

ERITREA OBSERVES WORLD RABIES DAY, REAFFIRMING 2030 ERADICATION GOAL

Eritrea marked World Rabies Day (commemorated annually on September 28) with a national event in Asmara on September 30. The observation, held under the theme “Act Now: You, Me, Community to Curb the Prevalence of Rabies Disease,” highlighted the nation’s commitment to disease control.

Mr. Semere Amlesom, Director General of Agricultural Extension at the Ministry of Agriculture, noted that sustained awareness campaigns and vaccination programs have led to significant progress in controlling rabies. He urged for reinforced efforts to ensure the disease’s total eradication.

Speaking on behalf of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Mr.



Asgedom Tewolde emphasized that the day presents a critical opportunity to reaffirm a collective commitment to coordinated efforts and to raise public awareness.

Experts from the Ministries of Agriculture and Health presented six research papers detailing Eritrea’s successful control efforts and progress. Dr. Yonas Woldu, Director of Animal and Plant Health at

the Ministry of Agriculture, specifically highlighted that Eritrea is actively working toward the eradication of rabies by 2030, citing commendable results from vaccination programs conducted between 2015 and 2025.

The event saw attendance from senior ministry officials, representatives from UN offices in Eritrea, college representatives, and experts.

CALL FOR COORDINATED EFFORT TO ERADICATE FGM

A press conference was held in Asmara calling for a coordinated effort to eradicate harmful practices in general, and female genital mutilation (FGM) in particular, as well as to preserve the achievements already registered in this regard. The press conference was conducted by Ms. Tekea Tesfamichael, President of the National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW), along with representatives of UN Offices in Eritrea.

The participants stressed that the visit of the Global Steering Committee on FGM/C to Eritrea would contribute significantly to highlighting the progress achieved in eradicating FGM, as well as to sharing Eritrea’s experience

with other countries. They further expressed confidence in the role and contribution of the people and Government of Eritrea in realizing the program.

Members of the Steering Committee stated that in Eritrea, strong efforts have been made since the armed struggle for independence to eradicate harmful practices. They noted that the proclamation issued in 2007 banning FGM, coupled with the role of religious leaders and partners, stands as clear evidence that the practice will be completely eradicated by 2030.

The Committee also called for strengthened coordination, awareness-raising activities, information sharing based on

research, provision of technical support, and enhanced community involvement to ensure that the program is realized within the set timeframe.

Accompanied by representatives of the Ministries of Health, Labor and Social Welfare, and National Union of Eritrean Women, the Global Steering Committee and UN representatives visited Keren and Hagaz to observe the ongoing efforts and progress achieved in Anseba Region toward the eradication of FGM.

During the visit, the delegates held discussions with religious leaders and community representatives and were briefed on the situation and the progress made in the region.



WORLD TEACHERS’ DAY OBSERVED AT NATIONAL LEVEL

World Teachers’ Day, celebrated annually on 5 October, was observed yesterday at the national level in Asmara.

Mr. Simon Mehari, Chairman of the Eritrean Teachers Association, stressed that the day serves as a reminder for all stakeholders in the teaching and learning process to reflect on past achievements, address challenges, and shoulder the responsibility for greater success in the future.

He urged teachers to equip themselves with professional ethics, to serve as role models, and to carry out their responsibilities diligently with the aim of bringing about qualitative changes in education. He also reaffirmed the Association’s commitment to contribute to the development of the teaching and learning process.

Highlighting the role of teachers in national development, Mr. Petros Hailemariam, representative of the Minister of Education, underlined the Government of Eritrea’s substantial investment in expanding the number of teachers and enhancing their capacity.

The event featured cultural performances and a seminar focused on enhancing teachers’ professional capacity.

World Teachers’ Day is being marked for the 32nd time internationally and for the 29th time at the national level.

Established in 1996, the Eritrean Teachers Association has around 30,000 members and is member of the World Teachers’ Association and the African Teachers’ Association.



SOUTHERN RED SEA REGION TRAINS 54 GOVERNMENT WORKERS IN SIGN LANGUAGE



The National Association of the Hearing-Impaired (NAHI), through its regional branch, has successfully provided sign language training to 54 Government workers from various institutions in the Southern Red Sea Region.

The training concluded on September 28. Mr. Yosief Fesehay, Head of the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare branch in the region, stated that the primary objective was to eliminate communication barriers for hearing-impaired citizens accessing government

services. He added that the skills gained will facilitate easier communication for the hearing-impaired in workplaces, schools, with peers, and during public events.

Mr. Woldemichael Se’ele, Chairman of the NAHI, highlighted that the association estimates between 30,000 and 40,000 hearing-impaired members nationwide. He affirmed that this regional effort is part of a broader plan to expand sign language instruction nationwide.

OPINION & ANALYSIS

Eritrea' Red Sea Sovereignty: An Irrevocable Reality

By Red Sea Beacon
(Abridged version)

An Addis Ababa-based outlet calling itself the Horn Review, styling itself an “independent research platform,” has published a reckless piece titled “Eritrea Unraveled: The Case for Ethiopia’s Reversal of State Recognition.” Few notions are more absurd than the idea that Ethiopia could somehow undo Eritrea’s sovereignty. Yet that is precisely the fantasy Horn Review peddles. Draped in policy jargon, the article is propaganda masquerading as scholarship—hollow revisionism dressed up as analysis.

