



ERITREAN COMMUNITY FESTIVAL IN ITALY

The annual festival of the Eritrean community in Italy, conducted in Milan on 27 and 28 June under the theme “Our Resilience: Our Guarantee,” colorfully concluded.

The annual festival, in which nationals from various cities in Italy took part, featured cultural and artistic programs, fashion shows representing all Eritrean ethnic groups, children’s programs, a seminar on the objective situation in the homeland and regional and global

developments, as well as a photo exhibition.

According to report, the photo exhibition under the theme “Nierkado,” reflecting the peaceful demonstration of Diaspora nationals against the illegal sanctions imposed on Eritrea, received wide acclaim from visitors.

On the occasion, Mr. Fesehatsion Petros, Eritrea’s Ambassador to Italy, conducted a seminar focusing on the objective

situation in the homeland, as well as the contribution of Diaspora nationals to national affairs.

The festival was highlighted by cultural and artistic performances by renowned artists from Eritrea.

PHOTO EXHIBITION PORTRAYING ENEMY ATROCITIES

A photo exhibition depicting the atrocities committed by successive Ethiopian colonial regimes against the Eritrean people, as well as the heavy sacrifices paid by the Eritrean people for independence, was staged in Keren on 27 and 28 June.

The photos, which were obtained from enemy documents and presented by the Eritrean Police in connection with 20 June, Martyrs Day, portray atrocities committed by enemy forces in Keren in the 1960s and 1970s.

Noting that the photos presented at the exhibition reflect the tangible brutality committed by the colonial regimes against

the Eritrean people, Col. Libsu Tesfamichael, Commander of Police in the Anseba Region, said that the exhibition will make a significant contribution in transferring history to generations.

Survivors and eyewitnesses of the atrocities said that heavy crimes were committed in an attempt to reverse the Eritrean people’s struggle for independence. They added that, to the contrary, the atrocities emboldened the people and strengthened their support for the struggle for freedom. They also recommended organizing similar

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MAI-HABAR TECHNICAL SCHOOL GRADUATES 143 STUDENTS

Mai-Habar Technical School has graduated 143 students, including 55 female students, in certificate programs.

Mr. Tesfazgi Abraha, director of the school, indicated that after two years of theoretical and practical training, 24 students graduated in auto mechanics, 23 in construction, 25 in electricity, 23 in electronics, 24 in plumbing, and 24 in woodworking.

Underlining the importance of skilled labor in the economic development of a country, Mr. Measho Gebretensae, head of

follow-up and educational capacity assurance at the Ministry of Education, called on the graduates to strengthen participation in the nation-building process with the knowledge they gained from the training.

At the graduation ceremony, outstanding students were presented with awards by Ms. Tekea Tesfamichael, President of the National Union of Eritrean Women, and other officials.

Mai-Habar Technical School, established in 1997, has so far graduated 5,321 students, including 730 females.



MILKIAS MAEKELE WINS 2026 ERITREAN NATIONAL CYCLING CHAMPIONSHIP

The 16th Eritrean National Cycling Championship concluded on Sunday, 28 June, with a thrilling 183.6-kilometer race through the streets of Asmara.

Milkias Maekele, a member of the INEOS Grenadiers, claimed the elite national title, crossing the finish line in 4 hours, 16 minutes, and 29 seconds at an average speed of 41.9 km/h. In a decisive move, Maekele launched a powerful attack in the final 30 kilometers and rode solo to victory.

Henok Mulubrhan (Astana Club) and Natnael Tesfatsion (Movistar) rounded out the podium, finishing 2 minutes and 33 seconds and 2 minutes and 38 seconds behind the champion, respectively.

In the Under-23 category, Maekele also took top honors, with Nftalem Efrem and Natan Tesfa’alem—both of Denden Club—securing second and third places.

The junior men’s race saw a strong showing from Denden Club, with Yonatan Tedros and Eyobel Efrem claiming gold and

silver, while William Zerit of Club ASBECO took bronze.

The women’s championship was held separately on 25 June in the Mai-Diminet area, where Suzana Fesehaye of the Southern Region was crowned Eritrean Champion for 2026.

Medals and monetary prizes were awarded to the winners, while certificates of recognition were presented to the various institutions that supported the successful execution of the event. The championship was broadcast live by Eritrean Television and Radio Dimtsi Hafash.



Development

Tebeldia Administrative Area: a Model of Coexistence, Community Development and Progress

Kesete Gebrehiwet

Tebeldia Administrative Area, Gash Barka region, is one of the exemplar administrative areas in rural transformation, social harmony, and community-based development in Eritrea. It has a



Mr. Ahmed Sulieman

population of around 12,000 that live in all seven administrative zones. People mainly live on farming and raising animals, which remain the backbone of the local economy.

Tebeldia Administrative Area was established in 1995, following the return of Eritrean nationals from Sudan in the aftermath of Eritrea's independence. Later on, in 2007, additional returnees from Ethiopia also settled in the area. Since then, the administrative area has shown steady progress in social services, such as healthcare services, education and potable water supply, and agriculture. The transformation that has taken place over the years reflects the

commitment of the Government, the active participation of the residents, and the strong spirit of cooperation that prevails in the communities living in the area.

Education has played an important role in improving the living standards of the communities. As part of the nationwide initiative to expand children's access to schools across the country, two kindergartens have been established in Tebeldia. This initiative is significant because early childhood education is believed to lay firm foundation for the future academic and social development of children. The availability of kindergartens within the administrative area encourages parents to send their children to school from an early age.

Healthcare services have been instrumental in transforming the



lives of communities. Access to healthcare facilities has allowed them to get treatment for diseases more effectively while health awareness campaigns have helped them focus on prevention by adopting more healthy life styles. Environmental sanitation programs, in particular, have been successful in preventing malaria and other diseases that may occur during the rainy season. According to Mr. Ahmed Sulieman, administrator of Tebeldia Administrative Area, all administrative zones within the administrative area conduct regular sanitation programs aimed at combating water-borne diseases and creating a healthier environment.

