



ASSESSMENT MEETINGS ON PROGRESS OF AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES



The Ministry of Agriculture conducted an assessment of activities from April 16 to 19, focusing on the first quarter and the five-year strategic plan. These meetings took place in the Central, Anseba, and Gash Barka regions and were attended by over 400 individuals including the Minister of Agriculture, regional administrators, senior officials from the Ministry, and agricultural experts.

During the meetings, reports were presented that centered on the key elements of the five-year strategic plan. These included land development, natural resources management, crop development, livestock development, integrated and sustainable agro-business, and human resources development.

Regional heads from the Ministry of Agriculture also delivered reports on various topics such as human resources deployment at all levels, water and soil conservation, the construction of micro-dams,

development of vegetables and fruits, health of livestock and crop seeds, agricultural inspection, research and trials, and controlling locust invasions.

Participants engaged in extensive discussions on the presented reports and adopted several recommendations. These recommendations aimed at enhancing environmental sustainability, producing liquid fertilizers from organic waste, providing training to farmers, strengthening surveillance and control of desert locust invasions, and introducing solar-powered irrigation systems, among others.

The regional governors emphasized the need for effective land management and usage, encourage young agricultural experts to increase their involvement in improving agricultural outputs, and highlighted the importance of intensifying water and soil conservation efforts.

Speaking at the events, Mr.

Arefaine Berhe, Minister of Agriculture, highlighted ongoing initiatives aimed at increasing agricultural production through exemplary farmers, small and integrated family agricultural programs, and small to medium agro-businesses, noting that these initiatives were yielding encouraging results.

Minister Arefaine pointed out that integrated water and soil conservation, the development of household poultry farms, cultivation of sweet potatoes, beekeeping, and the expansion of improved crop seeds, as well as the use of organic fertilizers, are crucial for ensuring nutritious food availability for everyone. He also urged ministry members, agricultural experts, administrators, and the public to regularly hold assessment meetings to review their activities.

PETRIFIED TREE DISCOVERED IN ADI-KINZINAB

Dr. Tsegai Medin, head of Research and Ancient Heritage at the Commission of Culture and Sports, announced the discovery of a petrified tree in Adi-Kinzinab, located in the Adi-Quala sub-zone. Dr. Tsegai highlighted that this discovery is part of broader ecosystem findings across the country and might provide evidence of the migration of large mammals that occurred 27 million years ago, prior to the formation of the Red Sea.

Dr. Tsegai further explained that this new find could be contemporary with the remains of the elephant family discovered at Kuda-Felasi in 2008, which offers insights into the area's ancient environmental structure. He added that further research on the petrified tree will be conducted in cooperation with various partners, and an official report will be released in due time.

Mr. Teklit Gebrezgiabier, Head of Culture and Sports in the Southern Region, urged relevant institutions to protect this significant site as it might contain other valuable ancient remains.

In related news, ancient ceramics, metal ornaments, and what appear to be human bones have been unearthed at Egri-Mekel, where a new dam is currently under construction.

Adi-Kinzinab is situated 8 kilometers east of Adi-Quala, and Egri-Mekel is 5 kilometers south of Mendefera.



MEASLES AND RUBELLA VACCINATION PROGRAM

The Ministry of Health has announced that a national measles and rubella vaccination program, which will also include the distribution of Vitamin A supplements, is set to take place from April 24 to April 28 across the country.

Mr. Tedros Yihdego, head of the National Vaccination Program, stated that vaccinations and Vitamin A supplements will be provided to over 520,000 children aged 6 months to 5 years. These services will be available at 302 permanent centers, 900 temporary sites, and 65 mobile units.

Furthermore, Mr. Tedros mentioned that more than 4,000

personnel from the Ministry of Health and local administrations are being deployed to support the program.

He also urged all area

administrations to enhance their efforts in promoting and facilitating the program and encouraged parents to ensure their children are brought to the vaccination centers on time.



ERITREAN ATHLETE NAZARETH WOLDU WINS VIENNA MARATHON

National marathon record holder, Eritrean athlete Nazareth Woldu, triumphed at the 41st Vienna Marathon, which took place on April 21st. Nazareth completed the race in 2 hours, 24 minutes, and 8 seconds, outpacing her nearest competitor, a Kenyan athlete, by 2 minutes and 14 seconds.

This victory has also earned Nazareth a spot at the upcoming Paris Olympics, scheduled for



July this year.

In related news, another Eritrean athlete, Henok Tesfai, achieved sixth place at the London Marathon, held on the same day in London.

Development

From Rough-and-Ready to Modern: Qarora's Journey in Education

Mussie Efriem

Spreading education to remote areas is an investment in the future. By overcoming the challenges and implementing innovative solutions, we can ensure that every child, regardless of their location, has the opportunity to learn, grow, and contribute to a more just and equitable world. This journey towards educational equity requires collaboration between a state, communities, organizations, and other bodies.

ensure that every child has the opportunity to learn and grow and be able to contribute toward the transformation of the society and sustainable development of the country. This commitment is evident in Qarora subzone, Northern Red Sea region, which has made excellent progress regarding the spreading of educational services to each and every village of the subzone.

