

Today, there is a widespread demand for a new global order—one that is not dictated by one or two superpowers, but rather an order that is just, fair, and inclusive. A multipolar world system is one possible approach; however, the concept of multipolarity itself requires further clarity. What constitutes this new global order? Various forums are emerging, such as BRICS, alongside numerous initiatives and attempts to reshape international relations. These efforts reflect aspirations for change, yet they also raise questions about whether this new global system can offer a coherent vision and a clear roadmap for the future. Is it truly inclusive and successful?

Given the current global situation, what is the impact of Trump's re-election? What short-term and long-term changes could he implement? The potential trends cannot be deciphered by throwing a dice or a speculative mind-set. Still, there are indications from his first term that can guide our understanding. Even now, he is providing hints that shed light on his potential approaches. How can he effectively address pressing issues while navigating significant challenges? While it is possible to speculate and envision various scenarios, now is not the time to draw definitive conclusions. Ultimately, what matters is how we prepare to confront all potential outcomes so as to address the challenges effectively.

Africa is often marginalized and overlooked in discussions surrounding global issues. However, it is important to consider our own region and how Trump's policies might affect it. What potential policies could he implement regarding our region, and what impact might they have? This topic is broad and intricate, leaving many questions unanswered. On our part, any meaningful discussion or analysis requires a comprehensive and detailed perspective to provide a clear understanding of the situation. This is a challenging task, but it is essential for drafting and implementing effective policies. Addressing any issue necessitates a proper framework and a thorough understanding of the underlying dynamics at play. The points raised here serve as indicators that can help tackle major challenges. US Domestic issues, too, warrant in-depth examination.

What has Biden been communicating, and what about Harris? Their discussions have often centered on minor or trivial issues. Were these truly the most pressing topics? Could they not address more significant issues relevant to America and the American people? Is this a challenge they can overcome?

As we consider what Trump might do upon assuming office again, it is essential to approach the situation with critical analysis and caution. This is not a new topic for us. We had indeed undertaken similar exercises and initiatives when Trump took office during his first Presidential term. We explored what the possibilities were and what our policies of engagement should be? We are aware and recognize that we must avoid a self-centered perspective and instead consider the broader context. In the initial years of Trump's Administration, there was an expectation of a shift in U.S. policy. Unfortunately, that policy remained largely unchanged, and hostilities and sanctions against Eritrea continued without any concrete improvement throughout his term.

Where do we stand at this moment? It is imperative that we conduct a thorough analysis and full appraisal, and be ready engagement by develop appropriate working documents. We cannot simply wait and hope for favorable outcomes.

What is expected of us now? How do we engage in the context of various possible developments and scenarios? We must be fully prepared for these tasks. And as the current year is coming to an end, we can confidently say that we have done our homework and are looking forward to what may unfold.



response to lost opportunities and deteriorating conditions. To genuinely restore America's greatness, it is essential to adopt policies that align with this vision. Presently, existing policies primarily focus on "containment", as illustrated by the current situation in Europe, where the strategy of containing Russia has taken precedence. However, the landscape has evolved, with the emergence of another more powerful country – that is China. Consequently, the central issue shifts on "the containment of China."

In this respect, strategies for the "containment of China" have included addressing the situation in Taiwan, fostering new alliances, capitalizing on disputes between China and India, and forming partnerships with countries such as Australia, Japan, South Korea, and the Philippines in the South China Sea. The situation in Taiwan is often cited as a rationale for these containment efforts. Nevertheless, the feasibility of these strategies remains questionable.

The dynamics of economic change and growth in Asia, particularly the collective

dimensions must be reassessed. Many European economies have experienced significant depletion, resulting in reduced capacity to make substantial contributions to collective defense. Despite assertions from economic elites, European nations may lack the economic strength needed to support robust commitments.

