

MINISTER CALLS ON FARMERS TO FOCUS ON CASH CROPS



The Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Arefaine Berhe, has called on farmers in the Central region to focus on cash crops taking into account the limitation of land for cultivation. He made the call at a recent workshop held here in the capital.

Minister Arefaine called on farmers to give priority to boosting the production of milk, meat, vegetables and fruits besides giving due attention to natural resources with a view to ensuring food security.

Stating that commendable achievement was registered in 2017 as regards ensuring food and water supply for humans and livestock

and transforming farm practice from traditional to modern, the Director General of Agriculture and Land in the Central region, Mr. Yemane Abai, said that water and soil conservation campaigns have significantly contributed to enhancing agricultural production.

Reports presented at the workshop indicated that a total of 126 dams and micro-dams with a capacity of holding 70 million cubic meters of water have been constructed and the cultivation of vegetables on over 1,500 hectares has been undertaken and that fruits on 148 hectares are contributing in market stabilization.

Moreover, encouraging activities

have been undertaken in animal hybrid and the distribution of dairy cows, bee farming and animal fodder.

Meanwhile, the Governor of the Central region, Maj. General Romodan Osman Aweliyay, has called for proper identification of arable land, heeding the advice of experts and conducting forestation activities.

ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION CAMPAIGN

Environmental sanitation popular campaigns conducted in Hamelmalo sub-zone since 2008 are making significant contribution towards ensuring public health.

Stating that the regrouping of villages has resulted in social service provision, the local residents said that such programs have contributed in the reduction of communicable diseases.

Mr. Berhane Gebrekidan, Head of environmental sanitation in Anseba region emphasized the role of the general public in the sustainability of community based environmental sanitation program.

ANNOUNCEMENT

On the occasion of the New Year, Eri-TV and Dmtsi Hafash Radio will conduct an interview with President Isaias Afwerki tomorrow Sunday the 14th of January at 8:00 o'clock in the evening focusing on topical regional developments. The interview will be broadcasted live.

Ministry of Information

NEWS BRIEF

SEMINAR ON IMPROVING LIVES OF VISUALLY IMPAIRED CITIZENS

The National Association of the Visually Impaired conducted seminar in Dekemhare with a view to make integrated effort towards improving the social and economic status of members.

At the seminar in which members of the Association, Area administrators and pertinent government representatives took part, the chairman of the Association, Mr. Dawit Fesehaye, said that the Association is finalizing preparation to extend financial assistance to members of the Association in order to enable them become productive members of the society.

The advisor of the Association, Mr. Gebremeskel Feseha, gave briefing with supportive evidence that if the visually impaired citizens could improve their capacity through education and vocational training, they could be self-reliant and called on the public to extend hands to the disabled citizens.

The National Association of Visually Impaired along providing advice to its members has conducted commendable activities in improving the lives of members through creating income generation projects.

ERADICATING HARMFUL PRACTICES

The Head of the PFDJ branch in Foro sub-zone, Mr. Ali Jabr, underlined the need for concerted effort to eradicate harmful practices that are physically and psychologically affecting development of women.

In a meeting he conducted with the residents, Mr. Ali Jabr stated that the understanding of the public is gradually increasing thanks to awareness-raising programs.

The residents on their part expressed readiness to play due role to that effect and called for integrated effort to empower women.

MEETING ON IMPLEMENTATION OF CHARTED OUT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

The branch office of the Ministry of Health in the Central region conducting a meeting on 10 and 11 January with a view to evaluate the implementation of activities of 2017 and on the charted out programs for 2018.

Reporting at the event, Dr. Tesfai Solomon, head of the branch, said that beyond focusing on the communicable diseases praiseworthy activities have been conducted to ensure the health of maternity and child and that the mortality rate during pregnancy and delivery has been reduced by 92%.

Dr. Tesfai reiterated that the post natal treatment has been increases by 84% and as a result of the growing awareness of the public the number of pregnant women delivering in health facilities has increased by 72%.

Dr. Tesfai further indicated that conducting study for the cause of premature births and finding solution, strengthening the role the community on health issues, reducing the death rate of maternal and child to the lowest level, strengthening vaccination programs, reinforcing health service provision in schools,

augmenting effort to eradicate malaria, maintenance of health facilities and underpin ambulance service are among the charted out programs for 2018.

The managing director at the Central region expressed readiness that the regional office will contribute its level best for the success of the charted out programs.

Speaking at the occasion, the Minister of Health, Ms. Amina Nur-Husein called for exerting strong effort for realizing of the set out health strategy of 2017-2021.



