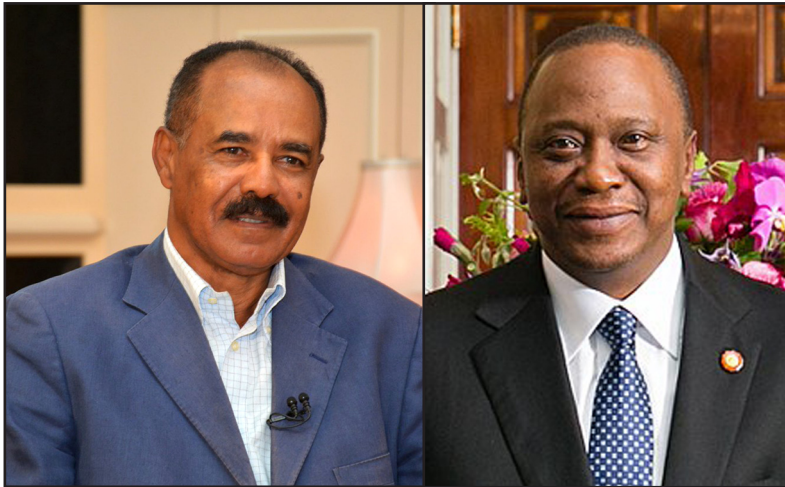


PRESIDENT ISAIAS RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM KENYAN PRESIDENT



On 17 November, President Isaias Afwerki received a message from President Uhuru Kenyatta of the Republic of Kenya.

The message was delivered to President Isaias by a Kenyan delegation headed by the Director General of National Intelligence

of Kenya.

In his message, President Uhuru congratulated the people of Eritrea and Ethiopia and their leaders for their courageous decision to make peace and advance cooperation in the region.

President Uhuru also extended an invitation to President Isaias to visit Kenya.

President Isaias accepted the invitation and stated, "It is a new era in the Horn of Africa and Kenya, given its importance, is expected to play an important role in reshaping the region."

EID MAWLID CELEBRATED ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Eid Mawlid Al-Nebi was colorfully celebrated across the nation on 20 November.

At celebrations held at the Al-Khulafae Al-Rashidin Mosque, in which Ministers, senior Government and PFDJ officials, members of the Diplomatic Corps, religious leaders, and the general community number took part, Mr. Mohammed-Seid Beshir, Chairman of the Awkaf in Asmara, gave a briefing on the historical background of the celebration. He also indicated that the celebrations of Eid-Mawlid this year are unique since they coincide with the unfolding of peace across the

region.

The managing director of the Eritrean Mufti, Sheikh Salm Ibrahim Al-Muktar, echoed Mr. Mohammed-Seid's comments, stating that this year's celebrations are special since they come at the same time that peace and cooperation are unfolding in the Horn of Africa and that sanctions are being lifted. Sheikh Salm also commended the people and Government of Eritrea for the steadfastness and resilience they demonstrated.

The Eid-Mawlid celebration was highlighted by spiritual performances.



HAGAZ AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL SCHOOL

At a seminar focused on equipping youth with various skills, students of Hagaz Agriculture and Technical School expressed their commitment to make efforts to introduce modern agricultural schemes and irrigation farming.

During the seminar, held on 7 November and attended by 270 students and teachers, extensive discussions were held on the advantages of vocational training, national resources and development programs, work ethic, discipline, and other issues.

Brother Neud Seium, director of the school, indicated that more seminars will be conducted in the future in order to help students better understand their country, region, and national development programs.

MEETING ON IMPLEMENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS



Administrators of various sub-zones in Asmara called on residents to strengthen organizational capacity and participation in development drives. They made the call during meetings conducted on 11 and 18 November.

At a meeting conducted with the residents of the sub-zones of Arbaete Asmara, Mai-Temenay, Edaga-Hamus, Paradiso, and Godaif, administrators gave briefings on the objectives and mandate of community magistrates, implementation of laws and regulations, and the role of law in nurturing a disciplined society.

Indicating that the necessary structures have been put in

place in order for the public to receive adequate legal services, administrators called on the public to reinforce participation in preventing crimes and petty offenses.

The administrators also called on the public to strengthen their participation in the implementation of development programs and revealed that integrated efforts are being conducted to alleviate social problems faced by the public.

Participants at the meeting expressed their readiness to contribute to development drives and called for more meetings in the future in order to increase public awareness and understanding.

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATED NATIONWIDE

International Children's Day was celebrated nationwide on 20 November under the theme "Renew our Commitment to Sustainable Development of Children".

The celebration, held at Deb'at Community Hall in Asmara, was attended by Ms. Luul Gebreab, Minister of Labor and Social Welfare, Government officials, the UNICEF representative in Eritrea, and other distinguished guests.

In a speech he delivered, Mr. Mihreteab Fessehayee, Director General of Human Welfare at the

Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, called on the public to nurture the youth and bequeath to them the nation's rich culture. International Children's Day reminds teachers and parents to integrate their efforts for the development of children, he added.

Mr. Mihreteab further stated that the Government of Eritrea is working to promote and celebrate children's rights and safety and he noted that the first international convention ratified by the Government of Eritrea was the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, showing the

priority it accords to the welfare of its youngest citizens.

