



GRADUATION OF THE 36TH ROUND OF NATIONAL SERVICE



ahead in their lives. Regardless of the outcomes of the School Leaving Examination, they must always strive to deepen their academic knowledge and proficiency, acquire skills and experiences through diligent efforts, and work hard without respite.

In his report, Col. Debesai Ghide, Commander of the National Service Training Center, noted that 50.2% of the 36th round of the National Service graduates were females who successfully completed the standard 12th-grade academic education, as well as political and military training.

The graduation ceremony of the 36th round of the National Service and the 30th anniversary of the National Service's inception was colorfully conducted this morning in Sawa under the theme "Sawa - 30 Years of Cohesive Journey."

The ceremony was attended by President Isaias Afwerki, senior Government and PFDJ officials, Military Commanders, other Government officials, and parents.

In his keynote address, President

Isaias stated that the graduation of the 36th round comes at an auspicious moment when a comprehensive assessment is being conducted on the aggregate impact and contribution of the National Service over the past decades. This assessment is being carried out in the context of Government policy perspectives on the National Service as the principal vehicle of nation-building, against the backdrop of various international and regional developments.

President Isaias emphasized that, given the distinct national realities;

there has been a consistent focus on the development of human resources as a principal and sustainable element of national wealth. The overarching objective is to imbue and empower citizens with knowledge, profession, skills, experiences, and awareness, thereby multiplying every citizen's contribution to national development.

Addressing the graduates of the 36th round, President Isaias remarked that as they embark on the first chapter, following 12 years of schooling, many more chapters lie

The ceremony featured cultural and artistic programs depicting the 30-year journey of the National Service Training Center.

President Isaias Afwerki also officially opened a painting and photo exhibition in Sawa in connection with the 30th anniversary of the National Service's inception and the graduation of the 36th round. The exhibition was organized in collaboration with members of the 1st round of the National Service and the Sawa National Service Training Center. *(full text of President Isaias' speech is on page 3)*

ERITREA'S REPORT ON SECOND VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW ON SDGs

The Eritrean delegation presented its report on the Second Voluntary National Review on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the 2024 High-Level Political Forum held in New York on 12 July.

In its report, the delegation highlighted Eritrea's extensive efforts towards nation-building and realizing the 2023 agenda. It provided a comprehensive explanation of the progress made in SDGs 4, 5, and 6—Quality Education, Gender Equality, and Clean Water and Sanitation.

Regarding education, the report underscored that education is a pillar of Eritrea's development agenda, provided free of charge from elementary to tertiary levels. Hundreds of new schools, learning centers, and libraries have been built, while older ones have been renovated throughout the country. The number of schools increased from just over 500 in 1991 to 1,930 in 2015, and to 2,351 last year. Enrollment at the primary, middle, and secondary levels has also exponentially increased. Alongside these advances, the number of qualified teachers has significantly increased, and notable progress has been achieved in literacy. Adult literacy rates have risen from 46% in 1990 to 77% in 2018, and youth literacy rates have increased from 61% to 94%.

On gender equality, the report noted that advancing gender equality, empowering women and girls, and protecting their dignity are among

Eritrea's top national priorities. Eritrea has enacted progressive and affirmative action measures to enhance women's education, employment, and public service. National proclamations on labor, citizenship, and land reform ensure women have equal rights and access as their male counterparts. Currently, women constitute almost half of the labor force and 46% of all employees holding managerial positions. They make up 22% to 29% of all members of the National Assembly and Regional Assemblies, respectively.

Regarding access to clean water and sanitation, the report noted that access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation facilities are critical components of Eritrea's commitment to the SDGs. Access to safe drinking water has increased to 79% in rural areas and 95% in urban areas. This underscores the country's efforts towards universal health coverage, combating waterborne diseases, supporting agricultural productivity, poverty alleviation, reducing inequalities, and climate action.

In its concluding remarks, the delegation stated that despite considerable challenges, including regional and global conflicts, sanctions, climate issues, and pandemic-related shocks, Eritrea has demonstrated resilience and consistent economic growth. This has led to improved citizen well-being and development progress.

ADI-KEIH COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND SOCIAL SCIENCE GRADUATES 736 STUDENTS

Adi-Keih College of Business and Social Science has conferred first degrees and diplomas to 736 graduates in its 17th commencement today, with 43% of the graduates being female. The graduates include 362 in degree programs and 374 in diploma programs across various fields of study, including Accounting, Business Administration, Public Administration, Economics and Finance, English, Geography, History, Law, Sociology and Archeology, Banking, Tourism and Hotel Management, and Library Science and Information.

Dr. Woldetensae Tewolde, representative of the Dean of the College, emphasized that higher education plays a significant role in human resources development and nation-building. He noted that efforts are underway to design a curriculum that is compatible with national demands and competitive at the international level.

Dr. Woldetensae also mentioned that, as part of the effort to develop the capacity of lecturers and provide quality education, 16 lecturers are pursuing masters

and PhD education in Japan, China, Russia, and India.

Ms. Askalu Menkerious, Minister of Tourism, congratulated the graduates on their achievements and called on them to meet expectations in nation-building programs. She also handed out medals to outstanding students.

Adi-Keih College of Business and Social Science has graduated about 13,000 students in master's, first degree, and diploma programs so far.



Presentation of Eritrea's Second Voluntary National Review (VNR)

Presentation of Eritrea's Second Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the 2024 High-Level Political Forum

Mr. Chair,

Eritrea has made extensive efforts towards nation-building and realizing the 2030 Agenda. This second Voluntary National Review (VNR), prepared through a collaborative and participatory approach, reflects the country's deep commitment to advancing the 2030 Agenda and its national developmental priorities. Building on the first VNR report in 2022, this VNR presents progress on SDGs 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), and 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation).