One of the most notable achievements in the administrative area is the reliable supply of potable water. Powered by solar energy, four water distribution centers have been providing sufficient potable water to the residents. Mr. Ahmed said that the administrative area does not face any water supply challenge at the moment. This is a major achievement especially for rural communities because lack of access to clean water is one of the most important factors that affects health, productivity, and overall quality of life. And the use

of solar energy demonstrates the importance of sustainable solutions in addressing community needs. By relying on solar-powered water distribution centers, Tebeldia has been able to secure a dependable and environment-friendly water supply system.

Agriculture remains the main source of livelihood for the communities in Tebeldia. The area is known for its cultivation of crops such as millet and sorghum and the oil seed, sesame. These are important both for household consumption and income generation. The fertility of the farmlands has enabled residents to have ample harvests, which have contributed to the improvement of their living standards. An increase in agricultural productivity has reduced the vulnerability of households and boosted the local economy. In addition to crop

production, livestock is a major economic activity in the area. Cattle, sheep, goats, and camels are among the prominent animals raised by the communities. This combination of farming and pastoralism provides the communities with diversified bases of livelihood and strengthen the resilience of households.

The administrative area of Tebeldia has made commendable progress in eliminating harmful traditional practices that pose health risks to women and girls. Mr. Ahmed said that Tebeldia is free from practices such as female genital mutilation and underage marriage. This achievement is the result of sustained awareness-raising activities and the training provided to traditional healthcare



practitioners. The practitioners, who once played a role in preserving certain traditional practices, have now become more aware of the serious consequences of harmful cultural practices. Today, they are active advocates of the benefits of modern medical services and contribute to the protection of women's health and dignity. This shift shows the importance of education, awareness raising campaigns, and community engagement in bringing about lasting social changes.

The residents of Tebeldia have shown strong commitment to supporting families of fallen heroes. Popular campaigns have been conducted to assist families of martyrs in agriculture and other fields. Sixty-nine families have been receiving monetary and in-kind support annually. This support reflects the deep respect of the community for those who paid the ultimate price for the independence and preservation of sovereignty of the country. It also demonstrates the Eritrean tradition of collective responsibility, where the wellbeing of families of martyrs is regarded as a national and communal duty.

Mr. Ahmed noted that the Government has been actively supporting the residents, providing services and creating favorable conditions for development. The expansion of educational, healthcare, water, and other social services has contributed to the improvement of the living standards of the people. Peace and stability, he emphasized, have been a blessing for the

community and have created the foundation for progress. Without peace, development efforts cannot take root; and without stability, communities cannot properly plan for the future. In Tebeldia, the combination of committed leadership, public awareness, and social harmony have created an environment where development initiatives can be successfully implemented.

Despite the visible progress, Tebeldia Administrative Area still faces challenges. Mr. Ahmed said that the main challenge remains the distribution and expansion of more services. As the population grows and the needs of the community increase, there is a need to further expand existing services and introduce new ones. Through communal participation and administrative initiatives, efforts are expected to continue be made in addressing these challenges and expanding the benefits of development to all villages and administrative zones.

Tebeldia Administrative Area demonstrates the story of a steady transformation. From its establishment in 1995 with returnees from Sudan and the settlement of returnees from Ethiopia in 2007, the area has grown into a community marked by peaceful coexistence, agricultural productivity, improved social services, and ample public participation. The availability of education and healthcare facilities, the establishment of kindergartens, the existence of a reliable supply of potable water through solar-powered distribution centers, the prevention of diseases through sanitation programs, and the elimination of harmful traditional practices all point to meaningful progress. Above all, the mutual coexistence of different ethnic groups has become the foundation upon which Tebeldia continues to build its future. With continued communal effort, committed leadership, and the expansion of services, Tebeldia is well positioned to continue to grow and improve the livelihoods of its community members.



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SpotLight

Eritrea's National Service: A "Convenient Target" for Political Harassment

Bana Negusse

In recent weeks and months, Eritrea's National Service has once again become the subject of renewed scrutiny in certain quarters. Yet the timing, intensity, and selective nature of this attention raise fundamental questions about the motives driving the campaign. Far from reflecting a genuine concern for the welfare of the Eritrean people, the renewed focus is part of a broader – and increasingly well worn – pattern in which Eritrea's policies and institutions are politicized and instrumentalized to justify external pressure, hostility, and unwarranted interference.

To begin, any serious discussion of Eritrea's National Service must be grounded in the country's historical experience in the immediate aftermath of independence and the security realities that shaped its early state-building choices. The National Service programme, which in statutory terms is limited to 18 months, was established pursuant to Proclamation No. 82/1995, building on legislative foundations laid shortly after independence. It was conceived not only as a military arrangement in Eritrea's new security architecture in the new optimistic regional setting, but also as a comprehensive national programme designed to address interconnected challenges of security, development, nation-building, and social cohesion in a diverse, developing state emerging from three decades of armed struggle.

From the outset, Eritrea's approach to National Service was shaped by a broader process of post-independence demobilization and defense restructuring. In fact, the first phase began in 1992, when the Government launched a large-scale demobilization programme that reduced the liberation army by approximately 65 percent. This reflected a strategic shift toward a smaller professional standing force of roughly 35,000 personnel, supported by a reserve component. Within this framework, National Service was introduced as an eighteen-month programme consisting of six months of military training and twelve months of service in critical sectors of national development.

At the time, and in a regional environment initially characterized by general optimism and relative cooperation, this

structure was designed on the assumption that Eritrea's security environment would remain stable and that national resources could be directed toward reconstruction and development rather than prolonged military preparedness. National Service thus functioned as a supplementary mechanism within a broader post-war transition from liberation force to conventional state institutions.