Also speaking at the event, Dr. Pierre Ngom, UNICEF representative in Eritrea, stated that strong efforts are being exerted to enhance the awareness of the people of Eritrea on child rights. He also went on to commend the Government of Eritrea for the efforts it is taking to build a better world for children including vaccination programs to ensure child health and safety, efforts to ensure that every child is in school, monetary and material support to disadvantaged children, and efforts to eradicate harmful practices and underage marriage.

The International Children's Day celebrations were highlighted by children's songs and artistic performances.

International Children's Day is being celebrated for the 27th time nationwide and 60th time worldwide.



Development

“Our Time with Antibiotics is Running Out”

Editor's note: Each November, countries around the world commemorate World Antibiotic Awareness Week (WAAW). WAAW aims to increase global awareness of antibiotic resistance and to encourage best practices among the general public, health workers, and policymakers in order to avoid the further emergence and spread of antibiotic resistance. This article recaps World Antibiotic Awareness Week activities in Eritrea.

Kesete Gebrehiwet

Since their discovery, antibiotics have served as the cornerstone of modern medicine. However, the persistent overuse and misuse of antibiotics in human and animal health have encouraged the emergence and spread of antibiotic resistance, which occurs when microbes, such as bacteria, become resistant to the drugs used to treat them. Commemorated every November, World Antibiotic Awareness Week (WAAW) aims to increase awareness of global antibiotic resistance and to encourage best practices among the general public, health workers, and policymakers to avoid the further emergence and spread of antibiotic resistance.

Speaking at an event commemorating WAAW in Eritrea on 12 November, Ms. Amina Nurhusien, Eritrea's Minister of Health, stated, “The misuse of antibiotics is causing antimicrobial medicines to fail. The spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is outpacing the world's capacity for antibiotic discovery. This will lead the world towards a post-antibiotic era in which previously easily treatable common infections will become challenging to treat.” At the event, held at the National Confederation of Eritrean Workers' (NCEW) conference hall, Minister Amina also announced that Eritrea is developing a national action plan to combat AMR and that the plan will be based on an integrated approach (referred to as “one health”).

An important feature of this year's



local WAAW activities is the close cooperation between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture. As well, the wide-ranging events at the NCEW conference hall included presentations and extensive discussions. The need to reinforce the national surveillance system, which identifies the national burden of AMR, was discussed at length by attendees at the WAAW events. Additionally, many healthcare and agricultural professionals called for improving local disposal systems and effectiveness of infection

prevention mechanisms. There was a broad consensus among speakers that these efforts could significantly reduce the threat of AMR. Other topics discussed include the need to strengthen train in quarantine systems, train experts, and improve preventive measures to combat AMR. Several speakers also suggested that Azel Pharmaceutical Share Company, a local firm, explore the possibility of producing antibiotics for animals.

In Eritrea, the growth and spread

of AMR is associated with a number of factors, including: negligent handling or disposal of pesticides; farmers' growing dependence on pesticides; lack of early treatment of diseases; and low levels of public awareness about AMR. During discussions, agricultural experts from across the country noted that counterfeit and obsolete medicines and pesticides can contribute to AMR. They recommended that stronger regulations and policies be put into place to guide the use and distribution of medicines and pesticides. Several experts suggested that an unequal distribution of drugs and pesticides may also be a factor in the growth of AMR. For example, some regions in the country have an excess supply of antibiotics, leading to medicines being stored and exposed to AMR, while other regions suffer from deficits, which can lead people to turn to counterfeit products. According to most experts, national laboratories must be upgraded and linkages should be developed between the Ministry of

Health and Ministry of Agriculture in order to more effectively combat AMR.

Dr. Josephine Namboze, the World Health Organization (WHO) representative in Eritrea, conveyed the message of Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, the WHO regional director for Africa. Pointing out that researchers have a critical role to play in identifying resistant bacteria, Dr. Josephine revealed that there is a paucity of data on the extent of antibiotic resistance in Africa. She went on to state that the WHO prioritizes the fight against antibiotic resistance and is currently partnering with many African governments to develop action plans to combat antibiotic resistance.

In Eritrea, the national action plan to combat AMR has been finalized. According to Mr. Berhane Gebretinsae, Director General of the Department of Medical Services

Continued on page 8

Progress of Children in Eritrea: Some Salient Points

- The first international convention ratified by the Government of the State of Eritrea was the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. It shows the priority it accords to the welfare of its youngest citizens.

- Eritrea has made commendable progress in achieving MDG 4 to reduce infant mortality, and MDG 5 to reduce maternal mortality.

- The under-five mortality rate (MDG 4) was reduced from 151 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990, to 47 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2015.

- The maternal mortality rate (MDG 5) fell from 1,700 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990, to 352 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2015, surpassing the MDG 5 Target of 425 deaths per 100,000 live births.

- Eritrea ranks highest in the region in antenatal care attendance at 95 per cent, and coverage of health services and interventions for maternal and child health is high.

- More than 90 per cent of children are breastfed within one-hour after birth, and exclusive

breastfeeding is at 69 per cent. This means Eritrea falls among the good performers in terms of breastfeeding rates globally.

- Eritrea's overall immunisation coverage of infants is above 95 per cent at the national level.

- Eritrea has maintained a polio-free status for many years now.

- Eritrea's national immunisation programme has been recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF as one of the best in Africa, winning the Ministry of Health a number of international awards.

