His Holiness Abune Lukas, General Secretary of the Eritrean Tewahdo Orthodox Church, gave benediction in connection with the Geez New Year.

The General Secretary of the Synod wished Eritrean nationals at home and abroad, as well as members of the EDF and the faithful a Happy Geez New Year and a year of peace and tranquility. He called on the faithful to extend hands to the sick and needy nationals.

Moreover, His Holiness Abune Lukas gave detailed briefings regarding the historical background of the religious event and expressed his wish for bountiful harvest.

President Isaias Afwerki received and encouraged the Eritrean national cycling team that is due to participate at the 90th World Cycling Championship that will be held from 17 to 24 September 2017 in Norway.

At the event that was held on September 9, the coach of the national team, Mr. Samson Solomon, gave a briefing on the preparation of the national team for the world championship.

President Isaias said that the outstanding achievements so far registered in cycling competitions attest to the investment being made towards sports development and expressed his expectation for more victories. He also noted that the development of sports should not be confined to Asmara and that more efforts should be made to expand sport at the sub-zone levels across the country.

Ambassador Zemede Tekle, Commissioner of Culture and Sports, said that the participation of five cyclists in the category of under 23 years age attests to the development Eritrea has registered in cycling sport and wished all success to the national team.

The Eritrean Cycling national team is participating in the World Cycling Championship for the third time.

Around 2.5 million Nakfa has been disbursed to families of martyrs in Akurdait subzone in the last 8 months alone, according to Mr. Yemane Kiflu, branch head of the Ministry of Labor and Human Welfare in the subzone.

The monetary assistance was given to 546 families from 15 administrative areas of the subzone.

The beneficiaries expressed appreciation for the support they were provided.

Geez New Year (Kadus Yohannes) was celebrated at national level in Senafe town on September 11 featuring cultural and artistic performances. The event was organized with the cooperation of the Southern region and the Ministry of Information.

The event was attended by government and PFDJ officials, including the Administrator of the Southern region, Mr. Efrem Gebrekirotos, Chief of Staff of the Central Command, Brig. Gen. Simon Ougbu, religious leaders, village elders, as well as invited guests and residents of Senafe town.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Hzkias Wabhet, Administrator of the Senafe sub zone, wished happy Geez New Year to the Eritrean people, and pointed out that religious events are good opportunities for depicting the prevailing spirit of unity and harmony of the Eritrean people.

The event was made colorful by cultural and artistic performances by Walta Cultural Troupe of the EDF and the Southern Region Cultural Troupe.
Teacher: The Invisible Leader

Simon Weldemichael

In Eritrea every time has its own historical and cultural value that deserves veneration and celebration. September, the ninth month of the year has a special place in Eritrea, home of nine ethnic groups. The first bullet of the armed struggle for the liberation against Ethiopian “recolonization” was fired on the 1st September. Shalik Ibrahim Sultan, one of the founding fathers of Eritrean nationalism, passed away on 1st Sep 1987. The sham federation between Eritrea and Ethiopia started on 11th Sep 1952. Cultural and religious Holidays such as yohane, meskel, Abune ambes and other feasts are celebrated in September. In addition, the gates of our schools open and classes of every academic year start in September. My intention is not to give a discourse on September but rather to share some thoughts about the role of a teacher in nation building as we find ourselves at the threshold of a new academic year.

A teacher is “a person who provides education for students” seems to be an angular definition of a sacred and pronounced profession. A teacher is someone who opens the eyes and mind of students to the world of knowledge. Many of you may not be satisfied with these descriptions. John Adams argued that “a teacher is a maker of man. He is the foundation of all education, and, thus, of the whole civilization of mankind, present and future. No nation reconstruction is possible without the active cooperation of the teacher.” Teaching as a profession is a mother profession which incubates, gives birth to and nurtures all other professions into maturity.

