

## ANNUAL CONGRESS OF NATIONALS IN EASTERN US



Members of the PFDJ, the National Union of Eritrean Women as well as members of the YPFDJ in the Eastern region of the United States conducted their annual congress on 22 March.

The nationals residing in the US cities of Washington DC, Virginia, Maryland, Baltimore, and Harrisburg conducted their annual congress via video conference focusing on the Corona Virus and measures that should be taken to control it.

At the event, the Charge d' Affairs at the Eritrean Embassy, Mr. Berhane Gebrehiwet gave briefing on "Strong Organization-Strong Country" as well as on the objective situation in the homeland.

Indicating that the EPLF emerged victorious due to strong

awareness and active participation of the people and its leadership, Mr. Berhane called for reinforced contribution for the implementation of the national development drives.

Ms. Hadnet Keleta, head of Public and Community Affairs on her part presented brief activity report of the national organizations, role and contribution of professionals in the national development as well

as on the Media and Diplomatic programs for 2020.

The participants expressed strong conviction to participate in the implementation of the programs for 2020 and play due role in the national effort to control the spread of Corona Virus in the country.

They also contributed over 9,300 dollars for the Shieb solar system project.

In the same vein, members of the National Union of Eritrean Women in Minnesota, the United States, celebrated the International Women's Day, 8 March, in patriotic zeal.

At the occasion, Ms. Akberet Tesfai, chairwoman of the union, gave briefing on the meaning and significance of the International Women's Day and called for nurturing competent youth females that adhere to the noble societal values.

## DESERT LOCUST SWARM PUT UNDER CONTROL

The desert locust swarm that appeared at the Araeta sub-zone, Southern Red Sea region, was put under control through integrated response by the Ministry of Agriculture, administration of the sub-zone as well as the public and members of the Defense Forces before inflicting damage on grazing areas and trees.

According to Mr. Hagos Gebretensae, member of the Ministry of Agriculture, the desert locust swarm that was stretched on 2620 hectares was put under control through immediate coordinated response of all stakeholders.

Commending the commitment and interest the public and members of the Defense Forces demonstrated in combating the desert locust swarm in the sub-zone, Mr. Mahmud Abdella, administrator of Araeta sub-zone, said that had it not been for their immediate and timely response the locust swarm could have inflicted unprecedented damage.

It is to be recalled that desert locust swarm appeared in November 2019 in various parts of the country and was put under control.



## COMMENDABLE POPULAR CAMPAIGN

Residents of Nakfa town are conducting extensive popular campaign including renovation and construction of terraces as well as forestation activities, report indicate.

Speaking to Erina, residents stating the significant role of integrated effort in undertaking effective activities commended the contribution of women in the popular campaign.

The residents also expressed strong resilience to strengthen organizational capacity and ensure better outcome in the undergoing popular campaign.

## MINISTRY OF HEALTH: PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT (NO. 5)

Two other passengers who returned home with Air Arabia Airlines on Monday 23 March tested positive, bringing the total number of patients in the country diagnosed with COVID-19 to six. All the patients are receiving necessary treatment and their condition remains satisfactory.

As underlined in previous weeks, the Government of Eritrea has been, and continues to take, several important measures to contain and fully stop the spread of the Coronavirus pandemic. In this respect, the MoH issues the following additional guidelines today:

1. All institutions of learning - from Kindergarten to Colleges - will be closed starting tomorrow, 27 March 2020.
2. All public transport vehicles - buses, minibuses and taxis - in all the cities will stop services from 6:00 a.m. tomorrow, March 27<sup>th</sup>. Use of trucks for public transport is illicit and punishable by law.
3. With the exception of those who may be granted special permit by the competent authority in urgent circumstances, all public transport services from one Region to another, or from one city to another, will likewise be stopped from 6:00 a.m. tomorrow, 27 March 2020.
4. These guidelines will remain effective until further notice.
5. Although all Government institutions play a significant role in the effective implementation of the current and previous guidelines, it is nonetheless incumbent on every citizen to act with due diligence and responsibility to ensure his/her own good health and safety as well as those of his/her family.
6. The Ministry of Health will continue to monitor developments and trends regarding COVID-19 and issue, as necessary, further information and guidelines.

Meanwhile, religious leaders of the Eritrean Tewahdo Orthodox Church, office of the Iftae and Islamic Affairs of Eritrea, the Eritrean Catholic Church and the Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Eritrea have, yesterday 27 March, issued new regulations to be followed by the faith in order to avoid the hazards of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The new regulations forbid all kinds of religious congregation, including cultural events of any kind that entail public gathering. The regulations have been put into effect as of this morning. Details of the six point regulations will be published in our next issue.

