



## ERITREAN COMMUNITY FESTIVAL IN JEDDAH

The Eritrean community in Jeddah and its environs held their annual festival from 21 to 23 November under the theme “Vision through Toil”. The festival was officially opened by Mr. Osman Saleh, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Abdurahman Osman, the Eritrean General Consul in Jeddah, and other officials.

Indicating that the annual festival is an occasion where nationals demonstrate their unity, strengthen their organizational capacity, and transfer important societal values to the younger generation, Mr. Abdurahman Osman expressed

his appreciation to all those who contributed to the success of the festival.

The festival was highlighted by a photo exhibition staged by students of the Eritrean International School and the YPFDJ, artifacts displays, cultural food prepared by the NUEW branch in Jeddah, a fashion show, artwork, music and cultural performances, and other programs. Awards were also handed over to winners in various competitions.

Participants noted that the festival is particularly special this year since

it coincides with the unfolding of peace in the Horn of Africa and the lifting of sanctions that were unjustly imposed on Eritrea for nine years. They also expressed their readiness to strengthen their participation in national development drives.

## LAUNCH OF MEASLES AND RUBELLA VACCINATION PROGRAM

The national measles and rubella vaccination program and distribution of Vitamin A was officially launched on 21 November at a ceremony conducted at the Asmara Community Hospital in the presence of senior government officials.

Speaking at the event, Ms. Amina Nurhussein, Minister of Health, noted that vaccination is one of the important health services and that the vaccination program for children is a key pillar in nurturing a healthy society and building a prosperous country. Minister Amina went on to say that Eritrea has received international recognition for conducting successful vaccination programs in the past.

Indicating that there are 285 permanent and 385 provisional vaccination centers across the nation, she added that vaccination program coverage has reached approximately 95% and that the launching of the measles and rubella vaccination program is part of the effort to ensure the health of citizens.

Pointing out that the achievements already registered attest to the commitment of the Government of Eritrea, Dr. Josephine Namboze, the WHO representative in Eritrea, commended the successful activities and expressed the WHO's readiness to cooperate with the Ministry of Health in all its endeavors.

The measles and rubella vaccination program and distribution of Vitamin A is expected to reach over 1.5 million children.

## ERITREAN NATIONALS ABROAD CONDUCT VARIOUS ACTIVITIES

Eritrean nationals residing in Israel, Sudan, Qatar, Germany, France, Italy, the United Kingdom, and South Sudan have conducted various public diplomacy activities.

In a meeting they conducted on 16 November in connection with the lifting of the sanctions imposed on Eritrea for nine years, the Eritrean community in Israel expressed its commitment to playing a positive role in national development drives.

As well, youth organized as “Mahber Fnote Sema'etat” conducted a meeting on 17 November and contributed \$USD

8,640 to the families of martyrs. They pledged to support 12 more families of martyrs, in addition to the 200 families they have been supporting for the last 2 years.

During a celebration of the lifting of sanctions held by Eritrean nationals residing in Sudan, Mr. Ibrahim Idris, Charge d'Affairs at the Eritrean Embassy, declared that the new era of peace is the result of the strong unity and resilience of the Eritrean people and government. He also called on attendees to strengthen their support and participation.

Similarly, in an event organized by the Eritrean community in

female categories.

In the ITT men category, Sirak Tesfom, Aron Debrebsion, and Daniel Habtemichael, all from Eritrea, won the gold, silver, and bronze medals, respectively. In the ITT women category, Eritrea's Adiam Tesfa'alem won gold medal, while Ethiopia's Mihret Gebreyohannes and South Africa's Liezel Jordaan settled for silver and bronze medals, respectively.

The Eritrean Cycling Federation, in cooperation with the African Cycling Confederation, is hosting the first edition of the Africa Cup. The competition will continue until 25 November.



Qatar, Mr. Ali Ibrahim, Eritrean Ambassador to Qatar, gave an update about Eritrea and the region and he stated that the new era of peace and friendship prevailing across the Horn of Africa is the result of the steadfastness and resilience of the people and government.

As well, Eritrean nationals residing in the German cities of Cologne and Munich conducted various activities in support of peace and cooperation in the Horn of Africa and they expressed their readiness to enhance contributions to national development endeavors.

The PFDJ organization in Upper Germany also conducted its annual congress on 17 November in the city of Hamburg. Mr. Yohannes Woldu, Charge d'Affairs at the Eritrean Embassy, gave an update of recent national and regional developments.

