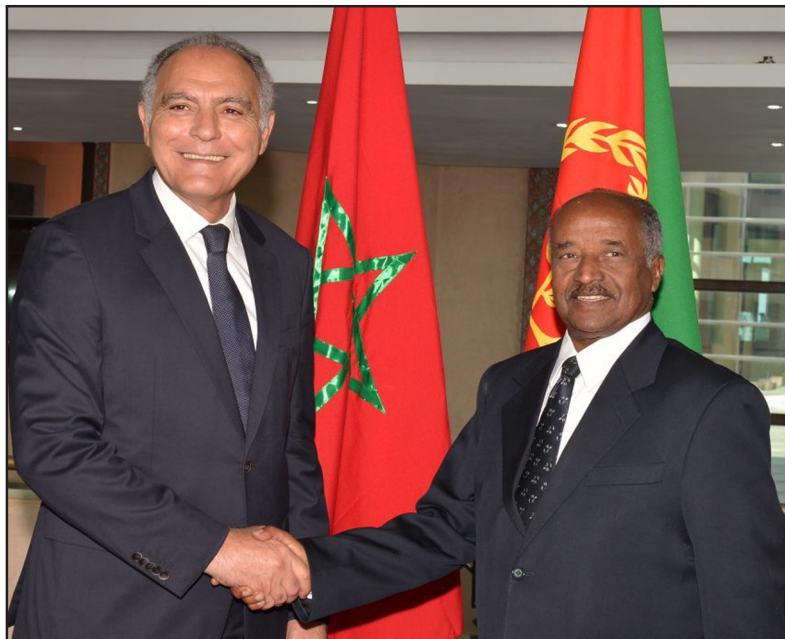




SENIOR DELEGATION ON WORKING VISIT TO MOROCCO



A senior Eritrean delegation comprising Foreign Minister Osman Saleh and Presidential Advisor Mr. Yemane Gebreab is on a three day working visit to the Kingdom of

Morocco.

The Eritrean delegation met the Moroccan Foreign Minister, Mr. Salehaddin Mzwar and delivered

a message from President Isaias Afwerki to King Mohamed the Sixth.

The two sides discussed consolidation of bilateral ties as well as regional and global issues.

Minister Osman Saleh congratulated Morocco for the resumption of its membership in the AU and its valuable contribution to Africa.

Minister Mzwar on his part thanked Eritrea for its strong support for Morocco and underlined his country's readiness to develop partnership with Eritrea.

In the course of its working visit, the Eritrean delegation will meet with a number of Moroccan officials and investors.

16TH NATIONAL BOOK FAIR

The 16th National Book Fair is scheduled to open on March 24 at the Expo grounds here in the capital. According to the organizing committee, the Fair would include e-Books and digital media.

It also indicated that 30% discount on book prices would be made with a view to nurturing the reading habit among the general public. The fair would also take place in other regions of the country from April 7 to 19.

INTEGRATED EFFORT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Mr. Ahmed Mohammed-Nur Rejeb, Administrator of Afabet Sub-zone, has called on government institutions and administrative bodies to exert joint effort in the implementation of development programs.

Speaking at the annual work assessment meeting, he voiced appreciation for the active participation of the local inhabitants in development endeavors.

Likewise, Mr. Gergis Mezgebe, Head of economic development in the Sub-zone, stated that 25,000 terraces and over 99,000 cubic meters of embankment have been constructed and over 36,000 terraces renovated on the basis of popular campaign.

5TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF OSMA CONDUCTED IN ASMARA

The 5th General Assembly of the Organization of Military Sports in Africa (OSMA) was conducted from the 11th to the 13th of March at Asmara Palace Hotel, here in the capital. Over 50 high-ranking military officials from over 22 African countries including the Chairman of the OSMA, participated at the Assembly.

Speaking at the opening session in which senior government and PFDJ officials, members of the diplomatic corps and invited guests participated, General Flipos Woldeyohannes, Chief of Staff of the Eritrean Defense Forces, underlined the significance of sports in developing physical and mental fitness, promoting the spirit of unity and instilling discipline. Gen. Flipos said that Eritrea is honored to host the Assembly.

Stating that since the days of the struggle for independence Eritrea has been exerting unremitting effort to promote sports activities, he underlined that sports tournaments among the military has been in place nationwide.

Also speaking on behalf of Lt. General Meguedad Benziane, President of OSMA, Col. Kabre David voiced appreciation to the Eritrean government for hosting

the Assembly and expressed conviction that it would promote a sense of common understanding among the participating member states.

Col. Kabre David was elected President of the organization while 18 countries including Eritrea have become members of the organization's Executive Board.

In closing remarks on March 13, Gen. Flipos, expressed conviction that the fruitful outcome of the Assembly would promote military sports in the continent and that it has been a platform in which Eritrea shared its experience in military sports.

The new President of OSMA, Col. Kabre David on his part reaffirmed readiness to diligently

work in collaboration with the member states so as to achieve the set goals.

High-ranking military delegates from a number of African countries including South Africa, Algeria, Guinea, Cameroon, Kenya, Uganda, Tunisia, Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Senegal, Angola, Egypt, Ivory Coast, Zambia, Botswana, Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Mali, Congo Brazzaville, Morocco and Burundi have participated in the General Assembly.

Artists from the Eritrean Defense Forces staged cultural performances.

OSMA was founded in 1994 and has its central office in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

In related news, Gen. Flipos Woldeyohannes and Ambassador Zemed Tekle, Eritrean Commissioner of Culture and Sports, met and held talks on bilateral issues with the newly appointed President of OSMA, Col. Kabre David.

At a meeting held on 13 March, Gen. Flipos expressed Eritrea's readiness to share experience and strengthen cooperation with African countries in the domain of sports.

Expressing appreciation for the strong organization and participation of sports activities of the Eritrean Armed Forces, the President of OSMA highlighted the significance of Eritrea's cooperation in the success of the OSMA sports activities.

Meanwhile, in a meeting held at the Commission of Culture and Sports, Ambassador Zemed pointed out that Sports and Culture play a significant role in the integration of the African people and that Eritrea will exert every effort towards that end.

