

PRESIDENT ISAIAS AFWERKI ON WORKING VISIT TO ETHIOPIA



President Isaias Afwerki departed to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for a two-day working visit on 9 November, upon the invitation of Ethiopian Prime Minister Dr.

Abiy Ahmed.

Upon arrival at the Gonder

Airport, President Isaias was warmly welcomed by Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Demeke Mokennen, President of the Amhara region, Mr. Gedu Andargachew, Foreign Minister Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, Finance Minister Ahmed Shide, and other Ethiopian officials, religious leaders, and distinguished individuals.

President Isaias Afwerki and Somali President Mohammed Abdullahi Mohammed, who is also visiting Ethiopia, accompanied by Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed, passed through the streets of Gonder which were filled with excited crowds.

The leaders also visited the University of Gonder.

At a lunch reception hosted in honor of the leaders, the President of Amhara region, Mr.

Gedu Andargachew, presented gifts to the leaders on behalf of the people of the region.

Speaking at the occasion, President Isaias Afwerki extended appreciation for the warm reception and stated that the meeting of the three leaders is imbued with deep meaning.

President Isaias Afwerki, Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed, and President Mohammed Abdulahi also conducted a discussion in Bahir Dar on the progress of the Joint Declaration of Comprehensive Cooperation, which was signed by the three countries on 5 September in Asmara.

The Eritrean senior delegation comprises Foreign Minister Mr. Osman Saleh, Presidential Adviser Mr. Yemane Gebreab, and Director of the Office of the President, Mr. Amin Hassan.

WORKSHOP ON TOURISM

A workshop focused on promoting societal awareness of tourism sites and attractions, as well as the hospitality sector, was conducted for members of the tourism branch and heads of service rendering institutions in Anseba region.

During the workshop, conducted on 7 November in Keren, the director of the tourism department in Anseba region, Mr. Salim Ali, called for service rendering institutions to work with members of the tourism department and take advantage of tourism resources in their area.

At the workshop, briefings on various issues were delivered, including the general activities and human power of the department of tourism, the region's tourism resources, challenges, and potential solutions.

Chairman of the social service rendering institutions in Anseba region, Mr. Habteyesus Gebreluul, noted that service rendering institutions cannot perform effectively without the support and partnership of the department of tourism and he expressed readiness to work closely with the department.

In related news, a meeting focusing on communicable diseases and HIV/AIDS was conducted for owners and workers of social service rendering institutions in Mendefera.

Head of the HIV/AIDS prevention unit at the Ministry of Health branch in Southern Region, Mr. Asefaw Gebremicael, stated that enhancing youth awareness of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases, as well as creating platforms for discussion, is vital in preventing diseases.

Ms. Asmeret Abrahe, Director General of the department of tourism in Anseba region, called on social service rendering institutions to reinforce their contributions to prevent and control communicable diseases.

MEETING ON STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY MAGISTRATES

The Ministry of Justice organized a workshop on 6 November in Mendefera aimed at strengthening community magistrates.

At the meeting, in which heads of various ministries, the PFDJ, and national associations took part, Ms. Fauzia Hashim, Minister of Justice, gave an extensive briefing on the role and contribution of community magistrates as well as the need to strengthen them in alignment with the mission of the Ministry of Justice.

Indicating that effort has been exerted to provide the public with efficient, equitable, and timely legal service, Ms. Fauzia explained the significance of establishing community magistrates who have credibility and the confidence of the public.

Minister Fauzia went on to say that national laws take into account the socio-economic, political, cultural, and historical foundations of the society, and she called on the public to stand alongside community magistrates

in a bid to ensure social justice.

At the meeting, Mr. Robel Woldemicael, head of Information Technology at the Ministry of Justice, provided an overview of digital equipment set to be installed in all offices across the country.

Participants conducted an extensive discussion about the efforts that should be undertaken to strengthen community magistrates and the possible challenges that may arise with the introduction of information technology.



“The changes we are witnessing in Eritrea and Ethiopia reflect the two peoples’ resistance and resolve”, President Isaias

