

## WORKSHOP ON STRENGTHENING JUDICIARY INSTITUTIONS

The Ministry of Justice organized a workshop, held on October 8-9 in Asmara, aimed at strengthening the judiciary institutions and the role of youth legal experts.

Pointing out that the national law takes into account the socio-economic, political, cultural, and historical foundation of the society, as well as the uniqueness of the country, society and government, Ms. Fouzia Hashim, Minister of Justice, indicated that well-rounded legal experts should possess a solid understanding of the mentioned foundations.

Minister Fouzia said that the mission of the Ministry of Justice is to provide open, equitable, and timely service to the public, as well as ensuring a free and accountable judiciary system.



She went on to say that the Eritrean people have been governed through traditional and customary laws for centuries, and that respecting and ensuring laws and regulations are the noble societal values of the

people.

Minister Fouzia also underscored the need for experts that understand the culture of the society in order to provide justice and effective services.

Additionally, Mr. Abraham Berhane from the IT division at the Ministry gave a briefing on information technology that is being introduced in magistrate and attorney offices throughout the country.

### ELECTIONS OF ADMINISTRATORS

Elections for area administrators, managing directors, and village coordinators have been conducted in Adi Quala and Segeneyti sub-zones.

The managing director of the Adi Quala sub-zone, Mr. Tesfay Abraha, called on election winners to serve the people with diligence and trust.

Similarly, elections conducted in Segeneyti sub-zone last month were concluded successfully. Mr. Yohannes Gebremeskel, managing director of the sub-zone, called on the newly elected to serve the people with efficiency and accountability.

In Adi Quala sub-zone, there are 110 villages clustered in 22 administrative areas, while in Segeneyti sub-zone there are 38 villages grouped in 18 administrative areas.

## TRAINING PROGRAM FOR STAFF MEMBERS OF MINISTRY OF MARINE RESOURCES



Jemhile and Dahlak has significantly contributed in designing practical programs in cooperation with the Northern Red Sea region administration, Minister Tewolde

The Ministry of Marine Resources completed a month long training program for 24 of its staff members from the nation's 6 regions. The training program aimed to strengthen the capacity of staff members.

At the concluding ceremony held last week, Mr. Tewolde Kelati, Minister of Marine Resources, pointed out the importance of close relations with fish farmers and called for conducting fish farmer-centered activities.

Indicating that the research conducted by experts on the islands of

called on the trainees to give due attention to the residents residing around dams so that they benefit from them.

The Director General of Fisheries Development at the Ministry of Marine Resources, Ambassador Tewoldebrhan Woldemicael, called on the trainees to practically upgrade the training they were provided.

The trainees expressed their readiness to apply the training they received to support the country and to transfer the knowledge to their colleagues.

## INTERNATIONAL TEACHER'S DAY OBSERVED

International Teacher's Day was observed on 5 October. At the ceremony in which heads of the Ministry of Education and invited guests took part, the Chairman of the Eritrean Teacher's Association, Mr. Simon Mehari, indicated that the association is exerting considerable effort in cooperation with relevant stakeholders to extend quality education services across the country.

Noting that national development depends on quality education, Mr. Simon said that the Eritrean Government is making substantial investments toward education. He went on to say that the expansion of educational facilities has been realized and what remains is ensuring the provision of quality education. He also called on the concerned institutions and stakeholders to conduct integrated efforts in cooperation with teachers.

Dr. Halima Mohammed, from the

Ministry of Education, explained the essence and meaning of this year's theme, which revolves around the right to education and right to competent teachers, and discussed the vital role of competent teachers in realizing the provision of quality education.

International Teacher's Day was observed for the 22nd time at national level and for the 35th time internationally.

In other related news, the Eritrean Teacher's Association branch in the Central region presented financial awards and certificates of recognition to 88 exemplary teachers, 25 of which are females. The awards were made in connection with the International Teacher's Day that was observed on 5 October.

The awardees include 40 teachers recognized for their longstanding

service, having been engaged in the teaching profession for between 40 to 56 years, as well as 14 that have been recognized for their active and exemplary service.

The chairman of the association, Mr. Afwerki Gebrezgiabher, indicated that the association is exerting efforts in cooperation with partners to support and strengthen the capacity of teachers.

Mr. Belai Habtegabir, head of the Ministry of Education branch in the Central region, indicated that teachers are the cornerstone of well-rounded knowledge, before calling for the strengthening of participation for the development of education in the country.

International Teacher's Day was also commemorated in the Northern Red Sea region. Celebrations included various programs and activities.



## SEMINAR ON PREVENTION OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

At a seminar conducted in Barentu, it was stated that ensuring environmental sanitation is fundamental to preventing and controlling communicable diseases, particularly malaria.