Pointing out Eritrea's significant place in international sports activities in general and cycling in particular, Col. Kabre underlined the rich experience they gained during their stay in Asmara.

Present at the meeting were Brig. Gen. Tekle Libsu, Brig. Gen. Tekie Russom and other army commanders from the Eritrean side as well as the General Secretary and Vice President of OSMA and other high ranking members of the organization.



PROCLAMATION No. 180/ 2017

A Proclamation to Provide for the Payment of Stamp Duty

ARTICLE 1 SHORT TITLE

This Proclamation may be cited as the "Stamp Duty Proclamation No. 180/2017".

ARTICLE 2 DEFINITIONS

In this Proclamation, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "**Award**" means a decision in writing rendered by an arbitrator or arbitrators on a reference made otherwise than by order of court in the course of suit by parties to an arbitral submission;

2. "**Bond**" includes any instrument whereby a person obliges himself to pay money to another, on condition that the obligation shall be void where a specific act is performed or is not performed, as the case may be, or any instrument attested by a witness and not payable to order or bearer;

3. "**Collective Agreement and contract of Employment**" shall have the respective meanings given to them by Articles 3 (8) and (21) of the Labour Proclamation of Eritrea No. 118/2001;

4. "**Contract**" means an agreement whereby two or more persons as between themselves create, vary, or extinguish obligations of proprietary nature;

5. "**Contract of Insurance**" means an Insurance policy by which one person, the Insurer, in consideration of a premium, engages to indemnify another, the insured against loss, damages, loss of expected profit, or any liability arising from an unknown or contingent event, including a life policy and any policy insuring any person against accident or sickness or any other personal insurance;

6. "**Inland Revenue Department**" means the body designated by the

Minister to implement, inter alia, the provisions of this Proclamation and of regulations issued hereunder;

7. "**Instrument**" means a written document by which any right or obligation is created, recorded, transferred, extinguished or by which its scope is limited or extended;

8. "**Minister and Ministry**" means the Minister and Ministry of Finance, respectively;

9. "**Negotiable Instrument**" means any document incorporating a right to an entitlement in such manner that it would not be possible to enforce or transfer the right separately from the instrument and includes such commercial, instruments as bills of exchange, promissory notes, cheques and other similar documents;

10. "**Notarial act**" means an act of attestation and certification performed by a person authorized to perform such act;

11. "**Person**" means any natural person, or any organization irrespective whether such organization possesses a legal personality or not;

12. "**Receipt**" means any note or writing whereby any money or any signed bill of exchange, cheque or promissory note is acknowledged in writing to have been received, or whereby any other claim or part thereof is acknowledged to have been received or satisfied, or which signifies or imports any such acknowledgment;

13. "**Security deed**" means any instrument whereby a borrower or guarantor gives to a lender a charge upon a part or the whole of his property; and

14. "**Ticket**" means a certificate or token evidencing payment of admission fee to places of entertainment.

ARTICLE 3 REPEAL

The Stamp Duty Proclamation No. 65/1995 is hereby repealed and replaced by this Proclamation.

ARTICLE 4 SCHEDULES OF INSTRUMENTS CHARGEABLE WITH STAMP DUTY RATES

The stamp duty on each instrument shall be charged, levied and collected at the following rates:

ARTICLE 5 RATES OF STAMP DUTY

1. The Minister may issue regulations to provide for the payment of stamp duty rates on specific models and different certificates.

2. The rate payable at any subsequent execution shall be those specified in the same schedule.

3. Endorsement or dishonoring any form of negotiable instrument or introducing any amendment,

Ser.No	Instrument Chargeable With Stamp Duty	Basis Of Valuation	Rate of Stamp Duty in % or Nakfa
1.	Memorandum and Articles of Association of any business Organization, Cooperative or Association: a) Upon 1 st execution b) Upon any subsequent execution	Flat Flat	1000.00 250.00
2.	Award: a) with determinable value; b) with nondeterminable value.	On value Flat	3% 50.00
3.	Bill of exchange and promissory note.	On value	2%
4.	Cheques	Flat	0.50
5.	Bonds	On value	1%
6.	Warehouse Bond	On value	1%
7.	Contracts and agreements	Flat	50.00
8.	Security Deed	On value	0.5%
9.	Collective Agreement: a) Upon 1 st execution; b) Upon any subsequent execution	Flat Flat	1000.00 250.00
10.	Contract of Employment.	On value	1%
11.	Lease contract	On value	1%
12.	Notarial act	Flat	20.00
13.	Contract of Insurance	On value	2%
14.	Power of Attorney	Flat	100.00
15.	Protest of bill of exchange or promissory note	On value	2%
16.	Share certificate	Flat	1.00
17.	Receipt	Flat	1.00
18.	Documents transferring title to Property or transfer of shares	On value	4%
19.	Ticket: a) for theater or musical show; b) for Nightclubs; c) for Cargo service, Air ticket, Excess baggage	On value On value On value	5% 20% 1.5%
20.	Petitions and applications	Flat	1.00

alteration or any other change in any other instrument shall be considered as subsequent execution.

ARTICLE 6 MODE OF VALUATION

1. Where the value of the right or obligation executed by means of an instrument can be determined, the rate chargeable on such instrument shall be the percentage of value specified for each such instrument in the schedule above, where the value of the right or obligation executed by means of an instrument cannot be determined, the amount chargeable on such an instrument is the fixed amount specified for each such instrument in the schedule.

2. Where an instrument is chargeable with stamp duty in respect of any amount expressed in any currency other than Nakfa,

such amount shall be computed on the basis of the prevailing rate of exchange.

3. Where an instrument is chargeable with stamp duty on an ad-valorem basis in respect of any stock or of any marketable security, such amount shall be computed on the average value of the stock or security prevailing at the time when the distinct instrument is drawn.

4. Any instrument comprising two or more different or related matters shall be chargeable with the aggregate amount of duties payable in respect of each separate instrument.

