

ERITREAN NATIONALS ABROAD COMMEMORATE OPERATION FENKIL



Eritrean nationals residing in Mannheim city, Germany, have commemorated the 27th anniversary of Operation Fenkil under the theme “Fenkil: Precursor of the Final Phase”.

The event organized by the YPFDJ branch in the city was

attended by the Head of Public and Community Affairs in Germany, Mr. Kahsai Tewolde, and a number of Youth and parents.

In a speech he delivered on the occasion, Mr. Kahsai said that Operation Fenkil was a decisive moment in the history of the

Eritrean struggle for independence that paved the way for the nation's total liberation.

The event featured artistic and cultural performances.

Meanwhile, Eritrean nationals residing in the cities of London, Birmingham, Leeds, Manchester, Sheffield and New Castle donated 17,705 Pounds in support of the Martyrs Trust Fund. Mr. Petros Berhe from London also donated 1,000 dollars for the same cause.

Likewise, YPFDJ members of “Pal-Talk” donated 3,540 Pounds, while members of the NUEW branch in London, other national associations and individuals donated 1,428 Euro to the National Association of Eritrean War-Disabled Veterans.

ERITREA WINS MEN AND WOMEN ELITE TTT AND ITT IN AFRICAN CONTINENTAL CYCLING CHAMPIONSHIP

The 2017 African Continental Cycling Championship that started on Tuesday in the Egyptian city of Luxor witnessed extraordinary performance the Eritrean National Cycling team that comfortably won the 57.8 Km Team Time Trial (TTT) both in the elite men and women.

Neither Luxor's sweltering heat nor the participation of continents finest cyclists can deter the indomitable Eritrean riders from scooping the available 8 gold Medals of the day.

Winning this edition of the African championship was another great milestone for the Eritrean elite men's team as it turns out to be their unprecedented record 7th consecutive victory.

For the Eritrean women team, it is their second victory of the championship since they scooped it first time in 2013 in Sharme-el-Shiehk, Egypt.

Ever since 2012, the Eritrean

national team dominates the African Continental Championship competition and yet, no other national team on the continent was managed to upset their absolute dominance.

In this edition of the time trial, Eritrea was represented by, Meron Abraham, Meron teshome, Amanuel Gebregziabher, and Awet Habtom in the men's elite group. Wehazit Kidane, Mosana Debesay, Bisrat gebremeskel and Wegahta Gebrehiwot represented the women's elite team.

Meanwhile, Meron Teshome has won his second gold medal in the elite men Individual Time Trial (ITT), Awet Habtom from Eritrea also took the third place in the same category, while Mosana debesay won silver medal in the elite women Individual Time Trial.

A total of 24 African national teams have participated in the time trial.

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Ms. Beletset Beraki, Head of the NUEW branch in Adi-Keih sub-zone, indicated that the necessary effort is being exerted to economically empower women with a view to improving their livelihood.

Speaking at a meeting with over 800 women representatives from the Administrative areas of Hishmele, Hadamu, Hainebe and Onabur, Ms. Beletset called on the participants to efficiently use the educational opportunities at their disposal.

She also presented activity report of 2016 and the development programs for 2017.

The participants of the meeting called for sustainable awareness-raising programs and organizing vocational training.

NEWS BRIEF

YOUTH TRAINING IN KEREN

A total of 131 youths in Keren have received training in different skills. The three-month program included theory and practice in electricity installation, photography and video camera, basic computer application, and artistic performance among others.

During the graduation ceremony, Mr. Zerezgi Dawit, Administrator of Keren city, explained that the training focused on equipping youths with different skills and thereby improve their livelihood.

Ms. Tirhas Mehari, Head of the NUEYS branch in the sub-zone, pointed out on her part that the NUEYS continues to exert the necessary effort in partnership with stakeholders.

DECLINE OF MALARIA INFECTION IN ASHARA

Following concerted prevention measures in Ashara Administrative area, Hagaz sub-zone, the prevalence of malaria has declined in 2016 by 10%. Sister Senbetu Gebrat, Head of Healthcare centre in the administrative area, pointed out that the prevalence of communicable diseases has significantly declined while prenatal and antenatal services has registered progress.

She further indicated that the provision of healthcare services has witnessed improvement along with the putting in place of new healthcare facilities. The local residents also expressed satisfaction with the available healthcare service.

EXEMPLARY VILLAGE REGROUPING

The regrouping of villages in Kubkub Administrative area, Afabet sub-zone, has enabled 850 families to become beneficiaries of different social services.

Mr. Idris Osman, Managing Director of the Administrative area, said that primary and junior schools have been constructed and thus enabling more students to have broad access to education.

He further noted that four solar energy-operated water distribution centres and other service-rendering institutions are rendering commendable service. Expressing satisfaction with the fruits and vegetables farming activities under way in their environs the local residents called on the Ministry of Agriculture to extend them technical support.

REINFORCING YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

The National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS) has conducted a seminar to students from 9 sub-zones in Anseba region with a view to raising their awareness and strengthening organizational capacity in addition to their participation in national development endeavors.

The Head of the NUEYS branch in Anseba region, Mr. Azazi Bereketeab, stated that the Union has been organizing seminars from time to time and that youth are demonstrating active participation in political and socio-economic activities.

Ms. Amete Neguse, Secretary of the PFDJ in the region, called on the NUEYS and stakeholders to further strengthen the initiative and extend support to the youth in all their endeavors.



LOCAL MEDIA INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT ISAIAS AFWERKI: EXCERPTS

"The primary doctrine of our foreign policy is to create an enabling environment characterized by stability, cooperation, mutual respect and partnership in our region at large"

PART V & FINAL

With regard to regional issues, there have been popular protests that broke out in Ethiopia in 2016. The Ethiopian government has declared a state of emergency to undo or control such protests and command posts have been established for this purpose. How effective are these measures when judged in terms of their effect to restore stability in the country? Where is the situation in general heading to? Further, whenever there is such a crisis in Ethiopia, it has been a norm to blame and defame Eritrea and use such an excuse to demonize Eritrea. How do you assess these issues?

