



## PRESIDENT ISAIAS AFWERKI LAID WREATH AT TWALET MARTYRS CEMETERY

President Isaias Afwerki laid a wreath at the Twalet Martyrs Cemetery in Massawa in the morning hours of 10 February, in connection with the 34th anniversary commemoration of Fenkil Operation.

On the occasion, ministers, senior government and PFDJ officials, regional administrators, army commanders, and invited guests were present.

### DAY OF FARMERS OBSERVANCE IN HALHALE

The Day of Farmers, focusing on corn seed crossbreeding, was observed at the national level at the Halhale National Agricultural Research Center on 8 February. The event was graced by the presence of Mr. Arefaine Berhe, Minister of Agriculture, senior officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Southern and Central Regions, agricultural experts, and representatives of farmers.

Mr. Neguse Abraha, Director of Research and Improved Seeds and senior researcher, highlighted that the Ministry of Agriculture initiated the improvement and distribution of select corn seeds in 2002 and four years later, distribution to farmers commenced. Up until 2022, over 11 thousand quintals of improved corn seeds have been distributed to farmers.

Mr. Neguse further elaborated that the center conducted research on eight types of corn imported from abroad. These were distributed to farmers and cultivated at the center as a pilot project. Subsequently, one type was selected for further research and improvement, slated for distribution to farmers.

Highlighting the success of the initiative, Mr. Neguse noted that farmers were able to harvest between 62 to 75 quintals per hectare from the improved crop seeds. He emphasized the importance of continued research and consultation by experts to optimize outcomes.

Exemplary farmers present at the occasion shared their testimonies, underscoring the encouraging results achieved through the program.

The 34<sup>th</sup> Fenkil commemoration is being conducted from February 9 until February 11 under the theme "Fenkil: Tunes of Liberation," accompanied by various programs showcasing the anniversary.

Meanwhile, the official ceremony marking the 34<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Operation Fenkil was conducted later in the afternoon with great enthusiasm under the theme "Fenkil: Tunes of Liberation."

In attendance at the ceremony were President Isaias Afwerki, Ministers, Government and PFDJ officials, Army Commanders, and a number of nationals. Ms. Asmeret Abraha, the Governor of the Northern Red Sea region, stated that the commemoration of Fenkil Operation is a solemn occasion where the Eritrean people honor the significant sacrifices made for national independence and the defense of national sovereignty. She emphasized the importance of thwarting external conspiracies aimed at derailing the country's development progress.

Ms. Zeineb Omar, Chairperson of the Holidays Coordinating Committee in the Northern Red Sea region, praised those

who contributed to the colorful commemorative event.

The 34<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration of Operation Fenkil featured a variety of activities, including sports competitions, general knowledge competition, educational seminars, and exhibitions showcasing photographs and sculptures. Additionally, the event aims to foster community gatherings that will enhance the overall commemorative experience.



## REGULAR MEETING OF NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF ERITREAN WORKERS

The National Confederation of Eritrean Workers convened for its 5th regular Central Committee meeting and the 4th regular meeting of the Central Committee of Federations on the 6th and 8th of February, respectively, in Asmara. During these meetings, the activity report for 2023 was reviewed, and the plan of

action for 2024 was presented.

Mr. Kibreab Kidane, the Deputy General Secretary of the Confederation, highlighted the commendable activities undertaken in 2023 through the collective efforts of all branches of the Confederation, along with the cooperation of

Government and PFDJ institutions. He noted the implementation of major programs aimed at enhancing the political awareness of members, engaging in national greening and soil and water conservation efforts, and providing capacity-building vocational training, among other initiatives.

Mr. Kibreab also pointed out the Confederation's strong relations with international labor unions and expressed a commitment to further strengthen these ties.

The meetings featured extensive discussions on the enforcement of labor laws, the expansion of ongoing training programs at the training centers, and the monitoring of workplace health conditions for workers.

Additionally, Mr. Kibreab called on members to intensify their efforts in broadening and strengthening the organization, contributing to the economic development of the Confederation, enhancing capacity, ensuring the health of workers at work place, and participating in soil and water conservation activities.

Correspondingly, at the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Central Committee of Federations, representatives from the five federations presented their activity reports of 2023 and outlined their plans of action for 2024.



# Development

## Health care Services in the Southern Region

*Mussie Efriem*

With its expanded program on health care facilities, Eritrea's Ministry of Health (MoH) is committed to providing cost-effective services to the entire population. Since 1991, it has made tremendous progress in ensuring access to health care services, in general, and immunization services, in particular, by restoring healthcare facilities that were devastated during the war for independence and building numerous new healthcare facilities.