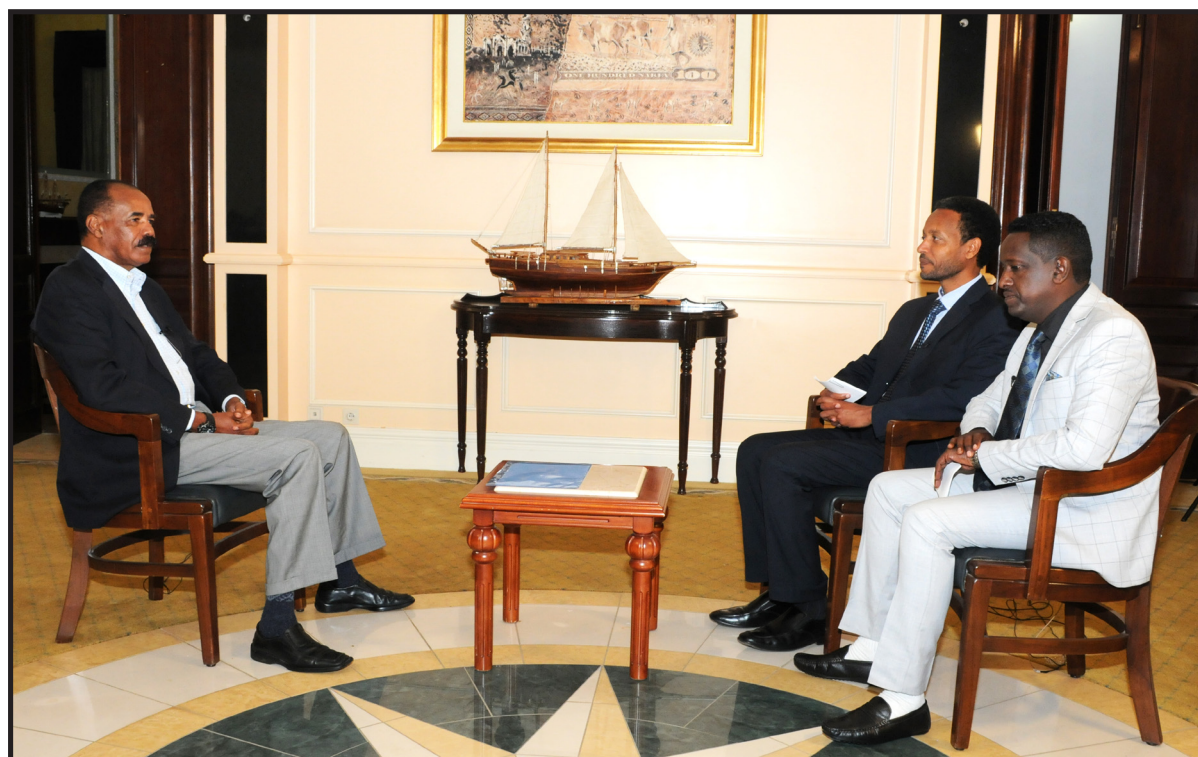
1st Part

In an interview conducted with national media outlets on Saturday 3 November 2018, President Isaias Afwerki discussed the significance, progress, and regional ramifications of the recent historic peace agreement between Eritrea and Ethiopia and other related developments. Excerpts of the first part of the interview follow.

The peoples of Eritrea and Ethiopia have waged long and costly struggles for justice and liberation. And in this past June, 16 years after the decision by the Boundary Commission, the new Ethiopian government announced its full acceptance of the Commission’s ruling and its readiness to implement it without equivocation. As a result, both governments have started to take bold measures to put their bilateral ties back on the positive track. What is the political backdrop of this new reality?

The border problem, the failure to implement the EEBC decision, should not be seen in isolation; outside the larger context. The problem should be seen within the backdrop of unwarranted hostilities waged against Eritrea by the previous three successive US administrations in the past 27 years after Eritrea’s independence. And this was also closely intertwined with US, post Cold-War, new global strategy

The Hanish dispute (with Yemen) did not occur, out of the blue, suddenly. It was part and parcel of the larger scheme pursued by Washington, and the West in general, of working through regional



proxies and surrogates to advance their agenda of the new world order. The political approach in this configuration involved the propping up of pliable regional proxies while punishing and cornering those who did not toe the line.

Eritrea began to be perceived as a hindrance to the pursuit of US/Western regional strategy within the framework of this uni-polar world order. The inevitable corollary of this perception were the formulation and pursuit of hostile policies against Eritrea; to corner and put the country under relentless pressure; to force it to succumb to these adversarial approaches.

Otherwise, if Yemen truly entertained good-faith claims on Hanish island, why didn’t it raise it before with the powers who had colonized Eritrea? Why were claims to this island and issues of maritime boundary raised immediately after the assertion of Eritrea’s sovereignty and independence following a long political and armed struggle spanning for 50 years?

And what people may have failed to notice is the peculiarity and anomaly in the ruling of the Arbitral Court. While the Hanish Island, which was part and parcel of Eritrea in all the previous colonial times, was awarded to Yemen, the Court decided to give Eritrea fishing rights in Yemen’s territorial waters in that area. This was done to keep the problem alive and entangle Eritrea in a continuous conflict.

The underlying reason of all these complications is transparent indeed. Eritrea’s sovereignty was not palatable to those masterminding the new world order. Therefore, the Hanish conundrum was first

concocted. And after Hanish, the Badme case ensued.

If the Badme case was really a good-faith border dispute, then it could have been settled through bilateral engagement and various other means. In reality, good-faith border disputes would have been susceptible to prompt solutions as the borders in our region were established through formal or unambiguous, colonial treaties. Our stance, from the outset, was in fact to resolve the dispute through bilateral means and in the event of failure, through international arbitration.

The US was involved as a facilitator in the early days of the dispute. The US Secretary of State at the time, Madeline Albright, sent her envoys towards that end. We were earnestly engaged in the process hoping for a prompt resolution of the case. Apparently, an enduring solution was not desired on their part. The dispute became more confounded; came under the purview of the OAU (in Ouagadougou) to later explode into a full-fledged and costly war that lasted for two years.

The Eritrea-Ethiopia border dispute was later referred to arbitration. Again, the Arbitral Award was not implemented; not because it was rejected by the TPLF regime but primarily by those who were embroiled in compounding the conflict. Because they wanted to use it as an instrument for keeping Eritrea “hostage”. The new reality we see today is indeed a result of the political dynamics in Ethiopia in the past years and the resilience of the Eritrean people.

To revert to the prevalent trend, the Djibouti “border dispute” was conceived as another tool for

harassing Eritrea. Why were border issues provoked intermittently and given such prominence? We need to ask serious questions to probe the underlying motives and operational modalities in order to avert similar subterfuges in the future as we strive earnestly to cultivate positive bilateral and regional ties

Finally, in 2009, a decision was made to impose sanctions against Eritrea. This may be considered the ultimate attempt to victimize Eritrea after accusing it of supporting Al-Shabaab. This accusation was not based on fact and law. But in similar fashion as the three border issues, the sanctions regime was concocted to force Eritrea into submission and to dominate the region. The TPLF regime was hand-picked to serve as the pliable surrogate in our region to subjugate Eritrea. We can see it as the vehicle that appeared in the third era – Eritrea was subjugated under for fifty years from 1941 until 1991 where various powers, the British, the US and the UUSR propped up Ethiopian colonial rule in Eritrea; after Eritrea won its independence through a long armed struggle for liberation.

The TPLF’s assigned role has however been increasingly weakening in the past years. It survived literally under intensive care and subsidy in the past five to seven years. This must also be juxtaposed with far-reaching changes in the global order. We have to take stock of changes in Europe, the financial crisis in the last decade etc. All these factors are interlinked.

Against this complex backdrop, the political dynamics inside Ethiopia for radical change ultimately became unstoppable. Indeed, this is perhaps best epitomized by the resignation of former Prime Minister Hailemariam

Desalegn.

In a nutshell, the recent developments in Ethiopia can be seen as bringing an end the spiraling regional crises that beset our region in the post-Cold War period. The scheme to dominate the region through use of the Ethiopian regime, which lasted almost 30 years, has ended with the coming to power of the new Ethiopian government.

The changes we are witnessing in Ethiopia and Eritrea today reflect the outcome of the two peoples’ resistance and resolve. We are now entering a new era, marking an end to decades of dominance and resistance that began at the end of World War II.