Speaking at the event, the head of the Ministry of Health branch in the Gash Barka region, Dr. Hayelom Kidane, described the efforts being exerted to control malaria, including eradicating mosquito breeding areas, the use of anti-mosquito sprays, and the use of mosquito nets. He also called for the sustainability of such initiatives through conscious popular participation.

Seminar attendees called for further seminars in the future.



# Development

## The NAWDV - Reflecting on 25 Years of Important Work and Contributions

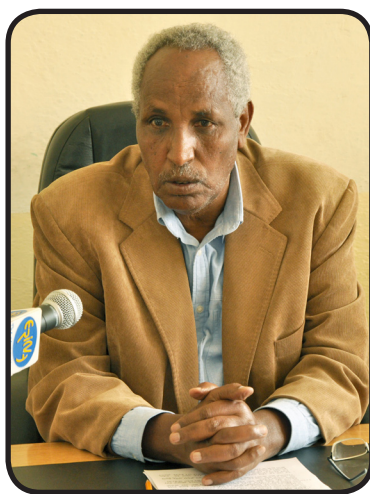
**Kesete Ghebrehiwet**

People with disabilities, either with a particular type of impairment or cross disabilities, need proper support and care. Their needs, priorities, and choices need to be considered and addressed according to the magnitude of their challenges. In Eritrea, extending support to war disabled veterans, individuals who sacrificed so much, is the responsibility of everybody who is now enjoying independence and peace. Supporting the rehabilitation of war disabled veterans has mainly been the responsibility of the Eritrean Government. To address the needs of disabled veterans, the National Association of War Disabled Veterans (NAWDV) was established in 1994 through the support of the Government. Since then, the association has shouldered the responsibility for the rehabilitation of war disabled veterans through various schemes. The NAWDV has implemented various rehabilitation programs through funding from the Government and charitable donations from citizens. Currently, the NAWDV is preparing to celebrate 25 years of contributions and achievements.

The NAWDV works at the national level and is mainly composed of disabled people. It fully understands that the war veterans know best their own needs and aspirations and should be their own spokespersons and representatives. Prior to addressing any particular challenges, the NAWDV carries out extensive research to understand the needs of disabled people. It then implements rehabilitation programs in which disabled veterans are active participants. During the past 24 years, various platforms aimed at addressing different challenges have been organized.

The NAWDV is composed of people with cross disabilities. Bearing in mind that most of its members have chronic disabilities that worsen with age and over time, the association carries out regular inspection to identify particular challenges and develop timely remedial solutions. Mr. Ghebrebrhan Eyassu, Chairperson of the NAWDV, suggests that the association firmly believes that the disabled are the best advocates and spokespersons of their own problems. Thus, it is imperative to work closely with them, particularly through open discussion forums and by strengthening the organizational capacity of the association.

According to Mr. Ghebrebrhan, providing social services to disabled veterans is a major mandate of the association. Rehabilitation programs include, among others, microfinance schemes to help the disabled become self-reliant. As part of the social-welfare programs, 290 motorcycles and five minibuses were purchased in 1995 at a cost of over 8 million Nakfa. These vehicles make the mobility of the disabled easy. Beds, wheelchairs, artificial limbs, hearing aids, and eye glasses, provided in collaboration with the association's branches abroad, help alleviate challenges for the visual and hearing impaired as well as others. Mr. Ghebrebrhan notes that the association used to cover 70% of the cost for eyeglasses until 2009. Currently, the association has its own eyeglass manufacturing center



**Mr. Ghebrebrhan Eyassu**

and offers 50% coverage for the total cost of eyeglasses. In addition, free physiotherapy and acupuncture services are provided.

In terms of the health care, as with the pre-independence period, two clinics, one in Mai-Habar and another in Denden Camp, have been providing service to treat injuries, alleviate complications, and ease pains (until 2002). In late 2002, the Ministry of Labor and Human Welfare assumed responsibility for providing social services to war disabled veterans, with the association covering 50-70% of medical expenses. Disabled war veterans under regular care at the Denden Camp are also provided with various forms of support from the NAWDV and branch associations abroad. Notably, the association has also worked with the Inter-Plus group, based in Germany, to provide special surgical services. Thus far, the group has conducted backbone surgeries on 181 war veterans.

Awareness is important when discussing challenges encountered by the disabled. Mr. Ghebrebrhan said that the association has developed awareness campaigns in response to societal barriers that have prevented people with disabilities from equal participation in society. Awareness campaigns have been carried out to eliminate societal perceptions that disability is a curse or sin. These campaigns also aim to reinforce community-based inclusive rehabilitation programs, generate broad societal support, as well as to ensure implementation of

the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

As part of helping the disabled to become self-dependent, the NAWDV has supported the establishment of income generating activities and enterprises. Small firms that have been established to upgrade the economic capacity of the association and its members include: Merkeb Construction Share Company; Agamet Garage; four computer training centers; an eyeglass manufacturing center; and auto spare part shops.

