

## MAI-NEFHI COLLEGE OF SCIENCE CELEBRATES 16<sup>TH</sup> COMMENCEMENT, GRADUATING 242 STUDENTS



On July 22, Mai-Nefhi College of Science held its 16th commencement ceremony, awarding degrees to a total of 242 graduates, with an impressive 58% being female students.

The graduates have completed their studies in various fields, including Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, Mathematics, Physics, Statistics, and Library and Information Science.

During the graduation ceremony, Mr. Tesfay Gebreselasie, the Minister of Land, Water, and Environment, highlighted the

Eritrean Government's significant investment in the education sector, aimed at cultivating professionals in diverse fields who can contribute to the nation-building process.

Professor Gebray Asgedom, the Dean of the College, proudly stated that since 2008, the college has graduated a total of 3,647 students. This includes 84 in master's programs, 2,785 in first-degree programs, and 778 in diploma programs. Prof. Gebray emphasized the Eritrean Government's commitment to nurturing conscious, creative, and productive citizens

with self-confidence and called upon the graduates to actively participate in the implementation of national development programs.

In response, the representative of the graduates extended warm congratulations to all the graduates and expressed their readiness to fulfill the expectations of the people and government, who provided them with this valuable educational opportunity.

## URGENT CALL FOR INTEGRATED EFFORTS TO CONTROL LOCUST PREVALENCE

The Ministry of Agriculture has issued a pressing warning regarding the prevalence of desert locust breeding due to limited rainfall in the eastern escarpments. To combat this potential threat effectively, the Ministry is urging all concerned institutions, especially farmers, to engage in coordinated surveillance efforts.

In a bid to tackle the situation at its core, the Ministry is calling upon administrations, the public, and members of the Defense Forces to join forces with experts and conduct regular surveys and follow-ups. Swift action is essential, as the detection of desert locusts in isolated areas could lead to breeding and an eventual spread to highlands and eastern escarpments.

To avert a larger-scale outbreak, the Ministry stresses the vital importance of coordinated and efficient measures to bring the situation under control. A notable example of successful intervention is the recent integrated effort by agricultural experts, administrations, and the public, which effectively contained the desert locust presence in the Gaden-Ala administrative area.

Mr. Yemane Abera, administrator of the Dekemhare sub-zone, emphasizes the need for immediate reporting by the public, especially farmers, if any signs of desert locust prevalence are observed in their areas. By promptly reporting such occurrences, authorities can take proactive steps to prevent further escalation and mitigate potential damage to crops and livelihoods.

The Ministry of Agriculture urges all citizens to remain vigilant and actively contribute to the control efforts in order to secure a sustainable and food-secure future for the country.

## CALL FOR ENHANCED PARTICIPATION IN THE EDUCATION PROCESS

In a meeting held on 16th July in Hamelmalo sub-zone, a passionate call was made to the public to actively contribute to the advancement of the teaching-learning process. Mr. Osman Mohammed-Adem, head of the education office in the sub-zone, reported on the status of the 2022–2023 academic year, revealing that out of the 8,443 enrolled students, 81% have successfully progressed to the next level.

While this achievement demonstrates progress, Mr. Osman pointed out that there has been a slight decline of 1.6% compared to the previous year. To address this challenge and further enhance educational outcomes, he emphasized the need for dedicated and collective efforts from all stakeholders.

Mr. Kiflay Andemicael, the head of education in the region, echoed the call for integrated efforts. He emphasized that parents and all stakeholders play a pivotal role in overcoming the challenges faced by schools. Their involvement, support, and engagement with the education system are crucial to ensuring a conducive learning environment and encouraging academic excellence.

The future of the nation relies heavily on a robust and well-functioning education system. Therefore, the call for reinforced participation is not merely a request but a crucial appeal to foster the educational development of the youth and empower them to become valuable contributors to society.

It is essential for the entire community to rally together and actively contribute their time, resources, and support to elevate the teaching-learning process. By addressing the current challenges, we can pave the way for a brighter and more prosperous future for the students and the nation as a whole.

