

PRESIDENT ISAIAS MET AND HELD TALKS WITH MR. NEVEN MIMICA



President Isaias Afwerki met and held talks with Mr. Neven Mimica, EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development on 8 February.

President Isaias and Mr. Neven discussed Eritrea-European Union (EU) cooperation ties within the framework of the recent peace and cooperation unfolding in the Horn of Africa, especially between Eritrea and Ethiopia.

The EU will allocate €20 million for the upgrading and renovation of roads in its first phase of infrastructural support programs in Eritrea to enhance regional connectivity and trade.

COMMEMORATION OF OPERATION FENKIL COMMENCES



The commemoration of the 29th anniversary of Operation Fenkil commenced on 8 February under the theme, “Operation Fenkil: Epitome of Heroic History”.

The commemoration event, scheduled to continue until 10 February, was officially opened by the PFDJ Secretary, Mr. Al-Amin Mohammed Seid, and will feature

community gathering activities, sports competitions, and other programs depicting the history and the heroic feats demonstrated during Operation Fenkil.

According to reports, social service provision institutions finalized their preparations to receive and accommodate visitors.

VARIOUS ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED BY ERITREANS ABROAD

The Eritrean Ambassador to the Republic of Italy, Mr. Fessehazion Petros, conducted a seminar for Eritrean nationals residing in Bologna. The seminar covered the

objective situation in the homeland and the developments in the region

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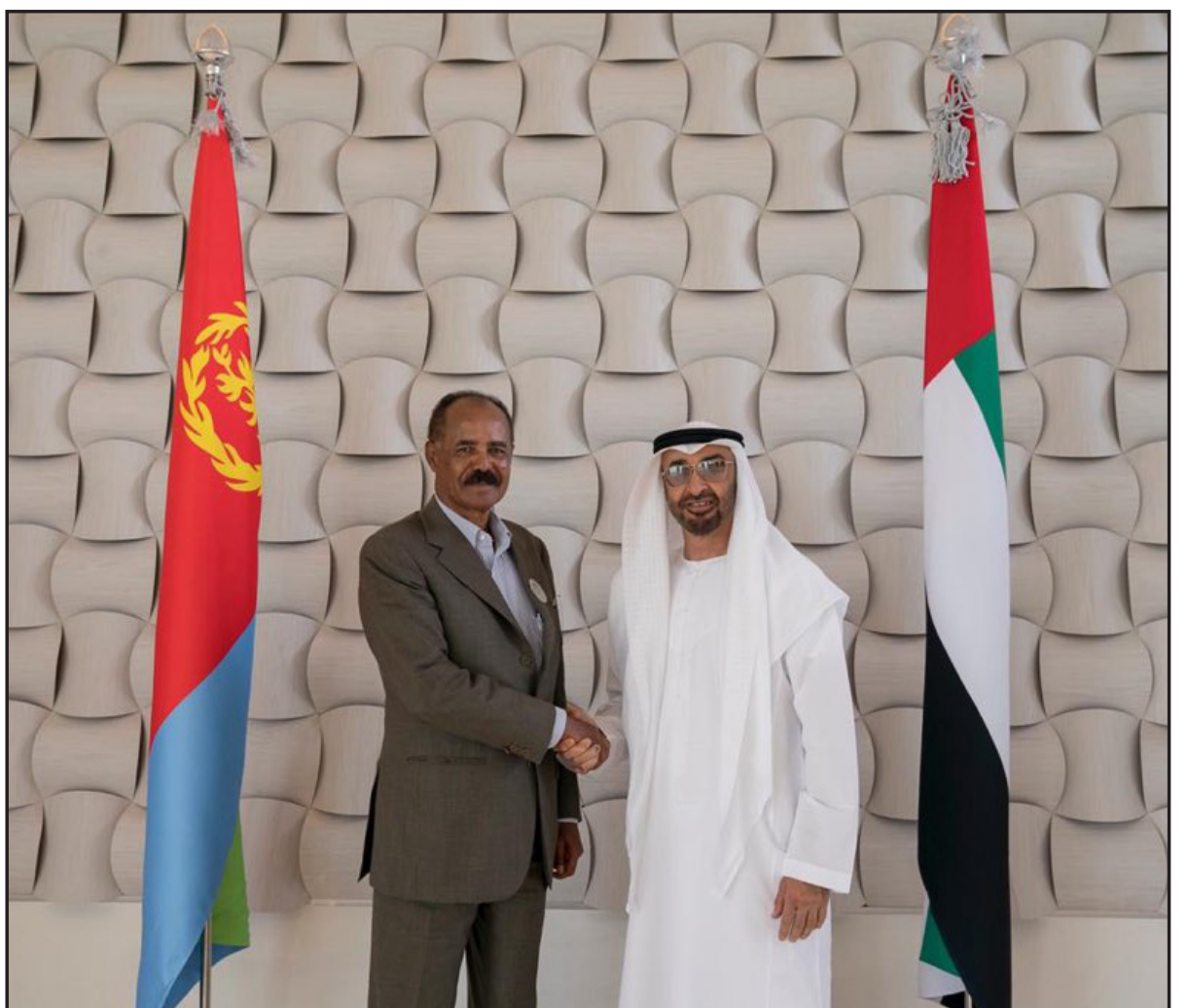
PRESIDENT ISAIAS AFWERKI MEETS ABU DHABI CROWN PRINCE

President Isaias Afwerki met and held talks with Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of UAE, Sheikh Mohammed bin

Zayed Al Nahiyen.

