

ERITREAN CABINET OF MINISTERS HOLDS MEETING

The Eritrean Cabinet of Ministers yesterday held meeting at the State House. Detailed coverage of the meeting would be published in the next issue of Eritrea Profile.

CONTRIBUTION TO MARTYRS TRUST FUND

The Taxi Owner Association and Eritrean nationals residing in Israel have contributed a total of 360 thousand Nakfa and three thousand dollars respectively in support of the Martyrs Trust

Fund.

The Taxi Owners Association has been supporting 30 families of martyrs and that the latest amount is in support of additional 30 martyrs families.

A UN delegation currently on a working visit to Eritrea has lauded the effort the nation is exerting in the health sector within the context of the Lasting Development Goals.

Mr. John Ging, Director of Operations Coordination and Response at the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), made the remarks in a course of a visit yesterday to health and educational facilities in Serejeka sub-zone in the company

UN DELEGATION LAUDS ERITREA'S ACHIEVEMENT IN HEALTH SECTOR



of Ms. Amina Nurhusein, Minister of Health.

in partnership with regional and global stakeholders.

After observing health and educational services at Geshnashim Health Centre and Embaderho Junior High School, Mr. John Ging commended the effort Eritrea is exerting in the health sector on the basis of self-reliance and

In the course of the visit, UN official met with different Eritrean government officials focusing on strengthening the existing relations between the Eritrean government and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

1,744 STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM EIT AND CASS

In its 10th commencement, the Eritrean Institute of Technology (EIT) graduated a total of 1,463 students on July 6 in Masters, Degree and Diploma.

The graduates include 33 in Masters, 873 in Degree and 557 in Diploma in different fields of study including Science, Engineering, Education, Information Technology, Finance Management and International Business.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Semere Russom, Minister of Education, pointed out that the growing progression of human resource development is the outcome of the government's substantial investment to provide free education to all citizens. He further called on the graduates to apply the knowledge they acquired in the nation-building process.

The Vice President of the Institute, Prof. Gebrehiwet Medhane, on his part stated that

the EIT comprises three colleges and is significantly contributing to the training of skilled human resource, thus playing the desired role in the nation-building process.

A representative of the graduates explained that the considerable investment the government is making in education attests to its commitment to ensure human resource development and expressed readiness to diligently serve the nation and its people.

Since its establishment in 2008, the Eritrean Institute of Technology has graduated a total of 8,490 in Diploma, 4,887 in Degree and 116 in the post-graduate program.

Also in related news, A total of 281 students, 50% of whom are females, have graduated from the Adi-Keih College of Arts and Social Science (CASS) in different fields of study with Degree, Diploma and Certificate. 203 of the students graduated

in Degree, 18 in Diploma and 60 in Certificate in eleven fields of study including Geography, History, English Language, Tigrigna Language and Literature, Archeology, Law, Political Science, International Relations, Sociology, Social Works and Fine Arts.

Dr. Woldetensae Tewolde, Dean of the College, said that the College of Arts and Social Science is making significant contribution in training skilled human resource and that the commencement of post-graduate program in Topography Information attests to the continuation of such efforts.

Also Speaking at the graduation ceremony, Ms. Fozia Hashim, Minister of Justice, called on the graduates to live up to expectations.

Since its establishment in 2006, College of Arts and Social Science is graduating students for the 10th time.

OBSERVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL FISTULA DAY



International Fistula Day was observed on July 4 at national level in Mendefera featuring a number of programs.

Ms. Amina Nurhusein, Minister of Health, Ms. Teke'a Tesfamichael, President of the National Union of Eritrean Women, Government and PFDJ officials, representatives of UN organizations as well as members of the diplomatic corps also participated in the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Amina, explained that the Ministry of Health is exerting vigorous effort to prevent the prevalence of Fistula and harmful traditional practices through raised societal awareness.

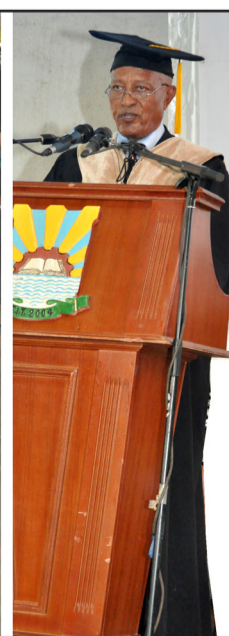
She further pointed out that a number of Fistula patients from all parts of the country have been treated free of charge at the National Fistula Referral Centre in Mendefera, while the patients have

been provided with academic and various vocational training during their stay in the Centre.

Also speaking on the occasion, Dr. Habte Hailemelokot, gynecologist, explained the causes of Fistula and mostly the cases that occur due to underage marriage and FGM.

Noting that Fistula has been among the main causes of women's psychological and social problems worldwide, the UNFPA Representative in Eritrea, Dr. Ibrahim Sanbuli, said that the UN agency is working in partnership with the Eritrean Health Ministry in efforts to eradicate Fistula.