- In 2017, the Ministry of Education and partners completed a very important study on “Breaking the Silence”, which highlights the problems faced by adolescent girls during menstruation. This resulted in the menstrual hygiene management programme, which is being scaled up nationwide.

- Menstrual hygiene management classes and provision of menstrual hygiene materials in schools, encourages adolescent girls to attend school with dignity.



These efforts will contribute to retention rates of girls in school, and accelerate their transition to secondary education.

- To ensure more access to quality basic education for all children, the Government's complementary elementary education programme provides elementary education over a three-year course for children aged 9-14-years old, many of whom have never attended school before.

- The child protection and social protection programme by the Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare supports vulnerable children and poor female-headed households with cash stipends.

- Since its implementation in 2009, the Donkey for School

programme for children with disabilities has enabled over 1,500 children with disabilities to attend school.

- In 2009, the Government and partners initiated the community-led total sanitation programme. To date, the programme has enabled 910 out of 2625 villages in Eritrea to become open defecation free.

- Eritrea is gaining steadily on eliminating all harmful practices such as child, early, and forced marriage and FGM.

- The Government outlawed FGM in 2007, and the National Union of Eritrean Women and partners have been making steady progress in reducing this nationwide.

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More than Money: A Closer Look at Peace in the Horn

Dr. Fikrejesus Amahazion

Over the past several months, the powerful winds of change have swept across the Horn of Africa, ushering in the possibility for lasting regional peace, stability, and security. On 14 November, the United Nations Security Council voted unanimously to lift the almost decade-long international sanctions on Eritrea, while two weeks ago, the leaders of Somalia, Eritrea, and Ethiopia held a trilateral meeting for the second time in as many months, highlighting the region's shifting focus toward peace, cooperation, and economic integration. Undeniably, the rapidly occurring momentous events are both highly encouraging and a greatly welcome development in one of the world's most restive regions. They have largely been met with great optimism by the people of the region and they promise to have far-reaching effects in improving security and stability in the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea region.

As the developments toward peace and cooperation in the region have unfolded, they have understandably elicited considerable comment, discussion, and analysis. One argument persistently raised by analysts and observers claims that the historic peace developments between Eritrea and Ethiopia were predominantly driven by financial assistance from countries in the nearby Gulf, specifically the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia. While the two countries certainly played an important role in helping pave the path toward reconciliation between Asmara and Addis Ababa, characterizing the rapprochement between Eritrea and Ethiopia as a response to external financial largesse is misguided and overlooks key internal factors and dynamics, particularly in Ethiopia.

Earlier this year, in April, Dr. Abiy Ahmed took office on the back of years of massive and widespread anti-government protests. Ethiopia is divided into ethnically-based states within a federal system ruled by a coalition of four parties – known as the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) – which was dominated by the Tigrayan minority, who make up approximately only 6% of the country's total population of 105 million. In 2015,

protests, spearheaded by the Oromo, Ethiopia's largest ethnic group (constituting about 35% of the population), and later the Amhara, the country's second largest ethnic group (27%), about land seizures and evictions, unemployment, human rights abuses, widespread corruption, and economic and political marginalization quickly spread across the country and threatened to bring down the government. Thousands were killed or arrested, there was large-scale displacement, and the country was put under an extended nationwide state of emergency.

Additionally, although in recent years Ethiopia has been hailed as a "development darling" and one of the top performing African economies, regularly posting impressive economic growth figures (albeit clouded by widespread skepticism about the validity of reported figures), it has also been plagued by high levels of poverty and inequality, heavy foreign debt, rising inflation, a rapidly growing trade deficit, and a critical shortage of foreign currency, all of which put the economy in a perilous state.

It was against this backdrop of turmoil, mounting discontent, and widespread unrest, and with the EPRDF regime beginning to fall apart, that Hailemariam Desalegn, who succeeded the late Meles Zenawi, resigned as prime minister in February. Abiy, son of an Oromo Muslim father and Amhara Christian mother and a member of the Oromo People's Democratic Front, was elected as Desalegn's replacement in large part because it was believed his appointment would help to ease the tension, quell the protests, and keep the country from completely disintegrating.

With the pressing need for fundamental changes and dramatic reforms abundantly clear – even Desalegn acknowledged as much in his resignation letter – the bold PM got down to work quickly. Abiy loosened the state's tight grip and control on the economy, privatizing key state-owned enterprises, pledged multi-party elections, publicly denounced the government's use of torture and apologized for the killing of protestors, released thousands of prisoners and opposition leaders, and

promoted reconciliation with exiled dissidents and critics.

The wide-ranging reforms also extended to dramatically shift the country's longstanding policy toward Eritrea, made possible by the sidelining of the historically dominant Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF), which was threatened by change and did not want to cede its vice-like grip on control. In June, shortly after coming to power, Abiy announced that Ethiopia would finally unconditionally accept and fully implement the UN-backed Eritrea Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC) ruling of 2002, thus totally breaking with the hard-line, intransigent policy of previous TPLF-led Ethiopian governments. Soon after, in quick succession, a high-level Eritrean delegation visited Ethiopia, Ethiopia's PM Abiy and Eritrea's President Isaias Afwerki visited each other's capitals, and peace and cooperation agreements were signed.

