



## EXHIBITION IN CONNECTION WITH FENKIL OPERATION COMMEMORATION

An exhibition commemorating the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fenkil Operation was inaugurated in the morning hours of 6<sup>th</sup> February in the port city of Massawa. The exhibition was officially opened by Mr. Tewelde Kelati, Minister of Marine Resources.

The exhibition showcased artistic programs presented by the Ministry of Defense, as well as the multi-faceted activities of the Ministry of Marine Resources, the Port Authority, and other line ministries in the region.

In the same context, general knowledge and sports competitions organized by the Ministry of Education in connection with the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fenkil Operation concluded on 5<sup>th</sup> February.

Additionally, the East African Half Marathon, organized by the National

Athletics Federation in celebration of the Fenkil Operation's anniversary, took place this morning in Massawa.

Athletes from Eritrea, Uganda, Kenya, and South Sudan participated in the race. In the men's category, Olympian Athlete Samson Amare from the Southern Region Club claimed first place. Athlete Afwerki Berhane finished second, while Ugandan Athlete Silas Boshi secured third place.

In the women's category, which covered a distance of 10 km, Yordanos Haileselesie and Dolshi Tesfu from Denden Club finished in first and second place, respectively, while Maria Ali from the Central Region took third place.

In the Paralympics category, Athletes Sebhatu Kesete, Tedros Aregai, and Tesfahiwet Tekle finished in first, second, and third

place, respectively.

Trophies and monetary awards were presented to the winners, and certificates of recognition were awarded to the organizers.

## DIASPORA NATIONALS CONDUCT DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES

Eritrean nationals in Italy, Qatar, and Germany have engaged in various diplomatic activities.

In Italy, Mr. Fesehatsion Petros, Eritrea's Ambassador to Italy, conducted seminars for nationals in Milan on 26 January and in Rome on 2 February. These seminars focused on educational progress in Eritrea. During the events, Ambassador Fesehatsion emphasized that a prosperous country and a civilized society can be achieved through educated human resources. He highlighted that the Government of Eritrea has been making significant investments in education, providing free access to all levels of education, including higher education. The ambassador also noted that, as a result of these efforts, the illiteracy rate, which was 80% before independence, has now been reduced to 20%.

Ambassador Fesehatsion further called on nationals in Italy to support

## TRAINING FOR FEMALE REPRESENTATIVES OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

The National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW) branch within Higher Education Institutions organized a two-day training session for female representatives of higher education institutions. The training aimed to raise awareness and strengthen their understanding of key topics related to leadership and youth organization.

Ms. Aberash Habtai, head of the NUEW branch, explained that the training covered areas such as administration and leadership, moral values, the importance of youth organization, and the advantages and challenges of collective work. She stated that the objective of the training was to enhance the overall

capacity and understanding of female representatives and urged them to take an active role in national affairs.

The participants expressed appreciation for the training's impact, noting its significance in improving their awareness. They also pledged to actively contribute to national development programs.

Ms. Tekea Tesfamicael, President of the National Union of Eritrean Women, emphasized the critical role of youth, particularly educated and skilled females, in securing the nation's future. She encouraged female students in higher education to build confidence and increase their involvement in national development initiatives.



the Government's initiatives to build boarding schools in remote areas of the country. The participants expressed their readiness to contribute to the successful implementation of these projects.

In Qatar, the Eritrean community held its 9th congress in Doha on 1 February. The congress included a comprehensive review of activities carried out so far, along with discussions on the role nationals can play in the implementation of national programs.

Mr. Ali Ibrahim, Eritrea's Ambassador to Qatar, commended the community for its efforts to strengthen unity among nationals and urged them to enhance their contributions to national affairs. During the congress, participants also elected a new executive committee.

In Germany, a ceremony was held

in Frankfurt to commemorate the 45th anniversary of the National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW). The event was attended by the head of the German branch of the NUEW, along with other invited guests.

Ms. Leul Tewelde, head of the union in Germany, provided an extensive briefing on the activities and achievements of the union over the past 45 years.

Mr. Kahsai Tewelde, head of Public and Community Affairs at the Eritrean Embassy, highlighted the role of the union in enhancing the awareness and organizational capacity of Eritrean women. He called for greater efforts to empower the younger generation.

Additionally, Mr. Kibreab Tekeste, Eritrea's Consul General in Frankfurt, underscored the importance of such events in shaping and implementing future programs.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR 'NO TO FGM' COMMEMORATED AT REGIONAL LEVEL



The International Day for 'No to Females Genital Mutilation (FGM)' has been commemorated at the Central Region level in

Pardizo sub-zone under the theme "Let's Eradicate FGM with Our Coordinated Effort."

