

SENIOR ERITREAN DELEGATION HOLDS TALKS WITH EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS



A senior Eritrean delegation comprising Mr. Hagos Gebrehiwet, Head of Economic Affairs, and Mr. Nesredin Mohammed Saleh, Minister of Trade and Industry, held talks on 1 October, in Cairo with Dr. Badr Abdellaty, Egypt's Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Expatriates, and Lieutenant General Kamel El-Wazir, Minister of Transport.

During the meeting with Dr. Badr Abdellaty, the two sides reviewed progress in

implementing the agreement previously reached and discussed the next steps, areas of bilateral cooperation, and regional matters of mutual interest.

The discussion with Lieutenant General Kamel El-Wazir focused on enhancing investment and trade in construction equipment and materials, pharmaceuticals, agricultural produce, and marine resources, as well as maritime transport.

The meeting was attended by

Mr. Berhane Gebrehiwet, General Manager of the Housing and Commercial Bank, and Mr. Aman Abdelwase'e, Chargé d'Affaires at the Eritrean Embassy in Egypt.

PRESS RELEASE: ETHIOPIA'S DEPLORABLE ACTS OF HOSTILITY

The Ethiopian Government issued a Press Statement today announcing the closure of the Eritrean Embassy to Ethiopia as well as declaring ten Eritrean Diplomats, including the Charge d'Affaires and other Eritrean Diplomats accredited to the African Union as "persona non grata".

To justify these unwarranted acts of hostility, the Ethiopian Government has turned the tables to accuse Eritrea for "direct and indirect acts of hostility and belligerence against Ethiopia".

This is astounding indeed.

In reality, it is Ethiopia which has been pursuing an agenda of incessant hostility – in effect, a publicly pronounced declaration of war – against Eritrea for three years in pursuit of "the imperative of acquiring sovereign access to the sea" through the invasion of sovereign Eritrean ports and coastal areas.

In parallel with these aggressive intentions, Ethiopia has gone further to host, train, and provide arms, to an assortment of what it calls "Eritrean armed opposition groups" to stoke internal conflict for "regime change" in Eritrea.

Throughout these trying times, Eritrea has displayed patience and restraint in the hope of averting a dangerous escalation.

In the current circumstances, however, Eritrea has no option but to reciprocate in kind and severe all diplomatic ties with Ethiopia with all the negative corollaries that this entails.

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Asmara
1 October 2026*

VARIOUS ACTIVITIES BY NATIONALS IN SWITZERLAND

Nationals residing in the Swiss cities of Geneva, Basel and Lausanne have conducted various activities, including public seminars and conferences, aimed at strengthening their organizational capacity and contributions to national development programs.

At the seminar conducted in Geneva, Mr. Habtom Zeray, Chargé d'Affaires at the Eritrean Embassy in Switzerland and Eritrea's Permanent Representative to the UN Human Rights Council and other international organizations, gave a briefing on the objective situation in the homeland, as well as

regional and global developments.

Mr. Habtom stated that the progress Eritrea is registering at a time when the world is tormented by war and a lack of peace is the result of the unity of its people and commitment of its leadership. He also called on Eritrean communities to strengthen their role in preserving the noble societal values nurtured through heavy sacrifice and passing them on to future generations.

Noting the significance of unity to the existence of society and the country, Mr. Habtom said that the lifting of the unwarranted

unilateral sanctions imposed on Eritrea was the result of the unity and steadfastness of the Eritrean people.

Mr. Ismail Mohammed-Nur, head of Public and Community Affairs, also gave a briefing on the programs of the Fourth Front.

In the same vein, the Eritrean community in Basel and the Lausanne branch of the National Union of Eritrean Women held activity assessment meetings and discussed future programs. They also elected executive committees for a two-year term.



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS OBSERVED

The International Day of Older Persons, observed annually on 1 October, was marked at the national level in Elaberet under the theme "Older Persons Source of Endowment of Culture and Values".

Col. Tesfatsion Girmay, Director General of Social Services in the Anseba Region, said that providing care and love to older persons is embedded in the culture and values of the Eritrean people. He added that preserving this noble societal value and supporting older persons are the responsibility of every citizen.

Noting that the occasion provides an opportunity to nurture and pass on noble societal values to future generations, Col. Tesfatsion called for creating the necessary conditions to enable older persons to receive the support they deserve.

Ms. Asha Ali-Nur, administrator of the sub-zone, emphasized that older persons are a source of noble culture, values, beliefs and morals, and called for providing them with the necessary care and support.

The International Day of Older Persons is being observed for the 35th time internationally and for the 31st time at the national level.

Development

Digsa: A Village Turning Its Mountains Green

By: Mussie Efriem

In the rugged landscapes of Eritrea, where towering mountains and limited water resources shape everyday life, environmental action is far more than a minor improvement. It is deeply



Haylemaryam Yohanes

connected to the future of local communities, the protection of soil and water, and the hope of leaving a healthier, more resilient landscape for generations to come. An inspiring example of this commitment is currently unfolding in Digsa—a village in the Segeneyti Subzone of the Southern region—where residents have united around an ambitious vision: to transform the steep mountain slopes surrounding their home into a flourishing green landscape.

The initiative is rooted in the belief that meaningful environmental change does not always require large, expensive projects. Instead, it can begin with ordinary people—children, farmers, elders, women, and

youth—working together with dedication and a deep understanding of their land.

The campaign centers on Itay Jemer, a mountain whose name carries a profound place in local history and the national armed struggle. According to local accounts, the name honors a historic nun who courageously sheltered and buried an Eritrean freedom fighter in her home during the war. Her legacy of sacrifice has become an integral part of Digsa's identity, bridging the village's heroic past with its present environmental drive.

