

FOUNDING CONGRESS OF PFDJ ORGANIZATIONS IN GERMANY



Founding congress of PFDJ organizations in Germany was held on 28 January in Frankfurt. The congress was attended by representatives from 26 cities as well as heads of PFDJ organizations in Germany.

Indicating that the Eritrean people are entering into a promising stage by foiling all types of conspiracies and hostilities through strong resilience and perseverance, Mr. Kahsai Tewolde, head of Public and Community Affairs at the Eritrean Embassy, said that the founding congress will have significant

contribution in strengthening unity and participation in the national affairs.

Mr. Kahsai also gave briefing on the activities implemented in the past 12 years and the participants conducted extensive discussion on the report presented.

Mr. Kibreab Tekeste, Eritrea's Consul General in Frankfurt also conducted seminar to participants focusing on necessity and role of leadership.

At the event, heads of national organizations and national

committee in Germany delivered messages of solidarity.

The congress also elected executive committee for two years term and adopted programs for 2023.

MEETING ON STRENGTHENING ORGANIZATION

Eritrean Nationals in Scandinavian countries conducted meetings focusing on strengthening unity and their organization.

At the meetings carried out in the Swedish cities of Gothenburg, Umea, Orebro, Lund, Sundsvall and Malmo and in the Norwegian cities of Copenhagen and Aarhus, Mr. Isaias Gebray, head of Administration and Consular Affairs at the Eritrean Embassy in Scandinavian countries, gave briefing on the public activities in the Diaspora as well as rights and responsibilities of nationals.

Mr. Isaias also gave detailed

briefing on the significance of strengthening organizational capacity, services being provided to nationals, basic laws of Eritrea, nurturing youth that adhere to the noble societal values as well as challenges that Diaspora nationals are facing.

Explaining on the significance of the meetings in developing their understanding on the objective situation in their homeland, the participants called for its sustainability.

Meanwhile, Eritrean nationals in Dammam and its environs, Saudi Arabia, expressed resolve

to strengthen participation in the national affairs.

The nationals expressed their commitment at a seminar Ms. Weini Gerezegihier, Charge d'Affairs at the Eritrean Embassy, conducted on 3 February.

At the seminar, Ms. Weini said that the Eritrean people have reached to a promising stage thanks to its strong and committed leadership and its gallant Defense Forces.

Ms. Weini also gave briefing on the activities implemented in 2022 in terms of strengths and challenges.

PHOTOGRAPHY TRAINING TO MOI STAFF



The Ministry of Information organized two weeks theoretical and practical training to 51 staff members including 2 members of the Ministry of Agriculture focusing on photography techniques and development of photo technology.

The training included historical background and development of photography, lens application, combination of light and color, types of camera files, photo organization, digitalization, as well as camera technology.

Speaking at the closing event of the training held today, 6 February, at the 'Hager Media' Hall, Mr. Abdulahi Damer, director of Human Resources Development, said that the training was in continuation the Ministry of Information has been exerting to develop the overall capacity of members.

Commending for the training opportunity provided, representative of the trainees said that the training they received will have significant contribution in their daily activities.

The training was provided by veteran photographers of the Ministry of Information and Mr. Yared Tsegai, still camera expert residing in the US.

EFFORTS TO CONTROL DEFORESTATION ACTIVITIES

At a meeting conducted in Ghinda sub-zone, authorities agreed to conduct sustainable awareness raising activity with a view to control deforestation at the national parks in the Northern Red Sea Region.

Indicating that without active participation of the public the effort to develop forestry and wildlife will not be successful, Cap. Tsehaye Tekle, representative of the Forestry and Wildlife Authority, called for active participation of sub-zonal administrators in the effort.

Cap. Tsehaye also said that about 80 thousand tree seedlings have been planted at the reserved lands and called for strengthened follow-up for their safety and sustainability.

Pointing out on the significance of preservation of reserved lands in the development of eco-diversity, Mr. Omar Yahya, administrator of Ghinda sub-zone, said that the sub-zonal administration will give priority to oversee the safety and sustainability of the reserved land in the sub-zone.

The participants of the meeting on their part conducted extensive discussion on the issues raised at the meeting and adopted various recommendations.



