

MEETING ON IMPLEMENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS



Ambassador Abdella Musa, Governor of the Anseba Region, held a meeting on 25 March with Keren residents, focusing on the implementation of construction and development programs.

At the meeting, Ambassador Abdella stated that strong efforts would be made to improve the

livelihoods of residents, with a particular focus on water and soil conservation, as well as the construction of water reservoirs. Other priority programs include maintaining cleanliness, renovating the city's sewerage system, rehabilitating Keren Hospital, and finalizing the city's master plan.

Ambassador Abdella also noted that over the past three years, 25 large and small dams have been constructed with strong participation from the public and members of the Defense Forces. As a result of these conservation activities and abundant rainfall, a substantial harvest was collected.

The participants, in turn, held extensive discussions on the topics raised during the meeting and put forward various recommendations.

'TAMFEDA' AWARD TO OUTSTANDING STUDENTS



The National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education branch in the Gash Barka Region, presented the 'Tamfeda' Award to 91 outstanding students, including 27 female students, who achieved high scores in the 2023/2024 eighth-grade national examination.

Mr. Markos Girmatsion, acting head of the union branch in the Gash Barka Region, stated that the award recipients came from the sub-zones of Molqui, Barentu, Teseney, Akordet, Shambuko, Forto-Sawa, Mensura, Logo-Anseba, and Haikota.

Highlighting the significant impact of the 'Tamfeda' Award on students' academic performance, Mr. Yasin Mohammed, Head of the Education Office in the region, called for coordinated efforts to increase the number of students receiving the award. He also encouraged the awardees to focus on their education and strive to excel in their future academic careers.

Mr. Tesfa'alem Bahta, administrator of the Barentu sub-zone, congratulated the outstanding students and called on relevant institutions and parents to strengthen their support for the program's sustainability. He further urged the awardees to remain diligent in their secondary school education and continue striving for success.

48TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF NAKFA OBSERVED

The 48th anniversary of the liberation of Nakfa was enthusiastically observed on 23 March with various activities. Nakfa was liberated on 23 March 1977 after six months of encirclement and offensive and was not to be occupied again by enemy occupation forces.

The commemorative event was attended by senior Government and PFDJ officials, religious leaders, village elders, heads of national associations, and numerous residents of Nakfa.

Mr. Mohammed Ali Shilie, Managing Director of Nakfa Sub-zone, stated that the objective of the commemoration is to

pass on to the young generation the history of the heroic feats demonstrated by the gallant liberation fighters during the struggle to liberate Nakfa.

Mr. Mohammed Ali further noted that the commemoration of Nakfa's liberation reflects the strong resilience, perseverance, and unity of purpose of the Eritrean people. He also called for strengthened contributions and participation in the nation-building process.

The event featured artistic and cultural performances that highlighted the heroism of the liberation fighters and depicted the significance of the occasion.



NRS GOVERNOR MEETS LOCAL INHABITANTS

Ms. Asmeret Abraha, Governor of the Northern Red Sea Region, held meetings and discussions with residents of the Bakla, Endlal, and Laba administrative areas in the Nakfa sub-zone from March 20 to 24, focusing on the integrated implementation of development programs.

Highlighting the Government's commitment to investing in remote areas of the region, Ms. Asmeret noted that water and soil conservation efforts, along with the construction of both large and small water reservoirs, have been carried out in the administrative areas. She also called on residents to strengthen their participation to ensure better outcomes.

Commending her initiative to engage with the residents, the meeting participants put forward various recommendations.

During a visit to the construction site of the

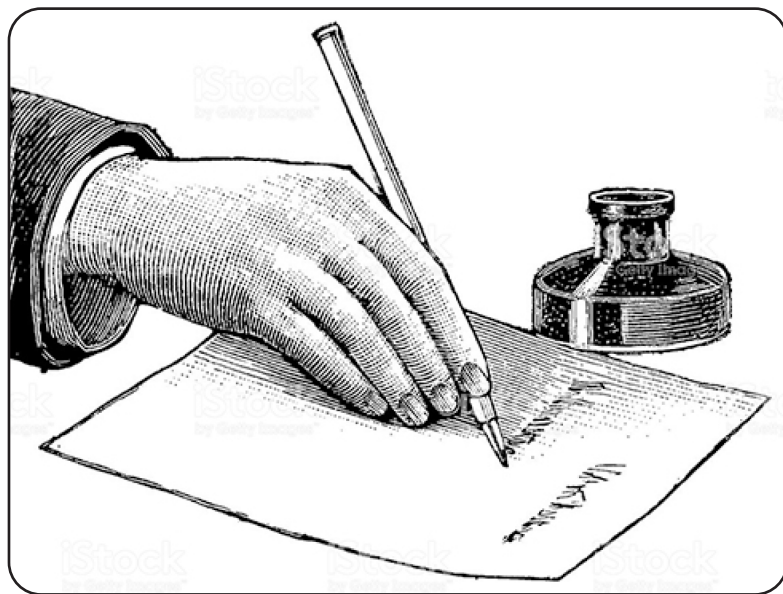
Tsabra Dam, which is expected to contribute to the potable water supply for both humans and livestock, as well as support vegetable and fruit farming, the project coordinators briefed the Governor.

