

20TH CONFERENCE OF YPFDJ ORGANIZATION IN EUROPE



The YPFDJ organization in Europe successfully concluded its 20th conference in Switzerland, held under the theme, "20 Years Journey for Nurturing Conscious, Committed, and Capable Youth." The conference, which opened on 3 April and concluded on 5 April, was attended by members from 10 European countries.

Speaking at the opening event on 3 April, Mr. Fesehatsion Petros, Eritrea's Ambassador to Italy and coordinator of Eritrean Embassies in Europe, said that the YPFDJ has played a significant role in foiling external conspiracies against the country through strengthening organizational capacity and participation in national affairs.

Underlining that the history of Eritrea is the history of the youth, Ambassador Fesehatsion called on the youth to equip themselves with the necessary skills and education, enhance their awareness, and strengthen their



organization so that they inherit the history and values of their society.

Mr. Habtom Zeray, Charge d'Affaires at the Eritrean Embassy in Switzerland and Eritrea's Permanent Representative to the UN Human Rights Council, noting that youth who are proud of the culture and values of their society are the product of that society, expressed the significance of such a conference in nurturing competent youth who adhere to noble societal values and strengthen participation in national affairs. He also called for the active participation of national associations in supporting the activities of the YPFDJ organization in all its endeavours.

Noting that the conference has significant contribution in transferring noble societal values to the young generation and enabling them to share experiences with one another, Mr. Ismail Mohammed-Nur, head of Public and Community Affairs in Switzerland,

commended those who contributed to the successful implementation of the conference.

Mr. Michael Haile, chairman of the YPFDJ, on his part, gave an extensive briefing on the 20-year journey of the organization and expressed readiness to strengthen participation in national affairs by reinforcing organizational capacity and unity.

Over the course of three days, the conference featured research papers and lectures on key themes, including: the concept of nation and nationality from Eritrea's perspective; role of national organizations in nation-building; Eritrea's strategic position; the role of youth in national development endeavors; the contributions of Eritrean youth both at home and abroad; the enduring resilience of the Eritrean people rooted in self-reliance and strategic achievements; and the importance of public diplomacy.

More than 600 youth representatives from Switzerland, Germany, the Netherlands, the UK, France, Norway, Italy, Sweden, Finland, and Denmark took part in the event.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR STUDENTS OF MAI-NEFHI COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

The National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students branch of Sawa and Higher Education Institutions has provided vocational training to 217 students, including 120 female students of Mai-Nefhi College of Engineering and Technology.

The training, provided alongside their regular college education, covered basic Arabic language, graphics, and ideology.

Noting the significance of acquainting students with technology alongside their academic education, Mr. Abel Yohannes, head of the union branch at the college, called

on the trainees to practically apply the knowledge they gained from the training.

Ms. Mensura Ismail, head of the union branch of Sawa and Higher Education Institutions, noting that a strong society builds a strong country, said that the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students is earnestly working to realize its objectives and mission by designing a clear strategy.

In the same vein, Tsaeda Kristain Secondary School in Berik sub-zone has encouraged outstanding students who scored a higher GPA in the School Leaving National Examination.



WORLD HEALTH DAY OBSERVED AT NATIONAL LEVEL



World Health Day, 07 April, has been observed at the national level at the National Confederation of Eritrean Workers Hall in Asmara under the theme "Together for Health: Stand with Science," featuring various programs marking the day.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Andebrhan Tesfatsion, Acting Director General of Public Health at the Ministry of Health, noting that the success of health care service is ensured through integrated and measurable efforts, said that the foundation of health care service in Eritrea is based on a strong health care system.

Noting the five-year strategic plan of the health sector for 2026-

2030, Dr. Andebrhan said that enhancing universal health coverage, strengthening health safety through an improved system, as well as ensuring a reliable integrated and administrative mechanism are among the main programs.

Dr. Mary Stephen, WHO Country Representative in Eritrea, and Mr. Abdullahi Mohammed, UNICEF Country Representative, said that in Eritrea, the implementation of proven public health interventions has improved health outcomes.

Dr. Mary said that in Eritrea, as a result of public health intervention, life expectancy at birth has increased from 55 to 68 years, under-five mortality has declined by 78%, and maternal mortality has declined by 60%.

The event also featured a general knowledge competition, and awards were handed out to the winners.

World Health Day is being observed for the 78th time at the international level and for the 30th time at the national level.



CONFERENCE FOCUSING ON ENSURING THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

A conference focusing on ensuring the rights of women and children, as well as the eradication of harmful practices in general, and underage marriage and female genital mutilation in particular, was conducted in the port city of Massawa from 30 March to 3 April.

At the conference, which was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare branch and the committee overseeing the rights of women and children, it was reported that encouraging results have been registered in some villages in the Massawa sub-zone.

Noting the physical and psychological negative consequences of harmful practices, Mr. Ismail Osman, acting head of the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare branch in the sub-zone, said that strong efforts

have been exerted in collaboration with partners to eradicate harmful practices. He also said that, since the sub-zone has a comparative advantage in terms of village regrouping, harmful practices could be eradicated more easily through strong effort.

Mr. Haile Asfaha, administrator of the sub-zone, noting that harmful practices indicate a low level of public

awareness, called for coordinated awareness-raising activities aimed at enhancing public understanding and participation in the eradication of the practices.

The participants conducted extensive discussion on the issues raised at the conference and expressed readiness to strengthen participation in the eradication of harmful practices.



Development

A Model Female Farmer's Story Innovation in Action: Transforming Livelihoods Through Integrated Farming

Thanks to the diligent efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), significant progress has been made in empowering women. The following is a success story of an exemplary female farmer. Ms. Etsegenet Uqbay lives in the administrative village of Adimengoti, Mendefera Sub-zone, in the Southern Zone. She is married and has children. When her husband's health got worse, a turning point in the family's life came. Life became so hard for the family. It was during that hard time that she started to think of ways to solve the economic hardship the family was facing.

