



## PRESIDENT ISAIAS AFWERKI HOLDS TALKS WITH THE SPECIAL UN ENVOY FOR SUDAN

President Isaias Afwerki met on 25 April at Denden Guest House with Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' Special Envoy for Sudan.

At the meeting, President Isaias noted that progress in resolving the conflict in Sudan has been elusive thus far, attributing it to the proliferation of initiatives and platforms. President Isaias further stated that Eritrea had submitted to Sudan's Sovereign Council in 2022 a proposal anchored on establishing transitional institutions.

President Isaias stated that although the Sovereign Council initially accepted the initiative to resolve the conflict, progress was later hampered due to interference and rivalry among various powers. He urged the United Nations Secretary-General to exert more efforts to stem the flow of finance and arms deliveries through



Photo: Tazaz Abraha

neighboring countries.

The UN Envoy, Mr. Ramtane

Lamamra, for his part, elaborated on measures that the United Nations and its institutions have taken to promote peace in Sudan and provide support to Sudanese people forced into internal displacement and exile due to the conflict.

President Isaias expressed

Eritrea's support for the United Nations Secretary General's initiative as a viable mechanism for unifying all other efforts.

Mr. Osman Saleh, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and representatives of UN Offices in Eritrea attended the meeting.

## ERITREAN DELEGATION PARTICIPATES AT EURO-ASIA ECONOMIC FORUM



Eritrean delegation led by Mr. Petros Tsegai, Eritrea's Ambassador to Russian Federation, has participated at the 14th Euro-Asia Economic Forum that was convened in Petersburg from 22 to 24 April.

The Economic Forum was organized in cooperation with the Russian Ministry of Education and Science, Ural Economics University, and Petersburg Municipality. The objective of the forum was to encourage university students, youth and researchers and to create common understanding between university students from across the world and 17 thousand Ambassadors, diplomats, University Presidents and researchers from 114 countries participated.

Ambassador Petros representing the diplomatic community indicating that economic sovereignty in the progress of countries, explained on Eritrea's stand for creating world order based on self-reliance, mutual respect and cooperation.

Ambassador Petros also explained that the growing bilateral ties between Eritrea and the Russian Federation is based on these principles.

## DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY OF DIASPORA NATIONALS

The branches of the YFPDJ and the National Union of Eritrean Women organizations in Germany conducted activity assessments on April 20. Similarly, national associations and organizations in the US organized their Congress.

During the assessment meeting in Germany, Mr. Kahsai Tewolde, Head of Public and Community Affairs at the Eritrean Embassy, commended youth participation at the 18th Congress of the YFPDJ in Italy. He called for early preparation for the successful implementation of the 19th Congress, which is set to be



conducted in Germany.

Ms. Semhar Gebreab, Chairperson of the organization in Germany, presented a paper detailing the YFPDJ's

## SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION IN ADI-QUALA SUB-ZONE

Residents of 22 administrative areas in the Adi-Quala subzone are engaged in extensive soil and water conservation activities supported by agricultural experts.

Mr. Woldemicael Feseha, a soil and water conservation expert, said the program is being carried out on arable and pastoral land and commended the strong participation the residents are demonstrating.

Mr. Mihreteab Seblu, representing the agricultural office in the sub-zone, reported that to date, 889 hectares of farm terraces and 100 hectares of water diversion schemes have been constructed.

The residents recognized the program's benefits for boosting agricultural production and expressed their commitment to continue the campaign.

establishment and journey, members' rights and obligations, and the formality of establishing units within the organization.

Mr. Kibreab Tekeste, Eritrea's Consul General in Frankfurt, elaborated on the importance of organization and formulating a plan of action.

Similarly, national organizations in the southwestern US conducted their annual Congress in Atlanta. During the Congress, the participants discussed activity assessments for 2023 and plans of action for 2024.

# Statement by Ambassador Sophia Tesfamariam, Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations

Special event to commemorate International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace, organized by the Group of Friends in Defense of the UN Charter

On this significant occasion of the International Day for Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace, Eritrea reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the principles of multilateralism, diplomacy, and international cooperation as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

Eritrea, a young nation that regained its independence in 1991 after decades of struggle, understands the importance of multilateralism in addressing the diverse and complex challenges facing the global community. Our experience underscores the vital role of dialogue, mutual respect, and cooperation in fostering peace, stability, and development.

While we recognize the achievements of multilateralism in advancing global peace and security, we also acknowledge the existing challenges and shortcomings that hinder its effectiveness. The current landscape of international relations is marked by increasing polarization, unilateral actions, and a diminishing role for developing countries, including those in the Global South.

Eritrea believes that genuine multilateralism should be inclusive, consultative, and based on the principles of equality, mutual respect, and non-interference in the internal affairs of states. It should prioritize

the needs and aspirations of all nations, particularly those that are most vulnerable and marginalized.

Eritrea wishes to highlight the detrimental impact of illicit and arbitrary unilateral coercive measures imposed by certain powers against developing member states. These measures not only exacerbate existing injustices and imbalances but also pose a grave threat to the principles of multilateralism, the UN Charter, and international law.

