



## PRESIDENT ISAIAS RETURNS HOME CONCLUDING WORKING VISIT TO UAE

President Isaias Afwerki returned to Asmara on 19 December after concluding a two-day working visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

During his visit, President Isaias Afwerki held talks with Sheik Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahya, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, on the progress and strengthening of bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries.

## MEETING ON EMPOWERING WOMEN

The Central Committee of the National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW) conducted a two-day meeting from 17 to 18 December to discuss programs designed to develop the socio-economic capacity of women and enhance their participation in political activities.

Noting the growing significance of women's awareness and organizational capacity as peace unfolds across the region, Ms. Tekea Tesfamicael, President of the NUEW, said that during 2019 particular attention will be given to

empowering women in all sectors.

At the meeting, in which heads of regional unions from inside the country and abroad took part, reports on activities during the past year were presented. Activities included efforts to increase the participation of women in education, encourage pregnant women to use health facilities, and extend financial and material support to disadvantaged women and families of martyrs.

The meeting also adopted a program for 2019.



## INAUGURATION OF ADI MUSA WATER PROJECT



A potable water project in Adi Musa, Berik sub-zone was inaugurated on 20 December. The project is worth 2 million Nakfa.

At the inauguration ceremony, Director General of Water Resources in the Ministry of Land, Water and Environment, Mr. Mebrahtu Iyasu, commended local residents for the participation during the establishment of the project and he called on them to properly use and maintain the facilities in order to ensure its availability for future generations.

Mr. Hailemichael Iyob, Director General of Agriculture and Land at the Central region administration, added that the project was implemented through the cooperation of the regional administration, the Ministry of Land, Water and Environment, and local residents.

Underlining that water is life and demands proper management, Mr. Tesfu Feshatsion, administrator of Berik sub-zone, called residents to properly utilize and manage the water project.

Notably, local residents, and women in particular, expressed their satisfaction with the project, noting that it will help alleviate their challenges and burdens, while also conveying their commitment to ensure that the project is properly maintained.

## ACTIVITIES BY ERITREAN NATIONALS ABROAD

Eritrean nationals in Scandinavia and Austria have conducted various activities aimed at increasing participation in national development drives.

According to reports, the Eritrean Embassy in Scandinavia organized a discussion forum focusing on the progress of the peace agreement between Eritrea and Ethiopia, as well as the lifting of sanctions that were unjustly imposed on Eritrea. The forum was attended by representatives of Eritrean communities from across Scandinavia, officials from

the Foreign Ministry of Sweden, members of African embassies in Sweden, and Eritrean friends and journalists.

Speaking at the occasion, Mr. Yonas Manna, Charge d'Affairs at the Eritrean Embassy in the Scandinavia, said that the new era of peace and cooperation in the Horn of Africa is the result of the perseverance and commitment of the people and Government of Eritrea. He added that the peace and cooperation agreement between Eritrea and Ethiopia will significantly contribute to stability

and development in the region.

Similarly, the Eritrean community in Austria participated in the International Bazaar, which was held in Vienna on 16 December. Participants showcased Eritrea's tourism resources, historical heritage, unique culture, aspects of local ethnolinguistic groups, and traditional foods.

The International Bazaar featured participants from over 70 countries and had approximately 20,000 visitors.



# Development

## “Every Report Counts: Vigilance Saves Lives” – An Inside Look at the Fifth Annual Pharmacovigilance Conference

*Kesete Gebrehiwet*

Increasing awareness about the safety of drugs, sharing information about the adverse effects of medicines, and ensuring health through the appropriate use of medicines is the main mandate of the Eritrean National Pharmacovigilance Center (NPC). The initiation of Pharmacovigilance (PV) in Eritrea in 2012 heralded a new era of healthcare advancement in the country. The achievements registered since then are highly impressive. Eritrea's progress in PV has attracted the attention of international observers, including the Uppsala Monitoring Center (UMC). In fact, Eritrea was invited to share its experiences, along with the Netherlands and Peru, during events held to celebrate the UMC's 40th anniversary on May 17-18 in Uppsala, Sweden. Despite its considerable progress in PV, Eritrea remains committed to improvement and it recently held its Fifth Annual Pharmacovigilance Conference. The conference featured an array of activities, including the presenting of research papers on various topics, “rapid-fire” talks, and panel and group discussions.

Discussions were about a range of topics, including critical issues that may pose a threat to the country's provision of healthcare. The “rapid-fire” talks, which were a series of five minute long



*Mr. Eyasu Bahta*

presentations, dealt with steps that need to be considered in the future and strategic planning. Other important topics raised during the discussions and talks include: the use and potentially adverse effects of medicine; TB, malaria, and various infections; and challenges associated with the provision of healthcare and potential remedies.

The Fifth Annual PV Conference, which was conducted under the theme “Every Report Counts: Vigilance Saves Lives”, sheds light on the need for timely and complete ADRs reports and the significant role played by reporters in detecting and addressing ADRs. As has become tradition during the annual PV conferences, awards were also presented to vigilant reporters who were able to bring suspected cases of ADRs to the NPC. Notably, Dr. Abiel Abraham from Agordat Hospital received the award for the “best promoter.”

