



PRESIDENT ISAIAS MET AND HELD TALKS WITH RUSSIAN DELEGATION

President Isaias Afwerki met and held talks with a Russian delegation headed by Mr. Mikhail Leonidovich Bogdanov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, on 19 October at State House.

At the meeting, President Isaias underlined Eritrea's readiness to strengthen bilateral relations and

cooperation with Russia in all sectors.

Mr. Mikhail L. Bogdanov commended the bold initiative by Eritrea to bring peace and stability to the Horn of Africa, and he expressed his country's readiness to develop trade and investment cooperation with the Horn African countries,

in general, and with Eritrea, in particular.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Osman Saleh, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Presidential Adviser Mr. Yemane Gebreab, and Mr. Amin Hassan, Director of the Office of the President, on the Eritrean side, while Mr. Azim A. Yarakhmedov, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Russian Federation in the State of Eritrea and Mr. Oleg B. Ozerov, Deputy Director of the Department of Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia, attended on the Russian side.

SEMINARS FOR NATIONALS IN UAE, SOUTH SUDAN AND KUWAIT



Seminars focusing on enhancing nationals' understanding of the situation Eritrea, as well as strengthening their contributions toward peace and cooperation, have been conducted in the UAE, Republic of South Sudan, and Kuwait.

At the seminar organized for nationals in Abu Dhabi and its environs, the Ambassador of Eritrea to the UAE, Mr. Osman Mohammed-Omer, underscored that the new era of peace in the Horn of Africa is the result of the resilience and steadfastness of the people and Government of Eritrea. He called for augmenting contributions for

the implementation of the Peace and Friendship Agreement between Eritrea and Ethiopia.

Similarly, at a seminar organized for Eritrean nationals residing in Kuwait, Mr. Humed Yahya Hali, Charge d'Affairs at the Eritrean Embassy in Kuwait, provided a briefing on the progress of implementation of the Peace and Friendship Agreement between Eritrea and Ethiopia, and also discussed the prospects for cooperation that have been created among countries of the region. He stated that the new era of peace and

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FOREIGN MINISTERS OF ERITREA AND ETHIOPIA CONDUCTED WORKING VISIT TO SOMALIA

Mr. Osman Saleh, the Foreign Minister of Eritrea, and Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, arrived in Mogadishu, Somalia, on 17 October for an official working visit.

Upon arrival at the Mogadishu International Airport, they were welcomed by the Somali Prime Minister, Mr. Hassan Ali Khayre, the Somali Foreign Minister, Mr. Ahmed Isse Awad, and other Somali officials.

The visit is part of the ongoing peace and cooperation developments in the region, and it continues the process begun by the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Cooperation between Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia, signed on 5 September in Asmara.

At a meeting involving Minister Osman Saleh, Minister Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, the President of Somalia, Mr. Mohammed

Abdullahi Mohammed, Somali Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khayre, and Somali Foreign Minister Ahmed Isse Awad, progress in cooperation within economic, political, and security sectors was discussed. The officials also reaffirmed their strong commitment to jointly work for peace, stability, and development in the Horn of Africa.

In a joint statement, the Foreign Ministers of Eritrea and Ethiopia reaffirmed their unyielding support for the Government of the Republic of Somalia and the political progress it has registered. They also reaffirmed their respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of all three nations, as well as their commitment to the security, prosperity, and stability of the region.

At the end of the visit, the Foreign Ministers expressed their sincere gratitude for the cordial hospitality accorded to them and their delegation.



25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NAWDV CELEBRATED

The National Association of Eritrean War Disabled Veterans celebrated its 25th anniversary on 17 October at the Asmara Palace Hotel.

At the event, in which ministers, Government and PFDJ officials, members of the Diplomatic Corps, members of the Association, and invited guests took part, Ms. Luul Gebreab, Minister of Labor and Human Welfare, indicated that the

National Democratic Program, designed at the 1st Organizational Congress of the EPLF in 1977, focused on the rehabilitation of disabled veterans and their families, thus attesting to the far-sightedness and astuteness of the organization.

She went on to say that the Government of Eritrea has been exerting considerable efforts to create opportunities for war disabled

veterans to become self-supportive and productive members of society.

The Chairman of the Association, Mr. Gebrebrhan Eyasu, said that the Association has worked in collaboration with the Government and other partners to rehabilitate veterans through income generation schemes. He added that supporting war disabled veterans is not only the duty of the Government and he called on the public to shoulder its responsibility.

At the event, Dr. Giorgis Tekle, of the College of Business and Social Sciences, located in Adi Keih, presented a research paper titled, "Employment and Socio-Economic Situation of War Veterans", while

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Development

World Food Day 2018: "Our Actions are Our Future"

Habtom Tesfamichael

Every year on 16 October, the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) celebrates World Food Day (WFD) to commemorate the founding of the organization in 1945. Events are organized in over 150 countries across the world, making it one of the most celebrated days of the UN calendar. These events promote worldwide awareness of those suffering from hunger and for the need to ensure food security and nutritious diets for all. WFD shares the message that world hunger can end in this lifetime and that the Sustainable Development Goals' (SDGs) vision of a "Zero Hunger Generation" is possible.

In September 2015, 193 countries attending the UN Sustainable Development Summit in New York adopted Agenda 2030 and the 17 SDGs. Countries pledged to end poverty and hunger, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all. However, many goals, such as good health and quality education, cannot be achieved without first addressing poverty and hunger.