Mr. Ghebrebrhan proudly notes that most construction activities of the association have been implemented by Merkeb Construction Company. Besides implementing projects of the association, the company has also played a key role in boosting the association's income. The association has also helped with the establishment of different small-scale business firms like bakeries and cafes. Income generated from bakeries and mills in Hagaz, Agordet, Mai-Dma, Dekemhare, Afabet, and Mendefera was used for the opening of branches. Last, the association provides venues that encourage employment for members, since one difficulty for the disabled is the pain of idleness. When supported with proper training, the disabled can remain productive in agriculture, manufacturing, services, and trade activities. "Disabled people shift from one work area to

another, but they never give up," Mr. Ghebrebrhan stated.

According to Mr. Ghebrebrhan, rehabilitation programs are carried out at the group level. Working in groups allows members to support and complement one another. The group-based rehabilitation program has been effective and the beneficiaries of these projects have opened second branches or established other institutions through the income they generated. Mr. Ghebrebrhan also remarked that 500 water pumps have been given to disabled veterans who engage in agriculture, while other forms of assistance have been provided to those who open cafes, and well over 5000 projects have been implemented by the association.

The association is dynamic. It plays a significant role in identifying needs and priorities, evaluating services, advocating change, and raising public awareness. It also helps members develop skills, strengthens their organizational abilities, and offers vocational training. Understanding that disabled women face unique or separate challenges, and that women are often confronted with socio-cultural and economic disadvantages that may impede their access to training, employment, or other services, the association gives special

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# Eritrea: Views and Musings

Dr. Fikrejesus Amahazion

## 1. More flash than substance?

Broadly, marriage can be defined as a group's approved mating arrangements. It is usually marked by a ritual of some sort, such as a wedding, to indicate the couple's new public status. Marriage is a vital social institution, and while there is tremendous cultural variety surrounding marriage around the world, several common themes may be found. For example, all groups and societies generally use marriage (and the family) to establish patterns of mate selection, descent (i.e. the way people trace kinship over generations), inheritance, and authority. Social scientists have viewed and examined marriage from a variety of different theoretical perspectives, as well as explored the major elements of the family life cycle, including love and courtship, marriage, childbirth, child rearing, and the family in later life.

In Eritrea, marriage has long been viewed as a sacred societal institution and it is regarded as an integral component of the life cycle. While marriages within the country's various ethno-linguistic groups often contain many unique elements, customs, and norms, one of the most important aspects of marriage in Eritrea is the wedding ritual. Generally, these are highly colorful, multi-day occasions that involve a broad array of traditions and customs, including religious ceremonies, music and dance, large gatherings, elaborate dress and jewelry, gifts, food, and other celebratory activities.

Through having attended many Eritrean weddings, I have come to regard them as rather enjoyable, fun-filled, highly memorable occasions. However, I have also observed another slightly troubling feature that characterizes many weddings. Specifically, it seems that wedding ceremonies are developing into increasingly large, extravagant, elaborate, expensive occasions. My countless discussions and informal conversations with many colleagues, friends, and others, which, admittedly, by no means represent rigorous empirical standards, suggest that I am not totally alone in making these observations. Notably, these types of trends are not restricted to Eritrea. In many places around

the world wedding expenditures are often considerable and/or have been increasing.

In a lot of ways, these types of practices threaten to strip away the real essence of marriage. Rather than representing the genuine celebration of the union of two people and a bonding of families, marriage and weddings shift to becoming more about conspicuous consumption, defined as excessive monetary expenditures in order to display wealth, status, and economic power, and the unabashed display of great extravagance or luxury. Problematically, flashy weddings have begun to create difficulty to meet unreasonable demands and expectations for many families, often causing excessive spending (generally understood as spending beyond available liquid income), and leading to debt, considerable stress, and tensions with relatives, friends, and neighbors.

Moreover, such spending can provoke resentment among others throughout society or contribute to class differentiation – recall that Eritrea remains a low-income, developing country where many individuals and households face economic challenges. In this latter context, such expensive weddings also seem highly questionable, if not distasteful. Last, there are also valid concerns that the practice of excessive spending on lavish weddings can develop into a competition. Specifically, wedding ceremonies may become regarded as opportunities to “outdo” neighbors or relatives, in terms of extravagance and spending.

