

PRESIDENT ISAIAS URGES FOR CONCERTED GLOBAL EFFORTS



Drawing attention to the vexing issues and plight of refugees and migrants, President Isaias Afwerki has urged for concerted international efforts to bring about a durable and effective solution to the malaise. President Isaias underlined the imperative for urgent and meaningful action to combat this scourge in a letter that he sent this week to various Heads of State and Government.

The President noted that migration and influx of refugees has become rampant globally. This was particularly exacerbated in

those regions of the world that have been plunged into interminable crises primarily due to misguided policies and interventions by certain powers. In the event, the underlying causes and driving factors need to be addressed fully and comprehensively, President Isaias noted. A sober diagnosis of the underlying causes that is not shrouded by willful propaganda is vital so as to fully identify the intertwined dimensions of the problem and find effective solutions. This will require serious and concerted action, President Isaias emphasized.

The President's letter also elucidates in greater detail the genesis, ramifications, and principal actors behind the international crime of human trafficking as well as the vilification and demonization campaigns that are routinely conducted by the international crime syndicate on those who raise their moral voice against these despicable acts.

President Isaias further underlined in his letter the moral obligation of all those concerned to exert unreserved efforts for an expedited solution to promote justice by stemming this international crime that may be termed as "the globalized slavery" of the 21st century.

As it may be recalled, the Government of Eritrea has made repeated calls in previous years for robust action to stop human trafficking. President Isaias had indeed written to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon in February 2013 to launch a legal, independent and transparent investigation of human trafficking that has victimized Eritrea. This request was also repeated on various occasions subsequently. Unfortunately, these appeals have not, as yet, been heeded.

WORLD CHAMPION ATHLETE GHIRMAI WINS NEW YORK MARATHON

The World Marathon Champion, Athlete Ghirmay Ghebreslasie won the New York Marathon that was held on 6 November.

The New York City Marathon in which renowned athletes from Africa and from around the world participated, Athlete Ghirmay, 20 years of age, won the race with a time of 2:07:51 followed by Lucas Rotich of Kenya, who ended the race in 2:08:53 and American Abdi Abdirahman finished third with a time 2:11:23.

Ghirmay Ghebreslassie has become the youngest ever to win the race. Athlete Ghirmay said that confidence in his competence was highly decisive for winning the race.

For Athlete Ghirmay, the New York City Marathon is a third race in just one year.

Meanwhile, in women's category, Mary Keitany of Kenya won this year's New York City Marathon and secured third consecutive victory.

In other related news, Athlete Kaleab Ghilagabir has won in Changsha Intentional Marathon held in China on 4 November.

Athlete Kaleab finished the in race in 2:15:2.



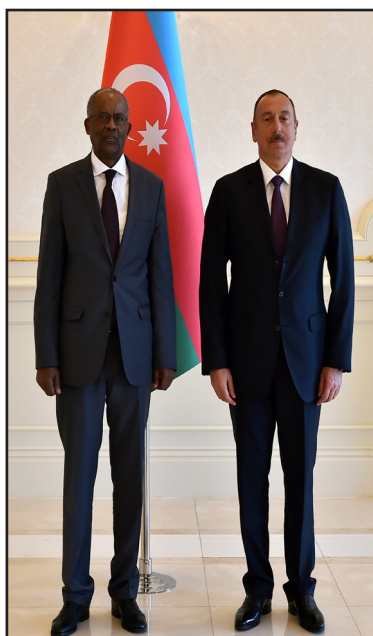
AMBASSADOR PETROS TSEGAY PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

Eritrea's Ambassador to the Russian Federation, Mr. Petros Tsegay, presented credentials to Dr. Ilham Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan, as Eritrea's non-resident Ambassador to the country.

Ambassador Petros conveyed a message of goodwill from President Isaias Afwerki to President Ilham Aliyev and the people of Azerbaijan. He further expressed readiness to work towards strengthening relations between the two countries.

President Ilham Aliyev on his part expressed his country's readiness to reinforce the existing relations between his country and Eritrea, especially in the domains of culture, economy and trade.

President Aliyev also wished good health to President Isaias Afwerki as well as peace and stability to the Eritrean people.



ERITREAN DELEGATION PARTICIPATES IN AFRICA-ARAB MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

Eritrean delegation headed by Mr. Arefayne Berhe, Minister of Agriculture, participated in the Third Africa-Arab Ministerial Conference on Agricultural Development and Food Security that was held from 31 October to 2 November in Khartoum, Sudan.

Agriculture ministers from Africa and other countries participated in the conference held under the theme, "Africa-Arab Trade and Investment for Accelerated Agricultural Development and Enhancing Food Security".

Meanwhile, the Eritrean delegation met with Prof. Ibrahim Adam Al- Dekheiri, Agriculture Minister of the Sudan and held talks on issues pertaining to reinforcing the existing bilateral cooperation between the two countries. Both parties agreed for a speedy

implementation of programs of mutual interest.

Likewise, the Eritrean delegation also held talks with Sudanese Minister of Livestock Resources, Prof. Musa Tibin, and Dr. Hassan Abdel-Qadir Hilal, Minister of Environment and Urban Development. The two sides discussed and reached an

agreement on issues related to sharing of experiences, providing training and conducting joint agricultural researches.

Mr. Amanuel Negasi, advisor to the Eritrean Minister of Agriculture and Mr. Ibrahim Idris, Charge d'Affairs of the Eritrean Embassy in the Republic of Sudan participated in the meetings.



RIGHT OF REPLY

NewAfrican

Correcting a Distorted Narrative

Regrettably, New African's article on "Eritrea – Ethiopia Tensions" (July 2016), uncritically relied on two Africa "experts" for its perspectives on Eritrea. Both are avowed Eritrea detractors who haven't been in Eritrea for almost two decades. Consequently, the narrative projected was replete with a litany of factual errors, bias and inherently flawed analysis.

