

## A Glimpse: “Tour of Resilience for Development”

Written by Billion Temesghen  
Wednesday, 20 April 2016 01:22

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The Tour of Eritrea is being promoted for the 6th time this year, under the theme of “Tour of Resilience for Development”. The Tour includes eight separate classifications: a one day race, two circuits (the Massawa and Asmara circuits) and five stages.

Participating the tour are eight teams: national teams of Eritrea, Egypt, Rwanda and Sudan. Followed by UCI professional continental team Amore Vita of Ukraine which is based in Italy, UCI continental team Bike Aid for Germany and regional club teams Tsinat and Salina.

The tour officially started on Saturday April 16th in Massawa with a one day primarily race “Fenkil Challenge” from Foro to Dongolo. Upon our arrival to Massawa at around 6 pm local time, we received the typical yum ‘Massawino’ welcome that Massawa people are known best for.

All in all, 44 riders lined up in the starting line at 8 am, with 27 000 dollars prize pending for the winner.

According to UCI’s parameter, Fenkil Challenge is a one day race, with a 1.2 category. The route which covered 113 km, extended from Foro to Ghindae, a flat race with two uphill challenges.

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A break away was formed at 13kms away from the beginning line. The group that started off with 44 riders got divided in two with a leading group of 15.

The leading group was formed by three riders from the Eritrean National Team, three of Tsinat, three from Salina, two from Amore E Vita, two from Bike Aid and two from Rwanda National Team. They showed fast advancements with great speed, remarkably parallel, until Hirgigo town, leading the way at a time gap of 0:1:30 second ahead the peloton.

One group after another, the three groups encompassing the 44 riders reached Massawa, after 27 km of pedaling in an hour and five minutes.

70 kilometers away, the leading group of five started enlarging the time gap with more speed, meanwhile the two following groups teamed up in one peloton.

The Dongolo area presents a couple of mountings. Surprise for the riders! More steering, pedaling and climbing. As such in Dongolo Tahtai, the time gap between the groups declined to one minute. The leading group slowed down while climbing. At the same time, one minute away the now new amalgamated peloton speeded up as riders from the Rwandan National Team pedaled tactically, forcing the rest to keep up to their own beat of speed: it was Rwandan speed or nothing!

In the mid of the uphill the leading group of five got cut down to three: Yonas Fessehaye from Salina and Amanuel Menghis of Bike Aid were left behind. Eventually being joined by the swift of speedy riders of the peloton.

In a little while, the Rwandan team showed further synchronized energy, setting new time and speed of their own, which prompted the peloton to velocity; as a result, all of the groups clustered in one big group for few kilometers.

After another climb of the Dongolo Lailai area, the big group was divided again.

A new leading group was formed. However, Kibrom Mehari from Tsinat escaped, being the new sole leader. He was, after some time, joined and overlapped by Michael Habtom and

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