Do not get me wrong. Marriages and weddings are highly significant and wonderful. The coming together of two people (and their families) to make a lifetime's

commitment is something special and it is often a cherished moment in a couple's history. It should be celebrated, and weddings allow family and friends to recognize, appreciate, and support the couple. Indeed, weddings ought to be special, elegant, stylish, and neat. Additionally, weddings, to some degree, can impact local economies in various ways. However, while keeping all of that firmly in mind, it is also highly important that we as a group and society do not forget the true, genuine meaning of the wedding or simply allow such a special occasion and important institution to devolve into an ostentatious display of consumerism, money, and wealth.

## 2. Being taught and inspired

I thoroughly enjoyed the article, “Appreciating Teachers,” featured in the last edition of *Eritrea Profile*. The article, published to coincide with World Teacher's Day (which was globally celebrated on October 5), was a touching tribute that expressed the author's deep admiration for teachers and the important roles they play in the lives of students as well as within general society.

As I was reading the article, I was reminded of a series of conversations I had years ago with a widely-respected and admired Eritrean teacher. He had vast experience teaching, volunteering, and community building and there was little question he was highly dedicated to refining his craft and thoroughly committed to positively affecting the people around him. I can still vividly recall asking him what motivated him, why he taught, and the reasons he did what he did. His responses continue to resonate quite deeply.

“It isn't for money! Teaching

is about contributing and about making a positive difference. It's about taking what you have and infusing it into a place that has a great need now! It's a way to uncover and explore issues, and then actively work towards tangible, sustainable solutions.”

I have written and commented extensively on the remarkable history and wonderful commitment of teachers in our country. They have long played a positive role in society, making tremendous contributions and helping to initiate and lay the foundation for important positive changes. During the decades-long independence struggle, teachers were a vital part of a unique system of educational programs and institutions established within areas held by the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF). Teachers, who often were wounded or disabled fighters, helped to educate other independence fighters and their children, orphans, refugees, and other groups traditionally excluded from opportunities to learn, including women, nomads, and the rural-based population.

It is hard to overlook the dedication and commitment exhibited by teachers (as well as students and others), even under the greatest of challenges and obstacles. For example, while Ethiopian fighter jets circled menacingly high above, incessantly and indiscriminately bombing and terrorizing, “classrooms” (which were really just the shade under a tree) were simply shifted to caves and lessons continued.

Even today, decades later, teachers across the country still inspire. They continue to play a positive role in imparting knowledge, supporting the realization of fundamental human rights, helping ensure

inclusive and equitable education, promoting learning opportunities for all, and changing lives.

The article also allowed me to reflect on some of the reasons that I teach. Today, when people ask me why I teach in Eritrea, my response is generally, “I don't teach because I love teaching. I teach because I love the people of Eritrea and I am inspired by them.”

One of my most cherished and inspirational memories as a teacher actually occurred not too long ago. It was just before I conducted a morning lecture at one of Eritrea's colleges. Arriving several minutes before my 8:00am class, I was confronted with one of my students sitting in the first row quietly reading his notes. Smiling, I greeted him, “*Nifue* (Good lad).” As I was sifting through my papers and organizing my desk, I couldn't help but recognize the state of my student's shirt, which was drenched in sweat. “*Entay da? Sport?* (What's up? Were you exercising?)” I asked him, motioning to his wet shirt.

Smiling somewhat sheepishly, he responded that he had just walked to class from home. His home was located over 20km away and he had departed hours earlier. Although like every other student on campus he had been assigned a dormitory room on campus, the night before he had walked home to visit his young child. Having checked upon her, he promptly returned to campus early the next morning, so as to not miss class. Wow!

It is true that, as teachers, we have the potential to teach and inspire. Quite often, however, we are the ones that are being taught and inspired.





# Diaspora News

## Dr. Naigzy Gebremedhin and the Eritrean Flag on Mount Kenya

Naigzy Gebremedhin (Ph.D.) is known in Eritrea as a former Director of the FAO, a former Dean of the Building College in Addis Ababa, the author of the first environmental protection plan for Eritrea, and the architect and the Director of the Cultural Assets Rehabilitation Program (CARP) in Asmara. CARP was the precursor to the current Eritrea World Heritage Committee, which succeeded in registering Asmara as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

These are credentials that anyone would be justified to boast about for a lifetime. But Naigzy has always had more to offer, although, in his humble nature, one has to nudge and push him to talk about them. In my association with him at CARP, I used to notice how he would clench his fists whenever he tensed up for some reason. I asked him why. "I was a boxer at Wingate School," he told me, "It's probably a habit from those days." He went on to show me a few punching tricks.

In the early 2000's, when he was around seventy years old, I remember him telling me that he had just come back from a visit to the monastery at Debre Bizen. "By helicopter?" I asked him. "On foot," he replied, "I am climbing back again within the week. Do you want to come along?" I declined. He called me the day after his second visit to Bizen and we celebrated the feat with a couple of beers at Sunshine Hotel.

