

# ERITREA PROFILE



Vol. 30 No.46

Wednesday, 7 February, 2024

Pages 8, Price 2.00 NFA

## PRESIDENT ISAIAS AFWERKI ENGAGES IN BILATERAL TALKS WITH ITALIAN OFFICIALS AND VISITS PRODUCTION FACILITIES

President Isaias and his delegation, on 1 and 2 February, met and held talks with the Italian Minister of Defense and other heads of various institutions and companies aimed at enhancing bilateral ties and exploring avenues for mutual cooperation.

In the meeting with Mr. Guido Crosetto, the Italian Minister of Defense, on 2 February, President Isaias articulated Eritrea's commitment to fostering a partnership based on equality and mutual respect. The talks underscored Eritrea's strategic importance in the Red Sea region, emphasizing its unique position of peace, stability, and military strength.

Minister Crosetto highlighted the deep-rooted historical connections between the two nations, expressing Italy's keen interest in expanding their collaborative efforts. He pointed out the critical role of the Red Sea's stability for the Mediterranean region and voiced his aspiration for enhanced cooperation to address the existing challenges.

Furthering the agenda of bilateral engagement, President Isaias on 1 February, met with the heads of Alpitour, a company involved in the tourism sector. Indicating that Eritrea has vast tourism potential noting it possesses a 1200 km coastline and over 300 islands, President Isaias invited the enterprise to



visit Eritrea in the near future and craft a joint tourism development plan in cooperation with Eritrean experts.

President Isaias and his delegation, on 2 February, also visited a waste recycling factory that is located in the city of Viterbo, 70 km from Rome.

Meanwhile, President Isaias Afwerki and his delegation that is on a working visit to Italy visited production facilities and research centers in various parts of Italy on 4 and 5 February.

During their visit to Umbria and Norcia in the Perugia Region, the delegation explored Gruppo Grifo Agroalimentare, a company specializing in dairy products, and L'Artigiano dei Salumi Salvatori, renowned for its pork meat processing. The tour highlighted Italy's advanced agro-industrial capabilities and

provided insights into sustainable food production practices.

Further enriching their visit, President Isaias and his delegation toured the Umbria Agrofood Technology Park. This institution is at the forefront of enhancing agricultural output through technological innovation, with a focus on biodiversity conservation, agro-food systems, agro-chemistry, and plant tissue culture. The delegation received comprehensive briefings on the park's significant contributions to agriculture and its forward-looking initiatives.

Emphasizing the importance of collaboration, President Isaias advocated for in-depth consultations between the institution's experts and their Eritrean counterparts to foster greater understanding and cooperation.

In addition to these visits, the

delegation took an interest in the ceramics industry, observing the sophisticated technology in use at a local factory.

On February 4th, the delegation

also visited the Basilica in Assisi, a city that attracts millions of tourists annually, underscoring the cultural and historical dimensions of their visit to Italy.



### 34<sup>TH</sup>-ANNIVERSARY OF COMMEMORATION OF 'FENKIL' OPERATION



activities including sports competitions, general knowledge competitions, educational seminars, and exhibitions showcasing photographs and sculptures. Additionally, the event will facilitate community gatherings that promise to enrich the commemorative experience.

Highlighting the event's multifaceted nature, Ms. Zeineb disclosed plans for guided tours to historical landmarks, insightful seminars, and a half-marathon race that

has garnered recognition from the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), alongside widespread participation in various sporting activities.

The Chairperson has extended an appeal to all relevant entities and attendees, both from inside the country and abroad, to amplify their involvement in this significant commemorative event, thereby honoring the legacy of the 'Fenkil' Operation.

The 34<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 'Fenkil' Operation, set to take place from February 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> in Massawa, is poised for commencement under the theme "Fenkil: Tunes of Liberation." This was confirmed by Ms. Zeineb Omar, the chairperson of the Holidays Coordination Committee in the Northern Red Sea Region.

Ms. Zeineb elaborated that the three-day event will be marked by a diverse array of

# Development

## Sustainable Agriculture: Mr. Bxiay's Remarkable Journey in Dekemhare

*Habtom Tesfamichael*

On the outskirts of the town of Dekemhare, a farm thrives under the careful watch of Mr. Bxiay Teweldemedhin, an exemplary farmer. When others saw arid

land and scarcity, Mr. Bxiay, a septuagenarian, envisioned abundance and transformed his plot of land into one that is filled with vegetables, guavas and a variety of other fruits, and a dairy and beef production.