Likewise, Ms. Hanna Simon, Eritrean Ambassador to the

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# REPORTAGE

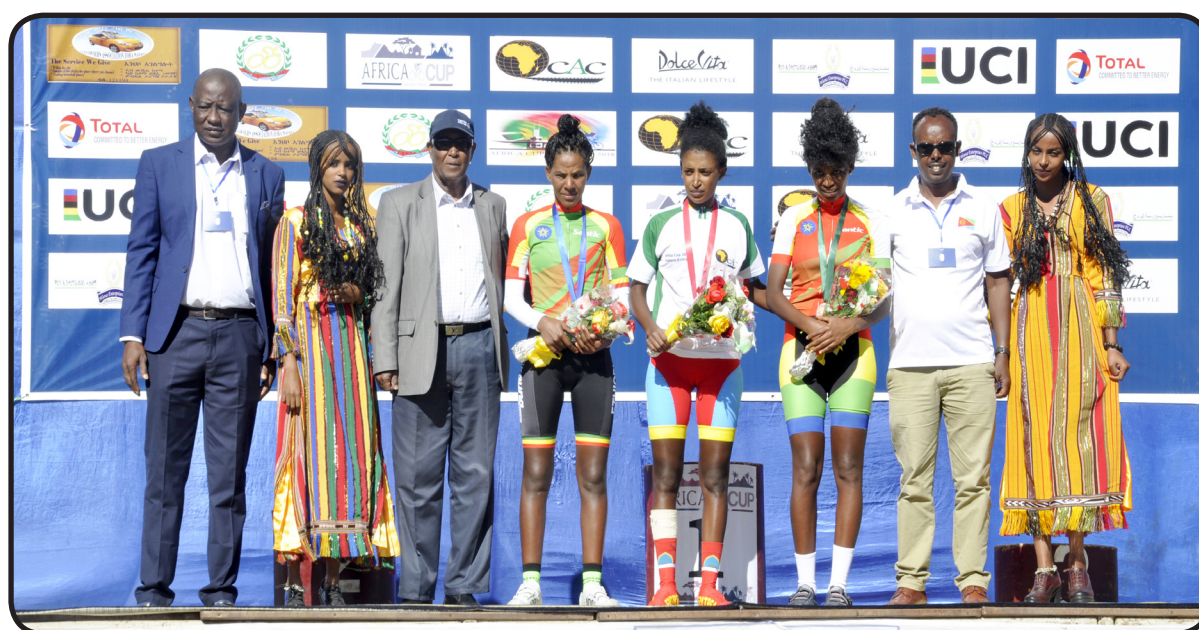
## Eritrea Dominates the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition of the Africa Cup Cycling Competition

Natnael Yebio W.

When it comes to cycling, history is on the side of Eritreans. Cycling is considered a national pastime in the country and almost every Eritrean grows up riding a bicycle. Today, most kids growing up want to be the next Daniel Teklehaimanot or Merhawi Kudus. This week the Africa Cup is the only cycling race that matters. The competition has captured the imagination of the sporting public in the country and the continent.

The competition, which is the first of its kind, is being held in Asmara, Eritrea, from November 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>. The competition, sponsored by Eritrea and recognized by *Union Cycliste Internationale* (UCI), officially opened on Tuesday night with a ceremonial dinner. Ministers, international diplomats, and other distinguished guests were in attendance.

The President of the Eritrean Cycling Federation, Mr. Tewolde Yohanes, praised the UCI and the *Confédération Africaine de Cyclisme* (CAC) for providing Eritrea with the special opportunity to host the inaugural edition of the competition. Ambassador Zemede Tekle, Eritrea's Commissioner of Culture and Sports, stated that the competition will help enhance the



growth of cycling across Africa and that Eritrea was highly proud to host the first edition of the competition. Also speaking, Mr. Mohamed Bashir, a representative of the CAC technical delegation, noted that while cycling encompasses nine different competitions, Africa has only hosted the African Championships on a regular basis. He added that with the introduction of the Africa Cup, riders from Africa can now compete regularly and he went on to thank the ECF and the Commission of Culture and Sport for their efforts in organizing the competition.

The dinner ceremony, held in Asmara Palace, featured a photo exhibition with pictures from different eras of Eritrea's cycling history. These included pictures from the 1940's, the first female rider Hiwet Gebre, Tekeste Weldu (Gigante), the 1970's, and Daniel Teklehaimanot's recent heroics at the 2015 Tour de France. There was also a cultural show by the cultural troupe *Miras* (Legends), who performed numbers from six different Eritrean ethnic groups. This was followed by the official unveiling of the competing teams, which are Benin, Egypt, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Seychelles, and Eritrea.

The competition began on Wednesday at noon, with team time trials (TTT) on a route around Tseterat and Tsaida Cristian. The route, which is 18 kilometers long, started with the women's TTT. The route is considered ideal for riders, since they see

the bare, winding roads of Space, Enda Germen, and Qushet as an irresistible challenge. In the TTT, the winning team is determined according to the time of the fourth-fastest rider. In order to increase the chances of winning, teams try to keep the gap between the first four riders is small and they also utilize the "slipstream" technique.

As the competition began, all eyes were on the Eritrean riders. It was unsurprising, then, when Eritrea's women's team, represented by Zinab Fistum, Diana Dawit, Adiam Tesfealem, and Tigsti Gebrehiwet set a

blistering pace early on. With the wind in their face, teams Nigeria, Ethiopia and South Africa were already playing catch up to the Eritreans. Going at a speed of approximately 42 km/hour, the Eritrean team crossed the finish line in a time of 25 minutes and 20 seconds. Ethiopia finished eight seconds behind, and South Africa came in third 19 seconds behind.

"I feel like it is a dream," said Zinab Ftsum, captain of the Eritrean women's team after the first stage. She added that "teamwork" was crucial to the team's success.

Up next, the men's TTT. The men had to complete two laps on the same circuit. The race, which featured Eritrea, Benin, Egypt, Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Rwanda, caught the attention of the fans that were dispersed across the entire 18km long circuit.

Once again, the Eritrea team dominated proceedings, clocking a time of 20 minutes and 20 seconds on the first lap and finishing the race with a time of 41 minutes and 36 seconds. Remarkably, at times they reached speeds as high as 52 km/hour. Rwanda finished 2 minutes behind and Ethiopia finished in third place with a time of 44 minutes and 59 seconds. Egypt, Nigeria, and Benin took the remaining spots.