My real surprise came in 2009

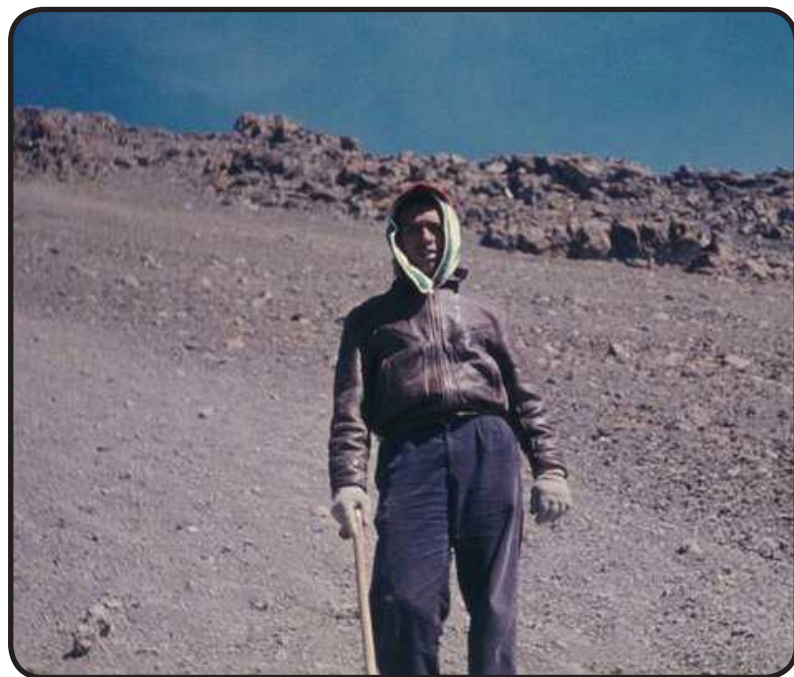
or 2010 when I received a message that he had distributed to friends informing us that he had celebrated his seventy-fifth birthday on top of Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa.

More surprising to me was that it was not his first climb up that formidable elevation. He had done it at 25 when Kenya was still a British colony in 1959; and again at 50, every quarter century.

On his plans for a third attempt, an amused admirer had told him that conquering Kilimanjaro twice in a lifetime was heroic, going for a third was madness. He

A few weeks ago, on August 6, I met him in Nairobi looking not a day older than when I had seen him last, some thirteen years before. He handed me an envelope with a folded paper inside, which I pocketed for later reading. He too did not volunteer to tell me what its contents were. We spent almost three hours together talking, reminiscing, driving around and shopping.

The following day, while waiting for my flight back home at Nairobi Airport, I remembered the envelope and opened its content. It was a clipping from the Kenyan newspaper, The Nation,



*Mr. Naigzy on Mt. Kilimanjaro at the age of 25 in 1959*

was "mad" enough to try it and succeed. "I suspect that you may do it once more for your 80th," I wrote to him, little doubting that, by that age, anything of that sort would be beyond his abilities. I was in for another surprise.

announcing that, at 84, Naigzy Gebremedhin was climbing Mount Kenya, the second highest mountain in Africa.

He was honoring the memory of his friend, the prominent Kenyan politician and fellow mountain climber, Kenneth Matiba, who passed away last year.

At 82, Naigzy had set the age record two years ago, when he prayed at Lenana Peak for the health of his ailing friend. This time, he was going back to honour his memory by praying at the same spot. Matiba had done it 18 times over the years; Naigzy was going for his 13<sup>th</sup>.

I literally gasped with amazement and apprehension. While admiring his tenacity and grit, I could not help wondering if he was not testing his stamina a bit too much. But then, I thought, he would not take the risk if he did



*At 84yo, Dr. Naigzy Gebremedhin climbs the second highest mountain in Africa, Mt Kenya for the 13<sup>th</sup> time and becomes the oldest man to climb the mountain ever.*

not believe in himself. I had met him on Monday, he was to make the trek the following Friday... and he had not uttered a word about it throughout our meeting. I felt confident that his humbleness and faith would see him through his latest exploit.

Still, it was no simple matter, considering his age. Lenana Peak stands at 4,985 meters above sea level. Eritrea's highest mountain, Emba Soira, is almost 2,000 meters lower at 3,018 meters. Naigzy and his fellow climbers had to trek for 27 hours through what The Nation called, "treacherous terrain and biting cold" with pauses for rest, to reach Lenana Peak from the base. Once there, he led the prayers for his deceased friend.

"It was tough," he told The Nation at the peak, "Tougher than the last time obviously because I am older. I am happy that I completed this mission honouring my friend and a patriot in this country."

When asked to express his feelings about breaking his

previous record of being the oldest man to climb Mount Kenya, he answered with characteristic humility, "To be honest, records do not really matter to me. But if I did break the record, then I will gladly accept it."