She also visited the road construction leading to Emba Denden, which members of the Defense Forces are carrying out, and the ongoing construction of the Nakfa Stadium.

Similarly, Mr. Omar Yahya, Administrator of the Ghinda sub-zone, held a meeting with branch heads and area administrators to discuss the role of the public in implementing development programs and the proper use of social service institutions.

Commending the water and soil conservation activities carried out so far, Mr. Omar urged the area administrators to motivate and encourage the public to intensify their efforts.





Shabait Staff

If one randomly browses the mainstream corporate media these days, the probability of coming across various news reports that portray the Eritrean Defense Forces (EDF) in the most deprecating and acrimonious light is inordinately high. Unfortunately, sloppy news reporting and analysis of this magnitude or gravity is not confined to unscrupulous tabloids that routinely scavenge for sensationalized scoops for quick bucks. In the particular case of the EDF, other media outlets are these days guilty of, and embroiled in, the same offense.

As it happens, the EDF is depicted, in these awful accounts, as “marauding hordes that kill and rape civilians indiscriminately at will, with no moral pangs or accountability”.

Some of the offensive articles go further to insinuate that the alleged horrendous crimes are, in fact, perpetrated with “express policy directives” from higher echelons in the army.

The British daily newspaper,

the Daily Telegraph, for instance, recounts, in its article published on 27 March, about horrid “gang rapes” unheard of in our region. The obscure journalists – a certain Lucy Kassa and Anna Pujol-Mazzini – gullibly quote “victims/witnesses” who claim that the revolting acts were committed by Eritrean soldiers wickedly and willfully so as “to infect victims with HIV”.

How the Daily Telegraph can publish mendacious and evidently planted “testimonies” without minimal verification of claims is appalling and inexcusable. (Sadly a similar version also appeared in the New York Times.)

Water does not, naturally, flow upwards. In this respect, Eritrean soldiers cannot be on “a mission” – ghastly as it is – to spread HIV infections through unbridled sexual interactions with “their victims” in Tigray when the prevalence of this contagious disease – which is above 4% in Tigray – is literally 20 times higher than Eritrea’s regionally lowest rate of around 0.2%. (Eritrea’s stellar achievements in HIV control and prevention are the outcome of persistent public awareness campaigns targeted at the youth, with the involvement of all stakeholders – including community and religious leaders – and access to, as well as encouragement of use of, condoms when absolutely necessary).

Other preposterous allegations peddled in the past weeks include a “shoot-to-kill policy to exterminate the youth in Tigray” (at times, it is for anyone above 7 years old; at other times, the targets are youth above the age of 14). These narratives were essentially confined to two publications – an obscure online blog by Martin Plaut and the Brussels-based and EU-funded EIPA Update by Mirjam V. Reisen. (It is worth noting that these individuals have regularly called for violence and regime change targeting Eritrea.)

We have focused on these anecdotal narratives to illustrate the scope and intensity of the gratuitous denigration campaign unleashed against the EDF. More profound issues that merit

EDF: Admirable Ethos Rooted on Rich Heritage

scrutiny are why the campaign in the first place? Is this a sheer manifestation of visceral western media bias against, and stereotypes of, military establishments in Africa? Or are the concerted and hostile media campaigns tell-tale signs and a prelude of subversive and interventionist agendas that are on the horizon? All these dimensions and facets of the affair must be monitored and dissected closely to decipher the ultimate game plan.

Let us now revert to our main theme: the origins, trajectory, moral ethos, Rules of Engagement, and track record of the EDF in the past 60 years since the launching of the armed struggle in 1961. This is a vast chapter that cannot be captured in a brief article. In the event and for reasons of brevity and space, we will focus on the main attributes and the defining features of the EDF.

Due to external exigencies rather than policy choices, Eritrea has been enveloped by prolonged wars – that have exacted huge sacrifices from its people – in the past 60 years. The armed struggle was launched in September 1961 when all peaceful diplomatic and political avenues – conducted in the preceding 20 years – to assert Eritrea’s inalienable national and decolonization rights were flagrantly trampled upon by the collusion of major powers who gave precedence to their global interests and a local collaborator that was more than ready to do their bidding.

The Eritrean People’s Liberation Front (EPLF) – the principal fighting force that enjoyed the overwhelming support of the Eritrean people – was a highly organized, efficient and effective movement that earned hard-won respect and accolades from prominent historians of the time. Its capacity to withstand relentless onslaughts by sub-Saharan Africa’s largest army – which was equipped and supported by both the US and the USSR at different times – was testimony to its superior attributes that had few parallels among contemporary liberation movements. In very broad terms, the EPLF was endowed with outstanding qualities, the prominent of which include:

- Although engaged in a popular armed struggle, the EPLF was essentially, if not primarily, a political movement with broad and inclusive progressive agenda anchored on social justice in the independent Eritrea that it

envisaged. In this respect, all recruits – irrespective of their academic and social background – underwent six months of intensive political and military training prior to their assignment to the fighting or departmental sections of the Front. Political sensitization programmes, refresher courses, and seminars and symposiums to cultivate consensus, as well as to keep abreast with developments in the wider global environment, were constant elements in the Front’s daily routine.