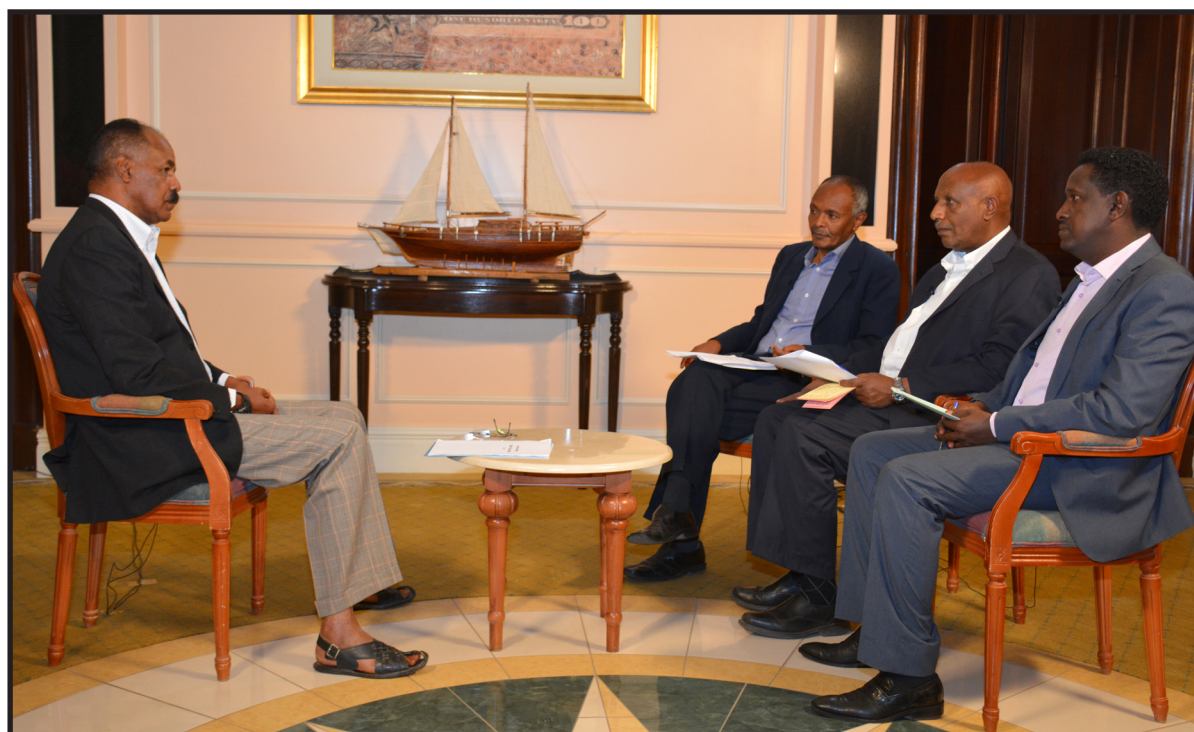
The root cause of this problem is basically linked to the motives of creating and sustaining a hegemonic and unipolar world order. We need to be aware of the untold damage that has been caused because of hegemonic motives in the last 25 years. It is very unfortunate that the Ethiopian people have been considerably victimized due to hegemonic motives and policies. It is good for such issues to be retrospectively analyzed as the problems raised in the question are the symptoms of some other basic problems. For example, nobody should be too naïve to believe the claim or allegation that Eritrea is behind the protests in Ethiopia or that Egypt has contributed in fueling such a crisis.

The claim against Eritrea has been used by the decision-makers in Washington to substantiate or cover-up their intentions to discipline Eritrea so that it can eventually be a subservient state

that serves their presumed interests. Tremendous support has been provided to the Ethiopian regime to coddle and overprotect Ethiopia such that it serves as an anchor state fulfilling hegemonic motives and interests. If we also take the case of Iraq, Libya and other similar cases, the Washington policy makers manipulate the internal situations of such states in order to eventually make them subservient of their interests; creating cleavages along ethnic and religious lines such that the states may be manipulated into serving hegemonic motives.

For instance, if we look at the substance of the 1994-1995 constitution of Ethiopia, it is not primarily meant to make Ethiopia a federally democratic state. Instead, it was a divide-and-rule policy instrument used to manipulate the Ethiopian people. The problem in this case, or rationale, was that the Woyane regime [Tigray People's Liberation Front] was not confident enough about its capacity to effectively govern Ethiopia. According to such a mindset, the divide-and-rule governance policy instrument was regarded as the most viable option. At the beginning, such issues were discussed overtly. To add insult to an injury, the motive was also shared by the patrons of the Woyane regime. Consequently, the fact that Ethiopia would be a model of federal democracy was being outwardly complimented in a manner that was not real and genuine.

I can say that I was among the first individuals who were able to look at the constitution of Ethiopia. What came to my mind when I came across article 39 of the constitution was that such a situation could not be helpful at all for building a state. How sensible is it to include a provision granting the right to self-determination to the various regions in the country? It was clear that such a situation would certainly lead to cleavages and disintegration within the society. We voiced our concerns—on the record—about these issues at that time, but the Woyane regime was heedless and claimed that this strategy was the only option available to them for ruling Ethiopia. The primary victim of such a policy is the people of Tigray. As a reaction of the said policy applied over the last 25 years, untold hatred has been harbored in different parts of Ethiopia against the people of Tigray. While the people of Tigray are innocent, the misguided policy was implemented



in their name, instilling historical hostility against them.

