



## SOUTHERN REGION ASSEMBLY MEETING

The Southern Region Assembly held its 21st regular meeting on 21 January in Mendefera.

At the meeting in which executive bodies of Government institutions and PFDJ took part, Mr. Woldai Gebre, Chairman of the Regional Assembly, said that strengthening national security and defense are the basis for the implementation of national development programs and safeguarding national sovereignty

and called on members of the Assembly to play due role.

The meeting in its deliberation called for addressing transportation shortage, exert more effort for the expansion of health and educational facilities, strengthening effort for developing income of cities and towns in the region and for establishing city councils.

The meeting further called on

administrations at all levels to carry out strong forestry and environmental protection, introduction of smokeless ovens, as well as for enhanced community based water and soil conservation activities.

Speaking at the occasion, Mr. Habteab Tesfatsion, Governor of the region, called on members of the Assembly to play due part in the effort to ensure the implementation of Government regulations and guidelines, as well as in collecting Government tax.

## ATHLETE RAHEL DANIEL- GOLD MEDALIST IN BELGIUM

Eritrean Olympian Athlete Rahel Daniel has clinched her fourth Gold Medal this month alone at the cross-cup in Hannut, Belgium on 22 January.

The 21 years old Athlete Rahel finished the 8 km race in 28 minutes, and 41 seconds.

Speaking to journalists, Rahel Daniel expressed readiness to register similar victory at the next road race set to be held in Australia on 18 February.

Rahel Daniel is winning Gold Medal for the fourth time in this month including in Italy on 6 January, in Spain on 8 January and in Mendefera on 14 January and for the fourth time on 22 January in Belgium.

Rahel is currently the reigning cross country champion in the women's category with 1 thousand 240 points in 36 weeks.



## VOCATIONAL TRAINING TO MEMBERS OF NUEW



The National Union of Eritrean Women branch in the Central Region organized vocational training ranging from 3 to 6 months to 128 of its members.

The training included catering, video and still camera, costume as well as music and computer technology.

At the concluding event of the training organized on 20 January, Ms. Aelm Belay, chairperson of the union branch, said that the objective of the training was to equip the members with various vocational skills and enable them improve their livelihoods.

Ms. Aelm also commended the contribution of the Ministry of Education and the National Union of Eritrean Women in the training programs.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Fesehayle Haile, Governor of the Central Region, expressed his expectation that the training program will have significant contribution in the improvement of the livelihoods of the trainees.

Ms. Tekea Tesfamichael, President of the National Union of Eritrean Women, on her part called on the trainees to practically develop their skills.

## MINISTER OF HEALTH EMPHASIZES ON THE REDUCTION OF MOTHER AND CHILD MORTALITY

Ms. Amina Nurhusein, the Minister of Health, stressed need for enhanced effort for the reduction of mother and child mortality to the lowest.

Minister Amina made the call at an activity assessment meeting the Ministry of Health branch in Anseba Region organized on 19 and 20 January in Keren.

Minister Amina also commended the effort the Ministry branch exerted in expanding health service provision to the public and in introducing modern medical equipment at health facilities.

Indicating the prevalence of non-communicable diseases is increasing, Dr. Henok Tsehaye, Medical Director, said that as a result of the sustainable awareness raising activities the number of patients seeking treatment at medical facilities is growing.

Dr. Henok also said that commendable effort has been exerted in pre and post natal treatment, vaccination programs, controlling of the prevalence of communicable diseases and eye treatment.

Speaking at concluding event of the meeting, Ambassador Abdella Musa, Governor of the Anseba Region, expressed readiness of the regional administration to stand alongside the Ministry branch in all its endeavors.

## ERITREAN COMMUNITY IN RIYADH

The Eritrean Embassy in Riyadh organized a meeting with members of the Eritrean community on 20 January focusing on the implementation of chartered-out programs.

At the meeting, Ms. Weini Gebregziabhier, Charge d'Affairs at the Eritrean Embassy, presented

a report focusing on the socio-economic situation of nationals in Riyadh and its environs as well the affiliated communities in Bahrain, Lebanon, Syria, Oman, Jordan, and Iraq.

The report also included the situation of Eritrean workers in Saudi Arabia and the effort the

Embassy is exerting to address the challenges they are encountering.