*Ministry of Health  
Asmara  
26 March 2020*

## PRESS RELEASE

In its publication of 15 March this month, the London-based Arab Weekly propagates utterly baseless and speculative allegations regarding Eritrea. The article was written by a certain Sabahat Khan; supposedly an "analyst" on the region.

The recycling of such trite disinformation has no significance whatsoever and only amplifies the failure and bankruptcy of the agendas of chaos.

Be that as it may, the Government of Eritrea rejects the baseless and mendacious conjectures floated in the article.

*Ministry of Information  
Asmara  
25 March 2020*



# Development

## Omhajer: Prospective Farm Area and Hub of Societal Harmony

**Kesete Ghebrehiwet**

Omhajer is among the biggest semi-urban centers of Golug sub-zone in the Gash-Barka region. It borders Ethiopia to the south and Sudan to the west and is mostly known for its agriculture. It has vast arable land and is endowed with abundant livestock. Its agricultural resources, cultural diversity and its potential for further development make Omhajer a prospective center for investment.



Omhajer has a population of 9000, who live on farming, growing plants and raising animals, and trading with people

from the neighboring countries.

A total of 4,000 hectares have been cultivated by the inhabitants of the two administrative areas of Omhajer. Following the redistribution of farmland in 2017, every farmer in Omhajer has been given a farmland at a household and an individual level.

The Government has been cultivating a large farm area in Ketay, where commercial farmers can also lease farm land from the government. Bademit Dam, the largest water reservoir in Omhajer, has been crucial in augmenting the number of livestock and is expected to positively impact future agricultural development in the area.

According to Mr. Tesfalem Andom, Administrator of Omhajer, there is no farm land that remains uncultivated. Owners of farm machineries always collaborate with farmers in plowing farmlands. Since Omhajer has a lot of cultivable land, a number of people from the highland have moved there and settled in a place called Kachero, where they are living as farmers.

The people of Omhajer cooperate with one another and share what they have in times of joy and difficulties. Together they cultivate farms reserved



for the families of fallen heroes. Annually, on the occasion of 20<sup>th</sup> June, Martyrs Day, they donate money to support the Martyrs' trust fund. Such noble values cement the unity that has existed among the people. Mr. Tesfalem said that there are around 84 families of fallen heroes in Omhajer, and 87 quintals of agricultural produce is reserved to be distributed to these families.

The Golug-Omhajer route is the biggest transportation line, and feeder roads have been easing transportation problems to the western areas such as Kachero and Aytref. Harat Transport Company has been providing transportation service three times a week.

Since Omhajer borders Ethiopia and Sudan, its inhabitants use telecommunication services from different service providers. The supply of electricity is expected to be extensively introduced with the expansion of Ketay farm project.

Omhajer borders Tekeze river and the area is very rich in underground water, resulting in abundant water supply.

When it comes to education, Mr. Tesfalem said there are schools targeting students of all age groups, from kindergarten to secondary schools.

Cattle and sheep are amongst

the most visible resources of Omhajer. Last year's ample production of animal feed and grazing land resulted in increase in the number of livestock. Mr. Tesfalem calls on farmers to take care of their environment and take precautionary measures to avoid fire that could destroy the grazing land.

Veterinary services, including vaccination, are regularly given to the farming communities by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Corporation of Crops and Livestock. Mr. Tesfalem finally commends all parties for their efforts in making a difference in all development activities of Omhajer.



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# The Northern Red Sea Region

One of the six regions of Eritrea, the Northern Red Sea Region, is bordered with the Sudan and Ethiopia on the North-Eastern part, and is number one in its length from North to the South. The area of the land in the Northern Red Sea region is 34,236 square kilometers, which boasts a second place following the Gash Barka Region. Furthermore, the areal length of the land reaches up to 450 kilometers, while the coastal length is around 795.5 kilometers.

## Administrational Classification

The Northern Red Sea Region includes major parts from the colonial administration classifications of Eritrea, which were then known as Sahel, Semhar, Denkél as well as some parts of Akeleguzay and Hamasien. According to the 1996 declaration of establishing the new regional administrations however, the Northern Red Sea region was established along with its 10 sub zones, 104 district administrations, and 289 villages. Besides, it is very natural that minor changes could be seen in the current number of villages and district administrations in accordance with the prevalent developments and bringing together of scattered inhabitants.