- The EPLF was a learning organization par excellence. During long intervals between large battles, all EPLF bodies and units invariably and routinely switched to political/productive mode. Academic learning – by surmounting all physical hurdles – research in specific areas where there was critical mass; production activities (the EPLF had underground cottage factories for essential needs etc.) were pursued with rigorous intensity. The fact is the EPLF was a de facto government in the liberated areas it controlled, even as the size of the territory under its jurisdiction expanded or shrank in response to the ebbs and flows of the long and vicious protracted war of liberation.

- The EPLF – whose active membership of freedom fighters numbered almost 100,000 in the final year of independence – was largely a microcosm of Eritrean society. In comparison to other liberation movements, however, the EPLF managed to attract a

disproportionately high number of university and high school students and graduates. This factor coupled with the culture of a learning organization that was nurtured from the outset meant that the academic/professional caliber of the EPLF was relatively high in comparative terms.

- Corollaries of these extraordinary attributes that the EPLF enjoyed were clarity of vision on objectives and strategies; rich culture of communication to nurture inclusiveness and vibrant participation of all members on all cardinal issues that affected and shaped the political course of the liberation struggle.

- Another stellar political attribute of the EPLF was its perspectives on its adversaries which shaped the tone and content of its rigorous sensitization programmes. From the outset, the EPLF delineated the battle lines in unequivocal political terms. In this respect, the EPLF went out of its way to stress – in all its publications, radio programmes and seminars – that its fight, vicious as it was, was against occupation and not the Ethiopian people. And keen as it was to establish enduring ties of friendship and good neighbourliness with Ethiopia in the post-independence period, the EPLF was earnestly engaged, from the outset, in cultivating principled, forward-looking, ties of cooperation and solidarity with Ethiopian opposition movements

Continued on page 5

ERITREA PROFILE

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The usual Conflict Entrepreneurs (Rene Lefort *et al*) and some legacy media outlets (AP News, etc.) seem to resuscitate these days baseless accusations against the EDF.

The particular timing and malicious packaging of their fallacious "reports" belie their penchant for stoking and perpetuating chaos and conflict in our region. EDF's Rules of Engagement and track-record are otherwise crystal clear as illustrated in the analytic article attached below.

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Development

An Exemplary Female Farmer tells Her Farming Secrets that Transformed her Life

Assabuy, Shakaito, and Bilencoma are administrative areas that form Assab, the port city, and Menka'eka'e is among the villages that make up the Shakaito administrative area. Agriculture, fishing, and pastoralism are the major activities of this area. Although rainfall is minimal, underground water is a valuable resource there. To ensure safe and nutritious food for everyone, everywhere, the government is working hard to provide access to water and a reliable source of energy. As a result, the residents of Menka'eka'e are well-equipped with solar systems. Among them is an exemplary farmer, Ms. Meriem Ibrahim, who has made the most of these opportunities. She has been involved in agriculture since 2004, with a focus on cultivating a variety of improved date palms. Through attending various training sessions by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), she has significantly enhanced her farming expertise.

In a recent interview with Fre-tsaeri magazine, Ms. Meriem shared her inspiring story of transforming her life. She revealed that, before her encounter with agricultural experts, she had limited knowledge and experience in farming. She noted that the MoA provided her with essential agrarian tools, equipment, training, and improved varieties of seeds.

"The unwavering confidence in the power of change has made a significant difference in my work and has consistently registered exceptional results. Over the past 20 years in agriculture, I have learned that patience is one of the most crucial elements. If a farmland receives proper care, the outcome will undoubtedly be worthwhile. Patience is the key to success." affirms Ms. Meriem.

Moreover, Ms. Meriem confirmed that she has transformed her livelihood thanks to agricultural endeavors. "Farming not only provided me with economic support and sustenance but also enriched my lifestyle. Additionally, I have been able to provide the right nutrition for my family. Using the income from my production, I can cover living expenses, such as clothes and full house items like a refrigerator, TV set, and the very



Ms. Meriem Ibrahim

house we live in."

Currently, Ms. Meriem Ibrahim cultivates one hectare of land, but her passion for farming is leading her to expand her farmland to accommodate more agricultural activities. She emphasizes her love and commitment to farming.

"I find it exciting to discover the joy of farming. Initially, I started the farm by planting selected varieties of crops. As I gained experience and saw positive results, I expanded my activities to include cereals and forage grasses for animals. My dedication and patience paid off as I achieved promising results in crop production. I was particularly encouraged by the successful yields of okra, onions, and tomatoes. These crops proved to be resilient and profitable. I also experimented with guava, bananas, and pomegranate, which also showed good production potential. A determined journey, paired with awareness, clearly leads to success."

