



CENTRAL REGION: SATISFACTORY PROGRESS IN TRANSPORTATION SERVICE



Public transport service in the Central region has registered satisfactory progress and is presently covering 90% of villages.

Mr. Kibrom Segid, Managing Director of Public Transport in the region, said that the remaining villages will soon have access to

such service.

He also stated that 60 buses are currently deployed in the Central region and are providing daily service to 130 thousand passengers involving 27 destinations.

In another news from the region, concerted effort to develop basic education in the Central region has led to impressive progress, according to Mr. Mesfun Woldeleslasie, Head of basic Education in the region.

He explained that women's participation in scheme has reached 53% and called for the sustainability of such initiative.

Stating that the number of kindergartens in the region is on the rise, Mr. Mesfun urged the public to enhance participation in providing the necessary support to the teaching staff.

Presently, there exist about 100,000 students perusing their education in the Central region.

SUPPORT TOWARDS MARTYRS TRUST

Eritrean nationals in Germany and Switzerland have held activities aimed at portraying the true image of their country and raising money for the martyrs trust.

Members of the National Union of Eritrean Women in Giessen, Germany, participated at the annual cultural event organized by the Municipality of the city in which communities of different countries took part.

At the event flyers portraying the unity and the rich cultural heritage of the Eritrean people were

distributed to participants.

In the same vein, the Eritrean community members in the Swiss cities of Geneva, Fribourg, Solothurn, contributed 3600, 1,820, 1686 dollars respectively towards martyrs trust.

Likewise, the Eritrean community members in Bern, Aargau, Basel, Zurich and Bienne as well as members of the YPFDJ and other nationals contributed a total of 19,659 Swiss Franks towards augmenting the martyrs trust.

HDRI PUBLISHERS CONTRIBUTING TO LANGUAGES DEVELOPMENT

During Tigre language books launching ceremony that was held recently in connection with Eritrea Festival 2017 it was reported that Hdri publishers is giving utmost priority to the development of local languages.

The report further indicated that the launching of 17 history related books attests to the contribution of the Hdri Publishers in the development of all local languages.

Pointing out that the development of any language depends on the availability of written works, Dr. Saleh Mohammed and Mr.

Mohammed-Saied Hamid, who made the book review, commended Hdri Publishers for the efforts and contribution it has been making in the development of languages.

Meanwhile, a book titled "Yatim Gheled" written both in Tigre and Tigrinya languages by Journalist Abdu Osman was inaugurated on 15 August in an event held at Hager Media within the premises of the Ministry of Information.

The book, which has 223 pages, explores the societal beliefs and deeply rooted traditional practices.

At the launching event, Journalist

Tesfalem Ghebreslasie shared his views as regards the commitment and courage the writer had in unveiling harmful practices that are prevalent within the society.

Journalist Mohammed Gim'e on his part said that the book covers themes of love, poverty as well as courage and resilience of the society and conveys a message about harmful practices and the negative impact in an artistic manner.

Similarly, a book titled "Flsfna" (Philosophy), translated by Priest Isaias Haileab, was inaugurated on 19 August in an event held at Ambasoira Hotel.



NEWS BRIEF

CAPACITY UPGRADING TRAINING

The Asmara College of Health is providing higher diploma courses with a view to upgrading the capacity of Assistant Nurses.

The head of the School of Nursing, Mr. Andom Yohannes said that the training, which is the first of its kind, commenced in February and is provided in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and the National Commission for Higher Education. Currently 138 trainees from different regions are participating, Mr. Andom added.

According to Mr. Andom, the training program includes psychology, public health as well as adult and children's health.

The trainees said that the training will upgrade their capacity.

ELECTIONS OF AREA ADMINISTRATORS IN FORTO SAWA

The residents of the administrative areas of Kulentebai, Wakai, Girmaika, Fedadab and Forto semi-urban center, Forto sub-zone, elected on 15 August area administrators and managing directors.

Congratulating the newly elected area administrators and managing directors, Mr. Abubeker Mahumd, administrator of the sub-zone, said that similar elections will be held soon in the remaining administrative areas of Aliet, Ribda, Adibara and Homib.

The newly elected administrators and managing directors, on their part, pledged to live up to the expectations of the people that elected them.

In other news, residents of Forto semi-urban center are working on water and soil conservation community campaign.

BLINDNESS PREVENTION REMARKABLE PROGRESS

Trachoma has been found to be among the basic health problems in the country according to a study conducted in 35 sub-zones this year, Dr. Alem Zekarias, Head of the Blindness Prevention and Control Program, said. Dr Alem added that the prevalence of the disease in Mai-Mine has been reduced from 65% to less than 5% owing to the relentless efforts made.



Dr. Alem pointed out that strong effort is being made to totally eradicate the disease in 2020 in accordance with the criteria set by the World Health Program.

Last year, according to Dr. Alem, ophthalmic surgery has been done on around 1200 patients in the Gash Barka, Anseba and Northern Red Sea regions in cooperation with the Sudanese Ophthalmologists group 'Albeser'.

There was only one Ophthalmic Hospital and one Ophthalmologist before Eritrea's independence. Today, there are ophthalmic treatment centers in all regions of the country.

Development

Eritrean Overseas Accomplishments, Signed: Eri-Youth

Billion Temesghen

So yes, Eritrea might be Africa's little nonconformist. A refusal of the conventional recital of the lullaby sang to the underdeveloped: 'We give you our Bible. Close your eyes to envision God, your ride to your reserved salvation in paradise will only cost you your resources, your brains and your youth... and, you just got a discount, congrats!'

Big part of Eritrea's journey as a nation is composed of the long struggle for independence, and later by strives to exist as a sovereign nation, when besieged by abhorring discriminations all directed to a small nation of humble people asking nothing but to be left in peace. Of course, the bitter sweet climax of the Eritrean history is that of development; long years of self-relied and sustainable growth made feasible, thanks to its people and especially young.

The happy ending is yet to come and the '...and they happily lived ever after' slogan will be sealed by the lately rising young educated members of the Eritrean society. Then, the Eritrea's narrative of an exceedingly accomplished journey will officially be signed by its youth.

