

## NATIONALS IN THE UK COMMEMORATE 1 SEPTEMBER



Eritrean nationals in the United Kingdom commemorated the 63rd anniversary of the beginning of the armed struggle for Eritrea's independence with patriotic zeal on 8 and 9 September in London.

At the commemorative event, which saw the participation of numerous nationals, Mr. Saleh Abdella, Charge d'Affaires at the Eritrean Embassy, remarked that 1 September marks the day when Patriot Hamid Awate and his followers ignited the armed struggle for independence after peaceful efforts to secure their rights were denied. He added that 1 September is both a day of remembrance and renewal, as Eritreans reaffirm their commitment to their nation's cause.

The event featured cultural and artistic programs reflecting the significance of the day.

In a related event, the YPFDJ



(Young People's Front for Democracy and Justice) organization in South Sudan held its first congress on 7 September in Aweil, South Sudan.

During the congress, Mr. Yohannes Teklemicael, Eritrea's Ambassador to South Sudan, emphasized that the values nurtured during the armed struggle for independence have been successfully passed down to the younger generation, as reflected in the strong

participation of Eritrean youth in nation-building and safeguarding national sovereignty.

Mr. Teklit Beyene, chairman of the Eritrean community in Aweil, highlighted that Eritrea's history is intertwined with the history of its youth. He urged the YPFDJ organization to strengthen its organizational capacity and increase participation in national affairs.

The congress, which expressed

readiness to enhance its role in national affairs, also elected a 13-member executive committee.

## SEMINAR ON FOOD SAFETY HELD IN GILIJ SUB-ZONE

The regional control service in the Gash Barka Region organized a seminar for farmers in the Gilij sub-zone, focusing on food safety for both humans and livestock.

Experts in the field emphasized the significant health consequences of failing to properly conserve and produce agricultural products for both human and animal consumption, whether knowingly or unknowingly. They urged farmers to strictly follow the guidelines provided by agricultural experts to ensure food safety.

The experts also cautioned farmers against using unsafe pesticides and chemicals that could negatively impact their agricultural products in the long term.

Mr. Meaza Neguse, head of the animal resource control division and an expert in the field, highlighted that improper pesticide use can lead to various diseases in both humans and animals. He called for farmers to avoid unsafe food consumption practices and adhere to expert advice on pesticide usage.

Mr. Yemane Mehari, managing director of the sub-zone, stressed the importance of the seminar and advocated for similar seminars to be organized at the village level.



## ERITREAN CYCLISTS SHINE IN CHINA



Member of the German cycling club Bike-Aid and the Eritrean Cycling National Team, Dawit Yemane, won on 12 September in the 10th and final stage of Tour of Poyang Lake in China, while his fellow countryman and teammate, young rider Yoel Habteab came in 7th place.

The Seasoned rider Dawit Yemane also secured the polka dot jersey for the king of the mountain category.

Similarly, the promising rider Yoel Habteab finished in the 5th place in the best youth rider category.

## SEMINAR ON CONTROLLING PREVALENCE OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

A seminar focusing on controlling the prevalence of communicable diseases and the treatment of citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities was held in the Dubarwa sub-zone. The seminar was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the National Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities of Eritrea.

Mr. Asefaw Gebremicael, head of HIV/AIDS and Communicable Diseases Control at the Ministry of Health's Southern Region

branch, highlighted that the prevalence of HIV/AIDS has dropped to its lowest level. He emphasized the strong efforts being made to ensure that the disease will no longer pose a public health threat by 2030.

Mr. Desale Hagos, a representative from the National Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, noted that with proper treatment, citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities can become self-supportive and productive mem-

bers of society.

Mr. Frewengel Teklehaimanot, administrator of the Dubarwa sub-zone, added that the care and treatment of citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities is the responsibility of every citizen. He also expressed the sub-zonal administration's commitment to playing its part in this effort.

In the Dubarwa sub-zone, over 200 citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities are organized through the association.



# Development

## Kerkebet: Promising Agricultural Development

*Mussie Efriem*

Agriculture is Eritrea's primary economic activity. For the vast majority of the population, crop production and livestock herding provide their sole source of income. The majority of farmers rely on erratic and unequally distributed rainfall year after year. Eritrea's main goal is to achieve food security through modern technology, irrigation, terracing,

and the country as a whole. Over 80% of the area's inhabitants are pastoralists, and while this presents challenges, they can transition from a nomadic to a more settled way of life thanks to the social services that the government provided almost from scratch three decades ago after independence. The government supports the locals by providing them with farming equipment, specific seeds, and irrigation

significant agricultural potential, as evidenced by the strategic dam Kerkebet in the Amelayt administrative area and several rivers that flow into it. Although the subzone has yet to fully utilize its agricultural potential, there have been notable improvements in irrigation agriculture, ecosystem enhancement, and a reduction in severe storms that were previously causing extensive damage to the

doing research to better harness agricultural resources, and the agricultural industry is increasing in the subzone through the Crops and Livestock Corporation.

