



MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT HOLDS 2022 ANNUAL MEETING



The Minister of Local Government, Mr. Woldenkiel Abraha, stated that the commendable development activities conducted in 2022 in all regions of the country will create better condition for a better work. The statement was made at an annual activity assessment meeting conducted on 13 and 14th of January.

In the activity reports presented by regional governors, it was indicated that thanks to the ample rainfall registered and soil and water conservation activities conducted in 2022, agricultural produce significantly increased, and that so-

cial service provision particularly in remote areas was praiseworthy.

Moreover, the report noted that thanks to the integrated effort on the part of government and the public several educational and health institutions, as well as roads have been constructed and renovated. It was also stated that strict measures will be taken against deforestation and related issues.

The participants of the meeting held discussions on the reports presented and put forth a number of views and recommendations for the action plan for 2023.

Finally, Minister Woldenkiel Abraha called for reinforced integrated effort aimed at implementing the charted-out development as well as administrative programs.

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION ACTIVITY IN CENTRAL REGION

The Central Region branch of the Agriculture and Land Department reported that reinforced effort will be carried out in soil and water conservation activities with strong participation of the public, administrations, Ministries as well as members of the Defense Forces and national associations.

According to Eng. Mesfun Berhane, representative of the department, in 2022 praiseworthy construction and renovation of terraces, water diversion schemes and micro-dams as well as forestation activities have been carried out at the sub-zones of Serejeka, Berik and Gala-Nefhi.

Eng. Mesfun went on to say that 1 thousand 666 hectares of terraces have been constructed and 6 thousand 644 hectares of terraces have been renovated.

Eng. Mesfun further noted that in Mai-Diminet area 440 hectares of terraces have been constructed, 218

hectares of terraces have been renovated, 4 thousand 203 meter cube of water diversion schemes have been constructed and over 345 thousand tree seedlings have been planted.

Eng. Mesfun also said that construction and renovation of terraces and water diversion schemes, construction of dams in Adi-Qe and Adi-Hawush, feasibility study for construction of a dam in Adi-Tareshi as well as research on irrigation farming through solar energy system in three villages are among activities for 2023.



ERITREAN COMMUNITY FESTIVAL IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

The 23rd Eritrean Community Festival in Australia and New Zealand was colorfully conducted from 13 to 15 January in Melbourne under the theme "Independent Choice-Backbone of Our Pride".

The festival that featured photo exhibition of historical buildings of Asmara, the journey for the national independence struggle and nation-building, seminar on the objective situation in the homeland as well as children's programs was officially opened by Mr. Yosuf Saiq, Head of Organizational Affairs of the PFDJ.

Speaking at the event in which communities and organizations as well as invited guests took part, Mr. Mehari Tekeste, Eritrea's Consul General, noted the significance of festivals in the preservation of culture and transferring the history and noble societal values to the young generation, and called on the nationals to strengthen organization and participation in the national affairs.

Mr. Mehari also commended the strong participation of youth at the festival and those that contributed for the successful implementation of the event.

Mr. Bruce Lancashire, Mayor of Brimbank City, appreciating the strong organization of national he witnessed, expressed readiness to support the nationals in all their endeavors.

Mr. Kidane Ginbot, chairman of Eritrean community in Victoria on his part called on parents to strengthen participation in the effort to transfer the noble societal values to the young generation.

Mr. Yosuf Saiq also gave seminar focusing on the objective situation in the homeland and regional developments.

TRAINING TO DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS IN ADI-QUALA

The National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students branch in Adi-Quala sub-zone organized training program ranging from two weeks to three months to over 300 disadvantaged students in the sub-zone.

The theoretical and practical training program included electricity power installation, first aid, poultry farming as well as social science.

Indicating that the training program was in continuation of the effort to develop vocational capacity of the youth, Mr. Ghirmay Gebru, head of the union branch in the Southern Region, called on the trainees to apply the training provided in improving their livelihoods.

Commending the union branch for organizing the training program, Mr. Andemeskel Adhanom, administrator of the sub-zone, called on the youth in the sub-zone to take advantage of the various training programs the union is organizing.



Targeting Eritrea and Ethiopia

Michael Rubin and his Warmongering Campaign of Disinformation

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National Council
of Eritrean Americans

“Rubin wrote a piece so mind-bogglingly stupid that it surpasses even his past efforts at winning a place in the Guinness Moron Book of Records.”—Bob Dreyfuss, *The Mind-Boggling Stupidity of Michael Rubin*. The Nation, February 9, 2010.

The same could be said today about each of the “mind-bogglingly stupid” articles Michael Rubin wrote about Eritrea the past four years. Since the Tripartite Agreement between Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia was signed on 5 September 2018, Rubin seems to be obsessed with the Horn of Africa.