She believed any permanent solution could only be achieved through hard work and self-reliance. She decided to invest in agriculture. But, she had to start from scratch. She bought 300 chickens from the MoA. When 70% of the chickens grew up, she was encouraged by the initial achievement. She bought 300 chickens again, and the result was so inspiring. She

was able to satisfy not only the needs of her family but also went beyond that and started selling eggs. She didn't feel complacent about her achievements. She aimed higher and, through the assistance and consultation of the MoA experts, she ventured into an integrated family agriculture in her compound. She bought a heifer and began breeding cattle. As a result, she currently gets adequate milk for herself and for sale. Through the use of hydroponics (a method of growing plants without soil), she provided feed for her chickens and cow. She got the idea of producing green feed through hydroponics - an idea introduced to her by MoA experts. She found the technique to be simple because it didn't require much effort and

solution to the knowledge gap she had.

She immediately started to put the advice into practice. She found out that feeding chickens with green feed was very productive and practical. Chicken fed green feed laid eggs with yellow yolks. She then decided to feed her cows and chickens green feed and to focus largely on producing it. In recognition of her efforts and determination, the MoA branch office of the Mendefera sub-zone provided further impetus to her achievement. They provided her with materials and consultations. For example, the MoA's branch office provided her with iron-made equipment for hydroponic production.

Her vision went beyond that. She took more initiative in her small compound. To satisfy her family's needs, she planted fruit trees such as papaya, guava, peach, apple, lemon, and mango, and most of them have already begun to bear fruit. It all went as planned.

Her achievement elicited a positive response from members and experts at the MoA branch office in the Mendefera Sub-Zone. With her consent, the MoA frontline experts selected her compound as a model of Integrated Family Agriculture. As per their plan, the MoA experts converted her compound into a training facility for farmers from within the village and the neighboring villages. Her compound became a place where trainees learned practical lessons in family agriculture. Her example was widely followed. Regarding this, Ms. Etsegenet says that noteworthy success has been achieved in training farmers in family agriculture. She adds that her house was not only where she lived but also her farmland and workplace.

Industriousness engenders pride, and the synergy of hard work and skill brings success. Believing that



those who diligently work would reap what they sow, she engaged herself in cattle breeding, poultry, and planting of fruit trees. Little by little, she attained her goals. Through self-reliance and the unrelenting assistance of the MoA

experts, she finally became self-sufficient and began selling her various agricultural produce in the market.

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was less demanding in terms of human power and finance. Beyond that, it could be implemented in a small area with small equipment. Additionally, it was convenient for the animals and positively affects the quality and quantity of the milk.

By applying the simple technology of feed preparation, she intended to replicate her successful experience in poultry milk production. One day, while she was watching an Eri-TV program on agriculture, she learned that the yolk of an egg is directly related to a chicken's intake of green feed. The piece of advice she got from the TV program was a paramount



National Animal and Plant Health Laboratory

Continued from page 8

NAPHL received recognition from the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) in 2005 with 'Rinderpest Infection Free' Award Certificate; introduced and implemented ISO/IEC 17025 Quality Management System in 2021, to secure accreditation; established five new regional laboratories across all regions, except Central region, in 2019; revised its organogram in 2025; and hosted an IAEA-organized international training program in 2024 that was attended by representatives from over ten countries, demonstrating its commitment to knowledge sharing and global collaboration.

What are the upcoming programs of the institution?

Looking ahead, NAPHL is committed to significantly elevating its services and technological capabilities through a comprehensive, multi-faceted strategy. This includes establishing itself as the benchmark for excellence in performance across both the central (NAPHL) and Regional Animal and Plant Health Laboratories (RAPHLs) - achieved through coordinated quality laboratory services, targeted training programs, expert consultation, rigorous certification processes, and comprehensive proficiency testing activities.

NAPHL will also exercise leadership

by defining and implementing national laboratory policy, providing specialized training across all areas of laboratory operations, and fostering a culture of continuous improvement.

Critically, the laboratory will develop and oversee nationwide quality improvement programs for laboratory services, ensuring the reliability of laboratory data for effective food safety management, robust quality assurance, and proactive animal and plant disease control throughout Eritrea.

This strategic framework will enable NAPHL to contribute significantly to national agricultural security and sustainable development, and ultimately bolster Eritrea's capacity to meet global standards in food safety and environmental stewardship.

Mr. Yonas, thank you, and we wish success in your programs.



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Building Learning, Building Futures

Bana Negusse

During recent weeks and months, various branches of the Ministry of Education in Eritrea have convened meetings to assess activities, review achievements, and chart plans for the future. Led by the new Minister of Education, Dr. Halima Mohammed, these gatherings have provided a valuable platform to reflect on strides made in expanding access to education, improving quality, and strengthening the teaching-learning process, while also identifying areas that still require attention. Beyond reporting statistics and infrastructure updates, the meetings have



highlighted a broader vision for Eritrea's education system that emphasizes equality, innovation, and collaboration between schools, communities, and families.

A central theme in many of these discussions has been the remarkable progress achieved in expanding access to education across the country. Quietly, Eritrea has recorded notable improvements in literacy rates among both adults and youth, with particularly strong gains among younger generations. School enrolment has steadily increased, accompanied by meaningful strides in reducing gender disparities and extending educational opportunities to rural and previously underserved communities. The construction of schools and learning institutions nationwide further reflects this commitment to widening access. These achievements are rooted in Eritrea's longstanding emphasis on social justice and equality, where education is regarded as a central pillar of national development. This focus traces back to the era of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front, during which the freedom movement actively worked to combat illiteracy in liberated areas while simultaneously laying the foundation for organized schooling systems.