Like other subzones, Qarora subzone has been working by giving priority to efforts aimed

almost no educational service in the subzone. Makeshift schools had to be instantly set up across the subzone. Through a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Education's (MoE) branch in the subzone and the local communities, these temporary structures have over time been transformed into well-planned, permanent schools with proper infrastructure. The establishment of boarding and sub-boarding schools has also improved access to education.

Last year, five schools in Rhib, Halibet, Arag, Qiro, and Girar were upgraded from makeshift to modern facilities. Mr. Mohamed Idris Mohamed Ali, director of MoE's branch in the subzone, says that majority of the schools in the subzone are now well equipped and the regional administration gives

them special attention as they are located much farther from the center than other subzones in the region.

Qarora serves as a prime example of the national vision of bringing about sustainable development by making schools accessible for all. There are four pre-schools, 13 elementary, three junior and one secondary schools in the subzone.

Overall, the subzone provides



Mohamed Idris Mohamed Ali

educational services to approximately 1,500 students. There's a positive trend in female enrollment in schools, who now make up 45.2% and 43% of the student population in elementary and junior schools respectively. However, female high school enrollment remains low due to the long distance between their villages and the school, marriage and other cultural constraints.

To encourage female enrollment, the MoE's branch in the subzone conducts campaigns. Additionally, it plans to open more junior schools, upgrade some elementary schools and provide schools with materials they need to give better educational services. To cater to the unique needs of nomadic communities, eight specialized nomadic schools have been established. Furthermore, three seasonal schools in Zero, Felket, and Ashashit offer educational services during the rainy season when communities come together for farming.

The major challenge the subzone has been experiencing has to do with the nomadic lives of communities in Marsa Teklay administrative area. However, innovative solutions have been sought to ensure that mobile communities have access to schools. One of the solutions is giving boys and girls that come from communities that do not have fixed settlements lessons in the summer.

Due to the scattered nature of the villages in the subzone, getting to school – especially junior and high school – involves travelling long distances. As a result, attendance after junior high school level has not yet reached the desired level. After completing junior schools, students are supposed to go to the high school located in the central part of the subzone by traveling long distance. In an attempt to address the challenges of students who come from remote areas, the high school in the subzone has introduced some catering services, and this is making a difference in encouraging the communities to send their kids to school.

The subzone also offers adult education, with focus on literacy, at 11 adult literacy program centers, and special education for the youth who haven't had the opportunity to go to school early on so that they could be reinstated into formal schools.

Many women that have gone to such schools are now working as instructors, civil servants and in other capacities. Through these initiatives, Qarora subzone demonstrates its dedication to building a future where education empowers the whole community.

There is no question that spreading education in remote areas requires a multifaceted approach. By addressing the challenges and capitalizing on the opportunities, we can unlock the potential of every child no matter where they live. This journey towards educational equity, which requires collaboration between the government and the communities, is an investment not just in education, but in a brighter future for all.



Photo: Abiel Bereket

In response to the country's growing population, the Eritrean government has from the outset prioritized the widening of access to schools. The primary goal is to

at improving the lives of its communities. The key strategy pursued to make this a reality was bringing together in one location communities that had lived in very small villages scattered across the subzone. This facilitated the expansion of essential social services, particularly education.

During Eritrea's early days of independence, communities in Qarora subzone lacked basic education because there was



Photo: Abiel Bereket

ERITREA PROFILE

Published Every Wednesday & Saturday

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Advertisement: 12-50-13

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SpotLight

An Important Milestone in Health-Related Efforts and Progress (Part I)

Dr. Fikrejesus Amahazion

Editor's note: this is the first article in a two-part series related to Eritrea's national measles and rubella vaccination campaign. The following article unpacks the nation's commitment to youth and highlights how vaccination programs contribute to the country's child mortality reductions.

This week, the Ministry of Health (MoH) is conducting a national measles and rubella vaccination campaign across the country. The initiative, which will also include the distribution of Vitamin A supplements and is taking place from April 24 to 28, is expected to reach a total of more than 520,000 children between the ages of 6 months and 5 years. Overall, more than 4,000 different health personnel from the MoH, closely backed by support staff from local administrations and logistical assistance from longstanding developmental partners (such as UNICEF), are delivering services at

thriving tourism sector. Even with all of these advantages, Eritrea's greatest asset and most important resource, by far, is its valiant people – especially its youth.

As a powerful reflection of this, across the three decades since winning its independence, Eritrea has maintained a strong, unwavering commitment to the health and well-being, and development of its youth. For example, the first international convention ratified by the Eritrean

being, is thus only a continuation of the country's longstanding and strong commitment to its people and prioritization of its youth.

Vaccination is a key part of Eritrea's substantial reductions in child mortality

There is no tragedy in life like the death of a child. Across the world, as a result of a variety of different factors and various developments, today that profound tragedy is far less common than it once was. During the last two centuries – and over the last several decades in particular – there have been tremendous strides made in reducing child deaths worldwide. Simply, today more children than ever before at any point in global history are surviving. This global progress is, by any objective measure or standard, truly remarkable. It has been described as, “one of the most significant achievements in human history”, as well as among, “the most extraordinary victories that humanity has known”.

Yet, huge disparities remain and improving child survival is still a matter of urgent global concern, especially in wide swathes of the Global South, particularly Sub-Saharan Africa and Central and Southern Asia. Sadly, children in these regions continue to face the

highest risk of death and to bear the brunt of the global child mortality burden.

