



ACTIVITY ASSESSMENT MEETING

Southern Red Sea Administration conducted an activity assessment meeting on 15 July in the port city of Assab. The meeting reviewed the progress of programs in the first half of 2024 and discussed the implementation of programs for the second half of the year.

Ambassador Mohammed-Seid Mantai, Governor of the region, commended the strong public participation in the implementation of the set programs. He also highlighted the integrated efforts of the Government and PFDJ institutions. The Governor called for reinforced participation in the implementation of programs in the second half of 2024.

During the meeting, a report was presented focusing on the progress of various programs, including potable water supply, education, health, social welfare services, agricultural development, and marine resources.

The report noted encouraging public participation in water and soil conservation efforts, with 87% of the planted tree seedlings in good condition. Additionally, 27,500 mangrove trees were planted across 30 hectares on the seashore and islands. Financial and material support has also been extended to fish farmers.

Participants conducted extensive discussions on the report and adopted various recommendations.

ERITREA SHARES ITS EXPERIENCE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the United Nations hosted a side event at the UN on 17 July 2024 under the theme, "Empowerment for a Brighter and More Sustainable Future: Advancing SDGs 4, 5, and 6 for Quality Education, Gender Equality, and Access to Clean Water and Sanitation."

Eritrea presented its 2nd Voluntary National Report (VNR) on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), focusing on SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 6 (Water and Sanitation) on 12 July 2024. This side event provided an opportunity for further engagement with member states, highlighting the interconnections between the 17 Goals, sharing best practices, and finding innovative solutions to address developmental challenges.

Mr. Hagos Ahmed, Director of the Population and Social Statistics Division at the National Statistics Office and local focal point for the VNR, discussed the VNR preparation methodology and process, including stakeholder engagement, data sources, and the scope of the VNR. Mr. Samsom Berhane, Director of the Department of International Cooperation at the Ministry of Finance and National Development, discussed the way forward for the successful implementation of the SDGs in the remaining period of the agenda.

Mr. Mesfin Mehari from the Ministry of Education addressed progress on SDG 4 (Quality Education), Ms. Yohanna Tewolde from the National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW) discussed SDG 5 (Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment), and Mr. Michael Yoseph from the Water Resource Department focused on SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation).

Ms. Nahla Valji, United Nations

Resident Coordinator in Eritrea, shared her reflections on the work being done in Eritrea to advance the SDGs and the UN's partnership with Eritrea.

Many member states attended the event, including officials from the African Union and the UN system. Under-Secretary-General Christian Duarte, Special Advisor on Africa to the Secretary-General, congratulated Eritrea

on its achievements, as did many other participants.

Eritrea's delegation to the UN High-Level Political Forum also conducted a virtual seminar with the Eritrean community in Canada, engaging in a lively interactive discussion on Eritrea's development trajectory. The Eritrean Diaspora remains engaged and ready to contribute to Eritrea's development.

STRATEGIC PLANNING ASSESSMENT MEETING ON WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT

A pivotal meeting to evaluate progress on the strategic plan aimed at advancing women's development took place in Asmara on July 16. The meeting was attended members of the regional committee responsible for women's development and various administrative bodies from the Central Region.

Ms. Tekea Tesfamicael, President of the National Union of Eritrean Women, emphasized the government's long-standing commitment to women's issues, tracing back to the armed struggle for independence. She highlighted current initiatives designed to enhance women's educational and vocational skills, aiming to boost their productivity and societal contributions.

Ms. Tekea pointed out that the Union is prioritizing programs

that focus squarely on women, with strategic plans tailored to elevate their productivity.

Colonel Gebrehans Woldegergis, chairman of the regional committee, noted that national symposiums and training

programs have been organized from 2023 to 2028 to foster women's development.

Mr. Fesehaye Haile, Governor of the Central Region, underscored the universal responsibility to uphold women's rights and

equality, urging increased community involvement to support these goals.

The meeting also featured detailed reports on the initiatives undertaken to enhance women's capabilities and the progress achieved thus far.



'Crux' Perpetuates Blatant Lies Against Eritrea

On July 4, 2024 'crux'. A US-based online news platform that focuses on the Vatican and the catholic church, published an article 'Eritrea arrests over 200 Christians in one year'.

The article, written by a certain Ngala Killian Chimtom, was based on a dubious and politically motivated source: Release International, which essentially recycled false allegations that have been perpetuated by against Eritrea by notorious detractors for the past two decades. Among all the allegations, the article allegedly states that, "Eritrea located in Eastern Africa, ranks among the top ten countries in the world where following Jesus is an extremely dangerous enterprise".

This hyperbole is not only an outright fallacy and baseless accusation against the country or its government. It is, indeed, an insult to the millions of adherents of the Orthodox Tewahdo Church, the Catholic Church and the Evangelical Church { of Eritrea } whose core dogma of their faiths is centered on believing and following Jesus Christ. To the surprise of many, the article was shared and amplified by various media outlets, including by the Catholic Herald, without due diligence and ethical journalistic validation.

