



WORKSHOP TO PREVENT POLLUTION AND DEVASTATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT



The Ministry of Land, Water, and Environment organized a workshop in Mendefera with the goal to reducing pollution and the depletion of natural resources.

An extensive briefing was given during the workshop, covering a number of topics including the environmental situation in Eritrea generally and in the Southern Region specifically, the environmental impact of developmental projects, waste management guidelines, guidelines for the establishment and management of reserved lands, land proclamation and legal notice, land management experience in the Southern Region, land proclamation regulations and guidelines, and

current water management in the Region, among other things.

Additionally, it was claimed that while Eritrea does not have excessive pollution, there are cases when it is being detected, and calls have been made to use land wisely and adhere to regulations in order to prevent pollution and the depletion of natural resources.

The governor of the Southern region, Mr. Habteab Tesfatsion, also provided a thorough briefing on the initiatives being undertaken in the area with regard to land, water, and the environment in addition to cadastral mapping, stating that the workshop will play a major role in fostering

a shared understanding of the matter.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Tesfay Gebreselasie, Minister of Land, Water, and Environment, stated that everyone in society has a responsibility to preserve the environment and manage land properly. He noted that the workshop's goal was to foster a shared understanding on these problems.

ERITREAN COMMUNITY FESTIVAL IN QATAR

The Eritrean community festival in Qatar has commenced on 19 December, in Doha, graced by the presence of the Head of the Organizational Affairs of the PFDJ, Mr. Yousuf Saiq.

At the opening ceremony, a number of Ambassadors, members of the diplomatic community as well as nationals and friends of Eritrea took part.

The festival is featuring seminars on objective situation of the homeland, exhibition and various performances depicting the Eritrean tradition and way of life.

The festival which will stay open until 24 December is being highlighted by cultural and musical performance by 'Sbrit' cultural troupe from Eritrea.



ANSEBA REGION: YEARLY ACTIVITY ASSESSMENT MEETING

The Administration of Anseba Region from 18 to 19 December convened 2023 activity assessment meeting and charted out 2024 Action Plan.

According to report presented in the meeting, in the Education sector, 13 schools have been upgraded to the next level, student enrolment has increased by 12% and call was made for enhanced concerted effort for better outcome.

Regarding the alleviation

of potable water crisis and development of agricultural development, four dams have been fully constructed and 7 more are under-construction.

Concerning water and soil conservation activities, over 15 thousand hectares of terraces have been constructed round-about farm lands and over 4 thousand 600 hectares of water diversion schemes have been renovated.

According to the report on health activities, thanks to the

strong effort exerted trachoma is on the verge of elimination in eight sub-zones, and eye surgeries conducted on 135 nationals in Asmat sub-zone was an experiential success.

In a concluding speech, the Governor of the Anseba Region, Ambassador Abdella Musa called for preserving the already registered achievements and strengthening all-around participation in the implementation of the programs for 2024.



MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS



President Isaias Afwerki sent message of congratulations to Sheik Meshal Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Ahmed for his succession as Emir of the State

of Kuwait.

In his message on behalf of himself and the Eritrean people, President Isaias expressed his best wish to Sheik Meshal Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Ahmed and development and prosperity to the people of the sisterly country of Kuwait.

Noting the profound friendship of the two peoples and countries, President Isaias expressed his expectation that the friendly relations between the two countries will develop to the highest level.

Development

Asmat Boarding School

Luwam Kahsay H.

Education in Marya Tselam villages, which is composed of scattered villages, began with 3rd and 4th graders during the armed struggle for independence in 1981. The need for an elementary school was seen as crucial and in August 1984, the EPLF opened a boarding school in Asmat, a village in the middle of the region. In addition to providing education, the boarding school helped to gather the people of the neighboring in one location.

Guided by the motto "Let the illiterate learn to be literate and let the literate teach" (zeytemahre ymehar ztemahre ymhar), Asmat Boarding School started with 53 fourth grade students that came from Hawsh, Gani and Imbelday villages. After seeing what the students could do in several sectors such as health care, finance and other public services, the awareness of the communities about the importance of education for the wellbeing of their children and their communities' has grown.

Asmat Boarding School hosts more than one thousand students that come from neighboring



Meryem Mohamed Ali

villages. As the only high school in Asmat subzone, it is very well looked after by the people and administration of the subzone.

