

INTERNATIONAL WORKERS CONFERENCE CONVENED IN ASMARA

A two-day conference organized by the National Confederation of Eritrean Workers (NCEW) in collaboration with the World Confederation of Labor Unions opened in Asmara on Thursday 24 March this week.

The opening session was attended by senior Eritrean government

Osman Saleh, underlined the vital role of worker's unions in economic development and in the promotion of peace.

The Foreign Minister further explained Eritrea's persistent effort to promote equitable distribution of resources in the interest of the people and overcoming poverty.

Secretary General of the National Confederation of Eritrean workers (NCEW) noted the significance of the present conference in coping with the common challenges that workers' organizations are facing. In the same vein, Mr. Wellington Chibebe, ITUC Deputy General Secretary, emphasized the significance of joint efforts vis-a-



vis tackling external interference and exploitation.

the globe and the need for workers organizations everywhere to mount concerted opposition to such acts.

Also addressing the meeting, Mr. Kwasi Amankwah, General Secretary of the ITUC-Africa, pointed out that he had been closely observing the activities of Eritrean workers organization and that Eritrea is on the right path. He also noted the adverse effects of terrorist activities being perpetrated around

The World Confederation of Labor Unions, which groups about 200 million members, has its headquarters in Brussels city, while the African Confederation of Labor Unions is based in Lome, Republic of Togo.



and PFDJ officials, heads of national unions, representatives of international organizations in Eritrea and invited guests.

In this connection, he noted the decisive contribution of close cooperation among labor unions to attain the set goal.

Addressing the opening session, Eritrea's Foreign Minister, Mr.

Likewise, in a speech delivered at the conference, Mr. Tekeste Baire,

INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION CONDUCT FESTIVAL

The 7th festival of the Institutions of Higher Education was launched on 24 March at the premises of the Eritrean Institution of Technology at Mai-Nefhi; the environs of Asmara. The opening ceremony was attended by senior government and PFDJ officials, heads of national associations, members of the institutions of tertiary education as well as foreign diplomats.

In his opening speech, Prof. Gebrehiwot Medhane, the Vice President of EIT stated that the festival had been going on for four months at the college levels.

Mr. Mensura Ismail, Head of the

NUEYS at the Institutions of Higher Education for his part underlined that the underlying purpose of the festival was to nurture competition and the exchange of experiences among the youth.

Mr. Alamin Mohammed Seid, the Secretary of the PFDJ, officially opened the exhibition prepared by the students.

The four-day festival includes educational and artistic contests, traditional and modern sports competitions, exhibitions, display of innovations as well as cultural shows.



PRESS STATEMENT

ERITREA SHARED ITS EXPERIENCE IN COMBATING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

The National Union of Eritrean Women and the Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the United Nations in partnership with the United Nations Country Team in Eritrea organized a side-event under the theme: "From Grassroots to National Action in Combating Gender Based Violence in Eritrea" on 22 March 2016 in New York. The side-event was held in the margins of the 60th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women aimed at sharing Eritrea's experience, challenges and achievements in combating all forms of violence against women and girls.

Ambassador Girma Asmerom, Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations, in his opening remarks, stated that the exemplary contribution of Eritrean women in the struggle for independence and nation-building is a matter of historical fact that is documented by different researchers and partners. He also noted that some quarters with sinister motives against Eritrea deliberately fabricate baseless allegations such as "systematic rape is taking place in Eritrea". Ambassador Girma asserted that "because rape is considered culturally immoral and intolerable by the people of Eritrea as well legally a criminal act, in Eritrea systematic rape has never taken place in the past and will never take place in the future".

Ms. Tekea Tesfamichael, the President of the National Union of Eritrean Women, in her keynote address asserted that "equality and empowerment of women has constituted a decisive part of the nation building process and their role and contribution has been appreciated and recognized by all government institutions and society". She also underlined that "the National Union of Eritrean Women, a grassroots organization with almost three-hundred thousand (300,000) membership and offices all over the country and outside is steadfastly serving as machinery for organizing, empowering and combating any form of violence against the Eritrean women." She stated "as a result, today Eritrean women get equal pay for equal work and have the legal right to own land and property".