## NUEW SIX-MONTH ACTIVITY ASSESSMENT MEETING

The Executive Board of the National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW) recently convened a productive six-month activity assessment meeting on July 20th and 21st in Asmara.

During the meeting, Ms. Tekea Tesfanicael, the President of the union, urged the executive members to enhance their participation in fostering the political awareness of women across the nation.

The heads of union branches from all six regions presented comprehensive reports detailing

the encouraging activities carried out during the past six months. These activities encompassed the promotion and preservation of noble societal values, the empowerment and organization of women at all levels, the development of women's economic and vocational capacities, and initiatives aimed at eradicating harmful practices.

Subsequently, the participants engaged in extensive discussions on the reports presented and collectively formulated various recommendations. Key among them was the emphasis on strengthening

media programs to effectively disseminate information about the union's activities to the public. Additionally, the meeting focused on the importance of designing monthly programs to further acquaint the public with the ongoing efforts of the National Union of Eritrean Women.

The six-month activity assessment meeting served as a vital platform for assessing progress, strategizing for the future, and reinforcing the union's commitment to empowering women and promoting their active role in all spheres of society.





# LOCAL NEWS

## TRAINING ON ADMINISTRATION EMPOWERS MASSAWA CIVIL SERVANTS

In a bid to enhance administrative capacity and provide efficient public services, a training program focusing on administration was successfully organized for 55 civil servants and area administrators from the sub-zones of Massawa and Dahlak. The training took place from 12th to 20th July and covered various essential aspects of administration.

The comprehensive training encompassed a range of topics, including the concepts and principles of administration, effective communication in the workplace, strategic planning and its significance, material and financial management, as well as time management and self-development techniques. Participants eagerly engaged in the program, equipping themselves with valuable skills and knowledge crucial for their roles in public service.

Mr. Amanuel Gebrebrhan, the head of human resources development in the region, highlighted that the primary objective of the training was to bolster the administrative capacity of the employees. By doing so, they aim to provide timely and efficient services to the public, thereby

elevating the overall service quality in the region.

Looking ahead, Mr. Amanuel expressed the region's commitment to further similar training programs in the sub-zones of Nakfa, Adobha, and Karora. This ongoing initiative is aligned with the region's five-year strategic plan, demonstrating the seriousness and dedication of the authorities to invest in the continuous growth and improvement of their workforce.

Emphasizing the significance of practical implementation, Mr. Amine Ketema, the Director General of Administration and Finance in the region, urged the trainees to apply the knowledge and skills they acquired during the training. By implementing what they've learned, they can ensure the prompt delivery of effective services to the public, ultimately benefiting the entire community.

The trainees expressed their gratitude for the valuable opportunity to participate in the training program. They emphasized the need for its sustainability,

indicating the positive impact it could have on their professional development and the enhanced services they can offer to the people.

With the successful conclusion of this training, Massawa and Dahlak's civil servants are now better equipped and motivated to tackle the challenges of their administrative roles. By continually investing in the training and development of their workforce, the region's government is making a significant stride towards building a more efficient and responsive public service system.

## WATER AND SOIL CONSERVATION ACTIVITY

Farmers in the administrative areas of Tiluk and Southern Mensheb, Sheib sub-zone, are carrying out extensive water and soil conservation activities.

The popular campaign includes the construction and renovation of water diversion schemes to make use of the flood water coming from the highlands in their agricultural activities.

According to Mr. Mohammed Idris, administrator of Tiluk, so far, the farmers have renovated 3 thousand 550 meter cubes of water diversion schemes.

Likewise, farmers in the Southern Mensheb administrative area are conducting extensive water and soil conservation campaigns.

Pointing out that the popular campaign is part of the preparation of agricultural activity before the coming of the rainfall season, Mr. Musa Ibrahim, head of economic development in the sub-zone, expressed appreciation for the strong participation of the farmers in the program.

## from Social Media



**Tesfaldet Mebrahtu**  
@tesfaldetsport

In the tour that covered over 3400km with star-studded teams, and a pace that has never seen before, Bini managed to take a third place first and an astounding 6th place in today's prestigious final at Champs Elysee in Paris. U made us proud.