REPORTAGE

Qualified Teachers for Quality Education

Habtom Tesfamichael

Education is very crucial for the development of a nation and, among others, qualified teachers are the main drivers of development in this sector. The Government offers training programs at different levels in order to develop the human resource in the education sector. Progress in education is obviously a great thing for Eritrea, and the dream to make Eritrea an advanced nation would become real because of the concerted efforts being made in the human resource development.

As part of the wider scheme to develop the human resources capacity in the education sector, Asmara College of Education (ACE) graduated teachers on 31st January in a postgraduate diploma program for its fourth round. On this day, 57 graduates were conferred diplomas: 18 in Social Science education, 30 in Science and Math education and nine in English Language Teaching. The training focused on pedagogical subjects such as Educational Psychology, Applied Linguistics, Maths/Science Education and Social Science Education and was given to former teachers who came from different schools. The college has graduated a total of 412 with postgraduate diplomas since it began its operation. About 12% of the graduates are women.



The ACE has been offering the post-graduate program to teachers who have first degree to deepen their knowledge in their respective fields of study and the teaching and learning process.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony, acting Dean of the College, Dr. Yonas Mesfin, said that the program was prepared with the basic aim of training new and former teachers in the latest pedagogical methods that will be very helpful in the future careers of the trainees. This will also open a wider opportunity for others.

Dr. Yonas said that the program will help develop the theoretical knowledge of trainee teachers by providing content focusing on pedagogy and psychology, student and classroom management, language teaching methods, social and behavioral sciences, and test preparation methods and planning. "To enhance this, they conducted three to four months of teaching internships in various schools in the Central region for one semester to acquire and increase their practical knowledge. The services they provided has had both academic and social benefits," he added.

Dr. Yonas said that in the coming year a Master's program is scheduled

to start. Finally, he thanked all those who have contributed to the success of the program.

Mrs. Yosan Petros, who received

competent and effective in her teaching profession.

Mrs. Yosan said: "I got a first degree in Applied Chemistry last year at the Eritrean Institute of



a postgraduate degree in Science Education, said she had previously worked briefly as a teacher at Faith Mission School in Dekemhare and when the opportunity of a post-graduate program came, she chose to be enrolled. She said that the courses were very helpful and believes they will make her more

Technology (EIT), and I believe the postgraduate course is a promotion in my career. All teachers involved in the teaching profession should understand the importance and effectiveness of this kind of a program and grab the opportunity. I also urge the relevant authorities to continue to give the opportunity

to others."

"I have been participating in this postgraduate program for a year. We received basic psychology and education training during this period. Prior to this postgraduate course, my knowledge of teaching was limited. To build a wholly competent citizen, a qualified teacher must be produced first. In this regard, the ACE has enabled us to keep pace with the modern teaching methods through its advanced curriculum."

Mr. Berihwa Yemane, who has been serving as a teacher at Warsay Yikaalo Secondary School, is another graduate. He said, "We will benefit more from the knowledge we have acquired and build productive citizens in the future. I appreciate the Ministry of Education for providing us with opportunities of education."

The ACE is working to build competent teachers by organizing training programs to keep them abreast of the changing world by providing knowledge and up-to-date information.

To improve the quality of education, the recruitment of qualified teachers is indispensable, and the Government has been investing heavily on education to develop the human resources in this sector. The role of higher education institutions within the national human resource development strategy has been instrumental. However, there is still a need to upgrade the qualification of teachers at all levels in the country to meet the national standards. The Ministry of Education (MoE) provides a range of training programs, including distance learning. The in-service training programs provided are expected to gradually improve the quality of teaching and learning.

The MoE has made a lot of progress in ensuring equitable distribution of schools and improving the quality of education through the assignment of qualified teachers at all levels although at the primary school level, in particular, it seems a lot still remains to be done. Overall, the MoE is working to provide qualified teachers at all levels and coordinate necessary programs to pave the way for the development of those who have been teaching and have not yet reached the required level by strengthening support in a variety of ways.



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SpotLight

A Safe, Comfortable Stop Along the Way to Giving Birth

Dr. Fikrejesus Amahazion

During a briefing last week, the Ministry of Health (MoH) branch in the Northern Red Sea Region reported that the number of maternity waiting homes (MWHs) across the region has recently increased, rising from 12 in 2021 to 17 in 2022. Furthermore, this encouraging development was reported to have played a role in promoting positive health outcomes, particularly for women and newborn children. The following article offers an overview of MWHs, and briefly highlights some of Eritrea's child and maternal health progress.

