

## CABINET OF MINISTERS HOLDS MEETING

The Cabinet of Ministers held a meeting at State House on September 7 to review progress and deliberate on new programmes in the sectors of education and health.

Access to education in all levels – elementary, middle/high school as well as tertiary - has quadrupled

geographic distribution of schools throughout the country is another vital policy objective that the Ministry of Education has pursued vigorously in the past years through the funneling of substantial

In this context, the Cabinet of Ministers discussed ways and



administrative frameworks in all the schools. The optimal alignment of education with the Government's overall development strategies and objectives was another issue discussed in greater depth. In this regard, the Cabinet of Ministers stressed the need to buttress the ongoing internal review underway by the Ministry of Education in all these areas with an external audit as well as through additional inputs of relevant Ministries and sectors.

Regarding the health sector, the

Cabinet of Ministers reviewed efforts exerted to provide health services to the public through expanding health facilities across the country; various programmes launched to control communicable and non-communicable diseases; the expansion of vaccination programmes; and ensuring the

detail.

In the health sector too, a comprehensive review will be undertaken to gauge the standards of equipment of regional and referral hospitals, the human resources development programmes and related parameters.



in aggregate terms in the past 25 years. Total school enrollment in the academic year 2016-17 was over 740,000. Gender equity is growing at a substantial pace with overall female student enrollment hovering at around 43%. Even

means of enhancing the quality of education, the expansion of technical and vocational schools, the wider application of information technology, other supportive facilities as well as better infrastructural and



health of the public in general and that of mothers and children in particular. Progress and challenges of human resources development in the sector; supply of medicines and status of domestic drug production were also examined in greater

At the end of the session, President Isaias Afwerki gave a briefing to the Cabinet of Ministers on recent diplomatic developments regarding simmering tensions and trends in the wider Horn of Africa Middle Eastern region.

## CALL FOR INTEGRATED EFFORT TO ERADICATE MALARIA

The Ministry of Health called for joined efforts of concerned government and public institution as well the public to eradicate malaria.

Mr. Selam Mihreteab Head of Malaria Control in the ministry, said that owing to the strong efforts being exerted, the prevalence of malaria has been reduced by 90% and that concerted efforts will be conducted to fully eradicate the disease by 2030.

According to the study conducted, the use of impregnated bed nets which previously was at 50% in 2012, has now been reduced to 30%. Mr. Selam Mihreteab called for proper usage of the bed nets.

Indicating that health facilities across the country are primed to provide services to the public, Mr. Selam, called for immediate report to nearby health facilities upon witnessing symptoms of the disease. He also called for conducting sustainable environmental sanitation programs.

Documents from the Ministry of Health reveal that, in the past two weeks alone, 1 million 700 impregnated bed nets have been distributed.

In another related news, a seminar on prevention malaria prevalence and other communicable diseases that are negatively affecting pregnant women and children in particular was recently conducted in Areza sub-zone.

At the seminar in which village health representatives took part, briefings on the causes and consequences of communicable diseases and the importance of environmental sanitation in preventing them were presented by health experts.

The head of information and promotion at the Health Ministry branch in the Southern region, Ms. Beletesh Gebreab called on residents that are living in potential malaria occurrence areas to conduct sustainable environment sanitation and clear suspected malaria breeding swamps. She also called for proper use of impregnated mosquito bed nets.

The administrator of the sub-zone, Mr. Andemeskel Adhanom on his part called on the public to follow the advice of health professionals and stop practicing harmful traditional practices.

## ERITREAN NATIONALS IN ATLANTA HOLD DISCUSSION ON NATIONAL ISSUES

Eritrean nationals residing in Atlanta and its environs recently conducted a seminar aimed at strengthening organizational capacity and backing up the national development endeavors.

At the event, the Charge d'Affairs at the Eritrean Embassy, Mr. Berhane Gebrehiwet said that

thanks to the strong resilience of the Government and People Eritrea, external conspiracies against the homeland have been foiled. Mr. Berhane further called on the nationals to develop their professional and financial capacity as well as productivity to support the national development programs.

The participants discussed on current situations in the homeland and the progress of development programs nationwide. They expressed conviction to live up to the nation's expectations.

The event was highlighted by artistic performance by Salina music group from Eritrea.





# Development

## Education for All: Success of Eritrea's Fight Against Illiteracy

**Mela Ghebremedhin**

This powerful quote is translated in Eritrea's vision of "Education for All" requires commitment, strong policies and engagement of communities to make it a reality. It was a vision inherited from the time of the armed struggle and continues today with the fight against illiteracy by including adult and non-formal education in the curriculum. On the occasion of the International Literacy Day observed on September 8th, let's assess the case of Eritrea.