9:39 PM · Jul 23, 2023 · 10.9K Views

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## TRAINING ON SIGN LANGUAGE

Four months of sign language training have been provided to 130 Government employees and associations in Keren City.

At the conclusion event of the training organized on 17 July, Mr. Dejen Zerigabir, head of the National Association of Deaf and Mute branch in Anseba Region, said that the training was a continuation of the various training programs with the objective of easing the daily activities of the hearing impaired nationals.

Mr. Woldemicael Se'ele, head of the National Association of Deaf and Mute, commended the region for sustainably organizing sign language training programs.

The National Association of Deaf and Mute branch in the region has so far provided training for 450 nationals.



# REPORTAGE



## Mai Nefhi College of Science Celebrates its 16<sup>th</sup> Commencement:



### *A Tribute to Excellence and Empowerment*

**Sabrina Solomon**

Mai Nefhi College of Science recently witnessed the joyous occasion of its 16th Commencement ceremony, where 241 students, who had fulfilled all the requirements for their BSc degrees, were proudly conferred with their diplomas. The event took place on 22nd July at the college premises in Mai Nefhi, and it was graced by the presence of esteemed PFDJ officials, members of the academic commissions of the College of Science, department and program heads, as well as representatives from the Class of 2023.

The college saw 241 graduates across various disciplines, including Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, Mathematics, Physics, Statistics, and Library and Information Science. It is noteworthy that out of these graduates, 139 were females, representing an impressive 58% of the batch. This upward trend in female representation over the years reflects the growing competence and success of female students, highlighting their potential in all spheres of life.

During the ceremony, Professor Gebreab Asgedom, the Dean of the College of Science, expressed his gratitude to all attendees and congratulated the graduates, emphasizing that their hard work had paid off and marked a significant milestone in their lives.

In his opening address, Professor Gebreab Asgedom also highlighted the human policy document of the State of Eritrea, which emphasizes the development of enlightened, creative, confident, and socially responsible individuals capable of contributing to the advancement

of a modern, technologically advanced, and self-reliant Eritrea. To achieve this vision, the government has invested heavily in education, and the college has strived to fulfill its mission of producing committed

is expected to be around 60:1, which is higher than the standard ratio.

To address the shortage of staff in certain departments, the college is actively engaged in human capital development



and qualified graduates who can make a difference in various sectors, including education, industry, energy, and exploration.

The success of these efforts depends on several key factors, such as the curriculum, the qualifications of the academic staff, the availability of laboratory and library facilities, internal and external collaborations, and a sound management system. The college has made a special effort to focus on these aspects to ensure continuous improvement and success. Currently, the college employs 54 academic staff members, comprising 39 nationals and 15 expatriates. It is noteworthy that among the 18 national staff members, 18 possess a Ph.D. qualification, while 21 hold an MSc degree, indicating a highly qualified teaching faculty with diverse international experience. However, due to some instructors offering service courses in other colleges, the student-to-staff ratio in the next academic year

through the NHERI scholarship scheme. Currently, 29 faculty members are pursuing Ph.D. studies, and six are undertaking MSc studies in various countries, including the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, Hungary, Kenya, Serbia, and Japan. Additionally, five more faculty members are expected to commence their studies in September. At the beginning of the current academic year, four faculty members, two with Ph.Ds. and two with MSc degrees, joined their respective departments after completing their studies.

The college has also fostered external collaborations, such as the TBGEN H3Africa research project, which resulted in joint research and the training of two MSc students. This collaboration has yielded significant research findings and experiences, enriching the learning environment. Moreover, the college has established partnerships with the National Union of Eritrean Youth and

Students (NUEYS) Sawa branch and higher education institutes, which offer training to enhance students' skills and understanding of their subjects, thereby preparing them for their future roles in the workplace.

Furthermore, the college is embracing digital advancements as an essential element of the college experience. It boasts a well-equipped digital library with e-books and video lectures, complementing its physical library capable of accommodating more than 1000 students. The college also recognizes the importance of extracurricular activities in nurturing well-rounded graduates and is investing in facilities for ball games, indoor games, and

the institutions they would be assigned to. Finally, he expressed gratitude to various organizations for their consistent cooperation and support, including the Red Sea Trading Corporation, Segen Construction Company, Anberbeb Share Company, Bidho Construction Company, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Energy and Mines, Ministry of Land, Water and Environment, Eritrean Electric Corporation, and others.