To crown his achievement and to honour his homeland, he planted the Eritrean flag on top of the Lenana Peak of Mount Kenya.

Our indomitable compatriot has set a standard for all of us, young and old, to emulate and surpass, if we can. I know Naigzy well enough to believe that he would love to see someone older than himself break the new record that he has set. But one never knows with people like Naigzy. That possibility may provoke him to go for it once again at 90, or even Kilimanjaro, at 100!

As we thank him for his inspiration, the Eritrean flag keeps fluttering on Mount Kenya.

*By: Alemseged Tesfai | kemey.net*



*He celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on top of Kilimanjaro.*



*Dr. Naigzy Gebremedhin on his 13<sup>th</sup> climb at Mount Kenya*



# YOUTH

## Safe Spaces for Youth:

### Cycling and Panel Discussion Events Held to Mark International Youth Day in Eritrea

The National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS) hosted a panel discussion event under the International Youth Day (IYD 2018) theme “Safe spaces for youth” on 25 September 2018. The celebration brought together high school and university students, artists, cyclists, and working youth to deliberate on safe spaces. The 2018 theme focused on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG 11 – sustainable cities and communities. SDG 11 emphasizes the need for the provision of space towards inclusive and sustainable urbanization.

Cycling events were held on Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 2018 in Asmara, helping to kick off International Youth Day celebrations. The events were organized by NUEYS, in partnership with the cycling federation of Zoba Maekel, UNDP, UNFPA, and UNICEF. Cycling teams from different clubs participated in the competition within the following categories: men’s mountain race (teams A, B, and C), women’s mountain race, and women’s general race.

During the cycling event, the NUEYS Chairman, Mr. Saleh Ahmedin, said that the theme of this year’s IYD is significant

to the youth since they play an important role in nation-building and development. He congratulated the winners and urged the youth to engage in sports and adopt healthy lifestyles.

Evan Mhireteab, Noel Habteab, and Isaiyas Fissehay won gold medals in the men’s mountain cycling competition. Eden Ghirmay from Gala Nefhi and Eden Tesfamichael from Arag club, both 16 years of age, won gold medals in the women’s races. They were both inspired by elder siblings and developed a keen interest in the sport. They attributed their win to discipline and intensive training - 24 hours every week. For 22-year-old Zinab Faxum, cycling has been her passion for the last 5 years. Her participation in 50 competitions has imparted wisdom to share with the youth. “I would encourage young people to take up cycling. It is fun and they can represent our country in global competitions,” she said.

While delivering the Resident Coordinator’s speech, the UNFPA Eritrea representative, Dr. Ibrahim Sambuli, said that the society had the power and the responsibility to ensure that every boy and girl make a safe and healthy transition through adolescence into responsible



Selam Amare (middle) with other students who took part in a safe spaces panel discussion

adulthood. He added that “The Government and the UN collaborative initiatives on youth issues promotes youth leadership and participation. Efforts are geared towards enabling young people to develop life skills and knowledge to make informed decisions and meaningfully contribute to the development aspirations of the country.”

In one of the panel discussions, students shared their ideas on what safety spaces meant in their physical and social spaces like home, school, playground, and the natural environment. They cited good practices like keeping good company, keeping the environment clean, good behaviour at school, and holding conversations with peers, parents, and teachers about decisions and issues that affect their lives.

The highlight of the day

was the message from Selam Amare (15), a student at Asmara Comprehensive Secondary School, who gave six tips to ensure safe environment for the youth: *Educate everyone; promote reproductive rights for women and girls; combat violence against women and girls; give advice to the youth; choose good friends; influence people; and lead by example.*

A dialogue by youth representatives from NUEYS, the National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW), the Ministry of Housing, Land and Welfare (MoHLW), the Ministry of Education (MoE), and the UN examined the role played by their organizations in creating safe space for the youth. They all concluded that the youth need spaces for engagement and called for partnership with all the stakeholders.

The idea for International Youth Day was proposed in 1991 by young people who were gathered in Vienna, Austria, for the first session of the UN’s World Youth Forum. The forum recommended that an International Youth Day be declared, especially for fundraising and promotional purposes, to support the United Nations Youth Fund in partnership with youth organizations. This year, IYD sought to raise awareness on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda that reiterates the need for public spaces for the youth to enable them to interact with family and have constructive inter-generational dialogue.

