

FOR BETTER HEALTH SERVICE



At an assessment meeting conducted in Mendefera city, Southern region, the Minister of Health, Ms. Amina Nurhusein, called for integrated effort by experts in the domain and government institutions for better outcome in the sector.

Stating that commendable effort has been made to control the prevalence of diseases in general and HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB in particular in addition to reducing mother and child death rate, the Minister called for still greater effort to keep intact the achievements registered.

Minister Amina explained that

praiseworthy effort has been made in expanding health facilities, supply of basic medicines and human resources development. She added that a five-year strategic plan has been drawn so as to develop health services.

Mr. Yemane Haile, Head of the Health Ministry's branch in the Southern region, presented report on the tasks implemented in 2017 and the progress registered thereof. He further explained that compared to 2016, malaria prevalence has been reduced by 55% and HIV/AIDS infection to the lowest level.

Reports presented at the meeting

indicated that over 300 thousand impregnated bed nets have been distributed in the 12 sub-zones of the region and Vitamin A provided to over 80 thousand children below 5 years of age.

The Governor of the Southern region, Mr. Efreem Gebrekristos, pointed out that the government is making substantial investment to ensure public health and that additional focus would be given to environmental sanitation.

There exist one Referral Hospital, 4 hospitals, 2 community hospitals, 9 health centres and 44 health stations in the Southern region.

PREPARATIONS FOR OPERATION FENKIL COMMEMORATION

Preparations for the commemoration of the 28th anniversary of Operation Fenkil with active community participation under the theme "Fenkil: The Dawn of Freedom" have been finalized.

The Chairman of the Holidays Coordinating Committee in Northern Red Sea region, Mr. Siraj Haji, said that the event due to take place from 9 to 11 February will feature cultural and sports programs, community gatherings, military parade as well as exhibitions among others.

Mr. Siraj also indicated that service rendering institutions in the city have finalized preparations to provide service to the pilgrims at fair price.

HAMELMALO COLLEGE: NEW LABORATORY CONTRIBUTING IN RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT

The newly built modern agricultural laboratory at Hamelmalo College of Agriculture is significantly contributing in the development of students' research capacity.

Dr. Berhane Kiar, Research coordinator in the college, explained that the college started research activities in 2005 with limited capacity and that in 2017 a new laboratory with 14 research rooms and modern laboratory equipment was built.

Dr. Berhane added that studies

are being conducted on select seeds, tissue culture, vegetables and fruits, soil, pests, animal health and fodder and that preparation is being finalized to begin research on food science and bio-technology.

Noting that the laboratory will have significant contribution in developing research capacity in the country and ensuring food security, Dr. Berhane stated that continuous effort will be made to develop the center with modern equipment and skilled human resources.



NEWS BERIF

ENCOURAGING OUTCOME IN ERADICATING HARMFUL PRACTICES

Efforts to eradicate harmful practices in general, FGM and underage marriage in particular, has resulted encouraging outcome. The report was made at a meeting organized by the NUEW Central region office.

Ms. Alem Belay, Head of the branch, disclosed the activities conducted and the outcomes registered in social, health, economic, political and administrative sectors of women and called for enhanced participation of women in the 2018 charted out development programs.

Ms. Alem also noted that 4 solar powered water pumps were provided to 20 women engaged in irrigation farming in Serejaka and Galanefhi sub-zones.

Stating that women representation in the election of area administrators and managing directors was low, Ms. Alem called on the females to take advantage of the opportunities created for them and enhance participation in political matters.

The participants called for continuous organization of workshops on the rights of women, creation of leadership opportunities for young women, and enhanced provision of micro-credit opportunities among others.

The NUEW branch in the Central region has more than 75 thousand members organized in 1016 clusters.

DUBARUWA: BENEFICIARIES OF POTABLE WATER SUPPLY

Mr. Tadesse Beraki, Head of water resources in Dubaruwa town, said that the residents have become beneficiaries of potable water supply through water pipe lines.

Noting that Dubaruwa is one of the towns in the country with abundant water resource, Mr. Tadesse said that the putting in place of pipelines has enabled the residents become beneficiaries.

He added that the residents consume 7,500 barrels of water at a daily basis with a minimum cost of 20 cents a barrel.

Stating that they provide 24 hours service, Mr. Tekeste Habte, expert on water resource, said that they have enough manpower to timely fix the pipelines at times of damage and that there is no unnecessary wastage of water.

CAMPAIGN ON REDRESSING THE ENVIRONMENT

Residents of the six villages of Hainebe and Hadamu Administrative areas in Adi Keih sub-zone have conducted a campaign aimed at redressing the environment damaged due to erosion.

The Administrator of Hainebe, Mr. Jemal Mohamed Shifa, stated that the popular campaign involved the construction of terraces and water diversion schemes with the objective of redressing eroded area.

The administrator further explained that a 7-Km long dirt road in Hainebe was renovated through popular campaign involving over 600 residents leading to an initial solution to the provision of transportation service, particularly to ambulances deployed in the area.

The Administrative areas of Hainebe and Hadamu in Adi keih sub-zone comprise 6 villages.