During the meeting, conducted in Abu Dhabi on 6 February, President Isaias and Sheikh

Mohammed discussed the progress and strengthening of existing bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries.



SpotLight

Dawn after a Long, Dark Night: A Look Back at Operation Fenkil

Dr. Fikrejesus Amahazion

Throughout the year, different days and periods present Eritreans with an opportunity to look back upon important historical dates and commemorate special events and occasions. For example: the month of March - although it should be something that should be firmly in our minds every day - is about recognizing the critical role played by our strong, valiant women in the independence struggle, protecting our nation from invasion, and our families and communities; the month of May is about celebrating and enjoying our hard-fought independence; June is about reflecting upon the great sacrifices paid by martyrs and veterans, as well as committing ourselves to honor, guard, and build the nation; and the month of September allows us to remember the first shots fired by courageous patriots to spark the long liberation struggle. Similarly, the month of February is about looking back upon Operation Fenkil and the Battle of Massawa, which took place in 1990. The Eritrean People's Liberation Front's (EPLF) victory in the pivotal battle was the beginning of the end for Colonel Mengistu Hailemariam and the Dergue regime, and it signaled to everyone that Eritrea's independence, once regarded and dismissed by many as unlikely or even impossible, was on the



immediate horizon.

Of course, well over a decade before Operation Fenkil, in the late 1970s, the EPLF actually came very close to liberating Eritrea. The independence movement was suddenly stopped in its tracks, however, with liberation fighters having surrounded Asmara and so near to victory, due to the USSR's extension of massive firepower and war materiel to the occupying Ethiopian regime. Recall that until 1977, the United States was the major supplier of arms to the Ethiopian state. In fact, in 1977, it provided arms sales on credit worth \$US 109.4 million to the Ethiopian regime. However, in addition to receiving heavy armaments from the USSR, Ethiopia received considerable financial backing and was supported by numerous Soviet advisors and various military technicians who directly took part in combat and military operations. The USSR's overwhelming support to Ethiopia shifted momentum in the war back onto the side of the Ethiopian regime, contributing to the Eritreans' decision to make a strategic withdrawal to Nakfa (considered the "place of resilience", Nakfa was the EPLF's mountain fortress).

Over the following years, despite repeated attempts and continued extensive foreign support, the Ethiopian army was unable to dislodge the Eritreans from Nakfa. Between 1978 and 1981, the Dergue unleashed five large-scale military campaigns against the EPLF, none of which resulted in success. Then, in January 1981, Colonel Mengistu announced Operation Red Star,

which the regime hoped would finally destroy the EPLF "bandits and mercenaries." The following year, after extensive preparations and with the close support of Soviet advisors, the regime of Colonel Mengistu embarked on the counter-offensive (its sixth) with over 136,000 troops, massively outnumbering the Eritreans. Regardless of the great disparity in personnel, equipment, and external support, the campaign failed to drive the EPLF from Nakfa. Instead, it resulted in the death of over 40,000 Ethiopian troops. After withstanding Operation Red Star, the EPLF regrouped to seize the military initiative.

In March of 1988, the EPLF scored a victory in a monumental battle in Afabet, considered by eminent historian Basil Davidson as the most significant victory for any liberation movement since the Vietnamese victory at Dien Bien Phu (note that Davidson was visiting the EPLF base areas at the time). By the end of the three-day battle, which significantly tipped the military balance in favor of the EPLF, the Eritreans had killed or captured over 18,000 Ethiopian soldiers, and acquired a massive amount of arms and supplies from the enemy. Notably, two months following the EPLF's historic victory, Ethiopia decreed a state of emergency in Eritrea. Subsequently, from May 13 to 23, 1989, a multi-pronged Ethiopian counter-offensive involving the deployment of 10 divisions was repulsed by the EPLF. Ethiopia's aggregate losses during the 11-day battle exceeded 9,000 soldiers, while 33 tanks and 28 military

vehicles were destroyed.

Throughout the 1980s, despite the considerable decline of Soviet power and the USSR's growing socio-economic and political crises at home, the Soviets continued their massive support to the Ethiopian regime. In 1989, the USSR supplied the Ethiopian government with more than \$US 800 million of Soviet military hardware, including new generation T-62 tanks and B-24 multiple-rocket launchers.