**C**ontinued on page 7



# Development

## Powering Eritrea's Future: A Solar Revolution

Mussie Efrim

The global landscape of energy is rapidly changing. Driven by falling costs and increasing environmental awareness, solar power is experiencing a surge in popularity. Africa, blessed with abundant sunshine, holds

costs and rapid technological advancements are accelerating its adoption worldwide. This shift is particularly crucial for Africa, a continent endowed with unparalleled solar resources. The potential is enormous—capable of powering the continent itself and making a substantial contribution

villages. Once languishing in darkness, these communities were cut off from the essential resource that powers modern life. The lack of electricity hampered development, limited opportunities, and impacted daily life in countless ways. Businesses struggled, healthcare facilities faced significant challenges,

This initiative is igniting hope and fostering a brighter future for the region.

their mandates and resources with Eritrea's priorities. This approach has yielded fruitful developments and accomplishments across various sectors. It's a partnership model built on mutual respect and a shared commitment to Eritrea's advancement—a dynamic that shouldn't be underestimated. This foundation of ownership is key to unlocking Eritrea's potential.



immense solar potential—enough, in fact, to satisfy 40% of the world's electricity demand. It offers a clean, sustainable source of electricity, vital for economic growth, job creation, and improved living standards. Furthermore, by reducing dependence on fossil fuels, solar power plays a critical role in mitigating climate change and bolstering energy security, paving the way for Africa's more resilient and prosperous future.

to global energy needs. However, realizing this potential requires overcoming significant obstacles. Financing remains a primary concern, as large-scale solar projects necessitate substantial upfront investment. Equally important is developing robust infrastructure, including transmission lines and grid integration systems, to ensure the effective distribution of solar-generated electricity. Despite these hurdles, progress is being made.

and educational opportunities were restricted. Thanks to the solar power plant, Mai-Dima and its neighboring villages enjoy a reliable and uninterrupted electricity supply. This newfound access has sparked a wave of positive change. Small businesses are thriving, extending their operating hours and expanding their services. Healthcare facilities can provide better patient care, utilizing essential equipment and ensuring the proper storage of medications. Students have improved access to educational resources, enabling them to study effectively even after sunset. The ripple effect of this electrification extends far beyond mere convenience; it empowers communities, stimulates economic growth, and improves the overall quality of life for residents in this once-isolated region. The Areza-Mai-Dima solar power plant has brought light to these villages and ignited a spark of progress and hope for a brighter future. Similar solar energy plants have been installed near the Logo, Misilam, and Kerkebet dams.

Embracing solar energy offers a crucial pathway to address fundamental economic and environmental challenges and unlock sustainable development. By harnessing its abundant solar resources, Eritrea can achieve several key benefits: economic growth through job creation and the stimulation of local businesses while simultaneously reducing the high costs associated with importing fossil fuels; environmental sustainability by utilizing a clean, renewable energy source that produces no greenhouse gas emissions, helping to mitigate climate change and preserve natural resources; and energy independence by diversifying energy sources and prioritizing solar, thus reducing dependence on foreign oil imports and enhancing energy security. Eritrea's commitment to renewable energy is evident in projects like the solar hybrid power systems in Areza and Mai-Dima, which provide a continuous power supply to rural communities, demonstrating the practical benefits of solar energy and paving the way for broader adoption across the country.

One significant example of this productive partnership is the planned 30 MW Solar Photovoltaic project in Dekemhare, a \$50 million investment poised to boost Eritrea's electricity access and drive socio-economic development significantly. This project, directly linked to the Hirgigo Electricity Power Plant, represents a crucial step toward realizing Eritrea's ambitious energy goals. It complements other initiatives to alleviate the country's energy challenges and foster a more sustainable future. As Dr. Giorgis Teklemichael, Minister of Finance and National Development, stated during the project's signing, the Eritrean government is pursuing a phased approach to energy development, aiming for a total generation capacity of 360 MW through a network of diverse power plants. The Dekemhare project and other ongoing initiatives and protocol agreements will play a vital role in achieving this vision, contributing significantly to rapid, inclusive, and sustainable development that embraces a green economy. This commitment to renewable energy addresses immediate energy needs and lays the groundwork for a more prosperous and environmentally conscious future for all Eritreans.

This global surge in solar energy is truly transformative. Plummeting

Eritrea's geographical location offers a distinct advantage for harnessing solar energy. Situated in the Horn of Africa, the country enjoys consistently high levels of sunshine year-round—a crucial resource for maximizing solar power generation. This abundant solar irradiance translates to a high potential for energy production, making Eritrea an ideal destination for investments in solar projects. Furthermore, its proximity to the equator ensures consistent sunlight hours, minimizing seasonal fluctuations in solar energy output. This geographical advantage, combined with relatively low cloud cover, creates optimal conditions for solar energy harvesting, positioning it as a cornerstone of Eritrea's strategy for sustainable development and energy independence.