Development

Steady Progress of the Kerkebet Sub-Zone

Habtom Tesfamichael

Kerkebet sub-zone is found in the western plains of the Gash-Barka region. It is found around 150 km North West of the town of Agordat. On the way to this sub zone you find by different landscapes, vegetation and wild animals such as Ostrich, Nubian ibex, Gazelle and wild boars. Traditional Agdos (huts) from palm trees are common to see on the river banks. Clinics, schools with high fences, shops and other small service rendering outlets provide a unique feeling of heavenly villages. Going past these spectacular landscapes you arrive at Kerkebet (Amalayt) sub zone, rich in eco-tourism and natural attraction.

Kerkebet has an arid climate with little rainfall. The large river basins that flow to the western lowlands are the main source of agricultural activity in the area. To avert drought

and expand farming, the government is constructing strategic dams in major river basins and potential catchments for the purpose of increasing the land under irrigation. If abundant water can be reserved, the opportunity for agriculture is very attractive, given that there are extensive plains with good potential for agriculture.

Kerkebet sub-zone is bordered with Sudan in the north, Forto-Sawa in the west, Dge in the south and Sel'a sub-zone to the east. It has 13 administrative areas namely the Himbol-Qechech, Hamashdiba, Amalyet, Drfa, Lakayeb, Atay, Harnayet, Agmayet, Hewan, Kayede with around 42 thousand populations living within these administrative areas. The majority of the ethnic groups in this sub-zone are Bidawyeet and Tigre. The people mostly depend on pastoralism while some are engaged in trade and

are critical to sustainable rural development and can enhance national well-being. As a result, the people of Kerkebet sub-zone are becoming utilizers of the mega-projects in the western lowland of Eritrea. The Kerkebet dam is opening new employment opportunities in the area. Around 1000 farmers on 500 hectare of land are currently engaging in agriculture under the auspices of Crop and Livestock Corporation. With the construction of this dam and other social service rendering institutions, the people are experiencing some changes in their lives. Water supply and other agriculture-related training are given by local authorities to make the Kerkebet agricultural area into a hub of abundant agricultural products that can feed the nation.

A healthy and dynamic agricultural sector is an important foundation of rural development, generating strong linkages to other economic sectors. Due to the expansion of agricultural activities, the number of people who settle around Kerkebet is increasing by the day. Rural livelihoods are enhanced through effective participation of rural people and rural communities, particularly women and youth. Several women are moving to this place to work and own land. Moreover, there is considerable potential for rural job creation not only in farming but also in agro-processing and rural industry in the future.

One of the main goals of the government is to achieve justice and equal access to the state's resources. Accordingly, to attain the objective of promoting growth rate in the backward regions and to reduce regional disparities, the plan of regrouping villages and enhancing the provision of adequate social services in areas where the people live in scattered areas is being implemented in the rural development projects. In line with this, Mr. Abdelkerim said that about 30,000 people have been regrouped in nine administrative areas of the sub-zone. Moreover, the construction of the big dam around Kerkebet and the expansion of agricultural activities and market center are making contribution in improving the lifestyle of the people.

In line with the regrouping of villages to a new settlement area, the provision of social services such as education has led to remarkable



Mr. Abdelkerim Idris

progress in Kerkebet sub-zone. All of the administrative areas are now provided with elementary schools that educate children in their mother tongue and the students who manage to pass the junior level continue their education in Asmat Boarding School. As a sign of the improving educational services, the number of students who participate in the matriculation examinations in the twelfth grade is increasing.

Since independence four health institutions have been established; one health center in Amalayet and health stations in Hamashdiba, Himbol-qechech, Agmayet and Lokayeb. These five health institutions serve around 40 thousand people of the sub-zone. Given that the Agmayet and Lokayeb health stations are far from the Amalayet health center, they have their own ambulances in addition to the one ambulance of the Amalayet health center that transport patients with acute health problems to referral hospitals. The four health stations give only outgoing patient (OPD) service and cases beyond their capacity to handle are transferred to the Amalayet Health Center. Mr. Awed Ahmednur, a nurse in the Amalayet Health Center, says the health center in Amalayet gives service to emergency, permanent

and outgoing patients and has mothers care (pre and post-natal) and child care units. It carries out vaccination campaigns and has its own laboratory and pharmacy. As a result, satisfactory achievements have been registered in reducing the mother and child mortality rates, FGM, underage marriage and malaria caused deaths. To maintain these achievements, health professionals provide awareness campaigns to the communities on different health related subjects in collaboration with partners such as the NUEYS, NUEW, schools and village administrations.

Mr. Abdelkerim further explained that in line with efforts to relieve the inhabitants from water-borne diseases, in nine out of the 13 administrative areas solar energy, hand-pump and generators have been put in place to provide reliable potable water. An effort to provide potable water supply to the remaining administrative areas is underway. The power plant installed to provide energy to the Kerkebet agro-project is planned to cover the surrounding vicinities. Mr. Abdelkerim calls for increasing coverage of the communication and transportation services in the sub-zone to enable better connection with neighboring regions.

The dam constructed in Kerkebet sub-zone has held back water 18 kms from the bridge. This has influenced the bio-diversity of the area positively. As a result, different wild animals are starting to come there. The Nubian Ibex an endangered animal is one of them. Taking account if the growing number of wild life in the area, setting up reserve areas in the sub-zone is of vital importance.