WFD is particularly important because, although food is a fundamental human right, millions of people around the world remain prone to hunger and



malnutrition. The UN World Food Program (WFP) released research results to coincide with WFD, which shows food has become less affordable in countries that are in conflict or subject to political instability. In dozens of countries, persistently high food costs have put the possibility of nutritious meals beyond the reach of millions.

In today's world, where there is enough food produced for everyone, one in nine people still suffers from chronic hunger. As well, a 2017 FAO report found that more than 815 million people suffered from chronic undernourishment in 2016, up 38 million from 2015. Over half of these people live in countries affected by conflict. In addition, some 155 million children under five are stunted, while approximately 60% of those afflicted with hungry are women. Hunger kills more people every year than malaria, TB, and

AIDS combined, while current estimates suggest that agricultural production must rise by about 60% by 2050 in order to feed a larger and generally wealthier global population (FAO 2018).

In Eritrea, WFD was commemorated on 16 October in Embaderho at an event organized by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and other partners. Celebrated under the theme "Our Actions are Our Future", the event was attended by government officials, representatives of UN agencies, farmers, Hdri cultural group members, and other partners.

Ms. Miriam Tesfaldet, local officer of the WFP, said that conflict and instability continue to increase already inflated food costs, putting the possibility of a nutritious plat of food beyond the reach of millions. She also outlined how other factors, such as climate change and natural disasters, can impact food prices.

"When food becomes unaffordable, children are robbed of the nutritional meals essential for them to develop into healthy and productive adults. It prevents communities and whole societies from fulfilling their potential and breaking out of the poverty track," stated Ms. Miriam.

She also emphasized that tackling high food prices and promoting agricultural productivity made economic sense, since they can save governments billions of dollars and can make the efforts of the WFP and other UN humanitarian agencies more effective.

In her remarks, Ms. Susan Namondi Ngongi, the Resident Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP representative in Eritrea, noted that, "both SDG 1, aiming to eliminate poverty, and SDG 2, targeting zero hunger, are significant priorities to mark the day."

"We acknowledge that poverty is more than the lack of income and resources for sustainable livelihood. Its manifestations include hunger and malnutrition, and limited access to education or other basic services. Over the years, the UNDP has worked closely with the Government of the State of Eritrea to promote food security and generate income for many households," she added.

The Government of Eritrea regards food security as a national

priority, and it aims to ensure that all Eritreans have sufficient quantities of quality food at an affordable price, regardless of where they live.

During his keynote address, Mr. Arefaine Berhe, Minister of Agriculture, described how world leaders met in 1996 and 2001 to reduce the number of hungry people around the globe by half in 2015. However, this proved to be an abject failure.

"Considering this background, the Government of Eritrea is closely working with different actors, including small hold farmers, small and medium commercial farmers, the Crop and Livestock Corporation, research and education institutions, extension networks, development partners, the private sector, and the media, in order to ensure a 'zero hunger' society where no one is left behind come 2030," he stated.

He went on to reveal that Eritrea is on track to meet SDG 2, which aims for zero hunger, through a focus on intensification, integration, and value addition.

The global goal to achieve 'zero hunger' by 2030 cannot be attained without considering the connections between food security and rural development. With an estimated 60-70% of Eritrea's population dependent on subsistence agriculture, it is imperative that farm productivity be improved through diversification of high value commodities and improved technologies. Productivity at farm level has historically been low because of the predominance of subsistence farming, unpredictable rainfall and drought, and the lack of modern technologies and inputs. In general, food production has not kept pace with the needs of the country. However, as a result of the efforts of the Government and various partners, there has been a significant increase in agricultural productivity over the past several years. Moving forward, boosting farm productivity will promote