The European Union is attempting to expand by incorporating former members of the Warsaw Pact, such as Ukraine and Georgia. This raises further questions about the reliability of U.S. alliances with the EU in promoting the MAGA agenda. Trump has suggested that dependence on NATO may not serve America's interests, especially given that many NATO member states have not met their financial obligations. His approach towards NATO and Europe, along with its potential ramifications, warrants careful examination on a case-by-case basis.

Though it is not a priority, the situation in Latin America remains a significant topic in its own right. For the US, the primary focus, at the moment, is on Asia, followed by developments in Europe. The

OPINION

Sona Berhane

Equality in Action: An Eritrean Perspective

The empowerment of women in Eritrea has become a pivotal aspect of the nation's development, underscoring a commitment to ensuring that women and girls can thrive in society. This commitment is reflected in ongoing efforts to address harmful practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM) and underage marriage, while simultaneously ensuring that girls have access to education as a fundamental right.

Eritrea's approach to promoting women's empowerment is deeply embedded in its legal, social, and cultural framework, bolstered by a national commitment to advancing women's rights. Among the most prominent initiatives is the fight against FGM, which has gained both national and international attention due to significant progress. FGM was officially outlawed in Eritrea in 2007 under Proclamation No. 158/2007, making it a criminal offense to practice or facilitate the procedure. This legal framework is supported by robust community advocacy campaigns led by the National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW), alongside the collaboration of religious leaders, health professionals, and local community committees. These campaigns aim to educate the public about the dangers of FGM, challenge entrenched cultural norms, and replace



Additionally, NUEW regularly organizes workshops, focus groups, and media campaigns to disseminate information about FGM and empower local leaders to advocate against the practice.

Religious leaders have emerged as invaluable allies in this movement. Both Christian and Muslim faith leaders in Eritrea have publicly denounced FGM, clarifying that it is not a religious obligation but rather a harmful cultural practice. Their involvement has been crucial in dispelling misconceptions and promoting social change, particularly in rural areas where such practices are more deeply rooted.

initiatives aimed at eliminating underage marriage. The unethical practice of underage marriage not only robs girls of their childhood but also has lasting impacts on their health, education, and overall well-being. To combat it, Eritrea has implemented a national policy prohibiting marriage before the age of 18, mandating the registration of all marriages to ensure compliance with the law. The government collaborates with community leaders to raise awareness about the dangers of early marriage, often organizing public forums and community gatherings to discuss its harmful effects.

A significant aspect of Eritrea's strategy for women's empowerment is the emphasis on education for all girls. The government has made substantial investments to ensure equal access to education, recognizing that education is a powerful tool for empowerment. The Ministry of Education, in collaboration with NUEW and local communities, has worked to create a safe and inclusive school environment for girls, with initiatives aimed at keeping them in school longer and preventing early marriages. These initiatives include financial support for families, raising awareness of the benefits of girls' education, and ensuring that schools have the necessary infrastructure to meet girls' needs.

The importance of education in Eritrea's gender equality strategy cannot be overstated. By focusing on mandatory education for girls, the country aims to break the cycle of poverty and gender inequality, equipping girls with the skills and knowledge necessary to make informed decisions about their future. Education is not only a right but also a key driver of empowerment, enabling girls to become active participants in their

communities and agents of social change.

Eritrea's efforts to promote women's rights are further supported by its adherence to international conventions and agreements. As a state party to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Eritrea demonstrates its commitment to addressing the needs and rights of women through periodic reports, public consultations, and the implementation of policies that reflect the principles of gender

implementing the Millennium Development Goals, particularly in areas related to women's health and education. The country has achieved remarkable advancements in gender parity in education, maternal health, and women's economic participation, even amid challenging external pressures such as UN sanctions and regional instability. These achievements reflect the government's determination to ensure that women and girls have the opportunities and protections necessary to live fulfilling and productive lives.

Eritrea's commitment to women's empowerment, including the eradication of harmful practices such as FGM and underage marriage, aligns with its broader dedication to women's rights. By



harmful practices with healthier alternatives.