A woman in her field

agriculture.

According to the administrator of the Kerkebet sub-zone, Mr. Abdelkerim Idris, the sub-zone is one of the oldest sub-zones. Despite this, it was not able to make progress significantly due to different reasons. Inhabitants of the area used to live in a traditional way of life until few years back. Prior to independence, the inhabitants used to lead nomadic life in dispersed places. At present, however, various social services, including education, health and potable water have been introduced and enabled the inhabitants to lead stable and settled lifestyle.

Investments in rural infrastructure, health and education are key to poverty reduction measures and



**ERITREA
PROFILE**
Published Every
Wednesday & Saturday

*Acting Editor
Amanuel Mesfun*

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

Layout
*Azmera Berhane
Aida Johar*

SpotLight

Laying the Foundation for a Radiant Future

Simon Weldemichael

In 2000, world leaders came together to face the future with the aim to create an environment which is conducive to development. Toward this end, 189 countries signed a declaration called the Millennium Declaration, consisting of 8 goals that would be implemented within 15 years. After 15 years, in 2015, what we saw was terrifying: only few countries (including Eritrea) accomplished many of the ambitious plans of MDGs. Again in 2015, when the UN celebrated its 70th anniversary, world leaders decided to adopt “Sustainable Development Goals” that comprise 17 goals to be achieved by 2030. In all of the global and regional declarations for a better future, infrastructure holds a central place; goal 9 of the SDGs aims to “build resilient infrastructure.”

Infrastructure is generally defined as “an underlying base or supporting structure, the basic facilities, equipment, services and installations needed for the growth and functioning of a country, community, operation or organization”. Infrastructure, also referred to as “social overhead capital”, renders services to the people and has a determining factor in improving the quality of life. Thus, a sound infrastructural foundation is the key to overall socio-economic development. Infrastructure facilities are like wheels of development, without which economic and social life cannot function properly.

Infrastructure is essential for increasing economic progress and reducing poverty. In 2015, in an attempt to end poverty and hunger, world leaders agreed to (by 2030) “provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improve road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons” (SDGs 11.2). Economically, infrastructure is expensive and requires substantial capital. However as developing nation, Eritrea has made remarkable progress in expanding infrastructure throughout the country. The infrastructural



al development in Eritrea is quite unique despite its self-reliant nature. In its ambitious development program, Eritrea relies, first and foremost, on its people and on its domestic resources. The self-reliant infrastructural development projects have been accomplished by mobilizing internal resources and have been constructed for the people.

Proper and adequate infrastructure is important for a modern economy. Like a sound foundation is required for a strong edifice, sound infrastructure is crucial for comprehensive and sustainable national development. If the infrastructure of an economy is strong, one can build up the super structure easily. Thus, economic development is not possible without building infrastructure.

Eritrea’s development policy is guided by the principles of social justice and self-reliance. The policy of social justice focuses on an equal and even distribution of services and goods in the country. Since distribution needs a means of dissemination and circulation, the policy of social justice cannot work without sound infrastructure. There is a positive correlation between laying infrastructure and social justice. Infrastructure contributes a lot to the development of lagging regions and helps remove regional imbalances. The broad investment in economic, social and institutional infrastructure undertaken by Eritrea is part of the colossal effort to ensure social justice. In Eritrea, transport and communication facilities, health and education services, access to legal and administrative institutions, electricity and safe water are

considered fundamental human rights. Social justice is about narrowing the gap between people living in one country. Thus, narrowing the gap between rural and urban infrastructure is a core area of development. Eritrea develops much rural infrastructure, including safe drinking water facilities, roads, dams, irrigation, educational institutions, health clinics or hospitals, and telecommunication services. These are all necessary for the improvement of rural and previously marginalized areas. The development strategy of Eritrea is founded on even distribution of infrastructure. In this case, Eritrea contradicts the flawed approaches to development and growth that fail to tackle poverty and improve the life of the people practically or sustainably. A common denominator of the success of social justice and SDGs is infrastructural development.

The transport and communication infrastructure established during the past 26 years has helped transform the lives of Eritreans, especially in the remote areas. The seasonal and regular roads connect the hilly and distant villages with one another and also connect with towns and cities. The many roads and telecommunication facilities available throughout the country have helped reduce and eliminate barriers between rural and urban areas.

The development of agriculture to a considerable extent depends on infrastructure. Development of dams and irrigation, transportation, training areas, and research facilities contributes a lot to the development of agricul-

tural production and food security. The medium and large dams constructed in the highlands and lowlands, especially in the western lowlands, lift the spirits and hopes of the people. Dams have become an integral part of basic infrastructure by offering indispensable benefits like irrigation, domestic and industrial water supply, drought mitigation, and fish farming. Ancient civilizations and contemporary large cities were all located along river banks or coastal areas. This underscores water is one of the critical natural resources on which humankind’s very survival and development has depended. It has often been remarked that if agriculture and industry are regarded as the body and backbones of a national economy, transport and communication constitute its nerves.

Eritrea has long been engaged in the construction of development and rehabilitative infrastructure. As a result of its significant investment in infrastructure, there has been a phenomenal increase in the number and types of infrastructural facilities. Sustainable development is only attained by sustainable and working infrastructure. According to “Global Economy and Development” (Working Paper 91), sustainable infrastructure is infrastructure that is socially, economically,

services, educational facilities, water supply, and sanitation.