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Eritrea: Views and Musings

Dr. Fikrejesus Amahazion

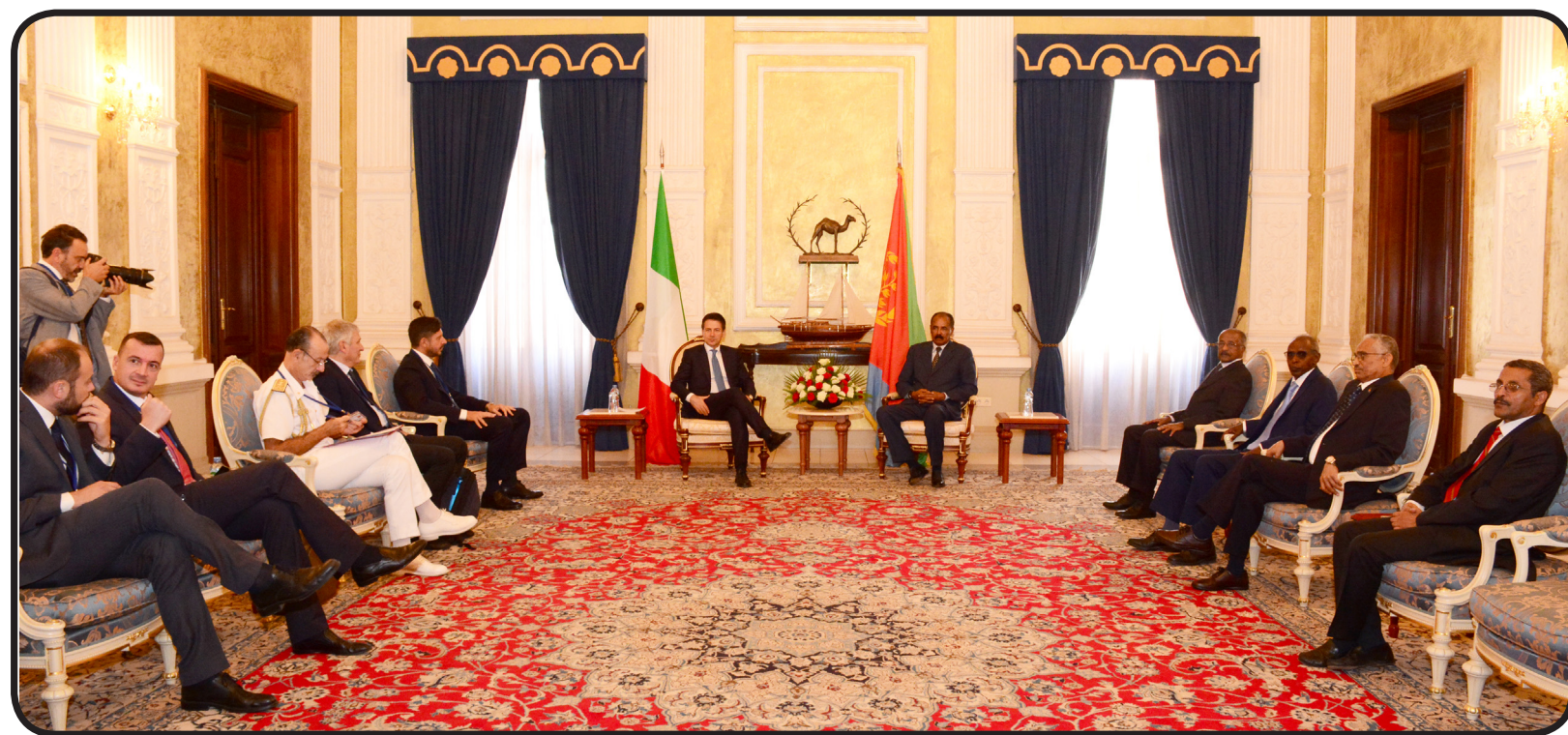
1. On principles and ethics

If you have not done so already, I highly recommend that you set aside a little bit of time to read Ruby Sandhu's recent article, "Unprincipled Journalism and Activism on Eritrea." In her brief, yet perceptive, article, Sandhu, an international human rights lawyer, strongly critiques the mainstream coverage of and general advocacy practices toward Eritrea, and calls for more honest, principled, ethical approaches. Here, I extend the important conversation begun by Sandhu, mainly to offer a few brief comments and slightly elaborate upon some of the key points she raised.

First, the article is particularly timely and relevant. The spate of peace and cooperation agreements across the Horn of Africa region in recent months has understandably led to much optimism and great hope. Additionally, the rapidly unfolding events have generated considerable comment, discussion, and analysis, with substantial focus on Eritrea. Unfortunately, however, much of the coverage about the country, following the long established pattern, has been highly inaccurate or just simply wrong. In this context, Sandhu's article serves as an apt reminder for readers to remain vigilant, critical, and skeptical.

As alluded to within the article, mainstream coverage of Eritrea is often fraught with inaccuracies, oversimplification, and severe lack of understanding, while also reinforcing the harmful, outdated paternalistic stereotypes of Africans as weak, helpless, and waiting or needing to be rescued by noble foreign saviors.

The paradox, however, is that despite the poor state of coverage regarding Eritrea, there has often been a complete lack of accountability or any semblance of transparency. For instance, consider how often media outlets or authors provide timely responses to questions or concerns, clear corrections or retractions,



or prominent acknowledgments that a mistake was made and has been addressed?

Rather, what has more often been the case is that when authors or news organizations have been asked to clarify important points, facts, or aspects of their coverage, they have simply responded by totally ignoring commentators and excluding or discrediting alternative perspectives. Even when other local or dissenting voices are included within the discourse, thus seeming to provide "objectivity" and "balance", they are often dismissively regarded as inherently biased, merely opinions, or only perspectives, while mainstream voices are elevated to the status of expertise and objective fact.

As well, in light of Sandhu's reasonable concerns regarding the problematic sourcing for many stories, one may sensibly ask, after years and years of poor coverage about Eritrea, where numerous stories have been littered with errors, both big and small, why have no genuinely effective mechanisms been established to anticipate problem areas, reduce mistakes, and correct them as quickly and transparently as possible? Furthermore, one wonders, if particular sources have been regularly relied upon to help develop stories, yet stories consistently are revealed as being

wrong or highly inaccurate, why do journalists and outlets staunchly persist in working so closely with these sources?

Last, reading Sandhu's article, which indicts the general journalistic practices and approaches toward Eritrea in the West, particularly Britain, I could not help but note how it shared many significant elements with parts of the recent speech at the Labour Party's annual conference in Liverpool, England by Jeremy Corbyn, a British politician. Specifically, Corbyn, leader of the Labour Party, used a part of his speech to strongly criticize the mainstream British media, stating that, "a free press has far too often meant the freedom to spread lies and half-truths, and to smear the powerless, not take on the powerful."