As proclaimed in the 1994 National Charter, "Education is the foundation of development in Eritrea. To provide equal educational opportunity means to provide equal opportunity for development. We must widely expand education so that our people can be free from ignorance, acquire knowledge and skills through various means, and enhance their productive capacity to build their country. Education is a fundamental right to which every Eritrean is entitled" (pp.23-24).

With its vision and guiding principles inscribed in its National Charter, Eritrea quickly drafted policies on education including

the importance in prioritizing literacy and access to education to all without any discrimination of religion, ethnicity or region. With more than 80% of the population being illiterate, the Government of Eritrea promoted adult education to enable people to read, write and have numeracy skills and enhance their contribution to the micro and macro development of the country.

Mr. Tkabo Aymut, Head of the Division of Curriculum Planning and Development of Adult Education at the Ministry of Education, explained the benefits of adult education at micro and macro levels. At micro-level, citizens are able to be active participants within their community as well as understanding their environment in which an educated household would benefit the society as a whole. At macro-level, citizens at the working age group become active participants in human capital, health, nutrition and development of institutions.

Implementing the vision of "Education for All" requires the creation of non-formal and adult learning opportunities nationwide in addition to formal education. Mr. Weldu Berhe, Head of Monitoring at the Department of Adult Education and Media at the Ministry of Education, said that the Government put key principles on this matter under the National Policy on Adult Education (NPAE) drafted in 2005. The principles promote the use of mother tongue as the medium of instruction, target the 15-45 age group of the population, give priority to the disadvantaged groups, maximize the utilization of resources of formal school to promote adult education and training, and support the provision of learning materials free of charges. Those guidelines were also promoted in the Eritrea National Education Policy Draft of 2003 stipulating Eritrea's commitment to lifelong learning and education as a fundamental human right.

The policy is delivering positive results reducing illiteracy rate in



**Mr. Weldu Berhe**

Eritrea to less than 20% compared to the average 50% of illiterate on the African continent according to the Ministry of Education's figures of 2016. This important progress was made possible through a focus program which began in 2000. The focus program is a community-based approach in which "the person who learns should one day be able to teach others", Mr. Weldu said. Literacy course is the initial aim. However, life skills and vocational training and even

for instance, most of the teachers in primary schools are products of those literacy centres who took the opportunity to continue their studies, said Mr. Tkabo.

From 2000 to 2016, adult education and non-formal education in all six regions allowed about one million citizens to enrol and whom 800,000 of them completed their courses (MoE, 2016). This achievement was recognized as one of the 2015 Millennium Development Goals and is in good path to be achieved under the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

The positive impact of the community approach made citizens active participants and responsible in ringing the alarm if any signs of illiteracy were identified within their surroundings. Mr. Weldu explained the importance of drawing own national policy and project by giving the example

was provided", Mr. Weldu said. This example was quickly taken care of and allowed the Ministry of Education to revitalize its plan to fight illiteracy afterwards.

The literacy program for adults also allowed policy makers to witness that many women come



**Mr. Tkabo Aymut**

with their children aged 6-8 to learn how to read and write by their side. The project named, "Nearyom", initiated in 2002, was launched to informally educate the children as well as their mothers



opportunities to further studies are also available nationwide. Many have the motivation to pursue vocational training while some aim at getting higher education by attending evening classes. Former students in literacy centres became teachers themselves within their communities. In Afabet subzone,

of external stakeholder such as the World Food Program (WFP), which had a "work for food" project pushing people to work in exchange for food. "A few years back, this program had a negative impact on adult education... many were dropping out as they were tempted by the fact that food

at a faster speed to give them a chance to catch up with their counterparts in formal education. This project was popular in rural areas and especially in the Gash Barka region with about

**C**ontinued on page 6

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## SpotLight

# Advancing Agrarian Experience and Farms

*Semir Seid*

In the old days agricultural endeavor was manually oriented and much of the burden was left to a farmer. The harder the farmer worked the more productive he became. It all depended on him and on the tools he possessed to double the production every time. But today technology is being used as a major assisting hand in agricultural activity.

Modern irrigation based agriculture, which was introduced to Eritrea with the emergence of the Italians, aims to maximize production with the input of minimal resources.

In line with the government's support to boost agricultural activities in the country, farmers also have gone through a lot of charges, treating themselves with modernity and upgrading their activities with technologies. It is a basic fact that Eritrean society has gone a long journey in agriculture. People take it as an important development with deep experience, passing it from generation to generation.