The essay pretends to advise the Ethiopian government on the “prudence” of revoking recognition, weighing supposed legal, strategic, and normative factors. But its foundation collapses on inspection. Strip away the borrowed language, and what remains is a cheap echo of the Prosperity Party’s daily hallucinations, empty rhetoric from the prime minister’s podium to the generals’ sabre-rattling. Hollow, repetitive, and fabricated, it is noise mistaken for logic, volume confused with substance.

Eritrea’s independence was never Ethiopia’s to grant, nor is it contingent on Addis Ababa’s recognition. Eritrea’s statehood is rooted in decolonization, secured in blood and sacrifice,

confirmed by international law, and reinforced by three decades of sovereign practice. To deny this is not analysis but fiction.

The six young faces paraded as the Horn Review “team” are little more than props, mouthpieces laundering regime talking points under the guise of research. Their voices are ventriloquized by a desperate leadership searching for intellectual fig leaves to cover its naked revisionism. The essay itself is a patchwork of half-truths, irrelevant tangents, and contradictions, an incessant harangue that mistakes noise for argument.

The shame is not simply that the argument is weak but that it is illegitimate. No serious scholar of law or history, and no layperson with even a basic grasp of international relations, could endorse it. By toying with this fantasy, Addis Ababa only exposes itself to a harsher reckoning: reparations for thirty years of illegal annexation and plunder, damages for wars it waged and lost, and international condemnation for its relentless destabilization.

This is not an academic exercise. Should Ethiopia persist in questioning Eritrea’s sovereignty, it will invite counterclaims of staggering proportion, rooted in three decades of occupation and destruction. In doing so, Addis Ababa shows not strength but desperation, a government chasing mirages while sinking in quicksand.

History Is Unambiguous: The Military Defeat of Ethiopia in Eritrea

Eritrea’s independence was not conferred in 1993; it was carved out on the battlefield after three decades of unrelenting war. The Eritrean People’s Liberation Front (EPLF), lightly armed and perpetually outnumbered, faced down a Soviet-backed Ethiopian military machine and broke it piece by piece until it collapsed entirely.

The scale of the Ethiopian collapse was total. Out of 130,000 troops deployed in Eritrea, more than 114,000 had been taken prisoner: 80,000 on the retreat towards Barka on the way to Sudan, 21,000 at Kisd Iqa on the border with Ethiopia, and 13,000 in the vicinity of Asmara. Another 16,000 were killed in action. The

garrison at Assab fared no better: most were captured, a few stragglers fled by sea to Djibouti or Yemen, and the rest were cut down in the rout. The material losses were staggering

With its collapse, Eritrea’s independence was no longer a matter of aspiration but a fact etched in fire and blood. The fall of Assab, Ethiopia’s last outpost on the Red Sea, closed the chapter with finality.

Eritrea’s Right to Statehood: Decolonization Denied, Justice Delayed

Eritrea’s right to statehood stemmed directly from the principle of decolonization. By every standard of international law, Eritrea should have been freed in the early 1940s after Italy’s defeat, or at the very latest in 1952 when British administration ended. That it was not is a stain on the conscience of the UN system. It happened only because Western powers colluded to sacrifice Eritrea’s right in order to secure their geopolitical interests in the Horn.

The UN’s 1960 Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples affirmed that all peoples had the right to self-determination and that colonialism must be brought to a “speedy and unconditional end.” Eritrea’s demand for independence was not an exception, it was a textbook case of decolonization denied.

The cost of that denial was staggering: three decades of war, tens of thousands of lives lost, hundreds of thousands injured, villages burned, industries dismantled, and livelihoods destroyed. Unlike Namibia or Zimbabwe, which eventually secured independence through internationally brokered processes, Eritrea was forced to win its freedom entirely through blood and sacrifice.

The 1993 referendum, was not legally required; it was a voluntary step the EPLF and Eritreans chose to show the world what they had already secured in fact. Ethiopia’s recognition was nothing more than reluctant acknowledgment of this reality.

Montevideo’s Mirror: Eritrea Meets the Test, Ethiopia Shatters It

Recognition does not create sovereignty; it records it. Once a people satisfy the Montevideo Convention’s four criteria—territory, permanent population, effective government, and capacity for foreign relations—their sovereignty is not hostage to a neighbor’s whim. Eritrea’s admission to the United Nations in 1993 sealed this reality beyond dispute. Comparisons to Taiwan or East Germany are irrelevant; Eritrea is neither a contested entity nor a consensual merger. It is a recognized UN member and a permanent fact in Africa’s legal and political landscape. The 1964 OAU Cairo Declaration freezing colonial borders was crafted to prevent precisely the sort of irredentist revisionism Ethiopia now flirts with. Addis Ababa cannot invoke that principle to protect its borders with Kenya, Sudan, and Somalia, then discard it when the target is Eritrea’s lawful coastline.

By every measure, Eritrea satisfies Montevideo’s test. Its permanent population—drawn from highlands, lowlands, and islands—remains bound by a cohesive national identity forged through struggle. Its territory, rooted in colonial treaties, has

been reaffirmed by international arbitration, most notably the Eritrea–Ethiopia Boundary Commission under the binding Algiers Agreement. It has an effective government that maintains nationwide control, provides free education and health care, and ensures stability, led by officials whose modest lifestyle and anti-corruption ethos set them apart in a region riddled with graft. Eritrea also demonstrates full diplomatic capacity, engaging the UN, AU, and a host of bilateral partners.