The center of the Northern Red Sea Region is the port city of Massawa and the rest of the sub zones have their own respective centers. Accordingly, the towns of Ghindae, Afabet, Nakfa as well as the townships of Gel'alo, Foro, Shi'eb

(Menshib), Emahmime (Kirora), Dril (Adobha) and the Island of Dahlak Kebir are the sub zonal centers of the region. Starting from the wake of independence, administration buildings in every sub zone and various social service rendering

institutions have been put in place and are providing commendable services to the public.

## Demography

Based on the general census carried out in 2006 as well as the subsequent consents made in the respective sub zonal administrations, the Northern Red Sea Region has a population of 380,000. The most populated sub zone being Afabet, the Dahlak sub zone is the least populated, while the sub zone of Massawa is the most densely populated of the region. The sub zones of Ghindae, Nakfa, Afabet follow Massawa in their population density in a descending order. It should be noted here that the population density of these areas wavers based on the climate change and movement of the nomadic inhabitants. During the hot seasons of the plain lowland areas, the movement of people grows and

an increase in the population of the subzones with cooler climate occurs at least until the hot season finishes.



The general population of the sub zone shows gradual increase every year, but due to the lack of timely registration of the remotely located population in the information system, the statistics is not precise. With the growing awareness of the public in the importance of registration and possession of Identity Cards however, it is highly anticipated it will have a positive impact in the information system of the region.

## Topography

Some of Eritrea's highest grounds above sea level and the lowest are located in the Northern Red Sea Region. Enki'are Humer, a place located in the Foro sub zone, has an elevation of 3017 meters above sea level, while some locations

around Bada and Koleli are situated around 100 meters below sea level. At summer, the lowest average temperature around the coast reaches up to 20 degree Celsius, while the highest average reaches up to 50 degrees. On the highland parts of the region however, the lowest average temperature is 10 degree Celsius, while the highest average reaches around 30 degrees. Average annual rainfall in the region is registered as 350 mm. the rainy season in the highland areas of the region is common from July to September, but the Bahri area of the region receive their rainfall from December to February. Some parts of the region, particularly the Eastern escarpments have their rainy season both with the highlands and the coastal areas accumulating a bountiful of 700 to 1000 mm of rainfall annually.

## Rivers

The Northern Red Sea Region is equally endowed with natural resources that match with its area and geographical location. Seasonal rivers that drain from the highlands through the Eastern escarpments and vast plains to the Red Sea are other important features of the region. Most of the escarpments in the region, with the exception of some around the Adobha sub zone and the Nakfa sub zone, which drain to the West, are directed to the East. To mention some of the major rivers of the region; Zara, Hasta (Badi), Algena, Mo'u, Hiday, Felket, Mai Ule, Laba, Ein, Wekiro, Demas, Mai Atkemom, Ruba Hadas, Ali Gede, Eindeli, Regaili, Komeili and others.

The biggest advantage of the region is the vast and endless cultivable plains separating the coast from the Eastern escarpments. The region receives water drains from all the Eastern escarpments, which cause flooding and disaster on the local inhabitants and livestock. Some of the major incidents in the region include, Adobha in 2011, Emberemi in 2012 as well as the recent flood disaster in Foro on 6 December 2015.

## Natural and cultural Resources

The Northern Red Sea Region is a land of abundant natural, marine and land, resources as well as historical and cultural heritages. Appealing tourism sites, prospective investment platforms in marine resources on one hand, as well as legacies of history, civilization, identity, culture and valor are all housed in this region.

## Natural Resources

Alongside the vastness of its area and geographical importance, the Northern Red Sea Region is endowed with rich natural resources, long coast lines with marine bio-diversity, plentiful domestic animals and wildlife, a two seasoned green belt, various minerals, rivers, natural hot springs, strategic plateaus, cosmic deserts and many more.

## Land Resources

Looking at the geographical setting of the Northern Red Sea Region, there are towering mountainous escarpments with highland climate around the Northern sea escarpments as well as Rora-Habab and Hager, very hot plains including some with around 100 meters below sea level in the areas of Kuleli and Bada, places where one can experience three seasons in two hours, an ever green national park around the green belt area as well as the Wengebo plains, the Fidel-Pe and Denden trenches.