The author even indulges, taking his cue from Dan Connell, in unprofessional and libelous invective on the person of the President. Connell is no ordinary journalist. He is a self-professed agitator for "regime change" in Eritrea, a known operative—"an embedded mole and foot soldier"—doing the bidding of higher powers. He distorts Eritrea's reality to rally support for his zealous "liberating mission"—another "white man's burden", so to speak.

The oversight isn't limited to lack of full disclosures of the informants' motives. Ethiopia's unprovoked aggression against Eritrea last June is depicted as merely another episode in a perennial "border dispute". Both countries agreed to settle their "border dispute" through

international court adjudicated "final and binding" arbitration. Eritrea accepted the ruling. But Ethiopia's decision to renege on its treaty obligations has and continues to stoke tension. This, however, doesn't diminish the legality and finality of the settlement.

Ethiopia's attack in June had nothing to do with the putative "border dispute". "Ethiopia's regime doesn't deny this indelible fact either. Its confused and contradictory press statements dithered from blanket denial to belated rationalization of its unlawful act as a "response to subversive proxy activities". Besides distracting from Ethiopia's obvious internal quandaries, the attack was intended to advance other hostile agendas.

Furthermore, among numerous errors and misconceptions, the author states: the "international community has always viewed Eritrea's existence with disdain". This sweeping generalization is grossly inaccurate.

True, Washington has persistently opposed Eritrea's legitimate national rights at every historic juncture. Successive US administrations supported and armed Ethiopia's wars against Eritrea. Post-9/11, with Ethiopia christened an "anchor" state, an ally in the crusade against terror, misguided US policies resurfaced. Washington has gone to extreme lengths to provide diplomatic support for Ethiopia's refusal to abide by the ruling of the permanent Court of Arbitration.

Influential though the US may be, a bellwether of international behavior it isn't. Eritrea enjoys normative diplomatic and economic cooperation with all other major powers, countries and multilateral institutions: including UN agencies, the AFDB and the AU. For instance, this year Eritrea and the EU signed a €220m agreement slated for energy development. Foreign investment, particularly in the extractive-industry, remains high with numerous multinational companies participating.

To portray Eritrea as "an isolated, hermit kingdom" is thus a deliberate distortion peddled mostly by US-Funded outfits. As one "Western embassy" in Eritrea emphasized to a Danish Fact Finding Mission; Eritrea has fallen victim to a massive propaganda campaign from other countries, especially Ethiopia and its allies... Human rights reports from international NGOs either lack knowledge of Eritrea or they are part of the propaganda against the country."

These detractors deliberately maintain that Eritrea's "self-reliance" policy is isolationist. The policy champions an independent political line. Economically it mobilizes one's own resources and internal capacities for development. It aims to develop self-confidence that leads to an unswerving commitment to stand on one's own feet rather than be subjected to the denigration that comes with aid-dependency and its crippling conditionality.

Assistance is acceptable provided equal partnership is consented to. As attested to by independent observers the policy isn't without its success.

Eritrea is one of a few African countries to meet most of the UN Millennium Development Goals by achieving considerable



success in health and education without donor aid.

Within this milieu, some are mobilized to distort this remarkable African experiment. Eritrea's achievements in the face of sustained hostilities aren't inconsequential to the repertoire

of African experience. To parse its lessons requires a sincere, contextualized examination. Context is everything!

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**ERITREA
PROFILE**

**Published Every
Wednesday & Saturday**

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Un observers on the Eritrea Ethiopia border

Development

Hamelmalo: On the Right Track

semir seid

Human beings have through the course of evolution developed various habits and demanded varieties of services. With governments engaging themselves in building up diplomacies and formation of states to be governed and administered, packages of services flowed impartially. People get access to a health, education, water, insurance, law and order, communication, transportation and many others and hence living standards improved accordingly.

The Hamelmalo Sub-zone is only 15 Kms north from the city of Keren. 36,000 inhabitants whose life rely on agriculture and livestock dwell in the sub-zone. Indeed, the population requires a constant transportation services in order to facilitate their activities from and to surrounding villages and towns. The private sector in the sub-zone of Hamelmalo is making a great role in providing the people with quick and express transportation service yet with some critics on bus fares from users.

Administrator of the Sub-zone, Mr. Yakob Idris, indicated that the education sector in the sub-zone comprises about twenty seven schools, which was only one before

independence in Lebena, inclusive to all three levels and a College of Agriculture to provide higher level of education to various students from several parts of the country. The Hamelmalo Agricultural College is creating opportunities of masters' program for students who need to pursue their studies. It is a fact that graduate students from the college are contributing immensely to the agriculture sector of the country. It is not that hard to imagine how crucial

depends on agriculture and related activities. Currently, each and every district administration possess its own school. Besides, the growing number of female participation in education is promising improvement in recent years.

The Sub-zone of Hamelmalo comprises nine district administrations with about forty two villages within it. The population of the sub-zone is

Hamelmalo, one in Filedarb and one in Lebena). The population in the area is in a constant move and engages in and out of the sub-zone to make a living and hence more prone to various kinds of diseases that may encounter in nearby areas. It is common to see people get infected with diseases but with the persistent efforts of the Ministry of Health in the surrounding areas it is now possible to overcome and get a full control of the most deadly ones.



Mr. Yakob Idris

of health services concerning mothers and children.

The provision of safe drinking water to the communities is one of the major necessities the government is working on a daily basis. Around 80% of the population gets pure and safe drinking water which has a crucial impact in the health of the people. Most of the villages are accessing pure and safe water from the Anseba River as the government policy is fully proved to meet its target at present time. Communication on its part along with the consistent 12 hour electric power is enabling people to make them at least communicate their wills, even with the limitation.