Rubin was among the American neoconservatives who pushed the USA into war in Iraq in 2003 based on a lie. He is also a man with a “bounty of three million Turkish lira, or nearly \$800,000, placed on his head” in connection with the

2016 Turkish coup d'état attempt for “supporting and committing offenses for the Fethullahist Terror Organization.” an Islamist movement led by Fethullah Gülen. It's this Michael Rubin who is now leading a concerted campaign of disinformation against Eritrea.

As a hired gun, Rubin had found it expedient “to kill three birds with one stone”: regime changes in Eritrea as well as Ethiopia and keeping Somalia in a perpetual chaos. Though he has written so many nasty things about Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali and Somalia's ex-president Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed Farmaajo, his worst vitriol, is reserved for Eritrea and its President Isaias. We don't know why he is afflicted with ageism. While the current president of the US is an octogenarian, and about 10% of US senators are 76 years old or higher, Rubin loves to harp on President Isaias age, and repeats TPLF's lies and ill-wishes about this healthy and energetic president Isaias.

This warmonger doesn't want to see peace in the Horn of Africa whether between Eritrea and Ethiopia or between the two Somalias. Here is what he wrote about the former: “Indeed, it is not certain Abiy's détente with Eritrea will last, nor that Ethiopia itself will remain stable and unified. Alas, Abiy appears to have let the [Noble peace] prize go to his head and, in doing so, may have forgotten an important rule of peacemaking: timing matters. Sometimes rushed reconciliation regardless of the good intentions behind it can lead to disaster.” A peace between Eritrea and Ethiopia after twenty years to merchant of death Rubin is “rushed.” In fact, at one time, he encouraged the Tigrean terrorist group to invade Eritrea and as he did in Iraq twenty years ago, he promised them they

would be received with flowers in Eritrea. His own words: “The question now is whether Tigray Defense Forces will enter Eritrea to end a regime that was as much an aggressor against Tigray as Ethiopia's Army but with even less legal justification. Isaias is old and in ill health. His people are demoralized. The rapid defeat of Eritrean forces in Tigray shows his weakness. Should the Tigray Defense Forces enter Eritrea or, more likely, organize and support Eritrean opposition forces, Isaias may find his own conscript army will dissolve and defect.”

This merchant of death, Rubin, also went bonkers at the news of peace between the two Somalis: “It has now been almost 30 years since Somalia descended into state failure. ... Abiy, however, has decided that his Nobel mantle gives him a mandate single-handedly to reunite Somalia. Last week, Abiy brokered the first-ever meeting between Muse Bihi Abdi, Somaliland president, and Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed Farmajo. Abiy likes Farmajo for the same reason Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan and U.S. Ambassador Donald Yamamoto do: because he is not known for an independent intellect and is pliable to their needs.”

Since February 2019 Rubin has written over 40 articles maligning and openly calling for regime change in Eritrea. His articles which covered subjects ranging from accusations against the Eritrean president of considering “attacking Somaliland in order to gain a port on the Red Sea” and maligning the Ethiopian Prime Minister stating he intends to “keep Ethiopia in a state of perpetual crisis” to maintain power. In addition to his sinister intentions relating to Eritrean and Ethiopian people and their leaders, these statements expose his ignorance of the area he pretends to have expertise on. First, Somaliland doesn't share

a common border with Eritrea, second it is not located on the Red Sea coast but along the western side of the Indian Ocean.

As Rubin knowingly recycled and regurgitated discredited stories about Eritrea, at a conference on “Reshaping Africa's Narratives: The Media in Perspective” in Kigali, Rwanda on 14 May 2021, where Mike Rubin was a panelist, Dr. Frederick Golooba-Mutebi, a Ugandan Professor Extraordinarius at the Archie Mafeje Research Institute at the University of South Africa had this rebuke to the likes of Mike Rubin:

“Everything that I knew about Eritrea came from the western media. I read a lot about Eritrea in all the major western newspapers and I never heard or read a single positive thing about that country ... [So], I decided to go to Asmara and see Eritrea, talk to Eritreans, and talk to Eritrean leaders and try to understand what kind of country Eritrea is. I can tell you that I came out of Eritrea feeling extremely angry. I was angry about all the stuff I had read about Eritrea and believed. ... There are so many things that happen in Eritrea which I think are very good things that the rest of us in Africa should know about, but which no one tells us about, absolutely no one.” [Dr. Golooba-Mutebi visited Eritrea in 2018 and you can read what he wrote for The East African about what he found in Eritrea

- Eritrea, the ‘police state’ where there are no cops to be seen (September 7, 2018)

- Ignore the naysayers, Asmara is not reclusive and is open for business (October 1, 2018)

- You can see of what he said at the Reshaping Africa's Narratives: The Media in Perspective panel starting at the 35:45 minute mark at [https://](https://youtu.be/I7eJgT47m1s)

youtu.be/I7eJgT47m1s.]