Ms. Senait Mehari, from National Union of Eritrean Women, Director General of Socioeconomic Services, presented in detail Eritrea's experience in combating all forms of gender based violence, in particular FGM/C, rape and underage marriage. She also stated that the new Eritrean penal code that was published in 2015 includes definite terms of imprisonment for rape. Ms. Senait further elaborated on how the bottom up grassroots approach has contributed in the sharp reduction of violence against women in Eritrea.

Ms. Christine Umutoni who served in Eritrea for the last three years as UN Resident Coordinator/UN Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, presented concrete and detailed evidence based information on how the NUEW in cooperation with the UN Agencies and other partners is implementing the agenda of women empowerment and equality in Eritrea. She testified that "in Eritrea every penny is properly accounted. For example, a fund allocated to build one dam ends up being utilized for the construction of three dams."

During the question and answer and interactive session delegates from Nigeria, Sudan Kenya and Liberia took the floor and expressed their support and appreciation to the NUEW for its remarkable activities in the empowerment and equality of the Eritrean women.

REPORTAGE

CASS Students Showcase Importance of Sociology and Social Work

By: Dr. Fikrejesus Amahazion

The Department of Sociology and Social Work hosted its annual Sociology Day on March 22nd at the College of Arts and Social Sciences (CASS), located in the southern small town of Adi Keih. Sociology Day allows the department to showcase itself to the school and surrounding community, introducing attendees to the department's faculty and students and sharing its work. Notably, throughout the duration of the academic year at CASS, many departments arrange special events and exhibitions that provide important insight into their respective disciplines.

This year's program, fully organized and implemented by the department's students, who range from second-year to fourth-year and are from across Eritrea, featured a wide array of diverse events and activities. The morning segment involved highly entertaining student presentations outlining the history and dimensions of the field, informational posters, challenging general knowledge quizzes, and brief, yet insightful, introductions to foundational theories and figures, including Auguste Comte, Emile Durkheim, Karl Marx, and Max Weber. For the evening component, activities shifted to CASS' large, expansive auditorium, where students presented socially-conscious music videos, touching slideshows, hilarious comedy skits, and short plays which poignantly

illustrated a broad range of societal issues and problems. The evening's events also included a traditional coffee ceremony with sweets and light refreshments, including himbasha.

Dr. Bimal Kanta Nayak, Head of the Department of Sociology and Social Work, expressed his deep satisfaction with the day's various events, noting that, "this is a great day for our students, our department, and CASS, in general. The student's put in a tremendous amount of effort and hard work...it is so wonderful to see it all come together." Dr. Nayak's sentiments were shared by Ms. Rahel Gebrihiwot, a third-year Sociology and Social Work student, who stated, "it's encouraging to see so many people attend and I'm so happy with the success of this day.

It's also important that others – freshman, students from other departments, and the general community – get a sense of what sociology and social work are all about." Ms. Rahel, who harbours ambitions of becoming a counsellor and positively impacting the lives of others, also commented on the general importance of sociology and social work, stating, "sociology and social work are fundamental to society since they help us identify problems and develop useful approaches to solving them."

In addition to being full of fun and entertainment, the day's events were significant for the fact that they offered a multitude of benefits for students. According to Mr. Yosief Berhane, a third-year Sociology and Social Work student who has long had a desire to help others and improve communities, "Sociology Day is about more than just fun... this day is about sharing, learning, and teaching." It isn't difficult to see how or why. For example, in preparing and implementing the day's various events, students exercised an assortment of important skills, including time-management, cooperation, prioritization, organization, leadership, and delegation.

Furthermore, a large body of research suggests that integrating arts, music, education, and extra-curricular activities helps develop the whole brain, promote imagination,



College of Arts and Social Sciences (CASS)

and present students with a vital creative outlet. Such a perspective is supported by Mr. Romodan Ahmedin Mohammed, PFDJ CASS Office representative and one of the event's attendees, who said, "I am deeply proud of these students. These types of events show that our youth are not just great students, but great people as well." Mr. Romodan went on to add, "activities and initiatives such as these are crucially important because they bring the school community together, thus providing an environment for improved achievement, and also because a great amount of learning, growth, and development often takes place outside of the classroom."