The unilateral coercive measures, often imposed without due process or respect for sovereignty, undermine the principles of equality, mutual respect, and cooperation among nations. They deprive developing countries of their inherent right to socio-economic development, perpetuating poverty, hindering progress, and impeding the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Eritrea condemns these illicit practices and calls for their immediate annulment. Such actions not only violate the fundamental rights and dignity of nations but also create divisions, mistrust, and conflict among nations, further destabilizing the international order.

Today, multilateralism stands at a crossroads, threatened by the rise of unilateral actions that pit nations against each other and undermine collective efforts to address global challenges. It is imperative that we reaffirm our commitment to the principles of multilateralism, solidarity, and cooperation, and work together to strengthen the multilateral system and ensure its relevance and effectiveness in addressing the complex challenges of the 21st century.

Eritrea calls upon the international community to uphold the principles of the UN Charter, respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states, and promote genuine dialogue and cooperation in addressing global issues. We urge for the immediate cessation of unilateral coercive measures and for the promotion of a rules-based international order grounded in justice, equality, and mutual respect.

Eritrea wishes to address the inequalities and unfairness that



have historically characterized the multilateral system and its institutions, with Africa bearing the brunt of these disparities.

Eritrea, like many other African nations, has witnessed firsthand the detrimental effects of an unequal and unfair multilateral system. Despite its rich cultural heritage and significant contributions to global history, Africa continues to face numerous challenges, including poverty, conflict, and underdevelopment, exacerbated by the inequities perpetuated by the current multilateral order.

Despite the principles enshrined in the UN Charter, there are growing challenges to multilateralism, particularly due to the polarization and geopolitical tensions in today's world. Developing countries, especially those in the Global South, are disproportionately affected by these challenges,

including the impacts of global crises such as climate change, food security, and ongoing conflicts.

The current international landscape has seen an increase in unilateral actions and policies that undermine the principles of multilateralism, international law, and the sovereignty of states, and diminish the voice and role of states, particularly from the Global South, in global decision-making processes.

As we commemorate this important day, Eritrea calls for renewed efforts to strengthen the multilateral system, ensure adherence to the principles of the UN Charter, and promote a more equitable and just international order. We emphasize the importance of collective action in addressing global challenges such as climate change, poverty, and conflict, and reaffirm our commitment to

working constructively with the international community towards achieving these common goals.

**Mr. Chair,**

In conclusion, while listening to other voices can offer valuable insights, resources, and expertise to global governance processes, it should complement rather than replace multilateralism. Maintaining the centrality of states, ensuring accountability, promoting inclusivity, and upholding international law are essential for a balanced, effective, and legitimate global governance system that can address the complex challenges of the future.

We urge all Member States to join hands in building a more peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world for present and future generations.

*I thank you  
24 April 2024*

## An important milestone in health-related . . .

**C**ontinued from page 3

Deficiency in vitamin A is the leading cause of preventable childhood blindness, can contribute to hearing loss, and increases the risk of death from common childhood illnesses such as diarrhoea. According to the WHO, the highest rates of vitamin A deficiency are in Africa and South Asia. Importantly, vitamin A supplementation is a proven, low-cost intervention and has been shown to help maintain strong immune systems in children, reduce the incidence of diarrhoea and measles, prevent

blindness and hearing loss, and significantly help reduce mortality.

Eritrea has recognized the benefits of this key child well-being and survival intervention, and over the years has taken steps to strengthen and expand its program for vitamin A supplementation. Hundreds of thousands of children nationwide have benefited from supplementation, ultimately improving their well-being and improving their chances of survival.

In 2021, coverage stood at approximately 81 percent – 80 percent is globally regarded as the effective coverage threshold needed to improve child survival – up from just 39 percent in 2001 and effectively non-existent at independence.

Crucially, despite these tangible steps forward, the country is working to make further progress by better targeting and monitoring the most vulnerable children and systematically identifying and addressing the obstacles to reaching them.

**ERITREA  
PROFILE**

Published Every  
Wednesday & Saturday

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Advertisement: 12-50-13

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# An Important Milestone in Health-Related Efforts and Progress

*Editor's note: this is the second article in a two-part series related to Eritrea's national measles and rubella vaccination campaign.*

**Dr. Fikrejesus Amahazion**

The first article of this two-part series, published in the last edition of Eritrea Profile (Wednesday April 24), highlighted Eritrea's commitment to its people and how the country's long-run success in reducing child mortality has been rooted in a combination of several factors, including vaccination. The following article takes a closer look at the topic of vaccination, quickly reviews progress on measles and rubella, and briefly outlines the significance of vitamin A supplementation.

## A simple, cost-effective intervention

Human beings have benefited from vaccines for more than two centuries, while the history of inoculation can be traced back even further. Briefly, vaccines train the body's immune system to create antibodies, just as it does when it is exposed to a disease. However, because vaccines contain only killed or weakened forms of germs like viruses or bacteria, they do not cause the disease or put one at risk of its complications.