In Eritrea, education is a national investment. Education is an important means for the production of material wealth. Investment in education has tangible effects on equity and alleviation of poverty. The various educational facilities built throughout the country play a great role in social and economic transformation. In addition, increased access and free education have important egalitarian effect on the population. Investing in education is highly rewarding, both to society and individuals.

Health is also an important element of wellbeing. Enjoyment of health facilities is a fundamental human right. Goal 3 of the SDGs aims to “ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all, at all ages.” The various clinics, regional and national referral hospitals and the roads that connect villages and towns throughout Eritrea will enable the country to accomplish its goals as well as the SDGs. Months ago, Foreign Minister Osman Saleh, in his address to the 72nd session of the UNGA, stated that “Eritrea is confident it will meet the Sustainable Development Goals ahead of time.”

“Global Economy and Development” (Working Paper 91) also



and environmentally sustainable. Thus, socially sustainable infrastructure is inclusive and respects human rights that meet the needs of the poor by increasing access to infrastructure. Social infrastructure refers to those overhead facilities which lead to the improvement in the quality of life of the population, including health

predicts that “over the next 15 years, the global economy will need to invest around \$90 trillion in infrastructure assets” (2015: 9). In developing countries, mobilizing enough resources for the construction of needed infrastructure is difficult. However, Eritrea, de-

Continued on page 5



The Domestic Space Organization of Cave Dwelling in Qohaito

Dr. Robel Haile
Adikeih College of Arts and
Social Sciences

The archaeological remains of the Qohaito Plateau located in Southern Eritrea have been fairly represented in the archaeological discourse of the Horn of Africa. One can argue, rightly so, that Qohaito is one of the most popular archaeo-historical sites; as could be seen in tourism-related posters, magazines and TV shows. Qohaito's spectrum of archaeological deposits is far greater than the iconic representation of the site by the four pillars (obelisk) that we often see in the media or the Safira Dam associated in folk-story narratives of the popular, and historically controversial, Queen of Sheba.

A visitor in Qohaito does not need to excavate the subsurface in the site, as dirt archaeologists

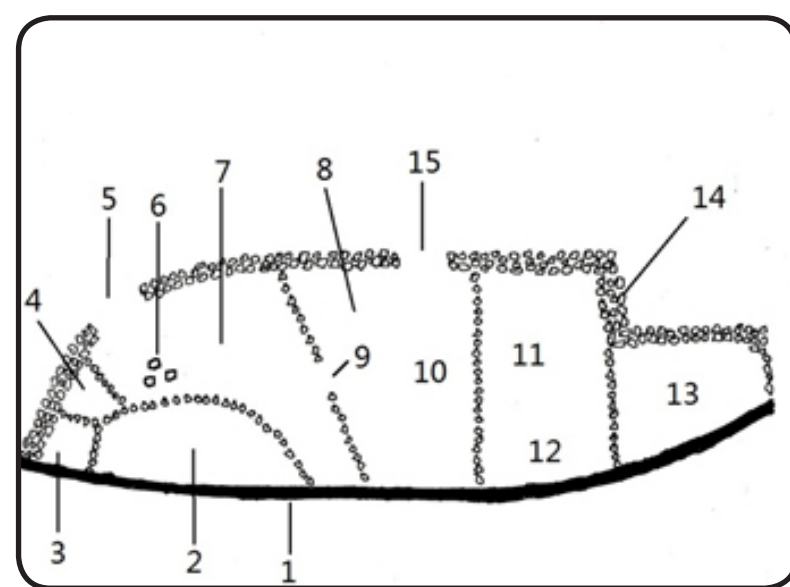
do, to travel along and witness the cultural and historical processes from at least the 4th Millennium BC to the present. Because, every bit of the story is laid right on the surface! Nor does he need to study archaeology or anthropology in a college to understand that the site is of an archaic origin. All that is required is just to be there and admire the numerous monuments, stone-carved luxurious dwellings (ancient *villas*), living quarters, burials, rock drawings and primitive stone tool workshops.

An archaeologist is obviously required to decipher the exact chronological outline of the cultural history of the site, and to explain the meaning (*interpretation*) of the artifacts and features disposed over there. This essay ponders the yet inadequately (partially) explored archaeological wonders of Qohaito that carries a profound

significance in the reconstruction of culture-history of the region – *cave settlement* and its unique features. How many of us recognize that humans still dwell in caves and rock shelters in all regions of the world – the developed world is not an exception! David Kemp, in his book, *Living Underground*, told us that the last cave dwelling family in the United Kingdom were evacuated in 1977. Is it not interesting to explore more?