Mr. Daniel Hagos (53) from Demas in Sub zone of Ghindae, started cultivating 20 hectare of land a decade ago (earlier used to be mountainous landscape) where he grows 4000 orange, lemon, tangerine permanent trees as well as tomato and pepper in summer times. When asked how he manages to farm in such an uncomfortable landscape, the workaholic farmer replied "the effort had to be titanic but the goal counts". He is a man with a philosophy of "No pain, no gain". Great results are achieved only by effort and Mr. Daniel managed to level this amount of land using his personally owned tractors and excavators, creating 50 meters of bench terraces from the mountains and hills and properly modifying the river sides to get advantage of the underground water to his farm lands.

Demas is a mountainous and hilly area with abundant streams for most of the months; yet it has been less comfortable for conducting agricultural activities. The town has some one hundred

farmers who have been farming within the confines of the mountains.

The vital step to achieve your goal in agriculture is conserving soil and water; the priorities of the policies of the government. The soil has to keep its richness and the water has to be used in an efficient manner. That is what this farmer has done.

As success is achieved by hard work and fighting with natural challenges, this farmer turned hills into plains, enabled vegetation in rocky area and created one of the ultimate social values upon people. The landscape required huge financial and human resources to get to its current status and shape.

Energy, as in other activities,

should use the same procedures for their activities. Mr. Daniel solved the water shortage he faced back in the days by introducing 30 solar power panels and activated the flow of sustainable water supply into the fields. The benefits from using renewable source of energy such as solar enables farmers to stop using oil for their generators that resulted in avoiding both air and noise pollution and in minimizing cost. Introducing renewable source of energy like solar or wind in the agriculture sector will be a major relief for farmers which will have a positive impact on the economy. Using this means is not a new phenomenon but sustaining it would be an important lesson for farmers. It boosts efficiency and enhances productivity in a remarkable way. Integrating technology with agriculture is a

and effort changed the place into a fertile agricultural field, while, gaining experience from senior farmers in the town he achieved over eight major projects he had planned in previous years. Impossible is just a word for such farmers. All they do is dare to do. They aim to be productive cultivators of present with the long sight to the future. When struggle with Mother Nature is even out of control, still a farmer's role in making and restructuring landscapes is vital when talking about the quantity of yield production. Commitment to what one aims and believes surely pays off as it changes life and lifestyles of people.

Calculation wise experts in the Ministry Of Land, Water and Environment indicate that one solar panel installed in the field



*Mr. Daniel Hagos*

replacing the energy source was all positive and productive.

Moreover, this man is engaged in dairy production with around 30 Holstein cattle he owns in his backyard. Doing so, it is a must for him to grow green plants for animal feed. When investors such as Mr. Daniel invest their cash in the fields, they also create an opportunity for labor division in the wide fields they are in charge of. People are recruited for separated tasks such as: watering plants, structuring farm lands, nurturing and cultivating the cultivated area, removing weeds, protecting plantations from insects and pest and further tasks.

While answering why he particularly chose to cultivate the mountainous area when he still could have done it in other plain areas, Daniel, told us that every farmer chooses a land for a reason and his was based on pertinent researches. He said he knew that the agricultural estate area had a railway road and that he eventually hopes to turn it into an attractive site, integrating the farm and the rail road for future agro-tourism.

The farmer highly reminds citizens to be inspired to invest within their country rather than establishing companies across borders; so future generations could benefit from homegrown resources.

Areas such as Demas are mountainous, people would never prefer them for farming but for livestock herding. However, Mr. Daniel proved previous conventions wrong and is ultimately growing worth



is also imminent in agriculture. To back up his efforts, Mr. Daniel replaced his oil-based source of energy with renewable source of energy that is solar powered. Introducing this type of technology into agriculture has enabled farmers to do their farming activities with more ease. Even though introducing this means of energy requires sound investment and technical know-how for its operation, it still is accessible and affordable. The farmer recommends farmers

sign of reaping more production.

Mr. Daniel aims to use the solar energy any time within the 24 hours. Currently, he is only using it in the day time as the solar panels do not have power saving batteries or no water tanks that can reserve pumped water to use whenever he needs. The early fifties relentless farmer also uses his efforts in constructing road ways that lead to the farm lands with his machineries.