Different educational and entertainment programs were staged during the event and awards were handed to exemplary healthcare professionals as well as individuals and institutions that have been engaged in philanthropic activities in support of Fistula victims.



REPORTAGE

9TH COMMENCEMENT OF ASMARA COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Semhar Mebrahtu

Asmara College of Health Sciences graduated 565 students at its 9th commencement on July 02, 2017 at the University of Asmara. Out of the total number of graduates, 286 earned bachelor's degrees and 279 diplomas from the School of Allied Health professions (SAHP), School of Nursing (SoN), School of Pharmacy and School of Public Health. Of the total figures 45% are females. Since its first commencement in 1999, the college has graduated 3145 students.

In her opening address, Dr. Ghidey Ghebreyohannes, dean of the college, underlined that the contribution of the college to the provision and improvement of health care services in Eritrea has been significant and will continue to do so. These graduates will be additional workforce in enhancing the quality of health provision to the nation.

The college was established in 1995 as one of the faculties at the University of Asmara with the mission to produce competent health professionals and scholars, who are equipped with the requisite knowledge, professional skills, attitudes, and ethical principles to address and respond to the national healthcare needs.



The college started its operations with one nursing degree and two diploma technician programs (MLT & Pharmacy) in 1995. At present the college has four schools and two service providing departments. They are running a total of 20 programs. Since 2005, the college has been an autonomous Institution of Higher Education.

Dr. Ghidey said that the college gets support from national and international organizations and individuals in achieving great success. The government covers the total running cost of the college and the MoH gives full support in which the management team at all levels and staff working in all health facilities for creating a smooth work and learning environment and teaching students. Dr. Ghidey thanked, Fred Hallows Foundation in Australia for supporting the ophthalmic nursing program and the United Nations Population

Fund (UNFPA) Eritrea country office for supporting Midwifery and Anesthesia programs, the ERA Germany for supporting Anesthesia education in Eritrea, the National Commission for Higher education (NCHE) for the continuous cooperation in all activities of the college, Segen construction Company for the rehabilitation of the college's sewerage system and Arag Wood and Metal Works for renovating laboratory.

Dr. Ghidey congratulated the graduates for the fruits of their 16 to 17 years of hard work. And she recommended to the graduates that the college has done its utmost to equip them with the requisite knowledge and skills to steer them through the obstacles that lie ahead; the rest is in their hands. She reminded them to exert all efforts towards providing professional health services with enthusiasm and commitment as responsible citizens. Awards were given to outstanding graduates.

In speech as a representative of graduates, Biniam Debesay, said that they have taken the requisite knowledge and skills to be dedicated in providing professional health services to the people. Giving such services requires responsibility, hard work and discipline. He added that the journey towards improving their knowledge and profession is ahead of them and promised to, serve the

nation and apply the knowledge.

Minister of health Ms. Amina Nurhusein also congratulated the graduates on behalf of the Eritrean government. In her speech she stated that the Eritrean government has been working hard to meet the needs of the society. One of these needs is securing improved health services for the community, and to achieve this ultimate goal, the government is focusing mainly on improving the capacity of its citizens

Mr. Habte Gebreamlak, whose daughter was graduating, said that he was happy to see the fruit of his daughter's labor as well as to see her having a bright future. He added that parents have responsibility to shape their children to be productive citizens in their community. Mr. Habte suggested to the graduates that even if this is the end of their study it's the beginning of a journey to better themselves academically as well as professionally and fulfill



by providing them educational opportunities. As a result, the number of graduates in this health sciences has been increasing. The minister recommended to the graduates that they have huge part to play in achieving the ultimate goal of the government which is providing sufficient health services to the community. She advised them to work hard in improving their knowledge and skills.

their duty.

Education does not have time boundaries, it is a life time engagement. Finishing school is the end of one chapter and the starting point of another new chapter. A chapter to gain new experience and to improve knowledge.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL GRADUATES!!!!!!



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And the Narrative of Achievements Goes On!

Billion Temesghen

On the early hours of Wednesday the 6th July, the roads of Asmara to Mai Nefhi were clogged up with traffic jam. Well, again, not an extraordinary scene for this specific time of the year because it is the season of commencements. It is in this beautiful chilly begging of the rainy season that Eritrean colleges send off their young ones to the world of professionalism. The Eritrean community celebrates the welcoming of new assisting hands and fresh minds with zeal.

Thousands of vehicles, carrying friends and family of the graduates, slowly dashed through the roads towards EIT, the institute of technology. Once everyone was seated and ready to welcome the newly graduates, then the music started: saxophones, trumpets and drums... a celebration of the 2017 praiseworthy young educated heroes.