In 1992, there was a conference organized before the constitution was drafted and all the discussions and concerns I am talking about have been documented. The process of "federal democracy" was a charade as it was not intended to be genuinely representative. Just one to two were included in the Woyane leadership from the other nationalities of Ethiopia. This was done to mislead the general public. As a consequence of such misguided historical background, the Woyane regime has been severely threatened.

There are three areas that have been targeted by the Woyane regime and its patrons to control the resources of Ethiopia and the citizenry. The first is ruling Ethiopia through a strategy of divide and rule. Hence, all the problems prevailing in Ethiopia are not caused by either Eritrea or Egypt. They were initially engineered by the Woyane regime. As a consequence, the Ethiopian people are experiencing a situation that is worse than what they experienced during the previous two regimes of the country.

The second target is the Ethiopian economy. Many may tend to think that the people of Tigray were economically favored and advantaged within the last 25 years of the Woyane rule. A lot is also propagated about a double digit economic growth in Ethiopia. However, if we inquire about who is enjoying the benefits associated with the economic growth in Ethiopia, where the money has been deposited and by which company, we can easily realize that the

Ethiopian economy is controlled by the Woyane clique and its external patrons and partners. The Woyane regime along with its patrons and partners has been looting the resources of Ethiopia in the name of "investment." The serious popular protests of the Ethiopian people are just a natural reaction to such manipulative political and economic policies experienced by the citizens in the last 25 years. The fact that various companies and investment areas are being targeted by the protesters also indicates the furious popular reactions to manipulative economic policies.

The third target area is security. Threatening and terrorizing the people militarily is also considered an important policy instrument. Nevertheless, such a strategy is likely to be futile in the long term and that is why the army has not been able to stop the popular protests. This situation has threatened not only the Woyane regime but also—and to a greater degree—has threatened the patrons of the regime. That is why there has been considerable efforts exerted in the last few months by the patrons of the regime, located in the US and Europe, so as to protect the regime from eventual collapse.

Such endeavors, military and foreign interventions, are unlikely to solve the problem prevailing in Ethiopia. Coddling Ethiopia militarily, economically and politically is unlikely to bear fruit. To ultimately address this challenge, the basic strategy needs to be reformed first. Instead of attributing their own problems to either Eritrea or Egypt, the regime should pay attention to the historical lessons associated with its policy choices. Cover-ups need to be avoided.

It is also claimed that opposition groups that are supported by Eritrea played a role in organizing the protests. However, if we carefully look into the nature of the protests, it is purely publicly initiated and sustained by individual citizens. It is spontaneous in nature and no one is behind it apart from the ordinary citizens.

Similarly, the Woyane regime is also serving as an agent of external intervention in Somalia. This situation has seriously victimized the Somali people. Primarily, it is not the Woyane regime that has victimized the Somali people. The Somali people have become victims mainly due to the motives of the patrons of the Woyane regime. Creating cleavages and polarization—for example, consider the widened divisions among Somalis who speak the same language and belong to the same religion—is a major doctrine or policy instrument of the Woyane regime and its patrons.

You talked about the role of Eritrea in the anti-terrorism alliance that is led by Saudi Arabia in our previous interview. What new developments are there in relation to this issue? What is the prospect of this relationship in the foreseeable future?

We need to look at this issue from the perspective of a broader context. The primary doctrine of our foreign policy is to create an enabling environment characterized by stability, cooperation, mutual respect and partnership in our region at large. This is our established and unchangeable policy.

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**ERITREA
PROFILE**

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Ascoula Solidarity Beyond Border

Semir Seid

Talking about Ascoula outside borders may logically seem about further studies people pursue outside their nation. That can reasonably be for personal fulfillment and achievement. In the other extreme and fortunately, people can somehow gain similar and basic educational opportunities from far that reflect their country's overall context. When they are away from their home, they need to settle, work, learn and gradually decorate themselves through time. Eritrea has counted decades in providing educational platform for its population in Sudan.

Eritreans have resided for decades in Sudan for many reasons. Many Eritreans made their living there for a long time. The Embassy of Eritrea in Sudan in collaboration with Eritrean Ministry of Education arranged community schools in Sudan to enable citizens residing there have a formal access to enlightenment. The Eritrean community who has settled in Sudan at various times has been able to fully get its right for education.

According to the Eritrean Embassy sponsored cultural and educational affairs office in Sudan, community schools are providing a well-established education services which go back as far as 2003. The particular feeling Eritreans have for their country and their resilient reactions for anti-nation oppositions triggered the educational platform. This is done purposefully to preserve the Eritrean culture and values. More or less 13 schools are situated in several Sudanese cities distributed in the three eastern regions, of Gedarf, Red Sea or Port Sudan

and Kesela. These schools deliver the two nation's collaborative educational curriculum on a regular basis so that citizens, along with their children out there, maintain the Eritrean culture and values, thereby contributing to the national development. An approximate of 4000 students take their preschool up to 8th grade of formal education in these schools.

The head of Cultural and Educational Affairs office, Mr. Bokretsion Habtemicael states that the mission of the office is to ensure continuation and development of the connection of the community with its mother nation, government and society as a whole. The impact of the Eritrean families in the overall achievement of the current educational podium is remarkable. To improve the awareness of the children and youth, many cultural and co-curricular activities take place in the schools. In addition, in line with the Eritrean government policy and educational curriculum, necessary courses have been periodically added. Moreover, when the learning community demands a curriculum renovation its voice is given precedence. Social science courses and English language contents related with the curriculum and Eritrean history are arranged in a way that suit the learning process in the schools. In the newly constructed schools for a uniformity reason, the introduction of the new curriculum was made mandatory. All of this couldn't have been possible without the intense collaboration and interaction of the community and the Cultural and Educational Affairs office.