A cornerstone of Eritrea's success in promoting women's empowerment is its community-based approach, which emphasizes education, awareness, and active participation. Regional consultations conducted between June and December 2017 were pivotal in the fight against FGM. These consultations, which included regional governors, religious leaders, and anti-FGM committees, provided a platform to assess achievements, identify challenges, and engage communities in discussions about women's empowerment.

Recently, the Keren and Geleb sub-zones in the Anseba Region proclaimed themselves free of FGM on November 23 and 25, 2024, respectively. At ceremonies in Keren city and the Geleb semi-urban center, Col. Tesfatsion Girmay, Chairman of the Committee for Ensuring the Rights of Children and Women and the Eradication of Harmful Practices, highlighted the detrimental health and psychological impacts of FGM on women. He urged for increased community engagement to maintain the momentum of its eradication.

Alongside the fight against FGM, Eritrea has launched successful



equality. This commitment is also evident in its ratification of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the Maputo Protocol, both of which emphasize the protection of girls from harmful practices like FGM and early marriage.

Moreover, Eritrea has made significant progress in

linking these efforts to overarching goals such as mandatory education for girls and the full participation of women in society, Eritrea is laying the foundation for a more equitable and just future. This focus on empowerment and education serves to strengthen the societal framework, ensuring that all women and girls can thrive in safety, dignity, and equality.

Continued from page 1

ERITREA PARTICIPATES IN CONFERENCE OF PARTIES OF UN CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

According to official information, this COP is the largest-ever meeting of the UNCCD's 196 country parties and the European Union. It is anticipated to be a landmark event for accelerating actions related to land restoration, drought resilience, and green transitions.

The UNCCD reports that 40% of the Earth's surface is affected by land degradation, impacting the lives of 3.2 billion people. Additionally, approximately 100

million hectares of land deteriorate annually. Furthermore, 86% of the UNCCD member countries (169 out of 196) are affected by desertification, land degradation, and drought.

The UNCCD was established in 1994, and Eritrea ratified its membership in 1996. The Conference of Parties of the UNCCD is held every two years, with COP15 previously convened in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in 2022.

The Time is Now: Rising to the Moment to End AIDS

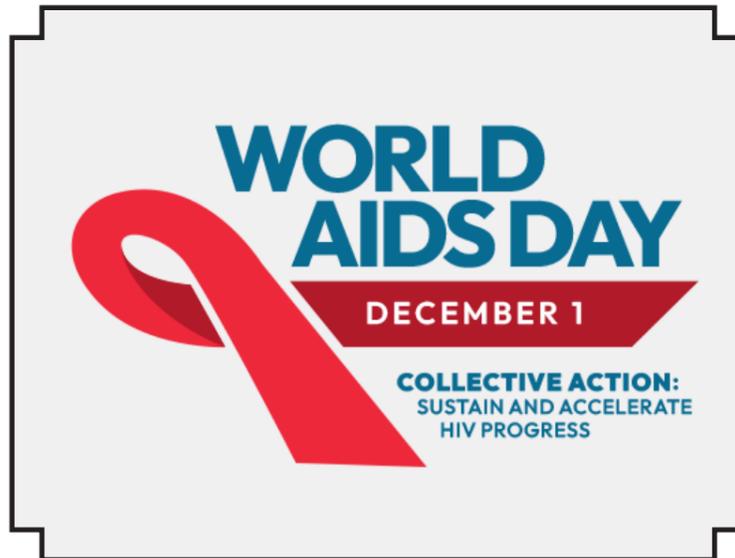
Dr. Fikrejesus Amahazion

The Urgency of Now

According to: “The Urgency of Now: AIDS at a Crossroads”, the 2024 Report by the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the HIV pandemic and the global response have evolved profoundly over the past decade. Fewer people acquired HIV in 2023 than at any point since the mid-1990s and more people are receiving antiretroviral therapy (31 million) and are virally suppressed than ever before. Furthermore, global AIDS-related deaths have been reduced to their lowest level since the peak in 2004.