Putting the above in core regard, the government and people of Eritrea have always made education possible and accessible to all, with available resources. From one University, at present, Eritrean students have the right of passage to eight colleges of their appeal. These colleges started as part of the national plan to provide an educated workforce for a developing

country. Education is free in Eritrea, all there is to do for anyone who wants to study is to cross the gate to school.

The challenges and shortages encountered on the way actually make the endeavor progressive. Post graduate education has so far been offered in a limited scale. But as it has been continuously mentioned in the local press and media outlets, post graduate education is finally going to be accessible in the near future. And I really mean 'near'... the next academic year.

The measures taken so far include small range access to post grad education as well as scholarships abroad, and then, the postgraduates would become teachers and professors to teach the bigger part of students. The only 'on hand' option -tactic, has actually proved to be not the best but exceptionally effective when speaking in terms of 'few options'.

Dr. Samuel Tekeste, Naib Amar, Debesai Gebrihiwet and Yohanes Stifanos are examples of the projects. They just returned from China after doing their post graduate education in some prestigious Chinese universities.

Mr. Eyob Tekle, a diplomat at the Eritrean Embassy in China, says that Eritrea and China have been keen on promoting education. He says that China's contribution towards alleviating certain shortages has been instrumental; MOFCOM is an instance.

Eritrean postgraduates of the academic year 2017 from Chinese institutions of higher education were 18; of which 12 are now back in Eritrea. Dr. Samuel Tekeste, Naib Amar, Debesai Gebrihiwet and Yohannes Estifanos are some.

Dr. Samuel Tesfay got his BA in Animal Science. Before he left for China he served as a teacher in Hamelmalo College of Agriculture

and Animal Sciences. He came back after obtaining his PhD in animal nutrition and feed science. As regards his experience in China he says that apart from the cultural shock he experienced at the beginning, his educational endeavor was an experience he'd like every Eritrean student to try.

"I understand the policies of our country are pertinent to the developmental phase Eritrea is undergoing. However, when you go outside, the first thing you realize is that there is an age gap between Eritrean students and other students. Soon after school the Eritrean youth is dispatched to respective working places, and so, at times, we might run out of time for further personal educational endeavors. So my wish is for Eritrean students to have the same chances and opportunities I had."

"My teacher once told me a saying that goes: nobody is ahead and nobody is lagging, everyone is his/her own time frame" says Naib Amer mentioning that certain guidelines and the given reality do not leave much 'spoiler alternatives'. Things are not always served on a silver platter. It seems like for Naib everything happens for a rational reason.

He graduated in 2000 with a degree in business management from Asmara University, worked in Eritrea's Custom office for 16 years and then immersed in the field of public policy for his postgraduate studies. Being one of the oldest in class might not be pleasant, but, Naib says that there are great benefits packed with the fact that Eritrean students join postgraduate studies with prior work experience. Of course, the shorter the better, but Naib says the most successful students in class are normally those endowed with applied knowledge.

And Yohannes Estifanos agrees. He worked as an English teacher after studying literature in the University



of Asmara. He pursued International relations for his postgraduate study. He says although it would have been wonderful for Eritrean students to pursue postgrad soon after college days, he feels that the maturity of Eritrean students is important. He expresses concern about the lack of written materials on Eritrea and its history, as he came across many people not acquainted with Eritrea; or the few who know are misinformed.

While explaining what makes Eritrean students' journey to Chinese institutions of higher education exceptional, Debesai Gebrihiwet says that more than sitting in class his journey was learning about life and history. China is the fastest advancing country for a fact, Debesai says, it evolves in education and technology. Studying in China, in fact, has been for Debesai an astonishing experience.

"Studying abroad aids you in opening your eyes; it widens your perspectives" adds Dr. Samuel Tekeste. He further rationalized on the fact that people are indeed aware of western neo colonization but then going abroad made it even a firsthand experience, well, at least for him and his fellow friends. "If you're brilliant, corporations start booking you even before you graduate. Many African companies and corporations want you to represent them... it's easy to get rich in Europe or anywhere else in the world. But what about your home country? ... It is wicked how they first conquer our countries and then start hiring African individuals. Over time this template was introduced and became protocol: they trick you in to forgetting that your knowledge is vitally needed in your home country where your land and society awaits for development."

Nebai elaborates the points raised by Samuel saying that learning in China broadened their horizon. "We take classes on international studies. We dive into regional and global issues and also the Chinese history,

its governance and developmental drive. So when we go to study abroad we go to acquire knowledge, yes, but also to observe, make assessments and analyze ways most suitable for home."

"Which is why it's important that we return home", replies Debesai, "there is no pride in going on for personal calls and fattening your wallets. You keep those desires aside for the time being, and answer the national call. Our people need us. We need each other."

Now that they are back "home", they have been organizing field trips to tour developmental undertakings they missed while away. They visited several dams. And even the smallest change impresses these scholars. Naib says "The dam networking is unbelievable. It feels like now the pieces are falling together."

Looking at things with a new point of view augmented with new experiences they accumulated while studying astonishes 'the students on vacation'.

Part of their tour includes visits to several offices and ministries. They tell me that their opinions are welcome. When they return to work, soon, they say they hope to submit proposals on ways to enhance work efficacy in their respective area of interest.

In few words this is what the whole article is about: the worth of new ideas from fresh minds of scholars and how the people and government abundantly desire for a self-reliant sustainable holistic development.

The fact that the Eritrean people is devoted to its students and the rare occurrence that the youth always pins their objective purpose to the best interest of their people and country is what makes Eritreans and Eritrea distinctive. Eritrea's final seal of accomplishment will be signed by Eri Youth.



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The Politics Behind Eritrea's Ranking in the TIP "Scorecard"

Metkel Sewra

News may have reached you that Eritrea remained in Tier 3 for the umpteenth year in the US State Department's annual "trafficking in persons" (TIP) report for 2017.

Well, if you actually have a minute or two to skim the section on Eritrea you would be amused to find much copied and pasted sections from previous years pointing at the very source of the problem with this report.