In the sun-drenched lands of Eritrea's Areza Sub-zone, a €11.7 million investment brings light and opportunity to over 40,000 people in 40 villages. This transformative project is more than just about electricity; it catalyzes growth. Imagine the impact: 513 small businesses energized and thriving, 34 schools illuminated with the promise of education, two community hospitals and five health stations empowered to provide better care, and 80 organizations equipped to strengthen their communities.

The Areza-Mai-Dima solar power plant serves as a powerful example of the transformative potential of solar energy in Eritrea. As a vital energy hub for the Areza sub-zone, it has dramatically improved access to electricity for the towns of Areza and Mai-dma and their surrounding

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Leaving aside the underlying motives, coherence and continuity of the right political vibes on NED/USAID etc. that have gained traction these days, the dragnet of "regime change" outfits is much bigger indeed.

Human Rights Watch, caught red-handed in its subversive acts against Eritrea as early as 2011, belongs to these category of ignominious entities. In this respect, the defamatory and irresponsible "report" it issued last week only accentuates its incorrigible conduct of stoking conflict as an "errand boy" and in the service of ulterior agendas of certain powers.

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## SpotLight

# Eritrea's Holistic Approach to Eradicating FGM/C and Protecting Girls and Women

*Dr. Fikrejesus Amahazion*

Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) is a deeply entrenched, harmful traditional practice that involves the partial or total removal of external female genitalia or other injury to female genital organs for non-medical reasons. It is a severe violation of gender and human rights and poses significant health risks to millions of girls and women worldwide. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), more than 200 million girls and women across Africa, the Middle East, and Asia have undergone FGM/C. Despite its persistence, global efforts to eliminate the practice have gained momentum. While often overlooked, Eritrea standing has registered considerable progress against FGM/C over the years and stands as a leading example of committed action.

### *Understanding the Practice in Eritrea*

FGM/C has historically been widespread in Eritrea. As with many other nations where the practice has been common, it cut across all socioeconomic, ethnic, linguistic, and religious lines. The

achieve robust, lasting change, because the practice is deeply rooted in cultural, social, and economic factors.

### *A Comprehensive Legal and Policy Framework*

Notably, Eritrea enacted Legal Proclamation No. 158 in 2007, criminalizing the practice, imposing stringent penalties, including heavy fines and extended prison terms for practitioners, whether traditional or medical professionals. The law also penalizes individuals or groups involved in inciting, promoting, facilitating, or failing to report FGM/C cases. This robust legal framework reflects Eritrea's strong stance against the practice and its commitment to protecting the rights and well-being of girls and women. Decades prior, when Eritrea was fighting for independence, the EPLF, the leading force within the national struggle, had also taken measures to remove it from society.

### *Nationwide Awareness and Advocacy Initiatives*

Beyond legal measures, the Eritrean government, in collaboration with national

harmful myths and misconceptions about FGM/C. Wide-ranging efforts have included, raising awareness about the severe physical and psychological consequences of FGM/C, educating the public on national laws, gender equality, and fundamental human rights, and promoting long-term behavioral and cultural shifts.

### *Community Engagement and Support for Survivors*

Recognizing that genuine sustainable change requires grassroots involvement and the buy-in of communities, Eritrea has established community-based committees to combat FGM/C. These committees, active in regions nationwide, work closely alongside health and social welfare professionals to provide psychosocial counseling and sexual and reproductive health services to survivors. Educational programs addressing FGM/C have also been integrated into school curricula, equipping younger generations with knowledge and fostering progressive attitudes.

### *Measuring Progress: A Declining Trend*

Importantly, Eritrea's multipronged approach has led to tangible results. For instance, to gauge the effectiveness of anti-FGM/C efforts, Eritrea has conducted FGM/C mapping studies since 2014. Led by the Ministry of Health (MoH), the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare (MLSW), and the NUEW, in collaboration with international partners, these studies assess trends, community attitudes, and readiness for public declarations of abandonment. The findings have been encouraging, showing that FGM/C prevalence among girls under 15 years fell from 18.2 percent in 2014 to 2.3 percent in 2020, with prevalence among girls under five years declining from 6.9 percent in 2014 to 0.54 percent in 2020. Notably, putting these results in comparison to those from the 2010 Eritrean Population and Health Survey (which reported 33.2 percent prevalence among girls under 15 and 12.4 percent among girls under five) highlights significant progress.

