



## OFFICIAL CONSECRATION OF HIS HOLINESS ABUNE BASILIOS



The consecration and enthronement of His Holiness Abune Basilios I, the Sixth Patriarch of the Eritrean Orthodox Tewahdo Church, took place early this morning at Saint Mary Church in Asmara.

Archbishops of the Eritrean Orthodox Tewahdo Church and foreign delegates from sister Oriental and Eastern Orthodox Churches—representing Egypt, Russia, Greece, Armenia, Syria, and India—participated in the ceremony. The event was enriched with the Church's centuries-old rituals and prayers.

Messages of blessings and congratulations were also



conveyed by delegations from the World Council of Churches (WCC), the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), and the Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes

and Horn of Africa.

President Isaias Afwerki, Government Ministers, members of the Diplomatic Corps, representatives of dioceses and major monasteries across the country, and the faithful attended the entire three-hour ceremony.

His Holiness was elected as the Sixth Patriarch of the Eritrean Orthodox Tewahdo Church on 9 December 2024 in Asmara, per the norms and regulations of the Holy

Synod and the Church.

Abune Basilios previously served as the Administrator of the Office of the Patriarch of the Eritrean Orthodox Tewahdo Church.

## MEETINGS ON PROGRAMS OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION



Ms. Fauzia Hashim, Minister of Justice, conducted a meeting from 23 to 25 January regarding the conflict resolution committees established at the regional level in the Gash Barka Region.

Minister Fauzia explained that the meeting was part of the ongoing efforts to implement the regulations and community-based conflict resolution framework issued in 2022 by the Ministry of Justice. The framework aims to ensure the supremacy of the law, foster social harmony and integration, facilitate conflict resolution, prioritize the values of peaceful conflict resolution, prevent crimes, and help communities preserve their cultural values while resolving conflicts independently.

Minister Fauzia noted that the meetings were held in the sub-zones of Sel'a, Kerekebet, Forto-Sawa, and Dige, with plans to continue in other sub-zones of the region. She urged the conflict resolution committees to fully understand their objectives and work diligently to create an environment where the public can resolve conflicts in their communities, thus saving time and resources.

The participants engaged in extensive discussions on the issues raised during the meetings and expressed their readiness to support the program's success.

## INCREASE IN NUMBER OF PREGNANT WOMEN DELIVERING AT HEALTH FACILITIES



Due to ongoing awareness-raising activities and increased public awareness, the number of pregnant women delivering at health facilities in the Berik sub-zone, Central Region, has risen by 5% in 2024. Mr. Aman Hadish, head of health facilities in the sub-zone, made this report.

Mr. Aman stated that 1,180 pregnant women had visited health facilities for check-ups at least once during their pregnancy, while 557 women had delivered at these facilities. Additionally, the vaccination program for children under five reached a coverage rate of 92%.

Mr. Aman further mentioned that the sub-zone is home to one health center and three health stations, and that the number of patients seeking treatment at health facilities has increased by 18%. He also highlighted the commendable environmental sanitation activities being conducted across the sub-zone to control the prevalence of communicable diseases.

Noting the relatively better expansion of health facilities in the sub-zone, Mr. Tesfu Fesehatsion, administrator, urged the public to increase their participation in expanding these facilities further.

## COMMISSION OF CULTURE AND SPORTS PROVIDES VOCATIONAL TRAINING

The Commission of Culture and Sports has provided vocational training to 56 youth. Among them, ten youths completed a three-year training program in music, 22 youths participated in a three-month dance training, and 24 youths underwent a three-month document and financial management program.

Highlighting the significance of the training, Lt. Col. Samuel Tsegay, head of administration

and finance at the commission, emphasized the importance of sustaining such programs to further develop cultural activities.

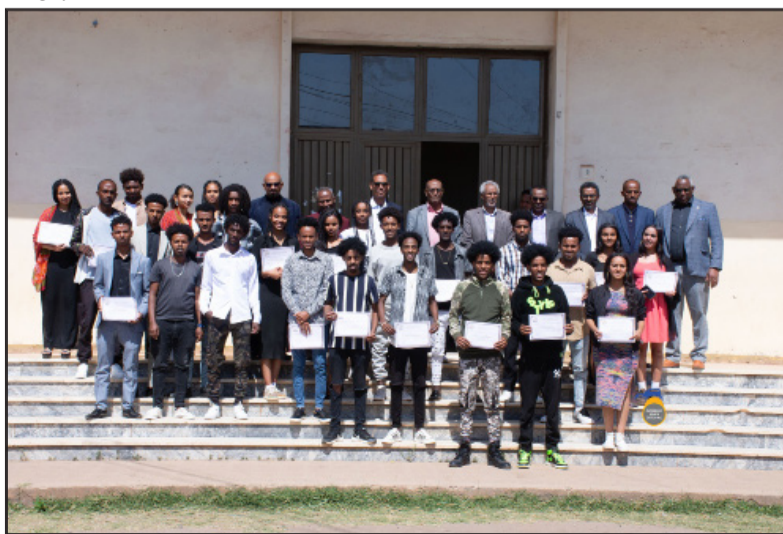
In related news, vocational training was also provided to 196 youth, including 89 females, in the Foro sub-zone. The training covered areas such as electricity, first aid, and social sciences.

