

SPORTS COMPETITIONS IN THE CENTRAL REGION



The sports competitions for schools in the Central Region, which had been underway for eight months, concluded on 2 May at a ceremony at Asmara Stadium.

At the ceremony, which was

officially opened by Dr. Halima Mohammed, Minister of Education, Mr. Mosazgi Gezehey, head of sports at the Ministry of Education branch in the region, said that over 14,000 students participated in the program across 12 sports,

with equal participation of female students observed.

Mr. Mosazgi went on to say that sports, beyond entertainment, have a significant contribution to the physical and psychological development of students, and that the Ministry of Education is playing an important role in nurturing a national sports culture through schools. He also commended all those who contributed to the program's successful implementation.

At the event, awards were presented to winners of the various sports competitions, and certificates of recognition were awarded to Government institutions and individuals for their contributions.

CULTURAL AND SPORTS WEEK

A cultural and sports week was held in Mendefera at the Southern Region level from 1 to 3 May under the theme "Students' Cultural and Sports Festival for National Cohesion."

The program, in which students from junior and high schools across the region's 12 sub zones took part, included football, basketball, volleyball, as well as competitions in general knowledge, drama, painting, music, poetry, debate, innovation,

on 2 May with a ceremony held at the Twalet Martyrs Cemetery in Massawa, featuring cultural and artistic performances.

At the event, Mr. Ibrahim Ali Sheikh, Chairman of the regional Assembly, lit a torch to mark the start of the week.

Mr. Mohammed Abdella, head of culture, sports, and health at the Ministry of Education branch in the region, said that the cultural and



and creativity.

Mr. Belay Nurhusein, one of the program coordinators, said that beyond enabling students to identify their talents and exchange experiences, the program makes a significant contribution to reflecting national unity and harmony.

Mr. Gebregergis Gebredingil, head of administration and finance in Mendefera sub zone, noted that the students' week, organized annually in connection with Independence Day anniversary, helps students become familiar with neighboring areas within the region.

In related news, the students' cultural and sports week in the Northern Red Sea Region began

sports week – in which over 500 students from junior and high schools are participating – is organized every year in connection with the Independence Day anniversary. He also stated that the program will significantly contribute to instilling national values among students and adding color to the Independence Day festivities.

The program, which runs until 6 May, includes dancing, poetry, drama, songs, and educational competitions.

Noting the program's importance in enabling students to exchange experiences and get to know one another, Mr. Haile Asfaha, administrator of Massawa city, called for even greater participation.

TOUR TO HISTORICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL SITES

Youth who are receiving training at the Massawa Workers Training Center conducted a tour of historical and developmental sites on 2 May.

The tour included visits to Massawa Tin and Poly-Plastic Factory, Massawa Ports Authority, the ancient Mosque of Sahaba, Hirgigo Electricity Plant, and Gahtelay Dam.

Mr. Neguse Girmay, head of administration and finance of the training center, said that the objective of the tour was to enable the trainees to understand the development programs being carried out in their area, as well as their history.

During their tour of the historical and developmental sites, the participants were provided with briefings by concerned personnel on the history and progress of the developmental activities.

The participants expressed satisfaction with what they observed firsthand regarding the progress of the development programs they visited and called for the continuity of the program.

TRAINING TO TEACHERS IN HABERO SUB-ZONE

Training has been provided to 567 teachers, including 343 female teachers, in Habero sub-zone.

Mr. Osman Mohammed-Adem, head of the education office in the sub-zone, said that the training, which mainly targeted pre-school teachers, covered ethics of the teaching profession, teaching methodology, lesson planning and other related issues.

Noting that pre-schools are the foundation for children's future educational careers, Mr. Osman called on the trainees to apply the knowledge they gained from the training practically and become exemplary to their students.

CONFERENCE OF THE ERITREAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION

The Eritrean Pharmaceutical Association conducted its 19th scientific conference at the Asmara Palace Hotel in Asmara under the theme "Enhancing Pharmacy Professional Excellence for Better Health Outcomes."

Mr. Abraha Gebre, President of the association, said that the objective of the conference was to exchange experiences among pharmacy professionals, discuss scientific developments, and strengthen the country's health sector. He also highlighted the significant contribution pharmacists

make to ensuring patient safety and the effective use of medicines.