Guided by the principles of social justice, equality, and a commitment to leaving no one behind, Eritrea's development objectives are, among others, realization of full employment for all able citizens; fair distribution of national income and social service-providing institutions across all regions; meeting the rising demands for population consumption needs through consistent productive investment and price stability and promoting regional and global cooperation. These efforts aim to eliminate poverty and inequality, promote gender equality

and empowerment, secure opportunities for all, eradicate all forms of discrimination and create a more inclusive, fair, and just nation, prioritizing those furthest behind first.

Mr. Chair,

Against this backdrop, let me briefly highlight the progress achieved on the three focused SDGs:

On education

Education is a pillar of Eritrea's development agenda, and it is provided free-of-charge from primary to tertiary levels. Hundreds of new schools, learning centers, and libraries have been built while older ones have been renovated throughout the country. The number of schools increased from just over 500 in 1991 to 1,930 in 2015 and to 2,351 last year. Enrollments at the primary, middle, and secondary levels have also exponentially increased.

Parallel to these advances, the number of qualified teachers has increased significantly, and notable progress has been achieved in literacy. Adult literacy rates have risen from 46 percent in 1990 to 77 percent in 2018, and youth literacy rates have increased from 61 to 94 percent. Parity between girls and boys is achieved at all levels.

Eritrea is also implementing mother tongue instruction at the primary level and expanding access to education for students with disabilities, regularly updating national curricula, and enhancing technical and vocational education and training.

On gender equality

Advancing gender equality, empowering women and girls, and protecting their dignities are among Eritrea's top national priorities. Recognizing the differing conditions and experiences of women and girls, Eritrea has enacted progressive and affirmative action measures in enhancing women's education, employment, and public services. The national proclamations on labor, citizenship, and land reform ensure women have equal rights and access as their male



counterparts.

Currently, women constitute almost half of the labor force and 46 percent of all employees holding managerial positions, and they make up 22 and 29 percent of all members of the National Assembly and Regional Assemblies, respectively. Moreover, rates of harmful traditional practices such as Female Genital Mutilation have been significantly reduced.

On clean water and sanitation

Access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation facilities are critical components of Eritrea's commitment to SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation). The increase in access to safe drinking water in rural (79%) and urban (95%) areas underscores the country's efforts towards universal health coverage and combating water-borne diseases (SDG 3), supporting agricultural productivity (SDG 2) and poverty alleviation (SDG 1), reduced inequalities (SDG 10), and climate action (SDG 13). The declaration of 93 percent of villages as "open defecation free" illustrates significant progress in public health and community well-being. Efforts to protect and restore water-related ecosystems and combat land degradation, deforestation, and climate change include community afforestation and reforestation campaigns, the construction of terraces and dams, and the promotion of renewable energy sources.

Mr. Chair,

Despite considerable challenges, including regional and global conflicts, sanctions, climate issues, and pandemic-related shocks, Eritrea has demonstrated resilience and consistent economic growth. This has led to improved citizen well-being and developmental progress, including increased life expectancy, poverty reduction, food and nutrition security, access to education, gender empowerment, and improved water, sanitation, and hygiene. Eritrea's holistic development approach acknowledges that achieving SDGs 4, 5, and 6 will positively affect other SDGs, creating a ripple effect that fosters overall sustainable development.

The preparation and submission of Eritrea's 2024 Voluntary

National Review provides an opportunity to assess progress on SDGs 4, 5, and 6, and identify challenges and gaps, and share lessons. While celebrating achievements, Eritrea remains aware of the challenges that lie ahead. To better leverage on the existing human, financial and technological resources, the Government will continue assessing and reforming institutional development mechanisms. Moving forward, Eritrea reaffirms its commitment to consolidating improvements, addressing challenges, driving progress towards equitable and sustainable growth and remains resolute in its mission to leave no one behind.

I Thank You.
New York, 12 July 2024

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NATIONAL SCHOOL LEAVING EXAMINATION RESULTS ANNOUNCED

The results of the 2024 National School Leaving Examination were announced on 15 July. According to Dr. Bisirat Gebru, Director of Standards and Evaluation at the National Higher Education and Research Institute, out of the 18,638 students who took the examination, 2,889 (15.5%) achieved scores qualifying them for degree programs, and 1,810 (9.7%) for diploma programs. Dr. Bisirat noted that 21.6% of the candidates were arts students, 31.8% were science students, and 24.1% were female.

The examinations were conducted from 18 to 25 March at 26 centers across the country, including at the International Schools of Eritrean communities in Riyadh and Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

REPORTAGE

Sawa Graduates 36th Round & Celebrates 30th Anniversary

Mussie Efriem

Sawa celebrated a dual graduation last weekend. The graduation of high school education, and completion of national service training. This year, the festivities unfolded in a particularly vibrant atmosphere. The Sawa Military Training Center hosted the 36th graduation

ceremony itself embodied unity and discipline. It transcended the nine ethnicities and six regions of Eritrea, showcasing the unifying power of Sawa. Here, young people from diverse backgrounds come together, forging a national identity that surpasses individual differences.

The parade itself became a living

in the procession.

Sawa isn't just a training ground; it's a continuation of education. Here, 12th grade students complete their high school studies alongside intensive national service training. This interwoven program fosters not only academic prowess but also instills discipline, patriotism, and a deep understanding of the



ceremony on July 13th, coinciding with a momentous occasion of the 30th anniversary of the founding of Sawa. For young Eritreans, this special day marked the culmination of a transformative year at Sawa. The celebrations began a day earlier, on July 12th, with an award ceremony honoring outstanding trainees and army divisions.