5. The stamp duty payable on documents transferring title shall be calculated on the value of the property involved as agreed upon between the transferor and transferee, provided however that

such valuation is approved by the Inland Revenue Department.

6. Where the value agreed between the transferor and the transferee is not acceptable to the Inland Revenue Department, the value of the property involved in the transfer of title shall, for the purpose of calculating the stamp duty, be determined by a special committee comprising concerned governmental agencies appointed or designated by the Minister.

7. The Minister may approve or reject the stamp duty determined to be paid by the special committee.

ARTICLE 7 OBLIGATION TO PAY

1. Unless otherwise provided herein the beneficiary of any

Continued on page 6

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REPORTAGE

5th OSMA General Assembly Sealed

Semir Seid

The benefits of sport is much greater than we can imagine. Sport is being used as a means of gathering various collections of individuals, organizations and countries. It is a source of joy, a natural remedy for stress and a source of health. It is recommended by pediatricians whenever necessary. Thus, wherever people are situated, they can consider exercising to build their mental, physical and interpersonal qualities. Considering these benefits and other international factors as a baseline, the Organization of Military Sports in Africa (OSMA) is for the benefit of Africans.

The 5th General Assembly has been carried out in Asmara Palace Hotel from the 11th to 13th March. The event was successful. Following the opening ceremony, the General Assembly looked at issues critical to the organization. There was the election and renewal of some posts within the Board of Directors of OSMA, where Eritrea became part of the 18 board member states.

Incorporating the fundamental principles and motto of the International Military Sports Council (CISM), "Friendship Through Sport", OSMA was founded in 1994 during the 40th CISM General Assembly. The OSMA is a continental organization made up of 45 Armed Forces of African Member countries. It is the African representative of the CISM.

The 5th OSMA General Assembly sought to set the regulations and plans for the next two years of activities, to approve the annual year budget, to gather reports of

BOD and OSMA offices and to host BOD and presidency elections.

The organization is headquartered in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The 1st General Assembly took place on 25th March, 2008, in Algiers, Algeria. As of the 5th General Assembly, the session was able to renew the Board of Directors structure by starting to elect its new president, Colonel Kabre David from Burkina Faso; its vice president, Brigadier General Ashton Mlinden Sibango of South Africa; and its secretary general, Djindola Pyer. As the law dictates, these newly elected officials are expected to serve OSMA for the next four years.

OSMA's objective looks to promote and instill a coherent peaceful environment through sport and physical training activities among the armed forces of member states that contribute to the economic development and integration of the African continent. The General Assembly remains the legislative organ that brings all member countries. It is taken as the supreme authority of OSMA and elects the Board of Directors, which is the executive organ, which is chaired by the president of the organization.

The OSMA being formed early 90's implements strategic objectives to foster planned, regular and closer interaction, solidarity, cooperation, mutual respect and support, professionalism, collaboration and Pan-Africanism amongst the militaries of the African member states for enhanced regional, sub regional, continental and world peace and security. It is based on CISM ideals and fosters the mutual interests of member states. CISM is one of the largest multi-

disciplinary organizations in the world, organizes various sporting events for the armed forces of its 134 member countries.

The massive presence of participants at Asmara Palace during the General Assembly was appreciated by the OSMA officials. The officials expressed that previous assemblies hadn't welcomed participant of this size and scale. They noted that this shows the organization has managed to build its reputation in line with its values.

OSMA runs its activities by the funds of the member states that are willing to contribute and sponsor the continental gatherings of the armed forces. The costs related to the operations of the liaison offices are primarily supported by the armed forces of the headquarters of these offices. The organizations manages a number of continental gatherings such as the African Military Games, African Military Football Cup (CAMFOOT), African Military Boxing Cup (CAMBOXE), African Military Athletics Cup (CAMATHLETISME) and African military Judo Cup (CAMJUDO). These championships are sponsored by some African Heads of State. Despite the budget shortfalls, OSMA officials declared at the press conference held at the end of the General Assembly, that ultimate target of the games is to enhance the awareness within Africa that OSMA passionately works towards peace—and only peace.

During the press conference at the General Assembly, Secretary General Colonel Dorah Mamby from Guinea, highlighted that although the armed forces were

part of every African national's duty, nations ought to be protected by bringing together militaries on the sports field rather than the battlefield. To illustrate the peace-building effects of sports, an example of South and North Korean athletes playing in tournaments was highlighted. This showed how military sports can actually bring solidarity among divided peoples.

According to Olympic statistical data, 30% of medals belong to military athletes. Bearing almost one third of awards, nations with military athletes look forward to promoting their activities and relations across continents.

Coming back to the 5th OSMA General Assembly hosting country, Eritrea, the officials mentioned that the nation was selected since it is a member state and pays its duties on time; it actively participates in events prepared by the organization; and it is renowned by its Olympian military athletes for its performances in global competitions. Referring to the military sport in Eritrea, its history stretches back to the armed struggle period. Sport events were held in 1981, 1987, and 1989.

These particular junctures of time in the history of sports among the military magnify the sport legacy in Eritrea's military tradition. Eritrean military delegates stated that the initiatives were mainly carried out on the operational unit level (brigade, battalion and company). After independence, sport activities were not organized properly. From 1997 to 1998, the Ground Forces of the time managed to organize a wide range of sports events but were interrupted by Ethiopian invasion of Eritrea.

With the establishment of the Information and Promotion Office in 2001 at the Ministry of Defense, army sport clubs shifted gears and started to conduct sport activities regularly. Since 2010, however, sport events at Ministry Defense level were scheduled only once every two years. The extension of time was preferred to enhance sport activity at the division level by organizing sport competition in each zonal command in every odd-numbered year.

Meanwhile, sport remains an important activity within Eritrean Defense Force (EDF) members with no off-year for sports. The Information and Promotion Office, apart from hosting and organizing sport competitions, worked on training referees and coaches for capacity-building. This and other endeavors enabled the EDF sports teams to make their names known in international sports arenas and win a number of Olympic medals. This is seen as a reflection of the EDF's commitment to contributing to national pride and progress in the field of sports.