Today, the MoH runs 27 hospitals, 55 healthcare facilities, and 187 health stations. The astounding achievement in health care is primarily attributed to the efforts of the MoH and its partners in controlling malaria, eliminating vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles, and improving the means of prevention and case management of major deadly childhood diseases



*Dr. Amanuel Mihreteab*

**ERITREA  
PROFILE**

**Published Every  
Wednesday & Saturday**

**Editor-In-Chief  
Amanuel Mesfun**

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

P.O.Box: 247

Tel: 11-41-14

Fax: 12-77-49

E-mail:

[eritreaprofilemoi@gmail.com](mailto:eritreaprofilemoi@gmail.com)

Advertisement: 12-50-13

**Layout  
Azmera Berhane**

such as ARI and diarrhea, and malnutrition.

In the Southern region, whose population is 790,416, the MoH operates two regional referral hospitals, seven community hospitals, nine health centers, two clinics, and 42 health stations. Dr. Amanuel Mihreteab, director of MoH's branch in the Southern region, said that according to MoH's policy of community-based health care, they are working with various ministries, organizations and communities for the improvement of healthcare services in their region. The renewed strategy of the MoH, Dr. Amanuel added, is bringing about tangible improvement on the expansion of the health care system and the well-being of the society.

Dr. Amanuel emphasized that the MoH's shift in strategy from disease-centered to patient-centered provides an opportunity to address a patient's condition by looking at various dimensions rather than just the disease. By adopting this method of treatment, a citizen's health condition could be properly addressed in accordance with his or her immune capacity, vulnerability, environmental exposure, and age. And the policy of primary prevention through community-based interventions is helping promote positive behavioral changes at the community level using integrated multidisciplinary, multi-sectorial and private/public mix approaches. Behavioral change communication (BCC) has also been developed and implemented to promote healthy life style and decrease risk factors using the integrated health promotion strategy of the MoH.

According to one of the MoH's strategies, 70% of diseases will be treated at primary level health care facilities, with the remaining 20% referred to regional referral hospitals, or secondary level health care facilities. This means that approximately 90% of diseases can be cured within a region's health care facility. As a result, Dr. Amanuel continued, MoH's branch at the Southern region is fully committed to this strategy and is operating accordingly.

In addition to providing surgical services for glaucoma at Mendefera's referral hospital, the surgical team also conducts surgeries by travelling to health care facilities throughout the region. Equipped with basic diagnostic tools and medicines, a total of 727 malaria supervision

representatives are assigned to all the villages in the region. Mosquito nets are given to communities and insecticides sprayed in households during the malaria season to combat malaria. Furthermore, environmental sanitation is maintained regularly, by focusing on potential mosquito breeding sites, to eradicate malaria from the region.

Approximately 80% of the population of the Southern region receive healthcare services within a 10-kilometer radius. And those that live in remote areas get services at home by medical workers who make monthly visits to communities in those locations using ambulances or pack animals. There are 110 difficult-to-reach locations, 20 of which are on cliffs, that access healthcare services from the mobile health care teams. Many of them are found along the eastern escarpment in Adi Keyih subzone while the rest are found in Areza and Debariwa subzones.

There are safety precautions that must be taken regarding child and mother care, and Dr. Amanuel said that since last year they have been giving pre-conception care. Pre-conception care, which focuses on counselling mothers before conceiving a baby, allows the mother to be fully prepared and learn about her current health status before conceiving a child. Expectant mothers are required to have at least eight prenatal checkups, and postpartum care is made available to help mothers with post-delivery complications.

Prenatal care in the Southern region has increased by 9% since the previous year. Last year, over 12,000 mothers delivered at health stations, which is 54% of the total number of mothers that gave birth in the region. This is an increase of 16% over the last five years. Additionally, the number of mothers who had caesarean delivery has risen to 47%, which represents 6.4% of the total number of mothers that have given birth at healthcare facilities.



One of the primary reasons for the growing number of mothers giving birth at health care facilities is the expansion of Maternity waiting homes (MWH). Seven years ago, there were only three



MWHs across the region. Today, there are 28, with four more set to begin shortly. Another factor is the expansion of Caesarean section services. Five years ago, Caesarean sections were performed only at the referral hospitals of Mendefera and Dekemhare, but this time the hospitals of Adi Keih, Adi Qual, and Senafe have been added. As a result, maternal death rate in the Southern region has come down to 0.06%.

The death rate of newborn infants (neonatal death) has also fallen to 2%. Five years ago, intensive care service of the newborn was available only in Mendefera, but it has since been spread to the region's other four major hospitals: Dekemhare, Adi Quala, Senafe, and Segeneyti. This has been done to reduce the number of infant deaths in the early days, which are often caused by lack of basic medical care when the newborn is at its most vulnerable stage. Growth monitoring and promotion program has been introduced to monitor children's physical and mental health development. Nutritional therapy and assistance for mothers, and advising mothers to breastfeed their children without any supplements for six months.

Dr. Amanuel noted that in 2023, over 40,000 children were checked in

this manner, with more than 80% of the children falling into the category of good and better health wellness. Vaccinations are given in the region against 17 diseases, exactly like the rest of the country, and cover 94% of

the targeted population. Introduced in 2002 and 2008, vaccinations are given to children against a variety of vaccine-preventable diseases, including tuberculosis, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio, measles, hepatitis B, and Homophiles influenza type B.