Although closely linked and sometimes (incorrectly) used interchangeably, inoculation, vaccination, and immunization are actually distinct. Inoculation refers to implanting a disease agent, pathogen, or antigen in a person, animal, or plant to produce a disease for study or to stimulate resistance. On the other hand, in terms of vaccination and immunization, the former represents an action and the other is an effect. To be more precise, vaccination involves introducing a vaccine into the body in order to stimulate the body's own immune system to protect the person against subsequent infection or disease. Moreover, vaccines are usually administered through needle injections, but can also be administered by mouth or sprayed into the nose. By contrast, immunization is

the process by which a person becomes protected – or in other words, immune or resistant – against a disease through vaccination.

Routine childhood vaccination is an important health intervention that helps prevent serious illness, disability, and death in children caused by a range of dangerous diseases, including diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), influenza, pneumonia, and as targeted in Eritrea's current national campaign – measles and rubella. Today, around the world vaccination is widely recognized to be among the most simple, cost-effective, and successful ways to reduce child mortality and promote children's general health and well-being.

Since its independence, Eritrea has made tremendous leaps in terms of national routine vaccine coverage. In 1991, there were only six vaccines available for children and the overall coverage rate stood at less than ten percent. (Some of the vaccines provided at independence included the Bacille Calmette-Guérin vaccine, along with the vaccines for diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis, among others.) Over subsequent years, however, the national routine vaccination schedule in Eritrea steadily grew and it has progressed to provide young children with an array of vaccines that help to protect against a variety of serious or potentially fatal diseases.

Notably, Eritrea's progress has been recognized and celebrated by regional and global organizations. For example, in November 2009, Eritrea garnered recognition from Gavi, a public-private global health partnership, for its outstanding performance in improving child health and immunization. One of 17 countries to be recognized at the ceremony held in Vietnam, Eritrea won the award for the "Best Immunization Performance". In 2016 and

## (Part II)

2017, Eritrea received back-to-back awards from UNICEF's Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office for effective vaccine management practices, while in September 2018 the country received another award from UNICEF in recognition of improvements in its national vaccine store.

As was highlighted in Part I of the present series, during a working visit to Eritrea in late 2021, Mohammed Malick Fall, UNICEF Regional Director for East and Southern Africa, explained that he was, "struck by the level of immunization [of children]," before going on to note that there, "are many advanced countries that have a hard time reaching [those coverage levels]" (Fall 2021).

At present, Eritrea administers a total of 14 vaccines to young children. Collectively, these protect against several dozen diseases and overall coverage rates are above 90 percent. Through the Ministry of Health and the National Immunization Programme, a total of around 300 health facilities in the country provide routine vaccination services six days per week. In addition, vaccination service is provided at about 450 outreach sites nationwide, while nomadic groups and those residing in extremely remote or difficult to reach areas receive service through mobile health units, barefoot doctors, and mass vaccination campaigns organized in close cooperation with community coordinators, volunteers, and local contacts.

## Targeting measles and rubella

Caused by a virus, measles is a highly transmissible, serious disease which usually results in a high fever and rash, but can also lead to blindness, encephalitis, or death. The disease remains one of the leading causes of death among young children globally, especially in the developing world (particularly in parts of Africa and Asia), but with outbreaks in developed countries



also common.

The measles vaccine, first made available nearly 60 years ago, has proven to be an extremely safe, highly efficacious, and very inexpensive way to reduce measles incidence and mortality in many parts of the world. While the measles vaccine is available in monovalent formulation, it is commonly incorporated with other vaccines, thus allowing for shared delivery and administration costs. It is equally effective in the single or combined form. One of the vaccines that it is frequently combined with is the vaccine against rubella, a contagious viral infection that occurs most often in children and young adults. Rubella is the leading vaccine-preventable cause of birth defects, while rubella infection in pregnant women may cause fetal death or serious congenital defects.

Over the years, Eritrea has maintained high coverage for measles vaccination, making substantial progress toward measles elimination. (While Eritrea has made significant strides in moving towards measles elimination, it still must complete several steps in order to achieve formal certification of complete elimination.)

For many years, children in Eritrea were provided one dose of the measles vaccine at around nine to 12 months of age. While a child is considered adequately immunized against measles after receiving one dose of vaccine, in 2009 the WHO recommended that reaching all children with two doses of measles vaccine should be the standard for all national vaccination programs,

in order to further decrease incidence and mortality from measles and make progress toward elimination. In particular, two doses help ensure immunity and prevent outbreaks, as a large percent of vaccinated children – perhaps up to approximately 15 percent – may fail to develop immunity after receiving the first dose.

In 2012, not long after the WHO's global recommendations, Eritrea introduced a second dose of the measles vaccine into the national routine vaccination schedule. Since 2018, Eritrean children have received two doses of the combined measles-rubella vaccine. In 2022, measles vaccine coverage for the first and second doses was 93 and 85 percent, respectively, with both figures considerably higher the continental and global averages. Notably, the coverage for first dose is well above what it was in 2000 – 76 percent – and also nearly three times more than the figure in 1993, when it was about 34 percent.

In terms of incidence, in 2022 there were 28 reported measles cases and 19 cases of rubella nationwide, reflecting continued progress on prevention and control. Comparatively, around the world there were well over 205,000 measles cases and 18,000 rubella cases.