Stage two of the competition continued on Friday morning with the individual time trials (ITT). The ITT is often described as the "race of truth", the ultimate test of an individual and bike against the clock. No room for errors. The round requires cyclists to be extremely aerodynamic while maintaining a steady rhythm of pedaling and power output. Many young cyclists tend to overexert themselves early on, slow down in the middle, before being almost

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Acting Editor  
Amanuel Mesfun

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

Layout  
Azmera Berhane  
Aida Johar



# Views and Musings

**Dr. Fikrejesus Amahazion**

## **1. Hizbi Eritrea: congratulations and the way forward...**

Last week, the United Nations Security Council voted unanimously to lift the nearly decade-long international sanctions on Eritrea. The news led to the outpouring of widespread joy and excited celebrations among Eritreans, both across the country and in cities around the world. I was in my hometown, Asmara, in *maekel ketema* (city center), with several friends and colleagues when the news first started filtering in. *Banderas* (flags) were quickly planted outside all shops and buildings, in public areas, on windows and balconies, and on many cars. People driving in cars excitedly honked their horns and passionately waved flags out of their windows. There was also a live outdoor concert held at *Bahti Meskerem*, the large public square. People of all ages came together to sing, dance, cheer, and celebrate the latest positive development for Eritrea and the Horn of Africa. Bright smiles and laughter were abundant and the atmosphere was one of extreme happiness and joy.

As I watched Eritreans proudly celebrate the lifting of sanctions and in the days since then, several thoughts have come to mind.

First, congratulations must go to the people of Eritrea – the soldiers, the youth, the civil workers, the elders, the farmers, and the mothers and fathers. This latest development can only be regarded as an undeniable victory for them. Do not forget that the international sanctions were just one part of the larger strategy devised by foreign adversaries to isolate and weaken Eritrea, hoping to cause its collapse, implosion, or submission. However, the people of Eritrea stood strong, never wavered, never flinched, and remained firmly committed to their core principles and values. Few could have withstood all that they confronted and overcame. They truly deserve the greatest credit and unreserved respect.

Second, it is quite interesting that, much like during the period shortly after Eritrea and Ethiopia first came to peace, in the days since sanctions were lifted there have been numerous analyses and comments outlining what Eritrea's next steps ought to be. However, it is extremely difficult to overlook the fact that many of these comments and analyses

emanate from those who for years strongly supported sanctions on Eritrea, even in the absence of a scintilla of supporting evidence, or who have regularly penned the country's obituary, in various instances confidently predicting its ever-imminent economic collapse, looming state failure or disintegration, or announcing that it was definitely about to "blow" if not already imploding. The notion that those who contributed to years of injustice against the people of Eritrea or who were so abjectly wrong in their analyses about the country or the region should now somehow guide the conversation or dictate the path forward for Eritrea is beyond preposterous. To use a phrase from

country forward.

## **2. Ensuring the rights of children: a moral imperative and something that just makes sense...**

Earlier this week, on 20 November, International Children's Day (ICD) was celebrated in many countries around the world. Through resolution 836(IX) of 14 December 1954, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) recommended that all countries institute a Universal Children's Day, to be observed, "as a day of worldwide fraternity and understanding between children." It also recommended that the Day was to be observed as a day of activity devoted to promoting the ideals

children. It reminds us that children must be approached as human beings with a distinct set of rights instead of as passive objects of care and charity.

In the last edition of *Eritrean Profile*, articles by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and Eritrea's Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare (MLSW), written to coincide with ICD, highlighted some of the significant progress that has been made in Eritrea to protect children's rights and improve their welfare. In Eritrea, children are regarded as the country's most important resource and considerable efforts are being made to build a country where every child is in school and learning, safe

children's cognitive and physical development. Ultimately, this can lead to better educational performances, reduced susceptibility to illness, enhanced future productivity, and increased wages when children become adults. Of course, when more people are working and paying taxes, government revenues increase and the state has more to spend on or distribute to its people (e.g. developing infrastructure or providing social welfare). As well, investment in early childhood health and development has been shown to reduce crime rates, engagement in risky behavior, and the need for welfare (UNICEF 2012).

Another useful example is how, despite being a young, low-income, developing country, Eritrea provides free education for all children, regardless of their background. Not only does this help ensure that children's fundamental and inherent rights to education are realized, it is also an important investment in the nation's future.

For instance, better education status has been shown to be associated with lower disease burden, improved individual-level productivity and skill-sets, higher wages, and positive externalities on the whole society and economy. Furthermore, ensuring rights to education and equality by investing in girls to help them move to higher levels of education helps them to achieve greater lifetime earnings that can translate into higher GDP for the country. In fact, according to Richard Wolff, a respected American economist, "the single most important factor shaping the future of any economy in the world is the quality and the quantity of the educated, trained labor force it produces."

As outlined in the insightful articles by the UNDP and the MLSW, Eritrea, despite facing many obstacles and significant challenges, has made considerable progress in protecting children's rights and improving their welfare. At the same time, however, it is important to recognize that a great deal more remains to be done. Safe, healthy, happy, and well-educated children are the foundations of sustainable development and a bright future. In order for Eritrea to develop in a sustainable manner and establish a thriving, equitable society, it must work to ensure that the basic rights and needs of its children, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable, are met.



**Children's rights: a moral imperative and important investment**

Shakespeare's *King Lear*, "That way madness lies."

Undeniably, Eritrea faces significant challenges. At the same time, however, Eritreans are not naïve. They are fully aware of the immense challenges ahead and the considerable work that lay in store. Eritreans, also, are not daunted. The fact that they have been able to withstand and overcome so much for so long serves as great inspiration and a reservoir of strength for the journey forward. And, as per Aeschylus' maxim, "Suffering leads to wisdom."

Of course, it should be noted that Eritreans are also highly welcoming and appreciative of any genuine help or support. However, do not doubt the fundamental fact that the future of Eritrea is in the strong, capable hands of the Eritrean people. They – and they alone – will be the ones to map their future and move the

and objectives of the UN Charter and the welfare of children around the world. Additionally, the UNGA suggested to governments that the Day be observed on the date which each considers appropriate.