Mr. Daniel with his own will

is able to generate 305 watt. This means the 30 solar panels available have the performance of generating 9.1 kilo watt of energy to power up 5.5 kilo watt water pump. Later, these pumps can propel 25 meter cube (25 liters) per hour (6.9 liters per second) of water to an elevation of 80 meters. The plan of the farmer is to build high elevated water reservoirs while at present he is feeding the farm directly from the generators. Such attempt avoids air pollution caused by fuel generators, thus

*Continued on page 5*





# "Hoye Hoye!" a St. John's Day Ritual

**Natnael Yebio W.**

We call it Kudus Yohanns (St. John, the beloved disciple of Christ). According to the traditional or Ge'ez New Year, we are now in 2009!

For Eritrean children, Kudus Yohanns is a par excellence. New Year means new clothes and lots of meat to boot. And nobody cares about the calendar.

New Year resolution doesn't exist in our culture. Here, people simply ask God to bless the New Year for plenty of food and for peace.

The New Year in the Geez calendar, commonly known in Eritrea as St. John, is celebrated on the 11th day of the month of September. Although the Geez New Year is a religious holiday, it is also a day to celebrate the coming of spring as it also marks the end of the rainy season and the beginning of a whole new season to collect the harvest.

Traditionally, the elderly people know Saint John's day as the Ge'ez New year. How come? You ask! Well, Eritreans, officially use the Gregorian calendar while the elderly mostly resort to the Julian calendar mainly for the purpose of keeping track of traditional and religious holidays.

The celebration of this New Year dates back decades to the early settlers. Reasons for celebrating this new beginning in September is said to be of biblical proportions: in the Old Testament, it is believed that after the great floods, the new season begun in the month of September.

What makes kudus Yohanns interesting to children though, apart from clothes and the slaughter of a sheep or chicken, is the torch-burning event conducted on the eve of the holiday known as Hoye-Hoye.

Traditionally, a fire is lit at sunset on the eve of St. John's Day. The firewood is collected for days beforehand, and prayers and blessings are said as the fire is lit. There are also other traditions associated with the fire, including

walking around the fire three times and throwing a pebble into the center of the fire with a special prayer, and also jumping over the embers of the fire as it died to get new endeavors off to a good start or to rid themselves of their own weaknesses and inadequacies.

When I was a kid, we used to light dried Kolkal (cactus) or a shig (bundle of dried twigs) and go around asking for "treat or trick" just the way they do it at Halloween in America.

You go door to door shouting

forward and three times backward and would give us their blessings. But we valued their financial contribution more than their hollow blessing.

"It is not the same in the village," objects my aunt.

She told me that in the village the "treat or trick" part is absent. There, hoye hoye has more of a spiritual and superstitious nature.

On the eve of Kuddus Yohanns, the villagers light their shig and circumambulate the village with

home and recites the Akohkay (A bad spirit repellent invocation).

Akokhay, Akokhay

May the cooking pot for wild herb vanish.

And be replaced by a pot of buttered porridge.

Once every house is disinfected with similar recitation, you are guaranteed a year of plenty and prosperity. And the social part of the New Year celebration begins with the slaughtering of a

Rigat on the other hand is a waitress in a snack bar in Asmara. She has been in the profession almost for a year. By this time she must have saved enough to go back to her home village to see her beloved parents carrying all sorts of gifts. After all, it is the New Year; and the family deserves all the respect and love any God fearing child feels appropriate to do in this special day.

So, Rigat gets ready to make this pilgrimage and buys sugar for the family, coffee for the addicted mother, a bottle of Areki for Daddy (they say it is good against malaria), Omo for dirty...., pair of shoe for Senait, exercise books for Haile and Michael who are both in Grade two, and some candles for the neighbor kids.

Did she remember Addey Gu'esh? That old decrepit of an aunt who refused to help the family in its hours of need! Well, just to please the Almighty. A kilo of Sugar.

But Rigat's pilgrimage has some ulterior motives. The gold ring and necklace she bought out of her savings and which she is now wearing, plus the blue jeans, the green t-shirt and converse shoes are meant to make a statement. Here I come, my village. As for my old friends, just eat your hearts out wherever you are.

Rigat has been all her life humiliated by her village classmates. She is from a poor family. Now is the time to silence the evil whispering. She has made it!

So every Ge'ez New Year is a day of reckoning as far as Rigat and her past troubled life is concerned.

At the other end of Asmara also lives Addey Gu'ey, a lone wolf in her declining years. She hates small kids and is not slow at lashing out at any Array kids who dare to enter her house uninvited.

The neighborhood children are hesitant whether to visit her



hoye-hoye and reciting old chants whose origin are shrouded in mystery.