When it comes to communicable diseases, new HIV infections have dropped to 0.10%. MoH's branch at the Southern region is constantly conducting diagnostics, with focus on the most vulnerable groups of individuals, in order to address and eradicate new infections. Last year, 1% of suspected tuberculosis patients tested positive. TB treatment outcomes have also improved, from 90% in 2022 to 93.6% in 2023. The prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and related risk factors in Eritrea appears to be relatively low when compared to numerous other nations in the region. NCDs are the major cause of death globally, accounting for 71% of deaths.

Through campaigns carried out by the concerted efforts of the MoH and the regional administration's office, awareness of the people about communicable diseases and harmful practices such as female circumcision has been raised, patients of fistula have been encouraged to seek physical and psychological care at the fistula care station in Mendefera, and around 92.7% of the territory is now entirely free of open defecation. This year has also seen the introduction of some new equipment, including new and modern anesthesia machines and modern autoclave machines, as well as five chlorine making machines, raising the number from five to ten.

## SpotLight

# A life-changing program with Equality and Inclusion at its Fundamental Core

*Dr. Fikrejesus Amahazion*

While much attention in the past few days has rightly been drawn to commemorating the immensely significant victory in Operation Fenkil at Massawa from several decades ago, recent local news coverage has also reported on a number of other positive developments in the country.

Days ago, the Central Region administration and National Athletics Federation convened a special event to honor dozens of athletes, coaches, and clubs for their exploits and achievements in 2023, while the National Confederation of Eritrean Workers, a notable institution with decades of significant experience and history, gathered for its fifth Central Committee meeting.

Another important bit of local news came from Mendefera, where the Micro-Credit and Savings Program branch in the Southern Region held its annual assessment meeting. Notably, during the gathering it was reported that approximately 25.76 million Nakfa was loaned to various recipients across the region last year, representing an increase of around 12 percent from the previous year. Moreover, the number of people receiving loans was 9,431, slightly up from 9,111 in 2022, while the number of village banks offering micro-credit services increased from 138 to 149 across the same period.

In addition to being a positive and encouraging reflection of developments in the region, the news about the success of the Micro-Credit and Savings Program branch in the Southern Region provides a useful opportunity to review the wider history and context of Eritrea's national program, as well as highlight the country's larger commitment to social justice, equality, and inclusion.

### A life-changing program

Eritrea's Micro-Credit and Savings Program dates back to July 1996, when it was established under the watch and guidance of the Ministry of National Development. (After restructuring, the latter is now the Ministry of Finance and National Development.) Its work began through



the provision of services to just over 1,500 clients, and it extended approximately 1.3 billion Birr in loans to local citizens.

In the years since its establishment, the Micro-Credit and Savings Program has extended a total of around 4 billion Nakfa in loans, with about one million locals from across the country being recipients. At present, there are over 70,000 clients of micro-credit banks nationwide, with women making up slightly over half of the total client body. Additionally, the number of micro-credit village banks has steadily risen, now standing at about 750, with service provision extending to cover about three-quarters of all administrative areas in the country and nearly 70 percent of the nation's villages.

The Micro-Credit and Savings

Program offers a variety of flexible options for those wishing to secure loans, with a range of repayment and interest rate options. Of note, overall rates of repayment are relatively high, while public awareness and general understanding about micro-credit and the national program are quite strong and continue to grow.

Most importantly, since its inception, the Micro-Credit and Savings Program has had a profoundly positive impact on individuals, communities, and national development. Briefly, it has helped to increase financial inclusion to all segments of the population, supported the establishment of numerous small business and income-generating opportunities, promoted agency, autonomy, and gender equality, and played a critical role in the

positive transformation of lives and communities.

### A longstanding and enduring commitment to social justice, equality, and inclusion

In many ways, the Micro-Credit and Savings Program is another great reflection of Eritrea's wider and enduring commitment to social justice, equality, and inclusion.

To recap, the country's development and nation-building processes are firmly grounded on the principles of equality and social justice, and it places an unwavering emphasis on ensuring that all Eritreans, regardless of any particular distinction or characteristic, can freely and fully participate in, contribute to, and benefit from the achievement of sustainable development.

In particular, the country's laws, regulations, and policies, which are underpinned by strong and long-standing socio-cultural values, establish a platform for inclusive socio-political and economic development, while guaranteeing and promoting a wide range of basic and fundamental rights. Discrimination, exclusion, restriction, or preference that is based on the grounds of disability, ethnicity, color, religion, socio-economic status, language, opinion, gender, or other similar distinctions are strongly prohibited and punishable by national law.