Notwithstanding important achievements, however, challenges remain. For instance, the progress that has been registered continues to be highly uneven, with some the response in some regions moving swiftly and in others much slower. Notably, the numbers of people acquiring HIV are rising in at least 28 countries, some of which already have substantial epidemics, while HIV programs in many countries still neglect people from key populations, exposing them to high risks of acquiring HIV. As the report states, “AIDS is not over—a great deal of unfinished work lies ahead.” Looking ahead, the global AIDS response is at a crossroads: the decisions global leaders make now will determine whether or not countries can achieve the 2030 target of ending AIDS as a public health threat and ensure progress beyond 2030.

In Eritrea, considerable efforts and investments have been made over the years to combat the scourge of HIV/AIDS. Through strong political commitment and leadership, the hard work of a highly dedicated healthcare workforce, sustained implementation of high-impact interventions, and a well-coordinated multi-sectoral approach, notable success has been achieved in slowing the spread of HIV and sustaining a decline in prevalence and incidence in the country. Equality, too, has been a focus, with the aim of ensuring that everyone in the nation, regardless of distinction or background, has equal access to HIV prevention, testing, treatment and care.



HIV prevalence among adults (aged 15-49 years) in the country is now approximately 0.4 percent, down from about 1.5 percent at independence in 1991. In terms of incidence, it has declined from about 3.9 per 1,000 uninfected population (adults aged 15-49 years) in 1991 to less than 0.1 at present.

Tremendous progress in mother-to-child transmission

One area of considerable progress for Eritrea has been in mother-to-child transmissions. However, while the progress of many other countries has received attention and general coverage, Eritrea's improvements have largely been overlooked and gone unrecognized.

Globally, children under the age of 15 account for about 5 percent of all people living with HIV, approximately 10 percent of new HIV infections, and around 15 percent of all AIDS-related deaths. Perinatal transmission of HIV, which is also called mother-to-child transmission, is when HIV is passed from a woman with HIV to her child during pregnancy (the foetus is infected with HIV through the mother's blood crossing the placenta), childbirth, or breastfeeding (through breast milk). Mother-to-child HIV transmission accounts for around 90 percent of all new childhood infections and children under 1 year of age are among those most vulnerable to HIV.

In the case of Eritrea, a fundamental component of the multifaceted national strategy to combat HIV/AIDS has been the prevention of mother-to-child transmission. There has been a considerable expansion

in access to prevention-related services and HIV testing during antenatal care visits for pregnant women is now almost universal, standing at about 99 percent. This is a substantial increase from approximately 83 percent in 2017. (Antenatal care visits among all pregnant women is also nearly universal.) The Ministry of Health (MoH) encourages testing, along with counseling, as early as possible during each pregnancy, since the earlier that HIV is detected, the sooner that medicines can be initiated and transmission from mother to newborn more effectively prevented.

In addition, through various public awareness campaigns and educational programs maternal knowledge about mother-to-child transmission continues to steadily rise nationwide, while there has been an increase in the number of pregnant women living with HIV being provided with safe, effective medicines (referred to as antiretrovirals). HIV medicines both reduce the risk of perinatal transmission of HIV and protect the mother's health. They are provided completely free of charge (including refills) and the number of sites in the country offering them has increased from 21 in 2013 to more than 50 at present. Crucially, they are located in all six regions of the country and contributing to improved access and reduced dropouts. Furthermore, comprehensive services for routine viral load monitoring and early infant diagnosis are conducted in a growing number of health facilities and also provided free of charge.

Of note, the HIV positivity rate

among pregnant women in testing has been significantly reduced in recent years, dropping from about 0.18 percent in 2017 to about 0.05 percent in 2021. Similarly, the mother-to-child transmission rate in Eritrea continues to steadily drop, and it is estimated to be less than 1.8 percent. Simply, in Eritrea fewer and fewer children – at present only a small handful – are being born with HIV. Remarkably, in recent years, the MoH has reported that no children have been born with HIV in the country. For context, globally it is estimated that in the absence of interventions, the rate of transmission of HIV from a mother living with HIV to her child during pregnancy, labor, delivery or breastfeeding ranges from 15 to 45 percent.