Hard and verifiable data collected by an impartial third party who would actually be accountable for the fantastic statistics?

None.

Regurgitated and oversimplified "analysis" of Eritrea's national policies such as the National Service and 12th grade education in Sawa?

Plenty.

Objective analysis of the effect of the deliberate isolation strategy forced on Eritrea since 2000 coupled with the effect of the sanctions imposed on it without any shred of evidence to support the allegations they are based on?

No again.

Pompous dismissal of Eritrea's authorities' definition and understanding of human trafficking?

Yes, in the very first paragraph.

In short, you would be hard-pressed to find a sincere will to work with Eritrea to solve this crime, and you will most certainly not find a word about the country's proven claim that it has been a victim of human trafficking through the well-orchestrated and heavily funded actions of entities known to – and very openly supported by – the United States.

In fact, do you remember that time when Barack Obama so callously admitted this support in a speech given during the Clinton Global Initiative?

Yes. He actually said: 'I recently renewed sanctions on some of the worst abusers, including North Korea and Eritrea. We're partnering with groups that help women and children escape from the grip of their

abusers.'

Obama's admission of "partnering" with smugglers should have raised red flags given the US State Department's own definition of smuggling: "the facilitation, transportation, attempted transportation or illegal entry of a person or persons across an international border, in violation of one or more countries' laws."

But no.

This "altruistic" scorecard shifts the blame for this heinous crime back to the victims themselves – the people and the Government of Eritrea – and it does so without any accountability for the debilitating consequence that such false accusations produce in terms of the country's status in the world and its ability to pull itself out – on its own terms – of the shackles imposed on it for ulterior geopolitical motives.

Now to the crux of the matter.

The fact that country ranking in the TIP report is deliberately and highly politicized with a specific geopolitical objective in mind is really not lost on anyone who takes the time to critically examine this subject.

This follows that demanding an impartial, nuanced, context-based analysis from the authors of the TIP report is about as logical as waiting for Godot was in Samuel Becket's play.

Godot will never come.

Similarly, logic in the TIP's data collection methodology, lack of bias in its assumptions about countries, cultures and peoples, and actual consistency even in its most basic units of measurement of *lexes* such as "slavery" and "rights", will never come.

In fact, a critical engagement with the shock-inducing claims annually repeated in these reports shows that a country's yearly ranking, and the preposterous way in which these rankings are justified, is very much attuned to, and dictated by, its level of "openness" to US pressures and manipulations.

It really is that simple and the joke remains, unfortunately, on those who ignorantly hang their understanding of world politics on these half-baked, misleading indices.

So why is it that year after year the US State Department sees no issue in its duplicitous role of "guardian angel" of millions of people who suffer this transgression as a result of the political and economic dragnet policies of previous US Administrations?

Why is it that a complex and multi-layered global issue such as human trafficking is allowed to be dumbed down in hundreds of pages of fluff – but paper-thin in terms of real substance – without a demand for an investigation of the role played by entities known to, and funded by countries such as the US, that are in reality exacerbating – if not causing – the trafficking crisis?

Lastly and most importantly, why is it that the rest of the world, namely the Global South, continues to endure the wrath of this sham "scorecard" as if it really holds the key to solving a crisis that affects millions of its own people in much more direct ways than it affects the citizens of countries where these reports are generated?

In case you are not aware, Eritrea, with its limited resources, has developed, enacted, and enforced strict laws within its current system that deal with the issue of trafficking in humans.

1) Article 605-607 of the TPCE criminalizes any form of trafficking; illegal restraint (Art 557); abduction (Arts 558-561); political abduction (Art 564); enslavement and slave trading (Arts 565-567); all of which are considered criminal offences carrying severe and unforgiving penalties.

2) The new Penal Code of Eritrea, put into effect in May 2015, lists kidnapping, abduction, illegal restraint (Arts 288-290); coercion enslavement and abetting (Arts 295-297), as serious offences.

3) In compliance with the Trafficking In Persons Protocol, which calls for the criminalization of human trafficking, Arts 315-318 of the new Penal Code of Eritrea criminalizes all forms of trafficking in women, infants, young persons, and any type of organized trafficking,

4) As required by Art 5 of the TIP Protocol, the 2015 Penal Code of Eritrea does not limit itself to criminalizing some offences; the whole concept and act of human trafficking itself is criminalized.

5) The General Part of the Penal Code of Eritrea also extends the

criminalization to any person who intentionally solicits, encourages, abets, helps, advises, or incites another or others to commit and/or participate in the act of human trafficking.

In fact, US Chargé d'Affaires, Matthew D. Smith, in a leaked diplomatic cable from Asmara back in December 2008, entitled "How to Escape from Eritrea", confessed that "the GSE [Government of the State of Eritrea] is very keen to break these human smuggling rings and dispatches agents to pose as potential customers. Other agents pose as facilitators, making all of the supposed smuggling arrangements prior to having the unsuspecting person arrested."

Smith's cable highlights the nature of the official Eritrean state response to the criminal enterprise.

All of this would be lost on you if you base your understanding of the issue as it relates to Eritrea on the TIP report's country narrative.

Another fact – again, something the TIP report's authors will not tell you – is that the Government of Eritrea has consistently said that all efforts to put an end to human trafficking will not succeed simply by introducing stringent regulations if destination countries – most notably, the United States and certain European countries – do not alter their automatic asylum policies specifically and deliberately targeted at Eritreans, and cooperate, in good faith, on all levels with the Government of Eritrea to put an end to this crime.

In fact, there is ample evidence to suggest that destination countries, especially the United States, through its Embassy in Asmara, has, for years, encouraged and facilitated this transgression. Wikileaks has exposed many of these ploys.

