



## WORKSHOP BY MINISTRY OF LAND, WATER, AND ENVIRONMENT

The Ministry of Land, Water, and Environment convened a workshop in Keren on 15 and 16 April, focusing on the guidelines, importance, and challenges of cadastral registration, as well as its advantages. In his keynote address, Mr. Tesfai Gebreselasie, Minister of Land, Water, and Environment, emphasized that the workshop aimed to enhance public understanding of land, water, and environmental issues. He noted that effective management is crucial for all activities, and the primary goal was to clarify and implement government guidelines in a beneficial manner.

A report was presented at the workshop, detailing the government's efforts in accordance with the Macro Policy of 1994, aimed at ensuring equal opportunity and proper land use, preventing practices that negatively impact the land, and issuing guidelines to promote land development and resolve related conflicts. It was also reported that managing water resources for household use, irrigation, and development initiatives remains a significant challenge, with the optimal solution being the efficient use and enrichment of underground water resources.

The report further highlighted



Photo: Tesfamichael Gebries

the significance of cadastral registration, established through on chemicals being used at illegal mining activities as well as the sustainability of the workshop.



Photo: Tesfamichael Gebries

Proclamation No. 95/1997.

Participants engaged in extensive discussions on the report and adopted various recommendations, including sustainable awareness-raising activities, conservation of indigenous crops, due attention

## SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Members of the National Confederation of Eritrean Workers engaged in a soil and water conservation activity at the Dembe-Zawul area in observance of International Workers' Day.

The initiative saw participation from 248 workers who constructed terraces and prepared holes for planting tree seedlings.

The greening committee of the National Confederation of Eritrean Workers stated that this annual event continues to make significant contributions towards environmental restoration.

In related developments, residents of the Foro semi-urban center, along with members of the Defense Forces, have embarked on an extensive soil and water conservation project.

This campaign involves the construction and repair of terraces and the enhancement of water diversion systems.

Lieutenant Ali Higo, Brigade Commander and coordinator of the campaign, highlighted substantial progress, noting the completion of over 4,000 meters of water diversion schemes, more than 10,500 meters of terraces, and approximately 3,153 meters of water catchments. He also reported that the community is actively involved in extensive environmental sanitation and is preparing holes for the planting of tree seedlings.

Foro is situated roughly 46 kilometers from the port city of Massawa.

## CONGRESS OF NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE WESTERN US

Nationals residing in the Western United States held a congress of national organizations on 13 April in Oakland, California.

At the congress, Mr. Berhane Gebrehiwet, Chargé d'Affaires at the Eritrean Embassy, provided an extensive briefing on the current situation in the homeland and regional developments. Mr. Berhane urged the nationals to strengthen their organizational

capacity and participation in national affairs and called on them to pass on noble societal values to the younger generation.

The congress reviewed the activities conducted by the national organization in 2023 and discussed the programs planned for 2024.

The participants expressed their readiness to enhance

organizational capacity and engage more actively in national affairs. They committed to investing in human resources development and to transferring noble societal values to the young generation. Additionally, they advocated for the continuation of the seminars.

According to reports, similar congresses have been organized in various cities across the US.

## CONTRIBUTION TO WAR-DISABLED VETERANS

Members of the 'EPLF-Hgdef Vision Paltalk Room' group, residing in various countries, contributed a 5.5 kW solar system valued at 120,000 Nakfa to war-disabled veteran fighters at Denden Camp.

During the handover ceremony organized at the central office of the National Association of Eritrean War-Disabled Veterans, it was reported that the solar system will significantly contribute to facilitating the daily activities of the veterans.

The members of the 'EPLF-Hgdef Vision Paltalk Room' emphasized that supporting war-disabled veterans is the responsibility of every citizen and expressed their readiness to use everything at their disposal to support them.

Mr. Yemane Araya, head of the War-Disabled Veterans Camp, commended the initiative taken by the group and called on others to follow their noble example.

Documents indicate that the 'EPLF-Hgdef Vision Paltalk Room' group has been periodically extending material support to the National Association of Eritrean War-Disabled Veterans. Similarly, the Frankfurt branch of the National Association of Eritrean War-Disabled Veterans has donated 475,846 Nakfa to the association.



# Development

## Mr. Gebremariam Kifle: The Journey of an Exemplary Farmer

*Habtom Tesfamichael*

In a tale of determination and resilience, Mr. Gebremariam Kifle, former-government-employee-turned-farmer, has carved out a successful agricultural venture in the heart of Adi-Tekelezan. Overcoming numerous challenges, Mr. Gebremariam and his wife have transformed a barren land into a flourishing farm.