The Hamelmalo Sub-zone seen before two decades was a station of invaders but through the government day in day out efforts is now expected to solve the pressures created in the big neighboring towns like Keren. The town collectively owns fifty two institutions, where shops, restaurants, snack bars and others are letting its people enjoying a relatively quite simple life. Years back the people of the town used travel to Keren and other nearby towns for shopping and to make other dealings. While now according to the master plan of the town easy access to every sort of service is made possible.

Gatherings of villages is based on plans and some well-constructed infrastructures are a living example. No doubt there will be challenge for any growing area and community, the ultimate goal of the administration presently is stressing on overcoming shortages and transforming them into strengths that guide to further development plans. All of this and the subsequent plans make the administration on the right track of development.



The town of Hamelmalo

their impacts would be since the nation's population majorly

having health service access from three Hospitals (one in

Many medical procedures are well executing from the priorities



Communities in the area performing some agricultural activities



Of Honey and Honeycombs

Natnael Yebio W.

Is there anything sweeter than honey? Pleasant saying are often compared to a honeycomb, which is sweet to the soul and a healing to the bones, says the wise king.

Americans call their wives honey and in some villages in Eritrea children call their mothers Ma'aro, meaning "My honey", until they get married and find another honeycomb to relish.

So much so good. Now let's come to the makers of honey, the honeybees! Which are everything but sweet, for their stings are painful and a swarm of angry bees can snuff the life out of a full grown person.

The honeybee (the killer type) gives you honey, which is sweeter than manna, and when angry gives you a sharp sting, which makes a mosquito bite look like a tickle by comparison.

As a child, I always wondered how something that made you happy could also make you scared at the same time. This is food for thought. You are prompted to say: You don't get anything for nothing. So much for philosophy! Now back to the honeycomb.

In traditional Eritrea, honey is

collected by village keepers who craft a beehive (Known as Dkhwen) from mud and dung and hung it on a wall or in a tree in the backyard. The next step is to go and find the bees that produce the honey. In our tradition, the bees follow the 'king bee' not the queen bee and obey his instructions. Or you can go to the village market and buy a swarm of bees (With queen bee buried under crawling drones or workers) in one formless mass.

I remember once traveling by bus watching a certain man seated beside me carrying a tree branch covered with a crawling bees. Of course the bee merchant or perhaps the bee keeper kept his 'weapon of mass destruction' away from the people by having it hanging down the side of the bus using his outstretched hands. You can imagine a holocaust that could have ensued if the man holding the bee-covered branch had suddenly pulled back his hand into the bus. Ours belong to the killer bees. And imagine the driver jumping out the window leaving the passengers all by themselves in a drifting bus. Certain Death!

The beehive has now its new occupants which are supposed to produce honey for home consumption or maybe for sale. But the farmers are wary of ants and skunks, for the former irritate

the bees and disturb their work, while the later simply make off with the honeycomb along with the bee population comprising queen, soldiers and nurses for a sumptuous dinner.

The dkhwen has a small opening for the bees to get in laden with pollen and nectar, (Well come home! Yummy) and come out with determination to travel farther for more sweet provision (May the lord bring you home safely). But what exactly is going on inside the beehive? According to tradition, the king bee is giving royal orders to his subjects for more supply for nectar and pollen. Quick, the bees (according to tradition) begin to shit honey as a response to the demand and shake their legs to unload the yellow powder. And if someone should come with an intention of stealing honey, the alert bees, again according to tradition, don't sting the culprit with their 'sharp tail' but bite him with their sharp teeth until he withers with pain.

So how do you officially steal the honey? The process is known in Tigrigna as mbrbar. First you wait until it gets dark and then you burn a bundle of kindle wood and smoke out the bees from their hives. They are supposed to leave the honey alone without a fight.

Some peoples also use the mouth spray method to slow the flight of the bees. The idea is to slow down the flight of a bee so that it cannot outrun you and sting you in the end. But, the stinging orgy may go on, smoke or no smoke, and the honey robber who gets all the stings is supposed to have a stoic endurance and focus with all his might on the honey.

"How is it that you don't feel any pain after being stung by so many bees?" I once asked a supposedly professional berbaray (Honey extractor).

"After eating so much honey all my life, the sting has no effect on me," he said.

The honeycomb is then taken home before the 'falling' eyes of the village kids who have been watching the whole process with faltering self-control.

Some countrymen eat honey in its pure form or mixed with water (birzi) or even mixed with tsiray

sewa (made to settle down, in order to kill its sourness). Still others sell it for profit. Although it is rare in our country, villagers also make mies (mead) by mixing honey with water and adding hop and some spices and leaving it to ferment and mellow.

In the past, warlords made their warriors drink strong mies so that they could fight like ferocious beasts in the battlefield. However, the same strategy was adopted on the other side of the fence with the enemy warriors downing goblets of strong mies, for the same purpose. The end result was that the fight became a carnage with frenzied soldiers unable to differentiate between friend and foe.

Eritreans use honey to cure a range of ailments starting from mild headaches to hypertension, but, honey is best used to heal broken bones, to clean wounds of germs, to make the eyes sharper and to my amusement I learned, during windy and dry summers honey was used as a sort of chapstick.

The wax is used to cure mild throat infection and to make twaf (wax candle) to be offered as gifts for church saints. The goldsmiths also use it in their crafting of gold ornaments.

But villagers rarely use honey for home consumption, preferring to sell it for profit to make ends meet.

Here, honeymooners are exceptions and enjoy much honey which is brought to them in their love nest.

Thus, although the Tigrigna word for honeymoon (Histnot) doesn't contain the word 'honey' the honeymooners themselves are treated to bowlfuls of honey.

Alas, when merchants take their honey to the market to sell, they often make sure that it is not pure honey. So to make fast profit with make-believe honey, they mix it with banana or dates, and only experienced connoisseurs know the difference.



Once a certain honey merchant came to our house and showed us his sweet merchandize with pieces of honeycombs floating over a viscous white liquid in a large tin can.

"Is it pure honey?" Asked a neighbor

"God is my witness that it is so," Said the honey dealer.