Some of the few naturally crafted beauties in the middle of the desert are the volcanic mountains of Bada, Buya, Dandero, Mae'bele, Erafa'ele and others. Besides, the natural hot springs and naturally steaming springs around Erafa'ele, Mai-Weue (Gahtelay) and Afabet are commonly visited areas by nationals and foreigners to heal skin diseases and nerve related problems. Furthermore, the strategic and commanding mountains and escarpments in the Sahel area possess a center stage in the Eritrean revolution against colonialism.

The Northern Red Sea Region also possesses various minerals, such as salt, oil, natural gas, mineral water, gold, bronze, gypsum, asbestos, granite, byrite, sulphur, silver, potassium, as well as the potential prospects and sign more minerals yet to be discovered.







# Hogging Public Services

Whenever the secretary of the very pompous boss in my friend's workplace knocks at a door and gets in to an office, people automatically assume the worst. For the past years, the secretary has been the bearer of very ugly and messy messages and an omen of a bad luck in the institution. So naturally when she let herself in to the office shared by my friend and others, everyone got the goose bumps as uneasiness filled the environment. Everyone tried to avoid an eye contact with the secretary.

*"He wants to see you right away,"* she told my friend who was also trying his best to avoid an eye contact with her.

As soon as she left the room, everyone gathered around my friend's desk and started to bombard him with questions making him even more nervous. *"What have you done? Did you do something wrong? What's going on?"* everyone forwarded a question of his/her own. My friend's heart was in his mouth when he left his office and headed towards his boss's office. But nothing could have prepared him for the way his boss went ballistic on him because my friend didn't attach some files the boss asked to be emailed immediately. My friend was reprimanded and admonished by his boss and he accepted all of it gracefully knowing fully his fault but my friend was also in a bind here; it is not like he forgot his assignment or that disregarded his boss's orders. He didn't attach the files because a girl in his office was hogging the computer with internet connection service in the office. My friend was in a difficult situation because he kept telling the girl he has some work related assignments and that he needed to use the internet immediately but the girl kept asking for *'five more minutes, please'* now and then.

If the girl didn't have the decency or the conscience to draw the line between her personal life and her career and lacks the very ethics, competence and character of a career person, then no one can possibly insert those qualities into her right now or at this age no matter how long of a sermon my friend or others preach her. Some people tend to forget where they are or why or the very purpose they are in a certain place, they don't consider the people and the work load around them.

They have little or no regard to public services and utilities that are meant for the benefit of the general public. Just because they got the access to a certain public service free of any charges they can't seem to get enough of it and thus misuse and abuse the opportunities that are being offered.

It is about time that some people realize and understand the meaning and uses of public services and opportunities. If it is a public property then it means the general public should have equal access to it. No one should hog or monopolize it either. You know what I am talking about because there is at least one person like that in your work place, neighborhood or school. There is always someone who thinks he or she is the primary and sole beneficiary of public services and opportunities. Have you seen how some people hog the main lane in the road blocking everyone who wants to pass by or speed by or how people hog the office internet as if they are the only ones with insatiable appetite for the internet or chat rooms? For example, the girl from my friend's workplace spends the whole day in the office glued to the seat in front of that particular computer with the internet heedless of the other's need or priority. Hogging public property or service is rude and says so much about one's behavior.

Hogging public services more than it is polite or for a longer period than usual shows one's lack of respect and poor manners. The girl in the above for instance sits for hours in front of the PC and chats with others disregarding the others in the office who also have the same and equal claim to the internet service in the office. My friend and the others in the office have held their peace by confining themselves from passing other observations and concerns about her obsession with the internet and particularly the Yahoo Messenger.

One too many times they have voiced their opinions and advised her how it is not wise to hog the use of the internet for other purposes since mainly the service was there for work related purposes but the girl has given them a deaf ear to their advices. My friend and the others in the office are no saints either; they have used the office internet for purposes other than their work too but whenever a work

or a job is involved they at least give it a priority. So in the above case, just because someone in the office didn't open his/her mouth to say something about her behavior doesn't mean that they are not judging her otherwise. My friend for example wanted to attach and send those files according to his boss's request but because the girl was sitting there for hours using the internet for her personal use, he couldn't send it and because of that he had to endure a rather nasty verbal abuse. But the girl didn't seem to flinch even for a second even after knowing that someone else in the office had to get the blow and scapegoated for her mistakes. With some people you can never tell whether it is stupidity or sheer ignorance that makes them so indifference to other's feelings and needs.