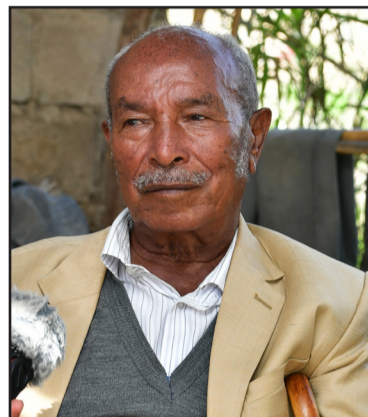
Over the following four years, the land was rented out. When the renter departed, a water pump was left behind. Using an additional water pump, Mr. Bxiay then began growing vegetables and planting trees.

As time passed, the farm began to bear fruit, literally. The approximately four hectares of plot is dotted with luscious guava and apple trees, lettuce, cabbage, chard, pumpkin, and carrots. The air is filled with the delightful fragrance of ripening guavas, papayas, and apples—a testament to the farm's diversified approach. In the summer, the rainy season, the vegetable plots are used for growing cereals such as maize.

Reflecting on the transformation of his farm, Mr. Bxiay proudly said, "I believed that with the right techniques and dedication, even the harshest land could be turned into a productive oasis. Seeing the fruits of my labor and the abundance that now surrounds me brings me immense joy and fulfillment."

Today, Mr. Bxiay's farm yields multiple harvests each year, enabling him to accumulate capital. What was once a humble operation has grown into a fully functioning agricultural enterprise, equipped with the necessary means of production and vehicles for transporting the produce. Mr. Bxiay has even built a beautiful house using the revenue generated by the farm.

Recognizing the importance of a holistic ecosystem, Mr. Bxiay expanded the farm to include a dairy farm and beekeeping. The cattle



*Mr. Bxiay Teweldemedhin*

graze on carefully managed pastures, source of nutritious feed for dairy and beef production. To improve the soil's water retention capacity, Mr. Bxiay regularly applies natural fertilizers, and with the assistance of the Ministry of Agriculture, he is experimenting with compost and natural herbicides. In addition to the oxen intended for beef production, there are 30 cows in the farm.

Mr. Bxiay emphasizes that the animal feed that he grows is not sufficient and calls on the Ministry of Agriculture to take initiatives to ensure adequate supply of animal feed. He said, "To ensure the sustainability of dairy and beef production in our region, farmers must receive assistance in securing sufficient animal feed. This support will significantly contribute to the growth and success of our farms."

To combat shortage of water during the summer, Mr. Bxiay took proactive measures by constructing two small dams around the farm. The dams enrich the underground water, making water available throughout the year. Additionally, he invested on a solar-powered water pumping system, reducing cost. Mr. Bxiay said, "Harnessing solar energy has not only made our

operations more sustainable but has also improved the efficiency of our water management, ensuring consistent irrigation for our crops and adequate water supply for our animals."

Mr. Bxiay's farm has become an inspiration to fellow farmers in Dekemhare and beyond. The dedication of Mr. Bxiay and his fellow farmers to sustainable practices, water conservation, and diversified agriculture offers valuable lessons for other farmers in regions facing harsh climatic conditions. The impact of Mr. Bxiay's farm goes beyond productivity—it serves as a beacon of hope, demonstrating that ingenuity and perseverance can generate abundance even in challenging circumstances.

Mr. Bxiay's farm has also become a training ground for aspiring farmers eager to learn the secrets of success so that they can replicate them on their plots. Mr. Bxiay welcomes visitors and shares his knowledge and experiences with aspiring farmers. He says, "I believe in empowering the next generation of farmers. By sharing what I have learned, I hope to inspire others to live their dreams and create thriving agricultural communities."

As we celebrate Mr. Bxiay's remarkable achievements, it is important to recognize the countless other exemplary farmers across Eritrea who are quietly transforming their communities, one fruitful harvest at a time. Their stories remind us that the potential for growth and prosperity lies within each of us, waiting to be nurtured with dedication and a deep respect for the land that sustains us all.



**ERITREA  
PROFILE**

**Published Every  
Wednesday & Saturday**

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Mr. Bxiay's journey began with his respect for the land and an unwavering spirit. Armed only with traditional tools and sheer determination, he embarked on a mission to give life to the dry land. "I believed that even in challenging circumstances, the land could be made fertile," Mr. Bxiay said.

The soil was meticulously nurtured, unlocking its hidden potential, and water conservation became an art form, with every precious drop cherished and utilized efficiently. Mr. Bxiay said, "I learned the importance of water conservation and developed techniques to make the most of the limited water resources available to me. It was a critical factor in the success of my farm."