Currently, there are over 70 local cultivators operating in the subzone along the Sawa River and the Amelayt administrative area. Seasonal rainfall irrigates approximately 3,000 hectares of land in this region. Despite this, the subzone's potential remains largely untapped. The majority of the subzone's residents have traditionally relied on livestock farming, which is more convenient for their nomadic lifestyles. However, in recent years, there has been a noticeable shift towards the regrouping of dispersed settlements and small villages into a central area. This move aims to provide access to essential social services and a more stable way of life. As a result, as more residents transition from nomadic to sedentary lifestyles, the number of people participating in agriculture has increased.

The MoA is going to focus on ensuring nutritious food for everyone everywhere. In this regard, the MoA is actively working to find a workable solution by steering clear



*Mr. Gebrekal Annanyas*



*Mr. Negede Gebreab*

of chemical fertilizers and unapproved medicines. They are doing this by dispensing organic fertilizers and liquid fertilizers, derived from seaweeds, to farmers at reasonable rates. Furthermore, in line with the MoA's policy of substituting chemical fertilizers with compost, the MoA branch in the subzone is actively encouraging farmers to self-prepare compost on their farmlands. Mr. Negede Gebreab, the MoA director in the subzone, emphasizes the benefits of compost. He notes that it can

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soil and water conservation, and a reduction in reliance on rainfall.

Because of its abundant natural resources, Kerkebet sub-zone is an area rich in opportunities and promising prospects, expected to benefit both its local population

systems. The administrative regions of Hameshduba and Himbol Qechech, at the center of the subzone's agricultural activities, house the majority of the Ministry of Agriculture's workforce. The subzone has

residents, especially in the high-temperature subzone of Amelayt. The dam and recently planted vegetation have transformed the area into a more favorable precipitation zone. The Ministry of Agriculture is currently



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## SpotLight

# At the Core of Sustainable Development...

Dr. Fikrejesus Amahazion

Recently, local television and radio outlets featured a detailed report on how residents of the administrative areas of Igila, Mesgolo, Zula, Safira, Sibiraso, Garbanaba, Abigrat, Karibosa, and Demhina, which are located along the eastern escarpment within the sub-zone of Adi-Keih, have been hard at work conducting a range of water and soil conservation activities. Alongside residents of all ages and various backgrounds, members of the Eritrean Defense Forces (EDF), local water and agricultural experts, and a number of administrative officials collectively rolled up their sleeves to pitch in and make the community campaign a resounding success.

According to comments made by Mulugeta Fitwi, an experienced engineer and local water expert, the community campaigns, which still have some time to run until their full completion, have already resulted in the construction of more than 260 hectares of terraces and over 17,300 cubic meters of water catchment schemes. On top of this, approximately 28 kilometers of dirt roads have been upgraded or restored, which is an especially noteworthy development since they represent critical links for not just residential mobility and safe, efficient transportation but also social and economic interaction within the rural communities. Notably, Mulugeta also reserved special praise in his comments for the residents of the communities. Specifically, he highlighted their unreserved efforts and strong cooperation with local officials, as well as commended the fact that essentially all the capable individuals and households resident in the communities participated and lent a helping hand.

Not only is the recent news of the water and soil conservation campaign wonderful to hear and another positive reflection of local development, it provides a timely and valuable chance to delve a little bit deeper into the issue of water access and management within Eritrea.

### Some general background and wider context

As we all come to learn and quickly understand as small children, water is the foundation for all life and our existence. It is at the core of sustainable development and vital for maintaining health, growing food, managing the environment and ensuring healthy ecosystems, generating energy, and creating jobs.

In recent years and decades, with

## and Basically Everything Else

the availability of this precious resource becoming threatened by a collection of factors, ranging from rapid population growth and urbanization and economic development and the effects of climate change, the importance of accessing and managing water wisely has increasingly been recognized and prioritized.

Reports published by the United

Belt, it has experienced recurrent and devastating droughts over many decades. Surface water resources in Eritrea are divided into five river basin systems: Setit, Mereb-Gash; Red Sea Basin, Barka Anseba and Danakil Ba. The estimated mean annual run-off from these river basins amounts to nearly 10,000 mm<sup>3</sup> per year. Of this, around 932 mm<sup>3</sup> per

among others, the Water Resources Proclamation (2010), Water Policy (2008), Water Sector Institutional Framework (2008), and the Eritrean Integrated Water Resources Management Plan (2008).

Collectively, these policy instruments set out and promote the principles of integrated water resources

to improve the availability of water for irrigation and household consumption and increase resilience nationwide has been the construction of a huge network of dams, catchments, and ponds. Specifically, through the investment and collective efforts of the government, local communities, the EDF, various other national institutions, and developmental partners, the number of large and medium dams in Eritrea has been increased from 138 at independence to about 800 at present. Crucially, the national distribution of these structures has been vastly improved, so that more are now located in regions and communities where there historically have been none. (It is also worth pointing out that several dozen more dams of varying sizes are currently in different stages of development and projected to be fully completed across the period 2024 and 2025.)

Alongside this, other important initiatives conducted in all six of the country's administrative regions, particularly within rural areas, include the establishment of large protected enclosures, the prohibition of the cutting of trees, afforestation and reforestation programs, and the construction of terraces and water diversion schemes.