The girl in my friend's workplace is online for most part of the day of the week with the exception of the weekends and the nighttime when the office is officially closed. Sometimes she will just sign in to Yahoo Messenger and asks to stay connected while others are using the internet so her message boxes would keep popping up now and then and I think it thrills her just to stay connected. She will then sit somewhere nearby and read the messages while someone else is using the computer. The person who is using the internet can never be at ease and as comfortable because the girl will always be there to read her messages now and then, breathing down their neck.

The current generation seems to be blind to the line that differentiates the personal life from professional one. Whoever we are and however we grew up, in the workplace we have equal access to the public utilities provided by the government or the institution you work for. We need to be professional in our workplaces and respect each other's space and authority. This generation lacks professionalism more than anything else in their approach in life. In many cases I have witnessed someone not only hogging the office telephone but disturbing public peace while he or she is at it. Some people don't only hog the office telephone but also are not discreet about their conversations on the phone. If someone is going to use the office telephone for hours and is talking out loud on the phone about his/ her personal life or love

life publicly with the intention to let others know that he/ she is dating or publicly announce the contents of his or her life; this someone then definitely needs to know that this is not how you impress others. *"Did you get home safe yesterday evening?" "Did your parents pitch a fit for getting home late?" "Did you sleep well?" did you dream about me?" "I already miss you."* ... and other abysmally irritating sentences and conversations are private messages meant to be said in private and not to announce it as an orator out in the public. This just highlights the ignorance of the person who is saying them out loud in the public and invading the space of privacy of others not to mention hogging the office telephone. Sometimes I am made to witness and hear many issues while I am trying to concentrate on my workplace and these people would invade my personal space without my consent while I am trying to work. My mind on its own accord will observe what is being said or done out in the public because it is intentionally being performed to attract my attention. So during this trial that tests one's patience one can't perform work effectively but also can't communicate with the outside world even for work purpose because the same person is guilty of hogging the public utility and invading one's personal space.

Have you seen how some people cross their legs and act all cozy on the office phone while others are in immediate need of the line? Some people would go to the greater length of narrating their life story starting from their birth day and down through the story of their childhood, adulthood and their current situation while someone else is waiting for the line. The other time I was in a desperate situation and needed to call someone urgently but since my cell phone didn't have any balance on it, I bought a telephone card to use a public telephone. And when I look around I spotted a telephone booth across from me. The phone booth was already occupied but since it was only one guy I decided to wait for him. Little did I know that was going to be the biggest mistake of my life.

The guy gave me this stony expression the moment he saw me crossing towards the booth and turned his back on me. As baffled as I was with his expression, I decided to wait

and stand several steps away from him. Still baffled by his expression I took few more steps away from the phone booth and waited for a while but the guy seems to have another plan for the day- to spend the day talking to his friend over the phone- a public phone to be specific. Though several steps away from him, I could hear him loud and clear from where I stood since he was practically shouting to the mouthpiece. A minute, two, and three....then five and he still was talking as if he is in his own house and in his own couch with his own phone. By the seventh minute I couldn't take it any longer so I got closer and mouthed *'please I am in hurry'* but with that he turned his face to the wall and decided to ignore me. And all this time he was telling his friend about his first date with the girl he met the other day in the club and he seems to be intent on telling his friend the whole story in little details not missing any point of the event.

*"I told her that she is the type of girl I would like to marry. And she said that she was happy that I approached her. She has been eying me too...."* My hands were itching to slap him hard and good and I rued the day the girl in a club told him that she has been eying him too because clearly his stupidity and rude manners are mirrored in his actions and his manner of speaking. My mea culpa but how can anyone eye this kind of man? That day was the first day I wished I had listened my dad when he was telling me to take karate classes, I wished I had taken those karate classes and had earned my black belt, I could have used my high kicks and karate chops to teach him some lessons for hogging public services like that and looking down on a girl half his size.

With all due respect, let's respect each other's space and consider the situation, the environment and the people around us. Let's understand and respect the use of public properties and opportunities so as to use them more effectively and wisely for a greater good. Hogging and selfishly hijacking public services for one's own purpose shows one's poor sense of ethics, conscience, competence and character as a person and moreover defies the very existence of these services to begin with.



# This Week in Eritrea's History



EPLF built the longest trench ever that extended from South Eastern Sahel to Barka. The 500 km long interconnected trench, the longest in EPLF's history, stretched from Dembo Bet (near Karora) passed through Nakfa and reached Debre Sala (Barka). After this failed Operations, the EPLF launched an attack, captured Tessenei and raided ammo depot with large stockpile.