However, one positive story from the Global South is that of Eritrea. Despite limited resources, an extremely difficult regional geopolitical context, and an array of daunting challenges, the young, developing country has achieved remarkable progress on reducing child deaths over a relatively short period of time.

Specifically, the country has dramatically improved from 146 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1991 to 38 in 2021. Placing that into better context, it has moved from having one of the worst under-five mortality rates anywhere on the planet, to now being among the leaders on the continent and within the broader developing world. Notably, Eritrea's average annual rate of reduction across the period is around 4.5 percent – one of the fastest in the world.

Eritrea's substantial progress on reducing child mortality has been driven by a mix of factors that cut across several sectors. In addition to the high-level political will and commitment described in the previous section, among other things, the country has made steady advancements in women's

education and empowerment, significantly expanded health-related and general infrastructure, increased the number of doctors, nurses, and other health personnel, greatly improved access and service delivery, and carried out an array of high-impact, cost-effective lifesaving interventions.

Among the most prominent within the latter has been routine childhood vaccination, of which the latest national measles and rubella vaccination campaign is an excellent example. At independence, there were only six vaccines available for children and the nation's coverage rate stood at less than 10 percent.

Across subsequent years, however, the routine vaccination program has steadily grown; today, Eritrea administers 14 vaccines with national coverage rates being nearly universal in the high 90s – which is significantly higher than both the continental and global average. Notably, during an extended working visit to Eritrea in late 2021, Mohammed Malick Fall, UNICEF's Regional Director for East and Southern Africa, explained that he was, “struck by the level of immunization [of children in Eritrea],” before going on to note that there, “are many advanced countries that have a hard time reaching [those coverage levels].”

Ultimately, these interventions have helped to prevent serious illness, disability, and death among youth caused by a range of dangerous, debilitating diseases.



302 permanent health centers, 900 temporary sites, and 65 mobile units nationwide.

The ongoing vaccination campaign, which is just the latest round in a long series organized over the years, represents another important milestone in Eritrea's health-related efforts and progress. It also provides a timely opportunity to reflect upon several broader related points.

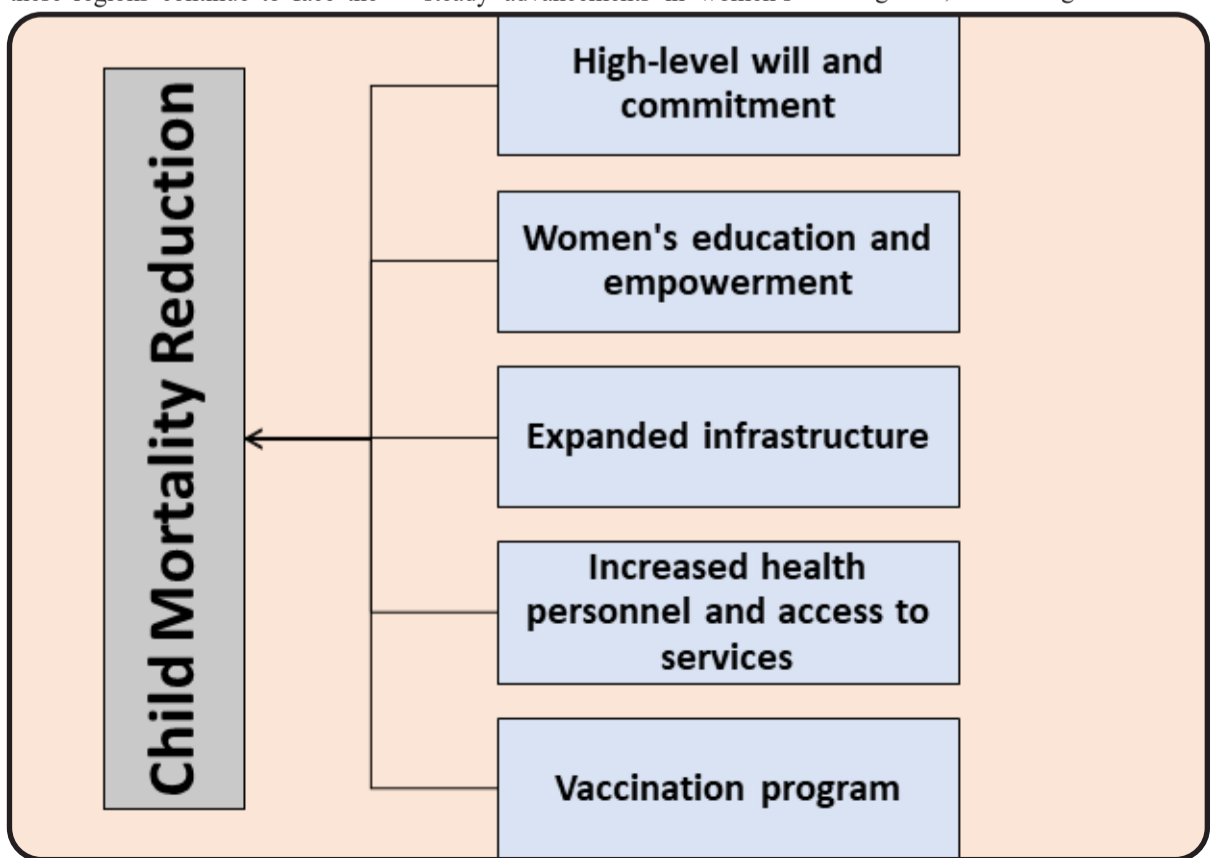
Commitment to people, especially children