Also, a surprise visit to the students by the villagers of May Nefhi area. Elders wearing traditional garments, fathers swinging their swords expressing their pride and mothers and some young boys and girls came waving the Eritrean flag and congratulatory banners; 'we are proud of you' posters. Topping the surprise visit, making it even more excitingly emotional, was the mandatory ever beautiful cheers of our mothers... they simply do it right. Tossing flowers and popcorn, pulsating their hands on their chest! And what not to expect from these amazing human beings? They baked gogo, the traditional Tigigna bread, with an engraving of the EIT emblem in the middle. Gogo is the traditional brown bread made of barley, it is believed it straightens up the back bone. The bread is presented after hard days of work during farming and harvesting. It is a traditional sign mothers bestow to hail a job well done.

After a minute of silence of tribute to the fallen heroes who made and continue to make a peaceful Eritrea possible, the ceremony officially began in the presence of Ministers, PFDJ officials, Zoba Administrators, Ambassadors, Religious Leaders,

Members of the National Commission of Higher Education, Deans of Institutions of Higher Education, parents, family and friends of the graduates and least but not least the graduating class of 2017.

The day was a special one for the institute as on the 6th of July EIT observed its 10th anniversary. Being one of the first institutes of higher education established in Eritrea as part of the national project of expanding educational access to all, while responding to the growing number of college students, the EIT has in these past 10 years graduated 13571 students; and this year 4663 students move their tassel from right to left!

In his speech, Professor Gebrihiwet Medhanie Vice President of EIT, explained prior to the valediction of the students that the "institute is striving to meet the needs of the country by upgrading and improving the activities of the three colleges of Education, Engineering and Technology and Science, which are housed, all encompassed in the Eritrean Institute Technology. Under these colleges there are 23 departments and the ICT and Tele-Education Center which enable students become beneficiaries of a broad access to education." He went on to express that the Institute is now to embark a new era on to a promoted level as: "Currently the Institute is in the verge of drastic changes both in its infrastructure and teaching facilities. The infrastructure changes are observable, both in the College of Science and College of Engineering. The College of Science will move

to a well-furnished new modern building complex in the coming academic year. This new complex has all the basic facilities including conference and lecture halls equipped with multi-media systems, libraries containing both digital and book circulation sections with study rooms." The professor went on to describe that the new building contains 24 laboratories and other facilities that certainly attest to the growing interest of students in education and the government's willingness to respond. The professor reminded the students that education means change in attitude and also an aptitude to live up to the people's expectations.

One of the main problems of the institute and the Ministry of Education in general as disclosed in the graduation event is shortage of qualified faculty. The government has heavily depended on foreign professors but hiring and developing Eritrean professors is the way forward. Indeed, to tackle the issue the People and Government of Eritrea sends students abroad for Masters' and PhDs.

This academic year in fact five Eritrean staff members returned after getting their PhD's. Moreover to address the shortage by augmenting human resources the institute has recently opened postgraduate studies in different fields of specializations. In the College of Science there are, in fact, five departments offering Master's Degree in Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics and Statistics. It was also disclosed during the event that the department of Earth Science is



shortly to start an M.Sc program in the field of Geophysics. More post graduate programs are set to begin in the coming academic year in Educational Administration, Educational Psychology and English Language Teaching.

Next on the schedule for the morning of the 10th commencement of the Eritrean Institute of Technology was the award giving; the graduates were called to get their certificates from department heads, deans and members of the commission of higher institutions. Amongst this year's graduates 34 graduated with Masters.

To conclude the ceremony with a touch of the graduate's hand, towards the end of the program, songs were presented by the graduates themselves. When participants and graduates left the hall for pictures, the Institute's yard was literary full with smiles ready for a 'selfie-cheese!'

Several partners do join hand in the implantation of the

Eritrean educational endeavor: the Government of China, Finnish Government and Finnish Church, Eritreans in the diaspora and many other Universities of the world. The joint venture of the Government and People of Eritrea and stakeholders thrives beautifully as once again thousands of students from all colleges spread nationwide.

In its 25 years rather short and hard period of independence the Nation of Eritrea has adamantly marched towards development setting eyes on the principles of equality and respect to one another. The Eritrean people within its differences joins hands to produce educated generations. Making education free at all levels for every citizen is surely not an easy task. The success of these students goes out the people who aspire and sacrifice for a stable nation toiling to make sure that the narrative of war and labor force ends with them, while the narrative of development, education, peace, stability and prosperity goes on and on with the younger ones. Congratulations EIT!





Celebrating the Zenith of African Solidarity

Natnael Yebio.W

Africa Day, formerly known as African Freedom Day and African Liberation Day; is the annual commemoration of the foundation of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) (now known as the African Union) on May 25, 1963. It is celebrated in various countries on the African continent as well as around the world.

What began on 25 May 1963 as a day marking the foundation of the OAU, Africa Day has evolved into a platform for creating awareness about all things Africa, in Africa and around the world.

Each year on May 25, the continent celebrates Africa Day in various ways. In Zimbabwe, May 25 is a public holiday, in Senegal's Goree Island, which was a slave port, a new movement dubbed "Africans Rising" is being launched to reclaim peace, dignity and justice for Africans on the continent and in the Diaspora.