Mr. Woldeselasie Gebremedhin, head of Consular and Administrative Affairs, on his part gave a briefing on the consular services provided in 2022 and the plan of action for 2023.





# LOCAL NEWS

## EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

Mr. Ismail Ali, Head of the Ministry of Education branch in Foro sub-zone, said that equitable distribution of educational facilities have significant contribution in the development of teaching-learning process.

At a meeting with public representatives and teachers, Mr. Ismail said that the number of schools in Diot area that was two in 2018 has currently increased

to six.

Indicating that the number of students school enrolment in general and that of female students is increasing, Mr. Ismail called for strengthened participation of the public and concerned institutions for better outcome.

The participants conducted extensive discussion on the report presented and adopted various

recommendations including for the sustainability of awareness raising activities, establishment of pre-schools in Girgaro and Dungule, as well as regrouping of villages in Mailakaso and Baknaf with a view to enable school age children attend regular education.

In Foro sub-zone there are 43 schools ranging from elementary to high school providing active educational service.

## 250 CITIZENS UNDERGO EYE SURGERY AT GHINDA REFERRAL HOSPITAL

The Ministry of Health branch in the Northern Red Sea Region in cooperation with eye surgery experts conducted successful eye surgery on 250 citizens from 10 to 18 January at the Ghinda Referral Hospital.

Indicating that eye problem could be influenced by the climate condition, Dr. Adhanom Rede'e and Dr. Eyob Beyne, eye surgery experts, called for using eye glasses compatible with the climate condition.

They also said that the research conducted to identify the causes for blindness in August 2022 coupled with the increased awareness of the public have significantly contributed in the successful implementation of the eye surgery.

Dr. Samuel Woldegebriel, Medical Director of the hospital, called on citizens with eye problem to come to the hospital for treatment on time.



## CONFERENCE ON STRENGTHENING BASIC EDUCATION

Conference on strengthening basic education and capacity of students was organized in Akordet, Barentu and Teseney from 13 to 15 January.

The objective of the conference that was organized in cooperation with the Department of Research and Human Resources Development of the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Education branch in Gash Barka Region was to specify that teachers should follow in the development of basic education and capacity of students.

Speaking at the occasion, Dr. Tedros Sium, advisor at the Department of Research and Human Resources Development, said that the Ministry of Education

is earnestly working to develop the teaching-learning process and competence of students.

Dr. Tedros also explained on the importance of assigning competent teachers and care takers in the elementary schools in general and in the pre-schools in particular for the overall development of education.

Indicating on the responsibility of teachers in nurturing competent students, Mr. Mohammed-Ali Ibrahim, head of the education branch in the region, called on teachers to play due part in the effort.

The participants on their part called for the sustainability of the conference.

## from Social Media



### ← Tweet



Yemane G. Meskel  
@hawelti

Main thrust of negative western media/diplomatic campaigns against #Eritrea revolve around one theme: regional defense architectures that do not contain "made-in Washington, minor components from Brussels, label" must be viciously condemned. Z Garden's imperial hubris on display!



Yemane G. Meskel @hawelti · Jul 27, 2022  
Council on Foreign Relations Recycles a Blatant Lie

The author's ludicrous arguments to ostracize Eritrea from making modest & normative contributions in bolstering the regional defence architecture can only be interpreted as outdated imperial hubris

shabait.com/2022/07/27/cou...

2:27 PM · Jan 22, 2023 · 17.4K Views

754 Retweets 11 Quote Tweets 784 Likes

### ← Thread



Jemal Countess  
@JemalCountess

A view of the al-Sahaba mosque (or Sahaba Shrine) and the tomb of Sheikh Mohammed Durbush in the city of Massawa as seen on January 05, 2023 in Massawa, Eritrea. According to local historians and archaeologists, the al-Sahaba (or Sahaba Shrine) was constructed in 615 A.D.