In addition, during the recently concluded 73<sup>rd</sup> session of the UN General Assembly, the United Nations Secretary-General

launched a new partnership strategy with the world’s 1.8 billion young people on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018, to help put “their ideas into action”. *Youth 2030: The United Nations Youth Strategy*, is the UN’s strategy to engage with, but especially to empower, young people. “And as we change, we will work with our partners to do likewise” and spur new partnerships, the UN chief said, identifying five key areas:

1. Opening new routes to involve young people and amplify their voices.
2. Strengthening the UN’s focus on their accessing education and health services.
3. Placing their economic empowerment at the fore of development strategies, with a focus on training and jobs.
4. Working to ensure their rights, and civic and political engagement.
5. Prioritizing support for young people in conflict and in humanitarian crises, including their participation in peace processes.

The Strategy aims to facilitate increased impact and expanded global, regional and country-level action to address the needs, build the agency and advance the rights of young people in all their diversity around the world, and to ensure their engagement and participation in the implementation, review, and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as other relevant global agendas and frameworks.

By: Elizabeth Mwaniki



Cyclists, getting ready for the Men’s mountain race ©UNDP Eritrea/Mwaniki





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# VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

POSITION: MANAGEMENT SECRETARY

Number Required (01)

TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS

Management of General Manager Schedule

- Provide executive assistance as needed to minimize the administrative work of the General Manager and Operations Manager.
- Arrange and coordinate travel and related documents.
- Respond to written requests for information and arrange appointments.
- Responsible for minutes of Management Meeting and distribute timeously to HOD and General Manager.
- Provide refreshments for General Manager and his visitors.
- Provide administrative support to General Manager and Management Team
- Assist in the planning and preparation of meetings, conferences and telephone conference calls.

General Manager Office Management

- Arrange for cleaners to clean the office.
- Administrative Function
- Ensure that all work orders are processed and captured as well as follow up on completion.

Answering of all incoming calls and take messages.

- Greet assistant and direct employees and public visitors.
- Responsible for ordering stationary for General Manager and Operations Manager.
- Registration and recording of all outgoing documents.
- Performs job as per instruction of the immediate Supervisor.

KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS

- Qualifications.
  - Secretarial Diploma
- Knowledge and Experience
  - 3 – 5 Years’ experience on MS Office
  - 3 – 5 Years Secretarial experience

- Technical Skills
  - Computer Literacy (MS Office – Intermediate)
  - Administrative Skill
  - Telephonic etiquette
  - Organization skill
  - Analytical skill
  - Business writing
  - Proficient on internet
  - Screening of calls

Behavioural Skills

- Interpersonal Relations skill
- Good communication (English and Local language)
- Tidy and presentable
- High level of integrity
- Good judgment skills
- Confidentiality
- Multi-tasking
- Organizing of diaries and travel arrangements
- Meeting of deadlines

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.
- Deadlineforapplication: 10daysfromthedayofpublicationintheNewspaper.

- 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.



Bisha Mining Share Company  
P.O. Box 4276  
Asmara  
Eritrea

Tel: (+291) 1124941  
Fax: (+291) 1124941  
www.bishamining.com

24/09/2018

# VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Bisha Mining Share Company is looking applicants for the following position:-

Position: Data Administrator  
Department: Environment  
Number Required: One(01)

**TASK DESCRIPTION**

**Data Management & other Systems**

- Responsible for the ongoing maintenance and integrity of all environmental and social data bases, including data input and quality assurance/control.
  - Develop and implement the department’s data management system in line with the mines management system.
  - Liaise with mine departments in order to expedite the collection of required data for reports.
  - The implementation and ongoing supervision of GIS capability to fulfil the internal and external environmental and social geospatial requirements of the department.
  - Any other duties commensurate with the development and maintenance of the mines GIS function, data management, environmental management system (EMS), and environmental assessment process.
- Team Support
- Support the Environment and Social management team in their reporting functions, including data analysis, data export and data collation as required

**Knowledge, Experience And Skills**

<b>Qualifications:</b>	
BSc (Geography, Statistics, Demography, Environmental Science or related field).	
<b>Knowledge and Experience:</b>	
2-3 years data management experience including GIS/Geospatial data management experience	
<b>Technical Skills</b>	<b>Behavioral Skills</b>
Computer Literacy (MS Office – Intermediate, Excel, Access– Advanced)	Communication ( English and local Language)
Statistics Ability	Interpersonal Relations

Attention to detail	Integrity
Analytical skill	Ability to work towards strict deadlines
QA/QC data experience, data analysis	High level of accuracy
Problem solving skill	Discretion
	Assertiveness

**General Information and other requirements:**

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

**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**
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# *"Eritrean values are my passion" - Stefano Pettini*

**Billion Temesghen**

*Meet Stefano Pettini, a man who has a long, strong bond with Eritrea and Eritreans. He was introduced to Eritrea while serving in the peacekeeping forces in 2001. After seeing Eritrea firsthand and learning about its history, people, and values, Pettini established a website to share its story and provide factual, objective reports. Pettini has also been engaged with the Eritrea's national railway rehabilitation project and he was part of a team that recently installed eight locomotives.*

**When did you first come to know about Eritrea?**

In 2001. I served as a technician for the UN and was stationed at the Asmara airport when peacekeeping forces were stationed along the Eritrea and Ethiopia border. Immediately after the Algiers Agreement, an international mission was established to ensure that the two countries would abide by the agreements reached in Algiers during the transitory period. This was the period in which the two were to withdraw to their respective borders prior to the conflict and wait for the final and binding decision of the Border Commission.