- In March 1889, the first outbreak of cholera occurred in Eritrea imported from the East by pilgrims from Mecca and it went rampant until 1890. In Asmara the outbreak killed many people. In 1886 smallpox killed 700 people in Mensa Bet Abrehe, the time is known as the "year of smallpox".

In 1889 a smallpox epidemic & cholera struck down Debarwa & killed many people. In 1919 an off-shoot of the Spanish influenza caused a mild flu epidemic in Eritrea.

- On Mar 25 & 26 of 1952, the first election for members of the Eritrean Representative Assembly was held. Members were elected by a process of indirect elections, except in Asmara & Massawa, where direct elections were held.

- On Mar 23, 1977, Nakfa was liberated and once liberated; the Ethiopian Army was never allowed to set foot again in Nakfa. Important events that led to the liberation of Nakfa -On Sept 17, 1976, the 6-month siege to liberate

Nakfa were launched between September 22 - October 7, 1976. Ethiopian/Derg Army attempted to rescue its forces trapped in Nakfa but after 3 weeks of battle, the attempt was foiled by the EPLF. Again on October 10, 1976, Ethiopian army deployed airborne reinforcements to rescue its forces but failed. On November 20, 1976, Ethiopian/Derg Army tried to reach Nakfa by mobilizing new forces from Asmara, while from December 2- December 23, 1976, Ethiopian forces tried to rescue Nakfa from Afabet's side but they didn't make it past Genfelom. March 22, 1977, EPLA launched its final attack.

Sources: <https://twitter.com/Erihistory/>

- On Mar 26, 1983, Ethiopia/Derg launched the 7<sup>th</sup> (Stealth) Offensive (2<sup>nd</sup> Phase of Red Star) that lasted till mid-August. It was planned by Soviet military advisers led by General Petrov.

## Photographers Corner

Photo: Yemane Abraha  
Gash River







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# VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Bisha Mining Share Company is inviting applicants for the following positions for Bisha site project: -

- 1. Position: Air Condition Technician**  
**Department: Process Stream/ Engineering Process plant**  
**Number Required: 01 (one)**

## PRIMARY PURPOSE

- Carries out Installation and maintenance of all Air Conditioners and all kinds of Cooling units on the Mine.

## MAIN FUNCTIONS

- Planning
- Implementation of the plan
- Reporting

## UNIQUE REQUIREMENTS/ OTHER INFORMATION

- Candidate employment age 55 years maximum and must be physically and medically fit for work.
- Candidate must be able to recognize coloring of electrical conductors (Visually not Color blind).
- Must be able to work outside exposed to Heat, wind and dusty environments and must be able to work at Heights.
- Must be able to walk far distances to attend to Air conditioners in Housing or plant Complex.
- Must be able to interpret electrical schematics and be electrically qualified up to 380Vac 3 phase.

## Knowledge, Experience and Skills

### **Qualifications:**

- Technical college Electrical/ Mechanical Diploma.
- Technical college HVAC diploma.

### **Knowledge and Experience:**

- 3 - 5 years relevant experience

### **Technical Skills**

- Computer Literacy (MS Office Intermediate).
- Attention to detail, Problem solving and troubleshooting skill, Analytical skill and Electrical experience and Natural Customer Service & Sales Skills.
- Knowledge of HVAC Safety Standards and Protocols and Willingness to Continue Learning About HVAC Technologies and Supervisory experience.

### **Behavioral Skills**

- Communication in English, Integrity and Self-motivation, High level of accuracy, Prioritizing skills & multiskilling and Ability to work towards strict deadlines.

- 2. Position: Engineering Project Administrator**  
**Department: Engineering and Maintenance**  
**Number Required: 01 (one)**

## PRIMARY PURPOSE

- Assist the Engineering Projects Superintendent and Supervisors in managing all project administrative work. This includes Document Control, Meeting organization, Time Sheet Management and Safety related matters on a daily basis.
- Responsible for executing routine/non-routine work within the context of project progress policies, procedures and work practices, e.g. generate reports, recordkeeping, etc.

## MAIN FUNCTIONS

- Recording Projects Data & Control of project documents.
- Reporting on Project Administrative matters.
- Planning and Implementation of Document Control.
- Organize project electronic and hard copy files for easy traceability.

## Knowledge, Experience and skills

### **Qualifications:**

- Tertiary Qualification in Administration or equivalent.
- Qualification or Competency in Computer literacy (Navision, Access and Microsoft Office suite).
- English Proficiency (Mandatory).