Belay o Belay, Ho in the middle of the lake,

Ho, Planting Javelin, Ho

Ready to fight, Ho

The family that opened its door to welcome the night hollers would shell out a couple of Nakfa which made us very happy.

"Come on, step across the burning torch," we would exhort the merry gentlemen. And they would step across the flaming and smoking kolkal three times

the village church as the focal point. Then they all go to the open ground or baito in the village and build a bonfire invoking God to forgive them their sins and bless them with good harvest and a time of peace.

And after reciting the Abuna Zebenemayat (the prayer) in unison, they disperse and go home. The stepping across a burning kolkal by the family is an event conducted by the members of the family and not again for money, as is done in the big Eritrean towns like Asmara.

In the village, a neighbor's kid arrives with a burning torch early in the morning, gets inside your

livestock.

Meanwhile, the women and young ladies during the last week of the year gather in big groups and go down the river nearby, cheerfully singing traditional melodies and dance to it as they spend a fun time playing with the water. It's definitely the time of the year in which the women in-between families and neighbors strengthen their bonds. This week is known as "Pagumen": unlike the western one in the geez calendar we have 12 months of 30 days each, so at the end of the year the remaining days are traditionally gathered up to make up a week of Pagumen, right before the holy day of St John.

**C**ontinued on page 5



# LOCAL NEWS

## SEMINAR FOR VOLUNTARY MEMBERS OF VILLAGES' REHABILITATION



The Ministry of Labor and Human Welfare branch to the Central region held a seminar for 138 members of villages' rehabilitation program, with a view to strengthen their capacity.

Mr. Yosief Tesfai, Director of the branch, pointed out that the objective of the seminar was to share experiences as well as identify achievements gained and challenges encountered and ways of solving them.

Mr. Yosief also called on the participants to consolidate residents in their respective villages to conduct sustainable soil and water conservation and environmental sanitation programs in order to redress the environment and ensure the health of the public.

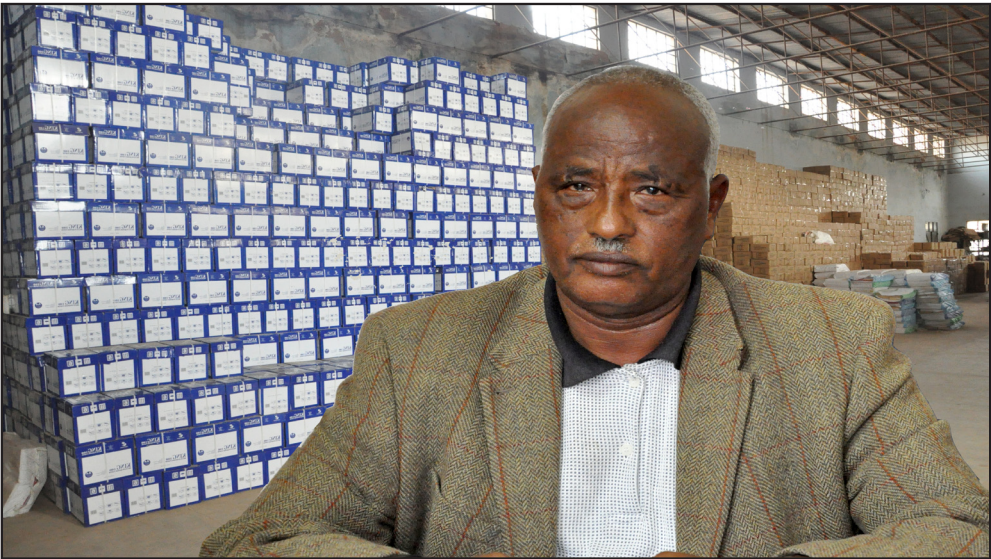
At the seminar, issues including general understanding on psychological problems, challenges that could occur in work places and their solutions, and other pertinent issues were brought discussion.

## DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOL MATERIALS AT FAIR PRICE

The Director General of Administration and Finance at the Ministry of Education, Mr. Gebrehannes Hagos indicated that school materials are being distributed to schools across the country at fair price.

Mr. Gebrehannes pointed out that the distribution of school materials is aimed to avoid challenges that might arise in the teaching and learning process and that in the past ten years the Government has spent every year nearly 32 million Nakfa to that end.

The 2017/18 academic year is expected to begin on 18 September in the highlands and 28 September in the low lands of the country.



## "Hoye Hoye!" . . .

**C**ontinued from page 4

house or not for the traditional hoye-hoye performance.

