



PRESIDENT ISAIAS LEAVES FOR EGYPT



President Isaias Afwerki has working visit at the invitation of yesterday left for Egypt on a Mr. Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt. President Isaias was accorded

warm welcome by President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi at the ceremony held at Ittihadiya Presidential Palace. The welcoming ceremony saw the presence of the Egyptian guard of honor, while the national anthems of both countries were played at the background.

In the afternoon hours of yesterday, President Isaias and President Al-Sisi held talks and discuss the growing trade and investment ties between the two countries as well as regional and international topics of mutual importance in addition to developments in regional and international issues. Moreover, asserting that the importance of mutual cooperation between the two countries is decisive, the two leaders agreed to further strengthen the existing bilateral relations.

During his two-day visit, President Isaias will hold talks with other senior Egyptian officials on strengthening bilateral relations, implementation of already agreed programs as well as developments in the regional and international issues of interest to both countries. President Isaias will also visit different development projects and institutions in the country.

In the course of his visit, President Isaias is accompanied by Foreign Minister Osman Saleh and Presidential Advisor Yemane Ghebreab.

The relations between Eritrea and Egypt are growing on the basis of common understanding on regional and international issues as well as lasting stability and development.

CALL FOR ENHANCED ROLE IN PREVENTING COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The Head of health facilities in Gelalo sub-zone, Nurse Mulugeta Tareke, said that enhanced youth role is vital in the prevention of communicable diseases, especially HIV/AIDS.

During a meeting he conducted with the residents of the sub-zone, Nurse Mulugeta explained that awareness raising campaign has resulted encouraging outcome in controlling commendable diseases.

Noting that the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with partners, is exerting increased effort in the prevention of HIV infections and the transmission of the virus from mother to infant, Nurse Mulugeta said that the number of visiting pregnant women to health institutions increased from 85% in 2010 to 99% in 2017.

The participants on their part commended the outcome registered in awareness raising and called for its sustainability.

SEMINAR ON ENHANCING QUALITY EDUCATION

The Director General of General Education in the Ministry of Education, Mr. Musa Hussien Naib, stated that integrated effort has paramount contribution in developing teaching-learning process and providing quality education. He made the remarks in a meeting he conducted with sub-zonal administrators and heads of education branches in Gash Barka region.

Noting that the outcome of the investment made in education should be measured in comparison with the achievements registered, Mr. Musa gave briefing on the effort being made to upgrade quality and expand access of education.

The Coordinator of Eighth Grade National Examination in the Education Ministry, Mr. Kifle Mokonen, also presented a report on the outcome registered as well as strength and weaknesses witnessed.

The participants conducted discussion on the report presented.

GEEZ CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Geez Christmas was celebrated nationwide on the 7th of January in Sawa National Service Training Centre.

During the event organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Information and Sawa National Service Training Centre, Col. Debesai Gide, Commander of the Centre, expressed appreciation for organizing the celebration in Sawa and wished merry Christmas to the Eritrean people at home and abroad.

The event witnessed musical and artistic performance by the Sawa musical troupe as well as other musicians and artists.

WESTERN DEV'T ZONE: ACTIVITY ASSESSMENT MEETING

The Western Development Zone conducted an assessment meeting on the programs implemented in 2017 on the basis of integrated effort of the public, the EDF, Bidho and Segen Construction Companies, the EDF Training Centre, Crops and Livestock Corporation as well as the regional administration, among others. The meeting adopted programs for 2018.

A report presented at the meeting

indicated that construction and maintenance of dams, micro-dams, wells, bridges, roads, social service-rendering institutions and potable water projects worth about 49 million Nakfa. Moreover, the report indicated that more than 165 thousand people participated in the implementation task.

Stating that commendable coordinated effort was demonstrated in the implementation of projects on the basis of internal

capacity, the Coordinator of the Western Development Zone, Brig. General Tekle Kiflai, explained that the experience gained so far would make significant contribution in the implementation major projects.

He also called on all pertinent bodies for strengthening land management, maintenance and improvement of social service-rendering institutions, forestation program as well as boosting agricultural production.



Development

Promising Moves to Boost Palm Date Production in Eritrea

Compiled by Semir Seid

Palm date is one of the usually consumed and loved fruit in the world. It was initially consumed in the Middle East, Central Asia and some parts of Africa. The best region palm trees can grow is the southern part of the Mediterranean Sea. Particularly, the hot areas of the Mediterranean Sea, the Middle East countries and North African nations such as Egypt, Sudan, Algeria and Tunisia are known for growing dates both in terms of quantity and quality. The 2012 date harvest reports show that 6.8 tons of date were harvested in the above mentioned regions. As part of this fertile region, Eritrea has suitable land and climate to cultivate palm date and commercialize it locally and regionally. With the experience gathered over the years, it is said that Eritrea has a huge potential for date farming and date palm cultivation. Date farming is forecasted to be among the biggest agro-industrial sectors of the country in the future.

Palm date is a drought-resistant plant and the areas suitable for such cultivation in Eritrea are the Northern Red Sea (NRS) and Southern Red Sea (SRS) regions. Palm date requires high amount of water and it grows much better in hot and semi-arid lowland areas.