It was against this historical backdrop that the EPLF conducted its daring land and sea operation, codenamed Operation Fenkil, in February 1990. In the year prior to the offensive, the EPLF built up its naval capabilities and then secretly moved its powerful forces into the region, aiming to isolate Asmara from the sea (the coastal city and the capital are separated by a distance of approximately 115 kilometers). Beginning in the early hours of February 8, the quick and decisive EPLF offensive, launched on three different fronts, would end by February 10, when the Eritreans had secured the mainland. However, days later, on February 16, EPLF forces stormed the islands in a combined land and sea assault.

The EPLF's bold surprise attack cut-off the Ethiopian regime's access to supplies provided by the USSR through Massawa. Not only did the Eritrean forces employ tanks and various armaments and heavy artillery, they also relied upon a small fleet of gunboats to attack from the sea. During the duration of the battle, about 9,000-

10,000 Ethiopian soldiers were killed, while many others were left wounded. In addition, thousands of Ethiopian troops, including high-ranking generals and commanders surrendered to the EPLF, with many other Ethiopian troops retreating to the town of Ghinda.

The EPLF's capture of Massawa meant that apart from Assab, far to the south, Asmara and its immediate environs were the last areas of Eritrea still controlled by the Dergue regime; the rest of the population lived in areas controlled by the EPLF. However, as it had done in other instances after suffering losses to the EPLF, the Dergue responded to the Eritreans' capture of the coastal city by taking bloody retribution. It began a systematic and devastating bombing campaign, as well as firing shells from Ethiopian gunboats. These actions, targeting civilians and non-military targets, were in direct contravention to the international laws governing armed conflicts (such as the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocol on the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts). The bombing and shelling campaign, which involved the use of napalm and cluster munitions, killed and severely injured many civilians and completely or partially destroyed dozens of buildings, many of which were of great religious and historic significance. Additionally, the Dergue refused to allow the safe entry of relief shipments. Some estimates suggest that its retributive bombing campaign in Massawa led to over 25,000 tons of food aid being burned and completely destroyed.

The bombing raids and shelling attacks were carried not only to wreak revenge and punishment, but also in order to demoralize Eritrean civilians who came to learn that "liberation" from the government's control did not mean protection from its still potent air force. After the battle, Massawa was effectively turned into a "ghost town". About 20,000 people fled to other areas, while many others daily evacuated the town at dawn, spending their days far beyond the town sheltering under trees and

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**ERITREA
PROFILE**

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OPINION

AfCFTA: Towards Unity and Harmonization, Eventually...

Metkel Sewra

Forty four out of fifty five African countries signed the consolidated text of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement during the 18th Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of African Union (AU) Heads of State on March 21, 2018, in Kigali, Rwanda. Two more trade instruments were presented for signature during the Extraordinary Summit that relate to AfCFTA's eventual implementation – the Kigali Declaration (signed by 47 member states) and the Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, Right to Residence and Right to Establishment (signed by 30 member states). Five more countries signed the AfCFTA Agreement a few months later during the 31st Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly held in Mauritania in July 2018.

To date, 9 countries have deposited their ratification with the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, Niger, Chad, Guinea, eSwatini, Uganda, and Ivory Coast) and 8 countries (South Africa, Sierra Leone, Mali, Namibia, Senegal, Congo, Togo, and Mauritania) have received parliamentary approval for ratification. Just this week, Djibouti's confirmation was also announced, bringing the total number of ratifications (deposited and pending) to 18.

This is **4 countries shy of the required 22 ratifications for the Agreement to enter into force**. The hope by champions of the Agreement, including the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), who have historically pushed for economic integration, is that this will be achieved by March 2019, and considerable effort is being exerted by the different organizations' leaders to run the last mile in an effort to secure the 22 ratifications.

So what exactly is the AfCFTA?

The AfCFTA, considered a top



priority of Agenda 2063, brings together all of the continent's countries – 1.2 billion people (projected to reach 2.5 billion by 2050, which would represent 26% of the world's working-age population) and a cumulative GDP of \$3.4 trillion – under a single Free Trade Area (FTA). Once enforced, the AfCFTA would become the **world's largest free trade agreement** since the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO) over twenty years ago.

The Agreement's declared overarching objectives are summarized as follows:

- to create a single market that will help facilitate the free movement of persons, goods and services, and investments, in an effort to fast-track the creation of an African customs union.
- to reinforce intra-African trade by harmonizing the coordination of trade liberalization and facilitation regimes and instruments across the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and across Africa in general.
- to accelerate regional and continental integration procedures, and resolve multiple and overlapping memberships challenges.
- to augment industrial competitiveness through

production, market access and resources reallocation

Source: <http://www.acintad.org>

The specific overarching objectives with respect to **goods** are:

- progressive elimination of tariffs
- progressive elimination of non-tariff barriers
- enhancing the efficiency of customs, trade facilitation and transit
- cooperation on technical barriers to trade and sanitary and phytosanitary
- development and promotion of regional and continental value chains
- socio-economic development, diversification and industrialisation across Africa.