Speaking on behalf of all the graduating students of the College of Science, Dina Asrar Ibrahim, the Graduates' Representative, delivered a speech expressing gratitude and joy. She promised that they would shoulder their responsibilities with relentless hard work, striving to contribute



clubs such as greening, drama, and debating. These initiatives, in collaboration with concerned organizations, aim to enrich the campus environment and student experiences.

In his closing remarks, Professor Gebreab Asgedom urged the graduates of the Class of 2023 to recognize their potential in nation-building and development. He emphasized the crucial role they would play as a bridge between the college and

to the nation and its people. Dina credited their achievements to the support of their families, the college instructors, and their efforts.

The 16<sup>th</sup> Commencement of Mai Nefhi College of Science was not only a celebration of academic accomplishments but also a testament to the college's commitment to nurturing competent and socially responsible graduates, poised to make a positive impact in their communities and beyond.





# “Is the TV on”?

Aron Tesfaalem

I read in Tesfaye Ghebrab’s “Yetiravollo Washa” that some Ethiopians used to come to Asmara to watch TV. I didn’t know people would travel such a long journey just to watch TV. What I read reminded me of a memorable

advantageous. Therefore, whenever the opportunity arose, I went for it. For this reason, I made good relationship with some. Unfortunately this caused some disagreement at home. Trust me no mother wants to see her child turn into an errands boy or girl, especially if she feels that her child

I loved watching movies, which were the last program on television. This meant I had to ask for an extra favor from the owners of the TV set to spend longer nights at their house. The easiest way to do it was for me to go to the house early in the evening and stay there watching all kinds of television shows before it was time for the movie.

In this precious childhood experience of mine, I remember the families that welcomed me to watch television as angelic. I think it is the trust that I built, through obedience and all, that contributed to their angelic behavior. Surely that trust made me feel at home and at the same time it gave me the guts to stay at their houses, watching TV, until the television show ended sometime after 11 at night. When the color bars came on the television screen, marking the end of the show, the television set and the lights should be turned off. I was also expected to shut their door behind me and sneak into my home. That is exactly what I was doing.

But other families who were tired of my coming to their houses and who, for many reasons, did not want my presence were brutal in rejecting me. According to tradition, I would ask, “Is the TV on?” And they would say, “The TV is off.” I could see and hear that it was on but it was their way of telling me that I was not welcome. I was used to this, and if I was turned down, I wouldn’t make so much fuss about it. Instead, off I would go to try other households that had television.

My childhood television experience has taught me that I should sympathize with those who come looking to share what I possess.



childhood experience related to watching TV. “Do you have a TV set?” was a question a child of my time would ask if he/she wanted to know whether the other child, a playmate, comes from a well-off family or not. Even though my family didn’t own one, I used to consider a television or any other property owned by my relatives as mine. So when I got asked that question at times, my answer was “yes.”

As a child, if you are good at certain childhood games, say, baligna, telei telei, singing, football, and the like, you will get friends to play with you. On the contrary, if you are extremely good in such games, you can also lose many or all of them. This is because no child wants to be always beaten. So you have to learn to balance things out. And thanks to childhood that is a lesson I’ve been cherishing.

When I was growing up, a child whose family owned television was considered very lucky. Nobody touched him. Nobody hurt him. He was respected. No one wanted to get into trouble with such a child because we all were aware of the dire consequence. After all, what could be worse than being prevented from watching TV or, worse still, being kicked out of a house in the middle of watching some show on TV?

I knew being sent on errands by someone who had TV was

is manipulated because he/she has a strong desire to watch TV. No mother wants her child to spend more time at someone else’s house instead of his or hers. My tactful relationship with the supposedly “rich” families was often a reason that got me in a constant fight with my mother. I feel this might have showed me early on that the world is imperfect.

