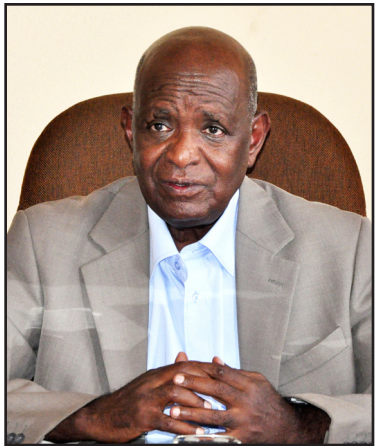


## ENSURING EQUITABLE AND EFFICIENT USE OF LAND



The Minister of Land, Water and Environment, Mr. Tesfai Gebreselasie, underlined that the Government of Eritrea is exerting relentless effort to ensure equitable and efficient use of land for present and future generations. The Minister made the remarks during an interview he conducted with Eri-Tv.

Minister Tesfay said that the Eritrean people practiced land management system that upheld its socio-economic standard. Noting that the inequitable land tenure

system witnessed during colonial rule was the cause for conflict among different villages, he explained that land Proclamation No. 58/1994 was designed to ensure equitable and judicious use.

The Minister further explained that Legal Notice 31/1997 that spelt out apt clarification regarding the use of land has made vital contribution vis-à-vis alleviating bottlenecks in that regard.

He pointed out that following the Land Proclamation, 120 thousand plots of land has been distributed for building houses for residential and business purpose. The Minister further stated that with the expansion of urban centers, general classification has been made in three regions in cooperation with partners.

Minister Tesfay went on to say that investors with eligible projects have no problem in acquiring land for that purpose.



## WORKSHOP ON PRESERVING ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS

The PFDJ Research and Documentation Center organized a workshop aimed at assessing the activities conducted over the past 17 years in the preservation of ancient manuscripts and the public-awareness activities carried out.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Alamin Mohammed Seid, Secretary of the PFDJ, underlined the need for integrated effort in cooperation with religious institutions for modern way of preserving ancient relics so that they are transferred for posterity. Mr. Alamin also said that ancient manuscripts and historical heritages

are reflections of Eritrean identity and should be given due attention for their preservation.

Following briefing on the researches made and efforts exerted in preserving manuscripts and ancient scrolls, the Head of the PFDJ Research and Documentation Center, Ms. Azieb Tewolde, explained that artifacts are public properties and the need to raising public-awareness towards that purpose is important.

The Head of Arabic documents at the RDC, Mr. Yosuf Idris, gave briefing on the research activities

conducted on Arabic inscription from 2000 to 2017 by visiting ancient Mosques and cemeteries.

During the one-day workshop, papers including documentation and preservation of ancient manuscripts, activities conducted for preserving and documenting Islamic manuscripts as well as researches conducted and collecting undocumented manuscripts were discussed.

The conference was attended by religious leaders, regional representatives, experts and invited guests.

## ERITREA PARTICIPATES AT JAPAN-AFRICA ECONOMIC FORUM

The Eritrean Ambassador to the Republic of South Africa and Southern African countries, Mr. Saleh Omer, participated at the Japan-Africa Economic Development Forum held in Johannesburg from 3-4 May.

The Forum was opened by Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa, and focused

on the agreements reached and investments made on economic development aimed at boosting bilateral cooperation between Africa and Japan as well as the progress so far reached.

Alongside the economic forum, an exhibition showcasing the innovative technologies of more than 100 Japanese companies was

organized, report indicated.

In the same vein, the Eritrean Embassy in South Africa reported that Eritrean nationals in the South African countries are conducting various sports activities including football competitions in connection with the 27<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Eritrean Independence.



## FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLE FARMING



Farmers engaged in vegetable and fruits production along the banks of Gash River said that they are enhancing their endeavors to boost production and meet demand in the locality.

Indicating that the water and soil resource in the area is conducive for vegetables and fruits production, the farmers said that they are exerting strong effort to boost production with sustainable professional advice from experts.

They also said that with the establishment of the vegetables and fruits association in their area and with the water pump motors support they were provided, their production is increasing from time to time.

The representative of the Ministry of Agriculture branch in the area, Mr. Debesai Keleta, said that the vegetables and fruits cultivated in more than 100 hectares of land will have significant contribution in meeting the demand of the local markets and beyond.



# From Archives

## STATEMENT OF THE ERITREAN CABINET OF MINISTERS IN RESPONSE TO THE STATEMENT BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA, MAY 1998

The Cabinet of Ministers of the Government of Eritrea has held a meeting in Asmara today, Thursday May 14, 1998, to consider the Statement issued by the Council of Ministers of the Federal Democratic Government of Ethiopia which accuses Eritrea for inciting conflict and hatred and pursuing a policy of territorial expansion; condemns Eritrea alleging that its army has invaded Ethiopian territory by crossing its borders; and warns that Ethiopia will take all the necessary measures to protect its territorial integrity.

The Government and people of Eritrea are greatly saddened by the tone and contents of these grave accusations.

The Cabinet of Ministers of the Government of Eritrea noted that there have been, and continue to exist, border disputes in certain localities along the common borders between Eritrea and Ethiopia. These problems have been instigated by the unlawful practices of the Ethiopian army which occasionally made incursions into these Eritrean territories; dismantling the local administrative structures and committing crimes against the inhabitants.

But despite these periodic occurrences, the Cabinet asserted

that the Government of Eritrea has been consistently endeavouring to resolve these recurrent problems through bilateral negotiations with the Government of Ethiopia in a calm and patient manner; cautious for not inflating the problem out of proportions and incite animosity between the two fraternal peoples. The Government of Eritrea has opted for this course of action because it believes that the international boundary between Eritrea and Ethiopia is very clear and uncontroversial. Because it knows that the recurrent border incursions that continue to be perpetrated by Ethiopian forces basically emanate from the narrow perspectives of the Administrative Zones.