The specific overarching objectives with respect to **services** are:

- enhance competitiveness of services
- promote sustainable development
- foster investment
- accelerate efforts on industrial development to promote the development of regional value chains
- progressively liberalise trade in services

Source: Trade Law Centre -

<https://www.tralac.org/>

The architecture of the AfCFTA has two phases:

- Phase I: Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, and procedures on the Settlement of Disputes – and associated annexes.
- Phase II: Competition Policy, Intellectual Property Rights, and Investment.

Source: <https://au.int/>

The efforts surrounding the Agreement that set the establishment of the AfCFTA into motion can be viewed with both hope and tempered skepticism at the same time.

Hope because the speed with which 18 countries have ratified the AfCFTA (out of the 22 required countries for it to enter into force) shows that the continent is undergoing a long overdue paradigm shift as countries seek to drastically change the way they trade amongst themselves and position themselves in the global economy.

AfCFTA forces African countries to look inwards for solutions to major challenges – unemployment, trade deficits, lagging industrialization, maximum value addition to primary commodity exports, price shocks, etc. – while presenting a

united block that strengthens the continent's bargaining power as it negotiates for better deals in the global marketplace.

In fact, all current indications point to the Agreement's long-term success, which in monetary terms means boosting Africa's economic output to around \$29 trillion by 2050, and increasing intra-Africa trade by 52.3%. The Agreement is also set to transform Africa from an exporter of agricultural commodities and raw materials to a supplier of finished manufactured goods. Proponents of diversification in trade argue that this would lead to sustained economic growth and employment generation. Intra-Africa trade also has a positive effect in terms of reducing the vulnerability of African economies to global shocks currently absorbed due to an over-reliance on imported commodities. Last, presenting a united voice would also empower the continent to trigger the renegotiation of multilateral trade agreements as the economies grow stronger and more harmonized in vision.

Skepticism because in their quest for integration and unity, African countries have, one too many times, drafted ambitious schemes – the Lagos Action Plan (LAP) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) to name the two most prominent ones – that have fallen considerably short of meeting the euphoria and expectations set at the grandiose signing ceremonies. Sadly, almost four decades after the LAP, Africa's intra-continental trade numbers remain disheartening. Currently, the value of intra-African imports amount to \$60.5 billion, which is barely 11% of total imports to the continent. Similarly, only 19% of the \$75.4 billion dollars African export is intra-African.

Furthermore, although theoretically AfCFTA speaks of the continent as one homogenous block, the reality is that major

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Operation Fenkil to liberate the Pearl of the Red Sea

Natnael Yebio W.

Each year, in the month of February, Massawa takes center stage in the heart of Eritrea as it commemorates Operation Fenkil.

History has come to many places, has stayed awhile and, after its departure, has rendered those places famous. In Eritrea's saga, perhaps no place has taken on greater historic importance than the Northern Red Sea city of Massawa. There, during three winter days, February 8-11, 1990, the Dergue's fate was sealed. When the operation was over, Mengistu's circle of trust was in disarray. Operation Fenkil would forever hold a place in the minds of all Eritreans.

On February 8, 1990, the EPLF forces began the offensive by cutting off the critical supply route from Massawa to the Asmara garrison. The surprise attack stunned the Ethiopian military and by the following afternoon the EPLF forces were in the suburbs of Massawa. On the third day of the offensive, the Eritrean forces captured the Ethiopian naval base near the town. The only remaining portions of the city to rid of Ethiopian troops were the islands.

To achieve this Eritrean forces used their nascent naval forces (mostly small gunboats) to attack from the sea during an artillery barrage. Using this artillery fire, the Eritrean armory moved onto the causeways that connected the islands with the mainland. The first of these tanks was destroyed by the Ethiopian garrison. However, they were eventually overcome by the EPLF. After this defeat, the remainder of the Ethiopian forces retreated to Ghinda.

Even after the loss of Massawa, the Ethiopians continued their aerial bombardment of the city. The civilian population was hardest hit as the EPLF forces had followed the Ethiopian troops to Ghinda.

The Ghinda front, which extended from Ghinda to Adi Roso and Northern Red Sea, baptized with names like 'Enda Bumba', 'Feres Sege', 'Gahayat', 'Enda Kewhi', 'Enda Harestay', 'Enda Misayl', and 'Shndwa' signified Eritrea's relentless march towards independence. The front withstood a non-stop heavy military offensive from the enemy from February 1990 up to May 1991. This front was used as a final frontier to completely destroy the enemy and ensure independence.

What made this operation a victory against all odds was the mismatch between the two forces. On one side, you had the best trained and largest army in Africa, which was well-equipped with all types of weapons bought at the expense of a starving people. The 1985 famine in Ethiopia did not deter the enemy from arming its soldiers to the teeth to fight a long and bloody war. On the other side, you had Eritrean freedom fighters, fewer in number, but tactically astute and highly resilient.

Operation Fenkil took a good 59 hours to complete. It involved a strong combination of ground troops, naval troops, and the mechanized front. The operation resulted in the surrender of 20,000 Ethiopian soldiers, the destruction of much of the Dergue's military hardware, and the liberation of Massawa and Ghinda.