Despite these noteworthy advances, expanding access remains an ongoing priority. The government continues to invest in building new schools, particularly in rural and remote areas, while expanding boarding facilities to accommodate better students who live far from existing institutions. Efforts are also underway to establish more libraries and community learning spaces to serve adults and other out-of-school learners.

At the same time, particular attention is being given to early childhood education, where enrolment in pre-primary programs has increased

significantly in recent years, reflecting the government's growing commitment to this stage of learning. Initiatives to expand kindergartens and early learning institutions further underscore the importance of providing strong educational foundations from the outset.

Another critical focus has been raising the quality of education across all levels. The government is strengthening efforts to provide improved teaching and learning materials, updating curricula to meet the evolving needs of students and the nation, and expanding teacher training programs to equip Eritrean educators with modern pedagogical skills. Notably, materials continue to be developed in all of the country's languages in line with the mother language learning policy, which enhances

comprehension and engagement among young learners. These measures are particularly impactful in rural and underserved communities, where improved resources and instruction can significantly influence literacy, comprehension, and overall educational outcomes. Collectively, these efforts reflect a commitment to building an education system that is both equitable and high-quality, preparing students for further learning and active participation in national development.

Building on these quality improvements, ongoing discussions also emphasize equipping students with practical skills to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving workforce. In this context, the government is expanding technical and vocational education and training (TVET) programs and promoting the integration of information and communication technology (ICT) throughout classrooms and institutions. These initiatives aim to ensure that students acquire not only knowledge but also the skills and competencies necessary to thrive in a modern, digital economy.

Personally, as a tech enthusiast, I have been particularly excited to read and hear about these ongoing ICT initiatives. Beyond enhancing learning outcomes, they help students remain adaptable and prepared for the demands of a rapidly changing world. As an illustration, providing additional solar power support to schools strengthens these efforts by ensuring technology tools are consistently available, giving educators greater flexibility in how and when they deliver lessons, particularly in areas with limited electricity.

O f
course,



strengthening education in Eritrea also relies on strategic partnerships that complement national efforts. Many partners who have been active in the country provide expertise, resources, and technical support to help address local gaps, from teacher training to infrastructure and technology integration. These collaborations are built on trust and mutual respect, ensuring that interventions align with Eritrea's priorities and respond to the specific needs of communities. Crucially, and in contradistinction to many other contexts, Eritrea maintains a leadership role in these relationships, with partners supporting the country's

Importantly, the Minister has repeatedly emphasized the importance of active participation by families and youth in the education system. Students' success is not the sole responsibility of schools and teachers; it requires a collective approach involving parents, families, communities, and social institutions. Against this backdrop, ongoing initiatives across the country aim to strengthen parental and community engagement, recognizing that meaningful collaboration is essential to sustaining and enhancing educational outcomes nationwide.



own objectives rather than driving external agendas. By fostering partnerships that are both collaborative and locally grounded, Eritrea's education system can advance more effectively while ensuring sustainable, context-sensitive progress.

Looking ahead, the meetings during the past weeks and months underscore that Eritrea's education system is not only consolidating past achievements but also actively charting a path toward the future. Progress in access, literacy, and gender equality demonstrates what can be accomplished when education is treated as a national priority grounded in social justice. At the same time, continued efforts to improve quality, integrate ICT, expand TVET opportunities, and involve families and communities signal a forward-looking approach that prepares students for the challenges of a rapidly changing world. By linking access, equity, quality, innovation, and collective responsibility, Eritrea is shaping an education system that empowers its youth and supports sustainable national development for years to come.

SpotLight

By Mussie Efrim

Mount Elite: A Sanctuary of Heritage and Resistance

To visit the Gash-Barka region is to step into a landscape where nature and history are inseparably linked. Renowned for its vast, striking vistas and the warm hospitality of its local communities, the region serves as a vibrant sanctuary for Eritrean heritage.

Gash-Barka is a land naturally endowed with majestic mountains, expansive plains, lush forests, and an intricate network of rivers, including the Gash, Barka, Mogoraib, Sawa, Shiglet, and the Setit. Beyond its geographical magnificence, the region holds immense historical wealth as the ancestral home of Eritrea's earliest Nilotic inhabitants—the Nara and Kunama ethnic groups—alongside other communities possessing deep cultural lineages. Its history is defined by a legacy of resistance against various invaders and oppressors, while also serving as the nation's birthplace and strategic stronghold in its armed struggle for independence. This harmonious blend of natural beauty and historical significance makes Gash-Barka a truly unique region.

Among the most captivating treasures of Gash-Barka is Mount Elite, a magnificent historical site located 12 kilometers from the town of Haikota. With its towering rock formations and diverse flora, Mount Elite stands as a silent witness to the region's rich heritage, inviting travelers and historians alike to explore its rugged peaks and discover the stories etched into its stones.

The name "Mount Elite" is more than just a geographical designation; it honors the community that has inhabited its slopes for generations. These residents belong to the Nara ethnic group, primarily indigenous to the fertile plains and rugged hills of Gash-Barka. While they are part of the broader Nara group, the Elite are distinguished by a unique

culture and a localized dialect.

This linguistic distinction is likely the outcome of specialized cultural development, shaped by the mountain's defensive terrain, which allowed the community to preserve its specific traditions and speech patterns over centuries. For the Elite community, the mountain was not merely a place of residence but a vital sanctuary that guarded their unique identity.

At the base of the mountain lie the expansive caves of Sarima, marking the beginning of a landscape defined by dense indigenous trees, rugged rock formations, and wild grasses. A thirty-minute trek upward leads to an area known as Degrelega (the Lower Land), the ancestral home of the Elite community.