One of the world's youngest countries, Eritrea possesses a rich history, blend of beautiful cultures, and vibrant diversity. Blessed with a warm, hospitable climate, it has a long, pristine shoreline on the Red Sea, a constellation of islands, an abundance of marine and natural resources, wonderful wildlife and biodiversity, and significant agricultural potential. The country is also positioned along one of the world's most important international maritime shipping routes, and boasts endless possibilities for a

government after the nation won its independence was the UN's Convention on the Rights of the Child, while it also acceded to the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in December 1999, not long after the Charter entered into force.

As well, the Eritrean National Charter, adopted in Nakfa in February 1994 and which provides the guiding vision for the country, articulates clearly the prioritization of children. Specifically, it strongly declares that, “Eritrea should strive to minimize infant mortality and to care for its children. The children of martyrs, in the tens of thousands, who were, deprived of the love of their parents, as well as other orphans, must be provided with proper upbringing and care. In Eritrea, the rights of children to education, health, love, safety, play, and to human dignity must be respected.”

The national vaccination campaign, which seeks to promote the health of all the nation's children's and ensure their well-



Lighter Side

The Walking Dead

The good and the Bad of our Traditional Grieving Process

Natnael Yebio W.

Three things are certain in life: birth, taxes and DEATH!

As aunt Tirhas lay groaning in bed, I knew that the end was near. You have there a frail woman aged 90 plus suffering from chronic kidney disease (finally found out after agreeing to see the doctor), and add to this the fact that an average Eritrean's life expectancy is 67 years and you say "May the Good Lord receive her soul in his imperishable kingdom."

But this is not all. A relative in the throes of death means that henceforth your mornings are not going to be joyous.

Knock knock.....
"Who is it?" you look at your watch. It is 6 a.m. in the morning. Who the hell could it be? Somehow, you have the feeling that your house is surrounded by men and women with a gloomy message.

"It's me Saleh. Are you playing football today?"

"Phew! That was a close one!"
Aunt Tirhas lies in bed for months and refuses to die. And already there are the neighborhood women who

resort to backbiting. Why is the Good Lord

for they know how to wait and will be generously rewarded with a corpse.

Aunt Tirhas, who, after refusing to give up the ghost during countless 'aborted flights to heaven', is reported to have said: "O God, don't take me in the night when everybody is asleep, and don't take me in the morning when everybody is gone to the field, and don't take me during winter when there is so much rainfall, or during summer when there is little to eat. If it is possible, why don't you just ignore me?"

Well, if you think you will be ignored, forget it! Human beings are born to die. It has been decreed and it shall be done.

Alas, Aunt Tirhas succumbed to her illness at the age of 93 after having valiantly fought the grim reaper.

Her close relatives and friends are informed of her death over the phone. The neighbors knew once they heard her daughter screaming and yelling, "Adey mearey Adey mearey." All coming to her aid within minutes. They console her, dress her in black and cover her hair with a scarf.

The "town

crier" is informed of Adey Tirhas's death so that he could spread the news.

You see, the "town crier" announces whenever someone who is from the village dies. The town crier has a howl which pierces the calmness of the night, a sound lying in its range between that of a hyena and frightened coyote.

He would go Ooooy, Ooooy, and Ooooy three times, after



which he would announce the name of the deceased and the date and time for burial.

"Go and confirm," would a concerned father shout to his son.

He would go outside and confirm. There, he would sometimes find some young and old who had come out like him to confirm.

"Alas! He was a she was a good woman.....The world is never ten but nine (meaning not perfect)"

"God must be very angry to take Mrs. So and so.....We have to repent....."

"I knew Adey Tirhas very well. Well, I wish her all the kingdom of heaven in spite of what she did to me...."

Fortunately, the death of people that you come to learn through traditional 'howling' is not going to hurt you much. It is, on the other hand, the one that you hear early in the morning that breaks your heart.

Knock Knock ...

"Who is there?"

"It is I, Mihreteab."

Now Mihreteab is not alone. He enters your room followed by two or three people.

"Are you okay?" you say.

"Everything is okay....Well, it is okay and at the same time it is not okay....."

To make a long story short, your dear brother is dead. It took

a lot of mental gymnastics in the preparation of words and a lot of emotional acrobatics to break the news.

It is a sugarcoated pill to be taken with a lot of milk. Europeans are accustomed to taking bitter pills without coating. Once in the USA a mailman rang the bell in a small town and a young man opened the door:

"I have a telegram for you, Sir!" said the mail man.

"Well, what are you waiting for? Sing it!" shouted the young man rather impatiently.

"Your mother is dead...." Sang the mailman in a beautiful voice.

In our culture, we don't notify relatives of the death of their loved once by phone or mail. We do it in person and we have a respectful way of doing it. But once the secret is divulged, the ensuing screaming and wailing may sadden the hearts of even the cruelest of enemies. One has to have a heart of stone not to cry or weep or at least get filled with anguish at the heart-rending cries of those who shed rivers of tears at the death of a loved one.