Up on requesting the head of the office for teaching aids, he

informed us that there is no problem on getting reference books and also teaching staff. Depending on the annual governmental budget, abundant books are sponsored by the Ministry of Education and if by any chance shortages are witnessed necessary duplications are made. Almost in all schools the English language books are instituted from the first grade, though where normally in Sudan instructing in English language starts from fifth grade. Concerning the social science courses, a new draft with a national background is published and is already running in the teaching process. The office, principally, conducts its activities under the Eritrean Embassy with full collaboration of the community.

Referring to man power, it has been rising since 2012 and by last year around 184 personnel were involved in the schools doing their particular jobs. Out of these 184 staff members, the 15.8% were unskilled, 8.2% were involved in supervision and administration and the rest 76% accounted for the teaching staff. To continually upgrade the teaching staff constructive pedagogical lectures are offered.

The schools are regular involved in various campaigns with their students presenting cultural songs and messages on public meetings and Independence Day that reflect their identities. Many of the activities are organized by the various regions and the office.

The number of students during the last two years has shown an increment. In the Port Sudan region alone, as a result of opening two additional schools, the number of students has risen by 155 from 2015. The Gedarf region registered a 25.6% growth comparing to the 2015 academic year while in the Kesela region a 7.20% growth was seen. These figures include both female and male students.

As the number of students gradually grows, it is compulsory to renovate the old schools and make them suitable for learning. In the Gedarf region a land has been provided for building new school. In 2015, in Halfa, out of the four school which were on plan to be constructed, two permanent



and four temporary classrooms were constructed. In Shegerab, Emgurgur, Wedelhlew, Swak and Port Sudan a preliminary renovations to the classrooms were made. The plan of the Cultural and Educational Affairs office is to make these schools more competitive though the project requires some big investment.

Many of these schools bear names in line with the Jehaz Ataelim administration regulations. Some of them possess names such as Alweteniya, Alwahida, Aydun and the like. These names, however, have been creating some controversies among many senior teachers, officials as well as educational and security institutions and some initiatives are taken to change them all.

The relation of the community associations and the head office greatly boosts the educational provision. Understanding this, the community association in Port Sudan campaigns on educational activities regularly since it takes it as core for its unification. It strives on advancing education in the region, creates potential family committees and encourages teachers. In Gedarf, the community, apart from its own activities, works with schools on innovations and involves its members on environmental works. The members of community associations in Kesela region involve themselves in providing materials including educational instruments for disabled students. Last year during school closing day, a 2000 dollar worth of materials that include televisions, bicycles, radios and other stuff were distributed as prizes.

The Cultural and Educational Affairs office periodically arranges visits to the three regions and tries to create a bridge between higher officials and the schools so the schools can build up their affairs gradually. It also arranges meetings with higher educational facilities like the Sudan Open University and the International Institute for Arabic language.

The process is flowing, registering optimistic results and growth. The office annually sets future plans so it can work better year in year out. It thoroughly assesses its whole year programs. Currently, it is looking forward to advancing its existing schools and opening new ones, to qualitatively improve the education system and make the schools more influential.

It also looks for increased role of the community associations, potential family committees by hiring potential nationals in teaching staff, organizing training sessions for teachers, establishing strong participation of schools and students in national celebrations and organizing more public meetings.

Opportunities are available inside and outside as long as citizens strive to manage themselves through education. Engaging in such beyond border educational platforms towards citizens will wipe away illiteracy once and for all and will no longer be an issue of concern. This being the case, the future will itself bring these citizens to their homeland to continue their undergraduate and post graduate studies in the existing colleges of their own country.





Disaster Risk Management 101: Wishing won't keep you safe; safety will!

Natnael Yebio W.

Planet Earth is swimming across the immensity of space carrying on its back over six billion people, the majority of which are half-starved, underdeveloped and superstitious.

We live with hazards and from time to time the earth warns us to understand that nobody is safe as long as the sun keeps shinning and the earth keeps revolving and we don't learn from past experiences. Disaster risk management is a course for everybody.

Some worrywarts talk about the cooling off the sun in about a million years from now. Is there anything we can do to keep the sun hot forever, by vigorous fanning, for example?

Disaster is defined as a sudden event, an accident of a natural catastrophe that causes great damage or loss of life.

But disasters in the form of hazards always lurk in the dark probabilities of life and there is nothing much we can do about it unless there is recurrence of it to warrant preparedness. In which case we can expect the worst and take the necessary measures to stay alive or mitigate the damage.

In Eritrea's traditional thinking, natural disasters are punishments meted out on earthlings by angry gods who have had enough with the sins of the world.

Once about 40 or so years ago, Asmara and its surroundings began to feel the pinch of the drought that hit part of the country. The people went to church to pray and supplicate God to have mercy on them. No way. They tried this and that, all in vain. Finally they decided to

them as a sacrifice to some patron saint or angel. Well, it rained all right. But it rained enough just to wash the blood away from the sacrificial site. What was the matter? The matter was that the people had to learn how to manage disaster risk before it was too late and take the necessary steps to mitigate the damage.

In one west African village there is a lake that sits on a crater. One day the underground gas bubbled its way up the lake and spread all over the village killing every living thing on its way. Those who survived thought of a traditional way to prevent further recurrence. They killed black or red-feathered chickens and tossed them on the lake, perchance to placate the gods.

The gas was some kind of carbon compound (probably carbon monoxide) and because of its heaviness the gas flowed close to the ground killing even ants and rats in their burrows. Some officials and consultants arrived on a Land Cruiser with their study paper tucked in leather briefcases and the disaster and its causes were explained in a simplified manner. But the villages refused to listen lest the gods came back with revenge and wiped them out.