Rubin, however, didn't care to take Mutebi's eyewitness warning into consideration. Instead, he set out to promote Eritrean “Ahmed Chalabists” to help him fabricate stories like what he did with the nonexistent “WMDs” in Iraq. Along with these Eritrean Chalabists Rubin is recycling an old, discredited story of “slavery in Eritrea.” Of course, there is no slavery in Eritrea.

It is Eritrea's National Service that Rubin is tarring as “slavery.” A national service that doesn't spare the president's or ministers' children from serving is twisted out of context and labeled as “slavery.” If an honored service to one's country and people is termed slavery, then all the selfless patriots who serve their countries around the world, including members of the US armed forces he wants to deploy in the Horn of Africa are “slaves.” National Service is not unique to Eritrea, nearly one-third of world nations have some form of National Service. Furthermore, calling Eritrean National Service as “slavery” whitewashes the heinous crimes of slavery and minimizes the genocide that was committed on Africans during the Middle Passage and in the hands of slave owners in the Americas.

All in all, Michael Rubin has been a merchant of death be it in Iraq, Iran, South Caucasus, Turkey, Syria or Yemen. Now he is frantically attempting to derail peace efforts in the Horn of Africa. Warmongering remains his profession, our hope is sane minds in Washington will condemn him and ignore his campaign of disinformation about Eritrea and its neighboring countries.

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Development

Eritrea Launches a Massive Initiative to Promote Sweet Potato in Addressing Malnutrition among Children

Sweet Potato: A Nutritious Crop with a Zero-wastage

The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) has launched a great initiative to promote sweet potato throughout the country in collaboration with the Ministries of Health and Education as well as the local administrations. According to this initiative, the MoA has begun integrated awareness raising programs so that all villages and schools start cultivating sweet potato with in their premises during the course of 2023. For that matter, this program has been included as one of the MoA top priority areas.

The Public Relations Division of the MoA has interviewed Mr. Mussie Fekadu, Head of Bio-technology Unit at the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI), and Ms. Asmeret Damir, a Sweet Potato Promoter.

Question (Q): Mr Mussie, when was sweet potato first introduced in Eritrea?

Answer (A): Sweet potato was introduced in Eritrea in 1998. Then, 19 varieties were imported from International Potato Center (CIP) – a leading potato research institute based in Kenya. NARI carried out various adaptability trials; and after a long-time trials, five promising varieties were selected. Starting from 2010, the selected varieties were piloted in some farmers; especially around the Sub-regions of Debarwa and Dekemhare.

Q: What were the efforts made to promote the crop at that time?

A: First, we tried our best to produce adequate sweet potato tubers. Concurrently, we conducted numerous awareness raising programs through extension services, media outlets and organizing demonstrations in villages, hotels, and other places.

Q: But the crop was not popularized as planned. What was the reason?

A: Since the crop was new to most of the Eritrean society, it was difficult to be easily adopted. In addition, many farmers were suspicious to aggressively cultivate it due to fear of sustainable demand for the crop. Moreover, its relatively



Mr Mussie Fekadu

long time (4-6 months) growing period was not accepted by some farmers.

Q: What's, then, the MoA doing to avoid these hitches?

A: Currently, the MoA is promoting sweet potato in such a way that it includes all the relevant government bodies; and also the beneficiaries at the same time. In addition, since its base is going to be schools and villages, the awareness is expected to increase. Most importantly, the current initiative is, geared towards children under five years of age because at this stage it is extra-ordinarily crucial to avoid malnutrition and, therefore, is easy to be adopted by the targeted families. In line with this, the ministry will strive to get varieties with shorter cropping cycle.

Q: Let's come back to the advantages of sweet potato.

A: Sweet potato has tremendous

nutritional benefits. For instance, the orange fleshed sweet potato has high beta-carotene (Vitamin A); 7-8 times higher when compared to carrots. This type of nutrient is very important; especially for children under five years of age. It has also got folic acid which is very important for females and pregnant mothers. Generally, it has high potassium, carbohydrates, vitamin C, Sodium; proteins, fiber, sugar and fat. Sweet potato has also medicinal values. Its iron content can treat anemia; its high potassium can regulate heart beats and blood pressure. All in all, sweet potato is a very important crop for mental and physical development of a child. Hence, mothers are advised to start feeding their children from six months onward.

Q: How can it be prepared?

A: It can be prepared in a number of ways based on its objective. For example, it can be prepared in a form of dried powder to be added as a food supplement for children. It can also be consumed easily in a soup or mashed form. Even people living with diabetic can take it for its sugar type is not as harmful as the simple sugars.

Q: Let's move to its agronomic practices. How is its adaptability evaluated in our country's climate?

A: Sweet potato is very adaptable to Eritrea's climate. It can grow almost everywhere in the country. Since it is very easy to propagate, a farmer doesn't need to buy seed potato. What you need is just a vine to be planted. It is also worthy to mention that it is a rewarding crop. You can harvest 400-500 quintals per hectare. In addition, the crop is resistant to diseases, drought; and can grow with limited water uptake.

