



Photo: Abraham Beyene

## AFRICAN UNION DAY CELEBRATION IN ASMARA

The 61st anniversary of the establishment of the Organization of African Unity, now known as the African Union, was commemorated at Asmara Palace Hotel on 14 June. The event was attended by senior Government and PFDJ officials, Ambassadors, members of the Diplomatic Corps, representatives of UN organizations in Eritrea, and other guests.

The program was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Eritrea and the Embassies of African countries in Eritrea.

Mr. Osman Saleh, Minister of Foreign Affairs, highlighted that 2024 marks six decades since the

foundation of the Organization of African Unity and two decades since the establishment of the African Union. Minister Osman Saleh emphasized that this day is significant as Africans on the continent and worldwide come together to celebrate Africa Day, the continent's most opportune event.

Minister Osman noted that African problems can only be addressed by Africans. However, he mentioned that Africa often relies on foreign aid and assistance. He stressed that this day should remind us of the necessity to work together to build a strong and self-sufficient African Union capable of driving its development.

Mr. Percy Kumsha, Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa in Eritrea, acknowledged that African countries face challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, and political instability. However, he also pointed out that Africa has immense opportunities in technology, renewable energy, and youth empowerment and that effort should continue towards a prosperous and united Africa.

The Organization of African Unity was established in 1963 and transformed into the African Union in 2002.

## NATNAEL TESHATSION WINS ERITREAN CYCLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Natnael Tesfatsion, a member of Team Lidl Trek, won the Eritrean Cycling Championship 2024. Natnael finished the 173.4 km race in 4 hours, 7 minutes, and 52 seconds, securing the Gold Medal.

Aklilu Arefaine, a member of the Belgian Team Wanty-ReUz-Technord, and Metkel Eyob, a member of the Malaysian Terengganu Cycling Team, climbed the podium with second and third place respectively. Meanwhile, Mewael Girmay, Merhawi Kudus, and Biniam Girmay, finished in fourth, fifth, and sixth place respectively.

In the Under 23 category, Aklilu Arefaine, his teammate Mewael Girmay, and Yafet Mulugeta from Team Eri-Tel secured first, second, and third place.



In the women's elite category, Ksanet Woldemichael from Serair-Sawa became the champion defending her title, while Adiam Dawit from Denden Club and Romna Gu'ush from Denden Club finished second and third place respectively.

## EID AL-ADHA CELEBRATED NATIONWIDE



Photo: Abraham Beyene

Eid Al-Adha Al-Mubarek, Heijira year 1445, was colorfully celebrated nationwide on 15 June.

A Salat sermon, presided over by Sheik Salim Ibrahim Al-Muktar, Mufti of Eritrea, was held at Bahti Meskerem Square. The event was attended by Ministers, senior Government and PFDJ officials, members of the diplomatic community, and thousands of the faithful.

During the ceremony, Sheik Salim Ibrahim Al-Muktar gave an extensive briefing on the spiritual meaning of Eid Al-Adha and called on the faithful to extend a helping hand to the needy. Sheik Salim also wished a Happy Eid to the Eritrean people in general, and the faithful in particular, as well as to members of the Eritrean Defense Forces. He also wished peace and prosperity to the Eritrean people.

## CULTURAL PROGRAM IN CONNECTION WITH MARTYRS DAY

A cultural program, a testament to our collective spirit, was organized by artists at Cinema Roma on 15 June in connection with Martyrs Day, 20 June. Under the theme "Our Arts to Our Martyrs," The event was a harmonious collaboration between the Commission of Culture and Sports, veterans, and young artists.

The program's objective was to remember the martyrs who paid their precious lives for their people and country and to renew the pledge to live up to the expectations of the martyrs.

In a significant initiative, a tree planting program, symbolizing our commitment to the memory of the martyrs and environmental conservation, is underway in the port city of Massawa in connection with Martyrs Day. The program, which began at the start of June, saw active participation from the city's residents, government employees, and students. Trees were cultivated at the Martyrs Cemetery in Kutmia, as well as in the areas of Segalet Qetan, Idaga, Salina, and Adis-Alem.

Indicating that the tree planting

initiative, conducted since 2021 at educational institutions, religious sites, individual homes, and entertainment centers, has yielded commendable results, Mr. Haile Asfaha, Mayor of the port city of Massawa, stated that the day is a reminder for every citizen to respond practically to the Martyrs Trust. He also called for the sustainability of the program.