However, the date 20 November would stand out as important, since it marks the day on which the UNGA adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, in 1959, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in 1989. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, which is the most widely ratified international human rights treaty in history, sets out a number of children's rights including the right to life, to health, to education and to play, as well as the right to family life, to be protected from violence, to not be discriminated against, and to have their views heard (UNICEF n.d.).

Ultimately, ICD challenges us to change the way we view and treat

from harm or danger, and able to fulfill their potential. In the following paragraphs, I will briefly discuss two key reasons why those efforts to protect and promote children's rights and welfare are so vital and must be continued.

First, protecting and ensuring children's rights is a fundamental moral imperative. It simply ought to be done, since it is right and a value in itself. In addition, however, it makes socio-economic and developmental sense, with a considerable amount of research demonstrating that there are numerous benefits to protecting and ensuring children's rights and welfare.

Take, for example, Eritrea's significant investments in early childhood nutrition, health, and development. Not only do these efforts serve to promote and ensure various children's rights, they are also critical in helping improve Eritrean



## Speech by Ms. Amina Nur-Husein, Minister of Health, upon the launch of the National Measles and Rubella Vaccination Campaign and Vitamin A Supplementation Program

*Participants!*

*Ladies and Gentlemen!*

It gives me a great pleasure and honor to welcome you all to this important event launching measles and rubella vaccination against viral-borne diseases among children and adults.

The immunization week is taking place at a unique time, when peace has prevailed and the burden of the unjust and unfair sanctions has been lifted from Eritrea! In here, I would like to congratulate you all!

*Ladies and Gentlemen!*

As you are all aware, vaccines are among the most cost-effective public health and clinical services interventions. They are also a core component of any preventive services package.

As you all know, childhood immunization programs provide a very high return on investment. But awareness of disease and completing prevention and treatment courses remain essential components for reducing infectious disease transmission.

*Ladies and Gentlemen!*

In recognition of the importance of vaccines, Eritrea has been working carefully to reduce the negative impact of vaccine-preventable diseases. We have policies and appropriate strategies to reduce morbidity and mortality and thereby increase productivity. This would directly and indirectly contribute to the economic development of the country.

In regard to immunization, the Expanding Program of Immunization is one of the successful programs in the country. We have 285 static immunization program sites, and 385 outreach sites. In addition to this, we conduct Sustainable Outreach Services (SOS) and Reach Every District (RED) immunization programs.

With these establishments in place and additional activities, we have been able to achieve over 95% coverage for six diseases for which we are at control stage, while we have practically eliminated two other diseases,

namely poliomyelitis and both maternal and childhood tetanus.

*Ladies and Gentlemen!*

Eritrea's success in immunization has been globally recognized and repeatedly labeled as exceptional. The following are some of the global awards received by our Immunization Program, in witness of its achievements:

1. On October 19, 2009 Eritrea was awarded by GAVI Alliance in Hanoi, Vietnam for high and sustained immunization coverage.

2. On August 29, 2016; Eritrea received UNICEF's award in recognition of exceptional achievement in improvement of effective utilization of stock management tools and indicators for action;

3. On September 8, 2018, Eritrea again received UNICEF's award in recognition for its achievement in improving vaccine management in its national vaccine store.

*Ladies and Gentlemen!*

Today's launching of measles and rubella immunization is against measles and rubella. Although measles vaccination is already ongoing, it is proven that the provision of such vaccination combined with rubella vaccine is cost-effective and will also cover the diseases and their complications.

Measles and rubella are highly contagious viral diseases that are spread by contact with an infected person through coughing and sneezing. Measles weakens the immune system of the body and often leads to serious complications that include blindness, encephalitis, severe diarrhea and severe respiratory infections such as pneumonia. In fact, most measles-related deaths are also caused by complications of these diseases.

Similarly, rubella is a mild viral infection that occurs most often in children and young adults manifested by rashes and low-grade fever. Rubella infection during pregnancy can cause abortion or stillbirth, and may lead to multiple birth defects in newborns, including: blindness,

deafness, and heart defects known as congenital rubella syndrome.

*Ladies and Gentleman!*

This campaign also includes vitamin A distribution to prevent and control vitamin A deficiencies, including xerophthalmia (dry eyes), night blindness, infertility, and delayed growth.

*Ladies and Gentleman!*

The introduction of measles and rubella in the routine immunization program will unquestionably reduce the morbidity and mortality of children. To this effect, the Ministry of Health of the State of Eritrea officially launches this vaccination as of today and, as usual, is committed to continue its routine immunization program that includes measles and rubella.



Finally, I would like to acknowledge all those who contributed to the success of this launching and all of our partners who are contributing to the achievement of our EPI program. I would also like to express our gratefulness to the following partners:

- Ministries and other Government organizations;

- National civil society organizations and other local partners;

- Development partners, such as UNICEF, the WHO, and others;

- The Global Alliance for Vaccine and Immunization (GAVI); and

- To all other participants of this important campaign.

Last, but not least, I would also like to extend my thanks to all children and their parents, as without their full participation and commitment nothing would be successful and nothing would be worthwhile.

*I thank you!*

21 November 2018

### ERITREAN NATIONALS ABROAD...

*Continued from page 1*

Republic of France, organized a seminar for nationals residing in Paris and its environs on the recent developments toward peace and the contributions expected from all citizens.

Additionally, nationals residing in the Italian cities of Milan and Rome celebrated the lifting of the unwarranted sanctions imposed on Eritrea. According to reports, the Eritrean community in Milan also conducted its annual activity meeting.

The National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW) organization in the United Kingdom also conducted its annual congress on 18 November in the city of Birmingham. At the meeting, in which an executive committee was elected to serve a three-year term, Mr. Estifanos Habtemariam, Eritrean Ambassador to the UK and North Ireland, stated that the NUEW is a key force for social justice. He also reminded members to regularly assess their activities and contribute to the new era of peace in the Horn of Africa.