Another advantage of sweet potato is that its leaves can be consumed both by humans and animals. Researches have shown

that sweet potato leaves increase milk production in dairy animals. Therefore, every part of the plant can be consumed with zero-wastage.

Q: Let's discuss the crop's cultivation cycle.

A: Sweet potato can be grown almost throughout the year in highlands, lowlands and midlands. The one you plant in the highlands can also be planted in the lowland. To identify the best growing seasons, trials were conducted in summer, winter, and autumn. It was found that the best season for optimum production is from February up to June/ July. During these seasons, production reaches up to 500 quintals per hectare. In the other seasons, production is relatively lower. Moreover, it gives better production when planted in the lowlands. We have tried it in Goluj and Shambko. The ones planted in Shambko were more productive than the Halhale's trials.

Q: Any final words...

A: Taking its holistic advantage; especially as a nutritious food for children, I would like to urge farmers, schools and all relevant partners to do more to produce



Ms. Asmeret Damir

Q: Please, introduce us with yourself

A: My name is Asmeret Damir. I am married, and a mother of five children. As a profession, I am interested in food preparation; and I have already published a book titled 'Mistir Tsahilna (ምስጢር ጸሕፈት)' literally meaning - 'The Secret of our Traditional Dish'. The book focuses on food preparation mainly from easily accessible and affordable crops like cereals pulses and oil crops. Currently, I am a member of the Eritrean Women in Agri-business Association (EWAA); and playing a role as a promoter of sweet potato.

Q: What led you to prepare food products from sweet potato?

A: I have good contact with many



sweet potato; and move parallel with the Ministry's momentum. If anyone wants information about sweet potato, he or she can contact agriculture experts in their vicinity; or they can ask for the already prepared and distributed booklet that contains information on management of sweet potato, nutritional values, health benefits and also its importance as animal feed.

Thank you very much Mr. Mussie Fekadu

A Brief Interview with Ms. Asmeret Damir: A Sweet Potato Promoter

MoA experts. I was acquainted with the ministry when I was preparing my book. I frequently go there to get information. It was at this juncture that I heard about sweet potato from the Public Relations office of the ministry. Then, I started to search more about sweet potato and was impressed by its importance as children's food. So, I went on and downloaded more videos on its preparations. I also received a booklet from the ministry. Then after, I prepared some food and cookies and shared them with my family and neighbors to get comments with regards to its taste and its looks.

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Development

A Glimpse of Asmat Sub-Zone

Kesete Ghebrehiwet

Asmat sub-zone, which is mostly surrounded by mountainous and hard to reach areas, is situated in the far north of Anseba region and borders Halhal to the South, Habero to the East, Selea sub-zone of Gash-Barka to the North and Kerekebet sub-zone to the West and Northwest.

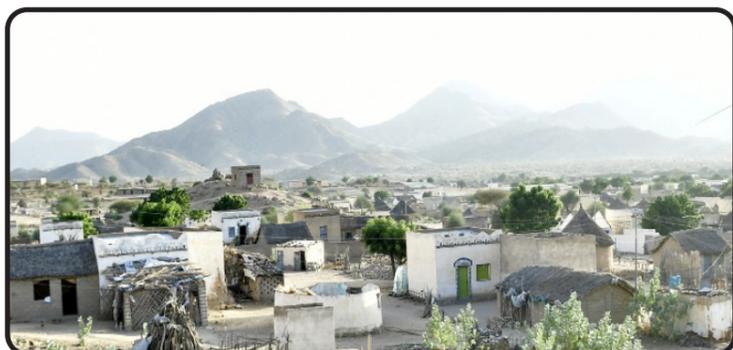
The sub-zone has eight administrative areas (Asmat, Hawish, E'ra, Ureta, Shegali, Sheka, Wegret, and Embelday), 28 villages and a total of 40,000 residents. Three administrative areas, E'ra, Ureta and Shaka-Wagret are on highlands while Shegali, Hawish, Asmat, Asneda and Embelday are situated around river basins.

Making social services accessible for communities throughout the sub-zone and establishing viable and permanent settlements are some of the major development works in Asmat sub-zone.

A road that connects Asmat to Ureta has alleviated a major transport challenge of the sub-zone. Following the completion of the construction of the road by Segen Construction Company and the communities' labour, Harat Transport Company has been giving transport service twice a week to communities that live in hard-to-reach areas.

Access to schools in the sub-zone has improved significantly with the construction of 11 primary and secondary schools that enroll over 6,000 students.

A boarding secondary school was built to alleviate the very limited access to secondary education. The boarding school is a historic



place where literacy programs were given by the EPLF during the struggle for independence. It was built anew to offer better service to students who come from the eight administrative areas of Asmat sub-zone.

Healthcare service has also improved in the sub-zone with the

sub-zone through the construction of strategic dams.