Contrary to the claims of this article, which is part and parcel of a series of anti-Eritrea defamation campaigns, Eritrea has been, for centuries, a beacon of peaceful religious coexistence. The country's rich history includes: early embrace of Christianity and

Islam in the 4th and 7th centuries respectively: preservation of ancient monasteries and shrines: and inclusive decision-making bodies in the synods of the various faiths. The rich heritage and associated institutions have contributed immensely in safeguarding religious freedom within a Secular Eritrean State. As many would agree, Eritrea is a county of "Many Faiths, One Spirit" and this portrays the interaction and a culture of tolerance that foster religious harmony across different faiths.

Like any other county in the world, Eritrea has laws and regulations governing the affairs

of religion within the State. Hence, Eritrea does not give any space to new, even if miniscule in comparative terms, religious sects (which is the sad reality in several African countries) with links to foreign countries or organizations who supply such sects huge funds to reinforce their political agendas.

Release International, a UK-based organization and an inspiration to the article, has been accused previously of misrepresenting the State of Eritrea, its people, and its religions. Alongside Release International, certain individuals and organizations with vested interests and hidden political agendas are also actively promoting such baseless accusations targeting the religious affairs of Eritrea and

Eritrean citizens. There is ample evidence to suggest that they have a clear agenda for "regime change" under the bidding of powerful dark forces. This is the underlying motive behind their relentless smear campaigns which is mischievously coached in religious garb.

In today's world, the global proliferation of religion sectarianism has sparked heightened patterns of segregation, migration, and conflict. The resultant turmoil has disrupted the once tranquil state of affairs on a planetary scale.

Regrettably, this unrest disproportionately advantages select individuals and factions, while inflicting hardship upon the populace at large. In stark

contrast, Eritrea emerges as a Paragon of harmonious coexistence among adherents of diverse religious persuasions. Evidently, it is not uncommon to encounter mosques and churches juxtaposed in the same locality, with Muslims and Christians jointly observing religious festivities.

The Eritrean people have afforded Sanctuary to religious assemblies since the 7th century, with the ethos of religious tolerance and concord deeply embedded in and interwoven with the fabric of Eritrean heritage. This enduring tradition stands as a testament to the distinctive character of the Eritrean people.

Embassy of the State of Eritrea to UK & Ireland London

LOCAL NEWS

ENCOURAGEMENT TO EXEMPLARY TEACHERS



The Gala-Nefhi education office in the Central Region awarded 25 exemplary teachers for their outstanding performance in the 2023/2024 academic year.

Mr. Daniel Solomon, head of the education office in the sub-zone, highlighted the crucial role these exemplary teachers have played in

the development of the teaching-learning process. He stated that the award aims to recognize their hard work and inspire others to follow their example.

Mr. Belai Habtegabir, head of the education office in the Central Region, noted that the objective of the award is to encourage the

awardees and inspire other teachers. He also called on other institutions to follow this noble example.

Mr. Mehari Yohannes, administrator of the sub-zone, emphasized the importance of recognizing exemplary teachers in the development of the teaching-learning process and called for the sustainability of such awards.

Sawa -- Forging a Nation . . .

Continued from page 4

Eritrea's youth have always been and shall always be the engine propelling the nation forward. National Service serves as their forge, where unwavering love for their country is ignited and nurtured. The discipline and selflessness they acquire there become the fuel, not just for defending Eritrea, but also for constructing a brighter, more

prosperous future. By fostering a spirit of innovation and open dialogue, Eritrea can ensure that National Service remains a relevant and positive force in shaping the future of the nation. This future Eritrea aspires to build is one built on sustainable development, national unity, and the unwavering dedication of its youth. At this anniversary we celebrate not just the program but the core values it embodies: unity,

resilience, and an unwavering commitment to justice, equality, and self-determination. These principles resonate deeply with the Eritrean spirit, forged in the fires of the long struggle for independence. The spirit of our forefathers who fought for independence burns brightly within the new generation. It's the same strong spirit that has driven National Service for three decades, and it shall continue to propel the coming generations.

MEETING ON DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN SENAFA SUB-ZONE

A strategic meeting was held on 15 July in Senafe sub-zone, aimed at assessing the progress of ongoing development initiatives. Reports from the first half of the year indicate positive advancements.

The meeting was attended by area administrators, members of the Assembly, heads of line ministries, and other stakeholders.

Mr. Idris Ali Shiker, the sub-zone administrator, highlighted significant achievements in several areas, including water and soil conservation, road construction and maintenance, support for families of martyrs, and the introduction of solar energy solutions. Additionally, efforts in ensuring potable water supply and forestation were noted.

Mr. Shiker emphasized the need for enhanced water and soil conservation strategies to increase agricultural output. He encouraged farmers to adopt organic fertilizers and prepare for cultivation in advance. Moreover, he called for increased public involvement in preserving forestry and wildlife resources and stressed the importance of ongoing environmental awareness campaigns.

The meeting concluded with a detailed discussion of the report and the adoption of various recommendations to further the region's development goals.