MWHs

MWHs are not a new development within global or public health. They have a relatively long, extensive history. Sometimes also referred to as maternity waiting areas, mother's shelters, or antenatal villages, they may be most simply defined as standalone, safe residential facilities where pregnant women can stay for an extended period prior to the onset of labor or before being transferred to other health facilities for delivery.

A number of empirical studies conducted in an array of settings around the world have demonstrated that MWHs can be a relatively cost-effective, successful strategy to help reduce the risk of adverse birth outcomes and child or maternal mortality, especially within low- and middle-income countries or resource limited settings. Timely, high-quality care during and around the period of delivery is crucial as serious complications and maternal and newborn deaths are heavily concentrated around this time. (In fact, research shows that the majority of maternal and newborn deaths are caused by preventable or treatable complications that take place during labor, delivery and the immediate 24 hours after giving birth.)

MWHs help ensure more high-risk pregnancies can be detected, with these pregnant women subsequently being provided specialized services, further examination, and appropriate care or treatment. As well, MWHs can

mean that more pregnant women are delivering with the assistance of skilled birth attendants. In addition to the important role that they perform throughout pregnancy, the academic literature is replete with evidence showing the significant, vital role performed by skilled birth attendants during childbirth and postpartum. During delivery, for instance, skilled birth attendants closely monitor progress of labor, facilitate physiological processes, and help address complications (e.g., obstructed labor, birth asphyxia, and trauma), while in the period shortly following birth, when the risk of mortality



primarily in order to better serve women in remote and hard-to-

remote and hard-to-reach areas.

In addition to offering a much-needed setting where women can be comfortable, safely accommodated, and receive timely, high-quality health services during their pregnancy, Eritrea's nationwide network of MWHs reduces the need for difficult or long distance travel, provides women with critical education, such as learning about healthy behaviors and how to best care for the baby or themselves, offers much-needed social, cultural, emotional, and psychological support or the opportunity to build mutual support networks, and helps to promote births in facilities and assisted by skilled birth attendants. In areas of the country where malaria is endemic, local health personnel also provide pregnant women with medications and insecticide-treated mosquito nets, while MWHs additionally provide greater opportunities for new mothers to rest, recover, and receive follow-up care following delivery.

An important aspect of Eritrea's growing network of MWHs is that they help to reflect the country's unwavering commitment to social justice and promoting and protecting women's rights. For instance, MWHs help to bridge the historically large rural-urban divide in access to care and reduce the need for many women to embark on long, difficult journeys that can increase the risk of complications or even death for both mother and child.

In terms of women's rights, recall that around the world maternal mortality and morbidity, which MWHs help to reduce and prevent, has increasingly been

regarded as a human rights issue. Article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights obliges states to "recognise the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health" and to take steps to provide for "the reduction of the stillbirth rate and of infant mortality and for the healthy development of the child", while the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, in Article 12, requires states to "ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, access to health care services, including those related to family planning" and to "ensure to women appropriate services in connection with pregnancy, confinement and the post-natal period, granting free services where necessary, as well as adequate nutrition during pregnancy and lactation".

Ultimately, MWHs help to emphasize Eritrea's longstanding commitment and efforts to promote social justice and protect women and girls' rights to life; to equality; to non-discrimination; and to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health.

Eritrea's general progress within neonatal, child, and maternal health

Over the years, there has been an increase in the use of MWHs in Eritrea, with more babies being delivered in these facilities. In 2017 there were 7,699 deliveries in MWHs, while in 2018 and 2019 there were 8,670 and 9,173 deliveries, respectively. This, in combination with a variety of other factors, has played a role in positive maternal, newborn, and child health outcomes.

Eritrea is one of the few countries that entered the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) period having achieved most of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals related to health. Since the onset of the UN SDGs period close to a decade



for newborns and mothers can be quite high, they help with feeding, managing complications (e.g., postpartum bleeding, infection, or depression), and counseling (e.g., providing information or advice about family planning and birth spacing), along with offering other vital forms of support.