Though it seems to be an abstract idea nation building, would be easier to understand when interpreted within the role and contribution of a teacher in the overall development of a country. In short nation building is a heroic process of liberating and developing the psychic and physical space of citizens of one country. It involves the development of behavior, values, institutions and infrastructure that enable one to live a dignified human life and insure the sustainability of development, identity, glory and independence of a nation. There is a very close correlation between a teacher who is said to be the “invisible leader” and nation building. A nation is built by its citizens and citizens are molded by teachers. A teacher has been described as the maker of a nation. Therefore, the existence of qualified and dedicated teachers is vital for the development, peace and stability of a country. A dedicated teacher is an engineer of society who shows the right path, a craftsman for progressive culture and nation building. A teacher has multidimensional roles including pedagogic, political and social.

In every society no other personality has an influence more profound than that of a teacher. The teacher’s teaching, affection, character, competence, moral commitment and style have influential power to attract others especially students. A popular teacher becomes a model for his students and for the society. A teacher can lead them anywhere. It has been said that an incompetent and decadent teacher can harm a nation more seriously than a corrupt and perverted judiciary, army, security, bureaucracy or politicians. A corrupt and incompetent teacher is not only a wicked individual, but also the harbinger of a corrupt and incompetent generation. A nation with dishonest and inept teachers is a nation at danger, with every coming day the arrivel of its imminent obliteration.

The history of Eritrean teachers in bringing and maintaining independence is profound. During the liberation struggle for independence Eritrean teachers saw the seeds of Eritrean nationalism in the minds of the students of that time. They contributed a great share in winning our independence by infusing hope and confidence in students and by enabling them to be proud of their culture and identity. They were among the most highly respected and remembered personalities in Eritrean society largely because they adorned themselves with societal values and morals. The role of Eritrean teachers in defending the country against the Weyane invasion was also so great that many were martyred.

What is needed in Eritrea today is a combination of a nationalist spirit, intellect and genuine sense of service of teachers. Whether or not Eritrea has arrived at a stage of knowledge-driven development is determined by the quality of teaching of its teachers. For a prosperous and developed Eritrea to become a reality, an important responsibility must be assumed by teachers. Every Eritrean teacher in whatever capacity has a special role to play in shaping the future of the country. It is the task of every teacher, from kindergarten to tertiary level, to prepare students to become responsible citizens and channel their energy toward the betterment of the society.

The current educational system has been criticized by many for its subject-matter focused education. Such a system has produced students who have knowledge of the world but do not have knowledge of themselves and their own society. We have seen that stability of society is threatened by the breakdown of ethics. Therefore, Eritrean teachers should aim to produce men and women of knowledge and culture. National values such as solidarity, patriotism, justice, honesty, love of truth, discipline and human respect must be carefully infused to the young learners. A qualified teacher can maintain and nurture positive and workable values more than anyone else to bring about a sea of change in Eritrea society.

To build a nation first the citizens of the country and the youth particularly have to embrace a developmental character, which is an assignment of a teacher. As a strong foundation is essential for a strong building, a strong character is required for nation-building. Teachers play an important role in nation building by building the character of the students. So teachers must play their role of inspiring, teaching, guiding, and disciplining the students responsibly. In building an economy the most decisive factor is human resource, not natural or capital resource or foreign aid and investment (national charter, 1994).

The students who are now sitting in the class room will after sometime become Presidents, Ministers, army commanders, lawyers, teachers, doctors, engineers and managers among others. The development of a country’s human resource is the responsibility of the teacher, and there is no doubt that a nation cannot develop meaningfully without adequate human resource. The national charter and Educational policy of Eritrea have clearly articulated the decisive role of human element in development. Just as the liberation of Eritrea would have been impossible without conscious and determined fighters, the prosperity and modernization of Eritrea is also unlikely without diligent and competent teachers committed to spreading knowledge and building their students character.

In our national charter and other national documents we have made promises to solve our problems and reshape the destiny of Eritrea. The problems encountered after independence, among others, were the dismal ignorance, poverty and backwardness. Those problems couldn’t be resolved solely by the construction of schools and other facilities. The teacher should be given central position in tackling those social evils. Every country that has become great has achieved that greatness through its teachers’ sense of responsibility for the development of their own nation. Our country will grow and develop and illiteracy will be removed when we have committed teachers.