The Information and Promotion Office of the Ministry of Defense is member of international organizations such as CISM, the OSMA, and the East and Central Africa Liaison Office (ECALO) with the intent of promoting sports within the military.

Eritrea became member of CISM in a congress held in Dubai in 2002. Eritrea, as a member of this organization, pays its annual membership fee and participates in conferences. CISM organizes various sporting events including Military World Games and World Military Cup for the armed forces of 134 member countries. Eritrea is an active member of this large multi-sport discipline organization, which includes more than 20 competitions annually. Eritrea continues to participate in sport competitions organized by the continental branch of OSMA.

In 2002, the EDF took part in both soccer and athletics in Kenya and won OSMA's Soccer Cup. The Vice President Brigadier General Sibango, in particular, appreciates Eritrean athletes in track and field competition.



Continued on page 6



What do we know about the one million year old Eritrean Homo?

Tsegai Medin

The Geo-paleo-anthropo-archaeological research conducted in the Eritrean Danakil Depression in the last two decades has resulted in the discovery of over 200 Late Early Pleistocene sites within 1000 meter thick fluvio-lacustrine sedimentary successions. Buia and Mulhuli-Amo are among the most well-known fossiliferous Late Early Pleistocene sites in the world. They are enriched by evidence of *Homo* fossils, macro and micro mammals and advanced lithic technological complexes. The nearly complete *Homo* cranium was discovered in the mid-1990s at the inhospitable area of Uadi Aalad (Buia basin). Other evidences of *Homo* were found near the cranium (all

and variety of the *Homo erectus/ergaster* record and re-launched the debate about its patterns of variation and evolutionary trends. The fossil specimens in general filled the gap between *Homo erectus* (1.4 Ma) and *Homo heidelbergensis* (0.65 Ma). This well known complete fossil skull from Buia was recently enriched by more fragments of *Homo* fossils from nearby site (Mulhuli-Amo), about 4.7 km far south of the Buia site. This evidence includes cranial and post cranial fossil specimens and, importantly a molar tooth. The *Homo* fossil evidence from Mulhuli-Amo is found at the same stratigraphic succession as the Buia *Homo* and it is of three individuals.

The Hominin species from Buia

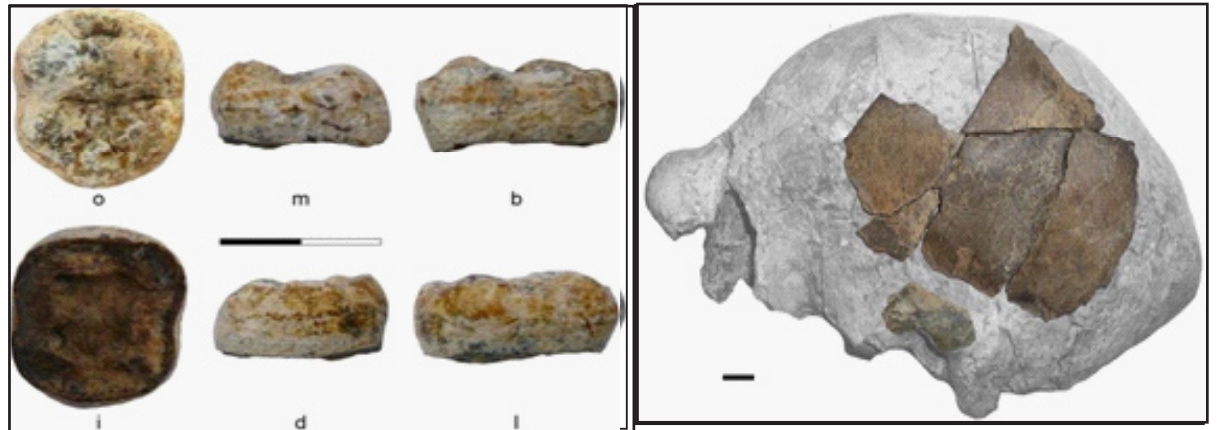


Fig. 3&4. *Homo* molar and fragments of parietal Bones from Mulhuli-Amo

global climate cycle marked by a paleoenvironmental shift resulted in species turnover around 1.0 Ma. This turnover resulted in extinction, migration and/or adaptation of species. Some species (Hominins and other mammals) developed rapid anatomic changes to adapt

the climatic changes when they occurred.

By about 1.0 Ma these species pioneered efficient use of fire and highly complex technological stone tools (Acheulian stone tools). The density and variability

the coast of the Red Sea (Abdur, Asfet, Gelealo NW and Misse East) marks the most significant epoch of the Pleistocene in the region. This important innovation enabled Hominins to acquire energy, thus, bigger brain size and change in intestine anatomy. These species had already mastered walking in an upright position (bipedalism) enabling them to spot enemies in remote areas, and importantly, to spend less energy and walk longer distances, unlike the quadrupedal mammals. The Buia *Homo* like any other African *Homo* species of the same age was living adjacent to the coastal flood plains of the Buia basin. At about 200,000 years ago, *Homo ergaster* was replaced by *Homo sapiens* in the region. The shoreline Red Sea Coast of the Buri Peninsula, dated 125±7 ka, contains the earliest well-dated evidence of *Homo sapiens* in coastal environments. These Prehistoric localities are testimony to ancient Human settlements, dispersals and cultural interactions within the extended Red Sea Coast and the Arabian Peninsula. These prehistoric *Homo sapiens* are the last and successful Hominin species to populate the planet.

