

PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ACTIVITIES BY DIASPORA NATIONALS



Nationals in Australia, the US, and Italy conducted a range of public diplomacy activities.

Eritreans in Melbourne, Australia, held a public seminar on March 15 to discuss the current situation in the homeland, as well as regional and global developments.

At the seminar, Mr. Mehari Tekeste, Eritrea's Consul General, gave an extensive briefing on the importance of strengthening organizational capacity and unity among nationals. He also called for increased participation and contributions to national affairs.

Eritreans in the Northern United States held their annual congress on March 15 in Seattle, where reports on achievements and challenges were presented.

Mr. Berhane Gebrehiwet, Chargé d'Affaires at the Eritrean Embassy, delivered a seminar titled "Work for Implementation of National Pledge" and encouraged nationals to support ongoing national development programs.

A similar seminar was held for nationals in Oregon, where

Mr. Berhane Gebrehiwet briefed attendees on developments in the homeland and broader regional and global contexts.

Participants of the seminar made financial contributions toward the construction of a school in Akordet.

In the same vein, Mr. Girmay Habtemicael, Head of Community and Organizational Affairs at the Eritrean Embassy in Italy, conducted a seminar for nationals in the city of Bari. Meanwhile, Mr. Haile Medhanie, Chairman of the YPFDJ in Napoli, led a seminar for Eritrean youth in that city.

Meanwhile, Diaspora nationals in Angola, the Netherlands, the US, Norway, and Egypt have carried out public diplomacy activities in connection with International Women's Day, 8 March, under the theme "Women: Emancipation for All-Rounded Development."

In Angola, celebratory events were held in the cities of Luanda, Lubango, Cabinda, Benguela, and Huambo, while in the Netherlands, festivities took place in Rotterdam and Leiden. The events featured various programs highlighting the

significance of the day.

Likewise, nationals in the Norwegian cities of Oslo, Stavanger, Trondheim, Kristiansand, Tromsø, Gjøvik, Hamar, Jotunheim, and others colorfully celebrated International Women's Day with great enthusiasm.

Nationals in the US cities of Minnesota, Michigan, and Indiana, along with those in Cairo, Egypt, commemorated the day with patriotic zeal.

ERITREA PARTICIPATES AT COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES MEETING

Eritrea participated in the 19th annual meeting of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures, held in Rome from March 17 to 21.

Mr. Tekleab Misghina, Director General of Regulatory Service at the Ministry of Agriculture, and Mr. Asmerom Kidane, Eritrea's Deputy Permanent Representative at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, represented the country at the meeting.

The Commission on Phytosanitary Measures is the governing body of the International Plant Protection

Convention, established by member countries to oversee the progress of its subsidiary bodies toward the Convention's objectives.

The International Plant Protection Convention operates under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

According to the Public Relations Office of the Ministry of Agriculture in Eritrea, the country is preparing to become a member of the African Plant Protection Organization, also known as the African Plant Protection Convention.



37TH ANNIVERSARY OF DEMISE OF NADEW IZ OBSERVED

The 37th anniversary of the demise of Nadew Iz and the liberation of Afabet, commemorated on 19 March, was marked with great patriotic enthusiasm.

The event, attended by numerous Afabet residents, featured student and military parades, along with cultural and artistic performances by the 'Algen' cultural troupe of the 31st Division of the Armed Forces, adding solemnity and festivity to the occasion.

Mr. Ahmed Mohammed-Nur

Rejib, administrator of the sub-zone, highlighted the historical significance of the fall of Nadew Iz 37 years ago, which marked the country's imminent independence.

Mr. Rejib further noted that this year's anniversary is being observed during a uniquely significant historical period and called on all nationals to remain vigilant and responsive to the ongoing nation-building process.

Mr. Mahmud Sheikh Hamid, administrator of Afabet town,

emphasized that beyond celebration, the commemoration carries deep historical meaning for the Eritrean people and urged the younger generation to carry forward this vibrant legacy.

It is worth noting that the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) launched a swift offensive from 17–19 March 1988 on the Nakfa Front, during which the Derg's formidable Nadew Command—comprising 20,000 soldiers equipped with sophisticated military hardware—was decisively annihilated.

STUDENTS' WEEK

Students' Week was conducted with great enthusiasm in the Mendefera, Adi-Quala, and Emni-Haili sub-zones, featuring a variety of cultural and sports activities.

The event, which drew over 5,000 students, featured cultural programs, drama performances, music, poetry, short stories, painting, and various competitions. Additionally, students took part in football, volleyball, and athletics competitions.

School directors highlighted that the program plays a crucial role in nurturing competent students while helping them identify and develop their talents. They also urged the public to continue supporting and participating in the initiative to ensure its sustainability.





The International Community Must Finally Shoulder its Role

Earlier this week, Osman Saleh, Eritrea's Foreign Minister, delivered a briefing to diplomats and UN officials in Asmara, addressing the recent flood of misinformation and false accusations being peddled against Eritrea. He categorically rejected false claims of Eritrean troops presence in the Tigray Region of Ethiopia, reaffirming that the EDF units have been fully redeployed within the country's internationally recognized borders since November 2022. He also dismissed attempts to

scapegoat Eritrea for Ethiopia's ongoing internal crises, clarifying that Eritrea views the Pretoria Agreement as an internal Ethiopian matter and has no intention of intervening in the ongoing power struggle in Tigray. Additionally, he criticized Ethiopia's dangerous rhetoric regarding access to the Red Sea.