Spanning approximately 200 to 300 meters, this site is a

traveler to Tingalega (the Upper Land), a vast plateau five to six times larger than the lower grounds. This area serves as a remarkable open-air museum, most notably for its unique graveyard. Tingalega is home to over 50 large communal burial vaults.

Unlike traditional individual graves, each vault belongs to a specific family line. These vaults feature internal stairs for access; when a family member passes away, the vault is opened, and the deceased is laid to rest alongside their ancestors before the chamber is resealed. This enduring tradition of multi-generational burial highlights the profound social and familial cohesion of the Elite community.

The spiritual heart of the mountain is also found in Tingalega, which hosts three ancient mosques. Though these



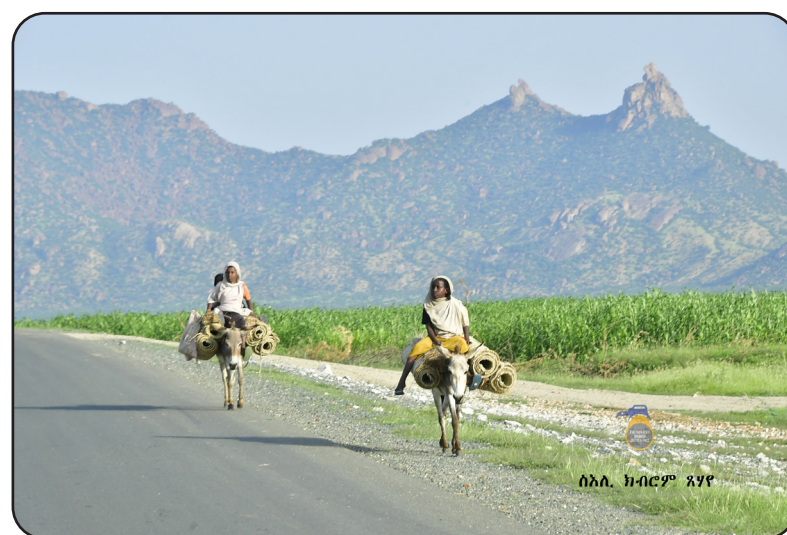
historical fortress of survival. For generations, the Elite community used the natural cover of Degrelega to evade enemy forces during the Haile Selassie and Derg regimes. Its military significance dates back even further to the late 19th century, when it served as a primary defensive line against the Mahdist (Dervish) invasions, underscoring its long-standing role as a sanctuary of resistance.

Continuing the ascent for another 20 minutes brings the

sacred sites lack modern walls or formal architectural structures, they remain powerful centers of faith. The Elite community continues to gather here for special religious occasions and pilgrimages. The mosques are named after prominent figures from the Merghani family: Sayyid Bekri Merghani, Sayyid Ja'far Merghani, and Sayyid Hashim Merghani.

To the northwest of Tingalega lies one of the mountain's most awe-inspiring features: massive caves. This subterranean system consists of interconnected chambers that ascend through the heart of the mountain. While narrow shafts of natural light pierce through the ceiling in certain sections, other parts remain engulfed in total darkness, requiring artificial light to navigate.

These caves are vast enough to



provide sanctuary for thousands of people at once. These natural strongholds allowed the community to conceal itself from invading forces. Within this hidden world lies a natural reservoir that once gathered water from internal streams, ensuring that those seeking refuge could survive for long periods deep inside the earth.

The history of the Elite community is literally etched into the landscape of both Degrelega and Tingalega. Scattered among the ruins of their former settlements are various stone artifacts that offer a window into their daily lives. Visitors can still find finely carved stone tools, including traditional grain mills and specialized presses used for extracting oil from seeds. Fragments of ancient pottery and expert craftsmanship are also abundant throughout the site.

Mount Elite is not only a historical monument but also a haven for biodiversity. The mountain's rugged terrain is home to a wide array of wildlife, including leopards, baboons, warthogs, and various antelope species, such as the Gazelle and Oryx.

The skies and cliffs are populated by guinea fowls and a diverse range of birds, while pythons, hyenas, and porcupines share the ground. This rich fauna is supported by a dense botanical garden of indigenous trees, including the Chegono, Kermad, Habene, Mosogwa, and the iconic Arkobkobay, creating a lush green canopy against the stark mountain rocks.

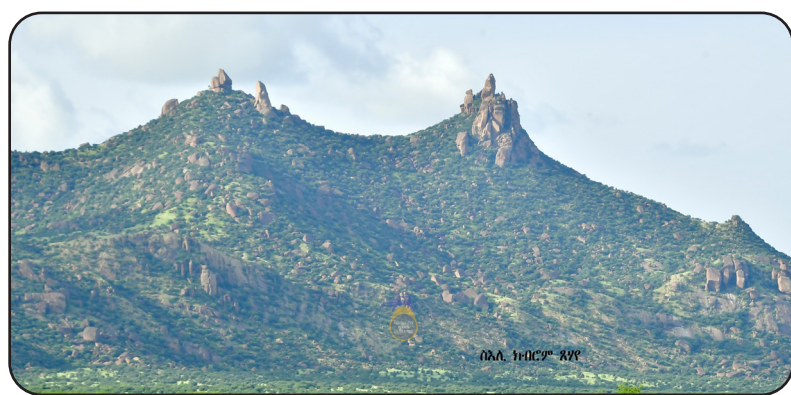
Mount Elite is also home to a

heroic history from the late 19th century, during the Mahdist (Dervish) invasions from Sudan. As the Mahdist forces swept across the Gash-Barka plains, the Elite community organized a formidable resistance.

As the Mahdist army—composed of thousands of infantry and cavalry armed with high-quality Kurajo swords—attempted to ascend the mountain, the Elite defenders at Degrelega unleashed massive boulders from the heights. This unexpected bombardment crushed the front lines and dealt a major blow to the invaders.