The Southern Red Sea region is inhabited by 80,000 people. The majority, 50%, live by herding livestock, 10-15% are traders and the rest live by fishing. Farming is rare as the land can

get salty and hinder good yield of crops. Though the 23,384 square kilometer area of the SRS is not suitable for agricultural activities due to the salty nature of the land, some areas are made possible for the cultivation of Palm dates. Experts in the FAO and Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) cooperation project believe that Eritrea meets all requirements date farm needs such as good soil, abundant water and climate. The climate of the country is suitable for the cultivations of different types of good quality Palm dates. With all the resources at hand the experts are here only to forward their technical know-how in which most farmers lack.

Meanwhile, the Southern Denkalia has farm lands with the potential to grow Palm dates. The technical cooperation project between FAO and MOA ongoing in both the NRS and SRS regions aims to boost the production of Palm dates in the region. It also aims to develop the date farm in the country. The projects seem promising with the participation of communities, farmers and the concerned Ministry. The project provides intensive training categorizing farmers as subsistence and commercial. For the subsistence farmers 10 plants each were given and for the commercial farmers 100 each. The project is expected to grow considering the interests of the farmers. Moreover, in Gahtelay



Farmer Abdella Ali Hiro

pilot, several varieties of palm date have been planted with the collaboration of the Livestock Corporation of the Northern Red Sea Region. The area is expected to serve as the bank of seeds in case cultivation demands grow.

The projects of FAOTCP set out in the fields of the SRS and NRS region managed nine types of palm date trees carefully distributed in a scientifically identified soil type, water basin and climate. These trees are under intensive care and monitoring to give higher yields.

Palm trees come in different types and sizes but climate and land fertility are the factors that affect their growth and productivity. Some of the trees are medium tall while others are long. As the SRS region is suitable to grow such kind of plants, the government and farmers have been considering the potential of the area for a long time. A farmer named Abdella who lives in a place called Abo Kiloma

in the southern Denkalia cultivates five hectares of land with palm dates. Mr. Abdella started by only cultivating 150 seedling in 2009. He gradually increased the Palm trees to 400. The farmer commends the Eritrean army in the area for contributing immensely in the production of the Palm date and digging holes. The Ministry of Agriculture on its behalf and under the theme "Let us make food" has made mass campaigns to advance the farms of this palm dates. In order to increase productivity Mr. Abdella negotiates with different local and external stakeholders and experts from the Ministry of Agriculture. So far the production in the farm of Mr. Abdella looks promising. Such farmers are taking the technical know-how from local and external experts who specialized in cultivation of Palm dates. Farmers such as Mr. Abdella also create job opportunities for several citizens. To cultivate the palm trees for all these years Mr. Abdella had to spend 600,000 Nakfa. Such an individual initiative is encouraging many citizens who have the spirit and will to support themselves and their communities to follow in Mr. Abdella's footsteps while introducing the nation to the palm date market.

Palm farms require more water for proper cultivation. So, farmers are creatively structuring the land in terms of canals (agriculturally considered as water reservoirs) so

it can hold more water. At night the trees can absorb moisture through their stems and through time can result in good yield with minimum water. Properly cultivated palm dates show a reddish or orange color at the time of reaping. In each harvest season, mostly once a year, one tree can produce up to 300 kilograms of dates, though it can take up to 3 years until the first harvest. It is a highly rewarding agricultural undertaking. It is believed that Palm date has minerals and vitamins useful for physical fitness. Medical experts say that Palm date has low cholesterol, high level of iron which is capable of curing anemic people. Beyond this, it is said that it can combat diseases such as cancer and cure night blindness. There are several types of palm dates grown across the world, some of which are the Amir Haj, Sasy Kadreway and Medjul. Palm date trees have a dual purpose; they can be as sources of food and their leaves can be used for making kitchen utensils, bags, and home use marquee.

Farmers' participation in the cultivation of Palm dates in the regions is highly commended by the frequently visiting experts in the country. Such economically rewarding production is encouraged by the concerned Ministry that Eritrea can move forward in harvesting more and start focusing on exporting dates in the future.



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OPINION

Disinformation: Drown the Fact in a Sea of Deception

Simon Weldemichael

Today the world is producing more food than needed, yet many people starve. Many peace talks and agreements are made and issues tabled, yet peace and genuine resolution are out of reach of many people. We are frequently lectured and deafened by Human rights but in reality the world has witnessed violations it has never seen before. Information and knowledge are proliferating in this age more than ever before, yet we're actually getting dumber and dumber. The amount of information and knowledge at everyone's fingertips has lured us into a false sense of knowing. Like the numerous emergent viruses have threatened the wellbeing and existence of human kind, misinformation and disinformation flu have endangered human knowledge and consciousness. Misinformation and disinformation flu attacked first the mental faculty and then caused the inability to research, process, analyze and filter information. The disinformation flu transported by the wind of false rushes to blur our vision, stirring up the dust of confusion paralyzes the critical faculty of logic. It leaves the victims with something that vaguely resembles truth, but in reality it is a vile concoction of lies.