## Not to be overlooked: Vitamin A supplementation

As a part of the national measles and rubella vaccination campaign, Eritrea has also been conducting vitamin A supplementation. This is significant for several reasons.

*Continued on page 2*



# TRANSCRIPTION OF COLOR

## Art Exhibition

Sona Berhane

Following a four-year hiatus, Zekeria Omer made a welcome return with his latest collection of paintings on the 16<sup>th</sup> of April. The exhibition, held at the Alliance Française gallery room, was titled *Transcription of Color* and included 20 pieces, 15 of which were composed as an ongoing series of duos and trios, with four paintings making up a polyptych.



Zekeria Omer has been active in the art world for about 20 years. Therefore, it is important to evaluate this new collection in the context of his previous artwork.

Zekeria's earlier paintings reveal a pronounced tendency towards isolating an element of the urban world, meditating on it, and examining its potential for expression. These meditations often spanned several paintings and, possibly, more than one exhibition before being resolved. At one time, doors, windows, or even entire blocks used to be the objects of his experiments, but now his eye seems to have been caught by the iconic red bus of the city. *The Red Bus* series is a compelling composition. Zekeria approaches the red bus in several ways, and in each of them its representation occupies a different quadrant of the canvas. Unlike the indistinct setting of most of his compositions, this series drives home the quintessential milieu of Asmara. However, much like his earlier works, the background in this series, too, is vague at best, and it is left to the viewer to decipher the familiar atmosphere. I was struck by this vague but emphatically suggestive quality found in his cities

and neighborhoods.

The presence of people who were vaguely, at times unintentionally, implied in the uninhabited, mirage-like cityscapes of his previous compositions have now taken centerstage and are the most prominent aspects of the paintings. Of course, Zekeria's fascination with refiguring cityscapes remains, although it is no longer expressed in semi-abstract forms arranged to

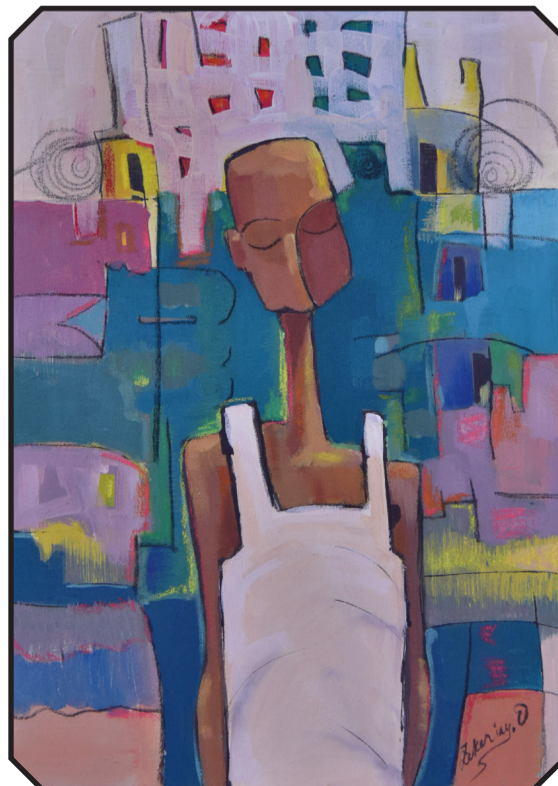
the canvases and what they contain seem to be making direct social statements. Despite the yellow undertones, *Unnamed Boys II* cuts a forlorn, almost phantasmagorical image with its distinctly grey palette. In keeping with the stylistic theme of this collection, there is no conventional setting to point to. There are only figures. The boy in the foreground is strikingly emphasized, with the rest in the back hanging about like listless wraiths. The color scheme in its pair, *Unnamed Boys I*, though a shade cheerier does not make the subjects any less forlorn. The obfuscated facial features poised on elongated necks speak of sadness and destitution.

Since his last exhibition was in early 2019, one wonders if the pandemic and everything that ensued shifted something in the artist's expressive instinct, for his work has been driven towards depicting his thoughts using people instead of places as his subjects. We see this in *Faces from East*, a totem-like composition of four faces atop each other with the background consisting of silhouettes of numerous figures, and in *The Afro Asian*, a striking portrait.

*The Dancing Day* (Polyptych), a collection of four small-sized canvases intended to be hinged alongside one another, brought to my mind images of 20s and 30s Harlem art found on jazz and blues records. A whirlwind of colors and limbs, the polyptych tells of the inexplicable, indescribable joy that can be found in the reckless loss of oneself to the sway of music. Similarly themed is another trio, the *Dancing Day* series.

evoked emotion. Now, he shapes his unrecognizable urban backdrops to evoke memory and convey the intangibly recognizable mood of the capital city, as can be experienced in the *Guardian of the Ghetto* and the all too familiar clothesline in *Sunday Road*.

By the same token, it could be said that Zekeria's work has also evolved to be polemic. Several of



These three paintings convey a mood of jubilant spontaneity wherein an atmosphere of release and freedom is created by the flamboyant poses of the dancers – really, an apt metaphor for being swept up in some artistic passion, I thought, because staring at the colors, I could feel a sense of urgency with how the paint was applied.