During the graduation day on July 13th, high ranking officials arrived at the ceremony square along with esteemed Ministers, senior leaders of the PFDJ, and members of the Training Center. The officials were led by His Excellency President Isaias Afwerki, General Filipos Woldeyohanes, Chief of Staff of the Eritrean Defense Forces, and Colonel Debesay Gide, Commander of the Sawa National Service Training Center. The ceremony began with a solemn silence honoring the martyrs, followed by a stirring military salute from the graduating class. Then, the celebration reached a crescendo with a breathtaking parade. Thousands of graduates moved in perfect unison, their synchronized march echoing like a drumbeat alongside the marching band. Beyond the spectacle, the

tapestry depicting the occasion. Participants, dressed in the rich colors of the Eritrean flag, formed messages that resonated with the crowd. Words like "Resilience and inheritance of heroism" and "30th Anniversary" were physically spelled out by the graduates. The parade blocks themselves served as a visual representation of the occasion. Clad in the vibrant colors of the Eritrean flag, they formed messages that resonated with the crowd. Words like "Resilience and inheritance of heroism" and "and the 30th Anniversary" were the themes of the parade, which spelled out in human form, paid homage to the enduring spirit of the nation.

At the center of the parade, a single block demanded special attention. A large block of 780 women recreated a stunning map of Eritrea, its outline shimmering in the colors of the national flag. This powerful image wasn't just a map; it was a statement. The marching band was playing "deqi hade ruba," a song of solidarity by Aron Abraham. The entire tableau, from the coordinated movements to the symbolic forms, demonstrated Sawa's pupils' devotion and discipline. In total, 12 blocks of 9,050 trainees performed

Eritrean culture. For parents, this ceremony holds a special significance. It's a chance to witness their children carrying forward the legacy of national service. It's a powerful symbol of continuity, where the torch of national pride and responsibility is passed down from one generation to the next. The event was further enriched by the presence of over 500 veterans from the 1st round of national service. These former youths, now parents, witnessed their children graduate, creating a powerful link between generations. It was a testament to the enduring legacy of national service in Eritrea, where yesterday's youth become today's mentors, guiding the new generation. It was a day that honored the past, showcased the present, and promised a future filled with responsible and dedicated citizens the future builders of Eritrea.

Colonel Debesay Gide began the event with a detailed report on the graduating class. He congratulated not only the 36th round graduates and their trainers, but also the members of the first round who had returned to Sawa to mark their 30th anniversary of national service. Colonel Debesay described these veterans as a vital "bridge"

President Isaias Afwerki's Speech at the 36th Round Graduation

Dear Graduates of the 36th Round of the National Service,

Dear Parents, Dear Teachers and Instructors, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to extend my congratulations to the Graduates of the 36th Round, the Parents as well as the Teachers.



The Graduation of the 36th Round is occurring at an auspicious moment. At a time when we are undertaking a comprehensive assessment of the aggregate impact and contributions of the 35 Rounds of the National Service implemented in the past decades in the context of Government policy perspectives on the National Service as the principal vehicle of nation building and against the backdrop of various international and regional developments.

In view of our distinct national realities, we have from the outset focused on the development of our human resources as the principal and sustainable element of our national wealth. This is without emulating other countries or irrespective of the presumed higher or lower potential of our human capital.

The overarching objective revolves around imbuing and empowering each citizen with knowledge, profession, skills, experience and awareness to thereby multiply his/her contributions to national development.

Furthermore, the designed task and mission go beyond and transcend the power of knowledge of each citizen to leverage much higher results through the combined knowledge of all the citizens.

The question now is whether the mission and the tasks mapped out were implemented seamlessly

in accordance with the envisaged plans.

This is a matter that warrants serious appraisal without complacency in our achievements or downplaying our shortcomings and weaknesses.

The comprehensive appraisal must lead to, and be concluded by, a full review of our mission to map out specific tasks that produce optimal results through greater efficiency. There is no ambiguity whatsoever that this undertaking will elevate us to a higher state of progress.

My message to the Graduates of the 36th Round at this juncture is that as you are embarking on the first Chapter, after 12 years of schooling, in the long chapter of life, the chapters that lay in front of you are numerous and long indeed. And irrespective of the outcomes in the School Leaving Examination, you must always strive to deepen your academic knowledge and proficiency and acquire skills and experiences through diligent efforts and work hard without respite. You should not wait for advice to achieve these goals.

The Parents, teachers and instructors also bear moral obligation and responsibility to monitor their progress and lend them the support they require.

Success and greater achievements to the Graduates!

Victory to the Masses!
13 July 2024

connecting the past and the new generation. He then elaborated on the diverse makeup of the 36th round. Trainees came from all six Eritrean regions, representing all nine ethnic groups. Notably, girls outnumbered boys in this year's graduating class, accounting for an outstanding 50.2%. Colonel Gide emphasized that these women participated equally in all aspects of the training program alongside their male counterparts. The

trainees participated in an intense all-year program from August 23, 2023 to July 11, 2024. Colonel Debesay concluded his report with a powerful statement. He declared the graduating class as the "fruit of a 30-year journey," highlighting how their success was a testament to Eritrea's dedication to nation-building.

Continued on page 6

Eritrea's Second Voluntary National Review of Progress towards the UN SDGs

This is the first article in a multi-part series that sheds light on Eritrea's participation at the 2024 High-Level Political Forum and the country's second Voluntary National Review of progress towards Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Dr. Fikrejesus Amahazion

An Eritrean delegation led by Ambassador Sophia Tesfamariam is participating in the annual session of High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). Running from 8–17 July at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York, the HLPF is gathering this year under the theme of “Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crisis: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions”. As a part of the HLPF, 38 countries, including Eritrea, are presenting their voluntary national reviews (VNRs) of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

What is the HLPF and what are VNRs?

Briefly, the HLPF, established in July 2013 by UN General Assembly (UNGA) resolution 67/290, is the UN's main forum for addressing the global sustainable development agenda, as well as reviewing and charting progress towards Agenda 2030 and the SDGs. The HLPF meets under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) every year, and under the auspices of the UNGA every four years.

In late September 2015, Eritrea, alongside all other 192 Member States of the UN, adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the UNGA. This global initiative is a powerful call to action for all countries – large and small, rich and poor, developed and developing – to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people are able to enjoy peace, equality, and prosperity. At the heart of the 2030 Agenda are the SDGs, a diverse collection of 17 comprehensive, closely interconnected goals, further broken down into 169 targets, to be achieved by the year 2030.