### Inspiring and commendable

Notably, speaking at an event last year, Aeneas Chuma, then serving as the UN Resident Coordinator in Eritrea, commented that Eritrea's journey in water and resource management is an "inspiring story of progress." Similarly, last month, during a joint dialogue between the United Nations Office in Eritrea and the Ministry of Agriculture, Nahla Valji, the UN's Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Eritrea, stated that Eritrea's integrated approach to water and soil conservation, "...is an incredibly commendable model that we should be sharing with other countries."

It is encouraging that despite the achievements and progress made, Eritrea remains strongly committed to making further improvements and ensuring long-term water security. For instance, given the huge volumes of water that the agricultural sector consumes, management is being improved and continued efforts are being made to promote water conservation and efficiency, including investments in information, technologies, and capacity-building. The country is also taking steps to protect and sustain water-dependent ecosystems, while also steadily shifting much of its national approach from furrow irrigation to pressurized irrigation.



Nations in recent years, among other leading, reputable sources, have shed valuable light on challenges related to water worldwide. To offer a brief overview, notwithstanding the considerable progress and improvements registered over the years, billions of people living in countries around the world still lack access to safe water (alongside adequate sanitation and hygiene). Water scarcity is a growing problem in many parts of the world and several billion people live in countries experiencing high water stress, with conflicts, climate change, and other crises serving to exacerbate the issue. In addition, water pollution is a significant challenge which affects both human health and the environment in many countries.

According to a number of estimates, achieving universal coverage of water by the year 2030 - a target date established by the United Nations as part of the Sustainable Development Goals framework - will require a six-fold increase in current global rates of progress on drinking water. Boosting infrastructure investment, improving cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation, and addressing climate change, among others, are all regarded as key mechanisms towards attaining these ambitions targets.

### Shining the light on Eritrea

Eritrea is an arid and semi-arid country and, as a part of Sahelian

year flows to the east, a large portion of it reaching and entering into the Red Sea, and similarly about 8,600 mm<sup>3</sup> per year flows to the west. The rest, amounting to approximately 422 mm<sup>3</sup> per year, remains along the route of the depressions.

Meanwhile, groundwater, although relatively limited, is often the most dependable source of freshwater in the country. However, water levels in some parts of the country are declining due to overexploitation and limited recharging practices. Speaking at a conference last year, Arefaine Berhe, Minister of Agriculture, explained that, "Because of deforestation and climate change [Eritrea's] rivers, lakes, and rainfall are constantly declining."

Against this backdrop, water remains a priority for Eritrea. As is the case with all other nations, the water sector in the country remains critical for sustainable development and it plays a significant role in socioeconomic growth, poverty alleviation, food security, and environmental sustainability. It also assumes great significance in enhancing modernization, industries, tourism, and agricultural activities.

Eritrea's Ministry of Land, Water and Environment has sought to put in place a comprehensive policy and legal framework for the effective and sustainable management of the water sector. Some of the important legal and policy documents include,

management as a means to ensure sustainable and environmentally positive management and utilization of water resources for all users in Eritrea, ranging from residents, either within urban or rural areas, to agriculture, business and industries, institutions, and natural ecosystems. They also promote the full, equal inclusion of all individuals, communities, population groups, and national sectors in the country's water management, usage, and development activities.

As a result of significant investments in water infrastructure and conveyance systems, appropriate policies and regulations, and a range of other efforts and interventions, access to safe, clean water in Eritrea has increased. Specifically, within rural areas, where the large majority of the country's people resides, approximately 79 percent of the total population has access to safely managed drinking water services, up from 72 percent in 2015, while within urban areas it is 95 percent, a 5 percent increase from 2015.

Additionally, access to water has progressively risen in schools, offices, and other public spaces, while all health facilities in the nation have access to clean, safe water. The latter, of course, has played a significant and positive role in helping to promote a range of positive health-related outcomes.

Among the main steps undertaken





# The Chronicles of Heritage

**Sona Berhane**

In the Eritrean calendar, September is a month held in particularly high esteem. The hills are adorned with the golden blossoms of Gelgele Mesqel, while the heavy ears of corn, ripe and ready for harvest, sway upon their stalks. The joyous popping of freshly roasted kernels emanates from homes and its aroma fills the air. Farmers, at long last, reap the bountiful rewards of their arduous labors, for the delicate young shoots they cared for the previous months now stand tall and begin to hunch under their own weight.

There is a saying that aptly captures the importance of this month, "Woeful indeed is the bird that loses its sight in September's light." This adage emphasizes the cultural significance and abundance of this time, highlighting the misfortune of weathering the difficult rainy season only to be struck blind on the most fruitful month.

In the days leading up to the celebrations of Qudus Yohannes (Saint John), which are known as Pagumen, young men gather sticks and dried vines to make long torches for the festivities. As nightfall descends on the eve of the holiday, they assemble, igniting their torches and embarking on a procession around the village, chanting "Hoye, Hoye."

The Hoye ceremony is led by a single man who, with his lit torch, initiates the procession and the rhythmic chanting as he passes by every house, while the other young men follow, each carrying his own lit torch and echoing the leader's "Hoye" in unison.