Beyond setting the record straight, the briefing highlighted a broader issue: the international community's historical role in exacerbating regional instability rather than promoting peace. Instead of upholding justice and international law, global powers have repeatedly undermined Eritrea's sovereignty and emboldened aggression in the region. As tensions now escalate across the Horn of Africa, the international community must finally do what it has long failed to – stand up for justice, condemn violations of international law, and take a firm, principled stance against aggression

Denying and ignoring Eritrea's right to self-determination

The international community's harmful actions toward Eritrea have deep historical roots. After World War II, the Eritrean people's aspirations for independence were sacrificed for geopolitical interests. Following Italian colonization and a period under British administration, Eritrea was federated with Ethiopia against the wishes of its people. This decision was driven by Western strategic interests, as articulated by John Foster Dulles

in a September 1952 speech to the UN Security Council:

"From the point of justice, the opinions of the Eritrean people must receive consideration. Nevertheless, the strategic interest of the United States in the Red Sea basin and considerations of security and world peace make it necessary that the country be linked with our ally, Ethiopia."

As Ethiopia systematically dismantled the federation and forcibly annexed Eritrea, the international community remained utterly silent, failing to condemn these blatant violations of Eritrean rights and international law. Over decades, the international community ignored Eritreans' calls for self-determination, forcing the country to endure Africa's longest war without international support or intervention. In fact, not once throughout nearly a half-century until 1991 did Eritrea, the scene of Africa's longest war and victim of some of the grossest violations of human rights, figure on the agenda of the UN. In the forward of the Proceedings of the *Permanent Peoples' Tribunal of the International League for the Rights and Liberation of People*, convened in 1980, it was declared:

"No important struggle – be it in terms of military intensity or in terms of political impact – is so poorly known, indeed ignored, as is that which the Eritrean people have been engaged in for 20 years."

Similarly, the following year, a decade before Eritrea would eventually gain independence, the International Commission of Jurists stated that:

"Of all the people who, since the Second World War, have been the victims of Great Power rivalries and ambitions, perhaps the one with the greatest claim for consideration is the people of Eritrea. Nevertheless, no nation has yet been willing to raise the issue of the rights of these people in the United Nations. The truth is that the 'Eritrean question' is a source of embarrassment both to the UN itself and to almost all 'interested parties'".

Following Eritrea's formal admission into the UN in 1993, Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki addressed the General Assembly, reflecting on the years of neglect:

"[The years of] deafening silence pained our people. It also gave a free hand to the aggressors, thereby prolonging our suffering and increasing the sacrifices we had to make. But it neither shook our resolve nor undermined our belief in the justness of our cause and the

inevitability of our victory. As an Eritrean proverb says: 'The rod of truth may become thinner but it cannot be broken.' Indeed, justice has finally prevailed. This is a source of hope and happiness not only for the Eritrean people, but for all those who cherish justice and peace."

Continued hostility and double standards

Eritrea's struggle did not end with independence. From 1998 to 2000, it faced a war of aggression designed to overthrow the government, reverse its independence, and seize large swathes of its territory, including along the Red Sea, by force. Despite the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission's "final and binding" rulings, the international community allowed Ethiopia to maintain for almost a decade, its illegal military occupation of Eritrean lands and launch repeated large-scale military attacks. In fact, rather than condemning Ethiopia's violations, Western powers rewarded the aggressors instead. Ethiopia, under the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), received substantial foreign aid, mostly in budgetary and other fungible forms, and debt forgiveness while being positioned as a Western ally.

Compounding matters, at the behest of Western powers and their regional proxy, a series of punishing sanctions were imposed on Eritrea, despite the lack of any solid evidence

for the claims and allegations raised. These measures not only hampered Eritrea's nation-building efforts and the potential for regional cooperation, they also emboldened hostile actors. Even after the original justifications for the sanctions were debunked, they remained in place for years, reflecting a broader agenda of containment and control rather than genuine concern for peace and stability.

Beyond political interference, Eritrea has also been the target of relentless and coordinated media campaigns designed to vilify and demonize the country while obscuring the real sources of conflict and instability in the region.

The time for a principled stance is now

Today, sabre-rattling and rising tensions surrounding the Red Sea pose a serious threat to regional stability. Now is the time for the international community to begin to rectify its long history of failure. Rather than issuing hollow and toothless statements or maintaining a false "both sides" narrative, the international community must firmly and unequivocally condemn those violating international law, fueling tensions, and threatening the sovereignty and territorial integrity of others.

Justice and peace demand nothing less.