Mr. Osman Ahmedin, head of the

National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students in the sub-zone, urged the trainees to apply their skills practically and announced that similar training programs will be organized in the future.

Mr. Suleiman Yosuf, head of Political and Organizational Affairs of the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students in the Northern Red Sea Region, noted that the various training programs will significantly contribute to nurturing competent youth and in transferring societal values. He also commended those who contributed to the successful implementation of the programs.

On his part, Mr. Seid Ali, head of administration and finance in the Foro sub-zone, stressed that addressing the needs of youth is a shared responsibility and expressed the sub-zonal administration's commitment to playing its part in these efforts.





# Development

## Alternative Organic Fertilizers in Eritrea: Prospects of the Production of Organic Fish Amino Acid and Seaweed Liquid Fertilizers

*Kesete Ghebrehiwet*

The development of Fish Amino Acid and Seaweed Liquid fertilizers as alternative organic fertilizers is a major achievement for the development of agriculture in Eritrea, and it is expected to increase productivity, help ensure food safety and security, and help protect the environment.

The technology has been widely used in the Far East for a long time.

The development of alternative organic fertilizers started at a small scale – sixty liters of fish amino acid liquid fertilizer and a few liters of seaweed fertilizer -- in a period lasting from October to September 2019. When a preliminary test was carried out on green collards, the result was quite encouraging, triggering an interest in a wider utilization of the product. The production of liquid fertilizers was increasing steadily

in 2020 and trials on fields were showing positive outcomes.

In explaining how the technology was adopted, Mr. Temesgen, member of the National Organic Fertilizer and Bio-pesticide Committee, said his team was given introductory information on the development of organic liquid fertilizers by Ms. Adiam, a colleague who studied in the field in Japan, reviewed the literature on the subject and submitted a proposal to the appropriate ministries, which took it very well. Thus, the National Organic Fertilizer and Bio-pesticide Committee was formed in February 2021. The committee is made up of agronomists from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), two marine biologists and a marine engineer from the Ministry of Marine Resources.

The ministries of Agriculture and Marine Resources began



produced from fish amino acid and seaweeds. The production increased so dramatically that in 2023, 80,000 liters of liquid fertilizers were produced every month. To date, a total of 480,000 liters of liquid fertilizers have reached farmers, with around 150,000 liters given out to subsistence farmers free of charge.

With a view to producing liquid fertilizers at an industrial level to be able to meet the increasing demands, Abdur Enterprise has been established by the joint efforts

and the intent now is to try and move them away from that practice because of the harmful effects of chemical fertilizers. The ministries of Agriculture and Marine Resources are subsidizing the organic liquid fertilizers at this stage to make them accessible. The liquid fertilizers, which are produced at a facility in Massawa, are sold at 27 Nakfa per liter to commercial farmers while they are given free of charge to subsistent farmers.

Mr. Temesgen said that the government is working on establishing a full-fledged processing plant at an industrial scale to meet the growing demand.

The raw materials needed for the production of liquid fertilizers are widely available. Ingredients that are considered wastes have been utilized in the production of liquid fertilizers. Seaweed can be easily collected from the coastal areas and parts of fish that are not suitable for human consumption can be collected from the fish market.

Women who live in the coastal areas have been encouraged to engage in collecting seaweed and presenting it at five collection sites -- Emberemi, Massawa, Hirgigo, Zula and Halibay. Abdur Enterprise buys the seaweed, and this has created an opportunity for the women to have some extra income.

As regards the effectiveness of the product, Mr. Temesgen said that a comparative study on the effect of imported chemical liquid fertilizer and the organic liquid fertilizers produced in Eritrea on potato farms has shown remarkable difference in productivity. The yield in the potato farm where imported chemical liquid fertilizer was used has shown an increase

of 18% per hectare while the farm where Eritrea's organic liquid fertilizer was used has shown an increase of 29%.

“We are 100% sure that our organic liquid fertilizers are more effective than the chemical fertilizers,” Mr. Temesgen added. Another benefit of the organic fertilizer is its cost. Whereas the chemical liquid fertilizer costs 200 Nakfa per liter, the organic variety is available at 27 Nakfa per liter.

The soil of Eritrea is generally known to be calcareous Alkaline with very low organic matter and nutrient content. That is why farmers have been heavily dependent on the supplemental use of artificial chemical fertilizers and urea. This is common throughout the world. A number of research studies have documented how much farmers everywhere have been relying on chemical fertilizers to boost their production.