The freedom fighters' resilience in the operation was astonishing. They strode to the port with great courage and determination. It was a time to no longer look back but to push forward. Independence was within touching distance and, boy, did they push and push. The enemy did not know what hit them - their tanks were dismantled and their ships were sunk. To the freedom fighters, the assaults meant the potential for death. If they had to assail the enemy, it should be done when success seemed assured, and the resultant victory was worth the cost.

I do believe that what the Ethiopian army learned at various battles fought against the Eritrean freedom fighters was that the tegadelti could show superhuman endurance if they wanted. I have seen many pictures of Operation Fenkil. They show how the freedom fighters poured their sweat to preserve their blood. Some show young fighters carrying heavy logs up along the narrow roads of Sigalet Ketan in a place where

the temperature can reach up to 50 degrees Celsius. The enemy moved with tanks and was accompanied by Stalin organs, MiG bombers, and bags of lies and propaganda.

The Ethiopian Kitaw division was supposed to punish the freedom fighters for their insolence, the Nebelbal was supposed to consume with a blazing fire those who resisted, and the Tewerwari was the panzer division or a deployment force. Alas, all disappeared in the hands of Sahel-trained wonders, along with their bizarre names and funny ideas.

Resistance was the only Eritrean weapon that the enemy dreaded. What is the use of napalm and ten-barreled mortars if the one you are tackling knows how to resist? It is the resistance of the scorpion which after an atomic blast in its surroundings continues to crawl, stinging right and left.

Endurance, self-sacrifice, and fortitude are commodities that are out of stock in this decadent world, but our tegadelti were made of these traits. They proved it when they relentlessly defended Nakfa and Sahel. And in the battle to win Massawa, they redefined the art of war and made it their own creation.

A lot has been said about the

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Dawn after a Long, Dark . . .

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bushes, and only coming back at dusk.

The Dergue's raids would only cease in June. At a special summit convened by US President Bush and USSR President Gorbachev, the two leaders discussed the issue of Massawa and called upon Ethiopia to allow the port to reopen, a request to which the Ethiopian government complied for a short while (although it continued to bomb other areas and would continue bombing the city later). According to a number of analysts, no other town was as badly damaged during the independence struggle as Massawa.

Ultimately, Operation Fenkil would prove to be one of the final major steps taken before Eritrea's independence. By early 1991, the EPLF intensified its attacks along the eastern coast to seize Assab and cut-off Ethiopian access to the sea. On May 21, it captured the city of Dekemhare, and Colonel Mengistu fled from Addis Ababa to Zimbabwe. Days later, the EPLF entered Asmara welcomed by jubilant crowds, signifying the end of the armed struggle for independence. Quickly, the plans for a historic, internationally-backed referendum were begun. Two years later, the Eritrean dream, which many had ignored, claimed was unattainable and impossible to achieve, or sought to extinguish, became reality. Eritreans, finally, were able to exercise their inviolable and inalienable right to self-determination in a free and fair referendum on the issue for which they had long campaigned and fought for: freedom and independence.

Dawn, coming after the darkness of night, signals the beginning of a new day. Similarly, Operation Fenkil and the Battle of Massawa, occurring exactly 29 years ago this weekend, arrived after decades of bloodshed and destruction. The Eritrean victory represented the beginning of the end of the darkness of Ethiopian colonial rule and meant that the dawn of Eritrean independence was on the horizon.

LOCAL NEWS

VARIOUS ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED BY ...



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since the unfolding of peace and cooperation in the Horn of Africa.

Ambassador Fessehazion's seminar in Bologna follows similar seminars he has conducted for nationals residing in Rome and Milan.

Meanwhile, in Germany, a photo exhibition titled, "Massawa: Undiscovered Eritrean Heritage", was officially opened in Berlin on 28 January.

At the event, in which archeologists, members of the Eritrean Embassy in Berlin, and others took part, the Dean of the University of Technical and Economics of Berlin gave a briefing on the efforts exerted to organize the

exhibition.

The exhibition includes photographs captured from 1995 to 1997, as well as other photos from 1995 to 2007.

Likewise, at an event organized in connection with the International Day of the Disabled, the National Union of Eritrean Women, other national organizations, and various individuals donated over €17,400 to the National Association of Eritrean War Disabled Veterans.

Similarly, Eritrean community members in Kaiserslautern, Germany contributed €9,200 in support to families of martyrs. According to reports, the nationals residing in Kaiserslautern have committed to supporting 23 families of martyrs.

EDAGA HAMUS HOSPITAL PROVIDING COMMENDABLE SERVICE

Edaga Hamus Hospital is providing commendable services, particularly in terms of ensuring maternal and child health, according to local beneficiaries.

Commending the services that they have received at the hospital during their deliveries, several women declared that introduction of surgical services has improved the capacity and scope of the services the hospital provides.

According to the director of the hospital, Dr. Kifleyesus Tedla, pre- and post-natal treatment, as well as vaccinations and other healthcare services for children under the age of 5 are some of main services of the hospital. Since July 2018, the hospital has also been offering surgical services, which has significantly benefited local residents.