Sadly, this trajectory was disrupted by Ethiopia's war of aggression, rooted in territorial aggrandizement, launched in May 1998, which necessitated the mobilization of National Service members and fundamentally altered the country's security calculus. The assumptions underpinning the early post-independence framework were consequently overtaken by events.

In the aftermath of the Algiers Agreement, which formally ended the war, Eritrea initiated a second phase of demobilization in 2001, intended to consolidate peace and further reduce military obligations in line with the anticipated implementation of an internationally binding settlement. However, the subsequent failure by Ethiopia to fully implement the Eritrea–Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC) ruling – which was cynically overlooked, if not quietly sanctioned by its Western backers – combined with continued regional tensions emanating from Ethiopia's entrenched irredentist policy objectives, prevented the full realization of this process and contributed to the extension of National Service obligations beyond their original scope.

Notwithstanding the prolonged security environment and a range of associated challenges, the Government of Eritrea has continued to implement a range of measures aimed at managing and adapting National Service within prevailing conditions. The majority of National Service members have been deployed in civilian public-sector roles, while substantial administrative adjustments have been periodically introduced to improve the functioning of the programme within the broader constraints of the national context. In parallel, reforms in public sector management and remuneration have been undertaken over time as part of wider state-building and institutional development efforts.



Against this wider backdrop, this politically orchestrated smear campaign reflects a selective reading of history that detaches National Service from its governing context and ignores basic ground realities. Rather than engaging with the full record, it isolates the programme as a standalone issue, abstracted from the circumstances that produced and sustained its evolution. In doing so, it replaces historical and legal complexity with a simplified narrative that serves political framing rather than objective assessment.

To be sure, the renewed "interest" in the program does not arise from any genuine or benevolent concern for Eritrea or its people. It is instead increasingly advanced as part of a recurring pattern of external pressure in which Eritrea's national policies and institutions are instrumentalized as a convenient point of political leverage. In this regard, it is quite telling that National Service, which has been central to Eritrea's security, cohesion, and development, has frequently been singled out in external discourse as a target.

What also cannot be overlooked is how those who now position themselves as arbiters of concern were, at critical junctures in Eritrea's modern history, either directly complicit in or indifferent

to the erosion of its decolonization rights and the geopolitical decisions that led to huge,

indeed bloody, consequences for Eritrea and its people. In the post-independence period, they also failed to meaningfully deter or address repeated violations of Eritrea's sovereignty, including wars of aggression and persistent territorial disputes rooted in territorial irredentism.

Viewed in this light, the ongoing campaign of criticism amounts to a sustained pattern of politically motivated scrutiny, driven by an agenda that bears little relation to the welfare of Eritreans or regional stability. It reflects instead a continuation of longstanding approaches that have consistently sought to exert pressure on Eritrea through selective narratives and fragmented interpretations of its internal policies.

Ultimately, any credible discourse about Eritrea's National Service must be firmly grounded in the country's full historical and security context. Anything less exposes the exercise for what it truly is: a malicious ulterior agenda cynically packaged as principled concern, with little bearing on the welfare of Eritreans or the pursuit of genuine regional peace and stability

"Eritreans are not only patriotic . . .

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The first thing I can highlight from a highly positive perspective is that Eritreans are deeply patriotic. I discovered and learned that they are not only patriotic but also authentic. During my time here, I have interacted quite extensively with Eritreans from all walks of life,

including young people, students, women's associations, workers, and veterans. That is why it is so easy and possible for me to call Eritrea my second home; the values Eritrea holds are very similar to those of South Africa. Therefore, in this regard, my takeaway about this country is that it has massive potential, a great potential that is still waiting to be fully harnessed, and something we can achieve jointly.

I have also interacted quite extensively and broadly with the government and senior government officials, including ministers. Similarly, the people of this country have shown immense love and admiration for South Africa. Because of this, I truly believe that we can reach greater heights in achieving our common goals for

both nations.

What would be your final message to the people and government of Eritrea? What is your hope for the trajectory of Eritrea-South Africa relations in the years to come?

As I said earlier, the prospects for progress, development, and a smart partnership between these countries and their people are ever-bright. My message to Eritreans is simple: keep doing what you are doing. We are learning from you and exchanging ideas, so keep moving forward. We know we have our own challenges, but if we work together, we can overcome them.

You have allowed me to understand your country, and I leave with a sense of achievement and fulfillment. I leave knowing that this is a journey we still have a mutual responsibility to undertake together. South Africa is there for you, and the bilateral relations that exist between our countries can only spiral upward, not downward. This great partnership between Eritrea and South Africa is alive with incredible possibilities. That is exactly what I would say.



One Bowl, One Nation

By: Kidane Shimendi

Traditional porridge is one of Eritrea's most celebrated culinary staples, embraced with equal fervor across the country's national diversity. Far more than just a source of sustenance, it is a symbolic national cuisine deeply embedded in the heart and soul of the people. It stands as a powerful testament to national unity, resourcefulness, and collective well-being.

With subtle regional variations in ingredients, the preparation of porridge follows a remarkably similar ritual across the country. This consistency beautifully highlights the Eritrean ethos of "unity in diversity"—a rich cultural heritage that generations have fostered to ensure communities thrive together against all odds.

Culturally, porridge is reserved for life's most significant milestones. It is the centerpiece of weddings, religious celebrations, honeymoons, childbirth ceremonies (Ahwas), and communal gatherings.

During these special events, family and community members come together to prepare the dish, share stories, pass down ancestral wisdom, and strengthen their social bonds. From the initial measurement of flour to the final serving, the values of unity, equality, and cooperation are on full display. This joyful, collaborative process breaks down social barriers and fosters lifelong harmony, making the dish a proud celebration of Eritrean identity.