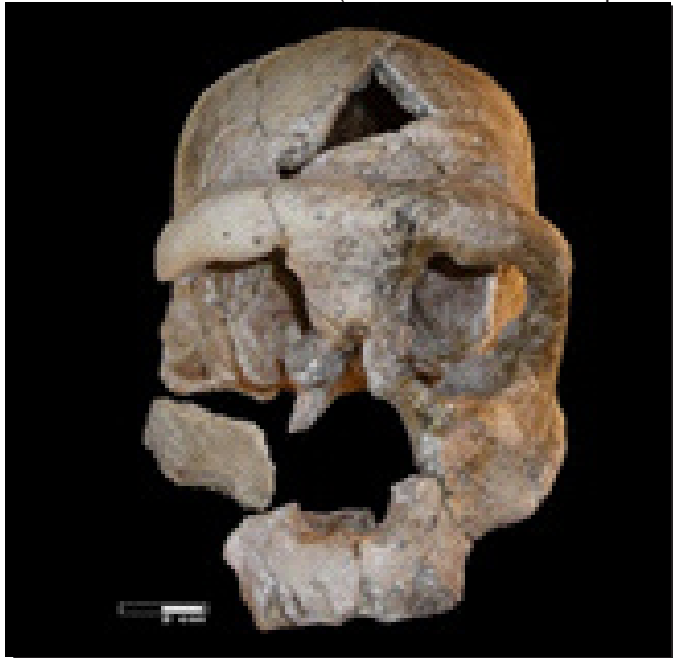


Fig. 1&2. The nearly complete *Homo* cranium from Uadi Aalad (UA), Buia

probably belong to the same individual), which include a two permanent upper incisors, two conjoined pelvic fragments, a right iliac blade, a right acetabulum and partial ischium, forming an incomplete adult hip bone and a pubic symphysis. Due to their metrical features, these fossils are attributed to an adult female individual.

The discovery of this complete skull was a scientific breakthrough. To date, evidence of complete skull of *Homo* dating to between 1.4-0.65 Myrs is scarce in Africa. Although, evidence of *Homo* has been reported from a number of Early Pleistocene sites in East Africa (Ileret, Konso, Daka, Ologesailie), the addition of the Eritrean *Homo* (UA-31) has significantly enlarged the quality

and Mulhuli-Amo comprise two distinctive and significant types of traits (1) *primitive traits* and (2) *progressive traits*. The primitive traits comprise low cranial height and the shape of the cranial profile in top view. The progressive traits include the marked expansion of the parietal bones and the vertically expanded face. The former is characteristic of the African *Homo erectus/ergaster* and the latter traits fit the *Homo sapiens* cranial morphology. This Hominin species acquired necessary anatomic changes as a response to various influences. Among these, the shift in paleoclimate (glacial/interglacial shifts) which is followed by paleoecological and diet changes could be considered significant. Hominins and other mammal species marked necessary changes due to climatic fluctuations. The

to harsh climatic changes. The Hominin species at this stage had advanced technological capabilities, brain capacity and anatomic developments to resist

of Acheulian lithic assemblages which the Hominin species were able to collect from the Dandiero Basin, followed by MSA and LSA technologies from sites on



Fig. 5 &6. The stone tool industry from Mulhuli-Amo (the Acheulian technology)

Statement of the Delegation of the State of Eritrea to the 34th Session of the UNHRC in Response to the Oral Update of the Special Rapporteur

Mr. President,

My delegation does not wish to waste the time of this August body to indulge in acrimonious exchanges with the Special Rapporteur. The selective bias inherent in these so-called testimonies that she brandishes; the lack of professionalism in her overall approach; the political bias and agenda that have marred her recycled reports are these days too well known and acknowledged by a growing number of governments and neutral bodies. In this respect, we see no dividend in dwelling on her statement.

Last year alone, over 112,000 Eritreans in the Diaspora visited their homeland as part and parcel of their routine vacations and also to celebrate the country's 25th Independence Anniversary. When the Special Rapporteur issued its vitriolic report on Eritrea on the basis of testimonies of some 250 or so asylum-seekers of dubious credibility, over 42,000 Eritreans wrote to her protesting against the unfounded and politically motivated vilification campaigns on their country. But the Special Rapporteur is avidly obsessed with advancing the agenda of "regime change" of notorious quislings and foreign countries. Indeed, she has no time to listen to the people of Eritrea. In the circumstances, the humble request

of Eritrea's delegation to this august body is to end this charade once and for all.

Mr. President,

Let me avail of the occasion to briefly highlight two matters that have a bearing on the subject in question.

The first is the risk of politicizing the Human Rights Council by resorting to country-specific instruments which are not productive and constructive. This practice is fraught with the risk of resuscitating the malaises and follies that rendered ineffective the predecessor of this body 11 years ago. In the event, Eritrea appeals for clarity and universality of methodological and procedural instruments that the UNHRC employs.

A related subject is the Right of States to be elected as members of the Council. The current practice bars States under special procedure from consideration for membership in the Council. In the event, where the original accusation itself is flawed, this practice entails double injury to the parties concerned; especially in the absence of rigorous criterion for assessing the eligibility of other candidates. Accordingly, Eritrea requests for a thorough review of this procedure.

Other critical procedural issues relate to the five-minute response time for a country under a special mechanism. There is no fairness and parity when the accused party is restricted to respond in barely five minutes to lengthy reports – sometime 500 pages long – from the plaintiff. Another procedural hurdle which affects negatively a country under special mechanism is the denial of a concerned Observer State to react to a resolution where another observer state is privileged to table a resolution. These procedural matters impact negatively on the concerned State by restricting latitude for greater discussion and generally by undermining fair play and a level playing field.

Mr. President,

Let me now turn to the progress on fast-tracking human rights as part of the overall developmental programs with special focus on the implementation of the UPR Working Group Recommendations that my Government has accepted.

1. National service

As explained in various previous occasions, the prolongation of National Service has been imposed on Eritrea due to the threats of war that continue unabated. This state

of affairs not with standing, the GOSE has introduced in the past two years a raft of measures, including harmonization and substantial increments on the Civil Service Salary Scale. As a result, National Service Members, the majority of whom are assigned to professional and civilian tasks, as well as those who remain in the Military, are obtaining remunerations that are congruent with their professional/skill and occupational services. The GOSE also continues to demobilize female members on a continuous basis.

2. New Legal Codes

Sensitization campaigns on the revised Eritrean Civil, Penal and their Procedural Codes have and continue to be undertaken in a rigorous manner – through public meetings, weekly Tv, radio programmes as well as constant columns in the printed press. These campaigns will consolidate public knowledge and full awareness of the laws of the country and enhance the rule of law.