Back in those days TV sets were precious, and people used to lock them in lockers. Or they put them high on closets or on cupboards, near the ceiling, where no child could reach them. We had to look up to watch television as if we were counting the stars and we often felt some pain at the back of our neck. That made watching TV so difficult and tiring. In some places, people used them as sources of income as well. They let you watch programs such as football only if you paid some fee. That was really annoying.



## NEWS

### COMMENDABLE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION EFFORTS IN MO’O AND NAKFA

The residents of the administrative area of Mo’o and Nakfa town have shown tremendous dedication to soil and water conservation activities, undertaking an extensive campaign since May. The primary objectives of this initiative were to combat soil erosion, restore the environment, and ultimately bolster agricultural production in the region.

Coordinators of the programs reported that a remarkable 500 people were actively participating in the daily conservation efforts. This strong community involvement reflects the collective commitment to safeguarding the natural resources and promoting sustainable land use practices.

Mr. Osman Jabir, representing the Ministry of Agriculture, praised the residents for their remarkable achievements in the conservation campaign. Among the impressive outcomes were the construction of five kilometers of terraces and various water diversion schemes on the reserve lands. These crucial interventions will not only preserve the soil but also help in better water management for agricultural purposes.

In another notable effort, the youth workers and members of the Officers Training Center in the Nakfa sub-zone engaged in a

popular campaign at the Martyrs Cemetery. The campaign involved tree cultivation, trench renovation, and the construction of terraces, further contributing to the region’s overall environmental preservation endeavors.

The positive impact of these activities is far-reaching. By controlling soil erosion and improving the ecological conditions, the communities are taking significant strides towards sustainable development and safeguarding their agricultural resources. The enhanced environment will not only benefit current generations but also secure a prosperous future for the region’s agriculture and overall well-being.

The dedication and commitment demonstrated by the residents of Mo’o and Nakfa are commendable examples of community-driven conservation efforts. Such initiatives set a precedent for other regions, inspiring them to embark on similar campaigns to protect their natural heritage and foster a greener, more resilient environment for all. The Ministry of Agriculture and concerned authorities extend their appreciation to all those involved in these vital conservation endeavors and encourage continuous efforts in ensuring a sustainable and prosperous future for the entire region.



## Lighter Side

# My first date at Albergo Italia

**Natnael Afeworky**

In a city as historically and architecturally magnificent as Asmara, it is almost impossible for anyone to choose a place to go to with friends to have dinner or coffee. As soon as you start to think of a place to go to, options start flooding in like water from a broken pipe. It is hard to choose just one place. The paradox of choice comes in to play its part. I end up in this predicament a lot of times, but the worst one for me was when I had to choose a place for my very first date ever. I couldn't decide where to go and suffered from the nervousness associated with going out for the first time; I was totally stuck. Then having seen how difficult it was for me to choose, my friend told me to go to The Albergo Italia. I pondered on that thought for a bit and decided 'why not?' I set the date.

The day of the date arrived. It was moments away. You could imagine the uneasiness and panic I had been feeling when I was moments away from meeting her. It was another ordinary evening in Asmara; the street lit up with the yellow street lamps that reflect upon the buildings and roads to create a soothing and exciting look, cars passing by embellishing the streets with their headlights and people of all ages moving about exuberantly feeling the cool air of Asmara. It was, as usual, a wonderful evening. But not for me. I was sick to my stomach owing to the thoughts of the date running through my head.

It was nearing seven thirty, the time of our date, and I was steps away from the venue. As I got closer to the building I felt all the tension slowly fade away as I stared at the building with awe. I've passed by Albergo plenty of times, but I had never really taken in its majestic features before. Though the exterior is austere, it has a look that tells you there's more to it than what meets the eye. The rows of windows aligned harmoniously on the second floor and the balcony on top of the entrance to the lobby that gives it a commanding look, the other balcony on top of the roof giving the building what could be seen as a crown, all made me impatient to enter and see what sight would be waiting for me inside. I reached



the door of the lobby; it was a double door entrance. I felt as though I had been sent back to the 1900s. As soon as I stepped into the lobby, my jaws must have had fallen to the floor, for I was perplexed by the glamour and beauty I had witnessed. Every detail of the hotel was beyond magnificent; it gave a sort of welcome feeling that invited you to linger and absorb the beauty. The floor beautifully painted, the columns aligned perfectly, the seats of the lobby, and everything

was exceptional.