Today, the residents are writing a new chapter in that history through



Ghirmay Weldemichael

collective, voluntary action aimed at restoring their natural environment. One of the most remarkable aspects of the campaign is the sheer determination required to nurture the young trees. To keep the young eucalyptus seedlings alive in the dry terrain, villagers transport water on pack animals from a source located half a kilometer away. Every seedling represents water painstakingly collected, carried, and poured by a community that believes today's labor will yield fruit for decades to come.

The work is arduous. The

climate is arid, water is scarce, and the steep slopes present constant challenges. Yet, the villagers persevere because their goal extends beyond the survival of individual plants. They envision entire hillsides covered in lush greenery. According to Mr. Haylemaryam Yohanes, administrator of the Digsa administrative area, approximately 45,000 seedlings have been planted since 2022, averaging 7,000 to 8,000 trees each year.

Initially, the project relied on seasonal rains. However, when rainfall was delayed, the local administration and community stepped in, manually watering the young plants during their critical early growth stages and extending care through the harsh dry seasons starting every March.

Earlier planting sites demonstrate what sustained community dedication can achieve. Seedlings planted four years ago have grown significantly, providing visible proof of success that motivates residents to expand their efforts.

Perhaps the most inspiring element of the Itay Jemer initiative is its generation-spanning unity. Children as young as eight work alongside elders in their eighties. Far from being a barrier, this age gap turns environmental stewardship into a shared family value. For the young, it offers an early lesson in ecological responsibility; for the elderly, it provides a meaningful way to pass down knowledge, values, and love for the land.

Mr. Iyasu Asefaw, Director of



Meskelkibra Eyob

the Ministry of Agriculture in the Segeneyti Subzone, praised the community's extraordinary dedication. He noted that plans are underway to expand green coverage in the coming season by building on the village's



momentum and optimizing available land.

The effort in Digsa goes well beyond simply planting trees. Villagers are adopting a comprehensive land-management strategy by combining multiple ecological practices:

- Constructing soil and water conservation structures to prevent erosion.
- Protecting designated

reforested zones so young trees can mature safely.

- Integrating local bee-farming activities to boost biodiversity and economic sustainability.

- Mobilizing continuous voluntary labor to expand green zones across adjacent hills.

In an arid climate, planting a tree is only the first step. Because seedling survival hinges on soil moisture, the community's

water-retention structures play a crucial role. When rains do arrive, these barriers slow down runoff, allowing water to soak deep into the soil and protecting valuable topsoil from washing away.

The residents are taking a long-term view. Active participants like Ghirmay Weldemichael and Meskelkibra Eyob explain that their ultimate goal is to turn Digsa into a thriving regional "green hub." As the direct beneficiaries of a restored ecosystem, they hope their success will serve as a model for neighboring communities across Eritrea.

Ultimately, the strength of Digsa's campaign lies in its grassroots origin. Reforestation projects are far more sustainable when driven by the people themselves rather than imposed from above. By carrying the jerrycans, building the terraces, and tending the soil, the people of Digsa have formed a deep, personal bond with their land.

Today, they carry water up dry mountain slopes to nurture frail seedlings. Tomorrow, those seedlings will stand as mature trees—permanently transforming the landscape for generations to come.



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**Editor-In-Chief
Amanuel Mesfun**

**Asst. Editor-In-Chief
Sirak Habtemichael**

P.O.Box: 247

Tel: 11-41-14

Fax: 12-77-49

E-mail:

eritreaprofilemoi@gmail.com

Advertisement: 12-50-13

Layout

Azmera Berhane

Betelhiem Tadesse

Muna Yemane

SpotLight

At the Centre of the Nation's Future

Bana Negusse

The recent launch of the inaugural State of Africa's Children 2026 report by the African Union Commission and UNICEF has brought renewed attention to the situation, aspirations, and well-being of Africa's children. As a joint flagship initiative intended to place children's experiences, priorities, and evidence at the heart of continental policy and development discourse, the report provides a timely opportunity to reflect on the policies and efforts of individual African countries. For Eritrea, it offers a fitting occasion to examine the country's longstanding commitment to its children and to the belief that they constitute one of its most valuable resources.

Eritrea has consistently placed children and youth at the centre of

This understanding is not new. It is firmly embedded in Eritrea's national vision and policy framework. The National Charter, adopted in February 1994 as the country's foundational guiding document, places explicit emphasis on the welfare and rights of children. It states:

"Eritrea should strive to minimize infant mortality and to care for its children. The children of martyrs, in the tens of thousands, who were deprived of the love of their parents, as well as other orphans, must be provided with proper upbringing and care. In Eritrea, the rights of children to education, health, love, safety, play, and to human dignity must be respected."

Nearly three decades later, this principle continues to find expression in national policies

has progressively developed institutions, policies, and programmes aimed at addressing the diverse needs of children and vulnerable groups. Recent initiatives should therefore be viewed not in isolation, but as part of a broader and continuing effort to strengthen human development, social protection, equity, and inclusion.

A case in point is the adoption in 2021 of the National Social Protection Policy and the National Social Protection Strategic Plan (2022–2026). Together, these instruments seek to advance a more inclusive and developmental approach to social welfare by addressing the socio-economic and structural conditions that contribute to vulnerability and insecurity, with particular attention to marginalized sections of society.

In the same year, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MoLSW) revised the Policy for Disability, with an enhanced focus on protecting and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities, including children. Its subsequent translation into Tigrigna in early 2023 has helped broaden public awareness and understanding of disability rights among communities and institutions.

Education remains another central pillar. The Ministry of Education's Sector Strategic Plan (2022–2026) provides a comprehensive framework for the provision and continued improvement of educational services throughout the country. Complementing this, the Partnership Compact (2023–2027), developed by the Ministry with support from the Global Partnership for Education, outlines an inclusive and transformative reform agenda aimed at expanding access to quality learning for girls and boys across Eritrea.

