

HIGHLIGHTS OF INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT ISAIAS AFWERKI: PART IV

- GOE's short-term road-map for energy is geared at addressing the structural transition – as is broadly the case in the African continent – from a subsistence to an industrial economy. In this respect, the current modest capacity – not more than 120 MW – will be augmented substantially. The blueprint of the programme envisages phased implementation with initial additional output of 360MW in the immediate, short-term, phase. Total output is slated to increase to several Gigawatts in subsequent periods.

- Actual implementation plan will be modular in configuration and hybrid in nature to include thermal, solar, wind and geothermal sources of energy.

- The modular concept revolves around devolved installation of 30MW power plants and mini-grids in each of the twelve economic zones throughout the country in the initial years. The whole road-map is closely aligned and interfaced with our development plans in the three Economic Zones – the Eastern Lowland Zone; the Highland Zone and the Western Lowland Zone.

- The technical manpower requirements have also been addressed and in this sense, the blueprint is robust in terms of all the key parameters.

- In regard to private investment, President Isaias underlined that the GOE had pursued an extensive programme of divestment of public enterprises in the early 1990s in the immediate aftermath of independence. Nationalized enterprises, including housing, were all privatized at the time. The programme did not yield the expected contributions to the growth of a dynamic national economy for a variety of reasons.

- Be that as it may, GOE continues to pursue a policy framework that encourages private domestic investment. The opportunities are vast and include all segments of society – from the farming or pastoral households to those with much higher capacity. In this regard, all sectors – agro-industrial processing; the transport



sector; electronics; assembly plants, the hospitality sector etc. are all open for investment. The legal framework is also being revised and polished.

- Eritreans abroad have evidently higher potential and this will be tapped in an optimal manner. This will require relevant

data collection as well as judicious advice to funnel investment for more impacting ultimate output. Investments can be done individually or through groups. The road-map and institutional frameworks are being refined, and some bottlenecks (housing etc.) will be resolved, in view of the latent potential and demonstrated

desire in the Diaspora to invest in their homeland. Domestic private investment must also be seen in its regional context.

- The GOE has always been open to, and encourages, foreign investment. The problem is that this has largely been a zero-sum game in Africa as a whole,

confined as it is, in most cases, to the extraction of raw materials. This has to change. In this respect, Eritrea welcomes, contrary to some wrong perceptions, foreign investment – from the US, Europe, Asia or elsewhere – as long as it meets three cardinal parameters: it must create substantial employment for highly skilled manpower; it should result in the transfer of technology; and, it must focus on full value-addition instead of exporting unprocessed raw materials.

- In conclusion, President Isaias urged for higher organization and more effective modalities of participation by all segments of the Eritrean society at home and abroad, including the EDF, to ensure the crystallization of the country's extensive development programmes and thereby achieve the desired progress that is commensurate with their unparalleled resilience and dedication.

PRESIDENT ISAIAS HOLDS TALKS WITH GEN. MOHAMED HAMDAN DAGALO

President Isaias Afwerki in the morning hours of 13 March, received and held talks at the State House with Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, Vice President of the Sudanese Sovereign Council.

During their meeting on bilateral relations between Eritrea and the Sudan, President Isaias underlined Eritrea's stance and firm belief that the problem in Sudan could only be solved by the Sudanese people themselves without interference of foreign actors.