A meeting that brought together representatives of students' parents, staff members in the subzone's administration office, administrators of the village, and former students of the school was held on 27 July at the boarding school to discuss ways of maintaining the virtues of the school.

Lack of the sufficient awareness about the importance of education among the communities and joining school late have been identified as major causes for students' poor performance at school.

Mr. Jamie Osman, General Director of Asmat Boarding School, emphasized the need to assist needy students, especially those who join the school late. In an attempt to prepare students better for their twelfth grade education in Sawa and ensure their success to join colleges later, additional classes were given to needy students from March to May of 2023.

One of the boarding school's former students described the school as "Asmat's biggest factory in our subzone" and appealed to all to do their best

in contributing towards its growth. Other participants of the meeting suggested forming "Asmat Boarding School's Association" to ensure an on-going development of the school well into the future.

Based on the current students' performance and the school administration's report, Mr. Jimie Osman said that women's enrollment seems to decrease when they reach junior school. According to the report, women's enrollment decreases from 40%



Hmed Abdurahman Hmed

"With a clear vision and goal, there is nothing that can't be achieved in life. It's what I have learned in Asmat that has got me to

this stage. I would like to express my appreciation to my teachers and my family, especially Osman Adem, my uncle."

Since 2007-2008 academic year, which marks the transition of Asmat Boarding School from elementary to high school, 1999 students, 248 of whom are women, went to Sawa to complete their high school education and do their national service. In the current academic year, 134 students, 24 of whom are women, are in Sawa.



to 22.5%. Meryem Mohamed Ali, a student at the boarding school, said the school assists them to live as a family, giving them sufficient care and love. This, she added, helps them to be interested in their education. She called on other women in the villages to be determined and have interest in education for a better future.

Hmed Abdurahman Hmed, who earned a bachelor's degree from Hamelmalo College of Agriculture, is one of the products of the boarding school. He said,



ERITREA PROFILE

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From Social Media



Post

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In what has become a pattern these days, EU Parliamentary delegation on visit to Tigray Region in Ethiopia parrots patently false allegation on EDF presence in the region. Untenable stance is incompatible with EEBC Award & perhaps floated by certain quarters for ulterior motives

Yemane G. Meskel @hawelti · Dec 12
#Eritrea has impeccable track-record of adhering to International Agreements/Arbitral Awards. TPLF regime flouted Algiers Agreement with impunity for almost two decades
Ethiopia/Eritrea: Statement by Spokesperson on Anniversary of Algiers Agreement | EEAS europa.eu/!t9hxTF

4:35 PM · Dec 20, 2023 · 26.6K Views

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OPINION

Entertaining...and Enlightening: the Tremendous Value of a Local Program

Dr. Fikrejesus Amahazion

Although it has been said and written several times before, it is well worth repeating: if you have not yet had the chance to do so, it is highly recommended that you tune in to watch the local comedy show, “Enda Zemam”. Fresh episodes of the show regularly air on EriTV, the national broadcaster, during Sunday afternoons, with reruns usually available on different days throughout the week. The show, which is basically centered upon a local café and the eventful lives of its diverse group of employees, affable owner, and eccentric band of regular customers, is highly entertaining and generally very funny. (Personally, my favorite character is Tete – mainly for his combination of hyper energy, silly shenanigans, and lighthearted, innocent nature.)

In addition, however, the program is also quite unique and very much worthwhile because of its content. For several years, and on a weekly basis, it has thoughtfully broached and confronted important contemporary social and cultural issues that are apparent in our country, in the process not only offering its audience enlightening, informative material but also provoking valuable discussions.

For instance, past episodes of the show have focused on divorce, different challenges within the world of employment, the importance of retaining and celebrating one’s history, tradition, and culture, issues within education, and various gender-related topics, such as domestic violence. During one recent episode of the show, the spotlight was shone on another issue of growing local significance: the potentially harmful effects associated with the overuse of and great dependence on mobile devices (and the panoply of related applications), especially among young people.

An increasingly important global – and local – issue

Mobile devices (and their associated media applications) have become an integral part of daily life for people worldwide,



especially young people. This is also the case within Eritrea. In communities across the nation, young people of various backgrounds can commonly be found with a mobile firmly in hand, as they listen to the latest music in local and foreign languages, watch films produced in Eritrea or countries around the world, share funny clips, or stay updated at the local internet café. As was highlighted by the recent “Enda Zemam” episode, this development is worth closely monitoring, particularly since it could have a host of negative consequences. This concern, of course, is one that is backed by a considerable body of empirical research.