In 2005, Mr. Bxiay asked the village administration unit for a barren and unlevelled plot of land. Lacking the necessary capital, he initially temporarily entrusted the land to a developer while he tried to acquire the required resources.

# The Battle Heralding the Inevitability of Eritrean Independence

*Dr. Fikrejesus Amahazion*

The Eritrean war for independence, fought between 1961 and 1991, was one of the longest, bloodiest, and loneliest national wars for liberation in modern African history. As is the case with almost all major wars, it featured many large and minor engagements, and an array of military actions.

On 1 September 1961, Hamid Idris Awate, a daring soldier regarded as a renegade by the Italians, British, and Ethiopians, and a small band of fighters, armed with only a handful of old rifles, fired the first shots of the armed struggle in the Gash Barka region of Eritrea. A few months following on from Awate's brave launch of the armed struggle, Abdu Mohamed Fayed became its first martyr when he was killed at Adal, near Sawa. From those first shots fired by Awate and the subsequent hit-and-run skirmishes with the imperial forces, Eritrea's independence struggle grew into a wide-scale war of liberation encompassing the entire population – much like



quantity of arms and supplies from the enemy.

Several other important battles that come to mind include the Demise of the Wuqaw Command in 1984, which served as a pivotal turning point within the larger trajectory of the war, and in the same year, the bold

much-hyped, intricately-planned Operation Red Star, as well as several more major government offensives, the EPLF, which had rapidly grown to become the leading and most effective Eritrean independence movement in the mid-1970s, regrouped to seize the military initiative and register a number of significant victories and advances. By the late 1980s, for many, Eritrean independence loomed ever larger on the horizon.

In early February 1990, the Ethiopian army was completely overrun in the key coastal city of Massawa, long and affectionately referred to as “the pearl of the Red Sea.” The EPLF's victory during the short but important battle effectively spelled the beginning of the end for the Dergue, and it powerfully signaled that Eritrea's independence – which had long been regarded and dismissed by many as unlikely or even impossible – was not only merely possible, but actually only a matter of time from becoming a reality (Amahazion 2019; 2021a;). In the words of Yohannes, “The battle heralded the inevitability of a total [Eritrean] military victory” (1993: 16).

In the year leading up to the daring land and sea operation, codenamed Operation Fenkil, the EPLF built up its naval capabilities and then secretly moved its powerful forces into the region, aiming to isolate Asmara from the sea. (The coastal city of Massawa and the capital are separated by a distance of approximately 115 kms.) Beginning in the early

hours of 8 February, the quick and decisive EPLF offensive, launched on three different fronts, would end by 10 February, when the Eritreans had secured the mainland. Days later, on 16 February, EPLF forces stormed the islands in a combined land and sea assault. Crucially, the EPLF's bold surprise attack totally cutoff the Ethiopian army's access

general captured during the battle explained that, “The war is almost over now. The army's morale is low and they don't want to fight... The central government can't handle it any more unless they start negotiating...they have no other alternative. I don't think they can even last another two or three months.”

## A victory of great importance

There are several ways to evaluate and understand the overall significance of the Eritreans' victory in Massawa. One is to consider the intensely bitter, vengeful response waged by the Dergue after losing the port city. Another is how fervently its memory is celebrated. The several days that are set aside every year to celebrate the spectacular triumph are among the most special, colorful, and distinguished on the Eritrean calendar, alongside days commemorating the beginning of the armed struggle (1 September), the achievement of independence (24 May), and the sacrifices of martyrs (20 June).



a small spark that ignites a blazing wildfire engulfing everything before it.

Additionally, in March of 1988, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front's (EPLF) scored a heroic victory in a huge battle in Afabet (located about 60 miles north of Asmara), which came to be considered by eminent historian Basil Davidson as the most significant victory for any liberation movement since the Vietnamese victory at Dien Bien Phu. By the end of the three-day battle, which tipped the military balance significantly in favor of the EPLF, the Eritreans had killed or captured over 18,000 Ethiopian soldiers, and acquired a huge

commando operation at the airport in Asmara, which involved the EPLF destroying dozens of enemy aircraft as they were parked on the tarmac.

Alongside all of the above, another crucial military battle in Eritrea's long, tortuous war for freedom unfolded 34 years ago this week, when the EPLF crushed the Dergue in Massawa. This ultimately marked the beginning of the end of the Marxist-Leninist Dergue regime, led by Lieutenant Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, and set Eritrea on the final steps toward freedom.