Importantly, results also show changing attitudes, with a growing number of Eritrean communities have made public commitments



practice, partly rooted in poverty, has traditionally been fueled by patriarchal norms and cultural beliefs linking it to femininity, modesty, and social acceptance. Communities often viewed it as an essential rite of passage, preparing girls for adulthood and marriage while ensuring premarital virginity and marital fidelity. Social pressure and fear of rejection reinforced its continuation. Additionally, despite the complete lack of religious endorsement, misconceptions led many individuals and groups to believe it had religious backing.

Notably, Eritrea has taken a range of resolute steps to eliminate FGM/C. Crucially, it has used a multifaceted approach to ensure comprehensive progress and

organizations, such as the National Union of Eritrean Women and the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students, international development partners (including UNICEF, the UNDP, and UNAIDS), and the mass media, has spearheaded extensive public awareness campaigns. This has been important since although banning FGM/C through laws is critical, communities may continue the practice in secret unless they understand the deep consequences of the practice.

Public awareness initiatives in Eritrea have sought to engage communities, educators, youth groups, healthcare professionals, faith leaders, and survivors in dialogues aimed at dismantling

to abandon FGM/C. The mapping studies also indicate a steady rise in awareness about the law and a notable shift in perceptions. Increasingly, both men and women recognize the harmful consequences of FGM/C and advocate for its total eradication.

### *A Positive Model for Sustainable Change*

While all countries differ, Eritrea's multifaceted, community-driven approach to eliminating FGM/C offers many valuable insights and lessons for nations striving to combat the scourge of FGM/C. The dramatic reduction in prevalence rates, combined with widespread awareness and evolving attitudes, underscores

the effectiveness of the country's efforts and shows that positive results are possible, even amidst many challenges and within low-resource environments.

Overall, the progress achieved in reducing FGM/C in Eritrea is a testament to the nation's steadfast dedication to eradicating the practice. Through legal measures, grassroots engagement, comprehensive education, and strong community involvement, Eritrea is moving closer to the complete elimination of FGM/C. This remarkable transformation reflects a deep-seated commitment to upholding human rights and ensuring a safer, healthier future for all girls and women in the country.





Milka Teklom

The wedding season is upon us once more, filling weekends with joyful ceremonies and the consumption of delicious delicacies alongside harmonious traditions, often with a modern twist.

In many Tigre communities, weddings, and consequently marriage, are based on the mutual needs of both parties, with female consent being paramount. If a man is hesitant to initiate a courtship, his family may step in, presenting him with women they deem suitable to his character. Once he makes his choice, his family, including his paternal and maternal uncles and a few first cousins, accompanied by valuable gifts, visits the woman's family and respectfully asks for her hand in marriage. Her family responds that they need time to discuss the matter with their daughter and requests another meeting to provide their answer.

The daughter is thoroughly informed about her suitor's profile and has the absolute right to accept or reject the proposal. This emphasis on female consent is a commendable quality, especially when compared to the historical tradition of devaluing women prevalent in many ethnic groups. While such practices are now largely nonexistent, thanks to equal participation in the armed struggle for independence and post-independence government policies, the Tigre people's early adoption of this civilized approach is admirable.

If the daughter accepts, an engagement party is held, and preparations for the wedding begin. A key preparation is building a shelter (Agnet) for

## Tigre's Traditional Wedding Ceremony and Beyond!

the honeymoon. This structure, built from a bamboo-like tree, has two sections: a living room for entertaining guests and a bedroom. Uniquely, the honeymoon takes place in the wife's family compound, where her family cares for the newlyweds during this period.

After the honeymoon, the husband returns to his family, leaving his wife once again under the care of her family for a year.



During this time, she receives training from her mother on how to be a housekeeper and mother.

Preparations are extensive. House supplies and utilities are traditionally manufactured or hand-sewn, with some of the embroidery done by the wife's family and friends. The house where she will reside after her husband formally brings her to her parents is called Delalet.

Its roof and side walls are made of Tenkebot, a mat woven from the leaves of the Arekbokobay tree, common in the area. This tree is integral to the Tigre people's daily life. Its fruit, Akat, is eaten mainly by children and herdsmen. Its long, thin, sturdy leaves are sun-dried and artistically woven

into various shapes. For the Delalet, the frame is made from the Arekbokabay tree's wood and covered with woven mats. Given the abundance of these leaves, the wife's possessions and household items are lavishly made.

A decoration called Shenekiebay hangs outside the house, indicating that the couple is yet to have children. After the birth of two children, the ornament is removed, and she is

considered an esteemed member of society, as motherhood is highly valued in the Tigre culture.

Besides the Shenekiebay,

numerous other ornaments with distinct names adorn the walls. Everything inside is for the bride's use and convenience, from the smallest kitchenware, crop reserves, milk and water containers, and everyday necessities to luxurious items like a traditional sauna bath.