Looking closely at a bowl of porridge, one can see the abundance of Eritrea's national resources and the culinary creativity of its women. The foundational grains—whether

barley, sorghum, or corn—showcase the fertility of the nation's soil. Meanwhile, the rich clarified butter (tesmi) and yogurt (albo) signify a thriving tradition of livestock rearing. The skill, patience, and wisdom required to master this cherished dish have rightfully earned Eritrean women great honor across generations.

Eritrean porridge offers a wealth of health benefits, thanks to its wholesome, unrefined ingredients—chief among them barley, which serves as the foundation of this nourishing dish. Barley is exceptionally rich in dietary fiber, making it a powerful ally for digestive health; it helps



regulate bowel movements and effectively prevents constipation. Beyond digestion, the soluble fiber in barley plays a key role in metabolic support by helping regulate blood sugar, supporting weight management, and reducing the risk of type 2 diabetes. Nutritionally, barley is also a potent source of B-vitamins, particularly niacin and thiamine, which are crucial for energy metabolism and proper cellular function. In addition, it provides essential minerals such as magnesium, phosphorus, and selenium—nutrients that support strong bones and a robust immune system. Together, these qualities make Eritrean porridge not just a comforting staple, but a truly health-promoting meal.

Sorghum, another widely used grain in Eritrean porridge, brings its own dense array of protective nutrients to the bowl. One of its standout benefits is gut health, as sorghum acts as a natural prebiotic, feeding beneficial bacteria in the digestive tract and helping maintain a balanced, healthy microbiome. It also supports steady blood sugar regulation by slowing down the digestion of carbohydrates, which prevents the sharp spikes in

glucose that often follow meals. On the cardiovascular front, sorghum is rich in magnesium and potassium—two minerals that work together to regulate blood pressure and sustain a steady heart rhythm—while its notable content of copper, iron, zinc, and B-vitamins further promotes healthy circulation throughout the body. Perhaps most importantly for those with dietary restrictions, sorghum is naturally gluten-free, making it an excellent and safe staple alternative for individuals with celiac disease or gluten sensitivities. With such a robust nutritional profile, sorghum proves itself to be both a comforting and health-conscious

choice.

Beyond the biochemical benefits of the grains, eating from a single communal plate yields remarkable psychological rewards. Sharing a meal in a tight-knit circle increases interpersonal cooperation, deepens social bonding, and enhances overall life satisfaction. It acts as a natural buffer against loneliness and isolation, significantly reducing symptoms of anxiety and depression.

The process of crafting the perfect porridge is a test of endurance and skill:

The Boil: A pot of water is placed over an open fire or stove and brought to a boil with a pinch of salt.

The Stiffening: The pot is temporarily removed from the direct flame, and finely ground flour (barley, wheat, sorghum, or corn) is gradually introduced.

The Labor: Continuous, vigorous stirring with a heavy wooden rolling stick (mewatiri) is crucial. Small amounts of hot water and flour are added incrementally until the mixture reaches a thick, smooth, lump-free consistency. This step showcases

the women's overwhelming patience and physical strength as they prepare it.

The Molding: The hot, dense dough is transferred into a deep communal bowl, where it is smoothed and shaped into a perfect dome.

The Crater: A deep well is pressed directly into the dome's center. This crater is filled with rich, melted spiced butter mixed with berbere (chili powder), while cool yogurt or milk is poured around the outer base. (Note: While some ethnic variations omit the central well, the combination of butter and dairy remains universal. In some regions, honey or sugar are introduced as alternative flavor profiles.)

Across Eritrea's diverse ethnic communities, porridge goes by many names and takes on subtle variations, reflecting the country's rich cultural tapestry. Among the Tigrinya, this staple dish is known as Ge'at (ገጽ), while the Tigre people call it Akelet (አክላት). Moving to the Saho and Afar groups, the names shift to Dagexa and either Casid or Dagxa, respectively—showing some linguistic overlap between neighboring populations. The Bilen refer to their version as Kala, whereas the Kunama call theirs Kawlege, and the Nara use the term Wolme. Meanwhile, the Rashaida community, with their closer ties to Arabian culinary traditions, names their porridge Asida, a term also found across the Red Sea. Finally, the Bidawyet



(Beja) people know this dish as Ootam. Despite the variety of names, the underlying comfort of a warm, hearty porridge remains a shared thread uniting these distinct Eritrean cultures.

Ultimately, porridge is a culinary monument to Eritrea's fertile lands, unity in diversity, resilience, and self-reliance. From the first stir of the wooden stick to the final gathering around the bowl, it brings people of all generations, genders, and economic backgrounds together.

No matter the physical distance, this dish seamlessly bridges the gap between nationals at home and the global diaspora, channeling everlasting memories of love, wisdom, and shared history. It remains a timeless reminder that no matter where an Eritrean is in the world, they are always connected to the same single bowl.

Bon appétit!

PHOTO EXHIBITION

Continued from page 1

The youth who visited the exhibition said that the program enabled them to witness the criminal acts of the colonial

forces that they had heard about, and noted that the exhibition will have a significant contribution in encouraging the youth to shoulder their national responsibilities.



Bidawyet porridge (Ootam)



SpotLight

A Comprehensive Response to Obstetric Fistula

Bana Negusse

Obstetric fistula remains one of the most devastating childbirth-related injuries affecting women and girls worldwide. Although entirely preventable and treatable, the condition continues to undermine the health, dignity, and wellbeing of thousands of women each year, particularly in developing regions where access to quality maternal healthcare remains limited. In Eritrea, however, sustained national commitment and targeted interventions have helped reduce the burden of obstetric fistula while improving treatment, rehabilitation, and prevention efforts.

Obstetric fistula is a severe childbirth injury characterized by an abnormal opening between the birth canal and the bladder and/or rectum. The condition results in the continuous and uncontrollable leakage of urine, feces, or both, leaving affected women and girls to endure profound physical, emotional, and social hardships. In most cases, obstetric fistula develops following prolonged and obstructed labor when timely medical care or emergency obstetric intervention is unavailable. As such, the condition is closely linked to broader challenges surrounding maternal health and remains an important indicator of inequalities in access to healthcare services.