In 1991, there were prospects for peace and development for the peoples of Eritrea, Ethiopia, and the region as a whole. But that was cut short by global and regional factors. The two peoples have learned a lot from the lost opportunities – the Ethiopian government’s declaration of its acceptance and readiness to implement the Boundary Commission’s ruling, which heralds a new era, demonstrates this. The question now is about the potential of the new era and how we handle it.

The Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship states that, among other things, that the state of war [between Eritrea and Ethiopia] has ended and a new era of peace and friendship has begun. It underlines that the two governments will develop close political, economic, social, and security ties, in addition to implementing the EEBC ruling. What is the progress made so far in the implementation of the Agreement? What are the opportunities and challenges that this new era portends to the peoples of both Eritrea and Ethiopia?

These new developments must be gauged properly and all our efforts must be marshaled to bolster the conducive climate for its consolidation. This is our first priority and primary responsibility. We have a lot of major tasks that must be accomplished in different sectors in the future; in the times ahead. But, the utmost focus of the people and Government of Eritrea must be the consolidation of the peace process that has ushered in a new epoch. We are working vigorously to create mutual trust; an atmosphere of congenial mutual consultation. Ultimately, we need

Continued on page 5

**ERITREA
PROFILE**

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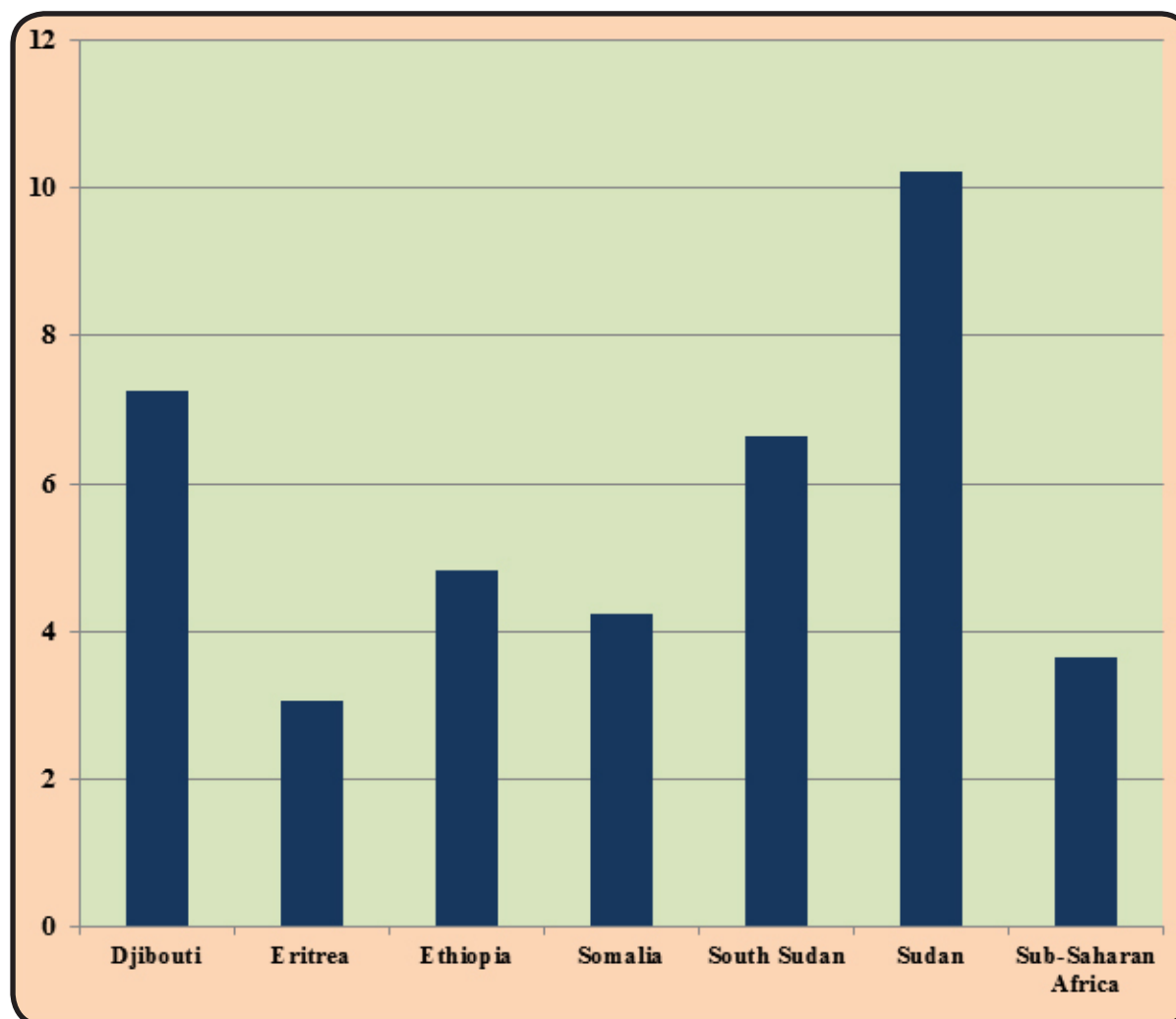
An Overview of Diabetes

Dr. Fikrejesus Amahazion

Several days from now, on 14 November, the world will commemorate World Diabetes Day (WDD). WDD was established in 1991 by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF), an umbrella organization of over 230 national diabetes associations in 170 countries and territories, and the World Health Organization (WHO), a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) concerned with international public health, in order to raise awareness about rising diabetes rates worldwide. November 14 was selected as the date for WDD since that is the birthday of Sir Frederick Banting, who co-discovered insulin, along with Charles Best, in 1922. In 2006, the UN made WDD an official UN-recognized annual international day through the passage of UN Resolution 61/225. With WDD representing an important opportunity to raise awareness and spread the message about diabetes, this article provides a general overview of the disease and a brief snapshot of diabetes within Eritrea.

Diabetes is a chronic disease that occurs either when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin or when the body cannot effectively use the insulin that it produces. Insulin is a hormone that regulates blood sugar (it also has many other roles). Hyperglycaemia, which is an increased concentration of glucose in the blood, is a common effect of uncontrolled diabetes and over time it leads to serious damage to many of the body's systems, especially the nerves and blood vessels.