Elsewhere, concerts and ceremonies are held to mark the day. Africa Day is also celebrated by Africans abroad as Diaspora communities of different nationalities come together in cultural attires and swap traditional dishes.

In Eritrea Africa day was celebrated from July 1st to 3rd 2017.

The sounds and tastes of nations ranging from Egypt to South Africa were on offer on Saturday.

The annual Africa Day which

was celebrated in Eritrea in 2015, was a one-day event. As a result of its successful 1st ever African day merriment, African embassies found in Eritrea in accordance with the Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea as well as with the Commission of Culture and sports have been hosting the event come each year. This year's celebrations were the third installment. The celebrations were planned, just like the previous year, to host different events. Sports, documentary films, photo exhibition and a gala dinner were *all order of the week*.

As preparations were finalized by the organizing committee, the commemoration began in the morning of Saturday July 1st with very competitive football matches. Each African Embassy in Eritrea was represented by one team and the competition saw the participation of six teams, drawn against each other. In what was a day of friendly foot-ball kick about, the commission of Culture and Sports men were as the winners of the "Africa week" sport day. In a day of spirited competitions what triumphed biggest at the end of the day was a sense of harmony, and camaraderie created on the pitch. For the organizing committee, checklist number one was successfully crossed out! Next, Movie night at Cinema Asmara!

Africa week was planned in a way that could involve every African Embassy in Eritrea to come together in a cultural, artistic and fan way, in order to achieve the desired effect of sentiment of



Africanism. There is no continent more blessed with striking natural beauty and diversity than the African Motherland. It was this physical and genetic diversity that allowed Africans to parent the rest of humanity. Indigenous Africa is testimony to the full spectrum of skin tones, hair textures, and rich religious and cultural practices. Though the second largest continent Africa is home to 1,022,234,000 people. There are an estimated 3000 tribes in Africa and each consisting of their own unique culture, religion, history and fashion. Great ancient Kingdoms and empires are known to this area. Egypt, an ancient land of Pharaohs, Pyramids architectural genius and skill. Sub-Saharan Africa is the birthplace of Mankind. The inhabitants of Sub-Saharan Africa are black, which is why it's normally referred to as "Black Africa". In sub Saharan Africa are hundreds of Tribes and on the land once

ruled Great civilizations and Kingdoms. Descendants of Mama Africa are now spread worldwide. Scattered around Sub-Saharan Africa are Bantu-sent tribes all consisting of Darker skin peoples. The tribes have Bantu-sent tongues and all consist of similar culture/practices. The land is blessed in abundance with natural beauty and wealth. Plains, Rain forests and Deserts are natural ecosystems/landscapes in the area. The Masai are normally tall and thin while the Yoruba of Nigeria are normally much larger. The Himba of Namibia are light skinned. All these different looks are attributed to different tribes/areas of Africa. All Africa possesses the natural beauty of its land and the physical beauty of its people. That's what makes us identify, our love for each other and our love for our land. All of us together celebrating our continent, a continent where it all began, a continent ravaged by colonialism and the devastating effects it left, a continent rich with natural resources and cultural diversity, simply a continent worth celebrating.

Screening night at Cinema Asmara, which was open to the public, was edifying in its content, with each African embassy contributing what they considered was the right promotional videos of their countries. The documentary films which were quite invigorating, spoke a million folds of words, from Egyptian Pyramids, South Sudan is biggest Swamps, Sudan's Black Pharos to Libya's immaculate architecture.

Small, yet big, parts of Africa were immortalized on the big white screen of Cinema Asmara.

Next on the itinerary, more sport activities! Sunday July 2nd saw a Volley-Ball match in the morning and table tennis and chess games in the afternoon.

After a busy weekend, the third and final day of the celebrations were capped off with a Photo exhibition at Club Sudan. Monday 3rd July 2017, put two hours of hard labor were put to turn the insides of Club Sudan into a photo gallery that would break par with that of London's Hamilton's Gallery. The white tents of the venue were decorated with Pictures, Photographs, paintings, fliers, travel guides, banners and the first of its kind, cultural delicious cuisines from each African Embassy found in Eritrea, which gave the event a certain *je ne sais quoi*.

Photography is a staple of everyday life. It's the kind of imagery that stops us dead in our tracks and causes us to reflect on life. Such was the case with African Photography and paintings put on display on that day. Add to it African cultural Cuisine such as Egypt's *Kushari*, Sudan's *Stews*, South Africa's *peanuts & Chakalaka relish*, Libya's *Cuscus*, South Sudan's *Kisra* and Djibouti's *Skoudehkaris*, you have an event that would last long into the memory of the mind and taste buds of the tongue. *Africa Week* celebrations was once again a hit!