On the one hand, it is certainly true that mobile devices offer myriad benefits and advantages. Through only a few taps on our screens, we can send text messages and photos, make phone calls, or video chat with

family, friends, and relatives across the globe. This level of connectivity has made it easier to stay in touch with our loved ones, regardless of where they are in the world, potentially reducing loneliness or social isolation. A wealth of literature from contexts and settings around the world has also shown how mobile devices and media applications may help allow users to strengthen existing relations, learn to express themselves and develop new skills, as well as foster an enduring sense of identity and purpose.

Alongside the above, new research and rapidly emerging developments are raising the possibility that mobile devices and smartphones may also offer other potential positives. In particular, innovations linked to artificial intelligence may help in predicting or identifying personal health issues (such as mental illnesses), while steady progress



is being made in clarifying how data from mobile devices (and social posts, keyword searches, and other data from applications) can play a supportive role in fighting and preventing illness and disease.

Despite these

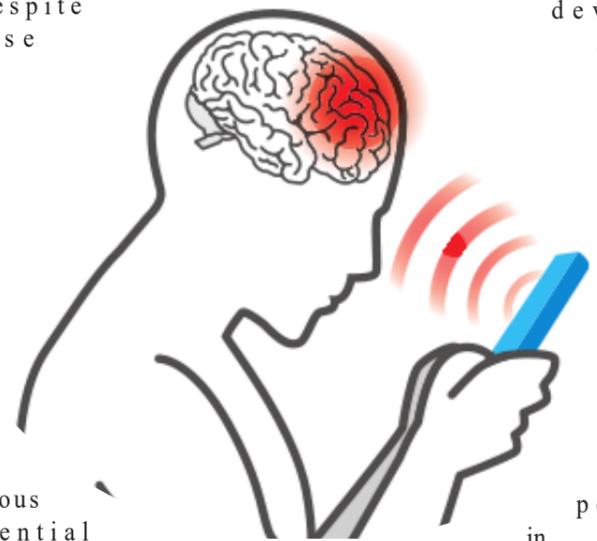
various potential benefits, however, there are also numerous and serious potential risks associated with mobile devices and their assorted media applications. Specifically, a large body of empirical work indicates that they may be associated with depressive symptoms, social anxiety, isolation, low self-esteem, exposure to developmentally inappropriate content, and body image dissatisfaction, among a range of other significant issues.

As well, a growing body of work has also linked extensive use of mobile devices to reduced academic performance and achievement for students. (This is through a variety of possible pathways, such as greater levels of distraction – both for the user and others around them, so-called task switching, lack of sleep, loss of memory, and the taking of

fewer notes and less retention of information learned in class.)

What is more, extensive use of mobile devices can expose youth to harmful social interactions, such as cyberbullying or harassment, as well as contribute to feelings of envy or sensing that others within their social network are better off than they were. In reference to the latter, with mobile device applications generally characterized by highly distilled images, filtered presentations, and unrealistic portrayals, exposure may give users the false impression that others are living fuller, happier, or somehow “better” lives.

Ultimately, the above provides an abundance of food for thought for our communities, our schools, and our families. As is the case in many other parts of the world, the use of mobile devices among



young people in Eritrea continues to steadily grow. And that development will likely be accompanied by many of the potential associated implications and adverse effects highlighted here. While the benefits of mobile devices are certainly significant and many, it is imperative that youths nationwide receive the necessary support and awareness – from schools, communities, families, and mentors or counsellors – to appropriately balance use with the vast array of possible negative impacts.

Well done and two thumbs up to the creators and producers of “Enda Zemam.” They have not just delivered a highly entertaining and extremely funny show, but also helped to shine a critical light on a significant topic and hopefully sparked an important conversation.



THE SOUND OF OASIS

Classical Music Concert

Sona Berhane

The classical music collective, The Sound of Oasis, performed their annual concert on the 15th December, this past Friday, at Cinema Asmara. Held under the theme “Peace Dialogue through Music,” this year’s performance – the group’s first outing since the pandemic – came packed with over 27 pieces, including two original songs.

In earlier years, a classical music concert would have attracted no more than a handful of guests. But now, that perception seems to be

gradually changing. The performers have found a comfortable musical niche on the stage, a conducive platform that encourages their musical inclinations and, most importantly, a captive audience. The Cinema Asmara auditorium was completely full, with a good deal of the balconies and boxes above also occupied – mostly, and surprisingly, by youngsters. How did this all come about?