Since attaining its independence in 1991, Eritrea has also crafted a broad spectrum of policies and adopted a variety of legal instruments to help address the specific needs of and catalyze progress for vulnerable groups, such as the poor, women, children, persons living with disabilities, nomadic populations, and those residing in extremely remote or hard-to-reach areas. These interventions play a critical role in cultivating peace and unity within Eritrea's multi-ethnic, multicultural society, aim to mitigate disparities and create a level playing field on which all Eritreans have a genuine opportunity to excel, and seek to ensure that each and every individual is empowered and able to enjoy the fruits of inclusive economic growth and social progress.

Eritrea's deep commitment to the principle of social justice was articulated some years ago by President Isaias Afwerki, where he declared that, "Our development strategy is anchored on giving priority to deprived regions and segments of the population.

The strategy strives to ensure fairness and equity through structured governance configurations, as well as a social contract that promotes equal opportunities and a level playing field for all stakeholders. Our central objective, and for which we have paid precious sacrifices in a long struggle, is indeed to secure and enhance effective participation of the population within the fair framework described above and which is vital for political stability, national cohesion, economic and social development, social justice, and cultural progress."





## Visiting the Sick

# Pain is knowledge Rushing in to fill a Void

Natnael Yebio W.

The common cold has been doing rounds with vengeance among us mere mortals this cold season so much so that it has made grown humans weep and wise beings go insane.

According to the early Greek philosophers, people got sick because there was some kind of imbalance in their body humor or fluid.

According to some dodgy traditional beliefs, a person is taken ill for two reasons: either the body is not functioning well or the soul has been disturbed by evil forces.

For the first case, traditional healing methods starting from herbal treatment to bleeding or rubbing the body with various concoctions are tried. When they fail, the patient is taken to traditional spas where hydro-shock methods are used: the sick person is made to stand under a waterfall early in the morning. The chilly water tapping on his skull does the trick. The patron saint of the place is, of course, there to expedite the cure.

"Why am I sick?" asks aunt Tirhas. "Could it be that my demise has been countenanced by the Good Lord?"

"How are you, aunt Tirhas? Are you feeling okay?"

"Well, let's pray that nothing more terrible than this becomes my lot."

Aunt Tirhas has been bedridden for the last fifteen days. What's her problem? Why is she not seeing the doctor?

The world is such a terrible place to live in that from time to time human beings have to learn to take things for granted. Going to the doctor means refusing to take your share of misery in this cursed world.

The old lady thought that one had to suffer in silence and not show it in public. That's why in the past there were so many people in our country who had never been to a doctor. They feel the pain in their stomach or liver, but they think that to go to the doctor with a complaint



about some pain in the chest or kidney is like a child running to his mother to tell her about a black eye or a broken nose sustained in a neighborhood fight. "Don't surrender to pain" is the principle.

Job of the bible is the role model of our society in this respect. Once upon a time, Job, who feared God and shunned evil, got what least he expected. Not only did he lose all his children and property, but he was even struck with an abominable skin disease that kept his friends away. But instead of complaining, Job accepted his fate with resignation and unmovable faith. In the end, he got all his children and property back as a reward for his fortitude and faith.

If aunt Tirhas thought of herself as some kind of Job's incarnation, lying in bed groaning and moaning the whole night, she accepts it as something she has to face in life. But if she must tend to her ailment, she prefers to get her medical treatment at home. The moment her family decides to take her to hospital, her optimism diminishes and her chances of survival along with it.

So the neighbors think it is their duty to visit her and console her.

"You will soon get well. The Lord has the power to heal."

"Well, if He thinks I am not needed here anymore, let Him do as He pleases."

On the night table by the bedside

stand bottles of milk, juice and small bags full of fruits, oranges and bananas. They had been put there by the visiting guests. But aunt Tirhas has neither the strength nor the appetite to drink the milk or eat the fruits. So they will be sitting there for a day or two until they mysteriously disappear, probably feasted on by the younger members of the family.

Once, an Eritrean abroad went with a friend of his to an Italian hospital to visit a mutual friend with a serious bullet wound to his leg. They brought a bottle of milk and some bananas. They expected him to say jokingly: "Do you think I am some kind of a gorilla?"

His friend had told him to take flowers instead of bananas. "Flowers are symbols of freshness and good health," he said trying to convince him and added, "Europeans prefer flowers to a bottle of milk." But the Eritrean insisted that either he respect his tradition or to hell with him.

As they walked along the doorway, they saw his name written on a door. He was, the Eritrean thought, inside, gravely sick and probably groaning. But the door said otherwise: No visitors allowed for the moment. "What?" he wondered. We came all the way to visit this person and what do we see lettered on the white door?

They asked for the reason and got a reply that he needed absolute peace. "Absolute peace, my foot!" muttered the Eritrean.

You see, human beings have more power to impact the desired peace than anything else?

"What's wrong with these Westerners? Doesn't chatting with those who love you have more healing effect than staring blankly at the ceiling?" he continued in dismay.

As they turned to leave, he could see through the door left ajar that the patient was reading his favorite magazine.