"Do you think she will welcome us?" asks one of the kids.

"Let's Try!"

"But she has a bad temper especially when she sees kids," warns another kid.

"I know last year, after all the songs we and and the kolkal we burned, she gave us only five Nafka and told us to scram."

"Doesn't hurt to try anyway..."

So they all go to Addey Gu'ey's house and with their kolkal burning hot, they start to sing.

Hoye Hoye

Addey Gu'ey, Our Old Mother

Please come out with an open hand

To reward your beloved children

Addey Gu'ey comes out from the dark room where she usually stays hidden from curious eyes. She calls the kids to step

forward and stretches an open hand.

The kids see something shimmering in her creased palm.

One of the kids with a fearless heart goes nearer and grabs the Nakfa. He couldn't believe his eyes.

This is Fifty Nakfa.

"Ruhus Beal Kudus Yohanns Addey Gu'ey!"

"Go away! I don't want to be disturbed!"

"Happy St.John's day just the same!" shout back the kids and go back home very happy.

On the other hand, on the eve of Saint John's day, fathers slaughter a sheep, a goat or at least a hen. Most people prefer a sheep to a goat but some argue a goat is much cheaper and has much more meat. Mothers or daughters take the last steps of brewing Swa, homemade beer; bake Injera, thin flat spongy sour bread preferably made of Taff flour and cook Zgni, a hot meat stew. Green straw (Setti) is spread on the floor and maybe a soothing incense smoke fills the room. The whole event is very exciting and every family member contributes at some point during the whole process.

## Advancing Agrarian . . .

**C**ontinued from page 3

answering market demands. The moral and material support for this farmer, as well as motivating farmers, is provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry Of Land, Water and Environment, The Development and Investment Bank and the Northern Red Sea Administration. Friends, family and loved ones prove themselves extremely

helpful too. Mr. Daniel is optimistic for further support of canals and water tanks directing to preserve his journey with top gear.

Similar cases like Mr. Daniel are living examples of sustainable national development. They are gradually growing in number in various sectors becoming major factors to ensure food security in the country.



The agricultural farms in Demas



## INVITATION FOR NATIONAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES (INCS)

Please clearly state our Bid ref no in all future correspondence on this INCS .

— UNHCR – INCS  
# 01/2017

22/08/2017

UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)

CONSULTANCY SERVICE TO  
CONDUCTING NUTRITION SURVEY AT UMKULU REFUGEE  
CAMP (NEAR MASSAWA)

The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Eritrea invites qualified consultants to undertake Nutrition survey in Umkulu Refugee camp, in Northern Red Sea zone. Hence, interested Firms/Consultants are required to submit their proposals.

Important Requirements

1. Bidders are expected to submit two proposals (technical and financial).
2. Two separate documents containing technical and financial

proposals should be sealed in one big envelope with CLEARLY MARKED as “**Offer for Invitation for Nutrition Consultancy Services**”.

3. The big envelop should bear on its outside the bid reference “UNHCR – INCS # 01/2017”.
4. One original and a copy of the Bidder’s offer should be included therein.
5. The envelop should be sent to the attention of:

**UNHCR Office**

**Admin and Finance Unit**

**P.O.Box 1995**

**Asmara, Eritrea.**

6. Bids received in any other way will be INVALIDATED.

Review of the submitted technical and financial proposals will be done in the office by UNHCR - No public opening of the proposals will be held.

**Deadline for submission of proposals: 15 days from the date of advertisement.**

Other details and attachments can be collected from the UNHCR office Admin and Finance Unit.

# Education for All . . .

*C*ontinued from page 2

30,000 beneficiaries. Other literacy and lifelong education programs showcased in the 2016/2017 school year about 40,000 nationwide 32,000 of whom were women. Gash Barka region had 17,000 participants, Northern Red Sea 10,000, and Anseba 5,000. (MoE, 2016). The Central region is close to zero of illiteracy rate whereas additional focus is needed in the Southern Red Sea and Gash Barka regions.

The positive impact of adult learning and non-formal education is the result of massive efforts in fighting against cultural barriers especially against women and girls. Moreover, the adult population tend to have an attitude that suggests “why would I learn, my kids are learning, for me it’s too late”. Such an attitude was common and required strong campaigning by civil society groups such as the National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW) and the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS) and local governments and community leaders. “Making adults understand that they are members of the workforce and that we need them to learn as we can’t wait for their children for 20 years; in other words,



making them learn is a short-cut”, said Mr. Tkabo. That is why adult education primarily focuses on those aged 15 to 45 and there has been high participation among the 25 to 45 years of age accounting for over 47% of all participants during the period of 2011 to 2015 (MOE, 2016).