The health sector has likewise adopted a number of strategic instruments directed toward improving the well-being of children, adolescents, mothers, and families. These include the National Health Policy (NHP-2020) and the Third Health Sector Strategic Development Plan (HSSP-III, 2022–2026). The Comprehensive Strategic Plan (2022–2026) covering Sexual and Reproductive Health, Maternal and Newborn Health, Child Health, Adolescent Health, and Healthy Ageing (RMNCAH &

HAA) further establishes national targets and milestones in support of progress toward Universal Health Coverage.

The country's commitment to inclusion was further demonstrated when Eritrea acceded to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) on 20 December 2024. The step reaffirmed the principle that persons with disabilities, including children, must be able to enjoy their rights fully and participate meaningfully in society.

An equally significant aspect of Eritrea's approach is the recognition that children should not merely be recipients of services and protection, but participants in decisions affecting their lives. Mechanisms have accordingly been established to facilitate their direct participation. In each of the country's 67 sub-zones, two children between the ages of 14 and 17 serve as permanent members of local committees dealing with women's and children's rights. Through this arrangement, children have a direct avenue for consultation and participation, giving practical expression to the child-participation principle contained in the ACRWC.

Importantly, the cumulative impact of these policies and interventions can be seen in a number of areas. In education, schooling is free and compulsory for both girls and boys, while enrolment across different levels has increased and gender disparities have narrowed considerably. At the tertiary level, female participation has approached parity with male participation. Literacy among young people has also registered substantial improvement, with the United Nations recognizing Eritrea's progress in literacy as among the most rapid globally over the past half-century.

Significant gains have likewise been recorded in health. Health services are provided free of charge, while child and maternal mortality have declined substantially. Immunization programmes have achieved high levels of coverage for a range of vaccine-preventable diseases, including tetanus, measles, rubella, and pertussis, while polio has been eradicated. HIV prevalence remains low, and mother-to-child transmission has been virtually eliminated, with further steps being pursued toward formal international validation. At the same time, Eritrea continues

its sustained campaign against malaria, with elimination targeted for 2030.

The protection of children also extends to addressing harmful traditional practices. Child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM) are prohibited under Eritrean law, and national efforts have increasingly emphasized community participation, awareness, prevention, and enforcement. Through a multi-sectoral approach, growing numbers of villages and localities have been officially declared free of FGM and child marriage.

Crucially, particular attention is also directed toward children and families living in disadvantaged or remote communities. Eritrea's social protection measures seek to ensure that vulnerable households are not left outside the reach of essential services and support. The MoLSW's social protection strategy, for example, gives priority to households caring for vulnerable children, with interventions aimed at reducing poverty, strengthening resilience, and promoting empowerment through targeted social services and community-based initiatives.

The commitment to children therefore extends beyond the conventional boundaries of health and education. It encompasses social protection, disability inclusion, participation, community awareness, and the broader social and cultural environment in which children grow and develop. Taken together, these efforts form part of an integrated approach to improving living conditions and strengthening the resilience and well-being of communities.

Ultimately, Eritrea's experience reflects a sustained effort to place children at the centre of the nation's future. Investment in education and health, strengthened social protection, efforts to eliminate harmful traditional practices, greater attention to children with disabilities, and mechanisms for meaningful child participation all form part of this broader endeavour. The work is ongoing, and challenges remain, but the underlying principle has remained consistent: that Eritrea's children are not simply beneficiaries of national development, but also among the principal custodians of the country's future.



its national development vision. As one of the world's youngest nations, the country possesses considerable natural resources, remarkable ethnolinguistic diversity, and a rich cultural heritage. Its extensive Red Sea coastline presents significant possibilities for a sustainable blue economy, while its strategic position along one of the world's major maritime corridors gives it considerable potential as a regional centre for transshipment, logistics, and related activities.

These assets are complemented by Eritrea's biodiversity, distinctive historical and cultural heritage, and the warmth and hospitality of its people, all of which provide a foundation for tourism and other forms of sustainable development. Yet, beyond these physical and geographic advantages, Eritrea's most important asset remains its people. At the heart of this human resource are the country's children and youth, whose development, well-being, and participation are fundamental to the realization of a prosperous, resilient, and self-reliant future.

and programmes. In Eritrea's 2022 Voluntary National Development Report, presented at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum, Minister of Information Yemane GebreMeskel reaffirmed the central importance attached to human capital and youth, stating:

"The Eritrean government's policy is, and has always been, firmly centered on investing in human capital and youth, which are, without question, our most important resource and greatest asset."

Eritrea's commitment to the rights and welfare of children is also reflected in its international obligations. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) was the first international treaty ratified by Eritrea following independence, followed by the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) in 1999. These commitments provide an important international dimension to the country's efforts to protect children and promote their development and dignity.

At the national level, Eritrea

OPINION

El Niño - A Phenomenon that is Disrupting the World Climate

El Niño is a natural climate pattern that occurs when the surface waters of the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean become unusually warm. This warming changes atmospheric circulation and can influence weather patterns across much of the world with significant impacts on the world’s climate. El Niño is part of a larger climate cycle called ENSO (El Niño–Southern Oscillation), which also includes La Niña, its cooler counterpart. In simple terms, El Niño is like a large-scale disturbance in the tropical Pacific Ocean that redistributes heat and changes atmospheric circulation, causing unusual weather far beyond the Pacific itself. On average, there are 2-3 El Niño events per decade, and they occur every 2-7 years, with most events occurring over a 1-3 year period. The duration of an El Niño event can range from several months to 2 years. The most recent El Niño events occurred in 1997-1998, 2015-2016, and 2019-2020.

How does El Niño develop?