About 50 years ago, it is said a comet appeared over the Asmaran sky. People of then called it a star with a tail. Women went to the St. Mary church to pray and entreat God to spare them and mend fences and settle old grudges among themselves. They thought it was the end of the world and they wanted a safe path to heaven.

On the other hand, I remember seeing a film entitled 'Asteroid' in which big heavenly boulders zoomed fast towards planet earth to blow it to

The Soviets Russians did not pray, as such practice was anti-social and revisionist act. The Americans as usual had their Bible in one hand and a gun on the other and aimed their nuclear arsenal at the coming asteroids and blasted them off their course. Mother Earth was saved all right, but the cold war continued. In fact, for the Americans who teamed up with Russia to survive, the Soviet Union with a disastrous political system was in itself a hazard worse than ten asteroids.

Drought and locust infestation are a few of the disasters from which Africans suffers almost yearly. For some African leader though, a disaster now and then is good for the economic well-being of the country. For some unscrupulous African leaders like the ones south of the border drought is a foreign currency earner on par with tourism.

Hazards become disaster to the unwary and the unprepared. The same drought that takes millions of lives in Africa loses its clout when it strikes, say America or Germany. To the poor even the loss of his only cow by falling over the cliff is a national disaster.

When Columbus sailed westward upon uncharted waters to find India and landed in America, little did he know that he was a hazard to the North Americans who lived peacefully in their vast territories. With the arrival of more Europeans in search of gold and land, the disaster which had been long prophesied by the sages of the continents struck. The various Indian nations were not prepared for such kind of hazard and were wiped out in the end.

Preparedness for disaster or disaster risk management seems alien to Africa Culture in general. Try to speak of preparing oneself against fire by buying a fire extinguisher or keeping a pain killer in the house in case someone gets sick at night, the response you get from old parents is that you have to eschew such vain talks and trust in God. In Eritrean tradition they tell you to spit out the bad words as it is bad omen to mention anything related to disaster.

The conversation with a certain villager seems to go this way:

“Okay let us save some corn in the

pantry for a rainy day?” “Just eat and drink and be merry and let tomorrow worry for itself.”



“Why don't you move out from this valet and settle in the hills nearby?”

“The same God who created us will keep us alive for his sake,” will be the answer most of the time. Once people associate disaster with divine punishment, it is an uphill journey to try and make them understand the gravity of the situation.

Once there was this person who came from America and sold a gadget to his Eritrea friend and was to pay him within six months.

“If I die within the agreed time, just pay the money to my wife,” he said.

When the Eritrean told this to his mother, she was shocked. “What do they teach them in America?” she whined.

Of course, I can't deny the American did exaggerate a bit. But, on the other hand, what he said was correct.

When I think about natural disasters the picture of a swarm of locust often come to my mind. Everyone knows that any place over which locusts pass changes from green to yellow. Not a single blade of grass is spared.

Once an Eritrean farmer tired of having to face yearly devastation on his wheat field by locust asked his friend for piece of advice.

“What shall I do?” moaned the farmer.

“Just plant tobacco for this year and see the result,” counseled the friend.

The idea was that locusts which are believed to loath tobacco plant will just pass by without touching

his cash crop. So the farmer did as he was bidden and waited for the locust to come, examine his field, and

“Why don't you move out from this valet and settle in the hills nearby?” pinch their nose with their fingers, Yuck!!! And storm off to other fields.

The locust came at last, and ate all his tobacco plant with gusto.

The next morning the angry farmer went to his friend's house and knocked on the door.

“Who is it?” asked the friend.

“It is me. You and your idiotic ideas! The locust did not spare my tobacco field,” roared the poor farmer.

“Well, it is your luck. Some locusts are addicted to nicotine.”

I think there is a traditional way to deal with hazards posed by locusts. It is a good advice for those who take courses on disaster risk management. Learn to eat them, for they are rich source of protein.

Although you may not be professionally engaged in risk management activities, you and everyone else in the world is in fact a risk management practitioner. If you buckle your seat, make a restaurant reservation or have life insurance, you're managing risk. I wrote this short to offer an everyday, albeit quirky, example of risk management behavior.

What is Risk Mitigation?

A risk manager with a very sick pet

Found a way to hedge his risk bet.

He so loved his hound

That he searched 'til he found

A combination of taxidermist and vet.



heifers and offered

smithereens.

LOCAL MEDIA INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT ...

Continued from page 2

It is good to look at the developments in our region during the last 25 years—the Red Sea region, the Horn of Africa, the Nile region and the Gulf region. In the last 25 years, there have been serious problems affecting our region that are basically associated with the attempts of creating and sustaining hegemonic and unipolar world order. To create stability, mutual respect and partnerships in our region, first and foremost, we need to overcome the challenges we are experiencing.

With regard to the developments during the last 25 years, let us start with the case of Afghanistan. Consider the emergence of Taliban. This issue is linked to the demise of the cold war and the collapse of the Soviet Union. There were considerable policy shortcomings that caused this problem and subsequently serious blowback emerged in Afghanistan and the world. While it can be claimed that Afghanistan is far away from our region, the problems in Afghanistan do influence the situation in our region.

If we consider Iraq, one can hardly claim that Iraq as a state exists at this moment. It has been divided into different polities among Sunni, Shia and Kurds. While it has among the world's largest oil reserves, Iraq has not been able to experience peace and stability within the last 25 years. Foreign intervention has created turmoil in the country. Regardless of the distance away from Eritrea, the effects our region cannot be underestimated.

For the last 30 years—during the Mubarak era—Egypt was inactive and failed to play the roles it was expected to play in our region. Egypt's lack of action had a negative effect on our region. It was being claimed that Egypt, as the largest and strongest state in the region, had to play its respective role. Fortunately, now it has started to play its appropriate role.