Ms. Meriem also explained that

she took full advantage of the agricultural extension programs given by agriculture experts. "We have benefited from the training that has improved our agricultural practices. These sessions have equipped us with the skills and knowledge necessary to prepare and utilize compost effectively, resulting in improved crop yields and overall success in our farming endeavors. As we all know, our region has a hot climate, and chemical fertilizers can burn

that women can make a significant livelihood change through agriculture. "The initial step to success is taking a concrete action. Women should start with what they can immediately implement, specifically in agricultural activities. It's a beautiful skill that rejuvenates itself daily, and with more effort, it yields continuous improvement. Women are inherently productive, and their involvement in this sector can provide financial support in

dedication and hard work on her farm have not only led her to manage her life successfully but have also positioned her as a leader in regulating the market in her area."

Ms. Meriem, a dedicated farmer, not only focuses on cultivating various crops but also engages in animal production. She has generated substantial economic profits from raising goats and sheep. Her farming practices complement one another, as plant residues from crops are utilized as animal feed.

Ms. Meriem's plans include expanding her farming activities in her area, which has excellent



plants if directly applied. Learning about compost not only helped me address this issue but also led to higher crop productivity. I realized that agriculture is a science, and with the help of training and experts' advice, I gradually made good progress."

Ms. Meriem Ibrahim shared her insights on empowering others through farming. She suggests

raising their children, in addition to the daily benefits of utilizing nutritious food, which has a positive impact on their health."

Mr. Mohammed Abdurrahman, Head of the Crop Production Division in the Southern Red Sea Region, is one of the experts advising Ms. Meriem. He witnessed her extraordinary achievement by saying, "Her

underground water potential. With the help of the government and her extraordinary dedication, Ms. Meriem's plan will be executed successfully. And we wish her success in her future endeavors.

*Translated by
Mele Okubamichael, MoA
Public Relations Division,
from Fre-Tsaeri (Agricultural
Magazine No-5)*



OPINION

Promoting Traditional Eritrean Food

Simon Weldemikael

Traditional Eritrean foods and drinks are part of the rich cultural heritage of the people. They have been in existence for centuries although they might have

in the fasting seasons provide healthy alternative diets to meat and other animal products, which those fasting are not allowed to consume. They are natural products, with no artificial colors or flavors. The grains, vegetables and legumes are organic and

while you are having a meal, it is customary to say *nqedem*, inviting the visitor to join you. You share whatever you are eating, and this reinforces the values of giving and helps build community. In the Eritrean society, although individual food preferences are respected, members of a family are expected to share the same food. For lunch and dinner, family members usually sit together around a small table and eat from the same large plate. This is called *meadi*, an important site not only for having a meal but for interaction. At the *meadi*, family members share their day's encounters and children learn important lessons such as table manners and other social rules. Eating at the *meadi* is also a sign of unity. *Meadi* is one of the most cherished traditions of the Eritrean society.



undergone changes over time.

During the fasting seasons of Ramadan and Lent, there are certain traditional dishes and beverages that are commonly served. The popular dishes served tend to be simple but nutritious to provide those fasting with sufficient energy.

The foods that are often served in the fasting season are those that are easy to digest. Dates are often eaten to break the fast in Ramadan. It is often followed by a serving of soup made with vegetables or legumes before the meat based main dish of the day is served. *Sambuusa* probably stands out as the most popular food served during Ramadan. The aroma of the fried snack, filled with meat or vegetables, fills the air as worshippers break the fast in the evening. Apart from the dishes, the spirit of sharing and community reflected during *Romodan* is amazing.

The preferred traditional foods served during Lent are legumes and vegetables. Worshippers often break the fast by drinking ground flaxseed mixed with water. That is followed by a serving of one or a combination of *Shiro* (made of ground chickpeas and herbs) *Hilbet* (made of ground beans and lentils), *Timtimo* (made of boiled beans and peas), and vegetables. Traditional Eritrean dishes served

locally grown.

The traditional food is made using traditional cooking utensils. *Tsahli*, the traditional cooking pot made of earth, is associated with mothers who use it to cook delectable food over hot fires. The aroma and taste of the foods made using traditional cooking utensils and methods is unique. Traditional Eritrean food is usually eaten with a bear hand.

Like the traditional foods and drinks, the manners and habits of eating and drinking are also crucial elements of the culture that distinguish a society. To any one that comes to your home

Traditional Eritrean foods, which are prepared using time-honored family recipes that are passed down through generations, are increasingly becoming popular outside households as demonstrated by the increase in the list of traditional food and drinks sold at the market and served at restaurants. Similarly, non-alcoholic beverages such as fenugreek and flaxseed, which were traditionally made and served at home, are now sold at the market.

Traditional Eritrean foods have also become subjects of study by nutritionists and health scientists



while the media are disseminating information to promote the health benefits of many traditional foods, encouraging the public to frequently consume them and work for their preservation

in traditional food. The research on the nutritional value of home-grown cereals, legumes, fruits and vegetables has the potential to popularize the traditional food beyond the country.