Deficit of potable water is noticeable in the mountainous areas of the sub-zone while communities in low lying areas are better off as they could collect water from rivers. Hawish has abundant water



opening of Ureta Healthcare Center and Shegali Healthcare Station. A waiting room for maternal service has been made available at the health facilities to provide services to pregnant women who come from far-off places. Access to potable water has also been made better with the drilling of wells and the installation of solar energy in the area. Efforts have been made for a lasting solution to the challenges of water supply in the

supply and the challenge will be solved with the introduction of solar power. Shaka and E'ra have been riddled with persistent deficit due to natural barriers.

Mr. Osman Adem-Kier, Administrator of the sub-zone, said that plans have been made for the construction of new dams in Shaka, Teferja and Gibe in an effort to alleviate the problems in the sub-zone.

Agriculture in Asmat sub-zone is very limited due to lack of suitable farm areas, and this can be addressed only by farming in areas around rivers that pass through the plains of the sub-zone.

Livestock is the main economic resource of the sub-zone, and the construction of dams and the all rounded development are expected to help increase remarkably the number of livestock, facilitate the urbanization of the remote areas and improve the living standards of communities in Asmat sub-zone.



As Mr. Osman said community involvement in development undertakings is commendable in Asmat sub-zone. Communities engage in the construction of new schools and the renovation of all kinds of service rendering institutions.



Asneda, a semi-urban center in Asmat sub-zone, has rich potential for agriculture and has been selected to serve as settlement for communities that live in small numbers and scattered locations.

The administration of the sub-zone has been working to raise people's awareness about the

benefits of settling communities that had been living in scattered locations in a bigger and permanent location. This makes it easier for social services to be made available.

Eritrea Launches a Massive Initiative to Promote Sweet Potato in Address . . .

Continued from page 3

were coming back to buy more when I displayed it at the bazaar.

Q: What kind of recipes have you, so far, prepared with sweet potato?

Q: Your future plans, please

A: I have prepared it in a form of biscuits, snacks with sesame seed, chips, juice, jams and bread "Himbasha" and presented them in the COFWB monthly bazaar; and MoA New Year Celebration. When I displayed my products at the bazaar, the ministry sent an expert to give me more information; and accordingly, I was encouraged to upgrade what I started. Now, I have managed to prepare it in a form of soup, vegetable stew, porridge etc. at home. When I distributed the juice, jams, flour, biscuits, cakes and chips to the market, the consumers' feedback was very motivating. As per the comments received, I use red paper for the chips, sesame seed for the cakes, parsley, garlic and green chilly for the vegetable stew; and citrus fruit flavors like lemon for the juice and jams to moderate its sweetness. When I tried with these flavors, people don't even notice they are taking sweet potato.

A: I will closely work with the MoA to promote sweet potato until it becomes a staple food in families with children under the age of five. I have already started preparing powdered children's food supplement by mixing it with dried fish. My next plan is to test its nutritional values and shelf life in the National Animal and Plant Health Laboratory (NAPHL) of the MoA. I have also made contacts with the Ministry of Marine Resources for a sustained supply of dried fish. I hope to see this happening very soon. Moreover, I will try to prepare a comprehensive menu for people of all ages.

Q: Any final word you would like to add?

A: First, I commend the timely initiative of the MoA to promote sweet potato. I, then, urge everyone to do her/ his part in the realization of the MoA's and its partners plans to provide our children with safe and nutritious food.

Moreover, I would like to thank the MoA for their continuous support. And, it's worthy to remind the ministry and farmers to secure the supply of sweet potato throughout the year in addition to what is being done in promotional works.

Q: What were, then, the major feedback regarding its nutritional values?

A: The feedback was very encouraging. Children and lactating mothers liked the powdered sweet potato and also the juice. I have found also children to be fond of the cookies. The sweet cake and the traditional bread (Himbasha) were also liked by many people. People

Thank you Ms. Asmeret

MoA

OPINION

Marriage Serves Personal, Communal and National Purpose

Simon Weldemichael

After Eritrea's Christmas, January 7, marriage ceremonies are being held extensively throughout the cities and villages. Although couples get married any month of the year, January and February have traditionally been the favourite months for marriage. In Eritrea, the only day marriage is not recommended or conducted is 20th June, Martyrs Day.

Last Saturday, along with my colleagues, I went to Dibarewa, a historic city of the Bahri Negestat, to attend a wedding. The groom, a friend and colleague, is from Adi Tekelezan, about 40 kilometers from Asmara on the way to Keren. We went to

go to the bride's home.

Usually, the groom returns home with his bride later in the evening or at night. Everybody wanted to return home as early as possible, but the couple were happy and busy posing for shots, both photos and videos. Aboy Alamin Mohamed, whom I met at the wedding, said to the people that were in a hurry, "We are here to accompany our son. Let the married couple get done with whatever they want. And above all it's good for the bride to go to her new home at night. Allah has made the night so that we can go home to rest." Then everybody laughed.