Those who survived the boulders and reached the upper heights of Tingalega found themselves trapped in a geographic bottleneck with no escape. There, the Elite warriors engaged them in fierce combat using spears and swords. They also utilized a primitive but effective gunpowder weapon called the "Nus"—a wooden-mounted tube used to fire explosives.

The Mahdist force was almost annihilated; the only survivors were a few soldiers who had remained at the base to guard the horses. The victory was so absolute that the Elite community captured a significant bounty of weapons and horses. Local oral tradition maintains that the distinct breed of horses found in the area today is the direct descendant of the Mahdist cavalry horses captured during that historic battle. This enduring legacy serves as a living reminder of a time when the community of Mount Elite used their natural environment and their courage to defend their sovereignty against all odds.



OPINION

Revamping Eritrea's Tourism in the Digital Age

Irdi Issaias

As the world becomes increasingly interconnected and travel is on the rise, Eritrea is poised to burst onto the global stage, emerging as a hidden gem on the African continent. Once overlooked by the tourism industry, the country is now being rediscovered by a new generation of entrepreneurs and innovators.

From the ancient ruins that whisper tales of the past to the bustling cities that beat to a lively rhythm, and from the stunning beachside resorts that shimmer like diamonds in the sunlight to the thriving eco-tourism experiences that showcase the country's unique beauty, Eritrea is a destination that offers something truly special. With its warm hospitality and unassuming charm, Eritrea is ready to welcome visitors with open arms and leave them with unforgettable memories.

Eritrea's tourism industry is on the cusp of a new era of growth, thanks to a new generation of skilled, motivated professionals at the helm who are driving innovation and growth. With combined knowledge and expertise, they are creating a range of innovative and immersive tourist experiences that will leave visitors in awe of Eritrea's hidden treasures.

The advent of information technology has revolutionized the way we live and work, creating a more interconnected and collaborative world. The rapid advancement of

been actively pursuing policies and programs to harness technology's potential to drive economic growth. The government has taken a proactive approach to digitize its education infrastructure, with the primary goal of promoting a culture of literacy and lifelong learning, and creating a more inclusive and accessible educational environment, where students and researchers can gain access to high-quality educational and digital resources, including e-books, online databases, and digital collections.

This initiative is helping to create a more inclusive and connected community, where everyone has access to the information and opportunities they need to thrive. In addition to government initiatives, many private enterprises are also leveraging digital channels to build stronger relationships with their customers. By sharing information about their products, services, and operations with customers through online platforms and social media, these companies aim to enhance customer engagement and satisfaction, ultimately driving growth and competitiveness in the market.

Advances in technology undoubtedly have the potential to significantly transform the travel experience for both passengers and processors. Innovations such as mobile apps, digital check-in systems, and augmented reality (AR) have transformed the way travelers interact with destinations

growth and competitiveness.

However, growth must go hand-in-hand with responsibility. Before implementing digital processes, both public and private institutions must establish a comprehensive framework to ensure responsible and sustainable use of technology. This includes developing and implementing clear guidelines and policies, providing comprehensive employee training programs, ensuring adequate IT infrastructure and equipment, and implementing robust data security measures. Additionally, it is essential to establish metrics and benchmarks to measure the effectiveness and adoption of digital technologies, enabling informed decision-making and continuous improvement of digital practices.

To stay informed and prepared for their trips, travelers can benefit from a wide range of digital solutions. Online resources, such as digital maps and websites, provide them with valuable information about their destination. Social media platforms, including YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, are also popular sources of information, offering a wealth of knowledge and insights about a place. Another useful tool is Augmented Reality (AR), which enables tourists to gain a deeper understanding of the site. For instance, a tourist visiting the archaeological site of Adulis can use AR to access real-time information about the site, including its features, feedback from previous visitors, and even interactive 3D models.

Online booking of hotel rooms and flights is a sophisticated technology that offers numerous benefits, including saving time, reducing costs, eliminating paperwork, and increasing efficiency. One of the most significant benefits is the time-saving aspect, allowing guests to quickly and easily book their stay without spending hours searching for options or dealing with lengthy booking processes. Additionally, the cost savings are substantial, eliminating the need for paper-based documentation and reducing associated administrative burdens.

Advances in digital technology are accelerating at an unprecedented pace, opening up exciting possibilities for innovation in the tourism industry. With the rapid pace of technological progress, it

is difficult to predict exactly what will emerge. Still, one thing is certain: the tourism industry will be significantly impacted by new and exciting digital transformation opportunities.

To maintain a competitive edge in the rapidly evolving tourism industry, Eritrea's service providers must cultivate an adaptable, innovative mindset and



a commitment to ongoing learning. By proactively embracing technological innovations, they can stay ahead of the curve and drive sustainable growth, but this requires a strategic approach. They must stay informed about new developments and be willing to invest time and resources in mitigating potential risks and negative impacts, rather than simply adopting new technologies for the sake of progress.

While the benefits of technological advancements are clear, it is also imperative to acknowledge the potential social risks associated with these innovations. New technologies pose significant challenges to the livelihoods of millions of individuals, particularly those in the workforce, and may even widen existing employment inequalities. To remain relevant and competitive, the tourism sector must take a proactive approach to address the skills gap and the digital shift, investing in human capital development and staying informed about the latest trends and impacts on the job market.

As the tourism sector becomes increasingly reliant on interconnected computer systems, the risk of cyberattacks, including data breaches, phishing, and unauthorized financial transactions, grows exponentially, posing significant threats to the organization's customer information and the country's reputation. To mitigate these risks, our tourism industry must prioritize robust cybersecurity measures and invest in staff education and

awareness programs. By doing so, Eritrea can minimize the risk of cyberattacks, protect sensitive customer information, and maintain the trust and confidence of its valued guests.