Similarly, sportspeople in the Mai-Mine sub-zone conducted a popular campaign in connection with Martyrs Day at the Martyrs Cemetery in their area.



Photo: Saleh Abdelkadir



# Martyrs' Day: A Highly Venerated National Day

*Simon Weldemichael*

Like Independence Day, Martyrs' Day is a highly venerated national day commemorated by Eritreans in the country and abroad. It's a day of remembrance observed by Eritreans to salute the fallen heroes and heroines who lost their lives for independence and preservation of the sovereignty of the country. The commemoration of our martyrs is an expression of our indebtedness and patriotism that has become an integral part of the Eritrean culture and identity. Martyrs' Day is a day we express our appreciation to Eritrea's heroes and heroines who have given their lives in the service of independence and justice. They all fell in defense of justice and independence.

In independent Eritrea, Martyrs' Day was the first officially celebrated national day. It was June 19, 1991, less than a month after the liberation of Eritrea. On that day, tegadalay Issaias Afwerki, then chairman of the EPLF, gave his very first historic post-independence speech at Asmara Stadium. On that day, June 20th was designated Martyrs' Day. June 20 was selected as the day of the martyrs because it marked the end of Ethiopia's massive sixth military campaign that was foiled

by Eritrea's freedom fighters. On that date in 1982, many freedom fighters fought fiercely and had to pay the ultimate price to crush the Ethiopian military campaign that was dubbed 'the Red Star Campaign.'

Eritreans have a lot of respect for their martyrs. At the opening and closing of every event or ceremony, big or small, there is a moment of silence to remember the martyrs, and Eritreans at home and abroad assume the responsibility of taking care of the families of martyrs.

The 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Martyrs' Day will be observed inside Eritrea and wherever the Eritrean diaspora live to pay homage to Eritrea's heroes and heroines who gave their lives for a united and independent Eritrea.

The candlelight vigil held in the evening on the eve of Martyrs' Day, the prayers in mosques and churches, the laying of wreaths at Patriots Cemetery by President Issaias Afwerki and other government officials and the speech by President Issaias all add to the day's solemnity. Artists pay their tribute to Eritrea's fallen heroes and heroines through poems, songs, plays, films, paintings, and other works of art.

Here's a translated version of an extract from a poem titled "eulogy to our martyrs" written during the armed struggle for independence by an anonymous freedom fighter. In the first stanza, the poet wrote:

"We remember you- so esteemed martyrs

Flashing before us are your unforgivable pictures.

Sparkling like glowing stars in the open skies."

Then the poet expresses his emotions candidly with a blend of nostalgia and admiration.

"Your wise utterances are irretrievable

Your sweet endearments irreproachable  
While we miss you immensely

We don't atone your heroic deeds  
For we know without sacrifices

Without surpassing all the



meandering roads

Our goal will be a sham- a dream"

Eritrean martyrs fought with extraordinary bravery against enemies that were heavily armed. They had highly valued human qualities such as confidence, civility, obedience, and bravery, and they were driven by the desire to render service for the common good of the nation.

Eritrean martyrs had a strong commitment to the progress of the country and to the improvement of the living conditions of the Eritrean people. Their vision and dream was not limited to independence and included building a peaceful and developed Eritrea. This year's Martyrs' Day is being commemorated at a time when the nation enters a new era of peace and cooperation.

Eritrean martyrs are a source of pride and inspiration for the present and future generations. They will remain in the memory of generations. We will never forget those who gave their lives in defense of the nation. All our achievements are dedicated to our martyrs.

Eritrea has time and again demonstrated its national unity and stability. Our martyrs laid the foundation of Eritrean nationalism and unity. They were the ones that fought and died in unity and their collective struggle and sacrifice enhanced Eritrean nationalism and prepared the ground for national unity. They were the architects of Eritrean national

identity by overriding all divisive and narrow-minded attitudes. The unity and stability of Eritrea is rooted, to a great extent, in the legacy of our martyrs. The spectacular victory of Eritrea before and after independence would not have happened if our

it produces but also by the men it honors and remembers. Martyrs offered their lives for us and placed our enemies in our footstool. On Martyrs' Day, we remember and honor all our martyrs who have sacrificed their lives in the long struggle for independence and in



martyrs had not fought and died in unity.

Our martyrs gave up the things that men and women might regard as their right to have. They consciously chose to give up the comfort of life. Their heroic actions and ultimate sacrifice

the defense of the nation and for raising our flag high.