Misinformation and disinformation have been the subject of theoretical research in information science and much has been said to define these two terms in isolation. But the theoretical debate and discourse is for information scientists. We don't need to distinguish misinformation and disinformation as both mean inaccurate and misleading information that equally harm our ability to recognize the fact. Both involve the production and distribution of false, mistaken or misleading information to obstruct the truth. Therefore, we should understand and combat both misinformation and disinformation. Mistaken information could arise from poor research and misinterpretation or it could be an intentional attempt to mislead the public. To better understand the subject, let us retrieve the many intentional

attempts to mislead international community about what really happened in Eritrea by ignoring many relevant facts. Ignoring the basic and fundamental tenets of scientific reasoning and analysis, regional and international as well as humanitarian organizations forged corrupt and untrustworthy manufactured allegations against Eritrea. They intentionally mislead the public by suppressing the reliable data and upholding faulty and manufactured data. The recent farcical and ignominious news broadcasted by Aljazeera about Egyptian military presence in Sawa is a case in point.

The unjust sanctions were

observation and reflection bring to light things which in the past remained hidden. A wind of truth starts blowing in the blue sky to cast the dust of disinformation hovering over Eritrea. We must develop a critical thinking to identify the truth. While it is often said that going after winds of lies is unproductive and silence is the best response, we must constantly expose the duping and tricking information. In a time when societies are drowning in tsunamis of lies, we must recite the warning truth aloud to defend our fellow citizens.

The gallant Eritrean Defense Forces shedding their pure blood



The gallant Eritrean Defense Forces shedding their pure blood are protecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Eritrea

imposed on Eritrea only after relevant facts were systematically ignored and only after the long and careful efforts to deceive the international community were effectively employed. The true facts and sound principles of Eritrea characterized by self-reliant development strategy coupled with peaceful, cooperative and noninterventionist foreign policy were overshadowed by manufactured and insidious information that connect Eritrea with terrorism and aggressive behavior. For the architects of disinformation it is easy to deceive "The bewildered mass." They provided polluted information poisoned by lies, knowing that the hungry mass, having no other option at its disposal can be fed it indiscriminately. In this case the art of deception celebrated a vile victory that later vanish in the face of reality. The time has come when diligent

are protecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Eritrea. Frustrated and discouraged by the perseverance and diligence of our armed forces our enemies are now changing the battle front. Ground warfare is replaced by psychological warfare. It's time now to support our gallant armed forces that safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Eritrea by shielding the sovereignty and mental integrity of Eritreans living inside and abroad. To this effect, I propose to establish a task force of Eritrean Intellectuals Defense Force (EIDF) whose mission is to defend the sovereignty and mental integrity of Eritreans. We shouldn't allow our enemies to define our terms. We must be able to expose the truth. Our enemies have long been engaged in manufacturing and selling distorted information and building a bridge that connects

their language and the imaginary image they constructed about Eritrea. Therefore we should tell the truth. We must combat the disinformation flu that is being spread against us.

It's better to become uninformed and an honest ignorant than be infected by the spreading falsehood to become misinformed. The point of the incessant disinformation lunged toward Eritrea isn't only to deceive or push an agenda. It is to exhaust our critical thinking and to annihilate the truth, Eritrea's "regime of truth." In arithmetic, two half halves make one whole. But in the case of truth two half-

preventable deaths. Meticulous and patient observation, inward looking, weighing and questioning of information are some of the proven vaccines or antibiotics that prevent the disinformation flu. Until all such kind of antibiotics develops within every citizen, concerned bodies should preserve to update and inform the public.

For many years after the second Ethiopian invasion (1999?), Eritrea has become subject to demonization largely through distortion and manipulation of facts. Strangely, the reality has been stolen from us and replaced with guilt inducing lies. Ethiopia succeeded for a while in hiding the most important fact about the so called boundary conflict which, in fact, is an Ethiopian war against Eritrea in Eritrea. In June 1998 president Issaias Afwerki, in his statement to AU, dismissed Ethiopian accusations and explained that "Ethiopia's shrill and offensive language is designed to drown the fact in a sea of accusations". There's no equivalency between what has been said and the reality of Eritrea. There is no single Eritrean soldier that crossed the international frontier at any point. It was Ethiopian, not Eritrean troops that crossed the border of another, sovereign country, including Eritrea and Somalia, in breach of the principles of international law. It was Ethiopia that blatantly rejected agreed principles and court decisions of the boundary commission and still occupies Eritrean territory. However, as it was said "A lie told often enough becomes the truth." As a result, Eritrea was reprimanded several times while the guilty Ethiopia was praised. Therefore we must prove the other fact that "Repetition does not transform a lie into a truth."

truths don't make one whole truth. The purpose of the many fragmented and half-truths and conflicting news and rumors were not to inform the public or introduce Eritrea to wider audience. It was systematically calculated and produced to mislead the public. The purpose of the distorted news manufactured by Aljazeera and other news agencies about Eritrea is, to use Noam Chomsky's phrase, "to create uninformed consumers making irrational choices."