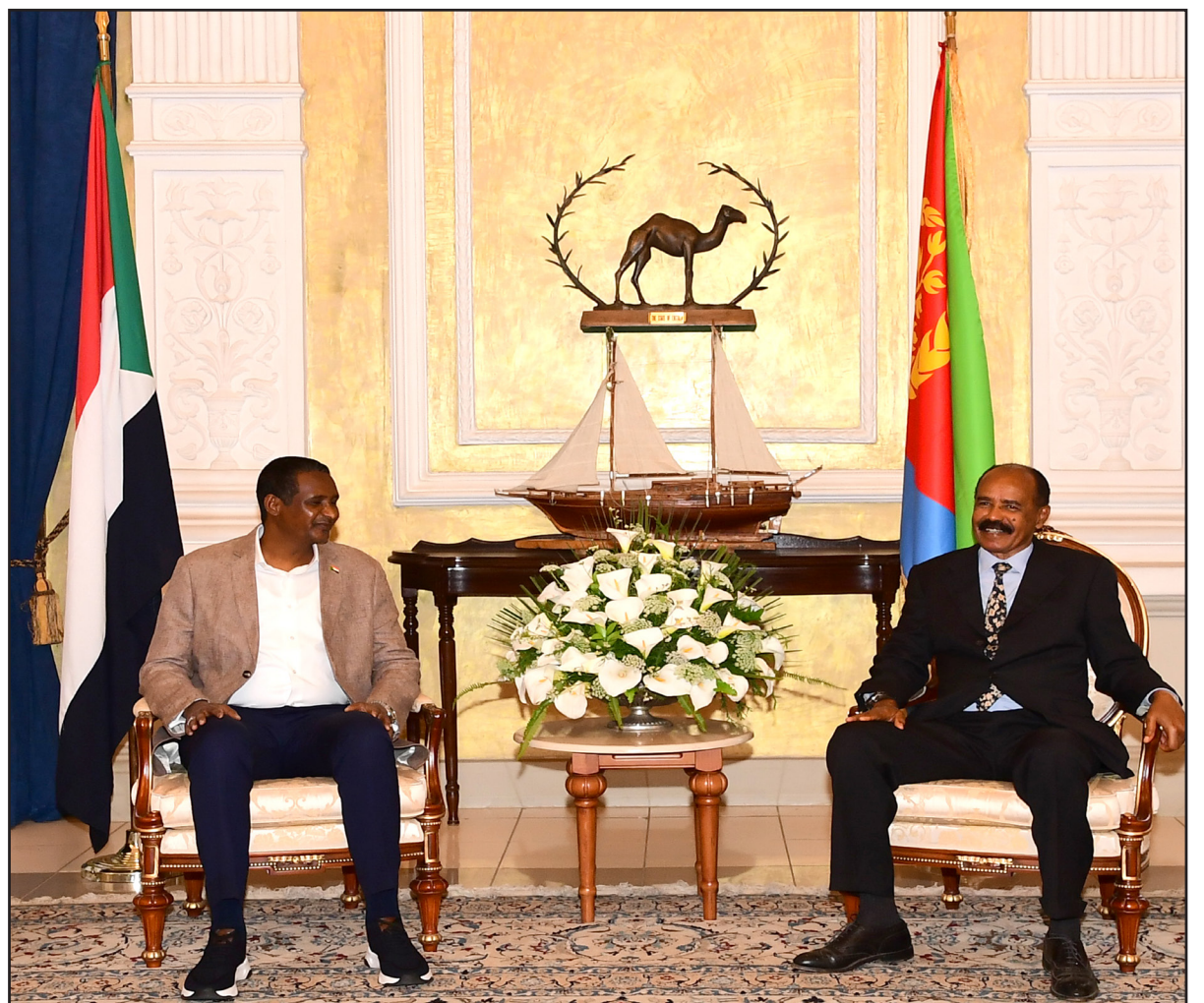
Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo on his part lauded Eritrea for resuming its membership in the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in which it played a significant role during its establishment, and added that there will be meeting of member states' Foreign Ministers in the near future. Sudan is currently the chair of IGAD.

The Sudanese delegation flew back home in mid-afternoon hours on March 13 winding-up a one day

visit. Upon arrival at the Asmara

International Airport, Gen. Mohammed Hamdan was accorded

warm welcome by Mr. Osman Saleh, Minister of Foreign Affairs.



Development

PRESIDENT ISAIAS AFWERKI HOLDS TALKS WITH PRESIDENT HASSAN SHEIKH MOHAMUD



President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud of the Federal Republic of Somalia arrived in Asmara in the evening hours of 13 March for a two-day official visit on the invitation of President Isaias Afwerki.

Upon arrival at Asmara International Airport, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud and his delegation were accorded a warm welcome by President Isaias Afwerki.

President Isaias Afwerki

and President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud have also held extensive discussion at the State House during that evening focusing on strengthening bilateral relations and regional issues of interest to the two countries.

At the meeting, the two leaders agreed on the imperative of seeking enduring solutions to Somalia’s problems by the people of Somalia themselves without interferences of external forces.

Speaking to the Eritrean News Agency, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud said that the visit was part of the continuous consultation effort and that he

had conducted fruitful discussion with President Isaias Afwerki on the current and future trajectory of warm bilateral ties between the two sisterly countries; recent developments in Somalia and Eritrea’s modest and ongoing support to strengthen Somalia, as well as other issues of mutual interest.

President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud returned home in the morning hours of yesterday, 14 March, concluding a two-day fruitful visit to Eritrea.

President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud was seen off at the Asmara International Airport by President Isaias Afwerki.

NATIONAL SCHOOL LEAVING EXAMINATIONS UNDERWAY

Dr. Bisrat Gebru, Director of the National Testing Center, announced that the 2023 National School Leaving Examinations will be conducted from 13 to 18 March across the country as well as in Riyadh and Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Dr. Bisrat indicated that the examination will include 12 fields of study and will be provided from 10 centers and over 14 thousand students including 49.1% females are expected to take part.

Dr. Bisrat further noted that 98% of those sitting for the exam are regular students from Sawa High School and Technical Schools, while the rest are from adult

education centers and Eritrean community schools in Riyadh and Jeddah.

Dr. Bisrat also called on the examinees to make psychological and physical preparation for the examinations and strictly follow the guidelines.



NATIONAL LAW WEEK UNDERWAY

The Ministry of Justice, in continuation of the inaugural National Law Week, has now organized a second National Law Week from the 13th to 18th March 2023, under the theme “Law for Human dignity and Development.”

Noting that it is a historical reality that the Eritrean people understand their identity and citizenship rights and obligation beyond documents and regulations, Ms. Fauzia Hashim, Minister of Justice, said that the objective of Law Week is to raise the awareness of the public and ensuring the sustainability, and continuity of identifying values, laws, and orders of the Eritrean public, as well as ensuring active and comprehensive participation of every citizen.

Pointing out that respect for and abiding by the law is a cultural heritage that has been inherited and transferred from generation to generation in Eritrean society, Minister Fauzia said that the effort



has been undergoing ever since the armed struggle for independence to ensure the proper understanding and making such precious heritage state-of-the-art and in compliance to the current situation.