Although the use of chemical fertilizers is known to boost production, its excessive use and misuse has also been known to cause a number of environmental pollution and ground water contamination. Chemicals leaching from farm-lands also make their way in to the sea through river runoff, causing mass aquatic organism deaths and harmful algal blooming. Imbalanced use of chemical fertilizers can also alter soil PH, increase pest attack, create acidification, and soil crust.

All these can lead to a decrease in soil organic carbon content and useful organisms, ultimately stunting plant growth and yield or even leading to the emission of greenhouse gases. As a result, the world is now veering towards organic agricultural inputs, including organic fish amino acid and seaweed liquid fertilizers.



to inject funding for the project in setting up machinery. Mr. Temesgen said that training was given and the production was raised to 1,500 liters which was helpful in increasing trial areas at the National Agricultural Research Institute in Halhale. Following an encouraging outcome on the trials, production was raised to 5000 liters per month.

By the end of 2022, around 10,000 liters of fertilizer were

of the ministries of Agriculture and Marine Resources.

Mr. Temesgen said that the production of 80,000 liquid fertilizers per month is not enough. He said based on the studies carried out, 620,000 liters of liquid fertilizers need to be produced every month for use on 32,000 hectares of farm land.

Farmers have been very dependent on chemical fertilizers

### ERITREA PROFILE

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**SpotLight**

*Dr. Fikrejesus Amahazion*

# The ERN: Celebrating Eritrea's Rich History, Culture, and Identity

Late last week, Belize, a country in northeastern Central America and on the coast of the Caribbean Sea, announced that it had taken a “significant step” toward removing one of the last vestiges of colonialism by replacing the image of the late Queen Elizabeth, the longest-reigning British monarch, on its dollar bills with those of its own national heroes.

Unveiling the design of the new bank notes, which are scheduled to go into circulation later this year, senior Belizean government officials explained that along with improved security and anti-counterfeit features, the “new family of [bank] notes also allows us to recognize and celebrate our heritage and the rich history of Belize.”

The design and imagery of Eritrea’s national currency also hold deep symbolic meaning. Since it was introduced years ago (and then later reissued), the national currency has helped to celebrate the country’s rich diversity, vibrant culture, proud history, and unique identity.

**What’s in a name?**

The national currency of Eritrea is officially known as the Eritrean Nakfa (ERN). (With the currency’s official symbol being “Nfk”). The name “Nakfa” holds extreme historical significance in Eritrea. The “place of resilience” and the EPLF’s mountain fortress during the long liberation struggle, Nakfa is a small town that symbolizes Eritrean determination and resistance to colonial domination. In 1977, after having seemingly been on the verge of victory, the EPLF was forced to conduct a strategic retreat to Nakfa due to the massive intervention of the former USSR on behalf of the Ethiopian military junta led by Lt. Col. Mengistu Haile Mariam.

At Nakfa, the EPLF, which came to be regarded as a fine revolutionary movement and well-organized, formidable fighting force, built heavy fortifications, including a forty-kilometer-long, labyrinth-like defensive trench in the surrounding mountains. Despite a long series of large-scale military campaigns and a seemingly endless stream of foreign financial and military support, the Ethiopian army was completely unable to dislodge the Eritrean liberation fighters from its stronghold.

Ultimately, Nakfa serves as a



symbol of Eritrea’s proud history of resilience and reflects the nation’s inspirational fight for self-determination, making it an especially meaningful name for the country’s currency.

**Powerful images and design**

The ERN comes in coins (denominated in 1, 5, 10, 25, 50 cents, and 1 Nfk) and banknotes (denominated in 1, 5, 10, 20, 50, and 100 Nfk). Despite their differing monetary values, they all incorporate unique images with special meaning.

For instance, various ERN coins feature images of different local animals. This highlights the fact that despite being far from the largest in terms of its geographic area (the country covers an area stretching to approximately 125,000 km<sup>2</sup>), Eritrea boasts a rich natural heritage and is blessed with diverse flora and fauna - at land, in the sea, and in the air. The waters off of Eritrea’s long coastline contain over 1,100 fish species and 44 genera of hard coral. At the same time, on land, Eritrea has a unique northern African elephant population and the world’s only viable population of free-ranging African wild ass (donkey). The country is also home to several other globally rare and endangered species, such as the Nubian Ibex and several gazelles. In addition, while a number of surveys are ongoing, it is believed that there are between 550 and 600 bird species in Eritrea, comprising a mix of resident and regular seasonal

migrants.

One animal emblazoned on ERN banknotes is the camel, the national emblem of Eritrea. Historically, camels have been among the most important animals in Eritrea, serving as a reliable, no-nonsense means of transport for goods and people, especially in rural areas. They also provide milk, a crucial source of nutrition for households and communities. Additionally, camels played a pivotal role during the decades-long struggle for freedom, where they were used extensively by the independence movement and revered for their hardiness, endurance, and adaptability within highly harsh conditions and rugged, challenging terrain. Their place of prominence on ERN bank notes thus serves as a tribute to their central role in society and the liberation struggle while symbolizing the Eritrean people’s tremendous patience and indefatigability.