Even though we are starved of true information we shouldn't be tempted to satisfy our hunger by swallowing everything. The poisoned and polluted information have two equally terrible mental effects: one is emptying the mind; and the other is clogging and poisoning the mind. The disinformation flu is now causing large numbers of easily

Lies often times paralyze the mental strength and intellectual muscle of humans that can only be doctored by mental gymnastics. We live in an age full of information, yet we are deprived of accurate information. Selection and filtration of information are required for our mental health. We

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Cultural Heritage



Community Involvement in Cultural Heritage Conservation

Abraham Zerai

The conservation of a cultural heritage property is a process of managing change in ways that will sustain the significance of a place in its setting while recognizing the opportunities to reinforce its values for present and future generations. The concept of conservation of cultural heritage has evolved over the last centuries and today the philosophy of conserving elements of cultural heritage emphasize the significance people associate to a specific heritage property. The definition of significance embraces the entire cultural and natural heritage values people associate with a place or which stimulates them to respond to it. In this respect, it becomes apparent that these values are the ones that have to be conserved in order to sustain the significance of a place.

Individuals and communities maintain a "spirit of a place" by constantly adhering to the values they attach to it. A monument is a mere material entity when the "spirit of a place" is not maintained. The perception of people towards a heritage property evolves over time and people consolidate the idea of "the spirit of a place" as they constantly maintain their attachment to it. The way people attach values to a heritage property tend to grow in vigor and complexity over time with respect to evolving principles and technological facets in time. A good conservation practice in cultural heritage should therefore play a crucial role in

distinguishing, communicating and sustaining the established values of places and helping people to improve and express the values they attach to heritage places.

Cultural heritage properties are maintained by people and the works of successive generations often contribute to their significance. What is valued from the elements of cultural properties for the future in a conservation process is indeed important to sustaining cultural values in a historic environment, be it an archaeological site, historic building or religious shrine. The decisions made about change in such historic environments are central to a conservation pursuit. A thorough understanding of who values a place and why they act so is therefore fundamental. This further implies a clear statement of its significance in as much as ensuring the ability to understand the impact of change on the particular significance people give to a specific cultural heritage property. The above statements highlight the importance of involving society in conservation process. The basis for community involvement in heritage conservation is indicated by the above fundamental premises and the following instances best illustrate how a sound conservation practice necessitates public involvement.

Local communities in Eritrea, as elsewhere in Africa, have been active in conserving their natural and cultural heritage by embracing traditional knowledge

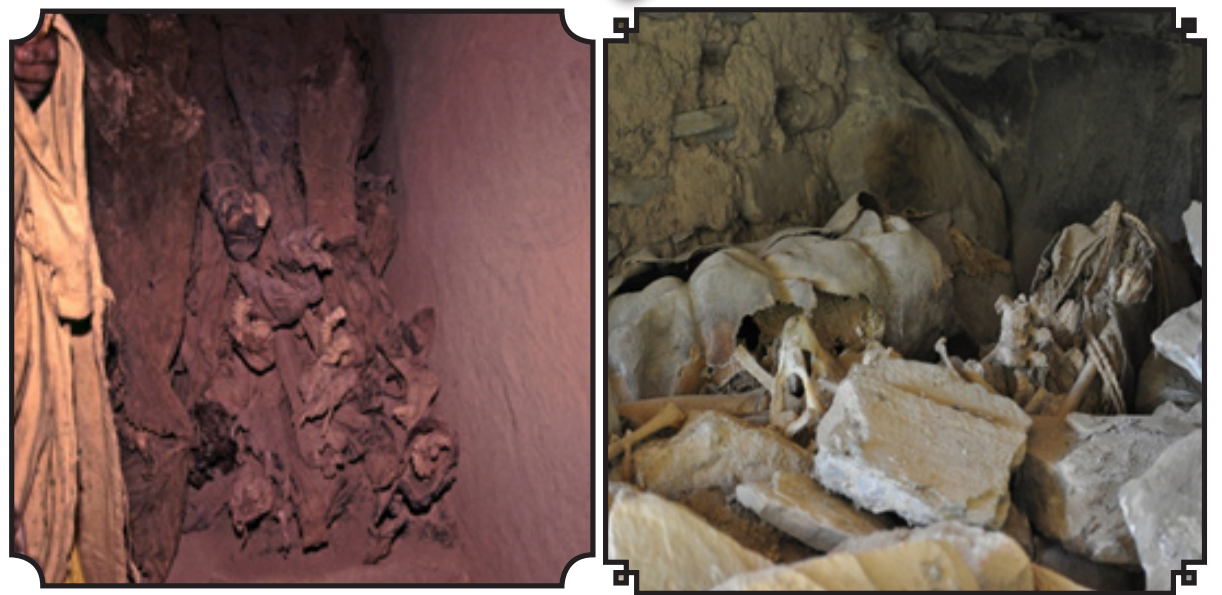


Fig.1. Mummified Remains housed in Monastic Complexes in Eritrea

systems. In this respect, local values need to become the core of cultural heritage practice. The recognition and promotion of these values serves to ensure sustainable heritage management and conservation.