At the conference, various research papers were presented, including pharmaceutical exposure during pregnancy and autism spectrum disorder: critical analysis of epidemiological evidence, biological plausibility and regulatory divergence; Eritrea's path to self-reliance in reviewing the essential medicines list: key strategies, challenges and lessons learned; antibiotic prescribing practices using the WHO Access, Watch and Reserve classification;

a cross-sectoral study; major bloodstream infection-causing bacterial pathogens, antimicrobial resistance patterns and trends: a multisite retrospective study in Asmara between 2014 and 2022; as well as prescribed medicines among pregnant women attending health facilities in Eritrea: patterns, safety and determinants, among others.

The participants also conducted extensive discussions on the comprehensiveness and expansion of the pharmacy profession in Eritrea. They also adopted various recommendations.





The Problem with Ethiopia's "Maritime Imperative"

The article published by Horn Review on 16 April 2026, titled "Ethiopia's Maritime Imperative," is presented as a sober strategic assessment of Ethiopia's geopolitical constraints. In reality, it is a deviously constructed argument that seeks to normalize a profoundly destabilizing proposition: that "Ethiopia's size, economic trajectory, and perceived vulnerability justify a reconfiguration of established sovereign realities in the Horn of Africa".

Stripped of its academic garb, the article advances a doctrine of illicit entitlement – one that attempts to elevate strategic ambition above legal obligation and to recast settled borders as negotiable under the pressure of sheer and crude force.

At its core, the article reframes Ethiopia's landlocked status as a "structural injustice". It characterizes dependence on external ports as a "profound strategic liability" in an era of intensifying global competition and argues that this condition must be corrected through the pursuit of "sovereign maritime access." This framing is a political narrative designed to convert geography into grievance and grievance into justification.

The ports of Assab and Massawa, we are told, were once available to Ethiopia. They were used, integrated, and relied upon. This is presented as evidence of a "natural relationship between Ethiopia and the coast; a relationship that has been disrupted later".

What is deceitfully glossed over is how that access came into being.

In 1952, Eritrea was federated with Ethiopia under a United Nations resolution in flagrant breach of Eritrea's inherent right of decolonization and against

the expressed will of its people for independence. The "Federal Arrangement" was indeed a bogus construct dictated by the overriding geopolitical dynamics of the post-Second World War moment. Eritrea retained its own institutions, its own autonomy, and its own distinct identity within that illegal federation. A decade later, in 1962, that "Federation" was unilaterally dissolved by Ethiopia, and Eritrea was annexed, triggering Africa's three-decade-long and costly armed struggle for national liberation.

In the event, the period during which Ethiopia enjoyed direct access to Eritrean ports was not the expression of an uncontested historical right. It was the product of a denial of Eritrea's nationhood on the altar of geopolitical conspiracies that soon degenerated into outright annexation. To present that access as evidence of enduring entitlement is to smooth over the very dynamics that made it illegal in the first place.

Once Eritrea's independence was achieved in 1991, the legal and political status of its territory, including its coastline, was settled. Ethiopia did not suffer an arbitrary deprivation. It returned to a geographic reality that had been temporarily and unlawfully altered by mid-20th century geopolitical manipulation and conspiracy.

The borders that followed were not provisional arrangements awaiting revision. They were – and remain – protected under the principle of *uti possidetis juris*, the legal doctrine that preserves inherited colonial borders as international frontiers. This principle is the cornerstone of post-colonial State stability in Africa. To suggest, as the article implicitly does, that Ethiopia's status is a strategic anomaly requiring correction is to undermine this foundational principle. It is to assert, without saying so directly, that sovereignty is conditional and that borders can be revisited when they cease to align with the ambitions of larger or more powerful countries.

The article's invocation of international law further exposes its contradictions. By referencing frameworks such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, it seeks to create the impression that Ethiopia's position is grounded in established legal rights. International law is unequivocal in its treatment of landlocked states. It guarantees commercial access for landlocked countries to ports in transit to coastal States. These rights are explicitly contingent on agreements with coastal States and do not extend to sovereignty, jurisdiction, or control over foreign territory or maritime infrastructure.