Mr. Eyasu Bahta, Director of the National Medicines and Food Administration in the Ministry of Health, helped to officially open the conference. During his opening remarks, he commended all healthcare professionals for their commitment and dedication to improving PV in the country. Subsequently, he highlighted some of the strategies that Eritrea has employed as it has made impressive progress in PV. He also discussed how annual vigilance awards can motivate reporters on Adverse Drug Reactions (ADRs), the importance of a collaborative approach to addressing ADRs, possible mechanisms to enhance drug safety monitoring, and how to build on past success in PV. Mr. Mulugeta Russom, head of Eritrea's NPC, also addressed the conference participants, which numbered over 210 people from across the country. Mr. Mulugeta's comments broadly outlined the

main objectives of the conference.

Notably, most conference participants are positive community role models and very successful in their line of work. They are expected to share their research findings and experiences with their colleagues and help improve healthcare in the country.

Eritrea's progress in PV during the past six years has made it one of the top performing countries in Africa. Although Eritrea started PV relatively late (in 2012, to be specific), it has been able to register impressive progress due to the multifaceted efforts of the NPC. As well, it has integrated PV into its national public health framework. Mr. Mulugeta mentioned that Eritrea's regulatory framework for ADRs is in a relatively good state and that the country has been able to considerably improve due to a number of factors, including the diligence and commitment of healthcare workers and important

Amodiaquine(ASAQ)”, by Ms. Selam Mihreteab, National Malaria Control Program Manager; “Rantitidine and Cardiac Arrest”, by Amon Solomon, MD, Ghindae Regional Referral Hospital; “Pharmacovigilance in Pediatrics”, by Ariam Mebrahtu, MD, Ghindae Regional Referral Hospital; “PV Training and Education in the Curriculum”, by Dawit Tesfai, Orotta College of Medicines and Health Sciences; “The Value of Single-case Reports in PV”, by Mulugeta Russom, head of the Eritrean NPC; and “Future Strategic Direction of PV in Eritrea”, by Eyasu Bahta, Director of National Medicines and Food Administration.

Mr. Mulugeta indicated that single-case reports are very important for risk identification, particularly when well-documented and adequately assessed. He also went on to say that many of the safety signals identified in the NPC



*Mr. Mulugeta Russom*

series of key steps will be taken in the future to maintain Eritrea's momentum and help it to continue to improve PV in the country.

An important part of the conference was the group discussions. These discussions led to a number of significant recommendations, including the need to strengthen communications between physicians and the drug administration branch, the need for greater accountability from



research that has been conducted by the NPC. “We are now better able to prevent ADRs and related challenges,” Mr. Mulugeta asserted.

The “rapid-fire” talks were highly insightful. They included important information about ADRs and how to build upon past PV success. Another highlight of the conference was the research presentations. Over the years, the quantity and quality of reports sent to the NPC has noticeably increased.

Some interesting research papers presented at the conference include: “Risk management of Artesunate/

are triggered by a single report and that they have saved many lives.

Mr. Eyasu Bahta revealed that since the establishment of the NPC in 2012, several issues regarding safety have been identified. Notably, these issues led to a number of regulatory actions, including product labeling changes, market withdrawals, dosage amendments, risk minimization strategies, and post-authorization safety studies, among other important steps.

While Eritrea has made considerable progress in a short time period, questions remain about its future direction in terms of PV. According to Mr. Eyasu, a

drug manufacturing companies, reinforcing actions by regulators to reduce the risks associated with ADRs.

The Fifth Annual Pharmacovigilance Conference, conducted under the theme, “Every Report Counts: Vigilance Saves Lives”, was a remarkable success. Over the years, Eritrea has proven that even a single report of an ADR is important. As put by many participants of the conference, “Working together we can make a difference,” collaborative efforts of healthcare professionals, communities and policy makers will take the country's success to new heights of achievement.

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## ERITREA in Mainstream Media

# Eritrea's Experience and State Craft Key to Peace in the Horn

*Sophia Tesfamariam*

These are time of rapid, breath-taking, developments in the Horn of Africa region. The changes have bewildered analysts who have been pontificating about the Horn for decades, only to get it all wrong ... over and over again.

Analysis predicated on faulty scholarship and distorted premises about the nations that make up the Horn and its peoples contributed to the misperceptions about the region. A shallow and poor understanding of the peoples' cultural and historical ties contributed to the confusion and persistent narratives- and the policies crafted for the region. Peace remains a prerequisite for the nations to thrive, prosper and control their own destinies; but it has remained elusive for many regions of our world today.

After decades of conflict and destruction, the Horn of Africa is changing and peace is taking root. But analysts and journalists are still falling all over each other and the facts, to try to explain how that came about, how the Horn's leaders decided to eliminate war as a legitimate tool of statecraft. There are also the conflict entrepreneurs in the region that have not accepted the change, or are not happy that the change is not what they were seeking. As it happens, the negative attitudes and misinformation campaigns persist. There is a desperate need for change in the normative discourse about peace and development and in the case of Eritrea, an almost overhaul of the existing scholarship. Eritrea has defied the odds and changed the Horn region one more time. What is needed is a sober and contextualized historical understanding of Eritrea. Understanding the new peace in the region requires deeper and nuanced scholarship than what is available for policy crafters. Discounting Eritrea's role in the region once again, will be a strategic mistake.