OPINION

CASS 2017 Graduation: A Brief Dedication

Dr. Fikrejesus Amahazion

On Tuesday 4 July 2017, the College of Arts and Social Sciences (CASS), located in Adi Keih, held its 10th graduation commencement. A total of 281 students proudly received a Certificate, Diploma, or Bachelor of Arts Degree. CASS, currently within its seventh academic year as a stand-alone institution, has an annual enrolment of approximately 1600 students, nearly evenly split between males and females

Located near several significant traditional and historical sites, the school has ten total academic departments, nine of which award degrees while one awards diplomas. Of note, CASS has also developed a new and exciting Master's Degree program in collaboration with the University of Helsinki. The college also boasts a traditional and digital library, a growing collection of resources for visually impaired students, a bookstore, staff and student cafeterias, a recreation lounge featuring satellite television and games, several all-weather outdoor sports courts, highly successful intercollegiate athletic teams, and various student clubs. Significantly, the program offerings at CASS will soon expand, particularly through collaboration with various national ministries, as well as partnerships with international institutions.

This year's commencement was once again highly memorable,

and it was amazing to have been part of such a wonderful occasion. While graduation represents the culmination of a student's academic journey, it is important to remember that it is only possible with the strong support and backing of friends, family, and communities. Simply, graduation is not a day so much about "me" but "we." One glance into the CASS auditorium helped to illustrate just how so. Seats were filled by people from all walks of life, all sharing some connection, small or large, to the graduates. I will never forget the great pride exhibited by fathers, the loud, piercing ululating and tears of joy shed by mothers, or the sheer admiration expressed by friends and siblings as the graduates slowly, confidently strode across the stage, faces beaming with sheer happiness, to collect their certificates. With a sense of encouragement and great admiration, I dedicate the following short story to the 2017 CASS graduates.

Silomn'tye Miti Z'kone? (Why is it not 100?)

"Jennifer. Peter. Fatima... Thomas...Fikre." One by one, Ms. Iliana, the elementary science teacher, called out our names. One by one, we slowly arose from our seats and nervously shuffled to her desk to collect our recently graded exams. Sloth-like, single file, and heads down, we must have appeared like prisoners on a boat inching our way toward the end of the plank.

Ms. Iliana was a challenging,

demanding teacher, and fully dedicated to her craft. She was also a strict, no-nonsense disciplinarian. Like a drill sergeant. When she said class started at 8:00am, it meant to be in your desk, with books open and pens at the ready by 7:55am. If the clock read 4:05pm, and class was actually slated to end at 4:00pm, there was hardly a flicker of movement or an attempt to pack up. No chance. Class ended when Ms. Iliana said so. And it wasn't enough to simply attend her class; we were expected to sit up straight. And to participate. Chewing gum? Passing paper notes? Whispering jokes behind her back while she wrote on the chalkboard? Fuhgeddaboutit. Unless, that is, you wanted to be assigned to some tedious task during lunch hour, kept after school in detention, or "drafted" into the school's campus beautification program (i.e. picking up garbage around the playground).

On top of this, Ms. Iliana was a difficult grader. Very, very difficult. In fact, rumour had it that no student had ever received a score above 90 percent on any of Ms. Iliana's exams – and she had been the school's science teacher for 16 years.

Thus, it was with a great sense of trepidation that I approached her desk to collect my exam. Thomas, one of the top students in our entire grade, slowly passed by me as he solemnly trudged back to his desk. He was beet-red and I could see his eyes



welling up. Fatima and Peter, now slouched in their chairs with similarly disheartened faces, seemed to have hardly fared better. "This can't be good," I muttered quietly.

Collecting myself, I extended my hands to receive my exam. My palms were moist and sweaty and my hands shook nervously as I grasped the paper. As I turned around to return to my chair, I made brief eye-contact with Ms. Iliana. She gave me the smallest of smirks before matter-of-factly stating, "Good."

Good? What was she talking about? I was totally confused. "Is she mocking me?" I wondered. "What type of schadenfreude was this? How could she smile and take pleasure at the misfortune of her students?"

Like a seasoned poker pro keeping the faces of their cards hidden from competitors, I held my exam close to my chest as I glanced down to see my grade. I was taken aback. "Wow," I said

quietly before going over the exam several times to make sure the marks tallied up and to ensure I wasn't hallucinating. It was like a shopper who had mistakenly been given too much change after paying the cashier. But there was no mistake! As I moved to sit back down, I broke into a wide smile, pumped my fist (like Jordan after sinking that buzzer beater against Utah in Game One of the 1997 NBA Finals), and whispered, "Yes!" I was elated. I received a 99 on my exam.

The rest of the school day seemed to pass by in a blur. I could hardly focus in any of my other classes, since all I could think about was how excited I was to show my mother my exam. Ms. Iliana was a strong believer in family involvement within education and she required that all students get their assignments, tests, and homework signed by their parents. Students usually dreaded the practice, but I was a firm supporter that day.