Minister Fauzia further noted that the Law Week will include various programs including general knowledge competitions, programs by the national media outlets, environmental sanitation activities as well as virtual programs focusing on Diaspora nationals and presentation of research papers.

PRESIDENT ISAIAS AFWERKI SENDS MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS

President Isaias Afwerki sent a message of congratulations to President Xi Jinping on his election as President of the People’s Republic of China for a 3rd term.

In his message, President Isaias said that the election of President Xi Jinping for the third consecutive term attests to the trust and recognition of the overall development of the People’s Republic of China registered under his leadership.

President Isaias underlined the People’s Republic of China’s indispensable contributions in crystallization of healthy multilateral global architecture



and prospects of enhanced bilateral ties.

President Isaias also expressed readiness to work for strengthened bilateral relations between Eritrea and the People’s Republic of China.

NCEW PROVIDES VOCATIONAL TRAINING TO OVER 100 WORKERS

The National Confederation of Eritrean Workers in cooperation with the Ministry of Education organized a three-month long vocational training to 103 workers including 72 females.

The training included hotel management and services, catering as well as administration and project management.

At the concluding event of the training on 7 March, Mr. Habtemariam Tesfamichael, head of the NCEW branch in the Northern red Sea region, said that the objective of the training was to develop the overall capacity of the workers with a view to enable them play due role in the development of the tourism sector.

Commending the effort the National Confederation of Eritrean Workers is making in human resource development, Ms. Asmeret Abraha, Governor of the region, called for integrated effort in cooperation with partners for better outcome.

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INTERVIEW OF PRESIDENT ISAIAS AFWERKI WITH NATIONAL MEDIA OUTLETS-PART IV

Energy is one of the pre-requisite supplies that must be secured for the effective implementation of national development programme. Whether for agricultural development, manufacturing, or domestic use, energy remains essential. Are there measures put in place to mitigate the obvious challenges in this sector?

hindrances met in this area were briefly discussed in the previous interview. The fact remains that 120 MW is quite insignificant as far as our national need is concerned. We must contemplate substantial surge of capacity in the range of one, two or three thousand megawatts. What is our strategy and road-map to achieve these targets? What is

This is the 4th and final part in a series of interviews with President Isaias Afwerki, which began on February 12, 2023 in Massawa. In the previous three interviews, President Isaias discussed regional and global issues as well as national development priorities. This final part, conducted on Saturday, March 11, focuses on domestic issues.

transmission, which includes the physical installation of powerline

cost of energy – kilowatt/hour or megawatt/hour. Thermal energy is usually more expensive because it requires fuel. In practical terms, it costs USD 20 to 24 cents per kilowatt/hour, while hydro products cost 8 cents per kilowatt/hour. The difference between 8 cents and 24 cents is obviously substantial. On the other hand, solar energy does not require fuel, but it requires the technology to produce it so one would have an initial cost.

We have divided the national energy network into 12 development areas or economic units. Each of the plants would have a combination of different technologies. The configuration and linking of these subnets into a central, national, grid will be phased. Two or three mini-grids can be connected at the opportune time and the loop may be eventually expanded to incorporate all of them.

Furthermore, one must consider the energy source in each of the 12 mini-grids that corresponds to the surrounding environment. In some areas we would have generators, in other areas solar and/or wind energy. It would have to correspond to the environment and existing development plans. If we take solar, for example, the radiation in the highlands is stronger while the eastern part would be different and the western plains have their own characteristics related to the geographical situation.

If the target is to produce 30MW in each network, the question that follows is: how? Would we produce 30MW at once or do we do that gradually? It would obviously need to be a gradual process and be closely linked to our development plans. The total production can start at 360MW and eventually rise to thousands.

The point is that we cannot continue to rely on thermal energy, and we aim to have a sustainable transition to more efficient sources such as wind or solar with the ultimate aim of developing a geothermal program. We are located at the Rift Valley and this has its advantages. Geothermal sources were previously explored a long time ago but further research is required to install the appropriate technology and thereby generate

the requisite energy.

In Kenya, for example, about 17 years ago, they were producing only 20 MW from geothermal sources. They have now reached 1,100 MW as witnessed during our last State visit. This is quite significant. The potential estimates are 10-15,000 MW. We envision introducing such a gradual program here, too, but proper research must also be conducted in terms of the capital expenditure required, as well as on matters of operational efficiency and utilization.

In brief, the current blueprint envisages generation of 360MW at this initial phase. Funding and technology are key considerations. Above all, however, capacity building is crucial. The human resources and expertise we develop alongside this plan would be an asset in and of itself.

Other considerations include the technology used for consumption. It must be cost-effective and this is important for both domestic and industrial consumption.

Incorporation of advanced technology in the energy sector will catalyze and expedite the transition from subsistence to industrial economy. For example, we can begin by producing cotton and move to quilts and from there to textiles and apparel. This would require us to develop the industrial technology in tandem. This is a process. We can then consider more complicated productions such as iron ore. The production of steel bars, for example, is something that we have done in the past. There was a plant in Godaif that produced nails and steel bars. With the technology available at the time, the plant consumed 4 MW. Obviously, cost-effectiveness must be considered but this is an industry that should not be abandoned. All this is to say that energy remains a key prerequisite for all these plans.