**So when did your fondness for or "pact of friendship" with Eritrea start?**

After the EEBC passed its final and binding verdict we moved out of Eritrea. I went back home to Italy. At that point, I began reading the distorted stories that were being published in the mainstream media. Things like how Eritrea started the war by invading Ethiopia, untruthful news of how Eritrea was defeated, fabricated famine reports, and many other things that totally contradicted what was really going on in the newly-liberated African nation. For the very same reason that I was here during the peacekeeping mission, I felt responsible to tell what I saw. I am not a journalist by profession, I am a military man, but I started my battle against fake news about Eritrea. I developed a website to counter the stories and journalists that were spreading baseless information. Every time there was something negative out there, I would write a piece or simply put up a photograph to contradict it and somewhat put a slice of truth out there.

**Any examples?**

For example, say if something was circulating under the heading of "University Shut Down; Dispersed Students", I would post pictures and share brief articles about the opening of colleges around the country. If the header was of drought, I would post photographs of dams which, by the way, were much fewer compared to the extensive chain of dams dotted throughout the country and activities carried out nationwide towards water conservation. I was collecting my material, studying about Eritrea and its people, integrating with the extremely humble society, and fighting fake news as much as I could.

**You are passionate about the unique traits of the Eritrean railway. Did you, perhaps, notice the Eritrean railway from above during your mission in 2001?**

I grew up in Rome with a big passion for trains, especially the Eritrean type. I like the old, classic railways. When I first came to Asmara, I sensed the scent of the trains in the outskirts of Asmara. I went to see and it was just so beautiful!

I met the director of the railway who was assigned to the post soon after independence. The rehabilitation project for the railway was highly organized and planned. The first step was inspection. A thorough assessment of what was left after decades of war was conducted. The second phase consisted of restoration, followed by attaining whatever was needed to completely restore and expand the railway to eventually integrate it into the country's overall developmental drive. For the overall project, three commissions were established. One was assigned to track the railway, the second commission

was to assess the dispersed materials, and the third was to locate and organize the senior employees of the railway. At that time, they were old, and over the years most of them have passed away. Slowly, one kilometer after another, bolt after bolt, the Asmara-Massawa railway was finally completed.

**What was your impression?**

It was great. Like I said, I had the great fortune of meeting the former director of the railway. Unfortunately, he has since passed away. I knew his office was being encouraged to fully engage in the restoration of the railway. The Eritrean landscape is amazing. And the uniqueness of the Eritrean railway with the beautiful landscape in the highland will surely promote tourism in the country, especially now that the "no war, no peace" situation is finally over. I know there are national plans to extend the railway nationwide to boost the national development drive.



Moreover, wait until the train starts running through the capital. It will be great!

**Why is Eritrea so special to you?**

Eritrea is a place of great values. The people are nice and humble. The history is wonderful and only a few people in the world know the true image of the country. The young people offer help to the elderly, and in buses they give

up their seat for someone older than they are. The values here are incredible and what fascinates me most is that the whole identity of the nation revolves around such values. Eritrean values are my passion.

**Thank you!**

*(Note: Stefano Pettini has been, and is still, highly involved in the national railway rehabilitation project).*

## **The NAWDV - Reflecting on ...**

**C**ontinued from page 2

focus to the empowerment of women.

Currently, the NAWDV has 18,989 members and there are 94 branches of the association abroad, including in Denmark, Norway, Holland, Sweden, USA, Kuwait, Germany, and Italy. Associations abroad work closely with the NAWDV, and through both monetary support and the provision of materials they have

made significant contributions toward improving the lives of the disabled. Many individuals at home and abroad have also supported the NAWDV.

Mr. Ghebrebrhan believes that although it has achieved a lot, the NAWDV still has much work to do. For example, infrastructure, aging, and other complications are regular challenges that arise in giving care to disabled war veterans.

The NAWDV has implemented various rehabilitation programs

in the last 24 years, and it is now preparing to commemorate its 25th anniversary. As part of the celebrations, the association will host a conference on 17 October. Three papers related to the challenges of disability will be presented, including a paper on war and disability. The conference will also feature presentations about the association's work and accomplishments over the past 25 years, a pictorial exhibition, the distribution of magazines and brochures, sports competitions, and discussion forums.