2. Italian engagement and cooperation

As I have commented before, while the recent peace initiatives across the Horn of Africa are highly encouraging developments, many significant tasks lay ahead. The countries of the region are still confronted by an array of significant socio-political, economic, and security challenges. Thus, it is imperative that the international community work cooperatively with the countries of the region to address

the many outstanding challenges and help cement the recent progress and improvements.

In this regard, Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte's short visit to Eritrea (as well as Ethiopia) last week is a welcome and positive development. The PM's visit, the first by a Western leader since the rapprochement between Eritrea and Ethiopia, represents a significant show of support for the recent developments. As well, it reflects an important break with the disappointing situation of recent years, where despite a long shared history, Italy and Eritrea's relationship has been far from great. Recall how just last year, Eritrea's Foreign Minister, Osman Saleh, revealed that, "We are working with the EU, with Germany and other European countries, but not with Italy. Italy does not want to cooperate with Eritrea and we do not know why."

During his brief visit, the new Italian PM, who was accompanied by a high-level delegation, met with Eritrea's President, Isaias Afwerki, as well as other Eritrean officials, and discussed a number of important issues, including the establishment of mutually beneficial economic and political ties. Moving forward, Italy, Europe's fourth-largest economy, can play a constructive role in Eritrea, and the broader region,

in many ways. For example, it can advocate for the removal of the unjust and counterproductive sanctions on Eritrea. Additionally, investment in and economic cooperation with Eritrea, which holds significant potential within a number of sectors, can help spur local job creation and stimulate much needed socio-economic growth and development, while at the same time proving beneficial for the Italian economy.

3. On the monitoring group discovering more things, but the one thing...

Earlier this week, an article published by Reuters, citing an unpublished annual monitoring group report to the United Nations Security Council, revealed that al-Shabaab, an Islamist militant group based in Somalia and affiliated with al-Qaeda, is generating millions of dollars annually from the taxation of the illegal export of charcoal. While over the years numerous reports have been presented illustrating how the extremist group funds its insurgency and carries out its operations, to date there has been a notable lack of reasonable evidence presented to back the allegation that Eritrea supports the group. However, Eritrea's alleged support for al-Shabaab has been the main reason the country has been under international sanctions for nearly a decade.

Book Review

Tsibah - a Guide for Bright Future

Abraham Habte

In Tigrigna, *Tsibah*, the title of Mr. Ermias Solomon's book, means tomorrow, which he takes as the subject of his discussion when he wrote it. Throughout the book, he maintains that a person's future depends on his or her present actions and decisions. He repeatedly states how people's present depends on their actions in the past, while what they do in the present affects their life in the future. For example, in one article, he says: "Spend your time as you wish it [today]. Tomorrow, life will deal with you the way she wishes it." He continually asks, "We are the products of our usage of time. How have you spent [your] today?" [61, 62].

Mr. Ermias Solomon is known in Eritrea as an author of children's books. So far, he has written a series of books titled, *Assey*. They are a collection of stories, poems, and English grammar lessons, which aim to help children develop academically and upgrade their knowledge of Tigrigna and English. Not limited to writing children's books, Mr. Ermias has contributed articles to *Mensey*, a magazine published by the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students.

He has also hosted a newspaper page in *Haddas Ertra*, the Tigrigna daily, in which he shared his views about issues that are of concern to young people.

Tsibah is a self-improvement book. It attempts to show young people how they can achieve success and enjoy the fruits of their labours in life, focusing on important issues, such as vision, time management, habits, work, self-improvement, initiative, and perseverance. The book attempts to illustrate how success is often dependent on these vital ingredients, and how the failure to grasp the importance of these issues can lead to failure, and maybe even ruin.

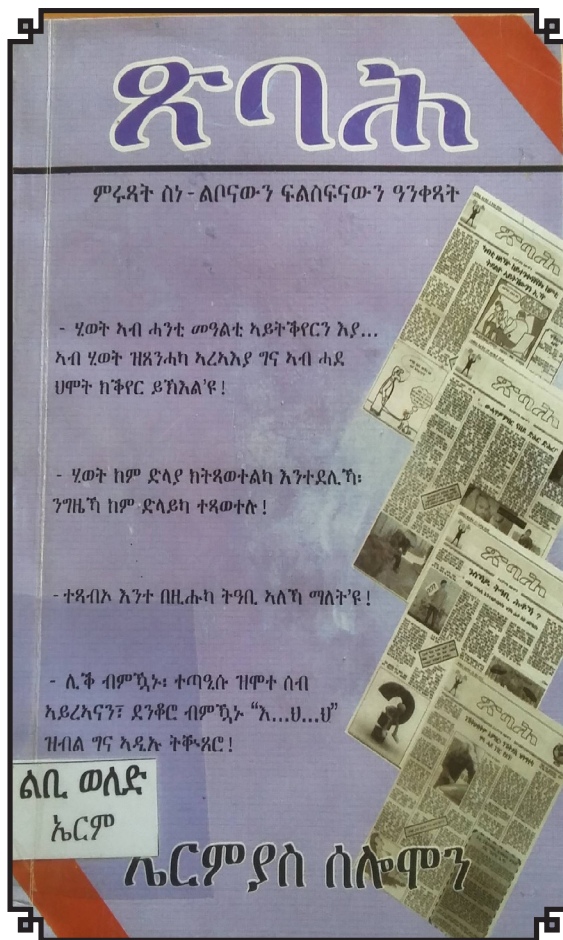
Each article is, on average, between 3-5 pages long. Mr. Ermias assumes his readers have little knowledge about the issues he has raised and he shows them

why they should take his own views rather seriously. If you fail to seize the day in order to improve yourself or use your time for profitable purposes, he warns, your future will not be as bright as you wish. If you fail to develop healthy habits, if you are easily discouraged by challenges, and if you easily give in to pressure, he states, your tomorrow can only be dark and you will be nothing but a failure.