Eritrea has martyrs who have fallen at different times and situations but all for the unity, dignity, liberty and sovereignty of the country. They are revered



constitute the precious treasure of the past.

It has been said that a nation reveals itself not only by the men

for the ultimate sacrifice they made to avoid internal division, foreign occupation, and external aggression.

## ERITREA PROFILE

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## SpotLight

# Celebrating Life-saving Gifts and acts of Solidarity

*Dr. Fikrejesus Amahazion*

Late last week, World Blood Donor Day (WBDD) was commemorated in countries around the world. Annually celebrated on 14 June, WBDD provides a special opportunity to raise public



awareness of the continuous need for safe blood and blood products, build a culture of regular voluntary blood donation and increase the diversity and sustainability of the blood donor pool, and honor and thank voluntary, unpaid blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood.

The following paragraphs take a closer look at the most precious gift of all – the gift of life, and shed light on voluntary blood donation within Eritrea.

### Background

Through the close cooperation and initiative of four major global organizations – the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Federation of Blood Donor Organizations, and the International Society of Blood Transfusion – WBDD was pioneered in 2003 before first being celebrated on 14 June 2004. Since then, it has steadily grown and expanded into perhaps the world's largest platform regarding voluntary blood donation.

In addition to thanking and recognizing the millions of voluntary blood donors who have contributed to the health and well-being of millions of people around the world, as well as helping cultivate a culture of regular blood donation, WBDD aims to “showcase the achievements and challenges of national blood programs, share best practices and lessons learned, and highlight the continuous need for regular,

unpaid blood donation to achieve universal access to safe blood transfusion.”

Today, it is well recognized that a blood service that gives patients access to safe blood and blood products in sufficient quantity is

a key component of an effective health system. However, although blood transfusion saves lives and improves health, in countries around the world many patients requiring transfusion do not have timely access to safe blood. According to estimates from the WHO, nearly 120 million blood donations are collected globally, with about 40 percent collected in high-income countries. As well, there is a considerable difference in the level of access to blood between low- and high-income countries. Specifically, the median blood donation rate in high-income countries is around 31.5 donations per 1000 people, as compared to about 5 donations per 1000 people in low-income countries.

### A range of benefits

As noted above, blood donation is a key and indispensable component of health care, and donated blood is often described as “the most precious gift” since it can help save lives and improve general health or well-being. For instance, blood transfusions, possible due to donation, are needed by: women with complications arising during pregnancy, such as ectopic pregnancies and hemorrhage before, during or after childbirth; children with severe anemia often resulting from malaria or malnutrition; people with severe trauma following human-made and natural disasters; many complex medical and surgical procedures (e.g., heart surgery and organ transplants); those battling cancer or other life-threatening conditions; and those with conditions such as thalassemia and

sickle cell disease.

Of note, in addition to the considerable – and often life-saving – benefits for recipients, blood donation provides donors with an array of significant personal benefits. For example, alongside the snacks and drinks provided at the end, the brief physical examinations conducted at the beginning of the donation process can provide useful insights about one's own health and help to detect health problems or risk factors for certain diseases. Of course, donated blood is also tested for several infectious diseases, such as HIV.

Furthermore, donating blood on a safe, regular basis may: help lower iron stores, which may reduce the risk of heart attack; decrease the risk of developing cancer; and contribute to a general improvement in cardiovascular health. Finally, donating blood represents a unique act of solidarity and generosity, which can imbue donors with a special, genuine sense of satisfaction through knowing that they are helping to make a positive and significant difference in someone else's life.

### Shining the light on Eritrea

In Eritrea, WBDD was celebrated last week at an event in Asmara. During the gathering, held under the theme “Thank You Blood Donors,” Dr. Yohannes Tekeste, Medical Director at the National Blood Transfusion Center (NBTC), stated that the main objective of marking the day was to thank those who voluntarily donate blood, encourage and motivate the youth to participate, increase public understanding of the importance of blood donation in saving lives, and highlight the efforts of the national blood transfusion service.

According to Dr. Yohannes' presentation and statistics compiled by the NBTC, over 15,000 units of blood were collected in the country in 2023, up from about five thousand in 2004. Furthermore, the percentage of national blood demand covered by voluntary blood donors has risen from 63 percent to 100 percent.

One of the key factors underlying the progress in national blood donation has been the positive role

played by the National Association of Voluntary Blood Donors (NAVBD). The organization continues to raise public awareness and understanding about donations, as well as gather new members from all parts of the country. Over the years, its membership has accounted for the large majority of the country's total voluntary blood donations.