The neighbor hesitated, took a small lump of the stuff and tasted it.

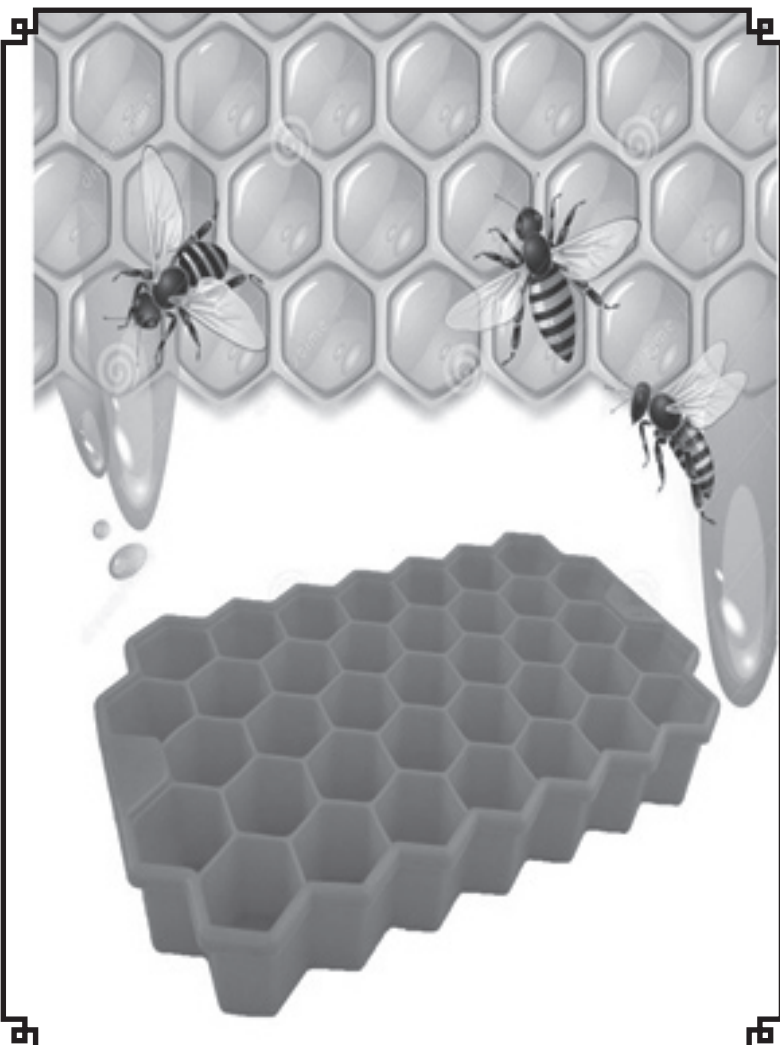
"Okay I'll take it all," she said.

Hardly a week had passed than the honey began to change color and then texture and eventually revealed its real contents. Sugar and banana with some traces of pure honey.

There are several types of honey. Red, yellow, brown, and white. The last mentioned has higher demand. I have seen honey with mutilated parts of bees glued to it. It seems that the honey collector has crushed the honeycomb along with its occupants. They say it is good for health.

There is also a type of honey known as Me'ar tsigenay. It is made by ant looking flying insects and is found buried under the ground. It is

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SpotLight

Breaking Records: Ghirmay's Win in NYC

Dr. Fikrejesus Amahazion

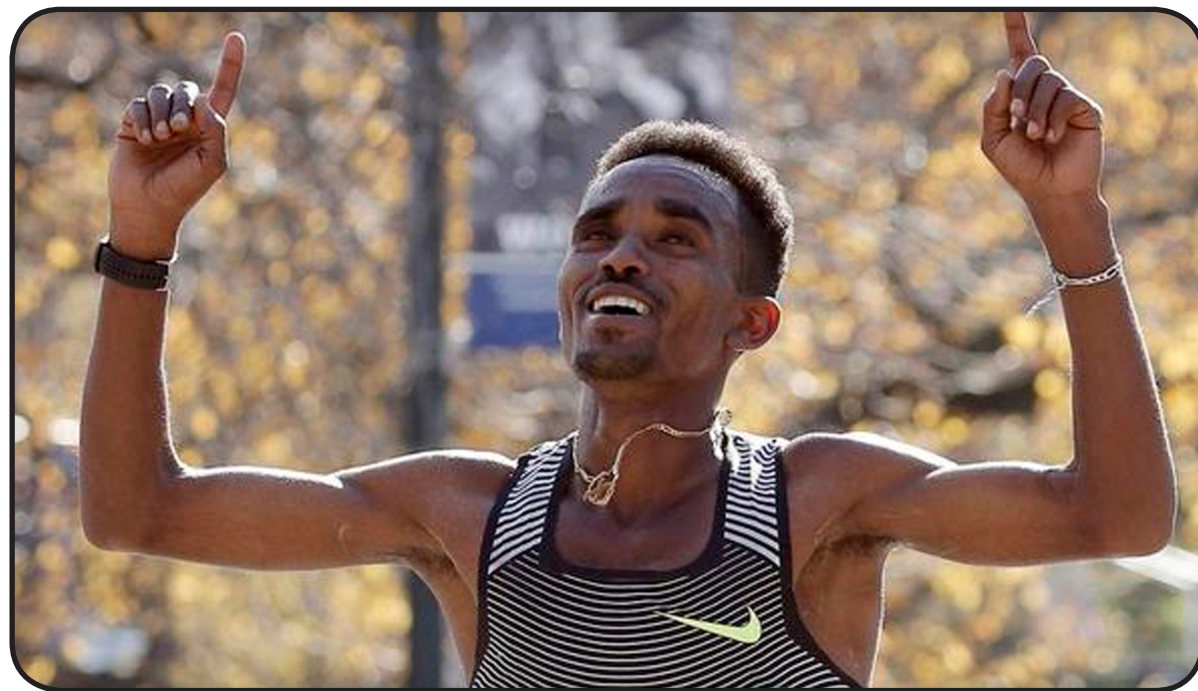
Eritrea's Ghirmay Ghebreslassie won the New York City Marathon, among the world's pre-eminent long-distance annual running events, with a time of 2 hours, 7 minutes, 51 seconds, finishing over a minute ahead of Kenya's Lucas Rotich, who took second place, and Somali-born American Abdi Abdirahman, who finished third. Although it was only his race debut and though confronted by challenging, windy conditions, Ghirmay's time qualified him as the third-fastest runner in the marathon's 46-year history. The 20-year-old Eritrean also made history as the race's youngest-ever male winner, breaking the record previously held by Alberto Salazar (1980), Tom Fleming (1973), and Sheldon Karlin (1972), who all won as 22-year-olds.