## A bold military operation

After withstanding the Dergue's



to supplies provided by the USSR through Massawa. Not only did the Eritrean forces employ tanks and various armaments and heavy artillery, captured from Ethiopian garrisons, they also relied upon a small fleet of gun boats to attack from the sea.

The battle took an enormous toll on the Ethiopian army, leaving it depleted and greatly demoralized. About 9,000-10,000 Ethiopian soldiers were killed, while many others were left wounded. In addition, thousands of Ethiopian troops, including high-ranking generals and commanders surrendered to the EPLF, with many other Ethiopian troops retreating to the town of Ghinda. An Ethiopia

Yet another important reflection of the importance and consequentiality of Operation Fenkil is in terms of its overall impact on the larger conflict. In this, then, the events of 34 years ago were major, as they served to bring the journey to independence closer to its conclusion. The EPLF's capture of the strategic city of Massawa (and its vital port) meant that only Assab, the only remaining government-held port on the Red Sea and an important depot for fuel and other goods destined for the Ethiopia, and Asmara, along with its immediate environs, were the areas of Eritrea still controlled by the Dergue. But it was not long until these, too, would be liberated by the Eritreans.



# WELET E'DO:

## A Beauty Contest Worth Preserving

the result, admire the winner and do their best to ask for the hand of the Welet E'do.

To be nominated as Welet E'do, a young girl should not only be the most beautiful and wisest girl in Afabet and the four surrounding villages, but she should also be unmarried and single. At the festival of Welet E'do, the girls that take part in the contest are nominated from their respective communities on the basis of their garments, their ornaments, beauty of their hairs and hair braids and their postures.

The festival is made colourful by poets reciting memorable poems and singers singing very moving songs. The panel that

nominates the Welet E'do is made up of elderly men and women.

After a very lengthy deliberation, the panel announces the winner in the presence of the public, and the new Welet E'do becomes the beauty queen for one year until the next festival. Once the honour of Welet E'do is bestowed on a girl, the girl usually gets married. But if she doesn't get married, she retains her title until such time she is defeated.

The basic duty of the Welet E'do is to lead the grand opening of the two religious feasts -- Eid Al Adhha and Eid Al Fetir. On the two occasions she is adorned with special traditional garments, and

she is assisted by an experienced lady who is assigned to dress her up and watch over her costumes.

At the opening of the celebrations Welet E'do comes down to the stage and performs a



traditional dance called "shellil". Unlike the other ladies, she is expected to dance calmly and

### Hali Hassen Hali

When you think of fashion and beauty queens, Paris or London would probably come to mind. But have you ever wondered 'why not Eritrea'?

Beauty pageants are common in the world and are held in a variety of ways in accordance with the traditions and customs of countries. The custom of having beauty pageants is said to have started in Britain in the early 20th century. By the middle of the 20th century it developed from a nationally held beauty contest to a continentally and, later on, globally held event.

Eric Murine, a British citizen who is said to be the first to come up with the idea of nominating Miss World, started holding the event in 1951, and he remained the CEO of the Miss World nominating company in Britain until he died in 2001.

But did beauty pageants begin only one century ago and specifically in Europe? Not really. There is evidence that a beauty contest, known as Welet E'do, used to be held at Afabet starting from the 18th century. The event was held in Afabet, a town in the Northern Red Sea region and is located 130 kilometres north of Asmara, and it involved the Tigre

speaking ethnic group living in Afabet and four surrounding villages.

'Welet' in Tigre language means 'young girl' and 'E'do' a pure leather rug. The name Welet E'do refers both to the festival when the contest happens and to the winner. Welet E'do is held in winter when farmers are at rest, following the harvest, and can attend the gathering and enjoy the feast. Every villager from Afabet and the surrounding four villages eagerly awaits the festival of Welet E'do. Young men, in particular, anxiously wait to see



with pride, carefully watching her movements. Holding a "kezeran," a traditional cane, she dances surrounded by ladies.

The Welet E'do is highly respected by the communities in Afabet and the four villages. On her marriage, she is showered with gifts not only by her family but the whole community. And the groom who takes her hand is often required to give more than is usually requested by other ordinary girls.

Today, the festival of Welet E'do is no more than a folktale narrated by the elderly in the community. Efforts need to be made to resuscitate it so that it can be preserved for posterity.

# Lighter Side

## Exploring the Multifaceted Nature of Anger

Luwam Kahsay H.

I came across a thought-provoking quote that has lingered in my mind: "Anger is an inner wound that is only one letter short of danger." Although I can't recall the exact source, this statement resonates with me deeply.