Born in 1954, Mr. Gebremariam's grew up with a strong sense of patriotism and a desire for Eritrea's independence. In 1975, at 21, he joined the armed struggle for liberation and dedicated himself to the cause.

After Eritrea gained independence in 1991, Mr.

Gebremariam was assigned to work in governmental organizations in a variety of capacities, but his passion for farming and his affinity for the land remained strong. He realized his true calling lay in agriculture. Having nurtured a love for science and geography as a student, he saw farming as a natural extension of his interests.

"In my youth, even before joining the armed struggle, I had a deep interest in agriculture. I loved science and geography and was always drawn to working in the fields. Even after independence, my passion for agriculture continued to burn within me," Mr. Gebremariam reflects.

In 2000, after retiring from his governmental responsibilities, he

The path to success has its obstacles. Lack of initial capital, in particular, posed a significant challenge to Mr. Gebremariam. However, the community rallied around him and offered their support. One of his fellow freedom fighters, Wedi Araya, selflessly provided a tractor without any payment, enabling them to plow their fields and lay the groundwork for their agricultural pursuits. With the acquisition of oxen to work the land, they started farming in earnest.

Mr. Gebremariam's farm in Hitsit has become a testament to his unwavering dedication and hard work. The farm is covered with a variety of plants, including lettuce, tomatoes, potatoes, onions, cucumbers, oranges, wheat and giesso (*Rhamnus prinoides*). In addition to growing plants, Mr. Gebremariam engages in poultry farming, raising dairy cows and beekeeping at a small scale.

Mr. Gebremariam farm's primary focus is producing selected crops like wheat and barley, and potatoes, which are grown under a contract with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). This partnership has earned him a stable market for his farm's produce and on-going guidance on modern farming techniques. For instance, he sows selected potato seeds between January and March every year. And during the winter months, he enters into a contract with the MoA to sow selected wheat and barley seeds from May to July. The farm procures the selected seeds from the MoA and follows the ministry's instructions in growing the seeds to ensure the harvest of high-quality products.

Mr. Gebremariam's farming

took a leap of faith and pursued his dream of becoming a farmer. He acquired in Adi-Tekelezan a piece of land, approximately five hectares, which, at the time, was not suitable for cultivation. Undeterred by the initial challenges, he embarked on a transformative journey to turn the barren land into a thriving agricultural enterprise.

To finance his venture, Mr. Gebremariam relied on his family's and friends' support and eventually secured a loan from the commercial bank. With their backing and his background and experience in farming, he and his wife set out to breathe life into the land.

Mr. Gebremariam says, "We started by borrowing money from our family and friends, and we later approached a commercial bank for assistance, eventually securing 350,000 Nakfa. Fortunately, our background (my wife's and mine) in farming and our practical experience allowed us to proceed steadily."



to say advising fellow farmers: "The land is a generous provider. It gives back what you invest in it. As a farmer, you must believe in your work and be diligent. Your success depends on your knowledge, skills, and determination."

Looking ahead, Mr. Gebremariam envisions a future where his farm thrives and expands. To achieve this vision, he highlights the need for up-to-date equipment and machinery to enhance the efficiency of his farming operations further. He plans to invest in modern irrigation systems, mechanized tools, and improved storage facilities to optimize productivity and minimize post-harvest losses.

While acknowledging that there is still progress to be made and challenges to overcome, Mr. Gebremariam takes pride in his accomplishments as a farmer. Over and above transforming his own life and that of his family, he has been able to positively impact the local community.

"I am grateful for the blessing I have received. There is no greater blessing than being able to provide for my family and contribute to the well-being of others through agriculture," Mr. Gebremariam concludes.

Mr. Gebremariam's story is a testament to the power of perseverance, passion, and the profound connection between individuals and the land they cultivate. His dedication to sustainable farming practices and unwavering spirit inspire not only his fellow farmers but also all that strive to make a difference in their communities.

practices are guided by his consciousness about the environment and the principle of sustainability. He places a strong emphasis on maintaining the fertility of the land and reducing reliance on artificial pesticides. He uses natural fertilizers, such as poultry and cattle manure, which enrich the soil. Wheat and barley straws are also used as organic fertilizers, and they reduce soil salinity and compaction. Mr. Gebremariam and other fellow farmers are actively seeking traditional alternatives to combat pests that are resistant to conventional pesticides.