Founded by Fred Lebow, the New York City Marathon was first held in 1970 with 127 competitors running loops around Central Park, a city attraction. From those humble beginnings, the annual race has grown to become the world's largest marathon; this year's edition saw more than 50,000 people from 120 countries participate in the race across the five boroughs (New York City, in the US state of New York, is composed of five boroughs: Manhattan, the Bronx, Queens,

Brooklyn, and Staten Island). Notably, hundreds of thousands of spectators were also in attendance, while the race was followed by millions more worldwide.

Ghirmay's impressive win on Sunday, where he was rarely threatened, was just the latest in an extraordinary series of recent results by the talented youngster. In 2015, he won the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Championships held in China, becoming the youngest-ever winner, while at the recent Summer Olympics in Brazil he finished a highly-respectable fourth place. The latter result would surely have been even higher but for a slight, yet costly, blip he encountered during the race.

As the precocious youngster continues to blaze a trail of success, the question on many minds is just how far can he go? In sport, while reaching the pinnacle is a challenging task, remaining there can often prove to be much more difficult. Moreover, the world of sports is filled with innumerable cases of bright, young stars that quickly shot to prominence and success before fizzling out almost just as fast. Beyond the obvious factors, such as physical development, improvement, and training (and avoiding injuries, etc.), proper mindset and inner



motivation are often critical.

Consider the case of Real Madrid footballer Cristiano Ronaldo, the three-time winner of the Balon d'Or as the world's best player. The Portuguese superstar's success and numerous accolades are not solely due to his considerable talent, but also the fruit of his sheer work ethic and relentless pursuit of perfection. Countless teammates, opponents, and analysts describe how Ronaldo today is almost unrecognizable from the wiry, flashy, more style than substance and often frustrating, winger who came to the world's attention with Manchester United years

ago. Driven by a passionate desire to be "the world's best," the young Ronaldo dedicated himself to constant improvement and development, spending extra hours on the training pitch, in the gym, and at recovery sessions. Such a dedicated approach helped transform him from a young boy with bags of talent, yet often lacking the final product, to the all-conquering, record-setting player that is now firmly entrenched within discussions about the greatest ever to play the game.

In this context, Ghirmay's modesty and laser-like focus are encouraging. The young runner

from unassuming, rural roots in the Zoba Debub region of Eritrea who ran several miles to school every day remains hungry, regularly speaks of achieving even greater things in the sport, and continues to follow a strict, punishing training regimen. Remarkably (or ominously for his competitors), many observers suggest that he is just scratching the surface of his potential and can still improve by leaps and bounds.

Another important aspect of Ghirmay's rise to success is what it represents for his nation. In 2015, Ghirmay's win at the World Championships in China 2015 was met with a massive nationwide celebration and he was welcomed back to the country with a colorful, music-filled parade in Asmara, the capital. The city's streets were packed for hours as people jostled to get a glimpse of the young star. For Eritrea, a young, low-income country located within the fractious Horn of Africa region, Ghirmay is a source of enormous inspiration and tremendous pride, as well as a great role model for many of the country's impressionable youth.

After Sunday's race, Ghirmay stated, "I am really proud with my victory today to be the first one from my country. Nobody before from Eritrea won in the major marathons." As Eritrea anxiously prepares to welcome back its conquering hero, millions of adoring fans hope his recent win is just the latest in a long, glorious career that is filled with many more.



Lighter Side

More than Just Three Words of Affection!

Fine! I'll admit it... I'm 22 and I still live with my parents without a job and no one to ever say I'm a bright student. Would I rather by now be a self-sufficient, outstanding student with a couple of bucks from my partial time job...? Yes! But circumstances, including that I'm reckless and lazy more often than desired, have rendered me what I currently am. I know I can't make it on my own right now, but since we are being honest, I'll also admit to you this; every time my sister breaks up with her boyfriends (a guy * 1000000= my sister's boyfriends), that's when am at my strongest of determination to move out. How strong of a determination? Well, my mom usually tells me that when she went into labor to have me, I just wouldn't come out. The midwives told her if she proceeded with a C-section, things could go wrong for me (the so stubborn baby then). And if she were to have me the normal way, complications could arise as to her wellbeing. "But I was so determined... so determined to have a healthy and beautiful baby that you came out, at any expense, that I did it the normal way. You just wouldn't understand" she says.

"Oh trust me! I've been there!" I would say eying my sister bitterly. Yep! That strong! The pain and determination of pushing a baby out of you and being pushed by my sister out of the house... sounds about the same intensity.

More often than not, what broke my sister off with her boyfriends was the way they expressed their love to her. I was once worried out of my skin about my sister dating this Peter guy whom she said was a medical doctor. Why? Because on her birthday, he gave her a puppy which had suspiciously few hairs and extremely lazy eyes. Might I add that the puppy was also beyond immediate identification of which sex it belonged to. I just had to ask her;

"Hey, the day Peter told you he's a medical doctor, was it Halloween?" that puppy had bold spots for God's sake!