In a May 5, 2009 leaked US embassy cable sent from Asmara, entitled "Promoting Educational Opportunity for Anti-Regime Eritrean Youth," the then US Ambassador to Eritrea, Ronald K. McMullen explained that "Post plans to restart visa services (completely suspended in 2007) for student visa applicants; we intend to give opportunities to study in the United States to those who oppose the regime.... Post intends to begin adjudicating student visa applications, regardless of whether the regime is willing to issue

the applicant an Eritrean passport and exit visa. If an applicant is otherwise found eligible for a student visa, Post will issue it in a Form DS-232... With an Eritrean passport and an F1 visa in a Form DS-232, the lucky young person is off to America. For those visa recipients who manage to leave the country and receive UNHCR refugee status, a UN-authorized travel document might allow the young person to travel to America with his or her F1 in the DS-232... Due to the Isaias regime's ongoing restrictions on Embassy Asmara, Post does not contemplate a resumption of full visa services in the near future. However, giving young Eritreans hope, the chance for an education, and the skills with which to rebuild their impoverished country in the post-Isaias period is one of the strongest signals we can send to the Eritrean people that the United States has not abandoned them. Were we to begin processing student visa applications and require a regime-issued passport, we would be seen as strengthening the dictatorship's hand. Thus, the limited category-specific exemption outlined above is key."

Hand in the cookie jar, right? Yes.

Yet, year after year the TIP report continues to turn a blind eye to what all of this really means: just as forceful as Eritrea's stand is against terrorism in this region and just as proven is its track record since independence in 1991 to fight it – something US generals have admitted time and again – so is its stand against any other type of crime perpetrated against its citizens, including the trafficking in persons, in all its forms, and what follows is just a very short sample of the Government of Eritrea's actions and calls over the past years to protest and seek remedies to this transgression:

In 2004, the GOE sent demarches to the UNHCR and a number of European countries who were instigating the mass migration of the members of the Kunama ethnic group under the false pretext that they represented a suppressed minority group. The GOE has likewise sent letters to Libya, Egypt, Israel and the Sudan to protest and expose the network of intelligence agencies mired in this deplorable act.

President Isaias sent a letter to the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon requesting the UN to

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Modernity Invades the Eritrean Kitchen!

Natnael Yebio W.

It is said that shiro made in a tsahli (Clay Bowl) tastes much better than shiro made in a metal casserole. To tell you honestly I have never tasted shiro that was made in a tsahli, that is because we don't have tsahli at home.

At present the Eskimos of Canada are using snowmobiles and guns to hunt the caribous. In the Amazon, the natives are using plastic hammock for siestas, and tincans to fetch water. In Eritrea, cellophane and plastic bags have replaced goatskins while big barrels or oil drums are becoming handier for storing grain in the place of kofo (Mini-silo made of cow dung and ash).

Kofo was not used to keep only grain in the past. When emptied of its contents, children used to hide inside as peeping toms to discover what went on between newly married couples.

Now they have to do it inside an oil drum. It does get cold at night and hot during the day. Not a nice place from which to conduct their insolent jobs.

Our grandparents made tsebhi (Spiced sauce) in a tsahli. They used mokhos (a wand-looking wood staff used for stirring). Now they are using metal casseroles and spoons to do the same job. The sauce could stay for long in the clay bowl without turning poisonous. Now you cannot eat food that has been kept in a metal sauce-pan for more than a day.

Some Eritreans complain about the food served in wedding feasts. Diarrhea should more or less be accepted as a mild ailment after such invitations. Those with strong stomachs may get away with a little heart burn or a bloating feeling. What could be the problem? Food is not being cooked the way it used to.

A few months ago I happened to be in Gash-Barka with a few colleagues for a work visit. We entered a teashop in a little town and after having lunch we asked for water. One sip and I asked:

“Do you have a refrigerator?”

They didn't have a refrigerator but they kept the water in an etro (Traditional amphora). It kept

the water cold probably because of the porosity of the clay used in manufacturing the container. As the water inside evaporated in small quantities, it took the heat for its evaporation from the remaining water and kept it cold in the process. Now in most traditional dwellings, people are using plastic containers and drinking lukewarm water during summer as a result.

In the past, our people used to drink suwa from a wancha (made from cattle horn). It was organic and caused no heavy metal poisoning. When the Italians arrived and suwa houses invaded Eritrean towns, there was shortage of wanchas in Eritrea. So the Italians went on to craft metal goblets to meet the demand, and just to make Menelik happy while at it, they printed his effigy on the goblet. The suwa drinkers were amused by the novelty, but anyway they accepted it. However, unable to pronounce the name correctly they baptized the modern wancha Melelikh and the name stuck.

If foods are going organic, why not utensils that are used to

prepare them. You know, some people are allergic to plastic, others to metals, still others to chemical coatings that are used to embellish the container or keep it from rusting, etc. So why not use traditional household utensils made of clay, palm leaves or wood for better health?

For example Kitcha baked in a traditional clay oven is more tasty and healthier than Kitcha baked on a metal oven. Organic cooking is just around the corner.

I once heard a woman saying that Kitcha made of flour obtained from grain ground in a traditional millstone is healthier than that made from flour ground in modern electric powered mills that use metal parts.

Our traditional millstone has two parts, the methan (the big stationary stone) and the medid (the small movable stone). It is used to grind, crush or knead. As the woman holds the small millstone and moves it up and down over the grain along the milled part of the big millstone, the flour pours down at the other end into a container known as

bakhura. Meanwhile, the child strapped to the mothers back in a mahzel (traditional rucksack for carrying babies) goes to sleep lulled by the rhythmic movement of mama.

You want a whole meal? Then you simply bring a megu' (large wooden mortar) and the weddi megu' (big wooden pestle) and pound wheat or barley. The husk or shell is preserved. Boil the final content of the mogu and eat it. Good for the intestines (bowel movement) and for lowering blood pressure. The child strapped to the mother in a mahzel is now subject to a continuous jolting and wakes up and bawls.

As you milk the cow and receive the nutritious white substance in a guagud (clay bowl for milk), you boil it and drink it from a fyo (clay bowl for drinking).

Now milk churned in a plastic or metal container doesn't produce good smelling ghee. Gourd should be used as a churn for best results. This is called alba in Tigrigna. Apparently, tossing a hanging alba to and fro is a tedious work that only unfortunate mothers or obedient children are assigned to do. One has to sing silly songs to keep the mind lulled and free from boredom.