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SpotLight

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

This is the second article in a multi-part series that sheds light on Eritrea's participation at the 2024 High-Level Political Forum and the country's second Voluntary National Review of progress towards Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals. It offers an overview of the second section of Eritrea's report, which lays out the country's policy and enabling environment, highlights its partnerships, and discusses the unwavering commitment to leaving no one behind.

Dr. Fikrejesus Amahazion

Policy and enabling environment for progress and development

Eritrea's policy and enabling environment sets the foundation



for progress and development. The country's broad vision of and general approach towards nation-building and development, which is farsighted, integrated, holistic, and people-centered, while harmonizing focus and objectives across political, economic, social, and environmental dimensions, remains highly consistent with the guiding themes and central principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs.

In fact, even prior to the international community's formal establishment and adoption of the 2030 Agenda nearly a decade ago, Eritrea had already been taking tangible actions toward creating a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable nation, based on the foundational principles of equality, social justice, inclusion, self-reliance, and broad-based participation where all individuals, groups, and communities, irrespective of any particular characteristics or distinction, are able to contribute, thrive, and achieve their full potential.

Over the years, the country has formulated and implemented a comprehensive set of laws, policies, initiatives, strategic frameworks, and sector plans that align closely with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, as well as provide a strong platform and conducive setting for transforming

Eritrea into a more prosperous, inclusive, and resilient nation. In addition, Eritrea has undertaken a number of steps to foster a favorable national environment for sustainable development that promotes inclusive, whole-of-

society approaches, leverages the country's rich ethnolinguistic and social diversity and wealth of local, indigenous knowledge systems, and catalyzes collective actions and contributions from all regions, communities, and groups.

The importance of partnerships and cooperation

It is widely acknowledged and understood that progress and sustainable development can only be effectively achieved with a strong commitment to collaborative partnerships, close coordination, and mutual cooperation between governments, the private sector, civil society, and a diverse range of other sectors and stakeholders. High-impact and meaningful multistakeholder partnerships, cooperation, and engagement at all levels provide critical opportunities for exploiting complementarity and devising robust, innovative solutions to complex developmental challenges and multilayered crises that impact all nations and all people. They additionally remain crucial to leveraging broad interlinkages and synergies, addressing the key drivers of systemic change, collectively scaling up impact, and holistically accelerating progress toward Agenda 2030.

Since its proud emergence as an independent nation, Eritrea has consistently endeavored to

(Part II)

cultivate productive partnerships and cooperation across all levels and within multiple spheres in order to establish the suitable conditions and appropriate environment to promote sustainable development. As a fundamental component of its nation-building efforts and development agenda, it has forged cooperative frameworks and close relationships with a wide range of international partners, organizations, and specialized agencies, as well as worked closely with the private sector, an array of community-based organizations and groups, and its vibrant diaspora communities located in countries across North America, Europe, the Middle East, and Africa.

For Eritrea, meaningful engagement and effective cooperation with partners has been built on the pillars of mutual commitment to common principles and values, openness and transparency, trust and understanding, and complementarity, while being informed by and directly responsive to the country's prevailing context, locally-defined development priorities, and specific needs. One useful example is how, in late 2021, the Eritrean government and the UN jointly developed and agreed to a Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, which is to cover the period from 2022-2026 and prioritizes human development and well-being, as well as the creating of an inclusive, diversified, and climate-resilient economy, among other cross-cutting themes.

As well, the country has continued to reinforce bilateral cooperation and build stronger ties with a range of partners from across the world. In recent years, Eritrean high-level officials have traveled to or hosted officials from Egypt, Somalia, Kenya, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Italy, China, and Russia, among other nations. The country is unwavering in its dedication to promoting greater collaboration and forging deeper, more effective partnerships locally, regionally, and globally as it resolutely strives to accelerate progress, support capacity building, bridge existing gaps, and further drive forward positive development outcomes, nation-building, and implementation of the SDGs.

Eritrea remains a staunch proponent of international law, the multilateral system, and the UN

Charter, which serve to strongly buttress realization of the 2030 Agenda and its concomitant SDGs. Importantly, the country is party to numerous bilateral, regional, and multilateral treaties or agreements and it has also ratified the majority of the core international treaties and conventions, including those specifically pertaining to sustainable development, human rights, and the environment.

In addition, the country continues to be highly involved and actively engaged within an array of bilateral and multilateral fora and bodies, and it staunchly advocates for equality and justice, policy space, and a real voice and genuine participation for developing regions within international frameworks and the global governance architecture. Eritrea's international participation, various commitments, and general willingness to constructively engage in multilateral, cooperative approaches to common challenges and emerging issues help to reinforce its implementation of the 2030 Agenda and also create a favorable framework for the country's nation-building efforts.

Eritrea remains committed to social justice and leaving no one behind

In unanimously adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, all 193 Member States of the UN agreed that "As we embark on this great collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind. Recognising that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, we wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and for all segments of society. And we will endeavour to reach the furthest behind first."