There are two principle forms of diabetes: Type 1 and Type 2. Type 1 diabetes, previously known as insulin-dependent, juvenile, or childhood-onset, is characterized by deficient insulin production and requires daily administration of insulin. While this form develops most frequently in children and adolescents, it is increasingly being found among adults. At present, the cause of Type 1 diabetes is not known and it is not preventable with current knowledge. The second main form of diabetes, Type 2 diabetes, results from the body's ineffective use of insulin. Type 2 diabetes, formerly called non-insulin-dependent, or adult-



Estimated National Prevalence of Diabetes (%)

onset, comprises the large majority of people with diabetes around the world, and it is largely the result of excess body weight and physical inactivity. Although Type 2 diabetes occurs most frequently in adults, it is increasingly being noted in adolescents as well.

Diabetes has significant consequences; it is a major cause of blindness (about 2.6% of global blindness can be attributed to diabetes), kidney failure, heart attacks and strokes (adults with diabetes have a two- to three-fold increased risk of heart attacks and strokes), and lower limb amputation (through the increased chance of foot ulcers and infection). However, relatively simple and easy lifestyle measures have been shown to be effective in preventing or delaying the onset of Type 2 diabetes, including: achieving and maintaining a healthy body weight; being physically active; eating a healthy, balanced diet (e.g. increasing fruits and vegetables while avoiding sugar and saturated fats intake); and avoiding the use of tobacco.

According to the WHO, the number of people with diabetes quickly rose from approximately 108 million in 1980 to 422 million

in 2014. During the same period, the global prevalence of diabetes among adults over 18 years of age increased from about 4.7% in 1980 to 8.5% in 2014 (WHO 2018). Although the prevalence and impact of diabetes has dramatically increased around the world, the trend is especially pronounced within Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), posing significant health and socio-economic consequences. The rapid rise in diabetes across SSA is spurred, in large part, by growing and aging populations, considerable changes in lifestyle and eating habits, such as increased exposure to high-calorie, processed foods, rapid urbanization, and changing work practices (e.g. more people spending their working days sitting down). In 2015, the IDF estimated that there were 14-16 million adults living with diabetes in the region, with the highest prevalence of diabetes found in adults aged 55 to 64. Of note, less than half of those with diabetes in SSA are diagnosed – the highest proportion in the world – and of those that are diagnosed, only about 10% are receiving treatment. Ominously, SSA is also expected to have the largest percentage increase in the incidence of diabetes of any region in the world in the coming years.

Over the years, Eritrea, a low-income, developing country in the Horn of Africa, has made considerable improvements in healthcare. However, partly as a result, chronic diseases, such as diabetes, are on the rise in the country. Diabetes is one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality of adults in Eritrea and estimates suggest a national prevalence of approximately 3.06%. A total of 78,686 new cases and 926 deaths related to the condition were reported between 1998 and 2013, and diabetes accounted for 2.7% of total reported deaths in 2013. Not only has the incidence of diabetes in the country risen, there is also an increasing amount of disabilities linked to amputations, as well as diabetic retinopathy and blindness. It is not farfetched to suppose that, if left unaddressed, diabetes and its complications have the potential to reverse some of the significant health gains made by Eritrea in recent years.

As with much of the rest of the SSA region, relevant risk factors associated with the growth of diabetes in Eritrea include slowly changing dietary habits, such as augmented food quantities, the

introduction and consumption of refined, processed or fast foods and high salt intake, growing urbanization, reduced physical activity, and a shift towards sedentary lifestyles or occupations.

Importantly, Eritrea provides support and treatment to all diabetics. For example, insulin, syringes, visual test strips, and other relevant education materials are all distributed to patients by the Eritrean National Diabetes Association, which was established in 1996, and the Ministry of Health. As well, with Eritrea possessing a large diaspora population, many patients frequently receive medicines or health supplies from family or friends abroad. Those with diabetes or associated risk factors may also turn to traditional or herbal medicines (e.g. plants with therapeutic properties). Generally, these are cheap, easily accessible, and readily available from various local shops, within large markets, or from traditional healers (usually community elders), and people often learn about them from friends or relatives. While some of these traditional and herbal medicines can support positive outcomes, it is important to also keep in mind that they can be problematic because the safety and efficacy of the majority of herbal and traditional therapies have not been thoroughly investigated, they remain unregulated, users may be unaware of potential adverse side effects, and their use may be ineffective or dangerous in combination with doctor prescribed medications.

For developing countries such as Eritrea, diabetes is not only an increasingly significant public health issue, it also poses significant socio-economic consequences, with the potential to leave families in poverty and burden an already limited healthcare system. Therefore, it is imperative to ensure appropriate actions are taken, such as improving screening rates, in order to prevent and control its progress or complications. Ultimately, effective prevention and early treatment will result in a range of benefits, including considerable savings on the costs of treatment, complications, and disability, economic growth generated by a healthy working population, and allowing people to lead full and happy lives.

SpotLight

Antibiotics: Use with Care and as Recommended

Kesete Gebrehiwet

The invention of antibiotic medicine was a major success in the history of healthcare provision. Global public health in the 20th century was taken to new heights of development owing to the discovery of antibiotics and a number of infectious diseases have been cured through judicious utilization of antimicrobials. In recent times, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) has become a global challenge, threatening the effective prevention and treatment of a large number of diseases caused by bacteria, parasites and viruses. Recognizing

in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and other ministries, has commemorated WAAK through organizing seminars and presentations, developing and disseminating brochures and other documents, and sharing information on mass media outlets. Messages tend to encourage the proper handling of antibiotics and the judicious use of drugs and medicine. This year, Eritrea will nationally commemorate WAAK from 12-18 November with a number of events and activities guided by the theme of effective use of antibiotics and reducing the threat of AMR.

Director of National Medicines and Food Administration in the Ministry of Health, stated that the scheduled public awareness campaign will feature programs aiming to inform the public about the benefits associated with the effective use of antibiotics. He further noted that beginning in 2019, the MOH will distribute a national drug prescription guideline to strengthen compliance of healthcare professionals and pharmacists in prescribing medicines.

resistant-microbes found in people, animals, food, and the environment can easily spread between people, animals, and the environment.