The situation of Somalia has also had a major negative effect on the region. The crisis in the nation is ongoing. The unceasing crisis that was being experienced in Sudan in the last 25 years and the partition of Sudan into the North and South has also caused negative effects on the region. The Arab Spring also brought with it new challenges. For example, Libya has been seriously destabilized.

The countries that are experiencing relative peace and stability are the Gulf States. In general terms, however, the effect of

the polarizations created within the aforementioned states in our region cannot be underestimated. All these problems have created fertile grounds for ISIS and other terrorist groups. And this is fundamentally linked to the hegemonic and unipolar system. Consider how and by whom Al-Qaida were created in Afghanistan. Who initially equipped it to be a strong group? Those recently emerged groups such as ISIS and other fundamentalist groups have nothing to do with the Muslims. These groups may be associated with other religious fundamentalists. The central point is that fundamentalism has become a policy instrument. Creating fundamentalist groups started in Afghanistan as it was believed that doing so would be a useful policy instrument for attacking the Soviet-led block. The same is also true with the case of Al-Qaida and Boko Haram.

Given this background, the role of Gulf States and particularly that of Saudi Arabia is very important and their roles should not be confined only to addressing the problems caused by Arab Spring. It is for this reason, we have been aware about the roles of Saudi Arabia and we used to insist on the fact that Saudi Arabia, as an important actor the region, is capable of playing tremendous roles in addressing the aforesaid concerns taking into account its relatively better resources. With respect to the roles of Saudi Arabia, we can say that it was passive until King Salman became a leader. He scaled-up the role of Saudi Arabia in the region. We had been talking about this issue Saudi Arabia by sending delegations. In this case, we are not requesting Saudi Arabia favor and protect Eritrea to achieve expedient goals. Rather the concern is that Saudi Arabia should constructively play the roles it is expected to play in the region as it has relatively better resources and capacity. The same applies to Egypt and other states in the region.

All actors in the region should play their respective roles—constructively. This is basically associated with the doctrine of our foreign policy. For our efforts to ultimately promote stability and for the cooperation in the region to be fruitful, every actor in the region should shoulder its respective responsibility. Achieving these goals should be looked at from different dimensions such as economic, security, political and diplomatic dimensions. To create an enabling environment for the achievement of the collaborative goals, first we need to create a common understanding. All such

issues were raised in our first meeting with King Salman and we agreed about the aforementioned concerns. The concerns of making our region a peaceful and stable one characterized by cooperation cannot be dealt with separately and independently. Rather, it is our collective endeavors and investment that will make our region a safe, prosperous and peaceful one.

We cannot look at various issues in our neighborhood in isolation of others. We should create mechanism in which we could be able to contribute our share. Obviously, we do not have common views on all regional issues. However, at the end of the day we have same objective: peace and stability of our neighborhood. We have to strengthen cooperation in order to bring about development and equitable distribution of our resources.

We hold the same approach with Egypt, the Sudan, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. The situation in Yemen is different. There are complicated problems there. That is the reality in our neighborhood. There are forces responsible for complicating the situation in our region for the past 25 years. We could mention them by name and location. They are not alone. There are some that are dreaming to become regional powers that are further complicating the situation. We could not take correctional measures without understanding the damage they could create. There are also internal elements who entertain their misguided agendas in creating chaos in the region.

We should have to correlate our reading and understanding in order to properly address the issues. Then we generate cooperation based on that, which would be a win-win situation. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Egypt should have their right place in the region. We also contribute our due responsibility in accordance with our capacity. Our region is sensitive and the contribution and cooperation we create will have significant effects beyond our region. The type of security, economic and diplomatic cooperation we aspire to create is based on this thinking. The regular dialogue and understanding we began from 2015-2016 with Saudi Arabia and others are the only way out for the peace and stability in our region and we need to strengthen these efforts.

According to news reports, a surprising result was witnessed in the US presidential elections: Donald Trump came to power. Is there the possibility of policy



change with the coming of Donald Trump vis-à-vis the global developments? In connection with that, with Britain leaving the EU and with conservative elements coming to power in Europe, what influence that could have on Eritrea?

We should not be governed by emotional and hysterical readings into the outcome of the US election. There is a strong media campaign there. We should carefully follow the situation so that we do not err in our actions, policies and programs. The issue here is not the coming of Mr. Trump to power. Instead, the more relevant issue is the failure of the US initiative to create a unipolar world system. Hence, the coming of Mr. Trump to power was the result of that policy in the past 25 years.

The containment policy the successive US administrations pursued in the last 25 years on developed countries and especially on Russia and China failed. The scenario we are witnessing to date is the result of that failed policy that was in place for the last 25 years. The new US president's rhetoric to strengthen the American economy and to "Make America Great Again" is not his individual viewpoint. The unipolar world system they tried to create was counterproductive and what change the new president will bring remains to be seen and will require careful following.

Mr. President, could you elaborate on our future prospect and the opportunities it holds?

The drawn out road map under the PFDJ will address all pertinent national issues. The international development could also influence us. However, the deciding factor is our internal situation. The basic foundation is our internal integration, commitment and development. We should also

carefully read the international situation and the situation in our region to refine our action plans. In the past 25 years we have passed through many challenges and conspiracies. And we are entering a new phase. The road map that I mentioned will help us strengthen our internal situation and reinforce our relation with our neighborhood in terms of mutual cooperation, economic development and capacity of implementation. We have also charted out strategy of engagement that will enable us due role in the regional and international issues. We also know that we need to be cautious, alert and ready in all our engagements. We have accumulated a wealth of experience over the years and we have auspicious prospects ahead of us.

Mr. President, do you have any message you want to convey to the Eritrean people in general and to the youth in particular?