I was impressed by the 82-year-old Aboy Alamin



woman together as husband and wife to be father and mother to children their union produces. Marriage and then family predates all forms of social organization or institution. Both marriage and family are the fundamental building blocks of human civilization. The public purpose served by marriage transcends that of the private purpose. The stability and well-being of the family and its place in society is not simply a matter for the husband and wife. It is a matter for the whole society. A happy married life makes unique and irreplaceable contribution to the common good of the society.

The Eritrean society regards the family as the necessary basis of social order and as indispensable to the welfare and continuity of the society. The customary laws and the modern civil code of Eritrea pledge to guard the institution of marriage and family with special care. As outlined in the prelude, the primary objective of the Civil Code of Eritrea is to "provide protection, unity and harmony to the natural and basic unit of the society - the family."

Chapter 3, Art. 518 of the new civil code of Eritrea acknowledges that there are three kinds of marriage: civil marriage, religious marriage and marriage according to custom. All three have equal legal status, and their only difference is in the way they are done. Civil marriage is contracted before a civil status

related to marriage differs from one people to the other. Culture, as it is usually understood, entails a totality of traits and characters that are peculiar to a people to the extent that it marks them out from other peoples or societies. Dowry is just one culture that marks out a society distinctive. In Adi Tekelezan, for example, regardless of the religion of the parties, the bride's family are obligated to give an equal amount of money to the church and mosque. The ceremony, although different in different places, have a lot of similarity with theatrical drama performances.

Although couples are increasingly been given more freedom, marriages still require the consent of parents in the Eritrean society. Before marriage initial encounters of families of the couple is mandatory. It all begins with the would-be-groom's family visiting the would-be-bride's family to ask for their daughter's hand. The would-be-groom's party, consisting of four to eight, is often made up of the groom's father, relatives and neighbors. On arrival at the would-be-bride's home, the groom's party introduce themselves and politely ask for the girl's hand. When the request is met, the date of the wedding is set and both parties spread the news among relatives, friends and neighbors and preparations for the marriage begin.

Our strong and socially and legally binding tradition of marriage must be preserved. Marriage is not just a personal pursuit. It is the basis for a family, the foundational stone of a strong and stable country.

In the Eritrean society marriage is one of the most important events celebrated with the objective of starting a family. The culture that



Dibarewa accompanying him as "arki hlfof." Arki hlfof refers to a group of young boys selected and sent by the groom to the bride's home on the eve of the wedding day. Their job, among other things, is to accompany the groom and entertain the bride's family.

On Sunday, the groom's family and best men, "werado mer'a," had to travel from Adi Tekelezan (Anseba region) to Dibarewa (Southern region) for the wedding ceremony where they also had to perform social and cultural rituals and finally take the bride home. Before going to the bride, as is the custom, the groom had to get the blessing of his community, notably priests and elderly relatives and neighbors. The women sang and danced to express their best wishes to the groom's party as they prepared to

Mohamed's sense of humour. My friends and I went to sit by Aboy Alamin's side. His perspective on marriage and its traditional and religious meanings are deep. He was married in 1962, when the federation between Eritrea and Ethiopia was abrogated by Emperor Haileslasie. Aboy Alamin remembered the du'a (prayer) he made before meeting his young wife. He was instructed by his grandfather. He recited the du'a he made 60 years ago, which goes: Bless me with her affection, love, and her acceptance of me; and make me pleased with her and bring us together in the best form of a union and in absolute harmony. Aboy Alamin and his wife have seven children, two of whom, a boy and a girl, are martyrs in the struggle for independence.

Marriage brings a man and a





SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE (SPN) Invitation for Bids (One-Envelope Bidding Process)

Design, Supply, Installation, configuration and training of Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) software and IT Infrastructure

Purchaser: **Ministry of Finance and National Development (MOFND)**

Project: **Public Financial Management and Statistics Capacity Building Project (PFM&SCBP)**

Contract title: **Design, Supply, Installation, configuration and training of Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) software and IT Infrastructure**

Country: **Eritrea**

Grant No.: **5900155010251**

1. The Government of the State of Eritrea has received financing from the African Development Fund toward the cost of the Public Financial Management and Statistics Capacity Building Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards payment under the contract for **Design, Supply, Installation, configuration and training of Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) software and IT Infrastructure** (Without Prequalification)
2. The Ministry of Finance and National Development (MOFND) now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for **The Design, Supply, Installation, configuration and training of Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) software and IT Infrastructure** including:
 - a) Supply, installation and configuration of a IFMIS Software as per the user requirements. The system should be compliant with international best practices.
 - b) Supply the hardware that is suitable for the IFMIS including user equipment, server systems, information security systems and implementation and support services.
 - c) Ensure data migration services.
 - d) Deploy IFMIS Solution and Pilot Testing at Key locations.
 - e) Ensure Go Live and Roll-Out of IFMIS Solution at Key locations.
 - f) Provide services for integration/interfacing of the IFMIS with internal and external identified stakeholders/systems/components.
 - g) Ensure comprehensive transfer of knowledge and skills to users.