Mr. Afeworki Mehretab, Head of Animal and Plant Agriculture in the Ministry of Health, expressed deep concerns about the negligent use of drugs by farmers treating animal and plant diseases or seeking to increase productivity. He recommends that farmers only use antibiotics as outlined by professionals and only



Mr. Afeworki Mehretab



Mr. Iyassu Bahta

the danger to public health posed by AMR, Eritrea's Ministry of Health (MOH) has made efforts to increase public awareness and understanding.

World Antibiotic Awareness Week (WAAK), held every November since 2015, often features a wide range of events and activities. WAAK aims to reduce the emergence and spread of AMR and promote the proper use of antibiotics. In Eritrea, the MOH,

Preventing AMR requires sound action across government sectors and the society. Otherwise, the significant progress registered in the health sector could be reversed. Improper use of medicine leads to numerous complications and a higher likelihood of infection. Healthcare professionals suggest that the effectiveness of antibiotics is reduced, there could also be a dramatic reduction in the success of major surgeries or treatment of various diseases. As well, the cost of healthcare for patients with resistant infections is much higher due to longer treatment duration and more expensive drugs. In Eritrea, the MOH and other ministries recommend that antibiotics only be used as a last resort to treat illnesses or diseases. According to international organizations, growing drug resistance has complicated the global fight against various diseases, including TB, malaria, and HIV.

Recently, Mr. Iyassu Bahta,

Due to the improper use of drugs and medicines, humanity's ability to treat common infectious diseases has been threatened. Additionally, it is important to note that AMR does not only pose a threat to humans, since animals and plants can also be negatively affected by the spread of antibiotic resistance. For instance, "fall army worm" has developed resistance to all sorts of pesticides, thus negatively impacting productivity and posing a global threat. As well, antimicrobial

when there are no other alternatives to treat infections.

Healthcare professionals express concerns that without effective antimicrobials for preventing and treating infections, numerous medical procedures may be rendered ineffective. Even though AMR is a global threat, developing countries with limited resources, such as Eritrea, need to act immediately to control AMR and its dire consequences.

According to the MOH and the Ministry Agriculture (MOA), the misuse of antibiotics in Eritrea is accelerating the spread of AMR. In many situations, antibiotics are overused or utilized without professional guidance. Cognizant of the fact that approximately 60% of human diseases are transmitted from animals, the MOH and MOA have agreed to focus on the epidemiological dimensions of diseases and their remedies.

Mr. Iyassu stated that Eritrea is among the 193 countries that accepted the World Health Organization (WHO) convention associated with AMR and the country is developing a five-year strategic plan to address AMR.

He also pointed out that the development of antibiotics has been in decline since the 1970s due to the high costs, thus posing a threat to the prevention and treatment of diseases.

After last year's highly successful WAAK campaign, several ministries in Eritrea agreed to strengthen cooperation in order to achieve even better outcomes. "A committee comprising the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Information, and other stakeholders has been formed and begun awareness raising campaigns," Mr. Iyassu revealed.

This year, WAAK will feature seminars and presentations for healthcare professionals, students, and the general public. As well, Eritrea's Pharmaceutical Association will be a heavily involved in events and activities. The main messages that will be featured in this year's public materials, such as banners and brochures, include: "Antibiotics do not cure all diseases"; "Caution: to get rid of a future without alternatives, do not share antibiotics prescribed for another patient"; and "Do not misuse or preserve antibiotics for future usage".



Development

A Spotlight on Nakfa Sub-Zone

Habtom Tesfamichael

Nakfa has a special meaning for Eritreans. It is endowed with immense history and the relics of the long armed struggle. Topographically, the Rora-Habab area is the location with the highest point, reaching an altitude of 2300 meters above sea level. The town of Nakfa lies on a flat landscape surrounded by hills covered with cacti, grass, and other thorny shrubs. According to local elders, the name Nakfa is derived from the Tigre word *Naqf*, which means "high".

The Nakfa sub-zone is located about 200 kilometers northwest of Asmara. It is bordered by Karora to the north, Adobha to the northwest, Sel'a sub-zone to the west, Habero sub-zone to the south, and Afabet sub-zone to the east. It has a population of approximately 55,000 inhabitants.

The region's climate varies from warm and hot to cold. Most of the sub-zone enjoys a mild climate, which is beneficial for habitation, farming, and herding. The majority of the people of Nakfa sub-zone rely on agriculture for their livelihood, while some engage in pastoralism and trade.

Since independence, the Eritrean government has undertaken different initiatives to improve the standard of living in the sub-zone. These initiatives, based on the principles of social justice and equality, have aimed to alleviate poverty and promote inclusive development. For example, the Government invested in developing basic social service institutions for the rural population in order to ensure that the benefits of the nation's economic growth would trickle down to all segments of the population.

The Nakfa sub-zone is mountainous, which makes it difficult for transportation. As part of the Government's plans to connect the country's remote areas with main market and transport routes, efforts have been made to pave new roads and repairing existing ones. Through these efforts, a number of seasonal and dirt roads have been paved.

Nakfa town is the center of administration in the sub-zone. It provides a range of social and civil services to the local population. During the long independence struggle, Nakfa was completely destroyed by the Ethiopian regimes. There were no social or civil services to speak of.

Investment in rural infrastructure,

health, and education is critical to poverty reduction. It is also pivotal in helping to ensure sustainable development and can also enhance national well-being. After independence, access to education has greatly improved in the sub-zone. There are a number of pre-school to the secondary schools, while two boarding schools have been established in order to serve those who come from remote areas.

Regarding the health sector, there is one hospital in Nakfa, one health station in Agrae, and two clinics in Rora-Habab. Additionally, there are three ambulances that serve these health institutions.

The administration of the sub-zone regularly organizes community work campaigns in different areas. These campaigns have played a positive role in soil and water conservation. For example, water reservoirs of various sizes have been constructed in Nakfa and Rora-Habab administrative areas. As a result, residents have access to potable water.

The river that crosses through the town of Nakfa, although flowing throughout the duration of the year, is salty and not great for drinking. Mr. Yakob Edris, the administrator of the Nakfa sub-zone, said that the administration recently began a project to pump water in from Eila Wegriet, which is approximately seven kilometers to the west of Nakfa. He revealed that the project is near completion, with the final stages expected to be finalized through the support of the regional administration.