*Delving into Eritrean customs, Bereket Amare's insightful book "ካብ ጥሪ ናብ ጥሪ" offers a captivating exploration of Tigrigna society across the twelve months of the year. Published in 2022, the book meticulously records the various traditions and customs that shape Eritrean life. To illuminate the cultural significance of September, the following excerpt is drawn and translated from the chapter dedicated to this specific month.*

carrying flaming torches through the night is threefold. First, it marks the end of the gloomy Dimama rains and the joyous arrival of the bright, sunny days of September. Another purpose of the ceremony (in fact, it is said that this is how the tradition of the Hoyena torches began) is for a village to signal to neighboring villages, which will witness the flames from afar just as they light their own torches in response, and inform them of its safe passage through the hardships of the rainy season. A much older reason for the tradition is said to be to dissuade potential looters and raiders. As it is the custom that only men should carry the flaming torches, a procession



a substantial number of men around the village, chanting and capable of defending the village. illuminating the houses, and

the young men for upholding ancient traditions and urge them to pass these customs on to future generations.

While the young men march within the church, the young

women of the village who accompanied them, wait outside the church, singing their own songs. After the men emerge, the group gathers the half-burnt torches into one big mound and celebrates with singing, dancing, and playing around the bonfire all night. This joyous celebration takes place on the eve of Qudus Yohannes.

The festivities extend beyond the traditional torch procession. From a slight distance, married women join in the celebrations, forming a circle and singing and playing. Young maidens are welcome to participate but it is said that married women may be less enthusiastic. To encourage their participation, the maidens have playful songs prepared to tease the married women. These songs are creative, varied and numerous.

On the anticipated day of Qudus Yohannes, the community gathers during lunchtime to partake in a festive feast prepared in honor of the New Year. Afterwards, they again congregate on the playing fields for a day of dancing, singing, and traditional games. The young maidens soon join in the festivities, adding to the merriment with the drumming of their Kebero.

The specific names for these traditional games and celebrations may vary depending on the village. Near Shmedjana it is known as Embeb. There are some who call it Ayni wari, and by the people of Srha and Etan Zere, it is referred to as Ashenda.



The symbolism behind of numerous torches suggests The young men march

eventually converge at the village center before they proceed to the church. Those who are late to join are met with good-natured ribbing and traditional songs. Once reunited, the young man with the strongest voice leads the group in the "Hoye" chant, guiding them towards the church.

Upon reaching the church, the young men turn to the right and circle the nave three times, their torches burning brightly. Priests and village elders who have been awaiting their arrival, bless the men and the holiday, offering prayers and words of encouragement. They commend





# UN-MOA Joint Dialogue on Eritrean . . .

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“We promote the aforementioned research outputs to extend these technologies to farmers,” Mr. Semere Amlesom, the Director General of the Agricultural Extension Department, said as an opening remark to his short presentation during the meeting. Mr. Semere mentioned that Eritrea is endowed with many resources for agricultural development despite several prevailing challenges. He explained that optimum agricultural productivity at all levels is attainable for Eritrea based on use of improved seed varieties, application of organic fertilizers, adherence to modern irrigation and mechanization systems, easy access to extension services and farmers’ training, as long as land tenure security, and investment incentives are addressed properly.

“A holistic approach that addresses all supply and demand factors is essential for the realization of the set goals,” Mr. Semere said, “in addition to collaboration among policy makers, researchers and practitioners, which is major prerequisite for effective designing and implementation of the necessary interventions.”

In the same vein, Mr. Tekleab Mesghena, the Director General of the Regulatory Services Department, pointed out that the department relies on promotion of good agricultural practice as a better means of ensuring

food safety and quality at farm level as it helps to avoid unnecessary application of chemical pesticides and synthetic fertilizers. He further told that persistent efforts are being made to encourage widespread application of compost and liquid fertilizers to replace synthetic fertilizers.

“Similarly, we are pursuing awareness-raising interventions to promote good manufacturing practices in agricultural processing plants,” Mr. Tekleab elaborated and outlined the legal instruments the department has devised thus far in a bid to enhance safety measures at all levels. And “Taking the Codex Alimentarius as a platform, we are striving to establish a national control of food assessment process in an integrated approach with relevant sectors as well,” he added, and indicated that the ultimate objective is to adopt modern food system approach.

Finally, the participants of this dialogue conducted an extensive discussion where they exchanged views on ways and means of integrating cooperation in all agricultural areas vis-à-vis the MoA’s current strategic plan. Furthermore, the human factor was equally emphasized in light of resource mobilizations in this regard. In conclusion, Ms. Nahla expressed the

UN agencies’ readiness to engage in joint cooperation with a goal to building on what the country has already achieved thus far.

## General Impressions of Some Participants of the Dialogue

### Ms. Nahla Valji

I am Nahla Valji, the UN’s Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator here in Eritrea. I am very pleased that we could make such a discussion today. We had all of our UN country team and heads of agencies in the meeting where the ministry shared its vision, goals and strategies. The comprehensive approach that the management has to achieve safe and nutritious food for all Eritreans was well explained to us. This really required a well-integrated approach, and we can see that it is already happening. Last week, I had an opportunity to visit some communities where soil and water conservation, reforestation, solar-power-based irrigation, food value



Ms. Nahla Valji

addition, and energy saving stoves are being implemented through an integrated approach. That is an incredibly commendable model that we should be sharing with other countries.