### Eritrea Dominates the 1<sup>st</sup> . . .

*Continued from page 2*

out of energy towards the end. Such was the case in Friday's race.

The race, as with previous day, began with the women's under-23 and elite ITT. The racers ride the entire way individually, with no teammates next to them and slipstream to help against the wind.

Eritrea's Adiam Tesfealem was the fastest women's rider in both the under-23 and elite categories. Pedaling at 42 km/hour, she finished the stage in 26 minutes and 16 seconds. Ethiopia's Mihret Asghede and Liezel Jordaan of South Africa came second and third, respectively, in the elite category, while Ethiopian riders Mihret Asghede and Birhan Fikadu took second and third place in the women's under-23 category.

The men's race had a total of 17 riders. On a day featuring pleasant sunshine, Eritrea's riders made light work of a demanding course and they dominated the final podium, finishing in first,

second, and third place. Sirak Tesfom took the top spot in the men's elite category. By the midpoint, it was already apparent that he was virtually in a race of his own. He reached speeds as high as 54km/hour and obliterated the competition. Sirak Tesfom finished the stage with a time of 42 minutes and 50 seconds while Aron Debretsion finished one minute and 28 seconds behind. Daniel Habtemichael took third place, finishing one minute and 41 seconds behind Sirak Tesfom.

In the under-23 category, Eritrea once again dominated, winning first and second place. Daniel Habtemichael took first place and Henok Mulubrhan, his teammate, was in second. Rwanda's Moise Mugusha showed great heart to finish in third place.

Both the team and individual time trials have given fans a great show and they have provided a snapshot of what's still to come in the competition this weekend. While there's no doubting the quality of Eritrea's great riders, the likes of Rwanda and Ethiopia can give them a run for their money in the upcoming stages of the competition.



# Development

## Omhajer: a Border Town with Renewed Hope

Located in the southwest of Eritrea, at a triangular intersection bordering Sudan and Ethiopia adjacent to the Setit River, Omhajer is a semi-urban center inhabited by about 9500 people who live in two administrative areas, Kachero and Omhajer. Omhajer is a multi-ethnic town and people from eight of Eritrea's ethnic groups reside there. Most inhabitants rely on agriculture and herding, and the administrative area is one of the dominant agricultural centers of the Goluj sub-zone.

Omhajer is a semi-urban center which is believed to have a history dating back to the Italian colonial era when it was established as an administrative center. It slowly grew as farmers and pastoralists from different parts of the country came to settle. After Eritrea's independence, due to its strategic location, Omhajer quickly developed underwent considerable change. Inhabitants note that in addition to the great farm potential of the region, trade with neighboring countries (i.e. Sudan and Ethiopia) can improve their lives. Currently, they are looking forward to the opening of the border at the Setit Bridge that connects Eritrea with Ethiopia.

Successive Ethiopian regimes have attacked the town in past and caused much destruction. Mr. Tesfalem Andom, administrator of the Omhajer administrative area, said that the area was heavily affected by the 1998-2000 war with Ethiopia. In fact, Ethiopia completely destroyed the town in 2000 and inhabitants were forced



*Mr. Tesfalem Andom*

to flee their homes. After the end of the war, residents returned to their homes and tried to put their lives back together with government assistance. All of the social service institutions now found in the region were established during that time.

Despite its vast potential and considerable resources, Omhajer has not developed to the level or degree that it should have. However, residents are highly optimistic that the recent normalization of ties with Ethiopia and the opening of the border will boost trade and increase economic growth.

As with the rest of Eritrea, on the day sanctions imposed against Eritrea were lifted, the sub-zones of the Gash-Barka region staged celebratory demonstrations. All of the localities expressed their immense joy with the important development. On 15 November, the residents of Omhajer came out into the streets and chanted slogans about the resilience of the Eritrean people. Residents are very optimistic about the future and

many described no longer feeling insecurity. Others explained that things are now changing to our advantage and that this period time will be an opportunity to redouble our efforts to improve our lives and focus on development.

Since Omhajer is a rich, fertile region, the hard work of the farmers continues to payoff. Owing to Omhajer's vast grazing area, many pastoralists have come to the area. In fact, it is filled with abundance of livestock. The Bademit Dam, constructed eight years ago, supports local farming activities and it provides much-needed

In 2017, the Government of the State of Eritrea (GSE) issued a national land proclamation allowing every farmer to own two hectares of farmland. As per the proclamation, land which was procured by individuals was redistributed and this provided more people with access to land. The proclamation also addresses the issue of grazing land and the Omhajer administration has established committees to follow-up on the issue.

While it is a fertile area, Omhajer does not have a steady supply of electricity. However, Mr. Tesfalem

have access to a healthcare center located in the town of Omhajer. This healthcare center has been very helpful in combating many diseases, such as malaria, and it is playing a key role in ensuring the overall health of residents. Major health issues which cannot be addressed within the healthcare center are referred to either the Goluj or Tessenei hospital. There is one ambulance in the hospital that is used for referral cases.

Omhajer has several education institutions ranging from the pre-school to the secondary school level. With the growth of school



water for livestock. Ultimately, this has helped improve livestock production. Additionally, the Ministry of Agriculture supports farmers with managing livestock health and it conducts regular vaccination campaigns.

revealed that this problem is expected to be solved in the near future. Notably, inhabitants have contributed money for the installation of electrical power lines.

Omhajer is linked with the Goluj sub-zone by two roads and there are both private and government-owned transport vehicles that serve residents. This line is one of the busiest transport lines in the southwest of Eritrea. In regard to telecommunication services, residents have access to 24-hour daily mobile telecommunication services.