In brief, the roadmap charted out both for the immediate and long-term development of the energy sector is sound and on the right track. It is also fully aligned with the geographical delimitation of our development programme in the three Economic Zones. This information is obviously a general introduction and aims to show that for us to move towards our desired objectives, we would need continuous monitoring, research, and information as we respond to our needs.

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In the previous sessions of the Interview, we had glossed over certain details for the sake of brevity. In this particular case, we probably need to delve into all its dimensions for a more profound or holistic appraisal of the question at hand.

Our economy, similar to the majority of economies in the developing world, is one of subsistence – producing and exporting raw materials. We have not transitioned to a manufacturing-based economy as yet.

A key sector that would accelerate the desired transition from one phase to the next – from subsistence to industrialization – is energy. Everything, from street lights to electricity for home use to large industries, requires energy.

Our overarching goal remains a comprehensive and sustainable forward-march in all development sectors, and an adequate and consistent energy supply is a key prerequisite. Energy is the backbone of complete production activities and we cannot move from one stage to the next without first meeting this prerequisite. The critical question revolves on the approaches and options available; on taking stock of our specific situation in order to chart out phased implementation of solutions that would help us meet our objectives.

The current capacity is estimated at 120 MW and this obviously falls far short of the national demand. The numerous obstructions and

our overall strategy of transition?

This leads us to a discussion about sources of energy, which include the latest technology in renewables such as solar, wind, and other less costly and more affordable sources. We must move away from the haphazard and disjointed methods we have come to rely on thus far such as the diesel generators in every corner.

Having gleaned important lessons from our experience, we have now charted out a phased strategy that responds to the needs and requirements of each sector in a consistent and methodical manner.

As mentioned earlier, the sources of energy up for consideration are varied, and the actual implementation plan is modular in configuration and hybrid in nature to include thermal, solar, wind and geothermal sources.

At this time, thermal energy, such as that used at the Hirgigo plant and other locations with generators, is our main resource. The plan worked out now consists of a hybrid approach to include solar and wind renewable sources of energy. Geothermal energy is yet another source that has been studied and is said to have immense potential.

Cost-effectiveness, impact, and sustainability are key aspects that are addressed when considering all these aspects.

Another key aspect that must be taken into consideration is

poles and the possibility of having a national grid. In our context, however, a country-wide national grid was deemed unrealistic at this time, which is why a modular approach was chosen as fitting our context. This modular concept revolves around devolved installation of 30MW power plants and mini-grids in each of the twelve economic units throughout the country in the initial years. Each plant and mini-grid, depending on its geographical location, would have a corresponding source of energy to generate the required supply as well as its own transmission and distribution networks.

The blueprint of the programme envisages phased implementation with initial additional output of 360MW in the immediate, short-term, phase. Total output is slated to increase to several gigawatts in subsequent periods. The whole road-map is closely aligned and interfaced with our development plans in the three Economic Zones – the Eastern Lowland Zone; the Highland Zone and the Western Lowland Zone.

The plan is to have a transmission and distribution system that is linked to the development programs in a given area. For example, there are extensive agricultural development and food processing programs in Kerkebet. There are various other programs as well, so whatever energy is produced around that area must meet the needs of the activities in the vicinity.

We must also consider the

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Eritreans, at home and abroad, have shown utmost dedication and commitment in responding to the immense challenges – to combat COVID-19 or to marshal support and strengthen our national resilience – that the country has faced in the past three years. As we enter this new phase of invigorating economic growth, what are government's policies and programmes to attract investment from our nationals? How about foreign investment and cooperation?

The controversy is not on the formulation or refinement of policy. The key question is whether the designed policy was implemented and the extent to which it achieved the desired objectives.

The Government of Eritrea, (GOE), had pursued an extensive programme of divestment of public enterprises in the early 1990s in the immediate aftermath of independence. Nationalized enterprises, including housing, were all privatized at the time. Unfortunately, the programme did not yield the expected contributions to the growth of a dynamic national economy for a variety of reasons, including corruption among those who were given the opportunity. This is not being raised to exaggerate the anomaly or review the whole process. Indeed, it did not breed disillusion or engender policy changes. Widespread citizens' participation remains at the core of our investment policies and the GOE continues to pursue a policy framework that encourages private domestic investment.

This policy framework, however, is not confined to a certain section of society and encompasses the participation of all stakeholders – from the farming or pastoral households to those with much higher capacity. – with the ultimate aim of bettering the lives of every single citizen.

We cannot gloss over or ignore the potential contribution of our pastoralist citizens to the economy. Our latent livestock potential is indeed huge. We must find ways and means to enhance the contribution of the pastoralists to the national economy. This includes providing them with all the key inputs and services that would help them access services and markets. The measures that must be envisaged include introduction of various and

appropriate new technologies that would maximize their production.

This also requires laying the groundwork for this relatively large section of society to add value to their products – helping them move towards producing milk and milk products, leather tanning, meat production, etc. Furthermore, this refers to providing this sizeable section of society with key social services such as education and health, water, roads, energy, veterinary clinics, etc.