PHOTOGRAPH BY EDEN RUSSOM

The Sound of Oasis is a classical music project initiated by Alganesh Solomon and Bissirat Dessalegn over ten years ago. It has humble beginnings. It all started with home recitals of jovial piano pieces and Christmas carols for family and close friends. The project has since evolved into a formal classical music group – the only one in the country – that puts on a classical concert every year.

Two years after it was formed, The Sound of Oasis was sponsored by Alliance Française and conducted its first performance

in 2013. Presently, the project is sponsored by SUKE (Swiss Support for Eritrea), and has been sponsored by them since 2016. Every year, with the exception of the Covid years, The Sound of Oasis has been able to host a classical music concert. These milestones are made possible through the combined efforts of seasoned music instructors, committed project coordinators, and the support and assistance of the Eritrean Musicians’ Association. Intimately involved with every aspect of the project, Alganesh Solomon and Rahel Asghedom continue to organize these annual concerts.

In the 12 years that it has been operating, The Sound of Oasis has played a central role in providing a platform for a number of young talents such as singer/songwriter Elham Mohammed, who has gone on to produce a string of hit singles, and classical pianist Noel Araya who, several years prior, was granted a full scholarship to pursue further training in Germany.

The evening’s concert consisted of a collection of rich and diverse pieces from an array of composers – with a traditional spin put on the new songs. The choir pieces were arranged and conducted by Mohammed Saleh Husien Ahmed. The vocalists, I thought, were impressive this year, particularly the female vocalists. Elton John’s Can You Feel the Love Tonight was perhaps the evening’s

most impressive execution.

It is Makda Berhane and Samson Menghisteab – the group’s earliest and most skilled members who have themselves become music instructors – who composed the music for The Twins, one of the original songs whose lyrics are a discourse between the titular twin characters Love and Peace.

I was drawn more to the dreamy, emotive compositions *Rêverie* and *Venetianisches Gondellied*, both of which were played with much attention paid to the delicate dynamics of the pieces. The strings, though they regained their bearings and sounded cleaner on the more assertive pieces, could use a little refinement.

The Sound of Oasis concerts are coming in for increasingly more attention amongst the general public than they have enjoyed up to now. This year’s concert was marvelous. But by the end, the duration was pushing almost three hours. In the coming years, two semiannual concerts instead of one

every year would be better fitted to the increasing number of the members as well as the advancing skill levels of the performers and the audience. But only, of course, if it doesn’t exceed the project’s resources or put a strain on the performers’ academic schedules.

I also think it would be beneficial for both age groups if the younger

beginners were to perform in a separate junior event. The older, more advanced students, on the other hand, have to aspire towards more sophisticated concerts. The Sound of Oasis can start designing its program around the works of a single composer or a particular musical period. Staging a solo piano or cello recital is, for example, an



PHOTOGRAPH BY EDEN RUSSOM



PHOTOGRAPH BY EDEN RUSSOM



PHOTOGRAPH BY EDEN RUSSOM

excellent way of cultivating a wider repertoire. At the very least, a piece should be performed in its entirety without singling out a movement. These adjustments would have a progressive impact on the students.

Besides, for aficionados of classical music concerts, a whole year is simply too long of a wait.

Besides, for aficionados of classical music concerts, a whole year is simply too long of a wait.



PHOTOGRAPH BY EDEN RUSSOM

ANNUAL NUEW EXECUTIVE BOARD ASSESSMENT MEETING

The National Union of Eritrean Women's Executive Board convened on December 18 and 19, in Asmara, to discuss its yearly activity assessment and its 2024 programs.

During the meeting, a thorough discussion was held regarding the activities carried out in 2023. These included programs organized both domestically and internationally to enhance members' understanding of the objective situation in their home country; progress and achievements documented; efforts to maintain the organization's identity and values; efforts to develop women's economic capacity; awareness-raising initiatives to curb harmful practices; organized vocational training programs and their impact on women's lives;

efforts to protect women's health; and efforts to develop the union's institutional capacity.

Ms. Tekea Tesfamichael, President of the National Union of Eritrean Women, gave an overview of the activities that have been carried out and their progress during the meeting, which was attended by heads of union branches from the higher education institution as well as branch heads from Europe, Canada, the US, and Saudi Arabia. She also called for more concerted efforts for better outcomes.