Like many other rural and semi-urban centers of the country, residents of Omhajer have benefited from access to good healthcare services. The inhabitants of this respective area, along with people from Kachero and other areas,

enrolments in the region and the large number of available teachers, inhabitants are expecting to soon have another secondary school. As well, Mr. Tesfalem indicated that many of the existing schools are in need of renovations.

A special feature of Omhajer is its rich natural setting. In the future, it can definitely be a tourist attraction. For example, the nearly 700 meter wide Setit River, which is covered with vegetation, is attractive and could be a popular tourist site. The area also is home to a number of wild animals, such as elephants, antelopes, and rare crocodiles, which could draw animal lovers from around the country and the world.

Although it was nearly destroyed in the 1998-2000, Omhajer has renewed itself and possesses great hope for the future.







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

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

# VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

1. Job Title: Financial Planning & Analysis Superintendent
- Department: FITS
- Number required: (01)
- Contract Period: 02 Years
- PRIMARY PURPOSE
    - Analysis and interpretation of operational and financial transactions to assist end users make better business decisions. FP&A Superintendent adds depth to the FITCS team and is able to provide rotational coverage for the Commercial Manager.
  - MAIN FUNCTIONS
    - Budgeting, Planning and Forecasting processes
    - Performing Month-end Closing
    - Management Reporting and Variance Analysis
    - Stakeholder Relationship Management
    - Variance Analysis on Revenue and Costs
    - Management Information and financial advice.
    - Audit
    - Human Resource Management
    - Rotational Coverage for Commercial Manager
  - TASK DESCRIPTION Expanded TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS
  - Budgeting, Planning and Forecasting Processes
    - Ensure timeous completion of budgeting, planning and forecasting processes for all Sections.
    - Coordinate the development of the Support Division’s annual budgets with assistance of Senior Management and Head of Departments.
    - Devise and communicate timely the annual budget and forecast to all budget holders within the Senior Management team.
    - Monitor and access the forecast compilation process within Senior Management.
    - Engage with Senior Management to ensure forecast remains within the approved budget parameters of each Department.
    - Capture approved budgets into the system to enable monthly performance monitoring.
    - Ensure to continually review budget and costs and advise on corrective measures to be implemented to action cost controls.
  - Performing Month-end Closing
    - Check management accounts for errors and prepare correctional journals where necessary.
    - Check the accounts for completeness and prepare accruals where necessary in order to comply with the international financial reporting standards.
    - Ensure that reconciling items are resolved monthly.
    - Coordinate the Financial Support Services staff to ensure accurate and timely processing of financial information.
  - Management Reporting and Variance Analysis
    - Prepare a timely monthly analysis report to the Support Service Mangement team on budget performance against actuals, trends and specify any actions required.
    - Prepare schedules prior to Annual Audit process to ease the process.
    - Prepare a regular analysis of performance and production output with Senior Management and Stakeholders.
    - Analyse performance and production variances to find reasons for adverse variances and issue monthly variance report to be shared with Senior Management.
  - Stakeholder Relationship Management
    - Manage and maintain stakeholder relationships to ensure appropriate reporting, feedback and controls are in place to report on financial and cost controls.
    - Develop and maintain an effective working relationship with Senior Management and Stakeholders.
    - Promote and foster a team environment that enhances cooperation within the support management teams.
    - Constantly review that all purchases made are done in line with the current policies, procedures and processes.
    - Ensure appropriate financial and cost control management by engaging with relevant stakeholders.
    - Coordinate monthly cost meetings with Senior Management teams to discuss the variances on the mangement reports.
    - Identify processes causing bottlenecks and make recommendations to Senior Management to adapt changes on the management reports.
  - Variance Analysis on Revenue and Costs
    - Report on sales volumes forecasted against the actual sales volumes.
    - Compare the budget expenditure with the actual expenditure.
  - Management Information and Financial Advice
    - Provide management with financial information when attending operational meetings and offer financial advise.
    - Prepare planned reports as well as adhoc reports.
  - Audit
    - Ensure Departmental compliance to audit requirements.
    - Manage, review and update all policies, procedures and processes to reflect best practices for audit compliance.
    - Responsible to conduct ad hoc audit checks to ensure that departments are complying with the audit requirements.
    - Ensure that departments are aware of time frame for audit and that departments are advised in advance of actual audit.
    - Manage meetings with departments to ensure total compliance with audit requirement together with the setting of deadlines to revisit compliance to audit requirements.
  - Human Resource Management
    - Lead the recruitment of staff members aligned to the structure of the Department.
    - Manage the administration of direct reports through the approval of leave and travel expenses.
    - Manage work performance of employees reporting directly into this position.