March 21, 2025

**ERITREA
PROFILE**

Published Every
Wednesday & Saturday

Editor-In-Chief
Amanuel Mesfun

Asst. Editor-In-Chief
Sirak Habtemichael

P.O.Box: 247
Tel: 11-41-14
Fax: 12-77-49
E-mail:
eritreaprofilemoi@gmail.com
Advertisement: 12-50-13

Layout
Azmera Berhane
Betelhiem Tadese

From Social Media



Yemane G. Meskel
@hawelti

Few thoughts on abstract/hypothetical scenario- analysis: a landlocked country may face an "existential threat" in the most extreme and unlikely case of an aggressive, simultaneous, prolonged, and coordinated naval blockade on it by all transit countries. In the event, misplaced sophistry and hyperbole is thus hollow in substance, dangerous in intent, and antithetical to healthy ties of bilateral and regional cooperation that must be predicated on established norms and provisions of international law.
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Yemane G. Meskel
@hawelti

"ኤርትራ፡ ምስ ኢትዮጵያ ይኹን ሃገራት ናይ'ዚ ዘባ ኣትገብሮ ዝምድናታት ይኹን ስምምዓት፡ ጎልኡላውነታን መሬታዊ ሓድነታን፡ ከምኡ'ውን ባሕራውን ኣየራውን ግዝኣታ፡ ዘኹብርን ኣብ ጉጹር ኣህጉራዊ ሕጋዊትን ኣገባባትን ኣተመርኮሰ ኣየ"

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Dr. Fikrejesus Amahazion

Recently, Tekea Tesfamichael, the President of the National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW), addressed the 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), which convened in New York. Her remarks highlighted challenges in the global struggle for a more equal world and tangible steps Eritrea is taking to promote women's empowerment and gender equality. She also underscored the country's notable achievements in advancing women's rights over the years.

This article provides a brief overview of the CSW and delves deeper into some of the key highlights of the address, offering further insights into the progress and initiatives underway.

The Commission on the Status of Women and advancing gender equality in Eritrea

The Commission on the Status of Women is the principal global intergovernmental body dedicated exclusively to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. Established in 1946, it operates as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), one of the United Nations' (UN) principal organs.

Since its inception, the CSW has played a crucial role in shaping international standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women. The commission consists of 45 member states, elected by ECOSOC based on equitable geographical distribution.

Since gaining independence three decades ago, Eritrea has been an active and engaged participant

A Testament to Sustained Efforts and Policy Initiatives



at the CSW. The country has also taken part in other major global and regional gender-related conferences, including the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. Additionally, Eritrea has signed and ratified several key gender rights instruments, including the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which establishes international standards for eliminating gender-based discrimination. Collectively, these efforts have underscored Eritrea's deep-rooted commitment to advancing gender equality and women's empowerment.

Micro-Credit and Savings Program: a tool for empowerment

One key point mentioned in Eritrea's address at the CSW was how micro-credit was helping to empower women. Eritrea's

Micro-Credit and Savings Program was established in July 1996 under the Ministry of National Development (now the Ministry of Finance and National Development). Initially, the program served just over 1,500 clients, providing approximately 1.3 billion Birr in loans.

Since its inception, the program has disbursed approximately 4 billion Nakfa in loans, benefiting nearly one million Eritreans, with women—especially those residing in rural areas or otherwise historically marginalized—making up a significant portion of the recipients. Currently, there are over 70,000 clients of micro-credit banks nationwide, with women comprising slightly more than half of the total. Notably, the number of micro-credit village banks has grown steadily to about 750, covering three-quarters of all administrative areas and nearly 70 percent of villages in Eritrea.

Through small loans and financial services, the Micro-Credit and Savings Program has facilitated financial inclusion, raised incomes, expanded socio-economic opportunities, and strengthened the financial independence of thousands of Eritrean women. This, in turn, has enhanced their decision-making power, autonomy, and overall empowerment.

Women's improved health, as reflected through rising life expectancy

The address at the CSW also highlighted Eritrea's progress in women's health, which is particularly reflected in improvements in life expectancy.

Life expectancy is a key indicator of population health, human welfare, and socio-economic development. Defined by organizations such as the WHO and World Bank, it refers to the average number of years a newborn is expected to live under current mortality conditions.

Historically, global life expectancy has increased due to advancements in healthcare, sanitation, disease control, and safety measures. Today, the global average stands at slightly over 70 years, nearly double what it was just a few centuries ago. Women worldwide tend to outlive men due to a combination of biological, behavioral, and socio-economic factors.

In Eritrea, women's life expectancy has risen significantly, from just under 53 years at the time of independence

to approximately 69 years. This remarkable improvement places Eritrea among the leaders on the African continent and has helped the country close the gap with the global average. As is the case in most countries, Eritrean women also have a higher life expectancy than men.

Importantly, these improvements serve as a powerful illustration of Eritrea's commitment to enhancing the well-being of women through better healthcare, nutrition, and living conditions.

A commitment to continued progress

Eritrea's address at the CSW also conveyed another critical message: the country is not being complacent. Despite its progress in advancing women's empowerment and gender equality, Eritrea recognizes that gender equality is a continuous process that requires sustained effort and commitment. The government and various national organizations, including NUEW, remain committed to advancing the country's progress, ensuring that it is not only maintained but also accelerated. By actively identifying and addressing challenges, Eritrea demonstrates its unwavering commitment to building an inclusive and equitable society where women continue to thrive.