There is no ambiguity here.

International law does not recognize the right of a landlocked state to acquire coastal territory, to administer ports beyond its jurisdiction, or to establish strategic or military footholds in another state. The suggestion that Ethiopia's "maritime imperative" can be grounded in legal doctrine is therefore flawed. What is being advanced is to attempt to stretch the concept of access beyond its defined limits and to transform it into a basis for entitlement.

The practical reality renders this argument even more untenable. Ethiopia is not denied access to the sea. Currently, it enjoys extensive and functional access through established agreements, particularly with Djibouti. More broadly, it has the latitude and opportunity to utilize various ports in the Horn of Africa neighborhood. It was indeed using Eritrean ports under suitable commercial agreements after independence until it chose to boycott them in the wake of the 1998-2000 border conflict.

In the event, any challenges that Ethiopia may be facing are, in essence, logistical and economic in nature. They are not questions of sovereignty. To elevate these challenges into a justification for sovereign maritime claims is to conflate inconvenience with injustice and preference with right.

This shift from law to power is central to the article's logic. It suggests that Ethiopia's size, population, and economic potential confer a form of implicit entitlement to maritime access beyond what is currently available. It implies that Ethiopia is too large, too significant, and too strategically important to remain dependent on the goodwill of its neighbors. This line of reasoning is deeply problematic. It replaces the principle of sovereign equality with a hierarchy of entitlements, in which larger states are afforded greater rights than smaller ones.

The article's political undertones become even more pronounced in its discussion of inevitability. It suggests that Ethiopia cannot "remain indefinitely confined inland," framing maritime access as a strategic necessity that will ultimately assert itself regardless of current constraints. This language is prescriptive. It signals an expectation that the current order will change and that such a change is both natural and justified. This is precisely the kind of rhetoric that precedes destabilization. It creates a narrative in which existing borders are seen as temporary obstacles rather than permanent realities.

The contradiction between the article's professed commitment to cooperation and its underlying logic of entitlement is stark. On

the one hand, it speaks of shared economic opportunities and regional integration. On the other hand, it advances a concept of "sovereign maritime access" that cannot be realized without encroaching upon the sovereignty of others. There is no formulation of this concept that is compatible with the territorial integrity of coastal states. Sovereignty is not divisible, and it cannot be shared under pressure. Any arrangement that approaches such a condition would, by definition, reflect an imbalance of power rather than a meeting of equals.

The strategic dimension of the argument further exposes its intent. While framed in economic terms, the discourse consistently drifts toward considerations of security and power projection. References to vulnerability, autonomy, and strategic positioning reflect an underlying objective that extends beyond trade facilitation. In a region as sensitive as the Red Sea, where multiple global and regional actors maintain a presence, the introduction of a new doctrine linking economic necessity to strategic expansion is inherently destabilizing.

The political implications of this narrative cannot be ignored. It seeks to normalize the idea that Ethiopia's aspirations should take precedence over the sovereignty of its neighbors. It presents Eritrea's coastline not as the sovereign territory of an independent state, but as a strategic variable within a broader regional equation. This is a fundamental inversion of the principles that govern international relations. Sovereignty is not a resource to be allocated according to regional demand. It is an absolute, non-negotiable right.

From Eritrea's perspective, this is not a theoretical debate. It is a direct challenge to its territorial integrity. Eritrea's ports, including Assab and Massawa, are not assets awaiting redistribution. They are integral components of a Sovereign State whose independence was secured through decades of struggle and affirmed through international recognition. Any attempt to frame their status as negotiable—whether through legal reinterpretation, economic argument, or geopolitical necessity—is categorically unacceptable.

The article's broader narrative also reflects a political strategy aimed at shaping perceptions. By framing Ethiopia's position as rational, inevitable, and grounded in necessity, it seeks to shift the burden of justification onto those who defend international law and the associated status quo. It implicitly casts Eritrea's insistence on sovereignty as obstructionist, rather than as a legitimate exercise of its rights. This

is a classic rhetorical maneuver: to redefine the terms of debate in a way that delegitimizes opposition before it is even articulated.

Such narratives are not without consequence. They create expectations that cannot be fulfilled without confrontation. They signal to domestic audiences that territorial questions remain open. They introduce uncertainty into regional relations and erode trust between states.