Eritrea

With regard to Eritrea, MWHs were first introduced into the national health system in 2007,

reach areas. Steadily, the role and position of MWHs has expanded to where they now represent an integral link within the continuum of care for maternal and newborn health in the country.

At present, there are close to 50 MWHs distributed around the country. Last week's MoH press briefing in the NRS Region, revealing that the number of MWHs in the region increased from 12 to 17 just last year, is especially noteworthy as the region has many people living in



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OPINION

Promoting Human Rights of Women through the Elimination of FGM

Simon Woldemichael

Monday, February 6th, was International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation. As part of the observance of the Day, posters (written in Arabic, English and Tigrigna) were hanging on the streets of Asmara.

In Eritrea, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) has long been identified as a harmful traditional practice that needs to be eliminated. Culture as whole, with its supportive and destructive elements, enables as well as disables society in its endeavors to have happy, meaningful and healthy life. Every society has destructive and harmful cultural practices that

mitment to abolish this harmful practice by issuing legislation and conducting awareness raising campaigns.

The government is signatory to many international legal instruments on human rights that protect human rights and prohibit discrimination against specific groups, in particular women and children. The convention on the rights of the child and The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) were ratified and enforced in 1994 and 1995 respectively. CEDAW obliges states to “pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating discrimina-

No.158/2007 prohibiting the practice of FGM was proclaimed by the government of Eritrea. The proclamation, which came into effect on 20

Sustainable Development Goals to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Eritrea has made great progress in ending



March 2007, makes it a criminal offence to perform FGM on another person in Eritrea and sets out the associated penalties. The new Penal Code of Eritrea (2015) also states that “a person who exercises parental authority who for gain or in dereliction of duty grossly neglects the children under his charge and abandons them without due care and attention or to moral or physical dangers” is punishable by article 327. Under Article 327 of the new Penal Code, which relates to the neglect of children and putting them in danger, the offence is punishable with one to six months imprisonment or a fine of 5,001–20,000 Nakfa.

FGM is a practice that makes women vulnerable to adverse health effects. It is an offense in the eyes of modern acceptable standards of behavior articulated in conventions, national laws and proclamations. FGM and other harmful traditional practices are carried out mainly because of negative attitudes about girls and women. In Eritrea, both colonization and backwardness had given for the persistence of the harmful traditional practices detrimental to the health and status of women. It's only after independence that the government of Eritrea challenged the sinister implications

of such practices, which violate the rights to health, life, dignity and personal integrity of women. And the criminalization of FGM and the awareness raising campaigns have created a safe space, where women and girls comfortably and safely live, play, work, learn and participate.

Before independence FGM was carried out by Eritrean society as normal and acceptable practice. Usually it is performed on infants that are a few days or months old. The reasons for the practice are many, including, but not limited to, psychosexual reasons. By reducing or eliminating the sensitive tissue of the outer genitalia, particularly the clitoris, it is widely believed that the sexual desire in females can be reduced. Lowering sexual desire, according to this belief, in turn increases the probability for girls to maintain their virginity before marriage. Religious institutions in Eritrea dismissed the spiritual excuses and demanded that adherents abandon the practice.

The abolition of FGM is particularly important in view of the

harmful practices against women and girls. According to the figures released by the Socio-economic head of the National Union of Eritrean Women, the Union has made a lot of efforts to eliminate harmful traditional practices. At independence, 95% of Eritrean women were mutilated. In the study conducted in 2010, the number was reduced drastically. Among girls aged 6-15 years, 33% were mutilated and among those under 5 years, 12% were mutilated. Although the result is encouraging, a lot is still left to bring the incidence rate to zero. The abolition of FGM is inevitable with a significant number of villages declaring FGM free.

FGM has mysterious origins and is based on absurd and vague reasons, but in any case it amounts to violence against women and children. The government of Eritrea has taken important steps to eliminate it because it is clearly identified as gross and serious violation of the rights of women. Through sensitization and legislation, the government is working to bring about total elimination of the practice in Eritrea. The government has been intensifying its efforts to protect and promote human rights of women by fighting against FGM, child marriage and other harmful practices.



go against acceptable standards of behavior and humanity. There are norms governing relations between women and men as well as marriage and sexuality that have harmful effects on women. FGM

tion against women.” It reaffirms the equality of human rights for women and men in society and in the family, and it forces member states to take action against the social causes of women’s in-



is one common harmful cultural practice that harms women’s physical, social and psychological wellbeing. The government has demonstrated its firm com-

equality. It further calls for the elimination of laws, stereotypes, practices and prejudices that impair women’s well-being. In 2007, Proclamation

Photographers Corner

Photo Taezaz Abraha

A Part of Massawa from Above



NEWS

'SIBRIT' CULTURAL TROUPE AT THE WORLD CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC SHOW



'Sibrit' national cultural troupe is participating at the 36th World Cultural and Artistic Show that is taking place in India starting from 3 February.