Playing with Tigrigna and English proverbs on dreams, work, and perseverance, the author sometimes questions the wisdom of these short quotes. In some articles, he modifies some proverbs, and shows his readers a new truth. He makes fun of people who fail to take initiative, and people who waste their time in gossip. He reveals what these people did in their youth, and what they eventually became when they grew up. He uses two fictional characters, named Aboy Russom, and Adey Abrehet, whose poor use of time and lack of initiative held them back from succeeding.

During his young days, Mr. Ermias tells his readers, Aboy Russom loved gossip. He wasted his time chatting. He talked to young people and talked to his peers in the local bar. He did nothing but talk and drink. For this reason, Mr. Ermias asserts, Aboy Russom is now a failure. He is poor, unhappy, and often complains. Take heed from Aboy Russom's life seems to be the message for readers. Adey Abrehet is a different. While she is an excellent cook, she believes herself to be the best cook in the entire neighbourhood. In her own eyes, no one can cook as well as she can. She thinks she is peerless. She is proud and treats the community around her with scorn and disdain. Adey Abrehet has become complacent, resting on her laurels and not doing anything to improve her skills.

One day, a young woman is invited to cook for a wedding being celebrated in Adey Abrehet's neighborhood. That day spells her doom. She is caught off guard.



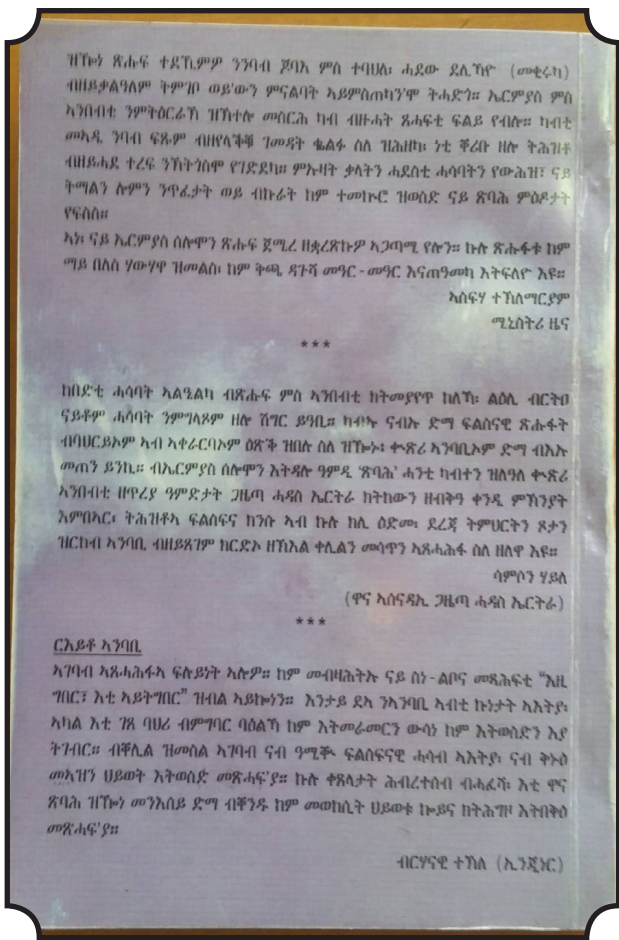
Ermias' page in *Haddas Ertra*, *Tsibah*, was a huge success. It had a wide readership, and I am sure it touched the lives of many readers. Undoubtedly, it helped many young people through introducing them to the principles of success. I certainly agree with Mr. Samson Haile, editor-in-chief of the paper, who, when the articles were published, stated that the column was very popular due to its broad appeal to people from different walks of life, irrespective of their education or gender. Mr. Asfaha Teclemariam, editor-in-chief of *Haddas Ertra*, shared similar views when the column was launched.

However, one question lingered in my mind after I finished reading the book. As I pointed out, Mr. Ermias uses Aboy Russom and Adey Abrehet in his articles a lot. He hardly uses any other people in the book, although he mentions Albert Einstein once and Mother Teresa a few times. However, even when he mentioned these successful people, he only did so in passing, failing to discuss their lives in detail. A more extensive discussion of these significant historical figures could have given readers a greater sense of

their lives.

Mr. Ermias tells us about Aboy Russom to show us how young people who do not use their time wisely end up complaining about their fate later on. Similarly, he shares the story of Adey Abrehet to illustrate how our negative behaviours can put significant obstacles in our path, thus reducing our potential for success. Mr. Ermias uses these characters to offer important lessons for young people. "If you behave the way Adey Abrehet did," Mr. Ermias warns, "You cannot escape her fate. Someone smarter and more conscious about their future will take away your job."

I am slightly surprised by the fact that Mr. Ermias did not use the lives of famous people to illustrate lessons about the importance of perseverance, hard work, and other virtues in the pursuit of success and happiness. It is quite unexpected that as inspiring and talented an author as Mr. Ermias was content with providing his readers with only "warnings", rather than giving his readers lessons from real historical figures.