Milena Bereket and Hadnet Keleta

4:30 PM · Jan 18, 2023 · 28K Views

347 Retweets 8 Quote Tweets 518 Likes



Jemal Countess @JemalCountess · Jan 18  
Replying to @JemalCountess

The structure was constructed by followers of the Prophet Muhammad who migrated to Abyssinia during the 7th century. According to local historians Sheikh Mohammed Durbush reportedly died in the 10th century and was originally buried at the Sahaba Shrine but was relocated to

3 27 66 2,746



Jemal Countess @JemalCountess · Jan 18  
his current resting place in the 19th century. The original resting place of the Sheikh, the al-Sahaba mosque dates back to 615 A.D. and according to Eritrean archeologists Dr. Tsegaye Medhin and Dr. Abraham Zerai is the first mosque on the continent of Africa.

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**ERITREA  
PROFILE**

Published Every  
Wednesday & Saturday

Editor-In-Chief  
Amanuel Mesfun

Asst. Editor-In-Chief  
Sirak Habtemichael

P.O.Box: 247

Tel: 11-41-14

Fax: 12-77-49

E-mail:

eritreaprofilemoi@gmail.com

Advertisement: 12-50-13

Layout

Azmera Berhane

Marta Bedali



# OPINION

## Highlights of AfDB Report and Overview of Economic Dimensions

*Dr. Fikrejesus Amahazion*

The African Development Bank (AfDB) has just released its inaugural edition of Africa's Macroeconomic Performance and Outlook (MEO) report. The new publication, launched in Abidjan, will provide policymakers, global investors, researchers, and others, "an up-to-date evidence-based assessment of the continent's recent macroeconomic performance and short-to-medium-term outlook amid dynamic global economic developments." Scheduled to be released twice annually (in the first and third quarters of each year), the MEO report will also complement the AfDB's existing annual publication, the African Economic Outlook, which focuses on key emerging issues relevant to the continent's economies and development.

According to the inaugural MEO report, the estimated average growth of real gross domestic product (GDP) in Africa was about 3.8 percent in 2022, which is down from 4.8 percent in 2021, but stronger than the 2.9 percent in 2019 (prior to the onset of the global COVID-19 pandemic). This development was associated with several factors, such as significant challenges following global shocks related to COVID-19, as well as the spillover effects the Russia-Ukraine conflict and conflicts on the continent. Despite the economic slowdown, however, nearly the entire continent – specifically 53 of 54 countries – posted positive growth and "all the five regions of the continent remain resilient with a steady outlook for the medium-term." Moreover, the African continent is set to outperform the rest of the world in terms of economic growth over the next two years, with real GDP projected to average around 4 percent in 2023 and 2024, which is higher than the projected global averages of 2.7 percent and 3.2 percent.

Here, it is worth pointing out that while these types of reports, and their associated findings, estimates, and projections, raise many considerations and tend to receive a lot of attention, they must also be approached with relative caution. They are frequently dependent on many conditions and it should go without saying that how things ultimately unfold or eventually end up settling can often be far different



from what is initially expected or projected.

MEO Eritrea-related highlights and some background on economic dimensions of the country

Regarding Eritrea, the MEO report estimates that GDP growth in the country during the just completed year was approximately 2.6 percent, while for the years 2023-24, GDP is projected to grow by about 2.9 percent.

Looking at the country's economic dimensions more broadly, in the years since achieving its independence, Eritrea has underpinned its long-term development strategy on the principle of self-reliance to achieve rapid, balanced, home-grown and sustainable economic growth with social equity and justice. It is classified as a low-income, developing country according to the classification frameworks of various international organization and financial institutions (such as the World Bank, IMF, WHO, among others).

A large part of Eritrea's national economy is rain-fed agriculture and pastoralism. Farming, animal herding, and fishing are the mainstay of livelihoods for approximately 65-70 percent of the population. With the country's significant agricultural potential remaining largely untapped, further development and progress through critical interventions and inputs can help to improve productivity and unlock a wealth

of positive outcomes. While still in its early stages of development, the manufacturing sector could offer some promise and potential to facilitate industrialization, attract investment, promote diversification and drive sustainable growth, and create more employment opportunities.

Although it has a history that dates back about a century, mining (copper, gold, zinc, silica, marble, granite, and potash), especially in recent years, has emerged and steadily grown to become an increasingly important and prominent sector in Eritrea. It now accounts for the vast majority of exports and foreign direct investment. The government has established favorable terms, with an easy-to-understand, relatively straightforward and reliable regulatory framework, which remains broadly consistent with global best practices. There is significant and growing foreign interest and investment, with engagement by multinational companies on exploration and mining.