*Solitude II* was, in my opinion, one of the most arresting pieces in the collection. In this painting, the lonesome figure is the focal point and occupies most of the foreground. His aloneness is emphasized by the unsettling elongation of his neck, which is almost swallowed up by his background. The weight of the city bears down on his uneven shoulders. His pitifully frail neck conveys a more profound fragility. Most commonly, solitude is emphasized using a small figure overwhelmed by the scale or tone of his/her surroundings. But here, the

young man is actually as large as his surroundings, and the composition still manages to convey somehow the grave tragedy of his isolation in the midst of a city. *Solitude I*, by comparison, comes across as significantly less disconsolate: the subject, poised with his countenance in profile and arms extended out to either side, seems not to be so much overtaken by his environment but rather to be interacting with it. Or perhaps has surrendered to it?

In his own words, Zekeria Omer sums up the inspiration behind his work as coming from “day-to-day activities. I try to capture and represent not the objects as they are but to rearrange them in a simplified way of compositions.”

But these simplifications have a minimalistic sparseness to them. The urban scenes are stripped of all identifying features and reduced to the purely emotive tone they convey; while their likeness becomes geometrically distorted, their simplicity retains a certain beauty. Another prominent aspect of the paintings is that they appear dynamic. Zekeria enjoys playing and experimenting with the lines and dimensions of his settings, the consequence of which is that they seem to be in motion. Depending on the viewer's point of view or at what angle the light falls on the coarse acrylic surface, they give the impression of a non-static, slightly changing, moving form. That is why his cities feel almost animated. In this regard, it could be said that Zekeria Omer's paintings portray an inclination towards expressionism that reveals itself in a most reserved manner. His latest artwork was a delight to look at and ponder.

# REPORTAGE

## Nationwide Vaccination: Leave No Child Behind

Mussie Efriem

A nationwide immunization against measles and rubella, and Vitamin A supplement are being given to children in a campaign that will last five days, from 24th to 28th April. Measles and rubella are highly contagious diseases that can cause serious health complications, particularly in young children, and Vitamin A is crucial for the immune system and visual wellbeing of children.

Although the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) was established in Eritrea in 1980, noticeable progress in the program's development and delivery of immunization services was possible only after independence. During the first few years following independence, immunization services used to be given at 45 healthcare facilities and by 125 mobile units. The number of service providers rose exponentially over the years, and in 2010, it was provided in 256 government and 32 private healthcare facilities as well as by 385 mobile units, representing a 156% increase in healthcare facilities and 325% increase in mobile units.

As a result of initiatives and meticulous planning, the number of children vaccinated has risen from 10% before Eritrea's independence to 97% now. Similarly, the death rate for newborn infants has decreased by 75% since independence. Eritrea is now seen as one of the models in Africa that are capable of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

As part of its guiding principle of making healthcare accessible, the Ministry of Health (MoH) aims to make vaccinations accessible, affordable, and available to all Eritrean children so that it can reduce the mortality, morbidity, and disability caused by vaccine-preventable diseases among children under the age of five to the point where they are no longer a public health burden. It works to increase vaccination coverage by enhancing nationwide access and utilization of EPI services and effectively resolving issues affecting the various system components of the national EPI program.

Over the years, the EPI program has focused on improving



vaccination rates for all vaccines across all regions. Proven strategies like Reaching Every District (RED) and Sustainable Outreach Services (SOS) were implemented. Additionally, the program integrated EPI with other health and community services. This aligns with the Global Immunization Vision and Strategy (GIVS), which sets the overall plan for the country's program. Ultimately, these efforts aim to achieve the Millennium Development Goals of reducing child mortality.

The EPI unit, which is part of the MOH, is responsible for setting immunization policies and priorities, building capacity within the healthcare system, and collaborating with other stakeholders and donors to secure resources. It reports directly

to the Director of Family and Community Health within the Department of Health Services. At the regional level, EPI is subsumed under the Family and Community Health Division. Importantly, EPI services are integrated with other Maternal and Child Health (MCH) services. This means vaccinations are administered as a comprehensive package at all healthcare facilities. Under the program, vaccines are given to children against eight vaccine-preventable diseases -- Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Polio, Measles, Hepatitis B and Homophiles Influenza type B. In 2020, more than 2.9 million people under the age of 30 received a meningitis vaccine as part of a nationwide immunization campaign. Last year, a nationwide cervical cancer vaccine was

administered, and 80% of those vaccinated were students who were given the shots at their schools.

This year, more than 520,000 children aged 9 months to 5 years will be eligible for vaccinations against measles and rubella, while those aged 6 months to 5 years will be given Vitamin A supplements. To ensure accessibility, the services will be given at a large number of locations, including 302 permanent centers, 900 temporary sites, and 65 mobile units. More than 4,000 health workers from the MoH and municipal governments have been deployed to support the initiative. This countrywide immunization is expected to limit cross-border measles transmission.