Normally, trade winds blow from east to west across the tropical Pacific, pushing warm surface water toward Asia and Australia. During El Niño, these trade winds weaken, allowing warm water to move back toward South America. This warms the central and eastern Pacific and changes rainfall and atmospheric circulation throughout the world. El Niño occurs when the surface temperature of the Pacific Ocean warms up more than usual, usually by 0.5-1.0oC (0.9-1.8oF). This warming is caused by changes in the atmospheric circulation patterns over the Pacific Ocean, particularly in the equatorial region.

Effects of El Niño on the World Climate

In general, El Niño tends to raise the average global temperature because the warm Pacific releases additional heat into the atmosphere. El Niño has different effects on the world climate, and the effects may vary in different regions of the world.

- a) Increased rainfall in the eastern Pacific: El Niño tends to cause heavy rainfall to the eastern Pacific, particularly in countries such as Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia.
- b) Drought in the western Pacific: El Niño tends to cause drought to the western Pacific, particularly in countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines.
- c) Warmth in the eastern

- Pacific states: states such as Hawaii, the Carolinas, and Florida tend to experience warmer temperatures during El Niño.
- d) Cooling in the western Pacific states: states such as Alaska, the northern United States and parts of Asia tend to experience cooler temperatures during El Niño.
- e) Disrupted global weather patterns: El Niño can disrupt global weather patterns, leading to changes in temperature, precipitation, and wind patterns.

Effects of El Niño on the Climate of East Africa

The effects of the 2026 El Niño could be quite significant for East Africa, but they will vary strongly by season and location. This is especially important for Eritrea because its main rainy season is different from the better-known “short rains” of Kenya and Somalia. The current outlook gives about a 90% probability of enhanced rainfall over southern Ethiopia, central/southern Somalia and northeastern Kenya. That means the Horn could develop a striking rainfall gradient: with Eritrea, northern Ethiopia, and Djibouti potentially warmer/drier or less consistently wet. Whereas Southern Ethiopia, Somalia, and Northeastern Kenya will have substantially greater chance of heavy rainfall. This means that one should not assume that a “wet East Africa” forecast applies equally to Eritrea. However, if moisture surges northward from Ethiopia/ Sudan or conditions become favorable for strong convective storms, Eritrea can still receive short periods of very heavy rainfall, producing flash floods—especially around low-lying areas and urban drainage systems.

Table 1: Potential El Niño effects in East Africa

Region	Potential El Niño effect
Eritrea/northern Ethiopia	More complicated; possible disruption of June–Sept rains and increased heat
Somalia/eastern Kenya	Increased risk of unusually wet conditions during Oct–Dec
Uganda/western Kenya	Potentially wetter Oct–Dec
Southern East Africa	Often a different, sometimes drier, response
Nile Basin	Potential changes in rainfall, temperature and evaporation

As of early September 2026, the developing El Niño is unusually strong; and according to the forecast of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), it has a near-100% probability of continuing through February 2027. There is also an additional reason to be cautious: the U.S. Climate Prediction Center

has put the probability of a very strong El Niño during the Northern Hemisphere fall/winter above 90%, with a substantial chance of it exceeding previous events since 1950. The US forecasters have thus warned that it could become one of the strongest events in the historical record. The strongest and clearest El Niño signal is often seen during October–December, when parts of equatorial East Africa—including Kenya, Uganda, Somalia and southeastern Ethiopia—experience enhanced rainfall. Studies find a particularly strong relationship between El Niño, the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), and East African rainfall during this period.

What could this mean for Eritrea?

Eritrea belongs to the northern part of East Africa, where the main rainfall season is generally June–September. This is quite different from southern/equatorial East Africa, where March–May and October–December are the most important rainy periods. The relationship between El Niño and Eritrean rainfall is not as straightforward as saying “El Niño = drought” or “El Niño = rain.” Research shows that El Niño can influence the Nile Basin, including Eritrea, Ethiopia and Sudan, through changes in atmospheric circulation, moisture transport and the Indian Ocean. Specifically for Eritrea, the following three scenarios can be anticipated:

- a) A greater risk of unusual heat – El Niño tends to raise temperatures over large areas of the globe. In Eritrea, this could add to already high temperatures, particularly during dry periods.
- b) Possible disruption

- rather than simply being uniformly wetter or drier.
- c) Flooding can coexist with rainfall deficits – This is important for Eritrea. Even if seasonal rainfall ends up near or below normal, individual storms can still produce very heavy rainfall and flash flooding. El Niño, normally, changes atmospheric circulation; it doesn’t turn rainfall on or off uniformly.

The June–September 2026 season has already had below-normal rainfall over much of Eritrea, which resulted in above-normal temperatures that would increase evaporation and accelerate soil-moisture loss. This, in turn, could result in increased water stress and greater pressure on agriculture and livestock, creating greater pressure on rain-fed agriculture, declining pasture quality, increased livestock water requirements, and faster drying of seasonal water sources.

The Indian Ocean Dipole

The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is a natural climate pattern that affects the Indian Ocean, a body of water in the Indian Ocean, the Arabian Sea, and the Southern Ocean. The IOD is characterized by variations in the atmospheric pressure and temperature of the Indian Ocean, and it has significant impacts on various aspects of climate and oceanography. Researchers specifically find that IOD conditions can alter El Niño’s influence on rainfall over Eritrea, Ethiopia and Sudan. For Eritrea and the Horn of Africa, the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) can amplify or weaken the El Niño signal. Thus, it would be difficult to make a forecast for Eritrea based on El Niño alone, as it could be influenced by the IOD.