As an integral component of its follow-up and review

mechanisms, the 2030 Agenda encourages all Member States to “conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven,” and also “take into account national realities,” recognizing that “country ownership” is central to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Furthermore, as declared in paragraph 84 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, regular reviews at the HLPF are to be voluntary, undertaken by both developed and developing countries, and provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of civil society, the private sector youth, major groups, and other relevant stakeholders. Other important recommendations are that it is to embrace all dimensions of sustainable development and look at the means of implementation, as well as be evidence-based, grounded in sound, robust data, and pursue a multi-track approach.

Once countries have formally submitted and presented their VNR at the HLPF, their reports are published in a global database where they remain freely accessible to the general public. Since the process began in 2016, almost all countries in the world have presented VNRs at the HLPF, with many having presented on several occasions.

What makes VNRs so significant?

VNRs are much more than a basic report or simple end goal. In addition to assessing and tracking progress on implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving the SDGs, VNRs are important for a wide range of reasons. For instance, the in-depth review and preparation procedures that are an integral part of VNRs require a coordinated effort and for many countries the institutional arrangements made have proved useful for SDG implementation. The VNR process can also strengthen local or national ownership of the SDGs, while work conducted by international organizations has found that the VNR process can be an “important

(Part I)

engine” for countries to accelerate SDG progress (especially if strong follow-up processes are in place).

In addition, the VNR preparation process encourages the meaningful engagement of an array of stakeholders, while as a tool for accountability at both the national and global level, the VNR process promotes openness and transparency. Importantly, the VNR exercise creates channels for sharing knowledge, best practices, and common challenges. What is more, reporting mechanism, characterized by its frequency and comprehensive, detailed format, leads to an accumulation or substantial body of important lessons that can encourage other countries to follow suit or set standards for the international community.

Finally, the process can be an effective mechanism for identifying gaps and communicating the areas in which countries require more work or support for implementation, adjusting national development policies and activities, and mobilizing multi-stakeholder support and partnerships.

A brief overview of Eritrea's preparation process for its second VNR

Eritrea conducted and presented its first VNR report at the HLPF in 2022, providing it with a critical baseline and robust foundation for more effective monitoring and strengthened implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In presenting its second VNR this year, the country has sought to build upon the momentum, gains, and lessons accrued from the country's inaugural VNR process, and also gather deeper insight into and inject further impetus for its nation-building and developmental efforts.

The coordination and compilation of Eritrea's VNR was spearheaded by a multi-institutional National SDGs Taskforce (NST), led by the National Statistics Office (NSO, along with senior experts) and working under the close guidance and overview of a ministerial-level committee. As a key component of the planning and preparation phase of the second VNR, a series



of preliminary meetings were convened under the auspices of the NST in order to inform and raise awareness among national ministries and various institutions about the VNR and HLPF, outline potential contributions from key entities to ensure success of the VNR process, and thoroughly review and comprehensively design the national review process and report submission modalities.

The structure and format of Eritrea's second VNR report was guided and informed by the official UN VNR preparation guidelines, with special emphasis and consideration given to expectations expressed in regional preparatory meetings organized by agencies of the UN. At the same time, the second report leverages the country's experience and builds upon its previous VNR process and report.

Overall, Eritrea's VNR preparation process was rooted in a strong commitment to inclusiveness, transparency, and a highly collaborative, participatory approach, serving as a reflection of the country's holistic, all-of-government and all-of-society view of the SDGs and nation-building. Consultations were convened by the NST at frequent, regular intervals, and they additionally included the active participation of and substantive contributions from a wide spectrum of stakeholders at the national and sub-national levels. Due to the inherent tight interlinkages and indivisible nature of the SDGs, ensuring streamlined efforts and close cooperation between and among the NST, individual thematic working groups, and a range of

other stakeholders and entities was a central point of focus.

Worth noting, too, is that members of the NST, as well individuals from the individual thematic working groups, participated in a number of formal preparation and training activities, including local technical and skills development workshops, as well as a series of multi-day regional and global gatherings. Collectively, these served to build and reinforce capacity, while also providing vital opportunities and spaces to foster a network of contacts with VNR focal points and various UN agencies, share experiences, exchange valuable lessons, and positively collaborate toward ultimately strengthening and enriching the country's VNR.

The process of developing Eritrea's VNR report was locally-owned, inclusive and highly collaborative, and transparent. During several preparatory meetings, the NST came together to confirm the specific priority areas for coverage and assessment, design the basic structure and general outline of the VNR report, finalize the sections for inclusion in the document, and approve other content or material. Upon the completion of a draft VNR report, the NST convened a validation workshop for open review and final endorsement. The gathering, attended by individual experts from government ministries, institutions, as well as a diverse set of other stakeholders and entities, allowed participants to offer further insights, critical input, and important recommendations towards strengthening the overall VNR report.

SpotLight

CBSS Celebrates 17th Commencement, Over 700 Graduates Embark on New Chapter

Habtom Tesfamichael

A palpable wave of pride and anticipation swept across the verdant grounds of Adi-Keih College of Business and Social Sciences (CBSS) on Saturday, July 13th, 2024. The 17th commencement ceremony was about to unfold, a momentous occasion brimming with ceremony and celebration.

Over 700 graduates stood tall and proud alongside their beaming families. This was the culmination of years of dedicated study, as these students finally receive their hard-earned degrees and diplomas across a diverse range of academic fields.

The occasion was graced by an esteemed assembly of dignitaries. The Minister of Tourism, Askalu Menkorios, radiated an aura of official gravitas in their ceremonial attire. Beside them stood the representative of the National Higher Education and Research Institute, Dr. Semere Simon, his bearing exuding scholarly distinction.

The Deans of the College's various schools added their academic regalia to the colorful pageantry, their robes flowing as they took their seats. High-ranking government officials, their chests adorned with gleaming medals and insignia, lent an air of grand importance to the proceedings.