In all honesty, blessed are the departed for they have finally left the wretched world, not having to witness the pretentious attitude of pretending-mourners with their fake shrieks and tears, who wake up early in the morning before the rooster to visit the truly bereaved for self-serving agendas.

For these are truly the walking dead. If they weren't, they would really understand that the truly bereaved need to be consoled

rather than made to cry again; the truly bereaved need to rest not tend to visitors (who eat, drink and leave without even washing their dishes); the truly bereaved need to heal at their pace instead of being reminded how great their father or mother or sibling was.

The walking dead, however, are just the walking dead, because sometimes you come across artificial cries hidden among the genuine. If there is crying from the bottom of the heart, there is also crying from the neck upward. How could they!

"Hawey mearey, wedey mearey, ey, ey..... (My brother, my brother....)"

No tears, no red eyes, just a hollow sound from an unresponsive heart. But such people are needed to remind the lighthearted of the solemnity of the occasion. The consoling party then gets up and leads the crying actor to an available bench.

"Anta me'aas de'a arifu (When did he pass away) Hamimu do'khe neyru (Was he even sick?)" says the woman faking it.

Some just don't even know what they are saying.

Once there was a man who lost his beloved wife. Two women came to give their respects.

"How awful, this has happened to you Michael?" lamented the first woman.

"Indeed, this is terrible; you should have gone before her?" added the second woman, rather idiotically.

You see, it is believed that if the wife dies before her husband, the man usually doesn't last long afterwards. However, if the man goes before the woman, it is said the woman can bear it all and go on to live a few more years before she joins her beloved husband.

Of course, there is a ready-made consoling word for all situations. Anyone with interest in tradition can learn these phrases easily instead of just saying anything that may dismay the bereaved.

Continued on page 5

Planet Versus Plastic

The abundant resources of our cherished Planet Earth have rendered it the most hospitable abode for countless species, surpassing any other celestial body thus far discovered. Research confirms that Earth hosts approximately 8 million species, although this figure fails to encapsulate the myriad of species that have regrettably vanished over billions of years in existence. Regrettably, humanity's unparalleled and insatiable ambition and intervention have wrought havoc upon our planet, jeopardizing its inherent bounty, particularly in this contemporary epoch. It is imperative to recognize that we, as inhabitants of this planet, find ourselves at a critical juncture in history.

Plastic pollution is one of the most notorious byproducts of human activity, casting a shadow over the tranquility

and survival of life on Earth. The mass production of plastic has surged since the 1970s, with current annual production averaging 380 million tons. What is particularly alarming about this "white pollution" is that over half of the produced plastic is openly disposed of, causing dire contamination of oceans, rivers, waterways, and land, endangering all life forms. Without decisive intervention, annual plastic production is projected to soar to 1.1 billion tons by 2050, with far-reaching consequences, as highlighted by the United Nations Environment.

In light of these escalating and pernicious impacts, this year's Earth Day, observed on April 22nd, serves as an international call for action under the theme "Planet vs. Plastic." Recognizing the profound implications of plastic pollution, the Government

of the State of Eritrea enacted Legal Notice 99/2004 to regulate the import, export, and use of single-use plastics. Consequently, single-use plastic became stigmatized within society.

However, the momentum gained from these efforts has faltered, with recent years witnessing a reversal in progress, resulting in the degradation of our environmental aesthetics and posing potential threats to biodiversity proliferation. On this occasion, it is imperative for all Eritrean citizens and institutions to renew our collective commitment to combat the scourge of plastic pollution and safeguard our precious planet. Together, let us reaffirm our pledge to uphold the stewardship of our only Earth.

*Ministry of Land, Water, and Environment
April 22, 2024*

The Walking Dead . . .

Continued from page 4

For those who find themselves tongue tied at funerals, we have 'funeral parlor conversation made easy'. If the mother has lost a son you simply say: dehanu aytiguhayi.....zey stbah kitweldiyom ikhi, fetari nimen iluwo (the Lord will repay you manifold tomorrow, don't worry.)

If the dead person is an old woman, simply say..... Addey Haregu zeymotet de'a men kimewit, dehar ke'a hadgi gedifa endya, ay sala deka endiya kebira zneberet, nay adey haregu mots, mot aykonen...Ni'ana kem'a yemaselena (. Thanks to her children and grand children, Haregu lived like a queen. Haregu's death is not death at all. May we all go the way she did.)

The next day, it is a funeral day. Social obligation makes a lot of people join the funeral procession in a manner that looks like a recreational grief. Women and close relatives wail as if the Good Lord had unjustly stolen their loved one. Some shed warm tears of grief. Others squeeze their eyes shut to squirt the last drop of tear from their stony face.

The priest is now the star of

the show. He tells the sinners who come to bury a loved one that their time will come soon if they don't repent. I don't think people care to listen. Most are impatient for the bereaved party who make the rounds inspecting faces and checking attendants. Everyone is staring at the bereaved party. Look at me! I have come to the funeral of your loved one. Next time, don't forget to come to my loved one's funeral.

Humor is the best medicine, and this biblical statement antedates the Readers Digest. Sometimes you tell the bereaved funny stories to help them heal.

There is this one joke about a certain man who went to a funeral of his friend's dearest mother and was told to deliver a speech, some sort of a funeral oration, like a eulogy.