During a conversation with a friend about the complexities of anger, he aptly described it as an emotion that often does more harm than good in one's life. Seneca, the Roman Philosopher, famously referred to it as a "short madness" that can lead us down the path of self-destruction. My friend also reminded me of the grim history of anger, highlighting the first recorded murder in human history—a tragedy born from the elder brother's inability to control his anger. To further illustrate the challenge of managing anger effectively, he invoked Aristotle's famous words: "Anybody can become angry – that is easy, but to be angry with the right person, to the right degree, at the right time, for the right purpose, and in the right way – that is not within everybody's power and is not easy." I couldn't help but agree.

Reflecting on my personal experiences, I recognize the toll my poorly managed anger has taken on my relationships, particularly with my little sister and best friend, Mahlet. It's heartbreaking to consider how our friendship might have blossomed had I reacted differently during times of anger.

Furthermore, a 2019 study from Pennsylvania State University revealed that negative moods, including anger, can impact the immune system's functioning and lead to unhealthy inflammation.

As Jim Butcher wisely notes, "Anger is just anger. It isn't good. It isn't bad. It just is. What you do with it is what matters. It's like anything else. You can use it to build or destroy. You just have to make the choice." My friend and I concur that it all comes down to our decisions. Every path we take in life presents us with choices, some of which can profoundly shape our destinies. Thus, there

may be valuable lessons to be gained from anger.

So what are these potential benefits and how can we harness them? While the Roman Stoic deemed anger as fundamentally wicked, the Greek philosopher Aristotle acknowledged its potential to bring about positive change, provided it did not undermine reason.

Ultimately, the outcome of any emotion or action hinges on our motivation to manage them wisely. R. David Lebel, an organizational scientist at the University of Pittsburgh, wisely points out, "Suppression just leaves you feeling exhausted." Instead, it's about directing that energy effectively. From my personal journey, I've learned that some of my most significant achievements were spurred by anger. For instance, during my college days at Adi Keih College of Business and Social Science, I had a discriminatory teacher whose behavior incensed me. Surprisingly, my anger motivated me to excel in his exams, scoring full marks on occasion. While these instances may be rare, anger can occasionally bolster our optimism about our capacity to effect change

in challenging situations.

According to the study conducted by David Robson, one of anger's potential benefits can be manifested in 'mobilization'. UK sports scientists discovered that angry basketball players are more accurate in their free throws after being fouled before a shot. Anger's physiological activation can, at times, enhance performance.

Additionally, a burst of anger can ignite creativity. A fascinating experiment involving anagrams found that some of the angriest participants persisted until the end, demonstrating increased energy and breakthroughs in problem-solving. Frustration, an unpleasant feeling associated with anger, can inspire unexpected insights, indirectly leading to self-improvement.

Uncontrolled anger, although rare, can lead to constructive confrontation. Learning when and how to express anger appropriately may aid in faster recovery from stressful situations, ultimately benefiting our psychological well-being. Patience, planning our responses, and considering problems within a broader context are useful tools in this regard.

Anger can also sharpen our focus in critical conditions by helping us detect threats more vigilantly.

When we experience anger, it's crucial to remember that no emotion is inherently negative, immoral, or bad. Emotions are transient physical experiences, and anger is no exception.

Within each bout of anger lies valuable information for us to uncover and navigate to our advantage, benefiting both ourselves and others.

In the words of Malcolm X, "Usually when people are sad, they don't do anything. They just cry over their condition. But when they get angry, they bring about a change." Anger, like any emotion, can be a catalyst for positive transformation when harnessed wisely.



### MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO SUPPORT FAMILIES OF MARTYRS

Eritrean nationals residing in various countries have made generous monetary contributions in support of the families of martyrs and to augment the Martyrs Trust Fund. A total of 7,330 Swiss Francs, 3,960 Euros, 1,000 Canadian Dollars, and 89,000 Nakfa have been raised for this noble cause.

The Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare reported that Eritrean nationals in Switzerland, including Mr. Habtom Zekarias, Mr. Gebrehiwet Teklai, Ms. Lula Kibrom, Ms. Rozina Tesfai, Ms. Azeb Yikealo, Mr. Tesfaldet Gebreab, Mr. Atakilti Haile, Mr. Solomon Taddese, Ms. Jiom Ferejai, Mr. Samson Tewoldebrhan, Mr. Mengis Teklemariam, Mr. Merhawi Michael, and Ms. Senait Seium have collectively contributed 5,760 Swiss Francs to support eight

families of martyrs.