3. UPR

Coordinated efforts and expanded Government engagement and cooperation have been stepped up. The first coordinated yearly evaluation was conducted in

December 2016 in Asmara, the capital city. The evaluation has led to planning on wider scale by critically assessing the ongoing process. Agreement was reached to fast track and undertake a midterm formative evaluation in May 2017. This will enhance continuous follow up and preparation of the third Cycle of the UPR Report. In general, significant strides have been made in the implementation of many areas in particular in the administration of justice, in areas of development and social equality, in the penitentiary system, in engagement and international cooperation.

4. Cooperation with UN

Cooperation in the implementation of the UPR Recommendations and General Human Rights issues and cooperation with the office of High Commissioner is also proceeding smoothly in accordance to the projected schedule.

Mr. President,

Let me conclude by reassuring this august body of the commitment of the Government of the State of Eritrea to safeguard human rights.

I thank you.

*13 March 2017
Geneva*

Under the Sycamores. . .

Continued from page 8

not deserved but it is nevertheless reality. So, that short story started attracting all the attention towards the other war poets that I covered. It light up the room!

Favorite Eritrean co-work

There was time for every project that I have embraced with passion, and it is always the 'best one yet'. I learned so much from translating Eritrean works with Dr. Russom Haile, working on the anthology, and spending time with other poets. Every time, it has just been so inspiring to share the beauty of their work and culture.

What are you focused on now (in this trip)?

On this trip I have been meeting and talking with many more writers; we are looking for a collection focusing on post war writing and writers in Eritrea. I am excited as much as I have been for all of the

projects I have done so far. We are looking forward to translate these fabulous works, publish them on international journals and just write one more chapter.

Memories of Mother Zeineb

I was introduced to mother Zeineb at the *Against All Odds Conference* in 2000. And she was the first reader in the Valley of Sycamores. We built an amphitheater and we had a number of readers from all over Africa and she came out and was introduced by a great writer and scholar Selomun Tsehay. When she came out she had an oral performance which I then wanted to have transcribed immediately. And so we ended up calling it *Under the Sycamores*.

I open up a lot of my poetry readings with that poem from mother Zeineb. And it immediately attracts people, because in every person's heart there is the feeling that she or

he is *too bold for this damn world*. And that was a wonderful passage by mother Zeineb, with her dramatic clothing and her jewelry and strong presence. And also a wonderful poem expressive of the Eritrean life. And the Eritrean Nation... *too bold for this damn world*.

Translation

It brings entities together. In one of my lectures I spoke about national development, I talk about literary development in Eritrea, and that has to go hand in hand with translation. Translation requires the study and practice of literature. We are talking about not the kind of translation of someone in the UN or an ambassador speaking... we are talking about literary translation, and it requires the love, experience and passion of the field. I have a passion for Eritrean literature. My message is not really original, I think that the voice of the Eritrean literature "the you of the

you", as Feradai puts it so well, is the voice that the world needs to hear.

Therefore, we need translation. The world needs the voices produced by native and not native speakers working together.

Today's young people

I am an educator, so I take responsibility as a professor to be a good teacher so that students who may be alienated from literature grow closer to it.

Nonetheless this young generation is very word conscious, have seen their tweets? Their posts on social networks? Their raps? That's all writing. You know hip-hop is mostly African language, and there a good example for African literary scholars to recognize. Let's look at African literature as much as hip-hop does. I love students. They are my favorite people for two reasons: one because

they read, I may have to force them to read the books but they read, and two because they change their minds, they are open for changes.

Anything at the end prof?

I would want to express my thanks for all the great visits that I have had. I come back for a reason, I love Eritrea. I am grateful for the fact that I can come and work with great poets, scholars and engaging brilliant people.

I have a very good friend Ali Mohamed Jimale, who is a Somali scholar and poet. I told him a few weeks ago that I was leaving for Eritrea and he wrote to me an email, *have a safe and productive trip to your adopted country*. And so I have.

Thank you!

Thank you

5th OSMA General Assembly . . .

Continued from page 3

The presence of numerous attendants, shows the local commitment towards OSMA's development and promotion of peace in Africa and world. General Filipos Weldemariam, during his opening speech, indicated that sport was crucial for developing physical and mental fitness, advancing spirit, promoting unity and harmony, instilling discipline and relieving boredom, and helping to build relationships among countries and African people. The general further stated that military sports in Eritrea are regularly held and the result is clearly shown in the Olympian athletes participating in global competitions.

The Secretary General of the OSMA Mr. Djendola Pyer repeatedly underlined that when people hear about military the first thoughts that come to mind are guns and war. However, he assured participants that OSMA highlights that the opposite may also be true, that militaries can also promote peace.

The president-elect of OSMA, Colonel Kabre David expressed delight in the success of the General Assembly and

all the hospitality showed by organizing committee, Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Culture and Sports and other concerned parties. He explained that the session allowed them to diagnose the current organizational difficulties. President-Elect Colonel Kabre David noted that this would drive sister African nations to intensify their internal and external relations to improve the organization's capacities and bring all concerned people together towards building a prosperous and peaceful Africa. He said that military sports have a critical role in promoting peace and unity. He also asked for member countries to work collaboratively.

Further, the officials of OSMA and CISM openly discussed their roles and contributions towards building member countries' sport infrastructures. They indicated that although it is not usually in the culture of military to sponsor such endeavors, what they can do is enhance awareness of sports among head states and chief staffs of armed forces to encourage construction of infrastructure for sports development.

The opening and ending ceremonies were performed by cultural artists in the military.



Sbrit dance crew displayed a colorful Eritrean cultural show aimed at promoting African peace and development. OSMA currently has five liaison offices, namely, those in Algiers (North Africa), Ouagadougou (West Africa), Brazzaville (Central Africa), Bujumbura (East Africa) and Luanda (Southern Africa).