As a wedding gift, the bride's mother gives her a stone grinder. Traditionally, women are expected to manage the household, while men provide food. The stone grinder has two parts, each with a name: the smaller top stone used for grinding is called mdet, and the larger bottom stone that collects the ground crop is called emanet.

A decorative ornament called meqaal, a wedding gift from the bridesmaids, hangs in the bride's bedchamber. Her jewelry is kept in a small container called dahba, which the groom is not permitted to open. Her traditional eyeliner container is called makhulet, and her mirror is called meefeyt.

The wooden platter used to serve food is called tisho. The bride's hair ointment container is also carved from wood. The curtains are made of a special, sparkling fabric that enhances



the decorations.

When the groom returns after a year, he must identify his bride from among her veiled friends. This challenging task requires him to touch each woman's hand and ask if she is his bride. This process can take up to four days. Once he finds his bride, they move into their house together and begin their new life. Interestingly, the bride traditionally does not have her nose pierced until after the birth of her first child.

After the wedding, the bride moves from her mother's house to her mother-in-law's house, where everything she needs for her new life is prepared. Often, her in-laws present her with a herd of cattle upon her arrival.

A few days after the wedding, a ceremony similar to the Tigrina ethnic group's "Hamawti" takes place. The bride's mother and female relatives visit her at her mother-in-law's house, bringing food and traditional beverages. Some consider it a smaller wedding celebration. In the Tigre tradition, this ceremony is held at the bride's family house. The women gather in front of the house and make a fire to boil a mix of cereals. Once boiled, they add butter, sugar, and honey. This delicacy is shared by all attendees. Afterward, they continue with lunch.

The visitors return home, drumming, singing, and dancing. While this traditional wedding is becoming less common, there is hope that many young people are looking back to their roots and traditional ceremonies.

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**FENKIL**  
The Right Choice

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## Vacancy Announcement

Project Management Unit of the Ministry of Health seeks to employ competent candidates on contractual bases for the following posts.

1. Post name : Finance Head
2. Number Required: One (01)
3. Place of Work: HQ Asmara
4. Education: B.A degree in Accounting
5. Work Experience: 5 years and above as Senior or Chief accountant
6. Skill requirement: Managing all the financial unit work activities, including Financial reporting, General Ledger accounts payable, Receivable, Payroll and other financial records. Preparing timely financial reporting in quarterly and annual Statement in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). Establish and maintain the accounting system of the Health project. Ensure that all the documentation concerning the financial transactions of the projects are properly recorded and maintained. Prepare and submit necessary financial documentation to internal and external audits respond to queries as they arise. Control and verify all supporting documents and prepare monthly bank reconciliation statements.

Ensure the availability of funds at all times and managing all project accounts.

7. Other Skill: High Computer literacy, Excel and demonstrated in database management and financial record-keeping.
8. Salary: As per the scale of the PMU/MOH
9. Age : 30 – 50 Years age
10. Sex Male or Female
11. National Service Having fulfilled or exempted and provide evidence
12. Closing Date: 7 days from the date of this announcement
13. Interested candidates are requested to submit their letters of applications, current CVs, work experience credentials and other relevant documents. All applicants should submit their documents to Project Management Unit/MOH P.O. Box 4899, Tel. 122978 and 124360 Asmara Eritrea.

1. Post Name: Finance Officer
2. Number required: One
3. Place Work: HQ Asmara
4. Education: B. A Degree in accounting
5. Work Experience: 4 years and above as an Accountant
6. Skill requirement: Performs accounting duties, such as posting of accounting transactions, Preparation of financial statement and others duties. Establish and implement financial management and accounting system, and ensure that all accounts, including the documentation of all expenditures are maintained properly. Process, prepare and submit withdrawal applications for disbursements by the donor as well as request for the replenishment of the special account, according to the procedures agreed with bank and as defined in the Project Implementation Plan, In close collaboration with the Program Officer of the project, prepare and consolidate annual budgets, cost analysis and control.
7. Other Skill: High Computer literacy, Excel and demonstrated in database management and financial record-keeping.
8. Salary: As per the scale of the PMU/MOH
9. Age : 30 – 45 Years of age
10. Sex Male or Female
11. National Service Having fulfilled or exempted and provide evidence
12. Closing Date: 7 days from the date of this announcement
13. Interested candidates are requested to submit their letters of applications, current CVs, work experience credentials and other relevant documents. All applicants should submit their documents

to Project Management Unit/MOH P.O. Box 4899, Tel. 122978 and 124360 Asmara Eritrea.