In fact, just during the past several weeks and months, there have been both major mining deals signed and the announcements of encouraging drilling results that indicate the presence of major deposits of varied mineral resources at different exploration sites. What is more, given the country's large natural resource endowment, vast areas remaining unexplored, strong vigilance against corruption, attractive regulatory

regime, and overall upside, there is substantial potential for further growth, expansion, and progress.

Beyond the growing mining sector, Eritrea's long, pristine shoreline on the Red Sea – its total shoreline, stretching from its

establishment of a thriving blue economy. As well, the country's geo-strategic location, positioned along one of the world's most important international maritime shipping routes, offers boundless opportunities to become a major transshipment and logistics hub. For context, a significant volume of the world's traffic (estimated at around 80 percent) and approximately 10-12 percent of all the world's seaborne cargo passes through the Red Sea's waters annually, with millions of barrels of oil being transported daily. Not only could Eritrean ports, such as those at Massawa and Assab, play an important role in this geostrategic trade route moving ahead, but the country could also actively partake in, cooperate on, and contribute to various projects or initiatives on multilateral trade or strategic infrastructure with regional or other littoral states.

Furthermore, the country's rich biodiversity, abundance of unique socio-cultural and historical sites, untouched and unspoiled islands, and favorable climate, combined



northern border with Sudan to its southern border with Djibouti, spans approximately 3,500 km, making

with Eritrea's general peace, relative security, and the extremely warm, welcoming hospitality of its people,



it one of the longest in all of Africa – holds significant potential for the

present fantastic possibilities for a thriving tourism sector.





# Wishate- A Private Place For Women

Simon Weldemichael

Traditional building design in the Eritrean society can be traced back thousands of years. Local customs, climate and resources have often determined the planning and construction of houses. Traditional Eritrean houses in highlands and lowlands are constructed differently to make them suitable for the different climatic conditions and to satisfy the needs and aspirations of the people. Hidmo is a traditional house commonly found in highlands and huts are common in lowlands. Both Hidmo and hut are vernacular architectures of the Eritrean society.

Hidmo's interior and exterior architecture uniquely reveal the prevailing social relations and norms of household organization. The design of Hidmo is imbued with values and ideas that both reflect and exert tremendous influence over the patterns and quality of lives. This article is about one popular section of Hidmo, Wishate.

Vernacular architecture refers to buildings without architects. It may be considered by many as having inferior intrinsic value in comparison to modern architecture, but this is an erroneous assumption. Vernacular architecture is essentially the society's adaptive response to the natural environment as it meets the needs of the society by exploiting diligently the resources available in its surroundings. It's also an adaptive response to the social and cultural setting of the society.

Hidmo, a domestic, indigenous



or native architecture, is a flat-roofed rectangular house that has many sections, each having a specific function. It has spaces for sleeping, eating, storing cereals and equipment, cooking, keeping domestic animals, and performing other activities. Midri-biet (the main house), kishine (kitchen) and Wishate (a private place for women) are the main sections of Hidmo.

Wishate is an exclusively women's space, and men are forbidden to enter there. In times of conflict, Wishate serves as a safe place for women to seek refuge from the violent reaction of their partners. Wishate is culturally constructed to be a private and safe place for women that no man can dare to violate.

The cultural and architectural

meaning constructed around Wishate makes Hidmo an interesting vernacular architecture that attracts the attention of social and cultural researchers. When the Eritrean society constructed Hidmo, it considered the issue of gender. By constructing an exclusive space for women or mothers in the house, the society showed its respect for women.

Traditionally, the house is associated with motherhood – the provision of care and safety. Men or husbands spend much of the time working outside of the house, working the land and looking after their animals. Therefore, the space men need in the house is smaller than that women need. Hidmo, as a traditional house, illuminates the concept of gender and space through architectural design and cultural construction.

In traditional Eritrean society, women spend most of their time doing domestic activities, such as cooking, sewing, weaving and making utensils from locally available resources. Women have to go to and stay in Wishate to perform domestic roles in the family. The furniture in Wishate are designed to serve women's purposes. Compared to the other sections of the house, Wishate is crowded and cramped with various items.