The Cabinet of Ministers further noted that a Joint Committee had been formed from both governments to resolve these problems and to delineate on the ground the boundary line. The Cabinet of Ministers asserted that the Government of Eritrea has been exerting all the necessary efforts to expedite the process and facilitate the work of the Joint Committee.

But on Wednesday, May 6, 1998, and while the Eritrean delegation was on its way to Addis Abeba for a meeting of the Joint Committee to discuss ways and means for accelerating its work, Ethiopian army contingents that had already penetrated into Eritrean territory in the areas around Badme (south-western Eritrea) opened fire and caused grave damage on Eritrean units that attempted to approach them for dialogue. This unprovoked attack subsequently triggered a cycle of clashes in the area.

Furthermore, while continued talks were underway to resolve the tension provoked by the first attack, an appalling Statement aimed at sending an unnecessary message to the peoples of both countries and the international community was issued by the Council of Ministers of the Federal Democratic Government of Ethiopia.

The Cabinet of Ministers reiterates its firm belief that the enduring mutual interests that exist and bind together the peoples of Eritrea and Ethiopia

cannot be jeopardised by any border dispute. The Cabinet of Ministers accordingly proposes the following framework as a solution to the problem that has been made to be blown out of proportions and derailed from its path.

1. The Government of Eritrea condemns the logic of force as it firmly knows and upholds that border disputes of any kind can only be resolved through peaceful and legal means; and not through military means.

2. On the basis of this principle, each party shall publicly announce to the peoples of Eritrea, Ethiopia and the international community the territories that it claims - if any - and designate them on the political map with clear geographical co-ordinates. Each party shall also accept that the dispute cannot, and should not be, resolved by force but through peaceful negotiations.

3. Both parties shall agree that all negotiations and understandings that will be conducted henceforth shall be carried out in the presence and through the mediation of a Third Party. The latter will act as witness and guarantor.

4. Areas under "dispute" shall be demilitarised temporarily and be free from the presence of armies of both countries. The enforcement of this understanding shall be guaranteed by the Third party.

5. If the above proposal for resolving the dispute through the involvement of a Third Party and without further complications is not acceptable, the matter to be referred to international adjudication.

The Government of Eritrea firmly believes that attempts to inflate the minor and temporary problem that has been created along the borders of the two

sisterly countries will not serve the fundamental interests of the Eritrean and Ethiopian peoples. The Government of Eritrea pledges that it will, as ever before, spare no efforts to handle the present problem with the requisite patience and responsibility. It does not, accordingly, see any wisdom in precipitating tension through inflammatory campaigns.

The Government of Eritrea therefore calls upon the Government of Ethiopia to pursue a similar path that will promote the interests and good neighbourliness of the peoples of both countries. The Cabinet of Ministers of the Government of Eritrea further reasserts its belief that the peoples of Eritrea and Ethiopia will maintain and preserve their mutual interests rooted in peace, good neighbourliness and co-operation.

Asmara, May 14, 1998

## LOCAL NEWS

### GOVERNOR OF CENTRAL REGION MEETS BERIK RESIDENTS

The Governor of the Central region, Maj. General Romadan Osman Awliyay, met and held talks with the residents of Berik sub-zone to discuss the implementation of development projects and the role of organizational capacity of communities.

Maj. General Awliyay gave briefing

on both implemented and chartered out development projects in the region and said that establishing development committees and strengthening organizational capacity of the public is fundamental in the success of the programs.

The Heads of departments and branches on their part gave briefing on various issues including agriculture,

water and soil conservation activities, on construction and renovation of roads, on allotment of land for agricultural and housing purposes, on health and educational services among others.

In Berik sub zone, there are more than 51 thousand residents and 21 villages regrouped in 12 Administrative areas.



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# ERITREA in Mainstream Media

## Ethiopia's Latest Frontings

*Sophia Tesfamariam*

After 16 years of silence on the Ethiopian occupation of sovereign Eritrean territories, there is a sudden barrage of articles about the Eritrea Ethiopia "border" issue coming from the regime in Ethiopia, its surrogates in the mainstream media and from a notorious, if insignificant, segment of its cow-towing "academicians".

Ethiopia's commentariat has gone into its usual and predictable tizzy, with the same old tired nonsensical analysis, interviews and special reports on an issue that is done, resolved.

Ethiopia may not accept that the issue is resolved legally. That is not Eritrea's problem. It is up to the international community to decide whether it can enforce international law or not. It bears full responsibility for whatever happens next.

The shallow analysis found in the Reporter's 5th May 2018 article, "Breaking the deadlock: Ethio-Eritrea relations", insults the intelligence of its readers, as the author deliberately misrepresents the "border conflict" and its resolution through legal arbitration.

Like all previous diversionary, time buying gimmicks and ploys employed by the regime and its ilk, the latest media hoopla attempts to present the regime in Ethiopia as an honest partner for peace in the region. Its record speaks otherwise and while those who do not know the regime may be hoodwinked by its sugar coated shenanigans, astute Eritreans are not falling for its frontings...

May 6 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ethiopia's unprovoked attack on an Eritrean platoon near the border town of Badme. Several members of the platoon were killed. Unfortunately, that incident and the many others before it are conveniently ignored by the regime in Ethiopia and its surrogates in the propaganda about Eritrea.

Eritrea is not interested in revisiting the past, but considering the minority regime's propensity for lies and outright fabrications, it is important to remind readers

of what really transpired some 20 years ago. For brevity's sakes, in this sitting, only four elements pertaining to the Eritrea Ethiopia border conflict: origin of the conflict, dialogue, legal arbitration, and the sanctity of colonial borders, will be addressed.