Therefore, we will see how the UN can bring its capacities, expertise and partnership to support the national vision. That was the goal of today’s meeting and I think we have achieved it. It is the first of many further discussions. I believe we have the necessary concrete outcomes to move forward together.

### Ms. Caroline Mwongera

My name is Caroline Mwongera. I am IFAD’s Country Director for Eritrea. I really appreciate the opportunity of taking part in this meeting which served as a forum between the MoA and its potential partners. It was impressive to see that the ministry has embarked on comprehensive and focused strategies. The presentation of the sector’s strategic development plan was presented to us in a well-articulated manner, and in light of the set goals. So, the road map is one of our ways where we can integrate our support and collaboration.

IFAD has been working very closely with the MoA. In this meeting, we could figure out the impact and implications of what we have been doing with the ministry, but also identify the areas where we can enhance our partnership and support to the MoA taking into account its strategic focus.

Therefore, my takeaway from this meeting is that we can target several areas of the MoA’s strategic plan as entry points of integrated collaboration. As a new area of focus, IFAD can bring its experience and cooperate in developing financing structure. This can for example be done in pursuance to the SMCFS in



Ms. Caroline Mwongera

a bid to ensure that we together reach communities with the right type of investment approaches and financing instruments.

Another area where we’d like to closely discuss with the ministry, as a stepping stone to establishment of a comprehensive food systems approach, is empowering small and medium commercial farmers’ activities across all levels of agricultural value chains.

In general, I value this meeting in light of its significance for ensuring enhanced and impactful cooperation with the country. I think “Safe

and Nutritious Food Everyone, Everywhere” is a very passionate goal which really helps us to see where we are with the GoE right now, and where we can further focus to extend our support. So, we will focus on how we can help concretize the cherished goals.

### Ms. Mohammed Aw-Dahir

My name is Mohammed Aw-Dahir. I am FAO Eritrea’s Representative Ad-interim. From my organization’s perspective, I would like to emphasize on two issues. The first fact is that the most important resource in Eritrea is its own people. I am saying this sincerely. So, investing in this regard is critical.



Mr. Mohammed Aw-Dahir

The reality of what we have been discussing in order to enhance cooperative work shows a fundamental factor for greater impact. Food security is not only about the physical elements of dietary needs that people are falling short of but rather concerning its dietary correlation and implications to personal intellectual capacity. This makes the right to food, a far-reaching issue where our efforts should go hand-in-hand. So, I think it is time for us to figure out what is doable collectively, and thus streamlining nutrition-sensitive agriculture in our collaborative works. We know the government is ready to work on this basis. All we need to do is just work together.

Besides, I feel that the issue of investment is another key area where our efforts should converge. The FAO, together with national experts, has finalized seven commodity value-chain analyses and developed investment plan for all of these commodities. I have a deep conviction that if one puts adequate investment in one sector, there is a potential for sustainable results.

Meanwhile, H.E. Arefaine Berhe, along with his senior officials of the MoA, met and held talks with the delegation from the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), led by Mr. Claver Gatete, Executive Secretary of the Commission. The minister disclosed the MoA’s pragmatic strategies to achieve safe and nutritious food security for all Eritrean people; and confirmed the sector’s readiness to engage with such an important commission to realize its mission and vision. Mr. Claver, on his part, affirmed the ECA’s willingness and readiness to contribute in the realization of the sector’s vision based on concrete plans which adhere with the commission’s mandates.

# Kerkebet: Promising Agricultural . . .

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be quickly and easily prepared using the catalyst bacterial liquid. This process is not only cost-effective but also yields priceless results. Additionally, the compost enriches the soil with natural minerals due to its composition of various organic byproducts. Mr. Negede goes on to say that their office’s studies suggest rerouting the river banks in Atay for large irrigation-based farms, a move that would benefit the local population.

Gebreqal Annanyas, overseer of the Kerkebet agroindustry, explains that to promote sustainable development based on climate-smart agro-based industries, the Eritrean Crops and Livestock Corporation has taken over several agro-industry projects, and the Kerkebet agro-project is one of them. With a water capacity of over 300 million metric tons, the Kerkebet dam stands out for its vastness. At the Kerkebet dam confluence, the rivers Barka and Ailet meet. With this amount of water in the arid environment and thousands of acres of cultivable land, the Kerkebet agro-industry is developing into one of the largest agricultural sites in the Gash-Barka region. Mango planting currently covers over 3000 hectares, with plans to expand to 10,000 hectares next year. We’ve introduced this new mango variety near the dam. It stands out for its large flesh, small seeds,

and early fruiting. This mango tree’s small stature makes maintenance simpler. The dam’s construction has significantly increased the amount of subsurface water in the area. Before the construction of this dam, farmers in the Amelayt administrative area had to dig multiple times a year to find water for their farms; however, at this time, the wells could remain consistently open throughout the year.

The conservation of water and soil, along with the construction of water reservoirs, has significantly boosted the ecosystem’s growth and the presence of wild animals in the subzone within a brief timeframe. In this subzone, wild animals can be seen in groups in every kilometer, particularly around the Amelayt, Himbol and Qechech administrative areas, which were previously scarce due to war and drought. Currently, the subzone is home to ostriches, various species of gazelles, including the Eritrean gazelle, and a notable presence of warthogs.