The consequences of obstetric fistula extend far beyond the physical injury itself. Women living with the condition frequently experience chronic infections, painful sores, kidney complications, infertility, and other serious medical problems. If left untreated, a fistula can lead to life-threatening complications. Equally damaging are its social and

to depression, anxiety, loss of self-esteem, and other serious mental health challenges. Moreover, because many sufferers are unable to participate fully in economic activities, the condition often deepens poverty and further limits opportunities for social and economic advancement.

Globally, obstetric fistula continues to affect millions of women and girls. Estimates from international organizations indicate that more than two million women are currently living with untreated fistula, while an additional 50,000 to 100,000 new cases occur annually. Although the condition has been virtually eliminated in most developed countries due to widespread access to quality maternal healthcare and emergency obstetric services, it remains a significant challenge in parts of sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, the Arab region, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Young girls are particularly vulnerable because their bodies may not yet be fully developed for childbirth, increasing the risk of prolonged and obstructed labor.

Like many countries across sub-Saharan Africa, Eritrea continues to address the challenge of obstetric fistula as part of its broader efforts to improve maternal and reproductive health outcomes. Some estimates place the prevalence of obstetric fistula in Eritrea at approximately 0.34 cases per 1,000 women, with higher rates observed among females under the age of 18. The condition is also associated with adverse maternal and newborn outcomes. Obstructed labor, the principal cause of obstetric fistula, contributes to maternal mortality and is frequently linked to stillbirths, highlighting the importance of comprehensive

including the expansion of midwifery services, maternity waiting homes, increased facility-based deliveries, and strengthened emergency obstetric care. These system-wide interventions have been central to reducing the incidence of obstructed labor and improving maternal outcomes more broadly.



For more than two decades, Eritrea has pursued a comprehensive response that integrates prevention, treatment, and reintegration. In 2002, the Ministry of Health (MoH), with support from several partners, including UNFPA, launched the National Fistula Repair Project, marking a major milestone in the country's structured response to the condition. UNFPA has since maintained long-standing support by providing medical supplies, training health professionals and surgical teams, and reintegration assistance for survivors.

Recognizing the far-reaching consequences of the condition, Eritrea has adopted a comprehensive approach that combines treatment, rehabilitation, prevention, and community engagement. Addressing obstetric fistula forms an integral component of the country's wider maternal health agenda and reflects its commitment to ensuring safe motherhood and protecting women's health and rights.

Central to these efforts is the work of the MoH, which collaborates closely with national and international partners to provide free fistula diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation services. Women and girls requiring care receive surgical repair free of charge, along with transportation support and access to rehabilitation programs designed to facilitate their recovery.

Partnerships have been significant. The MoH works closely with international partners, local communities, and development organizations to strengthen service delivery, enhance technical capacity, and support rehabilitation programs. This collaborative approach has helped expand access to care and improve the overall effectiveness and sustainability of fistula prevention

and treatment efforts.

A cornerstone of Eritrea's response is the specialized fistula center at Mendefera Regional Hospital, which now operates within the national system. With a capacity of 32 beds, the center provides holistic care that goes beyond medical treatment to include counseling, nutritional

support, rehabilitation services, and transport assistance for patients. Over the years, these services have achieved consistently strong outcomes, enabling many women to regain their health, confidence, and independence after years of suffering.

Treatment is complemented by structured follow-up and reintegration support, ensuring that patients recover fully and rebuild their lives. Survivors receive ongoing medical evaluations as well as psychological, emotional, and social support. Counseling services, life-skills training, and livelihood development initiatives help women reintegrate into their communities and regain economic independence. Community outreach activities are equally important, helping to challenge stigma, correct misconceptions, and raise awareness about maternal health, antenatal care, and facility-based delivery services.

Alongside treatment and rehabilitation, prevention remains a major pillar of Eritrea's strategy. Many of the interventions that improve maternal health and advance women's rights also contribute directly to reducing the incidence of obstetric fistula.

For example, strong legal frameworks and enforcement measures have played an important role in combating harmful traditional practices such as female genital cutting and child marriage. Once widespread in many parts of the country, these practices have declined significantly due to sustained public awareness campaigns, community engagement initiatives, and legal protections. Their reduction has contributed to lowering risk factors associated with obstetric fistula and other adverse maternal health outcomes.

Equally significant has been Eritrea's continued investment in healthcare infrastructure and service

delivery. Since independence, the country has expanded and upgraded its health system through the construction and renovation of health facilities and the training of larger numbers of healthcare professionals. Today, Eritrea has close to 350 health facilities, including hospitals, health centers, health stations, and clinics, representing a substantial increase over 1991. The healthcare workforce has also grown considerably during the same period.

Importantly, efforts have focused not only on expanding services but also on improving equitable access. More healthcare workers are now deployed in rural and remote communities, helping ensure that essential maternal health services are available to populations that previously faced significant barriers to care. As a result, more than 80 percent of Eritreans now live within a 10-kilometer radius of a health facility, while over 70 percent reside within a 5-kilometer radius.

Notable gains in maternal healthcare utilization have accompanied these improvements. The proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel has risen dramatically from approximately 6 percent at independence to about 80 percent today. Likewise, antenatal care coverage has expanded significantly, with roughly 98 percent of pregnant women now attending at least one antenatal care visit, compared to less than 20 percent during the early years of independence.

Beyond healthcare interventions, Eritrea has also sought to address the broader social and economic factors that contribute to women's vulnerability. Expanding educational opportunities for girls and women has been particularly important. Greater access to education has strengthened women's autonomy and decision-making capacity, increased awareness of and utilization of health services, delayed marriage, and enabled women to make more informed choices regarding family planning and reproductive health. These advances not only improve overall wellbeing but also help reduce the underlying conditions that increase the risk of obstetric fistula.