The College's faculty, their faces alight with pride, mingled with the graduates' families - mothers and fathers beaming with joy at their children's momentous achievements. This vibrant tapestry of academic prestige and familial celebration created a truly captivating display.

In its 17th commencement, the CBSS graduated 736 students. These newly minted alumni

had duly fulfilled their rigorous academic requirements and national obligations, and are now poised to serve the Eritrean society with their hard-earned knowledge and skills.

Of the total graduates, 362 had completed degree programs across a diverse spectrum of academic disciplines. These fields included Accounting, Business Management and Public Administration, Economics and Finance, English, Geography, History, Law, Library and Information Science, Sociology, and Anthropology.

The remaining 374 graduates had earned diplomas in a variety of applied and vocational tracks. These included Accounting, Banking, Tourism and Hotel Management, as well as Sociology and Social Work.

Notably, the graduating class demonstrated a strong commitment to gender equity, with females comprising 43% of the overall number of students crossing the stage to receive their hard-earned credentials.

Dr. Weldetinsae Tewelde, representing the Dean of CBSS, opened the ceremony with an address that resonated deeply with the graduating class. He emphasized the significance of the occasion, stating, "today is a remarkable occasion in your life as you are graduating at a time when free college education is still a dream in many countries." Dr. Weldetinsae's words served as a powerful reminder of the privilege these graduates held. He continued, "so, as you celebrate the day, remember, the huge investment and dedication made by your instructors, parents and the Government. More importantly, keep in touch with the good will of giving back to our Nation." Dr. Weldetinsae's message underscored the dual nature of the ceremony - a celebration of personal achievement intertwined

with a call to serve the nation which ensured them free education.

CBSS stands as the largest public institution for business and social sciences studies in Eritrea. It offers bachelor's degrees and diplomas in a variety of programs, catering to the diverse needs of its student body. Notably, CBSS demonstrates its commitment to social inclusion by providing tertiary education to inmates at Tsetserat Prison and Rehabilitation Center in Asmara. The College holds the distinction of being the only higher education institute in the country catering to visually impaired students, ensuring that no individual is left behind in the pursuit of knowledge.

Beyond its academic offerings, the College boasts a modern infrastructure with well-equipped facilities. State-of-the-art libraries, classrooms, computer labs, and student residences provide a conducive learning environment. An auditorium serves as a hub for academic and cultural events, fostering a vibrant campus life. Furthermore, a dedicated medical facility ensures the well-being of students, offering first aid services and student support services. Recent renovations have further enhanced the learning environment, providing students with a visually appealing and comfortable space to dedicate themselves to their studies.

Dr. Weldetinsae in his speech said that the 2023/24 academic year proved to be a resounding success for the CBSS. The College actively engaged its students through a series of public lectures organized by prominent entities. Departmental exhibitions showcased the exceptional talent and dedication of students across various disciplines. The intra-college festival provided a platform for creativity and critical thinking, fostering a dynamic learning environment.

Beyond student engagement, the College also made significant strides in expanding its digital library resources. This initiative, coupled with the existing conventional library system, provides students and instructors with unparalleled access to academic references, empowering them to delve deeper into their chosen fields. Additionally, CBSS prioritized the improvement of services offered to students and faculty. Initiatives focused on enhancing pedagogical skills of the teaching staff and fostering a



collaborative environment through workshops with stakeholders. The College actively sought to strengthen its relationship with various government institutions through the development of an Engagement Framework. This framework promotes collaboration and ensures that educational quality remains a top priority.

Curriculum development remains a cornerstone of CBSS's mission. Recognizing the importance of aligning programs with national needs, the College undertook a campus-wide review of freshman and diploma courses. After a rigorous review process, the College received final approval from the National Higher Education and Research Institute for the revised curricula. This ensures that graduates possess the knowledge and skills directly applicable to the nation-building process.

Dr. Weldetinsae concluded his address with a powerful message for the graduating class. He urged them to embrace their future with enthusiasm and an open mind. He reminded them of their role as ambassadors of the College, calling them to serve their nation diligently.

A representative of the graduates on his part noted that this year's class has persevered through not only the usual academic challenges - late nights of studying, attending lectures, relentless research papers, and assignments - but also the added difficulties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Social distancing, limited family visits even during semester breaks, mask-wearing in classes, and daily COVID-19 testing were just some of the hurdles they had to overcome.

"Today is the day to be satisfied with the fruits of our labor, proud of our perseverance, and proud of the sacrifices of time and resources we have made," the representative

said. Moreover, He underscored, "this milestone is also a day of profound responsibility beyond the celebration that marks the end of a chapter and the beginning of a new one. It is a day when we promise to pay our debt to the society, a day we take the responsibility to work diligently, to play our part in the nation-building process."

Minister of Tourism, Mrs. Askalu Menkorios delivered a keynote speech on behalf of the Chancellor of the National Higher Education and Research Institute, President Isaias Afewerki. Mrs. Askalu Menkorios, in her speech reflected on the historical struggles that paved the way for the educational opportunities currently offered from the basic to the tertiary level.

Minister Askalu expressed the graduates' confidence in their ability to find great success in the tasks that lay ahead, urging them to build upon the foundations laid by their predecessors. She emphasized that the educational opportunities they now enjoy were not granted, but rather hard-won through "bitter struggle and sacrifice."

She emphasized that the graduates' educational journey was not merely an individual accomplishment, but rather the culmination of a collective struggle that spanned generations. She urged the graduates to remember the sacrifices of their predecessors and to embrace the responsibility of continued learning and adaptation to meet the evolving challenges of the modern world.

The graduation ceremony reached its climactic conclusion with the official conferral of degrees and diplomas to the graduates. As the names of each outstanding student was proudly announced, the venue erupted in a thunderous applause, celebrating the culmination of their hard-earned achievements.