The OSMA General Assembly officially concluded its meetings and work sessions on Monday the 13th of March. High-level

government officials, diplomats and 50 high-level military delegates from the 22 member states attended the three-day event. The participating countries include South Africa, Algeria, Angola, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Botswana, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, The Congo Republic, Ivory Coast, Egypt, Guinea Republic, Kenya, Morocco, Mauritania, Nigeria, Uganda, Senegal, Tanzania, Tunisia, Zambia and Eritrea.

PROCLAMATION No. 180/ 2017 . . .

Continued from page 2

instrument shall be liable to pay the stamp duty thereon.

2. The person drawing or issuing an instrument in Eritrea shall be liable for the payment of stamp duty, provided, however, that when an instrument is drawn outside Eritrea the person executing it first in Eritrea shall be liable for the payment of stamp duty.

3. Unless otherwise specified in a lease agreement the stamp duty payable thereon shall be paid by the lessee.

4. The insured shall pay the stamp duty chargeable on a contract of insurance.

5. The borrower shall be liable for the payment of stamp duty chargeable on security deeds.

6. The transferee shall, unless otherwise agreed, be liable for the payment of stamp duty chargeable on documents transferring title to property and transfer of shares.

7. Parties to a contract or to an agreement are jointly and severally liable for the payment of stamp duty thereon.

8. The liability to pay stamp duty on petitions and applications to government bodies rests on the petitioner or applicant.

9. The employer shall be liable for the payment of stamp duty on a contract of employment.

ARTICLE 8 MANNER AND TIME OF PAYMENT

- Stamp duty shall be paid as follows:
 - on memorandum and articles of association, before or at the time of registration;
 - on awards, before execution or at the time of their issuance;
 - on negotiable instruments, at the time of issuance;

d) on contracts or agreements, before or at the time of signing;

e) on leases, before or at the time of signing;

f) on notarial acts, at the time of issuance;

g) on security deeds, before or at the time of issuance;

h) on contract of Insurance, before or at the time of issuance of the insurance policy;

i) on receipts, at the time of issuance;

j) on share certificate, at the time of issuance;

k) on documents transferring title of property and on transfer of shares, before or at the time the transfer is effected;

l) on tickets, before or at the time of issuance; and m) on model, when purchased, and on clearance certificate at the time of issuance.

2. When the amount of stamp duty:

a) is under Nakfa fifty (50) it shall be effected by affixing stamp of appropriate value on the instrument; and

b) is Nakfa fifty (50) or more than Nakfa fifty or where the type and nature of instrument so requires, the Minister may by regulation provide that stamp duty shall be paid against receipt.

3. Whoever executes an instrument bearing an adhesive stamp shall, at the time of execution, cancel the same, so that it cannot be used again.

ARTICLE 9 POWERS OF THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT

Inland Revenue Department is hereby vested with powers to:

1. collect the stamp duty determined under, and implement the provisions of this Proclamation;

2. require persons liable to pay stamp duty to submit for inspection any register, book,

papers, document and proceedings necessary for the determination of stamp duty, or where necessary, to require the attendance of such persons who shall give the necessary explanation in the course of inspection of such records; and

3. determine the stamp duty payable under this Proclamation by estimation where the concerned person fails to comply with the required documentation enumerated in sub article (2) of this Article.

ARTICLE 10 RIGHT TO APPEAL

1. Any persons dissatisfied with the decision of the Minister regarding the amount of stamp duty payable may, within 30 days from the date of notification of the decision rendered in writing, appeal against the decision of the Minister to the High Court.

2. The decision of the High Court shall be subject to no further appeal.

ARTICLE 11 EXEMPTIONS

1. No stamp duty shall be charged on a contract, agreement or memorandum thereof relating exclusively to the sale of merchandise.

2. The Minister may, for good cause, grant exemption from payment of stamp duty on tickets.

3. No stamp duty shall be charged on a petition or application made by an employee to his employer in matters relating exclusively to his employment such as salaries, promotions, leave, etc.

4. Ministries, Commissions, Government Authorities and other State Agencies and Offices including the Bank of Eritrea shall be exempt from payment of stamp duties.

5. The Minister may subject to reciprocity grant exemptions from payment of stamp duty on all or certain instruments of Embassies,

Consulates and Missions of foreign states or international organizations.

ARTICLE 12 POWERS OF THE MINISTER

The Minister is hereby empowered to issue regulations for:

1. the supply or sale of stamps and stamped papers;

2. the appointment of persons by whom the sale of stamps and stamped papers is to be carried out, and the duties and remuneration of such persons; and

3. the better carrying out of this Proclamation.

ARTICLE 13 PENALTY

1. Whosoever being appointed to sell stamps or stamped papers sells the same at a value exceeding rates set forth by this Proclamation shall, in addition to being deprived of the permit, be punishable in accordance with the provisions of the Penal Code of Eritrea.

2. Whosoever commits a crime relating to stamp duty shall be punishable according to the relevant provisions of the Penal Code of Eritrea.

3. Whosoever fails to pay stamp duty pursuant to Article 8 of this Proclamation shall be liable to pay penalty amounting to 10% of the payable value of the stamp duty.

4. A petition or application which has not been duly stamped shall be rejected.

5. No penalty or fine shall be imposed in respect of a petition or application that has not been duly stamped.

ARTICLE 14 EFFECTIVE DATE

This Proclamation shall enter into force as of the date of its publication in the Gazette of Eritrean Laws.

*Asmara, March 13 2017
Government of Eritrea.*

Photographers Corner

Photo: Aklilu Zerezghi

Design: Taezaz Abraha

5th OSMA General Assembly





Under the Sycamores

Billion Temesghen

You all must have gotten an idea of who our guest would be today at the first glimpse of the title. We have today with us Distinguished Professor of English, Comparative Literature and African Studies at Penn State University.

He is the very guy behind the popular Mama Zeineb's "TOO BOLD IN THIS DAMN WORLD"!

Ever since his first visit to Eritrea in 1995, Prof. Charles Cantalupo, has been an enthusiastic fan of Eritrean literary culture. That's why he co-translated various poems and short stories in a bid to introduce Eritrean literary works to the rest of the world.