When I arrived home that evening my mother was still at work, and so my older sister prepared dinner for me and my two brothers. The macaroni and cheese was so delicious that I ate two heaping helpings, and the juice – you know, the frozen juice that only required you to add water – tasted extra sweet. Afterward, we went out for a quick game of footy in the neighborhood lot, before washing up and then heading to bed.

That night, I could not fall asleep. I just lay there staring at the ceiling with the radio playing

Continued on page 6



Turkish Airlines Announcement

**TURKISH
AIRLINES**



Turkish Airlines feels proud to announce a new direct flight to its clients starting from 3rd of July. The direct flight of Istanbul-Asmara-Istanbul is scheduled as follows:

The arrival time in Asmara will be at 12:30 am local time.

Departure from Asmara is scheduled at 1:30am local time.

As usual, days of operation remain unchanged.

The check-in time at the Asmara International Airport will be at exactly 9:00pm local time on every Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Passengers in connection with flights to Europe are kindly requested to report to the sales office located in Saba Building.

For further information, you may contact the Airline with the telephone numbers- 184949 /184925 or clients can possibly contact the Airline through personal Travel Agencies.

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TURKISH AIRLINES



CASS 2017 Graduation: A . . .

Continued from page 5

in the background. I was so excited about my exam and sharing it with my mother. Although I left the exam on the fridge for her to look over, I decided I would stay up to see her, no matter how late she arrived. A single mother of five, my mother worked three jobs and often came home very late at night after a long day or extremely early in the morning after the night shift.

Screeeech. The front door opened as my mother made her way in. It was nearly midnight. Her keys jangled as she tossed them onto the table and I heard her distinct footsteps in the hall near the kitchen. Excitedly, I jumped out of bed and raced down the stairs. My mother was seated, still wearing her nursing uniform, scanning the large stack of mail. Bills. Bills. Ads. Ads. Bills. As I came into the kitchen, she looked up, surprised. "What are you still doing up?" she asked.

"Hey, mama...we had an exam with Ms. Iliana. I need you to sign it," I explained.

Furrowing her brow, she put down the envelopes in her hand. "Bring it over...and also pass my glasses from the purse."

She took the exam and then looked at me, before putting on her reading glasses. She slowly navigated her way through the exam, closely reading every question, poring over all of my answers, and analyzing Ms. Iliana's comments. I simply stood there, wearing my black and yellow, Batman-embroidered pajamas, with my arms crossed, and a wide grin stretching from ear to ear.

After what seemed like an eternity, she turned over the last page and placed the exam on the table. She took a final glance at the exam before shifting her attention toward me. I just stood there, proud as a peacock and eager to soak up the seemingly imminent plaudits. What transpired, however, shocked me and is something

that I will never forget.

"Silomn'tye miti z'koney (why is it not one hundred)?" My mother demanded, pointing at the 99 circled in red ink at the top of the front page.

"Huh? I got 99," I responded. "She must be confused," I thought to myself.

"Yes, you did. And why is it not 100?" She repeated.

"Mama! It was the highest grade in the class," I pleaded, my voice rising slightly.

"And why is it not 100?" She asked again, this time even more assertively.

I just stood there, perplexed and without an answer. After a brief pause, my mother grabbed her pen and signed the exam. Then she turned to me.

"Excellent. I'm proud of you. But I want you to be the best you can be. I don't

care about the scores of the other students. Just yours. Never be satisfied in anything that you do. There is always room for improvement. Okay?"

I nodded in agreement. She then gave me a hug and walked me to my room. Although it would take some time to fully sink in, the lessons I learned that night have been amongst the most important of my life and they have served as important guiding principles in everything that I do.

To the graduates of 2017: As you leave CASS and go back to your households, communities, and the world, remember: aim high, do not settle, and never be satisfied. Today is about being better than you were yesterday, and tomorrow is about being better than you were today. If it is bad, make it good. And if it is good, make it better. We are all so proud of your accomplishments and efforts. Moreover, we eagerly look forward to your future successes and achievements. Congratulations and best wishes!

STATE OF ERITREA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL AGRICULTURE PROGRAMME (NAP)
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

- 1 The Government of ERITREA has received a Grant from the International Fund for Agricultural Development towards the cost of National Agricultural Project(NAP) and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this Grant will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for the :- Lot.1 Supply of Milk Refrigerator and Milk Container Lot. 2 Supply of Rain Gauge and Lot.3 Supply of Measuring Cylinder
- 2 The Eligible bidders should have a professional Certificate and renewed License for the year of 2015/16 appropriate for this supply.
- 3 Bid shall be Valid for a Period of 120 days after Bid opening, and must be accompanied by a bid Security of 2% at any Eritrean Bank and delivered to Procurement and Supplies Management Unit Office on or before 01/08/2017 local hours 14:30 PM and will be opened on the same date at 15:00 PM Local hours in the presence of the Bidders or Bidders' Representatives who wish to attend.
4. Eligible bidders may bid for a complete lot. Bid for partial lot will be rejected as non responsive.
5. A complete set of bidding documents may be collected by any interested Eligible bidders from the address below.
 Ministry of Agriculture, Procurement and Supply management Unit, Sawa Street,
 Tel: 181077/76 Fax: 181415, P.O.Box:1048, Asmara, Eritrea.
6. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 3:00 Pm Local Time hrs on 01/08 / 2017.
 The Ministry of Agriculture reserves the right to accept or reject this bid fully or in part if it finds any option better than this IFB without needing to justify the grounds for it doing so and Compensation which the bidder may incurred in Preparing its bid.