For Eritrea, the principles of social justice, self-reliance, equality, and leaving no one behind are deeply embedded within its pursuit of nation-building, its longstanding and broad development framework, and its concerted efforts toward improving the wellbeing and living standards of all its citizens. The country continues to take strong action to eliminate poverty and inequality, promote gender equality and empowerment, secure opportunities for all, eradicate all forms of stigma, discrimination, prejudice, and ostracization, create a more inclusive, fair, and just nation, and prioritize reaching those furthest behind first.

In particular, the country's laws, regulations, and policies, which are

underpinned by longstanding socio-cultural values and draw upon its rich history and traditions, establish a robust platform for inclusive socio-political and economic development, while guaranteeing that individuals and groups are able to exercise a wide range of basic and fundamental rights. Discrimination, exclusion, restriction, or preference that is based on the grounds of disability, age race, ethnicity, color, religion or belief, socio-economic status, region, language, opinion, gender, or other similar distinctions are strongly prohibited and punishable by national law. The country is also highly vigilante against all forms of radicalism or extremism, violence, intolerance, bigotry, and hatred, ensuring a sense of peaceful, respectful coexistence and that everyone is treated equally before the law.

What is more, Eritrea has crafted a broad spectrum of policies, adopted a variety of legal instruments, and launched several progressive programs to protect, help address the specific needs of, and catalyze progress for vulnerable, marginalized, underserved, and deprived groups, such as the poor, persons living with disabilities, nomadic populations, those residing in geographically remote or hard-to-reach areas, and migrants or refugees.

These multifaceted interventions play a positive and substantive role in cultivating peace and promoting unity, tolerance, and solidarity within Eritrea's multi-ethnic, multicultural society. They also aim to mitigate disparities and create a level playing field on which all Eritreans, irrespective of any characteristic or distinction, have a genuine opportunity to excel, and seek to ensure that each and every individual is able to freely and fully participate in, contribute to, and benefit from inclusive and sustainable socio-economic growth and development.

It is worth noting that the government has also offered frequent, regular encouragement and extended substantial backing to an array of national unions and civic organizations, including those for women, youth and students, veterans, and workers, which contributes significantly to the country's nation-building and developmental ambitions, as well as plays a positive role in promoting inclusion, expanding broad-based participation, and leaving no one behind.

SpotLight

Sawa -- Forging a Nation: Journey of 30 Years of National Service

Mussie Efriem

National service holds significant value both for individuals and the nation. It fosters a sense of unity and shared purpose among citizens that come from diverse backgrounds. This shared experience of service can build stronger communities and cohesive national identity. Furthermore, national service programs can equip participants with valuable skills and experiences, promoting personal growth and development. These benefits can translate into better prepared and engaged citizenry, contributing positively to the country's social and economic well-being.

When Eritrea emerged as a nation in 1991 following the protracted war for independence, the scars of conflict were deep, with infrastructure shattered, and the population had been yearning for peace and stability. The newly established Eritrean government faced the monumental challenge of nation-building. The key question that was looming was how to channel the energies of a population that had borne the physical and emotional wounds of war into rebuilding the country. Three decades ago, a seed of national unity was sown.

On November 6th, 1991, the concept of Eritrean National Service was born. This wasn't just a program; it was a vision for a fledgling nation, damaged by war but brimming with determination. Fast forward to July 14th, 1994, and that vision took root. The first group of young Eritreans embarked on their journey to Sawa, dusty and empty plains. Today, as we commemorate the 30th anniversary of this pivotal moment, we celebrate more than just the passage of time. We celebrate the unwavering

spirit of the Eritrean people, their unwavering commitment to forging a unified nation. National Service transcended military training, becoming a cornerstone of the Eritrean society. It brought together the youth from across the country's diverse tapestry of nine ethnicities and six regions, weaving them into a single, resilient thread.

In 1994, at the dawn of Eritrea's national service program, Sawa was a blank canvas. Thirty years later, hundreds of the participants of the 1st program, the 1st round, returned to find a completely transformed Sawa. Gone were the empty plains and makeshift shelters of wood and grass, replaced by a vision realized: a modern hub with essential infrastructure, reliable water supply, and electricity. This transformation reflects the immense journey Eritrea has gone through since the achievement of its hard-won independence. The majority of members of the first batch of the national service returned to Sawa after 30 years, and they witnessed the realization of a dream: to create a better future from the ashes of conflict.

Sawa's story stretches far beyond the 30 year history. Delving deeper, we find evidence of its use as a military training ground as far back as the 9th century, under the Beja kingdom. The Eritrean struggle for independence also left its mark on Sawa. During the early years of the armed struggle for independence, Sawa served as a refuge for freedom fighters. It was also the site where the first Eritrean martyr, Abdu Mohamed Fayd, fell. It was in October 1961. In 1994, Sawa was transformed into the cornerstone of national development, and ever since it has been on a remarkable journey, with each experience shaping it into the multifaceted institution it is today.