In 2018, Edaga Hamus Hospital provided pre- and post-natal healthcare service to over 8,000 pregnant women.

Operation Fenkil to . . .

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endurance and fortitude of the Eritrean army in front of superior firepower and a far larger army, aided and supported by the Russians, East Germans, the Cubans, and the Yemenis.

The enemy, coming from more verdant and guest-friendly terrain, thought it was fighting on two fronts: the people and the land.

The Ethiopian soldiers wore boots, ate canned food, had helicopters to take them to the nearest hospital or clinic when wounded, drank beer, and had sweethearts (at the point of a gun) in every village or town under their control.

The freedom fighters wore sandals, ate weddi aker (sorghum mixed with weevils), mostly walked to the nearest surgical unit, drank contaminated water, and eschewed all the frivolities or luxuries associated with an easy life.

It was simply a bitter pill to swallow for the Dergue soldiers that they would never henceforth defeat the Eritrean freedom forces. "What do they have that we don't have?" shouted Mengistu. Nobody dared to tell him that those boys and girls over there had endurance and fortitude in large quantities, something that he couldn't obtain by traveling to the Soviet Union or East Germany. Massawa proved, once and for all, that independence was inevitable.

When the Dergue came to power, Massawa was on the receiving end of harsh mistreatment. During the period, two important events can be recalled: the Offensive of Salina to liberate Massawa in 1977 and Operation Fenkil in 1990. Today, the coastal city features special monuments that allow visitors and locals to remember those historical events.

AfCFTA: Towards Unity . . .

Continued from page 3

variations exist between its 55 member states. These include, for example, stage of economic development, physical and technological infrastructure, human capacity development, amongst others. In fact, research shows that some of the concerns that are holding back the majority of countries from jumping on the bandwagon revolve around the equitable distribution of the benefits of the Agreement among economies with such vast differences. Some argue that AfCFTA is set to benefit countries with well-oiled economies that are already producing locally, thus potentially setting the stage for market dumping of weaker economies. Others argue that slashing poor governments' key source of income, i.e. tariffs, would impact revenue and the ability

to meet social welfare obligations. Some arguments even go as far as sounding alarms against unbridled foreign interference and domination.

Yet another stumbling block seems to be related to the policies regarding trade in 'services', with countries voicing concerns about the conceptualization and quantification of this area, as well as the actual role 'services' play in regional and global value chains.

However, between hope and scepticism lies a thin, but very crucial, line called pragmatism.

This is where Ha-Joon Chang's argument comes into play. The economist and author of *Kicking Away the Ladder: Development Strategy in Historical Perspective*, argues:

"Allowing the developing countries to adopt the policies (and institutions) that are more suitable to their stages of development and to other conditions they face will enable them to grow faster, as indeed it did during the 1960s and the 1970s. This will benefit not only the developing countries but also the developed countries in the long run, as it will increase the trade and investment opportunities available to the developed countries in the developing countries."

In light of the current optimism and great hope that has swept across this continent, starting with the Horn of Africa, one is more tempted to be convinced that the long-term benefits of AfCFTA outweigh the short-term challenges a country may face if it joins. This is especially so considering the fact that gains made and best practices compiled through RECs are still admissible and these

regional integrations could, in a way, serve as a buffer area that would protect smaller economies.

Having said that, however, much homework remains to be done and any AfCFTA-related consideration must be premised on country-specific, nuanced studies that take context, development priorities, social and cultural makeup, human resources and capacity, and other factors, into consideration. Another key area to push for if a country chooses to join the AfCFTA club is the harmonization of goals within RECs so as to build trust and grow in a mutually complementary manner. This will reduce the likelihood of leaving some countries in the neighbourhood behind, which could eventually lead to other challenges – probably even conflict and insecurity.



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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Bisha Mining Share Company is inviting applicants for the following position for Bisha site project.

1. Position: Electrical & Instrumentation Superintendent
Department: Engineering
Number Required: One (01)
Contract Type: fixed (two years)
- Primary Purpose
 - Managing the Process plant Electrical and Instrumentation engineering section in relation to both maintenance and project works. This includes control of direct supervisors and tradesman to ensure operating targets and budgets set are achieved/exceed in compliance to company safety and health policies.
 - Main Function
 - Planning
 - Implementation
 - Reporting
 - Supervise/Manage team
 - Hands on electrical labour for both maintenance, shift coverage and/or construction works
 - Tasks and descriptions Expanded to Core Performance Areas
 - Planning
 - Participate in suggesting new ideas/proposals, as well as encouraging others to improve the Process Plant Engineering Division operation.
 - Understand and enforce Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's).
 - Implementation of the Plan
 - Ensuring all maintenance and repairs on the Plant are completed in line with plans to ensure an efficient and effective operation and maintenance of equipment and schedules, in order to achieve/exceed operational targets to maximise plant up-time.
 - Ensure safety requirements are fulfilled at the work place, including leading Field Level Risk Assessment (FLRA) and proper use of the appropriate PPE. Report any safety issues/incidents.
 - Comply with mine's cardinal rules and other safety, environmental or other rules and standards as directed. Ensure all hazards and risks are identified, reported and eliminated.
 - Coordinate the Plant Engineering Division resources (people; equipment; spares/consumables; and facilities to ensure processing utilization and cost management objectives meet or exceed targets.
 - Assists with managing the monthly expenses vs budgets.
 - Ensure production, quality and costs are in line with budget.
 - Ensure appropriate level of resourcing. (Maximise efficient use of materials, tools, lifting equipment).
 - Manage engineering/mechanical activities according to plans, legislation, client needs, best practices and principles to conform to standards, methods and procedures.
 - Carry out routine maintenance and visual inspections within area of responsibility to identify issues.
 - Follow Mine Maintenance Operating System.
 - Provide labour for maintenance, operations and construction for whole of site facilities.
 - Managing control loop tuning function and associated maintenance.