Rather than being entirely driven by financial assistance from the Gulf, the normalization of ties between Eritrea and Ethiopia, thus, may be understood as an important element of the broad reforms and transformations which arose in Ethiopia in response to years of turmoil and popular protest. With a country in deep crisis and its survival under considerable threat, the Ethiopian government perceived the "no war, no peace" situation with Eritrea as no longer sustainable. It was also increasingly being recognized by many that Eritrea was strengthening its regional and international engagements and growing in influence – effectively countering Ethiopia's longstanding strategy of containment and isolation. Ultimately, peace would eliminate an unnecessary challenge and gain an important ally, helping to consolidate the new government's power and strengthening its hand as it pushed through sweeping internal reforms, beyond leading to various other benefits.

In regard to Eritrea, the opportunity for genuine peace was a highly welcome development. Over the years, the country had remained consistent and unwavering in its policy toward Ethiopia, regularly expressing its firm commitment to and



G.M.A Visafrio

readiness for peace and normalization with Ethiopia conditioned upon its full acceptance of the EEBC ruling. Of course, with the TPLF in power, this was always unlikely. However, with the new reform-minded Ethiopian government that appears to be genuine and a willing partner, Eritrea responded positively to the overtures and moved ahead toward reconciliation. For Eritrea, peace was also vital as it would not only further isolate and weaken the TPLF, a longtime enemy and negative influence in the region, but would tremendously boost its small economy, encourage much-needed investment and, perhaps most importantly, allow it to move the nation's focus and limited resources from the military occupation and national security – the underlying factors in its policy of extended national service, which helped drive emigration.

There is little doubt that Saudi and Emirati support, both diplomatic and financial, was important in helping move along the rapprochement between Eritrea and Ethiopia. For the Gulf states, the diplomatic

rapprochement was also highly desirable, as it would have significant and positive security, stability, and economic implications for a strategically vital area. However, to characterize Gulf support as the decisive factor driving the peace is misguided. Although Saudi Arabia and the UAE have become increasingly active within the Horn of Africa in recent years, the countries of the Gulf and the Horn of Africa have a long history of ties and engagement. Moreover, if the simple extension of financial assistance was the supposed key to peace between Eritrea and Ethiopia, surely a breakthrough could and would likely have been achieved much earlier. Instead, fundamental domestic political factors, particularly in Ethiopia, were pivotal and cannot be overlooked and considerable credit must go to the leaders of Eritrea and Ethiopia. Ultimately, both Asmara and Addis Ababa recognized that peace and cooperation were requisite in order to move their countries forward, promising long-term security, stability, and prosperity for their peoples and the broader region.



Our Finest Hour

Natnael Yebio W.

It is a Wednesday morning and I'm standing in my bedroom. The windows are open and it is cold. I don't mind, however. I'm lost in thought, trying to come up with the words to describe what the day has in store for Eritrea. I begin thinking about my first year in college.

It was 24 December 2009 when our political science instructor informed us that the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) had imposed sanctions on Eritrea the previous night. We all had our faces buried in course handouts and books. We were too busy studying to know what had happened the night before. Of course, we were mindful of the long history of unjust and unwarranted actions against Eritrea by the UN and certain members of the international community.

After that announcement by our instructor, the day's course outline was forgotten. Instead, the entire class was engaged in discussion. What did we do? The answer was nothing. Then why sanctions? No reply.

That particular question remained with us for several years. Before we received answers, the UNSC broadened the sanctions on Eritrea two years later. Once again, questions were asked? What did we do? Nothing? Why sanctions? Nobody answered. Where is the truth? Again, nobody replied.

What is truth? This question has been asked in vain by many thinkers in the past. No one was able to present the right answer. For some, truth is relative, while for others it is absolute.

In one of my previous articles, I divided truth into two categories. Higher truths, which are unreachable except through faith and lower truths, which are within reach of man's finite mind. But suppose there is such thing as absolute truth, says the skeptic, what is it exactly? Can the human mind grasp it? The idealist replies by saying that God is absolute truth. But according to most religions, God, being infinite, remains unknowable or unsearchable. So how can the

finite human mind ever expect to understand an infinite mind? And if truth is relative, it means we have shifting standards by which to distinguish truth from error.

This may put us in a dilemma. But not politicians, who seem to rejoice in the fact that if there is no clear demarcation between truth and falsehood they can do whatever they please with impunity.

Let's, for the time being, leave higher truths to philosophers and concentrate on lower truths, which can be understood but are not necessarily always practiced by the layman. Man has all the time been either burying or distorting the truth wherever and whenever he found it. Truth is sweet to the just but a bitter pill to swallow for the insincere and the wayward.

For instance, a cursory look at the UNSC Resolutions 1907 and 2023 shows that the sanctions were part of a series of misguided decisions taken by the UN targeting Eritrea, under pressure from the US. Notwithstanding the redundancy and repetitiveness of the content in the resolutions, the key objective was to portray Eritrea as a rogue and recalcitrant state, which deserved the ire of the international community. For Eritreans, not only were the sanctions illegal based on groundless allegations, they also once again exposed the UN's obsessive need to



hide the truth from the world.

However misguided the decisions against them were, Eritreans remained resolute and firmly committed to their principles. Six years after the first set of sanctions were imposed on Eritrea, I was in my final year of college and wrote my dissertation on the UNSC's sanctions on Eritrea, examining the basis for sanctions and analyzing their impact. This coincided with Eritrea's celebrations of 22 years of independence, on 28 May.