Established in 1994, Sawa



Military Training Center occupies a unique space in the narrative of Eritrean National Service. It became the first large-scale training center for Eritrea's youth. For many Eritreans, Sawa embodies the spirit of national unity. Sawa expands beyond its physical boundaries, becoming a vibrant mosaic of Eritrean cultures. Young people from all nine ethnicities get together to share their customs, languages, and lifestyles. At Sawa, cultural barriers dissolve as young Eritreans from all walks of life come together. This shared experience fosters a deep appreciation for the nation's rich tapestry. More than just a training ground, Sawa becomes a crucible where young people forge a sense of national identity. Here, they not only learn to defend their country but also immerse themselves in its diverse history. Languages and customs are exchanged, and a unified purpose takes root. Living and working towards a common goal transcends cultural differences, weaving a stronger national consciousness. Sawa's rigorous training program, emphasizing discipline, physical

fitness, and military skills, further reinforces this sense of unity.

Eritrea's National Service program has undeniably played a significant role in the country's social and economic development. One of its key contributions lies in fostering valuable skills within the population. The program goes beyond basic military training, offering opportunities to develop leadership qualities, teamwork, and a strong work ethic. These skills are crucial for national defense and for success in various civilian endeavors. National Service also serves as a platform for imparting a sense of civic responsibility. Trainees are actively involved in development projects across various sectors. This not only provides a valuable workforce for infrastructure projects like road construction, schools, and healthcare facilities, but it also fosters a sense of ownership and investment in the country's progress. The tangible results of National Service projects are undeniable. Increased access to education and healthcare, all contribute to a higher standard of living for Eritreans. This aligns with the national emphasis on self-reliance, where citizens actively participate in building a stronger and more prosperous nation.

This year marks a milestone for Eritrean National Service: women's participation has surged, exceeding that of men for the first time. This surge demonstrates Sawa's commitment to fostering equality and progress. The 30th anniversary of Eritrea's National Service is more than just a commemorative event; it is a

brilliant tapestry fashioned from the threads of sacrifice, dedication, and patriotism. It is a monument to every Eritrean who has answered the call, united by their passion for their country. This anniversary is about looking forward, not just back. The graduates of the 36th round stand tall not just as youngsters, but also as responsible citizens, their minds sharpened by academics, their bodies reinforced by training, and their spirits inspired with national pride. They are the personification of Eritrea's unshakeable spirit, ready to carry on the torch started 30 years ago, ensuring a future as bright and resilient as the country they serve.

No matter how many challenges might have been faced, Eritrea has maintained its commitment to National Service. This unwavering dedication stems from a belief in the program's vital role in national security, development, and social cohesion. The Eritrean government emphasizes the program's contribution to self-reliance and its ability to foster a citizenry invested in the country's future. As a result of this vision, yesterday's youth, today's parents, members of the first round of national service, and their successors have played critical roles in ensuring the nation's security and contributing to its growth. As we celebrate this momentous 30th anniversary, our gaze extends beyond the present. We envision a future where National Service continues to be a cornerstone of Eritrea's development and national unity.

*C*ontinued on page 2



OPINION

Sawa and Eritrean Youth



Mohamud Salih

Sawa is a place where you think independently as an adult, generate ideas, and learn discipline and tolerance. As a member of the 35th round of national service, I met people with different backgrounds. Every young Eritrean has two great purposes when they go to Sawa -- to complete their high school education and to fulfil their national service duty. Both have complementary relations. During my stay in Sawa I gained a lot physically, mentally, academically and socially. The year I spent in Sawa was a time filled with unforgettable memories. It was an opportunity to go out of home and discover new horizons in life. Sawa teaches you to be smart and vigilant. The trainers and guardians in Sawa teach us life lessons such as organization, time management, socialization, and self-discipline. We grow up hearing many rumours about Sawa but it's all a joke. Sawa produces disciplined and qualified citizens, and it has a great place in the collective memory of Eritrea's youth.

Simon Weldemichael

At the graduation ceremony of the 36th round of national service, the 30th anniversary of the establishment of Sawa as a centre for national service was celebrated. In its three-decade journey, Sawa has served as a training centre for more than half a million of Eritrean youth who have been productive members of the society.

National service has been institutionalized through Proclamation No. 11/1991, which was later replaced by Proclamation No. 82/1995. The stated objectives of the National Service include the establishment of a strong people-based Defence Force to safeguard the free and sovereign Eritrea; the preservation and arming of future generations with the courage, resoluteness and heroic deeds of our people displayed in the thirty-year armed struggle for independence; the creation of a new generation characterized by love of work, discipline, and readiness to serve in the building of the nation; to develop the economy of the nation by developing its human resource; and the development of the physical fitness and mental capacity of the youth through regular military training and the fostering of national unity.

National Service as a national institution has been targeted by Eritrea's enemies with a view to obstructing the national development. Regardless of the hostilities of Eritrea's detractors, however, Sawa and the National Service have proven effective as instruments for national integration, national security,

human resource development and national development. Since its establishment in 1994, Sawa has graduated thirty-six rounds of youth who have had a shared experience.

Last week, I talked to young college students, who, like all other young Eritreans, went through Sawa, and I found their experience in and observation of Sawa very insightful and worth sharing with readers.