The human experience and social relations are configured in the architecture of Hidmo. The configuration is generally fluid in the remaining sections but in the case of Wishate the boundary is finite and rigid. From gender perspective, Wishate can offer a fresh insight.

The socio-cultural meaning associated with Wishate can shed light on the nature, culture and history of the Eritrean society. Wishate is more of a symbol than a mere physical structure. It is a symbol that embodies strong meaning with a collective social and cultural agreement. Through the invention of such symbols, the Eritrean society has been able to communicate its ideals, values, attitudes and beliefs about women. A meticulous study of the architectural element and symbolic meaning of Wishate can help to understand how socio-cultural, architectural and environmental factors have influenced the people.

The domain of women in Hidmo is demarcated by physical attributes

such as floor and silo, but more important separators are the non-physical attributes. For example, it's not the physical attributes that impede the man from entering the Wishate. Gender separation in Hidmo is strict and firm according to custom, and culture is the most influential intangible factor that makes Wishate a safe private place for women. The culture forbids men to enter that room, and the society accepts the rule as an expression of respect to women.

The women change clothes, relax, talk freely with friends in this inviolable private space.

Traditional society of Eritrea severely restricted women's independence outside the home. Under such conditions, Wishate served as a refuge, a place free from outside pressures where women could relax and be themselves. It was an island of independence where women's authority reined in the middle of the vast social, cultural and political space operated outside of their control.

Today, thanks to the National Democratic Revolution of the struggle for independence, the boundary of liberty where women can walk, talk and work as free and independent beings is expanding remarkably. Eritrean women have eliminated all forms of discrimination and attained equality with men.

Opponents of tradition have no or little appreciation of the concept of Wishate. They believe that Wishate is part of the conspiracy and patriarchal hierarchy designed to oppress women. Young Eritrean women today may not see the cultural and architectural meaning of Wishate favorably. In her song dhan kuni Wishate (good-bye Wishate), Brkti Weldeaslase, revolutionary freedom fighter and singer, likens Wishate to darkness and prison that restricts women from realizing their potential.

As a private space for women, Wishate is a cultural product of the Eritrean society shaped by various intentions. Whether it's an enabler or disabler, the process through which the invention of Wishate had gone requires scrutiny. However, as part of a house invented several centuries ago, Wishate must have been designed to respond to the realities and lifestyle of women who lived at the time.





## Lighter Side



# Mesob: the Symbol of Unity Prosperity

like a champion of artisanship.

Wide at its base, it goes on narrowing until its waist. But the head appears again to be the widest circular structure.

This bestowed it the structure of a woman with tight waist, giving the dexterity of art as though it was born out of thoughtful attempt of a professional architect. Moreover, the structure resembles the traditional way of dressing of Tigrigna women, which again stands as a token of beauty.

As you proceed from just seeing to looking, you can't help noticing the secret symbol of the society: the circle.

Most other household items are based in circular structure, the Mogogo (clay oven), the Kitcha (the traditional bread), the Tsahli (traditional earth ware casserole) and the Injera itself all feature a circular structure. It then dawns on you that this is simply the traditional invention of the Eritrean mother who,

apparently, didn't have any idea of designing. Many years ago, an Eritrean mother had to come up with something that would serve her as storage for injera, her most delicate food.

And she had to do it with materials readily accessible to her. So she came up with the idea of using the palm raffia (or the fiber from its leaves). She split it into tiny strands and made tiny bundles, wrapped them with a straw fiber, which she then wove together to make the beautiful Mesob.

Looking at the intricate process of making a Mesob, one can only imagine that it might have taken a very long time. A woman can complete one Mesob in around five months. And this is taking into account the fact that the mother only does it in her part time, after a tiresome day of domestic chores. But the beauty is worth the wait.

The mother takes one stitch at a time understanding one of best nature's secret that time

and patience always reward their clients.

It seems as though Mesob was deliberately made to denote the unity that Eritreans proudly boast, as one discovers that Mesob takes part in the culture that incorporates harmony and togetherness: the Meadi. If a western invention provided us with the dining table to gather around for a meal, a traditional family of the Tigrigna society would use Mesob.

While the sunken top of the Mesob serves as food basin, usually another Mesob is there to perform as a tabletop where everybody gathers around.