Toward increasing donations, the NBTC and the NAVBD have sought to make the process as simple and convenient as possible. Today, donating blood in the country is something that is quick, easy, and safe. Generally, visits last about 1 hour in total – from the first steps into the facility to later polishing off the snacks and drinks that are provided in the small waiting room at the end. (The actual blood donation time lasts only about 10 minutes.)

Invariably, staff members at donation sites tend to be very warm and friendly, while the highest standards of professionalism, safety, and infection control are dutifully followed. Importantly, all of the health workers are well-trained and highly experienced.

Prior to donating, all potential

blood while being closely watched over by a trained health worker. First, a small area of your arm is wiped clean and then a sterile needle is inserted. Although when the needle is first inserted one may feel a slight bit of discomfort, there is no pain or discomfort while the blood is actually being drawn. Health workers remain on hand to keep donors calm and relaxed.

Finally, when the blood donation is fully complete, donors are guided to a small waiting area, where they are monitored by staff and provided with snacks and drinks to ensure proper recovery and fluid uptake.

Another important dimension of blood donation in the country has been building trust and promoting integrity. The NBTC follows a rigorous screening process at all stages of the donation process, and it remains unwaveringly committed to ensuring the highest standards of safety and quality in the national blood supply. For instance, figures from 2023 show extremely low levels of infection among blood donors: HIV positive at 0.08 percent, hepatitis B at 0.32 percent, hepatitis C at 0.1 percent, and syphilis at 0.07 percent. Notably, these are



donors must undergo an initial physical examination. This brief examination includes checking weight, body temperature, pulse, and blood pressure, as well as measuring hemoglobin level to ensure that it is adequate. (Hemoglobin, or “Hb”, is a protein found in the red blood cells that carries oxygen around the body and gives blood its red color.) After answering a series of questions (mainly about medical conditions and history, medications, and lifestyle), those who are deemed eligible may then proceed to donate

all improvements from figures reported in previous years. (Note that these figures pertain to the population of active blood donors and tests conducted within the NBTC's national network. They are not representative of the general population.)

Donating blood is an act of solidarity that helps to promote health and save lives. For their longstanding commitment and life-saving gifts of blood, voluntary donors deserve our gratitude and respect.

## SpotLight

# Martyrdom: Best Way to Show One's Love to One's Country

**“June 20 is a day that we remember the life and martyrdom of these heroes who, beyond all explanations of logic, defied the fear of death and lived or rather spent every single day of their lives as freedom fighters in the altruistic service of their country and people until the imminent martyrdom took them away one day.”**

Death has to be the most hated and feared enemy to all humans alike. No matter how poor or rich, young or old, black or white, people hate the ominous arrival of death and are afraid of the indefiniteness of what awaits ahead once the line is crossed. However rough life may be treating them, people are never willing to embrace death as a solution or way out of their troubles as long as they have other options. No one really wants to die if only they could avoid it, but even more, no one wants to be forgotten, nor is willing to accept the possibility that after his/her death the memory of his/her existence could be eroded and ultimately eradicated as if he/she was never here.

There are, of course, those who commit suicide. However, there is no proof whether these people never had the common fright of and dislike towards death. Moreover, just because they committed suicide doesn't mean that they would like to be forgotten and never be remembered after they died. And if there are any who actually love death and would like to be forgotten, such exceptions could make up only a tiny percentage.

There are other exceptions, though, -- Eritrean martyrs who trounced the common dread of death. They neither wished nor deserve to be forgotten after their martyrdom. And now that June 20, the Day dedicated to Eritrean fallen heroes, has come, I would like to relate to you a fraction of the few precious actual records of the Eritrean armed struggle in an attempt to give a tiny glimpse to the bravery of these heroes in defying the fear of death.

“Since we were trapped in the process of encirclement anything was possible. We could be wiped out, captured, or with some luck scrape back to where we come from without being noticed. I thought the former two possibilities were quite likely.”

These are quotes by Alemseged Tesfai from his book ‘Two Weeks in the Trenches,’ describing

a morning in a battle. His description goes on and focuses on his comrades trapped with him and he says, “I failed to see any manifestation of fear, panic or preoccupation. I am not trying to romanticize them, this is the truth.” He continues, “Instead they started to throw jokes at each other. I cannot remember everything they said but it centered around death and the best way of dying.”