Overall, the day's programs were quite well-received. Attendees, ranging from staff and students of CASS to youth from the surrounding town of Adi Keih, expressed appreciation and admiration. The evening's events were characterized by enthusiastic applause and loud, boisterous whistles of approval. During his closing remarks, Dr. Woldetinsae Tewelde, Dean of the College, commended the event's organizers and participants, before revealing exciting upcoming developments. Specifically, the Dean shared that CASS would soon commence a new Master's Degree program in Information Sciences, and that a variety of new equipment and technical aids would arrive to support the school's disabled students.

Broadly, sociology is the description and explanation of social behaviour, social structures, and social interaction in terms of these social structures, and in terms of people's perceptions of the social environment. The discipline provides important insights into the forces that shape individuals, small groups, communities, organizations and institutions, nation-states,

facts and theories learned within the classroom to assist individuals and communities eliminate or reduce factors that contribute to the problems people experience.

The College of Arts and Social Sciences, currently within its sixth academic year, has an annual enrolment of approximately 1500 students, nearly evenly split between males and females. Located near several significant traditional and historical sites, the school has ten total academic departments, nine of which award degrees while one awards diplomas. Furthermore, the college also boasts a traditional and digital library, bookstore, staff and student cafeterias, recreation lounge featuring satellite television and games, all-weather outdoor sports courts, intercollegiate athletic teams, and various student clubs.

LOCAL NEWS

INDEPENDENCE TORCH BEGINS ITS TOUR IN GASH BARKA REGION

The Independence Torch has begun its tour in the Gash Barka Region after ending its journey in the Southern Region.

The handing-over ceremony took place at Molki on Monday March 21st. The Governors of the Southern and Gash Barka Regions, the Commanders of the Central and Western Commands, residents as well as members of the EDF were present at the ceremony.

The Governor of Gash Barka Region, Mr. Fesehaie Haile, stated that the torch will stay in the

Region for one month and cover all historic areas of epic battles that epitomize the resistance of the Eritrean people.

The Governor of the Southern Region, Mr. Efreem Gebrekristos, stated that the torch evokes the memories of the struggle and the high price that was paid to secure national independence. He also said that the torch is a reminder for building a strong and prosperous nation.

Next week, the torch will pass through Tokombia, Augaro and Golij and travel a total distance of 129 kilometers.



**ERITREA
PROFILE**

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Development

Willingness to be Part of a Solution

Kesete Ghebrehiwet

In Mendefera Sub-zone, particularly in the villages of Ginabale, Adekesemti and other villages in the environs of Sheka Wedi-Bsrat, a life changing water supply project has been put in place. This project is expected not only to alleviate challenges related to potable water but is largely expected to boost small scale agricultural activities. Mai-Afras River, which has been dried for quite a long period of time has recently started streaming water in a way it used to be around 50 years ago. A quite old well, just in the banks of Mai-Afras River, which has been drained for almost 10 years, has impounded water to its brim. But, what is the reason behind? How did all these changes happen? It is hard to imagine of such a big water supply project to be carried out through an initiative taken by an individual Eritrean. Mr. Yemane Kidane left Eritrea when he was just a boy, only 10 years of age. During his stay abroad he traveled to a number of African countries until he permanently settled in Sweden in 1961. He has now managed to construct a dam worth an expense of Nakfa one

Million.

In making this project a reality, Mr. Yemane allocated a large sum of money, while contribution of Eritreans abroad and that of expatriate friends of Eritrea was of a great help. The numerous certificates he obtained from Eritrea's Embassy to Sweden is best example of the contributions he has made in the nation building process.

Besides the dam project, Mr. Yemane had drilled a well in Deret-a village situated seven kilometers from Ghinda'e. Water pipelines were erected to connect the water supply center to an electric supply line at a total cost of Nakfa 700,000.

Similarly, back in 1995, Mr. Yemane drilled two wells in his village of birth. A water reservoir and two pumping generators were installed as part of this project which cost him Nakfa one million. The villages Ginabale, Adekesemti, Sheka Wedi-Bsrat and other villages have become beneficiaries from this water supply project.

The recent construction of a new

dam from which the inhabitants in the environs of Sheka Wedi-Bsrat area have already become beneficiaries streams from a far sighted vision of this individual.

