



## ERITREA PARTICIPATES AT THE 67<sup>TH</sup> COMMISSION ON STATUS OF WOMEN



Eritrea is participating at the 67<sup>th</sup> Commission on the Status of Women being held in New York, the US, from 6 to 17 March, under the theme “Innovation and Technological Change, in Education in the Digital Age for Achieving Equality and the Empowerment of all Women and Girls”.

Eritrean delegation led by Ms. Tekea Tesfamichael, Chairwoman of the National Union of Eritrean Women, is participating.

Ministers and other senior representatives of 181 countries are presenting reports focusing on how gender equality, empowerment

and sustainable development can be achieved in the digital era, contribution of technology and innovation in strengthening economic and educational capacity as well as health of women, eradication of gender inequalities and illiteracy, as well as opportunities and challenges of digital age.

The Eritrean delegation underlined that in order for the participation of women to develop in digital technology there are certain conditions that should be met including addressing the gap of technological development among countries, putting in place an orderly structure to eradicate

poverty as well as ending conflicts and unilateral sanctions.

The Eritrean delegation is also presenting briefings at the extraordinary discussion forums in which senior officials are taking part focusing on the background of Eritrean women and their contribution in national development programs and equal opportunities.

Eritrea became a member of the commission in 1995 and since then has been presenting reports on the progress of Eritrean women in education, health, and economy as well as in eradicating backward traditions as well as harmful practices.

## LAUNCHING OF OPHTHALMOLOGY RESIDENCE PROGRAMME

The Orotta College of Medicine and Health Science, in collaboration with Fred Hollows Institute, has launched an Ophthalmology residence programme.

The launching ceremony organized on 9 March at the Asmara Palace Hotel, was attended by Dr. Haile Mehtsun, Executive Director of National Higher Education and Research Institute, representatives of the Ministry of health and Fred Hollows as well as member of the Himalayan Cataract Project and Deans of colleges.

Dr. Yemane Sium, Dean of the Orotta College of Medicine and Health Science, said that the college has been providing postgraduate courses in six fields of internal medicine, pediatrics, surgery, gynaecology, radiology, and pathology and that the additional programme will have significant contribution in producing more qualified professionals with a view

to ensuring ophthalmic services to the public.

Dr. Andrew Cassel-Brown, Medical Director at the Fred Hollows Foundation, on his part said that Fred Hollows Foundation has had historical strong relations with Eritrea’s ophthalmic services in a strong bonded relationship that goes way back to the armed struggle period and that was well strengthened and flourished much and reached high enough after independence.

Dr. Andrew went on to say that the in-country initiative of ophthalmic postgraduate residency program will definitely boost and expand the delivery of quality ophthalmic services in the country.

The Orotta College of Medicine and Health Science has been providing postgraduate training on Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Surgery, Obstetrics, Radiology and Pathology.



## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY CELEBRATION

International Women’s Day, 8 March, was celebrated at a national level at Expo Compound under the theme “Eritrean Women- Unwavering and Undertaking Sweats to Cultivate”.

At the occasion in which senior Government officials and invited guests took part, Ms. Alem Belai, head of the National Union of Eritrean Women branch in the Central Region, said that the Eritrean women inside the country and abroad have and are demonstrating equal participation

in the national affairs.

Indicating that Eritrea is emerging to a new historical stage owing to the noble culture and perseverance of its people, Ms. Alem expressed readiness to strengthen participation in the successful implementation of the national development drives.

Pointing out that International Women Day has been celebrated for more than 40 years in Eritrea, Mr. Fesehaye Haile, Governor of the Central Region, said that this year’s celebration is unique for its being conducted during a special stage in

the history of the country.

At the event, the Assembly of the Central Region and heads of national associations delivered messages of solidarity.

The celebratory event was highlighted by cultural and artistic programs depicting the day.

Similarly, Women’s Day, was celebrated at regional levels in the Southern, and Southern Red Sea Regions as well as in Sawa.

In the Southern region celebrations in Segeneity in which Brig. General Tekle Kiflai, Commander of the Central Command, and Mr. Habteab Tesfatsion, Governor of the Southern Region, as well as other government officials and public representatives took part, Ms. Senait Afwerki, head of the NUEW branch in the region, explained the role and participation of Eritrean women in every part of the Eritrean history, and called for reinforced participation and contribution in



the implementation of the national development programs.

In similar celebrations in the Southern Red Sea region in the port city of Assab, Ambassador Mohammed-Seid Mantai, Governor of the region, Brig. General Abraham Andom, Commander of the Eastern Command, and other officials as well as a number of Assab residents attended the occasion.