Eritrea's position remains clear, consistent, and grounded in both law and principle. It recognizes the legitimate rights of landlocked states to access the sea through mutual commercial agreements. It supports regional integration, economic cooperation, and the development of infrastructure that benefits all parties. What it rejects – firmly and unequivocally – is any attempt to transform access into ownership, cooperation into obligation, or geography into entitlement.

The distinction between access and sovereignty is not semantic; it is foundational. Access is governed by agreements. Sovereignty, by contrast, is absolute. It is not subject to reinterpretation based on economic need or strategic ambition. Any effort to blur this distinction undermines the legal and political order that sustains regional stability.

The "maritime imperative" thesis ultimately rests on a series of flawed assumptions. It assumes that dependence constitutes vulnerability in a way that justifies territorial claims. It assumes that strategic necessity can override legal norms. And it assumes that power can redefine rights. Each of these assumptions is problematic in isolation. Together, they form a doctrine that is fundamentally incompatible with the principles of international law and the stability of the African continent.

The Horn of Africa does not require new doctrines of inevitability. It requires a reaffirmation of the principles that have sustained it thus far: respect for sovereignty, adherence to international law, and a commitment to cooperation based on equality rather than coercion.

The "maritime imperative" is not an unavoidable consequence of geography or geopolitics. It is a constructed narrative designed to shift the boundaries of what is considered acceptable in regional discourse. It must be recognized for what it is: a revisionist doctrine that seeks to legitimize ambition at the expense of law. And it must be rejected accordingly.

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A practical Tool to Improve Child Survival and Well-Being

Bana Negusse

Last week, Eritrea joined the rest of the continent in marking African Vaccination Week 2026 with a national celebration in Asmara. Held under the theme “Let Parents and the Community Work in Collaboration for Ensuring the Health of Our Children,” the event brought together health officials and experts to reflect on the role of immunization in protecting children and mothers. Representatives from the Ministry of Health emphasized that the annual observance is not only a moment of awareness but also an opportunity to review

consider the broader role of vaccines in global health. Humanity’s relationship with vaccines stretches back more than two centuries, while earlier forms of inoculation date back even further. At their core, vaccines work by training the body’s immune system to recognize and fight disease-causing organisms without exposing individuals to the full dangers of infection. By introducing weakened or inactive forms of pathogens, vaccines allow the body to build protection safely and effectively.

Although often used interchangeably, inoculation,

Within this global context, Eritrea’s experience stands out. Since independence, the country has steadily expanded its national immunization program in both scope and reach. What began as a limited set of vaccines delivered to a small portion of the population has gradually evolved into a comprehensive system that protects children against a wide range of serious and potentially fatal diseases. Today, Eritrea administers 14 routine vaccines through the Ministry of Health and the National Immunization Program, with coverage rates reaching the high 90s—significantly above both continental and global averages. This growth reflects not only improvements in health infrastructure, but also sustained commitment from national institutions and strong collaboration with communities.

Eritrea’s progress has not gone unnoticed. Over the years, organizations such as Gavi and UNICEF have recognized the country’s achievements in immunization and child health. International observers have also pointed to Eritrea as an example of how consistent investment and effective delivery strategies can produce strong results, even in challenging settings.

Today, vaccination services in Eritrea are widely accessible across the country through a network of health facilities, outreach programs, and mobile units designed to reach remote

continues to safeguard the health of its youngest citizens.

For Eritrea, vaccination is not simply a public health intervention. Rather, it is part of a broader national commitment to protecting and investing in its most valuable resource: its people, and especially its children. In a country shaped by resilience and a long struggle for independence, the well-being of the younger generation has consistently been placed at the center of national priorities.

Across the past three decades, this commitment has been clearly reflected in both policy and principle. After independence, Eritrea was quick to align itself with global and regional frameworks that safeguard children’s rights, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. These steps signaled an early and deliberate effort to embed child welfare—including the dimensions of health, education, protection, and dignity, among others—into the state’s foundation.