There are also hyenas and foxes in large numbers. Once rare or absent, baboons now inhabit this subzone in enormous numbers. Water from the strategically important Kerkebet dam can reach the plains of Kerkebet, Afhimbol, and Hawashayt. The Barka River, Ailet, and Mogoraib Rivers are just a few of the many seasonal rivers that flow from the highlands and feed into the Kerkebet Dam. In

general, the construction of the dam has created a positive impact on the development of a workaholic culture in areas where agriculture was not prevalent. Because they were able to reorganize around the dam to obtain enough water and grazing material for their animals, the residents of the Kerkebet subzone, especially those of the Amelayt administrative areas, are now involved in sustainable agriculture. This fosters unity among the residents. Mr. Negede explains that the Kerkebet subzone is one of the favorable breeding grounds for the desert locust; thus, the Ministry of Agriculture, in cooperation with concerned government institutions, the public, and the Eritrean defense Force units, actively conducts surveillance to report any appearances of the desert locust. In the subzone, the Ministry of Agriculture is constantly preparing and conducting surveillance activities to counter any potential cross-border invasion by a desert locust swarm from neighboring Sudan.

The Kerkebet subzone is one of Gash Barka’s 16 subdivisions; it borders the south with Dige and certain sections of the Agurdet subzone, in the west with Forto Sawa, and in the north with the Sel’a subzone and Sudan. 13 administrative regions divide this area. It is home to 42,000 inhabitants, with the majority relying on pastoral activities for their livelihood.

## NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public that “NGISTI Private Limited Company” has been formed among the following members.

**A) Shareholders**

S/N	FULL NAME	NATIONALITY	ADDRESS	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE OF SHARES
1	Mr. Tsegay Kidane Weldetinsae	Eritrean	Asmara	60	600,000
2	Mrs. Yorusalem Yemane Tesfamichael	Eritrean	Asmara	60	600,000
	Total			120	1,200,000

**B)** The head office of the company will be in Asmara and branch offices may be opened anywhere within and outside Eritrea.

**C)** The total fully paid up capital of the company is Nakfa one million and two hundred thousand (1,200,000.00) divided in to one hundred and twenty (120) shares of par value of Nakfa ten thousand (10,000.00) each and is paid in cash and in kind.

**D)** The business purposes of the company shall be:

- ❖ To engage in any food processing activity
- ❖ To engage in the wholesale and retail of cereals, spices, pepper, shiro, and other food products like enjera, hambasha, hilbet, hanza, and other foodstuffs edible and non edible.
- ❖ To engage in the business of clearing and forwarding
- ❖ To engage in the business of transport, travel and tour, and ticketing services
- ❖ To engage in the business of hotel, bar, and restaurant services
- ❖ To engage in the business of real estate, maintenance and sales of old buildings
- ❖ To engage in the retail of building, agricultural materials and machinery, and spare parts
- ❖ To engage in the business of import/export, commission agent or representation of manufacturer and traders, brokerage, wholesale, and retail of related activities.

**E)** Mr. Tsegay Kidane is appointed as the general manager for unlimited period of time.

**F)** The period for which the company is established is unlimited.

**NGISTI PRIVATE LIMITED COMPANY**

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## NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public that “KIEBRON CLEARING AND FORWARDING Private Limited Company” has been formed among the following members.

**A) Shareholders**

S/N	FULL NAME	NATIONALITY	ADDRESS	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE OF SHARES
1	Mr. Samuel Sium Debesai	Eritrean	Asmara	40	400,000
2	Mrs. Eden Tewelde Hailu	Eritrean	Asmara	40	400,000
	Total			80	800,000

**B)** The head office of the company will be in Massawa and branch offices may be opened anywhere within and outside Eritrea.

**C)** The total capital of the company is Nakfa eight hundred thousand (800,000.00) divided in to Eighty (80) shares of par value of Nakfa ten thousand (10,000.00) each and is fully paid up in cash and in kind.

**D)** The business purposes of the company shall be:

1) The overall business objectives of the Company are:-

- 1.1. To engage in the business of clearing and forwarding
- 1.2. To engage in the business of hazardous materials shipping services, express delivery schedule
- 1.3. To engage in the business of cargo transportation, container handling, and warehousing services
- 1.4. To engage in the business of consultation services for customers in the area of trade laws and transportation arrangements, cargo movement, organizing the most suitable port services, negotiating the best freight rates available
- 1.5. To engage in the business of import/export, commission agent or representation of manufacturer and traders, brokerage, wholesale, and retail of related activities.

**E)** Mr. Samuel Sium is appointed as the general manager for unlimited period of time.

**F)** The period for which the company is established is unlimited.

**KIEBRON CLEARING AND FORWARDING PRIVATE LIMITED COMPANY**

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## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Asmara Mining Share Company is inviting applicants for the following position;

**Maintenance Planner**

**Number required – (01)**

**Type of contract – Indefinite**

### Major Duties and responsibilities.

- To assist the maintenance planning team and manage the short- and long-term maintenance plan for both the mobile and fixed plant and equipment.
- To attend regular maintenance planning meetings with the appropriate personnel and create the ensuing report gathered from the meeting subjects and socialized with the management in a timely manner.