But not all scholarship on peace is the same. In this respect, Charles A. Kupchan, a professor of international affairs at Georgetown University and senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, who has served on the National Security Council in the Clinton Administration, proffers a different take on peace making. He challenges conventional wisdom on how peace is sustained in his seminal book, "How Enemies Become Friends", where he painstakingly analyzes peacemaking

in international history and the many historical successes and failures. He provides critical insights for building lasting peace and exposes prevalent myths about the causes of peace.

For brevity's sakes, the author will outline Kupchan's 4-phase process for settling outstanding grievances, dampen geopolitical competition, and succeed in constructing a "zone of peace":

**Phase 1: Rapprochement- an opening gambit intended to signal benign as opposed to hostile intent.**

**Phase 2: The practice of reciprocal restraint. The states in question trade concessions, each cautiously stepping away from rivalry as it entertains the prospect that geopolitical competition may give way to programmatic cooperation.**

**Phase 3: Deepening of societal integration between the partner states. Transactions between the parties increase in frequency and intensity, resulting in more extensive contacts among governing officials, private-sector elites, and ordinary citizens. Interest groups that benefit from closer relations begin to invest in and lobby for the further reduction of economic and political barriers, adding momentum to the process of reconciliation.**

**Phase 4: The generation of new narratives and identities. Through official statements, popular culture (media, literature, and theater), the states embrace a new domestic discourse that alters the image they possess of the other.**

The peace declarations between Eritrea and Ethiopia; the tripartite agreement between Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia; and, peace talks between Eritrea and Djibouti have changed the atmosphere in the Horn from one of mistrust to one of trust, to partnership as opposed to brinkmanship, and to economic cooperation and integration, over political competition. As we have seen in the last 20 years, peace can prevail only when there is genuine dialogue - not intimidation and intransigence. Peace comes when parties to a dispute respect agreements signed and when there is a show of genuine good will. Kupchan reminds us that:

**"...The great geopolitical breakthroughs of recent decades**



**came not when one side coerced the other into submission, but through bold diplomatic gambits..."**

With the removal of the belligerent minority TPLF regime in Ethiopia, the Horn has embarked on a path to sustainable peace.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed pledged to accept and implement the Algiers Agreement between Eritrea and Ethiopia in full, bringing an end to the 20 year long deadlock. The previous regime's intransigence and refusal to accept the Eritrea Ethiopia Boundary Commission's final and binding delimitation and demarcation decisions and its belligerence towards Eritrea contributed to the hostility that lingered since. Some analysts and journalists are discounting the sustainability of the developments in the region citing inequality in the political systems in the region.

Ethiopia was said to be "democratic" and its leaders hailed because the TPLF regime held elections (albeit sham ones). But its ethnic based governance structures proved weak and contributed to the marginalization of populations that led to deadly conflicts that resulted in the deaths of thousands, displacement of millions, and threatened to engulf the entire country. PM Abiy Ahmed inherited an Ethiopia that was threatening to implode. The international community's appeasement of the TPLF regime, the diplomatic, political, and military support and shield it received emboldened it to violate international law and the sovereign rights of neighboring states.

Eritrea has been maligned and

labeled "undemocratic" for not "conducting elections" since 1997. There are many cogent and well-known external reasons why the process was derailed and delayed. These will not be addressed in this sitting, and have been raised only to illustrate a point. The fact is Eritrea remains the most stable country in the region because its governance structures, from the village level to the national level, are rooted in the country's strong social and political institutions. Kupchan says that while democracy is a clear concept which can be introduced and adopted by states, "good governance is vaguer and not as easily transferable", and it is not something that can be delivered by external agencies.

Strong, reliable, responsive and incorruptible governance structures are key to any political system. The Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), the "highest organizational expression "of the Eritrean people's dreams and aspirations is the stabilizing linchpin of independent Eritrea's political system and is the product of Eritrea's long history of resilience. The EPLF-now the Peoples Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ) is an organization with legitimacy and broadly based support in Eritrean society and has proven to be vital in the ongoing nation building process. Eritrea's stable governance structures have kept the nation intact and thriving despite the seemingly insurmountable challenges that the new nation faced post-independence.

For all the difficulties it has faced, Somalia has the resilience, talent and natural resources to shape a better future. The TPLF regime used the

"Global War on Terror" to advance its strategy of destabilization, and to settle accounts with Somalia, under the pretext of combating terrorism. Sustained foreign intervention and the deliberate fragmentation of the country into fiefdoms, enclaves and tribal territories have contributed to weakening of Somalia's governance structures and destruction of its institutions. But today, Somalia, under the leadership of President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed is rebuilding its governance structures and is ready to embark on a new trajectory, making it a reliable partner for peace and prosperity in the region.