### Origins of the conflict

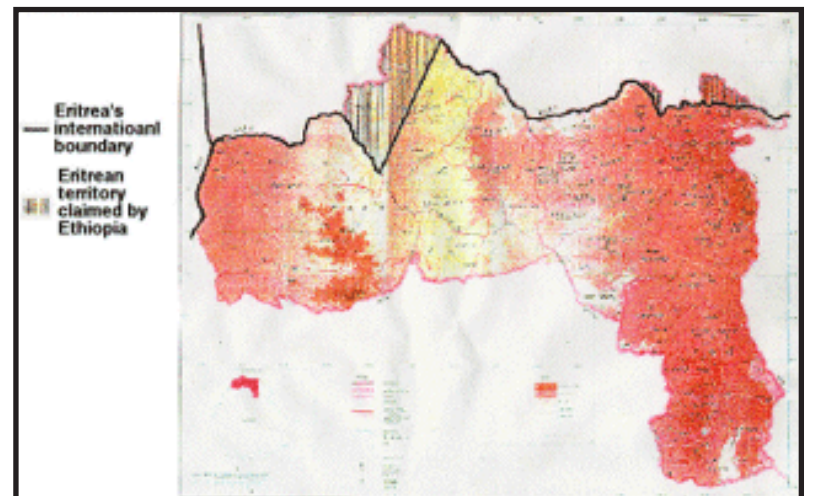
Contrary to the prevailing narratives and Ethiopia's propaganda since, the border war did not erupt suddenly in May 1998, or with Badme. The all-out war was preceded by several provocative acts. Suffice it to mention some of the major incidents that led to Ethiopia's aggressive war of invasion and occupation in 1998-2000:

- From 1996 onwards, Tigray Peoples Liberation Front (TPLF) authorities began to harass and evict Eritrean villagers in the Badme area. In retrospect, it is clear that these reckless and illicit acts were neither localized nor spontaneous. This was indeed part and parcel of a generalized land grab – albeit stealthily – that the TPLF set out to implement in accordance with new claims and associated map that it produced, to take a large swathe of sovereign Eritrean territory in the western part of the country.

- At the same time, the TPLF began to seize territory in the same manner in central Eritrea. On July 19, two battalions of the Ethiopian army came to Adi Murug and its commander met with representatives of the Eritrean army in the area. The Ethiopians explained that they were there to chase armed Ethiopian opposition elements whom they believed to be in the Bada area, and requested entry. The battalions were let in based on this understanding.

- Five days later, on July 24, Ethiopian administrators from the Afar Kelil moved into Adi Murug and instructed the Eritrean Administrators to disband – and that they were taking over. The Eritreans resisted, but on July 28, at a meeting of the whole Adi Murug inhabitants, the Ethiopians declared Adi Murug Ethiopian territory and appointed their own administrative committee. The intruding TPLF units had to withdraw few weeks later after unrelenting pressure from the Government of Eritrea.

- In January 1998, contingents of the Ethiopian army crossed the Eritrean border in the Burre areas (Assab), and set camp deep inside Eritrean territory. They were forced to withdraw after stern warnings from Eritrea's Armed Forces at



the highest levels.

When these unexpected but potentially dangerous events began to unfold, and particularly in the wake of the Adi Murug incident, President Isaias Afwerki wrote two-hand written letters to the Ethiopian Prime Minister to draw his attention to these unsettling developments. President Isaias underlined in his letters the urgency for a prompt and peaceful resolution of the problems through an effective bilateral mechanism without bringing undue disturbance in the lives of the two peoples. These letters are matters of public record.

The fact was, in light of the good relations that existed between the two neighbors

and their avowed objective of promoting regional integration, the Eritrean government believed that the issue of borders was of secondary significance and should not thus be allowed to obstruct the development of bilateral and regional cooperation. Consequently, Eritrea consistently worked to resolve the tension arising from border issues quietly, peacefully, and in as much as was possible, bilaterally.

As it happened, Eritrea did not go public or lodge a protest within the OAU and/or UN when Ethiopian troops occupied the Adi Murug area of Bada and forcibly evicted farmers from the Badme area, razing to the ground their dwellings and farms. It did not issue ultimatums or threaten all-out war. It instead called for the formation of a Joint Border Commission to resolve the issue on the basis of the colonial treaties that established the border between the two countries.

Ethiopia mistook Eritrea's restraint for weakness. It rejected all peaceful attempts by Eritrea to resolve the issues bilaterally, and chose to escalate the issue by declaring war against Eritrea on 13 May 1998 through its parliament.

Indeed, while the bilateral talks were going on, Ethiopia was busy producing a new Map of Tigray. This illegal map which incorporated swatches of sovereign Eritrean territories (by the way, this map also takes chunks of land from the Gondar and Wollo provinces of Ethiopia) was embossed in its new currency notes issued in November 1997.

Dialogue

*Continued on page 7*

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## REPUBLIC OF GREATER TIGRAY

THE MANIFESTO OF TIGRAYAN PEOPLE'S LIBERATION FRONT (TPLF)

**PRIOR 1991**

**AFTER 1991**

**THE MANIFESTO**

**THE REPUBLIC OF GREATER TIGRAY**

**"A) A Tigrayan is defined as anybody that speaks the language of Tigrigna including those who live outside Tigray, the Kunamas, the Sahos, the Afar and the Taltal, the Agew, and the Welkait.**

**B) The geographic boundaries of Tigray extend to the borders of the Sudan including the lands of Humera and Welkait from the region of Begemidir in Ethiopia, the land defined by Alewuha which extends down to the regions of Wollo and including Alamata, Ashengie, and Kobo, and Eritrean Kunama, the Saho and Afar lands including Assab.**

**C) The final goal of the TPLF is to secede from Ethiopia as an independent "Republic of Greater Tigray" by liberating the lands and peoples of Tigray**

**D) Redefinition of Ethiopian boundaries through relocating nationalities, acquiring Humera, Begemidir, Wollo's Raya, Zalambesa....."**

**THE TPLF MANIFESTO, FEBRUARY 1976**

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# If Our Body was a Car!

Natnael Yebio. W

The body needs a lot of maintenance, a lot of showering, a lot clipping, a lot of cleaning, a lot of checking and so on and so forth. If your body was a car you wouldn't buy it. It is too much upkeep! It is a pain!

The Greeks believed that the world was made of fire, air, water and earth. The Chinese added wood to the repertoire. These were again projected to the human anatomy and gave rise to the four cardinal humors of blood, phlegm, yellow bile and black bile. More phlegm in the blood and you smile as you watch your friend drowning; more red bile and you feel like flogging your wife; more blood and you better take a valium and go to bed.