Mr. Gebremariam has expanded his poultry farm, currently housing around 1,000 chicken. His poultry farm supplies eggs and chicken to the local markets in Adi-Tekelezan and Asmara.

As Mr. Gebremariam says, managing a poultry farm comes with its own set of challenges. It is labor-intensive and demands meticulous care and attention. However, through his managerial skills and a deep understanding of the chicken's needs, he is able to ensure the well-being of his poultry and maximize their productivity.

Reflecting on his agricultural journey, Mr. Gebremariam has this



**ERITREA  
PROFILE**

Published Every  
Wednesday & Saturday

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## SpotLight

# Striving to Make our Relationship with Nature More Harmonious

*Dr. Fikrejesus Amahazion*

Although Eritrea is certainly far from the largest in terms of geographic area (covering a total area of more than 124,000 km<sup>2</sup>), it has a very diverse flora and fauna, both on land and in the sea. Among the country's most important ecosystems are the coastal marine and island ecosystems of the Red Sea. The waters off Eritrea's large constellation of islands and its extensive coastline - which at approximately 3,300 km long (inclusive of its more than 350 islands) makes it one of the longest in all of Africa - contain over 1,100 fish species and 44 genera of hard coral, resulting in one of the highest recorded levels of endemism and species diversity for a water body. Remarkably, around 18 percent of fish species and 20 percent of coral species are reported to be endemic to these waters. As well, between 380-400 kms of the Eritrean mainland and islands coastlines are occupied by mangrove forests, with three of the seven mangrove species present in the Red Sea found along the Eritrean coast.

Turning to land, Eritrea has a unique northern African elephant population, and the world's only viable population of free-ranging African wild ass (donkey). The country is also home to a number of other globally rare and endangered species, such as the Nubian Ibex and several gazelles (Dorcas and Soemmering). Several years ago, a long-missing gazelle species, the Eritrean Gazelle, was also rediscovered after nearly 90 years.

In addition, while a number of surveys are ongoing, it is believed that there are between 550-600 bird species in Eritrea (comprising a mix of resident and regular seasonal migrants). In recent years, studies have also recorded more than 10 reptile species (mainly lizards) in Eritrea. Excitingly, one species of amphibian, the Asmara Toad, previously thought to be extinct was rediscovered less than a decade ago, while the Eritrean Side-neck Turtle, a species found only in Eritrea and that had been feared extinct, was observed again several years ago.

Eritrea's plant and agricultural biodiversity is also considerable. The country is the center of origin for several field crops and there are clear indicators of rich genetic

diversity both in cultivated and wild forms. Moreover, the Northern and Southern Red Sea regions of the country are home to some of the last remaining tropical coniferous and broad-leaved forests along the Horn of Africa.

Despite this great richness of diversity, due to several factors - such as several decades of war and human-induced pressures accumulating over many years - the flora and fauna resources in Eritrea have dwindled greatly. However, concern and regard for the natural environment runs deep in the country and efforts to develop a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment are longstanding.

Prior to independence, for example, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) took progressive steps to promote environmental protection and conservation. Decades later, in 1994, shortly after formal independence, the country's National Charter, adopted in the historic city of Nakfa, also set it out as a priority. Specifically, it states that, "We are committed to economic growth, but in conjunction with social justice and the protection of the natural environment." The Charter also declares that one of the country's objectives is to gradually, "[B]uild a strong national economy, based on appropriate agricultural, industrial, commercial and other services, which satisfies the needs of our people, develops our own resources, [and] enables responsible utilization of the natural environment and resources."

Reflecting its deep commitment, Eritrea has become a signatory and party to a number of conventions and international agreements relating to the environment, wildlife, and biodiversity conservation. These include: Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, 1973; United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 1992; Convention on Biological Diversity; United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, 1994; World Heritage Convention, 1972; Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological



Diversity, 2000; Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species, 1979; Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 1997; Paris Agreement, 2015; Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol, 2012; Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on

to conserve, restore, and enhance natural areas, including regular community sanitation campaigns involving the participation of communities, students, and youth groups, as well as water and soil conservation programs. The government (consistent with actions taken by the EPLF in past decades) has also banned the hunting and trapping of wild animals, combated trafficking



Biological Diversity, 2010.