The Eritrean community in Kanton Bern, Switzerland, have also demonstrated their solidarity by contributing 1,570 Swiss Francs, which will benefit four families of martyrs.

Furthermore, 28 nationals residing in Leiden, the Netherlands, have contributed 3,960 Euros in support of 11 families of martyrs, while a compassionate individual in Canada has donated 1,000 Dollars to support one family of martyrs.

In a similar vein, the Eritrean community in Harnosand, Sweden, has generously contributed 39,000 Nakfa to augment the Martyrs Trust Fund. Ms. Tesgay Estifanos, a national residing in Canada, has also contributed 50,000 Nakfa to further bolster the Martyrs Trust Fund.

## LOCAL NEWS

### CENTRAL REGION HOSTS SOCIAL SCIENCE TRAINING FOR STUDENTS

The National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students recently concluded a comprehensive training program on social sciences for 242 high school students, including 15 females, from across the Central Region. The initiative aimed to deepen the participants' understanding of various critical subjects and foster a sense of national consciousness and responsibility among the youth.

The training covered a wide array of topics, including the concepts of nation and nationalism, youth and national service, the core principles of the National Charter, and the advancements in information technology.

Additionally, the training delved into the meanings and implications of ideology, as well as political and

religious philosophies, and history of the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students.

Mr. Samson Kifle, the head of the union's branch in the Central Region, emphasized that the training was designed to enhance the students' overall capabilities with a view to enable them play due part in realizing the objectives

and mission of the union.

Speaking at event, Mr. Saleh Ahmedin, the chairman of the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students, underscored the importance of the training and he encouraged the participants to take an active role in disseminating the insights and understandings they acquired among their peers in their respective schools.





**ASMARA MINING SHARE COMPANY**  
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 Gejeret, P.O. Box 10688  
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 Asmara, Eritrea

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

### Port equipment maintenance technician

Number required – (01)

Type of contract – Indefinite

#### Major Duties and responsibilities.

- Responsible for forecasting maintenance and repair of all allocated equipment.
- Stand by during ship loading operation.
- Troubleshooting and implementation of improvement initiatives.
- Prestart check for crane, retainer, and other mobile equipment prior to ship loading, solving any breakdown.
- Overloading issues during the loading process.
- Make sure the crane and retainer are as close to 100% available during ship loading—ability to carry out installation and replacement if necessary.
- Highlights any change in equipment performance and efficiency levels and informs to port supervisor.
- Carry out schedule maintenance and repair of all allocated equipment.
- Control the Maintenance and repair work for all AMSC equipment at Massawa.
- Planning and Scheduling
- Health and Safety
- Administration

#### Control the Maintenance and repair work for all AMSC equipment at Massawa.

- Prestart check for crane, retainer, and other mobile equipment.
- Making sure the crane and retainer are as close to 100% available during ship loading.
- Diagnosing faulty parts for the crane, retainer and having the ability to carry out installation and replacement if necessary.
- Conducting on-the-job maintenance and repair is necessary during concentrate load out, if necessary, to change unit, ensure this is done quickly, safely effectively as possible.
- Ability to work with drives and different software if necessary.
- Ability to work in relevant job type mechanical, electrical, auto electrical and instrumentation if necessary.
- Perform regular inspection in order to detect potential problems before they cause a breakdown.
- Control downtime by ensuring the best techniques is being used to repair the breakdown.
- Stand by during ship loading operation until ship loading is completed.

#### Planning and Scheduling

- Responsible for forecasting of maintenance and repair of all allocated equipment and keeping a record of all engine hours for all AMSC equipment in Massawa (including LV and GE)
- Ensure that critical spares/parts are in stock.
- Maintain the inventory for all AMSC equipment spare parts and request replacement where necessary.
- Track the use of maintenance and repair parts and order accordingly.
- Track and identify machines with chronic problems and recommend necessary actions.
- Required to interface with maintenance scheduler and planner. Liaise daily port equipment maintenance Supervisor and discuss the work to be done.

#### Health and Safety

- Attend Health and Safety Practices.
- Ensure knowledge of Health and Safety policies, procedures and practices.
- Attend the daily toolbox/safety meetings.
- Responsible for ensuring that work area complies with the Health and

#### Safety standards.

- Report and act on hazard identified or potential hazards to the port operation.

#### Administration

- Responsible for ensuring that required information for the weekly and monthly reports is provided timeously to compile in the overall Planning report.