Contrary to popular opinion, a regime's behavior indicates better than its type, its potential as a partner for peace. Kupchan says peace is created through the actions and interactions of statesmen; its key ingredient is diplomacy. Diplomacy, including public diplomacy, not economic interdependence, is the currency of peace. States should deal with other states based on their foreign policy behavior rather than on their political systems and in the case of the United States, its strategic interests in the Horn region will be advanced only when it respects the political systems and institutions of the states that make up the region and stops interfering in their internal affairs.

Peaceful international relations are easier to achieve with a stable, predictable, and credible state that other nations can rely on... The Horn of Africa recognizes Eritrea's credibility and statecraft, defined by its principled values and consistency.



# Eritrea vs. South Sudan: A Match to Remember

*Ellen Haile*

Last Sunday, the Cicero Stadium, in Asmara, was abuzz with energy. The reason was that the youth national football teams of Eritrea and South Sudan were playing a friendly match. Although I am not much of an athlete, I always enjoy attending sporting events back home, in the US. Sports are a great way to enjoy friendly competition and feel involved with something bigger than you. Additionally, I was quite interested in seeing how sports (specifically, things like audience participation, sportsmanship between players, etc.) could potentially differ across different ends of the world.

I decided to go to the game with my younger cousin who dreams of being the next Lionel Messi. Although language is a huge barrier for us both and I don't know much about football (it's far less popular in the US), I figured that my cousin could help me get the drift and that it would be more of a heightened experience to go with a true fan. We arrived pretty early, since my cousin was convinced that the stadium would be packed hours in advance of the game. He was right; although the friendly wasn't supposed to start until 4pm, the Cicero Stadium was filled by 2pm. Excited fans were on their cellphones, urgently advising their friends to hurry up and arrive before all the good seats were taken. People of all ages quickly began filling up the stadium. These demographics were easily noticeable because not many females were in attendance. When I pointed this out to my cousin, he was surprised, mentioning that he thought there were more women at the game than what he was typically used to seeing at other football matches. The ratio could also be due to the anticipation of witnessing an international match.

Within five minutes of the first half, Eritrea scored the first goal of the match. The goal, unsurprisingly, was met by deafening cheers. What a great way to kick-off the game – literally! Looking around, I noticed that the majority of fans were standing up, screaming and dancing with praise. I happened to be sitting in front of fans who came to the stadium with blow horns who were intent on using them throughout the match – goal or no goal. Although I thought myself to be sitting in an unlucky spot, my cousin admonished me to relax and get in the spirit of the game. He was right; no one else seemed to be annoyed with the ruckus. Instead,

towards the players, clapping along with the blow horns, even standing up to get a better view of the game. Although I didn't know any of the players or what their specific positions or roles were, I was keen enough to recognize when the Eritrean team made a goal – and that's all that really mattered to me!

Eritrea was able to monopolize possession of the ball throughout the first half of the match. This, in addition to the Eritreans' skills, raised the spirits – and the adrenaline – of the crowd. While both teams were committed to winning and exhibited aggression,



In the hours and days following the match, my cousin would later

that they had seen enough and left the stadium in hordes, with their spirits high. My cousin and I lagged behind, attempting to enjoy the dwindling seconds left in the game. On our way home, my cousin asked me repeatedly if I enjoyed the match. I was slightly taken aback. "Of course! I'm so happy I went with you," I assured him. Later that evening, we shared play by plays of the match with the rest of our family members, who seemed to be more interested and pleased with the fact that my younger cousin and I truly connected and became closer over this event.

Yes, it's true that sports can play a role in development and peace between and within nations. However, what's more is that sports can also help solidify familial relationships. Through showing curiosity in my cousin's favorite sport and hobby, I've now developed an interest in football, as well, which will only help to foster our relationship. This match symbolized the cultural significance of football in Eritrea, especially with the youth. A game that unified many football fans, allowed me the opportunity to develop a closer bond with my favorite cousin. Last Sunday evening definitely a night to remember!



everyone seemed to encourage and revel in it, laughing whenever the blow horns went off.

Eventually, I realized that in order to amplify my first live football experience in Asmara, I really needed to loosen up. Following my cousin's lead, I began directing shouts of support

the game was played with a high level of sportsmanship and fair play. Remarkably, Eritrea's players never appeared to be tired, which catalyzed more fan involvement. People were screaming supportive instructions to the players, confident that their voice would be the one heard over hundreds. The smell of Areki wafted past, reflecting just how much the fans were enjoying the occasion. At this point, the audience was so entertaining to me that I found myself paying more attention to what the fans were doing than the actual players on the field.

When the second half of the game commenced, Eritrea scored a second goal, which effectively put the final result beyond doubt. To celebrate, the team performed a dance in front of all of their fans.

demonstrate this dance for me over and over...and over. In the late stages of the match, Eritrea scored their third goal of the game, bringing everyone to their feet for another round of booming cheers, dances, and blow horns.