Indicating that International Women’s Day is being celebrated at

a historical stage in the history of the country, Ms. Sa’adia Ibrahim, head of the union branch in the region, called on women to take advantage of the opportunities being provided and improve their livelihoods.

Similarly, International Women’ Day has been celebrated in Sawa in the presence of the Commanders of the Sawa national service training center and students.

The events of the celebrations featured cultural and artistic performance depicting the day.



# Ambassador Sophia Tesfamariam's Statement at the 5<sup>th</sup> UN Conference on the LDCs

*Mr. President,*

Distinguished Heads of State and Government, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, on behalf of the Government of the State of Eritrea, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to the United Nations for organizing the 5th Conference of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and would like to extend my appreciation to the State of Qatar for hosting this important event and warmly welcoming us in this beautiful city of Doha.

*Mr. President,*

This year's Conference is of special significance as it is being held at a time when the global economy is facing enormous challenges emanating from the Covid-19 pandemic and the wars and geopolitical tensions in different parts of the world. It is also a period when the perils of climate change are hideously inflicting human and socio-economic calamities. Given their vulnerabilities, the LDCs are the most affected by the economic slumps of such compounding crises, where many of our people continue to endure poverty. It is, thus, imperative to objectively appraise the last Program of Actions' results and set out



time-bound, transformative, and doable measures to address the developmental challenges of the LDCs.

In the past decades, various Programs of Action and internationally agreed Development Goals have been formulated. However, very few of these were successfully implemented to improve the quality of life in most LDCs. Regrettably, the majority of the people in the global south, particularly in Africa, remain at the same poverty level, with stagnating socio-economic conditions.

*Mr. President,*

Eritrea is not spared from the challenges experienced by LDCs. As a country that came out of a thirty-year arduous war for independence, with the subsequent devastating border conflicts and the unjust and unfair UN Security Council sanctions, and the continued unilateral coercive measures, its development endeavors have been critically hampered in realizing the desired aspirations. Nonetheless, the resilience of our people has seen the country redouble its effort in rehabilitating the devastated economy through a development strategy anchored on the policy of social justice and partnership focusing on key sectors required to spur growth such as infrastructure and skills and capacity development.

Cognizant of the practical challenges and limitations, Mr. President, allow me to briefly share Eritrea's modest achievements and endeavors in

some of the critical development sectors:

1. In the agricultural sector, where operational targets have been set to increase agricultural output through the export of agro-industrial products, commendable progress has been achieved in climate-smart agricultural practices. In addition, work is ongoing to develop the fishery infrastructure and services to tap into the national and export fish market and generate more revenue for the economy.

2. Significant investment has been made in developing reliable access to water for sanitation, food security, and environmental sustainability. In this regard, Eritrea has built 770 dams over the last three decades, increasing the proportion of the rural population with access to safe drinking water from 7% to the current 70%, and in urban areas from 30 to 92 percent.

3. Education and health are essential sectors of Eritrea's sustainable development program and are almost fully subsidized by the government at all levels. The country aims to ensure equitable access and delivery of quality education at all levels for all citizens. The number of schools at all levels have increased significantly from 526 in 1991/92 to 2,254 in 2020/21 and enrolment rate levels from 346,266 in 1997/98 to 619,180 in 2020/21, respectively. In the same period, the adult literacy rate improved from 46% to about 77%. During the same period, youth literacy improved from 61 to 93 percent, with male literacy

at 94 percent and female literacy at 93 percent. This is recorded to be one of the world's largest increases in youth literacy rates over the past 50 years.

4. Eritrea entered the SDGs period having achieved most of the MDGs related to health. This gave the country the impetus to drive forward with added momentum in the SDGs period. In the past three decades, the number of health facilities have grown fourfold, and the number of healthcare workers increased threefold. Healthcare services have been made almost free with access to healthcare within a 10 km radius for 80% and a 5km radius for 70% of the population. The maternal mortality ratio dropped by 82 percent, the neonatal mortality rate by 49 percent, and the under-five mortality rate reduced by 75 percent. The average annual rate of reduction in under-five mortality in this period is estimated at 4.5 percent – among the fastest in the world. HIV prevalence rate is below 1%. Additionally, the National Immunization Programme is nearly universal, with more than 95 percent of children fully immunized for their age.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Eritrea maintained the lowest death and infection rates. As a result of this and other pertinent factors, life expectancy at birth increased significantly from 48 years in 1991 to 67 years at present. However, there still remain challenges that Eritrea needs to surmount in order to expedite progress toward Universal Health Coverage (UHC), SDG 3, and other health-related SDGs.