- Ensure that the Plant's "Information System" is updated.
- Ensure "Flash Reports" are accurate and submitted on time (daily; weekly; monthly).
- Carry out ICAM investigations and ensure any issues arising from such are dealt with in a timely manner.
- Managing the team
 - Provide technical support for the team, as and when required.
 - Provide training and mentoring for the team (especially safety standards and procedures).
 - Ensure all Process Plant Engineering Division personnel and contractors, work in accordance with relevant laws, regulations, company policies and procedures.
 - Promote good Process Plant Engineering Division behaviour. Motivate team to become "performance driven".
 - Lead team to improve current engineering processes.
- Unique Requirements/ Other Information
 - Candidate employment age 55 years maximum
 - Candidate must be physically & medically fit
 - Candidate must have full class A (or highest possible class in their respective countries) Electrical work qualifications recognized by an international standard body
 - Relevant Fixed plant (process plant) electrical experience MV ranging from 6.6kV up to 22kv
 - Overhead line distribution experience would be an added advantage 6.6kV up to 22kV
 - Must be able to perform MV switching from MV substation (Allen Bradley and Schneider)
 - Relevant experience on VSD & Liquid starters Motors up to 4 MW
 - Relevant LV experience 690Vac, 400VAC, 220VAC (inclusive of VSD,DOL)
 - Relevant process plant instrumentation maintenance experience.
 - Relevant process plant instrumentation and control loop cascade.
 - Relevant experience in PCS/DCS interface with instrumentation.
 - Prior experience working with multinational cultures
 - Must be able to work outside, exposed to Heat, wind and dusty environments
 - Must be able to work at Heights
 - Must have a Light vehicle license

Qualifications:
Technical College Electrical Diploma Or Degree.
International recognised trade certificate(Consisting of 4 years or above duration) of electrical for expatriates)
Knowledge and Experience:
15+ years relevant experience as hands on electrician.

- Reporting

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THE ROOF GARDEN
A MULTI CUISINE RESTAURANT
Happy Valentine's Day

On the occasion of Valentine's Day on the 14th of February 2019, we have arranged a grand special event to enjoy a remarkable Indian and Chinese buffet dinner with romantic environment at Nkf 600 per person (Inclusive of tax and service). Special discount for couples with 24 Hrs advance booking Nkf 500 each (Inclusive of tax and service)

*Come and Delight the event at the Roof Garden.
(Doors open at 18:45 Hrs)*

*For advance booking call
Tel:07115579/202625*

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10+ experience in mining and/ or oil & gas industry
5-10 years experience as hands on supervisor

Technical Skills	Behavioural Skills
Computer Literacy (MS Office – intermediate)	Communication (English)
Attention to detail	Assertiveness
Analytical skill	Interpersonal Relations
Electrical& maintenance experience	Integrity
Problem Solving skill	Prioritize Skill & multi-skilling
Supervisory experience	Ability to work towards strict deadlines
	High level of accuracy
	Coaching and team building skill.
	Self-motivation
	Cultural diversity experience

GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Place of Work:** Bisha Site
- **Salary:** As per company salary scale

Additional Requirement for Nationals

- Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provide evidence for release paper from Ministry of defense
- Present clearance paper from current/last employee
- Testimonial documents to be attached(CV, work experience credentials, a copy of your national Identity Card etc)
- Only shortlisted applicants would be considered as potential candidates for an interview.
- Application documents will not be returned back to sender
- All Applications should be sent through the post office.
- Deadline for application; 10 days from the day of publication in the Newspaper.
- Address: Please mail your applications to;
Bisha Mining Share Company,
P. O. Box 4276 Asmara, Eritrea
- Note to Eritrean applicants:
Please send a copy of your application to
Aliens Employment permits Affairs,
P. O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea.



Reminiscences of Fenkil at the Northern Red Sea Museum

Asmait Futsumbrhan

It is February again, which means our minds begin to reflect on Operation Fenkil. After Eritrea's victory in the battle, freedom seemed close enough to grasp. During the long war for liberation, the people of Eritrea sacrificed a lot and suffered greatly. As the saying goes, "Freedom is not free." Twenty nine years ago, history was made through Operation Fenkil and the doors to independence were flung open.