The rapid pace of technological advancements and their impact on globalization have also sparked intense debates about the preservation of local cultures, as globalization has blurred cultural

boundaries and eroded traditional practices. As innovations like social media, the internet, and mobile phones have spread rapidly, many Western traditions have seeped into indigenous cultures, threatening the very essence of these communities' unique identities. This has become an insurmountable challenge, as the rapid dissemination of cultural influences has eroded the distinctiveness of indigenous cultures, rendering them increasingly vulnerable to cultural contamination.

To address potential risks posed by technological innovation, governments must establish and enforce policies to regulate the use of unregulated technology across sectors, including tourism. The integration of technology in tourism is expected to drive positive change, including increased efficiency and sustainability, ultimately leading to economic growth and a better quality of life for citizens, while also preserving the country's cultural heritage.

With this in mind, tourism operators in Eritrea are expected to pioneer innovative, eco-friendly, and socially responsible practices that propel economic growth, protect the country's rich cultural heritage, and minimize environmental footprint. By embracing cutting-edge technologies and adopting a forward-thinking approach, Eritrea can unlock new opportunities for sustainable tourism development and position itself as a responsible and attractive destination for travelers.



telecommunications, mobile networks, GPS, satellite navigation systems, and artificial intelligence (AI) has enabled instant communication and seamless collaboration, unlocking vast opportunities to access information and ideas from anywhere in the world, and redefining the boundaries of global connectivity.

The government of Eritrea has

and services. This has enabled faster, more convenient, and more efficient travel processes, while also delivering a range of enhanced hospitality services, including online reservations and e-marketing, reporting and document handling, and feedback and review systems, which have significantly improved the customer experience and contributed to the industry's



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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Bisha Mining Share Company is inviting applicants for the following positions

1. **Position: Condition Based Monitoring Engineer**
Department: Processing and Underground Operations
Section: Process Plant-Maintenance
Number required: One (01)

Primary Purpose

- Responsible for carry out routine and non-routine machinery condition monitoring data collection effectively and safely using data collectors. Interpret collected data and create reports with recommendations and actions required by maintenance teams.
- Support asset teams in troubleshooting and implementation of improvement initiatives.
- Training of Reliability & CBM nationals to ensure competency within a two-year period.

Essential Functions

- Assists CBM Technicians to collect required data as required by the CBM program, this includes vibration, thermography, oil sampling, gap measuring, thickness testing, Lazer alignment.
- Ensure the data collected is accurate and then analyse and create reports highlighting and degradation in equipment performance and efficiency levels and recommend remedial actions for the maintenance teams.
- Train and mentor, the national team members to ensure they are effective and competent is as short a time as possible.

TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS

- Control the Maintenance on the Condition Functioning
- Planning and Scheduling
- Health and Safety
- Administration and Training

Unique requirements/other information

- Candidate must be physically medically fit
- Candidate must be technical education background and maintenance Qualified
- Must be able to work outside exposed to Heat ,wind and dusty environments
- Must be able to work at Heights.

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
Mechanical Engineering Degree/ Diploma	3 – 4 years relevant experience in condition monitoring and predictive maintenance in mineral process 2 - 3 Years’ experience in Mining environment
Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
- Computer Literacy (MS Office – limited requirement, In-house software system – limited requirement) - Technical skill - Figure analysis skill - Problem solving skill - Safety reporting and actions	- Communication (English an Local language advantage) - Behavioural relations skill - Teamwork - Integrity - Cultural Diversity

2. **Position: HME Reliability Engineer**
Department: Mining
Section: HME Maintenance
Number required: One (01)

Primary Purpose

- Reporting to the HME Engineer, the Reliability Engineer is responsible for ensuring that heavy mobile equipment (HME) and systems consistently perform at the required levels of reliability, safety, and availability.
- The role focuses on proactive maintenance strategies, data-driven decision-making, and continuous improvement to reduce failures, optimize performance, and extend asset life.
- The Reliability Engineer works closely with maintenance, operations, engineering, planning, and OEM partners to deliver sustainable improvements across both fixed plant and mobile equipment

Essential Functions

- The position will report to the HME Engineer and the duties will include, but not limited to, the following:
- Promote safe, healthy and fair work environment

- Develop standard safe working procedures and actively participate in HSE initiatives.
- Carry out formal workplace inspections on a routine basis.
- Assist in the set-up CM (Condition Monitoring) and Reliability process at Mobile Equipment maintenance
- Assist to set up condition monitoring systems on site.
- To set up design systems and document management systems.
- To set up continuous improvement processes.
- Lead condition monitoring functions:
- Analyze the electronic data (VIMS, ET).
- Oil condition Analysis (fluid degradation) using established guidelines and Trend analysis.
- Oil contamination Analysis (Detection of contaminants) using established guidelines
- Component Wear Rate (Evaluate the wear) using Trend Analysis and Wear Tables and Type of wear
- Collect the information of magnetic plugs/magnetic screen condition and elaborate a database of the inspections.
- Lead reliability functions:
- Participate in implementing reliability improvement initiatives in conjunction with the equipment asset multi-cultural teams.
- Actively seek and identify Equipment performance opportunities together with maintenance team and execute plans to improve performance and/or cost efficiency
- Review equipment performance for efficiency/operability improvement and provide financial justification for related capital projects.
- Provide support to the sections for RCA and lead RCA investigations into significant incidents as necessary.
- Collaborating with BMSC Maintenance teams and related functions to optimize efficiencies
- Evaluate equipment performance to identify and initiate development opportunities.
- Review equipment performance for efficiency/operability improvement and provide financial justification for related capital projects.
- Support failure, root cause, and incident investigations and develop recommendations and action plans to prevent recurrence

TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS

- Behavioural and Technical
- Safety, Health & Environment
- Reliability practices
- Operations & Service Delivery
- Technical and Financial Budgeting and Forecasting
- People Management

Unique requirements/other information

- The candidate must be Physically and Medically fit.
- Please note this job description is not designed to cover or contain a comprehensive listing of activities, duties or responsibilities that are required of the employee for this job. Duties, responsibilities and activities may change at any time with or without notice.