Even though the water supply projects implemented in 1995 have enabled the inhabitants of the aforementioned villages to have an easy access to potable water, they have been facing challenges of adequate amount of water for their livestock and also for irrigation based agricultural activities. At the time, Mr. Yemane took an initiative to construct a dam for which he received huge human power support from the inhabitants of this respective area. Hence, the dam was finalized before last year's rain season and impounded adequate amount of water which enabled the inhabitants to carry on livestock breeding activities.

Mai-Afras River situated just below the newly constructed dam has now been utterly changed into a green area. This dam has enriched underground water resources and, hence, Adi-Lakba village has now been endowed with a streaming water of Mai-Afras River. All the wells constructed some years back have now become a source for a



supply of non-stagnant of water for a number of people. The people in this areas have now been carrying vegetables farming activities at ease.

Mr. Yemane's initiative emanates from his strong belief that if all nationals who have the resources take initiatives to make investment in such like projects, at least in their environs, the nation building process would not only be accelerated but it would be carried out with an apparent ease. "The initiative I have been taking is solely aimed at encouraging all nationals who have the resources make due contribution in alleviating

challenges of their fellow people." Mr. Yemane explains.

"Deficit of water is no more a challenge to us. Our problem is solved once and for all. If we judiciously utilize the water resource we have, we will never ever have any challenge." is what the inhabitants of Adekestmti said.

While commenting on the sustainability of the water supply, Mr. Yemane said that what is demanded of the beneficiaries of the dam is proper protection. Otherwise, the dam would be silted in a short period of time.

Remarks by Mr. Estifanos Afewerki, Eritrea's Ambassador to Japan and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC)

Ambassador Estifanos welcomed Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, President of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB) and his team who are currently visiting to Japan, Korea and China and he made the following remarks:

• "As you all know, the 6th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) will take place in Nairobi, Kenya on 27-28 August 2016. The African Diplomatic Corps here in Tokyo has been working hand in hand and very successfully with Mr. Masayuki and his predecessor Mr. Tamagawa, Heads of the

External Representation Office for Asia African Development Bank, to put our continent's priorities into the agenda of the business community of Japan.

• "Our group is also is in the process of working very closely and continuously with the co-organizers of TICAD VI to help in structuring the outcome of the coming Nairobi summit to reflect the common Africa position of Agenda 2063, (the first ten-year implementation plan), i.e. to address industrialization, health, water, sanitation and social stability of our continent. AfDB's proactive continued support to

this endeavor is recognized and highly appreciated by the African Diplomatic Corps here in Tokyo."

• "... Africa is representing the world's highest economic growth arena in the world today. Africa has now entered into an age of investment as opposed to just traditional aid. There is an increasing move towards leveraging aid for greater trade and investment and towards supporting small and medium sized enterprises, which are the backbone of African economies. AfDB's recent agreement with the Government of Japan on this cardinal issue resonates with the

efforts and continued dialogue that our group has been making with the business community here in Japan

• "In our collective efforts here, we have recently reviewed past plans and commitments of the TICAD process. This included the Enhanced Private Sector Assistance (EPSA) Initiative of Japan to support implementation of the AfDB's Strategy for Private Sector Development. We believe the current enhancement of this initiative can greatly contribute to the different programs of our national and sub-regional development programs of our

continent."

• "Realizing the cardinal role that investment could play in our African countries' development imperatives, the AfDB through the EPSA initiative of Japan can be a key catalyst, to encourage investment and corporates to play an active constructive, and when needed a proactive role in the development and utilization of the continent's natural resources, expanding exports, fostering transfer of technologies and SME's development, agriculture, fisheries and marine resources, manufacturing, tourism, infrastructure, transpiration, other services and free zones."



Reading: A Catalyst for National Social Consciousness

Natnael Yebio W.

There's nothing like the smell of old books or the crack of one's spine. And it turns out that diving into a page-turner can also offer benefits towards your health and happiness.

The public library is an amazing place to this day and I still can't get over it. Free knowledge for anyone. Literally, anyone. I can't think of an equivalent, other than going to a clothing store, "checking out" an outfit, wearing it and then returning it weeks later, free of charge. Except that books are so much better than clothes.