Table 2: AI weather forecast for Eritrea: September 2026–February 2027

Period	Asmara/Highlands	Gash-Barka & Western Lowlands	Red Sea coast
September	Very warm; rain season winding down	Hot; rainfall becoming less reliable	Very hot, generally dry
October	Warm; occasional showers possible	Hot and increasingly dry	Very hot
November	Warm/dry	Hot/dry	Very hot
December	Mostly dry, warmer than normal	Dry/hot	Extreme heat risk
January 2027	Dry; cool nights but warm days	Dry/hot	Hot
February 2027	Generally dry; warming toward spring	Increasing heat	Very hot

The latest IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) outlook issued in August 2026 makes an important correction to the earlier picture: the current official outlook for

October–December 2026 is more favorable for rainfall across much of the Greater Horn than the earlier forecasts suggested. For Eritrea, however, the signal is quite different from southern/eastern Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya. ICPAC’s latest outlook specifically highlights Eritrea as one of the areas expected to be warmer than normal, with the strongest temperature anomalies toward the eastern part of the Greater Horn.

El Niño has already been generating extensive heat during the last summer months throughout the world, causing devastating floods in areas like Peru and persistent heat waves in Europe, which resulted in over 35,000 human deaths. The long-term impacts of El Niño could be interpreted as i) slight cooling of the global temperature, ii) changes in global precipitation patterns, including shifts in the distribution of rainfall and drought, and iii) changes in global climate variability, including shifts in the frequency of extreme weather events. These may result in food insecurity and water scarcity in regions that rely heavily on agriculture, particularly Southeast Asia and Africa. Overall, El Niño can have significant impacts on global weather patterns, temperature, and precipitation, which can have far-reaching consequences for human populations and the environment.

The current El Niño is anticipated to become exceptionally strong, potentially among the strongest on record, and is expected to persist into early 2027. Eritrea is vulnerable to the effects of El Niño due to its geography and climate, which can impact agriculture, water scarcity and human health. Thus, understanding the impacts of

El Niño is essential for developing effective strategies to mitigate its effects and adapt to its changing patterns.

Tadesse Mehari (Professor)

Ethiopia: The Guilty Party Playing the Victim

By: Red Sea Beacon
By Ghidewon Abay Asmerom

There is an old Tigrinya proverb: “ዋጉራዳሊ ወቀን ተእዋ” — “The whip does the lashing, then cries out in pain.” Few expressions better capture the irony of the Ethiopian government’s latest pronouncement against Eritrea.

On October 1, Ethiopia’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that it would close its embassy in Asmara and declared ten Eritrean diplomats in Addis Ababa persona non grata, giving them 48 hours to leave. The Ministry accused Eritrea of “direct and indirect acts of hostility and belligerence against Ethiopia” and alleged that the diplomats had engaged in activities threatening Ethiopia’s national security. The public statement, however, did not present detailed evidence substantiating those accusations.

The seriousness of such allegations should not be minimized. If a government possesses evidence that accredited diplomats have violated the Vienna Convention or participated in activities incompatible with their diplomatic status, established legal mechanisms are available to it, including declaring them persona non grata. But invoking those mechanisms does not, by itself, establish the truth of the underlying accusations. Allegations remain allegations until evidence is produced.

When the Whip Begins to Scream

The Ethiopian statement declares that relations between sovereign states must be governed by respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, and peaceful coexistence. These are admirable principles. Everyone should welcome them—if they are actually going to be observed. Principles acquire meaning through consistent application, not convenient invocation.

Ethiopia’s political discourse over access to the Red Sea has not merely concerned a commercial transit interests of a landlocked country. Increasingly, it has been framed in the language of strategic entitlement to maritime access. Over the past three years,

Red Sea access—and specifically Assab—has become a major flashpoint in deteriorating Ethiopian-Eritrean relations.

That history makes the language of the October 1 statement remarkable. Ethiopia now demands that Eritrea cease conduct allegedly contrary to “the principles governing relations between sovereign states,” while portraying itself as the injured party. Hence, the Tigrinya proverb: the whip lashes, and then the whip screams.

If sovereignty is inviolable today, it was inviolable yesterday. If territorial integrity deserves protection when Ethiopia believes its security is threatened, Eritrea’s territorial integrity deserves precisely the same protection when Ethiopian politicians discuss Eritrean territory. International law cannot mean one thing in Addis Ababa and another in Asmara.

An Accusation Is Not Evidence

The timing deserves scrutiny as well. The diplomatic rupture follows a dramatic deterioration in Ethiopia’s internal security. Federal forces and their allies are fighting an expanding war. Tens of thousands have reportedly been displaced and telecommunications have been disrupted.

It is precisely under such circumstances that accusations against neighboring states require evidence rather than repetition. Eritrea should not be made the scapegoat for Ethiopia’s internal political contradictions.

A number of grievances and internal conflicts have been around in Ethiopia for years. The existence of the current opposition alliance, which has brought together seven Ethiopian armed groups, cannot, therefore, be simply explained away by pointing north towards Eritrea.

Whatever one thinks of those organizations, they are Ethiopian political actors arising primarily from Ethiopian political conditions. Some of them, moreover, have been erstwhile enemies of Eritrea. Externalizing those conditions may be politically convenient, but it does not resolve them.

From Ally to Alleged Enemy

Ethiopia’s transformation is especially striking because only a few years ago Eritrea was described very differently by the same Ethiopian government. It was portrayed as the country that stood by Ethiopia in its darkest days. In the words of Ethiopia’s Prime Minister, Eritrea was “የቁርጥ ቀን ወዳጅ”—a friend in the hour of greatest need. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed himself later acknowledged Eritrea’s role. In his words, when darkness falls, even one’s shadow disappears, but Eritrea stood with Ethiopia when Ethiopia faced the danger of collapse.

For Eritreans, there is an even longer historical memory behind this argument. Eritrea had also played a decisive role in the military developments that brought the Derg regime to an end in 1991. Yet it is this same Eritrea that is now being presented as the external enemy threatening Ethiopia.