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
- Bachelor’s degree or diploma in Mechanical, Electrical, or Reliability Engineering, Condition Monitoring or trade qualification with extensive reliability experience in HME. - Technical engineering trade or equivalent within the mechanical profession will be advantageous. - Certificate in Planned maintenance systems or equivalent 4 Years experience in a supervisory role in a mining environment.	- Minimum 10+ years’ experience in mining, mineral processing, power generation, or heavy industry, with demonstrated experience leading condition monitoring and reliability functions in operational environments. - Minimum 4 Years’ experience in HME Mobile plant as a planned maintenance Supervisor - Underground HME experience will be advantageous - Previous expatriate assignment experience will be required - Strategic HME planning experience will be highly advantageous - Must be a holder of a valid driver’s licence
Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills



Continued from page 6

• Writing of technical reports • Good communication skills on technical level • Ability to understand trending (SOS Samples, Wear rate etc) • Use the technical documentation of the manufacturers • Computer Literacy (MS Office – Intermediate and Excel – Advanced, In-house software) • Theoretical understanding and practical implementation of safety management • Maintenance Planning • Maintenance Strategy • Planning & Organizing • Condition Monitoring.	• Strong problem-solving and analytical skills • Ability to influence and engage cross-functional teams • Clear communicator at operational and leadership levels • Structured, disciplined, and outcomes-focused • Strong safety leadership and risk awareness • Structured, disciplined, and continuous improvement focused • Able to coach & mentor national workforce • Committed to the organizational ethics • Driving for best result • Strive for quality • Practice ethical leadership • Independent and responsible, able to make decisions. • Observer, with a good spirit of analysis and synthesis.
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Position: HME Reliability Supervisor

Department: Mining
Section: HME Maintenance
Number required: One (01)

Primary Purpose

- Reporting to the Reliability Engineer, the Reliability Supervisor is responsible for supporting the performance, reliability, and longevity of mobile mining equipment.
- This role involves leading tribological analysis, developing lubrication strategies, and driving improvements in equipment reliability through data-driven insights.

Essential Functions

- The position will report to the HME Engineer and the duties will include, but not limited to, the following:
- Promote safe, healthy and fair work environment
 - Develop standard safe working procedures and actively participate in HSE initiatives.
 - Carry out formal workplace inspections on a routine basis.
 - Assist in the set-up CM (Condition Monitoring) and Reliability process at Mobile Equipment maintenance
 - Assist to set up condition monitoring systems on site.
 - To set up design systems and document management systems.
 - To set up continuous improvement processes.
 - Lead condition monitoring functions:
 - Analyze the electronic data (VIMS, ET).
 - Oil condition Analysis (fluid degradation) using established guidelines and Trend analysis.
 - Oil contamination Analysis (Detection of contaminants) using established guidelines
 - Component Wear Rate (Evaluate the wear) using Trend Analysis and Wear Tables and Type of wear
 - Collect the information of magnetic plugs/magnetic screen condition and elaborate a database of the inspections.
 - Lead reliability functions:
 - Participate in implementing reliability improvement initiatives in conjunction with the equipment asset multi-cultural teams.
 - Actively seek and identify Equipment performance opportunities together with maintenance team and execute plans to improve performance and/or cost efficiency
 - Review equipment performance for efficiency/operability improvement and provide financial justification for related capital projects.
 - Provide support to the sections for RCA and lead RCA investigations into significant incidents as necessary.
 - Collaborating with BMSC Maintenance teams and related functions to optimize efficiencies
 - Evaluate equipment performance to identify and initiate development opportunities.
 - Review equipment performance for efficiency/operability improvement and provide financial justification for related capital projects.
 - Support failure, root cause, and incident investigations and develop recommendations and action plans to prevent recurrence

TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS

- Behavioural
- Technical
- Safety, Health & Environment
- Reliability practices

- Operations & Service Delivery
- Technical and Financial Budgeting and Forecasting
- People Management

Unique requirements/other information

- Please note this job description is not designed to cover or contain a comprehensive listing of activities, duties or responsibilities that are required of the employee for this job. Duties, responsibilities and activities may change at any time with or without notice.
- The candidate must be Physically and Medically fit.

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
• Mechanical Engineers Degree or diploma or equivalent within the mechanical profession • Certificate or diploma in Planned maintenance systems or equivalent will be advantageous • 5 Years experience in a supervisory role in a mining environment.	• 5 Years’ experience in HME Mobile plant as a planned maintenance or condition monitoring Supervisor • Previous expatriate assignment experience will be required • Strategic HME planning experience will be highly advantageous • Must be a holder of a valid driver’s licence.
Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
• Writing of technical reports • Good communication skills on technical level • Ability to understand trending (SOS Samples, Wear rate etc) • Use the technical documentation of the manufacturers • Computer Literacy (MS Office – Intermediate and Excel – Advanced, In-house software) • Theoretical understanding and practical implementation of safety management • Maintenance Planning • Maintenance Strategy • Planning & Organizing • Condition Monitoring	• Strong problem-solving and analytical skills • Clear communicator at operational and leadership levels • Structured, disciplined, and outcomes-focused • Strong safety leadership and risk awareness • Structured, disciplined, and continuous improvement focused • Able to coach & mentor national workforce • Committed to the organizational ethics • Driving for best result • Strive for quality • Independent and responsible, able to make decisions. • Observer, with a good spirit of analysis and synthesis. • Rigorous, organized, methodical and persistent. • Adhering to principles & values • Relating and Networking.