In discussing the issue Dr. Feyyesus Amalhatist, an Eritrean volunteer from diaspora who has been in the service of teaching and research at the College of Arts and Social Sciences, said that “This is our country to which we belong, we are responsible for its development and welfare, and we are going to convert our teaching into dedicated service to our fellow citizens”. Mr. Semere Habteslassie, a lecturer in Department of History opined “I am not a mere employee; I am a citizen. These young students in front of me are my budding fellow citizens; I am here to help them acquire knowledge and character”. Mr. Ghimawi Araya also said out that “Whatever Eritrea will be in the next generation will depend upon what we do to our students today in the classrooms. I always strive with my capacity to shoulder national responsibility and loyalty.”

Eritrea needs the services of thousands of teachers who have trained minds and dedication to the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge. The whole of Eritrea is there in the many classrooms guided and educated by teachers. We can only achieve nation building effectively through what we do in classrooms. A teacher is a silent builder of a nation, and teaching is not only a profession but a mission.
Indispensable Necessity to Development

Of all the bad and disgraceful experiences the world has ever seen, those that have an effect on a specific or targeted group as a whole have left a dark point in history. Colonialism, apartheid, the caste system, ethnic cleansing are some examples. The seriousness of these is that their effect is holistically influencing the entire members of a specific group. One such experience that has a global manifestation and is pervasive everywhere is gender inequality. It is a sad fact that women share equal role and burden in raising a society but are seen and treated unfairly. They have been subjected to various forms of suppression by the same society they nurture. What makes this even worse is that the cost transcends this particular group and affects the whole society as it cripples half of the potential resources and achievements that could be harvested.

Societies’ marginalization of half of their members in such carelessness for so long perhaps starts from the moment of birth, which then is solidified and endorsed vigorously. In many societies there is severe discrimination on the basis of gender which starts from the birth of the child. While the birth of a boy is celebrated with gunfire and sweets and food, the birth of a girl usually considered an unlucky incident, if not a shame. Girls are also subjected to many harmful cultural practices like genital mutilation and others. Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting (FGMC) and other traditions that violate women’s rights are strongly condemned by laws in Eritrea.

Girls are forced to stay at home and are rarely sent to school. Girls are married off without their will through arranged marriages and/or selling the girls into marriage. The fact that reproductive work, childcare and household chores are seen as the natural responsibility of women poses a major obstacle women have to confront in order to achieve equal opportunities as men. In effect, this attribution of roles determines an unequal access and control of resources and opportunities which negatively affects women’s self-esteem, self-confidence, and eventually lowers their social and labor performance.

In our country, Eritrea, equality of women was demonstrated a while ago through their active participation in the armed struggle where they’ve shown outstanding qualities that they could be reliable partners in any and every task. In this respect, at independence the Government of Eritrea fulfilled its responsibility in ensuring equal participation of both men and women. However, in ensuring their equality in each and every opportunity, there is still a lot of work to be done. To these end, government bodies and particularly the National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW) and the society as a whole have been working relentlessly and as a result a lot of improvement have been achieved.

There are also many government bodies and associations that have been working on gender empowerment as their main program areas targeting the youth and students in particular by creating offices in Colleges and in Sawa Training Center. Some try to empower young women by increasing awareness of gender-based violence and the rights of women, by providing capacity building trainings, and by trying to improve access to equal health services and education. Such tasks aspire to produce gender sensitive and well balanced Eritrean youth and also endeavors to improve the participation of females in higher positions in the society. Consequently, more and more young women are enrolled in tertiary education, with some colleges having more than 50% of female students. Doing so can help protect the fundamental human rights of women and also help to sensitize and enhance the awareness of the society on the decisive role of women for the socio-economic, political and cultural transformation of the country.

Such efforts should be geared toward ensuring that young women and men are aware of the damage caused by the above sad facts. It should also endeavor towards raising the awareness of teenagers and the community at large on their consequences on a constant basis. And, at last, it should try to empower and cultivate gender leadership qualities at all levels. Although this task is huge and much has to be done, the greatest challenge remains to be difficult in convincing people to stop such deep-rooted practices mainly in rural areas. This requires a long term commitment with tenacity and steadiness, a steady investment in education, and also further research. In this respect, collaboration of all partners is by all means crucial and, hence, initiatives should be taken.