Development

Giant Development Initiative in a Small village of Adi Amru

Semir Seid

Eritrean communities always strive to improve their livelihoods. Wherever you go in the country development campaigns have been growing steadily since the independence. Agricultural and economic activities are highly encouraged and communities are working with the government hand and gloves. Small villages are also contributing their parts in improving their economic status through agricultural activities and sustaining their livelihoods by selling their products. Villages such as Adi Amru, located in the Rocky Mountains of the Loga Anseba sub region are doing their part in fulfilling the demands of their communities.

Adi Amru is a small village, some 60 km away from Asmara. One of the main rivers of the country, Anseba River, and the old rail way road circulate around the village. To the east, the village borders the Anseba River, to the south Adi Niamn and river Shitamo, to the west a village named Leben Tarib and to the north Mai Derese. Adi Amru is one of the oldest villages in Eritrea that is recognized as a subway of the old railway road that extended from Asmara all the way to the sub region of Loga Anseba. One can find many railway terminals ("staseni" in Italian) on the way to this village, Dem Sebay terminal, Danduru and others. The elders of this village have good

memories of the then operational trains (such as the Leterina). Nowadays, this old abandoned railway road is the preferred road way of the inhabitants to and from this town. There is also another summer road way the Harat buses use to give transportation service upto Adi Niamn on a daily basis.

The village has 70 households and 20 peasants who support and

Niamn while vegetables and fruits are sent to Asmara's big markets on the weekends.

The Adi Amru village has a temperate climate, and farmers grow tomatoes, pepper, onions, sorghum and fruits such as oranges and guavas. All of these have been cultivated by the only source of water, the ground water of the river beds. Surrounding villages also

believed to solve all previous water shortages of the surrounding areas. It is 100 meters, long 60 meters wide and 60 meters high. Such a huge project in a small town is financed by the community of the town, and this shows that the Eritrean society is giving a helping hand and contributing to the national development plans.

The organized community of



Mr. Nasser Abdul Alim

school in Derseny and all levels of school in Adi Niamn for these children. Health services for these villagers have been provided in Adi Niamn and Meqerka. But at the moment a new health center will be opened in a place called Deqi Zeru, which is only 2 kms away from Adi Amru.

Furthermore, the communal in Derseny provides court services to the surrounding people in the sub zone. Mr. Nasser said that any social conflict are minimized and solved within the village. If not they are transferred to the communal court in Derseny.

Community-led social transformations are growing by the day in even small villages of remote areas and are positively encouraged by the government since the initiatives are in line with the national development plans. The Adi amru community looks forward to preserving its soil from erosion through planting more trees and expanding more areas to be cultivated by introducing modern farming that depend on the new water source and electricity in the near future.



The Newly Constructed Adi Amru Dam

sustain their families. These people make their living by cultivating and marketing some vegetables and fruits as well as herding livestock. There is about one hectare of land cultivated in this small rocky village. Another 200 kms of land that stretches from a place called Kebedayo up to grat Geday is reserved by the community of the village for agricultural and other economic activities for those who are willing to invest in it. The peasants sell their livestock every Thursday to Adi Tekelezan and Adi

use the same source for drinking. In summer, Anseba River used to be the source of water for farmers to drink and cultivate their lands while in other times their only source were the small wells around. However, ground water has been drying from time to time and the community had to come up with a solution.

At the moment, the community of Adi Amru has managed to have a big dam to support their lives and lives of their animals. The dam is

this village is gradually changing its lifestyle and lifestyle of the surrounding people. Other social services such as electricity supply are also ongoing, and 50% of installation is already completed. The number of female students in the region as a whole is increasing, and Mr. Nasser said it is nearing that of the males. The children of the village have to travel to neighboring villages such as Adi Niamn and Derseny to get access to educational. There is one elementary and one middle



Adi Amru from top



Vegetation in the village

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ERITREA in Mainstream Media

Ethiopia: The Regime is in Tatters

Sophia Tesfamariam

The New Year has brought change to the Horn of Africa region, long beleaguered by conflict and strife. But for some reason, the minority regime in Ethiopia seems antsy-and itching for more violence and turmoil. It seems to thrive when the neighborhood is on fire. It must be running out of ways to get the attention of the international community (donor community) which has finally awoken and seen how its good will and support for the regime have been squandered. Once again, in addition to its usual tantrums, the regime is now recycling its childish propaganda ploys and resorted to making wild accusations, hurling unsubstantiated allegations, distorting and misrepresenting issues with a barrage of articles and reports. These tired old deceptive stratagems have been employed to malign Eritrea in the past, and now it seems the regime has added Egypt to its hit list. For the most part, it is better to ignore the regime when it's in one of its panic modes.