1. Post name : Fixed Asset Personnel
2. Number Required: One (01)
3. Place of Work: HQ Asmara
4. Education: Diploma in Accounting or Management
5. Work Experience: 3 years
6. Skill requirement: Responsible for identification, recording, valuation, reporting and timely capitalization of fixed assets. Allocate tag numbers to fixed assets to effectively track them from time to time. Record in the accounting system, designs a reporting format to capture all relevant data for Medical and non-medical equipment. Perform depreciation calculation for all fixed assets. Maintain and complete a consolidated fixed assets register at the PMU level to account for all the fixed assets (health and non-health). All the fields in the register need to be fully completed with correct and information. Coordinate with General Services Department and Pharmacy division to perform a detailed verification of fixed assets and update consolidated fixed assets register at the PMU/MOH.
7. Other skill: High Computer literacy.

8. Salary: As per the scale of the PMU/MOH
9. Age : 30 – 40 Year of age
10. Sex Male or Female
11. National Service Having fulfilled or exempted and provide evidence
12. Closing Date: 7 days from the date of this announcement
13. Interested candidates are requested to submit their letters of applications, current CVs, work experience credentials and other relevant documents. All applicants should submit their documents to Project Management Unit/MOH P.O. Box 4899, Tel. 122978 and 124360 Asmara Eritrea.

1. Post name : Procurement Officer
2. Number Required: One (01)
3. Place of Work: HQ Asmara
4. Education: B.A Degree in Management, Accounting or Economics
5. Work Experience: 5 years in procurement
6. Skill requirement: Preparing and issuing of bidding documents, Evaluation of bids, awards of contracts, L/C processing chasing of order, clearance and confirmation of receipts of goods against delivery order and settlements of discrepancies with suppliers and/or insurance companies, release of retention and warranty obligation and closing of procurement file. Preparation of terms of reference (TOR) preparation and issuing of requests for proposal short listing of consultants the rest is the same as the procurement of goods and works.
7. Other skill: High Computer Literacy.

8. Salary: As per the scale of the PMU/MOH
9. Age : 30 – 45 Years of age
10. Sex Male or Female
11. National Service Having fulfilled or exempted and provide evidence
12. Closing Date: 7 days from the date of this announcement
13. Interested candidates are requested to submit their letters of applications, current CVs, work experience credentials and other relevant documents. All applicants should submit their documents to Project Management Unit/MOH P.O. Box 4899, Tel. 122978 and 124360 Asmara Eritrea

- 1 Post Name: Zonal Project Officer
- 2 Number required: One
- 3 Place Work: Gash Barka /Barentu
- 4 Education: Diploma in Management or accounting
- 5 Work Experience: 4 years
6. Skill requirement: The PMU/MOH Zonal Project Officer will be

*C*ontinued from page 6

## Vacancy Announcement

Project Management Unit of the Ministry of Health seeks to employ competent candidates on contractual bases for the following posts.

responsible for the coordinating, planning, follow-up implementation & Monitoring and Evaluation of the project Fund.

Monitor and assess project in-puts and expenditures incurred on project implementation and submit periodic financial reports through the Zonal PMU to Zonal MOH and PMU at Head Quarter.

Prepares Schedules of activities and programs on the basis of the annual work plans and budgets approved for the zone.

Maintain a list resources assigned to zonal health project; ensures that such resources are used for project related activities and that such resources are utilized according to previously agreed manner.

7. Other Skill: Computer literacy.  
 8. Salary: As per the scale of the PMU/MOH  
 9. Age : 30 – 45 Years of age  
 10. Sex Male or Female  
 11. National Service Having fulfilled or exempted and provide evidence  
 12. Closing Date: 7 days from the date of this announcement  
 13. Interested candidates are requested to submit their letters of applications,

current CVs, work experience credentials and other relevant documents. All applicants should submit their documents to Project Management Unit/MOH P.O. Box 4899, Tel. 122978 and 124360 Asmara Eritrea.

1. Post Name: Zonal Project Accountant  
 2. Number required: Two  
 3. Place Work: Gash Barka /Barentu and Northern Red Sea Zone  
 4. Education: Diploma or Certificated in accounting  
 5. Work Experience: 2 years  
 6. Skill requirement: As Zonal Project Accountant, ensure adequate funds are available for the execution of Project activities in the Zoba.

Prepare and submit Quarterly Budget of the Zoba according to the Credit Agreement and the instruction given by the Project Management Unit.

Ensure timely transfer of Funds as per approved budget.

Ensure payments are made according to eligible expenditure allocated for the project.

Maintain adequate documentation and records of disbursement payments performed under the project Zonal activities.

Opening maintaining and operating of appropriate bank accounts for transfer of project funds and performing expenditures for the project activities.

Ensure appropriate signatories are assigned for operating project zonal accounts and maintain records.

Prepare and submit monthly Bank reconciliation statement to the Project Management Unit.

Prepare and submit Petty cash Statement of expenditure for replenishment.

Maintain and prepare cash books, General Journal,

Ledgers and other relevant Financial Statements

according to chart of account approved and

provided by the PMU.