It will be to no avail to talk about any sort of development while still marginalizing half of our invaluable resources. When we come to think of it, there is no part of any developmental scheme where women directly or indirectly could not be involved. Therefore, their critical role in the overall task of the nation should be enhanced by providing them with equal opportunities, acknowledging their natural rights, and by empowering them for greater accomplishments that would be in the interest of the whole society and, indeed, the world.

Finally, it should once again be unequivocally stated that building a healthy society has the female at its center; and so any disadvantage of them has a direct relation with the kind of society that is going to be raised. What’s more, as females almost everywhere constitute more than half of the society their relegation to a small corner, no doubt reduces our potential by half. And that’s why empowering them is and should be one of the number one task of any development aspiring nation and responsible society.

Semere Bereketeb

Eritrea Profile, Wednesday, September 13, 2017
Vol. 24 No. 56
Eritrean Wedding, A Long Process yet a Beautiful One

Mela Ghebremedhin

We are now immersed into the blossom month of September where many holidays are reserved in the Eritrean calendar. Eid Al Adha, September 1st the national day to remember the beginning of the armed struggle in 1961, Geez New Year and Meskel or the Holy Cross. Beles, the cactus seasonal fruit and the diaspora called after it, are starting to return to their homelands. Children are starting school, the weather is getting chiller in Asmara while the road to Massawa pleases the eyes with its green scenery. Through time, this period of the year has become the hub of wedding festivities where newlyweds and their guests dance under the heavy rain of July to August. Weddings in Eritrea are beautiful and, yet, a whole long process. Today, let us set at how Tigrigna tradition wedding is observed.

Looking into the city of Asmara, people usually are amazed to witness a number of wedding rental shops, tailors rushing to finish of the orders zuras or tellifs, the traditional Tigrigna white dresses. Young men accompanying the groom, going around the marketplace to choose the right suits which has to go in line with the bride’s choice of colour. Yellow, purple, blue, the “theme” of the wedding is very important for the bride as it will decide on the venue decoration, colour of the wedding invitations, colour of the car’s ribbon and the list goes on. The bride and her bridesmaids, sisters-in-law is also out and about. Going to places to find the right jewellery, the traditional shoes to match the traditional dresses, buying hair extension used for braiding, making the adjustment of the wedding dress where usually the bride will have to adjust it a few time. As the wedding day approaches, she tends to loose on weight, similarly the groom too? Then comes the family members, brothers and sisters who also have to make sure that their outfit is one point is also another task for the future bride and groom.

Another stress to add on to the list! Friends are coming from abroad who wants to visit the country as well as spend time with the newlyweds has to be added in one’s schedule. The fathers, on their side, are making sure that relatives and friends are not forgotten from the invitation list while the mothers keep on adding people and asking the newlyweds “can we have more invitations please”. Always hard to say no to the people when you planned to have perhaps 100 invitees you end up with a thousand and yet, you couldn’t invite your own friends!

Another important process in this beauty of weddings is the food and beverage preparation. It is actually the most important part and most guests would say “suwa, mies and food were great, it was a wonderful wedding”, or if you are not lucky, “mmh no, it wasn’t that good, suwa wasn’t even drinkable” (although they would have danced the whole night). In fact, Eritreans are quite strict on such matters and it is part of the culture to always “say something”, you just get used to it. Therefore, more often, families prefer to hire a professional cook while friends of the mothers, aunties and grandmothers are present to give a hand.

Suwa, the traditional drink made of a mix of grains such as millet and sorghum; the making is long. It requires time and strong monitoring in addition to the wonderful chants of those women combined with traditional coffee to give some energy. Mies another traditional boozed made of fermented honey and very appreciated by young women for its sweet taste. Suwa, especially, and Mies are “a must” in weddings. Then comes the injera making process, the yeast-risen flatbread is basic for Eritrean dishes.