The cultural troupe on 7 February presented artistic performance depicting the cultural diversity and traditions of the Eritrean people.

Cultural troupes from all over the world are taking part in the event that will continue until 19 February.

The World Cultural and Artistic Show that is known by 'Surajkund India' incorporate traditional and cultural music performances as well as sculptures and bazaar.

The World Cultural and Artistic Show is one of the big cultural festivals in India and attracts over one million visitors from all over the world.

NUEW SWISS BRANCH HOLDS ACTIVITY ASSESSMENT MEETING

The Swiss branch of the National Union of Eritrean Women conducted activity assessment meeting on 28 January in the city of Aargau under the theme "Our Enlightened Values: Guarantors of Our Emancipation".

The meeting in which representative of the union branch from all over the country took part conducted extensive discussion on the internal regulations of the union branch as well as on the charted out

development programs for 2023.

At the meeting, Ms. Terhas Tewolde, chairperson of the union branch, presented concise report of the meetings of the general assembly and executive committee of the union and said that strong effort will be exerted to finalize the projects that have been initiated by the union branch.

The meeting also conducted extensive discussion on the internal

regulations and objectives of the union branch, rights of members, rights of supporting members, disciplinary measures as well as congress and responsibility of the congress.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Emanuel Zekarias, representative of the Eritrean Embassy in Switzerland, expressed readiness of the Embassy to stand alongside the union branch in all its endeavors.



LETTER to the EDITOR

Celebrating the Chinese Spring and Lantern Festival

Dear friends and china compatriots,

Welcome to the Chinese Embassy and join us in celebrating this Lantern Festival as a part of the Chinese New Year festivity

Two weeks ago, we celebrated the Chinese New Year, also called Chinese Spring Festival. This is the most important traditional festival for Chinese nation with a history of over 4000 years....

Ladies and gentlemen,

It's the common wish of the world's people to have peace and development. Last October, the Communist Party of China successfully concluded its 20th National Congress. The meeting drew out a grand blueprint for

Editor's Note: last Sunday the Chinese Embassy in Eritrea celebrated the annual spring and lantern festival. Following is excerpts of the speech by the Chinese Ambassador to Eritrea, Mr. Cai Ge during the event.

Chinese solution to the common problems facing mankind.

...Early this year, China optimized and adjusted its COVID response measures. I came back from vacation in China a week ago. Chinese society is returning to its normal status of business and life in a much faster pace. We are confident that China's economy will see a strong recovery and inject impetus to the growth of world's economy. For the world, China's growth presents opportunity and blessing.

Ladies and gentlemen,



building a modern socialist country and advancing the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation in all fronts, and offered a

China has always carried out sincere and efficient cooperation with Africa and strengthened

China-Africa friendship. Since the beginning of the new century, China has built over 6,000 kilometers of railways, 6,000 kilometers of roads, nearly 20 ports and over 80 large power facilities in Africa, and helped build over 130 hospitals and clinics, over 170 schools, 45 sports venues, and over 500 agricultural projects there. More than 21 thousands china medical team members worked and are working in different countries in Africa. All these projects have played an important part in boosting socioeconomic development of Africa and improving people's livelihood, and have been widely appreciated by African countries and people. We believe that China-Africa cooperation will produce more outcomes in this year.

Ladies and gentlemen ,

China and Eritrea have profound traditional friendship. Last year through the joint efforts of both sides we have made breakthrough achievement in politics, economy and other fields. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Eritrea, the Chinese side will work together with the Eritrean side to level up our cooperation in various fields, to enrich the content of our strategic partnership and make joint

contributions to regional and global peace and development.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The year of 2023 is the Year of the Rabbit. Rabbit symbolizes auspice, good fortune, gentleness

and happiness.