Still clay pot (jebena) is used to brew coffee. Although in some localities metal pots are in use, the taste differs.

As for the mortar and pestle for grinding the roasted coffee beans Eritrean used special wood that resisted continuous pounding in the past. However, with the shortage of wood, people began to use metal components. Spent ordnance was used as mewket bun (mortar) and as far as pestle was concerned metal shafts or rods from motorcars or old machinery did the job.

Again, coffee tasted better when the mortar and pestle were made of wood; that's when everything was organic, says my grandmother plugging, in the electronic coffee grinder.



ERITREA in Mainstream Media

Newsweek: Fake, Fluff and Fiction

Sophia Tesfamariam

The once venerable weekly magazine owned by the Washington Post Company suffered a precipitous decline and was sold to the digital news company International Business Times (IBT) in 2010. Today, the iconic brand has lost both its reputation and reach and looks like it is more concerned about increasing page views, by producing sensationalized stories, than producing factual news reports. Just like its sister the IBT Times, Newsweek has been churning fake reports about Eritrea, with hopes of adding to its readership. These fake stories on Eritrea seem to come right on cue-every time the minority regime in Ethiopia finds itself in some self-made quagmire. So what happened? What triggered the rushed, not to mention inaccurate and tabloid-like, posts this time? Two possible reasons...

1. The minority regime is facing yet more nationwide protests and needs a diversion from its domestic affairs-its handlers and lobbyists believe they can elevate the regime's stature only by undermining that of Eritrea's in the Horn of Africa. Eritrea is their favorite scapegoat.

2. Ethiopia is going to hold the Presidency of the UN Security Council in September, and probably wants to use yet another baseless allegation- to prolong the illegal, unjust sanctions against Eritrea.

So what do the two of Newsweek articles say? Not much and nothing new or news worthy can be found. The authors have simply cut and paste information laundered on the internet to put together incoherent posts, hoping to get hits for their dwindling site, using sensational headlines.

Conor Gaffey's report, "U.S. Should Fight Terror With Eritrea, Accused of Sponsoring Al-Qaeda Affiliate, GOP Congressman Says", was published online on 7 August 2017. The headline was supposed to garner some traffic... it failed miserably. Since that did not get the traction its sponsors wanted, another piece, with yet another sensational headline, "PIRATES OF THE CALIPHATE: WHO IS THE SOMALI KINGPIN ACCUSED OF AIDING AL SHABAB? Was by Jack Moore on

17 August 2017. The contents of both articles are fiction, fluff and fake. They offer readers no real information and worse, the stench of the minority regime in Ethiopia and its handler's (as the only beneficiaries of the fake reports) reeks a mile away...

Conor Gaffey is apparently trying to mock Dana Rohrabacher, a US Congressman from California, for calling for US engagement with Eritrea. He provides this as a reason why the US should not do so:

"...since 2009, Eritrea has been under U.N. Security Council sanctions for allegedly supporting Al-Shabab rebels in Somalia...The State Department also announced sanctions on the Eritrean navy in April. The decision followed a report by a U.N. sanctions monitoring body which found a shipment of North Korean-made military communications equipment leaving Pyongyang, North Korea, for Eritrea in 2016. The United States prohibits trading in certain military equipment with North Korea under a nonproliferation law. The Eritrean government slammed the sanctions as "inexplicable..."

Had Gaffey done his homework, he would have understood why the Eritrean government found the sanctions to be "inexplicable". He would not have to search far to know that Ethiopia has in fact bought arms from North Korea, with tacit approval of Washington.

So what has Rohrabacher done to warrant Ethiopia's ire? Recalling that the US was one of the guarantors and witnesses of the Algiers Agreements signed in 2000 between Eritrea and Ethiopia, Rohrabacher spoke out against US' silence as Ethiopia violated the terms of the Agreements and continues its 16 year occupation of sovereign Eritrean territories, including Badme. In 2014, Rohrabacher spoke very candidly about US Policy vis a vis the regime in Ethiopia:

"...I thought the behavior of our government in that whole episode [the Eritrea-Ethiopia border dispute] was disgraceful, and has undermined our ability to arbitrate other disputes... Let's just note that, we did

convince the Ethiopians at one point to agree to arbitration of a major dispute that they were in with Eritrea," the congressman said. Then when "the decision of the arbiters went against Ethiopia in their border dispute with Eritrea...and we extracted some kind of other deal with them to help us with some sort of defense related deal...and let them off the hook, basically said they didn't have to follow their arbitration..."

Most recently, speaking at a hearing on Ethiopia on 27 July 2017, Rohrabacher said the murder, repression and torture perpetrated by the minority regime in Ethiopia was offensive to American values. He said that the minority regime in Ethiopia:

"...arrogantly expects the U.S. to continue good relationships with it and perhaps expect to get some type of aid...This is a corrupt regime that is oppressive and brutal to its own people. Its corruption spills beyond its borders...What we have is a dictatorship that knows no bounds..."

Rohrabacher's sentiments are shared by many of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle. It should be recalled that just a few months back, in May 2017 U.S. Senators Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Ben Cardin (D-MD) introduced a Senate resolution condemning excessive use of force by Ethiopian security forces that led to hundreds of deaths, and the sponsors of the Senate Resolution on Ethiopia called on the minority regime to release all political opposition, dissidents, activists, and journalists and to respect the rights enshrined in its constitution. Senator Rubio said:

"...As the Ethiopian government continues to stall on making progress on human rights and democratic reform, it is critical that the United States remains vocal in condemning Ethiopia's human rights abuses against its own people...I will continue to work with my colleagues in the Senate to urge the Ethiopian government to respect the rule of law and prioritize human rights and political reform..."

Senator Ben Cardin echoed

similar sentiments:

"...The Ethiopian government must make progress on respecting human rights and democratic freedoms. I am deeply troubled by the arrest and ongoing detention of a number of prominent opposition political figures. The fact that we have partnered with the Ethiopian government on counterterrorism does not mean that we will stay silent when it abuses its own people...On the contrary, our partnership means that we must speak out when innocent people are detained, and laws are used to stifle legitimate political dissent..."