In addition, the Greeks believed that the brain was for purifying blood, while the heart was there to think and contemplate. Speaking about bile, Eritreans believe that the coward lacks bile or gall bladder. And in case he or she has one, it is quickly emptied during a great fight and trepidation. Only those with full bile can go on fighting till the end because they have bile tightly sealed inside the gall bladder.

In Eritrean tradition (in particular in the highland), as regards the body organs, the stomach (misnamed Kebdi which means liver) is given top priority. It is commonly considered to be a vast ocean containing all kinds of big and small beasts in its depth, with an extra job of accumulating thoughts considered too unsettling to remain in the brain or in the heart for a long time.

Although, our fears and apprehensions come from the brain they are believed to reside in the stomach, making it tremble along with the intestines at the slightest hint of war or violence. That's why in Tigrigna parlance we say that one should put a big stone in his belly to make it steady.

Besides, according to some

backward tradition mingled with superstition, the stomach is inhabited by lizards, beetles and, even, pythons. Prove it! Okay.

"Once I had a terrible stomach pain" says my friend. He went to see a traditional doctor who told him to take concoction of herbs whose origin is only known to the healer.

"And then what happened?" I asked my friend with impatience.

"My bowels began to move," he continued. "So I went to the toilet for a call of nature, and you know

what

came out a long with my stool?"

"What!" I gasped.

"A live lizard!" The one that kept gnawing at my intestines and which gave me so much pain," he concluded.

According to him, the larger the reptile the fiercer the pain. By the way, do you suffer from acute backache? Yes? Then make sure it is not gebel (Python) writhing among your entrails.

Another friend of mine told me that he vomited a live beetle after consulting a traditional doctor who made him drink some potion.

"And you were cured of your ailments?" I asked sarcastically.

"What are you talking about?" he said. "Not only cured, but the Lord, in his infinite mercy,

ordered the stinking beetle to leave me alone."

In traditional Eritrea, the heart, which is hardly known for pumping blood, has the agility to go up and down in certain cases. In a moment of weakness (probable low blood pressure) it slides down the entrails, and in moments of depression and mental torture, it simply hangs like a pendulum. One has to take cold water to bring it back to its right position. Sometimes

t h e h e a r t

fluid run wild and keep you alive, you have to keep moving and take a small amount of alcoholic drink from time to time. But sometimes the blood becomes tainted and causes various ailments. In such cases it has to go, albeit in small quantities. The process of getting rid of this unwanted blood in your system is known by the name Mahgoma (Bleeding).

"After Mahgoma, a black blood left my body," says another. "Black blood," asked one.

"The cause of my suffering."

He sighed.

The liver

and that's what he vomited out before he expired, he concluded.

The intestines, like the stomach, may harbor all kinds of tiny evil beasts intent on snuffing out our lives before the appointed time. Fortunately, thanks to berbere (red pepper), these treacherous animalcules have no chance. Some people even claim to live without any sort of intestinal infection thanks to berbere. But the problem with our intestines is that it is so long and is coiled many times over, that sometimes it ties itself into a knot and that's when we have to go to the hospital for 'disentanglement'.

In our tradition, the lungs are for breathing which also keeps us alive and able to talk and climb mountains. When we die, the life that had been blown into our nostrils by our Maker in the Garden of Eden leaves the lungs for good and ascends to heaven.

"Scientists have tried to catch the escaping breath of life in a flask," says an idiotic friend, "But they failed hopelessly."

As for the kidney or pancreas, they are there for unknown purposes known only to God. And the reason for their sudden failing remains a mystery.

But the limbs are considered the most important parts of the human body in our tradition, especially among the rural population. For the peasants, death is preferable to losing a limb. Just imagine doing all the farm and field work (such as plowing, sowing, weeding, winnowing and harvesting, not to mention tending cattle and selling one's products in the market) with one leg or one arm missing.

The internal organs are left to the kind and wise care of God, and in certain cases to the care of the dubious traditional doctor and his herbs. But the limbs are, as much as possible, to be taken care of by their owner, for there is no medicine, in our tradition, for a missing leg or a shriveled arm.

however is mentioned only when it is affected through too much drinking. According to drunkards worldwide, the liver is there to give them a hard time when drinking. It is sort of a killjoy.

"What is the cause of his death?" I once asked a friend referring to a neighbor who had previously died in a hospital following a case of cirrhosis.