The fermentation process usually starts about a week before the actual celebration. Then comes also the negotiation in finding cattle at affordable price and of good quality. The meat and xebhi (the traditional think spicy soup) would usually be cooked the night of the big day! Men of the neighbourhood and family members have the task of chopping the beef in pieces prior giving it to the ladies for cooking and preparing a delicious beef spiced stews.

People are brought together, elders are on the side of the parents. Youngsters, cousins and friends will be on the side of the newlyweds to fulfil tasks such as decorating the venue, driving around, getting the forgotten items such as flowers or the bestmen’s ties for instance.

The bride, on her side, is often asked to remain at home and to take care of herself starting a week prior the wedding. It can be a quite difficult time for a control-freak bride. Many would suggest “why are you out under this sun, you will get tanned”. I, personally, don’t see the issue in getting darker. The bridesmaids are also important the last few days before the wedding as the tradition dictates that the bride and also the groom shall not be left alone outside the house. This tradition goes back in time where in rural areas, the young bride to be would be seen as a treasure to other jealous young men for not being her “aspirant”.

As the wedding approaches, the bride to be will finalize her hairstyle, make up and take the time to a beauty care with her friends. Steam, hamam, tish (the traditional steam), manicure, pedicure, massage… everything to please the bride to be. The groom on his side, has less time for such treatment and instead will be the project manager of the wedding forgetting that he’s the groom to be! Good bestmen will force him to take some time off but remain a difficult task to achieve.

Friday, time for recap of the weekend celebration, timing, car reserved for the bride and her bridesmaids, similarly for the groom, the families, the transportation of the food and beverage; a stressful moment trying to remember every detail. The ladies will braid their hair and then stay home. The bride will try to fall asleep at 8pm so as to wake up at 2.30am, for her make up time. The mother of the bride will then help her to put her golden traditional jewellery set. The schedule, well, always stretched out. A car can broke down on the way or not enough plates are ready for the brunch time.

At 4am on Saturday, time for photos with family and finally the groom in his traditional white outfit accompanied by his bestmen and friends come to take the bride towards the church. A very early ceremony usually takes about two hours if it’s an orthodox church, thus, it requires patience. Wonderful choir of the church, where priests call in unison for the blessings of the newlyweds. About 8.30am, the bride and groom are officially married. Time for family photos, friends, colleagues all want to show that they were present. While those responsible of the breakfast/brunch rushed to make sure all arrangements are ready. Arriving at the breakfast, women of both families would greet the newlyweds through songs and hands clapping. The festivities are starting! Eating, drinking hot and

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Eritrean Wedding, a Long . . .

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cold drink and a lot of dancing until 1-2pm.

First part done but not yet finished. Families rushed home to change outfit and prepare the food for the Sunday big wedding day. In the Eritrean tradition, the family of the bride would make their own celebration on Saturday evening and the bride has to rush to change her hairstyle and put on the white conventional wedding dress. Often, the celebration will take place outside her parents’ home where a white tent decorated with the colour of the wedding will welcome the groom. The family on their side would often celebrate on Sunday evening giving time on Sunday afternoon for wedding photo shoot.

Through time, however, celebrations became more flexible. Many young couples would choose one venue for both families, sharing the expenses and bringing both families under one roof on Sunday. It is a good way to get both families to know each other, being less time consuming and less costly. The celebrations would be coloured with flowers held by women, little girls would throw petal flowers upon the arrival of the newlyweds to the venue, popcorn and “elelelelel”, the arrival of the newlyweds are saying goodbye by leaving the venue. It is the time where tears dropping.

A few days later, the bride will braid her hair again and make traditional hand and foot design with henna. She will wear a traditional dress. It is time for “hamawti”. In other words, the family of the bride, the women in particular, will come to the groom’s house to celebrate the bride together and bring offerings to the groom’s mother. Songs, dances are taking place again and the bride will offer to put perfume to the ladies. The traditional “ge’at”, a stiff portrige in a form of a volcano with spices in the middle, will be eaten. By the end of the day, the mother of the bride will take time alone with her daughter to check on her and give her blessings. The honeymoon officially starts after the “hamawti”.