I suppose Rohrabacher is being singled out for proposing US engagement with Eritrea... US engagement with Eritrea is something the minority regime in Ethiopia dreads more than the plague itself.

Conor Gaffey fails to tell his readers that NONE of the allegations made by Ethiopia and its partners, who engineered the illegal, unfair and unjust UN sanctions against the State of Eritrea and its people, were ever verified. He also neglects to tell his readers that despite millions of dollars being spent on "investigations" by the Somalia Eritrea Monitoring Group (SEMG), which has produced voluminous reports on Eritrea, has ever produced an iota of evidence to support the preposterous allegations made by Ethiopia and its partners. It has also stated unequivocally in four consecutive reports that it has found no evidence to support the allegation that Eritrea provided any support to Al Shabbab. This is not the first time that the US State Department has wrongly sanctioned Eritrea based on faulty intelligence and outright lies...

A few weeks back, the Ethiopian Embassy and its million dollar lobbyists, SGR LLC, put on a grand "by invitation only", presentation in Congress, hoping to sway lawmakers, many of whom have distanced themselves away from the minority regime that is killing its own people. Calls, such as the one made by Rohrabacher make it nervous. It wants to remain Washington's sole "staunch ally" in the region.

The report posted by Jack Moore

is yet another desperate attempt to link Eritrea with some investigation on a Somali pirate, who is the main subject of the report. Moore says:

"...A former senior U.N. official, speaking on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to speak about the investigation, was more specific, telling Newsweek that the probe into Garfanji centers on "Djiboutian allegations that he received arms from Eritrea and channeled them" to Al-Shabab..."

Thanks for the head up...

First of all, Eritrea has no links to Al Shabab and has never provided any support to the group. Secondly, any information provided by Djibouti about Eritrea should be taken with a grain of salt, as it is one of the countries that colluded with Ethiopia to engineer the illegal sanctions against Eritrea in 2009 and has a vested interest in seeing them prolonged. Djibouti and Ethiopia have left no stones unturned to maintain the illegal sanctions and have gone to great lengths to fabricate evidence which members of the UN Security Council have repeatedly rejected, but were no doubt emboldened by the support they received from Susan Rice, the former US Ambassador to the United Nations, who worked with Meles Zenawi to engineer the "stand alone" sanctions regime against Eritrea.

Despite the fact that the many outlandish allegations made against Eritrea over the last 15 years, none were ever substantiated, but the stigma and the erroneous reports on the internet persist. The series of article on Newsweek and the latest by Moore and Gaffey just add to the media scrum on Eritrea that litters cyberspace and prevents sober analysis and honest responsible reporting on the country. As we read posts about Eritrea by various media outlets, we are forced to ask some questions...who benefits from the report? After 15 years of evil reports filled with distortion of facts, fabrications and patently false information, Eritrea has been wronged by the western media, the NGO community and self-styled "experts". Evil reports such as the

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Bisha Mining Share Company PLC is inviting interested applicants for the following position.

Engineering Training Specialist

Number required: 01

Type of Contract: Definite Period (One Year)

Primary Purpose

Oversees and Audits systems of the Engineering Training sections, (Mechanical Lifting and HME, Electrical, Boilermaking and lifting), to ensure Engineering artisans related training gaps are addressed. Review and consult if Engineering Training Program meets competencies to support operating targets as set annual training plans and impact business as per the company safety and health policies.

Essential Functions

The fundamental duties and functions of the job will entail auditing programs, consulting, counselling, advising and coordinating at the upper level of management to oversee if the existing Engineering Training Program aligns with international standards and is designed to deliver critical skills and expertise to positively impact business.

Planning

- Audit, evaluate, prepare plan of action to align BMSC Eng. Training with International standards
- Advise on planning and coordinating Engineering training with end user management & Trainers
- Oversee the development of training modules and align to Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's)
- Consult T&D Engineering Supervisor when ordering training equipment and recruiting external experts
- Suggest new ideas/proposals, as well as encouraging others to improve the T&D Engineering Section

Implementation

- Oversee the system alignment of engineering training team plans to business needs; conduct skills gap analysis, program implementation, assessments for certification, effectiveness and efficiency.
- Identify Engineering trainers' skills gaps; update PDPs to develop team to full competency in area of expertise.
- Coordinate with engineering area supervisors to focus training needs for artisans and assist Engineering management to review/create SOPs and achieve/exceed operational targets.
- Oversee high level safety requirements are embedded in training modules and are fulfilled at the work place, including FLRA and proper use of the appropriate PPE. Report any safety issues/incidents.
- Comply with mine's cardinal rules and other safety, environmental or other rules and standards as directed. Ensure all hazards and risks are identified, reported and eliminated.
- Audit/advise on necessary Engineering Training resources (people; equipment; spares/consumables; and facilities) ensuring processing utilization and cost management objectives meet or exceed targets.
- Create necessary TD Engineering training SOPs and train Trainers to develop area SOPs. Proactive interventions for continuous technical competency improvements.
- Audit competencies are achieved thru lesson quality delivery and costs are in line with budget.
- Advise appropriate level of resourcing. (Maximize efficient use of materials, tools, lifting equipment)
- Consult to create systems of engineering/mechanical training activities

according to plans, legislation, client needs. Best practices and principles to conform to standards, methods and procedures.

- Carry out routine maintenance and visual inspections within area of responsibility to identify issues.
- Align Engineering training with Mine Maintenance Operating System. Coordinate with upper Engineering Management weekly.
- Audit apprentice program and carry out with incoming Graduate trainees and new grad employees.
- Use practical hand-on logbook documented by international artisans to evaluate and council expats to meaningfully contribute to skills development of their delegates on regular basis.
- Audit existing artisan development program and Graduate Development Program if outcomes are designed to deliver desired skills and impact business positively.

Reporting & Data Control

- Review training Reports and matrices; use it to provide recommendations for systems improvement
- Advise on incorporating results from ICAM investigations, safety and procedures, in training modules
- Document all meeting minutes and communicate actions to TD reporting channel.
- Confirm that documents related to Engineering training auditing & evaluations are on TD Z-drive files.
- Report findings from audit and systems' evaluations on regular basis.
- Keep organized data of T&D Eng. staff gap analysis, PDPs and updated progress matrix.