5. The road network in Eritrea has expanded from approximately 4,930 km in 1991 to more than 15,100 km at present. This has resulted in over 85 percent of cities and villages in the country being connected by roads. In addition, an efficient public transport system exists connecting most towns and villages. Telecommunication infrastructure through both fixed and mobile phones has been built from scratch and this currently serves most of the country.

6. Eritrea is highly endowed with renewable energy sources whose development has been constrained by a lack of capital for investment and other challenges. However, progress has been made over the last three decades by increasing electricity generation capacity from almost non-existent (18MW) to around 200MW. Access to electricity has increased from 40 percent in 2020 to the current 52 percent. Access in urban areas is 76 percent, while in rural areas it is around 40 percent. It is envisioned that investment in energy will be increased using resources from the extractive industry and the support of international development partners.

*Mr. President,*

To conclude, Eritrea is committed to increasing productivity and diversifying the economy through the adoption of science and technology. It is also keen to promote regional cooperation and integration to enhance trade amongst other development objectives. Like any other developing country, Eritrea is in a race against time to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and regain lost opportunities.

The remaining seven years call upon us for a renewed commitment and partnership to ensure the benefits from skill and technology transfer to spur social and economic development aspirations. In this regard, Eritrea views the Doha Program of Action as an opportunity to expand partnerships and hence it will continue to coordinate with development partners and earnestly endeavor to transform the quality of life of all its citizens.

*Thank You for Your Kind Attention!*

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**Editor-In-Chief  
Amanuel Mesfun**

**Asst. Editor-In-Chief  
Sirak Habtemichael**

P.O.Box: 247

Tel: 11-41-14

Fax: 12-77-49

E-mail:

eritreaprofilemoi@gmail.com

Advertisement: 12-50-13

**Layout**

**Azmera Berhane  
Marta Bedali**

**SpotLight**

# Dolce Vita: Promoting Cultural heritage through Textile

*Mussie Efriem*

ZaEr Company (Dolce Vita), which is known for its fashionable clothing products, produces high-quality outfits for all ages, and most of its products are shirts made of cotton. Although the majority of its customers are based in Italy, it also exports to other countries in Europe,

model in line with international standards for better efficiency and better quality, and it expects to have great results in the upcoming months.

On February 22, 2022, ZaEr unveiled a 325 kW solar system it installed in cooperation with an Indian business. The solar system



*Solar Energy Powers Zaer*

China and India through a big network of retailing. Through this, ZaEr is introducing Eritrea to people in other parts of the world.

ZaEr plans to produce at least one million pieces of clothing this year, which is big compared to the 200,000 pieces it has been producing in the past four years. This will be made possible through the application of technology and drastic increase in its work force. Although ZaEr's main product is shirts, it also produces linen and garments such as uniforms, pajamas and underwear.

Through the collaboration of the government, ZaEr has grown by 200% over the last three years, and it now has over 700 employees. In an effort to create a safe and friendly working environment, the company provides healthcare services to its employees free of charge.

As of the end of 2022, ZaEr has implemented a new production



*Zaer Clinic*

accounts for one-third of the company's electricity. Mr. Pietro Zambaiti, owner and CEO of the company, said they are now planning to spend more on additional panels and batteries to be able to completely replace the existing source of power and increase their productivity by the second half of this year.

As you enter the factory's



*Marco Mancini Ambassador of Italy to Eritrea*

grounds, you see a daycare center and kindergarten where employees' children are looked after by qualified social workers. In a factory of about 720 staff members where eighty percent are women, it's ideal to have such a facility. Since the project's inception, the Zambaiti family has always hoped to establish a daycare center and kindergarten in order to provide valuable service to the working moms. The facility is currently serving nearly 150



*Pietro Zambaiti*

policy of inclusiveness.

ZaEr believes that profit generated from the core business should be shared with the community and believes in having a creative environment. For this reason, it has offered a space for the establishment of Barattolo Lab Art Community Center, a platform for a community of artists who would like to promote their works of art by using ZaEr's textile products as their media. ZaEr is also collaborating with the artists

opportunity to create worldwide business with friendly conditions to attract investors and contribute toward the development of the Eritrean economy. It is part of a big plan to create a ground for cooperation among countries in the East Africa region as well as the Eritrean diaspora.

Mr. Zambaiti said, "What I am doing is my life's mission because what I am trying to do day after day is overcome any challenges I have and have great results in Eritrea. I feel like Eritrea is my home, and I really love to have my business in Eritrea."

Mr. Marco Manchini, Italy's ambassador to Eritrea, has emphasized the importance of ZaEr Company in Eritrea. He has expressed his appreciation for the Zambaiti family's efforts and vision to create a big business



*Tagliero Asmara Brand*

children, and there is a plan to enlarge it and build a playground for the kids.