In our country, too, cave use is not a thing of the past. Caves and rock shelters are still used by modern communities in Eritrea for different purposes and in different contexts. A non-exhaustive list of cave functions might include dwelling, granary, storage, hiding, prayer, burial, and so on. A curious question might arise here that since when caves and rock shelters have been used in Eritrea for the purposes listed above. The widely accepted, among archaeologists, reply would be at least since the 3rd Millennium BC. The evidence for this hypothesis primarily comes from the rock drawings that are found in many parts of Eritrea including two spots in Qohaito – Adi Alewti (ዓዲ ላሎቲ) and Iyago (ዕያጎ). The association among cave dwelling, rock art sites, and the 3rd Millennium BC is rooted in the emergence of pastoralism in the Horn of Africa. Regional archaeological study indicates that the first pastoral communities in the Horn of Africa were emigrants from the Sahara in the 3rd millennium BC. These emigrants had a habit of drawing on rock surfaces, and the style and content of their drawings excessively portray hunting and pastoral scenes.

The appellation of Troglodytica or country of the Troglodyte, cited in ancient Graeco-Roman texts to refer to the hinterlands of the Erythraean Sea (Red Sea), proves that the region was inhabited by communities who lived in caves and rock shelters. Troglodyte is the Greek name for cave dwellers. The famous book, *Periplus of the Erythraean Sea*, of the 1st century CE (AD) clearly describes the neighboring region of Adulis as country of the Troglodyte. Putting the archaeological evidence and historical accounts together, a safe



Legend

1. inner wall of rock shelter, 2. Balbala, 3 and 4. Agoh, 5. entrance one, 6. hearth, 7. makado, 8. living room one, 9. internal door, 10. goho, 11. Abur one, 12. fresh marks of urine, 13. Abur two, 14. frontal wall, and 15. entrance two

conclusion can be made that cave has been used for dwelling since the stated periods. And the practice continues to this day.

Let us return to our discussion on cave settlements in Qohaito. As indicated above, cave settlement represents one among several types of archaeological remains in the site. Majority of the caves in the site are natural but rarely artificial caverns dug close to the natural caves are found. The artificial cave found near the village of Digidgta (ድገድገታ) is a good example. It is wise to assume, following the above argument, that cave settlement in Qohaito began in practice several millennia ago. Anthropological (ethnographic) documentation of the contemporary activities indicates that the caves around Qohaito are still in use on seasonal basis by the agro-pastoral communities of the area.

One of the fascinating approaches to the study of cave dwellings by archaeologists is to examine the domestic space organization. Domestic space organization, at first glance, might seem too technical and lexically complex but I assure the reader it is not. Domestic space organization simply means the floor plan (geometrical layout) of any type of dwelling; hut, hdm (ህድሞ), apartment, mansion, etc. These types of dwellings have different architectural plans- circular, oval, rectangular, square, oblong, and so on. Domestic space organization

also encompasses the internal spatial divisions (compartmentalization) of a dwelling. This refers to the number and size of rooms, activity areas and compounds (premises) associated with each type of dwelling. The social make up of the inhabitants of each type is covertly encoded, as Pierre Bourdieu put it, in the morphological components of the dwelling.

I will briefly discuss below the domestic space of cave sites in Qohaito. The empirical data on the subject was collected from four sites – Adi Alewti, Digidgta, Ziban Meroro (ዝባን ሙሮሮ), and Awalu Galba (አላሊ ጋልባ). Diagram 1 shows the geometrical plan of one of these caves (rock shelters), and one can easily recognize that the dwelling has more or less an elongated rectangular layout. Often, the plan of the dwelling is profoundly dictated by the geomorphological features of the cave. Nearly half of the outer perimeter of the cave is covered by the inner wall of the cave (marked by the dark-line in the diagram). The remaining half, marked by double dot, constitutes the frontal wall constructed by the dwellers. The frontal wall is usually 1 to 1.2 meters high and the main function of the wall is to protect the human and animal dwellers from the cold breeze that blows from the valley.

The interior space of the dwelling
Continued on page 7



Rock shelter in ላሎቲ



Rock Shelter in ድገድገታ



Representation of Women In Our Movies: A Quick Look

Media perform influential functions in society. Media inform, educate and entertain their audiences. Their functions, however, go beyond these roles. Media, as part of the dominant means of ideological production, construct for us images of gender and race. Whether it is deliberate or not, media contents, such as movies and advertisements reinforce stereotyped representations of particular groups. Such representations find their momentum within a socio-cultural context and become too rigid a custom to bend.

The late Erving Goffman, a prominent sociologist, observed that although differences in gender roles primarily and originally emanate from biological differences, they are far more magnified in socio-cultural contexts; images standardise, oversimplify and exaggerate gender roles, the consequence of which is profound in a society. Among all, the representation of women in particular is disconcerting. My reading through various studies on stereotype representations of women reveals that women were largely limited to domestic roles and portrayed as sex objects. With time, however, parallel changes in depiction of women are unfolding.

This observation, to a large extent, holds water when it comes to the representation of women in several Eritrean movies, in which women are confined to domestic roles and with no significant (at times, zero) power over family matters. In the distant past, Eritrean society was mainly patriarchal - with streaks of it lingering even today - in which the power lay largely with males. There is an old local saying that aptly characterizes the warped attitudes toward women in our society that it suggests that it is uncommon for a woman to be innately wise as it is for a donkey to grow horns.

Society along with all its constituent parts is dynamic. Through time social outlooks change. Some time-honoured cultural values persist, others get watered down, and still others totally disintegrate. Eritrean society also, as any other society, has witnessed considerable changes,

particularly in its outlook toward women and their roles. Their participation in the armed struggle and unrivalled feats prove the demeaning sayings wrong, and show that our women are capable of performing what their male counterparts do, even more so. It goes without saying that Eritrean women, deservedly, hold a unique place in Eritrean society.