I then walked towards the restaurant as slowly as I possibly could, trying to gather as much gorgeousness as I could before I had reached the restaurant not anticipating what would be waiting for me inside. I stared at the chandeliers suspended from the ceiling that were incredibly crafted into complex shapes of vines and leaves. More and more of the sights bestowed upon me were making me even more



my eyes that I had been standing on the door to the dining-room for nearly a minute. Shocked as I was when I entered, I remarked 'Was I really staring for that long?' she laughed and said, 'probably longer! So what was so captivating you had to stand like a fool for nearly for ever?' I then recounted to her what I had just seen and expressed all the artistic features and architectural beauty of the lobby and dining-room with so much enthusiasm that I had never before experienced and expressions I had never thought I would use to describe something. I finished off by showing her the



curious to what an outstanding work and effort must have been put to make this excellence. I entered the restaurant, and lo and behold, it was beyond anything I or anyone could have imagined. It is quite unlike anything I've ever laid my eyes on. The original ornate plasterwork in the form of fruits, flowers, fish, figurines, faces, and ornamental urns on pedestals contrasting starkly with the building's exterior appearance that softens the window frames, and the ceilings brought me nothing but amazement as I experienced art for the first time ever.

Bedazzled I walked towards the row of tables and suddenly remembered why I had been there in the first place. She was sitting at a table near the window looking at the streets. She was looking at me in a strange way that showed a hint of intrigue. I approached her in haste, said hello and sat down clumsily. I apologized for my delay. She then asked me in a curious tone as to what had caught

enormous bunch of plaster roses that tops the cast-iron column in the center of the room, remarking that it appears in many of Asmara's oldest and finest buildings. She stared at me with a look that conveyed interest and said to me, 'I didn't know you were such an aesthetics enthusiast, that's really nice! You are right by the way; it's quite an extraordinary hotel.' I said thanks and smiled back. The evening was more delightful than I had anticipated; we talked about many things as we had a fabulous meal, which, by the way, was one of the best meals I had ever eaten outside my home.

We then stood up to leave and as we walked out I suggested we take a look before we leave and she led the way to the exit near the stairs of the rooms. Three round arches supported by two beautifully crafted symmetrical rectangular columns welcomed us to the interior balcony filled with seats.

**C**ontinued on page 7



# Ministry of Agriculture

## Letter of Invitation for Bids

Re: International Competitive Bidding (ICB)

ID No: 06.2/10/FP/ICB/IADP/IFAD/AED/LR/2023

1. The State of Eritrea, Ministry of Agriculture, and National Project Coordination Office (NPCO) has received financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) towards the cost of Integrated Agricultural Development Project (IADP) and intends to apply part of the financing for the purchase of these goods. The use of any IFAD financing shall be subject to IFAD's approval, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the financing agreement, as well as IFAD's rules, policies and procedures. IFAD and its officials, agents and employees shall be held harmless from and against all suits, proceedings, claims, demands, losses and liability of any kind or nature brought by any party in connection with Integrated Agricultural Development Project (IADP).
  2. The Integrated Agricultural Development Project (IADP) includes three components and has six years' lifetime. The overall goal of the project is to contribute to poverty reduction and food and nutrition security of rural households. The project Development objective is to enhance small holder agricultural production and productivity in sustainable way and improves rural livelihoods.
  3. This IFB follows the general procurement notice that appeared on the IFAD website on 5 March, 2023, the United Nations Development Business (UNDB) website on 5 March, 2023 and a national newspaper Haddas Eritrea/ Eritrean profile on 15 March, 2023.
  4. The purchaser now invites sealed bids from eligible entities ("bidders") for the Lot1-Procurement of sprayers and Lot2-Procurement of personal protective equipment. More details on these goods and related services are provided in the schedule of requirements in this bidding document.
  5. This IFB is open to all eligible bidders who wish to respond. Subject to the restrictions noted in the bidding document, eligible entities may associate with other bidders to enhance their capacity to successfully deliver the goods and related services. Potential bidders should first request for a registration form using email address below. Upon filling the form, Potential bidders should be return through a reply email and set of the bidding document will be provide immediately thereafter at no charge.
  6. Bidding will be conducted using the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) method, the evaluation procedure for which is described in this bidding document, in accordance with the IFAD procurement handbook which is provided on the IFAD website [www.ifad.org/project-procurement](http://www.ifad.org/project-procurement). The ICB process, as described, will include a review and verification of qualifications and past performance, including a reference check, prior to the contract award.
  7. Please note that a pre-bid conference will not be held as described in the bid data sheet BDS, Section II of the bidding document.
  8. Bids must be delivered to the address below and in the manner specified in the BDS ITB 25 no later than 9:30 am local Asmara, Eritrea time, 7 September, 2023
- Ministry of Agriculture, Procurement and Supplies Management Division (PSMD)
- Lidia Russom (Procurement officer)  
Sawa Street, Asmara, Eritrea  
[Lidyarusomlidu1221@gmail.com](mailto:Lidyarusomlidu1221@gmail.com)  
Tel Number: 00291181076/00291189266  
Fax Number: 1048
9. Bidders should be aware that late bids will not be accepted under any circumstances and will be returned unopened to the bidder. All bids must be accompanied by bid securing declaration.
  10. Please note that electronic bids shall not be accepted as defined in ITB BDS 25.