The link between spirit and matter, nature and culture as well as the intangible dimension of immovable heritage, for instance is well represented in the religious heritage of Eritrea. Monasteries and monastic traditions, to such an extent, have long kept a number of cultural traditions peculiar to this part of the world. Eritrea is rich in intangible forms of heritage whose spiritual values are intertwined with cultural spaces. The conservation of liturgical objects, parchments, mummified remains in many old-monasteries in Eritrea attest to the maintenance of the integrity of monastic treasures. The entire fabric of these traditions has

been shaped through the form and substance of the cultural bounties kept in their libraries. The concern of conserving these traditions in the future apparently resides on how to maintain this integrity amid modernity and "professional" practice. It should be outlined that the conservation of these religious bounties is fully possible by integrating the value systems of the monastic community. Local knowledge systems that have kept these traditions intact for over millennia are the basis for integrating an agreeable solution to conservation concerns. Where spiritual values enhance the integrity of these religious bounties, the recommendations from museum professionals, conservators and archivists need to reveal and explore the meaning beyond the physical state of an object. Therefore, the viewpoints of monastic community as well as the ethical considerations amicable to the spiritual significance of the object become fundamental. This ensures the sustaining of traditions peculiar to the Eritrean society.

On similar accounts, religious shrines become a reference point to understand why involvement of a local community in conservation process to be significant. Symbolic and spiritual values are attached to these religious shrines and much of these heritages emphasize credence of doctrine

over ordinary life. Dealing with these heritage places therefore is not only conserving the materiality in them but also is the maintenance of the social components in them. No one else can understand these dimensions than the local communities who keep connections to such heritage through pilgrimage and worship. The active participation of the local communities in the conservation process is thus important in as much as emphasizing the "spirit of the place" is paramount.

Categories such as vernacular architecture also bear a unique testimony to the intangible heritage of Eritrea. Where material choices contribute to the conservation of elements of vernacular architecture, the involvement of local masons and traditional craftsmen in the process becomes an ideal solution. This area of heritage provides craftsmen whose traditional knowledge system constitutes the intangible. These craftsmen maintain attachment to the form and fabric of a particular element of the vernacular architecture and need to be actively involved in various conservation projects dealing with traditional building forms. In this respect, conservation must accommodate the realization of form, use and function, tradition and techniques as well as the feeling emanating from the monument or landscape.

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Fig.2. Examples of significant Religious Shrines in Eritrea

LOCAL NEWS

IN SUPPORT OF DISABLED VETERANS

The Chairman of Gash Barka Assembly, Mr. Osman Mohammed-Ali, called for integrated effort towards improving the socio-economic development of disabled veterans.

During an activity assessment meeting the National Association of Eritrean War Disabled Veterans branch of the region conducted in Barentu, Mr. Osman noted that the programs set out by the Association could be realized by the integrated effort of all stakeholders.

At the meeting, Mr. Shimwele Woldegergis, Head of the regional branch of the Association, presented activity report of 2017 and plans for 2018.

Mr. Shimwele also called on the administrations and concerned institutions to enable disabled veterans become beneficiaries of available resources.

The Director General of Social Services in the region, Mr. Gebreselasie Negash, on his part expressed readiness to strengthen the support the region has been extending in cooperation with the Association.

In related news, the Ministry of Labor and Human Welfare branch office in the Southern region organized a three-day seminar in Dekemhare to 78 village rehabilitation representatives on issues pertaining to support disabled citizens.

The seminar focused on the meaning of disability and rehabilitation of the disabled, community based rehabilitation for the disabled and its impact, main causes of disability and measures the society should take, as well as increased awareness on unexploded mines.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Gezae Embaye from the NAEWDV called on the members of the village rehabilitation to conduct persistent study on the situation of disabled citizens in their areas and report to the relevant institutions.

CONTRIBUTION IN SUPPORT OF DISADVANTAGED CITIZENS

Business owners in the town of Dubaruwa contributed 21 thousand Nakfa in support of orphans and disadvantaged citizens.

The business owners underlined that supporting disadvantaged citizens is not to be left to the Government only and that it is the responsibility of every citizen. They also pledged to continue their contribution sustainably.

Speaking on the occasion, the Head of the Ministry of Labor and Human Welfare branch in the sub-zone, Mr. Fesehaye Werede, indicated that the general public, especially business owners in Dubaruwa town have been taking initiatives to support the disadvantaged citizens and called for sustainability of the contribution.

Mr. Fesehaye also said that the zonal administration has been extending support for the identified disadvantaged citizens and that there is plan for creating job opportunities.

Disinformation; drown the . . .

Continued from page 3

live in strange ages of flooding information and passive consumption where people who dare to tell the truth are called crazy and fools.

New information technologies are making it easier for people to create and disseminate information that is intended to deceive. The Internet as a medium and vehicle of information offers not only trusted and up-to-date information but also information that holds delusions and deceptions. Therefore, it is imperative to develop techniques to distinguish information from disinformation. The Internet has been described by some as "a blessing and curse, because it's a gateway to an endless plethora of information". Many kind of persons visited the internet; some go to show their true cleverness and others to manifest their hidden silliness. Therefore we should not swallow the unexamined information displayed on the web.

Correction of disinformation would have a considerable effect in the promotion of the national interest of Eritrea through understanding, informing and influencing the international community. Combating disinformation means inducing and reinforcing the true image of Eritrea and forging foreign attitudes favorable to our terms. Since disinformation has a potentially more damaging effect than ignorance, debunking the deceitful myth is important. In this battle teachers have great role to play by giving students an opportunity to develop critical thinking, encouraging students to skeptically assess empirical evidence and draw valid conclusions from the evidence. The PFDJ,

as a broad based national front and mass political organization, has a lot to do in filling the gap and fixing the wrong. People are waiting for the resurrection of the monthly magazine "Hdri" and the monthly leaflet that provide readers with national, regional and international events. The Ministry of Information also has to introduce programs that include talks and debates on important and timely events that happen inside and outside Eritrea.