With less than two minutes on the clock, some fans decided



## SpotLight

# Fact and Fiction, Reality and Image

**Dr. Fikrejesus Amahazion**

Earlier this year, the new Ethiopian Prime Minister, Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Africa's youngest leader and the first Ethiopian prime minister from the country's largest ethnic group, the Oromo, took office on the back of years of massive and widespread anti-government protests. Since assuming power on 2 April, Dr. Abiy has led an intense, far-reaching government crackdown on alleged corruption and gross human rights violations, leading to countless high-profile arrests of leading military, intelligence, and business figures.

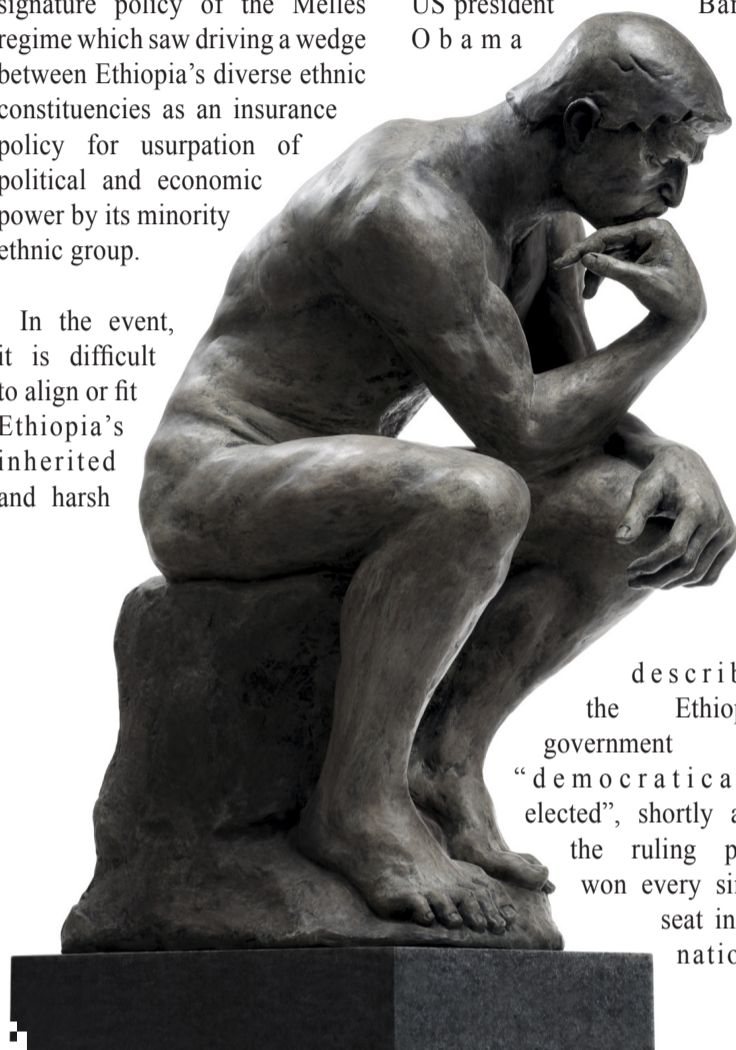
During recent weeks and months, there has been a spate of arrests linked to allegations of massive corruption by the large military-run industrial conglomerate, the Metals and Engineering Company (Metec), while many officials were also arrested and charged with an array of shocking allegations including torture and rape. As well, an arrest warrant has been issued for Getachew Assefa, the former head of national intelligence, who is presumed to be in hiding. Significantly, the Secretary-General of the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), Jürgen Stock, recently announced that the organization would cooperate with Ethiopia in bringing fugitives to justice.

In addition to these developments, over the past several months the country has experienced an outbreak of ethnic-related violence and killings. Several weeks ago, the Ethiopian government was forced to deploy its federal forces to secure and stabilize parts of the country rocked by deadly violence. Of note, the violence and insecurity has led to large-scale displacement in different regions of the country. By mid-September, Ethiopia's internally displaced population was estimated to be over 2.8 million, up from approximately 1.6 million at the beginning of the year, according to figures released by the United Nations.

The recent ethnic flare-up is the legacy and inevitable byproduct of willful policy of ethnic polarization and institutionalization enunciated by the TPLF-dominated previous

regime. This was in fact the signature policy of the Melles regime which saw driving a wedge between Ethiopia's diverse ethnic constituencies as an insurance policy for usurpation of political and economic power by its minority ethnic group.

In the event, it is difficult to align or fit Ethiopia's inherited and harsh



2015 visit to the country, former US president Barack Obama

described the Ethiopian government as "democratically elected", shortly after the ruling party won every single seat in the national

challenges with the rosy, glowing image of the country that had been widely promoted for so long. For years, Africa's second-most populous country was heralded by many international analysts, experts, and observers as a "development darling", an oasis of stability, and a poster child for successful development. It received billions in financial assistance and unquestioning international political and diplomatic support, while its leaders were invited to high-level meetings and conferences. A 2013 report by former British Prime Minister Tony Blair's Africa Governance Initiative praised the Ethiopian government as an "accountable leadership," while Britain's Department for International Development even proudly stated that it had "a strong commitment to fight corruption."