The cuddling of the regime and refusal to take punitive actions against it as it violated international law, massacred its own people and threatened to destabilize the Horn region has led to this ominous situation we see in Ethiopia today. Its erratic behaviors, its hostility and belligerence have become more evident and its handlers have noticed. When the regime finds itself with its back against the wall, it lashes out with a wimpy cry for help, usually through a series of articles and long winded "cut and paste" analysis. The latest incoherent production is by one of its favored scribes, Haftu Gebregziabher, entitled "Africa: Alert-Red Sea Fury Reaches Sharp Peak" this week on the official English daily paper of the regime; "The Ethiopian Herald".

So what triggered the anxiety attack this time? Some believe it has to do with H.E. President Isaias Afwerki's visit to Egypt. But it is not. The real reason for the panicked writing is to divert attention away from its domestic

problems, from which it has seen no reprieve for almost three years now. The regime is also reeling from the political blunder it made last week by rescinding a statement it made about releasing political prisoners, shocking its own people and the international community that was quick to applaud its vacuous statement. Jeffrey Smith and Mohammed Adebo in an 11 January 2018 Foreign Policy article, "Ethiopia Is Falling Apart", wrote about the regime's latest diplomatic and political faux pas:

"...The outpouring of optimism did not last long. Within hours, an aide to Desalegn clarified the prime minister's remarks, saying that "mistranslation" by the media was to blame for the confusion...."

How typical...regime always blames others for its own mistakes. That story is still being played out, in the meantime, let us take a look at what Aite Haftu is trying to say with his latest piece. He writes:

"...The political crisis along the Red Sea seems to have reached to its peak with the worsening crisis in Yemen, the ISIS militant's new base in Sinai and Libya, the intervention of Egyptian military commanders to Sawa Military Base in Eritrea and continued Saudi-led forces coalition operation in Yemen..."

Typical of someone that wants to deceive his or her readers...padding the story with some factual content and then, boom...insert the lie. Yes, the situation in Yemen is grim, but I don't know that ISIS has a "new base" in Sinai or Libya. Ditto for the story about "Egyptian military commanders" in Eritrea. It is a flat out lie, manufactured by the regime in Ethiopia. Seems the regime wants in-is not comfortable with its pronounced "neutrality". It wasn't to be included in the "coalition", but wants the US or Israel to facilitate an invitation-as if it has anything worthwhile contribute. The regime, isolated from its own people is now facing

international condemnation-it seems the chickens are finally coming home to roost...

More importantly, Aite Habtu's concerns are misplaced, as the only political crisis that warrants sounding the alarm on is, in Ethiopia. The two-year long nationwide Ethiopian protests saw the killings of hundreds of protesters in the Oromia and Somali regions, the detention of thousands, and the displacement of over a million people from their homes and villages. Women and children have been brutally forced out of their homes, and are languishing in makeshift camps all over Ethiopia...the situation is exacerbating Ethiopia's never ending humanitarian emergencies, and further pauperization of Ethiopian society. Ethiopia is on the brink and it is now the biggest threat to peace, stability and security in the region.

Sounding like a jilted lover, the author writes:

"...the new marriage between Saudi and Egypt have now grabbed the eyes and ears of political analysts in the Horn of Africa which is considered as the most important part for its geopolitical location..."

Pray tell us who they are... Seriously, nobody's eyes and ears are ringing ...of course with the exception of the minority regime and its hired scribes at Menelik Palace. But no doubt, Aite Haftu is flabbergasted by the things he has conjured up in his own head and so the blabbering continues. He writes:

"...the Eritrean government could not control all areas of the Red Sea in its territory. It is easy for those pirates, insurgent groups and militants from Sinai and Libya and/or Saudi Arabia backed forces to control some parts out of this area. And this could be another means of destabilizing the rdiaegion and Ethiopia in particular, the great power and relatively stabilized country in the region...It is great danger to Ethiopia if it could be used for the expansion of Arab Islamization Project.

The Eritrean regime had been training Al-Shabaab. Egypt has been trying to use the rift to get access to the Horn of Africa region to weaken Ethiopia..."

Ethiopia is no position to talk about the Red Sea and what Eritrea is, or is not doing. As for Ethiopia being a great power? Really?