Since independence, various films and plays have been produced, revolving around a number of topics, including the family, culture, and history. In these productions, women play various roles. Some artistic works replay past history and cast women in their domestic context with no influential power in decision-making roles. Though my observation is not based on rigid, scientific procedures, my initial views of the works of art inform me that a considerable number of movies give power to women, a depiction concurrent with the changes of outlook Eritrean society is undergoing toward women and their roles. What is slightly disconcerting and anachronistic, but not so socially pathological, is the depiction of today's women, mothers for that matter, with no authority over family issues in a small number of movies which are set in the current period, when, it must be recalled women are making their way into workplaces with great achievements and higher educational qualifications.

One of the movies I watched recently is Fiqri Eyu Emnetey. I mention it here only as an indicative case of a larger trend and as a useful point for discussion. In fact, it is quite worthy of my admiration. In this film, the decision of marrying off a daughter lies initially mainly with the father, a teacher - with spill-over power for the daughter who proves right in the end. He has reasonable doubts regarding the manners of his daughter's boyfriend. The mother cowers at the authoritatively silencing tone of the father. Is this movie reflecting the distant past? No as evidenced by the modern cellular phones shown in the film.

Even without having "official" qualifications, how many of our

mothers are wise, commanding, and powerful in shaping not only family matters but also social issues? Are they not in their multitudes? I admit that there might be a chink in the large door that allows this practice. Even so, it does not give justification to reinforce the status quo ante if their content is to reflect the current time period because couples who married after independence would frown upon the possibly anachronistic representation. A sizable proportion of this generation swims in the western movie pool that shows the shocking erosion of the power of the father, on one hand, and the sharing of decision-making roles between husband and wife, on the other.

Therefore, before setting out to

make movies inclusive of women with various roles, film directors ought to make cautious and clear decisions as to whether the movie aims to mirror the status quo (the existing) or status quo ante (the previously existing), i.e., how both genders in the distant past treated each other in sharing roles and respecting them. Representation that is true to its period is well accepted for its historical value. However, if it sets to reinforce slowly dying out roles or images, it may be doing injustice to current relationships by depicting them inaccurately. And if there is any trace of asymmetrical gender relationship in matters of decisions, it becomes the responsibility of our movies to enlighten our society to fight it

and not to reinforce it. Reinforcing unwanted values tends to solidify them.

To conclude, notwithstanding some stereotypical representations, the depiction of women in many Eritrean movies in concurrence with their changing roles in our society is a significant change.

Last, I would like to express my appreciation for Eritrean films, as well as the artists' efforts. Keep it up!

*By Weldu Ghebreselasie
PhD Candidate (India)
College of Arts and Social
Sciences, Adi Keih*

Laying the Foundation . . .

Continued from page 3

spite its challenging conditions, is committed to constructing important public infrastructure. Today, in Eritrea, it is common to see development workers with heavy machinery engaged in the maintenance and construction of roads, dams, schools, colleges, health facilities, electricity facilities, water pipelines, and more.

Because of the various steps taken during the few years of independence, communication facilities have become one of the fastest growing developments in Eritrea. Towers of Eritrean telecommunication (Eritel) can be seen dotting the foothills of Eritrea. Telecommunications are vital for rapid growth and development. Today, the vast majority of both urban and rural dwellers use mobile services. The many cybercafés available in Eritrean towns and cities are also a testament to the growth of this sector and its associated infrastructure.

Apart from socio-economic development, the proper functioning of infrastructure is also

important for the defense of the nation. For instance, during the Weyane invasion, the transport infrastructural foundation helped the Eritrean forces to be quickly mobilized and deployed across the different fronts. The numerical disadvantage of the Eritrean forces was compensated by their quick mobility to counter the invading Ethiopian army.

An important measurement of development during the past 26 years of independence can be to consider the equitable distribution of infrastructure. Currently, Eritrea is divided into three development zones. Accordingly, equal distribution of infrastructure, health services, education, agriculture and all developmental programs have taken place. The commitment of the people and government of Eritrea has been important in laying down a solid foundation for ensuring equitable and sustainable development. In Eritrea, laying the foundation means putting in place the necessary infrastructure essential to ensuring social justice and the well-being of the people.

The expansion of infrastructure and other development projects

also helps the country in its ongoing effort of nation-building. President Isaias Afwerki once said that "The process of nation-building has two features - software and hardware ... The major challenge we faced in the course of nation-building was actually the hardware feature. Building a nation requires the necessary capacity in infrastructure such as hospitals, schools, communication, electricity, potable water, etc. All this was virtually nonexistent at independence, and we had to start from below zero" (ECSS 2010).

Eritrea, which already possessed the software aspect of nation-building during the long struggle for independence is now acquiring the hardware, too. The foundation is being set and the walls are being built. Despite continuous external pressure and various challenges, an objective analysis of what Eritrea has achieved so far reveals considerable progress. Observing Eritrea through the lens of the present arrangements, the future of the country is radiant. The time has come for the Eritrean people to enjoy the rewards of their enormous sacrifices.