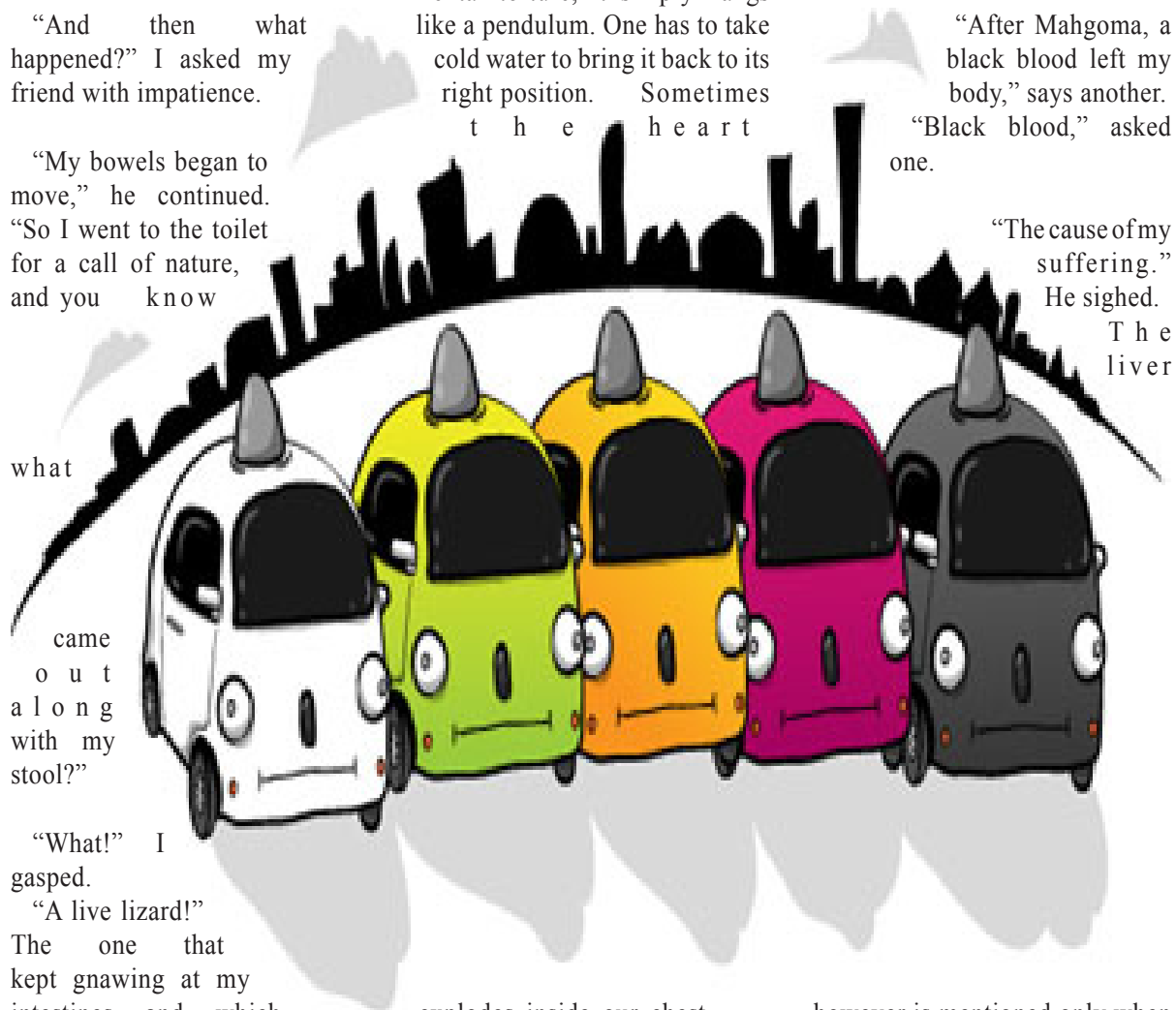
"Didn't you hear that he vomited his liver before he died?" he sighed.

"What do you mean he vomited his liver," I said surprised at this weird explanation. He went on to explain that the liver turned into a puree by absorbing too much alcohol and for too long a time,

explodes inside our chest when it has been left to grow fatter and fatter, following overeating and too much rest. So don't eat too much and watch your weight.

The bone, which is considered heavier than flesh, can be strengthened by eating honey. There is a strong belief in our society that a broken bone can be healed or mended by simply eating a lot of honey.

Now, let's see what our tradition has to say about blood. This red fluid flows in our veins with a speed that varies depending on what we eat and what we do. If you stay put for a long time, the blood may screech to a halt and so will your heart. To make the red





# Development

## Incorporating Traditional Medicine into Modern Health Care System

*Semir Seid*

Anthropologists believe that using traditional medicine as a way of protecting or healing a person began when human beings started living on earth. Traditional Medicine (TM) is a way of treating people based on cultural beliefs. It is done to treat people from diseases and the practitioners adopt the treatment procedures based on experience and observation of past generations. Traditional medicine has been practiced in Eritrea for centuries.

Even though access to modern medicine is spreading gradually, TM is still widely accepted and practiced in Eritrea. According to Dr. Tekeste Fikadu, an Associate Professor at Orotta Medical School, the reason for the acceptance of TM is its accessibility, affordability, cultural beliefs and trust in it.

The Medicinal Plants and Drug Discovery Research Center (MPDDRC) in its initial survey discovered 16 different ailments treated by TM practices. Some of the diseases for which the Eritrean population relies on TM treatments include bone setting, cupping, herbal therapy, hydrotherapy, female and male circumcision, massage, skin scarification, treatment of snake bite (also other animal bites), spiritual healing, uvelectomy, thermal therapy, traditional midwifery, tooth extraction and others. The survey revealed that nationally there are around 4000 traditional medicine practitioners.

TM practices or treatments may or may not work for patients, since no accurate measurements of the products/doses are given. Dr. Tekeste said that TM comprises three components: the practice,

the practitioners, and the products/doses. For the last forty years the World Health Organization (WHO) has been enforcing laws to take the good and terminate ill parts of the traditional way of healing people. The organization has been pushing member countries to work on the positive aspects of the methodology and medicine. The Eritrean Ministry of Health (MoH), in collaboration with WHO representative office in Eritrea, is designing policies to regulate TM. The Ministry recognizes and advocates for the use of TM and supports the idea of incorporating it into the national health system with the objective of ensuring that TM treatment is done scientifically, rationally and with proper safety protocols.

Mr. Eyasu Bahta, Director of the National Medicine and Food Administration (NMFA) in MoH, said that the Ministry has drafted clear health and medicine policies to adopt and develop the useful practices and eradicate the unsafe ones. To implement this, in 2012, a special TM unit was established under the NMFA with the responsibilities of registering TM practitioners, monitoring safety of the practice, giving public education, conducting research and formulating policy guidelines on the practice of TM. In August last year, the Eritrean National TM policy was completed and has been implemented. The policy will assist the MoH in its efforts to recognize and guide TM practices in Eritrea by conforming to the global, continental, regional and national policy commitments for the development and promotion of TM. The policy is believed to optimize benefits of TM practices, its cultivation, harvest, production and marketing to the people of Eritrea.