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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Position: HME Engineer
Department: HME Maintenance
Number required: One (01)

PRIMARY PURPOSE

- Supporting the HME Management, to ensure operating targets and budgets set are achieved/exceeded, following the company safety and health policies.

TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS

Planning

- Participate in suggesting new ideas/proposals, as well as encouraging others to improve the HME Engineering Division operation.
- Improve when relevant the "Annual Budgeting Process" to ensure production targets are set.

Implementation

- Support the HME Management team to ensure all maintenance and repairs in HME are completed in line with plans to ensure an efficient and effective fleet of equipment, in order to achieve/exceed operational targets.
- Ensure safety requirements are fulfilled at the workplace, including leading Field Level Risk Assessment (FLRA) and proper use of the appropriate PPE. Report any safety issues/incidents.
- Carry out RCFA when required.
- Comply with mine's cardinal rules and other safety, environmental or other rules and standards as directed. Ensure all hazards and risks are identified, reported, and eliminated.
- Coordinate the HME Engineering Division resources (people; equipment; spares/consumables; and facilities to ensure processing utilization and cost management objectives meet or exceed targets.
- Assist in tracking equipment performances and identify and implement corrective actions.
- Ensure production, quality and costs are in line with budget.
- Ensure an appropriate level of resourcing for HME projects.
- Relieve the HME Manager and/or Superintendent when required
- Lead and follow through with direct management decisions and present data in support.

Reporting and Data Control

- Ensure that the "Information System" is updated.
- Carry out ICAM investigations and ensure any issues arising from such are dealt with in a timely manner.
- Analyse and process equipment data for fleet performance management

Supporting the HME Engineering Division

- Provide technical support for the team, as and when required.
- Provide training and mentoring for the team (especially safety standards and procedures).
- Ensure all HME Engineering Division personnel and contractors, work in accordance with relevant laws, regulations, company policies and procedures.
- Promote good HME Engineering Division behaviour and world best engineering practices.
- Propose, implement and manage improvement projects and studies
- Train and coach national engineer in his role.
- Providing input into the development of the Department's Succession Plan, staff retention strategies and identifying potential leaders within the Section.

Running Condition Monitoring and Reliability Section for HME

- Identify and manage asset reliability risks that could adversely affect equipment reliability and/or business operations
- Participates in the development of new equipment specifications along with

- commissioning and formulating criteria for and evaluation of equipment and technical MRO suppliers and technical maintenance service providers.
- Ensuring that condition monitoring of equipment parts and systems is conducted as per the prescribed criteria and test results reported accurately and within the shortest period; preferably, within 24 hours from cutting of the sample.
- Ensuring that all salvageable parts from the Mine Scrapyard are segregated from scrapped items and repaired for use
- Aiding in driving continuous improvement by working with leadership Teams in identifying gaps in key performance areas and planning activities to increase overall equipment efficiency.
- Analyzing reliability and downtime problems in order to determine the reliability approach, personnel/equipment required for the particular situation, with consideration given to cost limitations for equipment uptime/downtime, repair/replacement costs and weight, size and availability of materials/equipment.
- Participate in suggesting new ideas/proposals to improve the HME Department performance.

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
Degree in Mechanical, Engineering	10 - 15 years relevant experience 5 - 10 years supervisory skills
Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
Computer Literacy (MS Office – Intermediate, Excel – Advanced)	Communication (English)
HME Engineering Division, maintenance and environment experience	Assertiveness & Proactivity; Interpersonal Relations; Integrity, Prioritizing skills & multi-skilling; Ability to work towards strict deadlines
Attention to detail; Analytical skill, Management skills, Problem solving skill, Financial Management Skills, Strategy Exposure	Coaching & Team-building skills; Discretion; Self-motivation; Cultural Diversity experience
Condition monitoring and Reliability experience	

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



“What I Consider to be a Vital Part of My Life is Education.” Tabotu Berhane.

Our guest today, Tabotu Berhane, is a model teacher and a single mother of five children who has proved that success is bound to come if you have a clear goal no matter how big the challenges you face may be.

Sabrina Solomon

Thank you for your time. Let's begin with an introduction.

Thank you for the invitation. I was born in 1982 in Debarwa, Southern region, at a village called Logo. I am a forty-year-old mom who has spent seventeen

I still went through the hardships and managed to finish the four-year long program and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Biology and finally became a teacher.

What happened next?

After I graduated, I gave birth

our husbands understand that we can achieve anything that we put our minds to and support us throughout our journey. Because that support is also a motivation to do more and better. I am so grateful for my late husband who understood my dreams and gave me his full support in everything that I needed. I remember some people who were telling my husband to stop my education and focus on my family and raising more kids instead. They were saying that a woman could never accomplish anything valuable through higher education and that she was simply wasting her time. There might still be narrow-minded people whose perspectives and opinions can ruin lives of many young females. It's important to always remember that a female is a teacher and a guide in a society. The fact that my husband and I were people with goals and visions led us to success and prosperity.