He stood up and went on to praise the deceased mother for her wisdom and generosity.

"This very day we have lost a dear woman, for Miniya (name chosen for expediency measures) was not only mother to Haile (complete fictitious name), but the mother of us all here gathered today to pay our last respects."

The mourners were all amazed by his speech and congratulated him for his presence of mind. But worst was yet to come.

It so happened that the same

person had just lost his dear wife. Again funeral procession. Wailing. Burial. Speech again. The same friend was asked to deliver the speech as he did it superbly before.

"You can do it," encouraged his friends, "you did it last time." "Plus you are good with words."

When the officiating Priest rebuked the wailing women to stop, the friend stepped forward:

"Dear mourners," the over confident friend started.

"This day, we have lost a dear Woman, Ti'ebe (fictitious name). She was the wife of not only Haile, but the wife of all who are mourning at this very moment....."

The mourners were stunned by his speech and they, like the husband, felt like punching him in the nose.

Studies show that people's number one fear is public speaking. Number two is death. Death is number two!!!! Does that sound right?

This means the average person that attends a funeral is better off in the casket than do the eulogy. From that day on, Haile chose to never speak at any funeral he went to.

NEWS

SEMINAR FOCUSING ON DOCUMENTS AND ARCHIVE MANAGEMENT



after.

Ms. Azieb also talked about the importance of documentation in creating institutional culture and common understanding and significance of conservation of documents for future activities of institutions.

Indicating that the objective of the seminar was to develop the



Seminar focusing on documentation and archives management was organized to members of the Eritrean Naval Force on 20 April.

The seminar was provided by Ms. Azieb Tewolde, director of Research and Documentation Center of the PFDJ and included historical background of documentation during the colonial period, during the armed struggle for independence and

understanding of members on the importance of documentation and confidentiality in the daily activities of the Naval Force, Col. Melake Teklemariam, Chief of Staff of the Eritrean Naval Force, commended the Research and Documentation Center for facilitating the program.

The participants on their part called for organizing similar seminars to other government and public institutions.

WORLD MALARIA DAY OBSERVED

World Malaria Day 2024 was observed at the regional level in Tsaeda Christian under the theme "Let's Strengthen Our Efforts Against Malaria."

At the event, reports were presented focusing on the efforts exerted to control the prevalence of the disease and the challenges encountered.

Mr. Kibreab Tesfamichael, head of malaria control at the Ministry of Health branch in the Central Region, stated that due to sustainable environmental sanitation activities and the distribution of impregnated bed nets, the prevalence of malaria, which was 0.4% in 2018, has been reduced to 0.08% in 2023. He also noted that strong efforts are being exerted to completely eradicate the disease from the region.

Mr. Tesfu Fesehatsion, administrator of Berik sub-zone, commended the efforts by the Ministry of Health and stakeholders, noting that the prevalence of the disease in the sub-zone has significantly reduced.

World Malaria Day is being observed for the 17th time at the international level and for the 6th time at the national level.



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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

- Candidate must be physically medically fit.

1. **Position:** Project planner/Scheduler
Department: Process Plant
Number required: One (01)

Primary Purpose

- Lead project planning, scheduling, cost controlling and expediting and update plans for execution. This role will be a key drive for project delivery. In addition, position is responsible to identify and order relevant parts and materials required for construction, following site and offsite procurement procedures. Cost controller includes planning, developing, controlling and forecasting projects budget.
- Able to oversees and organizes information to increase the efficiency of a company’s projects. A planner/scheduler also compiles reports on factors related to projects in order to assist in the decision-making process. They could also review processes to ensure each production part transitions well.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

- Design all project schedule and contract agreements and ensure integrity of data in all project life cycle and prepare required reports to provide support to all project stakeholders.
- Prepare an efficient Project Master Schedule and maintain knowledge of all key project milestones.
- Administer project from conceptualization to implementation and evaluate all planning issues.
- Design all planning controls for various levels with all resources.
- Design an efficient engineering project schedule and prepare all vendor packages in coordination with project technical plans.
- Ensure compliance to schedule and manage all project deliverables and recommend increase in all engineering processes.
- Administer all projects and assist in appropriate distribution of all project hours.
- Evaluate all man hours spent for various activities and prepare accurate reports for same and maintain record of all project progress.
- Evaluate all fabrication site and vendor schedule and ensure adherence to contract master schedule.
- Ensure efficiency of all schedule plant production with help of ERP business system software
- Collaborate with all cross functional team to maintain quality assurance for all activities.
- Assist to identify and resolve all issues in normal operations and manage all communication for all schedule disruption.

TASK DESCRIPTION Expanded TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS

- Planning / Scheduling
- Reporting
- Execution
- Expediting
- Administration
- Cost Reporting

UNIQUE REQUIREMENTS/OTHER INFORMATION

- Has a wide experience and knowledge about project management principles and can work with Projects Planning, Scheduling, Expediting, Materials inventory, Reports, Write ups and Cost Control.
- The position as a planner has much more detailed product knowledge, and as a scheduler is an expert on the scheduling tools and detail level task sequences.