ADS

VACANCY Notice No. 2024/04

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Eritrea is inviting applications from suitably qualified applicants for the post of **COMMUNICATION Officer, NOA, Post# 0128625, Asmara-Eritrea.**

TYPE OF APPOINTMENT: **Temporary Appointment**

DURATION: **364 Days**

UNICEF works in some of the world's toughest places, to reach the world's most disadvantaged children. To save their lives. To defend their rights. To help them fulfill their potential. Across 190 countries and territories, we work for every child, everywhere, every day, to build a better world for everyone. **And we never give up!**

For every child, an advocate!

UNICEF's Global Communication Strategy includes the use of different channels to position children's issues in all social domains. We aim to disseminate information related to our work on the ground, reach key audiences, advocate, and raise awareness to protect children's rights. To that end, the communication section requires the support of a highly qualified individual to contribute to the production of content and disseminate information related to UNICEF's programmatic implementation in the country. It is also expected that the incumbent will feed digital channels and contribute to settling activities and events, among others.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The post incumbent will be reporting to the Communication Specialist at UNICEF Communication Unit. This position aims to strengthen UNICEF Eritrea's communications by Enhancing Visibility and Recognition (bringing support to the development and implementation of strategic communication activities to increase UNICEF Eritrea's visibility and brand recognition among key stakeholders (government, media, donors, etc.), Leverage social media platforms to amplify UNICEF's work for Eritrean children, produce clear, concise, and impactful communication materials, media content, reports, etc.) that meet UNICEF's global communication standards. Craft compelling narratives that showcase the impact of UNICEF's programs on children's lives in Eritrea. Support stakeholder engagement initiatives, including media relations and events management, and monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of communication activities by defining Key Performance Indicators and reporting on the results.

Specific Tasks, Deliverables, and Timeline:

The incumbent will support the following tasks:

Content Creation: Support the production of compelling communication materials (press releases, human-interest stories, reports, presentations, web content, briefing notes, and other advocacy or informative material) aligned with UNICEF's communication guidelines.

Prepare background communication and promotional materials for briefing and visits of media and other special interest groups. Assist in the planning, logistics, and administrative arrangements for them.

Audiovisual Communication: Follow up on the production of advocacy and communication materials (e.g., films, videos, audio-visuales, etc.), and oversee the qualitative aspects of production, (e.g., quality control, translations, reviews of layout and graphic design, etc.) to meet standards as set out in the Communication Toolkit.

Design and develop infographics, presentations, and other visual content to enhance communication effectiveness.

Maintain an up-to-date documentation center for communication materials including publications, press releases, clippings, photographs, audio-visual materials, web resources, etc.

Media Relations: Assist in collaborating with media. Contribute to the development of positive relationships with media representatives, fostering open communication channels.

Media Outreach: Pitch newsworthy stories to media outlets relevant to UNICEF Eritrea's

work, considering upcoming events.

Media Monitoring: Track and analyze media coverage of UNICEF's work in Eritrea, identifying opportunities and potential challenges.

Social Media Content Creation: Craft engaging social media content aligned with communication materials and the internal event calendar.

Social Media Measurement: Monitor and analyze social media activity using relevant metrics to understand audience engagement to make recommendations to enhance UNICEF's social media presence.

Report writing: Develop and share progress reports.

Write and submit a Final Report with findings and recommendations.

To qualify as a champion for every child you will have:

Education: University degree in Communications, Journalism/Media, Public Relations, Digital Technology/Marketing/Media or related field.

Work Experience: Minimum one-year practical professional work experience in communication, print and broadcast media, or interactive digital media. Fieldwork experience and other relevant areas related to the work at hand.

Self-starter and well-organized person.

Fluency in English and the local language (Tigrinya) is required.

Communicates effectively through writing to varied audiences.

Familiarity with the UN is an asset.

UNICEF's Core values

Care, Respect, Integrity, Trust and Accountability

UNICEF's Core Competencies

Demonstrates Self Awareness and Ethical Awareness (1); Works Collaboratively with others (1); Builds and Maintains Partnerships (1); Innovates and Embraces Change (1); Thinks and Acts Strategically (1); Drive to achieve impactful results (1); Manages ambiguity and complexity (1).

UNICEF is committed to diversity and inclusion within its workforce, and encourages all candidates, irrespective of gender, nationality, religious and ethnic backgrounds, including persons living with disabilities, to apply to become a part of the organization.

UNICEF has a zero-tolerance policy on conduct that is incompatible with the aims and objectives of the United Nations and UNICEF, including sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, abuse of authority and discrimination. UNICEF also adheres to strict child safeguarding principles. All selected candidates will, therefore, undergo rigorous reference and background checks, and will be expected to adhere to these standards and principles.

Qualified female candidates are encouraged to apply.

CANDIDATES SHOULD PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF COMPLETION/ EXEMPTION FROM NATIONAL SERVICE. PLEASE NOTE THAT COMPLETION/ EXEMPTION OF NATIONAL SERVICE IS A REQUIREMENT. A COPY OF THE CARD/EXEMPTION MUST BE ATTACHED. APPLICATIONS WITHOUT THIS REQUIREMENT WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

Closing date of Application: 7 days from date of advertisement

Remarks: only qualified candidates will be short-listed and invited for the interview.

Please note that UNICEF is a smoke-free environment.

Candidates should submit their application by following the below link:

<http://surl.li/tvgzi> Or <http://surl.li/tvgzy>

In the online application, candidates should complete the online P11, upload their recent CV, highest academic qualifications, and other relevant qualifications.

Sawa Graduates 36th Round . . .

Continued from page 3

The graduation day also included a special ceremony in which President Isaias and General Filipos presented awards to graduates who excelled in various aspects of the training program. These awards weren't just for outstanding results; they were a tribute to the graduates' entire journey. The ceremony acknowledged their past efforts, celebrated their present achievements, and served as a motivation for the future. The Sawa Military Training Center goes beyond military drills. It's a transformative experience that equips young Eritreans with unique skillset, and preparing them to navigate life's challenges.