General Information and other requirements:

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

Additional requirements for Nationals:

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

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

Note to Eritrean applicants:

Please send a copy of your application to:

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



Mission and Achievements of the National Animal and Plant Health Laboratory

Kidane – Shimendi

Mr. Yonas, let's begin with the historical development of NAPHL.

Our guest today is Mr. Yonas Gherbredhin Tesfamariam, quality manager of the National Animal and Plant Health Laboratory (NAPHL). NAPHL was established to ensure food security by safeguarding the health of animals and plants. Since its foundation, it has achieved so much, earning applause from laboratories worldwide. Mr. Yonas earned his bachelor's degree in Animal Sciences in 1999 at the University of Asmara and his master's degree in 2017 at Hamelmalo Agricultural College.



The National Animal and Plant Health Laboratory, run by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), has a remarkable history in Eritrea. It was established in 1903 as the 'Vaccine Institute' in Villaggio, Asmara. At the time, it was a pioneering facility in Africa, responsible for exporting over eight types of viral and bacterial vaccines, primarily to Central African nations and the Middle East.

Over the past century, the laboratory has consistently adapted to changes, undergoing four distinct phases: initially as the 'Vaccine Institute' (1903-1925); transitioning to the 'Animal Health Institute' (AHI) – 1925-1972 – focusing on disease diagnosis, research, and public health; followed by the 'Central Veterinary Laboratory' (CVL) – 1973-2003 – specializing in animal disease diagnostics; and finally formally renamed NAPHL in 2003, broadening its mandate to encompass both animal and plant diseases, alongside crucial food safety testing and, later on, vaccine production.

What is the significance of NAPHL?

NAPHL is essential to the MoA, which serves as a cornerstone for informed decision-making across all aspects of Eritrea's agricultural landscape – from inputs to outputs.

Reliable and timely laboratory results are not merely helpful; they are crucial in shaping strategic responses related to food security, maximizing agricultural productivity, and fulfilling vital international obligations.

Confirmation through NAPHL testing is non-negotiable when certifying the health status, safety, and quality of agricultural commodities – whether they are inputs used by farmers or finished products for consumers.

What is the current capacity of the institution?

Currently, it has 140 personnel in seven major areas and twenty-nine units – including animal health labs, plant health labs, vaccine production & quality control, food safety labs, quality management, administration, and regional labs.

NAPHL is strategically positioned as a central hub for laboratory expertise, dedicated to providing foundational solutions for Eritrea's agricultural sector and safeguarding its animal and plant resources.

What is the grand mission of the institution?

To deliver comprehensive, coordinated, and sustainable laboratory services – ensuring the reliable provision of safe, accurate, and timely test results. It is done through strategic investments in strengthening leadership, enhancing organizational structure, building robust human resources, maintaining secure facilities, establishing effective referral networks, and promoting evidence-based utilization of our services. NAPHL's management is committed to supporting Eritrea's food security and bolstering its agricultural output through laboratory-based solutions.

What are the major responsibilities of the institution?

As a technical support hub for the Regional Animal and Plant Health Laboratories (RAPHLs), it fosters collaboration with key regional and international partners. It prioritizes staff competence through targeted training, clearly defined roles, and robust communication channels, recognizing that strengthening these regional labs is essential for delivering fundamental services.

As Eritrea's national laboratory, the management actively supports the MoA's strategic departments – including Regulatory Services Department (RSD), Agricultural Extension Department (AED), and the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) – alongside five regional laboratories, relevant public and private stakeholders,

and academic institutions. This collaborative approach ensures efficient diagnosis of animal and plant diseases, food safety testing, and vaccine production, ultimately safeguarding both animal and plant health and guaranteeing the quality of products of plant and animal origin for domestic consumption and export.

Eritrea's substantial livestock population is a cornerstone of its citizens' livelihoods. The Ministry of Agriculture implements national programs – including compulsory vaccinations and reporting systems. Yet endemic, emerging, and re-emerging diseases like Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Lump Skin Disease (LSD), and Peste des Petites Ruminants (PPR) remain persistent threats, representing substantial economic burdens. Addressing these gaps through laboratory diagnosis and vaccine

production is paramount to effective prevention, control, and eradication efforts.

Recognizing this critical need, the MoA, with support from partners such as the International Agricultural Development Program (IADP)/IFAD, African Development Bank (AfDB), and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), is investing in establishing a small-scale vaccine production laboratory within NAPHL, a sustainable approach to reducing reliance on imported veterinary products. This investment will not only bolster our existing capabilities but also contribute to Eritrea's food security and economic resilience.

What are the achievements of the institution?

Since 1991, NAPHL has had remarkable achievements and transformation, solidifying its position through significant expansion in both scope and capabilities. The laboratory invested heavily – through multimillion-dollar upgrades – to dramatically expand its capacity, constructing specialized facilities, including parasitology, plant health, histopathology, and vaccine laboratories; a meeting hall; main offices; animal management and experimentation houses; incinerator houses; inoculated houses; and dog kennel houses.

Alongside these improvements, NAPHL invested in robust infrastructure—including a modern, expansive laboratory store, water treatment facilities, and generator rooms. The progress made has enabled the institution to consistently attract high-level visitors and expand its capabilities to include animal disease testing, plant health diagnostics, food safety and quality testing, and vaccine production.

This culminated in the successful production of two initial veterinary viral vaccines (PPR, NCD) in 2024, which were subsequently certified by AU-PANVAC for quality. The laboratory is now producing additional veterinary viral vaccines (IB and IBD) and has ongoing plans to develop new vaccine types to combat prioritized Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs).

Continued on page 2



lab Animal Management



AHL lab activities