Managing the team

- Ensure communication of plans and goals to all involved line managers, trainers and trainees.
- Provide technical support for the Engineering Training team when required.
- Advise and provide training and mentoring to all training team according to international standards (i.e. safety standards, procedures and documentation and regular reporting; both verbal and written).
- Oversee and consult that all Engineering Training personnel and external training contractors, work in accordance with safety rules, relevant laws, regulations, company policies and procedures.
- Promote good interpersonal relationship with and among Engineering trainers and Engineering management teams. Motivate all teams to become "efficient and performance driven".
- Lead team by example to improve current engineering training program systems and achieve/exceed expected competencies for their roles.
- Provide continuous technical advice and leadership. Keep abroad of relevant new technology and updated SOPs.
- Audit training and mentoring in workshop and plant safety/work procedures, technical training modules, tutoring & moderation. Provide program improvement feedback.

Unique Requirements / Other Information

- Great team building and coordination skills, Engineering SOPs knowledge in the mine industry
- High Mechanical Engineering technical trades TRAINING knowledge, work according to international standards.

Profile: Knowledge, Experience and Skills

Qualifications:

Diploma/Degree in Mechanical/Electrical Engineering

Certificate in Electrical/Mechanical Engineering Trade preferred

Trainer/Assessor certification in Engineering fields a plus



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Knowledge and Experience:	
10 - 15 years relevant experience in related Engineering Training	
5 - 10 years supervisory and management roles	
10 Years electrical/mechanical maintenance experience, installations and fault finding in HME or fixed plant	
Proven knowledge and understanding of Engineering Mechanical Training and Process management systems	
5 years FIFO expatriate	
Technical Skills	Behavioural Skills
Computer Literacy (MS Office – Intermediate, Excel – Advanced)	Communication (English) Verbal, written and e-mail
Process Plant and HME Electro-Mechanical Engineering maintenance training and environment experience	Assertiveness
Attention to detail	Good Interpersonal Relations
Analytical skill	Integrity and confidentiality
Management and strong organizational skills	Prioritizing skills & multi-skilling
Problem solving skill	Ability to work towards strict deadlines
Financial Management Skills	Coaching & Team-building skills
Strategy Exposure	Discretion
Project Management and coordination	Self-motivation

Maintenance Management and documentation	Cultural Diversity experience
Knowledge of International Standardized training Programs	Professional and respectful

General Information and other requirements:

- Place of Work: Bisha.
- Salary: As per Company salary scale.

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 would be considered as potential candidates for an interview.
- Application documents will not be returned to sender.
- All applications should be sent through the post office.
- Deadline for application: 10 days from the day of publication in the Newspaper.
- Address: Please mail your applications to;
- Bisha Mining Share Company,
- P. O. Box 4276 Asmara, Eritrea
- Note to non - Eritrean applicants:
- Please send a copy of your application to
- Aliens Employment Permit Affairs,
- P. O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea.

Newsweek: Fake, Fluff . . .

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two above mentioned reports by Newsweek, have defiled many minds over the years...

Another entity that is being used by Ethiopia and others in their campaigns against Eritrea is the reference to the “UN” or to “UN reports”, to give credence to the lies and distortions in the various news items posted. For the record, there are no “UN reports” that claim Eritrea supports Al Shabbab. The reports are produced by the Somalia Eritrea Monitoring Group (SEMG) and it has been found to be fallible. Its sources—usually Ethiopia—have made allegations that have never been substantiated. Ditto for the accusations at the UN Human Rights Council. The Special Rapporteur reproduced accusations and allegations made by Ethiopia, and her recommendations were rejected by the UN Human Rights Council in June 2016, and again in October 2016, at the UN Third Committee. Yet the western media continue to say “Eritrea has been accused by the UN”...shameless.

But it is not only Eritrea’s reputation that is being sullied by such reports. They undermine the credibility and integrity of the news outlet and in this case, Newsweek. Moore and Gaffey, both too young to know anything about Eritrea, its history and its post-independence challenges, are typical of the tech savvy online journalists today—where expediency trumps truth. Unfortunately, instead of raising Newsweek’s profile, they have succeeded in further eroding its already fledgling reputation. The once revered magazine has lost its appeal, and as Joseph Farah of the World Net Daily put it:

“...this is the Newsweek that lives on the fumes of that legacy, the Newsweek that would have long ago gone out of business had the name alone not earned a degree of respect...they should rename the magazine Newsweek...”

As one of the most widely read magazines around the world, Newsweek ought to know that, whether in print or on the internet, readers want to be better informed...with verifiable facts, and not have their intelligence insulted with tabloid like cheap productions...

The Politics Behind Eritrea’s

Continued from page 3

launch a comprehensive investigation of the act through an independent, neutral and transparent body. In the letter, President Isaias states: “Eritrea has remained to be a target of malicious and concerted practices of “human trafficking“. This despicable ploy was unleashed in tandem with the decision to block the implementation of the “final and binding” arbitration decision of the border dispute, and, is part and parcel of the war declared against the country. This crime, which is unparalleled in its magnitude, complex organization as well as immense suffering that it inculcates on its victims, continues to increase from bad to worse. The architects of this scourge have further resorted to various schemes, under suitable labels to conceal and disguise the crime as well as their real identity. Indeed, the latter machinations are not less – in intensity and impact – than the original crime.”

At the Extraordinary Session of the AU Assembly held in October 2013, Eritrea called on the AUC to study the root causes

of the problem, and investigate the criminal networks in order to take collective action at the continental level. In its conclusion, the Eritrean message reads as follows: “The transnational nature of human trafficking and smuggling makes it imperative for states - origin, transit and host - to cooperate in the investigation of the criminal activities and in the prosecution of the criminals. Regional and international organizations, such as the AU and UN also have the responsibility to utilize their wide presence to collect information and undertake serious investigations into the crimes. With this in mind, the GOE regrets that to-date there has not been any noticeable activity either by AU or UN in way of undertaking the investigations requested by Eritrea.”