Let us see what Jeffrey Smith and Mohammed Ademo have to say about that:

"...Following three years of escalating anti-government protests — mostly by the Oromo ethnic group and to an extent the Amhara, who together comprise two-thirds of the country's 100 million people — Ethiopia can no longer afford to ignore demands for political reform. For years, the regime has sacrificed respect for basic political rights and civil liberties on the altar of economic growth. And its claims of a rapidly growing economy have always been dubious at best. The status quo can no longer hold... This image of stability has been cultivated by well-oiled lobbyists in Washington and by an army of social media trolls on the government payroll. However, despite the outward veneer of growth and stability, all is not well in Ethiopia... The country is also struggling to mitigate the effects of massive youth unemployment, high public debt, rising inflation, and a shortage of foreign currency. The economic woes that have beleaguered Ethiopia have fueled the increasing unrest..."

So much for Ethiopia being the stabilized country in the region... what drivell!

The truth is that Ethiopia's lawlessness is the only threat to the region and contributing to its insecurity. Ethiopia's refusal to abide by agreements it has signed, its continued occupation of sovereign Eritrean territories, including Badme for the last 15 years in violation of the Algiers Agreements, the African Union and UN Charters and international law is the elephant in the room.

Ethiopia's invasion and occupation of Somalia that has created the greatest humanitarian emergency still plaguing the nation today. Ethiopia's refusal to relinquish Chairmanship of The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) for 8 years and using the regional organization as an extension of its Foreign Ministry, and fleecing donors with fake mediation between warring parties in South Sudan, its corruption of the African Union and its organs to advance external agendas against member states are all a matter of public. The minority regime in Ethiopia is now being held to account for its crimes in the region...pointing fingers at others will not absolve it of its international crimes.

Aite Habtu must not be getting the UN Somalia Eritrea Monitoring Group's reports, because if he had them, he would know that, in five consecutive reports to the UN Security Council, the SEMG has said that it had found NO evidence to support allegations of Eritrea's support for Al Shabbab. He must also know that there has NEVER been any independently verifiable evidence to support allegations manufactured by Ethiopia and its handlers in engineering the illegal, unjust and unfair sanctions. Habtu's use of phrases like "the Arab Islamization Project" is quite transparent...the fearmongering is targeted at the US and Israel. "The Arab Islamization Project" is not a threat to an imploding Ethiopia-its problems are internal. It can stop pointing fingers at Eritrea and others in the region and take stock of its own beleaguered state.

Jeffrey Smith and Mohammed Ademo warn:

"...Tepid reforms and halfhearted concessions won't save the country's authoritarian government from its existential crisis..."

Neither will its lies and deliberate misinformation...

The rule of law must prevail over the law of the jungle!



"Tsada Getzu, Tsada Libu (White Face, White Heart)": An Exploration of Skin Lightening in Eritrea

Dr. Fikrejesus Amahazion

The following is a brief summary of a newly published article on skin lightening in Eritrea, a topic of increasing importance and great relevance in the country, particularly amongst adolescents and youth.

A centuries old practice, skin lightening, also sometimes referred to as "skin bleaching," "skin brightening," "skin fading," and "skin whitening," is the use of injections, topical ointments, creams, lotions, gels, soaps, oral formulations, and household chemicals to de-pigment or lighten skin complexion, produce an even skin tone, and remove blemishes, freckles, or scars (de Souza 2008: 28; Jablonski 2012; Street, Gaska, Lewis, and Wilson 2014: 53). Today, skin lightening is a multi-billion dollar, globalized industry, and over the past several decades it has emerged as an increasingly popular practice in many parts of the world (Charles 2003; Coopernov 2016; Glenn 2008).

Skin lightening products often contain active ingredients, such as hydroquinone, mercury, lead, or corticosteroids, which break down the top layer of skin to lighten skin or disrupt and impede the synthesis and production of melanin, a natural pigment which defines skin color. The application or use of skin lightening products may be daily (or less frequently), and may be to the face, neck, hands, or to other parts of the body. While skin lightening is practiced by both genders, research suggests that it is more prevalent among females (Counter and Buchanan 2004; Fokuo 2009; Hunter 2011: 143; James et al. 2016).

Although skin lightening is a centuries old practice, it has increased in recent years (Charles 2003; Del Giudice and Yves 2002; Hunter 2011: 153; Jablonski 2012; Lewis et al. 2013; Oumeish 2001). Currently, skin lightening is quite popular within the Caribbean, South America, Asia, the Middle



East, and among dark-skinned populations within Europe and North America (Charles 2003; Coopernov 2016; Glenn 2008). Notably, across much of Africa, skin lightening has "reached epidemic levels" (Hunter 2011: 143).