As a forward-looking company, ZaEr has created an atmosphere where employees can grow, continue to learn to develop their skills and become multitask operators. It has a resident instructor and supervisor who gives induction to newly hired employees and training to other employees to familiarize them with new technology and universal standard management system.

Since last year, ZaEr has been collaborating with the Eritrean National Association of the Deaf (ERINAD), and at the moment it has 24 employees with hearing impairment. Through this it has proved that it is a socially responsible organization and has done its fair share of the national "Don't Leave Anyone Behind"

to make the Tagliero Asmara Brand an authentic brand of premium quality that is "Made in Eritrea" with a view to promoting Eritrean cultural heritage by exporting its products to regional and global markets. Some

network in the East African region and his hope that this will serve as an input in creating economic ties and solidarity among the nations in East Africa and the East African nations and Italy. He has also



*Kids at the Zaer kinder garten*

artists create amazing artworks by using waste materials of the textiles, thereby helping recycle waste and protect the environment.

ZaEr is anticipating an

applauded the company for its initiative to use solar power, which contributes towards the efforts being made to create a safe and healthy environment.

# The Lenten Season: Fasting to Reboot Your Body

Sona Berhane

What do you associate the month of March with? I always think of it as the beginning of Lent, the period of fasting before Easter that lasts fifty five days. I also can't think of Lent without the weather that is prevalent during that season.

The days in March are long. They are hot and dry and draining. As I walk home from work, the sun hangs brooding and beats down on everything. Even the pavement seems to reflect its unforgiving glare. It seems to me that this is a difficult time to engage in serious dietary restrictions such as must be observed during the eight weeks of Lent (which prohibits even the consumption of water until the church ordained time).

Fasting, the total or partial abstinence from food or water for any duration of time, is something human beings have practiced for most of recorded history. Although people fast for any number of reasons, the most common are to help bring about spiritual insights and to fulfil religious rites.

There is also another reason, perhaps less known, for fasting: to facilitate convalescence. This might feel counter-intuitive as our first impulse is usually to feed the sick back to health. Nevertheless, all the major physicians in history, from the Greek Hippocrates to the Arab Avicenna, prescribed fasting as an effective remedy during the critical stages of a disease. Plato and Socrates are said to have fasted for ten days at a time to "attain mental and physical efficiency."

Today, the practice of fasting has been refined and applied not only as an effective treatment for illness but also as a potent method of disease prevention. This approach is referred to as therapeutic fasting. Intermittent fasting is one sub-category of therapeutic fasting. The regimen of intermittent fasting is not unlike the regimen of Lent in that both require abstinence from eating for up to 14-16 hours a day. But this is where their similarities end.

The primary purpose of intermittent fasting is to deprive the body of carbohydrates for an extended period of time, prompting the cells to metabolize ketones instead of glucose – an energy source much preferred by the brain and which could explain the mental

clarity and sharpness reported to be experienced during prolonged hunger. One of the advantages of intermittent fasting is that after breaking fast, there are absolutely no restrictions on the contents of what one may eat. The idea is to set a regular and fixed time during which the process of digestion is not

overloaded. Intermittent fasting takes the load off the digestive system and allows the immune system to operate on high alert, redirecting efforts towards cell rejuvenation and overall detoxification of the body. During a fast, even scar tissue is broken down and regenerated with new connective tissue.

The chief religious and spiritual reason for the observance of Lenten fasting is the preparation of adherents for Easter through conformity to a rigorous regimen symbolic of the 40 days and nights of fasting endured by Jesus Christ.

In Lent, many Christians commit not just to fasting but a drastically changed outlook of life. For instance, one is expected to refrain from extravagant festivities, consumption of alcohol, speaking ill of others and impure thoughts. Instead, one is encouraged to engage in devotional prayer, acts of charity, penance and meditations on what it means to be good – all of which are meant to cleanse the soul. Accustoming one-self to lack and shortage during Lent is also believed to foster compassion towards the less fortunate.

The Lenten season's most fastidious rule dictates that

one's diet be totally vegetarian. Abstention from animal products such as meat, dairy and eggs (also referred to as bloody foods) throughout the 55-

richly seasoned salad.

This highly nutritious diet, in tandem with the regular hours of fasting, serves as a kind of reboot for the body's systems. If possible, it would be advisable and considerably healthier to practice regular and prolonged fasting



throughout the year.