If death is a common horror that haunts all humans alike, then why were these fighters, his comrades, acting all at ease, relaxed, and even joked about death while they were in imminent danger. The fighters of the revolution never had any hope of seeing independence alive. They were all sure that they would die for it but not see it. If so, how could someone be willing to give one's own life for something that one would not be able to see or enjoy once dead? How can one be so apathetic of death in its ominous presence? It might be argued that such indifference to life and death gets into people's head when people are despondent and got nothing to live for, or have lost the taste and meaning for their life and do not care whether they live or die, and, hence, are not afraid of death. Such people might lose the respect for life and/ or the desire to live. These kinds of people, therefore, are the immediate neighbors of those labeled as suicidal.

The heroes of the revolution



who were willing and ready to give their lives at any given time and place, however, can hardly fall into such a category. For, these fighters were not fed up with their lives; they lost neither the respect for life nor the desire to live and have everything to live for ahead of them. In fact, a great many of these heroes were young boys and girls at the end of their teens and in their twenties. They were young boys and girls, who loved life, loved to play and joke with one another. They were youngsters who missed their families, villages, neighborhoods, homes, beds, good food and drinks. They were young boys and girls who had romantic feelings for one another with which they would have loved to live long. It is clear that these young bloods cannot be called despondent and suicidal. If not so, what made these fighters so calm and tranquil in the face

of danger?

Alemseged says, “Joking about death right at its doorstep might be analyzed in a variety of ways. Psychologists would probably dissect it into mind boggling components. Some would call it desperation, some might analyze it as spite bred of hopelessness, and others would characterize it as external posturing to conceal internal fear. Such analyses maybe grounds for earning a PhD but are definitely wrong and misleading. I am no psychologist but that morning I observed enough to disagree. In those six hours I saw acceptance, a calm and serene acceptance of the possibility of death. It was as if, deep inside them, they had come to terms with martyrdom as the best way to show one's love to one's country.”

June 20 is a day that we remember the life and martyrdom

of these heroes who, beyond all explanations of logic, defied the fear of death and lived or rather spent every single day of their lives as freedom fighters in the altruistic service of their country and people until the imminent martyrdom took them away one day. Our martyrs, of course, are never too far away from our thoughts; we remember them every day.

For, every step we take in the independent Eritrea is because of them. However, on this particular day we remember them in a special way. Eritreans all together all over the country dedicate this day to the commemoration of our martyrs. We gather around in our local areas, march to their memorial graves, to pay homage, express our respect for their matchless deeds, light candles and pray for them.

June 20 is beyond a simple commemoration of these extraordinary heroic martyrs. It is a day when we review our lives through their life and martyrdom. It is a day we ask ourselves whether we are living the life our martyrs dreamed of and gave their precious lives for. It is a day when we ask ourselves whether we are actually doing everything we could to build the free and prosperous Eritrea as they wanted it. It is a day we check our commitments through the lives and martyrdom of these heroes, which is a colossal manifestation to Eritreans and, even farther, to the human race what the word ‘commitment’ itself means.