**Photographers Corner***Photo: Kibrom Tsehay**Assab From the Bird's Eye View***My first date at . . .****C***ontinued from page 5*

The balcony is surrounded by the interior walls of the building which were filled with more architectural styles; four columns on each side of the walls to the right and left, ten wooden windows surrounding the upper floor walls that show the corridors from outside and the balcony from inside the hotel. It was a true work of art. The most dazzling features of the balcony are the pyramid shaped yellow lights on top of each column, of which the light cascades down the columns and onto the floor. It is perfectly lit for the customers to enjoy their drinks and to gaze at the view of the open sky undisturbed by bright lanterns. Opposite the columns are the creatively aligned spiked steel gate and fences that oversee the street outside the hotel. I could not believe what my eyes were witnessing, Art!

I looked at my date and noticed that she

was looking at me as if she was looking at a toddler who had just figured out how to walk. The look on my face that was filled with awe showed her how astonished I was by the sight. She then said to me, 'Have you never been here before?' I said, 'I have, but never been really present. I have never really looked at this place in this perspective before. It's.....it's beyond words!' She smiled and escorted me towards the exit through the bar. I thought I had finished being astounded by the building, but I was far from right.

As we walked into the bar passing by the bathroom to the left, my eyes caught sight of the roof. For the first time that night I noticed that the roof of the ground floor was a series of cavettos that make you feel as though the roof above you is moving in tides. The shape of the bar was bewildering. I felt as if I was a passenger in a train, for it has the shape of a train compartment, narrow and long surrounded by couches along the walls where people could sit and

enjoy a drink or two. Admiring the beauty of the building we exited through the bar door. I took one last look at the hotel and proceeded to walk her home. The walk to her house was filled with animated conversations, laughter and a touch of romance. I bid her goodnight and as I was returning home, I remembered that I had been nervous before I met her. I started wondering, 'If I hadn't gone to Albergo, would the date have been the same?' No, it wouldn't because I wouldn't have known what to say or how to act. It was pleasant thanks to Albergo Italia. My very first date in the very first hotel in Asmara, a success!

After the epiphany I had about my admiration of architectural works, I decided to start a venture in discovering the other majestic buildings in Asmara in more detail, which, on later articles, I will unveil. I returned the very next day to The Albergo Italia and gathered more information.

Albergo Italia was built in 1899 during

the Italian colonial rule. It is located on the north side of the bend in the main road as it ascends the hill on which the Campo Cintato was located. The Albergo Italia is one of Asmara's oldest surviving stone buildings.

It is one of the two Art Deco buildings in Asmara (the second being Cinema Impero). Although quite small in size, the building's architectural volume has preserved a refined, elegant array of sculptural decorations. The stairs that lead up to the rooms are quite impressively built and quite artistic. Many couples go there to have their wedding photos taken.