Around 3.7 million Nakfa



has been invested to ensure the success of the nationwide vaccination campaign. One of the aims of the campaign is to catch up with children who may have skipped or have not yet begun their regular vaccines. The emphasis on broadening immunization helps achieve the long-term objective of eradicating measles and rubella. To further protect children's health, the campaign provides Vitamin A capsules to children aged 6 months to 5 years, which improves their immune system. Efforts are also directed toward reaching all children by identifying under-vaccinated locations and organizing regular visits to ensure fair access to healthcare throughout Eritrea. This immunization program focuses on reaching people in isolated and rural areas, who are vulnerable to measles outbreaks due to low vaccination rates.

The presence of unvaccinated individuals and potential gaps in regular vaccination programs, particularly in eastern and western lowlands due to the difficult terrain and nomadic lifestyle of the citizens, and cross-border transmission of measles from neighboring nations create conditions for potential epidemics. For this reason, one of the major goals of the program is to tackle concerns regarding cross-border transmission of measles from neighboring nations as well as migration within Eritrea's eastern and western lowlands.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that measles vaccination prevented 56 million child deaths worldwide in 2020. In 2021, approximately 128,000 children under the age of five died from measles due to lack of vaccination. Because the measles vaccine is safe, effective, and inexpensive, it is best to get it as soon as possible to avoid contracting the disease.

WHO has a global goal of eliminating preventable deaths from measles and congenital rubella syndrome (CRS) by 2030. This ambitious goal aims to ensure no child succumbs to measles and no infant is born with the disabilities caused by the rubella virus. Eritrea is actively pursuing this agenda, demonstrating progress towards the eradication of these diseases through targeted vaccination programs.



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# VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

**1. Position: Process Plant Fitter**  
**Department: Process Plant**  
**Number required: One (01)**

**Primary Purpose**

- A Fitter is a skilled tradesperson who maintains, and repairs machinery and equipment used in construction and mining industries.
- They're responsible for diagnosing and fixing mechanical problems, replacing worn parts, , inspections, servicing and ensuring that equipment operates safely and efficiently as to OEM in accordance with existing procedures, polices, legal requirements and consent conditions

**ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS**

- The fitter shall disassemble and assemble equipment to OEM standard or overhaul/recondition equipment to retain its reliability status for production achievement.
- The fitter shall perform preventive and predictive maintenance on equipment to sustain its availability and reliability for production.
- Measure, examine, or test completed units to check for defects and ensure conformance to specifications, using precision instruments and tooling for example laser alignment, ruler, Vernier.

**TASK DESCRIPTION Expanded TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS**

- Planning
- Implementation of the Plan
- Mechanical Installations
- Mechanical Maintenance
- Conveyor Maintenance
- Grinding mills maintenance
- Crusher maintenance
- Reports & Data
- Training

**UNIQUE REQUIREMENTS / OTHER INFORMATION**

- Crushing experience (jaw/gyratory and cone crusher)
- Grinding mills and Isamills experience essential
- Flotation experience essential
- Filtering experience essential
- Kiln experience.
- Candidate must be physically and medically fit.

<b>Qualifications:</b>	<b>Knowledge and Experience</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Technical College Mechanical.</li> <li>○ Fitter Trade or Fitter and Turner Trade or Diploma Mechanical Engineering</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 8+ years relevant experience.</li> </ul>
<b>Technical Skills</b>	<b>Behavioral Skills</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Attention to detail, Problem solving skill, High level of accuracy, Ability to work towards strict deadlines, Fitting experience on chemical/process plant, Machining/turning experience</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Communication (English), Self-motivation, Prioritizing skills, Coordination skills, Team and leadership skills, Specialized organizational skills (evaluating, planning and scheduling work)</li> </ul>

**2. Position: Senior Boilermaker Supervisor**  
**Department: Process Plant**  
**Number required: One (01)**

**Primary Purpose**

- Supervise a boiler making team, inspecting maintaining and

repairing equipment in an effective and efficient manner in the safest way within the Process Plant Maintenance section and other areas where required.

- In addition, mentor and upskill existing national supervisory and tradesman level workforce.

**ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS**

- Ensure ore and slurry streams are fit for purpose including chute, bin, hopper, transfer tower, flange pipes, cyclone etc. and general boiler making/welding works inclusive installation.
- Development and fabrication of rotatable spares & implementation change-out maintenance strategy.
- Training and mentoring of the labour force.
- Budgeting.

**TASK DESCRIPTION Expanded TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS**

- Planning
- Implementation of the Plan
- Writing Reports & Data Control
- Supervise/Manage team

**UNIQUE REQUIREMENTS/OTHER INFORMATION**

- Candidate must be physically and medically fit.
- Must be able to work outside exposed to Heat, wind and dusty environments.
- Must be able to work at Heights.
- Must have a light vehicle license.
- Must have knowledge on Rubberizing of tanks and pipping.
- Installation skills of chute, grizzly, transfer tower, bin, hopper, pipes, cells, transition passage etc