Achieving development by providing education for all is a key pillar for development. Enhancing community participation and creating a sense of

ownership among citizens have shown results in adult education. Those results need to be highlighted and require strong monitoring and continued efforts to bring the rate of illiteracy of illiteracy to zero and be an example for the African continent by gradually lowering the number of illiterate people to 10% within the next 5 to 10 years.

In view of this, the Ministry Education

has embarked on future projects by creating learning centres and by providing more textbooks in all languages to all parts of the country and by collaborating with civil societies such as the NUEW in having literacy course within their training centres in all regions. Educating the people is an ongoing process and lifelong learning and training continue to be part of Eritrea’s macro-policy towards sustainable development and growth.



## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Hagaz Agro Technical School Invites Qualified applicant for the following vacant posts

### 1. Soil Science Teachers

**Number:** 2

**Qualification:** BA degree in Land & Environment resources or related fields

**Age:** 23-60

**Salary:** Scale is as per the newly revised government scale plus Accommodation is provided by the school.

### 2. Animal Science Teachers

**Number:** 2

**Qualification:** BA Degree in Animal Science or related fields

**Age:** 23-60

**Salary:** s as per the newly revised government scale Plus Accommodation is provided by the school.

### 3. Agro Mechanics Teacher

**Number:** 1

**Qualification:** BA degree in Mechanical Engineering or Agro Engineering

**Age:** 23-60

**Salary:** is as per the newly revised government scale plus Accommodation is provided by the school.

### 4. English Teachers

**Number:** 2

**Qualification:** BA degree in English

**Age:** 23-60

**Salary:** is as per the newly revised government scale plus Accommodation is provided by the school.

### 5. Chemistry Teachers

**Number:** 2

**Qualification:** BA degree in Chemistry

**Age:** 23-60

**Salary:** is as per the newly revised government scale plus Accommodation is provided by the school.

### 6. Librarian

**Number:** 2

**Qualification:** Diploma or Certificate in Library Information or related fields

**Age:** 23-50

**Salary:** is as per the newly revised government scale plus Accommodation is provided by the school.

### 7. Dorm Master For Boys

**Number:** 2

**Qualification:** Ability to Work and Understand Young Boys

**Age:** 30-60

**Salary:** as per the Hagaz Agro Technical Scale

Interested Applicants should submit Their CV and photo copies of relevant supporting documents to Hagaz Agro Technical School Office within 10 days from the date of publication on the newspaper. Applicants should provide certificate of completion/exemption from National Service Obligation. For Any information call on **07117245**

## 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 Diesel Motor Driven Centrifugal Pump, Pipes and Accessories**
- 2 Eligible bidders should have a professional Certificate and renewed License for the year of 2016/17 appropriate for this Supplies.
- 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 October 3/2017 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. Partial lot shall 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 October 3, 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 & Compensation which the bidder may incurred in Preparing its bid.





# On the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Dept. of Anthropology and Archeology...

**Billion Temesghen**

In the past 26 years of independence one of Eritrea's major undertakings has been educational advancement and so now from one university there are eight colleges of several disciplines.

It has been 20 years since the department of Anthropology and Archeology was introduced in the Eritrean Higher Institution system. It produced many graduates of whom some are contributing to the discovery and conservation of historic wonders while some others are teaching and nurturing young future professionals. Eritrea is located in the intersection point of three ancient civilizations it acclaims its substance in connecting the history of several civilizations: Africans, Arabs and maybe Europeans.

In celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dept. of Anthropology and Archeology we speak today to the department's former student and today's instructor: Dr. Robel Haile.

## ***How did you end up studying archeology?***

The passion started when I was very young. My history teacher in high school (Mr. Alem Gebrekal) was a big inspiration. His history classes were so fascinating that every student would end up being a history enthusiast. And then when I joined Asmara University, in the first semester of the freshman year, we had a common course of anthropology and there I came across another great inspirational man. If you are an Eritrean student then you would know Professor Abebe. You know how his classes are; he literally reminds every student that there is so much to be done in Eritrea and of the paramount importance Eritrean anthropology and archeology hold. Therefore Professor Abebe's class made me ardently want to be an archeologist and, in some small way, make a difference.