Protecting our individual and collective socio psychological wellbeing from being defiled by lies and distortions requires a comprehensive effort. We must shelter the mind of our citizens from the disinformation flu that is ravaging the mind of millions. Let's construct a mental fortress against lies, distortion, manipulation, mind control, psychological warfare and brainwashing. The Holly scripture has a word of wisdom that goes "but test everything; hold fast what is good" (1thess 5:21). It continues "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world" (1john 4:1). The Holly Quran also advises readers to distinguish truth from falsehood: "And do not mix truth with falsehood, and do not conceal the truth while you know" (2; 42). For truth to triumph over falsehood we must not silently keep the truth. So far, we the people and government of Eritrea have foiled military invasion, and economic and political conspiracy intended to undermine our sovereignty. But we didn't perform well in combating distorted information. We must propagate and hurl the truth against any falsehood fabricated against the reality of Eritrea. In order to protect ourselves from the rampant disinformation flu we must be prudent, and seekers of not pleasing but accurate information.

Community Involvement in . . .

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The maintenance of the "spirit of a place" through understanding the values people attach to it also concerns the cultural landscapes distributed across Eritrea. The distribution of archaeological sites in remote areas of Eritrea requires a good understanding of the significance local people give to these heritage properties. This approach will facilitate the integration of the social components into a sound conservation practice that allows active public participation.

In summary, community involvement in the conservation of cultural heritage objects is vital as the process helps sustain the significance of these properties. Meaning is bestowed on heritage objects through the symbolic components they constitute and people often find attachment to the heritage property via these elements. Finding a good balance is therefore attained in conservation of the cultural heritage as change on the objects is maintained and managed by understanding the values people attach to the heritage bounties.



Fig.3. Aspects of Vernacular architecture that require local knowledge in Conservation



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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Bisha Mining Share Company PLC is inviting interested applicants for the following position.

1. Position: Employee Relations and Development Supervisor
- Department: Employee Services
- Number Required: 01

Major Duties and responsibilities:-

- Administration of Personal Development Plans
 - Follow up with line management to ensure PDP's exist for all national employees identified in the succession and nationalization plan;
 - Upload PDPs received to the PDP Database and update the PDP Tracker daily;
 - Remind line management when PDPs require progress reviews and or has expired;
 - Update the PDP Tracker when employees are terminated/ transferred/promoted; and
 - Participate in quarterly PDP progress meetings.
- Coordinate BMSC Nationalization and Succession Programme
 - Follow and ensure the nationalization and succession programme is in place.
 - Assist ERD Manager in identifying successors and liaise with TD and HR to finalize a list of trainable nationals.
 - Arrange and participate in progress review meetings with potential successors, line management, HR and TD.
 - Liaise with GET Coordinator to ensure development of GETs is being implemented according to the plan.
 - Assist ERD Manager in Reviewing PDP and Nationalization SOP.
- Coordinate Employee Wellbeing related activities in liaison with various departments
 - Assisting ERD Manager on planning and execution of company sport related activities and social events
 - Facilitate projects and activities to improve employee morale
 - Coordinating annual employee morale survey for national employees
 - Coordinate Sport activates
- Assist with employee disciplinary related matters and grievances/ complaints
 - Assist in arranging disciplinary hearings including venue, participants, translator and custody of evidence
 - Maintain and work hard to have a good rapport and relationship among employees
 - Ensure all necessary documents are available and participate in disciplinary hearings sessions.
 - Provide guidance to line management and employees on disciplinary related policies/ procedures.
 - Ensuring employee grievances/complaints are handled in compliance with the Grievance policy/ procedure

- Ensure disciplinary hearing proceedings are documented by taking meeting minutes.

KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS

- Qualifications:
- Diploma/Degree in Business Management/Public Administration
 - Specific training on Human resources management is advantageous

Knowledge and Experience:

- 1 - 4 Years of experience in personal administration and development in which more than 2 Years in Mining Industry specifically in dealing with employee related issues.
- Knowledge and understanding of the Eritrean Labour Proclamation

Technical Skills	Behavioural Skills
Computer Literacy (MS Office – Intermediate)	Communication (English and Local language)
Proficient in HR System	Assertiveness
Attention to detail	Interpersonal Relations skill
Knowledge of HR Policies, Procedures and Processes	Ability to meet deadlines
Ensure that HR audit requirements are met	Accuracy
Address HR issues	Confidentiality
Business Communication skills	Integrity/Ethical
Knowledge of current legislation	Ability to work under pressure
Administrative skill	Strategic thinking
Report writing skills	Problem solver
Manage the audit requirements	
Labour Legislation knowledge	

General Information and other requirements:

- Place of Work: Bisha.
- Salary: As per Company salary scale.
- Type of contract Indefinite Period

Additional requirement for Nationals:

- Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provide evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defense.
- Present clearance paper from current/last employer.
- 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 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 non-Eritrean applicants: Please send a copy of your application to Aliens Employment Permit Affairs, P. O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

1) **HME (Heavy Mobile Equipment) Boilermaker**
Number required – (01)
Type of contract – Indefinite Period

Major Duties and responsibilities

- Planning**
 - Follows the “Planned Maintenance Schedule”.
 - Makes a list of parts and equipment required.
- Implementation of the Plan**
 - Follows the highest priority for each day and focus on completing relevant tasks.
 - Ensures good housekeeping.
 - Lays out, positions and secures parts and assemblies according to specifications, using “straight bridge”; combination square; callipers; and ruler.
 - Tack-welds or welds components and assemblies, using electric, gas, arc, or other welding equipment. First assesses the area to be welded.
 - Operates manual and automated welding units and equipment by depositing metal from electrode to work piece and joins the edges.
 - Uses disc grinder to smooth out, weld, or grind parts prior to welding.
 - Maintains correct length of arc and speed of movement to form specified depth of fusion and bead.
 - Welds in flat and vertical planes (all position welding).
 - Examines weld for bead size and other specifications.
 - Grinds or cleans weld joint of work piece.
 - Fabrication of new or replacement parts for equipment; ladders; walkways; covers; etc.
 - Assembles component parts, using hand and small power tools.
 - Follows other instructions relating to the position.
 - 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. Identifies any hazards in the work place.
 - Attends technical and other training as required by supervisor.
- Writing Reports and Data Control**
 - Compile daily; progress reports as requested.

KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS

Qualification:

- Formal Trade certificate (Boilermaker / Welder)
- Grade 12 for locals

Knowledge and Experience:

- 3 - 5 years relevant experience

Technical Skills	Behavioural Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Computer Literacy (MS Office)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Communication (English)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Attention to detailAnalytical skill	<ul style="list-style-type: none">IntegrityPrioritizing skills & multi-skilling
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Boilermaker & Welding experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ability to work towards strict deadlines
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Problem solving skill	<ul style="list-style-type: none">High level of accuracy
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Driver’s License Grade 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Prioritizing skills & multi-skillingSelf-motivation

2) **NAVision System Support Officer**

Number required – (01)
Type of contract – Indefinite Period

Major Duties and responsibilities

- User Support and Training**
 - Check the Helpdesk Management System daily, respond and resolve support requests.
 - Advice users when they encounter problem / error messages and follow through to resolve.
 - Use current procedures to resolve queries.
 - Train users on the NAV system and other reporting systems.
 - Train groups of users when new upgrade is installed.
 - Train individual users on adhoc / needs basis.

- Installations**
 - Setup software installation for new users.
 - Assign permissions to users and setting up of access levels.
 - Conduct applications setup to meet specified business processes.
- System Enhancement**
 - Participate and carrying out of assigned tasks in NAV system enhancements and version upgrades.
 - Provide support to user requests to introduce modifications to existing functionality.
 - Conduct a requirement analysis on system enhancement requests and act on these.
 - Support NAV implementation efforts by designing and coding (programming) specific functionality such as reports, pages and data ports.
 - Document the project according to standards and procedures.
 - Develop the NAV system to improve Business processes.
 - Prepare system and user documentation or user manuals.
- System Maintenance**
 - Update, maintain and control data integrity of the Business Intelligence data.
 - Perform data analysis to facilitate data conversion and support efforts.
 - Assist with the maintenance of license agreements and keep ensure that these are kept up to date.
 - Assist with the implementation and installation of program fixes.
- Business Process Flow**
 - Participate in identification and documentation of business process flows.
 - Assist with the documentation of improved processes.
- Administration**
 - Maintain and store all project and systems related documentation according to standards and procedures.

Knowledge and Skills

- Qualifications:**
 - Degree/Diploma Computer Science or Information Systems.
 - Diploma in Finance/Accounting will be an added advantage
- Knowledge and Experience:**
 - 3 Years’ experience in Information Systems.
 - 2 Years’ experience in Programming.
 - Certification in NAV System will be an added advantage.

Technical Skills	Behavioural Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Intermediate Computer Literacy (MS products, NAV system)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Attention to detail
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Understanding of the business processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Interpersonal Relations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Understand end user job tasks / requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Confidentiality
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Analytical skillProgramming skill	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ProactiveCommunication (English and local language)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Business process documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Time ManagementPlanning and Organizing skill

General Information and other requirements:

- Place of Work:** Bisha.
- Salary:** As per Company salary scale.

Additional requirement for Nationals:

- Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provide evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defense.
- Present clearance paper from current/last employer.
- 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 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 Non- Eritrean applicants:**
Please send a copy of your application to
Aliens Employment permits Affairs,
P. O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea.



"Every child runs; I upgraded my favorite game to my profession"

Billion Temesghen

On June 4th 1994 Kokob Tesfagaber was born Eritrean athletics. She is young and beautiful. and hardworking. The world might as well be sees past her tendon problems and smartly of devotion who got home a big number of Meet Kokob, 2017's Numa Award winner and moment. We'll be focusing not on her technical personal level.



and 22 years later now, has become the pride of But most importantly she is decent, humble ready for this tremendous marathoner. She attempts to improve her time. She is a girl national and international medals and awards. the only Eritrean female marathoner at the scores but on the kind of person she is on a

Did you always know you were going to be a marathoner?