Siem Mebrahtu (College of Science): I'm studying at the College of Science. Sawa, for me, is the centre of experience, learning and patriotism. I believe that Sawa represents Eritrea as a whole. Before I went to Sawa, I knew only people in my family, neighbourhood and school. But now wherever I go in the country, I find friends that I met in Sawa. Sawa has a lot to offer – education to be able to succeed in the matriculation exam; and military training that teaches you discipline, strength of mind and life skills that help you throughout your life. Sawa also allows you to discover the competence you have.



Siem Mebrahtu

Evana Tesfalem (Hamelmallo Agricultural College): Sawa was a turning point in my life. It's where I realized I am more than just a student. It made me realize that I am capable of achieving anything I put my mind into. It unleashed superpowers I didn't know I had. I have acquired enormous amount of positive values that have shaped my life

in good ways. To mention some, it showed me to lookout for my comrades, to have patience when things are not working-out for me and, most importantly, it showed me how to put my differences aside and work with others in unity for one cause. I know our society hears rumours about Sawa that specifically refer to women but I believe these rumours come from outside elements that don't want to see our beloved Eritrea prosper. These malign forces commit these actions because they know the role of Sawa in building the youth in all areas that are required in building a strong, prosperous and united country. On this joyful occasion, the 30th anniversary, I would like to send



Siem Mebrahtu

my warmest gratitude to Sawa because without it I wouldn't be where I am and who I am today.

Mahmud Salih Mahmud (College of Business and

Social Sciences): As a student, my experience in Sawa was a turning point in my life. It was a moment of transformation from childhood to adulthood, getting ready to assume the responsibility of developing



Afrah Mohammed

myself and my country. The fair and equal treatment that we have seen in Sawa and the collective experience we have enjoyed have left unforgettable memory in the minds of the Eritrean youth. In Sawa, students from nine ethnic groups and six regions come together and get to know one another. This helps the students to develop a feeling of unity, solidarity, tolerance and fraternity. The military training has helped us to build self-reliance, confidence, physical fitness and endurance that are vital in life.

Afrah Mohammed Said Omer (College of Science):



Evana Tesfalem



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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

1. Position: HME Artisan Trainer
Department: Employee Services (Training and Development)
Number required: One (01)

Primary Purpose

- Plan, Schedule and conduct HME Artisans’ formal (Instructor Led) Training, On-the-job coaching and final competency assessments.
- Develop, review and update training and assessment packages. Generate and maintain valid, reliable, sufficient, current and authentic training and assessment evidence. The coverage of the training area includes: HME Mechanics, HME Auto-electricians, Drill Rig mechanics and UG mechanics.

Essential Functions

- Conduct Heavy Mobile Equipment Mechanic Theoretical and Practical Training and Assessment using company approved Training Packages, Standards and Methodologies.
- Produce safe and efficient Heavy Mobile Equipment Mechanics that meets the industry Best Practices and Standards.

Main Functions

- Training and assessment planning and Scheduling
- Conduct Actual Training, Coaching, Mentoring and Competency Assessment
- Develop training packages and competency assessment materials for all equipment available on site
- Coordinate, follow up and monitor on-the-job training by the workplace coaches and mentors.
- Conduct training Impact and Effectiveness evaluation
- Reporting & Keep training records

UNIQUE REQUIREMENTS / OTHER INFORMATION

- Good verbal and written communication skills in English
- Ability to work in multicultural work environment.
- Must be highly motivated & driven by objectives.
- Coaching and mentoring skills
- Understanding of adult education system
- Highly experienced on Machines Diagnostic Software and data analysis
- Experience in maintenance of Caterpillar, Shantui, shacman, Sany, HOWO and Sino trucks, and UG equipment.
- Candidate must be physically & medically fit

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diploma or Degree in Mechanical Engineering, Auto mechanic or related fields • Certificate in Training and Assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 – 5 years HME Maintenance experience • 3 – 5 years Training experiences • Knowledge and experience on Caterpillar, SRT, Shantui, MT, SRT and Shacman brand equipment.
Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Computer skills, Microsoft Office • Analytical Skill, Attention to detail • Plan, organize & execution skills • Presentation skills, Problem solving skill • Assessment skills • Knows Competency Based Training • Knows CAT ET and Cummins Software 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication in English, Assertiveness • Interpersonal Relations, Integrity • Conflict resolution • Ability to work towards multi tasks at a time • Ability to work towards strict deadlines • High level of accuracy and Discretion • Positive and Professional mannerisms • Friendly and respectful

2. Position: Senior Construction Supervisor
Department: Engineering Services & Owner Construction
Number required: One (01)

Primary Purpose

- Project Engineer is responsible for ensuring all projects stay on schedule and on budget and meet deadlines.
- Project Engineer’s skills and experience play an important role in deciding whether the work is performed competently and comes in at or under budget.

Essential Functions

- Assessing the suitability of a construction site and ensuring regulatory compliances.
- Monitor construction site safety as per Company SOPs, Standards, and procedures.
- Prepare cost estimates and bids using software to create 3D models of buildings, homes, workshops etc.
- Responsible for the quality aspects of the work within assigned areas and for ensuring employees complete their work in accordance with the project schedule.
- Review and monitor the availability of drawings, specifications, job instructions, material deliveries and tools applicable to his/her discipline and area of responsibility.
- Develop maintenance as well as project schedule and prepare detailed daily and weekly work plans in accordance with the overall planning schedule.
- Inform superior on specific areas where the program needs to be adjusted in accordance with site conditions and
- material availability and deliveries.
- Responsible for monitoring and implementing maintenance and project construction scheduling and supervision.