Research done by college students of Food Engineering on traditional food and beverage testifies to the increasing interest

Traditional Eritrean foods and drinks are part of the rich cultural heritage that need to be preserved by the young generation.

LOCAL NEWS

TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION CONGRESS IN SOUTHERN RED SEA REGION

The Teachers' Association in the Southern Red Sea Region held its 8th congress on 22 March in the port city of Assab.

In his report, Mr. Haile Mareos, chairman of the association branch, stated that the association has 702 members in the region, including 145 female teachers. He added that discussion forums and seminars have been organized to enhance the role and contributions of teachers, and loan opportunities have been provided to help address their economic challenges.

Mr. Tesfaldet Negassi, head of foreign and public relations at the National Teachers' Association of Eritrea, and Ms. Genet Woldegergis, chairperson of the supervision committee of the national association, emphasized that promoting the rights, interests, and development of teachers remains a key objective of the association.

Acknowledging the association's efforts in easing the economic burdens of its members, Mr. Keli Osman, head of basic education at the regional education office, called for strengthened initiatives to support teachers' development.

A new executive committee was elected during the congress.

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AWARDS TO OUTSTANDING STUDENTS IN TSAEDA CHRISTIAN

Thirty-five outstanding students from Tsaeda Christian High School have been recognized for their exceptional performance in the 2023/2024 national school leaving examination. The awardees are members of the 36th round of the national service.

Mr. Samuel Zerom, the school's director, emphasized that the students' achievements were the

result of their dedication, the hard work of their teachers, and the unwavering support of their parents. He noted that the awards aim to recognize these outstanding students and inspire their peers to pursue academic excellence.

Mr. Feschaye Tsegai, head of the education office in the sub-zone, highlighted that acknowledging high-achieving students serves as a strong

motivator, encouraging both the awardees and their fellow students to strive for similar accomplishments.

Mr. Yohannes Solomon, head of secondary schools in the Central Region, extended his congratulations to the awardees, their parents, and teachers. He also urged the students to continue working hard in their higher education to become competitive and successful individuals.



EDF: Admirable Ethos . . . A Life in Words: . . .

Continued from page 2

- More importantly, the EPLF pursued scrupulous Rules of Engagement in the war that it was locked in with Ethiopian occupation forces. The EPLF captured tens of thousands of Ethiopian prisoners in the massive battles that raged during the long decades of war. In all these instances, POWs were treated humanely, irrespective of their rank and other particulars. POWs had access to education, healthcare, and sport. In fact, during the height of famines and droughts of biblical proportions that unfolded in the 1980s, the EPLF provided POWs with greater rations of food – nearly double the calories – than its own fighters. In the words of one international journalist who visited the field, the EPLF's treatment of POWs was “exemplary”. Although the EPLF was not a formal signatory of the Geneva Conventions on humanitarian rules of war, it adhered strictly – out of its own conviction and principle rather than due to contractual obligations – to all the provisions of the Convention. In the final battles for the liberation of Asmara and other cities and towns, the EPLF captured more than 90,000 Ethiopian soldiers including high-ranking Generals. They were all treated humanely and bussed to their country in safety and dignity.

- While all the battles waged during the liberation war took place

on Eritrean soil, there were various instances when EPLF military contingents were involved in heavy confrontation with the Ethiopian army as they supported some of the allied opposition movements. In the final battles conducted by the EPRDF forces to vanquish the Dergue's army and move to Addis Abeba, EPLF mechanized units were the principal backbone that played pivotal roles. Here again, there were no isolated or sporadic incidents of misdemeanor on the part of the EPLF forces.

- The pattern was the same in the border war that raged between the two countries from June 1998 until May 2000. The fact is the same military doctrines and Rules of Engagement cultivated during the three decades of war were the philosophical and conceptual foundations for the National Service and the new EDF in post-independence Eritrea. As intimated earlier, rigorous and comprehensive training programmes and periodic refresher courses that transcend purely military dimensions, relatively high academic standards of the EDF, and established traditions and track records are solid foundations that have ensured preservation of its rich heritage.

- To conclude, war is brutal and fraught with brutalizing those engaged in it. As such, it requires incessant maintenance to bolster the

robust institutional moral compass nurtured in peace times. It requires vision and foresight of tomorrow that is not eclipsed by, or succumbs to, the dark moments of military confrontation. And this has been Eritrea's tradition throughout its dark moments.

- In 1998, when the TPLF-dominated Ethiopian Parliament declared war on Eritrea, the GOE's response was sober, measured and focused on de-escalation. In his address to the public on Independence Day that year, amid the clouds of war and Ethiopia's incessant saber-rattling, President Isaias' words were: “Eritrea does not covet an inch of its neighbour's territory; nor will it yield – under duress – an inch of its territory”. So putative boundary disputes can and should only be resolved through legality. In December 2000, during the signing of the Algiers Agreement, President Isaias' words were equally forward looking and conciliatory. He stated; “we are not cursed but blessed to be neighbours”.

- These words epitomize Eritrea's enduring disposition to always look beyond the ugly moments of imposed war. The EDF's Rules of Engagement and track record are broadly governed by these precepts.