A testament to sustained efforts and policy initiatives

Overall, Eritrea's engagement with the CSW underscores its ongoing commitment to promoting gender equality and empowering women. Through initiatives such as the Micro-Credit and Savings Program, Eritrea has made significant improvements in women's health and life expectancy, as well as progress in other areas, including the economy and education, advancing the rights and well-being of women. While challenges remain, the country's progress serves as a testament to the impact of sustained efforts and policy initiatives aimed at fostering gender equality and empowering women in all facets of society.



Development

Geraset Agro-Project: A Vital Component of Eritrea's Development Strategy

Habtom Tesfamichael

Situated in the agricultural heartland of the Gash-Barka region, the Geraset Agro-Project is a beacon of hope in the nation's quest for food production to meet local needs and expand export potential. It is run by the Eritrean Crops and Livestock Corporation (ECLC), and it now primarily grows food for local communities and those in other parts of the country.

Since its inception in the early 2000s, when it was conceived in response to urgent and pervasive food insecurity, Geraset Agro-Project has undergone a profound transformation over the years.

Mr. Hailzghi Habte, manager of the Southwestern Agricultural Area in the Gash-Barka region, stated that they recognized the need to enhance local food production to improve the livelihoods of rural communities. Initially, the project focused on developing robust and sustainable irrigation systems, a step that paved

fruit and vegetable production, rain-fed crop cultivation, livestock breeding, animal feed production, and comprehensive agricultural assistance to farmers in the region. The food grown in these diverse zones is sold at local markets at affordable prices, a crucial intervention that

other towns ensure direct access to affordable produce for the public, stabilizing markets and the cost of imported agricultural products.

Beyond its robust fruit and vegetable products, Geraset Agro-Project gives high priority to cultivating essential staple crops,

are employed at the Geraset Agro-Project. This involves a comprehensive breeding program designed to improve livestock varieties, along with extensive training in animal husbandry, which enhances productivity and improves the health and well-being of livestock, ultimately bolstering local economies.

The Geraset Agro-Project focuses on breeding cattle, sheep, goats, and camels with the aim of not only increasing the production of meat and dairy products but also supplying farmers with selected breeds at subsidized prices. "There is a significant demand for the breeds from Geraset," said Mr. Hailzghi. "We are making efforts to meet the demands of our customers."

Geraset Agro-Project also produces ample stocks of animal feed, which is used to sustain its animals and the cattle at Halhale farm. The project keeps more than a year's worth of stored feed.

Although all five major dams in the southwestern Gash-Barka region have primarily been used for irrigation farming, they are now increasingly being utilized as sites for fisheries following the introduction of freshwater fish into the dams. The dams are now serving as sources of much-needed food for local communities. For this purpose, fishery associations have been established, providing local communities with training on fishing techniques and the necessary tools.

Community involvement is central to Geraset Agro-Project. Through training workshops, agricultural fairs, and cooperative initiatives, the project engages local farmers. This approach fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility geared towards achieving food security, empowering communities to take charge of their agricultural practices. Members of the Eritrean Defense



Mr. Hailzghi Habte

Forces also play a crucial role in assisting on the farms, working from planting to harvesting.

Local communities benefit from the existence of the project, having access to machinery, such as tractors, at affordable prices and crops. This has helped farmers improve their productivity. Thousands also benefit by working at the Project's farms seasonally or fulltime.

It is common for heads of families and their children to work on the farms, boosting their households' income. Community members express their satisfaction with the jobs provided by the agro-farms. In addition to the wages, employees receive agricultural products from the farms at a low price. Although the number of people that work at the farm fluctuates seasonally, approximately 4,000, predominantly women, work on the farms permanently.

Ongoing research serves as a cornerstone in the development of Geraset Agro-Project, helping it adapt to changing climate conditions and challenges associated with agriculture. Through collaboration with academic institutions, the project seeks innovative solutions to enhance food production and resilience against environmental stressors. Experts—including horticulturalists, agronomists, agricultural engineers, and plant protection specialists who studied at Hamelmalo Agricultural College—manage the agro-farms, ensuring the health and productivity of plants and animals.

Continued on page 5



plays a significant role in stabilizing markets and ensuring access to food for the population. With its nearly 30,000 fruit trees, which comprise three-quarters of the 40,000 fruit trees across the entire zone, the

including sorghum, millet, and maize, alongside valuable cash crops such as sesame and soybeans. Annually, overall approximately 14,000 hectares are cultivated, and around 10,000 hectares of those are situated within Geraset itself. Mr. Hailzghi said the products are distributed for human and animal consumption.

A newly established oil factory in Alebu is producing promising results with oilseeds. "If this pilot project proves to be successful, a larger facility is planned, which will significantly bolster our domestic oil production capacity," Mr. Hailzghi added. To increase the amount of oil produced and ensure a consistent supply of oil seeds for the processing factory, there is a plan to expand the land to be used for the cultivation of oil seeds such as sunflower and sesame next year. All processed products are stored in a cold-storage facility in Alebu.

Recognizing the vital role livestock plays in Eritrea's agricultural economy, sustainable livestock management practices



the way for the region's subsequent agricultural revitalization.

A critical component of the revitalization is the construction of dams to harness water resources, demonstrating Eritrea's commitment to water resource management. Notably, the construction of the Geraset Dam was a significant undertaking designed to utilize the region's water resources for agricultural development through irrigation. This dam, along with other water resources in the region, has played a crucial role in transforming the arid zone into fertile agricultural land. The dam's construction represents a significant investment in the region's infrastructure, supporting the broader goals of the Geraset Agro-Project.