For a sound implementation of the



*Mr. Eyasu Bahta*

*Dr. Tekeste Fikadu*

policy another national committee has been formed composed of 22 internal stakeholders. These members are experts in different fields and are expected to contribute to the development of the traditional treatment methods. A legal document that will guide in the policy implementation, delineate the healing methods, and the doses to be taken as well as monitor the practitioners is also underway. Moreover, practitioners had not been following procedural ethics as there were no training given to them. Mr. Eyasu said that the Ministry is working on that for better solutions and results. It is also collaborating with educational institutions to provide research platforms to conduct research related to traditional medicine production. However, the director indicated that there is a huge ideological gap between medical doctors and traditional medicine practitioners. Mr. Eyasu suggested that regular training to both parties could narrow the gap. Medical doctors should be introduced to all places and societal awareness should spread to avoid misconceptions about modern health care. Dr. Tekeste pointed out that the gap between the two parties gets personal and

biased, and this makes it difficult for their mutual interaction to be able to work together. The national policy, however, states that there shall be established harmonious and inter-professional partnership between the conventional health workers and TM practitioners through appropriate education, training, research and better communication.

Dr. Tekeste said that the difference between traditional and modern way of curing people is on how to comprehend the particular disease. In modern health care WHO considers the physical, mental and environmental health aspects and traditional medicine equally works on these aspects. The ultimate difference arises in trying to understand the disease, its causes, and treatment procedures. In traditional medicine, patients who suffer from the same disease may get different treatments, but when it comes to modern medicine, patients who suffer from the same ailment receive the same treatment. This is because modern health care is universal and traditional medicine always depends on individuals' or communities' experience and/or beliefs.

Nowadays, traditional medicine, is well documented and codified especially in Far East countries. Countries such as China and India are the best examples for well organized and developed traditional medicine. Europe and western countries use traditional medicine as an alternative to the modern health care and people get treated as they wish. According to WHO reports, 80% of the people in Africa, Latin America and South Asia use traditional medicine. This does not mean people of these continents are so far away from using modern health care. The big number is explained by the unavailability and uneven distribution of health

institutions in those countries and lack of people's awareness of the advantages and disadvantages of using traditional medicine.

To structure and develop a national TM, Mr. Eyasu said that natural resources should be identified and reserved. As TM uses natural resources in the preparation of medicine, environmental control should be emphasized in order to sustain indigenous plants. The Department of Environment of the Ministry of Land, Water and Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture are responsible to conserve medicinal plants and promote their proper use. As mentioned in the TM policy the Ministry of Fisheries, in cooperation with academic institutions, such as the Marine College, is called upon to invest in and promote research on the rich pool of medicinal wealth in Eritrea's marine resources.

More research projects on TM are planned for 2018. The establishment of research centers will help in distinguishing between malpractices and safe practices. This make possible local production of TM that meets the minimum standards of pharmaceutical manufacturing and in accordance with the WHO Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP).

The Ministry of Health intends to expand TM service monitoring with the provision of legal documents. Training and capacity building for conventional and traditional medicine practitioners should be regular to make TM more scientific and of good use. To ensure sustainability, Mr. Eyasu advised, TM concepts should be introduced into health institutions, Medical schools and the Science College. For the improvement of TM, stakeholders and the WHO representative office are ready to assist the Ministry financially and technically.







# Invitation for Bids

Date: **27/04/2018 ofIFB**

Loan/Financing N°: **2100150032395,200155028969**

IFB N°: **06.2/02/NCB/ADF/DRSLP-IV/YT/L3/2018**

1. This Invitation for Bids (IFB) follows the General Procurement Notice (GPN) for this Project that appeared in *United Nations Development Business online (UNDB online)* No. **AfDB510-07/15 of 30 July, 2015**, and on the African Development Bank's Internet Website ([www.afdb.org](http://www.afdb.org)).

2. The Government of the State of Eritrea (GoSE) received a financing from the African Development Bank (ADF) in various currencies towards the cost of **Drought Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods Programme-II Eritrea Programme**. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan/financing will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for **Lot 3: Vegetable seeds**

3. The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the supply of the above mentioned goods (hereinafter called "the Goods"). National Competitive Bidding will be conducted in accordance with the Bank's **Rules and Procedures for Procurement of Goods and Works**.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the office of PSMU-MoA, Sawa Street, P.O.Box 1048 Tel. 189266/180699, [yacobtesfom@gmail.com](mailto:yacobtesfom@gmail.com).

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders upon the submission of a written application to the said Executing Agency, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **ERN Four Hundred Fifty (ERN450.00)**.

6. The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions are those of the Bank's Standard Bidding Document for Procurement of Goods.

7. Bids must be delivered to the above office<sup>1</sup> on or before **14:30 pm local time on June 12, 2018** and must be accompanied by a security of **Lot 3: Vegetable seeds USD 1900.00**.

8. Bids shall remain valid for **120 days** after the deadline for bid submission prescribed above.

9. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at **15:00 pm hours local time on June 12, 2018**, at the offices of Ministry of Agriculture of the State of Eritrea, Procurement and Supplies Management Unit, Sawa Street, P.O.Box 1048 Tel. 189266/180699, [yacobtesfom@gmail.com](mailto:yacobtesfom@gmail.com).

(Endnotes)

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# Invitation for Bids

Date: **9/05/2018 ofIFB**

Loan/Financing N°: **2100150032395,200155028969**

IFB N°: **06.2/02/NCB/ADF/DRSLP-II/YT/L3-L5/2018**

1. This Invitation for Bids (IFB) follows the General Procurement Notice (GPN) for this Project that appeared in *United Nations Development Business online (UNDB online)* No. **AfDB510-07/15 of 30 July, 2015**, and on the African Development Bank's Internet Website ([www.afdb.org](http://www.afdb.org)).

2. The Government of the State of Eritrea (GoSE) received a financing from the African Development Bank (ADF) in various currencies towards the cost of **Drought Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods Programme-II Eritrea Programme**. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan/financing will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for **Lot 3: Vegetable seeds Lot 4: chemical reagents Lot 5: sets of electronic equipment**

3. The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the supply of the above mentioned goods (hereinafter called "the Goods"). National Competitive Bidding will be conducted in accordance with the Bank's **Rules and Procedures for Procurement of Goods and Works**.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the office of PSMU-MoA, Sawa Street, P.O.Box 1048 Tel. 189266/180699, [yacobtesfom@gmail.com](mailto:yacobtesfom@gmail.com).