This vision is also articulated in the National Charter, adopted in Nakfa in 1994, which emphasizes the responsibility to ensure children’s survival, care, and development. It underscores the importance of safeguarding children’s rights to health, safety, education, play, and human dignity, particularly for those who have faced hardship, including orphans

efforts, therefore, are not isolated initiatives, but part of a wider, long-standing national focus on nurturing a healthy, resilient, and empowered generation.

Despite limited resources, a challenging regional environment, and a range of structural constraints, Eritrea has made notable progress in improving child survival over a relatively short period. What was once a country facing some of the most severe child mortality challenges has steadily transformed its trajectory, emerging as an example of sustained improvement within the developing world.

This progress has not been accidental. Rather, it reflects a combination of long-term commitment and coordinated action across multiple sectors. Strong political will has been paired with investments in healthcare systems, infrastructure expansion, and efforts to increase the number and reach of trained health professionals. At the same time, advances in women’s education and empowerment have played a critical role, reinforcing better health practices at the household and community levels.

Equally important has been the consistent implementation of high-impact, low-cost interventions—among which vaccination stands out as one of the most effective. Together, these efforts have strengthened service delivery, expanded access to care, and contributed to steady gains in child health outcomes. In this broader context, Eritrea’s success in reducing child mortality can be seen as the result of an integrated approach, in which immunization is one key pillar within a broader system of public health progress.

Overall, Eritrea’s progress in vaccination reflects a broader and sustained commitment to child health and national development. Through steadily expanding coverage, strengthening health service delivery, and extending care to even the most remote communities, the country has used vaccination as a practical tool to improve child survival and well-being. While challenges remain, the consistent emphasis on preventive healthcare highlights a clear trajectory of improvement, where immunization continues to serve as a cornerstone of efforts to build a healthier and more resilient generation.



progress, align with current health guidelines, and reinforce the continuity of vaccination efforts nationwide.

Medical professionals also used the occasion to highlight the scope of Eritrea’s vaccination program and the growing importance of immunization in preventing diseases, including those affecting both children and adults. Presentations covered policy direction, administration, and the expanding range of vaccines now available, while the event also included community engagement activities, such as a general knowledge competition to raise awareness among participants.

Beyond the speeches and ceremonies, the commemoration pointed to a broader narrative. Specifically, Eritrea’s vaccination efforts have evolved into a central pillar of its public health strategy, playing a key role in improving child health outcomes over time. This article explores how the country has built on these efforts, and what its experience reveals about the impact of sustained investment in immunization.

To understand this progress in context, it is useful to briefly

vaccination, and immunization carry distinct meanings. Inoculation refers to the deliberate introduction of a pathogen or antigen into a person, animal, or plant to stimulate resistance or study disease. Vaccination refers specifically to the act of administering a vaccine—typically by injection, but also sometimes orally or via nasal spray—to trigger an immune response. Immunization, by contrast, is the resulting state of protection: the process through which a person becomes immune or resistant to a disease following vaccination. Together, these concepts underpin one of the most effective public health tools ever developed.

Routine childhood vaccination, in particular, has become a cornerstone of global health efforts. By protecting against diseases such as diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, influenza, pneumonia, measles, and rubella, immunization programs have helped prevent countless cases of illness, disability, and death worldwide. Today, vaccination is widely recognized as one of the simplest, most cost-effective, and most successful ways to improve child survival and promote overall health and well-being.



and nomadic populations. These efforts, carried out by healthcare workers in close coordination with community coordinators, volunteers, and local contacts, ensure that immunization is not confined to urban centers but extends to even the most hard-to-reach areas. Taken together, they illustrate how Eritrea has translated policy into practice, thereby building a system that

and the children of martyrs.

Within this context, Eritrea’s vaccination program can be understood as a practical expression of these commitments. By working to protect children from preventable diseases and expanding access to essential health services, the country has translated its principles into sustained action. Immunization

OPINION

Eritrea's Fight against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM): Law, Awareness, and Collective Action

Hadnet Keleta
Red Sea Beacon

Introduction

Some of the hardest battles a nation will ever fight are fought within its own traditions, against practices so deeply woven into the fabric of society that questioning them can feel like questioning identity itself. To confront such practices requires more than laws. It demands courage, moral clarity, political will, and perhaps most importantly, the willingness of a people to transform themselves.