Additionally, many within the international development establishment admiringly branded Ethiopia as the African "lion" – inspired by the "tigers" label which had previously been applied to the rapidly-developing countries of East Asia – for its rapid economic growth. It is also very hard to forget how, during a

parliament following elections where it brazenly used authoritarian tactics to secure victory, including intimidation, killings, widespread arrests, and violently breaking up opposition rallies.

However, as has become so abundantly clear in recent years, months, and weeks, the gaps and discrepancies between fact and fiction, objective reality and airbrushed image, are huge. As the new bold Ethiopian prime minister works to implement broad changes and dramatic reforms, for which he has received much global and domestic praise (albeit resistance from the TPLF old guard), one may be forgiven for scratching their head in utter bewilderment and asking: if Ethiopia really had been all that it was made out to be by so many international observers and analysts, would all of these reforms and changes that are currently being implemented and pursued have been required? Simply, the massive overhaul that has been taking place has been necessary because so much of the former government and military apparatus and establishment were broken beyond repair and rotten to their fundamental core. Do not forget how Hailemariam

Desalegn, who preceded Dr. Abiy as Ethiopia's leader, acknowledged the need for fundamental reforms in his letter and televised address announcing his resignation in February. The current situation is one that mocks years of experts' analyses and starkly confounds supposedly informed prognostications for the country and region.

Observing the unfolding events, a number of other interesting questions arise. For example, were all those observers, experts, and analysts who narrated the shining story of Ethiopia – an account which has now been revealed to be full of glaring holes – just ignorant to the objective realities of the country or did they instead simply choose to ignore and whitewash the country's considerable problems in order to continue business as usual? While many are expressing shock and dismay as past abuses and corruption are coming to light (although they were no secret to locals), why were no oversights put in place or questions raised as the arms and assistance were being delivered? As the international development establishment tirelessly polished Ethiopia's image and lavished praise for its growth, why were there no considerations about the platform for that growth or regarding the destabilizing official policies of ethnic polarization and exclusion?

After the 2008 global financial crash, Britain's Queen Elizabeth memorably asked, "Why did no one see it coming?" In similar fashion to Her Majesty, one could also ask why or how none of the regional experts, pundits, and analysts that were granted so much media coverage over the years not see what was coming in Ethiopia? It is worth noting that a number of observers (including this author), in fact, did point out the considerable possibility for "trouble" on the horizon for the country. However, their analyses and observations were regularly dismissed, rarely given a second look or modicum of consideration, and occasionally even ridiculed. At times, it seemed almost like a taboo to question the narrative and image of Ethiopia that was being promoted by large segments of the international development establishment, many of the

country's Western political allies, and the majority of the mainstream media. Remarkably, despite being completely blindsided by the recent events – which totally flew in the face of their prognostications for the region – the pundit class is now busily explaining those events to us.

It was interesting and rather quite ironic to see Tony Blair recently meeting with PM Abiy in Ethiopia, particularly since Blair had forged extremely close links to the repressive former Ethiopian leader Meles Zenawi (who he appointed to his Africa Commission) and, after ending his premiership in 2007, served in an opaque "advisory role" to the former regime – which Abiy and the Ethiopian people have been dismantling. The moral burden of history requires a more direct and far more candid acknowledgment of the role played by the international community – the pundit class, global partners, international institutions, and others – in the years of misrule and abuses by the former regime. Nobody who legitimately claims to be a defender of great ideals and virtues, such as peace, international law, or justice, can possibly justify silence (if not outright complicity and support) during the coordinated and pure assault on those virtues and ideals by the former regime.

The breathtaking events of recent years and weeks should serve as a useful reminder for us all to be highly circumspect and remain vigilant whenever considering the opinions of so-called experts, analysts, and pundits. Rather than passively accepting everything that we read or are told, we should think critically and analyze everything. Instead of simply trusting, we should be skeptical and look to verify. Additionally, it is important that we demand greater accountability from the experts and analysts, who can continue to pontificate with an air of expertise because they are never held accountable for being wrong. Last, the events that have unfolded in the Horn of Africa during the past several months should also prompt self-reflection, self-criticism, introspection, and humility on the part of those who attempt to "explain" the region to us.



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# VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Position- Occupational Health Nurse  
Department – Employee Services –Medical service  
Number required - One (01)  
Contract Type - Indefinite

PRIMARY PURPOSE

- Patient care
- Work on shift bases
- Perform medical examination of patients according to symptoms described.
- Conduct full medical examinations for pre-employment”, as well as periodic medicals for all employees.
- On call emergency response.

TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS

- Patient Care
- Take Patient medical history
  - Perform physical Examination
  - Request laboratory tests
  - Treat patient, if required consult Doctor
  - Follow up on patient’s as required
  - Participate in all mine clinic activities
- Document work related accidents for insurance
- Record details of accident on specific form. Keep copy of form.
  - Send form to Human Resource Department.
- Admission of patients
- Assess vital sign of patient
  - Provide necessary nursing care.
  - Consult Doctor
- Maintain sanitization of medical equipment.
- Weekly Clinic scrubbing
- Escorting referral patient via ambulance to Asmara
- Assist in ensuring patient is stable
  - Complete necessary documentation
  - Ensure all necessary medical equipment and supplies/medicine are available for the trip
  - Travel with patient on ambulance, monitoring condition.
  - Administer Doctor’s order while transporting
  - Give Report of the trip
- Preparation of Medical equipment and supplies
- Preparing medical dressing materials for patients as required.
  - Prepare antiseptics as required.
  - Check equipment on a daily basis
- Report Writing

- Compile weekly activity reports for Supervisor & Superintendent
- Complete other reports as requested.