Main Functions

- Project Engineer is responsible for ensuring all projects stay on schedule and on budget and meet deadlines.
- Is responsible for ensuring that all documentation between the contractors, subcontractors and project administration is collected and processed.
- Project engineer is responsible for carrying out a variety of important tasks in his/her daily activities.
- A Project Engineer’s skills and experience play an important role in deciding whether the work is performed competently and comes in at or under budget.
- Project engineers must ensure that submittals are obtained, reviewed, and approved, and that materials and equipment are released for fabrication in time for delivery as required at the job site.
- Organize and assign work to artisans such that safety, quality, schedule, and cost objectives are met.
- Demonstrates continuous effort to improve operations, improve work order span times, streamline work processes, and work cooperatively and proactively to provide quality.
- Communicate effectively both orally and in writing with subordinates.
- Set, assign, and measure daily production goals, provide technical expertise, instruct, mentor and motivate crew.

TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS

- Planning
- Reporting
- Execution

UNIQUE REQUIREMENTS / OTHER INFORMATION

- Key sense of urgency in project delivery
- A good understanding of project life cycle management.
- flexibility, collaboration skills, technical capacity, handling pressure, excellent verbal, and written communication skills.
- Candidate must be physically & medically fit

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Science in Civil/ Structural Engineering • Bachelor’s degree in construction engineering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 8 years’ experience in supervisory role with a minimum of 6 years in mining project environment • Knowledge and experience in design-based software such as AutoCAD, Spadaro, etc. • Good understand of task management such as planning, budgeting, costing etc. • STP & WTP system installation, operation and maintenance knowledge and experience



Continued from page 6

Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to read and interpret mechanical, civil, structural, plumbing and piping drawings. Able to supervise installation of structural and mechanical systems, piping, plumbing and assemblies. Ability to do maintenance planning and scheduling as well as supervision. Computer literacy in MS Office, MS Project, Primavera, AutoCAD, and other design related software's Strong organization and time management skill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assertiveness Good communication skills with excellent ability to communicate in English. Team player Goal oriented

3 Position: Mobile Equipment Maintenance General Foreman
Department: Mining
Number required: One (01)

Primary Purpose

supervising the maintenance work performed in the Primary Excavator & Drill maintenance sections.

- Secondary responsibilities will include overseeing dozer and ancillary excavator maintenance.
- Planned Maintenance, Breakdown repair as well as any PCR Work scheduled for all the relevant equipment in your section to ensure sustainable operations at BMSC to meet approved business plans.
- Ensuring the best use of all available resources, be it manpower, tooling, or equipment in a safe and efficient manner, in order to achieve targets.

Main functions

- To supervise and coordinate the work of the HME Workshop maintenance Supervisors and Crew Leaders while complying with BMSC standards and "Safework" policy
- Manage and co-ordinate the planned preventative maintenance for the Primary excavators and the drill fleet to prevent unnecessary downtime
- Ensure that mechanical work is done according to expected standards measured against industry and OEM standards
- Ensure that all work is carried out according to standard operating procedures to ensure the integrity of the equipment and assets are maintained to prolong life and not reduce the life of the assets
- Ensure that all work as performed on an unplanned as well as planned basis is documented according to the requirements of the planning process and CMMS system
- Ensure that daily inspections are completed to standard and documented accordingly to record any work required for backlog planning
- Ensure skill transfer to national employees through guidance and coaching by the mechanical Supervisors according to industry best practices
- Ensure enhancements and improvements to asset integrity and reliability practices for machine integrity to be maintained
- Audit the quality of work before releasing machinery for work
- Ensure all corporate governance policies are adhered to for all dealings
- Ensure that all BMSC values and business ethics are maintained throughout the execution of duties

TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS

- Planning
- Implementation of the plan
- Safety, Health & Environment
- Reliability practices
- Operations & Service Delivery
- Technical and Financial Budgeting and Forecasting
- People Management
- Reporting

Unique requirements / other information

- Please note this job description is not designed to cover or contain a comprehensive

listing of activities, duties or responsibilities that are required of the employee for this job.

- Duties, responsibilities and activities may change at any time with or without notice.
- Candidate must be physically & medically fit

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical engineering trade or equivalent within Mechanical profession (Both would be advantageous). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 8-10 years experience in a supervisory role in an operational environment Experience in delivering services across multiple departments in a collaborative forum with end users At least 5 years experience in the delivery of services within developing or underdeveloped countries, challenging operational environments Experience in maintaining large tracked mining equipment, including, but not limited to Excavators, Shovels, Drills, Dozers etc.. Experience of 5 years running heavy equipment workshops Ability to lead a diverse team of national and expatriate artisans in order to best utilize available resources and ensure safe and timely results.
Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valid Diesel Mechanic trade certificate Majority Caterpillar fleet training. Formal Drill training would be an advantage Ability to guide personnel on basic rigging practices when changing major components Experience with Chinese OEMs is highly advantageous. PCR and rebuild experience Report writing, including daily reports, handovers, and RCFA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self motivated and able to lead a team Ability to train others Ability to work with a multicultural group Ability to make sound decisions without compromising the safety of people or equipment Ability to utilize resources in an efficient manner An exemplary safety record is essential. Ability to lead from the front and ensure maximum use of all available services.