Another common element in the design of and images on Eritrean currency is the country’s people. For instance, some banknotes show young people, symbolizing the country’s youth and the fact that they are, by far, Eritrea’s most important resource. Youth are - and have long been - a key population group in Eritrean society: they played a critical role in the independence struggle, comprise a large percentage of the population today, continue to protect the country’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, and meaningfully contribute to the nation’s developmental progress

in countless, significant ways. Notably, elders are also depicted, highlighting their traditionally unique position within Eritrean society and the universal respect they command from all for their vast wisdom and experience.

In addition to showcasing people of different ages, ERN bank notes display people from Eritrea’s various ethnolinguistic groups, thus celebrating the nation’s great diversity and the

unique peaceful coexistence between its communities. Eritrea is blessed with various religious and ethnolinguistic groups, all producing a colorful heritage and rich national tapestry. Also significant is that by featuring the country’s different groups, the ERN demonstrates the country’s unwavering commitment to equality.

Alongside the above, Eritrea’s national currency showcases different aspects of the nation’s socio-economic life. The picture of large vessels in the harbor, for instance, emphasizes Eritrea’s strategic location on the Red Sea, along with its vast coastal resources and what will be a thriving maritime industry. Meanwhile, images related to farming symbolize the central role of pastoralism and agriculture within Eritrean society and economic life.

Importantly, ERN coins and bank notes also depict freedom fighters, commemorating the nation’s struggle for independence and paying special homage to those men and women who bravely fought for and made immense sacrifices to deliver Eritrea’s freedom.







# CONVERSATION WITH KIFLOM MICHAEL KAHSAY

## “Our Genuine Concern must be the Preservation and Restoration of the Manuscripts first.”

Sona Berhane

Can you define what you mean by “Ge’ez Manuscripts”?

Ge’ez manuscripts are handwritten textual or book forms, written in the ancient Ge’ez language, that are situated within a definite historical and geographical area. Much like Latin, Ge’ez is, for all intents and purposes, a dead language. It has become a liturgical language; its use is confined to churches and monasteries. Manuscripts are typically prepared as codices, scrolls, or parchments.

Is the content of all of these Ge’ez manuscripts of a religious nature?

Most of the ones we know of have religious content: prayers, sermons, hagiographies, biblical texts and so on. But there are also some that contain treatises on various fields of science like astronomy, mineralogy, botany,

Kiflom Michael Kahsay is president of the Library and Information Association and director of Rora Digital Library. He earned his first master’s in Information Technology from the University of Pretoria, South Africa, and his second master’s in Sustainable Development. Throughout his career, he has attended several international conferences and presented numerous papers. During the 2025 ICES, he presented a paper titled “The Challenges of Preserving Ge’ez Manuscripts in Eritrea.”

What would a quantitative study of the subject entail?

No quantitative study or analysis of this matter can take place unless we have an accurate catalogue of the manuscripts. The absence of a comprehensive inventory is standing in the way of any meaningful research into the history, nature, location, and contents of these Ge’ez manuscripts.

What are the primary reasons for the scarcity of research on Ge’ez manuscripts?

The biggest problem is that a comprehensive and exhaustive

natural disasters. Now, imagine how many manuscripts must have perished along with these monasteries?

Furthermore, hundreds of these manuscripts had been migrated either through looting or unlawful sales to other countries in Africa, mostly to Ethiopia, and Egypt, in the Middle East to Saudi Arabia and Yemen, and to Italy, Germany, France, UK, and North American Universities. These migrated manuscripts are believed to be rich in content.

Of course, the first step is to know exactly how many manuscripts we have. Then we can proceed to categorize and analyze them. My recommendation is to start with the preservation of these manuscripts, as opposed to their digitization. That should be the priority: preservation. In the process, a thorough categorization and inventory will be inevitable. Because some of the older manuscripts and codices could actually be badly damaged in the process of digitization. It would be a tragedy if these manuscripts are destroyed in the efforts made to conserve them.

If we are to work together with these monasteries, the monks – the custodians – must believe and trust that the preservation of these manuscripts is our primary

national inventory of Ge’ez manuscripts has not yet been undertaken in Eritrea. Nobody can say with any certainty the number of manuscripts that reside in the country. In fact, the number of manuscripts that is placed roughly between 20,000 and 25,000 is only a loose estimate. There are approximately twenty-two monasteries in Eritrea. The preliminary, and ultimately incomplete, project of inventorying and categorizing Ge’ez manuscripts in Eritrea, that was attempted a few years ago and that yielded an estimate of 6041 works, was done on only five monasteries. There used to be about 200 monasteries in Eritrea. Of these monasteries, 90% were destroyed for a myriad of reasons many of which can be traced to war, invasions, and

medicine, geology, taxation systems, agriculture, and even philosophy. There are manuscripts that mention ancient thinkers like Socrates and Aristotle.