Ministry of Agriculture

INVITATION FOR BID

The Embassy of the United States of America invites interested bidders who are either exempt or have completed national service to purchase used items in a sealed-bid sale. Children under 18 years of age are not allowed to attend.

GOODS FOR SALE: Household and office furniture; air conditioners; Computers, generators, vehicles and many other electrical and non-electrical items.

LOCATION: Warehouse at Campovolo Digsa Street, behind Nakfa House building, across the street from Bar Ginna.

DATES: July 13 & 14, 2017 from 9 a.m. through 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. through 4 p.m. Late bids are not accepted.

ENTRANCE FEE: 50 Nakfa. Entrance tickets are required for bidding.

BIDDING PROCEDURES: One bid sheet will be distributed per each entrance ticket. Bidders must submit their bid sheets with a 10% deposit for the total bid prices offered by the close of the final day of the sale.

Sale is on an "as-is, where-is" basis. On July 17, 2017 starting from 5 p.m. the list of winning bidders will be posted at the gate of the auction site.

Deposits will be refunded to non-winners at the auction site. If non-winners do not collect their deposits within seven days starting from July 18, 2017, their deposit will be forfeited and not returned to the bidder.

Winners must pay their bid amount by check, CPO or bank transfer to the US Embassy's account and customs duties to the customs office by July 31, 2017. Winners must also arrange pick up of their merchandise by July 31, 2017.

Winners are obligated to buy all the lots they win. If they are not willing to buy the lots they win and/or they do not pick up their merchandise, their deposits will be forfeited and not returned. Those lots will then be offered to the next highest bidders. Unclaimed lots will revert to the ownership of the US Embassy.

The Embassy of the United States of America reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

NOTICE

We are pleased to announce that our head office have changed from Liberty Avenue No. 100 to Felket Street 173 or 173-2 House No. 4 starting from June 12, 2017.

Libya Oil Eritrea Limited



Q and A

FT The brand of the people

Asmait Fitsumbrahan

Say you visit a shop, you'll definitely notice at least a couple of people asking for FT. What is FT? And why do people trust this brand so much? We will try to figure out the answers to these questions and many more as we speak to the owner of the brand.

Mrs. Freweini Tesfayohanes is a successful entrepreneur. She is the owner and manager of her own milk processing enterprise, she is a modern farmer. An exemplary woman who constantly thinks of her community. She says one's success is nothing if it means small to the people around her "the wellbeing of my society matters to me equally as my daughter's".

Mrs. Freweini Tesfayohanes is an example of hard work and persistent strives. Q&A presents her to you.

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Can we start by speaking of the brand FT and your enterprise?

With pleasure. FT is the brand of 'Freweini Small Scale Milk Processing Plant'. It is a licensed enterprise that I founded more than 15 years ago. It started small and it got to where it is now over time; little by little, with small advancements at a time. FT is the official brand for our products that include yogurt, cheese, feta cheese, crème - panna, butter, traditional butter *tesmi*, ricotta and others extracted from milk. Of course the demand on the market dictates our focus of production but we still manage to satisfy our customers with all of our might.

The woman Entrepreneur

I am a farmer; a dairy breeder. I was born in early 1960s in Asmara and I joined the armed struggle for independence when I was 17. You know how things were in the field, right? Freedom fighters were not there just to shoot bullets. The armed struggle for independence was chiefly a humanitarian revolution. So, within the field, we had all sorts of schools and training centers. I learned and served as a nurse until 1996. I started a family of my own after independence, I was both a student and a mother. I got to med school and after that I worked in several hospitals including Orotta Pediatric Hospital and overtime in different pharmacies. Some years later I suffered a skin problem that forced me to stay away from pharmaceutical elements and, so, I was officially released from work at the hospitals and pharmacies. Luckily, though, by some unexpected luck, I had previously started dairy breeding activities and I kept working on it. I eventually turned in to a farmer and then much later, when I gathered the basic equipment and knowledge, I stopped delivering milk to bigger companies and started producing dairy products on my own. In a journey of 20 years I can now proudly say that I have done quite well for myself.

Let's go back to the beginning. How did your company start?

It started with very little. I told you

earlier, in fact, that FT is how we perceive it now thanks to the millions of small steps we took over the years. My very first take-on was farming. I was born and raised in Asmara, I studied in Asmara and from Asmara I went to the field and joined the armed struggle for independence. I knew small about farming or dairy products. However on the 10th of October 1992, when I had my first daughter, I started to self-teach on dairy breeding and milk processing.