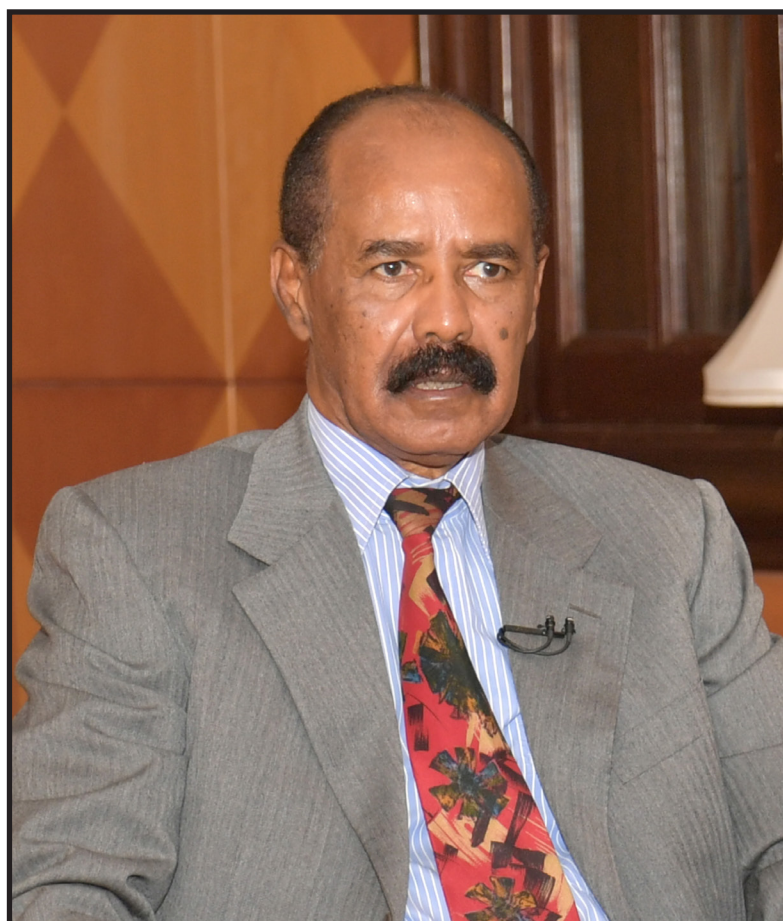
This may be viewed as primitive economy but the fact remains that this area cannot be underestimated as pastoralism generates a significant contribution to the national economy. But requires substantial investment in order to yield its full latent potential.

If we are to speak of a context-based investment, then it must be all-inclusive and equitable. At this time, the majority of so-called investment tends to revolve around hotels, restaurants, bars, etc. This is all well and good. But in the grand scheme of things, this is a very small part of what is truly required for the economy to develop.

Agricultural development is yet another area that requires substantial investment considerations. Use of modern technology, selected and improved seeds, appropriate fertilizers, proper land allocation and use are among key parameters that will require investment. The whole gamut of envisaged transformation encompasses use of modern technology at the household farming level; and, widespread irrigation for multiple annual harvests

The next and related logical step is to move towards processing and manufacturing. The metal industry; assembly plants for various vehicles; processing of cotton, sugar and other agricultural products can be developed by marshalling the requisite investment.

All of this is to say that, in every sector of the economy, there is ample room for the active participation of, and investment by, citizens – whether in partnership, individually, through cooperatives, etc. At this point in time, the Government may have initiated and is actually operating especially large-scale agricultural projects. But this is transitory and will have to be transferred and divested, with time, to the citizens



at large as appropriate investors. The approach also applies to other seemingly large investments, including mining. The modalities will have to be worked out, but this is the policy and ultimate aim. Furthermore, this is also an area where Eritreans in the Diaspora ought to play a very active role. Eritreans abroad have evidently higher potential and this will be tapped in an optimal manner. This will require relevant data collection as well as judicious advice to funnel investment for more impacting ultimate output. Investments can be done individually or through groups. The road-map and institutional frameworks are being refined, and some bottlenecks (housing, etc.) will be resolved, in view of the latent potential and demonstrated desire in the Diaspora to invest in their homeland. Domestic private investment must also be seen in its regional context

Investment will obviously not be ignored due to some negative experiences in the past. Our approach must be directed towards a sound campaign. There must be individual, partnership, group, local, sector-by-sector, industry-by-industry investment that ensures broad public participation. Eritreans in the US, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East must be given the opportunity to invest their hard-earned income in their country. All of this would have a cumulative positive effect on economic growth. A key challenge related to this area is housing. This is something that we need to work on more broadly as the supply outweighs the demand at this time.

We can implement large-scale

investment programs in processing plants, agriculture, plastic and metal industry, and even electronics. We also have general guideline in place that provide investment advice to citizens. Ultimately, however, the decision is up to the individual investor. Although we have previously drawn up an investment roadmap, it would have to be updated taking into consideration the various key aspects that relate to it – energy, water and other sectors mentioned earlier.

The tourism industry, for example, is one with immense potential. But, it requires some key inputs – infrastructure, energy, air, land, and sea transport as well as social services – to be in place before it can be fully realized at this point in time.