Nakfa was an important location during the long struggle for independence and its history is unparalleled. The famous underground trenches and canals, which were critical for the independence fighters, can still be found within an area bordered by the Apolo and Tsebait mountains in the north, Mount Denden in the south, the Hedai flatland in the east, and Embalko and Tsabra in the west.

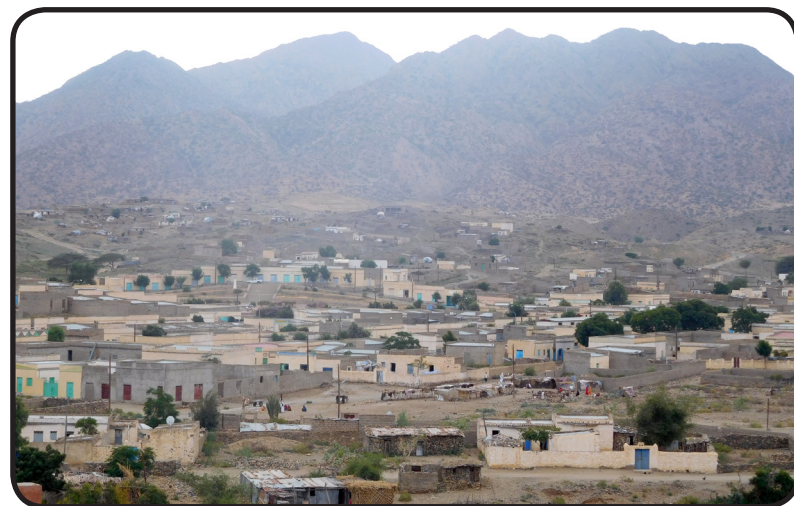
Locals, as well as the Government, hope that these locations, rich in history, can attract tourists. The archeological and sport branch of the Northern Red-Sea region administration is allocating funds to preserve the areas and establish infrastructure to attract tourists.

Most people live in the Rora-Habab, Mariet, Baqla, Endilal, and Laba administrative areas. These

are also the areas where most of the agriculture and herding activities practiced. Locals are also working to alleviate water scarcity problems through various activities, including soil and water conservation and planting trees.

Rora-Mariet is approximately 27 kilometers west of Nakfa. Mr. Ali Mohammed Abdela, administrator of the local administration, said that the community and the administration, with the help of the Government, are working to improve local living standards. Recently, a seasonal road, connecting Rora-Mariet to the town of Nakfa, was paved.

Thanks to this year's good summer, the farms are in good condition. People are expecting a bumper harvest. The area is also unique



because the extent of its forest cover is greater than most other areas. An important factor has been the community's work in conserving soil and water.

Regarding social services, there are a number of schools, ranging from

the pre-school to junior school level. The junior school began operations in 1999. It was recently renovated, helping to increase enrolments and improve the quality of education. There are also a number of mobile schools that provide educational services to nomadic populations.

"The changes we are witnessing in Eritrea and Ethiopia . . .

*C*ontinued from page 2

to gauge progress on the basis of concrete benchmarks and figures. We need to strengthen the basic pillars in order to secure future progress and development.

We cannot be complacent and presume that external challenges and conspiracies, both regional and international, have been vanquished; that they will no longer arise to undermine the new era of peace. Accordingly, our utmost priority is to strengthen mutual trust; to better align our respective programmes and perspectives. The reservoir of good will on both sides is huge indeed. We must also take into account that there are internal subversive elements and remnants of the old order whose aim is to curtail progress of the new reality. The mutual trust we have fostered has already enabled us to register rapid progress in many areas.

We should not harbor doubts and indulge in speculative analysis on the viability of the process underway. Yes, there will be challenges but we have to confront them resolutely. And as we work vigorously to consolidate the process, we must also keep in mind and lay the basis simultaneously for the larger objectives that we cherish and aspire for.

The challenges we face will be myriad indeed. Various external

forces are still bent on creating hindrances and driving a wedge between us. We can see the ethnic strife stoked in several parts of Ethiopia. Certainly, various fault lines and legacies of the past cannot be eliminated overnight.

What are the primary political challenges? Naturally, each country has its own political challenges. But there are also aggregate challenges that have regional and global dimensions. The hostilities directed against us, against our national security have been numerous indeed. There are security challenges that have regional dimensions. All these will require mutual effort.

We need to focus on the bigger picture of and enhance the complementarity and synergy to better address economic challenges faced by the two countries. Our horizon cannot be limited to mere transaction of goods with the opening of the border. We need to look beyond this single parameters to recoup lost opportunities and seize the new reality to boost shared economic vision between the two countries. This economic synergy, underpinned by security and political cooperation, can have a strong impact in the region. In this case, an ongoing exchange of ideas is opening new opportunities in the developments of the peace process. What we anticipated three months ago and the momentum we have witnessed on the ground is very promising. The

steps we are taking in major sectors, particularly diplomatic, political, security, and economic sectors are very satisfactory.

In the Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship, we have underlined the need to take our actions beyond bilateral reconciliation towards regional stability. Indeed, boosting bilateral relations will not be a success when critical matters in the rest of the region remain unsolved. We followed the same principle in 1991 and we still believe and are working together to establish regional stability for common benefit.

The situation in Somalia or South Sudan can have a direct or indirect impact on us. Therefore, we need to support positive engagement in those cases and we should not see them as different, in any way, from our bilateral relations. It is very natural to consider the value of added time in this process and I would confidently say that the accomplishment made vis-à-vis the four months of the new epoch is incredible. Yet, we will not relax based on what we have accomplished so far. In fact, we will increase the pace and strengthen our efforts.

I can say that we have gone beyond what was outlined in the Declaration. Of course, the Declaration includes points anchored on the general vision of the two countries, but in reality, a lot more has been done in a very short time.



INTERNAL/EXTERNAL VACANCY NOTICE

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title and: **SENIOR PROTECTION ASSISTANT**
 Duty Station: **Representation Office, Asmara, Eritrea**
 Category: **G5, (Temporary Assignment)** Starting
 Date: **Immediate**
 Duration: **Three months to 28 February 2019** Closing Date: **24 Nov 2018**

ORGANIZATIONAL CONTEXT

The Senior Protection Assistant normally reports to the Protection Officer or the Senior Protection Officer. He/she monitors protection standards, operational procedures and practices in protection delivery in line with international standards and provides functional protection support to information management and programme staff.