The project's operational scope is extensive, encompassing five key areas essential to its mission:

Geraset Agro-Project is recognized for its largest fruit plantation in the region. The fruits grown include mangoes, oranges, bananas, dates, lemons, and tangerines.

The vegetables grown include onions, tomatoes, chili peppers, and pumpkins. The tomatoes are typically sent to Banatom Food Processing Factory in Alebu, where they are made into tomato paste. Banatom processing plant has the capacity to process over 500 quintals of tomato daily, and its leading suppliers are the agro-farms around the region.

"The main objective of the ECLC is to provide all kinds of agricultural products at a low price," Mr. Hailzghi emphasizes. "Once our produce enter the market, we witness a clear and direct stabilization of prices." The ECLC's strategically located distribution centers in Asmara and



LOCAL NEWS

CONGRESS OF THE BOARD OF NUEW IN LAELAI GASH



The board of the National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW) in the Laelai Gash sub-zone held its first congress on 16

and 17 March.

During the congress, 14 board members were elected from the administrative areas

of Tokombia, Birar, Meflech, Adi-Bigidi, Shilalo, Adi-Tsetser, Sheshebit, and Adhakin.

Ms. Rigat Dagne, Secretary of the National Union of Eritrean Women, presented a report highlighting the efforts undertaken and the achievements registered over the past 10 years in strengthening organizational capacity and enhancing women's participation in national affairs.

Ms. Yihdega Yohannes, head of the National Union of Eritrean Women in the Gash Barka region, stated that the establishment of

a board at the sub-zone level reflects the strong organizational capacity of the union. She also urged the newly elected members to work diligently in boosting the union's income and realizing its objectives and mission.

Mr. Gide Estifanos, administrator of the sub-zone, emphasized that Eritrean women continue to play a historic role, as demonstrated in the struggle for national independence, the safeguarding of national sovereignty, and the implementation of national development programs. He



also expressed the sub-zonal administration's commitment to supporting all endeavors of the union.

DIRT ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN DEKI-ZER'U

The residents of the Deki-Zer'u administrative area in the Adi-Tekelezan sub-zone are constructing a dirt road to connect their area with the main Asmara-Keren road.

The 10 km road, being built with the support of machinery, is expected to improve the daily activities of the residents significantly.

Eng. Bereket Mihreteab, one of the program coordinators, stated that a feasibility study was conducted before the commencement of the construction process. He also commended the strong participation of the residents in the project.

Lt. Col. Yemane Mebrahtu, administrator of the Adi-Tekelezan sub-zone, emphasized that with

unity and shared vision among the residents, they can successfully undertake additional development projects that benefit the community. He encouraged them to maintain their solidarity and contribute to the ongoing development programs in their area.

Deki-Zer'u is one of the 11 administrative areas in the Adi-Tekelezan sub-zone and is home to 1,386 residents.

GERSET AGRO-PROJECT...

Continued from page 4

"All operations within the ECLC are geared towards organic farming, which positively impacts the quality of our products," Mr. Hailzghi said. "Our land is fertile, and we avoid chemical fertilizers and artificial herbicides. Instead, we rely on animal manure, compost, and dredged sediments from water reservoirs. This commitment to organic practices makes our fruits and vegetables attractive and healthy," he adds.

The Alebu technical division of the ECLC is the primary provider of technical solutions to the corporation's needs. All of the ECLC's machines are repaired, custom machine tools made, prefabricated structures built, and all technical needs met by the technical division.

A nursery, initially stocked with seedlings imported from Sudan, has been established in Gerset, and the seedlings are distributed to all farms in the southwestern agro-zone and to the public. A larger nursery has now been established in Halhale, serving as a very important provider of seedlings. Farms in various regions are now increasingly setting up nurseries for their own use.

Gerset Agro-Project boosts agricultural productivity, builds resilience against climate change, strengthens rural economies, and improves nutritional security.

By introducing modern farming techniques and high-yield crop varieties, the project has significantly amplified the productivity of smallholder farmers, ensuring a more consistent

and reliable food supply. The emphasis on sustainable practices and crop diversification empowers farmers to mitigate the adverse effects of climate variability, thereby securing long-term food stability. Moreover, the project's commitment to job creation, coupled with the establishment of thriving cooperatives and local markets, reinforces the economic resilience of rural communities, increasing access to food and income opportunities. Through the diversification of crop production and the promotion of nutrient-rich foods, the project plays a vital role in elevating the overall nutritional well-being of the population.

Despite its notable achievements, the Gerset Agro-Project faces challenges, including infrastructure limitations and energy constraints. It is working to address these challenges and increase its productive capacity.

Gerset Agro-Project remains committed to achieving ambitious growth and sustaining a positive impact. Plans are underway to expand its outreach through enhanced collaboration with local research institutions, broadened farmer training programs, and the promotion of agro-ecological practices that foster sustainability and resilience.

Beyond its role in stabilizing market prices, the ECLC aims to address domestic shortages of agricultural products and, by maximizing its domestic production capacity, to explore opportunities for the export of its products. Its strategic initiatives include the installation of fruit juice processing plants and the expansion of animal breeding programs.