Another process for the newlyweds, it is called “hitsinot” in Tigrinya, the honeymoon time. Traditionally it takes about 45 days in which the newlyweds stay at the groom’s parents’ home. Guests, cousins, friends come to greet the newlyweds every day. The bride will offer to put nail polish and perfume to the young girls and women. Many would come with a cooked chicken and its 12 eggs in a spicy sauce. Other would offer a ship. Some may bake a cake or bring gifts. Friends would usually spend the whole evening with them, drinking suwa, coffee and play games. A beautiful time allowing the bride and groom to be treated as queen and king, called “ncbey” and “gosay” in Tigrinya. The newlyweds wouldn’t do anything apart from looking good, eating and drinking. It may seem wonderful but it can sometimes be a long time for usually active couples whom may try to sneak out a few hours to have dinner out or sip a macchiato. In today’s Eritrea, many would go down to Massawa during their honeymoon for a week to relax and get their batteries fully charged before starting working again.

After the wedding celebration, the newlyweds are given special treatment for a few months. Upon their return to their daily activities. Families would bring them food, fresh injera until they properly settle down. Many would come for a coffee and watch the wedding video together.

It might seem a long process, however, the beauty of the tradition makes the stress and fatigue swept out by the happiness of families. Many would forget that weddings are not just the union of two people but of two families. Seeing parents enjoying and smiling constantly is what makes Eritrean weddings special and a reflection of the society’s collective values where the respect of relatives remains an important principle. Weddings also create new bonds and wipe out families issues, re-energize and reunite long lost ones.

It Is Not About Certificates . . .

Continued from page 8

from the traditional practice of producing potassium carbonate, normally used for making soap, by the leaching of wood ashes in large iron pots. The ash-like crystalline residue the remains in the large iron pots was called “pot ash”.

Like I said before Eritrea’s soil is rich in minerals. The Colluli deposit is located in the Danakil region. Colluli is approximately 180km from the port of Massawa. Colluli is located proximate to the key potash markets of the future. Demand for fertilizer is driven by population growth which directly translates to food demand.

The Danakil region is an emerging potash province and one of the largest unexploited potash basins globally. Over 6 billion tonnes of potassium bearing salts mainly sylvite, carnallite and kainitite was found in the region for the first time in history at only 16 meters below the ground with 200 years of mine age. The potash potential of the region has attracted a number of major international potash producers.

The production of marketable potash from the basic ore may comprise a series of processes, including crushing and pre-screening, milling, flotation, drying, granulation and refining. And that is what we focused on.

The demand for potash is expected to substantially increase over the coming decades as the global population continues to grow by approximately 80 million per year. Potassium sulfate fertilizer has a limited primary production center globally because of geological scarcity. Our design is set to become a primary production center and is geographically and economically favorable relative to current and key markets of the future. Taking its profitability and its dominance in the fertilizer market into account, it would bring ground shaking boost for the Eritrean economy and the nation’s skilled work force.

In few words that is how I would explain our, not so easy, quest in making our senior year project worthwhile.

Many thanks to our advisor Engineer Abraham Yohannes, Mr. Alem Gide, the country manager of the south bolder company, Ato Zeray Leake and the Bisha mining share company.
RFP No[06.2/02/LP/NCB/NAP/IFAD/GRANT/ DSF-8107-ER/RSD/LR/2017]

The Government of Eritrea (GoE) has received a grant from NAP/IFAD. Partial of this grant will be used to undertake Lot. 1 consultancy on Pest Surveillance (Plant pathology)

The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) invites a qualified consultant to undertake Lot. 1 Consultancy on Pest Surveillance (Plant pathology) and should have a renewed license for the year of 2015/16 appropriate for Lot. 1 (Plant pathology).

The request for proposal (RFP) is a two stage envelope system, whereby the technical & financial proposals will be prepared separately.