While challenges remain, Eritrea's experience demonstrates the value of an integrated and sustained approach to maternal health. Eritrea's continued commitment and efforts will be essential to achieving the ultimate goal of eliminating obstetric fistula and ensuring all women can experience pregnancy and childbirth safely, with dignity and access to quality care.



psychological effects. Persistent leakage and the accompanying odor often result in stigma, discrimination, and social exclusion. Many women find themselves isolated from family members, abandoned by spouses, or marginalized within their communities. The resulting emotional distress can contribute

prevention and treatment strategies.

Eritrea's progress in addressing obstetric fistula has been strongly supported by national leadership that prioritizes maternal health as a core development objective. Prevention efforts are closely integrated into broader maternal health strategies,



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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

1. Position: Scaffolding Trainer/Supervisor
Department: Processing and Underground Operations
Section: Process Plant-Maintenance
Number required: One (01)

Primary Purpose

- Scaffolder Trainer/Supervisor will assess and delegate any scaffolding requirement in BMSC. He is also responsible for preparing the materials to provide access to elevated tasks by means of scaffolding. He will be responsible for training the nationals to become competent scaffolders and be able to provide a safe working platform for any personnel that are required to work at heights.

Essential Functions

- Design and update comprehensive scaffolding training programs (e.g., basic, intermediate, advanced, and inspection courses) tailored to adult learners.
- Deliver engaging classroom instruction and hands-on practical training.
- Teach trainees how to interpret technical drawings, structural designs, and manufacture instructions for various types (e.g., tube and clamp, system scaffold, birdcage)
- Train national rigging workforce by developing training programs and facilitating the programs.

TASK DESCRIPTION Expanded TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS

Planning

- Perform pre-engineering studies (scaffolding studies) to undertake activities
- Determine the height and area
- Determine the correct scaffold support structure requirements (design, load, length, etc.)

Implementation of the Plan

- Identify the highest priority for each week and focus on completing relevant tasks.
- Ensures good housekeeping.
- Ensures “scaffolding” operations on the mine are carried out in an efficient and effective way to minimise downtime, possibly effecting production. (60-, 70 -,120- & 350-ton cranes)
- Performs regular legal inspections on all scaffolding equipment on site to detect potential problems before they cause breakdowns.
- Controls downtime by ensuring the best techniques are being used to repair breakdowns.
- Ensure safety requirements are fulfilled at the workplace, including leading Field Level Risk Assessment (FLRA) and proper use of the appropriate PPE. Report any safety issues/incidents.
- Comply with mine’s cardinal rules and other safety, environmental or other rules and standards as directed. Identifies any hazards in the workplace.
- Maintains equipment; parts and supply stocks by carrying out regular stock takes and ordering replacements as required.

Scaffolding:

- Erect, alter/reposition and dismantle access scaffolding & load bearing scaffolding
- Erect, alter/reposition and dismantle suspended scaffolding

Writing Reports & Data Control

- Compile daily progress reports for the department. (Action Tracker)
- Demonstrate autonomy in learning through:
- Interacting with and developing the capacity of team members to maintain and support legislative, regulatory, quality, safety, and health systems.
- Taking the initiative by addressing problems arising from the supervision of scaffolding and moving tasks.
- Develop scaffolding training programs as per company requirement and facilitate/moderate.
- Educate workers on the proper use of fall protection systems, including safety harnesses, guardrails, and netting.

- Train staff to identify and mitigate common scaffolding hazards such as unstable foundations, inadequate bracing, electrical proximity (power lines), and overloading
- Conduct written and practical evaluations to assess trainees’ understanding and physical proficiency.
- Provide constructive feedback and remedial coaching to ensure every worker meets strict safety and quality standards.
- Certify workers who successfully demonstrate the required level of competence
- Ensure all training content aligns with local, national, and international safety regulations (e.g., OSHA, HSE, or local labor laws).
- Maintain accurate, up-to-date training records, attendance logs, and certification documentation.

UNIQUE REQUIREMENTS / OTHER INFORMATION

- Candidate must be physically medically fit & Candidate must be qualified scaffolder.
- Must be able to work outside exposed to heat, wind, and dusty environments
- Must be able to work at heights and Processing plant experience
- Opencast experience, Scaffolder Training Coordinator/Facilitator/Moderator

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
- Trade Certificate - Technical College Diploma - Scaffolder Trade (Expats).	10+ years relevant experience
Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
- Attention to detail - Problem solving skill - High level of accuracy - Ability to work towards strict deadlines & Scaffolding experience - Supervisory experience.	- Communication (English) Coordination skills - Team and leadership skills - Self-motivation & Prioritizing skills - Specialised organisational skills (evaluating, planning and scheduling work).

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:

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

NOTICE

The Shareholders of HADERA and SONS LEATHER and LEATHER PRODUCTS Plc. in the extraordinary meeting, held on March 25, 2026, have resolved to approve the contracts of donation made by Ato Hadera Zemichael and W/ro Dehab Kubrom and their shares to be transferred to Ato Erimias Hadera and W/ro Misgana Mesfin.