**ETERNAL GLORY TO  
OUR MARTYRS!**



*Design: Tazaz Abraha  
Photo: Tazaz Abraha  
Aklilu Zerezgi*



**Zara Mining**  
Share Company

## Vacancy Announcement

<b>Position:</b>	<b>Maintenance Parts Expeditor/Planner</b>
<b>Number required</b>	01
<b>Location:</b>	Koka Gold Mine (Asmara Office)
<b>Reporting to:</b>	Mobile Maintenance Superintendent
<b>PRIMARY PURPOSE</b>	Maintains Workshop warehouse inventory, orders and distributes parts for all Equipment, Services, and personnel at various locations within the Maintenance Department.
<b>Responsibilities and Duties</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain housekeeping of parts and store areas.</li> <li>• Collect parts and return to stock unused parts for the mobile equipment onsite.</li> <li>• Assist planners on maintenance activities, following manufacturer recommendations and plant history.</li> <li>• Detail parts requirements for maintenance tasks from completed PM services and breakdowns.</li> <li>• Coordinate the collection of hard-to-obtain parts or critical parts.</li> <li>• Manage the allocation of parts for work orders.</li> <li>• Write reports detailing the efficiency of the parts process flow of the Maintenance department.</li> <li>• Ensure preparation of maintenance work and the required PPE and safety procedures.</li> <li>• Perform other duties as required and requested by the Supervisor/Superintendent.</li> <li>• Order and distribute parts on time.</li> <li>• Skill in organization, communication (written and verbal), and PC systems and applications.</li> <li>• Keep stock levels to a satisfactory level.</li> <li>• Direct warehouse staff to expedite the transfer of materials from the stock area to the Workshop area.</li> </ul>	
<b>Formal Education, Certification, or Equivalent</b>	Diploma/Degree in Mechanical Engineering or Certificate in a Trade
<b>Working experience-Nature &amp; Length</b>	At least one year of work experience as a Maintenance Planner /Store man/
<b>Leadership Experience</b>	Must be self-driven, able to work unsupervised, and make decisions when needed.
<b>Other skills and requirements</b>	<p>Skills in Mechanics, preferably in Mobile or processing operations</p> <p>Computer literacy- Word processing, spreadsheets, stores, and maintenance planning software.</p> <p>English literacy to a conversational level.</p> <p>Excellent interdepartmental communication skills.</p> <p>Excellent working knowledge of all aspects of mining operational theory, including open pit operation.</p> <p>Excellent knowledge of consumable products used in the mining industry, including their safe use and applications.</p> <p>Ability to effectively plan daily, weekly, and monthly work activities.</p> <p>Physically fit as there is much lifting of heavy items.</p> <p>Valid vehicle driver's license with the ability to be trained and certified on forklifts/pallet jacks.</p> <p>A "can do" attitude.</p> <p>Ability to work unsupervised and make decisions when required.</p>
<b>Salary</b>	Company scale
<b>Other's requirement</b>	Additional Requirement for nationals: - Having fulfilled their National Service obligations and providing evidence of a release paper from the Ministry of Defence—Present clearance paper from the current/last employer. Only short-listed applicants would be considered as potential candidates for an interview. Application documents will not be returned to the sender.

Please mail your applications to the **ZARA MINING SHARE CO. P. O. Box 2393. Asmara, Eritrea**

Note to Eritrean applicants: - Please send a copy of your application to Aliens Employment Permit Affairs P.O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea, and Eritrea. Mineral Resources Management P. O. Box 272

Deadline for application: 7 days from the day of announcement.

# ADS



## Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Vacancy Announcement No:

Issued on:

Deadline For Application:

20 June 2024

Position Title: Assistant FAO Representative (Programme) Grade Level: N-2

Duty Station: Asmara-Eritrea

Organizational Unit: FC

Duration \*: Fixed term: two years

with possibility of extension

Post Number: 0850870

CCOG Code: 1A02

The length of appointment for internal FAO candidates will be established in accordance with applicable policies pertaining to the extension of appointments

*Qualified female applicants and qualified nationals of non-and under-represented member countries are encouraged to apply.*

*Persons with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply.*

*All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.*

*The incumbent may be re-assigned to different activities and/or duty stations depending on the evolving needs of the Organization.*

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) contributes to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda through the FAO Strategic Framework by supporting the transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable agrifood systems, for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life, leaving no one behind.

### Organizational Setting

The main objective in the FAO Country Offices, which are headed by an FAO Representative, is to assess governments to develop policies, programmes and projects to achieve food security and to reduce hunger and malnutrition, to help develop the agricultural, fisheries and forestry sectors and to use their environmental and natural resources in a sustainable manner.

The post is located in the FAO Representation in Asmara, Eritrea

### Reporting Lines

The Assistant FAO Representative (Programme) reports to the FAO Representative (FAOR).

### Technical Focus

Programme development, coordination and operational assistance based on the knowledge of the local conditions, culture, language, and institutions of the country of assignment.

### Key Results

Effective and efficient coordination and provision of the technical and operational support of the programme and project activities of the FAO Representation.

### Key Functions

- Liaises and assists government authorities and local, national, and international institutions in the areas of FAO's activities in the country and with other UN agencies. He/she may represent FAO at inter-agency meetings as required.
- Promotes the image of FAO through advocacy of the Organization's mandate, programmes, national priorities, and activities including development and maintenance of communication tools such as website, press releases and publications, and support the implementation of FAO's regulatory framework (Codex Alimentarius, Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, Safe Use of Pesticides, etc.) in the country.
- Coordinates the collection, consolidation, and maintenance of country data on food, crops, livestock, forestry, and fisheries including information on external aid in FAO's corporate systems and monitor changes in national policies affecting the agricultural sector.
- Participates in producing technical, economic and policy studies as required and developing country level development frameworks such as the Country Programming Framework (CPF) and the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF);
- Participates in the identification, formulation and preparation of programme and project proposals and monitor and review the status of programme/project implementation to ensure that all operational activities are carried out in line with the work plan and the project document; identify inconsistencies and delays and, when necessary, propose corrective measures to overcome operational constraints.
- Briefs, trains, and supervises lower grade level programme staff regarding all aspects of the job. Ensures adherence to procedures and work requirements and accuracy

and diligence of the work provided.