"Ich bin," I Am: "For my Sisters, Brothers..."

Continued from page 8

self-doubt and negativity will influence your reality. I believe this is a fact. So, be mindful of the words you project.

With the Tigrinya version now available, do you have plans for further engagement with the Eritrean communities, perhaps through literary event discussions, to further explore the themes in your book?

Absolutely. As I stated at the book launch, I am here to stay. I am connected to my country, regardless of my location. We are both similar and different, and this is what connects us. Resilience is the strength of being Eritrean, and it's within me. I have many plans here. I am here now, and nothing will deter me.

As a fashion designer with your label, Negassi, and as a

cultural curator with M.Bassy, how do you envision this work serving as a source of inspiration and connection for Eritreans in the diaspora who seek to explore their cultural identity?

As I mentioned earlier, believe in yourself and be true to yourself. Identity is crucial. Sometimes, we lose our way in the diaspora. However, getting lost is not necessarily a bad thing, as it often leads to self-discovery. And the way to find yourself is by embracing your Eritrean identity and taking pride in your history. Believing in this is powerful.

You've created space for artistic expression and cultural dialogue. In what ways do you believe your career in fashion and curating, combined with your published work, contributes to preserving and promoting Eritrean cultural narratives within the diaspora,

and what advice do you have for other Eritreans who aspire to create similar platforms for artistic exchange?

It's interesting; I've been asked this several times. As an Eritrean, anything I create is inherently from an Eritrean woman and daughter. So, it's already Eritrean. You are Eritrean. Go out, spread the word, and be proud.

Is there anything you'd like to add, Bisrat?

I welcome critiques. If anyone reads the book and has criticism, please let me know. It helps us improve. I am also grateful to Eng. Tsegai Teclemichael for translating the book. His German fluency facilitated our communication. He translated the book quickly and did a great job.

Thank you, Bisrat. We hope to see you again.



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

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

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

1. **Position: Timberman**
Department: Mining
Number required: Two (02)

Primary Purpose

- To maintain and ensure that the shaft is always in a safe working condition in accordance with Mining Safety regulations, so that men and materials maybe conveyed with maximum safety.

Task description expanded to core performance areas

PERFORMANCE AREAS/GOALS

- Inspects the shaft, haulage, and tramming ways to examine for looseness, damage or obstruction and carry out spot repairs to timberwork, steel works and any other work as required by supervisor. Use gas cutting equipment and compressed air saws during such repairs.
- Checks repairs and replacements carried out by own subordinates and applies own skill/experience to damages requiring higher skill.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Ensures availability of tools & materials
- Reports leaks and damages to high/low pressure pipes so that arrangements can be made to replace/repair same
- Takes accurate measurements and pre-fabricates parts on surface where replacements and repairs cannot be carried out underground. Reports to the ‘Shift Boss’ where problems cannot be remedied.

Health, Safety and Environment

Unique requirements/other information

- Ability to operate all underground equipment
- The candidate must be Physically and Medically fit.

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Trade Certificate and aboveBlasting licence HolderMust pass General Timbering courseValid First Aid Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">5 years’ experience in underground mining operations
Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ability to assess risk and diagnostically gather informationAttention to detail and planning skillsResults orientatedCommunication skill	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Self-starterDrive and enthusiasmDevelopment orientatedPassion for accuracy and perfection in delivery

2. **Position: Shift Supervisor**

- Department: Mining**
Number required: One (01)

Primary Purpose

- To organize and supervise the shift operations concerning mechanized drilling, lashing, and tramming of ore to ensure safe attainment of set targets.
- Accountable for delivering individual and team production targets and coaching/mentoring of team.
- Contribute as a member of a committed, high-performance team.
- Provide visible leadership of the underground mine production operations and all other related.

Task description expanded to core performance areas

- To ensure that set targets are achieved
- To prevent injury to personnel and safeguard company property
- To enhance their performance
- To meet statutory requirements
- To ensure effective and efficient completion of task
- To provide information for attention/decision making
- Health, Safety and Environment

Unique requirements / other information

- The candidate must be Physically and Medically fit.

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Diploma in mining or equivalentValid Blasting LicenseValid First Aid CertificateExperience in underground hard rock mining is essential.Shift Boss certificate of competency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">3 years progression through lower ranks.7 years typical underground mining experience following qualification.Knowledge of blasting operation techniquesKnowledge of Mine layoutsKnowledge of use underground equipment and machinery as well as explosive regulations.
Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Supervisory skills-ability to organize and co-ordinate including good liaison with other departments.Basic Computer Literacy, Good English written, verbal and organisational skills, Ability to lead a team, Excellent hazard awareness, Strong Supervisory Skill and ability to lead a team.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Highly organized with the ability to work independently and under pressure.Organizational skill with Ability to work under pressure, Problem solving and analytical skills, Interpersonal skills, Strong communication skills, Commitment to safe work practices, Self-motivated, Acting in sense of urgency, Accountable personality

3. **Position: HME Operator**

- Department: Mining**
Number required: Two (02)

Primary Purpose

- To plan sectional activities and drive the loader to move economic metal bearing ore /concentrate from shade to appropriate tips,
- Supervise sectional activities to ensure compliance with requirements and transport materials/equipment to various production locations to facilitate production continuity

Task description expanded to core performance areas

- Planning
- Implementation of the plan
- Reporting

Unique requirements / other information

- Ability to operate all underground equipment
- The candidate must be Physically and Medically fit.