<b>Qualifications:</b>	<b>Knowledge and Experience</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Supervisory certificate</li> <li>○ International recognized trade certificate/Diploma boilermaker, plate work for vessel and tanks, pipping, profile and development.</li> <li>○ Coded welder qualification will be an advantage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 10+ years relevant experience as hands on boilermaker supervisor in Mineral process environment.</li> <li>○ MIG, TIG, STICK, gas cutting brazing &amp; heat treatment of different materials</li> <li>○ 5+ years budget and planning for boilermaker team materials and shutdown planning relevant experience</li> <li>○ Rotatable spares management.</li> </ul>
<b>Technical Skills</b>	<b>Behavioral Skills</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Computer Literacy (MS Office – Intermediate,), Planning/scheduling, Attention to detail, Analytical skill, Mechanical and Maintenance experience, Problem solving skill, Supervisory experience, Safety reporting and actions, High level of English</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Communication (English), Assertiveness, Interpersonal Relations, Integrity, Prioritizing skills &amp; multi-skilling, Ability to work towards strict deadlines, High level of accuracy, Good Cultural awareness, Self-motivation</li> </ul>

**3. Position: Rigger & Crane Specialist**  
**Department: Process Plant**  
**Number required: One (01)**

**Primary Purpose**

- A rigger makes use of cranes, manitous and forklifts to transport, load and offload heavy equipment, machinery, or large heavy cargo such as fixed plant equipment, construction equipment, containers, mobile equipment in the opencast, processing, and underground operations.
- Riggers are also responsible for preparing the materials to provide access to elevated tasks by means of scaffolding.



**C**ontinued from page 6

**ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS**

- Setting up and assembling the rigging equipment required for lifting and moving heavy loads.
- Communicating with crane operators to guide them in moving objects and depositing them in the correct location.
- Inspect rigging equipment regularly, identify potential hazards, and take corrective actions to mitigate risks.
- Inspecting and maintaining the rigging gear, as well as repairing or replacing worn-out or damaged components.
- Perform rigging studies to plan a lift and to ensure that the rigging equipment and crane can safely handle the weight of the load.
- Train national rigging workforce by developing training programs and facilitating the programs.

**TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS**

- Planning
- Implementation of the Plan
- General Rigging
- Scaffolding
- Lifting
- Writing Reports & Data Control
- Demonstrate autonomy in learning through

**UNIQUE REQUIREMENTS / OTHER INFORMATION**

- Candidate must be physically medically fit
- Candidate must be qualified as a rigger
- Must be able to work outside exposed to heat, wind, and dusty environments
- Must be able to work at heights
- Underground experience
- Processing plant experience
- Opencast experience
- LMI (lifting machinery inspector)
- Rigging Training Coordinator/Facilitator/Moderator

<b>Qualifications:</b>	<b>Knowledge and Experience</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Technical College Mechanical /Rigging/ Cranes Diploma</li> <li>○ Rigging Trade</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 5+ years relevant experience</li> </ul>
<b>Technical Skills</b>	<b>Behavioral Skills</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Attention to detail, Problem solving skill, High level of accuracy, Ability to work towards strict deadlines, Rigging &amp; Crane experience, Supervisory experience</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ C o m m u n i c a t i o n (English), Self-motivation, Prioritizing skills, Coordination skills, Team and leadership skills, Specialized organizational skills (evaluating, planning and scheduling work)</li> </ul>

**Position: Project Field Engineer**

**Department: Process Plant**

**Number required: Two (02)**

**Primary Purpose**

- Supervise different projects at the same in a 'hands on' role with several both skilled and semi skilled national artisans to construct new buildings (Steel Structures, Electrical Civil Works, Pipelines and Excavations) whilst using equipment and personal available on the Mine. Perform regular Safety Inspections, following a scheduled work plan, reporting back on work progress and ensure costs are within the budget.
- In addition, position is responsible to identify and order relevant parts and materials required for construction, following site procurement procedures. The position will include overall civil, structural, electrical and mechanical construction responsibilities ensuring all works carried out are done in a safe manner, Engineering Standard, in compliance to site HSEC regulations. The position also include to identify and carried out standard material used and QAQC in Project implementation.

**ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS**

- Project Planning: Develop a detailed project plan that includes timelines, budgets, resources, and risk assessments.
- Technical Support: Provide technical support and guidance to the project team members.
- Coordination: Coordinate with various teams, including design, manufacturing, construction, and maintenance teams, to ensure project goals

are met.

- Quality Control: Ensure the project adheres to quality standards and regulations.
- Documentation: Maintain accurate project documentation, including progress reports, technical specifications, and change orders.
- Communication: Maintain effective communication with stakeholders, including clients, contractors, and vendors.
- Problem-solving: Identify and resolve technical issues and problems that arise during the project.

**TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS**

- Planning
- Implementation
- Writing Reports & Data Control
- Supervise/Manage team

**UNIQUE REQUIREMENTS / OTHER INFORMATION**

- Candidate must be physically medically fit.
- Skills: Project Engineers should have strong technical skills in engineering principles and practices. They should also have excellent communication and leadership skills, problem-solving skills, attention to detail, time management skills, and flexibility.