The attendees accepted a number of recommendations after having a lengthy discussion about the topics brought up during the conference and the programs for 2024.



LOCAL NEWS

TRAINING FOR FARMERS IN SEREJEKA SUB-ZONE



Twenty-five farmers from Serejeka sub-zone received training by the Ministry of Agriculture on techniques for increasing agricultural output and guaranteeing food security.

The three months of theoretical and practical training covered building bee hives, producing and using organic fertilizers and pesticides, and current wheat cultivation techniques, according to Mr. Abraham Berhane, head of the sub-zone's agricultural office.

Crop seed specialist Mr. Okbai Semere,

for his part, stated that the training will help farmers introduce new farming practices and boost agricultural output.

The trainees, for their part, expressed gratitude for the training given and stated that they were eager to put it into practice in their farming endeavors.

The administrator of the sub-zone, Mr. Asrat Haile, stated that the trainees were chosen for the program because they were excellent farmers and that they anticipated the training would have a major impact on their day-to-day farming operations.



Red Sea Bottlers Sh.Co
(Coca-Cola)



*Happy New Year & Merry Christmas to
the People and the Government of Eritrea.*

Red Sea Bottlers Sh.Co.
(Coca-Cola)



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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Bisha Mining Share Company Is Inviting Interested Applicants for The Following Positions For Bisha Site Project.

1. Position: Maintenance Planner
Department: Process Plant/Engineering -Planning & Reliability
Number Required: One (01)

Primary Purpose

- Contribute To the Operations By Ensuring That All Maintenance Activities Are Planned And Completed In A Cost-Effective Manner With Minimal Disruption To Ore Processing And Mining Activities.

Essential Function

- Lead And Contribute To The Execution Of Planning And Reliability Of All Operations (Process Plant, HME, Engineering Services) And Ensuring All Maintenance Activities Are Aligned With Project Plans.
- Register All New Equipment On The CMMS, Navision And Categories.
- Compile Spares Lists For The Equipment From The OEM's Installation, Operational And Maintenance Manuals
- Compile Applications For New Stock Inventory (ANSI) For All Equipment Installed.
- Compile Preventative Planned Maintenance Schedules For All Equipment Based On The OEM's Recommendations
- Compile Standard Job Lists with Hazard Identification Included.
- Develop Predictive Maintenance Schedules Through Condition Monitoring Practices And Techniques For Critical Equipment.

Main Function

- Purchasing And Supply Chain
- Contractors
- Work Management Processes
- Administration
- Health And Safety Environment.

Unique Requirements / Other Information

- The Candidate Must Be Physically and Medically Fit

Knowledge, Experience and Skills

Qualifications:	
Diploma/Degree in Mechanical or Electrical Engineering Minimum Education: Tech/Vocational Copredication Followed By Additional Mechanical/Electrical Trade Training With Significant Experience In The Mechanical/Electrical Engineering Discipline. (Certificate In Management)/Business Management Will Be An Added Advantage.	
Knowledge And Experience:	
Trade Certificate as A Fitter or Electrician 2+ Years Proven Experience in The Mining Sector (Maintenance Planning And Scheduling Capacity) 4 Years' Experience in Mechanical Or Electrical Maintenance As A Fitter Or Electrician Or Supervisor's Role.	
Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
Computer Literacy (MS Office – Intermediate, In-House Software), Time Management Mechanical/Electrical Skill, Project Management Risk Assessment, Logical Thinker Mechanical / Electrical Skill Project Management, Logical Thinker Mechanical / Electrical Skill	Communication (English, Local Language Advantage) Innovative, Efficiency Cultural Diversity Sensitivity Coach/Mentor, Accountability Team Player Handling Of Pressurized Environment

2. Position: Maintenance Scheduler
Department: Process Plant/Process Plant Maintenance
Number Required: One (01)

Primary Purpose

- Develop Schedules for Weekly And Shutdown (Short And Long Shutdowns), And Preventative Maintenance Program.
- Develop Project Plan (Forecast), Major Maintenance And Resources Plan (Tracking And Ensuring All Spares Are Available Prior To The Shutdown, Including Packaging In A Secure Place).
- Tracks KPI Metrics For Work Completed, Past Due, Labor Hours, Inspections And Asset Costs
- Manage Spares Part Inventory Of Maintenance Stock Min-Max Level That Ensures No Equipment Will Be Out Service Due Non-Availability Of Spares

Essential Function

- Developing Detailed Maintenance Plan for Maintenance Strategy
- Managing Maintenance Resources “Contractors, Parts, Tools and Manpower”

Main Function

- Scheduling
- Purchasing And Supply Chain
- Contractor
- Work Management Processes
- Administration
- Administration
- Health, Safety and Environment

Unique Requirements / Other Information

- The Candidate Must Be Physically and Medically Fit.