A range of tangible steps have also been taken. Tree planting and terracing are regularly conducted to address land degradation and

in wildlife, declared areas of the Red Sea coast as protected marine reserves, and set aside large parts of the country as protected national parks.



deforestation (hundreds of millions of seedlings have been planted since independence), while a number of projects are also in place

Another encouraging initiative has been the effort to combat pollution from plastic bags. In early 2002, plastic bags were

banned from Asmara, following bans in other large urban areas, including Keren and Dekemhare. Then in 2004, the government enacted a national legal notice to ban plastic bags throughout the country. The ban, which came into effect nationally in January 2005, outlawed the import, production, sale, or distribution of plastic bags, and was characterized by stiff fines (mainly directed at producers and distributors). The step to ban plastic bags made Eritrea one of the first countries in all of Africa, and one of the few anywhere in the world, to do so.

Beyond the enactment of a legal notice, various ministries and organizations have worked together to educate the public about the importance of protecting the environment and the significant damage caused by plastic bags. Early on, community administrators discussed how bags were being eaten by goats, cows, and sheep, causing many to die, and thus helped increase support for the move among numerous rural communities and farmers. As well, national radio, television, and newspapers promote positive environmental habits, while young Eritreans continue to be taught about the need for sustainable consumption and recycling.

Although plastic bags were once highly popular and ubiquitous throughout the country, Eritreans have generally responded positively, while local authorities conduct occasional checks of stores and other businesses to ensure that they are not using plastic bags. Today, Eritreans use cloth, nylon, or straw bags, which tend to be locally manufactured (thus supporting the local economy), and many of the problems associated with plastic bags - such as the blockage of drains and water pipes, spread of disease, deaths to farm animals and marine wildlife, pollution of the soil and general environment, and contribution to a bleak and disheartening visual landscape - have been dramatically reduced.

Ultimately, in addition to being an important pursuit in itself, protecting wildlife, biodiversity, and the environment is critical to our own nation's growth, development, and well-being. It is incumbent upon all of us to play our part in making humanity's relationship with nature a more harmonious one.



# Our Games: Everybody Wins

Luwam Kahsay. H

I always look forward to the chit-chats of the elderly. Go ahead and call me gossip, but, honestly speaking, you are no different from me.

Last week, grandma and I went to visit her best friend who came from Assab. They used to be comrades in the armed struggle for independence and have been friends since. Because they had missed each other, their conversation seemed never to end. And I was all ears.

Inquisitive as I am, I couldn't let go of a particular phrase Yima Asha said. She said she missed 'playing Daka' while retracing her childhood memories. Watching me eagerly waiting for an explanation, she said "Daka is a game, my dear. We used to play it at night, and it was fun."

Daka is a well-known traditional game played all night in the moon light by children aged 10 to 14 in the Afar ethnic group. Before choosing "inayta", a judge (referee), the children form two teams of equal numbers.

The two groups wait until the judge throws a bone or a piece of stick as far as possible. All the players remain quiet till they hear the sound of the bone or stick touching the ground. This helps them to guess its location so that they can start running in search of it. The judge's job is staying in the same place and giving a fair judgment.

The person who finds the stick or bone shouts "Ali yo le", signaling that he has found the



object, and runs toward the judge before the opponents could catch him. If his opponents get to take or touch the stick or bone, he and his team fail. Therefore, the team whose member is holding the stick or bone work together to ensure their guy reaches the judge with the object tight in his hand.

After I heard it all, I couldn't help relating Daka to American football. I even thought for a while that the Americans might have borrowed Daka and turned it into American football. If the team that is in possession of the stick or bone reaches the judge by passing the object from one member to the other, they get to score an additional point. But, if

the opponents touch the object or snatch it from the team holding it, they don't get to score a point. Instead, the game starts all over again.

"If a team gets to score ten points, they win. I was always with the winning team!" Yima Asha said proudly grinning, showing all her remaining teeth. Looking at her radiating face while describing the game, I had no doubt that Daka was a game loved by almost every child and played with great enthusiasm. "It helps you relax and have fun with your peers," she added.

I am always introduced to new life experience, including games, by the stories of my mom's

childhood. One day I encountered a game similar to Daka that is common in the Tigrinya ethnic group. It is called Tiklo-betri, one of the many games that involves the use of stick that my mom and her peers used to play.

After saying "watching all the guys skillfully throwing their stick to hit the other stick installed in the middle of the ground was like

watching a comic movie," mom burst out laughing remembering her childhood memories of the actions of her peers. As soon as she finished laughing I asked for more information.

She told me that after their cattle are very well fed, the shepherds would gather to have fun. They select a strong stick and install it in the ground.