7. Other Skill: Computer literacy  
 8. Salary: As per the scale of the PMU/MOH.  
 9. Age : 30 – 40 Years of age  
 10. Sex Male or Female  
 11. National Service Having fulfilled or exempted and provide evidence  
 12. Closing Date: 7 days from the date of this announcement  
 13. Interested candidates are requested to submit their letters of applications, current CVs, work experience credentials and other relevant documents. All applicants should submit their documents to Project Management Unit/MOH P.O. Box 4899, Tel. 122978 and 124360 Asmara Eritrea.

## Notice

Notice is hereby given to the public the current shareholder and heir of the deceased members of “BET-EL Trading Private Limited Company” in their extraordinary meeting conducted on 04<sup>th</sup> day of December 2024 have passed the following resolution.

1. The shareholders, after referring article 7 (2) of Articles of Association of the company regarding transfer of a deceased's shares, hereby resolves that 50 shares of the late Negeset Tekleyesus Tewelde is transferred to her sister Senait Tekleyesus Tewelde.

2. Mr. Habtetsion Weldeyohanes Tesfatsion is admitted as a new member contributing 20 shares at par value Nakfa 1,000.00 for each share equivalent to Nakfa 20,000.00 (Twenty thousand).

3. The capital of the company has increased from Nakfa 50,000.00 (Fifty thousand) to Nakfa 70,000.00 (Seventy thousand).

4. The new shares of the members are managed as follows:

Name of the members	Shares	Value
1. Senait Tekleyesus Tewelde-----	50	50,000,00
2. Habtetsion Weldeyohanes Tesfatsion-----	20	20,000.00
Total	70	70,000.00

“BET-EL Trading Private Limited Company”

## NEWS

### INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR ‘NO TO FGM’ ...

*C*ontinued from page 1

Ms. Sitom Seid-Omar, administrator of the sub-zone, highlighted that the day serves as a reminder to renew the commitment to eradicating all forms of harmful practices.

Col. Gebrehans Woldegergis, Director General of Social Services in the region, explained that extensive awareness-raising programs have been conducted to combat Females Genital Mutilation. These efforts were carried out in collaboration with Government and PFDJ institutions, national associations, religious institutions, and community-based organizations.

Col. Gebrehans stated that, as a result of these efforts, 1,086 villages across 20 sub-zones at the national level have taken steps to declare ‘No to FGM,’ with 44.3% having fully adopted the declaration and 16% approaching the declaration stage.

Mr. Amha Kidane, Director General of Administration and Finance at the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, called on all stakeholders to intensify their coordinated efforts to completely eradicate FGM, which has a detrimental impact on women.

The event featured a general knowledge competition for women, as well as cultural and artistic performances marking the occasion.

Similarly, the International Day for ‘No to FGM’ was observed in Foro on 5th February at the Northern Red Sea Region level.

Mr. Gebrehiwet Gebrezgiabhier, head of projects in the sub-zone, pointed out that the persistence of harmful practices is largely due to a lack of public awareness. He called for integrated awareness campaigns involving the public, healthcare practitioners, and relevant institutions.

Mr. Rezene Feseha, Director General of Social Services in the Northern Red Sea Region, emphasized the severe health consequences of FGM and stressed that eliminating such practices is a shared responsibility.



# Salina '77: Where the Seeds of Victory of Operation Fenkil were Planted

Mussie Efriem

*Congratulations on the publication of your first book, a book on the fascinating heroic event in which you participated. What inspired you to write the book?*

Thank you! It's now been 47 years since that event happened. A couple of things actually inspired me to write the book. The initial idea to write came while I was visiting Massawa on the 25th anniversary to commemorate Operation Fenkil (the EPLF's military operation for the liberation of Massawa). I was traveling with my relative from Asmara. Throughout the trip I was telling my relative stories of the armed struggle that we arrived in Massawa almost without realizing it. As I was narrating, I journeyed back in time, reliving the 1977 war in Salina, Massawa. That sparked something in me. My relative was so moved by the stories that he suggested I write a book about it. I'd never written anything like that before, so I initially dismissed the idea.

Another time, some of my comrades and I were sitting on the beach in Massawa when we suddenly have a very animated conversation about the immense sacrifices made for the liberation of Massawa and the sea. This scene actually forms the introduction to my book. That conversation, more than anything, truly convinced me to take on the project of writing a book.

There was another incident that solidified my resolve to write – a live phone-in program aired on Radio Dimtsi Hafash that featured freedom fighters who fought at the 1977 Salina war. I missed the broadcast, but just hearing about it stirred up a lot of emotions and made me realize how important it was to tell this story. These were some of the key reasons that inspired me to roll up my sleeves and begin exploring and writing.