These developments are tangibly improving the health and life expectancy of pregnant women living with HIV and helping to ensure a bright life ahead for more newborns in the country. They have also positioned Eritrea to apply to the World Health Organization for validation and ultimately certification of elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

Access to education, particularly for girls, as a powerful tool for prevention

Another important dimension of Eritrea's success combatting HIV/AIDS has been expanding access to education, particularly for girls. While the recent UNAIDS report details progress, it remains a fact that Africa still faces immense challenges. A large percentage of new HIV infections among adolescents aged 15-19 years are among girls, while girls and young women aged 15-24 years are about twice more likely to be living with HIV than young men.

These trends are driven by a range of factors, including gender roles, gender-related inequalities, social pressures, and a lack of socio-economic power. In terms of education, when girls lack knowledge, skills, training, and opportunities associated with formal schooling, they are often at a considerably greater risk for HIV (through engagement in risky sexual behaviors, such as transactional sex, more or older

partners, lower rates of condom use, and earlier sexual debut, among others). By contrast, more education provides girls with greater socio-economic options, independence and autonomy, and awareness of their rights – all of which can help them stay safe. Moreover, schools often offer girls specific HIV education and life skills training, which are important and practical tools that can dramatically lower their vulnerability to HIV.

In Eritrea, education and the elimination of gender disparities have been among the leading priorities since independence. Basic education is compulsory for both girls and boys, and child marriage legislation has been enacted and is strictly enforced, thus keeping more youths in school. Furthermore, the country has adopted a policy of universal free education from pre-primary to higher education, ensuring that every child, irrespective of background, distinction, or status, has the opportunity to enroll in education, become literate, and maximize their potential. Additionally, various support services are provided, including school feeding programs and support with school uniforms, textbook charges, and activity fees, to increase attendance and support retention. Last, countless roads have also been constructed, alongside substantial expansions in public transport services, thus improving ease of travel and accessibility to education for all.

Access to education for girls in Eritrea continues to steadily expand and historically massive gender disparities are being narrowed. Today, parity between boys and girls in primary education has been achieved, while gender disparities in secondary and tertiary education enrolment continue to be reduced. Ultimately, support for and prioritizing young people, especially girls, getting and staying in school has been a significant factor in Eritrea's fight against HIV/AIDS.

Overall, Eritrea has made a lot of positive strides in combating HIV/AIDS over the years. It remains strongly committed to consolidating progress and accelerating action to completely ending HIV/AIDS as a public health threat.



Bisha Mining Share Company
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 Asmara
 Eritrea

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 www.bishamining.com

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Bisha Mining Share Company is inviting applicants for the following position for Bisha site project.

- 1. Position: HME Engineer**
- Department: Mining**
- Number required: One (01)**

Primary Purpose

- Supporting Mining, to ensure operating targets and budgets set are achieved/exceeded, following the company safety and health policies.

TASK DESCRIPTION Expanded TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS

- Planning
- Implementation
- Reporting & Data Control
- Supporting the HME Engineering Division team
- Running Condition Monitoring and Reliability Section for HME.

UNIQUE REQUIREMENTS/OTHER INFORMATION

- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Strong HME and Engineering skills
- Attention to details and ability to empower the team member to achieve high standards.
- Ability to set up good working environment, team that has and strive to achieve common goals
- Candidate must be physically and medically fit.

- Mine Geotechnical Designs
- Administration of projects
- Budgeting
- Mine Engineering
- Report Writing

UNIQUE REQUIREMENTS / OTHER INFORMATION

- The candidate must be Physically and Medically fit.