They didn't know what to do with the bottle of milk or the banana. They entered a small teashop, ordered tea and took the chance to finish the contents of the bottle and the bag undiscovered by the idiot.

The same person, back home in his beloved country now, made it his habit, following humiliating experiences in the past, to visit relatives before they expired. But this one, Tekle, was not in a hurry to depart this world. However, for the people from the country-side who came to visit him in his ward, he might as well have left this vale tears earlier, for his gathered leg had been amputated by the doctor. According to traditional country men, a one-legged man is as good as a dead man.

So the womenfolk among the visitors began to cry and weep before the eyes of the surprised patient. When he told them to stop crying, they did but all the time they never stopped making mention of

his misery and misfortune.

"What a plight, what a calamity," would the ladies whine.

"O how are the mighty fallen!" would the men sigh.

The amputee could say nothing but stare at the ceiling asking himself where he went wrong.

In our culture a good visitor is one who visits a sick relative while the former is alive and kicking. Going to the funeral of a person whom you have forgotten to visit in the house or in the hospital rubs one's conscience the wrong way.

One Sunday afternoon, back when he still had both his legs intact, Tekle went to the hospital to visit a friend. He knew he was still in the hospital because most patients stay a week or two before they are discharged, dead or alive. As usual he had his kilo of bananas inside a paper bag ready with him.

The hospital gate opened exactly at 1pm. He could see the person who was right in front of him carrying a bag containing three pieces of bananas. Tekle knew the man was poor, but inside he was very rich. At least he remembered his friend lying desperate in some of the hospital wards.

Tekle's friend was in ward B or was it ward D? Anyway, he walked along with other visitors and located the block and the room. Inside were about fifteen visitors sitting, on both sides of the three beds, and chatting forgetful of the patients. The night tables were laden with milk bottles and fruits. Tekle looked around but could not spot his friend. He asked one of the patients the whereabouts of the missing friend.

"Are you a relative?" the patient asked in somber voice.

"I am his friend," Tekle replied.

"A real friend?" he inquired.

Perplexed, Tekle asked, "I beg your pardon?"

"Teklai had left about three weeks ago," the patient sighed.

"Where did he go?"

"He went the way of all flesh."

That served Tekle right. All he had to do was make frequent visits to enquire about his friend's health. He felt miserable that he was not there when his friend died.

He donated his kilo of banana to the patient and left.

# Development

## Water: A key Resource in a Nation's Development

*Simon Weldemichael*

Water occupies a prominent place in development projects in Eritrea, and the level of commitment to harvesting sufficient water for agriculture, household use and industrial development has been consistent. The development of the water resources of Eritrea is an essential prerequisite for the country's agricultural and industrial development.

Eritrea is susceptible to droughts that occur rather frequently at some intervals, and its agriculture depends heavily on rain-fed cultivation. The average annual rainfall is very small, ranging from 100 mm to 900 mm, and the rainfall tends to be torrential and unpredictable

On the other hand, the lowlands are arid or semi-arid and sparsely populated, and they are



suitable for large-scale irrigation development. Therefore, there is no doubt that conservation and proper utilization of water is crucial for the transformation of

means of conserving water.

The construction of water

storage infrastructures has significant and far-reaching effects. Eritrea has built many dams in the highlands and lowlands by mobilizing its human and financial resources. The great dams such as Kerkebet, Fanko, Gerset, Gahtelay, Adi Halo, and Gergera have all been designed, constructed and financed by the government.

Alongside the construction of dams, considerable progress has been made in the development of improved water supply infrastructure for urban and rural areas throughout the country. The aim of the construction of water infrastructures is to improve water supply for human, agricultural and industrial consumption.

The small, medium and big dams constructed in the three development zones of the country are expected to meet the present and future demands of water of the country. The construction of the dams is accompanied by development projects, including irrigation, animal husbandry,

fishing, solar power generation, electrification of the villages surrounding the dams and potable water supply for human consumption.

Agriculture in Eritrea has long been subjected to recurrent manmade and natural calamities. This is acknowledged in the macro policy of Eritrea, which states that "agricultural productivity in Eritrea has historically been low as the sector is predominantly characterized by traditional, rain-fed, subsistence farming with little use of modern agricultural inputs." Fortunately, Eritrea has big potential in agriculture, including livestock, and hardworking people. For many years, the main challenge facing the agriculture sector has been shortage of water, a lot of which has actually been lost due to poor water harvesting structures.

The government maintains its focus on the development of water infrastructures as a means to ensuring food security. Dams, ponds, water catchments,

embankments, canals, and other supporting structures have been made to store water and effectively utilize it. The Interim Poverty Reduction Paper (2004) that provides an overview of the nature of poverty in Eritrea and the strategy adopted by the government to reduce poverty have identified water as a major constraint to development. To overcome that constraint and ensure national food security, the document calls for efforts to be made "to augment water storage capacity by constructing water reservoirs, small dams, diversion canals and wells and new irrigation schemes."