Similarly, I was surprised by another issue. Mr. Ermias fails to quote experts on the issues he raises. In a few cases, he quotes a book or refers to the source of his ideas. It is true that he acknowledged the ideas expounded in the articles arose out of his observation and his experiences. Undoubtedly, they are applicable to other people. However, one has no way of proving their applicability. If he had incorporated expert opinions on the topics he discussed, the book would have been strengthened, and likely a lot more influential than it has been thus far.

As well, Mr. Ermias should have revised the articles and edited them, with a focus on including the latest research and expert opinions on the topics, rather than simply reproducing the articles as they were printed the first time.

Despite these slight reservations and concerns, *Tsibah* has been a huge success. Mr. Ermias should be congratulated for discussing such important topics, and he should continue writing about other youth-related issues.

Joint Press Statement Following the Visit by the Foreign Ministers of Eritrea and Ethiopia to Mogadishu, October 2018



The Foreign Ministers of the State of Eritrea H.E Osman Saleh Mohammed and the Foreign Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia H.E Workneh Gebeyehu paid an official visit to Mogadishu, Somalia on 17 October 2018.

The visit was part of the heightened diplomatic cooperation between the three nations and the continuing dialogue process following the Trilateral Agreement signed by the leaders of Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia in Asmara, in September 2018.

During the visit, the Foreign Ministers were received by the Somali Foreign Minister and paid a courtesy call on H.E Mohamed Abdulahi Mohamed Farmaajo, President of the Federal Republic of Somalia.

The Ministers also held talks with Prime Minister H.E. Hassan Ali Khaire.

In the course of the engagement, the leaders discussed progress on the trilateral agreement of joint cooperation in the economic, political and security fields and reaffirmed their continued commitment to contributing jointly to peace, stability, and progress in the Horn of Africa.

The leaders also consider the positive developments in the region since the signing of the Trilateral Agreement, such as the reopening of borders between Ethiopia and Eritrea and the resumption of direct commercial flights to the capitals of all three nations.

While conveying messages on behalf of their Heads of State and Government, the Foreign Ministers of Eritrea and Ethiopia reaffirmed their support for the Federal Republic of Somalia and the Somali people.

The Ministers commended the recent progress made by the Foreign Government of Somalia in their reforms of the economic and security sectors as well as the progress on the various political processes.

The Foreign Ministers appreciate the Somalia people and Federal Government's reform efforts expressing the growing trust in Somalia's institutions by the international community.

The ministers reiterated that Eritrea and Ethiopia will continue to stand firmly by the people of Somalia and its leadership as they present the best hope for the nation's recovery. They called upon the entire international community to stand united in support of the Federal Government's efforts in pursuing much-needed reforms to foster Somalia's long-term recovery.

Ministers of Eritrea and Ethiopia appeal to all stakeholder, internal or external, to work towards the peace and stability of Somalia.

While reaffirming their mutual respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence of all three nations, the leaders restated their commitment to the security, prosperity, and stability of the region.

At the end of the visit, the Foreign Ministers expressed their sincere gratitude for the cordial hospitality accorded to them and their delegation.

Mogadishu,

17 October 2018

World Food Day 2018: . . .

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food and nutritional security, increase income and employment for many households, provide marketable surplus for urban dwellers, and raise possibilities for export/cash crop production for industry and trade.

Farm production systems in Eritrea are varied. They include: rain-fed cereal/pulse systems; irrigated horticultural systems; semi-commercial peri-urban livestock (dairy and poultry); agro-pastoralist systems; nomadic-pastoralist systems; semi-sedentary crop-livestock mixed systems; and some commercial farming.

The majority of Eritrean farmers in the highlands practise rain-fed crop production methods and

have a small number of livestock. However, their ability to meeting increased food requirements at the household level has been very limited. Farmers generally produce about 60-70% of their annual food requirements, although during particularly "good" years the figure may be much higher. The remaining 30-40% of requirements is covered by selling their animals or through other activities, such as growing horticultural crops.

In order to address this issue, the MoA has adopted the Minimum Integrated Household Agricultural Package (MIHAP). This initiative provides certain categories of farmers with improved seeds and crossbred livestock. This package can help farmers meet food and nutrition requirements of their households, while also helping them increase their income through surplus

production.

Mr. Arefaine indicated that for other categories of farmers, the Ministry has embarked on an ambitious program involving the multiplication of improved seeds, like wheat, sorghum, pearl millet, and potatoes, in order to enhance overall productivity. As well, "farmer field schools" have been established, allowing farmers to share experiences and also learn from extension agents assigned by the MoA. Finally, a number of other ministries, institutions, and partners have worked closely with farmers to increase agricultural productivity and promote food security.

Within a short period of time, Eritrea has greatly improved its agricultural productivity. Moving forward, renewed efforts and further commitments will be required to ensure a society with zero hunger.

LOCAL NEWS

144 STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM BARENTU SCHOOL OF ASSISTANT NURSES

144 students graduated from Barentu School of Assistant Nurses on 14 October. The graduates were enrolled in an 18 month program, comprising courses in both theory and practice.

During the graduation ceremony, the director of the school, Mr. Tomas Zeremariam, stated that the graduates were provided with a challenging and high-quality curriculum, and he called on them to upgrade their knowledge and skills in practice.