Few issues illustrate this challenge more profoundly than female genital mutilation (FGM). This practice for generations was defended in many societies as custom, duty, or even necessity, despite the lifelong physical and psychological harm it inflicted on millions of women and girls. Across much of the world, efforts to eliminate it have often collided with silence, resistance, and deeply entrenched social norms. Yet Eritrea offers a different story: one not of rhetoric but of sustained action; not of isolated campaigns but of a national movement that began in the crucible of liberation and continued through independence into community life. Eritrea's struggle against FGM is therefore not merely a public health campaign. It is the story of a society choosing to confront one of its oldest practices in the name of justice, dignity, and the future of its daughters.

The Journey to Eliminate FGM in Eritrea

The journey to eliminate female genital mutilation (FGM) in Eritrea stands as a powerful example of how sustained national commitment and grassroots participation can transform deeply rooted social practices. Eritrea's efforts are unique in that the campaign began even before independence, when awareness about women's rights and harmful practices was promoted among freedom fighters and communities in liberated areas. These early efforts were rooted in the broader principles of equality and social justice that guided the liberation struggle.

Following independence, eliminating harmful practices such as FGM became a

Eritrea's Fight Against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Law. Awareness. Collective Action.

- LAW**
FGM is illegal under Proclamation No. 158/2007.
- AWARENESS**
Nationwide education on the health risks and rights of girls and women.
- COMMUNITY ACTION**
Engaging communities, leaders, and traditional practitioners for change.
- PROTECTION**
Working together to safeguard the dignity, health and future of every girl.

Protecting Girls. Upholding Rights. Building a Healthier Future.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR CHANGE

- Government Institutions
- Ministry of Health Eritrea
- National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW)
- National Union (NUEW) of Eritrean Youth & Students (NUEYS)
- Communities, Leaders, and Partners

Through strong laws, public health education, grassroots mobilization, and the active participation of communities and civic organizations, Eritrea is transforming attitudes and ending FGM.

A united nation committed to the dignity, rights and well-being of every girl and woman.

national priority. Eritrean mass organizations took the lead, working closely with government institutions and local communities. Over time, this coordinated national effort demonstrated how legal reform, public health education, and community engagement can work together to bring about lasting social transformation.

A major milestone in Eritrea's fight against FGM came in 2007 with the introduction of Proclamation No. 158/2007, which criminalizes all forms of the practice. The law makes it illegal to perform, assist, or promote FGM and establishes penalties, including fines and imprisonment. This legal framework reflects the country's strong commitment to protecting the rights and dignity of women and girls. At the same time, policymakers recognized that legal enforcement alone would not be sufficient, as deeply rooted cultural practices require long-term efforts to change attitudes and beliefs.

The Ministry of Health of Eritrea has played a central role in addressing FGM as both a public health and human rights issue. Through nationwide awareness campaigns, the Ministry has educated communities about the severe physical and psychological consequences of FGM, as well as the importance of reproductive health, safe motherhood, and the rights of women and children. These initiatives have helped create safer,

more informed communities in which harmful practices are increasingly questioned. In addition, coordinated institutional mechanisms have been established to bring together different ministries and stakeholders and strengthen and align anti-FGM efforts across the country.

At the grassroots level, the National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW) has been the driving force behind community-based transformation. Its nationwide campaign against FGM has focused on raising awareness, promoting women's and children's rights, and encouraging behavioral change. By engaging communities through open dialogue, village meetings, and door-to-door outreach, NUEW has helped break the silence surrounding FGM and foster collective responsibility for abandoning the practice. The organization has also worked directly with traditional circumcisers, educating them about the harmful effects of FGM and encouraging them to give up the practice.

These combined efforts have achieved a broad national reach, extending to the vast majority of villages across Eritrea. As a result, the country has witnessed a steady decline in the prevalence of FGM since the 1990s, along with clear evidence of changing attitudes and social norms. In some areas, entire communities and sub-regions have declared themselves free of FGM,

demonstrating the effectiveness of sustained awareness and community engagement.

A key factor behind Eritrea's progress has been the strong collaboration between institutions and local actors. Religious leaders, community elders, and youth organizations have all played an important role in reshaping perceptions and influencing behavior. Their involvement has been particularly important in addressing misconceptions, including the belief that FGM is a religious obligation. Through dialogue and public engagement, these leaders have helped communities reconsider long-held assumptions and collectively abandon the practice. Community-based committees have also been established to raise awareness, provide guidance, and monitor progress at the local level.