The availability of safe and adequate water impacts the achievement of many of the Sustainable Development Goals. Water is an essential resource in the production of most types of goods and services. Cognizant of the importance of water to its overall national development, Eritrea is investing heavily to enhance its water storage capacity.



and lasts for a short while. And there is no perennial river in the country. Considering all these challenges, the available surface water resources can hardly meet the demands of the different sectors of the economy.

Another challenge is that the highlands are suitable for rain-fed agriculture but are overpopulated.

Eritrean agriculture and rural life in the highlands and lowlands.

To mitigate the effects of the adverse drought situations that frequently affect the entire region of the Horn of Africa and address the other challenges associated with water, the government has been investing a lot on the construction of dams and other



### NEWS

#### NEW EUROPE BRANCH ACTIVITY ASSESSMENT MEETING



The Europe branch of the National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW) convened in Frankfurt, Germany, on 3 and 4 February for its annual activity assessment meeting.

Ms. Tekea Tesfamichael, President of the NUEW, delivered a virtual message, providing insights into the union's organization, structure, and its political and social endeavors. She emphasized the need for the branch to bolster its organizational capacity and to formulate effective programs to achieve its goals.

Ms. Negesti Tsegai, the head of the European branch, outlined the current state of the branch and its future initiatives. She called upon members to actively participate in executing the planned programs.

The meeting facilitated a thorough discussion on the presented report, leading to the adoption of several recommendations and a collective commitment to the successful execution of the outlined programs.

At the meeting, Mr. Kibreab Tekestee, Eritrea's Consul general, Mr. Kabsai Tewolde, head of Public and Community Affairs at the Eritrean Embassy, and Mr. Yohannes Mebrahtu, chairman of the Eritrean community, conveyed messages of solidarity.



**Zara Mining**  
Share Company

# Vacancy Announcement

<b>Position:</b>	<b>HR &amp; Admin Superintendent</b>
<b>Number required</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Location:</b>	Based at Koka Gold Mine (Zara)
<b>Reporting to:</b>	HR & Admin Manager
<b>Primary Responsibility &amp; Scope of Work</b>	To lead person in the delivery of human resource services with specific responsibility for providing information to other HR staff and company employees regarding policies and regulations; addressing a variety of issues and providing general support; overseeing the maintenance of records, files, and databases of personnel actions, evaluations, matters; and assisting the HR Manager in ensuring that personnel functions conform to all applicable regulatory requirements.
<b>Duties:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop, plan, and implement the department's goals and objectives; recommend and administer policies and procedures.</li> <li>- Direct and participate in developing the department's work plan; assign work activities, monitor workflow, and review and monitor work products, methods, and procedures.</li> <li>- Participate in budget development and administration; assist in forecasting funds needed for staffing.</li> <li>- Participate in the selection and orientation of personnel; approve the appointment of personnel.</li> <li>- Provide administrative support to the HR Manager and act in the HR Manager's absence.</li> <li>- Direct and approve the selection, transfer, and promotion of ZMSC manpower staff.</li> <li>- Interpret personnel policies and regulations, including warnings, dismissals, and disciplinary procedures, and support the HR Manager for correct procedures. Assist staff regarding individual personnel issues.</li> <li>- Ensure the department's compliance with pertinent governmental Labor and other laws, rules, regulations, and policies.</li> <li>- Respond to and resolve complex and sensitive inquiries and complaints regarding recruitment, selection, policies, and procedures.</li> <li>- Attend and participate in professional groups and committee meetings.</li> <li>- Prepare weekly, bi-monthly, monthly, semi-annually, and annual HR reports.</li> <li>- Perform other duties instructed by the HR Manager.</li> </ul>
<b>Formal Education, Certifications, or Equivalents</b>	- Bachelor's degree in human resources management or equivalent.
<b>Working Experience – Nature &amp; Length</b>	- Over ten years of work experience in a similar role. Proven experience and skill in applying HR procedures pertaining to recruits, tracking work hours, leave disciplinary procedures, etc.
<b>Leadership Experience - Nature &amp; Length of Time</b>	Previous experience as HR Supervisor is beneficial.
<b>Other skills and abilities</b>	Extremely detail-oriented, proactive, and organized with strong Microsoft Office skills. Strong interpersonal relationship-building skills and adaptability to work with people of different cultures and areas of the business, including internal and external.

**Salary: according to the Company's salary scale.**

**Additional Requirement for nationals:** Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligations and provide evidence of a release paper from the Ministry of Defence. Provide clearance from the current/last employer. Applications should be sent through the Post Office. Only short-listed applicants would be considered as potential candidates for an interview. Application will not send to the sender.

**Address: Please mail your applications to Zara Mining Share Company. P. O. Box 2393. Asmara, Eritrea.**

Note to Eritrean applicants: - Please send a copy of your application to Aliens Employment Permit Affairs P.O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea. and Eritrea. Mineral Resources Management P. O. Box 272

The deadline for application is 07 days from the day of the announcement



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

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

# VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Bisha Mining Share Company is inviting applicants for the following position for Bisha site project.