General Information And Other Requirements:

- Place Of Work:** Bisha.
- Salary:** As Per Company Salary Scale.
- Type Of Contract:** Indefinite

Additional Requirements 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

Vacancy Announcement

Azel Pharmaceutical Sh. Co. is inviting interested applicants for the following positions.

 AZEL PHARMACEUTICAL Sh.Co.	
1. Job Title & Number required	Electrical and Electronics Engineer (01)
Major duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Prepare and schedule preventive and corrective maintenance plans for production machines, HVAC system, electrical equipment and utilities establishing sequence and time frame of maintenance operations □ Perform all electrical and electronic maintenance activities in compliance with cGMP and Azel quality system in order to ensure the smooth functioning and overall health of production machine, generators, HVAC system, and utilities. □ Operate and control Generators and Chillers and ensures proper supply of electricity to all machines and areas of the company. □ Participate in out-sourced and in-house electrical equipment repair, servicing and installation activities. □ Prepare, update and complete or fill machine and equipment preventive and corrective mechanical maintenance documents. □ Participate in preparing electrical maintenance budget and monitoring expenditure to enhance performance and minimize wastefulness.
Knowledge & Skills Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proficient in MS Office. ▪ Excellent written and verbal communication skills, including presentation skills ▪ Excellent interpersonal skills.
Education	➤ BSc. in Electrical and Electronics Engineer
Age and Gender	➤ 25-50 Years, Male
Experience	➤ At least two years of work experience as Electrical Engineer, or related positions in a manufacturing company.
2. Job Title & Number required	Mechanical Engineer (01)
Major duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare and schedule machine and equipment mechanical maintenance plans, establishes sequence and time frame of operations in order to meet manufacturing requirement. □ Implement all machine and equipment preventive and corrective mechanical maintenance in compliance with cGMP and Azel quality System in order to insure their smooth functioning and overall health. □ Participate in Installation .validation, calibration and out-sourced maintenance activities of machines and equipment. □ Prepare, update and complete or fill machine and equipment preventive and corrective mechanical maintenance documents. □ Prepare training manual and conducts training for maintenance technicians and production operators. □ Prepare annual spare parts requirement with their full specification; and ensure their availability in the store all the time..
Knowledge & Skills Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proficient in MS Office ▪ Excellent written and verbal communication skills, including presentation skills ▪ Excellent interpersonal skills.
Education	➤ BSc. in Mechanical Engineering
Age and Gender	➤ 25-50 Years, Male
Experience	➤ At least two years of work experience as Mechanical Engineer, or related positions in a manufacturing company.
Place of Work for both posts	Keren
<p>❖ Applicants should submit their full applications including CV, educational credentials and training certificates within 10 days from the date of publication in the newspaper through the following addresses.</p> <p>Azel Pharmaceutical Sh. Co. Asmara: P.O. Box 6799 Tel: 120028/120029 Azel Pharmaceutical Sh. Co. Keren: P.O. Box 89 Tel: 400234/401994</p> <p>❖ Salary - Negotiable</p> <p>Note: All applicants must have proof of demobilization or exemption from the National Service.</p>	



Henok Mlubrhan Crowned as the Best African Cyclist of 2023

Simon Weldemichael

Henok Mlubrhan, 24, has been named the best African cyclist

du-Rwanda, and Tour of Qinghai Lake in China. Henok, along with other Eritrean cyclists such as Biniam Girmay, was also the

at grand international stages. Eritrean cyclists have competed at regional and international cycling races and won major victories. As a result, Eritrea is widely recognized today as Africa's cycling superpower. It has produced world-class athletes who wore King of the Mountain jersey in the Tour de France, African Champions, and winners at major international races.