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bachelor of Engineering in Mining Engineering (Rock Mechanics) ○ Qualification in Business Administration/Project Management is an added advantage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Minimum of 10 years' experience in the mining industry. ○ 7+ years geotechnical work experience in hard rock underground mining ○ Experience in zinc or other base metal mining is essential. ○ International experience is desirable particularly in Africa.
Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Computer Literacy ○ MS Office – Intermediate ○ Competent in geotechnical modelling software, i.e., Map3D, RS2, Dips, Unwedge ○ Strategic planning. ○ Project planning. ○ Budgeting. ○ Plan, organise, and execution. ○ Risk management and assessment. ○ Analytical and Problem solving. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Communications ○ Ability to work in multi-disciplinary environment. ○ Ability to conduct Engineering matters to various levels. ○ Interpersonal skills. ○ Ability to work under pressure and achieve project milestones. ○ Good leadership skills

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Degree in Mechanical Engineering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 10 - 15 years relevant experience . ○ 10 years supervisory skills
Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Computer Literacy (MS Office – Intermediate, Excel – Advanced) ○ HME Engineering Division, maintenance, repair, scheduling, and environment experience ○ Attention to detail ○ Analytical skill ○ Management skills ○ Problem solving skill ○ Financial Management Skills ○ Strategic Planning ○ Condition monitoring and Reliability experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Communication (English) ○ Assertiveness & Proactivity ○ Interpersonal Relations ○ Integrity ○ Prioritizing skills & multi-skilling ○ Ability to work towards strict deadlines ○ Coaching & Team-building skills ○ Discretion ○ Self-motivation ○ Cultural Diversity experience

General Information and other requirements:

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

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 will 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 Eritrean applicants:

Please send a copy of your application to:

1. **Aliens Employment permits Affairs,**
 P. O. Box 7940
 Asmara, Eritrea.
2. **Mineral Resources Management**
 P. O. Box 272
 Asmara, Eritrea

- Position: Senior Geotechnical Engineer**
- Department: Mining**
- Number required: One (01)**

Primary Purpose

- Manage all ground control functions to provide a safe working environment – ensure that mining operations are geomechanically reliable, provide mine management with technical advice on effective ground control practices, and enforce legal compliance with mining regulation and domestic standards.

TASK DESCRIPTION Expanded TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS



VACANCY Notice No. 2024/09

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Eritrea is inviting applications from suitably qualified applicants for the post of **Supply Officer, NOB, # 19144, Asmara, Eritrea.**

TYPE OF APPOINTMENT: **Fixed Term Contract**

UNICEF works in some of the world's toughest places, to reach the world's most disadvantaged children. To save their lives. To defend their rights. To help them fulfill their potential. Across 190 countries and territories, we work for every child, everywhere, every day, to build a better world for everyone. **And we never give up!**

For every child, Provision!

The Supply Officer reports to the Deputy Representative Operations. The Supply Officer provides technical and operational support and is responsible for managing the supply chains of a country office. The supply chain operations include planning, procurement, contracting, as well as monitoring of supplies, services and construction works. The incumbent supports management collaboration with programmes in defining supply interventions to meet programmatic needs and achieve results for children, and provides technical and advisory support to governments, national systems and partners on supply chain management.

Key Functions/Accountabilities:

- Supports Programme sections and Operations in the process of developing their procurement/supply plans for goods and services.
- Undertake activities for local purchases (goods and services, implementation of new LTAs and extension of old ones before expiration dates).
- Follows implementation of the office' Supply plan (issuance of solicitation and monitoring of closing dates, opening, technical evaluation, awarding of bids and preparation of bid narratives).
- Prepares submissions to CRC (submission of supplier/service provider financial statements to SD for clearance request, preparation of submission drafts in collaboration with Programs, sharing of submissions with the CRC committee, convening of CRC meetings).
- Plans and organizes CRC meetings, provide secretarial services and produce minutes within 48 hours of CRC meeting.
- Creates bidding documents such Request for Quotations (RFQs), Invitation to Bid (ITB), Requests for Proposals for Services and Works Procurements (RFPS) in Vision, SAP based UNICEF enterprise software package.
- Reviews contracts for services and purchase orders (R1 level) for approval/authorization by the Supply Specialist for (R2 level) (follow-up of execution schedules, share bottlenecks with the Supply Specialist, follow-up of corrective measures)
- Creates Purchase Orders, Contracts in Visions and issues to suppliers and service providers and monitors implementation and closure in Vision, SAP based UNICEF enterprise software package. Transmits to the Supply Specialist for verification and signature within the limits established by the Table of Authority.
- Maintains and updates and monitors performance of suppliers in respect of delivery time, quality of supplies, delivery notes, submission of invoices and payments.
- Monitors the execution of service contracts with the requesting sections / units of these contracts, closes contracts and requests evaluation of these contracts from the requesting sections/units.
- Prepares monthly report on contract execution and sharing with Program and Operations.
- Coordinates supplier database updates activities, plans and organizes assessment of new suppliers.
- Maintaining up-to-date and complete records of the purchase of goods and services from the expression of needs, the initiation of the order until delivery.
- Participates in End User Monitoring missions with Programs, issues report with findings, identifies constraints and makes recommendations for corrective actions.
- Prepares tender documents, solicitation and performs the technical and financial evaluation of the offers
- Reviews the performance of the LTA holders and make recommendation for their extension and/or non-renewal based on their performance and/or as recommended by the CRC.
- Shares UNICEF Supply Chain data information on supplies and

deliveries and service contract status to Program and Operations Sections and follows up for actions with suppliers, service providers, and programme and operations sections staff.

- Support partners in the development of specifications for Procurement services orders in order to determine the costs estimates.

To qualify as a champion for every child you will have:

Education: A university degree is required in Business Administration, Management, Economics, Supply Chain Management, Logistics, Procurement, Contract/Commercial Law, International Development, or any other related field.

Work Experience: A minimum of 2 years of relevant experience, at the national or international levels, in supply, logistics, procurement, contracting, administration and any other relevant fields is required. Experience in the following areas is an asset:

- Understanding of development and humanitarian work.
- Experience in emergency.
- Experience in Health supply chain management.

Language Requirements: Fluency in English mainly and knowledge of local language is a requirement. Knowledge of other UN languages is an asset.

UNICEF's Core values

- Care, Respect, Integrity, Trust, Accountability, Sustainability.

UNICEF's Core Competencies

Demonstrates Self Awareness and Ethical Awareness (1); Works Collaboratively with others (1); Builds and Maintains Partnerships (1); Innovates and Embraces Change (1); Thinks and Acts Strategically (1); Drive to achieve impactful results (1); Manages ambiguity and complexity (1)

Remarks:

UNICEF is committed to diversity and inclusion within its workforce, and encourages all candidates, irrespective of gender, nationality, religious and ethnic backgrounds, including persons living with disabilities, to apply to become a part of the organization.

UNICEF has a zero-tolerance policy on conduct that is incompatible with the aims and objectives of the United Nations and UNICEF, including sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, abuse of authority and discrimination. UNICEF also adheres to strict child safeguarding principles. All selected candidates will, therefore, undergo rigorous reference and background checks, and will be expected to adhere to these standards and principles.

Qualified Female Candidates and persons living with disability are highly encouraged!

Closing date of application: 14 days from the date of advertisement

CANDIDATES SHOULD PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF COMPLETION/EXEMPTION FROM NATIONAL SERVICE. PLEASE NOTE THAT COMPLETION/EXEMPTION OF NATIONAL SERVICE IS A REQUIREMENT. COPY OF CARD/EXEMPTION MUST BE ATTACHED. APPLICATIONS WITHOUT THIS REQUIREMENT WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted and advance to the next stage of the selection process.

Please note that UNICEF is a smoke-free environment.

Candidates should submit their application by following the below link:

<https://rb.gy/tvf8v3>

In the online application, candidates should complete the online P11, upload their recent CV, highest academic qualifications, national service completion certificate and other relevant qualifications.

Applicants interested in the position mentioned above can visit the UNICEF Office, located at Hday Street, just before Asmara Palace Hotel, to submit their applications online.