Here lies the contrast that Ethiopia cannot escape. A state’s viability is not measured by grandiose claims of antiquity but by its capacity to govern, to keep its people, and to project stability. Eritrea has done so under siege conditions. Ethiopia, despite its donor billions and self-proclaimed “millennia,” has failed to feed its own people, failed to hold its borders without conflict, and failed to keep its citizens from fleeing en masse. If Montevideo is the yardstick, Eritrea clears it with clarity, while Ethiopia stumbles over every criterion in practice.

Continued on page 5

**ERITREA
PROFILE**

**Published Every
Wednesday & Saturday**

**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**

From Social Media



Yemane G. Meskel
@hawelti

Potomkin Party (PP) sponsored/affiliated pundits – **Horn Review et al** – are indeed a strange breed who can float, with a straight face, outlandish and ludicrous assertions cloaked in “academic” garb.

The latest version dwells on “prospects” for Ethiopia to “rescind its Mother State’s Permission” and recognition of Eritrea!

In the first place, Eritrea’s independence was not granted on a “silver platter” by Ethiopia or any other power on earth.

Indeed, Eritrea’s process of decolonization and inalienable right of independence should have been accomplished in the 1940’s in accordance with international law and established norms and practices. But this inalienable right was suppressed to give primacy for, and mollify the “overriding geopolitical interests” of, the US and other powers. In the event, the Eritrean people were compelled to pay a huge sacrifice in Africa’s longest war of national liberation to achieve their independence.

These are the indelible facts. And for their own sanity, apologists of occupation and colonial rule better grapple with their emotional/moral crises instead of wasting time in an elusive quest for untenable legal conjectures.

Eritrea’s Red Sea Sovereignty: An Irrevocable Reality
redseabeacon.com/eritreas-red-s... via @Red Sea Beacon

5:19 PM · Oct 2, 2025 · 34.8K Views

10

1K

1K

39



SpotLight

Transforming Scarcity into an Opportunity for Resilience, Innovation, and Inclusive Growth

Bana Negusse

Water is at the core of sustainable development, serving as the foundation for socio-economic growth, energy and food production, healthy ecosystems, and human survival itself. It also lies at the heart of climate change adaptation, acting as the crucial link between society and the environment.

Yet, water security remains a global challenge. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF, today, more than 2 billion people still lack access to safely managed drinking water services – including greater than 100 million who rely on unsafe surface water. At the same time, approximately 3.5 billion people live without safely managed sanitation, with 419 million still practicing open defecation. The WHO also estimates that improving access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene could save approximately 1.4 million lives annually. Meanwhile, the FAO and UN-Water estimate that nearly 10 percent of the global population lives in countries facing high or critical water stress.

These figures underscore the urgency of sustainable water management worldwide, while also providing context for understanding how individual nations are addressing these challenges. Eritrea, a country shaped by arid landscapes and recurrent droughts, has undertaken an ambitious and inspiring water journey – transforming scarcity into an opportunity for resilience, innovation, and inclusive growth.

Situated within the Sahelian Belt, Eritrea is defined by arid and semi-arid conditions, where water scarcity has long posed a formidable barrier to development. The country's surface water is distributed across five major river basins: Setit, Mereb-Gash, Red Sea Basin, Barka-Ansebas, and Danakil Ba. These basins generate an estimated mean annual runoff of 9,967 million cubic meters. Of this, about 932 million cubic meters flows eastward into the Red Sea, 8,613 million cubic meters flows westward, and 422 million cubic meters is retained within inland depressions. Despite this natural endowment, surface water alone cannot reliably meet the growing population's needs. Groundwater has therefore emerged as Eritrea's most dependable source of freshwater. But even these reserves are under mounting pressure from overexploitation,



deforestation, poor recharge practices, and the increasingly visible effects of climate change.

Recognizing that water security is inseparable from sustainable development, Eritrea established a comprehensive legal and policy framework to guide water management. Beginning



in 1997 and revised in 2007, the Water Policy, Water Law, Water Sector Institutional Framework, and various Water Sector for Human Development documents promote the principles of Integrated Water Resources Management. At the core of

coverage has expanded from only 7 percent to nearly 80 percent.

The benefits are also evident in public institutions, with more than half of schools in the country now having access to safe water. In contrast, health facilities across the country are increasingly equipped to provide reliable services. This progress has contributed to better hygiene, safer childbirth, and a measurable reduction in neonatal mortality.

Central to Eritrea's success has been the large-scale expansion of water infrastructure. At independence, the nation had only 138 dams and ponds. Today, there are more than 800, with dramatically increasing storage capacity and improved distribution networks. In recent years, several dozen have been completed and inaugurated, with many more now in the planning or development stage. These achievements are the result of a cooperative approach led by the government. Coordinated efforts involving communities, national institutions, and international partners have brought technical expertise, funding, and capacity-building support. This spirit of collaboration has enabled Eritrea to scale sustainable projects and experiment with innovative solutions.