With that – and to the delight of avid supporters and followers of Eritrean literature, as well as general book lovers – the 15th annual Eritrean Book Fair was opened yesterday at Expo.

The Eritrean Book fair was first launched in 2002. Focused on encouraging and developing reading habits in the country, the fair brings together Eritreans that are involved in the preparation, printing, distribution, and reading of books. Results have consistently been encouraging, and the fair's impact is self-evident. Amongst the various activities and efforts to promote reading in Eritrea, the book fair is distinguished as by its great organization and effectiveness.

The love of reading is deemed as one of the most important keys for success in education and in life in

general. It is widely-accepted that reading develops the mind and expands our intellectual horizons. It ultimately helps individuals to be more knowledgeable and successful.

What we often fail to give due appreciation to is how reading substantively contributes to nation building. Reading broadens our perspectives and can therefore enable us to find solutions for problems and challenges.

It also considerably improves our productivity in many endeavors. Productivity and development are some of the fundamental pillars of an effective nation building process. Indeed, economy is an important factor that greatly influences the progress of nation building.

One aspect of reading's role which is not much talked about is its role as a catalyst for national social consciousness. Collective memory, knowledge, and experiences can be greatly enhanced by reading. In this sense, reading can rightly be described as an invisible vehicle that moves people across time and space.

Our bonds with our fellow citizens depend on how familiar we are with each other. Here, the role of reading is perhaps inestimable. We know about the places, culture, tradition, history, and potential, challenges of our country through reading;



and this forms our collective psyche that enables us to have a common vision and act in unison. That is precisely the reason why the literacy campaign was an important facet within our struggle for liberation.

Significantly, reading can be a highly effective process through which we can augment our knowledge in order to increase our productivity and foster our national consciousness. However, in many countries, including Eritrea, reading is still in its infant stage. However, the trend is perceptibly changing, and people seem to be engaged in reading more.

Notably, the last five years have witnessed many initiatives and programs to raise awareness of the merits of reading and publishing original Eritrean books by Eritrean writers.

And now the 15th annual Eritrean Book Fair is being held from March 25th to 1st of April at the Asmara Expo grounds. The fair will demonstrate the steady development and progress registered in terms of reading, and it is hoped that this year's edition will also feature a number of new writers and books. Importantly, the fair also offers visitors opportunity to meet authors and share experiences.

While it encourages witnessing

the emphasis in promoting reading, it should also be noted that without the active participation and appreciation on our part, it couldn't achieve its goals.

You can tell just by setting your foot in the hall, how much effort has been exerted to make this happen. Nor that it is hard to understand why such priority is given to it. The fact is that in this era of globalization and in our attempt to build a prosperous nation, a fully-equipped and knowledgeable youth is a necessity. And what better way is there to attain in building and cultivating a reader youth? Reading helps to expand one's view of the world around us and diminish the barriers that may be in its way.

Since I am accused of being a writer, I would like to conclude my discussion with a short anecdote. After all, writers are not too different from the old men and women sitting around the fire and spinning tales throughout the night.

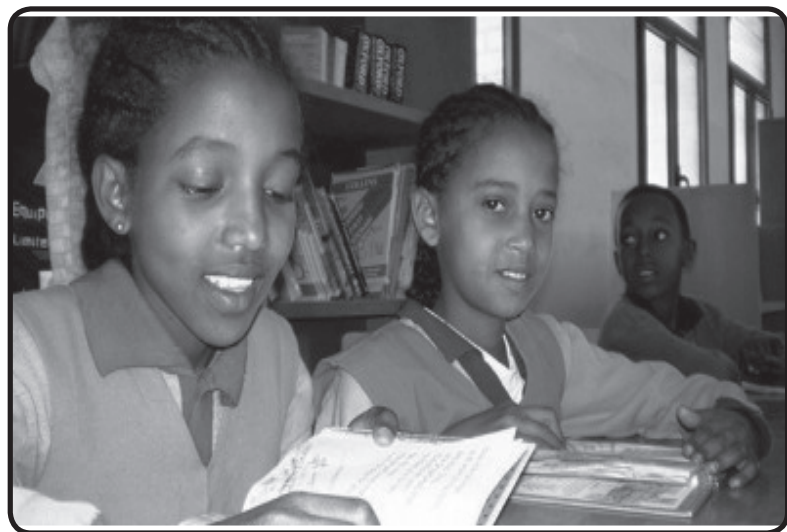
During one "blackout" evening a couple of years ago, I lit a candle in my room in order to read a book. A friend of mine was amazed to find me doing this and argued that the blackout gave me a valid excuse not to read. She wondered why I had to go out of my way to "assault" my eyes