“As Dad Says, A Tree falls to its Roots.” Yusra

Our guest today, Yusra Mohamed Salih, is a talented artist who is not afraid to try and experience art, in general, and music, in particular, in different languages. Her passion has allowed her to excel in the things she does. She is an exemplary teacher and speaks and sings in different languages.

Translated from Agizo, a quarterly magazine in Tigrinya published by the National Union of Eritrean Women.

Luwam Kahsay H.

As a child, what did you wish to be when you grew up?

Most children said they wanted to be doctors, pilots, etc. when they grow up. I was always the only one to say that I wanted to be a musician. I dreamt to be one

Yes, I do. I am fluent in Tigre, Tigrinya, Arabic, English and Chinese. I also have a little knowledge of Blien. And I sing in eight languages: English, Chinese, Arabic, German, Tigrinya, Tigre, Italian and Bidawyet. I mostly sing songs about love, nationalism and social life.

the first and second prizes respectively at the competition organized locally. As a result, we got selected to represent our country at the international competition in China. One of the activities at the event was exchange of gifts between participants. I took a traditional outfit and a statuette of a camel. I put on the traditional outfit as a demonstration of my culture and gave the statuette of a camel as a gift to one of the participants. We also dressed in Eritrea’s traditional outfits to showcase our culture. My partner wore Tigrinya’s and I Tigre’s. Out of 51 African countries, we won third place and were given scholarship as a prize.

What do you teach at the Confucius Institute here in Asmara?

I have been working as a music teacher in Chinese language, particularly songs, for almost two years now. There are 75 students, and their level of education ranges from elementary to college.

What makes Chinese language difficult?

Its writing. You also need to pay attention to pronunciation. A word

What motivated you to study these languages?

I have interest in languages. And I believe if there is passion, anything is possible. For instance, when I was assigned to Anseba region as a teacher, my students and other people started teaching me when they noticed my interest in speaking their language. They used to laugh every time I mispronounced a word. I used to repeat every word I learned when I came back home in order not to forget the language.

What purpose did you go to China for?

I went there twice. Our first trip was for a tour, and the second for a project. The project involved a competition among selected students of the Confucius Institute all over the world. Participants came from all over the world to take part in a Chinese proficiency competition. Our presentation consisted of Chinese culture such as dances and songs.

How were you selected?
I and Mekdim Arefaine won

since I could remember.

Was your dad the reason for your dream?

Of course. At home, there are pictures of my dad playing the piano with me sitting on his lap when I was little. And I remember singing every morning at home when he left for China for further studies. So, I was definitely influenced by my dad.

What is music to you?

Music is in my genes and spirit, and being a musician is a profession I adore. Music is so vast that I feel I still have a lot to learn and experience to reach the apex.

When was your first appearance on the stage?

When I was just a little girl. At such a young age, I had the opportunity to perform with the Sound of Oasis, Rakuba Jazz Band and Confucius Institute.

You speak many languages, don't you?



golden culture internationally using a global language. And I would like to produce my own songs in Eritrean languages.

Anything else you would like to add...

Parents’ role is crucial in their children’s success. I am who I am thanks to the contribution of my parents, Mohammed Saleh and Roqeya Ismael Jimie. I would like to express my gratitude to my dad’s teachers during the revolution for making him understand the value of education.

Thank you so much, Yusra. Wish you a bright future.

can have five different meanings based on its pronunciation.

What do you do in your spare time?

I don’t have much time to spare. I work as a fulltime teacher and have a rather tight schedule. In addition to working as a teacher I also work as a translator. I have students that I tutor the whole year and work as a vocal coach at ‘The Sound of Oasis’. And I am now doing research on the culture of our ethnic groups to be able to showcase it at international arenas.

You’ve also participated in Eritrea’s got talent show.

Yes. I was confident about winning and was able to get the Golden buzzer at my first performance.

What is next for you?

I am doing a cover song, “Ichet dib qrde wedik,” a Tigre proverb which means ‘a tree falls to its roots’. I plan to showcase our