Qualifications
Diploma/Degree in Nursing
Registered with the Ministry of Health
Currently working as a Clinical Nurse
Knowledge and Experience
3 years' experience as clinic nurse

Technical Skills.	Behavioral skills
Computer skills (Microsoft )	Communication – Good English / local language
Experience in Health Centre recommended	Interpersonal Relations and Team player
Safety aware	Ability to work towards strict deadlines

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.

ADS



**Hotel Asmara Palace**  
Graceful Hospitality in the heart of the city

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**La Fontana**  
**Monday, 24th of December, 2018**  
420 NKF per person  
Our chef de cuisine will serve you a unique dinner buffet.  
\*Inclusive of free entrance to green pub  
\*50% for kids between 3 and 10 years of age.  
**Tuesday 25th of December, 2018**  
390 NKF per person  
Dinner buffet 7:00-11:00 Pm with traditional Christmas specialities.  
\*50% for kids between 3 and 10 years of age  
**Monday 31st December, 2018**  
440 NKF per person  
Enjoy an exquisite buffet amongst extravagant decorations in a feast of culinary delights.  
\*Inclusive of free entrance to green pub  
\*50% for kids between 3 and 10 years of age  
\*Limited seats only\*  
**Tuesday 1st January, 2019**  
390 NKF per person  
A fabulous dinner buffet with family and friends.  
\*50% for kids between 3 and 10 years of age

**La Trattoria**  
**Monday, 24th of December, 2018**  
340 NKF per person  
Executive Chef and his team have prepared a delectable Christmas menu showcasing all the elements of what a true Italian Christmas dinner should embrace.  
Discover an authentic festive experience at La Trattoria, all accompanied by live entertainment throughout the evening.  
\* Inclusive of free entrance to green pub  
\* Limited seats only -  
**Tuesday 25th of December, 2018**  
Enjoy a memorable evening with family and friends with A La cart menu available.

**Monday 31st December, 2018**  
**479 NKF per person**  
A spectacular array of mouth-watering set menu Dinner, served with complementary Glass of Orange Sorbet.  
Live tunes by our band surround this splendid evening.  
\* Inclusive of free entrance to green pub  
\* Limited seats only -  
**Tuesday 1st January, 2019**  
A la carte menu is available.

**Green Pub**  
**Monday 24th of December, 2018**  
On Christmas' eve, swing and sway to the rhythm of the night with our resident DJ.  
**Tuesday 31st of December, 2018**  
Entrance fee 100 NKF per person and 150 NKF per couples.  
Dance the night away with our DJ as he takes you towards the stroke of midnight.

**Pool Bar**  
**Tuesday 25th of December, 2018**  
**On Christmas day: SWIM & EAT** in pool bar area  
430 NKF per person  
Enjoy the new Promo "SWIM & EAT" with plenty of entertainments and fun activities for children from all age plus a jolly visit from Santa as well as Christmas music throughout the afternoon.

**Salon Keren**  
479 ERN per person  
New Year's Eve at "Salon Keren"  
Bid a fond farewell to 2018 and ring in the New Year, 2019 at Salon Keren with our special Dinner Buffet & live band.  
New Year's Eve is from 8:00 pm onwards with

**\*VALUABLE PRIZES FROM AIRLINES**  
**Entrance**  
200 NKF per person  
N.B: Advanced ticket sales available  
Drinks are not included in the price

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## Haben Girmay: Highlighting . . .

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good about that. It can damage your skin, cause severe acne, and even lead to cancer. Natural things work better for our skin – it just takes time. Unfortunately, people just want rapid results through chemical creams. This is not something that I advise. I have many videos talking about how natural products can remove pimples and melisma. For example, a potato mask is one of the best ways to remove melisma. It has natural enzymes and a natural “bleaching” agent that

can remove dark spots.

People think that make-up messes up your skin. However, this is not the case if you do it well and cleanse your skin afterwards. Of course, you also don't have to wear it every day. When applied properly, make-up is a form of art that brings out any part of your face.

*Thank you for your time! Anything you'd like to add at the end?*

First of all, thank you for interviewing me.

Concerning the future, I was going to launch my skincare line this year, but there were other things to be done first – like getting married! In fact, I am here to get married in January to Abisalom Yohhanes. I am going to launch my skincare line next year. I also have plans to open my own beauty salon, but I am going to focus on skin first.

Also, I want to tell all the girls: you have so much power. Guys can sometimes try to make us feel like we are weak, but we are powerful. You can be anything that you want to be. Just because you are female, you should

not feel that you cannot certain things. Don't underestimate yourself. Whatever you love, whatever your passion is, you should follow it. The sky is the limit, you can do whatever you want but when you are doing it make sure it makes you happy.