The boys then stand a few meters away from the stick and take turns in throwing their sticks aiming to hit the installed stick. The boy who hits the installed stick, tossing it to the ground, is the winner, and he gets a piggyback ride from all the players as his reward.

This game is still played by young herders in the countryside. It is common in the countryside to see children and young and old men holding stick. As my grandpa told me, the stick is a symbol of their manhood. It is always there to help them defend against any opponent, animal or human.

Hearing the stories and visualizing the winners and those who have lost the game heading back home laughing and playing, I realized that life, and in their case the game, is not about the numerous victories you win. It is about how you make each game and life experience worthwhile.

## NEWS

### COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY TRAINING FOR POLICE MEMBERS

The Police and Security Training Center in Dekemhare has provided six weeks of training on computer technology and the internet to 27 members of the Police and Security Agency.

Maj. Andom Mehari, a representative from the training center, noted that the program covered topics such as scientific computer applications, computer documentation, potential computer-related crimes, and the documentation of scripts and photographs, among other subjects.

The trainers encouraged the trainees to integrate the skills they acquired into their daily tasks to enhance the efficiency of their respective organizations.

At the conclusion of the training, the participants received certificates of merit and awards, which were presented by officers from both the Police Headquarters and the training center.



# Lighter Side

## Trending or Blending?

**Nehemiah Kebreab Mehari**

Can we talk about fashion in the context of our culture and our country for a minute? First of all, what do we mean by fashion?

Fashion is a form of self-expression through clothing, footwear, lifestyle, accessories, makeup, hairstyle, etc. at a particular period and place and in a specific context. The term implies a look defined by the fashion industry as that which is trendy.

To be trendy means to be in tune with whatever the fashion trends are at that particular period of time. So, how do we perceive fashion in Eritrea?

Looking back, I feel we have always had a particularly classy sense of style. Whenever I see a black and white photo of Eritreans taken in the past, I can't help but marvel at the way they dress. Men wore pants, suits and hats, and women wore suits with knee-short gowns and fancy dresses and they wore their hair moderately short in styles known as "Umbrellas" and so on. It was all stunning.

It's good that we have managed to regain our sense of fashion even after years of war for independence. I mean my father still wears a suit to go to work every day. In fact, in the city, many men do still wear suits.

However, I am rather apprehensive of the new fashion trends. I know the world is always turning and nothing stays the same. Times move on and so must we. We were born to the times of the Internet and Technology. Times that have made all the world a much smaller place.

Where once there were colonies and empires, now there're Facebook and Instagram. Roads and Bridges replaced forever by What's App and Imo. Books and Magazines by Phones and Computers. And it's great. We're always in touch with whatever new scientific thought or technological advance the world has created today. We're never amiss. We're always in touch with whatever Ariana Grande wore to the Grammys or whatever new pair of shoes Kanye West made and is advertising from his cloth wear. From "Dad-shoes" to "Girlfriend jeans", (yes, if you didn't know both are real trends) it's fantastic.

Yet, I wonder, how many of us actually understand where these various different trends come from and what they all mean?

I mean I remember a time in the early 2000's until the turn of the decade, where baggy jeans and loose-fitting pants were the trend. Popularized by the likes of Eminem and all sorts of African-American rappers, it was nothing but the self-expression of thugs and criminals in the underworld of the American suburbs, yet transformed into a fashion trend because of its adaptation by famous celebrities and musicians. Same goes for all sorts of shoes, from Jordans to Timbers.

Then the turn of the decade hit, and boom. Skinny jeans were now the new trend. Skinny jeans and ripped jeans were the new baggy and loose. Everywhere from China to Brazil, everyone was wearing them. And somehow, through all that distance between the countries where these new fashion ideas originated and where our proud country is located, these trends made the journey and found a new home. It was through the Internet that these trends were passed on and caught on like moth to a flame. Without missing a beat, from the start of the 2010's onwards, everyone started wearing skinny jeans and ripped jeans. Boys and

Girls.

USA, Japan, South Korea, Spain, Italy and France all contributed to these new fashion trends that took the world ablaze. Clothes for men

that we associate with fashion.