Stating that the Ministry of Health is investing heavily in the development of human resources and professionals, Sister Alganesh Teklegergish, head of assistant nurses schools in all regions, noted that this year alone, 563 students

graduated from Barentu, Gindae, and Mendefera assistant nursing schools.

Acting director of policy, planning, and human resources development in the Ministry, Dr. Berhane Debru, reiterated that the youth graduating from various medical fields of study are making significant contributions toward helping to meet the nation's growing demands.

Representatives of the graduates expressed their readiness to diligently work and serve the people that helped provide them with the opportunity to learn free of charge.

Since its establishment in 2003, 960 students have graduated from Barentu School of Assistant Nurses.

25TH ANNIVERSARY . . .

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Prof. Abebe Kifleyesus, also from the College of Business and Social Sciences, presented a paper titled, "Transformation and Integration of War Disabled Veterans".

Participants at the one-day event called for due regard to be extended to war disabled

veterans in the construction of buildings and institutions. As well, recommendations were made to provide veterans with free access to transportation and medical services.

Established in 1993, the National Association of Eritrean War Disabled Veterans has over 18 thousand members.

SEMINARS FOR . . .

Continued from page 1

cooperation was the result of the unity and perseverance of the people and Government of Eritrea and he called for its sustainability.

In related news, the Ambassador of Eritrea to the Republic of South Sudan, Mr. Yohannes Teklemicael, conducted a seminar for Eritrean youth residing in Juba on 14 October. He described the objectives, principles, and organizational and political affairs of the PFDJ, and discussed the successes and challenges it has experienced thus far.

At the seminar, Mr. Yohannes also gave a briefing on the activities of the YPFDJ movement. He went on to express his conviction that the PFDJ and other national associations and taskforces would work with great vigor to strengthen national unity, promote nationalism, and combat harmful anti-social and sub-national tendencies.

In related news, the National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW) branch in Germany conducted an activity assessment meeting on 13 and 14 October in Frankfurt. Representatives of 21 sub-branches of the organization took part in the meeting.

ADS



Together

Eritrean (B8) & Ethiopian (ET) Airlines

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- Asmara- Addis Ababa-Asmara- Daily : Effective October 28/2018
- Asmara-Dubai-Asmara – Daily : Effective October 28/2018
- Asmara-Rome-Asmara - 3 Times a week : Effective December 01 /2018
- Asmara-Milan-Asmara - 3 Times a week: Effective December 01 /2018
- Asmara-Stockholm-Asmara - 3 Times a week: Effective December 01 /2018
- Asmara-Oslo-Asmara - 3 Times a week : Effective December 01 /2018

For Information contact Eritrean Airlines office, Asmara Tel + 291.1.125500/1 or 124409



INVITATION FOR BID

Colonnade Mining Group Eritrea Ltd. is inviting a Bid for the sale of 2 used Toyota Pick-up 4X4 vehicles, on a sealed bid sale process. Any one who is interested in viewing these vehicles can contact our office, details below.

Vehicle details:

1. Toyota Hilux D-4D Double cab Pickup. Year 2010 ER-8-A-3175
2. Toyota Hilux D-4D Double cab Pickup. Year 2010 ER-8-A-3176

Buyers required to:

- Submit your bid document in an envelop within 10 days of this publication
- The successful bidder shall pay the offered price, and collect the cars within 3 weeks of the payment
- The successful bidder shall sign a sales agreement and make full payment prior to taking possession of the vehicles
- Colonnade mining group will inform the winners by their submitted address

Colonnade Mining has the right to cancel whole or partial of the bid. Bids should be sent to the below address:

Colonnade Mining Group (Eritrea) Limited,

5th Floor, S.A. Building

189 Warsay Avenue, Tiravolo,

Office number: 112210

Asmara, Eritrea

Contact Person: Lia

Specific Procurement Notice

SPN No 06.2/007/ST/2018

The State of Eritrea, Ministry of Agriculture

National Agricultural Project (NAP)

Agricultural Sector

IFAD Grant No. 8107 ER

ICB No. 06.2/007/FP/ICB/NAP/IFAD/GRANT/DSF-8107-ER/AED/ST/2018

The state of Eritrea (SOE), Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) has received a grant from the International Fund for Agricultural Development, (IFAD) toward the cost of the National Agricultural Project, (NAP) and it intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for **Supply of Beekeeping Equipment, Supply of Dairy Production Equipment and Supply of Poultry Feed.**

Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding

ICB as specified in the IFAD's Procurement guidelines. Bidders shall submit a bid security of 2% form total amount of bid price.

Eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding document from the Procurement and supplies Management Unit of the MOA at the address below during office hours Monday through Friday 07:00-12:00 and 14:00-18:00 Asmara local time.

Bid shall be Valid for a Period of 120 days after Bid opening, and delivered to Procurement and Supplies Management Unit Office on or before December 4, 2018 local hours 14:30 PM and will be Opened On the same date at 15:00 PM Local hours in the presence of the Bidders or Bidders' Representatives who wish to attend.

Procurement and supplies Management Unit (PSMU)

Ministry of Agriculture

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Asmara, Eritrea

The Ministry of Agriculture reserves the right to accept or reject this bid fully or in part if it finds any option better than this IFB without needing to justify the grounds for it doing so and compensation which the bidder may incurred in preparing its bid.