I didn't have to say more. My sister has never been a dog person anyway. She got mad, Peter got struck... thrice (hopefully just on the face), and I got goose bumps every time she was home for the next two

months.

It was essentially from my family's weird, latenight conversations (NO wine) that I had the privilege of understanding that along romance equally is relevant the apposite expression of it. Obviously my parents, without a democratic vote, have always conquered the regal position of leading the discussion as the 'paragon of everlasting romance'. Overlooking my discomfort, which arose mostly as a result of being the youngest sibling and introverted in romance related issues, my so weirdly cozy and intimate family initiated another discussion topic; Is saying 'I love you' the right and/or only expression of love needed to start or make a romantic relationship work? Before I could punch my nose and run away with the excuse of cleaning the blood, my dad elatedly started the conversation;

"I think showing your love to your partner is much deeper and demanding than merely uttering the 3 magic words. The best way I would want Tmnitey (my mom/his wife) to give vent to her love for me is by offering me one place in the world where I can unconditionally bring my full self to the table; by validating my negative feelings and vulnerabilities. Which she did and still does." he threw his right arm around my mom fondly. Does romance never have an age limit!!! "Men are typically socialized to be less vulnerable, you know. So, as long as a woman makes a man feel like it's ok to be vulnerable and weak in her presence, it really doesn't matter if she says 'I love you' or not." he outshined the dim light of our living room with his endearing smile. "But I'll tell you what, this one right here," he pinched my mom on the arm, "costed me a lot more than just saying 'I love you.'" After 2 years of pre-marriage chasing and 29 years of conjugal relationship, he somehow still gets a kick out of pinching her!

"Well, you know what I think", my mom straightened in her seat waving dad's teasing hand away. "I think love should always be expressed verbally. I would never make it work with someone who would never tell me that he loves me every day. Luckily you knew better than not to say the magic words 3 times a day." She nudged dad playfully on the chest. After 4

kids (one being born exceptionally fat) and my dad's relentlessly loud snoring of 29 years, she still flirts! I would literally shave my head if that was all it took to evaporate just that moment!

"Mom, please! I absolutely don't agree." Snapped my sister; the oldest sibling of the bizarre household. I knew what she was gonna say; of course the best way her boyfriend could express his love to her is by becoming Jewish. That girl can sniff out money stronger and faster than a dog with a meat hanged on his neck. "If my man is truly in love with me, he just needs to be there whenever I need him, wherever I want him to be at. The fact that he never says 'I love you' every week would never be a deal breaker." Ok, I may be holding on a little too strong to how her breakups have victimized me to a horrifying affliction in the past. I think I should start to get to know her. "If your lover is on your side in your best and worst moments, what else could you ask for? That is the true expression of love."

Then took his turn, my brother of 2 more years than me. With an annoyingly huge gum in his mouth, he took a long and deep stare at the ceiling and said dreamily "If am to believe my girl really loves me, she'll have me lay on her knees and scratch my head softly while I tell her how nuts my boss is." I've checked him for lice; confusingly he's clean. "It's not about saying it or not. If God allows it, through the grace of undying compassion and affection can a lover truly express his or her love." As you may have suspected, my brother was and still is going through a 'God, Grace and Water changed into Wine' kinda phase. After his 'emo' phase, we're all happy with this one.

I won't tell you what I had to do to escape the dreadful and embarrassing moment of taking my turn in the conversation for cunning is not what I primarily want to be known for, but it was a week later when I saw my friend in a dilemma that I realized that the desire to aptly express your love is actually practically demanding.

This Indian friend of mine always claims that he prefers to show his girlfriend how much he loves her to telling her verbally. I mean, who wouldn't! Not to mention the



head start Indians have with their advantage of preternatural fertility and overwhelming procreation tendency. But after I told him it was more about her than with how he would prefer to proceed with showing his love, he was utterly unsettled by what to get her for Valentine's Day. He had already done a fine job with figuring out that just saying 'I love you' would get her momentarily giggly and then mad. Don't ask!

"Okay, by the end of 2 years I think it's safe for me to assume that you know her well enough to know what'll please her." I said.

"Ya, I know. It's just that she always perfectly knows what would make me happy and I wanna do the same for her. She wears the most amazing smile when I get her stuff and am going to; I just want it to say 'I love you', you know."

Truthfully, I've never been more ashamed of being his friend until that day when he, hopefully under stress, stuttered;

"Oh, oh... I can get her a a m-mouth spray in case sh-she hasn't stopped eating a lot of garlic yet." I was not proud of how I handled the situation;

"Oh great! And she can get you a doctor in case you are not circumcised yet!"

One thing I understood from the overwhelmingly uncomfortable chat of my family that evening is this; expressing your love for your mate is not just about you. It's about showing them they are worth being loved the way they want to, so they can do the same for you. It can be through a hug, through a touch, a gift, just saying three words, or an act. Not everyone wants the same way

of experiencing their lover convey their love to them. Knowing and understanding your other half is the beautiful mystery and yet the prized key to a successful expression of romance. Saying the 3 magic words may legitimize the ardor but what deepens it, is letting it be known to your partner in a way s/he wants it delivered.

Let me put it this way; an attempt to show your technophobic boyfriend by getting him an iPhone 6+ is not only futile, you might end up in a hospital room hoping that the phone will be expelled from your body soon through a resolute cooperation of your large intestine and the subsequent body parts of excretion. Unless you want to end up looking like a roasted thanksgiving turkey, refrain from surprising your pyrophoric lover with candlelight dinner, no matter how romantic that may sound. And please, you cannot present your hymnist girlfriend with the latest and most expensive iPod containing your favorite songs of 'Make it Nasty', 'Get Low' and 'Bang Bang'. You may intend to indicate 'I love you' but after she examines the gift and you see the look on her face, all you can manage to mumble will be "... or not?"