### General responsibilities:

- General responsibilities:
- Coordinating with operations, purchasing, materials management, maintenance personnel and maintenance management.
- Manage work orders using SAP (Or similar) Plant Maintenance.
- Fully plan work orders, including internal operations, material purchases/requisitions, service purchases, labor purchases.
- Update equipment and preventative maintenance plans in SAP (Or Similar) Plant Maintenance.
- Identifies and obtains (requisitions, orders, kits as appropriate and in keeping with company procedures) determinable materials, entering material needs on the work orders.
- Plan around production to access equipment.
- Assist in PM and standardized work writing as required.
- Discuss plans/scheduling with support technicians.
- Estimates cost of each work order in terms of direct labour, materials required and total costs.
- Once a job is planned and estimated, prior to scheduling, verifies the availability of parts, materials and special tools required for its execution.
- Liaise with engineers and other stakeholders regarding upcoming scheduled maintenance, including the ordering of components, consumables, equipment, and tools via SAP (Or similar).
- Maintain master equipment files, both hard copy and electronic (SAP or similar) and related job plans.
- Ensure compliance of proper safety, quality, and environmental requirements in work.
- Responsible to perform Planner workflow functions in SAP or similar.
- Identify critical component needs and critical material need and establish safety stock requirements within SAP (Or similar) to ensure components are on site or quickly sourced to minimize downtime.

### Profile: Qualifications and Experience

#### **Formal Education, Certifications or Equivalents**

- Technical Engineering, General education, Associated education, Business, Industrial, Manufacturing Management or Electrical engineering.

#### **Working Experience – Nature & Length**

- 5+ years' experience in large open-pit mining of which 2 years supervisor experience
- Work closely with the reliability engineer to develop and communicate the relevant KPI's for the maintenance teams PPM compliance %, Overrun PM's, schedule adherence, MTBF, % PDM executed.
- Ability to lead and co-ordinate a multi-disciplinary team.
- Support the implementation of maintenance best practices, methodologies, and technologies for the creation of standard work routine maintenance activities.
- Use best maintenance planning practices to maximize equipment availability to the production team.

#### **Technical Skills**

- Leadership skill in multi-disciplinary environment.
- Analytical skills
- Proficient in reading, writing, and communicating in English.
- Report Writing skills.
- Decision making skills.
- Plan, organize and execution skills.

### **ASMARA MINING SHARE COMPANY**

Aba Street, No. 178, House No. 16

Gejeret, P.O. Box 10688

Tel. ++291-1-153986

Asmara, Eritrea

- Breakdown Monthly/Weekly plans to deliver daily/weekly maintenance targets.
- Valid Driver's License.
- Deliver quality performance (meeting scheduled maintenance forecasts).

#### **Behavioral Skills**

- Strong Supervisory skills. Get things done attitude.
- Safety leadership by example.
- Interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work under pressure.
- Ability to work toward strict deadlines.
- Commitment to deliver on agreed targets.
- Results oriented.
- Ability to multitask.
- Demonstrated team building and mentoring skills.

#### **General Information and other requirements:**

- **Place of Work:** Asmara and AMSC Sites
- **Type of contract:** Indefinite Period
- **Salary:** As per the Company salary scale

#### **Additional requirements for Nationals:**

- Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provide evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defense.
- Present clearance paper from current/last employer.
- Testimonial documents to be attached (CV, work experience credentials, a copy of your National Identity Card, etc.).
- Only shortlisted applicants would be considered as potential candidates for an interview.
- Application documents will not be returned to the sender.
- All applications should be sent through the post office.
- Deadline for application: 7 days from the day of publication in the Newspaper.

- **Address: Please mail your applications to;**  
Asmara Mining Share Company,  
P. O. Box 10688 Asmara, Eritrea
- **Applicants shall be required to send a copy to:**  
Mineral Resources Management  
P.O. Box – 272  
Asmara

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

#### **General Information and other requirements:**

- **Place of Work:** Asmara Office & AMSC Sites
- **Type of contract:** Indefinite Period
- **Salary:** As per the Company salary scale

#### **Additional requirements for Nationals:**

- Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provide evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defense.
- Present clearance paper from current/last employer.
- Testimonial documents to be attached (CV, work experience credentials, a copy of your National Identity Card, etc.).
- Only shortlisted applicants would be considered as potential candidates for an interview.
- Application documents will not be returned to the 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;**  
Asmara Mining Share Company,  
P. O. Box 10688 Asmara, Eritrea

- **Note to Non- Eritrean applicants:**  
Please send a copy of your application to  
Aliens Employment Permit Affairs,  
P. O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea



# REPORTAGE

## UN-MoA Joint Dialogue on Eritrean Food Systems Strategies

A joint dialogue on Eritrea's food systems strategies was conducted on the 15th of August 2024 in the premises of the Eritrean Ministry of Agriculture.

Led by H.E. Mr. Arefaine Berhe, the Minister of Agriculture, the high-level meeting witnessed participation of key representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the Ministry of Finance and National Development (MoFND), the United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRCO), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and other stakeholders.