But a teacher, a parent and a wife might all be a lot to take in at once.



years of her lifetime as a teacher.

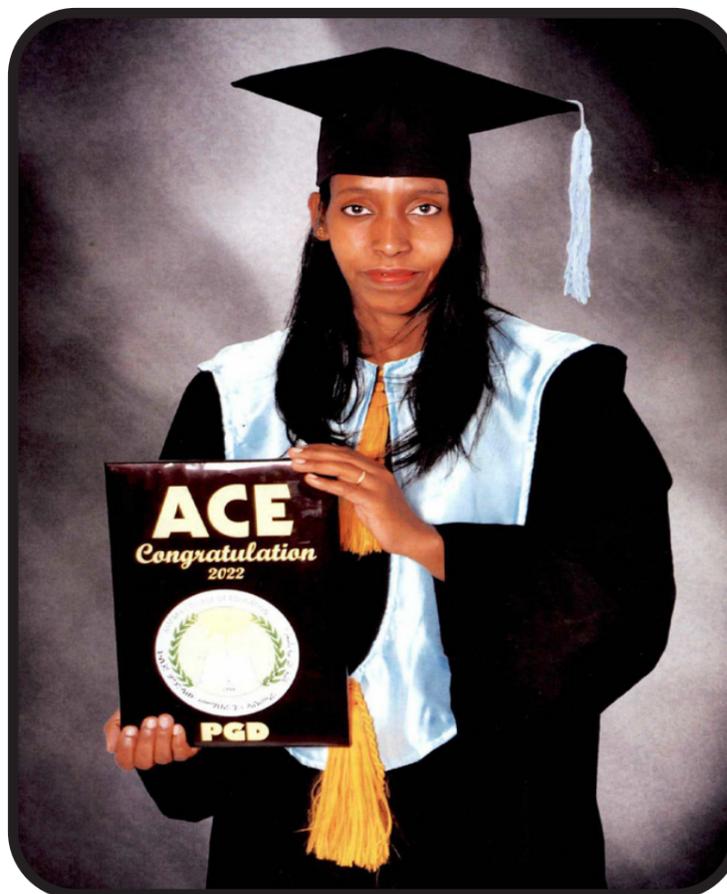
I came to Asmara when I was old enough to start school. I studied up to seventh grade at Fre-Selam School and then went to Barka Secondary School. I then took the matriculation exam in 2000, scored 3 and joined Asmara University.

I got married in 1998 at a young age when I was in tenth grade. I completed my senior high school as a mom and a wife. The challenge was at its peak when I went to University as I was a mother of a 1-year-old son and a housewife. I was always a bit worried because I had to leave my son at home to attend classes. If you have a goal, however, it's always possible to do it, and I have come to witness that myself.

to the rest of the boys and was living a good life. But I lost my husband to a sudden sickness and that made my life chaotic. I had to be a mom and a dad for my kids on top of pursuing my career as a teacher. I am a teacher at school and a parent and a teacher at home. The challenges and responsibilities keep going up. However, I am continuing my journey with patience and open mind, and I am doing just fine.

What about the role of husbands in the success and their wives?

Behind every successful wife, there is a supporting and understanding husband just like there's a supporting wife that is vital in the success of a husband. It's essential for us wives to have



It's true that a family with and without a husband are different. The presence of the father makes things better as you share basically everything, from raising kids to generating income. So, holding onto those three things as a single parent isn't as easy as one might think. The responsibility of a teacher isn't just teaching but also guiding and raising the kids, the future leaders of the country. The future of those kids can be easily ruined if the teacher has a divided attention and is unfocused. That responsibility isn't easy. On top of this, the responsibility of raising five kids as a single parent can seriously be stressful. However, it is the

journey with all those challenges and struggles that makes it a life filled with a lot of experience and success. In my opinion, the most successful people are the healthy, wealthy or wise who keep going when the going gets tough. I want to be one of those icons who succeed in their career, family and life despite anything that comes on my way.

I try to keep up with it all. I don't miss any opportunity that can potentially add to my knowledge. I did my post-graduate studies at Asmara College of Education and graduated with a 3.86 G.P.A.

Please, tell us a piece of advice you would like to share with our readers.

I advise people to never take education for granted, especially the opportunities that we are getting in our country. Education is a wealth forever. What I consider to be a vital part of my life is education, and I say that because I have been able to see its advantages for myself. I always say that we, human beings, are better than animals because of the knowledge we gain from education. And I strongly advise females to set a vision and a goal and start the journey of making yourselves and your society proud. Most of all, prove to those with a biased mindset that we are more than just mothers and wives. Have a career and raise children that have discipline and you will have a thriving family.

Thank you.