The reversal is all the more striking because the Ethiopian embassy in Asmara that Addis Ababa has now ordered closed was reopened in 2018 during the rapprochement between the two countries. That reconciliation contributed to Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed receiving the Nobel Peace Prize the following year.

Today’s narrative has almost completely reversed yesterday’s. The former partner has become the alleged external conspirator. Such a dramatic reversal should encourage observers to approach sweeping accusations with caution. Governments under pressure, Ethiopia’s in particular, frequently find foreign explanations useful because they transform complicated domestic political failures into simpler narratives of external aggression.

Sovereignty Cannot Be Selective

There is nevertheless something remarkable in Ethiopia’s October 1 statement, particularly for observers unfamiliar with the history of Ethiopian-Eritrean relations. Addis Ababa has now publicly placed sovereignty, territorial integrity, peaceful coexistence, and the accepted principles governing relations between sovereign states at the center of its declared foreign policy

toward Eritrea.

Were these words coming from a government with a consistent record of adhering to such principles, Eritrea could simply hold Ethiopia to them. But Eritreans have ample historical reasons to be skeptical of declarations from Addis Ababa. Ethiopia’s shifting positions toward Eritrea, and the gulf that has repeatedly emerged between agreements made and policies subsequently pursued, are matters of historical record.

If Addis Ababa genuinely accepts these principles, however, they should govern the entire relationship. Eritrea should not have its sovereignty questioned by Ethiopia. Ethiopia should neither destabilize its neighbors nor have its own sovereignty violated by them.

That is what sovereign equality actually means.

A Dangerous Moment for the Horn of Africa

Whatever one’s judgment of Addis Ababa’s accusations, shutting diplomatic channels during an escalating regional crisis is dangerous. Ethiopia and Eritrea share geography and an extraordinarily painful history of war. Eritrea’s 1961–1991 war of independence brought untold suffering under two successive Ethiopian regimes. Then came the 1998–2000 border war, demonstrating once again how quickly political disagreements can become catastrophic once diplomacy gives way to military mobilization.

The aftermath of that war also left Eritreans deeply skeptical of Ethiopian commitments. The Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission issued its delimitation decision pursuant to the Algiers Agreement, whose provisions made the Commission’s determination final and binding. Ethiopia subsequently refused for years to implement the ruling as issued. For Eritreans, that experience remains a powerful reminder of the distance that can exist between agreements signed by Ethiopian governments and their subsequent implementation.

The current regional environment is arguably even

more dangerous. Ethiopia is again experiencing major internal warfare. Sudan remains engulfed in conflict, amid accusations that Ethiopia is supporting the RSF and contributing to Sudan’s destabilization. Somalia continues to face instability, while Ethiopia’s January 2024 memorandum of understanding with Somaliland generated another major regional confrontation over Somali sovereignty and territorial integrity. At the same time, disputes over Nile waters have placed Ethiopia at loggerheads with Egypt and Sudan. Ethiopia has also been courting and training Eritrean groups declared terrorists by European governments. These crises are not isolated from one another. Together they have created an increasingly volatile Horn of Africa in which a confrontation between Ethiopia and Eritrea could have consequences far beyond their shared border.

Closing an embassy under such conditions removes one of the few remaining avenues through which misunderstandings can be contained. But de-escalation cannot require Eritrea to accept unsupported accusations as established fact. Nor can Ethiopia invoke sovereignty only when doing so serves its immediate political needs.

If Addis Ababa believes Eritrean diplomats violated the Vienna Convention, it should produce the evidence. If it believes Eritrea has committed acts of belligerence, it should identify those acts specifically and substantiate them. And if it now embraces sovereignty and territorial integrity as foundational principles of interstate relations, then it should apply those principles consistently to Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan, and every other neighboring state, as firmly as it demands that they be applied to Ethiopia. Paying lip service to the UN or AU charters is not going to work. Otherwise, the October 1 statement will sound less like a principled defense of international law and more like the old Tigrinya proverb brought vividly to life:

“ዋጉራዳሊ ወቀን ተእዋ.”
The whip does the lashing—and then it is the whip that screams.



Continued from page 6

- Supervise and develop the Procurement Officer and Logistics Officer
- Administer contracts for goods and services, monitoring supplier performance against agreed terms
- Maintain the approved vendor list and manage vendor registration and evaluation processes
- Negotiate competitive pricing, delivery terms and commercial conditions with vendors and suppliers
- Maintain an up-to-date procurement tracker covering all active purchase orders, tenders and contracts
- Ensure procurement activities comply with KMSC delegation of authority and approval requirements
- Support local procurement initiatives and sourcing from Eritrean businesses where practical
- Provide procurement status updates and reporting to the Finance & Admin Superintendent

Technical Skills and Requirements:

- Bachelor’s degree in Supply Chain Management, Business Administration, Commerce or related discipline
- Minimum 7 years’ experience in procurement or supply chain roles, including at least 3 years in a supervisory position
- Demonstrated experience managing tender processes, contract administration and vendor performance
- Experience with international procurement, freight forwarding and customs clearance
- Strong negotiation skills and commercial acumen
- Experience in the mining, construction or heavy industrial sector is highly regarded
- Experience in remote site environments is highly regarded
- Fluency in English is essential

If you are an experienced procurement professional with strong leadership skills and a proven track record delivering procurement and supply chain outcomes on complex projects, we invite you to apply by submitting your CV and a brief cover letter outlining your relevant experience.