And now, the new trends are sportswear, sweat pants and sweaters. Everyone seems to be

our favorite color was and answer without fear and pick any color from the different shades and types that we, as humans, are able to distinguish from, right? Not



and women slowly started losing their distinction. Where once clothing was associated with level of class and distinction, through the infamous work of celebrities and "stars", ripped, loose and sporty getups dominated the markets and crashed through the ceiling of our old understanding of how people wear clothes. Same for shoes, music and film and all

enjoying them. From young to old, that is what you see people wearing. Either skinny pants and jeans, or skinny sweat pants and sporty gear. I do mean everyone by the way, not just the young and hip, but apparently even the elderly and aging. It's such a craze that if we were to calculate the increase in profit of our tailors and dressmakers, we'd hardly be shocked. When was the last time you owned a pair of pants which you didn't have to mingle with?

And through all that I can't help but wonder, are we Trending or Blending?

In social psychology this phenomenon (where something becomes so famous and tantalizingly entrapping that everyone must participate in it) is known as the Band - Wagon effect. It's a herd mentality or 'groupthink'. Result of peer pressure and years of biological wiring.

Even though the word itself, fashion, is a form of means to self-expression, that is hardly what I would call the latest trends and their form of trending. We all just seem to readily jump on to the wagon. No matter where it came from, no matter where it's going.

Diversity seems to have lost meaning altogether. It used to be that we could ask each other what

anymore it seems. "Blue is so done and over with!", or "Grey is the new Green!" are all slogans of the now. It's all about what's trending and what's not. Let me ask you this -- when was the last time you went to a wedding and saw the attire of the bride and groom and you went: "hmm, that's different"?

For a student of socio-psychology, watching the people walk on Harnet Avenue at night is an exercise in watching the blend of the product of a single capitalist puppet master, secretly pulling the fashion strings from some undisclosed location.

I'm what's known as a nostalgic for the good old times. The times when men wore suits and pants and collar shirts. When women wore a dress and we all looked so elegant and classy and nice. When one could tell the age of someone by their attire. Times when no one wore sweat pants and sweaters to work (unless they worked as coaches of some sports team, or were professional athletes). When anything reaped meant old and trashy. When people gave their best and took time to get their attire together and took care of their presentation to the world. When people were aware of their own sense of self and sense of fashion. No one cared what Kanye West had on. Everyone was different, yet the same. Maybe we can find our way back to that.



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# VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

**Financial Accountant**  
 Number required – (02)  
 Type of contract – Indefinite

**Major Duties and responsibilities.**

- To provide financial information to Finance Manager or management by researching and analyzing accounting data; preparing reports required.
- Prepares and records asset, liability, revenue, and expense entries by compiling and analyzing account information.
- Maintains and balances subsidiary accounts by verifying, allocating, posting, reconciling transactions; resolving discrepancies.
- Maintains general ledger by transferring subsidiary accounts; preparing a trial balance; reconciling entries.
- Summarizes financial status by collecting information; preparing balance sheet, profit and loss, and other statements.
- Provides financial reporting and analysis and cost control services in accordance with company systems and procedures.
- Assists in budgeting, forecasting and strategic planning preparation for all functional departments.
- Understands corporate accounting policies and procedures to ensure financial and operating reports reflect the condition of the operation and provide accurate and reliable information to assess the operations performance.
- Ensures transactions are accurately and timely prepared and recorded in accordance with IFRS.
- Communicates and collaborates with internal departments and subsidiaries on accounting matters.
- Ensures complex transactions are researched and accounting treatment properly documented & supported.
- Leads and participates in special projects as required.
- Supports and provides resolution to all internal and external audit processes and resulting issues that might be identified.
- Recommends and assists in implementing process improvements to both the accounting processes and management controls.
- Supports the Financial and Admin Manager controller for month end duties and works directly with management to address variance issues when necessary.
- Supports site related projects and requests from operations when necessary.
- Reviews the Petty Cash Control and Month-end Reimbursements
- Ensures that the Accounts Payable and Accounts Receivable Accounts are Properly reconciled with the Departments concerned
- Ensures that Weekly and Monthly Bank Reconciliations are done
- Assists the Financial and Admin Manager with Cash-flow forecasting.