Looking ahead, Eritrea remains firmly committed to enhancing the efficiency and climate resilience of its water sector. Agriculture remains the largest consumer of

freshwater, and the government is promoting a shift from traditional furrow irrigation to modern pressurized systems. At the same time, outdated pipelines are being replaced with newer infrastructure to reduce water loss and extend coverage to underserved communities. Equally important is environmental stewardship. Eritrea is investing in reforestation, watershed management, and the protection of ecosystems that depend on freshwater resources. These measures ensure that sustainability remains at the center of national water planning.

Water is more than a resource – it is a lifeline and a catalyst for transformation. Eritrea's water journey demonstrates how even resource-constrained countries can achieve remarkable progress through vision, commitment, and collective action. By combining policy reform, infrastructure investment, community engagement, and international cooperation, Eritrea has significantly strengthened its water security.

As the global community works toward the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, Eritrea's experience serves as a potent reminder that resilience is built not only on resources but also on determination, equity, and long-term planning. Its story offers hope that with integrated approaches and sustained effort, a water-secure future is within reach for all.



Development

Enduring Commitment: Improving Healthcare across Central Dankalia

Habtom Tesfamichael

The Central Dankalia sub-zone had very limited healthcare service before Eritrea's liberation despite its people's strong awareness of the benefits of modern health facilities. Following independence, the government undertook a dedicated effort to establish and improve healthcare facilities across the sub-zone, ensuring that residents in both densely populated and remote areas have access to essential health care.

Currently, the Central Dankalia sub-zone is served by four healthcare facilities -- a community hospital in Edi, the administrative center, and health stations in Bel'ubuy and Afambo. A new health center has also been recently inaugurated in Kimbiira. For further examination and treatment, patients are referred from health stations to Edi Community Hospital, and for specialized treatment, they are referred to Assab Zonal Referral Hospital.

Child and maternal vaccination programs are regularly administered by the health facilities in collaboration with partners across the sub-zone, achieving wide coverage. This collaborative effort has resulted in a notable 98% vaccination coverage for mothers and children in the sub-zone, indicating a significant increase in public health awareness. To reach the remaining populations, especially those in remote areas, medical services are extended through community health workers commonly known as barefoot doctors.

As many inhabitants of Central Denkalia lead nomadic or semi-nomadic lives, mobile clinics are monthly dispatched to designated vaccination points to administer crucial immunizations to mothers and children in the sub-zone. The mobile clinics provide other services as well, including patient consultations, prenatal and antenatal care, and general health awareness campaigns. Mr. Ali Ahmed

Mohammed, Head of Health Service Institutions in Central Denkalia sub-zone, expressed his appreciation of the community's active engagement and willingness to travel to access these essential services.

Trough intensive campaigns, the sub-zone has successfully addressed several harmful traditional practices, including female genital mutilation (FGM), uvulectomy, cauterization, dental abrasion,

such as the National Union of Eritrean Women and the National Union of Eritrean Youth and students, and local and sub-zonal administrators in fostering dialogue and collaboration is highly valued and continues to be strengthened.

Regarding the supply of medicines in Central Denkalia sub-zone, there are generally no significant issues with demand and supply, and a full stock is usually maintained.



and bloodletting. FGM and uvulectomy, in particular, have been the focus of sustained efforts.

Edi Community Hospital provides outpatient services, inpatient care, dental service, laboratory service and a range of other comprehensive medical care, and it has an emergency room, a maternity ward, a pharmacy and waiting rooms for pregnant women from remote regions.

In terms of human resources, the sub-zone benefits from a dedicated team of skilled professionals, ranging from community health workers serving in remote location to specialists. Strong collaboration between health facilities and the community has been fostered, leading to a strong bond characterized by mutual understanding, support, and cooperation. This robust relationship is instrumental in addressing healthcare needs and highlights the strong contribution of the community. The crucial role of community health committees, associations

Furthermore, services for both communicable and non-communicable diseases are provided free of charge. Patients with tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, diabetes, and hypertension receive their medication without cost. For other conditions, patients pay nominal prices, effectively getting most services virtually free of charge.

In controlling communicable and non-communicable diseases, all individuals seeking medical attention undergo screening for blood pressure, asthma, diabetes, and other relevant conditions. Patients diagnosed with any of these conditions are issued priority medical cards. Additionally, continuous public awareness campaigns are conducted to enhance knowledge about communicable diseases.

Given Central Denkalia's borders with at least two neighboring countries, Ethiopia and Yemen, vigilance against cross-border diseases is maintained. Mr. Ali Ahmed reported that while common

ailments, such as waterborne diseases such as diarrhea and pneumonia and seasonal fevers occasionally occur, there are no particularly problematic diseases. However, due to its proximity to neighboring countries, constant monitoring is made to prevent potential cross-border infections. Malaria, for instance, occasionally appears in villages bordering Ethiopia, prompting immediate intervention when detected.

Ongoing efforts are focused on improving infrastructure within the sub-zone's healthcare services. For example, the health station in Afambo, which serves approximately 13,000 people, is slated for upgrade and expansion into a health center.

Demonstrating the government's continued commitment to improving



healthcare services, a modern diagnostic imaging center, equipped with X-ray and ultrasound, was recently inaugurated at Edi Community Hospital. This new center is expected to significantly enhance diagnostic accuracy and reduce the need for patient referrals to larger zonal hospitals, further strengthening the hospital's role as a vital healthcare hub for Central Denkalia sub-zone.