Accordingly, Arts. 1 and 7 of the Memorandum of Association of the Company are amended to read as follows:

Art. 1. Members

	NAME	NATIONALITY	ADDRESS	SHARES
1.	ERMIAS HADERA	ERITREAN	DUBAI	5,160
2.	MISGANA MESFIN	ERITREAN	ASMARA	2,580

Art. 7. The shareholding of the members of the company is as follows:

S. No.	Name of Shareholders	No. of shares	Value in Nakfa
1	Ermias Hadera	5,160	5,160,000.00
2	Misgana Mesfin	2,580	2,580,000.00
	Total	7,740	7,740,000.00



Zara Mining
Share Company

**Vacancy
Announcement**

Position:	Articulated Dump Truck Operators
Number required	11
Location:	Based at Koka Gold Mine (Site)
Reporting to:	UG Mine Supervisor
Primary Responsibility & Scope of work	Operating truck to transport materials to and from underground mine site
Duties & function:	- Operating the dump truck to transport materials to and from the work site. - Communicating with other workers and professionals to coordinate material transportation and placement. - Keeping accurate records of materials transported and work performed. - Inspecting the dump truck before and after every shift, which includes checking the oil, gas, and water levels as well as the lights and tires. - Complying with all safety rules and regulations.
Formal Education, Certifications or Equivalents	Junior school and above 3 rd grade license
Working Experience – Nature & Length	Not Required
Leadership Experience - Nature & Length of time	Not Required
Age	18 to 50 Years old
Unique requirements	- To be able to pass a full Doctor’s physical examination. - To be able to work on shift based ZMSC’s roster.

Salary:	As per the Company scale
Additional Requirement for nationals:	- Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligations and providing evidence of a release paper from the Ministry of Défense. Present Clearance paper from the current/last employer. Only short-listed applicants would be considered as potential candidates for an interview. Application documents will not be returned to the sender.
Please mail your applications to the ZARA MINING SHARE CO P. O. Box 2393. Asmara,	
Note to Eritrean applicants: - Please send a copy of your application to Aliens Employment Permit Affairs P.O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea. and Eritrea. Mineral Resources Management P. O. Box 272	
Deadline for application: 7 days from the day of announcement.	

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public that the shareholders of **TesWel P.L.C** on their Extraordinary Meeting held on the 2nd day of June 2026 have resolved that; Mrs. Asefash Hadgu has sold and transferred her 2 shares per value of 1,000.00 (One Thousand Nakfa) to Mr.Yirgealem Tesfai and withdraw from the membership of the company.

TesWel P.L.C

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public that the shareholders of **Societa’ Immobiliare Commerciale Industriale P.L.C** on their Extraordinary Meeting held on the 2nd day of June 2026 have resolved that; Mrs. Asefash Hadgu has sold and transferred her 4 shares per value of 1,000.00 (One Thousand Nakfa) to Mr.Yirgealem Tesfai and withdraw from the membership of the company.

Societa’ Immobiliare Commerciale Industriale P.L.C

NOTICE

Here given the public the members Ghenet Import and Export p.l.co on their extra ordinary meeting held on June 08, 2026 pursuant to art.9 of the articles of association and relevant articles of the commercial code of Eritrea the shareholders of the company representing at least ¼ members agreed to be registered new trade name Ghenet metal work for the manufacturing licensee registered the name of company.
B.Henok Uqubazghi Kahsay and Nazriet Uqbazghi Kahsay are appointed to be the managers and run the affairs of the company jointly and or severally for unlimited period of period of time.

Ghenet Import and Export p.l.co

Notice

Notice is hereby given to the public that **Sagla Enterprise Private Limited Company** is formed among the following members:

1. Name	Nationality	Address	Shares
1 Selam Araya Bahlbi	Eritrean	Kenya	50
2 Kokob Kidane Teklemariam	Eritrean	Eritrea	50
			100

2. The head office of the company shall be in Asmara, Eritrea. The Company may open branch offices whenever and wherever necessary.
3. The company has a share capital of NAKFA 200,000.00 (Two hundred thousand Nakfa) divided into 100 (One hundred) registered shares of par value of NAKFA 2,000 (Two thousand Nakfa) each all subscribed and fully paid up by the member’s in cash.
4. The company shall engage in:
1. Technological solutions,
 2. Guarding, Gardening and Cleaning Services,
 3. Fisheries,
 4. Drilling Activities,
 5. Commission Agents,
 6. General Trading,
 7. Import and Export,
 8. Ice making plant and cold storage,
 9. Renewable energy design, material supply and installations,
 - 10.Consulting on renewable energy, and
 - 11.Mobile telephone network and service.
5. **Mrs. Selam Araya Bahlbi** is appointed as a manager for unlimited period of time.
6. The company is established for unlimited period of time.

Sagla Enterprise PLC



"Eritreans are not only patriotic, but they are also Authentic" Ambassador Perseverance Mbuzeli

As you conclude your tenure as South Africa's Ambassador to Eritrea, how would you characterize the current state of bilateral relations between our two countries? What do you consider to be the most significant developments achieved during your time here?

Thank you very much for the question. I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for coming as I am wrapping up my term of duty in the State of Eritrea, with immense gratitude for the years that I have spent, and for the hospitality that I have enjoyed, which has been extended to me by the authorities and the people of the State of Eritrea.

Over the past ten years, I can say that so much has been achieved. We have achieved unparalleled success, particularly in the field of diplomacy. Political relations between the two countries and their bilateral relations have reached a high level. We recall that, since my arrival, we have engaged at a high level between South Africa and Eritrea, particularly through the visit by the Deputy Minister of International Relations of South Africa to the State of Eritrea in October 2025. This was a culmination of many other engagements that have taken place at both cultural, people-to-people, and educational levels as well. So, I can characterize it as a very successful ten years. And there is still more to be done, and I am hoping my successor will follow suit.

Eritrea and South Africa share a history of liberation struggles. The late President Nelson Mandela's granddaughter, Ms. Nandi Mandela, recently visited Eritrea, noting that the two countries are "peers" with immense potential to drive economic liberation on the continent. How does the vision of "trade, not aid" and building equal partnerships guide the work of the South African mission in Eritrea?