### **Technical Skills**

- Computer Literacy (MS Office suite), Attention to detail, Problem solving skill, Analytical skill and Financial Management Skills.

### **Behavioral Skills**

- Communication (English), Assertiveness, Interpersonal Relations, Integrity and Discretion, Prioritization skills & multi-skilling, Ability to work towards strict deadlines and Self-motivation.

- 3. Position: Water Laboratory Technician**  
**Department: Environment**  
**Number required: One (01)**

## PRIMARY PURPOSE

- Responsible for ensuring that the monitoring schedule is completed on schedule. Train laboratory staff in good practice. Undertake basic analysis as required and prepare samples for laboratory analysis by external laboratory.

## MAIN FUNCTIONS

1. Procedure Control.
2. Laboratory Analysis.
3. Writing Reports.
4. Supervise team.

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# VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**C**ontinued from page 6

## Knowledge, Experience and skills

### Qualifications

- Diploma ( Chemistry, Chemical Technology, Science or related field )
- Knowledge and Experience.
- 2 – 3 years analytical laboratory experience with water exposure

### Technical Skills

- Computer Literacy (MS Office – Intermediate, Excel – Advanced) and understanding relevant legislation.
- Good understanding of National legislation & standards and data management and Analytical skill , problem solving & Admin skills

### Behavioural Skills

- Communication (English and local language) and assertiveness, Interpersonal relations, Integrity, ability to work towards strict deadlines, prioritizing skills and multi-skilling High level of accuracy and discretion and Self-motivation

### 4. Position: Air Monitoring Officer

Department: Environment

Number required: One (01)

## PRIMARY PURPOSE

- To develop and implement air quality, emission and noise management plan to ensure the protection and sustainability of environment. Follow up on the implementation plan and conduct environmental impact assessment. Eritrean legislation and the International Finance Corporation Performance & other relevant Standards need to be followed

## MAIN FUNCTIONS

1. Plan air quality, emission and noise management plan
2. Follow-up on the Implementation Plan.
3. Prepare the “Management Plan” & Standard Operating

Procedures (SOP).

4. Writing Reports
5. Data Controlling
6. Supervise/Manage team

## Knowledge, Experience and skills

### Qualifications:

- Degree (BSc) in Environmental Sciences Or natural science or meteorology or other related science
- 5 years relevant experience (air quality related activities )

### Technical Skills

- Computer Literacy (MS Office – Intermediate, Excel – Advanced) and other software, Understanding relevant legislation and attention to detail, Good analytical and problem solving skill and reasonably fit and capable of lifting up to 30 kg, Good communication skills are important in this job and experience of presenting report in various forms, Data management and good understanding of National legislation & standards, Environment and sustainability issues and Admin skills and driver licence

### Behavioral Skills

- Communication (English and local language), assertiveness, Interpersonal relations and integrity, Team work, Prioritizing skills & multi-skilling, Ability to work towards strict deadlines, High level of accuracy, Discretion and self-motivation, Enthusiastic & self motivated and display accountability & responsibility.

### General Information and other requirements:

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

### Additional requirements 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 Non - Eritrean applicants:**  
**Please send a copy of your application to**  
**Aliens Employment permits Affairs,**  
**P. O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea.**





# Covid-19, Where is Eritrea At?

Billion Temesghen

COVID-19 is a pandemic that's sweeping continents, claiming lives and slowing down the world economy. In Eritrea, so far six Corona cases have been identified, and the Ministry of Health has joined the global fight to contain the spread of the virus.

What is Eritrea doing in the fight against the pandemic? Dr. Araia Berhane, Director of Communicable Diseases Control Division at the Ministry of Health gives answers.



**Thank you for your time, Doctor. For starters, where is Eritrea at?**

We have six confirmed cases of Corona so far, and they are being treated. Additionally, we tracked all of the people who have been in contact with the infected people and have put them in quarantine. The tracking continues as we have put our guards up. As of Friday, March 27, all public transport and taxis have been suspended. We have also shut down our airports. These measures will be in force for two weeks or more; that will depend on updates we will have afterwards.

**What about schools and colleges?**

Yes, schools and colleges are suspended. Social gathering is not advised. Further measures regarding social distancing and isolation might be announced as we go further.