Bisha Mining Share Company
P.O. Box 4276
Asmara
Eritrea

Tel: (+291) 1124941
Fax: (+291) 1124941
www.bishamining.com

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Bisha Mining Share Company PLC is inviting interested applicants for the following position.

Position: Accounts Payable Officer

Department: FITS

Number required: (02)

Major Duties and responsibilities:-

Creating Supplier's Card (Vendor Card)

- Create a vendor card for suppliers ensuring that information is correct.
- Create all necessary codes for vendor after forwarded and approved as per the policy, procedure and process.
- Create Vendor code on the Accounting System.

Processing of Invoices

- Check that all invoices (Direct and Purchase Orders raised) are approved.
- Ensure Purchase Order related invoices match the documentation i.e. (Vendors name, Value (On Purchase Orders), Currency, etc.).
- Check direct invoices with to ensure that it is presented with the required attachments for processing.
- Capture Direct Invoice and invoices with Purchase Order raised by purchasing on Accounting System.
- Prepare payments from information captured on Accounting System.
- Before paying online ensure that all foreign vendors are created electronically (i.e. Full detail and bank information) on online banking and forwarded for approval on creation in corporate bank account.
- Make and monitor payments for due and overdue accounts electronically for creditors.
- Raise cheques to pay local suppliers.
- Forward payment documentation for authorization as specified by the policy and procedure for payment sign-off.
- Forward remittance advice to notify suppliers of the payments made.
- Clear foreign currency payments according to exchange rates. (AED, AUD, EUR, CAD, GBP, ZAR...).

Reconciliations

- Responsible to ensure that Accounts Payable reconciliations are done on time and signed off.
- Reconcile bank reconciliations for sign-off.
- Reconcile Withholding and Services Tax reports on monthly and quarterly basis.

Reporting (Daily, Weekly, Monthly)

- Prepare and forward Cash Balance report.
- Prepare and report daily cash position on share point accessible to approved members/employees.
- Prepare monthly and quarterly Withholding & Service tax for reporting.
- Prepare Forecast Cash Flow report and attend meeting in the absence of Account Payable Supervisor.

Administration

- Proper Indexing of all un-paid invoices and file for easy retrieval.
- Indexing and filing of all paid suppliers invoices.
- Ensure that all invoices and documents are accurately presented for audit procedure.

Qualifications:

- Grade 12 with Accounting
- Certificate in Accounting will be an advantage

Knowledge and Experience:

- 3 – 5 Years General knowledge of Accounting.
- 3 Years Accounting related software knowledge will be an advantage

Technical skill:

- Computer Literacy (MS Office – Intermediate, Excel – Advanced).
- Attention to detail
- Accounting knowledge
- Compliance to accounting standards
- Numeracy skills and Reporting skills

Behavioural Skills:

- Interpersonal Skill.
- Communication (English & local language)
- Ability to meet deadlines
- Accuracy
- Confidentiality

General Information and other requirements:

- Place of Work: Bisha site.
- Salary: As per Company salary scale.
- Type of Contract: Definite

Additional requirement for Nationals:

- Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provide evidence of release paper from 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 back to sender and.

- 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 Permit Affairs,
P. O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea.**



MILANO

For limited time to Asmara
Euro 399 Round trip (tax included)
 Total baggage **40 KGS***

Check in baggage
 * (1pc - 32 kg + 1 hand bag 8 kg)

more info: 125500 / 125501 / 124409
www.eritrean.aero

The Domestic Space . . .

Continued from page 4

is divided into a number of specialized rooms and other features by the compartment walls (thinner than the frontal wall). The diagnostic characteristic of the cave dwelling in Qohaito is the separation of human and animal rooms in an elaborated design. The human-animal room specialization format of the domestic space is adaptive to the economic and social characteristics of the inhabitants. Some of the rooms have internal passageway that connects them while others are completely separated from each other. Similarly, some cave dwellings have one entrance, while others have more than one.

Finally, looking into the room types and their distinct function further sharpens our understanding of cave dwelling in the site. For our purpose the types of rooms found in contemporary Qohaito can be grouped into four classes. The terminology in this classification is all adopted from the Saho nomenclature, because the current inhabitants of the area belong to the Saho ethnolinguistic group. *Goho* (ጎሐ), *mekado* (ሜካዶ), *agoh* (አጎሐ), and *abur* (አቡር) are the four types of rooms in the contemporary cave dwelling of Qohaito.

Goho is a room for women and it also means the hearth found in women's room. Opposite to that *goho*, *makado* represents the room for men and similar to that of *goho*, it also means the fireplace in the room. This pattern of domestic space organization clearly segregates the masculine and feminine spaces although trespassing one's sphere is not strictly forbidden. The pastoral communities of East Africa are popular for their pronounced demarcation of age and gender roles and activities, and this spatial orientation might be the manifestation.

Agoh (አጎሐ) and *abur* (አቡር) are the two room types of cave dwelling meant to house infant and adult animals (livestock) respectively. The economic base of the inhabitants is primarily pastoralism with occasional cultivation and, hence, the spatial organization of the dwelling has to address the necessity adequately. The livestock population (herd) is classified according to age and types (species), and each class of animal needs to be housed separately to ensure safety of young animals and to regulate milking by the infants and herders. If the family has more than one kind of livestock, say sheep, goat, camel, cattle or combination of them, the family needs to have a pair of each room types – two *agohs* and two *aburs*.