Ms. Nandi Mandela was here about a month ago and indeed visited various parts of the country. She toured several projects, including agricultural initiatives and infrastructure development, and met with various sectors of society. What we can regard as the most successful part of her visit is that she spoke directly to what we, as the governments of South Africa and the State of Eritrea, want to achieve. We don't believe in aid; we believe in trade. This has always been the policy championed by Nelson

After nearly six years as South Africa's Ambassador to Eritrea, Ambassador Perseverance Mbuzeli Kumsha is concluding his diplomatic mission with a profound sense of fulfillment and mutual respect. Throughout his tenure, he focused on strengthening bilateral and cultural ties, and he highly praised the resilience, self-reliance, and rich heritage of the Eritrean people. Ultimately, his reflections highlight a deeply fulfilling journey rooted in mutual respect, shared African unity, and a lasting commitment to regional cooperation between South Africa and Eritrea. Eri-TV's Rafael Giuseppe and the Profile team sat down with Ambassador Kumsha for a farewell interview. Below are excerpts.

Mandela, and it is a path I wish the current government of my country were still pursuing.

We believe in equal partnerships; we believe in smart partnerships. We do not believe in developing a culture of handouts. Consequently, the prospects for developing strong economic ties and potential collaborations between the Republic of South Africa and the State of Eritrea are massive and incredibly bright. I believe Eritrea stands to benefit greatly from South Africa's strengths in both small-scale and heavy industries. We can establish it in the spirit of South-South cooperation, within the framework of the African Union, and through a thorough understanding of the concept of regional integration. While South Africa is in the south and Eritrea is in the northeast of the continent, we believe there is ample work we can do together. Eritrea is a model of functioning self-reliance; we have seen this reflected in its significant achievements in agriculture, sanitation, and small-scale, homegrown businesses. Similarly, we are doing our best to empower our own people in South Africa, especially those who are historically disadvantaged. Given our shared history and our commitment to empowering and restoring the dignity of our people, there is a tremendous amount we can achieve together.

From your perspective, which sectors are most promising for expanding economic cooperation between Eritrea and South Africa? We have seen discussions around agriculture and infrastructure. What concrete opportunities for South African investment and knowledge exchange do you foresee in the near future? What about coordination between the two countries in regional and international forums?

First, let me start with mining. Eritrea possesses a huge potential in the mining sector. Given South Africa's long and rich history of mining, we stand a good chance of collaborating, cooperating, and joining hands to support each other's economies.

We believe that the mining sector is key, as is the energy sector and, of

course, infrastructure development on all levels, small, medium, and large-scale. This would include, for instance, the possibility of refurbishing and developing ports, where there is huge potential, as we are already active in Africa and in some parts of the world outside Africa. Beyond ports, there is also rail and road infrastructure. We possess immense potential in these areas, and we believe Eritrea can truly benefit from them.

When it comes to coordination in regional and international forums, we already have a mechanism in place; we need to strengthen it, particularly as we move from bilateral to multilateral frameworks, and from a single state to a broader region. South Africa is a very active member of SADC (the Southern African Development Community) and similarly plays an active role in the African Union. In this regard, we strongly believe that, because Eritrea is championing and encouraging the concept of regional integration, we have much to work on together.

His Excellency, the President of the State of Eritrea, is very passionate about regional integration, a point I know well because he emphasizes it during my interactions with him. There are no limits to South Africa and Eritrea working together as regional partners to expand and strengthen the institutions of the African Union and other multilateral forums. In this respect, I believe that, as far as trade and investment are concerned, we can establish highly useful platforms for the two nations to ensure that, from down south to the northeast, the east, and the Horn of Africa, we find common ground. Together, we can work to establish a very vibrant regional economic integration.

Internationally, yes, there are challenges. As part of the developing world, we face inequality, as we are not necessarily on an equal footing with developed countries, particularly in the UN Security Council and other UN institutions. For this reason, we call for the reform of the United Nations. We believe it needs a comprehensive review to benefit the majority of the world's citizens. We must be



considered equal partners in a multilateral setting. No country is small; all nations are equal.

Beyond government-to-government relations, what is the state of people-to-people ties between Eritrea and South Africa? Are there opportunities for greater cultural exchange, academic collaboration, or sporting engagements that could further strengthen the bonds between our peoples?

Perhaps you are aware that there is currently a UNDP program through INISA aimed at empowering the education sector in Eritrea, specifically within the justice department. It is working very well. Two years ago, there was a very important and remarkable graduation ceremony for several Eritrean judges who earned Master's and junior degrees in international law and various fields of legal practice. We believe that something significant is already happening, and we are very proud of what we have established in this part of the education sector.

Similarly, we collaborate across various agricultural sectors, with our government providing opportunities for Eritreans to undertake advanced courses in food security through the University of Pretoria. We also collaborate on maritime-related matters, specifically the blue ocean economy; we have senior officials from the ministry who have undergone training at Rhodes University. Additionally, an exchange is taking place between our Department of Environmental Affairs in South Africa and the Ministry of Fisheries in Eritrea. Through this, we are exploring and

learning a lot in terms of organic fertilizers, an area where Eritrea is making great strides in innovation and creativity, and we believe we have much to learn from that as well.

Furthermore, we have been promoting people-to-people relations through cultural exchanges. Last year, during Eritrea's independence celebrations, the cultural troupe Umoja from South Africa performed. The reception they received was very impressive, and they look forward to returning to interact and continue this cultural exchange. Similarly, we are exploring cooperation in sports, particularly cycling. Eritrea is a cycling nation, and we are a cycling nation as well, making it another fantastic area where we can promote this people-to-people partnership.

In addition, there are a large number of Eritreans doing business in South Africa. In our experience, they know how to mingle and integrate smoothly with South Africans because they possess a strong social foundation for understanding other societies. We have not encountered any negative challenges with Eritreans, and we can continue to improve our people-to-people interactions through these various avenues.

Based on your experience, what is the most striking aspect of Eritrea that you believe outsiders often misunderstand? What will you take away from your time here, particularly in terms of the national development projects and the spirit of its people?

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