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Trade certification to operate underground Loader, Dump truck, Rigs, and ancillaries’ equipment.Valid blasting license.Valid driver’s license	<ul style="list-style-type: none">5 years working experience in underground mining environment.Prior experience as a Loader/Dump truck /rig Operator.Prior experience operating remote LH410, XTUW-5, ST 18, LH17i, remote R2900 Loaders or similar.Prior experience operating XTIUI- 20, TH 545,MT 42 Dump trucks or similarPrior experience operating DL321, DD321Prior experience operating underground support equipmentRead & write English language.Able to perform basic machinery troubleshooting task.
Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ability to work long shifts both day and night shift.Risk management and assessment.Analytical and Problem solvingExcellent Hand-Eye Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ability to work under pressure.Take instruction from supervisor/ crew leaders, Excellent teamwork skills, Excellent Communication skill, Ability to work towards strict deadlines, Interpersonal skills

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

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

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

4. **Position: HME Mechanic**
Department: Mining
Number required: Five (05)

Primary Purpose

- To be responsible for the maintenance, repair, and troubleshooting of heavy mobile equipment used in underground operations.
- To play a crucial role in ensuring minimal downtime of machinery and contribute to the efficiency and safety of our mining/construction projects.
- To execute all work according to BMSC safe work rules and procedures

Task description expanded to core performance areas

- Safety Targets Achieved
- SOP Requirements Achieved
- Production Targets Met (Costs Maintained Within Budget)
- Manpower Development Achieved
- Health, Safety and Environment
- Reporting
- Additional Duties

Unique requirements / other information

- Effective communication skills.
- Excellent interpersonal skills, initiative, efficient and ability to work in a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic environment with sensitivity and respect for diversity.
- Willingness to work in underground conditions, including extended shifts, if necessary.
- The candidate must be Physically and Medically fit.

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Diploma in Heavy Mining Equipment maintenance or Formal Trade certificate.Additional training or certification in heavy mechanical or underground equipment repair is preferred.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Minimum 3 years of experience in repairing and maintaining underground heavy mobile equipment.Proven troubleshooting abilities and experience working with diagnostic tools will be advantageous.Ability to read and interpret technical manuals, schematics, and blueprints.Acceptable knowledge of underground safety and work execution.Holder of a valid driver license.
Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Computer Literacy, Hydraulic fault-finding, Mechanical/Electrical skill, Onboard Fire Suppression Systems, Acceptable knowledge and experience on multiple underground machines, Risk Assessment, Logical Thinker	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Risk assessment and safety oriented, Time management, Communication (English), Able to work in a team concept, Able to work in a multi-disciplinary environment, Ability to work under pressure and achieve results, Self-Starter, Organized, Competent, Dependable, Responsible and Committed.

5. **Position: Artisan Auto Electrician**
Department: Mining
Number required: One (01)

Primary Purpose

- To attend to-all electrical related issues on underground mining equipment and workshop.
- Diagnose and replace faulty electrical and electronic systems, units and components of machinery and equipment.
- Inspect electrical systems, equipment, and components to identify hazards, defects and the need for adjustment or repair, and to ensure compliance with codes.
- To execute all work according to BMSC safe work rules and procedures.

Task description expanded to core performance areas

- Safety Targets Achieved
- SOP Requirements Achieved
- Production Targets Met (Costs Maintained Within Budget)
- Manpower Development Achieved
- Health, Safety and Environment
- Reporting

- Additional Duties
- Unique requirements / other information

- Adhering to principles & values
- Effective communication skills.
- Excellent interpersonal skills, initiative, efficient and ability to work in a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic environment with sensitivity and respect for diversity.
- Strong understanding of the maintenance, troubleshooting, and repair processes for HME.
- Excellent problem-solving skills and attention to detail.
- Strong attention to detail with a commitment to producing high-quality work.
- Willingness to work in underground conditions including extended shifts if necessary.

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Auto Electrical Technician Part II, III/ HND Electrical & Electronic Engineering or related qualification from a recognized institution.Additional training or certification in Auto Electrical mining equipment or underground equipment repair is preferredCertification for Air-conditioning maintenance and repair will be advantageous.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Minimum of 5 years of experience in the mining maintenance field, including 3 years of experience on underground equipment such as drill rigs, loaders, dump trucks, and other supporting machinery.Ability to distinguish colors used in color-coding harness and electronic components.Ability to identify electrical problems and apply diagnostic methods to achieve satisfactory results.Proven ability to read and interpret standard electrical blueprints, schematics, technical drawings, parts books, and service manuals (including specifications).An ability to identify, organize and use resources effectively to complete tasks with due regard to cost, quality, safety, and environmental impact.Acceptable knowledge of underground safety and work execution.Possess a valid Driver's License with Good defensive driving skills.
Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Computer Literac, Hydraulic fault-finding, Mechanical/Electrical skills, Onboard Fire Suppression Systems, Acceptable knowledge and experience of multiple underground machines, Risk Assessment, Logical Thinker	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Risk assessment and safety oriented, Time managementCommunication (English), Able to work in a team concept, Able to share knowledge and skills with local workforceAbility to work in a multi-disciplinary environment.Ability to work under pressure and achieve results.Self-Starter, Organized, Competent, Dependable, Responsible and Committed.