In conclusion, there is limited tendency to project this four-room based cave dwelling system back in time through analogy, archaeologists' favorite term. The similarity between the contemporary and prehistoric cave dwelling in Qohaito in their spatial configuration could be the result of similar functions these rooms assume presently and in the past.



Smart use of Energy

Asmait Futsumbrhan

Eng. Sultan Tekie, he got his name from a freedom fighter and his mom's friend, Sultan Eyasu, who was martyred to free Eritrea. He even got the martyr's nick name fafa, all the veteran friends call him by the nick name. Born at the historical fields of Tseabra in 1988, Sultan came to reside in Asmara after Eritrea's independence. "Knowledge is power, anyone who doesn't know any better than last year is not living to the fullest", is one of the adages he follows and mentioned during his interview with us.

Sultan graduated with a BA Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the EIT College. he also took a course which the Department of Renewable Energy gave on implanting and monitoring solar energy power system.

Today, we present a brief chat we had with Eng. Sultan.

A Mechanical Engineer, why did you choose the field, Sultan?

It was when I was a sixth grader. My dad explained to me the difference between an engineer and a Geometra. Actually I was more interested in history. I love to read historical books about countries and individuals. But I wanted to be more concerned about what is present and future. That is why I became more interested in math and physics. I enjoyed both subjects very much which led me to engineering. There are many departments in engineering. That is when I had to put a lot of thought to what to choose. Besides my interest in the subject, engineering is one of the fields with great job opportunities in the world. It is a discipline which has many departments within- Machine Designing, Power Plant, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning, and renewable energy. Those fields are not similar in any ways and are important to today's advanced world.

Engineering is designing. However, there is a big difference between designing something and maintaining something. So, basically the field, mechanical engineering deals more with the physical matter. By the way, many people think that the field is not suitable for girls. People think that it has to do with physical strength, but it does not. It's more of a mental work. And to be honest, there aren't many female mechanical engineers as desired.

You had presented an interesting research paper during your graduation?

We presented it as a group. It was about Solar Irrigation system. We raised an idea on how to help farmers in rural areas, away from electric power system. There is so much they have to pay as a cost to irrigate their fields, starting from the fuels needed to use to pump water to the farm. We worked on how to provide power using the solar energy, which can be a great help with less cost. The money saved can then be used increase productivity and provide fair priced products. It was a successful research paper.

Why focus on the solar power system?

Well, renewable energy comes in many forms. We have wind power which we can be generated from wind. However, geographical location is necessary to work with that. Also we have hydroelectric power energy system, but we would need big rivers that can generate that kind of power. Same goes for the other types, but we have sufficient amount of sunlight on hand and we thought that it is easier to harness.

I wanted to explore more about the renewable energy especially since it has to do with physics. I took a one- month course on solar energy at the department of Renewable Energy provided. I took the course and sat for the

exam to have a certificate. That is when I became a teacher for the solar energy system at the Polytech Vocational School in 2014.

It is nice to see the youth to be interested in getting them selves in various vocational courses and becoming better citizens. I enjoy teaching at the school. To see the youth work hard to get educated and make something better of themselves is something to be proud of. The students are curious to know and get some experience on the solar energy system field. They are always ready to work on it. After watching the work get done they even tell me to just come back to supervise their work, and they do it very well. I believe that a person should be a step ahead of where he was last year. One should work to know more today than yesterday. "Knowledge is power", is a true saying. To get a hold of the modern world, we should keep up with the developments. And that is what makes me like to teaching at the school, to produce great individuals.

I have also been in the Ministry of Agriculture since 2013. I am in a department where I handle everything that is related to energy starting from its designing to preparing the bill of quantity that is needed, evaluating and supervising the implementation.

Importance of introducing renewable energy?

The world has been heavily



consuming the fossil energy for so many years. It is diminishing, and we can never replace it. Besides, its expensive cost and the air pollution it causes, have become an important matter in everyone's daily life. However, renewable energy is free from any kind of pollution, is much cheaper and we don't have to worry when it will be finished.

Right now, the sun can provide 3000 times more power than what the world needs. Nevertheless, we still don't have advanced tools to change the light to power; that is the challenge. For instance, we are able to use only 14- 15% of the power from the energy the sun provides. But the hope is that we would get to turn more than 50% of the light to power in the future.

We can benefit in so many ways by using the renewable energy. Financial saving is one of the benefits we can gain among the many others. It prevents individuals from spending quite a lot of cost regarding the power

service, while at the same time it helps the take off the load from the Government.

So I think it is very important to raise our society's awareness about how important renewable energy is and how economical it is to use the right materials which can provide the needed energy by consuming less power. For example, many people buy an incandescent light bulb which is cheaper than the LED light bulbs. In reality, the LED bulb is cheaper as it uses less power than the incandescent one. So I think that I would be useful to let our people know the difference between the right materials and the renewable energy as well.

Thank you for your time, anything you want to add?

Thank you for having me. I just want to remind young Eritreans to be more interested in education, to work hard to make themselves better. Life is more interesting when you learn and compete with the rest of the world.