What we offer

- Competitive salary aligned with local market conditions for national positions
- On-site accommodation and meals at the Kerkebet Mine camp
- Transport arrangements between site and point of hire
- Opportunity to contribute to a landmark gold development project
- A collaborative, values-driven culture with strong focus on safety, integrity and community

Additional requirement for nationals:

Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provide evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defence

- 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 application to:

Kerkebet Mining Share Company
P. O. Box 9258
Asmara, Eritrea

Note to Eritrean applicants:

Please send a copy of your application to:

Aliens Employment permits Affair
P. O. Box 7940
Asmara Eritrea
Mineral Resources Management
P. O. Box 272
Asmara, Eritrea



Bisha Mining Share Company
P.O. Box 4276
Asmara
Eritrea

Tel: (+291) 1124941
Fax: (+291) 1124941
www.bishamining.com

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Bisha Mining Share Company is inviting applicants for the following position for Bisha site project..

Position; Sectional Surveyor

Department: U/G Mining

Section: Asheli Operations Underground

Number required: One (01)

Primary purpose

- To carry out survey duties on underground under defined mine
- Controlling and monitoring all mining developments by providing direction, holing notes, grades, and advising where necessary
- Update underground development, calculation of control point, preparation and preparation and preservation of survey plans thereof
- Establishing new ground survey (Shaft plumbing and sub level survey transfer)

Main Functions

- Safety
- Provision of timely survey services
- Development of subordinates
- Observation of statutory and departmental requirements
- Provision of Survey data(sketches)
- Company cost (ensuring good mining)
- Sectional cost Control
- Health, Safety and Environment
- Additional duties

UNIQUE REQUIREMENTS / OTHER INFORMATION

- Essential to be physically fit to work in though environment such as a pit

Qualifications:

- Degree / Diploma in Surveying

Knowledge and Experience:

- 1-3 years previous experience in surveying / engineering industry
- Knowledge of Surveying and equipment
- 1-2 years Supervisory experience

Qualifications:
Knowledge and Experience:
• 1-3 years previous experience in surveying / engineering industry • Knowledge of Surveying and equipment, 1-2 years Supervisory experience

Technical Skills	Behavioural Skills
Computer Literacy (MS Office – Word, Excel, various software programs)	Communication (English & local language)
Effective English Oral and Written Communication Skills	Interpersonal skills
Attention to detail, Problem solving skill, & analytical Skill	Accuracy, and ability to work under pressure,
Plan, Organise & Execution skills & able to understand English	Ability to work toward strict deadlines
Ability to work long shifts both day and night shift.	Assertiveness, & results oriented
Supervisory Leadership skills, and risk management & assessment	Ability to multitask
Report writing & ability to lead safety	Ability to work in multi-disciplinary environment
Able to use software such as Surpac and Microsoft Office.	
A valid Driver's License & Knowledge of Trimble GPS.	

General Information and other requirements:

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

Additional requirement for Nationals:

- Provide evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defense.
- 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.



Preserving Oral Traditions: “The biggest Challenge is Time.”

In Maydema, a small village in Eritrea, a schoolboy’s poetry assignment would unknowingly set the course for a lifetime of cultural preservation. Meet Mehari O. Michael—better known by his artistic moniker Tewil—a researcher, author, and guardian of Eritrea’s rich oral traditions. His journey from classroom performer to published author represents far more than personal achievement; it embodies a nation’s effort to safeguard its intangible heritage before it vanishes into history.

Tewile’s story begins with an academic challenge that became a cultural revelation. Assigned to compose poems in his youth, he discovered his immediate family lacked this particular artistic background. Undeterred, he sought out community elders: the living repositories of Masse (praise poetry) and Melkes (elegiac verses). Their recitations, honed through generations of oral transmission, captivated young Tewil and revealed a profound truth—these were not mere poems, but the very DNA of Eritrean identity.

Through years of meticulous research documented in his groundbreaking book, ማሰን መልቀሰን ክልተ ኣራሑ (Praise and Elegy: Two Master Bards), Tewil has saved the lyrical legacy of renowned wordsmiths Bahregasi Tombosa and Grach Kebdu from oblivion.

This interview peels back the layers of Tewil’s remarkable odyssey—from his accidental discovery of cultural performance to becoming one of Eritrea’s foremost authorities on oral literature. Here, the soft-spoken researcher reveals the urgency of his mission, the painful losses along the way, and his vision for ensuring these living traditions survive in the digital age.

By: Milka Teklom

How did you first become interested in Masse and Melkes?

It all started in elementary school. I was given an assignment to write a poem, but I didn’t know anyone in my family who had that kind of talent. So, I turned to the elders in my community—the keepers of Masse and Melkes, traditional praise and elegiac poems passed down orally. Listening to them recite was mesmerizing; the language, the rhythm, the depth of emotion—it was like nothing I had ever heard before. After performing some of these poems at school events, the audience’s reaction made me realize just how powerful and educational these traditions were. That was the moment I knew I wanted to learn more.

When did you start writing your own poetry?

By the time I was in 11th grade, I began composing my own poems inspired by the elders’ teachings. One of them was published in Hadas Eritrea, the national newspaper. That was a major turning point—it gave me confidence and confirmed that my work had value. From then on, I kept writing, experimenting, and refining my style.

Your pseudonym, Tewil—how did that come about?

(Laughs) That’s a funny story! In middle school, I wrote a short play for our end-of-year ceremony



and played a character named Tewil. The name stuck—so much so that people started calling me Tewil more than my actual name. Even now, when someone calls me Mehari, I sometimes hesitate before responding!

You studied Business Management at university. How did you transition into cultural research?

After graduation, I worked as a teacher for a while, but my passion for poetry and oral traditions never left me. Eventually, due to my background in writing and performing, the Ministry of Education reassigned me to the Cultural Affairs Department. That’s where I officially began my professional career in cultural research.