Asmara, 14 April 2021

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I am eager to read about the challenges he faced in compiling his dictionaries, the joys and frustrations of translation, the moments of doubt and triumph that shaped his literary career. More than anything, I am eager to see how he sees himself – not as a celebrated scholar, but as a boy who loved words, a man who dedicated his life to them, and a writer who continues to shape the language he loves.

The first volume of his autobiography offers glimpses into his childhood, painting a portrait of a young boy who would grow into one of Tigrinya's most important literary figures. Reading it, I feel a quiet kinship. The child who once held his books in awe is now an adult – still having them, still in awe – but now with a deeper appreciation of the journey that shaped them.

One of the most remarkable aspects of Tekie is not just his intellect but his gentleness. Despite his towering contributions, he remains unassuming, kind, humble, and deeply generous with his knowledge.

This is something I have witnessed firsthand. Whether in conversation or through the familiar warmth of his writing, there is no sense of intellectual arrogance – only a deep love for language and an earnest desire to share it. Many great scholars build legacies of prestige. Tekie Tesfay has built a reputation for service and humility. His willingness to make knowledge accessible is perhaps his greatest gift.

As I reflect on Tekie's influence, both on me and on the Tigrigna literary output, I am struck by the sheer breadth and depth of his contributions and by how much of our literary landscape bears his mark. His dictionaries guide our words. His translations expand our horizons; they bring the voices of the world into Tigrinya and take Tigrinya to the world. His work ensures that Tigrinya remains a language of literary and intellectual rigor. His writings remind us that even the most brilliant minds come from ordinary beginnings.

Language is, at its core, an inheritance – something passed down, preserved, enriched. Tekie Tesfay has ensured that our inheritance is a rich one. And for that, we are deeply grateful.



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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

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

Primary Purpose

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

Task description expanded to core performance areas

- Planning
- Implementation
- Reporting
- Supervise/ Manage team

Unique requirements / other information

- Construction Management, Problem solving, Construction Strategy and Methodology from Experience, Manage Time, People, Materials, Coordination and Execution
- The candidate must be Physically and Medically fit.

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Degree or Diploma in Civil engineering/ Building Construction or equivalent engineering discipline orHas 10 years of managing construction experience.Has the construction experience in Civils, Structural, Piping, Mechanical and oversee Electrical InstallationsProven ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously within budget and timeline constraints.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Minimum of (10) years’ experience in Construction management in Mining industry in a similar capacity
Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Computer Literacy (MS Office – Intermediate), Mechanical and Maintenance experience, Attention to detail, Analytical skill, Problem solving skill, Supervisory Experience, MS Project Skills, Strong understanding of construction methods and materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Excellent Communication (English), Assertiveness, Interpersonal Relations, Integrity, Prioritizing skills & multi-skilling, Ability to work towards strict deadlines, High level of Accuracey, Self-motivation, Dedication to safety, Time Management, Leadership

2. Position: HME Dewatering Mechanic

Department: Mining
Number required: One (01)

Primary Purpose

- Responsible for managing the pit dewatering pumps and engines by executing planned services, breakdown and major rebuilding of dewatering pumps.
- Manage and control spare parts availability.

Essential functions

- Safely maintain pit dewatering pumps to ensure targeted reliability and availability to support mining activities in all mining operations. (Planned and unplanned work)
- To rebuild dewatering pumps when needed to ensure availability of worn or failed pumps.

Task description expanded to core performance areas

- Planning
- Implementation of the plan
- Reporting

Unique requirements / other information

- The candidate must be Physically and Medically fit.

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Formal Trade CertificateMust have a valid driver licence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">3 - 5 years pit dewatering pump and engine experienceKnowledge of SYKES and or Godwin dewatering pumpsKnowledge of submersible pumps.
Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Computer Literacy MS Office – Intermediate)Attention to detail, Analytical skillMechanical & Electrical dewatering experienceProblem solving skillReading and understanding technical diagrams.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Communications (English), AssertivenessInterpersonal relations (Team player)Prioritizing skills & multi-skillingAbility to work towards strict deadlinesDiscretion, High level of accuracy, Self-motivationSelf-driven

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.
- Mineral Resources Management
P. O. Box 272
Asmara, Eritrea



Specific Procurement Notice

Invitation for Bids [IFB]
Goods
(One-Envelope Bidding Process)

IFB Number: DSP/SPN/OCBI/03/2024
Purchaser: Ministry of Energy and Mines
Project: Dekemhare 30 MW Solar PV Project
Contract title: Professional Tools and Equipment
Country: State of Eritrea
Loan No. / Grant No.: TSF5900155017954/ADF2100155042372
Procurement Method: Open Competitive Bidding (International) (OCBI)
OCBI / LCB No: DSP/OCBI/PTE/03/2024
Issued on: Mar 22,2025