Ministry Of Agriculture



"In Eritrea, there is plenty of work for hundreds of thousands of photographers" - Thomas Tedros

Billion Temesghen

Thomas Tedros is a talented photographer and an active tour guide. While the public hears his name constantly, it rarely has a chance to get in touch with his special work. Using Nikon cameras, Thomas has captured thousands of astounding images and breathtaking landscapes. Today, we meet the man behind the camera.



Thomas, thank you for making the time to meet with Q & A. Please tell us a little about yourself.

Thank you, the pleasure is all mine. I am a photographer and a tour guide. I enjoy travelling, and while travelling I seize the opportunity to take as many photos as I can.

I was born in Massawa in 1983. I had a wonderful childhood in the beautiful port city, but life became impossible under the Ethiopian regime and the atrocities they inflicted upon the local population. My family moved to Addis Ababa, and we came back and settled in Asmara after Eritrea's independence.

When did your interest in photography begin?

I really enjoyed pencil sketches when I was a child. While I didn't know much about cameras, there were several times where I fiddled with my father's camera. Growing

up, I loved travelling, which led me to becoming a tour guide even though I studied Civil Engineering. It was while travelling and working as a tour guide that I realized there was so much for me to capture. I wanted to document as much as I could. That is how my professional journey in photography began.

Did you study it?

Yes I did. Soon after figuring out that I wanted to make photography my full-time profession, not just a hobby, I enrolled in photography courses in Asmara. However, all I could acquire was basic knowledge about cameras, their functions, and the primary sciences of photography. I was not satisfied.

Subsequently, in 2007, I applied to enroll in the Nikonian Academy, which is probably Nikon's largest academy located in Malaysia. [Note: Nikon is one of the world's biggest camera makers].

For nearly three years, I took courses via correspondence and I received a holistic understanding about photography and cameras. The courses were not easy, and, overall, they were helpful and constructive.

Why was it challenging?

For example, some camera parts are not widely known in our local market. Generally, what we have here are digital cameras that are not particularly good option for professional photography. Maybe it is a lot easier in other countries since the larger market offers a wider range of options. Moreover, correspondence education has its pros and cons.

I even remember sacrificing a new camera for the sake of dismantling it and learning about camera parts. You may have to dedicate long hours in front of a computer waiting for your photograph to be uploaded. You may have to sacrifice a camera or two, and you may have to customize your reflectors and light. But for me it was worthwhile.

What did you do after completing your education in photography?

During the first year, I was extremely devoted to applying what I learned on the ground. Therefore, I had my own kind of "postgrad" experience, utilizing what I had learned. During that time, many senior Eritrean photographers collaborated with me.

Meanwhile, I was reading and also experimenting with photography tricks, which are basically camera tricks that allow you to play with light, the shutters, and other camera parts. This can help you capture beautiful photos without having to run to your computer to search for any adjustments with Photoshop or other editing software.

Since I am a tour guide, I have also had the honor of meeting famous photographers from around

the world who come to visit Eritrea. We have often worked together. For instance, I have met Eric Lafforgue, who comes to Eritrea quite often. I have learned from him and we've enjoyed working together, sometimes agreeing and sometimes disagreeing on many things. I have also met Bernd Seiler, who is coming to Eritrea again soon. I have also had the honor of working with many photographers from different countries on several projects, the Asmara Heritage Project being the most recent one.

What kind of style do you most prefer?

Moments dictate the style. However, if pressed, I'd say the one style I delight in most is portrait. Capturing people's expressions makes me feel appreciative of photography.

Are you a Photoshop fan?

No, no. I am not a fan.

Why?

If the person operating the camera knows and understands it well, there is no need for additional media. The camera can do it all. It depends on how to use it. I enjoy applying several techniques when taking photos. People may argue with me, claiming I must use Photoshop, but when I explain why and how my photos turn out that way, they come to enjoy the techniques as much as I do.

It is a bit disappointing that you haven't shared your expertise and many years of experience with many young photographers in our country. I am sure they would highly appreciate learning from you.

It is not that I don't want to. However, the shortages we have make me wonder if I could genuinely or successfully manage a school of photography. I cannot ask students to acquire lenses or other camera

components, and I am not in a position to provide these to them. What I can do, and have done, however, is share my knowledge with young photographers that come to me with questions. I honestly love to discuss photography. It's wonderful when young photographers come to me, as we share ideas and experiences.

People often hear your name and they talk about you, but it is not so easy to access your works.

I had an exhibition some four years back. It was a great platform for me to introduce my works to the public. At the same time, I was lucky to receive people's encouragement and some constructive criticism. But that was not the only effort I made to make my portfolio public. I also developed a website to share my work, but I felt as if I excluded a large segment of the public from getting in touch with my work.

Later on, I began sharing my work on Facebook. However, I suffered from copyright violations, so I dropped that as well. Currently, I am preparing for another exhibition that I hope to hold later this year.

As a final question, what are your comments about the local expertise of photography and Eritrea's archives?

Eritrea is a country with rich cultural and natural heritage that need to be documented. This means plenty of work for hundreds of thousands of photographers. The archives of the pre-independence period, those done during the armed struggle, are exceptionally rich and valuable. So much has been done after our independence, but I this is quite tiny when compared with how much we can and should document about our country.

Thank you, Thomas. Good luck!