Sawa's program fosters a holistic development, nurturing not just physical prowess but also intellectual capabilities. It provides a roadmap for future success by instilling critical thinking, a strong work ethic, and the discipline needed to overcome challenges. Sawa transcends its physical walls, becoming a vibrant melting pot of Eritrean cultures. Young people from all nine ethnicities come together, sharing traditions, languages, and ways of life. This exposure dismantles cultural barriers and fosters a deep appreciation for the nation's rich tapestry. The ceremony was also a vibrant celebration of our culture. Drama, monologues, and songs filled the air, performed in the country's diverse languages. Poetry readings and

other artistic programs added to the festive atmosphere.

President Isaias Afwerki, in his keynote address further emphasized the importance of continuous learning. He urged the graduates, regardless of their prior academic achievements, to take personal responsibility for their intellectual growth and strive to reach their full potential. Highlighting the significance of the 30th anniversary, members of the 1st round national service presented a special gift to President Isaias, further enriching the day's festivities. The day before the graduation, members of the 1st round national service planted hundreds of tree seedlings. Adding a special touch to the ceremony's noontime events, members of the 1st round of

national service showcased a captivating exhibition. Through a compelling blend of photographs, sculptures, and paintings, the exhibition took viewers on a remarkable journey: the 30-year evolution of Eritrean national service. The display wasn't just a historical archive; it was a narrative. Visitors could trace the program's challenges and triumphs, its role in nation-building, and the ongoing development of Eritrea. A central theme explored Sawa's transformation: from the stark land encountered by the 1st round to the modern, well-equipped training camp and high school it is today. This visual journey served as a powerful reminder of the program's enduring legacy and its commitment to continuous improvement.




ASMARA MINING SHARE COMPANY
Abo Street, No. 178, House No. 16
Gejeret, P.O. Box 10688
Tel. ++291-1-153986
Asmara, Eritrea

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Payroll Officer

Number required – (01)

Type of contract – Indefinite

Major Duties and responsibilities

- Process of monthly payroll
- Ensure correct deductions from salary payments
- Advisory
- Administration
- Reconciliations
- Reporting
- Control of Petty Cash and Sales Cash
- Process Expense Claims.

TASK DESCRIPTION Expanded TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS

Processing of Monthly payroll

- Ensure that hard copy of timesheets is collected from departments and are authorized prior to processing.
- Accurately capture all Payroll related data necessary to process and to meet scheduled deadlines.
- Responsible for computing salary and overtime payments, calculating and recording payroll deductions, maintaining related records and tax reports.
- Updates all employee status changes, including terminations and calculating paid leave.
- Ensure that all input documents received are signed-off prior to entering this on the Payroll system.
- Ensure that cut-off dates for Payroll input are clearly defined and that no inputs are done after the closing date.
- All inputs and changes made must be signed off by the Payroll Supervisor prior to finalisation of the Payroll.
- All changes made must be documented and filed for audit purposes.
- Enter payroll data into the payroll system. Run the payroll and generate relevant reports.
- Ensure that electronic transfer payments to employee bank accounts are made timeously and that all changes on bank accounts are processed.
- Prepare cash salary payments and ensure that staff signs for receipt of salary.
- Prepare employee's pay slip and distribute to departmental manager timeously.
- Prepare income tax payments per legislation and standard procedures.
- Create employee account in Accounting System as required.
- Ensure employee loan accounts / expense claims are processed in the Payroll system.
- Manage the petty cash weekly, ensure all disbursements are done according to procedure and ensure that all payments are authorized correctly for expense claim payments from petty cash.

Ensure Correct Deductions from Salary Payments

- Ensure that deductions are made in line with policies and procedures on statutory deductions.
- Deductions can only be processed with the necessary signed-off documentation.

Advisory

- Provide an advisory support to employees enquiring about Payroll issues.
- All queries not resolved must be referred to the Payroll Supervisor.
- Researches, resolves, and responds to employee questions and problems while delivering quality customer service.
- Keeps abreast of the payroll processing system and changes in salary and tax laws.

Administration

- Maintain and ensure that Payroll database is up to date at all times.
- Maintains company personnel payroll files.
- Advising Payroll Supervisor regarding data integrity as well as required

updates on policies, procedures and processes.

Reconciliation

- Ensure that Payroll related reconciliations are done on time for sign-off by Payroll Supervisor.

Reporting

- Preparation of documentation required for reporting for payroll purposes.
- Report weekly petty cash balance & request for reimbursement.

Control of Petty Cash and Sales Cash

- Manage the petty cash weekly.
- Ensure all disbursements are done according to procedure.
- Collect and record cash received from Bars and Shop.
- Prepare and post GJV for Bar and Shop sales.

Process Expense Claims

- Collect Expat Expense Claim, check cost and account allocation and post to Accounting System monthly.
- Ensure all payments are signed off correctly for expense claim payments.

Profile: Qualifications and Experience

Formal Education, Certifications or Equivalent

- Diploma in Accounting or equivalent
- or Accounting Certificate

Working Experience – Nature & Length

- 2 Years Accounting knowledge
- 1-3 years' experience in accounting environment

Technical Skills

- Computer Literacy (MS Office – Intermediate, Payroll software package)
- Numerical Accuracy
- Bookkeeping skill
- Recordkeeping

Behavioral Skills

- Attention to detail
- Assertiveness
- Honesty
- Confidentiality
- Proactive
- Interpersonal Relations
- Communication (English and local language)
- Task and deadline oriented

General Information and other requirements:

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

Additional requirements for Nationals:

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

- Address: Please mail your applications to;**
Asmara Mining Share Company,
P. O. Box 10688 Asmara, Eritrea

- Applicants shall be required to send a copy to:**
Mineral Resources Management
P.O. Box – 272
Asmara

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



Q and A

Sawa: Building Eritrea's Future

Mussie Efriem

Last weekend, a momentous occasion unfolded at the Sawa Military Training Center. Not only did the center hold its 36th graduation ceremony, but this year also marked the 30th anniversary of Sawa's establishment. For young Eritrean graduates, this wonderful day marked the successful conclusion of a transformational year at the center. The following is a short interview with some of the 36th-round graduates.