The Northern Red Sea Museum helps keep Eritrean history alive and tell our story. Today, we are happy to speak with Yohannes Ghebreyesus, head of cultural affairs of the Northern Red Sea region.

Thank you for joining us, Mr. Yohannes. Could you please tell us about the Northern Red Sea Museum and what it encompasses?

It is a pleasure. Currently, the Northern Red Sea Museum is serving as a branch of the Northern Red Sea Department of Cultural Affairs. It has five units: the natural, archeological, cultural, colonial, and the liberation struggle sections. The Liberation Struggle section deals with the Eritrean history for independence. The main goal of the museum is to preserve the region's history and heritage, both tangible and intangible. The museum takes part in different activities, such as the archeological excavations in the region, like Buia and Engel'ela. It also collaborates with many government and foreign institutions. The region features a large number of important archeological sites and the museum has a lot of the historical findings.

On the topic of preserving heritage, what exactly does the museum manage?

The community knows and values its heritage and does well to preserve it. What is important in preserving heritage is communication and strong team work among the government institutions. The region is large and almost every part of it can be regarded as heritage. For that reason, mindlessly constructing building could be very destructive. That is why we are trying to work with government institutions in many ways.

The archeological study was first carried out by the National Museum, the Northern Red Sea Museum and several Italian universities.



Currently, many government institutions are taking part in a number of studies. The findings are helping us to understand more about the region and they reflect the value and importance of our heritage. The Northern Red Sea, in general, is doing great in preserving various archeological sites. The communities have increased their understanding and awareness about the topic. In fact, they are becoming more and more interested, so much so that they bring in historical or archeological heritage items that they find. Local residents also pass on information about different findings that they come across. This is all very helpful for the museum and, of course, very important for preserving our nation's history and heritage.

Almost half of the museum is dedicated to objects related to Operation Fenkil, right?



The Northern Red Sea museum

The museum was first established as a temporary exhibition in 2000 to help celebrate the tenth anniversary of Operation Fenkil. After its establishment, the Northern Red Sea region and the National Museum worked hard to convert the temporary museum into a permanent institution. At the beginning, we had added a lot of material related to armed struggle. Especially this year, we were able to add various tools the freedom fighters used for education and medical purposes. Besides everything else in this museum, there is a pilot project being conducted in Nakfa. It is being sponsored by Eritreans who reside in Sweden. The project aims to preserve the trenches. So far, we have worked on about two kilometers of our trenches and approximately one kilometer of trench of the enemy. We also did six kilometers underground.

What is the role of the Northern Red Sea Museum in transmitting awareness of Eritrea's history and heritage to the next generation?

The museum organizes activities such as making documentary films, songs, and dramas which reflect different aspects of Eritrean history. We also help organize school fieldtrips to the museum or nearby sites, such as the Sahaba Mosque, the first mosque ever to be built in the world. This allows the students to see what the region has in terms of history and heritage. We also have billboards to encourage guests to pay the museum a visit. Of course, we also try to transmit our history through short clips and documents which we present at different national events. Importantly, many of our activities involve the close cooperation and support of different government institutions, such as the NUEYS (National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students).

What does Fenkil mean to you?

Fenkil, for every Eritrean, is the opening of the door to independence. I was young at the time but I clearly remember everything. All the dreadful things our people had to go through. It took a lot of precious lives. Operation Fenkil was the ray of hope that the people needed. That is why everyone should come together to enjoy and commemorate the day at Massawa with all the programs

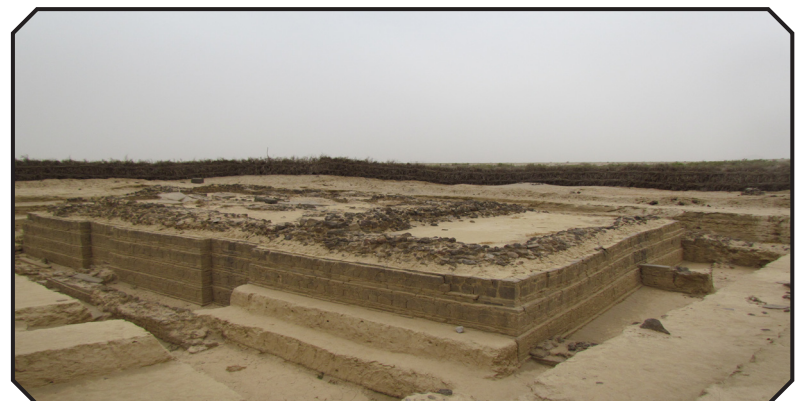
that are being organized.

Is there anything you would like to say before we conclude our interview?

Our history is our identity. It is important to know our culture, values, and heritage. Massawa is a place of history, culture, and enjoyment. Massawa is a museum by itself. Everything here tells history. Happy Fenkil week to everyone.



Massawa after independence



Adulis, an archeological site



Sahaba mosque, the first mosque built in the Africa



Trenches of Nakfa which are being restored