Nine years after the sanctions were first imposed, I am working in one of the highest government ministries in my country, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In the years since the sanctions were first imposed, I completed college, wrote my dissertation on the sanctions, and then worked in foreign affairs, which provided me an opportunity to work for the removal of the sanctions.

There is a proverb in our country which states that, "if you bury the truth upside down, it will definitely spring right side up." Another proverb is, "unheeded truth may get thinner and more fragile with the passage of time, but it will never shrivel or break."

The problem is that what is considered truth by some may be seen as untruth by others. Unless people want to deceive themselves, it is not that difficult to distinguish truth from falsehood. One may cheat others from time to time, but it is difficult to cheat yourself even just for a second.

Another problem is that some people lie so often that they begin to believe their own lies. This can be seen when someone sees a black stone as a white stone or hot charcoal as an ice cube. What's more, when he or she touches the charcoal with

their fingers, they don't get burned. Pathological liars can even work miracles.

We tend to consider lies as darkness and truth as light. It has even been said that when the universe came into being, there was more antimatter than matter. More darkness than light or more lies than truths. The world is now filled with the darkness of lying and deceit, so much so that for many lying is regarded as absolutely necessary in order to succeed.

With greed long regarded as one of the virtues needed to acquire riches, fame, and power, it is little wonder that lying is now cherished by those who lust after power and domination. Despite the obstacles and challenges, Eritreans were committed to the truth.

It has also been said that truth is resilient and that it will never break. Truth, even when buried, will eventually sprout. November 14, 2018 is when the truth about Eritrea finally began to emerge. The UNSC voted unanimously to lift the unjust and illegal sanctions against Eritrea. The country was vindicated and its enemies were once again beaten. The truth has prevailed. During the last nine years, we Eritreans fought, as we have done throughout history, to prove our detractors wrong. In many ways, it was our finest hour.

Today we celebrate. Tomorrow we resume work. Quite fittingly, Yemane Gebreab stated, in front of the United Nations General Assembly, "the struggle continues, indeed today more than ever, the struggle continues. We have hard work ahead of us and we will redouble our efforts and work towards achieving our goals."



A Review of Progress for the Children of Eritrea on International Children's Day

The 20th of November is a ubiquitous day in history when it comes to the welfare of children around the world. It was on that date in 1959 that the United Nations adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, and again in 1989 when the UN General assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child remains the most widely respected international treaty to date and has been ratified by 196 countries.

It is notable that the first international convention ratified by the Government of the State of Eritrea was the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. It shows the priority it accords to the welfare of its youngest citizens.

On November 19th, the Government of the State of Eritrea celebrated International Children's Day to commemorate a shared vision for the children of Eritrea. UNICEF is proud to be a trusted partner in this noble endeavour for more than two decades.

The theme for this year's event in Eritrea was *Renew our Commitment to Sustainable Development of Children*. This is a fitting theme when we consider the many achievements made by the Government and partners, to improve the lives and welfare of its children.

Eritrea has made commendable progress in achieving MDG 4 to reduce infant mortality, and MDG 5 to reduce maternal mortality. The

under-five mortality rate (MDG 4) was reduced from 151 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990, to 47 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2015. During the same period, the maternal mortality rate (MDG 5) fell from 1,700 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990, to 352 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2015, surpassing the MDG 5 Target of 425 deaths per 100,000 live births.

Eritrea ranks highest in the region in antenatal care attendance at 95 per cent, and coverage of health services and interventions for maternal and child health is high. More than 90 per cent of children are breastfed within one-hour after birth, and exclusive breastfeeding is at 69 per cent. This means Eritrea falls among the good performers in terms of breastfeeding rates globally.

With such a good start for newborns, tackling malnutrition in children is possible if efforts are invested in the education of mothers on adequate child feeding practices and in enhancing the existing national integrated household food security approach.

Eritrea's overall immunisation coverage of infants is above 95 per cent at the national level, and it has maintained a polio-free status for many years now. Eritrea's national immunisation programme has been recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF as one of the best in Africa, winning the Ministry of Health a number of international awards.

Beginning on November 20th, the Ministry of Health will undertake

a large immunisation campaign for measles and rubella, which seeks to inoculate 1.5 million children aged 6 months to 15 years of age. This is a nationwide campaign that seeks to reach every child in all six regions of Eritrea.

The Ministry of Health's combined management of neonatal and childhood illnesses approach ensures that health workers (including community-based) are trained and equipped to detect and manage common childhood illnesses at health facilities as well as the community level. This also seeks to ensure that mothers, caregivers, and parents are trained in and taught about appropriate feeding practices for infants and young children, so that they can provide nutritious foods to their children.

Universal health care coverage is a paramount equity goal as it means leaving no one behind. The Ministry of Health will start procuring mobile health clinics this year to reach additional children and communities in rural areas, reinforced by barefoot doctors in the remotest areas. This will enable more children and women to access quality health care, and we are proud to support this health services delivery approach.

Last year the Ministry of Education and partners completed a very important study on "Breaking the Silence", which highlights the problems faced by adolescent girls during menstruation. This resulted in the menstrual hygiene management programme, which is being scaled up nationwide.



The menstrual hygiene management classes and provision of menstrual hygiene materials in schools, encourages adolescent girls to attend school with dignity. These efforts will contribute to retention rates of girls in school, and accelerate their transition to secondary education.