Are there any published studies concerning Ge’ez manuscripts in Eritrea?

There is a noticeable lack of research literature on the matter. A small number of interested scholars, mostly from Italy and Germany, have done some research which focuses on Ge’ez manuscripts in Eritrea. But for the most part, there is a serious lack of research and analysis on the subject.

You’ve used a qualitative methodology for your analysis.



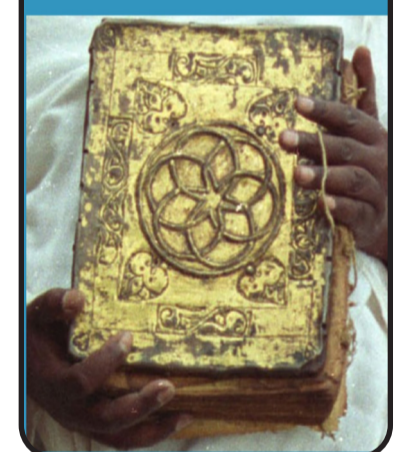
objective. And it really should be. Our genuine concern must be the maintenance and restoration of the manuscripts first. If they are convinced we have ulterior motives, they will not be too eager to submit their manuscripts and codices to us.

How can this reluctance on the part of the monasteries and churches to work with government institutions be overcome?

Do you know that it was the monks and priests who first requested help in the preservation of their manuscripts? They are the ones who raised the issue. So, there is no doubt that they know the great value of the historical and cultural treasures they have in their possessions, and are keenly aware of how vulnerable these manuscripts are to damage and destruction. But their current reluctance is not unfounded. Over the period that inventory efforts were being made, there were many complaints from these monasteries that the manuscripts they had submitted were returned to them in worse shape than

they were originally: some were damaged, some were returned at a much later time than agreed, and some manuscripts actually went missing. They were lost.

In other instances, there have also been a handful of foreign researchers who came here to gain access to Ge’ez manuscripts for their research. In the process of digitizing these works, precautions that are typically observed with ancient manuscripts were not taken. Incredibly, the codices were placed outside (with complete disregard for the damage that exposure to UV rays, humidity and oxygen can cause) and photographed.



The researchers took what they needed and left. No thought was given to the preservation of the old manuscripts. This was extremely careless and negligent. On an institutional level, we need to be aware of and vigilant of dangerously unprofessional and unethical activities such as these.

What steps can be taken towards establishing a joint project of preserving and digitizing Ge’ez manuscripts?

I believe it is paramount that we afford the custodians a central place in any preservation project that is undertaken. More often than not, instead of being allowed, even demanded, to be highly involved in these efforts, they are pushed to the side. We should not forget that these



Continued on page 8



# National Agricultural Research Institute: Major 2024-Achievements

The Ministry of Agriculture consists of three major technical departments: the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI), the Agricultural Extension Department (AED), and the Regulatory Services Department (RSD), along with other support bodies. These major departments are interrelated and work in close coordination. NARI is the source of all kinds of agricultural innovations and good practices; AED disseminates the technologies and research outputs generated by NARI to the farming communities; and RSD ensures the quality and safety of all these outputs and other agricultural inputs and



**Minister Arefaine Berhe**

Agordat, and Adikeyh.

Halhale, the institute's central research station and headquarters, is located in the sub-zone of Debarwa. On the 21st of January 2025, the station hosted a vital gathering that incorporated NARI's 2024 annual assessment meeting, 2025 work plan outline, and research output exhibitions. Mr. Tsegai Berhane, Head of NARI, opened the event by announcing significant achievements of the institute. Mr. Tsegai highlighted that the

Adi-ghebru as a pilot project expected to be replicated in other villages in 2025. The division also conducted soil, water, and fertilizer analyses for 573 samples from different parts of the country. The report also outlined that the Agricultural Engineering Research division conducted satisfactory research on improving furrow irrigation efficiency on potato plots. The research trials witnessed a 67% increase in the rate of efficiency when compared to the conventional schemes. In addition, the division came up with promising results in developing a low-cost and naturally ventilated storage structure for onion, which reduced temperature by 0.2 and ambient conditions by 3.45 0C.

Trials conducted by the livestock research division on treating dermatophytosis (ringworm) using aloe species resulted in a promising outcome compared to the iodine-

based treatment. The Genetic Resources Research Division also carried out satisfactory germplasm conservation and maintenance activities. Subsequently, 25 sorghum, four common beans, 11 field peas, 17 lentils, and 24 grass pea accessions were regenerated.

In addition to the wide range of crop improvement activities in field crops, fruits, and vegetables, notable and promising trials were conducted concerning plant protection. Evaluation of the concentration rate of the botanical extract against aphids on lettuce came up with a ratio of 0.5:1. The extract included Indigenous aloe species and chili pepper in one liter of water. Moreover, several tissue culture-related activities on date palm, banana, potato, aloe vera, etc., and food technology research were part of the NARI's annual report.