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders upon the submission of a written application to the said Executing Agency, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **ERN Four Hundred Fifty (ERN450.00)**.

6. The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions are those of the Bank's Standard Bidding Document for Procurement of Goods.

7. Bids must be delivered to the above office<sup>1</sup> on or before **14:30 pm local time on June 12, 2018** and must be accompanied by a security of **Lot 3: Vegetable seeds USD 350.00, Lot 4: chemical reagents USD 150.00, Lot 5: sets of electronic equipment USD 4000.00**.

8. Bids shall remain valid for **120 days** after the deadline for bid submission prescribed above.

9. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at **15:00 pm hours local time on June 12, 2018**, at the offices of Ministry of Agriculture of the State of Eritrea, Procurement and Supplies Management Unit, Sawa Street, P.O.Box 1048 Tel. 189266/180699, [yacobtesfom@gmail.com](mailto:yacobtesfom@gmail.com).

(Endnotes)

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ADS



## NOTICE



Notice is hereby given to the public that The National Insurance Corporation of Eritrea Share Company will hold its 14th Ordinary Annual General Meeting of Shareholders on the 2nd of June 2018.

Place: HOTEL ASMARA PALACE - (SELAM CONFERENCE HALL)

Time: 10:30 a.m. Commencement of the Meeting

### Agenda for the Meeting

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Appointment of the Resolutions Committee
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 13th Ordinary Annual General Meeting
4. Matters Arising from the 13th Ordinary Annual General Meeting
5. Management's Report on the Activities of the Corporation
6. Report of the Board of Directors
7. Report on the 2017 Accounts and the Appropriation of Profits
8. Appointment of External Auditors
9. Any Other Business
10. Date and Venue of the 15th Ordinary Annual General Meeting

All shareholders are called upon to attend the meeting. Documents relevant to the meeting may be collected from our head office starting from 30th of May, 2018.

Shareholders who cannot attend the meeting in person can collect their instrument of proxy from our head office or from our website [www.niceritrea.com](http://www.niceritrea.com) and shall submit the completed form not later than the 12:00 hrs 1st of June, 2018.

National Insurance Corporation of Eritrea Share Co.



## NOTICE



Notice is hereby given to the public that The National Insurance Corporation of Eritrea Share Company, pursuant to Art. 423 and 425 of the Transitional Commercial Code of Eritrea will hold its 2nd Extra-Ordinary General Meeting of Shareholders on 2nd of June, 2018.

Place: HOTEL ASMARA PALACE - (SELAM CONFERENCE HALL)

Time: 7:30 a.m. Registration of participants

8:00 a.m. Commencement of the meeting

### Agenda for the Meeting

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Amendment of the Memorandum and Articles of Association

All shareholders are called upon to attend the meeting. Documents relevant to the meeting may be collected from our head office starting from 30th of May, 2018.

Shareholders who cannot attend the meeting in person can collect their instrument of proxy from our head office or from our website [www.niceritrea.com](http://www.niceritrea.com) and shall submit the completed form not later than the 12:00 hrs 1st of June, 2018.

National Insurance Corporation of Eritrea Share Co

# Ethiopia's Latest . . .

## Continued from page 3

The regime in Ethiopia keeps harping about dialogue with Eritrea, but it is the same regime that rejected dialogue in the first place. During the Eritrea Ethiopia border war, Eritreans and Ethiopians were introduced to the phrase, "Proximity talks". That meant talks between the two parties would not be direct, as Ethiopia did not want to have any direct engagement with Eritrea, but chose instead to engage through third parties. No doubt the regime could not say in front of Eritrea what it was saying behind closed doors. So the many negotiators shuttled between Asmara and Addis Ababa, while the war raged on.

The same pattern of indirect or proxy talks continued in other venues – Algiers, Ouagadougou etc. – and the Facilitators had to invariably hold separate meetings with the parties even when they stayed in the same or adjacent premises. The regime in Ethiopia and its intelligentsia continued

with threats and vicious cyber rattling throughout the course of negotiations. Ethiopia repeatedly rejected Eritrea's calls for ceasefire and Meles Zenawi announced that Ethiopia would not stop fighting. He said, "We shall negotiate while we fight and we shall fight while we negotiate".

But the Ethiopian regime's hostilities and refusal to have Eritrea in any discussions continued in the international arena too. Ethiopia routinely refused to sit adjacent to Eritrea in all regional/international forums until 2002. Ethiopia's delegation would thus sit somewhere far from Eritrea in the alphabetical sitting arrangements of member countries in the forums of the Intergovernmental Agency for Development (IGAD), the African Union (AU), and other international Summits and Conferences. Eritrea was also barred from attending conferences relating to Somalia and other regional issues, because of Ethiopia and its handlers. So it is mindboggling today to hear the regime calling for dialogue with

Eritrea, sitting at the table with Eritrea etc.

Ethiopia's aggressive war of invasion and occupation cost the lives of thousands and the destruction of vital infrastructures, many wantonly destroyed by Ethiopia's marauding army. The war ended after Eritrea and Ethiopia signed the Cessation of hostilities Agreement in June 2000, and the Algiers Agreements on 12 December 2000. The Algiers Agreements called for establishment of the Eritrea Ethiopia Boundary Commission with a mandate to delimit and demarcate the border. It delivered its final and binding delimitation and demarcation decisions on 13 April 2002 and November 2007 respectively. There is a legal resolution to the "border conflict". What remains is for Ethiopia to vacate sovereign Eritrean territories it has occupied for the last 16 years.

### Sanctity of Colonial Borders

Eritrea was born, not from a redrawing of colonial boundaries, as is often stated,

but from a return to them. Eritrea's border with Ethiopia is among the most clearly defined of colonial boundaries and Eritrea was confident that it could be demarcated through peaceful and legal means on the basis of the treaties that established it. Eritrea's borders remained the same throughout the Italian colonization, the British Administration and throughout the 30 year struggle. The saber rattling about, "human geography", "divided villages", "religious affinity", etc. will not bode well for Ethiopia and others in the region. If one were to use the same arguments presented by Ethiopia's intelligentsia, Ogaden, as well as Kenya's Northern Frontier Region, should be part of Somalia. Tampering with colonial boundaries will be opening a Pandora's Box in the region...