**Editor's note: keep up with the latest from Ms. Haben Girmay's on:**

Instagram: @\_Habibi\_9  
YouTube: ShikorinaByHabi  
Facebook: Haben Girmay



# Haben Girmay: Highlighting East African Beauty

**“Fear is what stops people from becoming great” – Haben Girmay**

Asmait Futsumbarhan

**Welcome to our Q and A, Ms. Haben! When did you start to develop an interest for skincare and cosmetics?**

Well, it all started with my art background, which I inherited got from my dad. Painting and drawing were my passion when I was a kid. So, it wasn't a surprise when I began to develop an interest for make-up around when I turned 14. Cosmetics is a form of art that lets you be creative with mixing colors and complexions. With time, I also became interested in skincare. Having a healthy, clear skin is one of the fundamental subjects in make-up. One can put much make-up on skin, but on great skin it looks much better.

To be professional at what you do, you need to be certified and knowledgeable. That is why I focused on skincare in school and became a licensed esthetician skincare specialist. My motive was to understand skincare and then make-up. From working on my own face, I went on to putting makeup on my family. However, it is when I got to the age of 17 that I began to think about it professionally. I went to a makeup school to get my certificate which wasn't that difficult for me since I already had the rudiments.

**Being an esthetician and skincare specialist...**

Well, it deals with skin and everything to do with it. Our classes encompassed a number of topics, including how to properly cleanse the skin and keep it healthy, as well as a bit about dermatology issues, such as acne, pimples, and melisma and different ways to treat them. We also learned how to properly wax the skin.

**As you began working on strangers for the first time, were you scared, given how young you were?**

No, I wasn't. I had the confidence that I knew what I was doing. I believe that fear is what stops people from becoming great. Anyone can apply make-up, but it is important to be professional

Born with a love for art, she mixed colors on the canvas when she was young. It wasn't long before she turned her passion to mixing colors on her face and then those of her family and friends. Eventually, after studying skincare, she would go on to becoming a highly successful professional make-up artist. Haben Girmay turned her dreams into reality and spreads the message that the sky is the limit. Currently, she is highly popular on social media, both for her lessons on make-up and her inspiring motivational videos.

Today, Q and A is excited to introduce our readers to professional make-up artist and licensed esthetician, Ms. Haben Girmay.

at what you do. You have to understand the basics. However, it can also be challenging, since people have different eye and face shapes. Of course, at times, I have to deal with “bridezillas”, who can be unbearable. But I guess that is the nature of the job and I have to remember to be professional.

To be a professional make-up artist also costs me a lot of money. Nonetheless, I have to invest significant amounts of money in order to get quality outcomes. In the make-up art industry, you want people to recognize you for the quality of your work. That is how you can be successful. So, yes, it can be financially challenging for people to do well in the field.

**You are quite popular on social media, as well. Could you tell us a**



**little about that?**

I had no plans to go on YouTube, since it can require a lot of work at the beginning. However, I was encouraged to do so by my close friends. They suggested that I start a channel in my language, Tigrigna, since it would be the first of its kind. For a long time, Ethiopian make-up artists have been publishing videos

in their various languages. Yet, there were none by Eritreans. So I went in and invested in good camera and lighting products. I did my first video in English which people liked, but it wasn't attracting the people that I needed for my audience.

My idea was to do videos which could be helpful to Eritreans and allow them to better understand skincare and the healthy use of make-up. An East African person can view videos published by people from other parts of the world, such as North America or Europe, but those people talk about their own skin. We have a different kind of complexion and hair texture. For that reason, I started putting together videos which could help Eritreans. Personally, since I was already doing it professionally, I thought, why not help out others?

In fact, the last time that I checked, I had about 35,000 followers on YouTube and 15,600 on Instagram.

**Your videos are entertaining and educational at the same time....**

Thanks. I'd like to believe that I'm friendly and social. By the way, I don't only talk about things related to beauty in my videos. I also have morning segments where I talk about positivity, confidence, and motivation. I try to motivate and encourage people to be positive and let go of negative things. I try to reassure them to move on and stay positive. I also try to incorporate some funny things in my videos. Ultimately, I just hope that I can make people smile while also being informative.

**Would you please share some tips about skincare and make-up with our readers?**

Sure. Well, everyone should understand that water is the key to having healthy skin. If you have the habit of eating greasy and sugary foods, it can show on your skin, particularly with pimples and oily skin. Similarly, if your body consists of high calcium, your hair tends to be dry and fall off. Thus, drinking a lot of water throughout the day is one of the keys to having a healthy body and great skin and hair.

In terms of make-up, one of the common mistakes that I see is the mismatch of foundations. With a darker skin, people tend to wear a lighter foundation, which makes their skin look ashy. I have also seen it with people with much darker eyebrows, who should, in fact, be using dark brown eyebrows in order to make it look realistic.

My advice is that less is more. Make-up should look natural. Also, there is something I would like to stress. I have seen many Eritrean females use chemicals to brighten their skin color. There is nothing



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