May i propose a toast to peace and prosperity and everyone's health and good luck in the Year of the Rabbit.

Thank you!/Yekeniyeyey!

A Safe, Comfortable . . .

Continued from page 3

ago, the country has continued to make considerable progress in a number of areas, including within neonatal, child, and maternal health.

Nearly all mother-baby pairs receive postnatal care (PNC) within 48 hours of delivery from a skilled health care provider, while there continues to be an improvement in the proportion of pairs that receive PNC within 24 hours of delivery. Moreover, the country's maternal mortality ratio dropped from 998 per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 228 in 2015, and 184 in 2019 – an overall reduction of approximately 82 percent during the period running from 1990 to 2019. In addition, between 1990 and 2020, the neonatal mortality rate in Eritrea was reduced by about 49 percent, dropping from 35 deaths per 1,000 live births to

18, while the country's under-five mortality rate was reduced by approximately 75 percent, falling from 153 to 39. Of note, the average annual rate of reduction (AARR) for under-five mortality in Eritrea between 1990 and 2020 is estimated at about 4.5 percent, which is not only considerably ahead of the AARR for the entire Sub-Saharan Africa region (approximately 3.0 percent), but also among the fastest anywhere in the world.

It is well worth recalling that these tremendous strides were achieved despite an array of daunting challenges and myriad significant obstacles for the country, including many years of illegal, unjust sanctions (as well as similar coercive measures), a tough general climate and environmental conditions, and an extremely difficult regional geopolitical context characterized by conflicts and instability.





厄特四川建有限公司

ERITREA-SICHUAN MINERAL CONSTRUCTION CORP. LTD.

Vacancy Announcement

Eritrea Sichuan Mineral Construction CORP. LTD. (ESMC) is inviting applicants for the following position for Asmara project sites.

Position: IT Administrator
Department: Administration
Number Required: 01
Contract Type: Indefinite

Major Duties and Responsibilities

- ❖ Good knowledge of IT operating systems, especially Windows, Exchange and Citrix
- ❖ Hands on experience of installing IT hardware and software
- ❖ Good organizational skills and Good time management
- ❖ Monitoring and maintaining networks and servers.
- ❖ Upgrading, installing and configuring new hardware and software to meet company objectives.
- ❖ Implementing security protocols and procedures to prevent potential threats.
- ❖ Creating user accounts and performing access control.
- ❖ Performing diagnostic tests and debugging procedures to optimize computer systems.
- ❖ Documenting processes, as well as backing up and archiving data.
- ❖ Developing data retrieval and recovery procedures.
- ❖ Designing and implementing efficient end-user feedback and error reporting systems.
- ❖ Supervising and mentoring IT department employees, as well as providing IT support.
- ❖ Keeping up to date with advancements and best practices in IT administration.

Qualification and Other Skills

❖ Formal Education, Certifications or Equivalents	❖ Diploma in ICT (Information & Communication Technology)
❖ Working Experience – Nature & Length	❖ At least five years’ experience IT or in a similar role.

❖ Leadership Experience – Nature & length of time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Applicable professional qualification, such as Microsoft, Oracle, or Cisco certification.❖ Exceptional leadership, organizational, and time management skills❖ Good at English communication skills.❖ Good interpersonal relationship & Team player
❖ Other skills and abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Extensive experience with IT systems, networks, and related technologies.❖ Solid knowledge of best practices in IT administration and system security.❖ Strong analytical and problem-solving skills.❖ Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.❖ Must have 3rd grade Eritrea driving license❖ Able to work under pressure and extended hours

General Information and Other Requirement

- ❖ Place of Work: Asmara Project Sites
- ❖ Salary: As per Company salary scale
- ❖ Type of Contract: Indefinite

Additional Requirement for Nationals:

- ❖ Having fulfilled his/ her National Service Obligation and Provide evidence of Release Paper from Ministry of Defense.
- ❖ Present Clearance from current/ last employer or Unemployment card from Labor office.
- ❖ Testimonial documents to be attached (CV, work experience credential, a copy of your National Identity card etc.)
- ❖ Only shortlisted applicants will be considered as potential candidates for an interview.
- ❖ Application documents will not be returned to sender.
- ❖ All application should be sent through the post office.
- ❖ Deadline for application; 07 days from the date of publication on the newspapers

Address: Please mail your application to;
Eritrea Sichuan Mineral Construction CORP. LTD (ESMC)
P.O. Box. 4832 Asmara, Eritrea

Note to None Eritrean applicants:
Please send a copy of your application to
Aliens Employment permits Affairs,
P.O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea



"Your lack of Confidence is Holding you Back, Break free . . ."