After the presentation, participants in the assessment meeting made several recommendations. These include regular and timely production of research publications, comprehensive studies in horticultural commodities, strengthening multiplication and maintenance of promising sorghum and millet varieties, and reinforcing research that addresses farmers' problems and challenges. They also emphasized the importance of rejuvenating the She'eb research station and taking pragmatic initiatives to research nutritious food recipes.

In his closing remarks, H.E. Arefaine Berhe, the Minister of Agriculture, urged the institute to foster research activities

about SPFP, indigenous green vegetables, crop rotation, and the promotion of legumes and oil crops. He also underscored the importance of updating NARI's research policy. Furthermore, Minister Arefaine called for the active involvement of the farming community and administrative



**Mr. Michael Yacob**

bodies in indigenous livestock breeding and characterization. Finally, the minister reminded NARI's heads to cultivate young researchers and rejuvenate all kinds of agricultural research activities in the eastern lowlands.

Senior MoA officials, guests, and NARI staff attended the assessment meeting as representatives from the Southern Region Administration. On the same day, NARI held an exhibition featuring several adequately collected Indigenous tree seeds, bamboo planting initiatives, fibers, and different wheat and hybrid maize varieties. It is also worth mentioning that the Virus—and disease-free potato varieties being released from NARI's tissue culture laboratory drew participants' special attention, who urged swift distribution of such varieties to farmers.

**Public Relations Division  
Ministry of Agriculture**



**Mr. Tsegai Berhane**



products.

NARI comprises 241 staff members, 48% of whom are females. The institute is structured around four research divisions: Natural Resources Management, Crop Improvement, Genetic Resources, Agricultural Engineering, Livestock, and other support bodies that include administration and finance, a biotechnology research unit, and a food technology research unit. Based on this structural arrangement, NARI conducts agricultural research activities in three main stations, namely Halhale, Golij, and Shambuko, as well as in sub-stations of Gahtelay, Sheeb, Hagaz,

institute has made available nine improved wheat varieties and one bean variety, ready to be released to farmers through AED following approval of quality assurance from RSD. Furthermore, he affirmed that trials regarding small and productive farm plots (SPFP) programs at Halhale, Golij, and Shambuko stations registered satisfactory outcomes.

Then, Mr. Michael Yacob presented NARI's brief annual report for 2024 and work plan for 2025. According to the report, the Natural Resources Management Research (NRMR) Division carried out a thorough soil fertility map for







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## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

### 1.Position: Massawa Logistics Coordinator

Department: FITS - Supply

Number required: One (01)

#### Primary purpose

- This position is required to support the Supply & Logistics Superintendent in carrying out the function of receipt of in-bound cargo at Massawa Port, the clearance and transport of the cargo to Bisha mine site with close coordination and communication of Red Sea office at port. This role also involves tracking outbound cargo and the subsequent return of empty containers to the Shipping agents.

#### Duties / Functions

- Methodically and progressively liaise with the Clearing Agent (Red Sea); to assist loading plans and prioritizes loading of cargo and prepares the daily report on the status of in-bound cargo to Asmara logistics superintendent.
- Follow up of cargo manifests/vessel lists with Maritime shipping agent, the Clearing Agent, and the Port Terminal on daily basis, against the Expected cargo lists from Asmara logistics office/Bisha expediting officers to ensure that the expected cargo has arrived. Then reports the manifest to the logistics superintendent.
- Daily – inspect the areas where BMSC cargo has been stored (including loose cargo) to ensure that the cargo can be traced/identified for loading on to trucks to be transported to Bisha mine.
- Daily – Communicates and assists with Red Sea clearing agent and follow up on the cargo documentation undergoing clearing procedures to ensure that the required shipping documents are complete, appropriate, and sufficient so that the customs clearance can be conducted effectively and without delays.
- Daily – checks on the cleared cargo and respective transport status/availability schedules of trucks and monitors the loading schedules to prioritize the cleared cargo to the Bisha mine. Before the end of the day, prepares the daily list of cargo dispatched to Bisha mine site and submits the report to superintendent.
- Prepares and issues Transport Orders to Trans horn trucks loaded with Bisha cargo (this is key role).
- Coordinate out-bound cargo (Sea exports) with close communication of Red Sea and Maritime agents.
- On a weekly basis – liaise with Bisha mine logistics officers and Shipping Agents to follow up on position and whereabouts of the containers received and transported to Bisha mine and ensure that Shipping agents acknowledge receipt of all returned empty containers.
- Daily communication with the superintendent, to assist and liaison with the clearing agent in processing or loading cargo for Bisha mine to ensure clearing procedures are being expedited and any other related port operating duties as instructed by Superintendent.
- The holder of this position reports to Asmara supply & logistics superintendent.