To this effect, interested and eligible National Consultants are invited to participate in this bid and can collect the request for proposal including TOR from the office of Procurement and Supplies Management Unit (PSMU) of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The closing date of submission of proposals will be on October 3/2017 at 14:30 PM local time hours and opening on the same will be on October 3/2017 at 15:00 PM local time hours in the office of Procurement and Supplies Management Unit (PSMU) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Tel:181076/77, Fax: 181415, P.O.Box: 1048, Sawastreet, Gejeret Head office in presence of the bidders or their representatives who wish to attend.

The Ministry of Agriculture reserves the right to reject any or all proposals without needing to justify of the ground for such action.

INVITATION FOR NATIONAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES (INCS)

Please clearly state our Bid ref no in all future correspondence on this INCS.

UNHCR – INCS 22/08/2017
# 01/2017

UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)

CONSULTANCY SERVICE TO,
CONDUCTING NUTRITION SURVEY AT UMKULU REFUGEE CAMP (NEAR MASSAWA)

The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Eritrea invites qualified consultants to undertake Nutrition survey in Umkulu Refugee camp, in Northern Red Sea zone. Hence, interested Firms/Consultants are required to submit their proposals.

Important Requirements:
1. Bidders are expected to submit two proposals (technical and financial).
2. Two separate documents containing technical and financial proposals should be sealed in one big envelope with CLEARLY MARKED as “Offer for Invitation for Nutrition Consultancy Services”.
3. The big envelop should bear on its outside the bid reference “UNHCR – INC S # 01/2017”.
4. One original and a copy of the Bidder’s offer should be included therein.
5. The envelop should be sent to the attention of:
UNHCR Office
Admin and Finance Unit
P.O.Box 1995
Asmara, Eritrea.

6. Bids received in any other way will be INVALIDATED.

Review of the submitted technical and financial proposals will be done in-the office by UNHCR - No public opening of the proposals will be held.

Deadline for submission of proposals: 15 days from the date of advertisement.

Other details and attachments can be collected from the UNHCR office Admin and Finance Unit.
REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES)
STATE OF ERITREA
PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND STATISTICS CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT

External Technical Assistance for upgrading the existing IT infrastructure and training the National Statistics Office (NSO) IT staff

Sector: Governance
Financing Agreement reference: 5900155010251
Project ID No.: P-ER-KF0-003

The Government of State of Eritrea has received financing from the African Development Bank towards the cost of the Public Financial Management and Statistics Capacity Building Project. The government intends to apply part of the agreed amount for this Grant for payments to External Technical Assistance for upgrading existing IT infrastructure and training the National Statistics Office (NSO) IT staff.

The services included under this project are to contribute to review the already existing IT infrastructure and thereby install and set up the hardware together with the system and get the servers and network to function, to install other software, which will be used for all the data processing purposes, definitions of users and mailing systems, and training of the IT staff. Ministry of Finance is the Executing Agency for the project.

Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank’s Procurement Policy, October 2015, which is available on the Bank’s website at http://www.afdb.org. Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours 08:00 to 17:00 hrs from Monday to Friday.

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by 13 September 2017 at 15:00 and mention “External Technical Assistance for upgrading the existing IT infrastructure and training the National Statistics Office (NSO) IT staff.”

Attn: Ministry of Finance
P.O.Box 198, Asmara – ERITREA
Mr. Efrem Tesfai (Project Coordinator)
Tel.: +291-1-200404
Fax: +291-1-126899
E-mail: eftesfai@gmail.com

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CHINESE CLASSES TO THE PUBLIC

Confucius Institute at National Commission of Higher Education (CI-NCHE) is planning to offer more Chinese courses for the public.

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<tr>
<th>Levels</th>
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<td>Level 3</td>
<td>Sat. &amp; Sun.</td>
<td>8:00am-10:00am</td>
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<td>Level 4</td>
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|The tuition fee for all the courses is out of charge.|

CI-NCHE is expecting you to begin the Chinese Journey with us together.
The schedule for registration:
Date: Sep. 18-22, 2017
Time: 8:00am-11:00 am, 2:00pm-5:00pm
Venue: CI office, University of Asmara
The Duration of the Courses: Sep. 23rd—Dec. 23rd, 2017
As I’ve spoken to many professors and students over the years, I came to terms with the fact that for Eritrean students, going to school is not with the purpose of obtaining certificates but it is all about gaining tools for future dreams and professionalism. Eritrean students are still amongst the best in terms of making the best out of what they have. And this specific factor makes the teaching and learning process in Eritrea extremely interesting as well as fruitful.