To ensure more access to quality basic education for all children, the Government's complementary elementary education programme provides elementary education over a three-year course for children aged 9-14-years old, many of whom have never attended school before. This programme enables many children, particularly from rural and nomadic communities, to re-enrol in school and to enter formal schools after completion of the course. It is good that, for the coming years, the Government has prioritised quality education (teacher training, improved learning achievement and environment, etc.).

The child protection and social protection programme by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare supports vulnerable children and poor female-headed households with cash stipends, including the Donkey for School programme for children with disabilities. Since its implementation in 2009, this programme has enabled over 1,500 children with disabilities to attend school.

A number of Government sectors and civil society (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare) have teamed up to elevate community-based work on child rights to go beyond female genital mutilation (FGM) and underage marriage to encompass violence against children and women, and

other traditional harmful practices. It is also worth mentioning that the recent election of Eritrea to the UN Human Rights Council is an opportunity in terms of influencing the advancement of child rights at global and local levels.

Now, as we enter the dawn of a new era of peace and friendship in Eritrea and in the Horn of Africa, there is a sense of renewed hope and of achievable results for children. UNICEF looks forward to more strengthened partnerships and to continue to support these on-going nationwide programmes, and the sustainable development goals on the horizon.

On a positive note, many of these goals are already within sight.

Eritrea is also gaining steadily on eliminating all harmful practices such as child, early, and forced marriage and FGM. The Government outlawed FGM in 2007, and the National Union of Eritrean Women and partners have been making steady progress in reducing this nationwide. The Government has announced it would end FGM/C by 2030.

As we reflect on International Children's Day on our renewed commitment to sustainable development of children, I assure the Government and the children of Eritrea of UNICEF's continued support. To ensure that every child has an equal opportunity to access good health, quality education, a safe and sustainable environment to live and participate in, and of a shared vision for a better tomorrow.

Pierre Ngom, PhD
UNICEF Representative,
Eritrea





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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

1. Job Title: Mining Manager

Department: Mining

Number required: (01)

Contract Period: 02 Years

• PRIMARY PURPOSE

- Lead and manage Mining Operations Structures, Systems and Teams to meet short to medium term goals and achieve long-term sustainability for the mine.

• MAIN FUNCTIONS

- Provide Leadership to the department
- Finance and Budget
- Drive standards by incorporating international best practices
- Policies and Procedures
- Management of Sections
- Risk and safety management
- Writing reports and data control
- Human Resource Management
- Administration

• TASK DESCRIPTION Expanded TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS

• Provide Leadership to the Department

- Setting goals and strategies in line with the organisational goals and objectives. , motivating and monitoring work performance of the Mining Operation in a safe, healthy and effective way.
- Motivate and monitor work performance in line with mining operational objectives.
- Understand the strategic, long-term mining plans and implement mid to short term plans to meet objectives and targets.
- Provide effective leadership to all team members and drive a high performance culture.
- Be prepared to act as the Operations Manager on a regular basis.
- Daily/Weekly/Monthly reviews on performance / production targets to advise and communicate the tracking towards the ultimate goals set.
- Monthly review to measure targets and to revisit realistic target deadlines to be met.

• Finance and Budget

- Responsible to create, motivate and manage the departmental budget.
- Continuous revision of ytd tracking against the approved budget.
- Provide and communicate if measures are to be put in place when approved budget is exceeded.
- Management of cost saving initiatives to be implemented where necessary.

• Drive Standards by Incorporating International Best Practices

- Lead and participate in new idea generation and prepare proposals for change.
- Manage general project planning and scheduling by guiding and advising based on industry's best practices to ensure a culture of continuous improvement.
- Ensure compliance with local and international legislation.
- Ensure that team works to standards set out as per the project based on the ongoing development of this project.

• Policies and Procedures

- Maintain and develop new standards, policies and procedures in line with international standards.
- Ensure that Mining staff follow current approved policies, procedures and processes.
- Ensure that all employees within the department are educated and advised of policies/policy changes.
- Ensure that all policies, procedures and processes are aligned with audit requirements.

• Manage the Sections

- Coordinate the department resources – employees, equipment, spares/ consumables and facilities to ultimately meet the project target in line with the budget.
- Manage advice and guide problems that are being communicated to this position by direct reports.
- Establish a framework with Managers to ensure that performance outcomes are favourable.
- Manage and track the mining project progress with individual Section Managers.
- Chair various meetings and set resolutions in place and manage the 'high risk' issues.

• Risk and Safety Management

- Ensure the department works to the highest of standards and all hazards and risks are identified and corrective and preventative actions are continually put in place to ensure a safe and efficient working environment.
- Ensure staff, contractors and visitors to Mining adhere to relevant laws, company policies, safety and environmental standards and procedures.
- Overview of QA/QC processes to ensure all documents necessary are recorded.

• Writing Reports and Data Control

- Maintain and update the department's information system including flash reports to provide accurate and timely information on a daily, weekly and monthly basis.
- Analyse daily production data to help improve productivity outcome.
- Utilizing production data to determine root causes of where production is not meeting requirements.
- Manage and ensure that specific reports are made available for Board meetings.
- Monitor, report and document daily performance and monthly progress.