#### UNIQUE REQUIREMENTS / OTHER INFORMATION

- Logistics skills
- Prepares oral and written logistics operations reports.
- Candidates must be medically and Physically Fit.
- Applicants must be prepared to make their accommodation in the workplace (port)

#### Qualifications:

- Certificate or Diploma in supply and logistics chain management or related fields.
- Any equivalent certificate or experience in customs and shipping related activities, secretarial science or archive management is advantageous

#### Knowledge and Experience:

- Port operations experience – 5 years' experience

Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
Computer Literacy (MS Office – Intermediate, Excel – Advanced) Able to maintain logistics fields in software data base: Management Skills, Numeracy Skills, Administration skill Planning, Analysis, and problem solving Analytical Thinking ability Logistics skills: Knowledge of shipping, freight forwarding and customs related activities, analytical skill Prepares oral and written logistics operations reports	Leadership – Supervision skills Communication (English and local language) Interpersonal skill and self-initiative Skilled to operate telephone and can function office equipment Decision making and results oriented Experienced with challenges and conflict resolving High oriented safety attitude Integrity & able to work towards strict deadlines

### 2.Position: Mine Surveyor Department: Mining/Survey Number required: One (01)

#### Primary purpose

- To provide accurate and timeous survey data and information to run projects.

#### Main Functions

Planning  
 Executive Surveying Activity  
 Write reports  
 Supervise Survey Assistant.

#### UNIQUE REQUIREMENTS / OTHER INFORMATION

- Essential to be physically fit to work in though environment such as a pit

#### Qualifications:

- Degree / Diploma in Surveying

#### Knowledge and Experience:

- 1-3 years previous experience in surveying / engineering industry
- Knowledge of Surveying and equipment
- 1-2 years Supervisory experience

<b>Qualifications:</b>
Degree / Diploma in Surveying

<b>Knowledge and Experience:</b>
1-3 years previous experience in surveying / engineering industry Knowledge of Surveying and equipment, 1-2 years Supervisory experience

Technical Skills	Behavioural Skills
Computer Literacy (MS Office – Word, Excel, various software programs), A valid Driver's License & Knowledge of Trimble GPS.	Communication (English & local language)
Effective English Oral and Written Communication Skills	Interpersonal skills
Attention to detail, Problem solving skill, & analytical Skill	Accuracy, and ability to work under pressure,
Plan, Organise & Execution skills & able to understand English	Ability to work toward strict deadlines
Ability to work long shifts both day and night shift.	Assertiveness, & results oriented
Supervisory Leadership skills, and risk management & assessment	Ability to multitask
Report writing & ability to lead safety, Able to use software such as Surpac and Microsoft Office.	Ability to work in multi-disciplinary environment

#### 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  
 Aliens Employment permits Affairs,  
 P. O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea.





## Consecration of the 6<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of the Eritrean Orthodox Tewahdo Church



Design: Tazaz Abraha  
Photo: Aklilu Zerezgi  
Abraham Beyene





Q and A

# “Even the Smallest Contribution Can Bring a Significant Result,” Dr. Fickak Habtes

Habtom Tesfamichael

You are involved in humanitarian aid. What has brought you to Eritrea this time, Dr. Fickak?

Beyond my professional career, I have been involved in various organizations for the past 48 years, starting with the Eritrea Relief Association (ERA), followed by the Eritrean Relief Commission (ERC), and currently the Eritrean Development Foundation (EDF).

I am in Eritrea now representing three organizations: EDF, the successor of ERA and ERC; Haben Ere, a group of Eritrean medical professionals dedicated to providing eye care services in Eritrea; and the Eritrean American Association, an organization dedicated to supporting the homeland.

With a history dating back to the struggle for independence, EDF has provided crucial support to the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) and the Eritrean people throughout the years.

Haben Ere focuses on improving access to quality eye care services for the Eritrean people. Our initiatives include organizing medical missions with ophthalmologists and other eye care professionals to conduct eye screenings and surgeries and to provide necessary treatment; assisting in the improvement of eye care infrastructure and equipment in hospitals and clinics across Eritrea; and conducting public health campaigns to educate the public on eye health and the importance of early detection and treatment of eye diseases.

The Eritrean American Association shares a common objective: to support our homeland as a tribute to our martyrs' sacrifices. Last year, 21 doctors from the association visited Eritrea, providing medical assistance and financial support.

During our visit to Keren, we discovered that the school for the deaf faced electricity challenges. Recognizing the critical need for reliable power, especially for deaf students who rely heavily on visual communication, we repaired and installed the school's solar system at a cost of one million Nakfa.

*How do you raise the financial*

Our guest today is Dr. Fickak Habtes, a Doctor of Public Health with a Master's in Health Service Administration and a Master's in Public Health who has long been involved in fundraising and relief work for Eritrea. Born and raised in Gheleb, Anseba region, he moved to the USA, where he has lived for nearly 50 years. Throughout his career, he has held executive positions in both the public and private sectors in the United States. Here is a brief interview conducted with him.