LOCAL NEWS

SUPPORT OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS TO DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS

Branches of the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare in the sub-zones of Adi-Keih, Mai-Mine, Emni-Haili, and Massawa have provided educational materials to disadvantaged students in their respective areas.

Accordingly, 128 disadvantaged students from six elementary and junior schools in Adi-Keih sub-zone, 95 in Mai-Mine, 81 in Emni-Haili, and 250 students from five administrative areas in Massawa

sub-zone received educational materials for the 2025/2026 academic year.

Heads of the education offices in the sub-zones stated that the objective of the support was to enable disadvantaged students to continue their education uninterrupted due to a lack of materials. They also called on the beneficiary students to work hard and strive to become competitive learners.



ሰላላ ኢብራሂም ዑመር

OPINION & ANALYSIS

Continued from page 2

Eritrea: a Beacon of Stability and Civility

Amid the so-called Arc of Crisis, Eritrea stands apart. Its 1,000-kilometer Red Sea coastline has served as a firewall against extremism and a strategic anchor for regional security. Thirty years ago, the Late U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher described Eritrea as “an unlikely oasis of peace and civility, wedged between the clan-fighting of Somalia and the religious war in Sudan... a beacon of hope astride the Horn of Africa.” Those words remain true today.

What distinguishes Eritrea is not the absence of challenges but the way it confronts them. Its leaders reject the patronage and corruption that hollow out neighboring states. Unlike Ethiopia, where billions in aid vanish into war and cronyism, Eritrea has remained disciplined, investing in universal education, health care, and security. Leaders live modestly, not in palaces. The priority has always been sovereignty, peace, and national cohesion.

Ethiopia, by contrast, has unraveled. More than 4.5 million Ethiopians are displaced, figures comparable to Afghanistan. Famines continue to scar its history. Even in 2024, Ethiopia was one of the world’s largest recipients of food aid, with the UN appealing for \$3 billion to feed over 15 million people.

The Ledger of Exploitation and War

If Ethiopia insists on questioning Eritrea’s sovereignty, it must first confront the record of annexation and economic plunder that defined its thirty-year occupation. Between 1962 and 1991, Eritrea was not simply administered, it was stripped of its resources, wealth, and autonomy.

The ports of Massawa and Assab, once among the most efficient on the Red Sea, generated millions in customs and transit fees. In the 1970s, Assab handled nearly 3.5 to 4 million tons of throughput annually, revenues that were absorbed into Ethiopia’s central treasury in Addis Ababa rather than reinvested locally. Studies from the period show that Eritrea’s ports effectively subsidized Ethiopia’s foreign trade for decades, with transit fees, shipping duties, and fuel depots channeling steady income to Addis while Eritrea itself remained underdeveloped.

... Red Sea Sovereignty: An Irrevocable Reality

Alongside the ports stood Kagnaw Station in Asmara, one of the United States’ most important Cold War listening posts. Declassified U.S. records indicate that Washington paid tens of millions of dollars annually for its lease and local operations, money that was routed through Ethiopia’s accounts, even though the base sat on Eritrean soil. By conservative estimates, Ethiopia collected between \$40 million and \$60 million a year in the late 1960s and 1970s from Kagnaw, funds that propped up its budget and military expansion. None of these revenues were recognized as belonging to Eritrea.

Eritrea’s factories and industries, which by the mid-20th century included textile plants, breweries, and one of East Africa’s few automotive assembly lines, were systematically dismantled. Machinery was relocated to Ethiopia, depriving Eritrea of its industrial base. The short-lived Nippon Mining’s copper operation at Debarwa provided another case in point. From the 1970s onward, extraction revenues enriched Ethiopia’s coffers while leaving Eritrea environmentally scarred and economically bereft.

Financial theft compounded this structural plunder. During Ethiopia’s occupation and for six years after liberation, the Ethiopian birr was Eritrea’s sole legal tender. Eritrean workers were paid in birr, trade was conducted in birr, and Eritrean savings were stored in birr accounts. In November 1997, Eritrea introduced its own currency, the nakfa, and the Bank Eritrea exchanged the birr which was circulating by nakfa. This meant the Bank of Eritrea held vast balances of Ethiopian currency, representing the cumulative value of goods and services extracted under occupation. The International Monetary Fund, which mediated before the introduction of the nakfa, explicitly acknowledged these balances as Eritrea’s asset and Ethiopia’s liability. At Ethiopia’s request, the World Bank was approached to mediate, but when it signaled readiness, Addis withdrew its delegation, blocking any resolution. To this day, the Birr balances remain in Eritrean vaults, unreconciled and unpaid. A silent but enduring record of a debt Addis refuses to honor.

Even worse, in the final days of 1991 as the EPLF advanced on Asmara, Ethiopian authorities

drained Eritrean citizens’ private deposits from Ethiopian commercial banks. Ordinary families who had entrusted their life savings to banks in Asmara, Keren, and Mendefera found their money seized and transferred south, never to be returned. This act of mass expropriation remains an unresolved private and collective debt, an open wound compounding the state-level liability.

To these economic and financial crimes must be added the devastation of war. The Ethiopian army waged campaigns of deliberate destruction: aerial bombardments of towns, the burning of villages, and the use of napalm and cluster munitions. After the liberation of Massawa in 1990 Ethiopian aerial bombardment reduced the historic port to rubble. Human losses were staggering. The 30 year tally is mind boggling: tens of thousands killed and scores of thousands maimed, entire communities uprooted and forced into exile.