Albergo Italia houses 18 rooms, all equipped with elegant bathrooms and the necessary utilities that the best hotels could offer. The most astounding feature is that in each room, there are short stairs that lead to an upper level of each room where there are beds and artistic wardrobes. The rooms are vibrant and dreamy, making you wish to spend even a single night in one of them. The Albergo Italia is a wonderful place to go to for a nice outing with beloved ones and a place to visit once in a while to see architectural beauty and art itself.



# OPINION

## Eritrean Festivals: A Testament to Unity and Cultural Heritage

Hasebela Kafil



Since the 1970s, Eritrean Festivals have played a significant role in fostering unity, preserving cultural heritage, and providing a platform for the Eritrean diaspora to come together and celebrate their homeland. The festivals have served as joyful family events and have also been instrumental in the Eritrean liberation struggle. The enduring spirit and unity displayed during the festivals stand as a testament to the deep love and connection Eritreans have to their country no matter how widely dispersed they are across the globe.

Eritrea's journey to independence was marked by a long and arduous struggle against foreign occupation and oppression. During the Eritrean liberation struggle, which spanned from the 1960s to 1991, Eritreans faced numerous challenges and hardships. However, they also found ways to maintain their

sense of unity and cultural identity even in the face of adversity, and Eritrean Festivals emerged as an essential tool in this endeavor.

Eritrean Festivals served as a conduit for communication and solidarity among Eritreans during the liberation struggle. They brought together Eritreans from different regions and backgrounds, fostering a sense of belonging and common purpose. Notably, the festivals provided a platform for the Eritrean leadership in the field to update the attendees on the progress of the liberation struggle and the situation in the liberated areas. The festivals, therefore, became more than just venues for cultural celebrations. They effectively became symbols of resistance, resilience, and hope for a free and independent Eritrea.

Eritrea is a culturally diverse nation with nine ethnic groups, each contributing unique traditions,

diaspora.

For Eritreans living outside the homeland, the festivals are a cherished opportunity to reconnect with their cultural roots. They offer a sense of belonging and provide a platform for passing down traditions and knowledge to younger generations. The festivals play a vital role in maintaining and promoting Eritrean languages, dances, music, and culinary arts, ensuring that these aspects of their heritage remain alive and relevant in the modern world.

Moreover, the festivals serve as a bridge between generations, fostering understanding and unity among Eritreans of different ages. At Eritrean festivals, young members of the diaspora get the chance to learn about their cultural heritage from their elders, reinforcing the bonds between generations and preserving Eritrea's unique identity.

how external forces tried to quell the independence movement by resorting to violence. However, the attempts ultimately failed, and Eritreans continued their unwavering struggle for freedom and self-determination.

For the Eritrean diaspora, Eritrean Festivals have become a symbol of love and affection they have for their country, even as they face challenges and adversities in their host countries.

Despite attempts to divide them, members of the Eritrean community in the diaspora remain steadfast and resolute in their unity. They draw strength from their shared history, culture, and experiences, reaffirming their commitment to the values of harmony and cohesion that the festivals symbolize.

In the diaspora, the festivals



languages, and customs to the nation's rich tapestry. Eritrean Festivals serve as occasions for the annual celebration of cultural diversity, acting as a powerful reminder of the importance of preserving Eritrean identity in the

Throughout history, Eritreans have faced attempts by foes who try to sow discord and disunity among them. A reference to the British Military Administration's actions in the 1940s highlights

play a crucial role in preserving Eritrean heritage and passing down traditions from one generation to the next. They act as a powerful reminder of the diverse ethnic fabric that makes up Eritrea and the importance of cherishing and safeguarding this cultural wealth.



Eritrean Festivals are not merely cultural events but profound expressions of unity, resilience, and love for the homeland. They have deep historical roots, dating back to the liberation struggle, when they served as a rallying point for Eritreans to come together and maintain their cultural identity in the face of adversity. Above all, they stand as a testament to the indomitable spirit of Eritreans and to unity and cultural heritage.