So anyone who has fallen for my mom so far, just say it out loud; 'I love you' and she'll fall under your spell. Ladies, wait for my dad with a box of tissues every time he's sad/mad, then he's all yours. If you don't own a private jet or a flying bicycle so you can be wherever my sister wants you to be in a minute, you are probably not the guy for her. A church fun + a masseuse = my brother's immediate wife. Sorry, that's how they'll know best that they are being truly loved. And me, well that is a topic for another day.

Hana Isaac

OPINION

Eritrea: Youths Engulfs Musical and Cinematography Productions

When a video production about the gallant Eritrean revolutionaries—‘Barud 77’—kicked off Eritrea’s post-independent cinematography platform in 1997, soon, hope for further similar works profoundly filled the heart of the country’s artists. The crowd and long queues to see the aforementioned movie was then authenticated by ‘The Quotidian Writers’ Desk’ as “an event for honoring the treasures of Eritrea’s untapped stories that goes from fine social landscapes to miraculous military victories in Sewra (the revolutionary field).”

After the foundation was laid, many experienced and novice artists started joining the cascade of cinematic opportunities. Side by side with stage dramas acts, video production had also continued building its own pillars by the zealously inspired artists. Soon, treasures of the nation’s historical gems were dug out for enriching the stories of the intended video productions. For answering the demand that was increasing from time to time, therefore, Shewit

Video Production, Audio Visual Institute of Eritrea, Eritrean Video Service and Amir Graphics joined the pack of video production at various levels.

After ‘Quana,’ the first Eritrean series television show aired on Eri-TV, time for reshaping Eritrea’s cinematic production took the tiara of change and dynamic revolution. Public interests on nationally produced video productions also witnessed a quantum leap. In fact, with its own manifolds that has been reshaping the Eritrean video productions, this year has also already testified the potency of Eritrean youth for penetrating the modern world of video and film production.

In this year alone, many enthusiastic singers, lyricists, editors, make-up artists, designers, casts and other many professionals are getting momentum in excelling musical clips and paving hortative path for cinematographic efforts. Thus, as instance within these parameters, about 56 homes for

video production and selling musical productions blossomed in Asmara in the past two years. They opened under the support of different electronic shops, graphic homes and other similar centers. These art houses are fostering the potency of the public in enjoying art productions.

What makes the current art productions in Eritrea so hopeful to sail triumphantly in the future is because, inspired youth are the energetic forces who have been driving the cycle with confidence and professional guidance. Hence, fashion homes like Martha Models, TT and HT Fashions, Semir Awet Designers Home...are there for demonstrating positive involvement of youth in musical clips. Rimna All Stars, Soyra Studio, Tesfit Sound Studio, Mega Mix, Canary and Ruth Studio...are also among the renowned homes from where the hopeful musical clip productions by young people are coming.

And witnessing that women are also getting empowered role,



females directors are getting to high dais and, assuredly, personal names like Winta Gerezgiher, Milen Hailu and Winta Mekonen have been overwhelming our screen productions. Yet, our youth are not still confined in these arena; producers like Prima Viera, KI Production, VTAProduction, Yonan, Hoyo and others are also fastening their competitiveness speed, thereby to let undelatable remarks in the chronicles of Eritrea’s musical clips productions and foundations for cinematographic profiles.

Radio Numa also assessed the

role of youth in sharpening Eritrean digital art on its exclusive interview conducted with Dr Sweet J, author and director, Radio Numa articulated that the role of the youth is enhancing and rewarding. Recommending that there should be integrated efforts for minimizing illegal infringements and perversions in costumes and gestural movements, among others, the radio affirmed appreciating initiatives of the youth in grasping the digital world. As testimony to the magnetizing efforts of the youth inside the country, citizens outside of Eritrea are also enjoying the younger generation’s work through various media outlets and social media networks, including Eri-TV and other tubes. Digital Survey Advisors report of the past half year also shows that Eritreans are pacing to remarkable digitalized art-oriented culture. Thus, two musical productions that rocked YouTube channel (that shows contents from Eritrea) with their highest clicks are both from inside the country and are produced by enthusiast youth. Even VOA stated about this putting in reference a song titled ‘Ekilti Eye’ by Danait Yohannes.

Thus, amazing places, heart-capturing landscapes and sea shores, reflections from diurnal lifestyles of the society, modern beats and new-flanged compositions methods have been manifested in the musical and video-productions of our current youth; hence, despite the different impediments, our youth have started a hopeful way for digitalized art. And the fact that nationally produced musical clips and video productions are well channeled to the country’s art profiles is, indeed, an honored task of the youth who seek constructive engagements and comments.

Yosief Abraham Z

Photographers Corner

Photo: By Tazaz Abraha Golje





Q and A

The Steering Wheel of Life is Education

Compiled by Asmait Futsumbrhan

Kabral was born in 1982 and he is now an engineer. The thing that attracted us most, and eventually wanted, to make him part of our Q & A, is the fact that Kabral truly adulates education. It is a rare quality in a world where the word 'business' is more venerated than any other virtue.

Hope you enjoy getting to know Eng. Kabral and his educational endeavor as much we did.

You have a not so common name, how come?

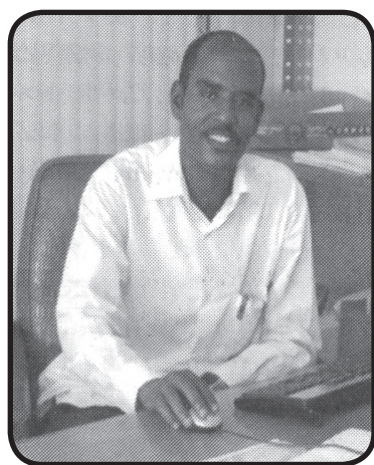
I was born in the field during the armed struggle and my name was given to me by one of the freedom fighters. During those times, the Amberbeb Hospital team were taking classes on politics and on different inspirational political leaders. So technically my name came from a great soldier named Ginibisaw Amilkar Kabral.