**Given the overall hazardous situation in the world, what has Eritrea done so far?**

Eritrea has been preparing to prevent a possible outbreak since January, when WHO first

announced the spread of the virus in China. Therefore, we have been on standby since mid-January. As a response, the National Steering Committee was founded at higher level from different ministries to coordinate the response amid the pandemic. We also reactivated the National Public Health Emergency Committee (NPHEC) to respond to the pandemic. NPHEC has been founded a long time ago to respond to emergencies of public health. It is one of the structures of the Ministry of Health that has been regularly and vigorously functional. So this time around, we activated it to match the hazards of the pandemic. Simultaneously, These include clinical management guidelines, infection prevention guidelines and guidelines regarding quarantine, isolation and more. And we starting acting, like I said before, in mid-January. Therefore, Eritrea has been and is still on the frontline.

**What measures have been taken to prevent the spread of the virus through infected passengers?**

Now, there're no flights coming in whatsoever after cases were found. We did put our focus on

the Asmara airport. At first, we quarantined passengers coming from infected areas. Subsequently, of course, we took further measures, preventing infected passengers from coming in contact with our society. We have been screening incoming passengers at the Asmara airport. We have thermo-scanners at the airport. They have been in place since the Ebola outbreak in 2014. Although no cases of Ebola or MERS-COV were found in our country, we've always been vigilant. Now, we've been able to reactivate these plants for screening passengers possibly infected by Corona Virus. Simultaneously, we turned the Betmekae Hospital to a quarantine area for passengers who came from China. However, as the spread got bigger and we had more passengers from affected countries we turned that into a hospital for the outbreak and turned several hotels in the outskirts of Asmara to quarantine areas. We've quarantined hundreds of passengers so far. As we speak, the Ministry of Health has announced there will be no incoming or outgoing flights.

**Disappointed passengers in neighboring countries have said on social media that they're**

**being asked to cover expenses of quarantine. Is that a case here?**

No, it isn't. In our case we turned hotels into quarantine areas and those expenses are fully covered by the Government. It is a time of global crisis; it is the duty of all to collaborate. Will we keep this up? I don't know. Our aim is to discourage the incoming and outgoing movement of local citizens and foreigners.

**It is safe to say that MOH's Division of Communicable Diseases Control has always been active in monitoring possible outbreaks.**

We can definitely say that. The Ministry of Health puts in high consideration the task of preventing communicable diseases wherever they might come from. We have a well-established surveillance system in our country. A structure that insures the cooperation of all concerned bodies from community level to higher offices and stakeholders. Corona Virus is a new contagion that requires close attention as it is novel and spreading fast. However, it is worth remembering that we have successful and regular surveillance of many diseases such as malaria and measles.

**What is your office doing to raise awareness amongst the people? It's a hazard that requires social distancing and self-isolation, which the local community is certainly not accustomed to. How do you plan to introduce such measures to a community that does practically everything together?**

As you mentioned, the culture of the Eritrean people is filled with communal activities within families, extended families and the community at large. We have a life style that depends on social gathering. To this end we are advising social distancing and the lessening of the number of people at work, advising workplaces to introduce a work scheme based on shifts. Above all we are working on raising people's awareness. The Ministry of Health has a well-organized health promotion center.

The division works on spreading information and sensitizing the people rapidly. We have registered success in raising awareness in every region of the country. Right now, backed by volunteers, we have made awareness videos in all Eritrean languages. Also, public announcements are made through local TV and radio and leaflets and posters are being disseminated. Furthermore, and most importantly, we are carrying a sensitization program at community level in all corners of Eritrea. Lastly, we constantly give educational materials to the public and training to our health workers, we regularly monitor the state of the pandemic, we're issuing public announcements through media outlets and our experts are giving interviews and responding to queries of the public.

**What is the state of the laboratories nationwide?**

Like I said we are equipping our National Health Laboratory and its branches nationwide. Specimens are being collected and analyzed in the country. As a result, we are confirming our cases fast.

**In the worst case scenario, how does Eritrea plan to respond to the pandemic?**

Changes are being made every day. As a nation we have been at war and our response to public health has always been proficient. Our community and the Ministry of Health give value to the wellbeing of everyone. We won't be partial and we will give our all to prevent a worst case scenario, and if we get there we will fight even harder. If needed, we will convert every health center into a hospital to combat the pandemic. Although the government is the most responsible for ensuring the wellbeing of the people, every individual is equally responsible for themselves, their families and loved ones. Safety measures and guidelines are being spread on TV, radio, and telephone hotlines, so people should really be cautious.

**Thank you and best of luck.**