I would like to say we should develop the culture of work. We should give utmost priority to education and reinforce commitment. All the development programs we are talking about mainly target the youth. Frankly, we have strong youth. If you question the future of Eritrea, it will be decided by the diligence, commitment, knowledge and skill, culture of work and discipline of the youth. Families, associations and the different PFDJ organizations should also work to that end. Naturally, it is normal and expected to commit some mistakes along the way. There nothing that cannot be corrected and improved. At the end of the day, the youth have to develop themselves through education and work for the better future of themselves and their country.

Thank you very much Mr. President



Bisha Mining Share Company
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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

1) HME (Heavy Mobile Equipment) Boilermaker

Number required – (01)

Type of contract – Definite period (one year)

Primary Purpose

- Carries out general “Boilermaker / Welding / Fabrication” work/repairs on allocated equipment. (General repairs; fabrication of steps & handrails; door frames; etc.)

Major Duties and responsibilities

- **Planning**
 - o Follows the “Planned Maintenance Schedule”.
 - o Makes a list of parts and equipment required.
- **Implementation of the Plan**
 - o Follows the highest priority for each day and focus on completing relevant tasks.
 - o Ensures good housekeeping.
 - o Lays out, positions and secures parts and assemblies according to specifications, using “straight bridge”; combination square; callipers; and ruler.
 - o Tack-welds or welds components and assemblies, using electric, gas, arc, or other welding equipment. First assesses the area to be welded.
 - o Operates manual and automated welding units and equipment by depositing metal from electrode to work piece and joins the edges.
 - o Uses disc grinder to smooth out, weld, or grind parts prior to welding.
 - o Maintains correct length of arc and speed of movement to form specified depth of fusion and bead.
 - o Welds in flat and vertical planes (all position welding).
 - o Examines weld for bead size and other specifications.
 - o Grinds or cleans weld joint of work piece.
 - o Fabrication of new or replacement parts for equipment; ladders; walkways; covers; etc.
 - o Assembles component parts, using hand and small power tools.
 - o Follows other instructions relating to the position.
 - o Ensure safety requirements are fulfilled at the work place, including leading Field Level Risk Assessment (FLRA) and proper use of the appropriate PPE. Report any safety issues/incidents.
 - o Comply with mine’s cardinal rules and other safety, environmental or other rules and standards as directed. Identifies any hazards in the work place.
 - o Attends technical and other training as required by supervisor.
- **Writing Reports and Data Control**
 - o Compile daily; progress reports as requested.

KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS

Qualifications:	
• Formal Trade certificate (Boilermaker / Welder)	
Knowledge and Experience:	
• 3 - 5 years relevant experience	
Technical Skills	Behavioural Skills
• Computer Literacy (MS Office)	• Communication (English)
• Attention to detail	• Integrity
• Analytical skill	• Prioritizing skills & multi-skilling
• Boilermaker & Welding experience	• Ability to work towards strict deadlines
• Problem solving skill	• High level of accuracy
• Driver’s License Grade 2	• Prioritizing skills & multi-skilling
	• Self-motivation

Unique Requirements

- Training of Locals and identification of talents to develop technical skills level.
- Planning and rotational spare of all ground elements tools and shovel buckets.

General Information and other requirements:

- ☐ **Place of Work:** Bisha.
- ☐ **Salary:** As per Company salary scale.

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 would 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 permit Affairs,
P. O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea.





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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Bisha Mining Share Company PLC is inviting interested applicants for the following position.

Position: Driver Trainer
Number: 01

Major Duties and responsibilities:-

- Planning and Scheduling the Mechanical Training Programs
- Prepare weekly and quarterly schedule for all courses; Take production in to consideration
 - Schedule and introduce any necessary changes
 - Notify and remind Department Supervisors of Training Schedules
 - Perform a Training Needs Analysis with nominated employees for fitness to drive
 - Maintain updated driving training manuals and material related to passenger transportation
 - Consult with safety department to include high risk incidents and teach preventative safe driving methods

Conduct actual training activities

- Prepare and evaluate of learning material. Conduct practical and theoretical driver's training in accordance to Eritrean driver's training standards: including Mine site safety and driving standards
- Provide defensive driving training to foster safe driving skills for Bisha Operations on – site and off- site driving
- Check all training accessories, supplies and training aids
- Set up training area for LV driving practical course
- Maintain light vehicle (Clean and operational), practical training equipment and accessories
- Conduct site light vehicle driving skills assessment including the general site
- Conduct pre-employment assessment and evaluation for selection of BMSC driver's recruitment
- Provide refreshment of defensive and safe driving courses annually for off-site drivers and site LV-drivers

Evaluation and follow – up & Assessments

- Evaluate the actual course contents and update according to business driving needs
- Evaluate delegate training, both Theory & practical Notify delegates and Supervisor
- Ensure trainees acquire the required theoretical and practical skills before the government assessors arrive for licensing competency assessment. Provide model theoretical and practical assessment
- LV driving Training must be aligned to BMSC Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)
- Ensure Safety and health standards are reflected during assessment of training
- Enter delegate attendance and assessment records into INX data base
- Conduct driving performance evaluation and readiness of drivers

Reporting

- Prepare weekly reports about the LV driving plans and course progress of each trainee
- Generate and maintain all trainees' documentations to fulfil necessary requirements of the ministry of transport and communications including registration form, medical check-ups on timely basis

- Provide adequate information to the driver trainees when emergency situations arise
- Attend prepared with all the necessary updated reports in meetings related to LV- driving training

Qualifications:

Formal Education, certification of equivalents

- Grade 03 and above Eritrean driver's license
- High School certificate
- Certified by the ministry of transport & communication, department of land transport as driving instructor

Knowledge and Experience:

- Minimum of 02 Years' experience as certified driving trainer
- Knowledge of relevant government legislation
- Good English language skills
- Microsoft application (MS word, power point & excel)

Technical Skills	Behavioural Skills
Computer Literacy (MS Office)	Communication (English + local Language)
Attention to detail	Assertiveness
Analytical Skill	Interpersonal Relations
Problem Solving skill	Integrity
Planning and Scheduling	Conflict Resolution
	Ability to work towards strict deadlines
	High level of accuracy
	Discretion and confidentiality

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 would be considered as potential candidates for an interview.
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- **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 Permit Affairs,
P. O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea.