- 1. **Position: Blaster**  
**Department: Mining**  
**Number required: One (01)**

**Primary Purpose**

- Charge and blast stopes and development headings.

**TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS**

**Blasting operations**

- Making working place safe by barring and watering down the workplace to release loose rocks and suppress dust respectively
- Blow out drilled holes in order to clean the same by using hose pipe and charging rods prior to charging
- Prepares primers for inserting into drilled holes in correct sequence in order to achieve blast efficiency and correct blasting timing
- Arranges transportation of explosives back to magazine in order to keep it in tidy condition and avoid wastage respectively
- Charges dumped (large rocks) using slabs in order to fragment them into acceptable portions thereby easing mechanical lashing and creating further room for other dumping
- Checks circuit continuity of blasting cable in order to ascertain that connection is complete and ready for blasting
- Assists the Shift Boss in carrying out charging operations as to give a hand in blasting operations as per standard requirement
- To carry out all primary/secondary charging and blasting in accordance with explosives regulations
- Supervises and assists in transporting drilling machine with ancillary equipment to new site
- Taking responsibility of the advance for each blast conducted
- Safety and health of his subordinates and himself regarding mining and safety regulations
- Perform any other duty as may be assigned by the supervisor.
- Attend all training programmers organised by either Mining training or the operating sections themselves.

**Health, Safety and Environment**

- Drive the health, safety and environment standards/policy awareness and practice in the Department to ensure compliance.
- Conduct a blast site hazard assessments to ensure the site is safe work environment.
- Facilitate Stop look assess and manage (SLAM), Visible felt leadership (VFL), Planned task observation (PTO), training.

<b>Qualifications:</b>	<b>Knowledge and Experience</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Grade 12 or Equivalent</li> <li>○ Valid blasting licence</li> <li>○ Valid First Aid Certificate</li> <li>○ Valid driver's license</li> <li>○ Working at height certification is essential.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 5 years minimum experience in hard rock underground blasting operations</li> <li>○ Experienced with underground non mobile and mobile blasting equipment.</li> <li>○ Experience with Maxam explosives is an added advantage.</li> <li>○ Must have knowledge and training evidence of operating a charging unit preferably Nomet.</li> </ul>
<b>Technical Skills</b>	<b>Behavioral Skills</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Proven Ability to assess risk and diagnostically gather information</li> <li>○ Attention to detail and planning skills</li> <li>○ Results orientated &amp; Communication skill</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Self-starter, Drive and enthusiasm</li> <li>○ Development orientated</li> <li>○ Passion for accuracy and perfection in delivery</li> </ul>

**UNIQUE REQUIREMENTS/OTHER INFORMATION**

- The candidate must be Physically and Medically fit.

- 2. **Position: HME Operator**  
**Department: Mining**  
**Number required: Two (02)**

**Primary Purpose**

- To plan sectional activities and drive the loader to move economic metal bearing ore /concentrate from shade to appropriate tips,
- Supervise sectional activities to ensure compliance with requirements and transport materials/equipment to various production locations to facilitate production continuity.

**TASK DESCRIPTION Expanded TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS**

**Planning**

- Follows the "Supervisor Instructions "
- Ensure that material and products will always be at the right place to achieve maximum efficiency.

**Implementation of the Plan**

- Identify the highest priority for each day and focus on completing relevant tasks.
- Competent to operate a Loader and passed relevant training to acceptable standard.
- Take instructions from his/her supervisors.
- Identification and Hazard awareness high safety culture.
- Participate in the safety toolbox meeting.
- Keep professional in any work that you do.
- Reporting to work on time.
- Positive communicate on 2-way radio.
- Obeying all traffic signs, speed limits and road rules as per mine standard
- Responsible for the cleanliness of cab. Clean cab during service time and when machine is on break down.
- During service of the Loader assigned to you clear dump - tray when require at service time.
- Do prestart checks and report any deviations damage to equipment.
- If your machine is on service or break down and you competent to operate another machine you will be assigned to this.

**Reporting**

- Identify and report equipment faults.
- Identify damages and report shortages or quality.
- Perform any other duty as instructed by the supervisor.

**UNIQUE REQUIREMENTS/OTHER INFORMATION**

- The candidate must be Physically and Medically fit.