Rahma Muda Mohammed

Sabrina Solomon

Please tell us about your work.

At the beginning, I focused on raising my child. Later on, in 2004, my late husband's relatives offered me to work with them. I was too shy to accept the offer at first, but when they insisted I changed my mind and decided to



give it a shot.

As a young girl, I was always fascinated by the creativity involved in handicrafts, paintings and the like. Joining my in-laws' business helped me realize my dreams. The son of my sister-in-law was very good at making shoes and taught me how to make shoes. Then I started making shoes and handbags at home using borrowed equipment. But I lacked consistency. I was good at starting something but didn't have the discipline to continue. That's how I stopped making shoes and bags and just stayed at home.

After staying at home for some time, I was struck by the idea of making pots and decorating them using taff, a staple grain in Eritrea.

How were you able to be consistent in what you do and build up your confidence?

Another hobby I had was making cloths. I took a two-year course in making cloths that made me open up a bit more. That time was by far the hardest time I went through. I wanted to quit due to my lack of confidence but I had to muster the discipline to continue. Finally, I realized that everything was possible, and my lack of confidence withered away when many rare opportunities began to come my way.

Later, I learned that the

Our guest today, Rahma Muda Mohammed, a 42-year-old single parent, is good with her hands and entices people with her hand crafts. Born and raised in Asmara, Rahma got married at a young age when she was in her senior year in high school. Unfortunately, she lost her husband just two months after their marriage and had to raise their only son as a single parent.

National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW) had platforms for organizing women by trade as part of its goal to empower women. Assisted by my neighbor, I approached officials at NUEW's head office in Asmara who gave me the opportunity to join a women's hand craft group, Mahber Tinsae. When I joined the group I had already developed my skills of making tools for the traditional Eritrean coffee ceremony and decorating pottery using taff. After joining Mahber Tinsae, I began experimenting with more unique features and am now practicing painting using taff and am sharing it with members of

has started her career late, have you faced challenges from the society?

To be honest, I was my own obstacle. I turned down offers and chances just because I wasn't willing to develop my social skills and my work discipline. My family were supportive and no one stood in my way, but the effect that my lack of confidence had on my life has made me regret so many things. I wish I started earlier because I know I would have achieved a lot. I know I did start late but starting late is better than not starting at all. Even though I deeply regret my 20s and 30s that



the group.

As a 42-year-old mother who

I lost, I'm happy to know that I am capable of doing whatever I want



no matter what my age may be.

Where have you been displaying your products?

We've been having street exhibitions for a long time now, which I appreciate very much. It's a means of presenting your work and a means of learning from people's comments and ideas. People give us ideas that inspire us to come up with more unique and modified works. I actually got the idea of painting using taff from people's comments. We have been presenting our works as a group at different national and religious occasions.

At a competition held in Uganda in 2022, Eritrea won first place in handicraft. The competition was organized by COMESA (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa) that comprises 21 African member states.

Women need to support one another to succeed. What would be your advice to women?

I think that awareness is what we lack. There are a lot of capable females who can make history in different fields but don't know about any supportive groups. I can't thank the NUEW and the women's groups enough for their support in helping a lot of people improve their lives and make their dreams come true. There are many groups that can help girls

get support for the betterment of themselves and their society.

First, know yourself and know what you want to do and improve the skill. That way you'll be able to use it to your advantage. I want to advise females to get help to boost their confidence and learn the basic social skills. Let's just get out of our little head, the box



that we trap ourselves into and the limits that we set in our minds. I might not be fully confident or achieved the maximum I am supposed to achieve but at least I'm trying. I started slow, and anyone can. Go out and explore.

Future plans.

I have a big plan to teach girls the skills I have, especially those that I've mastered so well. I want to keep on improving myself, especially in terms of the discipline to start and finish. I want to focus more on the opportunities that come my way and never let my lack of confidence get the best of me again.