The whole process took about seven years. It wasn't easy; you can't just sit at home and write a true story like this. It was not just my story; this is the story of my comrades, our unit, and the participation and contribution of many Eritrean civilians during that period. To tell the complete story, with all its interwoven narratives, an extensive research had to be done.

Even then, the scope is somewhat limited because I primarily focused on the experiences of our battalion and individual heroic stories of a handful comrades who fought and died heroically at the battle as a representative example of the broader event.

*Could you tell us more about the Battle of Salina?*

The Battle of Salina wasn't an isolated event; it was part of a series of engagements unfolding over several months (in the mid 1970's), with fighting occurring at various locations in the country. It began in the areas surrounding Asmara, including the northern front around Karneshim and the southern front near Seharti. At that time, much of Eritrea was liberated, and the Dergue regime was confined to Asmara and a few garrison towns. These earlier battles leading up to Salina were crucial in setting the stage for the events that followed.

The fighting continued onward to battles in Semhar and then Dogali, a particularly strategic engagement where the enemy was pushed back and ultimately contained within Massawa. The core focus of my book, as the title suggests, is the hardship and events that transpired in the Salina salt farm area. The attempt to take control of Salina was actually a two-part operation. The first attempt took place on December 23, 1977, and involved the 43<sup>rd</sup> and 72<sup>nd</sup> battalions, along with a force from the 73<sup>rd</sup>. The second attempt was on January 6th.

*Our guest today, Mr. Girmaalem Tekie, has written Salina '77, a book in Tigrinya chronicling the heroic events of the 1977 Battle of Salina. The book was launched last week. Mr. Girmaalem joined the armed struggle in 1975 and following Eritrea's independence he went back to school and earned an MBA (Masters in Business Administration).*



The second attempt was incredibly challenging due to the natural hardship. Out of frustration, the enemy breached the sea defenses of the Salina salt farm, flooding the grounds just as our units were advancing. The flood made the operation extremely difficult as the water hampered our ability to maneuver and continue the assault.

In Massawa, the enemy suffered a significant defeat at Forto, a highly fortified position. This loss left them without any comparable strongholds. In a desperate move, they breached the sea defenses, flooding the area and turning the sea into a weapon against our advancing forces.

In the book, I've tried to connect the Salina battle with Operation Fenkil, interviewing comrades who participated in both the Salina 1977 and Fenkil 1990 operations, including some of the operation's leaders. I've explored the relationships and differences between the two. The common thread is the unwavering resistance and courage of the freedom fighters. The key difference, however, lies in the context. By the 1990s, after 13 years of successful major campaigns against a heavily

armed enemy equipped with very modern military hardware of that time, the EPLF's strength was vastly different. Compared to the EPLF's forces in 1977, which were significantly smaller and primarily relied on small arms, the difference was enormous. Naturally, the experience of the EPLF in these two periods was also very different.

*You included a quote from the late Major General Gebregziabher Andemariam (aka Wuchu) on the promotional poster for your book. What is the story behind the quote?*

The story is recounted in the book in detail. The situation was that we had advanced so close to the enemy that our artillery, positioned in Edaga (a neighborhood at the entrance to Massawa), had to cease fire. Because of our proximity to the enemy, it was nearly impossible to distinguish between our forces and theirs. Despite this, we continued the operation with the small arms we had. It was during this intense moment that Major General Wuchu, speaking to the artillery operators over the radio, said "Fire on all of us, regardless of our position." This reveals an incredible level of courage and a

fierce determination to achieve victory, even at the cost of one's own life. A separate strike on the enemy would have required a tactical retreat, a maneuver that was simply not an option in that situation. This underscores the freedom fighter's willingness to sacrifice himself for the greater objective. Ultimately, however, the artillery operators were unable to bring themselves to continue on that. As a tribute to their deeds and sacrifice, I have made an attempt to include in the book a list of the names and photos of the freedom fighters who fell heroically at the Salina grounds.

*What challenges did you face in writing the book?*

One of the biggest challenges was the fact that I was writing about events that occurred a long time ago (47 years), and many of my comrades have since passed away, some during the armed struggle for independence and others after independence, including during the Woyane invasion. This made it extremely difficult to piece together some of the stories. Memories fade over time, and that presented another significant hurdle.

*What message does your book convey?*

Many books have been written over the past few decades, giving inaccurate accounts of events in an attempt to distort the narrative of the just struggle for Eritrea's independence and to obscure the stories of the enemy's defeats. This true story needed to be told. The most important message is that the Eritrean people made immense sacrifices for their freedom, and the ownership of their land and sea was realized with blood. I feel a sense of relief to have finally given voice to this story that has been in my mind for so long. I've also recently completed another book about the battle in Nakfa, which will be published soon.