- Identify training and development needs in line with the training needs analysis.
  - Ensure that performance is in line with departmental objectives.
  - Manage performance through counselling, training and disciplinary process.
  - Mentoring/Coaching individuals to ensure personal development.
  - Manage performance appraisal by identifying individual goals to be met and bi-annual reviews with individual employees.
  - Provide input into the development of the Department’s Succession Plan, staff retention strategy and identify a pool of potential leaders.
  - Monitor the provision on of output on the Department to ensure deliverables of the Departments are met.
  - Allocate job responsibilities amongst direct reports, ensuring that all target areas are being maintained and that there is no duplication of effort.
  - Foster an environment that promotes high performance, innovation and growth for staff.
  - Lead the recruitment of staff members aligned to the structure of the Department.
  - Manage the administration of direct reports through the approval of leave and travel expenses.
  - Lead the recruitment of staff members aligned to the structure of the Department.
- Rotational Coverage for Commercial Manager
    - Marketing & Selling of Gold/Copper/Zinc concentrate.
    - Make sure all sales contracts are as up to date as possible and that any agreed amendments are completed promptly.
    - Keep abreast of current market conditions and to changes in important concentrate factors such as spot and frame treatment charges.
  - Insurance and Risk Management
    - Ensure each shipment of concentrates is surveyed in accordance with international practices and a timely report issued to our company insures for each shipment of concentrates.
    - Analytical support for the business.
    - Ensure that all assay data and shipping details are kept up to date and uploaded correctly into MINEMAN for invoicing purposes.
    - Provide and check the cash forecast weekly/monthly for planned incoming revenue for concentrate sales and cash exposure based on commodity pricing changes.
    - Ensure that commercial is aligned with finance in regards to the pricing forecasts to be applied to short, medium and long term cash forecast and that these are inputted and maintained in Mineman.
  - Coordinate “Life-of-Mine” budget and plans.
    - Ensure that sales contracts and shipping schedules are in alignment with Life of mine production of concentrates
    - Ensure regular shipment of mining produce/ logistics control.
    - Shipping and rotainer forecast is updated weekly and circulated to stakeholders.
    - Ensure that the inland transport is kept in sync with concentrate production on a week by week basis.
    - Manage/adapt the concentrate quality storage rules according to customer specification and requirements.
    - Ensure all shipowner laytime (demurrage / despatch) calculations for concentrate loading and discharge are done/checked in accordance with each charter party agreement.
  - Management
    - Provide technical support for the team, as and when required.
    - Provide training and coaching for the team (especially safety standards and procedures).
    - Ensure all construction Commercial Division personnel and contractors, work in accordance with relevant laws, regulations, company policies and procedures.
    - Promote good Division behaviour. Motivate team to become “performance driven”.
    - Lead team to improve current Construction commercial methods/systems/ processes.
  - Knowledge, experience and skills

Qualifications:
Degree / Diploma in Accounting or equivalent
Diploma in Business Management will be an added advantage

Knowledge and Experience:
15 Years experience in an Accounting environment
5 – 8 Years experience at Managerial level

Technical Skills	Behavioural Skills
Computer Literacy (MS Office – Intermediate, Excel – Advanced)	C o m m u n i c a t i o n (English and local language)
Mathematical Ability	Assertiveness
Attention to detail	Interpersonal Relations
Analytical skill	Integrity
Accounting Principles	Ethical work practices
Problem solving skill	Ability to work towards strict deadlines
Understanding of GAAP, IFRS & IAS	High level of accuracy
Business and Finance Acumen	Discretion
Compliance to accounting standards	Managerial skill

- 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.

**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT VA/05/2017**

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) office in Asmara invites qualified applicants (Eritrean) for the following vacant post:

**Post title:** Local Security Assistant

**Condition of employment:** ICS 6

**Supervisor:** Chief Security Advisor

**Organizational Context**

Under the overall guidance and supervision of the Chief Security Adviser (CSA), the Local Security Assistant assists in the implementation of security operations and all matters relating to the management of safety and security for UN personnel in the country or in the region of assignment.

**Summary of key functions:**

- Assists CSA in collecting, updating and communicating information regarding the security situation in the operational area.
- Assists in maintaining the Security Plan, including updating staff lists.
- Supports the CSA with the assessment of Minimum Operational Security Standards (MOSS) for the duty station.
- Assists in reporting security incidents affecting UN staff, offices and assets.
- Organizes and delivers training courses on security awareness and preparedness.
- Assists in ensuring residential (Minimum Operating Residential Security Standards – MORSS) and office safety, and security preparedness.
- Provides general administrative assistance to the CSA.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS**

- Education: Secondary education. University Degree desirable but not a requirement.
- Experience: 6 years' experience in the military, relevant private security or preferably from the police. Prior experience with the UN system is desirable but not a requirement. Some years' experience in a supervisory position is a requirement.
- Other requirements: Experience in police intelligence considered an asset.
  - Good knowledge of host country security system.
  - Solid computers skills (MS Word, Excel and PowerPoint).
  - Possession of a valid driver's license.
  - Ability to travel.
  - Physically fit.
- Language requirements: Fluency in English (spoken and written). and national language of the duty station.

Other considerations: For more details please collect the Terms of Reference from the UNDP Reception Desk. Interested applicants should submit duly filled P11 form (available at the UNDP Reception Desk, UN Office in Asmara) and a detailed CV with supporting documents. Copy of document indicating exemption from/completion of national service should be sent to UNDP Reception Desk, P.O. Box 5366, and UN offices, Asmara, Eritrea.

UNDP will contact those who are considered Potential candidates. Closing date for the application is 10 working days from the date of announcement.

“UNDP is an equal opportunity employer which strives to achieve overall balance in its staffing patterns”.

**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

Total Eritrea Share Company has the following Vacant Posts:

I. Position: Customer service officer : 1

Place of work : Asmara

Educational back ground: A university Degree in finance from a recognized university or a diploma with long experience.

Knowledge and Experience:

- At least 4 years post qualification experience in an accounting or finance role in industry or accountancy practice
- Knowledge of SAP accounting soft ware or similar software applications.
- Good communication and Management skills
- Sales and Marketing skills
- Basic product knowledge

Major duties and responsibilities:

- Responsible for product order processing and invoicing.
- Responsible for service station stock run out.
- Maintain TAR ledgers for all customers.
- Responsible for customer complaints or dissatisfaction related to the supply of products.
- Prepare Customer Performance covering monthly product supply.
- Verify and prepare work orders for the repair of dispensers and service station equipments.
- Perform any other job that will be requested by the supervisor.

General requirements:

- Fluent in both written and spoken English.
- Knowledge and experience in basic office application.
- Having fulfilled his/her national service obligation and provide evidence of release paper from Ministry of Defense.
- Knowledge of basic French language is an advantage
- Present release paper from last employer.