Despite its global popularity, skin lightening is a dangerous practice associated with a range of serious health consequences

and problems. The dangers associated with skin lightening include severe skin conditions, including eczema, warts, acne, and ochronosis, a form of hyper-pigmentation which causes the skin to turn a dark purple shade (Adebajo 2002; Ajose 2005; Lewis et al. 2011; Street et al. 2014: 63). As well, skin lightening may cause irreversible thinning of the skin, irritation and rashes, skin lesions, blistering, scabs, scarring, stretch

marks, severe discoloration, and a reduction in the skin's resistance to bacterial and fungal infections (Ajose 2005; de Souza 2008; Durosaro et al. 2012: 43). Other problems associated with skin lightening include kidney damage, hypertension, elevated blood sugar, immunosuppression, mercury poisoning, and the risk of cancer.

Furthermore, although skin

lightening products have been banned or heavily regulated in many countries, they often remain easily accessible over-the-counter or available via black market, unregulated channels, including from roadside vendors, within market districts and backstreets, and on the Internet (Ahmed and Hamid 2017; de Souza 2008: 28; Keane et al. 2001). According to the extensive literature on the topic, there are many different reasons that individuals may seek to lighten their skin, including socially constructed perceptions of beauty and attraction, status and class, job market competitiveness, the power of mass media and marketing, and racism, colorism, slavery, and colonialism (Hunter 2011: 149).

While a growing body of literature has explored skin lightening around the world, increasing understanding, to date, there have been no formal studies investigating skin lightening in Eritrea. Accordingly, my recent research helps to fill the void by exploring the practice of skin lightening in Eritrea, and also examining attitudes, knowledge, and perceptions surrounding the practice. Throughout 2017, I utilized a variety of research methods to collect data, including anonymous survey questionnaires from undergraduate students, in-depth, semi-structured interviews with individuals, households, and key informants across Eritrea, and numerous informal conversations and focus group discussions. Significantly, my research provides an important baseline for the current practice of skin lightening in the country, helping to reveal associated factors and ultimately contributing to and supplementing existing literature. Furthermore, my findings help to increase general awareness about the dangers of skin lightening, and also may encourage the development of appropriate prevention and intervention efforts or campaigns.



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German Outlet ZDF Finally Retracts Highly Inaccurate Asmara Protests Story

Ray Ja Fraser

After nearly 2 months, the German public television and news outlet ZDF (Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen) has withdrawn its report of the small protest in Asmara, Eritrea on October 31st, 2017 (available at: <http://deutsch-eritreische-gesellschaft.de/2018/01/07/zdf-redaktion-heute-widerruft-falsche-meldung-ueber-28-tote-in-der-eritreischen-hauptstadt-asmara-erst-nach-7-wochen/>). Notably, the original report, which was retracted and not simply corrected (a significant difference), was strewn with innumerable fabrications

and easily demonstrable falsehoods. Additionally, its broad dissemination poignantly encapsulates how general coverage of and journalistic practice toward Eritrea are so problematic. For example, the main source for the serious claims made in the report was not simply an “opposition” group, but an internationally-recognized terrorist group, financed and harbored by Ethiopia (which continues to militarily occupy large parts of Eritrea), which has previously made far-fetched allegations and claims that have later been proven to be completely false, greatly wide of the mark, or completely lacked context. Furthermore,

it is incredulous that numerous assertions about the situation on the ground in Asmara – directly contradicting the allegations in ZDF’s report – made by diplomatic sources and international persons were completely ignored or largely overlooked in publishing the original report.

The basis of good journalistic practice is a citizen’s right to correct and essential information by which they can form a realistic picture of the world and society around them. Of course, errors are regretful and are often bound to occur. However, a fundamental part of good journalistic practice is that errors of fact, as well as

errors of omission, should be corrected promptly, forthrightly, and prominently (and not grudgingly or cynically). Failure to do so reveals a lack of integrity, credibility, responsibility, due diligence, and basic ethics. While the recent retraction by ZDF is highly important and the correct step, it is rather inadequate and comes far too late. Instead, ZDF should provide its audience and readers an apology and greater transparency – which includes researching and publishing the extent of inaccuracies and disclosing the editorial practices that allowed them to occur. How, for example, did ZDF vet its sources and the claims

presented? Did ZDF rigorously challenge both the allegations it encountered and the assumptions which have long clouded reports about Eritrea? Furthermore, the organization should clarify what frameworks and steps to ensure accountability are in place (or being implemented) to ensure that similar errors do not occur in the future.

In an age of fake news, where there is a growing and (often justified) public suspicion about the impartiality, accuracy and integrity of news, it is absolutely vital that individuals, journalists, and outlets recall that the highest and primary obligation of ethical journalism is to serve the public.

LOCAL NEWS

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN

Soil and water conservation popular campaign aimed at enriching agricultural produce have been conducted throughout the Northern Red Sea region, the Department of Agriculture of the region reported.