Shedding light on the MoA's strategies to achieve the ministry's goal which is "Safe and Nutritious Food for Everyone, Everywhere", Minister Arefaine asserted that the goal is achievable for it was properly designed by engaging all relevant bodies. He noted that the MoA has formulated three strategies based on their scope of implementation and capacity of the farming communities.

According to him, the Small and Productive Farm Plot (SPFP) Strategy, which is being piloted this summer throughout the country, is expected to revolutionize the farming culture of very small farming communities by engaging them in small but productive agronomic practices. He also noted that the initial package cost estimate necessary to boost this program

stands at only USD 270 per unit. This is supposed to cover mainly the costs of water, compost and improved seed. The SPFP Scheme is designed with a special focus on rain-fed and water-stressed areas, and farming households are expected to intensively cultivate different crops in a 1,000-square-meters plot.

The mode of implementation during the main rainy season is fully dedicated to cereal crops. In the following two seasons, the plot is to be divided into 800 square meters and 200 square meters. The first part of 800 square meters is expected to be set aside for cultivation of pulses, while the small plot of 200 square meters is further divided into four sub-plots for growing vegetables. Sweet potato, while rotating in the sub-plots, will always be there, and the other 3 sub-plots will be covered with tomato, lettuce, Swiss chard, Okra, pepper and so on, depending on the climatic setting. Additionally, backyard poultry farming and beekeeping based on use of top-bar hive are expected to be sustainably introduced as integral parts of this farming system. In this connection, H.E. Mr. Arefaine emphasized that farmers who solely depend on livestock for their livelihood are expected to selling part of their stock to buy products that they don't produce themselves like grains, vegetables and fruits.

The Minister mentioned the Minimum Integrated Household Agricultural Package (MIHAP) as a second strategy that focuses on small farming household with water source. Beneficiaries of this scheme are expected to acquire or to possess, but not necessarily at one time, one improved indigenous or cross-bred dairy cow or 12 shoats that are to be kept inside and fed through a cut-and-carry system, in addition to 25 chicks, 2 bee colonies, a vegetable plot, and 30 trees for fruit, fodder



H.E. Arefaine Berhe

supplement, firewood and bee forage.

Minister Arefaine also mentioned the Small and Medium Commercial Farmers Strategy (SMCFS) as a third scheme to boost productivity and agricultural employment. With regards to this, the minister elucidated that farmers who are included in this scheme only need enabling environment that includes access to credit and finance as well as training and technological support.

The Minister reaffirmed that all these strategies are properly mainstreamed in the third and current strategic plan of the Ministry (2024-2028). Finally, he called for reinforced development partnerships with all relevant UN agencies to meet the country's goal: 'safe and nutritious food for everyone; everywhere in time; and also thanked the initiative taken by the UNRCO to organize such a fruitful event.

During the event, Ms. Nahla Valji, the United Nations' Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator to Eritrea,

on her part, said that the UN is highly focused on collaborating with Eritrea pursuing food security, taking into account that it is a priority for the country. She also confirmed that the UN agencies in the country are due to align the cooperation framework available with the sectorial priorities in a bid to draw a viable joint plan for sustainable impact. She further expressed appreciation for the MoFND's role in coordinating the UN and other initiatives in Eritrea, which is key for a more concerted action and impact.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Samson Berhane, Head of the International Development Cooperation Department in the MoFND, outlined that the Government of Eritrea (GoE)'s national priorities are clearly aligned vis-à-vis the UN cooperative frameworks targeting four areas: Capacity building based on equitable quality services; ensuring peace vis-à-vis building accountable as well as efficient institutions; improving the livelihood of people and inclusively diversifying environment-sensitive economy; and promoting climate

resilience as well as environmental safety.

According to Mr. Samson, a total of eleven government institutions, including the MoA, are involved as implementing entities of these thematic areas of the cooperation framework, which also reflect the GoE's priorities. Concluding his remarks, he expressed his deep belief that the dialogue is crucial in promoting the efficiency of the Eritrean agricultural sector, and thereby contributing to the success of the cooperation framework by the year 2026.

As part of the dialogue session, Mr. Tesfai Tsegai, Head of Sectoral Planning at the MoA, presented the MoA's current five-year strategic development plan. He pointed out that the five programs namely; agricultural land and natural resources management program; crop development program; livestock development program; integrated livelihood and agribusiness support program; human and institutional capacity development program combined are expected to direct the MoA's road map to achieve 'safe and nutritious food for everyone; everywhere'.

Following the SP presentation, Director Generals of the three major technical departments namely Agricultural Extension Department (AED), Regulatory Services Department (RSD) and the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) presented concise statements that support the Minister's elaborations.

Representing the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI), Mr. Tsegai Berhane, the Head of the institute, said that research-based production of crops is being conducted through conventional and modern methods of breeding with primary focus on wheat, barley, maize, sorghum and pearl millet. Likewise, he indicated that flux, nuts and sesame are at the forefront of NARI's research priorities on oil seeds, while the same holds true for a wide range of legumes, horticulture and livestock varieties.

He also mentioned the nutrition-based research initiatives on, but not limited to, potato, tomato, onion, garlic, banana, dates, sweet potato, casava etc.



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