#### Qualifications and Experience

Formal Education, Certifications or Equivalents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical Diploma</li> <li>• The candidate must be physically medically fit</li> <li>• The candidate must be technical education background and maintenance Qualified</li> <li>• Must be able to work outside exposed to Heat, wind, and dusty environments</li> <li>• Must be able to work at Heights</li> </ul>
Working Experience – Nature & Length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 – 4 years’ experience in heavy equipment like cranes and other mobile equipment used in port.</li> </ul>
Technical Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Computer Literacy (MS Office – limited requirement, In-house software system – limited requirement)</li> <li>• Technical skill</li> <li>• Figure analysis skill</li> <li>• Problem-solving skill</li> <li>• Safety reporting and actions</li> </ul>
Behavioral Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication (English and a Local language advantage)</li> <li>• Behavioral relations skill</li> <li>• Teamwork</li> <li>• Integrity</li> <li>• Cultural Diversity</li> </ul>

#### General Information and other requirements:

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

#### Additional requirements for Nationals:

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

- Address: Please mail your applications to;  
Asmara Mining Share Company,  
P. O. Box 10688 Asmara, Eritrea
- Applicants shall be required to send a copy to:  
Mineral Resources Management  
P.O. Box – 272  
Asmara
- Note to Eritrean applicants:  
Please send a copy of your application to  
Aliens Employment Permit Affairs,  
P. O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea



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

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

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

**Major Duties and responsibilities.**

- Oversee, and manage the inbound and outbound retainer movements to and from Asmara Mine at Massawa Port.
- Liaise with the Maritime Ship Agency (MASSAC) + MASSAWA Port Authority (MPA)
- Liaises with the Linesmen and Stevedore crews.
- Management

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

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

**Liaise with the Maritime Ship Agency (MASSAC) + MASSAWA Port Authority. (MPA)**

- Accepts or rejects (within 24 hours) vetted vessel nominations for the loading
- When vessel nominations accepted, advises and co-ordinates with staff and service providers (ship owner’s agents and BMSC shipment representative “BC Marine”, to confirm the fixture and communicate estimated time of arrival.) ETA.
- In co-operation with the “Commercial Manager” attends to all the required “pre-arrival” administration, such as vessel cargo declaration, TML certificated, stow plans, draft mates receipt and draft bill of loading. If required, a moisture declaration and any other subjects as required and/or requested from the vessel owner.

**Liaises with the Linesmen and Stevedore crews.**

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

**Management**

- Oversee (on an indirect basis), the Port Supply Superintendent who is responsible for all inbound cargo receipts at Massawa for transportation to Asmara Mine.
- Oversee (on an indirect basis) the Port Maintenance Supervisor who is responsible for ensuring that all equipment at Massawa Port is properly and regularly maintained according to manufacturer specifications.
- Oversee (on an indirect basis) the Ship Loading Trainer, whose function is to train MPA staff on the crane.
- Maintains strong relationships and conducts regular monthly meetings with (Trans horn) to ensure that trucking efficiencies are maintained and that AMSC is made aware of any variations or interruptions to the agreed schedule.
- Reports any accident to the Safety & Health Department.
- Ensure all staff comply with Asmara Mine and Port Health & Safety

standards at all times.

- Maintains a strong relationship with the Port Management and Maritime shipping agencies and ensure that Asmara is working co-operatively within the port

**TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT**

- In conjunction with Asmara T&D department ensure that the Safety, Signalman and Crane Training courses run by AMSC personnel well organized and recorded.

**Qualifications and Experience**

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

**General Information and other requirements:**

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

**Additional requirements for Nationals:**

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

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

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

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

# Fenkil Operation: Game Changer in the Independence Struggle

*Simon Weldemichael*

Eritreans are preparing to celebrate the 34th anniversary of Fenkil Operation, an operation that resulted in one of the greatest

was so great that its desperate attempts to reclaim Massawa failed miserably. More than 300 high and low ranking military officers, including Brigadier General Tilahun Kilfe, Brigadier

kilometers. Fenkil Operation was a decisive battle and was described by General Philipos Woldeyohannes, as tightening the noose on the throat of the enemy. Major General Romodan

true, it's a big blow to President Mengistu." Brigadier General Tilahun Kifle, commander of the 606 corps who was captured at the battle, described the battle in these words: "I have seen many battles. At this front, I have received my first defeat in my career as a military leader. I've lost my fighting spirit at this battle. The speed and morale of your fighters [EPLA] surpassed that of ours.' Similarly, Brigadier General Ali Haj Abdu, another captive who was commander of the 3rd mechanized unit, also acknowledged the talent of the EPLF commanders and the superior mobility and speed of the fighters, and their skillful use of artillery.