Some of Prof. Cantalupo's works include: two books of translation of Resom Haile's poetry, *We Have Our Voice* in 2000, *we Invented The Wheel* in 2002, *Where War Was* in 2009, an anthology *Who Needs a Story Contemporary Eritrean Poetry in Tigrinya, Tigre and Arabic* in 2005, a memoir *Joining Africa From Anthills to Asmara* and his new book hitting stores in June *Non-Native Speker: Selected and Sundry Essays among others*.

How did this interest originate?

It began in 1995 when I first came to Eritrea. Primarily in my role as a writer myself and as a poet I published poems about my experience. When I came to Eritrea in 1997, however, I co-organized the Conference *Against All Odds: African Languages and Literature into the 21st Century*.

It was at that conference that I got to know many Eritrean writers, historians, prose writers, fiction and non-fiction writers, poets and we just got along. As writers to writers, there was a kind of a wonderful balance of exchange between the two of us. Part of my method is to listen. I love being a listener, so from that I started translating Eritrean poets. In 2000 I put out two books and 2005 I had another book, an anthology.

Cantalupo's irony in relation to African Studies

One of the greatest ironies in relation to African Studies was in 1993. I found out that Africa's greatest writer Ngugi Wathiongo was living 5 minutes from the hospital in which I was born in. Orange New Jersey! So it just seemed natural to visit my parents, and then visit and interview Ngugi Wathiongo. But there is an incongruity right there. How could a Jersey boy visiting his parents in the suburbs be suddenly talking with Africa's greatest writer in exile from Kenya? Well, it happened and that interview changed my life!

How so?

Because Ngugi was very welcoming to my question and we had a very light hearted dialogue.

What were you curios of exactly?

His new book *Moving the Center*. But then as we got on talking I became more and more interested in his views on African languages. Writing in African languages was

I'm burning to boil you
Like raw delicate meat
in liberation
But I am too old for the army
Too powerless to be the
minister of education
And too bold in this damn world

Cantalupo's translation
of Mama Zeineb



something that was going to emerge from the backdrop of Euro-phone or colonial writing, and at that time I had been a professor largely in English literature and studying the European renaissance. I realized that there was parallel between, you might say, 'a coming African renaissance' in African languages... very similar to the European renaissance and the European literature of the 14th, 15th and 16th century having to break away from Latin.

And suddenly this similarity impressed me in to the fire that I found in my dialogue with Ngugi. In my upcoming new book, there are three interviews with Ngugi ; there is one from 93, one from 99 and we just did one in April 2015.

I am curios where Ngugi stands regarding the African contemporary literature?

He is a great advocate and he is also a part of it. He talked about how in this world we have something called "identity theft". He talked about African literary identity theft. He was saying that the African literary identity has been stolen by Euro phone languages. They broke into African culture and started using African culture. But really, Ngugi's message is "if you are going to write in African language, you are going to have to be part of African culture". So it really boiled down

to this precise point and it is a very convincing point, because none of us wants to have our identity stolen.

It sure is convincing,

It is right? What if Africa's literary identity is actually stolen? It is not that the Euro phone writing in Africa has anything wrong to it, it has been incredibly useful. I mean someone like Chinua Achebe is now listed as one of the major English stylists. He has taught in many high schools in America, again he is writing in English, and Ngugi is not saying better, Ngugi is only saying different.

And what do you think about the African literature?

It is very inspiring to me. Bottom line, I am here and I have been here in Eritrea maybe twenty times in Eritrea. I am a writer who when writing mainly uses African subjects. Half of my book *Where War Was* is my own poems that relate to Eritrea. And I should add here that in a lot of my writing I go to Africa as a cultural source. I want influences from all over. I want to learn from all over. I want to address an audience of many people from around the world.

Challenges on the way

Writing is a very humbling process because the material is always so much greater. No different from

anyone else's life; over these 50 years there have been personal challenges and tragedies in my life.

In relation to my projects in Eritrea, there was a great challenge in translating Eritrean poetry when Mr. Zemihret Yohannes suggested that I should come to Eritrea and focus on war poets. At first, I really didn't think I could do it because war in representation of literature largely in the west is considered a very negative thing. It is not something that you praise or think positively of.

In that respect I thought "well, how could I do that? The audience will not like it" and furthermore, no poets for over a hundred years have written about war in a positive light. And I don't mean that 'positive' is perhaps the right word, but the fact is that Eritrea had to fight as nation for its freedom. I had to make tremendous sacrifices to have its independence and it still has had to struggle and maintain its defensive and offensive posture to survive in very harsh world. It is not a light subject.

And it really became a matter of talking this out with Mr. Zemihret, as he said, that war is about so much more than a war. He called them 'perennial issues'; friendship, love, struggle... and I started to approach it that way and realized that war

poetry could have an emotional side too.

And it is still a harsh struggle to translate war poets and to get publishers to accept it, but we still manage to do.

So if putting out war poets is difficult as you put it, how was the reaction of the international community?

Often, in terms of the western and international audience, it just seems that war is about violence. Realistically, some of the war poetry that I translated with Dr. Girmai Negash was accepted in journals and very well received.

I divide Eritrean poems in to poetry of war, poetry of peace and poetry of war and peace. There was, in fact, a literary study I published in 2008 in my book *War and Peace in Contemporary Eritrean Poetry*. We had better luck publishing the poetry of war and peace and the poetry of peace. We had great results. The war poetry maybe only about 30 to 40 % of it.

But a funny thing happened. With the local writer and scholar Prof. Rahel Asghedom, we co-translated a work by an Eritrean woman Abeba Keleta entitled *The Girl with the Gun* and a very good journal called *Words Without Borders* had great reviews about it. You know when that came out, I stopped having doubts that Eritrean poetry would not be liked by western audience. That work had many wanders about things like "uh, women fought in Eritrea?", "Oh, what is the EPLF?" or "Where is Eritrea?" all these questions...

And you know all this happened because the form of short stories is probably more accessible and universal... sometimes poetry could be a bit off-putting to people. It is

Continued on page 5