International precedent provides a clear yardstick. After Iraq’s 1990–91 occupation of Kuwait, the United Nations Compensation Commission compelled Baghdad to pay over \$50 billion in reparations for economic damages, oil theft, and civilian suffering. By the same principle, Ethiopia’s occupation of Eritrea, marked by siphoned port revenues, diverted foreign base

rents, looted industries, seized bank deposits, and war crimes, justifies Eritrea’s claim for reparations.

Conservative calculations place the combined damages, economic plunder, financial theft, and wartime destruction, in the tens of billions of U.S. dollars. Adjusted for inflation and lost opportunity costs, claims could easily scores of billions in today’s values.

The conclusion is inescapable: Eritrea’s sovereignty is not up for debate, but Ethiopia’s debts most certainly are. What Addis owes Eritrea is not a favor of recognition but a reckoning for decades of exploitation, theft, and war.

Final Word

This is the sword of Damocles hanging over the Prosperity Party’s neck. If the current government of Ethiopia insists on reopening the settled question of Eritrea’s sovereignty, then Eritrea has every right to reopen the ledger of 1952–1991. That reckoning would not be rhetorical; it would be legal, financial, and devastating to Ethiopia’s already fragile standing.

The record is clear. For thirty years Ethiopia siphoned off Eritrea’s port revenues, collected millions in U.S. base rents from Kagnaw Station, looted factories, dismantled industries, extracted

minerals, and imposed a monetary regime whose accumulated Birr balances remain a recognized debt by the IMF. It stripped ordinary Eritreans of their private bank deposits in the final days before liberation. It waged war with napalm and cluster munitions, razed Massawa under a daily barrage of thousands of shells, and left behind scorched earth and mass graves. By any international precedent—from Iraq’s reparations to Kuwait to Namibia’s claims against South Africa—Eritrea’s case is ironclad. The damages, conservatively measured, run into tens of billions; adjusted for inflation and lost opportunity, the figure is far higher.

Eritrea’s independence is not up for barter. It is permanent, irrevocable, and beyond the reach of revisionist fantasy. It was earned in blood, secured in sacrifice, and sealed by international law. No sabre-rattling, no coercion, no desperate ploys of recognition or derecognition can alter that reality. Eritrea will never bend to threats. It cannot be cowed or coerced. Its sovereignty is untouchable, its resolve unbreakable. Threats fall powerless before Eritrea’s determination. No force on earth can undo what Eritreans secured through thirty years of struggle. Eritrea will stand firm—unyielding, unshaken, unmovable.

Period. Full stop.

LOCAL NEWS

ERITREA OBSERVES INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS IN DUBARWA

The International Day of Older Persons was observed at the national level in Dubarwa under the theme: “Caring for Older Persons is Ensuring the Sustainability of Our Values.”

The ceremony was attended by Ms. Leul Gebreab, Minister of Labor and Social Welfare, and Mr. Habteab Tesfatsion, Governor of the Southern Region, among other guests.

Mr. Frewengel Teklehaimanot, Administrator of Dubarwa sub-zone, welcomed the commemoration, stressing that older persons are the “cream of society” who deserve utmost support and respect. He called for the sustainable observation of the day moving forward.



Mr. Qaleab Tesfelasie, Director General of Social Services in the Southern Region, highlighted the profound cultural basis of support for the elderly in Eritrea. He stated that supporting older persons goes beyond international conventions and laws, as it is “embedded in the culture and values of the people.” He added that strong awareness

campaigns are being executed to ensure older persons receive support from their children and close relatives.

This year marked the 34th international observance of the day and the 30th national observance in Eritrea. The event concluded with cultural and artistic performances by the Bahre Negestat Cultural Troupe.



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.

1. **Position: Project Mechanical Engineer**
Department: Processing and Underground Operations
Number required: One (01)

Primary Purpose

- Project Engineer will specialize in project execution and be responsible for project engineering planning, procurement and execution of projects.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

- Prepare, schedule, coordinate and monitor the assigned project engineering works
- Monitor compliance to applicable codes, practices, QA/QC policies, performance standards and specifications
- Interact daily with the clients to interpret their needs and requirements and represent them in the field
- Perform overall quality control of the work (budget, schedule, plans, personnel's performance) and report regularly on project status
- Assign responsibilities and mentor project team
- Cooperate and communicate effectively with Project Superintendent and other project participants to provide assistance and technical support
- Review project mechanical engineering deliverables and initiate appropriate corrective actions

TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS

- Planning
- Executing
- Closure

Unique requirements/other information

- Attention to detail and ability to enforce engineering standards as required by specifications.
- Excellent understanding of quality management systems on complete project life cycle.
- Candidate must be physically and medically fit.

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
○ Recognized trade certificate in engineering. ○ Certification from an internationally recognized engineering body.	○ At least 10 years of continuous experience in a similar role in mining, engineering and construction background ○ Advance understanding in project engineering and project life cycle management ○ Ability to formalize engineering procedures, templates and structures on projects
Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
○ Proven working experience as a Project Engineer ○ Advanced MS Office skills ○ Familiarity with engineering rules, regulations, best practices and performance standards ○ Ability to work with multiple discipline projects. ○ Project management and supervision skills	○ Assertiveness ○ Good communication skills ○ Organized ○ Team player

2. **Position: HME Operator**
Department: Processing and Underground Operations
Number required: One (02)

Primary Purpose

- To plan sectional activities and drive the loader to move economic metal bearing ore /concentrate from shade to appropriate tips,
- Supervise sectional activities to ensure compliance with requirements and transport materials/equipment to various production locations to facilitate production continuity

TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS

- Planning

- Implementation of the plan
- Reporting

Unique requirements / other information

- Ability to operate all underground equipment
- The candidate must be Physically and Medically fit.