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Must have diploma/degree in engineering, construction management, or related field. ○ 10+ years experience in project management, with a focus on construction projects. ○ 5 years experience in project planning, cost controller, scheduling and expediting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 10 years relevant experiences in construction ○ Has good understanding of Project Materials Specification and Expediting ○ Has Good understanding of MS Project for project scheduling, resource and cost ○ Has good experience with Project Cost Control and Filing system ○ Has good understanding of project work sequencing and activity dependencies for project scheduling
Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Computer Literacy (MS Office – mid to advance level), Advance MS Project user or other scheduling tool, Attention to detail, Analytical skill, Problem solving skill, Supervisory Experience, MS Project Skills, Strong understanding of construction methods and materials, Strong understanding about cost reports and cost schedule, Project management principles relates to project scheduling. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Excellent Communication (English), Assertiveness, Interpersonal Relations, Integrity, Prioritizing skills & multi-skilling, Ability to work towards strict deadlines, High level of Accuracy, Self-motivation, Dedication to safety, Time Management, Leadership

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:

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



ASMARA MINING SHARE COMPANY
 Abo Street, No. 178, House No. 16
 Gejeret, P.O. Box 10688
 Tel. ++291-1-153986
 Asmara, Eritrea

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Asmara Mining Share Company is inviting applicants for the following position;

HV Electrician

Number required – (03)

Type of contract – Indefinite

Major Duties and responsibilities.

- To support the senior electrical supervisor in the day to day running of the fixed and mobile mining equipment.
- To follow instructions based on the decisions made in the absence of the maintenance superintendent.
- Mentor and coach, the junior workforce with the view to making internal promotions in the future.
- Ensure a clean, safe, and environmentally friendly workshop and surrounding areas.

General responsibilities:

- Prepares equipment for repair or parts replacement.
- Must have both single & three phase experience.
- Ensure maintenance works in compliance with norms and standards applicable in Eretria.
- Develop maintenance plans for mine site equipment in case the norms do not exist in Eretria.
- Starts equipment following any repairs and tests the performance in relation to OEM standards.
- Withdraws equipment, components and materials from the inventory and order materials from vendors as required.
- Installs new equipment, including conduit, wiring, pull boxes, transformers and to effect repairs and alterations to high voltage systems.
- Install and maintain transformers, converters, regulators, cables, switches, circuit breakers, mechanical and electronic systems.
- Provide technical support to the maintenance and electrical team.
- Accomplish tasks with allotted time and in compliance with budget constraints.
- Work to achieve global objectives for mine site production.
- Ensure that subordinate colleagues work safely, assist the supervisor to accomplish inspection of work areas and lead daily Toolbox meetings.
- Participate in planning of maintenance activities.
- Maintain his/her equipment clean as well as that of the site under his/her responsibility.
- Promptly inform the Maintenance Leader in case of tools or equipment maintenance or replacement need.
- Complete all necessary documents in relation with maintenance management system.
- Promote a safe work environment in compliance with enforced health and safety policies and practices and collaborate to improve them.
- Lead and coach team members by implementing programs in technical training, safety, quality, communications, performance recognition, and internal employee development.
- Ensure continued operations of production shifts through execution of the production plan and schedules.
- Inspect assigned work units to ensure schedules and objectives are attained.
- Prioritizes maintenance system and facility repair needs to minimize production downtime, while assuring safety, quality, and reliability.
- Respond to maintenance emergency conditions with the accurate mixture of skilled technicians to minimize downtime, planning major repairs and installations.
- Establish critical system priority lists, ensure all materials used for work orders are tracked, and balance multiple projects simultaneously to completion.
- Directly supervise first-line or shift Supervisors.
- Perform other duties as required.

General Information and other requirements:

- Place of Work:** Asmara
- Type of contract:** Indefinite Period
- Salary:** As per the Company salary scale

Profile: Qualifications and Experience

Formal Education, Certifications or Equivalents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High school diploma or GED. • Technical diploma or collage certificate. • Technical Engineering, General education, Associated education, Business, Industrial, Manufacturing Management or Electrical engineering.
Working Experience – Nature & Length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5+ years’ experience in large open-pit mining of which 2 years supervisor experience • Work closely with the senior electrical supervisor to develop and communicate relevant KPI’s for the maintenance team PPM compliance %, PM over run’s, schedule adherence, MTBF and % PMs executed. • Ability to lead and co-ordinate a multi-disciplinary team. • Support the implementation of maintenance best practices, methodologies, and technologies for the creation of standard work routine maintenance activities. • Support the implementation of maintenance best practice methodologies/technologies including LSS processes the creation of standard work routine maintenance activities.
Technical Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership skill in multi-disciplinary environment. • Analytical skills • Proficient in reading, writing, and communicating in English. • Report Writing skills. • Decision making skills. • Plan, organize and execution skills. • Breakdown Monthly/Weekly plans to deliver daily/weekly maintenance targets. • Valid Driver’s License. • Deliver quality performance (meeting scheduled maintenance forecasts.
Behavioral Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong Supervisory skills. Get things done attitude. • Safety leadership by example. • Interpersonal skills. • Ability to work under pressure. • Ability to work toward strict deadlines. • Commitment to deliver on agreed targets. • Results oriented. • Ability to multitask. • Demonstrated team building and mentoring skills.

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 would be considered as potential candidates for an interview.
- Application documents will not be returned to the sender.
- All applications should be sent through the post office.
- Deadline for application: 7 days from the day of publication in the Newspaper.