Why the sudden interest?

I had just returned from the field after so many years of warfare and I was studying in the nursing school so I constantly thought of how to raise my child to be healthy. She had some problems in her bones that were not medically clear yet and she was in pain. So all I thought as an immediate healing tool was to provide her all-inclusive healthy diet, chiefly basing it on tons of proteins and calcium.

I didn't think I could afford to buy her milk every day. I rented a small room with a big yard and a small well. My older sister was then active in dairy farming, so she had good knowledge about dairy farming. I asked for her opinions, and jotted down some notes, gathered my savings and off I went to the market to buy a cow. A Holstein Friesian. I took her back home, I hired a man to help me milk it and that is how I was finally able to provide milk for my daughter. But I noticed that my daughter was not a big fan of milk. She had allergic reactions. So, once again I spent a couple of years in libraries and talking with dairy breeders aiming to know how to extract multiple dairy products from milk. I learned and researched a lot until I was finally confident enough to alter milk in to other dairy products in my kitchen for my daughter. She loves yogurt, cheese and crème and I was making all that in my kitchen.

How is she feeling now? Your daughter...

Oh, she is a fighter. She has a positive attitude towards her problems and she thinks of the pain as a motivator to live a good and honest life. She works extremely



hard.

From the kitchen to the markets

It took me a while to think about putting my products out in the market. However, in 1996, I suffered from skin disease and I had to stop working in hospitals. I got a loan from MEWEL, a national project to assist small business, and I also added the fee I received for serving as a nurse. I took a risk to invest everything I had in trying out dairy breeding. I rented a barn outside Asmara and moved there with my first darling Holstein along some new ones. Every day was a new day for me at the barn. You learn a lot. I fell in love with these beautiful creatures. And the milk I gathered from them I delivered to big corporations of dairy products. I knew I wanted to start my own milk processing plant sooner or later but I was simply waiting for the right time.

I also knew that I would never be able to start big. So I focused on doing things, one thing at a time. When I finally got a license for processing my barn's milk, I opened a stand in Daeropoulos and officially opened the enterprise. I produced small amounts of feta cheese, yogurt and panna. I started supplying dairy products to hotels and restaurants. In time the demand grew and my job got even bigger. At the moment we work 16 hours a day to answer the ever increasing market demand. FT is mainly known for yogurt. We specialized in yogurt making because we realized the health benefits of it and also because yogurt is a highly loved dietary base of our community. I dedicated a lot of time to learn and continuously upgrade FT yogurt because I thought if my

daughter found it useful so can my community. The wellbeing of my daughter matters to me equally as my daughter's. The brand is also known for its butter, traditional butter and panna.

Why is it that FT has become such a popular brand?

I don't think it is my place to answer why people like our brand. But I am extremely grateful that FT is a trusted brand. FT is of the people. I hate labeling expensive prizes on my products. I am a former freedom fighter and being Eritrean I learned how to be grateful while sharing even the smallest you own. I do my best to personally control the quality of the products. We take extra caution as we provide alimentary supplements. We hate to brag nor advertise. I don't mind if big

We communicate and understand each other well when working together. Many women have employment problems, opportunities are wider for men... a sort of modern women's rights violation. In some states of the United States men get more salary than women for the same jobs! There is some sort of bullying directed to women. For instance dairybreeders men think I am not good enough. They bully my market. They go around spreading rumour about my products. Doors of many offices are shut to women, the ears of many are deaf to women's bussiness... But, that even motivates me to work harder.

I personally think women in dairy bussiness have done incredibly well. Azieb, for example, owner of Azieb PLC, is a friend and a colleague who runs beautifully a dairy



supermarkets in rich neighborhoods don't shelve FT. It is not my main concern. It gives me serenity to know I am capable of shelving affordable products to the majority. I want FT to be of my community. My society's wellbeing matters to me equally as my daughter's. I mean isn't this what Eritrea is supposed to be all about? I work hard although I am almost 60 and tired, but I still work for the people. I have worked for my people since I was 17!

You have your own way of empowering women. Can you share it with us?

It is really not much, but three out of four of the employees in FT are women: students, part timers and mothers. I believe that world-wide there is an issue with matters related to women. What i benefit from including women in the plant is tidiness. Women are made for artistry, beauty and cleanliness.

and poultry farm in the Southern Region! So my way is to make sure that the FT women find confidence in them selves so as to eventually do better when they find better job opportunities, or better still, when they open enterprises of their own! Who knows... I want to tell them that it is okay to try, toil and fail until you succeed.

Thank you Mrs. Freweini. We wish you and FT the best of luck. Is there anything you want to add at the end?

My message is directed at young Eritrean women. I want to tell them that so long as they search there is always something for them to do to become self reliant. Greetings to my dear EWA colleagues. And my gratitude to the Ministry of Agriculture for all of its efforts to assit women in agribussiness.

Thank you!