• Human Resource Management

- Implement employee performance management process to ensure optimum employee performance and take necessary corrective measures to remedy sub-standard work or behaviour.
- Ensure staff are trained, equipped and competent in job requirements.
- Educate and train Supervisors and staff on Mining Operations mission, requirements, policies and procedures.
- Ensure all mining crew are trained and authorized to operate mining equipment.
- 8.5 Ensure training and mentoring plan is implemented for individual performance development.
- Manage recruiting of new staff and conduct interviews.
- Implement a program of ongoing training and development so as to affect skills and technology transfer for successful succession planning process.
- Manage the transfer of knowledge, training and upgrading of the National employee workforce through successful skills transfer.

• Administration

- Check, authorise and sign off all tasks, jobs, projects and related documentation.
- Provide a monthly report to be discussed and reviewed with Management.
- Ensure that all Capex expenditure is supported by providing different quotes prior to project presentation.
- Ensure and manage the capturing of project information/data for all projects.

*C*ontinued on page 7



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- o Management of change documentation to ensure that this is in accordance to the approved procedures.
- **Knowledge, experience and skills**

Qualifications:
Degree in Mining Engineering / Geology / Surveying
Knowledge and Experience:
10+ years’ experience, at least 4 years in open-pit mining in a managerial role.
Ability to lead and co-ordinate a multi-disciplinary team (Expatriate experience essential)
Thorough knowledge of all phases of mine operations including mine construction and projects.

Technical Skills	Behavioural Skills
Leadership skill in multi-disciplinary environment	Strong Management skills. Get things done attitude.
Strategic & Planning, Organizing & Execution skills	Interpersonal skills
Computer and associated mining software skills – advanced level.	Ability to interact with various stakeholder groups including communities, government agencies, board members and investors.
Analytical Skills	Results oriented, ability to meet and exceed operational objectives
Project management skills	Ability to work under pressure
Problem solving skill	Ability to work toward strict deadlines
Business Planning & Development skills	Assertiveness
Budgeting skills	Discretion
Business Writing skills	Ability to multitask
Delegation skills	Cultural Diversity
Decision Making skills	Conflict Resolution
Attention to detail	
Report Writing skills	
Plan, organise and execution skills	
Understand Machine capabilities and deliverables	
Presentation skill	

•

Knowledge and Experience:
• 15+ Years Mining Equipment Operation in open pit mining evnviroment hard rock.
• Understand best mining practices in caterpillar excavator and truck mining methodology.
• Double benching productively and efficiently.
• 789 cat or bigger Dump truck operation and training.
• 990/ 994 Wheel Loaders
• 16G/H Graders
• 10T/9R Bull dozers

- 6040 oCat Excavators and Shovels or Equivilant sizes.
- Understand mining sequences and best practices

Technical Skills	Behavioural Skills
• Safe & efficient Mining Equipment operation	• High Safety consciousness
• Organisational skill	• Good written & communication skills
• Training of different cultures an advantage.	• Interpersonal relations skill
• Record keeping and computer literacy.	• Team player
	• Self- Motivated
	• Performance coaching
	• Self starter and team leader

General Information and other requirements:

- **Place of Work:** Bisha.
 - **Salary:** As per Company salary scale.
- Additional requirement for Nationals:**
- Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provide evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defense.
 - Present clearance paper from current/last employer.
 - Testimonial documents to be attached (CV, work experience credentials, a copy of your National Identity Card etc.).
 - Only shortlisted applicants would be considered as potential candidates for an interview.
 - Application documents will not be returned to sender.
 - All applications should be sent through the post office.
 - Deadline for application: 10 days from the day of publication in the Newspaper.
 - **Address:** Please mail your applications to; Bisha Mining Share Company, P. O. Box 4276 Asmara, Eritrea
 - **Note to Non - Eritrean applicants:** Please send a copy of your application to Aliens Employment Permit Affairs, P. O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea.

NOTICE

Notice is given to the public that Nabro Private Limited Company has been formed with the following particulars:

1. The members of the company are:-

NAME	NATIONALITY	ADDRESS	NO.	OF
SHARES				
Dr. Seife Michael Berhe	Eritrean	Eritrea	350	
Tirhas Anday Gebremedhn	Eritrean	Eritrea	100	
Nerayo Berhe Hadera	Eritrean	Eritrea	50	
		Total	500	

2. Head office of the company is in Asmara. The Company may set up branches in any other place.

3. The business purpose of the company is:
- Geology, hydrogeology & environment
 - Geophysical surveys
 - Mineral testing
 - Renewable energy, and
 - Services incidental to mining activity.

The paid up capital of the company is Nakfa 500,000 divided into 500 registered shares at a par value of Nakfa 1000. The contribution is in cash.

4. Nerayo Berhe Hadera is appointed as Managing Director of the company.
5. The company is established for an unlimited period of time.



A Sneak Peek into Africa Cup 2018

The first ever edition

Asmait Futsumbrhan

Africa Cup 2018 has officially kicked off today in Asmara. The Africa Cup is a cycling competition organized by the Confederation Africaine de Cyclisme (CAC). It is being held for the first time and Eritrea has been granted the special honor of hosting the event. The event will increase the exposure of cycling, gather many fans, offer intense competition, and give followers a picture of Eritrea. Most of all however, the event will help raise the quality of cycling in Africa.

Today, we talk to the Eritrea's national team coach, Samsom Solomon.