Wishing all Eritrean students a pleasuring academic year, Eritrea Profile talks today to two students: Aster Medhanie and Sium Solomon, both seniors in the Department Of Chemical Engineering in the Eritrean Institute of Technology. Along with their team members Henok Michael, Samsom Mebrahtu and Tesfaldet Gebremicheal, these students dived in the field of chemical processing of potash. Eritrea is endowed with mineral resources that made these student’s journey, especially their senior year project, interesting. They went to Danakil depression where there is high concentration of potash; astonishingly, in some places it is found only at 16 meters depth.

Hello I am Aster Medhanie. I am 25 years old and I just came from submitting our final year paper which got amazing reviews from different concerned bodies. I decided to join the Department Of Chemical Engineering in EIT as chemistry interested me most in high school. And so on the orientation day I decided to study chemical engineering.

What makes the field interesting is the fact that you study almost everything that there is to know about chemicals. In few words the department includes all the subdivisions of chemical studies. If you are a chemical engineering student, then, after four college years you will realize that you’ve gained a holistic knowledge of the field.

College was fun, of course. The most interesting part is meeting people of your age and same interest. So our days would not be tedious at all. If anything else, we got to enrich our points of view while sharing ideas.

Potassium is one of the three basic plant nutrients along with nitrogen and phosphorous. So far there have been no remarkable substitutes for potassium compounds in agriculture. Therefore these basic compounds I mentioned above are vital for the maintenance of sustainable agricultural cycle and food production. Around 90% of potash produced worldwide is used in agriculture. Which makes it peculiarly appealing and relevant to Eritrea as it is a country which for long has been working to insure investing food security. Potassium is also used in manufacturing glass, soaps, pharmaceuticals, plastics and explosives.

So, in our paper we zoomed our focus in the rich potash field found around the Danakil depression. It is an incredibly massive deposit of potash. We analyzed mainly contents of sylvinite, carnallitite and kainite compounds. Although it was quite hard to get abundant information from mining companies, for matters of confidentiality, we do know from previous official records based to geological surveys that potash deposits in the Danakil depression have a durability expected to run up to 200 and more years. It is, indeed, a timely objective to design a plant which can boost our nation’s economic status since potash is a highly demanded compound for its multiple applications.

It was an interesting journey as we came across many difficulties that urged us to refer to several writings and rely on so many people too, who I think should be thanked for their contribution.

In our project, the non-availability of some reagents in our country made the accurate quantification of our small scale production difficult. We used other optional reagents that have versatile applications. Normally these chemical reagents are needed in small amounts and they should be customized to match ordered perquisites. While facing shortages my teammates and I kept wishing we’d have access to such things and many more to assist the students’ educational endeavor. Yes, education is available for all in Eritrea, but we wish that our labs were more well equipped than they are now. In our case, we had the privilege to use Bisha’s laboratories, but it would have been better if students could enjoy the diversity of apparatus pertinent to chemical engineering. Also, I would like to remind people to avoid thinking chemical engineering does not get to grips with processing. I wish for more awareness and consideration to our department.

When I was much younger there was this older boy in our neighborhood with whom I used to play football on weekends. He studied chemical engineering, so I was inspired to follow his lead. College is about setting a path for your future and on the way, coming across people of mutual interest and understanding; together you build a future. For graduating students a final paper is mandatory. Hence, my teammates and I started thinking of possible themes for our paper. We had thought about so many things; however, at the same time we wanted to avoid repetition and so we decided to look into potash processing. Luckily our country is endowed with an immense quantity and diversity of minerals. Potash is one of them and it is generally a common name given to a group of potassium-bearing minerals such as potassium chloride, potassium sulphate, potassium magnesium sulphate, potassium nitrate and various mined and manufactured salts containing the element of potassium. The term potash arose