No. I didn't even know I wanted to be an athlete. Every child runs. You know, it's how children play. When I was young I run a lot for fun; I had a playful childhood with my friends and neighbors. When you start growing up, you don't run much. You rather walk, ride a bike or go for public transportation. But in my case, I never stopped. When I run errands for my mother I run. I run to go to school. I run to the shop. I just run. And I remember being a big fan of Nebiat Habtemariam, but I did not want to be like her. I simply liked watching her races on TV. That's all.

So to when do you trace back the beginning of your profession?

To when I was in 8th grade. But before that in 6th grade, my school organized a 400 meters race competition and my friends suggested I should participate. I got in first place. After that I started participating in more competitions against other schools, I normally won first place, and that caught the attention of my very first trainer, athlete Isaak Netseraab. He came to me one day and asked me if I dreamed of being an athlete. I told him no, but that I didn't mind running. He then realized that I knew little about athletics. He enlightened me on the topic and so I stopped running to shops and began running in tracks.

How was it at first? Did you jump to stardom just like that?

I would love it if you don't refer to me with big titles like 'star' or

anything. Because me, I am just doing what I am good at. I bite my teeth and go forward, but I just don't think I have reached that stage of 'stardom' as you refer to it. I am grateful for the people's respect and love. Therefore, instead of bragging about what I have and what I have achieved, I just want to promise my fans and people that I will work hard to sustain my performance aiming to improve my record by the day and also make all of you proud of me.

If I am to answer your question of how it was at first, I'd have to say that I took small steps. What I mean is that when I first started training I aimed for 400 meters and 800 meters. In a short time I scored well and was able of set to set a good record for myself.

What about school?

I quit. I had to. I wasn't able to attend class on regular schedule, so I stopped and totally focused on training and athletics. Athletics is not just about running, it does involve some learning too, so I guess I can say that I stopped academics for a full commitment to athletics.

Did your parents oppose the idea of you quitting school?

Of course. My father passed away when I was three so I don't remember him much. Nevertheless my mother was furious. Plus the mentality our community has is tormenting. A girl doesn't run. She is not supposed to run. That is what they believe. It is a convention that we'll have to change as a community. Back to my mom. She did argue against me dropping school for sport

at first but then she stopped. Luckily my older brothers and sisters convinced her for me. They understood from beginning that I could be somewhere big in the future. It was actually thanks to them that I was encouraged to follow my passion. In time my mother started being proud of me. She supports me in all possible ways. She doesn't wake me up until I wake up on my own. She cooks my meal based on the diet I am required to follow and what not. My mom is the pillar to my success.

What was the next step?

I run for 1500 meters and got 4:35. In 2014 I moved to junior level and scored first in a 5000 race organized for time trials. Every time I performed, well, I'd advance to another field. I didn't stay long in one field. In 2015 I was getting ready for the African League in Congo when another athlete called Rahma Mohamed got back to Eritrea from Kenya after training. She didn't have time but I was told she was going to go in my place because she had good score in time trials. I was devastated, I had worked hard getting ready for 5k, but that race was snatched from me just like that. I asked for her IAAF's official score but I was denied access. I gave up. The office was telling me to go for half marathon. But that was impossible for me. The furthest I had run was 10k. I didn't want to go to an international race and embarrass myself, so I had almost given up. The next day I was walking with my head down and tears in my eyes, athlete Zeri Senay recognized me from far and approached me. He asked me why I was crying, I told him

why. He smiled and told me I was wasting my tears for nothing. He convinced me to instead participate and stop in the middle of the race if anything was to happen. I agreed, I went and run for half a marathon. I stood 6th. It was incredible.

Wow! That was unexpected.

Totally. Prior to the race date I trained twice a day and got in the race. The least I hoped was for me to finish the race even in 5 hours. Once the race started I clenched my teeth and went on, 15 kilometers in the race I was at a time gap of 55 minutes back from the leading team. Back home, I told myself I was made for half marathon. Ever since then, I have trained day and night and upgraded myself every time. When my time got better I decided to run full marathon and here I am.

What happened to Rahma?

She did not make it.

Now you are the only female marathoner in Eritrea after Nebiat Habtemariam. Is it tough?

Yes it is. But I am thrilled for my profession. I love it and I don't intend to stop. I am now getting ready for Fenkil's time trial for full marathon and participate in international races early this year. My current time is 2:31; it is the score I set in Japan. Now I am working hard to hit 2:30. That is my dream.

Is there anything you want to say at the end?

Athletics is hard. But I have made it so far thanks to the effort of my family, fellow athletes and my coach, Fish. So I want to thank them all. I hope I will win over the pain in my leg caused by tendon problems and hit my dream time. Moreover, I want to seize this opportunity to promise my fans and people that will do my best to meet your expectations. Thank you all so very much for your love and support.

Kokob, it has been an honor meeting you. I hope that in the future we'll be able to know you better and follow more stories. Best of luck with everything, and I'd like to assure you that everyone at Eritrea Profile is proud of you. We're huge fans!