- Performs other duties as required

### CANDIDATES WILL BE ASSESSED AGAINST THE FOLLOWING

#### Minimum Requirements

- National of the country of assignment
- Advanced University degree in agriculture, agricultural economics, forestry, fisheries, or any other field related to the work of the Organization
- Two years of relevant experience in agricultural development and/or project implementation in an area of FAO's activities in the country
- Level C of the official communication language used for FAO communication with the country (English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese or Russian)
- Working knowledge of the local language (if not English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian or Chinese)
- Limited knowledge (Level B) of English (if the main communication language is French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian or Chinese)

#### Competencies

- Results Focus
- Teamwork
- Communication
- Building effective relationships
- Knowledge Sharing and Continuous Improvement

#### Technical/Functional Skills

- Work experience in more than one location or area of work, particularly in field positions is desirable
- Extent and relevance of experience in programme/project development and management
- Demonstrated understanding of the purpose and functions of the technical programme, operational guidelines and project/programme management procedures, preferably those adopted by the United Nations or FAO
- Extent and relevance of experience in the field of policy analysis relating to food and nutrition security, agriculture and rural development
- Extent and relevance of experience in the collection of country data on food, crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries
- Extent and relevance of experience in the identification, formulation and preparation of programme and project proposals as well as programme/project implementation, monitoring and review
- Candidate should provide evidence of completion/exemption from the National Service

Please note that all candidates should adhere to FAO Values of Commitment to FAO, Respect for All and Integrity and Transparency.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- AFAORs shall be granted fixed-term appointments for such period or periods as the Organization may determine and having an expiration date specified in the letter of appointment or extension. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the total length of service shall not exceed five years. Appointments, including extensions, do not carry any expectation of renewal or of conversion to another type of appointment. However, this does not preclude the incumbents from applying to other positions in the Organization.
- All candidates should possess computer/word processing skills.
- Your application will be screened based on the information provided in your iRecruitment online profile (see "How to Apply"). We strongly recommend that you ensure that the information is accurate and complete including employment record, academic qualifications, and language skills.
- Please note that FAO will only consider academic credentials or degrees obtained from an educational institution recognised in the IAU/UNESCO list.
- Other similar positions at the same level may be filled from this vacancy notice and the endorsed candidates will be considered for the Employment Roster for a period of 2 years.
- Candidates may be requested to provide performance assessments

#### HOW TO APPLY:

Application should be submitted in the below link:

[https://jobs.fao.org/careersection/fao\\_external/jobdetail.ftl?job=2401858&tz=GMT%2B02%3A00&tzname=Europe%2FBerlin](https://jobs.fao.org/careersection/fao_external/jobdetail.ftl?job=2401858&tz=GMT%2B02%3A00&tzname=Europe%2FBerlin)

Candidates are requested to attach a letter of motivation to the online profile.

Vacancies will be removed from iRecruitment at 23:59 Central European Time (CET) on the deadline for applications date. We encourage applicants to submit the application well before the deadline date.

FAO IS A NON-SMOKING ENVIRONMENT



# Any Successful Work Demands Dedication, Determination, and, Above all, Reason!



Milka Teklom

**Let's start with a question that many find intriguing about you. You always have a smile on your face. Where does that kind of energy come from?**

Well, living life to the fullest does guarantee a joyous life. Also, there is a saying that always rings in my head: sometimes in life, you meet people for a second, and that could be it, so for that brief moment, why must you frown when instead you can smile and spread joy?

**Since we are asking about your personality, what characteristics do you like and hate in people?**

I like people who are forgiving. We constantly ask God to forgive us, yet we are not ready to forgive one another. Kids do give me hope in humanity. In one second, they are fighting like enemies, and then after a few seconds, they play with each other like nothing has happened. We adults should emulate that kind of behavior. I hate disloyal people.

**How about deep-diving into your childhood and how you became an architect?**

I was born in 1968 in a village called Hergigo, but after a few years, the whole family relocated to Massawa. Then, due to the ongoing cruelty of the Derge regime, we had to move to a place called Debeat. Finally, we crossed the border and landed in Egypt.