Upon arriving home, parched from the sweltering sun, I find that there is nothing more soothing than a cool glass of flaxseed juice (to say nothing of its health benefits). The body's ability to adapt its complex cycles and metabolic processes to the strict dietary program demanded by Lent becomes quite evident when we are able to make a smooth transition into the solemn, arduous Holy Week or H'mamat. The Holy Week, the last week of Lent following Palm Sunday and ending on Easter Sunday,

day long observance is the hallmark of Eastern Orthodox Church Lent. The driving objective for prescribing vegetarian diet is probably to reinforce a willful refrain from "pleasurable" foods, but what ends up getting served is a set of colorful and spicy dishes dominated by vegetables and legumes. An old favorite is a hot serving of Shiro on freshly baked injera eaten with a side of leafy,

is characterized by longer hours of fasting and requires repeated physical exertions during church prayer. Chants of invocations accompanying the repetitive movements can have an almost meditative effect on the mind.

Each day of the Holy Week is significant. The most relevant, traditionally and locally, are the latter half of the week. Holy Thursday, intended to commemorate the Last Supper, is marked by communal fast breaking whilst in church by the end of prayer. In the Tigrigna tradition it is customary to prepare boiled big beans on Holy Thursday. The next day, of course, is Good Friday. Fasting on this day continues well into sundown and the church prayer is a solemn meditation on Christ's death and burial. After six, when prayers are done, adherents flock to their homes to break their fast. The most common dish served on Good Friday is a leguminous sort of pudding spiced with garlic, parsley and salt, and beaten to a soft frothy consistency. This delicacy is prepared with a thick, peppery sauce placed in its top middle and eaten with slabs of injera. In the Lenten season, flaxseed juice is a Holy Week drink in many households. A day later is Easter Sunday. But all this, of course, takes place in late April.

Given that March marks the beginning of Spring, the severity of the mid-day sun may be unbearable. But it is somewhat tempered by the oddly cold evenings. On such evenings, when the breeze begins to pick up a chill, nothing feels cozier than the coffee ceremony – as the warmly fragrant waft of incense and roasted coffee beans break the lethargic spell of the late afternoons.



# Book Review

## Antu Be'emat - Authentic Eyewitness Account

Simon Weldemichael

In the evening hours of March 3rd, the auditorium of Embasoira Hotel was filled with people from all walks of life, including senior government officials, who attended a special event of celebration and introduction of the Amharic book, Antu Be'emat, to Eritrean readers. The author of the book, Mamo Afeta Ado, was a former Ethiopian (Derg) prisoner of war (POW)-turned EPLF combatant during the struggle for Eritrea's independence.

Mamo was captured by the EPLF in 1977 at the battle of Afabet. Along with thousands of other POWs he was given humane treatment by the EPLF. In 1982, when the EPLF released the POWs free Mamo Afeta decided to join the EPLF and fight for the liberation of Eritrea. He became a freedom fighter, married an Eritrean freedom fighter, and fought until the liberation of Eritrea. After Eritrea's independence, Mamo, an only son to his mother, left Eritrea and went to Ethiopia. In 2021 he published Antu Be'emat, a book that recounts the experiences of his life as a POW and liberation fighter under the EPLF.

During the thirty years of intense fighting for the liberation of Eritrea, thousands of Ethiopian soldiers were captured by Eritrean freedom fighters. The Derg never recognized their status as POWs. The EPLF extended humane treatment to the thousands of Ethiopian POWs, strictly adhering to the provisions of the Geneva Convention. The EPLF's commitment to and respect for basic human rights

was demonstrated by its record of humane treatment of Ethiopian POWs. Though it was not a formal signatory to the Geneva Convention on War and other related norms of international conduct, the EPLF accorded all the rights in the conventions to the thousands of captured Ethiopian soldiers and officers.

Antu be'emat, a well written Amharic book, has the definite purpose of teaching moral lessons. Mamo Afeta gives his eyewitness account on how the EPLF and the people of Eritrea viewed Derg soldiers, who were forcibly brought to Eritrea to fight the unjust war, and presents his personal experience of EPLF's treatment of POWs in an attractive way.

Mr. Michael Tsegay, who reviewed the book, said, "The book presented the victory of love and just cause, and the defeat of racial hatred and bitterness created by colonial politics. This book is a reward to the history of Eritrean armed struggle and its people. It provides an alternative to the distorted history narrated by many former Ethiopian generals and colonels, who resort to extenuation and detraction when referring to the history of Eritrea, by presenting the testimony of the prisoner of war-turned freedom fighter. The book tells the truth to both friends and foes. And it is especially enlightening for Ethiopians who have never been told the truth about EPLF's humane treatment of Ethiopian POWs."