As everyone extends his hand to take his share from the food provided over the Mesob, it's as if some sort of gravitational force draws everybody to integrate.

It is not an arbitrary choice then, for Eritreans to attempt to symbolize their unity and prosperity with this simple but ponderous invention.

It is one of the various Eritrean traditional handicrafts made of the palm raffia, adorned in a diversity of colors and accomplished through efforts of creativity.

This beautiful household utensil, where food (injera – the sourdough flatbread) is kept or even a traditional Tigrigna dish is served is Mesob, or the breadbasket.

Its name has been used for long as an idiom for prosperity and affluence as it is the hub of food security among the society. Thus describing Mesob as a symbol of Eritrean prosperity, unity and creativity would only mean doing

it justice.

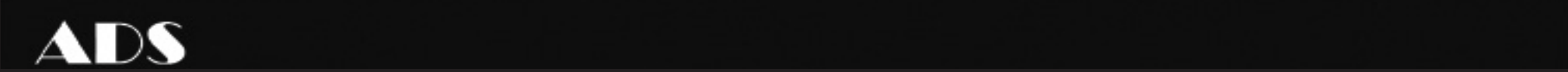
When Eritrea presented its cultural artifacts at the China World Expo, the Mesob, beyond the expectations of the organizers, was among the biggest attractions. Undoubtedly, Mesob has the artistic touch and beauty.


Whether it has food in its bosom or not the Mesob is always at prosperity in its traditional beauty.

The way the Mesob impressively stands straight hints perhaps to its primarily intended design to stand as a perfect symbol of affluence. Looking at it with analytical eyes, it looks









Zara Mining

Share Company

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position:	Office Administrator
Number required	02
Location:	Based at Koka Gold Mine (Site)
Reporting to:	Process Plant Production/ Supervisor Superintendent
Job purpose	Ensures smooth running of plant offices and contributes to driving sustainable growth.
Primary Responsibility & Scope of work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Coordinate office activities and operations to secure efficiency and compliance to company policies</li><li>➤ Supervise administrative staff and divide responsibilities to ensure performance</li><li>➤ Manage agendas/travel arrangements/appointments etc. for the upper management</li><li>➤ Create and update records and databases with personnel, financial and other data</li><li>➤ Track stocks of office supplies and place orders when necessary</li><li>➤ Track chemicals, reagent, and other consumable and place orders when necessary</li><li>➤ Update and maintain registers, Laboratory, Maintenance and Process Operations on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis.</li><li>➤ Assist in HR requests and onboarding of new employees.</li><li>➤ Book, manage and maintain meeting rooms, conference rooms and manage all minutes for multiple meetings.</li><li>➤ Calendar management: ensure up to date and scheduled correctly.</li><li>➤ Prepare power point presentations, memos, and bulletins and management briefs.</li><li>➤ Update and distribute workforce list for recruitment and travel requirements.</li><li>➤ Manage all aspects of site equipment and provide information for reporting functions.</li><li>➤ Manage all administration duties for all Toolbox talks and monthly safety meetings.</li><li>➤ Work with other areas of the site daily as required.</li><li>➤ Be first port of call for all executives and management on-site and assist with daily tasks.</li><li>➤ Payroll data entry.</li><li>➤ Assist colleagues whenever necessary</li></ul>
Knowledge & Skills Required:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ University degree/diploma in office administration or similar relevant field of expertise</li></ul>
Working Experience – Nature & Length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ A minimum of 2 years for degree or 4 years for diploma on office administration</li><li>➤ Proven administrative experience</li><li>➤ Excellent English verbal and written communication skills</li><li>➤ Business / Management qualification will be advantageous</li><li>➤ Computer literacy is essential- Excel, Word, Power Point, Outlook, (Pronto)</li><li>➤ Comfortable handling confidential information</li><li>➤ Able to manage difficult situations calmly and in a professional manner</li></ul>
Other skills and abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Strong commitment and adherence to EHS principles</li><li>➤ Solid Leadership style, able to Motivate Self and create and sustain a Motivated Team environment to ensure getting the work done</li><li>➤ Drive, Sense of Urgency, Ownership and Accountability</li><li>➤ Ability to be Collaborator</li><li>➤ Ability to work in multi-cultural environment where Respect is paramount</li><li>➤ Ability to maintain self-discipline within a demanding environment</li><li>➤ Diligent, thorough, initiative-taking, and enthusiastic</li></ul>

Salary: - According Company’s salary scale.