in that manner. She made this observation particularly since I was not enrolled in any academic institution and that I had no obligation to read, let alone doing so with the help of a candle.

I am sharing this story precisely because I believe that my friend's attitude, namely that reading is an activity you embark on only when you "have to," is prevalent in our society. The education sector is of course a reliable barometer to measure literacy levels but this does not mean that reading should be confined to the classroom. It is unfortunate that we often only realize that the horror of lack of reading is a culture at a very advanced stage.

With that being said, building a nation is a task that cannot afford complacency. It is multi-dimensional, which is why our effort to address it should be multi-faceted. Reading, hence, stands out as one of the fundamental and reliable ways.

What makes it effective is perhaps its capacity to shape and frame our youngsters whose consciousness is the basis for a united, strong nation. Therefore, the Eritrea Book Fair should be made as one of our biggest festivals and everyone should actively contribute towards its success for it is one of the strongest catalysts for change.





The Forgotten Rider: Tesfom Okubamariam

As Eritreans were celebrating their triumph at the African Championships by eating chocolate and listening to some pop music, a question remained about why the victor, Tesfom Okubamariam, is not a professional already, in the slipstream of his best friend Daniel Teklehaimanot. The polka-dot jersey wearer at the last Tour de France states: "Tesfom has everything to be a pro, he deserves this."

Five hours earlier, the finisher claimed the gold medal of the Continental Championships, out-sprinting two professionals of Team Dimension Data, Algeria's Youcef Reguigui and fellow Eritrean Mekseb Debesay. He had a clean two-meter gap on the finish line in Benslimane, Morocco. With five men in the top 10, his national team crushed the 180km race and overcame some echelons opened by Moroccans.

Tesfom Okubamariam, 24, already had great presence last month at the Tropicale Amissa Bongo, Gabon, when he became the first African amateur to take the yellow jersey – he finally

finished fourth after the crucial time trial. His international record starts even earlier, in 2012, with a stage win and a king of mountains title at the Tour of Algeria.

"I had some bad luck in my career," Okubamariam told Cyclingnews in his hotel in Casablanca.

His story is mainly a matter of luck indeed, or more exactly, a matter of door. It opened on the right time for Daniel Teklehaimanot, the Eritrean pioneer, who moved in 2009 to the World Cycling Centre (WCC) in Switzerland, paving the way to a professional cycling career in Europe. Natnael Berhane and Merhawi Kudus, two stars of Eritrean cycling, followed the same path. But four years later the doors to the "Old Continent" stand closed for Okubamariam.

"I had an invitation to join the World Cycling Centre in 2013 but I couldn't go because the Swiss government was refusing to deliver visa to Eritreans at that time," he says with a relaxed voice and no specific complaint.

Instead, this rouleur-sprinter



went to the WCC's satellite in South Africa in 2014 and 2015, as it was easier to travel across the continent. The centre, based in Potchefstroom, near Johannesburg, has helped more than 400 cyclists to develop in the past 10 years but all the latest need European experience then to improve further and gain exposure.

Tesfom Okubamariam has only raced twice in Europe, at the 2012 Tour de l'Avenir won by Warren Barguil ("It was really too cold, there was snow one day") and the World Championships in Copenhagen the year before ("It was very fast and long, I learned a lot from this race"). But he never had a full season in France or Italy to show himself.

Today, when he is not racing with his national team, Okubamariam is staying in Asmara, the Eritrean capital, with Zoba Debub, his club from his cycling beginning in 2008, when he was a teammate of Teklehaimanot.

The icon of African cycling is Okubamariam's best friend and shares his house when he is back to his country.