*and material resources?*

We conduct fundraising activities across the United States, engaging with Eritrean communities and friends of Eritrea. These activities include various events and gatherings where we collect funds and material donations.

Over the years, I have often joked that I am a “professional beggar for Eritrea,” but I do so with pride. Our work is a tribute to those who have sacrificed themselves to free Eritrea from the shackles of colonization and safeguard its sovereignty. It is also a commitment to contribute our modest input in rebuilding our nation.

*How do you overcome the challenges you face in undertaking your tasks?*

Due to certain US government restrictions, we have encountered challenges in directly channeling aid to Eritrea. For instance, a project to build a maternity hospital in Kerkebet for nomadic communities, funded by a philanthropist named Laura Chrysburg, faced significant hurdles in transferring funds to Eritrea. However, we successfully navigated these challenges through persistent efforts and completed the project.

The challenges vary depending on the specific circumstances, and we hope that the current administration will foster more constructive relations between the United States and Eritrea. Many Eritrean Americans supported the current administration hoping to improve relations between the two countries.

While Eritrea's exclusion from the SWIFT system presents challenges, we remain committed to overcoming these obstacles to achieve our humanitarian goals. We believe that where there is a will, there is a way.

*What are the biggest achievements or impacts that you have made here in Eritrea?*

The continuity of our work,

from ERA to ERC and now EDF, is a significant achievement. Since 1976, we have been actively involved in supporting various initiatives in Eritrea, including funding schools, hospitals, and micro-enterprise development projects.

We have provided financial assistance to war veterans, supported women's savings and micro-credit programs, and facilitated medical assistance through the efforts of doctors' associations. We have also supported numerous individuals in their academic and professional pursuits, including assisting aspiring authors in publishing their books.

I recall a poignant experience from my youth. I accompanied a young boy named Yohannes Nafie to the Abraha Bahta School for the Hearing Impaired, which was then administered by Mr. Sium Tesfamariam. Mr. Yohannes was struggling at school and the director had requested that I speak with him.

Reluctantly, I conveyed the director's concerns to Yohannes. However, I was deeply moved by his situation and decided not to discourage him.

Years later, I returned to the school and was surprised to discover that Yohannes had become a teacher there. This experience underscored the importance of providing opportunities for individuals with disabilities to reach their full potential.

Historically, disabilities were often stigmatized in Eritrean society. Disabled individuals were often hidden from public view and lacked access to appropriate education and support services. However, attitudes are gradually changing, and we are making modest contributions to improve the lives of people with disabilities.

A prime example is the remarkable achievement of an Eritrean-American woman, Haben

Girma, who graduated from Harvard Law School with top honors. Her success demonstrates the immense potential of Eritreans when given the necessary opportunities. This is precisely what we strive to provide to our fellow citizens.

Throughout our journey, we have consistently responded to the needs of the Eritrean people, providing assistance to the best of our ability. While the exact figures may vary, we have disbursed millions of dollars in support of various humanitarian projects over the years.

Whenever the need arises, we are always ready to lend a helping hand.

*What messages do you have to other Eritreans or others who may want to contribute their share and follow your example?*

## ... Celebrating Eritrea's Rich History, Culture, and Identity

*Continued from page 4*

knowledgeable, faithful custodians have looked after, preserved and protected these priceless manuscripts for centuries, if not millennia. We cannot expect to barge in armed with our scanners and cameras and expect them to simply hand over their most sacred possessions. Efforts to digitize these works, either from our own institutions or abroad, should follow regulations and standards. All stakeholders should be bound by legal procedures and documents that safeguard the ownership of the documents and guarantee their safe handling and safe return.

It should be noted that there is much indigenous knowledge that can be gleaned from these traditional custodians, not least of which is significant insight into the number and whereabouts of hundreds of other manuscripts (which are only mentioned in



There are thousands of Eritreans worldwide who possess the skills, resources, and compassion to contribute to their homeland. I urge all Eritreans to contribute in whatever way they can, whether through financial support, professional expertise, or volunteer work.

Every contribution, no matter how small, can make a significant difference. By harnessing our collective abilities and resources, we can effectively address the needs of our society's most vulnerable members and build a brighter future for Eritrea.

passing and which we can merely speculate about at the moment). We might also understand how they've managed for centuries to preserve these manuscripts under generally unfavorable physical conditions (humidity, continuous use by clergy, exposure to the elements, inadequate storage).

It also mustn't be lost on us that monasteries and churches are deeply religious places. The researchers and professionals tasked to work with these monks should be deferential to their practices. Most importantly, if we are to ensure the continued cooperation of these custodians, the gender, age, and religion of the researchers chosen to work with them should be taken into consideration.

Ultimately, these custodians have to trust us. They have to trust that these manuscripts will be safe in our hands as, for centuries, they have been safe in theirs.