Salary and other Terms:

As per the Company's scale.

Interested candidates who meet the above requirements are invited to submit their hand-written applications along with their CVs and other supporting documents to reach the following address not later than 10 days from the date of this announcement.

The Human resource Manager  
Total Eritrea Share Company  
P.O. Box 871  
Martyrs' Avenue #213  
Asmara, Eritrea

**EGYPTAIR**

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

**EGYPTAIR AIRLINES  
ASMARA OFFICE****Egypt Air Lines**

Extends its congratulations to the People and the State of Eritrea for the lifting of the unjust sanctions which have been imposed on the state of Eritrea and its people. We wish to confirm that we shall continue to give our services, as we have done in the last 20 years, with satisfaction.

**EGYPTAIR**  
A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

**10  
YEARS  
MEMBERSHIP**





# History in the Making. Africa Cup 2018

Natnael Yebio W.

The first edition of the Africa Cup cycling competition is currently taking place in Eritrea. Seven countries, including the host nation Eritrea, are participating in completion, which is recognized by the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) and sponsored by the Eritrean cycling federation (ECF). Q&A had a chance to meet and interview several CAC and UCI representatives who are overseeing the competition.

## A country in love with cycling:

**Mohamed Bashir** (CAC representative): First and



Mohamed Bashir

foremost, I'm very impressed by how much Eritreans love cycling. I have seen young people riding bicycles everywhere. The first thing I am going to do when I get back to my country is tell everybody. This makes me proud to be an African. Words cannot describe how I felt when I saw Daniel Teklehaimanot at the podium in the Tour de France in 2015. I felt great and very proud. African cyclists are making Africa proud.

**Noha Soliman** (CAC technical delegate): It is a lovely city.

**Isabella Fernandes** (UCI Commissioner): This is my sixth time in Asmara representing UCI and I already feel at home.

## What does the Africa Cup mean for Africa's cycling development?

**Mohamed Bashir:** It means a lot for our cyclists because the more they compete the more chances they will have to score points and be eligible to qualify for the Olympics or World Games. As well, the competition will play a big role in the development of women's cycling. We already have women participating at the African Championships and African Games. Now, with the inception of the Africa Cup, our female cyclists will be able to compete regularly

and be able to qualify for the Olympics and World Games.

**Noha Soliman:** Long ago, CAC put numerous strategies in place to hold regular competitions, like the African Championships and Africa Games. These were for all the cycling disciplines. Since 2013, we have had competitions held annually for road, track, BMX, and mountain bike races. The creation of the Africa Cup is an extension of those strategies we had put in place. The event, as I have mentioned, is established by CAC and is registered on the UCI calendar. This competition will give more chances to African riders to compete more at the national level. They will have a chance to score points to increase their international ranking and be able to qualify for the Olympic Games.

**Isabella Fernandes:** I think it is good to have a little bit of competition where we can have several national teams from across



Isabella Fernandes

Africa compete in championships and cups. This is very good for the development of cycling in Africa and the exchange of experiences between participating nations. Hosting competitions such as this within the continent will definitely give African cycling the exposure it needs. For instance, the competing cyclists were going at an average speed of 51 km/hour on the first stage of the team time trails on Wednesday, which I might say is quite exceptional and reflects how talented African riders are. When others see this, they surely

will grasp the picture that African cycling is developing.

## Views on the



## first two stages of the competition:

**Mohamed Bashir:** The first two stages of the competition were very impressive and highly competitive. I am not surprised to see Eritrea already doing well. It is clearly evident that cycling is a part of everyday life for Eritreans. I was here once in 1983 as a cyclist. Today, I am happy to be back as one of the officials overseeing the competition.

**Noha Soliman:** It was very good. It is great to see the participating nations doing their best to win the races. You can see it on the faces of riders just how much this means to them. The Federation and Commission of Sports and Culture have done an impeccable job in making everything run smooth during the last two days.

**Isabella Fernandes:** As commissioners of the race, we are urged to have a balanced outlook about how the competition is progressing. It is our responsibility to follow guidelines. We still have two stages to go and I think it is better if we evaluate everything after the end of the competition. But so far everything is going well.

## On the future of the competition:

**Mohamed Bashir:** This is

the first edition and I believe

the final stage of the competition, which will be held tomorrow morning.

everything we have done up to this point we have planned in advance. The UCI only gave approval this past August during the World Congress. Unfortunately, some countries were unable to include this competition within their schedule. Nonetheless, because of the success of this first edition, I'm sure next year we'll see an increase in the number of nations participating.

**Noha Soliman:** This competition will help the growth of cycling in Africa. I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Eritrea for hosting the first edition of the Africa Cup. It is a great achievement for the country and CAC. Benin is here participating and the team from the Seychelles will compete in today's competition, as well as in



Noha Soliman

would like to thank the organizers and the Commission of Sports and Culture for making this competition a reality.

**Isabella Fernandes:** That is also something we need to do after the competition. However, I can definitely say that all the organizations involved in hosting this event are working together to make this competition a success. The first edition is always an experience of how we can do things better in the future. This, of course, doesn't mean Eritrea hasn't done a good job hosting the competition so far. The turnout has been amazing and we have witnessed a high level of competitiveness among the riders.

## Last words:

**Mohamed Bashir:** I would like to praise and thank the Government of Eritrea, Eritrea's Cycling Federation, the Commission of Sports and Culture, the Organizing Committee, the security personnel, and the people of Eritrea for hosting the first edition of the Africa Cup.

**Noha Soliman:** Thank you Eritrea!

**Isabella Fernandes:** Let's continue to enjoy the races. I invite everyone to come out and support the riders during the next two stages of the competition.