All this is to say, investment cannot be based on emotions and requires careful planning and timing.

As it was underlined earlier, we currently have agricultural programs that are developed by public corporations. Ultimately, however, these corporations must open up, and not deter, investment opportunities for citizens. Similarly, public transportation modes and other services which are broadly operated by public enterprises will be open to private investment by our citizens; individually, jointly or in consortium with other investments. Informative sensitization campaigns will have to be launched to increase the awareness of potential investors in making the right choices.

Our citizens living abroad want

to eventually return home. As such, the groundwork laid must be able to absorb this demand. Similarly, a potential investor has to have a plan in place to be able to meet his or her objectives. This entails savings. Furthermore, people ought to consider working in partnership and in cooperatives instead of thinking individually. One can then invest in any industry or sector of their choice. All of this may seem easy theoretically but needs organization and management.

Increasing national revenues is not tantamount to increment of government revenues. Mining, agricultural program, and many other sectors are open for investment. The most important part of the economy, and an aspect that can contribute significantly to growth, is in fact the activity of citizens. Therefore, all opportunities should be open to citizens who wish to participate. Continuous advocacy and awareness raising is required so that they can invest in vibrant projects, industries and sectors rather than running around or looking for shortcuts. The legal framework must also help them invest. Past experience and some negative events will not deter us from these plans.

Data collection remains key and we must provide robust information on all areas that are open for investment – every sector and industry. We must be able to give sound advice by taking into consideration not only the domestic reality but also regional and global situation. There is also much that can be done in collaboration with other citizens and in other countries in the region.

The analysis must therefore be dynamic, becoming stronger over time, increasing in depth and breadth. The launching of this program can be made easier once we refine our plans in 2023. That the desire for investment coming from our citizens living abroad has leap-frogged the framework already in place is evident indeed. As such, we must make all efforts to march alongside it. Even if we are not able to meet all the requirements immediately, we can develop the process over time. But the current general understanding is that we must take the initiative to lay the groundwork for a successful investment program that can be tracked through milestones in 2023, 2024, etc.

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What about foreign investment and cooperation?

Foreign investment is also linked to citizen's investment. As far as foreign investment is concerned, the GOE has always been open to, and encourages, foreign investment. The problem is that what is often termed as Foreign Direct Investment, (FDI), has largely been a zero-sum game in Africa as a whole, confined as it is, in most cases, to the extraction of raw materials. Most foreign investment is about exploiting the country's raw materials and labour force with two or three partners. This has to change. One must ask, why does Africa continue to find itself in the situation it is in while it holds 60 percent of the world's wealth or resources? It currently has 1.2 billion people. It is estimated to grow to two or three billion in a few generations. The current subsistence economy will not solve the challenges faced by the majority of people.

In this respect, contrary to some wrong perceptions, Eritrea welcomes foreign investment – from the US, Europe, Asia or elsewhere – as long as it meets three cardinal parameters: it must create substantial employment for highly skilled manpower; it should result in the transfer of technology; and, it must focus on full value-addition instead of exporting unprocessed raw materials.

We must have criteria to measure the benefits accruing from investment; and what it can contribute to the overall roadmap. Ultimately, its contribution to economic growth is determined by those factors. Domestic investments too are governed by these standards, not just foreign investments.

Competition between big powers, be it the US, Russia and others, is driven by advances in their industrial economies. We cannot enter the race with our hands and feet tied as it would result in zero-sum game for us. We cannot allow extraction-based investment at the expense of the country, at the expense of the people, at the expense of future generations.

We have our own standards and our measurements are the policies we formulate; the programs we issue and the plans that go along with them. Beyond that, we have nothing to worry about, even if one comes to invest from Mars. Our only measure is whether it benefits us or not.

We have come to the end of this

series of interviews. Due to the paucity of time, we presume that all the questions on international, regional and domestic issues raised in the previous sessions may not have been addressed exhaustively. In this respect, are there additional issues that you wish to emphasize within the framework of GOE's policies of social justice and cohesion? What concluding messages would you like to convey to our people?

I would like to presume that the core questions have been discussed. But the fundamental issue or objective is the progress and advancement of the country and its people. In this regard, the selflessness and commitment of the Eritrean Defense Forces, (EDF), which transcends its role in safeguarding the national security of the country, must be recognized and highlighted. As such, the members of the EDF must remain an integral part and beneficiaries of the country's extensive development programmes. The development work achieved by the EDF is not easy. This body is at the forefront of all development programs – today, tomorrow and thereafter - whether agriculture or other sectors, the sacrifices are immense.

Having said this, it is also important to note that EDF is part and parcel of the larger society and as such must function within it and be supplemented by its efforts.

In this spirit, we must commit to higher organization and more effective modalities of participation by all segments of the Eritrean society at home and abroad, including the EDF, to ensure the crystallization of, and thereby achieve the desired progress, that is commensurate with their unparalleled resilience and dedication.

For all of this to materialize, we need peace and stability. This is not Manna that will come from without. The same applies for development. These objectives will be realized through our own toil only; with the broad participation of our people.

All administrations – at the Regional, Sub-Regional, and local levels – must be able to organize themselves. The development roadmap that is envisaged or drawn is achieved by organized human resources. The defense forces, police, security, and other institutions of the people's army are part of the people. The awareness needs to be deepened.