The Senior Protection Assistant provides quality, timely and effective protection support to persons of concern and identifies opportunities to mainstream protection methodologies and safeguards in operational responses. He/she contributes to designing a comprehensive protection strategy and may liaise externally with local authorities and partners on protection issues as guided by the supervisor.

The Senior Protection Assistant also ensures that persons of concern are involved with the Office in making decisions that affect them, whether in accessing their rights or in identifying appropriate solutions to their problems. To achieve this, the incumbent will need to build and maintain effective interfaces with communities of concern, local authorities and protection and assistance partners.

Accountability

- The protection of populations of concern is met through the application of International and National Law relevant UN/UNHCR protection standards and IASC principles.
- Protection activities are guided by the UNHCR country protection strategy.
- The participation of persons of concern is facilitated through supporting participatory, rights and community based approaches.
- Support is provided to identify and report protection incidents.

Responsibility (Process and functions undertaken to achieve results)

- Consistently apply International and National Law and applicable UN/UNHCR and IASC policy, standards and codes of conduct.
- Provide counselling on protection issues to persons of concern; liaise with competent authorities to ensure the issuance of personal and other relevant documentation.
- Support activities in protection related AGD based programming with implementing and operational partners.
- Conduct preliminary information gathering and interviews in support of eligibility, status determination, durable solutions and social needs assessment.
- Contribute to measures to identify, prevent and reduce statelessness.
- Contribute to a country-level child protection plan as part of the protection strategy.
- Contribute to a country-level education plan for persons of concern as part of the protection strategy.
- Monitor Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for all protection/solutions activities.
- Participate in individual protection case management including cases of SGBV and child protection. Monitor and report on cases of refoulement, expulsion and other protection incidents.
- Assist in identifying durable solutions for persons of concern in voluntary repatriation, local integration and where appropriate, resettlement.
- Undertake resettlement case management and conduct regular information campaigns on group basis and individual counselling as required
- Contribute to the design, implementation and evaluation of protection related AGD based programming with implementing and operational partners.

- Assist in drafting reports, routine correspondence, updating relevant databases and compiling statistics for the protection unit / section.
- Contribute to initiatives to enhance national and local protection capacities and undertake any other protection functions as instructed.

Authority

- Select persons of concern for preliminary interviews and decide which relevant information to share.
- Enforce integrity in the delivery of protection services by local implementing partners.

Essential minimum qualifications and professional experience required

- Education: Completion of Secondary school
- Additional training courses in protection related issues
- Job Experience: relevant to the function; 4 years
- Fluent in English & working knowledge of another relevant UN Language or local language.

Desirable qualifications & competencies

- Good computer skills.
- Completed Protection Learning Programme.

NB: Qualified female candidates are encouraged to apply

Applicants should submit copies of relevant documents together with and updated P11 form which can be downloaded from the UNHCR website (www.unhcr.org/recruit/p11new.doc) to:

The Representative,
 UNHCR Eritrea P.O. Box 1995
 Meteten St. 1A754 House 35. Asmara, Eritrea.
 Only short-listed applications will be contacted for a written test and oral interview.

NB: UNHCR does not charge any fee at any stage of the recruitment process.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

REFERENCE:- RFP/ERITAS/2018/01

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Eritrea invites qualified suppliers with relevant registration/licensing documents, to submit a firm offer for maintenance and repainting of Office premises at Meteten St. 1A754 House 35, Asmara, Eritrea starting November 2018.

Interested bidders should request for tender documents at the above mentioned location or through email request to: eritaslcc@unhcr.org from 13 to 16 November 2018. Any requests received after the cut-off date will not be responded to.

Please take note and quote the RFP references as stated above.

Deadline for submission of BIDS is 16:00 Hours, Friday 16 November 2018. Bids received after the above stated deadline will not be considered.



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

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

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

1. Position: Plant Operator
- Department: Process Stream - Process Plant
- Number required: Ten (10)

PRIMARY PURPOSE

- Operate a number of areas in the plant from Crushing circuit to Grinding, Reagent mixing, Flotation and Filtration.(Plant operations are carried out based on the training of work areas which includes all operational activities onsite process plant).

TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS

- Planning**
 - After daily toolbox meeting, plan day’s activities.
- Implementation of the Plan**
 - Control the various sections of plant, Monitor the equipment,
 - Ensure machines/equipment is safe and operating effectively.
 - Measure density and samples as required
 - Monitor addition of reagents as per the giving target/parameters,
 - Report defects/failures of equipment’s and arrange maintenance,
 - Maintain good housekeeping,
 - Prepare reagents for mixing and maintain consumption as required
 - Follow all operational discipline’s as per the SOP and instructions from supervisor/management
 - Always work as a team , for other duties that may be required as per the business needs
 - Communicate any problems/irregularities with the equipment to the control room or the supervisor.
- Writing Reports**
 - Compile daily reports for
 - Prestart cheek list
 - Defects equipment’s
 - Consumption of reagents
 - Shift production report.
- Supervise/Manage team**
 - Provide technical support for the team, by supervising various activities.
 - Provide training for the team (especially safety standards and procedures).

Qualifications
Grade 12 and above
Technical School graduate and above
Knowledge and Experience
Basic knowledge of flotation or metallurgy
1 year experience in ore processing plant.
3-5 years’ experience with crushing, milling and other industrial equipment’s.

Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
Computer Literacy (MS Office – Intermediate)	Communication (English, Local language)
Understanding relevant policies	Interpersonal Relations
Attention to detail	Integrity
Analytical skill	Prioritizing skills & towards strict deadlines.
Fit and healthy	High level of accuracy
Problem solving skill	Discretion
Knowledge of process plant equipment’s	Self-motivation

2. Position: Field Equipment Operator
- Department – Exploration
- Number required - (01)

PRIMARY PURPOSE

- Operate Class 4 vehicles, including remotes areas of the Exploration license.

TASK DESCRIPTIONS

Operate and Maintain Water Truck

- Operate the Water Truck in areas as requested by Supervisor/Manager.
- Ensure that the Water Truck is filled with water at all times.
- Ensure that truck is maintained in accordance with the maintenance

requirements and daily pre-start inspection is completed.