- Address: Please mail your applications to;**
Asmara Mining Share Company,
P. O. Box 10688 Asmara, Eritrea
- Applicants shall be required to send a copy to:**
Mineral Resources Management
 P.O. Box – 272
 Asmara
- Note to Eritrean applicants:**
 Please send a copy of your application to
 Aliens Employment Permit Affairs,
 P. O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea



“Art flourishes with the Right Criticism and Support of the Society,” Teame Arefaine

Sabrina Solomon

Please, introduce yourself

I was born in 1970 in Keren and went to elementary and secondary schools there. Then I went to the TTI (Teachers Training Institute) and started working as a teacher.



I have been practicing art for so many years though it was a bit chaotic to do at first because it



was the Derg’s era.

Of course, I have always been aware that I had a talent and passion for art. After Eritrea’s



independence, I worked on a play, Aynfalale, which was inspired by my big brother’s story of marrying someone who wasn’t from the

same religious group as that of our family’s. This play opened doors to many opportunities for me. While in Keren I kept on working on short plays. Then in 1999 while I was giving my national service, I decided to work on a film, mqr merzi. It was then that I shifted my focus from drama to films. Since then I have been working as a writer, director, and lyricist.

What ignited your passion for art?

When I was around eight years old, I used to go to church to see plays staged on religious holidays in which my older brother was acting. I unconsciously fell in love with the plays that I believe ignited the fire within me. I gradually started taking part in such plays and writing religious poems. But it was still very challenging to realize your dreams as we were under Ethiopian rule. My dreams came to light after Eritrea’s independence. Eventually I got a chance to show my talent to the nation.

In 1997, I took a two-month course in developmental theater. Other than that I never took formal courses on art apart from small workshops here and there that I have attended over the years. I am self-thought and that’s how I have gained the knowledge that I have right. I believe no approved papers can beat talent and experience.

I’ve heard that you received an award from President Isaias Afwerki. Tell us more about it.

I received a prize from his Excellency for the film mqr merzi. In 2001, we were given a prize of 10,000 Nakfa from President Isaias at a ceremony. I also received some awards from Mara Entertainment Channel for Seb E’lomo, a comedy I wrote. The first episode got over 649,000 viewers on YouTube. Based on the number of viewers and people’s votes, I was given awards for best writer and best director. I have also got recognition from the Ministry of Information for Enda Zmam, a sitcom that is aired on Eri-TV.

What do you try to achieve

Most Eritrean artists have always had the responsibility of keeping their history and heritage alive through their talent of writing and directing before and after Eritrea’s independence.

Teame Arefaine, our guest today, is such an artist. He is a writer, director and more. To this day, he has been able to capture the hearts and minds of Eritreans with his plays, films, lyrics, and television serials.



through your artistic creations?

Let’s take Enda Zmam, for instance. Through the sitcom, I try to raise current issues or topics that might need attention from the public. I try to create works that people of all ages can watch and understand and use such platforms to raise people’s awareness about issues of community importance.

How you think can we, as a society, benefit from artistic works?

Art is a medium for connecting a society. Art was used even when we were under colonial rule to agitate the public to stand up for their right. It did play a part in making Eritreans fight for their freedom and their homeland. Imagine a song or a movie helping a society reflect on what’s going on and what should be done. In my opinion, art does a better job in enlightening people than do seminars or presentations,

because art allows the sharing of knowledge with a twist that won’t bore people.

Do you think social media does any favors to artists in comparison to cinema?

There is no comparison, in my opinion. The era of cinema cannot be compared to any platform that we’ve seen so far. The financial benefit artists got from cinemas cannot be compared to that they get from social media. Of course, your work may reach a large audience all over the world through social media, which means that you can finance your next work with the profits of one work. But if you’re not financially benefiting from your work, it makes it hard to have the right budget for the coming works because we usually fund our own works. I personally think that the era of YouTube has made it even harder for us artists, and I’m sure many other artists agree.

What do you think about this generation’s passion for art in comparison to the older generation?

I feel artists in the past were more passionate. They did everything to produce plays and films without gaining anything in return. They opened the way for the younger generation to carry on. Today, the first question most artists ask is about how much they’re going to be paid for their roles in a film. That’s heartbreaking. I believe that there are so many young people with great talents that haven’t been explored yet. But the focus has shifted to monetary value than to passion for art. Another thing that’s killing our artistic works is that the talent and passion isn’t being put into consideration. Instead of getting actors to study the script for weeks, the directors say the lines behind the screen during the shooting day and the actors simply repeat it on screen. I don’t understand what good that’s going to do for us in the future. It’s the duty of an artist to have the required discipline.

Many young people say they don’t watch locally produced films. Why do you think that’s the case?

Such people tend to think watching the western world’s films means being better than others. I don’t know how anyone can be biased to artistic works of their own people before even watching them. It doesn’t make sense when young people think they’re cool because they watch American movies.

They’re not doing any favors for themselves and the art industry of their own country because art flourishes with the right criticism and support of the society. My advice to the young is that they shouldn’t judge a work before they give it a chance. They should be able to completely remove that biased mindset. If you don’t like a certain work, criticize it in a way that’ll help the writers, directors and actors to do better. That’s what’s going to make our art compete with art in the rest of the world.

Thank you for the insights and for your time!