Eritrea's experience highlights the importance of a comprehensive and integrated approach to eliminating FGM. By combining legal enforcement with continuous public health education, grassroots mobilization, and active community participation, the country has been able to address both the practice itself and the social norms that sustain it. Close coordination among government institutions, civil society organizations, and local communities has been essential in ensuring that efforts are consistent, inclusive, and effective.

Ultimately, Eritrea's fight

against FGM demonstrates that meaningful and lasting change is possible when laws are supported by education and community engagement. Through the coordinated efforts of the government, the Ministry of Health of Eritrea, the National Union of Eritrean Women, youth organizations, and regional administrations, the country has made significant strides in reducing the practice. Eritrea's experience offers an important lesson: eliminating harmful traditions requires not only legal action, but also the transformation of beliefs, the empowerment of communities, and a shared commitment to protecting the health and dignity of women and girls.

Conclusion

The true measure of a nation's progress is not found only in the roads it builds, the institutions it establishes, or the battles it wins on the battlefield. It is also found in its willingness to confront the injustices that exist within its own communities, whether old, normalized, or difficult to challenge. In that respect, Eritrea's fight against female genital mutilation represents something far greater than a public health success or a legal achievement. It represents a moral transformation.

What makes Eritrea's experience especially significant is that this change was not imposed from outside, nor driven by temporary pressure or donor-driven agendas. It was built from within, through conviction, education, community dialogue, and the active participation of women, elders, youth, religious leaders, health workers, and institutions working toward a common purpose. That is why the progress has endured.

The struggle is not yet over, and no serious nation claims victory while even one girl remains vulnerable. But Eritrea has already demonstrated something powerful: traditions, no matter how ancient, are not beyond change when a society places human dignity above habit, knowledge above silence, and the future of its children above the weight of the past.

And in that lesson lies not only Eritrea's achievement, but its legacy.

REPORTAGE

Pharmacy in Service of Public Health: ERIPA's 19th Conference and Congress

kesete Ghebrehiwet

The Eritrean Pharmaceutical Association (ERIPA) held its 19th Scientific Conference and 20th Congress at the Asmara Palace Hotel on 1 and 2 May. The two day gathering brought together pharmacy professionals, Ministry of Health experts, community pharmacists, association members, young researchers, and guests. Discussions focused on the association's founding principles, its journey since establishment, and its role in strengthening the pharmaceutical profession and public health services in Eritrea.

The conference served as an important platform for professional reflection, experience sharing, and planning. Such gatherings allow professionals to review past achievements, discuss current challenges, and identify practical ways to improve services. In a field that directly affects people's health, continuous learning and cooperation remain essential.



Mr. Abrha Ghebre

knowledge is an important measure of progress in the pharmaceutical profession. He noted that pharmacy science should not remain limited to laboratories and classrooms but should be translated into public education, responsible use of medicine, and stronger patient safety. He cited the National Pharmacy Week campaigns in 2024 and 2025 as practical examples. "This conference is the next step in

pharmacists to engage in health related discussions.

Among the papers presented was "Eritrea's Path in Reviewing the Essential Medicines List: Key Strategies, Challenges and Lessons Learned" by Pharmacist Nuru Abdu from the Ministry of Health's Pharmacy Services Division. The presentation discussed relying on local expertise rather than external technical assistance. Nuru Abdu also presented "Prescribed Medicines among Pregnant Women Attending Health Facilities in Eritrea: Pattern, Safety and Determinants," focusing on medicine use during pregnancy and the need for careful professional guidance.

Dr. Mulugeta Russom, head of the Eritrean Pharmacovigilance Center, discussed paracetamol use during pregnancy and possible concerns related to neurodevelopmental disorders. The emphasis was on safe and responsible use of medicine, not on creating public fear. The recommendation was that pregnant women should use medicines only when needed, at the lowest effective dose, and for the shortest possible time.