Everyone must be equipped with all the tools needed – from the basic tools to the most advanced technologies. We need



to highlight these programs frequently. Sporadic interviews are not enough. Benchmarks must be set and continuous monitoring and evaluation must take place periodically. We must evaluate what we have done and where our plans have reached. This comprehensive national program is implemented by the people at home and abroad, the security forces and all government bodies. We cannot view any part of

this national mosaic separately. We have to set a timetable to implement the overall guideline and mobilize the requisite financial and material resources. We must be able to deal with the bottlenecks. We must also organize our human capacity. Every citizen must be able to enjoy his or her right and hard-won dividends. At the same time, he or she must be willing to carry out his or her responsibility. In practical terms,

one must be able to defend with one hand and build with the other.

Mr. President, on behalf of the audience, we thank you for the extensive information you have provided us. We hope to follow up the progress in the coming months with a similar interview during May-June. For now, we thank you again for this extensive four-part series.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS IN DIASPORA

Eritrean nationals in the UK and Northern Ireland, as well as Israel and France enthusiastically celebrated the International Women's Day under the theme "Eritrean Women- Unwavering to Undertake and Sweating to Cultivate".

Nationals in the cities of London, Manchester, Birmingham, Nottingham, Leeds, Sheffield, Coventry, Leicester, Liverpool and Dublin celebrated the International Women's Day on 4 and 11 March featuring various cultural and artistic programs depicting the day.

At the celebratory event in London in which Mr. Estifanos Habtemariam, Eritrea's Ambassador to the UK and Northern Ireland, took part, Mr. Tewolde Yohannes, head of Public and Community Affairs, indicating that this year's

International Women's Day is being celebrated at a unique period in the history of Eritrea, called for reinforced participation of women in general and the Diaspora nationals in the national affairs.

Ms. Elsa Abraha, head of the National Union of Eritrean Women branch in the UK, on her part called for strengthening organizational capacity and participation in the implementation of national development programs.

At the event, heads of national associations delivered messages of solidarity.

In the same vein, national in Israel celebrated the International Women's Day with patriotic zeal featuring various programs portraying the day. Speaking at occasion, Mr.

Solomon Kinfé, Charge d'Affaires at the Eritrean Embassy, explaining on the role of the Eritrean women in the armed struggle for Independence and in safeguarding the national sovereignty as well as in the implementation of the national development programs, called for transferring the shining history of the Eritrean people to the young generation.

Likewise, national in Paris, France, celebrated the International Women's Day with patriotic zeal featuring various programs portraying the day.

At the event, Ms. Yordanos Tekle, head of the union branch, and Mr. Bereket Paulos, Charge d'Affaires at the Eritrean Embassy, gave briefings on the significance of the day and role of the Eritrean women in various stages in the history of Eritrea.



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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

1. Position: HDPE Welder/Boilermaker
Department: Process Plant
Number required: One (01)

Primary Purpose

- Complete the Steel support and HDPE piping for the Process Wash Water Project starting April - June 2023.
- Complete the Fiber-optic HDPE casing for the Radio Hill power project May-June 2023.
- Complete the Tailings Thickener Underflow 3rd Stage Pump tie-ins June-July 2023.
- Complete the Zinc Launder Walkway and Cross-over bridge steel works April – June 2023.
- Complete the new Lime plant upgrade, all steel support, piping, cable racking, brackets etc. June - Sept 2023.
- Copper Storage replacement Tanks(4) Project, June-July 2023.
- Copper Conditioning Tank replacement Project June-August 2023.
- Boilermaker works for the Asheli Mine Electrical instrumentation installation, racking, brackets etc., June 2023-2024.

Main Functions

- Structural steel works, brackets, and support.
- Piping and development for both HDPE and Steel lines.
- Read and interpret technical drawings and build the design.
- Provide training on, Welding, cutting, grinding and HDPE welding (national crew)
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TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS

- Compile TBRA / FLRA for the job specific requirements.
- Plan and execute the Job specific requirements as per BMSC standard.
- Work according to Project Plan and Schedule, and report back frequently to the Supervisor on progress.
- Perform work with a practical approach whilst still maintaining high level of Safety on the job.
- Comply to 3rd party Quality Assurance and Compliance (QA/QC) according to BMSC Specifications and Standards.
- Work without Supervision whilst maintaining high quality deliverables and output.
- Take lead on Project specific tasks and complete the setout requirements within reasonable time.

Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
Ability to design, develop, weld steel works, piping, brackets, structures from basic technical drawings. Must have the same welding and development skills for diverse sizes of HDPE piping. Must be able to compile Bill of Materials (BOM) on Boilermaker, HDPE, Structural requirements with elevated level of accuracy. Must be able to produce designs for basic steel and structural developments i.e., support brackets, walkways, Structural works etc. that compiles to the minimum engineering standards.	Must be a team leader with effective communication skills and patience to work with skilled or un-skilled labour. Must be able and willing to coach and train Projects national crew on Boilermaker and HDPE works. Must be willing to work long hours under extreme conditions. Must be able to plan and execute his work independently. Must deliver high works output and a high-quality product or installation.