General Information and other requirements:

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

Additional requirement for Nationals:

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

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

Note to Non-Eritrean applicants:

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



Q and A

'Believe You Can and you're Halfway There' - Mamuk Gebrekidan's journey to Graduating with Honors

Habtom Tesfamichael

Congratulations! Can you tell us a bit about your background?

Thank you. I have graduated with a Law degree (LLB) with a 3.91GPA. I grew up in Asmara and attended Semaetat Secondary School. After that, I went to Sawa to finish 12th grade.

How did you prepare in Sawa?

Being prepared and having clear goals was key to doing well in Sawa. It's also important to understand your strengths and seek guidance from your mentors. The learning environment is very supportive, with teachers and mentors who are all there to help you succeed. I used to dedicate hours of study every night, and that consistency really paid off. In my free time, I would also discuss and help out my classmates and roommates.

What was the biggest challenge of transitioning to college?

College was definitely a step up from what I was used to in Sawa. The workload became heavier, and the courses were more demanding. As a college student, you need to be able to manage your time effectively, be a strong reader, and be consistent in your studies. Surrounding yourself with friends who are also focused on academics is important too.

Adapting to a new environment and climate can be challenging at first, but having a clear goal and learning from those who came before you can help you adjust. The experience of socializing

Mamuk Gebrekidan is a graduate from Adi-Keih College of Business and Social Sciences' 17th commencement. Mamuk graduated with outstanding academic achievements, and he shares the journey of his success.

with different people in Sawa actually helped me prepare for the social aspects of college life. The biggest difference was the increased workload and the variety of courses.

What drew you to study law?

I've always been interested in studying law, even when I chose social sciences in high school. Law isn't easy, but I knew from the beginning that the challenges were worth the rewards.

What fascinated me about law is the role it plays in maintaining order and upholding the rule of law in society. Being a law expert allows you to contribute to a nation's development. Law ensures social harmony and paves the way for a country's progress. As a law scholar, you get to be part of that effort.

How was your experience in law school?

The workload in law school was significantly heavier. We did a lot of reading and participated in practical case studies to prepare for our final dissertation. The classes were interactive, with opportunities to ask questions and get answers. Most of our instructors were judges and legal professionals who brought real-world cases into the classroom. This made learning

much more engaging and relatable. Their approach helped us develop our critical thinking and analytical skills through what we call the "Socratic Method."

How do you feel your education has prepared you for your future legal career?

Even before graduation, we were assigned to work in different legal areas. It was impressive to see how the knowledge and skills we learned could be immediately applied in our new roles. Knowing that our education is a service to the public good is a great source of satisfaction. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all our instructors for their excellent preparation, which has equipped us to navigate the practical experiences we'll encounter in the real world. Their guidance and dedication has been invaluable in shaping us to be capable law professionals.

Can you elaborate some of the difficulties you faced as a student and how you stayed motivated?

As a college student, there were definitely challenges. But remembering the encouragement from my family, the free education I was receiving, and the precious time I was dedicating all played a part in my motivation. Completing my studies wasn't just about me - it



was about giving back to my family and society. Having a clear goal was key. There were distractions and temptations, but my goal kept me focused and helped me resist them.

Making mistakes is part of learning. The important thing is to learn from them. Societal influences can also be a challenge, but again, having a clear goal helped me remember that I was being prepared for future challenges, both in society and in my career.

What advice would you give to incoming students?

College is just the beginning, not the end. It's a new opportunity to keep learning. Don't become complacent just because you scored well on entrance exams. Surrounding yourself with friends who are also focused on their studies was a huge factor for me. Having a good support system of like-minded people really helped me grow academically and enjoy my college experience. Consistency is also crucial for maintaining good results.

Law school was particularly demanding. Most of our instructors were legal professionals who

brought real-world experiences into the classroom. They taught us using actual cases they encountered, which helped us connect the knowledge to what we would face in our careers. Additionally, as law students, we had to develop strong research skills. We started doing research papers as early as our second year, and these projects honed our academic abilities and prepared us to participate in discussions and present our own ideas. It was challenging at first, but with hard work and dedication, we became sharper in our research and analysis.

How did your family, faculty, and staff contribute to your growth?

The support of my family was essential. Their encouragement and guidance were the driving force behind my educational success. My parents were always there for me, and they helped me develop not just intellectual intelligence but also emotional and social intelligence.

The faculty and staff also played a crucial role. They worked tirelessly to ensure we had a positive college experience and instilled the necessary knowledge in us. I'm truly grateful for their dedication.