All the moving did not interfere with my studies, so when we arrived in Egypt, I continued seamlessly and studied till tenth grade. In 1986, I traveled to Germany and studied civil engineering. I decided to study civil engineering because I hate a routine life. The idea of me sitting

*Abubker haj Hassen, a bilingual singer, and architect, immensely contributed to the reform of Eritrean modern music during the 1990s. His flamboyant music videos are sublime and timeless. Some of his notable works are Hsum'yu Fekri Hsum and Handebet. Following is an abridged version of an interview conducted by Frehiwet Daniel in the March 2024 Men'ese Magazine.*

in some cubic office and reliving the same day repeatedly was just simply tedious to even think about. As I embraced various architectural projects, I was constantly assured I chose the right one. The thrill I experienced by participating in unique and challenging projects is priceless.

After graduation, I had the chance to work for a company called Steudtner und Sorge. After three years, I figured I had gained enough experience, so I decided to be my own boss and establish a company called Washon. Washon means my nation, and the company has undertaken projects in countries like Eritrea, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Brazil.

**So when did singing pop into the picture?**

It was always there inside me, waiting to be explored. But to the point where it started: when I was in Egypt, many new artistic works were being released, and

something close to creating art, civil engineering.

My first single, Selam, was created just before I joined university. It is in Tigre, a song that paved the way for my other songs. It has a special place in my heart.

Hsum'yu: Fekri Hsum was the next single. It is a song that discovers the pain and gain nature of love. Right after its release, I made a music video for it. Converting it into a music video with little to no experience proved to be challenging. However, with the help of friends, we were able to create a transcending picture.

The next song released was Handebet; it's also a romantic song. My friends and I wanted to create a storyline for the music video; therefore, as the title indicates, the scenes showcase two youngsters meeting at a gas station by accident. Also, I learned about the challenges they faced

consider love to be one of the key elements of life. People without love tend to lose all the charms that make us humans and, in the end, destroy themselves and maybe the people around them.

**Because you release high-end music videos, it's widely rumored that you invest a lot on them.**

A laugh!

That's completely untrue!

The music videos we were discussing were made with the help of friends. More than 60 people participated in them, some acting as directors, some as leading ladies or men; hence, the budget was tight, but we still had to produce valuable and memorable work.

My most recent songs, Shanet and Taeziem Selam music videos are upscale to fit the ever-evolving music industry, especially music videos. Yet, the budget of those music videos is less exaggerated than people claim. Some artists who don't put enough time or dedication into their artistic product create content that is below the standard, so instead of rooting out the actual problem, they blame the budget shortage and hate on other successful



Tigre, and Kunama.

**What is the greatest lesson or experience you have come across in life?**

There are so many, but from the top of my mind, when I was in college, I was designing a house for my final term paper, and my teacher, professor Yanzen, approached me and asked me why I decided to draw the window on that side and continued to hammer me with other difficult questions. My answer to his questions was because "I felt like that," so after listening to my answer, he said something that shaped my future projects, "there is no such thing as 'I felt like it' if you want to be successful, any successful work demands dedication, determination and above all reason." You should know precisely who you are making it for, why you are making it for, and what materials you will use. That talk has shaped the way I look at things and the way I plan my projects.

**What plans do you have for the future?**

For a long time, I have focused on my architectural work and neglected music, but now I plan to dedicate much time to music and create music that shows our rich and diverse culture in an uplifted way that has a chance to be heard globally.

**We wish you good luck in your future endeavors and thank you for your time!**



Some of Abubeker's work in Italy

I, heavily influenced by those works, decided to pursue a singing career. However, my parents were not on board with that idea. They had a vision of me being a medical doctor, yet I had a phobia of needles, let alone administrating them. For several years, I was conflicted between pleasing them and doing what I wanted. By the end of my high school year, I was determined to listen to my heart and make them proud. So, instead of pursuing music, I also choose

with each other and the sweet time they spent in each other's company. Overall, it was made to capture the essence of a moment, leading to more incredible things. It amazes me that after two decades, people still come up to me to express their admiration and to see how much the storyline resonates with them.

**Your song's core theme is love. Is there a reason for that?**

I love singing about love. I

work.

**Your songs are rich with diverse beats; where did that come from?**

Luckily, I had the chance to experience multiple cultures all over the world, and I always wanted to share that in my music, specifically the Eritrean ethnic groups. For instance, the song Hagery is a layer of three Eritrean ethnic groups' beats: Tigrinya,