## ***What about the biggest impact of them all; I know you have an experience related to your filed, which is worth sharing.***

I am sure you have heard about Metera. It is an important monument with inscriptions dating back to safely some 2000 years, and that's the least. I was still a teenager when the Ethiopian offensive broke on May 25<sup>th</sup> 2000. For the 3<sup>rd</sup> offensive I enrolled in the military while I was semester of my freshman year. My unit had been deployed in Senafe for the 3<sup>rd</sup> offensive in 2000. I was 19 years old then and I had already sat in Professor Abebe's class. So I realized that we were in one of the historically rich zones of Eritrea. Of course it is a luxury to even think of archeology amidst the war but often times some classes would flash in my head as we moved around Senafe. Like everyone else there, and the people of Eritrea in general,

we were so angry that a new era of invasions was instigated when we just had come out of a long armed struggle for independence. Anyways, as we were the last unit to withdraw from Senafe I walked close by the famous monument of Metera and I was so excited to have walked so close to Metera. We reached Adi Keih, and then I heard on the news that Ethiopian soldiers destroyed Metera. I was so sad. I was one of the last people who saw Metera standing for the last time. I did not know whether I was going to get out of the war alive but I thought "if I ever do, I will make sure I will tell people about how history was bestially destroyed.

That move made me want to learn archeology and stand for the remnants of humanity. I mean, Ethiopia does have knowledge of the importance of archeology. Haile Selasie was the one to set an archaeology institute for the preservation of cultural heritages in collaboration with many French professionals, and yet again, they just blew a TNT bomb and destroyed something that could have been a link to their own heritage. In few words I was angry but mostly sad.

## ***What happened to the monument?***

There is an international norm for UNESCO to protect such heritage, so it did protect it, but it was kind of late because it took them some two or three years. The reason was that the Ethiopian soldiers had planted bombs in the surrounding area.

## ***And what happened to you?***

I went back to school and joined the Department of Anthropology and Archeology; I graduated with the 4<sup>th</sup> batch. My dream job was to be a member of the junior faculty,



sort of a GA, and teach. In 2010 I went to Japan, studied in the Osaka University and got my PhD. I want to mention another professor I admire greatly, Prof. Eisei Kurimoto and JICA office in Asmara. Now, I am back home teaching archeology in the college of Arts and Social Sciences of AdiKeih, CASS. Every time I teach I fill full filled. After all, I came a long way, and a big part of my life is connected to the Department of Anthropology and Archeology. An emotional journey, no doubt.

## ***Now give us a hint of how your department handles the teaching learning process.***

Every college in Eritrea is located strategically; our colleges are located in places that are pertinent to the fields of studies housed in them. Location is a smart lead for students to incorporate theory with what they see and experience on the ground. Likewise, CASS is situated in Adikeih, one of the archeologically rich areas of our country. There

are two ethnic groups there, which is a plus to the students of social sciences and history, while students of geography can benefit from the marvelous topography, landmarks and the vegetation of the place.

I represent the Department of Anthropology and Archeology, which I love so much. I would say that it is one of the thriving departments of Eritrean Institutions of Higher Education. The department was founded in 1997. It started so small and the good news is that it has stood successfully for so many years. We celebrate this September its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Speaking of its current state, I would say that, the potential is immense. In other departments the faculty members are mostly expats. Differently. In our department we mostly are Eritrean nationals. The fact that gradually the number of Eritrean faculty members is growing gives me pleasure.

The students are extremely brilliant. I think we have to work harder in triggering their curiosity

because I believe that in comparison with foreign students, the curiosity of our students is a bit lower. However, they are extremely committed to their studies and are very responsible. The way our department handles the teaching learning process is rather fascinating. We have camps outside of the campus; we receive invitations from communities to live with them for a couple of days and experience the life style, and we have expeditions to excavated areas and archeological sites. In general, we have so much more to do outside of the class room, and that really boosts the enthusiasm of our students.

Eritrea's geographical location makes it important factor to understand the Nile civilizations, the Axumite civilization. In the coastal area all the way across the sea there is the link with Arab civilization. Other factors would be the excavations so far attained pinpointing us back in time to the prehistoric era. We are in an important location and we need to work in enhancing our own capacities and work on international relations because archeology is also about partnerships and academic linkages.

## ***Anything you want to say at the end Dr.?***

Well, first of all congratulations to my professor, instructors, my colleagues and my school mates from the old days. I wish that in the coming 10 years the Dept. of Anthropology and Archeology grows to match international standard and be a center of communication with universities around the world. My thanks to my mother Tsigeweni Berhe, my two older brothers Tedros and Girmatsion, my wife and five children.

***Thank you!***