Mengistu Hailemariam understood the war had entered a critical stage and said: "The occupation of Massawa means the occupation of the second revolutionary command that we consider as the backbone of our defense forces." The victory of the Fenkil Operation put the Ethiopian colonial army in Eritrea in complete encirclement. The Derg, as it always did, responded to its military humiliation by bombing the civilian population of Massawa using cluster and napalm bombs. The frantic act of the Derg is known by Eritreans as qbtset (desperation). The bombing of the port of Massawa was particularly brutal and destructive, with merciless attacks by the Ethiopian Air Force on civilians and the infrastructure.

The political consequence of the Fenkil Operation was equally great. For the first time in its

history, the Derg admitted its defeat. A week after the liberation of Massawa, Mengistu sent his message of defeat to all his military units telling them that with the capture of Massawa the spinal column of the Ethiopian army had been broken, making the independence of Eritrea a reality. In earnest, the central committee of the Ethiopian Workers' Party, the ruling party, convened and passed farcical resolutions. The party promised to undertake economic reforms and changed its name to Ethiopian Democratic Unity Party. The bitter taste of defeat forced Mengistu Hailemariam to publicly acknowledge that they had been strangled by the throat. Fenkil Operation and the subsequent successful coordinated military attacks in both Eritrea and Ethiopia undertaken by the EPLF exerted maximum pressure, resulting in Mengistu's flight to Zimbabwe.

The final objective of the Eritrean armed struggle was to establish an independent Eritrea. Eritrean freedom fighters raised guns not to kill Ethiopians but rather to achieve the objective of establishing an independent and sovereign country of their own. Eritreans fought for thirty years for no reason other than to further that political objective. Fenkil Operation is revered as a great success because of its decisive contribution to the realization of the political objective of Eritreans. It was a vivid demonstration of the unparalleled determination and military prowess of Eritrean freedom fighters who deserve to be remembered eternally.



military victories in the long and bitter struggle for independence. Fenkil Operation was a three-day battle that began on 8 February and ended on 10 February 1990 with the liberation of the port city of Massawa.

The liberation of Massawa had created fundamental military changes in the balance of power in favor of Eritrea's freedom fighters. More than 40 thousand Ethiopian soldiers were either killed, captured, or wounded; 80 tanks were captured and 30 more tanks burned; and the Ethiopian naval force was annihilated once and for all. The liberation of Massawa, a port city on the Red Sea, had strategic importance in the struggle for independence because it meant shutting down the main artery for the transport of logistics and armament of the Ethiopian army in Eritrea. Control of the Massawa-Asmara Road by Eritrean fighters denied the Derg access to the port and left it with no choice but to resort exclusively to airlifting, which is far more costly and inefficient.

Fenkil Operation reduced the Ethiopian army, the largest in Africa at the time, into a toothless tiger. The military establishment, which was assisted by the West and East at different times, lost the spirit to fight. Its disillusionment

General Ali Haji Abdulahi and Captain Tsegaye Mekonen, were taken captives in the swift and decisive battle.

When the EPLF forces controlled large parts of Massawa, the remaining enemy soldiers were concentrated in Twalet, a small area connected to the mainland via a narrow causeway known as Sigalet. Under the command of Brigadier General Teshome Tesema, the desperate army held the civilian population hostage. EPLF's call for the release of the civilians and its offer of amnesty to the besieged army fell on deaf ears. And following its 12 hours of unilaterally declared ceasefire, EPLF's tanks and infantry raided Tiwalet and the port, liberating the people that had been taken hostage by the Ethiopian army.

Fenkil Operation is the greatest strategic military operation carried out by the EPLF after the battle of Afabet that smashed Nadew command, Ethiopia's strongest command. The coordination and speed of the operation took the Ethiopian army by surprise. It was an amphibious operation, the first of its kind in the history of the struggle, involving the infantry, mechanized units and the navy, and it covered a vast area -- 1560 square

Awlayay, who was commander of the mechanized division of the EPLF, also described Derg's fate as "similar to the fate of a tree without roots." With the capture of Massawa in February 1990, the EPLF effectively cut off the Ethiopian forces in Eritrea from direct access to the Red Sea. Fenkil Operation profoundly shook the foundation of the Derg and hastened the final defeat of the Ethiopian army in Eritrea.

The liberation of Massawa was a surprise to both friends and foes in the world. On its 10th February 1990 broadcast, the BBC stated that "if the victory claimed by the EPLF is