"Daniel helps me a lot," the new African Champion says. "Everything I ask he does it for me. I try to do everything like him. For instance he sends me his training program from Dimension Data and I try to do the same at home."

"If I ride my bike for seven hours he also will do seven hours exactly," Teklehaimanot says.

So why is Okubamariam still not in the picture of a foreign pro team? Teklehaimanot believes this is a matter of age too. "Tesfom is now 24 and many teams think they only need riders under 22. It's a real shame."

After finishing the African continental Championships, both friends split. The pro rider went to Casablanca airport to fly to Italy and prepare for Paris-Nice. The amateur cyclist went back to Algeria to take part in the Tour of Algeria (*at present the Tour of Algeria is at its ending stages*).

They will be on the same plane one day. "I stopped thinking too much about turning pro," Okubamariam says. "I am now concentrating on the Tour of Algeria with the national team and the Tour of Eritrea, because cycling is my life, my job, my mission."

By Pierre Carrey | for
CyclingNews,





STATE OF ERITREA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL AGRICULTURE
PROGRAMME
(NAP) IFAD

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Government of ERITREA has received a Grant from the International Fund for Agricultural Development towards the cost of National Agricultural Project (NAP) and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this Grant will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for the Supply of:- **Lot.1 Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 1st Class Meteorological Station.**

The Eligible bidders should have a professional experience and renewed license for the year of 2014/15 appropriate for the **1st Class Meteorological Station.**

Bid shall be Valid for a Period of 90 days after Bid opening, and must be accompanied by a bid Security of 2% at any Eritrean Bank and delivered to Procurement and Supplies Management Unit Office on or before April 19/2016 local hours 14:30 PM and will be opened On the same date at 15:00 PM Local hours in the presence of the Bidders or Bidders' Representatives who wish to attend.

Eligible bidders may bid for a complete lot. Bid for partial lot will be rejected as non responsive a complete set of bidding documents may be collected by any interested Eligible bidders from

the address below.

Ministry of Agriculture, Procurement and Supply management Unit, Sawa Street, Tel:181077/76 Fax: 181415, P.O.Box:1048, Asmara, Eritrea.

Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 3:00 Pm Local Time hrs on April 19, 2016.

The Ministry of Agriculture reserves the right to accept or reject this bid fully or in part if it finds any option better than this IFB without needing to justify the grounds for it doing so and Compensation which the bidder may incurred in preparing its bid.

Ministry of Agriculture

Invitation for Bids

Country: *Eritrea*

Name of Purchaser: *Project Management* Unit – *Ministry of Education (PMU - MoE)*

Procurement of Furniture for PMU office

IFB No.: PMU-MOE/GPE/G/LS/002/2016

The lots comprising this bid are:

Lot 1: MDF Wooden Cupboards, high back swivel & fixed chairs

Lot 2: Complementing PMU-MoE Office Aluminum Partitioning

1. The Government of the State of Eritrea has received a grant from the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) toward the cost of Enhancing Equitable Access to Quality Basic Education for Social Justice, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this grant to payments under the contract for the procurement of furniture and other facilities to furnish PMU-MoE office.

2. The Project Management Unit of the Ministry of Education (PMU – MoE) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of procurement of furniture and other facilities to be delivered between May 10, 2016 and May 30, 2016.

3. Bidding will be conducted through the Local Shopping (LS) procedures, and is open to all bidders.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Management Unit – Ministry of Education (PMU - MoE), Asmara, Eritrea, Tel: 291-1-151614, Fax: 291-1-152181, Email: mgilagaber@gmail.com, and/or michaelsheghe@gmail.com, and inspect the Request for Quotations (RFQ) at the address given below during working hours Monday through Friday.

5. A complete set of the Request for Quotations (RFQ) in the English language may be collected by interested bidders at no cost on the submission of a written application to the address below starting Friday, April 1, 2016.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 10:00 A.M local time on April 19, 2016. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 10:00 A.M local time on April 19, 2016. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of ERN 25,000.00 (Twenty Five Thousand Eritrean Nakfa) for Lot 1 and ERN 20,000.00 (Twenty Thousand Eritrean Nakfa) for Lot 2.