<b>Qualifications:</b>	<b>Knowledge and Experience</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Must have degree or diploma in engineering, construction management, or related field.</li> <li>○ 10+ years experience in project management, with a focus on construction projects.</li> <li>○ Proven ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously within budget and timeline constraints.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Must have degree or diploma in engineering, construction management, or related field.</li> <li>○ 10+ years experience in project management, with a focus on construction projects.</li> <li>○ Proven ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously within budget and timeline constraints.</li> </ul>
<b>Technical Skills</b>	<b>Behavioral Skills</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Computer Literacy (MS Office – Intermediate), Mechanical and Maintenance experience, Attention to detail, Analytical skill, Problem solving skill, Supervisory Experience, MS Project Skills, Strong understanding of construction methods and materials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Excellent Communication (English), Assertiveness, Interpersonal Relations, Integrity, Prioritizing skills &amp; multi-skilling, Ability to work towards strict deadlines, High level of Accuracy, Self-motivation, Dedication to safety, Time Management, Leadership</li> </ul>

**General Information and other requirements:**

- **Place of Work:** Bisha.
- **Salary:** As per Company salary scale.
- **Type of Contract:** Indefinite

**Additional requirement for Nationals:**

- Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provide evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defense.
- Present clearance paper from current/last employer.
- Testimonial documents to be attached (CV, work experience credentials, a copy of your National Identity Card etc.).
- Only shortlisted applicants will be considered as potential candidates for an interview.
- Application documents will not be returned to sender.
- All applications should be sent through the post office.
- **Deadline for application: 10 days from the day of publication in the Newspaper.**

**Address: Please mail your applications to:-**  
**Bisha Mining Share Company,**  
**P. O. Box 4276 Asmara, Eritrea**

**Note to Eritrean applicants:**

**Please send a copy of your application to:**

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



Q and A

# “I have nothing but vision that keeps me going” ...

## Artist Medhane Amanuel

Sabrina Solomon

*Our guest today, Medhane Amanuel, is an inventor, painter and interior designer, whose works have been described as extraordinary.*



*Please run our readers through your background.*

I was born in 1990 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and came to Eritrea after independence when I was one year old. I did my elementary and junior secondary schooling in Mai-Ayni and my high school at Semaetat Secondary. After high school, I pursued a big project I had been working on for years -- a solar-powered toy car. It took me over four years to complete. After looking at my project, which was new and unheard of, the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS) of Southern region gave me an opportunity to work under their supervision. So, I started working on small projects. In 2010, I was able to present my small projects at the festival in Sawa, and our region won first place. I was given some monetary award. That took me by surprise but also gave me a push to do better. Some of the works that were presented there include a fountain made using a traditional coffee pot and a solar-powered radio.

*What have you worked on?*

I can't say I have put my inventions on exhibition after the one in Sawa as I started to focus more on art, like interior design and painting of various styles and types. I have done interior design for the bar at Lion Hotel. There were a couple of challenges regarding budget, but I was satisfied with the work done. The bar is now seen by customers as the best in town because of its new look.

Soldering painting and pop-up art are also styles of painting

that I have been working with for years now. I have also built around 20 models of buildings in Asmara. It is strange that we don't appreciate and enjoy the uniquely built structures in Asmara. If I can find sponsors I would like to work on a project of making models of iconic Asmara houses with correct measurements that resemble the original ones and have a special exhibition for people to get a better view of such buildings.

*Where did you get your inspiration for such a talent from?*

I'd be lying if I say I got my inspiration from something I can now remember. But I have always been so passionate about rebuilding and inventing. Whenever we had school projects and assignments in class, I would come up with unique or modified stuff that would surprise my peers and teachers. As a child, instead of playing with my friends outside, I used to lock myself at home and play with some old and broken electronic devices, trying to create something.

I have never taken any course related to what I do. I once joined Erena School to take courses on electricity, but it was actually what I had already known on my own. My hunger for knowledge led me to do research on my own and understand how things work. People always said that I asked too many questions, but I believe that is how I was able to know more about things that I was familiar with.

*Why haven't you been putting your works on exhibition? That would have exposed you to the public?*

I have too tight a schedule to be able to dedicate all of my time to art. But even when I had a chance, I believe I haven't exposed myself enough solely because I feel I haven't achieved my vision yet. I have always been like that. I'm not satisfied with what I have accomplished so far,

and I haven't been showcasing my works even though everyone around me keeps saying I should. Of course, there are projects that I like and feel are unique. But I haven't been focusing on the ones that I have made so far. I feel like the best is yet to come.

*What advice do you have for the Eritrean youth and students with talent in such fields?*

I still haven't realized my dreams yet, but I have a motto I will carry for life: "I have nothing but a vision." I believe if you have a vision and take the initiative to work towards it, half of the work is already done. Of course, there are going to be challenges on the way, but it all depends on how willing you are to make your dreams come true. Throughout my journey, I have been criticized and pointed at for trying things that haven't been done before. But that hasn't stopped me. I'm grateful to those who wanted to put me down because it gave me a push to hold on to my goals tighter and prove them wrong.

*What is next for you, Medhane?*

I have some projects, like an electronic book for people who have lost their sight. The biggest of all is creating energy from nothing. That is a concept I have been finalizing until now. This energy-from-nothing concept gets its energy from the magnetic field. A magnet is something that doesn't end. So, endless energy from nothingness is a big project that will come up soon.

*Anything else you'd like to add?*

I would love to express my gratitude to my family, who have been there by my side from the very beginning. I'd also like to thank Afewerki Haile, a man who has always given me full support and allowed me to try the things that I wanted.

*Thank you!*