Warmest congratulations on graduating from high school and completing national service training! It's a tremendous accomplishment. Would you like to tell me a bit about yourself?

My name is Edil Esau. I attended Barka High School in Asmara from 9th to 11th grade. I completed my national service training in Sawa as part of the 36th round, 1st division.

I'm Fal Natnael, from Barentu, in the Gash-Barka region. I came to Sawa to complete my high school education and military training.

My name is Kodna Bideho. I am from Keren, Anseba region. I completed my academic and military training at Sawa and served in the 1st division.

My name is Nejah Sraj, and I come from Sanafe, the southern region. I also completed my military training in Sawa as part of the 36th round, 2nd division.

Can you describe your experience in Sawa?

Fal: Sawa has been an incredible experience. There's ample time to focus on academics without the burden of additional duties. This allows for deep concentration and avoids distractions. One of the best things is meeting so many intelligent people from across the country. It fosters knowledge sharing and broadens understanding. Sawa's communal life fosters a robust academic environment. Dedicated study times exist, and afternoons offer additional tutorials for improvement. Studying together builds a sense of friendly competition, motivating everyone to strive for excellence. The mentors here are incredibly supportive, encouraging us to prioritize education like parents. Everything in Sawa is structured and well-planned. While the military training is challenging, it builds discipline and physical resilience.

Kodna: Most of the time was spent on education, which was fantastic. The military training months followed, and everything went well. Aside from regular school hours, there is a specific period for studying and tutoring. The

Warsay Yikealo High School also houses an extensive library. Plus, we had committed teachers who worked hard to help us comprehend everything they could. During the academic months, the dorms are silent and dedicated to studying. My colleagues and I were studying in the cafeteria. After finishing our education, we embarked on military training. It was theoretical and practical. The military training period was well-organized and efficient.

How did your expectation and the reality in Sawa compare?

Edil: Before coming to Sawa, you're bombarded with information from various sources, such as school seminars, friends, and strangers. These accounts paint a spectrum of experiences, some reflecting reality closely while others veer off into negativity, often seeming exaggerated. It's true; the Sawa you imagined based on these stories and the Sawa you encounter firsthand can feel like entirely different places. But now, having experienced it for myself, you can see Sawa for what it truly is: a transformative force that builds people from the ground up. It equips you with life lessons that stay with you forever. Just like solid foundations are crucial for a building, a nation's strength relies on its people. Sawa is the cornerstone of this development, shaping individuals who will shape the country's future.

Sawa gave me a unique opportunity to experience the program's positive impact firsthand. This one-year training equipped me with valuable skills I lacked and opened doors to a deeper understanding of Eritrean culture. Witnessing people from diverse ethnic groups across the country come together under the Sawa umbrella was genuinely inspiring. Beyond cultural immersion, Sawa offered a platform to learn additional Eritrean languages. Sawa fostered a strong sense of community, teaching me valuable lessons in cooperation, communal living, and mutual support. It equipped me with the skills to navigate diverse personalities and forge a unified identity from these varied backgrounds. One of the most valuable skills I gained at Sawa is time management. Every



Nejah Sraj

second truly holds significance here. The structured environment, with



Kodna Bideho

everything planned and scheduled, has been instrumental in developing my ability to manage my time effectively. This experience at Sawa has also served as a fantastic training ground for self-reliance and confidence.

Fal: Sawa is a crucible that forges strength, resilience, and a strong work ethic. It fosters not only responsibility but also invaluable social skills. Beyond personal growth, Sawa equips graduates with leadership and guidance capabilities. Completing this program is a transformative experience, shaping individuals forever. Sawa hones its students into exceptional individuals. Sawa's program transcends basic training. It cultivates well-rounded individuals by nurturing both physical strength and intellectual prowess. The

program equips graduates with the tools for future success, fostering critical thinking, a robust work ethic, and the discipline to conquer obstacles. This unique environment brings together people from all six Eritrean regions, representing the country's nine ethnicities.

Here, you share traditions, languages, and ways of life, fostering a deep understanding and appreciation for your nation's rich tapestry. Sawa has personally transformed me. This year-long journey has exposed me to a wealth of traditions and skills from my fellow trainees. This newfound knowledge will undoubtedly be a valuable asset throughout my life. No longer will I feel like a stranger in any corner of Eritrea? Sawa has instilled in me a familiarity with each region's culture and traditions, including greetings in all Eritrean languages. Perhaps most importantly, I've gained lifelong friendships with people from across the country, a unique opportunity.

Kodna: Certainly, life before Sawa was different. Sawa is a cauldron that shapes us into experienced individuals. I've developed the ability to navigate social interactions more effectively. Sawa has also instilled in me the importance of time management and discipline. Every minute here is meticulously planned, from meals and studies to leisure and work. There's no room for wasted time. Before arriving at Sawa, my experience was limited to the traditions and customs of my small community. However, Sawa has opened my eyes to the rich diversity of Eritrean culture, and I'm amazed by the tapestry of traditions practiced across the



Edil Esau

country. While mass media can introduce you to different cultures and ethnicities, there's no substitute



Fal Natnael

for experiencing them firsthand. Here in Sawa, I've been immersed in the vibrant diversity of Eritrean traditions, a richness that goes far beyond what any screen can convey.

Nejah: There's ample opportunity to focus on your studies as long as you're willing to manage your time well. Our academic months at Sawa were truly exceptional. The dedicated support of our mentors, who consistently checked in on us throughout the school term, was invaluable. We could entirely focus on mastering the material with minimal distractions during study periods. This environment fostered a healthy spirit of competition, motivating everyone to excel. As a result, our division achieved first place in academics. Being here has shown me how untrue those initial rumors were. Coming to Sawa has been a positive experience overall.