General Information and other requirements:

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

Additional requirement for Nationals:

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

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

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

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
Boilermaker Trade Certification recognized by an accredited Trades Training authority. HDPE Welding competency certificate or provide satisfactory proof of training / experience in this field. Must provide affidavits / records of previous employment, experience including referee details.	Minimum of 8-10 years' experience as a qualified Boilermaker with the added HDPE experience or qualifications preferably in Mining and Process Plant Projects.



Eritrean Women: Unwavering to Undertake and Sweating to Cultivate

Lwam Kahsay

Let's start with this year's national theme under which International Women's Day was celebrated?

This year's theme, "Eritrean women -- unwavering to undertake and sweating to cultivate," was selected to express the exact picture of Eritreans today and yesterday. In the 30 years of armed struggle Eritrean women fought not only for political emancipation but complete transformation of their society. They played their vital role by participating in the struggle for independence. And after Eritrea's independence, they became key drivers in the nation's pursuit of inclusive national development and socio-economic progress. The "Warsay" (the young generation), in their turn, preserved the sovereignty of the nation and are participating in the development programs, including greening campaigns.

Why do Eritrean women commemorate March 8 with great dignity?

We always celebrate it with great dignity because it is a very special day. We try to make it as colourful as possible to show its purpose and value to the next generation. We use it as an occasion to reflect on the contributions of our martyrs and to set our future strategies. The empowerment of Eritrean women is the result of huge sacrifice, and that's why March 8 is worth celebrating with dignity.

What kind of activities do you organize on March 8?

The NUEW organizes seminars and takes initiatives to empower marginalized segments of the

society by giving loans under a micro-credit scheme and to assist families of martyrs. Although March 8 is commemorated at a national level in Asmara, it is celebrated at all levels, including regions, sub-zones and villages.

Please, give us highlights of NUEW's achievements?

Eritrea ratified and signed the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women in 1995, and it has established national laws and firm enforcement measures to help protect women from harmful practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and underage marriage. The NUEW implements gender equality programs and initiatives to empower young girls and women. We worked hard to help make basic education accessible, and, as a result, the substantial disparities in enrolment and literacy improved considerably. The national labour and land reform

Following is an interview with Mrs. Tekea Tesfamicheal, president of the National Union of Eritrean Women, on the occasion of March 8, International Women's Day.

development programs. A good example of our recent activities is the efforts we have made to bring together exemplary female farmers.

What have you done to ensure gender equality?

The government's policy supports



International Women's Day Celebrations in Manchester

We assemble them in to groups where they can help one another and work with our partners to give them assistance to be effective at

equal participation of women in all aspects of life. We focus on education because we believe that women must be educated in order to transform the society. A lot has been achieved in making schools accessible although schools aren't yet evenly distributed in all the regions.

One of the big challenges that has been preventing girls from continuing their education in the past has been underage marriage. So, we organize campaigns to bring about behavioural change in the society. We also endeavour to ensure that women are not discriminated based on their gender and are given equal opportunities as men in terms of employment and the economic sector as a whole.

What do you think about FGM?

FGM is a crime and a violation of women's rights. Today, it is seen as a taboo by a big number of our people, but this doesn't mean we have totally eradicated its practice. That's why we still need to make efforts to increase awareness of the society about its harmful effects.

The NUEW has built many training centres. What is their main purpose?

Their main purpose is to equip women with skills and technology so that they can earn a living and become productive citizens.

One of the biggest projects that



we have invested on is the building of training centres. The NUEW is a big organization with membership at home and among Eritrean communities in the diaspora. We've reached an agreement with our members in the diaspora so that they could help in building training centres. As a result, training centres have been built in Barentu, Adikeih, Tesenay, Massawa, Senafe, keren, Tio, and Haikota.

Tell us about the NUEW initiated greening campaign?

Greening projects have been implemented in Maekel, Southern, Anseba and Gash Barka regions, and so far about 30 thousand trees have been planted in Serejeka and Galanefhi subzones, Maekel region. The main purpose of the greening campaign is for soil conservation and to promote the production of honey by creating a suitable environment for bees.

What do you think about the proclamation that protects the rights of women?

In Eritrea, women's rights are protected by law, which helps them against discrimination in all aspects of life, politically, legally or socially. This proclamation is our main drive for equality.

Any other remarks you would like to make ...

I wish all Eritrean women a happy International Women's Day. We are here as an independent nation because of our noble culture that we've developed throughout our existence as a society. This culture is the culture of sacrifice, resilience and self-reliance, and this noble culture must be embraced by the young generation. On International Women's Day let's renew our pledge as women to develop our nation and safeguard women's rights.



International Women's Day Celebrations in Sudan

proclamation gives legal protection for women in work places and guarantee to inherit and use land.

Every year we examine and set our priorities and engage in

their farms and to have a market for their products. NUEW also give training to women in all six regions by taking into account their age, capability and profession. The training helps women to be aware of their potential and make conscious effort to develop.

How about the rehabilitation program?

It is a very important part of our strategy. We identify needy women who are heads of families and martyrs' families and support them financially and materially. This enables them to take care of their families' needs, particularly that of children. We also have micro credit and interim poverty reduction programs.



International Women's Day Celebrations in Asmara