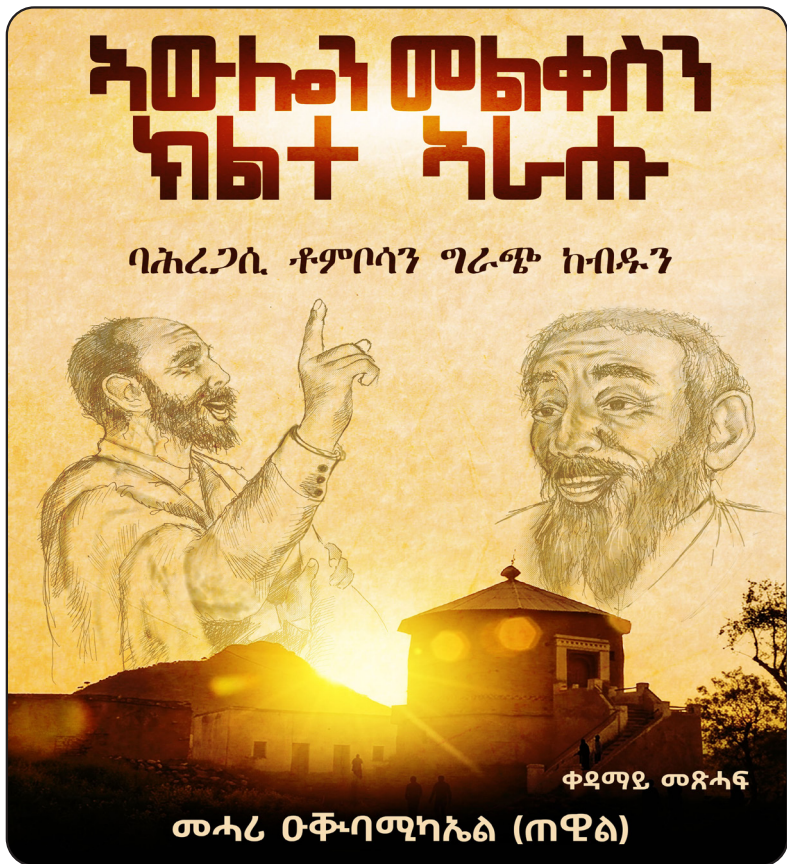
Your new book documents the works of Bahregasi Tombosa and Grach Kebdu. Why these two bards?

They were masters of their craft—griots who preserved history, philosophy, and social values through verse. However, because our culture relies heavily on oral transmission, their works were fading and at risk of being lost forever. For over six years, I traveled, interviewed elders, and gathered every piece of their recitations I could find.

What were the biggest challenges you faced while collecting this material?

The biggest challenge was time. Many of my sources were elderly, and some passed away before I could fully document their knowledge. It was heartbreaking because, with each loss, a piece of history disappeared forever.

Another major hurdle was financial—publishing a book isn’t easy. There were many poems and songs I collected that couldn’t fit into the first edition due to printing costs. That’s why I’m already planning a second edition to include what was left out.



Losing those oral sources must have taken an emotional toll. How did that impact your work?

It was devastating. These elders weren’t just sources—they were mentors, friends, and, as researchers in my field often say, living libraries. When they passed, entire chapters of history left with them.

There was one elder in particular, Dereb, who knew countless Melkes and Masse. I had the privilege of recording a single session with him—a treasure trove of wisdom I will always cherish. During our conversation, he warmly invited me to his son’s upcoming wedding, promising we would resume our interviews when I returned for the celebration. Tragically, he passed away before the wedding took place. Losses like that pushed me to work faster—to document everything I could before it vanished.

How do you ensure authenticity when transferring oral tradition into written form?

I follow strict methodology: recording audio, cross-checking recitations with multiple elders, and noting regional variations. Because some poems evolve slightly across generations, I preserve the

most consistent version while acknowledging variations in footnotes. It’s like piecing together a puzzle where some pieces are missing—you honor the gaps just as much as the filled spaces.

Apart from the book, you’ve written lyrics for musicians and contributed to newspapers. Could you tell us about that work?

After university, my journey led me to write lyrics and melodies for prominent musical artists, which was an exciting way to blend traditional poetic structures with contemporary music. Back in college, I also began submitting articles to Hadas Eritrea. Eventually, I was given my own column, Shiyak, where I wrote about cultural heritage for over a decade. Writing lyrics taught me to bridge tradition with modernity, while my column allowed me to educate the public. Both are extensions of my core mission: keeping our culture active in daily life.

What advice would you give to young writers and performers who aspire to follow in your footsteps?

I encourage young creatives to embrace their unique voices while staying rooted in their heritage. Listen

closely to the stories of your elders; they hold the key to understanding who you are. Don’t shy away from experimenting—poetry takes many forms. Persistence and patience are essential; setback is often just a prelude to growth. Lastly, cherish collaboration—working with others sparks inspiration and broadens your horizons.

What impact do you hope your work will have on future generations?

I hope my work serves as both an inspiration and an enduring resource. I want future generations to recognize oral traditions not as static relics of the past, but as living narratives that enrich our present. Storytelling and poetry are powerful tools for identity, reflection, and education.

As someone deeply involved in cultural preservation, what do you see as the biggest challenge facing oral traditions today?

The rapid pace of modernization and globalization. In a hyper-connected world, traditional practices can easily be overshadowed. Younger generations are naturally focused on technology and global popular culture, which can lead to a disconnection from their roots. It is crucial that we actively engage youth, showing them how our traditional narratives can coexist with and enrich the modern world.

Do you have any closing remarks?

First and foremost, I want to thank God. I also want to honor my late co-worker, Mekonen Kidane, who relentlessly encouraged me to publish my research—I am forever indebted to his wisdom and energy. I express my gratitude to my wife, Snit Simone, and our four children, who supported me with immense patience during my long periods away from home. Finally, my sincere thanks to my colleagues and supervisors who provided the space and resources for me to pursue what I love.