Mr. Huruy Yohannes, Head of soil and water conservation and Irrigation branch, stated that soil and water conservation activities are fundamental to agricultural development and redressing the environment.

Mr. Huruy added that in a bid to redress the environment, 441km-long terraces and over 24 thousand cubic meters of water diversions were constructed in Nakfa, Afabet and Gindae sub-zones, in addition to renovation of micro-dams in Felket and Kilhamet administrative areas, Gindae sub-zone.

Moreover, he said that the residents of Endilal, Mariet, Bakla and Laba are stepping up popular campaigns motivated by the achievements registered through the soil and water conservation activities they previously conducted.

He also stated that 14,660 kms of water diversion schemes have been constructed at the agricultural sites of Shi’eb, Gadim-Halib, Foro, Zula, Afta, Emberemi and Dogali with the support of machineries.

“We Youngsters . .

Continued from page 8

The third is “Challenges and opportunities of 21st century on Diplomacy.” There are also other research papers that I have done individually and in group.

Any other different contribution in the society?

I wrote three books in Afar language, the two are collections of short stories, fairy tales and games for beginners. The third book is about “female circumcision” which deals with its consequences.

Are you married?

Yes, I am married and have one child.

In your opinion, who is a successful person?

A person who has a purpose and spends his time, potential and knowledge usefully. And there’s no doubt that he is going to achieve his goal when he focuses on using the time and potential he has properly. Things are much easier in life when he uses every opportunity he has to reach his ultimate goal.

So, what is your future plan?

Now, am continuing my master’s

on Business Administration and am planning to complete it with a successful result.

Does it clash with the previous field that you took?

No, it does not. It is not difficult. In fact, it is important especially if you work at the governmental institutions because it is important to have diversified knowledge in your work.

We have heard about “Fiema”, what is it about?

In short, Fiema is a youth association. It is an association which works in gathering and administering the youth to participate in different activities such as summer youth programs, which we call ‘maetot’, and any kind of holiday activities within the nation.

Any recommendations?

I have message especially for the youths; they do not have to be dependent! We have to work hard to improve our selves, which is we do not need to wait for anyone to create opportunities to build our career. We should use the time and potential we have to create a job that we want to pursue in the future.

Thank you so much for your time!

Tsada Getzu,

Tsada Libu . .

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In brief, findings from my research in Eritrea suggest that skin lightening is increasingly popular in the country and many individuals, particularly females, engage in the practice. Of note, the prevalence of skin lightening is considerably less than reported findings from other African countries. Additionally, as with many other countries, skin lightening in Eritrea is associated with a number of different factors. Given the prevalence of unsafe lightening products marketed and sold in Eritrea, combined with the fact that many people are not fully aware of the dangers of lightening products, there is a need to increase public awareness of the significant health risks associated with their use. Ultimately, skin lightening in Eritrea is a topic of increasing importance and great relevance, particularly amongst adolescents and youth, and further study and more attention are merited.

Full article is available from The *Journal of Pan African Studies* (California, USA), through <http://www.jpnafrican.org/vol11no1.htm>



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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

1. Position: Human Resources Officer
Department: Employee Services
Number Required: 01

Major Duties and responsibilities:-

Administration

- Ensure that all Human Resources activities are captured on the system.
- Ensure that the promotion process is followed through in line with the promotion procedure.
- Ensure that HR report deadlines are met.
- Ensure that all HR issues are handled and finalised.
- Ensure that all HR processes are followed in line with procedures.

Recruitment

- Ensure that the recruitment procedure is followed.
- Shortlisting of candidates for HOD.
- Setting up and conducting the interviewing process.
- Follow-up the pre-employment process.
- Responsible for employment contract and signing off of the contract of employment.
- Ensure that new employees are booked for induction process.

HR Documentation

- Ensure that all relevant HR documentation is filed correctly.
- Signing off of leave application forms in line with entitlement and policy.
- Ensure that all documentation for promotions are captured and signed off.
- Ensure that all required documentation is processed in time to be captured on payroll system/finance.
- Exit interviews to be signed off and escalated to manager/supervisor.

Performance Management

- Ensure that the Performance Management process and policy is followed and deadlines are met by Managers.
- Capture all performance management data on HR system.
- Ensure that performance management form is signed off by both employee and manager.

Terminations

- Ensure that notice period is in line with employee contract.
- Ensure that termination forms are signed off by manager.
- Ensure that severance pay policy is followed.
- Process the exit interview.
- Ensure that exit clearance forms are signed off.
- Prepare certificate of service.

KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS

Qualifications:

- Diploma/Degree in Human Resources/Degree Business Management

Knowledge and Experience:

- 1 – 3 Years' experience in general Human Resources
- Customer Service experience
- Previous experience on HR software package
- 1 – 3 years in Administration

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

General Information and other requirements:


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

Additional requirement for Nationals:

- Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provide evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defense.
- Present clearance paper from current/last employer.
- Testimonial documents to be attached (CV, work experience credentials, a copy of your National Identity Card etc.).
- Only shortlisted applicants would be considered as potential candidates for an interview.
- Application documents will not be returned to sender.
- All applications should be sent through the post office.
- Deadline for application: 10 days from the day of publication in the Newspaper.

- **Address: Please mail your applications to;**
Bisha Mining Share Company,
P. O. Box 4276 Asmara, Eritrea
- **Note to non-Eritrean applicants:**
Please send a copy of your application to

Aliens Employment Permit Affairs,
P. O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea.



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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Position: Human Resources Data Administrator
Number required: (01)
Contract Type: Indefinite

TASK DESCRIPTION

Administration

- Supervise activities of the data clerk.
- Capture or update employee personal data, leave, rosters, emergency contacts, employment contracts, disciplinary actions, terminations and engagements, promotions, International employees' timesheet transfers and salary adjustments.
- Maintain company organisation charts to reflect current structure at all times.
- Develop and maintain labour budget and forecast spreadsheet.
- Assist with employee requests on leave balances.
- Required to reconcile Human Resource data with other business systems.

Reports

- Adhoc reporting information as per requests received.
- Prepare a daily activity report to Human Resource Supervisor.
- Compile and assist with Human Resource Management reports in line with standard operating procedures.
- Compile weekly terminations and engagements report for submission to the camp administration.
- Attend Human Resource meetings to report on daily activities.

Filing

- Filing of captured data documentation.
- Filing of all employee related changes.

Qualifications	
Diploma/ Certificate in Computer Technology	
Application.	
Knowledge and Experience	
3 – 5 Years data administration experience	
2 Years Supervisory level experience could be an advantage	
Advanced MS Excel experience	


Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
Computer Literacy (MS Office – Intermediate – Excel -Advanced)	Communication (English and local language)
Accuracy	Confidentiality
Attention to detail	Interpersonal relations skill
Knowledge of Policies, Procedures and Processes	Supervisory skill
Administrative skill	Ability to meet deadlines
Analytical skill	Ability to perform under pressure
Report writing skill	Innovative thinking
Business writing skill	

General Information and other requirements:

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

Additional requirement for Nationals:

- Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provide evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defense.
- Present clearance paper from current/last employer.
- Testimonial documents to be attached (CV, work experience credentials, a copy of your National Identity Card etc.).
- Only shortlisted applicants would be considered as potential candidates for an interview.
- Application documents will not be returned to sender.
- All applications should be sent through the post office.
- Deadline for application: 10 days from the day of publication in the Newspaper.
 - Address: Please mail your applications to;**
Bisha Mining Share Company,
P. O. Box 4276 Asmara, Eritrea
 - Note to non-Eritrean applicants:**
Please send a copy of your application to
Aliens Employment Permit Affairs,
P. O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea.



Bisha Mining Share Company

P.O. Box 4276

Asmara

Eritrea

Tel: (+291) 1124941

Fax: (+291) 1124941

www.bishamining.com

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

HR Data Adminstrator(01)

Major Duties and responsibilities:-

- Supervise activities of the data clerk.
- Capture or update employee personal data, leave, rosters, emergency contacts, employment contracts, disciplinary actions, terminations and engagements, promotions, International employees' timesheet transfers and salary adjustments.
- Maintain company organisation charts to reflect current structure at all times.
- Develop and maintain labour budget and forecast spreadsheet.
- Assist with employee requests on leave balances.
- Required to reconcile HR data with other business systems.
- Adhoc reporting information as per requests received.
- Prepare a daily activity report to HR Supervisor.
- Compile and assist with HR Management reports in line with standard operating procedures.
- Compile weekly terminations and engagements report for submission to the camp administration.
- Attend HR meetings to report on daily activities.
- Filing of captured data documentation.
- Filing of all employee related changes.