The book narrates the life of the author as a POW, his transformation

from a POW into a freedom fighter and his love story



and

marriage with a freedom fighter. In sharing his impressions of the book, Meles Nguse, the poet, said, "This book is a statue and today we are inaugurating this statue." Indeed, the book serves the purpose of a statue by preserving the true deeds of the EPLF that may be forgotten by the lapse of time or suppressed by the dust of distortion. It's also a tribute to the consolidation of peace and friendship among the sisterly countries. The book plays a critical role in acknowledging the wrongs suffered by victims, in healing wounds, and in preventing the recurrence of the past wrongs. Mamo recounted that "my experience under the EPLF was entirely different from what we had been told about the EPLF by our commander." He remembered that right after his capture an Ethiopian war plane came and tegadelti (freedom fighters) ordered them to lie on the ground for their safety and afterward said to them,

'congratulations for surviving.' The author said that this was

way beyond their expectation.

He added that he had conducted a multifaceted struggle: struggle for liberation, struggle to learn Tigrigna and struggle to translate books published by the EPLF into Amharic, a language the POWs spoke.

At the event, Mamo Afeta was quite emotional when he gave a speech in Tigrigna. He said: "The Eritrean people are generous who struggled and made enormous sacrifices for independence. I proclaim this based on my practical experience. I experienced hunger, hardship and arduous work with my Eritrean comrades. We sweated and shed blood together." After congratulating Eritreans for their hard-won independence, he said, "You not only got independence for yourselves but also saved and taught many thousands of Ethiopian prisoners and sent them back home to their wailing mothers. I am one of them, but the fighters who captured and saved us may not be alive." The book demonstrates the power of remorse, forgiveness and reconciliation that are vital for sustainable peace. It is expected to contribute towards the consolidation of the friendly relationship of Eritrea and Ethiopia.

Misgun Zeray (wedi Faraday), the veteran artist, is translating the book into Tigrigna and shared his impression of the book at the event. He had this to say about the author: "He decided to join and fight on the side of the EPLF, having been convinced by its principles, and in collaboration with EPLF fighters, he took the initiative to teach Ethiopian prisoners of war political education and academic subjects. He is a great cadre who brought

about a big change on himself and his colleagues."

As stated in its National Democratic Program, adopted at its first congress in January 1977, the EPLF was always committed to "provide humane treatment and care for Ethiopian war prisoners." At that time, it was not formally bound by the provisions of the Geneva Convention regarding the victims of war as it had not yet been a signatory to the convention. The resolve to treat Ethiopian prisoners of war humanely sprang simply from the front's principled stand.

ART.38 of the Geneva Convention states that "while respecting the individual preferences of every prisoner, the Detaining Power shall encourage the practice of intellectual, educational, and recreational pursuits, sports and games amongst prisoners, and shall take the measures necessary to ensure the exercise thereof by providing them with adequate premises and necessary equipment. Prisoners shall have opportunities for taking physical exercise, including sports and games and for being out of doors. Sufficient open spaces shall be provided for this purpose in all camps." Mamo gave his testimony that within its limits, the EPLF provided healthcare services, education, food, and other provisions to Ethiopian prisoners of war. More importantly, the EPLF helped set up literacy classes, cultural groups, and sports teams to improve the intellectual and spiritual state of the POWs. The Ethiopian POWs also had their own magazine.

The EPLF didn't put POWs in jails within confined walls and instead created an environment where POWs took part in productive activities, such as construction and agriculture. Ethiopian POWs in Eritrea were ignored and betrayed by their government but treated very well by their captors.

Mamo Afeta Ado's decision to recount the truth has a great contribution to invigorate and re-invigorate a respectful, trusting, and long-lasting relationship between Eritrea and Ethiopia. The 370-page long book Antu Be'emat, an authentic eyewitness account of a courageous man, is a must-read for both Ethiopians and Eritreans and must be translated into as many Ethiopian, Eritrean and other languages as possible to be read widely.





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

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

# VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**1. Position: Electrician**  
**Department: Process Plant / Maintenance**  
**Number Required: One (01)**

**Primary Purpose**

- Maintains and repairs Electrical equipment, appliances, and Infrastructure in the Process Plant. The Electrician will maintain or install Infrastructure for medium voltage, from (110V AC up to 22kV).

**Essential Function**

- Service and maintenance of single and 3 Phase electrical equipment.
- Carry out PM tasks as per schedule. Install and repair electrical controls, panels and MCCs
- Carry-out fault-finding on control cables, low voltage power cables and medium voltage power cables. Splice low and medium voltage cables.
- Troubleshoot and isolate faults. Ground and bond electrical equipment, systems, and structures. Practice safe working procedures all the time.
- Install and be responsible for operation of power distribution systems, including emergency diesel engine generators and Uninterruptible Power Supply Systems
- Mentor his/her helper. Participate in planned shutdown tasks.