The address referred to above is:

Project Management Unit – Ministry of Education (PMU - MoE)

Street Address: Hday Street 748-1

Floor/Room number: Dembe Sembel, Block "A", First Floor, RH

Office Phone Number: 151614

Asmara, Eritrea

7. Interested National Bidders shall submit a copy of their renewed license for the year 2015, together with their bids.

INDEPENDENCE TORCH IN TOUR





“Keeping Pictures In Their Original Elements, is The Best Mechanism”

Yosief Abraham Z.

From the scattered sand hills across the Sahel region to the depression of Danakil, including to the lush green forests of Semenawi Bahri, to the banks of perennial rivers, and over that, the attracting treasures of Eritrean people have been a splendor source of artful activities. Even if of a young age as he was born in 1985, young photographer, Samuel Ghebrezghi G., has depth in his shots.

Concerning to the introduction of modern photograph in Eritrea...

There are thousands black and white photographs which in-square Eritrea's realistic situation starting from the early years of the 20th century; in fact, majority of these pictures have been archived outside of the country since they were taken by consecutive colonizers. It is hard not notice, you know, we have plenty of pictures of Asmara, Keren and Massawa.

What would be the importance of photographs to you?

In 1950s, for instance, there were about 20 thousand traditional fishermen along the Eritrean Red Sea coasts. And currently, we have those well helped fishermen; thus, easily you can manage the difference by paying a glance at the photographs.

Similarly, clothing and hairstyles of ethnics, households attributions, ways of accomplishing agricultural and cultural activities, among other listless attachments, came into comparison and knowledge with the help of photographs. The prevalence of thousands valuable photographs of the over 10, 860 days and nights (or 30 years) years struggle of the Eritrean people are, in fact, greatly appreciated for bringing past years memories intact and original: like a liaison.

Do you think technology affects photograph? For positive or negative, I mean.

We see people with sophisticated cameras which are well armed with high and effective pixels lenses. Also, having portable

gadgets is a big help when there is a moment worth capturing. For example, I can mention one student from Eritrea Institute of Technology who took the photographs of women active participation in building dams, efforts for paving roads in the Engela-Demhina route. It was highly recognized when it started circulating. Nevertheless, me myself I like keeping pictures in their original elements, that is the best mechanism.

Eritrea's treasures for photographers

Amazing; imagine the sand deserts of North African States, unique forests of Semenawi Keih Bahri which resembles to the tropical rainforests of Gama, and again recall the fascinating asphalted road from Asmara to Massawa! S

Plus, what you would say about the hot water fountains of Mai-Wuei, and exceptionally cool water cisterns of Abune-Endrias Monastery? And aslo, the astonishing features of the Ashaba Mosque in Massawa—the first Moslem Shrine in Africa—and unique architectural legacies of the Saint Mary Church (in Asmara)? Therefore, this country is blessed with great and amazing endowments which are hugely amazing and attracting.

Nowadays pictorial exhibitions

The Gallery in Asmara is dominated with products from painters. But with positive remarks, there are encouraging platforms. And if we know that photographing—for instance--the exotic dances of Kunama

in Tokombia, the attracting hairstyles of the Tigre Women from Ghindae, still well culture of the Tigrigna from hamlets near Areza, and of women performance in education from the three boarding schools in Gash-Barka... then, the impact of photographs will be determinant. In fact, there are few avenues that enjoy promoting photographer's personal accounts.

What do you say is the role of Eritrean photographers in regards Eritrean legacies?

Photograph competitions by the Ministry of Tourism and others have positive aspirations in excelling the role of photographers' for mirroring Eritrea's endowments through the lenses of our cameras. And in Social Media, there are about ten groups of over 200,000 members posting their photographs regarding Eritrean history, culture, nature and life style.

Even though there would be the need of more



encouragement from institutions and the society.

Let's talk about your future steps, before we end our interview.

Excelling Eritrea's treasures through what I do and know how to do best has always been my priority. Moreover, with the hundreds of selected photos I have

gathered with time, I am planning on preparing pictorial E-Book, it is actually a project on the way thanks to the collaboration of with CI.

Organizing an exhibition and fostering the activities of using social networks to put on display the beauty of Eritrea is also one of the things I am doing and certain will keep on doing.