Qualifications	Diploma in Information Computer Technology (ICT)
Knowledge and Experience	3 – 5 Years experience in Data Administration 2 Years Supervisory level experience an advantageous Advanced MS Excel experience
Technical Skills	Behavioural Skills
Computer Literacy (MS Office – Intermediate – Excel -Advanced) Accuracy Attention to detail Knowledge of Policies, Procedures and Process Administrative skills Analytical skill Report writing skill Business writing skill	Communication (English and local language) Confidentiality Interpersonal relations skill Supervisory skill Ability to meet deadlines Ability to perform under pressure Innovative thinking

Profile: Qualifications and Experience

General Information and other requirements

- Place of Work: Bisha site.
- Type of contract: Definite
- Salary: As per Company salary scale.
- Additional requirement for Nationals:
- Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provide evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defense.
- Present clearance paper from current/last employer
- Testimonial documents to be attached (CV, work experience credentials, a copy of your National Identity Card etc.).
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Bisha Mining Share Company,
P. O. Box 4276 Asmara, Eritrea



"We youngsters should Work Hard on Creating Opportunities..."

Compiled by Semhar Mebrahtu

Mohammed Nur was an outstanding student. He won several prizes from elementary to high school. He continued his education in Asmara University and studied Journalism and Mass communication and learnt with great interest. Mohammed got an opportunity to do his master's in Business and Administration. He got a job at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as an information analyst, and afterwards he was involved in different research undertakings. Nowadays, he is working at the Ministry's public relations unit. For two years Mohammed also worked as an English teacher in Warsay Yakalo Secondary School and he has worked on several research papers individually and in group. He is also working as a chief editor of Shebab Magazine in Afar language.



Mohammed can you introduce yourself?

Yeah, I was born in a village called Arayta in Southern Red Sea, and I stayed there till I was six years old and later we moved to Tio because my father was a teacher there. So I spent most of my childhood at the sea shores of Tio.

What did your childhood look like?

As I told you I used to spend most of my time at the sea shore with my friends. We used to play many kinds of games out there, hide and seek which we call "chirchir" in Tigigna. I remember that we played hide and seek in the sea and a traditional game which is like wrestling. We used to hold a sea creature "Bedinar" in our hands and ran faster towards the sea to touch the water without immersing our head. So there were a lot of sea games which I cannot recall now,

but it was such an amazing set of childhood memories.

What was your academic situation at school?

I started school right after independence; up to grade two I learnt in Tio. I think I was not satisfied with the education situation back then so I was begging my dad to take me to Saud Arabia or Yemen for better education. But I remember my father used to say "50 of your country is equal to 500 of another country!" Therefore he made me go to my uncle who was living in Assab city, and I learned there till 11th grade.

What kind of student were you then?

I think it would be good if you ask my teachers and my classmates back then! But I can say I was an outstanding student. I used to be a prize winner of first place, not only from my class

but from the whole school till I finished my high school.

How was your interaction with your teachers and classmates?

Again, it would be better if you ask them, but I think of myself as a sociable and helpful person. I did not have any problem having good interaction with them.

Ok, then continue with your academic situation after high school?

Oh yeah, after I finished high school in Assab, I joined the TTI with 23 other students. We were all from Afar ethnic group. Back then TTI was in Mainefhi, so while we were learning the Ministry of Information interviewed five outstanding students who came from Assab to be hired in the Ministry. One student, Mohammed Ali, and I got the job at the radio station in Afar program. Later on, we went to Sawa for Military training, but before we went to Sawa we had a matriculation exam while we were at the Ministry of Information. So after we came back from Sawa I got my result and had a good mark which enabled me to join Asmara University.

What did you choose to learn? And how was it?

It is clear what I got to choose because I had the chance by the Ministry of information and started to work a little bit in that

profession. So I took Journalism and Mass communication. I learnt with great interest and had an amazing experience.

Where did you go after your graduation?

I went to Sawa to teach English. I worked there for two years and moved to my current job in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Asmara.

What about the media's job?

Media's job, well...right now, I am a volunteer at the radio program of Afar while am working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Besides, the job I am doing in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is pretty much related with media. Additionally, at my spare time, I am working as chief editor of a Magazine which is called "Undeneyta".

How did Journalism and Mass Communication influence you?

At first, I was only focusing on my education but later when I joined Asmara University and found out the department is all about "social relations", it helped me to have good interaction with many people.

What was your senior paper about?

It is about the shortage of public supplies in Zoba Maekel.

To prepare that research I had to visit several companies, which helped me a lot to gain new job experiences.

Your work?

I have been working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2008. At first I was working as information analyst but then I worked on preparing research papers. Nowadays am working in public relations.

What is your favorite profession from all those you have been doing?

Research!

What is the reason?

It's an easy way to discover new things about every new research topic. You find many things to get one thing, and it is such an amazing experience.

Can you give us some ideas about the research papers you have been working on?

Without considering the research papers that I prepared at college, I had my first special paper called "Piracy on the Red sea". It is related with the preservation of archeological sites of the Red sea. And my second research paper is entitled of "Peace keeping why is it not applicable in Darfur?"

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