1. The Government of the state of Eritrea has received financing from the African Development Fund (ADF) hereinafter called the Bank toward the cost of Dekemhare Solar PV Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the Contract for the Procurement of Professional Tools and Equipment. For this contract, the Grant Recipient shall process the payments using the Direct Payment disbursement method, as defined in the Bank’s Disbursement Guidelines and procedures for Investment Project Financing.
2. The Ministry of Energy and Mines (MoEM) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the Procurement of Professional Tools and Equipment.
3. Bidding will be conducted through the Open Competitive Bidding (International), (OCBI) method as specified in the Bank’s [Procurement Framework](#) dated 2015, and IFB is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Procurement Framework.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the Ministry of Energy and Mines(MoEM), Mr Tefferi Abraha - e-mail tefferiab.pce@gmail.com during working days (Monday to Friday) and office hours 0900 to 1700 hours at the address given at the bottom of the SPN/ IFBs below.
5. The bidding document in English may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible Bidders upon registry at the e-mail address given at the bottom of the SPN/ IFBs below
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 AM local time on May 26, 2025. Soft (electronic) copies will be required in addition to hard copies. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders’ designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address given at the bottom of the SPN/ IFBs below on 11:00 AM local time on May 26, 2025.
7. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of USD 10,000.
8. Attention is drawn to the Procurement Framework requiring the recipient to disclose information on the successful bidder’s beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document.
9. The address referred to above is:
Client: Ministry of Energy and Mines
Attention: Mr. Tefferi Abraha
Director, Energy Resources Development and Project Manager
Address:
Street: Denden Street, No. 176
Postal Address: 5285
Postal Code: 174
City: Asmara
Country: State of Eritrea
Telephone: Tel: +291-112-5972
Mobile: +291-717-5327
E-mail address: tefferiab.pce@gmail.com

Specific Procurement Notice

Invitation for Bids [IFB]
Goods
(One-Envelope Bidding Process)

IFB Number: DSP/SPN/OCBI/04/2024
Purchaser: Ministry of Energy and Mines
Project: Dekemhare 30 MW Solar PV Project
Contract title: Professional Software
Country: State of Eritrea
Loan No. / Grant No.: TSF5900155017954/ADF2100155042372
Procurement Method: Open Competitive Bidding (International) (OCBI)
OCBI / LCB No: DSP/OCBI/PS/04/2024
Issued on: Mar 22, 2025

1. The Government of the state of Eritrea has received financing from the African Development Fund (ADF) hereinafter called the Bank toward the cost of Dekemhare Solar PV Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the Contract for the Procurement of Professional Software. For this contract, the Grant Recipient shall process the payments using the Direct Payment disbursement method, as defined in the Bank’s Disbursement Guidelines and procedures for Investment Project Financing.
2. The Ministry of Energy and Mines (MoEM) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the Procurement of Professional Software.
3. Bidding will be conducted through the Open Competitive Bidding (International), (OCBI) method as specified in the Bank’s [Procurement Framework](#) dated 2015, and IFB is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Procurement Framework.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the Ministry of Energy and Mines (MoEM), Mr Tefferi Abraha - e-mail tefferiab.pce@gmail.com during working days (Monday to Friday) and office hours 0900 to 1700 hours at the address given at the bottom of the SPN/ IFBs below.
5. The bidding document in English may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible Bidders upon registry at the e-mail address given at the bottom of the SPN/ IFBs below.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 AM local time on May 19, 2025. Soft (electronic) copies will be required in addition to hard copies. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders’ designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address given at the bottom of the SPN/ IFBs below on 11:00 AM local time on May 19,2025.
7. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of USD 5,000.
8. Attention is drawn to the Procurement Framework requiring the recipient to disclose information on the successful bidder’s beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document.
9. The address referred to above is:
Client: Ministry of Energy and Mines
Attention: Mr. Tefferi Abraha
Director, Energy Resources Development and Project Manager
Address:
Street: Denden Street, No. 176
Postal Address: 5285
Postal Code: 174
City: Asmara
Country: State of Eritrea
Telephone: Tel: +291-112-5972
Mobile: +291-717-5327
E-mail address: tefferiab.pce@gmail.com



A Life in Words: A Tribute to a Master of Tigrinya Literature

Sona Berhane

There are writers who shape our thoughts, and then there are those who shape our very language – the way we think, the way we express, the way we put into words our understanding of the world around us. Tekie Tesfay belongs to this rare breed. A lexicographer, linguist, translator, and storyteller, he has dedicated his life to documenting, refining, and elevating the Tigrigna language.

His books were some of the first I ever read as a child. As I grew older, I began to understand the immensity of his contribution – not just in the realm of literature but in the foundation of how Tigrigna is used, studied, and preserved. Now, with the simultaneous release of his Tigrigna translation of The Diary of Anne Frank and the highly anticipated first volume of his autobiography, we finally gain insight into the life of the man who has spent decades shaping our collective linguistic heritage.