<b>Qualifications:</b>	<b>Knowledge and Experience</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Trade certification to operate underground Loader/ Dump truck.</li> <li>○ Valid blasting licence</li> <li>○ Valid driver's license</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 5 years working experience in the mining environment.</li> <li>○ Prior experience as a Loader/ Dump truck Operator</li> <li>○ Prior experience operating XTUW- 5, ST 18,LH17i, R2900 Loaders.</li> <li>○ Prior experience operating XTIUI- 20, TH 545,MT 42 Dump trucks</li> <li>○ Read &amp; write English language.</li> <li>○ Able to perform basic machinery troubleshooting task.</li> </ul>
<b>Technical Skills</b>	<b>Behavioral Skills</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ability to work long shifts both day and night shift.</li> <li>○ Risk management and assessment.</li> <li>○ Analytical and Problem solving.</li> <li>○ Excellent Hand-Eye Coordination.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ability to work under pressure.</li> <li>○ Take instruction from supervisor/ crew leaders.</li> <li>○ Excellent teamwork &amp; Communication skill.</li> <li>○ Ability to work towards strict deadlines.</li> <li>○ Interpersonal skills</li> </ul>

**General Information and other requirements:**

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

**Additional requirement for Nationals:**

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

**Address:** Please mail your applications to:-  
Bisha Mining Share Company,  
P. O. Box 4276 Asmara, Eritrea

**Note to Eritrean applicants:**

Please send a copy of your application to:

1. Aliens Employment permits Affairs,  
P. O. Box 7940  
Asmara, Eritrea.
2. Mineral Resources Management  
P. O. Box 272  
Asmara, Eritrea



Q and A

# “Before spreading any kind of information, Especially on the media, we should first do the required research” Eyob

Luwam Kahsay H.

## How did it all begin for you?

Growing up, me and the kids in our neighborhood used to repeat the music of the marching bands using cans. And I grew up listening to music in English and watching Indian movies. When I turned 16 I went to the field to join my compatriots in the struggle for independence. I was assigned to the combatant units but couldn't stay there after sustaining injuries in my abdomen and back. In 1978, those of us with severe injuries (around 40 in total) were taken

**Eyob Habteab, one of the pioneering founders of the cultural troupe in Nakfa during the armed struggle for independence, has been contributing for the growth of Eritrea's performing arts, music, in particular, for five decades.**



-- including Africa, Australia, Europe and the United States – and performed on more than 100 events. And within Eritrea, I performed in around 500 events from 1976 to 2004.

## Have you tried other art forms?

but more needs to be done.

## Why do you think that is the case?

In the past, everything was done collectively. All members of a band or cultural troupe had the responsibility to work on and refine a song before it was released. That's how legendary songs that still continue to be appealing were produced. Today, young singers seem to be interested more in getting as many viewers as possible on the social media and increase their earnings. This way I don't think it is possible to produce music that lasts long.

## What should singers do for their professional development?

First of all, a singer must realize that what he does addresses not only contemporary audiences but the next generation as well. Therefore, they must listen carefully to legendary songs of their parents' and grand parents' generations. They need to know that's their base.

They also have to pay attention not only to the music of Eritrea's ethnic groups but also to music of neighboring countries, especially the traditional ones. They really must work for the advancement of their profession, practice regularly and be accountable for every action and decision they make. Above all, they should have discipline.

Yes, I have. I had opportunities to take part in several plays such as Rahel, Menyu Tehatati, Amanit and Seleste Mehazut, television serials and others.

I also played the piano. I was introduced to the instrument in 1980. I took music classes and actually went on three world tours with our cultural troupes as a pianist. I have been playing the piano until recently.

## What do you think about the music produced by young artists?

Art isn't some kind of hobby you choose to do or not to do at will. It is a strong feeling that never ceases to be active within you once you have it. Art, in general, and a song, in particular, represent identity, style. That's why all our legends had their own styles, and you could easily distinguish one singer from others. But I am afraid our contemporary songs are difficult to differentiate because they have the same beat and the same message. I know artists are doing their best to improve the situation



to Nakfa. There a decision was made to form a cultural troupe and I happened to be one of those few selected to form the troupe.

The cultural troupe's work



began in 1979 in Gelhanti, Port Sudan, following the 1978 EPLF's strategic withdrawal. It produced songs and plays that played a significant role in boosting the freedom fighters' morale. In 1981, we were taken to the EPLF's main cultural center and remained its member until 1991. Since then I've been working at the Cultural Affairs Office as head of the Music Unit.

From 1990 up to 2006, I went along with cultural troupes on tours all over the world



## Tell us about the experience you had in 'Eritrea Got Talent'.

It was my first experience and as a member of the first generation of judges in this kind of platform in our country, I would say it was overwhelming. It was really a privilege to witness a variety of amazing capabilities of our talented youth. The show has demonstrated that we have youngsters with bright future and I salute them for their great effort.

## What was special about your golden buzzer, Yusra M/Saleh?

Hearing Yusra sing was really peaceful. Her language fluency and confidence were great and the melodies and the tones were perfect. She is an amazing singer.

## At last, any other message you would like to deliver.

Whatever one's profession is, he or she has to have discipline. Speaking of art, in particular, which has a lot to do with our culture and our identity as individuals and as a society, we should pay attention to the message we are transmitting because it will reach wide audiences in the world and not only present but also future generations. And before spreading any kind of information, especially on the media, we should first do the required research.

And to those working using the social media, please don't try to make profit at the cost of the destruction of our genuine works of art.

Thank you so much, Mr. Eyob.