All of this very clearly points at Eritrea’s consistent desire to work with any international body or country willing to sift through unverified assumptions and multiple, critical errors of fact and logic, in order to reach a lasting solution that would put an end to this highly-funded and organized crime and bring the real criminals to justice.



Q and A

Eritrean Hip-Hop Rhythms

Asmait Futusumbrhan

He introduced what was not there with his own endeavor and commitment. As the matter of fact, he can be called the father of Hip-Hop in our country. His songs portray cultural and national pride and he looks to make his career bigger than ever. Eritrea Profile presents you Temesghen Ghide, the renowned rapper.

“I believe in the fact that I don’t have to work for money, but for history”, the Eritrean rap artist Temesghen told, on the interview he made with our newspaper. He is known for his unique musical rhythms and video clips. This dedicated vocalist, song writer and director is here with us to share his journey as a musician.

Thank you for joining us today, let us start our talk by you introducing yourself to our readers.

Thank you for having me. I was born in Khartoum in 1981. Those days were the days my parents joined the armed struggle and I eventually got raised in the fields of *Beitmrti Sewra*. We came to Asmara after independence and I went to High school in Santa Anna Secondary School. Even though I was good in my studies, I didn’t manage to pass the matriculation exam. Afterwards, I joined the 7th round to do my national service.

Coming back to your professional career, Hip-hop, how did you get into it, any inspirations?

I really liked listening to the Hip-Hop music since I was young. Particularly, I was madly into 2pak’s songs, specially the one album titled “changes”. I enjoyed rapping it to my friends whom I called my *hommies*. We used to sing English songs at different parties that were hosted at the time and that was the moment when an idea of introducing hip-hop in our mother tongue popped up in my mind.

Having a strong motive to come up with a Tigrigna Hip – Hop song, I had a feeling that the Eritrean youth would accept me and that i may become an inspiration to them. I made that my number one priority. In 1997 I took Poetry lessons which NUEYS presented. People thought it was crazy at first that I would never get anywhere with that plan. I literally started banging the doors from studio to studio trying to get a record. I really worked hard. Finally in 2002, an opportunity was presented to me which gave me a breakthrough as I was approached by the Cultural Affairs to present a song in *Aba Hanni* Festival of Sawa. That is my first performance in public. It was an amazing feeling I wouldn’t forget, I have struggled a lot to be recognized as a rapper. It was a bit hard, since the society was not familiar with such types of music. But that first time performance went



great. It was a mix of traditional and modern music and it was famous for a couple of weeks I remember.

How did it go from there?

It went well. The biggest opportunities kept presenting themselves to me and I used them to my advantage. One of the great events I have participated in was an event organized for the Independence Day celebrations at Asmara Palace Hotel in 2004. It was a big event which included great musicians from Africa. I performed a song that reflects the Eritrea’s freedom while the Africans were playing as my DJ. The crowd went crazy and favored me over the African musicians because I sang in a way that touched their hearts. That was a successful moment for me.

In 2006, I came up with a song that earned me respect from my fans and numerous musicians. It was “Alemuye”, a kunama song which was played by the traditional music instrument *Abangala*. I used to appreciate the song, especially the melody; it is an emotional song. I want my works to be reflections of my environment and people. Art is a reflection of the society. Our beauty lies within the diverse cultures and ethnic groups. I want to tell the world how beautiful the Eritrean culture and history are through my music. In a type of music the youngster would relate. So, I remixed this song with its original singer who was travelling to Barentu and I sent it to the competition for the African Awards.

Unfortunately, it wasn’t enough to win the contest.

Any reason you might think that it wasn’t among the winners?

It was probably the quality of the video and the editing. We didn’t have the sophisticated software we have now for the video making at that time but it could be one of the reasons. I am sure if we had the materials that we have now, it would have been among the winners or would be acknowledged as one of the African songs. However, I was satisfied because I earned many fans through the song got recognized and respected as well by my society.

Any challenges as a first Eritrean Rapper....?

Of course. Plenty as a matter of fact. As I said earlier, people didn’t really understand the music. They thought it was a joke, but I had a target to introduce hip-hop in my language, to upgrade the standard of Eritrean music. Most of all, I wanted to tell our story, share our culture and offer something to our young brothers and sisters. For instance, in one of my songs I try to explain how the Eritrean mothers are. Eritrean mother is as strong as a lion and would do anything to protect her family. I wanted the song to make our youngsters realize how their mothers are and how much they should appreciate and respect them. That is what I tried to reflect in it.

In comparison to my relentless

efforts and time, people haven’t failed me. I got their full acceptance for my music. So far I have been able to present over 20 songs to the public.

You write your songs and you have a big part in directing music clips as well.

You can say that. I wrote almost all of my songs. With regards to directing, I have the habit of watching western video clips. Thus, I also wanted to bring the best in our music



Making a clip for one of his songs

clips. I have directed over 50 video clips to date and I am still working to upgrade my skills.

Tell us about one of your recent works.

I recently presented a song that got high acceptance by the audience titled “Alena Do?” featuring Nahom

Yohannes. It is a song that represents the Eritrean people and the harmony they have. I directed the video and it was a success. Recently, I just finished another song which will get released to the public soon. Hope everyone enjoys it.

Care to share your future plans?

I want to keep working hard and bringing good music top songs to my fans and society. I want to work to make Eritrean music well recognized in the world, and particularly in

Africa. It really doesn’t matter if it is my music or any other Eritrean musician; I just look forward to making this happen soon.

Further, I want to motivate the young Hip-Hop artists to work hard and come up with great works. There should be contests to yield professional rappers. I believe that progress is shown when competitions are presented. We can all bring our best if we compete with each other. And I hope that many artist would be motivated enough in this filed.

Anyone or any party you want to forward your gratitude?

My family has always supported me immensely in my career. Friends and loved ones who contributed in me also deserve gratitude. It is because of them and everyone who cared about me that I am where I am today. I thank you all, including Eritrea Profile.



Directing a video clip