Place of work: - Zara Mining Share Company Koka Gold Mine  
Zoba - Gash Barka                      Sub - Zoba Salea

Additional Requirement for nationals: - Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligations and provide evidence of a release paper from the Ministry of Defence. Provide a Clearance paper from the current/last employer. Only short-listed applicants would be considered as potential candidates for an interview. Application documents will not be returned to the sender.

Please mail your applications to ZARA MINING SHARE CO HR office.  
Address: Please mail your applications to ZMSC P. O. Box 2393. Asmara, Eritrea  
Deadline for application: 10 days from the day of announcement.

Note to Non- Eritrean applicants: - Please send a copy of your application to: Aliens Employment Permit Affairs P.O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea.



**SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE (SPN) Invitation for Bids**  
(One-Envelope Bidding Process)



**Design, Supply, Installation, configuration and training of Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) software and IT Infrastructure**

Purchaser: **Ministry of Finance and National Development (MOFND)**

Project: **Public Financial Management and Statistics Capacity Building Project (PFM&SCBP)**

Contract title: **Design, Supply, Installation, configuration and training of Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) software and IT Infrastructure**

Country: **Eritrea**

Grant No.: **5900155010251**

1. The Government of the State of Eritrea has received financing from the African Development Fund toward the cost of the Public Financial Management and Statistics Capacity Building Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards payment under the contract for **Design, Supply, Installation, configuration and training of Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) software and IT Infrastructure** (Without Prequalification)
2. The Ministry of Finance and National Development (MOFND) now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for **The Design, Supply, Installation, configuration and training of Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) software and IT Infrastructure** including:
  - a) Supply, installation and configuration of a IFMIS Software as per the user requirements. The system should be compliant with international best practices.
  - b) Supply the hardware that is suitable for the IFMIS including user equipment, server systems, information security systems and implementation and support services.
  - c) Ensure data migration services.
  - d) Deploy IFMIS Solution and Pilot Testing at Key locations.
  - e) Ensure Go Live and Roll-Out of IFMIS Solution at Key locations.
  - f) Provide services for integration/interfacing of the IFMIS with internal and external identified stakeholders/systems/ components.
  - g) Ensure comprehensive transfer of knowledge and skills to users.
  - h) Ensure Technical training on the configuration, system administration, system support, integration and system security.
  - i) Ensure User Training on the functions of the IFMIS supplied.
  - j) Execute Awareness and Workshops for the Change Management program.
  - k) Ensure Post Operational Acceptance and Full Roll-Out of IFMIS Solution.
  - l) Ensure Operation & Maintenance Support services.
3. Bidding will be conducted through the Open Competitive Bidding (International), OCBI procedures as specified in the **Bank's Procurement Policy for Bank Group Funded Operations dated 2015**, IFB and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Procurement Framework.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from **The Procurement Unit, Ministry of Finance and National Development (MOFND), Asmara, Eritrea. E Mail Address: [hnbereket@gmail.com](mailto:hnbereket@gmail.com), Tel +291-1-124698 during office hours (08h: 00 to 17h: 00 local time)** on week days except public holidays.
5. The bidding document in **English** may be purchased by interested eligible Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **USD200.00 or equivalent in a convertible currency**. The method of payment will be made either through Western Union or Agents in Asmara. The document will be sent to prospective bidders by **email** after verification of payment.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **16H00 Local Time on the 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2023**. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives on the Ministry of Finance and national development conference Hall on the **15<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 16H00 local time**.
7. The address referred to above is:

**Attention:**  
**Mr. Henok Bereket (PIU Procurement Unit Head)**  
**The Ministry of Finance and National Development (MOFND)**  
**IFMIS Implementation Project**  
**E Mail Address: [hnbereket@gmail.com](mailto:hnbereket@gmail.com) copy to**  
**[tesfaldetda@gmail.com](mailto:tesfaldetda@gmail.com)**  
**Tel +291-1-124698**  
**Asmara, Eritrea**





## *“I Personally Prefer My Songs to Have Traditional Roots” . . .*

### *Artist Abrehet Berhane*

Sabrina Solomon

*How did you join your fellow friends in the armed struggle?*

We were very young back then. The year was 1975, a very chaotic time when information was vital. We really wanted to know what was going on in the battlefields and how our brothers and sisters were doing in the armed struggle. The only available means of information was the radio, which back then was rare. I joined the armed struggle when I was young. I took military training at Arag and Hiday for nine months.