General Information and other requirements:

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

Additional requirement for Nationals:

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

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

Note to Eritrean applicants:

Please send a copy of your application to:

- Aliens Employment permits Affairs,
P. O. Box 7940
Asmara, Eritrea.
- Mineral Resources Management
P. O. Box 272
Asmara, Eritrea



Q and A

“Ich bin,” I Am: “For my Sisters, brothers, Cousins, and all Eritreans to Read my Book in our Mother Tongue has an Incredible Feeling,” Bisrat

Sabrina Solomon

“Ane iye” (I am) is a powerful title. What inspired you to write the book, and why was it essential for you to share your story with the Eritrean community in their native language?

First and foremost, thank you for having me here. It’s such an honor. My parents represent a history that is also the history of many other Eritreans. The reason I wrote the book was to preserve our parents’ legacy. The book is an autobiography of being born in Eritrea during the war, as well as the broader history of Eritrea from colonialism to the present day. This autobiography is also about the freedom

Bisrat Tesfay Negassi is an Eritrean-born fashion designer, author, and cultural curator. Born in Asmara in the early 1970s, she fled with her family to Hamburg, Germany, during her childhood. She pursued a career in fashion design, establishing her label, Negassi, in Paris in 2004. Beyond her fashion career, Bisrat is a co-founder and curator of M.Bassy, a cultural space in Hamburg that showcases artists from Africa and the diaspora. She also serves as the head of the fashion and textiles collection at the Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe (Museum of Art and Industry) in Hamburg. In 2022, she published the book “Ich bin” (I am) in German, which she translated into Tigrinya with the title “Ane iye.” The book launch ceremony, held on March 19, 2025, was for the Tigrinya edition, translated by Engineer Tsegai Teclemichael. In her book, Bisrat explores, with both sensitivity and urgency, the themes of war in Eritrea, migration, and the courageous journey of self-discovery in the face of great adversity.

impossible. We were always asked about our origins because our skin color marked us as different. So, there was racism and all that.

flag, and our people. These songs became my daily soundtracks. Even today, on my way to work, I listen to those songs from that era. The energy and pride of being Eritrean, coupled with our shared experiences and where we are now, is what my book expresses. It’s about the pride of saying, “I am Eritrean,” today.

Your book explores the profound impact of war, migration, and self-discovery. How did the process of translating these deeply personal experiences into Tigrinya affect you emotionally, and did any nuances shift in the translation?

I wrote the book in German, as it was essential to share my story with a German audience. It was published in May 2022 and aimed to share Eritrean history with the diaspora in Germany and other German-speaking countries, such as Switzerland and Austria. It’s time to write our history, by us and for us. I think now is the time. We have a history that must be written and documented.

Emotionally, the German version was crucial for correcting the misrepresentation of our narrative. Translating it into Tigrinya is truly remarkable; I have no words to describe it. My goal is for my sisters, brothers, cousins, and all Eritreans to read it in our mother tongue. It’s an incredible feeling.

Having launched your fashion label, Negassi, in Paris in 2004 and now working with the Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe, how do you see the connection between your work



in fashion and your writing, particularly in conveying stories and cultural identity?

The connection is the artistic aspect. The museum is dedicated to art and craftsmanship, and fashion and writing are also forms of art and craftsmanship. Everything is interconnected and mutually supportive. I love challenges, and currently, the museum is producing exhibitions about fashion, fashion designers, and identity, as fashion is linked to identity. So, everything connects, and I wouldn’t change a thing.

As co-founder of M.Bassy, you’ve created a space for African and diaspora artists. How do you believe literature, like your book, contributes to the broader dialogue about cultural identity and historical narratives within the diaspora?

I co-founded M.Bassy with family members and friends to showcase artists from the diaspora and the continent, ultimately aiming to unite Africans. I hope that one day we can unite and become the strong continent we were meant to be before colonialism disrupted our unity. M.Bassy embodies this. If we want to change the world, we must first change our immediate world. I hope the book inspires others to make changes in their own lives. I believe I am my

creator and control my destiny. I believe that I can achieve anything I want. We say the sky is the limit, but we can go even further. This is the impact I expect from the book.

Your journey from Asmara to Hamburg is a testament to resilience. What message do you have for young Eritreans who are navigating their paths of self-discovery and cultural connection in a globalized world?



Believe in yourself, regardless of your circumstances. There’s always an open door. If one door closes, another opens. I believe in the power of words. If you say you can make it, you will. But

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fighters. Eritrean history is rich with essential stories. We need these stories and this history to understand ourselves, to know who we are and why we’re here, and, in a way, to assert, “I am.”

Growing up in Germany as a refugee was tough. Life can be challenging, but proudly stating, “I am Eritrean,” before 1991 was

However, my connection to my motherland, primarily through art, sustained me. We listened to music on tiny tapes sung by Eritrean freedom fighters, which was one of the best experiences of my life. We received these tapes and heard legendary artists like Fihira singing about our land, our country, our freedom fighters, our