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
○ Trade certification to operate underground Loader, Dump truck, Rigs, and ancillaries' equipment. ○ Valid blasting license. ○ Valid driver's license	○ 5 years working experience in underground mining environment. ○ Prior experience as a Loader/Dump truck / rig Operator. ○ Prior experience operating remote LH410, XTUW-5, ST 18, LH17i, remote R2900 Loaders or similar. ○ Prior experience operating XTIUI- 20, TH 545,MT 42 Dump trucks or similar ○ Prior experience operating DL321, DD321 ○ Prior experience operating underground support equipment ○ Read & write English language. ○ Able to perform basic machinery troubleshooting task.
Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
○ Ability to work long shifts both day and night shift. ○ Risk management and assessment. ○ Analytical and Problem solving ○ Excellent Hand-Eye Coordination	○ Ability to work under pressure. ○ Take instruction from supervisor/ crew leaders, Excellent teamwork skills, Excellent Communication skill, Ability to work towards strict deadlines, Interpersonal skills

3. **Position: Shift Supervisor**
Department: Processing and Underground Operations
Number required: one (01)

Primary Purpose

- To organize and supervise the shift operations concerning mechanized drilling, lashing, and tramming of ore to ensure safe attainment of set targets.
- Accountable for delivering individual and team production targets and coaching/mentoring of team.
- Contribute as a member of a committed, high-performance team.
- Provide visible leadership of the underground mine production operations and all other related.

TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS

- To ensure that set targets are achieved
- To prevent injury to personnel and safeguard company property.
- To enhance their performance
- To meet statutory requirements
- To ensure effective and efficient completion of task
- To provide information for attention/decision making
- Health, Safety and Environment

Unique Requirements / Other Information

- The candidate must be Physically and Medically fit.

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
○ Diploma in mining or equivalent experience in underground, Valid Blasting License, Valid First Aid Certificate, Experience in underground hard rock mining is essential with SLOS	○ 3 years progression through lower ranks. ○ 7 years typical underground mining experience following qualification. ○ Knowledge of blasting operation techniques ○ Knowledge of Mine layouts ○ Knowledge of use underground equipment and machinery as well as explosive regulations.
Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
○ Supervisory skills-ability to organize and co-ordinate including good liaison with other departments, Basic Computer Literacy, Good English written, verbal and organisational skills, Ability to lead a team, Excellent hazard awareness, Strong Supervisory Skill and ability to lead a team	○ Highly organized with the ability to work independently and under pressure, Organizational skill with Ability to work under pressure, Problem solving and analytical skills, Interpersonal skills, Strong communication skills, Commitment to safe work practices, Self-motivated, Acting in sense of urgency, Accountable personality

Continued from page 6

4. Position: Mine Captain
Department: Processing and Underground Operations
Number required: one (01)

Primary Purpose

- Plan, organise and control mining activities in underground sections under his responsibility to ensure that production, drilling, and development targets are achieved, safely and within budget.

TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS

- Production targets
- Supervision
- Safety
- Cost Control
- Labor Relations
- Communication
- Training and development of subordinates
- Health, Safety and Environment
- Additional Duties

Unique Requirements / Other Information

- The candidate must be Physically and Medically fit.

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
- Degree or Diploma in mining engineering or equivalent - Blasting License - First Aid certificate.	- Degree with Minimum of 8 years' working experience in hard rock underground mining - Experience in SLOS and backfilling - Knowledge of blasting operation techniques - Knowledge of Mine Planning - Must be able to make right and quick decisions towards solving operating problems in the various aspects of development, drilling, and production
Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
- Supervisory skills-ability to organize and co-ordinate including good liaison with other departments - Basic Computer Literacy - Good English written, verbal and organizational skills - Ability to lead a team - Excellent hazard awareness - Strong Supervisory Skill and ability to lead a team - Knowledge of underground rock mechanics and mine planning as applied to underground mining operations	- Self-starter - Drive and enthusiasm - Development orientated - Passion for accuracy and perfection in delivery

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 provide 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



厄特四川矿产建设有限公司
ERITREA-SICHUAN MINERAL CONSTRUCTION CORP. LTD.

Vacancy Announcement

Eritrea Sichuan Mineral Construction CORP. LTD. (ESMC) is inviting applicants for the following position for Asmara project sites.

Position: Accountant
Department: Finance
Number Required: 01
Contract Type: Definite (Six Month)
Place of Work: Emba Derho Site
Major Duties and Responsibilities

- Financial Reporting: Led full-cycle preparation of accounting statements; streamlined reconciliation procedures to guarantee statement accuracy.
- Risk Control: Enforced disciplined settlement standards; established a dynamic tracking mechanism for receivables & payables.
- Accounting System Maintenance: Coordinated chart-of-accounts mapping and bookkeeping; built a standardized accounting framework.
- Statutory Compliance: Systematically implemented the Accounting Law and CAS, ensuring full compliance of business processes.
- And other instruction given by line Manager/ immediate supervisor.