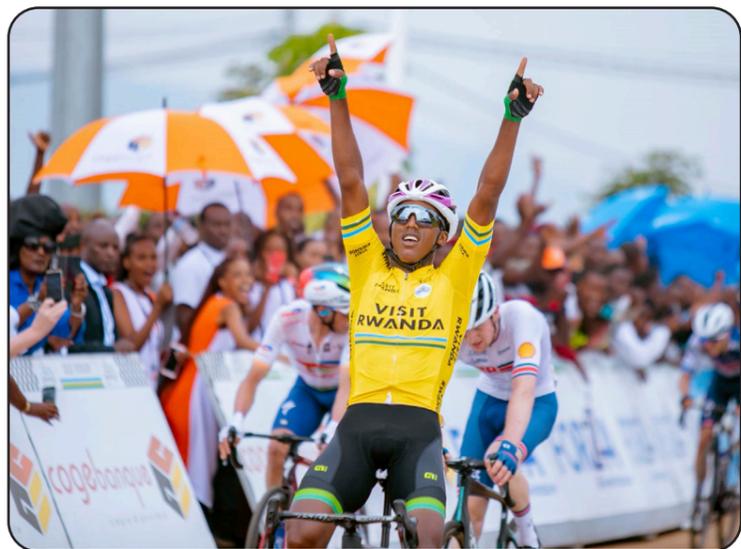
The competence of Eritrean cyclists at continental as well as international tournaments is widely acknowledged. In 2019, Douglas Ryder, manager of the Africa-based Dimension Data cycling team, said, "Eritrea is producing the best riders at the moment and the most consistent performers across the African continent. The sport is growing phenomenally there. Eritrea is the strongest cycling nation on the African continent; they've got absolute talent and they're getting better."

At his meeting in August 2010 with Eritrea's Cycling National Team, which at the time was champion of Africa and Tour Rwanda, President Isaias Afwerki congratulated the athletes for their achievement and advised them to look beyond Africa and be competitive and shine at grand world tours.

top African cyclist on the UCI rankings this season.

In the last 12 years, eight Eritrean cyclists have won the award of African Champion and best African cyclist. The award for best African cyclist, which has been given for the 12th time, is organized by the Tropicale Amissa Bongo. Eritrean riders have won the African Championship for a record eight times. Eritrean riders who have won the award include Natnael Berhane (2012), Mekseb Debesay (2014), Daniel Teklehaimanot (2015), Tesfom Okbay (2016), and Biniam Girmay, who won the award for three years in a row until his title was taken over this year by Henok.

Eritrea has a long and proud history of cycling and has produced many cyclists who shine



of 2023, and Biniam Ghirmay and Asherif Ed Doghmy, from Morocco, have taken second and third places respectively. In addition to Henok, three other Eritrean cyclists -- Biniam Girmay, Amanuel Gebreziabhier, and Natnael Tesfatsion -- have been listed on the top ten best African cyclists of the year.

Upon learning about the news of his victory, Henok said, "I am happy to win this trophy. I have dreamt a lot about being the best African rider. I have been in the top five for three years and I have finally got it."

Henok, who has recently joined Astana World Tour Club, has this year won major cycling competitions, including the African Continental Championship in Ghana, Tour-



Soon, Daniel Teklehaimanot and Merhawi Kudus realized the vision by becoming the first black Africans to compete at the Tour de France. And in October 2021, Biniam Ghirmay beat world athletes in the under-23 men's road race in Belgium to become the first black African to receive a silver medal finishing second in the world championship. On 9th October 2021, President Isaias Afwerki received the victorious national cycling team at Adi Halo and told them they were "a pride to the people and nation." On behalf of the government of Eritrea, President Isaias donated 15 million Nakfa for the development of the sport.

Riding bicycles is popular in Eritrea, and a bicycle is a very popular means of transport. It is common to see young boys and girls riding bicycles to go to school and men to go to work. That many Eritrean cyclists are excelling at major international competitions is also providing an additional impetus for increased interest in cycling and participation of the youth in cycling races. There are many cycling clubs in Eritrea's six

regions. Sporting events such as the Olympics and continental and international championships play a vital role in nation building by inspiring national pride. Eritrea's sporting victory that has been realized through cycling is a symbolic expression of the general condition of the country. Sport, in general, and cycling, in particular, can serve as a manifestation of an Eritrean national identity. After every grand tour, Eritrea's national symbols are made visible. Besides that, the ever-increasing success stories in sport add to the collective memory of Eritreans, which is just as important as other historical memories.

As Africa's cycling giant, Eritrea is now used to winning gold medals in grand tours, and this has resulted in the development of young athletes with a winner's mentality. Eritrea's success in sport is no accident. The remarkable achievement in cycling is the outcome of both organizational competence of sport and the indefatigable individual efforts of the athletes.