**Main Function**

- Planning
- Implementation
- Reporting

**Unique Requirements / Other Information**

- Candidate must be physically medically fit
- Must be able to work outside exposed to Heat, wind and dusty environments
- Must be able to work at Heights
- Must have an Eritrean Driver's License Minimum Code 2

**Knowledge, Experience and Skills**

<b>Qualifications:</b>	<b>Knowledge and Experience</b>
Trade Certificate or Related Tertiary Qualification	3 - 5 years relevant experience
<b>Technical Skills</b>	<b>Behavioral Skills</b>
Attention to detail, Analytical skill, Electrical experience, Problem solving skill, Supervisory experience.	Communication (English), Integrity, Self-motivation, High level of accuracy, Prioritizing skills & multi-skilling, Ability to work towards strict deadlines.

**3. Position: Maintenance Planner**  
**Department: Process Plant / Engineering - Planning and Reliability**  
**Number Required: Two (02)**

**Primary Purpose**

- Contribute to the Operations by ensuring that all maintenance activities are planned and completed in a cost-effective manner with minimal disruption to ore processing and mining activities.

**Essential Function**

- Lead and contribute to the execution of Planning and Reliability of all operations (Process Plant, HME, Engineering Services) and ensuring all maintenance activities are aligned with project plans.
- Register all new equipment on the CMMS, Navision and categories.
- Compile spares lists for the equipment from the OEM's Installation, Operational and Maintenance Manuals
- Compile Applications for new stock inventory (ANSI) for all equipment installed.
- Compile Preventative Planned Maintenance Schedules for all equipment based on the OEM's recommendations.
- Compile Standard Job lists with hazard identification included.
- Develop Predictive maintenance schedules through condition monitoring practices and techniques for critical equipment.

**Main Function**

- Purchasing and Supply Chain
- Management Contractors affairs and contract Requirement.
- Work Management Processes
- Administration
- Health and Safety Environment.

**Unique Requirements / Other Information**

- Must have a proven track record and references.

**Knowledge, Experience and Skills**

<b>Qualifications:</b>
Diploma/Degree in Mechanical or Electrical Engineering Minimum Education: Tech/Vocational Copredication followed by additional Mechanical/Electrical Trade Training with significant experience in the Mechanical/Electrical engineering discipline. (Certificate in Management)/Business Management will be an added advantage.
<b>Knowledge and Experience:</b>
Trade certificate as a Fitter or Electrician 2+ years proven experience in the mining sector (Maintenance planning and scheduling capacity) 4 years' experience in mechanical or electrical maintenance as a fitter or electrician or supervisor's role.



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

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

**VACANCY**

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

Continued from page 6

Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
Computer Literacy (MS Office – Intermediate, In-house software), Time Management Mechanical/Electrical skill, Project Management Risk Assessment, Logical Thinker Mechanical / Electrical skill Project Management, Logical Thinker Mechanical / Electrical skill	Communication (English, Local language advantage) Innovative, Efficiency Cultural Diversity sensitivity Coach/Mentor, Accountability Team player Handling of pressurized environment

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 will 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
- Aliens Employment permits Affairs,
- P. O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea.

**EUROPEAN UNION PHOTO CONTEST**



**Capture the best smile and win great prizes!**

**Who can participate?**

Any Eritrean between 18 and 45 years old residing in Eritrea professional or amateur.



**How to participate?**

Register your participation and bring your photography at the delegation of the European union Marsa Teklai 192 street – house number 20-22.  
127959 / 126266

**DEADLINE: 13/04/2023**

For more information visit our website:  
[http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/eritrea/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/eritrea/index_en.htm)