Qualification and Other Skills

Formal Education, Certifications or Equivalents	❖ Minimum Diploma in accounting or Related Field.
Working Experience – Nature & Length	❖ Two - five years' experience in a similar role.
Leadership Experience – Nature & length of time	❖ N/A
Other skills and abilities	❖ Knowledge of computers and information systems. ❖ Effective spoken and written communication. ❖ Attention to details, deliver results according to company procedure and solution oriented. ❖ Team player

General Information and Other Requirement

- Place of Work: Asmara Project Sites (Emba Derho)
- Salary: As per Company salary scale

Additional Requirement for Nationals:

- Having fulfilled his/ her National Service Obligation and Provide evidence of Release Paper from Ministry of Defense.
- Present Clearance from current/ last employer or Unemployment card from Labor office.
- Testimonial documents to be attached (CV, work experience credential, 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; 05 days from the date of publication on the newspapers

Address: Please mail your application to;

Eritrea Sichuan Mineral Construction CORP. LTD (ESMC)
P.O. Box. 4832 Asmara, Eritrea

Required to send a copy of their application to the following address

Mineral Resources Management, Department of Mines
P.O. Box. 272
Asmara, Eritrea

Note to non-Eritrean applicants:

Please send a copy of your application to
Aliens Employment permits Affairs,
P.O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea



“Start Where You Are”: The Inspiring Story of a Farmer and Mother, Nazret Debas

Luwam Kahsay H.

Can you tell us a bit about your background and how your journey began?

I was raised by my grandfather in Asmara after my father joined the armed struggle. I completed high school in Asmara and got married to Fitsum Ferede in 1996. That's when life truly began—both as a wife and, eventually, a farmer.



Nazret Debas

How did you get involved in agriculture?

My husband was working in Dankur as a medic, and we



lived in a very remote area. The nearest place was a small market town called Mirara, about 30 minutes away. Initially, I spent most of the day at home alone. So, I started raising a few chickens—using those given to me as a wedding gift. That small startup grew into a 40-chicken operation.

Later, due to weather conditions, we relocated to a village called Fishey, where we had our second child. When my husband went to Sawa for military training, I was alone with two kids. That's when I decided to give farming an honest try, although many

Born in Dembezan, Dekemhare, Nazret Debas is a mother of four and a farmer with over 26 years of experience. Her story is one of resilience, hard work, and the power of starting small, even when the odds are against you.

people discouraged me.

What was your first step into farming?

With encouragement from neighbors, especially the local militia, I approached a landowner named Siidi Degyat and asked her for a plot of land to farm. I didn't have any money, so I sold all my jewelry to buy seeds. After my first harvest, I went back to pay Siidi, but she told me to keep the money and use it as an incentive.

I used that gift to buy 20 sheets of zinc roofing. Eventually, I began farming in three different areas and hired laborers to help. It required a lot of sacrifice—especially in Dankur, where I had to protect my farms against monkeys during the day and hyenas at night. I grew potatoes, beans, peas, and more.

You were farming while raising young children. How did you manage?

It was tough. My oldest child was 10, and the two girls were just three and one year old. I was taking care of the farms, the kids, and the animals all by myself, but I had a strong ambition.

At the time, my husband had an opportunity to retake a matriculation exam and pursue higher education. I didn't want him to miss the opportunity. I told him I'd keep the family going no matter what. I believed in the power of education and



wanted him to be a role model for our children. With God's help, we both succeeded.

You also raised animals, right?

Yes. I started with six goats, which I bought from Siidi. With my children's help, their number grew to 60. With the income from the farms and the goats, as well as the moral and physical support I got from our neighbors, I was able to build a house and dig my own well.

How would you describe your husband's role?

Even though my husband wasn't a farmer, he supported me in every way he could.

How did you manage your time between family, farm, and housework?

I used to do all my housework at night. Any free time I had, I spent with my kids and husband. Outside of my family and co-workers, I didn't have much of a social life—and I was okay with that.

What would you say is the key to your success?

Simply starting. You must start—even if it's small. Once you begin, you'll see many paths. If you persist, success will come, but you must always be prepared for sacrifice.

While I was working in Dankur, I developed a severe eye condition. Both of my eyes were affected, and I couldn't even go out into the sun. I was completely inactive for two years. Eventually, I went to Sudan for treatment and regained my sight. I didn't

give up. I've transitioned to a different type of farming.

What kind of work did you move into after that?

Due to my health issues, I relocated to Asmara. I started growing plants by buying 45 plantlets from the nursery at Bet Ghiorghis. Over time, I've become the nursery's regular customer. It's now been 10 years since I started this venture.

What does growing plants mean to you?

It's like raising my own children. Just like a child, a plant needs attention and care—from beginning to end. It's always waiting for you to nurture it.

Do you have any message you'd like to share?

My motto has always been not to rely on anyone—not even my husband. I want to be his helping hand, not a burden.

To other women and anyone struggling: life is not as difficult as it seems if managed well. The key is willpower. At first, things may look hard, but if you treat yesterday as your teacher, you'll learn and grow.

And always remember: any bread earned honestly is sacred and fulfilling.

Thank you, Nazret. I wish you success in your future endeavors.