It is a rare privilege to witness a writer of his stature reflect on his own life. As someone who has long been fascinated by his journey, I find myself even more curious – about the circumstances that propelled him towards language, about the choices that led him to dedicate his life to words, about the books he reads, and the enormous vocabulary at his disposal. And now, as he shares his own story, I find myself tracing my history with his books and with the invisible



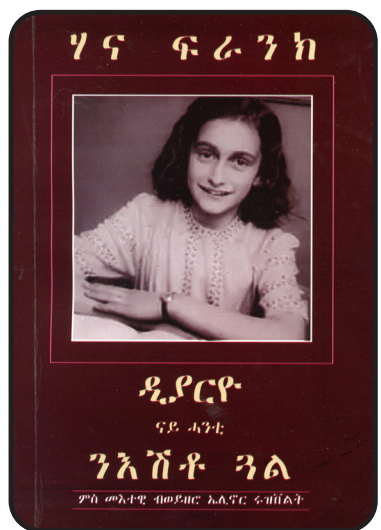
but undeniable influence they have had on my life. And so this essay is a reflection, not a book review. It is a quiet thank-you to a writer whose work has accompanied me from childhood into adulthood.

There is a particular thrill in owning a book for the first time – the sharp scent of its pages, the crisp design on the cover, the weight of it in your hands, the quiet invitation into a world waiting to be discovered. I was perhaps eight or nine years old when I first encountered Tekie's work. I remember the slim volume so vividly. It was a children's book titled *Selected Fables*. Of all the stories in the book, I favored The Emperor's New Clothes, and I remember returning to it almost daily.

My parents soon bought me Tekie's translations of *Aesop's fables*, *Pinocchio* and, when I was a little older, *Sans Famille*. Those who read Tekie as children will remember that his distinctive illustrations became an integral part of the pleasure of reading him. *Pinocchio* was soon a

beloved favorite of mine, and I read and reread the book with such frequency that my father thought I was struggling to finish it. When he found out I was only reading it for the 30th time, he decided to buy me *Sans Famille*.

I did not know then that I was holding the work of a literary giant, someone who was building, word by word, a bridge for future generations. I only knew that the language felt alive – not rigid or complex, like the language of grown-ups, but fluid, rich, and inviting. His illustrations danced, and his words had weight. Even as a young reader, I could sense that there was something different about the way he used



Tigrigna. It was as if he were giving the language its full breadth, allowing it to stretch and breathe.

To understand the magnitude of Tekie's work, one must first grasp the Tigrinya language itself, a rich language in history, poetry, and oral tradition. Yet, despite its deep literary roots, its lexicographical development has been slow, and until relatively recently, it lacked the systematic documentation afforded to other world languages.

This is where Tekie has been a pioneer. His dedication to documenting, defining, and standardizing Tigrigna words has been nothing short of revolutionary. His dictionaries and linguistic studies are foundational texts – guiding not only students and scholars but also ensuring that future generations have access to a well-structured and enriched Tigrigna lexicon.

A dictionary is more than a collection of words; it is a cultural repository, a map of a people's history, worldview, and intellectual evolution. Tekie understood this better than anyone. His dictionaries, painstakingly compiled, are magnificent reference books. But they are also acts of preservation – safeguards against linguistic erosion.

The work of a lexicographer is one of patience and precision. It is the labor of documenting a language's very essence, of capturing words before they slip into obscurity. I imagine Tekie at work – late at night, hunched over a desk, the glow of a lamp illuminating handwritten notes and well-worn books. I imagine the meticulous process: weighing meanings, cross-referencing definitions, and delicately balancing tradition and modernity. It is easy to take a language for granted, assuming that words will always be available when we need them. But languages are fragile things. Without careful tending, they fade, their nuances lost, their depth reduced to a simple function. Tekie knew this, and he devoted his life to ensuring that Tigrigna did not suffer such a fate.

Translation is one of the highest forms of literary craftsmanship. To translate is not simply to substitute words from one language into another; it is to capture the soul of a text, to recreate its rhythm, emotion, and meaning while ensuring that it resonates with a new audience.

Tekie's latest translation, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, is a testament to his skill and his deep empathy for both the source material and the target language. Translating Anne Frank's diary is no ordinary feat – it demands historical sensitivity, cultural

nuance, and a deep respect for the voice of a young girl whose words transcended time and geography.

By bringing Anne's voice into Tigrigna, Tekie has created a historical bridge, allowing Eritrean readers to engage with one of the most profound and haunting testimonies of human resilience. In Tigrigna, Anne's words take on new resonance. Her fears, her hopes, her longing for freedom – these are emotions not unfamiliar to Eritreans, whose history, too, is marked by struggle and resilience.

For all his contributions as a scholar and translator, it is perhaps as a writer that Tekie Tesfay leaves his most personal mark. I have always wondered about his childhood – about the formative years that shaped his passion for language and literature. What books first sparked his curiosity? What teachers or mentors guided him toward his lifelong pursuit of knowledge? What struggles did he face in a world that did not always recognize the value of literary and linguistic scholarship?

These questions are morbid curiosities, yes, but they are also essential to understanding his work. Every writer is, in some way, a reflection of his own experiences. By sharing his life story, Tekie is offering us a window into the intellectual and cultural history of Tigrinya itself.

Continued on page 5