How would you describe yourself before joining college?

I wasn't exceptionally good but I was not an incompetent student either. My crave for education started in 9th grade. I think I was influenced by a good friend from those years. It's actually thanks to him that I realized the importance of studying. As soon as it hit me, I managed to rank 4th place in my class. From then onwards, I started making it, always and only, at 1st place. But then something unexpected happened...

What?

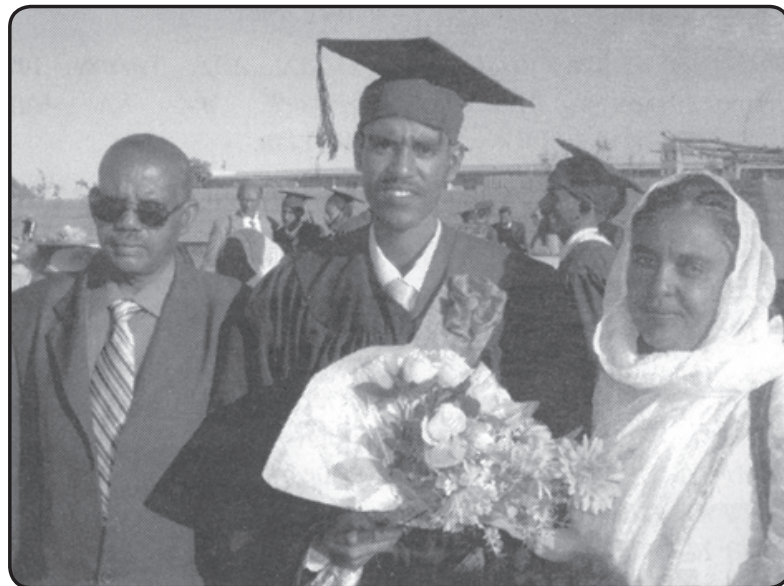
It was a shock for me and my parents. My parents were highly convinced that it was a technical mistake! And eventually they took my result to the testing center to see if there were any mistakes. But it wasn't. Honestly, I knew the fault was mine. I didn't study beyond class lectures and class activities. The problem was that I competed with my classmates, I didn't realize that to pass the matriculation exam demanded an extra studying



techniques.

It must have been heartbreaking.

I felt really bad. I felt like as if I had let down my family and teachers. That is why I decided to be strong about it and take the second exam. Every time I'd walk past the Asmara University building, I would say to myself that I most definitely wanted to learn there one day. The though kept my visions



incredibly clear and focused.

Later on.

I completed high school in 1999. I joined the 9th round to Sawa and completed my national service. I was inconsolable when I found out that I didn't get enough score college admission. After that I was assigned as a military preceptor. I anxiously waited for my second chance to participate at national matriculation and fortunately made it through! I couldn't believe my own luck! I joined the marine trainings in Dongolo and got to be the 1st from my class to get a marine engineering diploma.

How did you approach your studies in college?

I was highly attached to my education. I can say I had no challenges when I first joined college as I thought of it as a great

opportunity in life. It was a time where my prayers were answered so I stated college with happy thoughts. But even though I can't consider them as challenges, I had some inconveniences in the teaching methods of some Indian teachers.

Why civil engineering?

I had an inspiration from the start. Every time I look at different cities, building and infrastructures

students as well as the teachers. So college is where I experienced versatility.

I have never even imagined to be head teacher. Every time I think of my days as a teacher, my dorm room flashes before my eyes. I go 13 years back and I feel proud. In our department, bar for some foreign teachers we all are outcomes of the college. I am proud to be part of this.

Care to share with us some of your future plans?

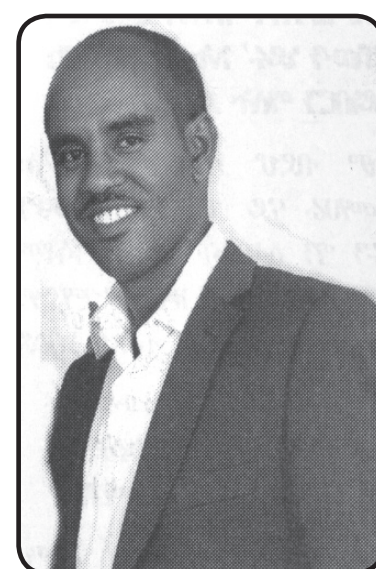
I am taking my MA degree at the College of Arts and Social Science, I am specializing in environmental engineering, but first I have to study GIS (Geographical Information System), and it's incredibly helpful.

Happily married

Yes, to a fellow engineer: Eng. Yordanos Yohannes, she majored in chemical engineering.

How do you think your life would have been hadn't you been educated?

I am actually happy I could not pass the first round of matriculation,



it gave me the opportunity to learn how to fail and then arise with grace. It really did change my life for the better and kicked in my head the notion of education and its importance. My learned lesson was that the journey of success might be long and tiring and requires persistence but it definitely gets you somewhere good.

Any last words

I would like to thank my family and my wife for the big the biggest support in my life. A big thanks to all of my friends and I would also to express appreciation to the EIT College.

Of Honey and...

Continued from page 4

used purely for medical purposes. A spoonful of that stuff and you find yourself vomiting and for compensation your Asthma is gone!

For wild honey, you have to follow the harharet, a quivering bird that leads you to where the honey is in expectation that it will get a part of the booty. But, according to tradition, where there is wild honey, there is also a python ready to gobble you up. So pray before eating your honey.

"Simon, why don't you stop your

smoking habits, you are ruining your lungs,"

"But every morning before taking ma breakfast, I eat three spoonfuls of honey."

Simon is over fifty years old. If too much smoking has already destroyed his lungs, too much sugar will eventually increase his chances of becoming diabetic.

But, since honey is taken as cure-all by almost the majority of our people, Simon will certainly continue smoking till the day he dies.