Ambasciata d'Italia ad Asmara



Office of the Embassy of Sweden in Asmara

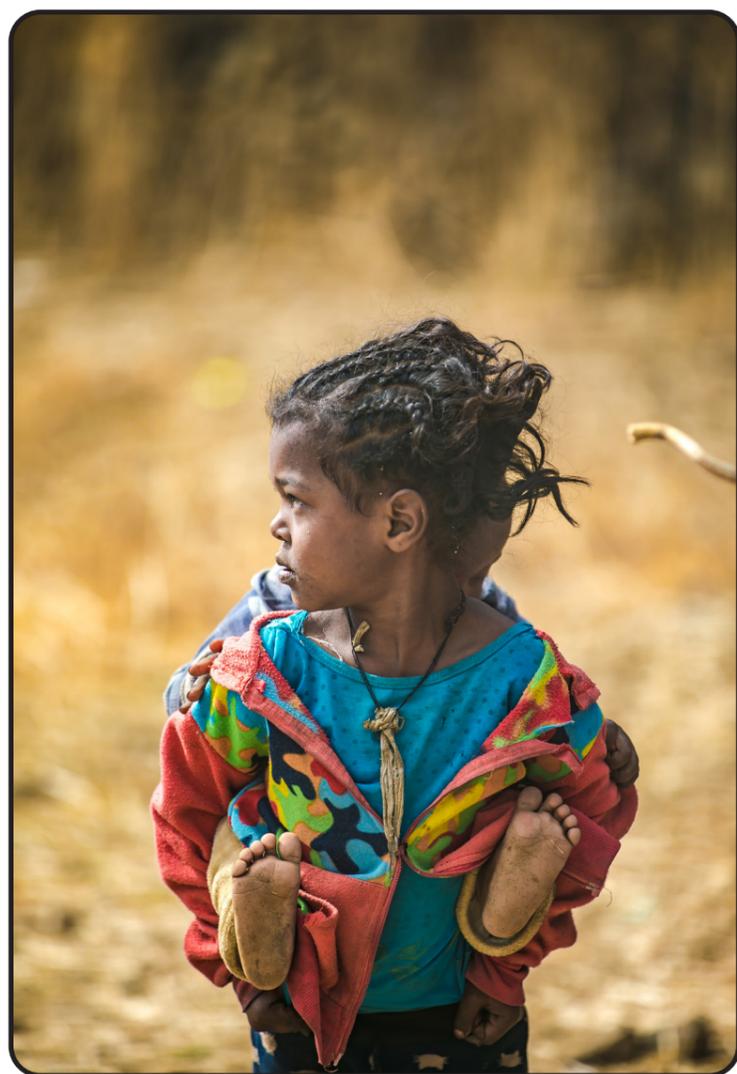


# 'The Most Euphoric Feeling I Have Ever Experienced is From Falling in Love with Art' Photographer Raefet Taha

Sabrina Solomon

Please introduce yourself to our readers.

I'm a photographer and was born and raised in Asmara. I started my career as a photographer in 2010 by taking training courses, and for about



13 years I have been working as a photographer and music video cameraman.

Was it a childhood dream?

Certainly. I have always been passionate about cameras and photographs. I didn't think about money when I started my career as a photographer. It was the passion that pushed me to pursue photography without looking for financial benefits. But it gradually became my source of income. Once I was ready to take photography seriously, I decided to take a training course under the supervision of some well-known photographers, which was very interesting and exciting.

Our guest today is Raefet Taha, a 30-year-old photographer who amuses art lovers through his exquisite photographs and videos.

Later on, I took another training course at Cinema Asmara under the supervision of Yonatan Tsigie and got a certificate. And I

in photographing models and always dreamt of taking that to another level. My friends and I have been trying to come up with some unique angles to take the photography of models to an extraordinarily different stage. Through photography I'm trying to reach a level where our models can go global.

What's the biggest lesson you've learned in your career?

I don't know why some people are obsessed with other people's success instead of focusing on their own journey. It is sad to see people trying to crash the dreams of those who are doing better than themselves. Perhaps the greatest lesson I have learned is that you won't be able to realize your dreams with an ill intention of making any other person who's doing better feel down.

People use social media to promote their works of art. Do you think it's effective?

Social media is indeed a great tool to promote your works and keep in touch with fans. I was introduced to social media by a great photographer, Veckram (Viki), and was motivated to start using it as a tool to advertise my works. That's why I am active in social media, including TikTok, to promote my works and keep in touch with my followers all over the world. The outside world can see our beautiful culture on social

started to learn from experienced photographers by working with them. I started my own photography business in 2014 and have since been working as a photographer. I have produced a number of music videos so far and some of them have gone viral.

I am very passionate about photographing models and do fashion shoots at runways. I also shoot at weddings and other occasions, but I focus on weddings because that's a good source of income.

What are you trying to achieve through your career?

I have always been interested



media and we, too, can learn from others.

I have also used social media to be a voice for those who are in need of help. My friend and I have come together to help people

give financial assistance to save lives.

What should we expect from you in the future?

Through photography and our music videos that represent our identity and everything that makes us Eritrean, I would like to be able to showcase Eritrea at international arenas. We have beautiful women all over the country who can make very good models. Through models from all ethnic groups, I would love to see Eritrean culture appreciated all over the world.

I love helping people who suffer from serious health



with serious health conditions such as cancer but can't afford the medication. Through videos on YouTube, we called on Eritreans at home and abroad to

conditions and couldn't afford the medication. I would love to keep on producing videos to be posted on social media to get help for such people.

What advice would you give young photographers?

I would love to advise them to not jump into this job just because they think it's an easy way to make money. Do what you're passionate about, and as long as you have the passion, the financial benefit will be achieved. It's a bit concerning to see the photography market be filled with people who don't have the passion but use it for some other benefits.