Hollow statements and false bravado will not advance peace in the region...abiding by the rule of law will.

*Pacta Sunt Servanda!*





# ERIPA: 25 years of Professional Commitment

Asmait Futsumbrhan

Now preparing to celebrate its silver jubilee, the Eritrean Pharmaceutical Association (ERIPA) was established in 1992. The association was made with a strong vision to enhance the pharmaceutical standard of the professionals and community. Now after twenty five years, ERIPA has managed to overcome the initial challenges any association would tackle and made through unwavering efforts on organizing campaigns to raise awareness of the society and enhance the professional skills of pharmacists throughout the country.

Q&A invites two of its board members, Lemlem Hussien and Filimon Tesfai, to talk about the association's goals and achievements. Congratulations to ERIPA for its tremendous achievements over the 25 years from Q&A.



**Filimon Tesfai, Vice president for the pharmaceutical science of ERIPA**

**Something about you?**

I was born in 1989. I went to the College of Health Science and got my degree from the School of Pharmacy in 2014. I worked in the Orotta Hospital from 2013 to 2016. I was then re-assigned to work at the NMFA (National Medicine and Food Administration) control unit, and I have been working here for two years as a traditional medicine officer.

**What is your role at ERIPA?**

I am the vice-president for the pharmaceutical science. My team's responsibility is to follow up science related issues of the association. We organize pharmacy week activities, which are the campaigns we take to raise awareness of the society. We also have the responsibility to publish the Pharma Focus journal. We collect research papers and edit. We interact professionally and discuss issues that would help us grow in the profession.

**The achievements of the association over the past 25 years?**

Over the past 25 years, the association has focused on enhancing education and training programs, which was one of its main goals.

Certainly, the association has achieved most of its goals over the years. After carefully studying and analyzing the professional task force and degree of professional scarcity, ERIPA has been actively working with the Ministry of Health in all the initiatives taken regarding this concern. As a result, the association made a huge influence in opening up a pharmacy school In Asmara University in 1997 which contributed a big number of pharmacists. The school has also allowed many competent pharmacy technicians to upgrade to B. Pharm level. On top

of that, more than 80 ex-fighters who were formerly staff of the Arab Pharmaceutical were upgraded to pharmacy technician level in 1995-96. Also, pharmacy technician enrolment started at Asmara Nursing and Medical Technology Institution in 2003. These are some of the triumphs ERIPA considers to be the biggest because the association has given more emphasis since its establishment, to the human resource challenges it faced. Along with the efforts to upgrade the educational sector, we took initiatives advocating community's awareness as well. Furthermore, the association has published more than 150 original research papers. Even though the association has succeeded in most of its goals, it has a vision to accomplish more in the future.

**What are the activities that ERIPA is planning for its silver jubilee?**

The association is going to review the success and achievements it has realized over the years. It is going to assess the past experiences and current status and work hard to achieve its goals. So we are also going to publish our bi-annual journal regarding the activities and research papers. We are planning to celebrate our silver

jubilee in June, which we are excited about.

**What does ERIPA expect in the future?**

More active members. That is for certain. Also, we would like to think that the association would be more influential on upgrading the pharmacy standard of the country, and the standard of individual pharmacists. Medical work is a collaborative work and, as such, the pharmacists should be professional in doing their job.

**Anything you would like to add?**

I want to mention how grateful we all are to our senior members. They give young pharmacists the platform to be creative and work. They allow them to come in the leading role of the board and let them to have the leadership experiences and explore their skills. Again, I hope to see more young members work hard for the advancement of the association.

**Lemelem Hussien, General Secretary of ERIPA**

**Would you please introduce yourself to our readers?**

Yes, I am Lemlem Hussien Saleh. I was born in the historic Ararb, Sahl in 1991. I went to Asmara College of Health Science and got my degree from the School of Pharmacy. I have been working at the Pharmaceutical Department of Orotta Hospital since 2014. I am also the general secretary of ERIPA.

**ERIPA's establishment...**

The association was established in 1992 with around 40 pharmacists. This number has now grown tremendously, especially since every pharmacy graduate automatically becomes a member. The association was setup to advance the pharmacy profession and promote the welfare of members in giving good service to the society. Which has been a success during the 25 years.

ERIPA was founded; to enhance education and training programs, to establish a functional office, produce and distribute publications, encourage research activities, and advocate the rights and interests of the professionals and strengthen collaborative work with the Ministry of Health and other stake holders. These are some of the main goals of the association.

**Has the association made impact on the community as well as the individual professionals?**

Certainly. Clearly, ERIPA looks after its members. It fights for their rights. It works hard to bring together the professionals and seeks for a greater collaborative outcome. It allows them to exercise their profession and expand their knowledge through the environment it has offered them to upgrade their skills. In the past 25 years, the association has managed to organize numerous scientific conferences where original research papers and articles were presented and discussed. The association surely has big influence on upgrading the pharmaceutical standard of the individuals and the country, I would say.

Every two years, the association holds scientific conferences where research papers and other issues are discussed. Besides, it publishes a scientific journal, Pharma Focus, which publishes articles on the topics presented during the conference. The journal is published bi-annually and is given out to the members to keep them informed.

**Anything you would like to say regarding ERIPA's silver jubilee?**

Yes. I want to congratulate the members for their achievements. It is nice to see this big achievement over 25 years. Again, I would like to say that woman empowerment on the Pharmacy Department is an important issue, especially in leadership. I wish for women to be more active and passionate about the field. We haven't had that much of a number in the department until now, but, hopefully, we would see an escalation in future.

Again, the pharmacists should take the initiative to advocate the importance of proper drug use. There should be more campaigns in raising the awareness of the community.



Board Members