- Responsible to ensure that truck is washed and always tidy in the inside.
- Sign logbook when truck is used and kilometres should be indicated.
- Ensure all mechanical issues and damage is reported immediately to supervisor

Operate Front-end Loader/Backhoe for Site Preparation / Remediation Activities if qualified.

- Responsible to ensure that drill sites are prepared by clearing the area as indicated by supervisor and all environmental guidelines are followed.
- Responsible to ensure drill sumps are excavated as indicated by supervisor and all environmental guidelines are followed.
- Responsible to ensure all access tracks are constructed as indicated by supervisor and all environmental guidelines are followed.
- Responsible to ensure that all remediation work is completed as indicated by supervisor and all environmental all environmental guidelines are followed. Remediation work will include the back filling of all excavated drill sumps, the levelling of the disturbed area and the installation of drill hole cover plates and rods.
- Ensure the front-end loader / backhoe is maintained in accordance with maintenance requirements and daily pre-start inspections are completed.
- Sign logbook when front-end loader / backhoe is used and machine hours should be indicated.
- Ensure all mechanical issues and damage is reported immediately to supervisor.
- Responsible to ensure that the front-end loader / backhoe are washed and always tidy in the inside.

Assist with Field Logistics (geology, geophysics, drill etc.)

- When required, assist with core movement (moving core boxes) and processing (meter marking, RQD, XRF, Mag Sus and SG).
- When required, assist with geophysical ground survey, field geological mapping and sampling. E

Transfer of Core Boxes

- Pick up core boxes from drill sites and transfer to core logging shed, transport empty core boxes and consumables to drill sites as requested.
- Ensure all drill core is transported safely and securely, load and unload core boxes from light vehicle.

Qualifications:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Grade 10Class 4 drivers licence, qualified to operate wheeled backhoe advantageous	
Knowledge and Experience:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ability to operate wheeled backhoe loaderValid driver’s licence – class 4 necessarySeveral years’ operating backhoe advantageousLV licence	
Technical Skills	Behavioural Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Driving skillsOperation of class 4 vehiclesMechanical skillsKnowledge of Health and Safety policies and procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Communication (English and local language)Interpersonal relations skillPhysically fit

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.



Billion Temesghen

Dr. Donatella's vision of collaboration for Eritrean and Italian Schools

Education has been a key area of focus for Eritrea since the country's independence. The People and Government of Eritrea have worked closely with several international organizations and institutions in order to improve the quality of education in the country. The Italian Institute in Asmara is one example of a successful educational partnership in Eritrea. Recently, Dr. Donatella Buonriposi, Director of Tuscany's Regional Scholastic Office, spent some time in Asmara, allowing her to visit the Italian Institute and get a better understanding of Eritrea's educational system. Today, we speak with Dr. Donatella about her experience in Eritrea and cooperation between Eritrea and Italy in education.

Welcome to Eritrea, Dr. Donatella. Tell us a little about your visit.

Thank you. I have thoroughly enjoyed my stay here in Eritrea. It has been a pleasant experience. I came to Eritrea to visit the Italian Institute in Eritrea. I want to enhance my knowledge and see how things work here. From there, I'd like to acquire some lessons that I can apply back at home.

Also, I would like to explore the possibility of cultural cooperation between Eritrea and Italy. Eritrea has a beautiful history, of which Italy is a part. That part of history

marks the cultivation of strong cultural bonds between the peoples of Eritrea and Italy. For me, the strongest point of cultural interaction is represented by the Italian educational institutions – though modest – here in Asmara, Eritrea.

During your visit to Eritrea, what stood out for you the most?

The tourism potential of Eritrea is immense. With the recent historical developments and changes, Eritrea will surely be able to tap into one of its biggest resources - its tourist attractions. I would like to share

a personal experience I felt when I first discovered Massawa. It felt like I was in Venice! Massawa is a beautiful, historic place. It impressed me the most.

I understand that you have visited several schools?

Eritrea has a history of resilience and one can instantly understand the reason behind Eritreans' pride. People are really proud of their history and heritage. Love for land and country are legacies that I believe should be passed on to future generations. And, of course, there is no better instrument than schools to help achieve that end. It all starts in schools.

I would recommend that organizational work be planned and implemented in schools, including having students clean and repair school materials or buildings. I have seen many things that can and should be repaired by the students themselves. It may seem to be of little impact, but in reality it has a massive impact. Students who love their school and are devoted to its beautification will be people or citizens of principles once they grow older.

Now, I understand and extremely respect the Eritrean values. My two trips, this one being the second, have been very helpful for me. I was able to attain a better understanding of the Eritrean people. This society is one of great patriotic values and I believe that schools can be instrumental in keeping those values intact amongst the youngest generation.

Could you elaborate a bit



more? How exactly was this trip instrumental for you?

It was useful in terms of the vision I have for Eritrean and Italian schools working together. There is so much that the two countries can collaborate on which can benefit the Eritrean and the Italian people. For instance, the Italian school here in Asmara could include more courses than are currently being offered. The school could serve as a center of information or cooperation with other local schools.

I believe there should be increased dialogue between the education ministries, and other ministries, of both governments. I have learned that Eritrea's Ministry of Education works closely with the Italian Institute for example. In my view, such cooperation and dialogue should be strengthened for further positive outcomes.

We can work based on the existing gaps or needs of Eritrea. I am speaking about vocational training that can serve the country. Be it for tourism or agro-industry. For example, Eritrea is endowed with abundant tourist sights, most of which are conserved. There

are countless natural, historical, architectural, and cultural traits that make Eritrea's cities and towns beautiful, unique, and distinctive.

Now would be the ideal time to begin vocational training courses related to the tourism sector. For example, courses in hotel management, customer service, and others would be highly beneficial. With Eritrea finally at peace, I believe countless tourists will flock to the country in order to experience its amazing beauty, rich culture, and unique historical sites. It would be ideal, in my view, for the Italian institutions, in collaboration with local institutions, to introduce vocational training courses that could improve the tourism sector.

Dr. Donatella, are there any final comments that you would like to add?

I would like to extend my greetings to the Eritrean people. I hope that Eritrean and Italian educational institutions can continue to work together and improve their cooperation for the benefit of the two peoples.