## Profile: Qualifications and Experience

Formal Education, Certifications or Equivalent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University Degree in Accounting. BCom, and Computer and ERP Systems eg Pronto or similar Literate</li> </ul>
Working Experience – Nature & Length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum 10 years’ experience as an Accountant, reconciliation, control and reporting experience. Mining experience will have an asset.</li> </ul>
Leadership Experience – Nature & length of time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time management skill, ethical and professional attitude</li> <li>• Excellent leadership experience.</li> </ul>
Other skills and abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extremely detail-oriented, proactive, and Accounting, Corporate Finance, Reporting Skills, Deadline-Oriented, Reporting Research Results, Confidentiality, Time Management, Data Entry Management. Good math and computer skills. High-level of attention to detail. Skills of accounting software applications. Strong organizational skills. Independent work skills. Analytical and problem solving skills. Strongly detail-oriented. Computer skills, especially the ability to use accounting software. Written and verbal communication skills.</li> </ul>

**General Information and other requirements:**

- Place of Work:** Asmara Office & AMSC Sites
- Type of contract:** Indefinite Period
- Salary:** As per the Company salary scale

**Additional requirements for Nationals:**

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

- Address: Please mail your applications to;**  
**Asmara Mining Share Company,**  
**P. O. Box 10688 Asmara, Eritrea**
- Mineral Resources Management**  
**P.O. Box 272**  
**Asmara**

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



Bisha Mining Share Company  
P.O. Box 4276  
Asmara  
Eritrea

Tel: (+291) 1124941  
Fax: (+291) 1124941  
www.bishamining.com

# VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

**1. Position: Construction Supervisor**  
**Department: Process Plant**  
**Number required: One (01)**

**Primary Purpose**

- Supervise mainly the Lime Plant Construction project at the same in a 'hands on' role with several both skilled and semi skilled national artisans to construct new buildings (Steel Structures, Electrical, Civil Works, Pipelines and Excavations) whilst using equipment and personal available on the Mine.
- Perform regular Safety Inspections, following a scheduled work plan, reporting back on work progress and ensure costs are within the budget. In addition, position is responsible to identify and order relevant parts and materials required for construction, following site procurement procedures. The position will include overall civil, structural, electrical and mechanical construction responsibilities ensuring all works carried out are done in a safe manner, in compliance to site HSEC regulations.

**ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS**

- oversee the construction of projects and monitor activities at worksites. They manage crews, ensure health and safety codes are observed, and that work is completed to schedule.
- Ability to manage contractor performance to ensure projects works are delivered to specification and agreed constraints.
- Monitors the section budget by reviewing past expenditures, determining future needs, and making determinations regarding the necessary resources to accomplish departmental goals.
- Maintains a safe, secure, and healthy work environment by following guidelines, standards, and procedures.
- Orders materials and equipment and takes care of the necessary permits.
- Assesses safety and finance goals. Manages sub-contractors by locating, evaluating, and selecting contractors. Meets operational standards by contributing construction information to strategic plans and reviews
- Meets construction budget by monitoring project expenditures. Accomplishes construction project results by defining project purpose and scope. Approves construction projects by conducting inspections at critical phases.
- Problem-solving: Identify and resolve technical issues and problems that arise during the project.

**TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS**

- Planning
- Implementation of the Plan
- Writing Reports & Data Control
- Supervise/Manage team

**UNIQUE REQUIREMENTS/OTHER INFORMATION**

- Candidate must be physically medically fit.
- Construction Management, Problem solving, Construction Strategy and Methodology from Experience, Manage Time, People, Materials, Coordination and Execution.

<b>Qualifications:</b>	<b>Knowledge and Experience</b>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Degree or Diploma in Civil engineering/ Building Construction or equivalent engineering discipline or</li> <li>Has 10 years of managing construction experience.</li> <li>Has the construction experience in Civils, Structural, Piping, Mechanical and oversee Electrical Installations</li> <li>Proven ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously within budget and timeline constraints.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum of (10) years' experience in Construction management in Mining industry in a similar capacity.</li> </ul>
<b>Technical Skills</b>	<b>Behavioral Skills</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Computer Literacy (MS Office – Intermediate), Mechanical and Maintenance experience, Attention to detail, Analytical skill, Problem solving skill, Supervisory Experience, MS Project Skills, Strong understanding of construction methods and materials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excellent Communication (English), Assertiveness, Interpersonal Relations, Integrity, Prioritizing skills &amp; multi-skilling, Ability to work towards strict deadlines, High level of Accuracy, Self-motivation, Dedication to safety, Time Management, Leadership</li> </ul>

**General Information and other requirements:**

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

**Additional requirement for Nationals:**

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

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

**Note to Eritrean applicants:**

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



# Conversation with Ceramic Sculptor Nasser Abdelwasie

Sona Berhane



Today's guest is Nasser Abdelwasie, a ceramic sculptor, pottery instructor, painter and grassroots football coach who, with his distinctively understated style, has now joined the ranks of up-and-coming Eritrean artists. Almost all of his ceramic sculptures, from the largest vases to the smallest candle holders, represent some form of a vessel. Their intricate designs, however, show that they are finished using a range of techniques. Energetic and cheerful, Nasser discusses his art and shares with us the highlights and challenges of his adventurous artistic journey,



**Were you interested in pottery from a young age?**

No, though I'd always had an artistic disposition – I sketched and painted through all my years in school. But I don't recall having any interest in pottery or ceramics at that age. I was mostly a dabbler and a tinkerer. You could say I liked keeping my hands busy and active. Once, when I was a kid, I watched a technician fix our TV, and the next time it was broken, I fixed it myself.