Desale, Passing on the Torch...

Mela Ghebremedhin

Desale Tewolde grew up in Zoba Debub in a village named Mai Mine and after doing his 12th grade matriculation in 2000, he enrolled at the University of Asmara in the Department of Public Health and Medicine. Desale is doing his PhD studies in European universities on Emergency, Critical Care and Anaesthesia.

While on visit in Eritrea during his study break, we had an interesting discussion on different issues including education, politics and the importance of sharing knowledge with our youngsters. Here is a glimpse of our conversation.

Hi Desale, Welcome back to Asmara! Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

Thank you! I was born at the time of the Derg regime. I barely know my father, he passed away when I was little and my late mother took care of me and my seven siblings. I was lucky that my mother pushed me to study and for sure, my family's support is what drives me to succeed in my endeavours.

Coming from a small village...

Actually I realised how I missed school when I was kid... Because of the war, I couldn't go to school for five years. But then, at independence, I was able to return to school and did my high school in Adi Quala and passed before passing the 12th grade matriculation exam.

There was a Bachelor of sciences in Public Health and Clinical Sciences at the University of Asmara in which I studied until 2005. Following this, I did my internship at the Mendefera Referral Hospital where I worked as a Medical Doctor due to shortage of human resources.

Afterwards, there were possibilities of postgraduate studies focusing on Anaesthesia and, thus, I continued my studies. The

good thing is that while studying I already accumulated years of professional experiences.

Why choosing this field of study?

I remember during my internship one little boy swallowed something and the surgeon could not do anything. But then when the anaesthetist came, he managed to actually save the child. It's one of the anecdotes that pushed me into this field, I realized the essential part anaesthesia plays within the field of health sciences.

Your PhD...

I have always been interested in pain management and how neglected it is especially in underdeveloped countries; of course it is better in developed countries but still patients remain unsatisfied. So, I am currently taking a preparatory course for my PhD programme with the aim of doing a profound research in this aspect within the health care system in Eritrea.

And I was lucky to get a scholarship from the European Commission and the great sponsor of Martin Zimmerman from the Eritrean Relief Association branch of Germany. I study is done in Portugal, Spain and then Finland



for each semester; I am able to take as much knowledge as possible from exposures to different places before embarking on a research part in Finland combined with field research in Eritrea.

What is it like to study abroad?

In terms of studies, it's great as it allowed one to have a great exposure and at present the course I am taking focuses on emergency and critical care which is precisely what I am passionate about. Actually, the first time I went to Europe for a training in intensive care unit and anaesthesia, specifically in Germany in 2015, between July and August, that was when I realised the gap we still have in Eritrea and even more about the critical care and the importance of easing the pain of patients.

Passing on the Torch...

Between my master's studies and now, I worked as a Graduate Assistant within the newly built Department of Anaesthesia at the University of Asmara. For a couple of years, with colleagues, we worked on the curriculum, teaching and mentoring new students. And now that I am studying abroad, I want to use my free time to continue this part of me, which is teaching.

What impact do you think it has on students?

Well, it should be the students answering, but I think the

differences between a local teacher and a foreigner who comes perhaps for three months. It will take the foreigner at least a month to adapt and perhaps even what the person will teach won't go in line with the reality on the ground. What I mean is that sometimes they teach you to use some kind of medicine or materials which are not available on the ground in Eritrea.

On the contrary, teachers who went through the same program and know the Eritrean reality and culture will be more efficient. Further, I know their background, what they have previously learned. On top of that, sometimes the teachers are surprised to notice that the students are much advanced than their level.

The importance of coming back...

I came for about 6 weeks and I haven't been able to go to my native village and see my family because as soon as I got back to Asmara, I started working at the School of Health Sciences. I have a duty to my school and the society as I have spent long years studying and about 7 years teaching. So it's part of me.

Of course, first, I am personally 'developing' but while doing that, I have to make sure that the person next to me is also developing. And because I know how hard can it be to achieve your good and I see it as a duty for me to come back and teach them, mentor them to achieve more. What's the good I get if I just care about my own development while I know that back where I grew up, back where I studied and was taught, they are still struggling in terms human resources or materials and in looking at a mentor?

When you the students them that you are like them, that even though you are studying abroad, coming

back during your study break and teaching for free... I guess, it stays in one's mind and I am always proud to see how they start from scratch and manage to achieve a lot within a short period of time.

When you told your schoolmates that you are from Eritrea, what were their views?

Well, not very positive. They were shocked and commonly they would say "oh is it safe?", "how could you go out?" to mention a few. But I tell them, I'm going back during my break. At the beginning they wouldn't understand it at all. But I noticed how Eritrea is way safer than places in Europe. I remember once in Germany, during a training, we were advised not to walk out late at night or to go to certain areas. You wouldn't hear that in Eritrea.

What should be done?

Well, when I first arrived in Europe, I was surprised to witness the wrong perceptions of Eritrea and even of us, the people. It may be our fault. It is probably out of my competences but I think we have to be able to talk about Eritrea ourselves instead of letting those who don't know about our country to widespread a wrong image of Eritrea. And for sure, people like me living abroad, should not be quiet when we hear wrong things said about Eritrea... we should be able to explain our situation.

Let's go back to Eritrea's health care...

For sure, when we compare Eritrea within the African continent and especially within our region. Eritrea isn't doing badly but we still have a lot of work to do. I believe that we need to enhance the relations between patients and health professionals as a key element in health care.