Africa Cup 2018, the first of its kind. Would you please tell us a little more about it?

CAC organized this tournament in order to help develop and improve Africa cycling. It will create more opportunities and competitions for the athletes to grow as professionals. You can only improve by testing yourself, and that's what this competition will offer.

Asmara was awarded the honor of hosting this event on short notice. It is increasingly recognized that Eritrea is a continental cycling powerhouse. We are also significantly improving and gaining recognition globally. I think that is one of the main reasons we were awarded the privilege of hosting this competition. It is very important that we perform well in the competitions, particularly since we have to collect great scores in order to participate at the 2020 Olympics in Japan.

This is tournament is taking place during the off-season, does that make it extra challenging?

Well, it would have been nice to include the elite, world class cyclists. However, with this competition being held during the off-season, those cyclists are resting and unavailable. If the cyclists simply jump into this tournament shortly after having been in rest, it may mess up their performances in upcoming competitions. That is why we chose



The National Team presented to the media

to register our local riders for this tournament.

Our local riders are talented and hungry. They have been active, training and also participating in some competitions. In fact, most of the countries participating in this competition did not bring their top professional riders. That said, however, we should not kid ourselves. All the cyclists are young, passionate, and highly talented. Based on their time trials, we have great confidence that we are going to perform well at the races.

Of course, as hosts, we also have a huge responsibility to put on a good show and do well. We all should also keep in mind that since this event was organized on short notice and quickly, many Africa countries faced different challenges in attending, such as with budgets and planning.

Could you describe the training program leading up to the tournament?

The training was hectic because we had to prepare on such a short time period. We focused on the four types of races that we are going to participate in: individual and team chronometer; the criterium, which is a one-day bicycle race on a circuit road course; and a road race.

The criterium is going to be introduced for the first time on the Eritrean timetable. It is a race which includes fast and long races with sprints in the middle to collect scores. We have selected eight male and seven female (two in the elite division and five under 23) cyclists to participate in these four exciting

competitions.

Having the local riders participate in the competition is positive, in my opinion. It will provide them with a great opportunity to improve and develop. As well, they will increase their exposure and we can showcase their talents to a larger audience. All

the competitors should maximize these opportunities and do their best.

Is the Africa Cup included on the Union Cyclist International (UCI) and CAC calendar?

Yes. It is a good thing that it has



Samsom Solomon, National Team Coach

started. It is going to provide a great platform for talented and passionate Africa riders to show their talents. The young cyclists work hard and have big dreams, and this competition will play a big role in helping them progress. It is also going to help promote cycling in Africa. We can introduce the sport to more people and gain many fans.

I hope that we are able to use this opportunity and live up to some of the labels we have been given by fans, such as the cycling sensations. We want to put on a great show for everyone and showcase the great talent we have in this country. Good luck to all the riders!

“Our Time with . . .

Continued from page 2

in the Ministry of Health, close cooperation by all stakeholders in the country will be vital, since it is impossible to effectively combat AMR by working independently.

An annual highlight of WAAW is the series of research presentations. Over the years, the presentations have been highly interesting and very informative. This year, the presentations were again of high caliber and they drew large audiences.

In a presentation titled, “Antibiotics Resistance: A Global Threat”, Mr. Iyassu Bahta, Director of the National Food and Medicines Administration, provided a detailed overview of AMR. Mr. Afeworki Mihreteab, Head of Animal and Plant Health in the Ministry of Agriculture, gave a presentation titled, “AMR in Animals and Plants”, while Mr. Keleab Haile presented a paper titled, “Disposal of Pesticides: Eritrea's Case”. Mr. Mosana Ghebru and Samuel Zeru, both from Hamelmalo Agricultural College, presented a research paper titled, “Therapeutic Efficacy of

Invermectin and Albendazole in Sheep in Hamelmalo, Eritrea”. Their findings reveal that the sheep have developed resistance to drugs and that farmers may now need more powerful drugs to ensure the health of their sheep.

One interesting revelation during the discussions was that there have been several instances of misuse of animal vaccines and pesticides by farmers in different areas of the country. Farmers often do not fully understand the implications of their actions. Thus, this is one of the reasons that increasing public awareness is a central objective of WAAW. According to Mr. Kaleab, Eritrea follows international standards guiding pesticide use and disposal. For example, pesticides accumulated during the pre- and post-independence period have been collected and sent abroad for proper disposal.

The collaboration between the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture allows the two ministries to more efficiently utilize their resources toward combating AMR. In recent years, Eritrea has made significant progress in terms of

pharmacovigilance. Mr. Mulugeta Russom, Head of Pharmacovigilance Center in Eritrea, described how rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) may fail to detect malaria. He pointed out that about 80% of RDTs lead to false negative results since the RDTs fail to detect the target antigen. As a result, tests may show that some patients are free of malaria, even though they actually have malaria. Since this poses significant threats to health, 135 million RDTs were recalled from the African market.

One of the primary objectives of WAAW is expanding public awareness of AMR. Mr. Arefaine Berhe, the Minister of Agriculture, stated that there was a need to establish a supportive environment for local professionals to convey health-related messages to the general public. He also mentioned that finalizing the national action plan is an important step in the fight against AMR.

Antibiotic resistance poses significant challenges to humanity. Moving forward, it is vital that we do all we can to avoid the further emergence and spread of antibiotic resistance.