As far as I can remember, I was crazy about football. I still am. But due to an injury, I couldn't go on to play professionally. However, I didn't sever ties with the sport because soon afterwards, I got involved with a grassroots program of coaching children with special needs, and continue to do so to this day.

**Is that challenging?**

Only until the kids get comfortable with you. I had taken a brief course in coaching children with disabilities or special needs so I was able to manage fine. Most of the time, in my experience at least, the key is to keep their needs in mind but to otherwise treat them like regular kids. I found that this fostered a sense of responsibility and confidence in them. A few years ago, I volunteered to show them the basics of pottery. Playing with clay helps to calm the children as well as to engage and strengthen the muscles of their hands. Pottery is a very haptic art and, when practiced regularly, it can be extremely therapeutic.

**You're also a pottery teacher. How do you feel about teaching? Does it take time from your art?**

No, not at all. I enjoy it immensely. It's so strange that this is how my life has turned out because I was an absolute football fanatic. I wanted to be a football player. I was sure I wasn't going to be anything else. But besides allowing me to impart my love and knowledge of this craft to young artists, teaching is also a great way for me to refine my technique.

**How many exhibitions have you put on so far?**

Aside from the joint exhibition I had with Asmait Tekie last summer, I have never held an exhibition of my work, either collaborative or solo. I regularly participated in festivals, bazaars, carnivals and Independence Day parades but haven't yet done a proper exhibition.

**Why not?**

I'm not sure. I'm usually

encouraging my students to collaborate and work towards exhibiting their art. I think my problem is that if someone really liked my piece, I'm sure I would be tempted to give it to them as a gift.

[Laughs]

But exhibiting your work is



undoubtedly important. It brings you into contact with like-minded people, creates a situation in which you are exposed to the tastes,



trends, and styles of audiences and other artists alike, and that is where creativity sparks fly. For an artist, this is invaluable.

**Then you have plans to showcase your work in the future?**

Yes! I have an exhibition scheduled for the summer of 2024.

**What's the most challenging aspect of making ceramic sculptures?**

Drying the pieces at the right temperature and for exactly the right amount of time because if either quantity exceeds the precise limit, the vase or the sculpture will become too brittle and start to crack. For some time now, I've been challenging myself to make larger and larger pieces, but the added weight requires longer to dry and the sculpture would start to slowly collapse. That's been a persistent problem with my projects.

**You said you weren't initially interested in making pottery. What drove you to it?**

There was a curious incident in Sawa that pointed me in that direction. It was during tactical training. We were learning something at camp and I just happened to look down and see a short, thick piece of wood lying there. I don't remember why I did it, but I picked it up and started to carve it with a sharp-edged rock. Using my own hand as a model, I carved it into a hand. I discovered then that I really enjoyed carving pieces out. Even now, I don't press most of

the impressions on my sculptures. I carve them out. It's not easy, and you're always on the lookout for more refined tools to achieve an accurate shape or silhouette. But it's invigorating. From early on, the creative and innovative sides of art have always interested me. I want to learn more and deepen my knowledge of this craft, but I also try to limit outside influences so I can maintain my originality.

**Of all the arts, why are you into pottery?**

Well, people often forget that pottery is an ancient art. I'm especially fascinated by its historic and cultural place in our society. Earthenware continues to feature in our daily life. Pottery is one of the oldest, and, therefore, the most traditional crafts in Eritrea.

But I also love the art form. Using your bare hands to mold a lump of clay into a delicate, beautiful shape is just magical.

**And finally, what is the reason behind your particular style?**

I'm often asked why I leave my sculptures unpainted. You know the aged look of pots and potsherds excavated from archaeological sites? I like that look. The earthy, faded terra-cotta color is enchanting. It's how our ancient artisans made pottery. In understanding this, I become aware of the traditions of this craft that is passed down to me and I am careful to preserve them. That's why I design my ceramics in such a way as to retain their natural color.