After completing the military training, I was assigned to the 23rd unit stationed in North east Sahil. At the time the EPLF was forming cultural troupes and I joined one. I was a singer, actress and dancer for a while but spent most of the time singing and playing musical instruments.

*Tell us about your career as an artist.*

I've really loved singing since a very young age. I was always chosen to sing the national anthem at school. Seeing my potential and passion, my fellow peers pushed me to join art clubs and I did.

When I joined the art clubs, I started imitating the guys who were playing kirar (traditional stringed musical instrument) and kept on practicing even after the practice

*Our guest today, Abrehet Berhane, is one of the legendary Eritrean singers and song writers who has been performing since the struggle for independence. Born and raised in Asmara, she joined the EPLF at a young age to fight for Eritrea's independence.*

time was over. There were people who didn't like seeing me play kirar because it wasn't common at the time for girls to play musical instruments. I was, however, able to get permission to play it and I mastered it so well by 1980. I started singing while playing kirar at the beginning of 1985.

When I was told that I was going to sing and play my kirar for the first time, I was nervous. Back

hold on to the passion that I had for that instrument. I can play Kirar, drum, guitar and wata (a traditional stringed instrument) so well.

*How many songs have you produced?*

Around 70 songs. More than ten of them are traditional songs produced using only Kirar. I recorded songs in a cassette that was released in 1996 and produced



then only legendary female artists like Tsehaytu Beraki and Amleset Abay were playing kirar while singing. So, I practiced a lot and performed on the stage in Sahil. I was the first female to do it, and the positive feedback I got from people gave me more courage to

an album in VCD.

*You have so many songs based on traditional concepts, right?*

Yes indeed. I believe my works should have deep traditional roots. I have noticed that the music produced these days is a bit removed from our traditional roots and doesn't reflect the tradition. The social media has affected our music and dressing styles. As an artist, I'd love to focus more on our culture, and I believe that we can produce music by blending the modern and the traditional without losing or ruining the traditional roots.

Also, I don't think enough attention is given to traditional musical instrument players. I think that's the reason why so many women who can play many instruments don't actually play Kirar. I believe musicians who play traditional instruments need to be encouraged.

*What was the contribution of art like during the struggle for independence?*



Art influences the way people think and view things. As we all know we started the armed struggle with unshakable goals and not a lot of weapons. To fill the holes and agitate the people, art played a big role. By expressing the freedom fighters' successes and visions through music and other art forms, the people's aspirations for liberation was kept alive. Singing to celebrate the small but impactful wins, singing after a deadly battle to make its impact less traumatic, and singing to remind people why we were fighting led to independence that caught the world by surprise.

*Tell us about your journey as a singer after Eritrea's independence?*

I kept pursuing it like the rest of my peers and friends. I started writing songs and recording them on cassettes to be sold to the public. I also decided to keep producing extraordinary works with my Kirar despite the challenges I faced as a female playing such an instrument.

As time went by, I introduced wata in my songs. I wanted to learn to play it but it was difficult at the beginning. Fortunately, my passion and my persistence helped me not to give up on it. In just two months, I was able to sing some songs

playing wata. This is by far the most difficult instrument that I have come to master. You can tell how difficult it could be when you see a one-string instrument producing all the different melodies.

*You have performed in other countries?*

Yes I have. I have performed in many cities of America, Europe, Australia and Kuwait. All the foreigners were always impressed to see us sing playing kirar. They always ask how we are able to make beautiful music with a five-string instrument. Seeing people from different cultural backgrounds taking photos of it and asking about it always makes me happy and proud to present my culture.

*Is there anything else you would like to say?*

As a nation, art can help us to promote our culture and identity. More opportunities should be given to artists to showcase our beautiful culture worldwide. And no matter how much the art industry evolves, our music should never lose its traditional roots. That's why all of my songs have traditional roots.

*Thank you.*