Ghebremedhin Tesfamariam, MSc, Clinical Pharmacist at Dekemhare Hospital, presented "Evaluation of Diarrhea Management and Its Determinants among Children under Five Years of Age in Regional and National Referral Hospitals of Eritrea." Since young children are among the most vulnerable groups, such research helps improve treatment practices and protect child health.

Saleh Idrisnur from the National Medicines and Food Administration presented research on "Potentially Unsafe Medication Use among Older Adults in Asmara." Older people often use multiple medicines simultaneously and may be more vulnerable to side effects or drug interactions. The presentation highlighted the need for careful prescription, proper counseling, and regular medicine reviews.

Tomas Tewelde from the Gash Barka Zonal Pharmaceutical Services presented a study on antibiotic prescribing practices using the WHO's Access, Watch, and Reserve (AWaRe) classification, focusing on outpatient prescriptions for older adults in six community chain



Dr. Mulugeta Russom

pharmacies in Asmara. Antibiotic use was a major concern, as unnecessary use contributes to antimicrobial resistance. The discussion underlined the need for careful prescribing, responsible dispensing, and public awareness.

On 2 May, during the 20th ERIPA Congress, Amanuel Aron, Coordinator of National Pharmacy Week, presented reports on the 2024 and 2025 campaigns. Pharmacy Week 2024 was conducted from 4 to 10 November under the theme "Informed Choices: The Key to Safer Medicine," in collaboration with the Eritrean Pharmacovigilance Center and in line with International Medicines Safety Week. Pharmacy Week 2025 was held from 27 October

recognition were presented, including the Pharmacovigilance Award, ERIPA Award, certificates for presenters and panelists, and recognition for external contributors. Financial reports and reports on constitutional amendments were discussed. A new ERIPA board was elected to serve for the coming two years.

The conference also examined challenges facing the profession, including the need for ongoing training, greater public awareness, updated professional standards, and broader member participation. Discussing such issues openly helps the association design better programs.

Another important area was the role of young professionals. The future of any professional association depends on active youth participation. Through platforms like this, young pharmacists learn guiding principles, gain experience, and better understand their contribution to public health.

The two-day gathering concluded with recommendations to strengthen professional development, expand public awareness activities, encourage member participation, improve cooperation with health institutions, and build stronger



ERIPA, with 380 registered members, was established in 1992 to promote the pharmaceutical profession and support society's health and well being. Since then, the association has worked to unite pharmacy professionals, encourage professional responsibility, and strengthen their contribution to the national health sector through conferences, awareness programs, and experience sharing forums.

The 19th Scientific Conference was held under the theme "Enhancing Pharmacy Professional Excellence for Better Health Outcomes." The theme reflected the broader responsibility of pharmacy professionals to support safe medication use, public awareness, professional ethics, and cooperation among healthcare workers. It also highlighted the need to connect scientific knowledge with practical service to deliver safer, more effective healthcare.

Mr. Abrha Ghebre, President of ERIPA, said that clinical

that journey. Together, we will ensure that ERIPA remains at the forefront of medical excellence," he said.

Participants reflected on the association's three decade journey, noting that professional associations play a key role in creating unity, promoting ethical standards, and supporting national development priorities. The participation of Ministry of Health experts and guests enriched discussions, demonstrating the importance of cooperation between professional associations and government health institutions to support national health priorities and build trust.

A significant part of the conference was devoted to research presentations. Most presenters were young professionals, many in their mid twenties, working alongside senior experts. Their participation demonstrated the country's investment in human resources development and the growing capacity of young



to 2 November under the theme "Think Pharmacist; Think Health." Both campaigns aimed to raise public awareness about the role of pharmacists and the importance of safe medicine use.

Extensive panel discussions were held during both events. Merhawi Debesai, Pharmacist and Quality Manager at the National Medicines and Food Administration, delivered a motivational presentation titled "Pharmacy is Everywhere," highlighting the indispensable role of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in improving healthcare and promoting professional excellence.

Awards and certificates of

relations with other professional associations.

In summary, ERIPA plays an important role in supporting the national health sector. Through professional commitment, public education, research, and cooperation with national institutions, it continues to contribute to the safe and effective use of medicines. As society's health needs continue to grow, the contribution of pharmacy professionals remains essential. The outcomes of the 19th Scientific Conference and 20th Congress reaffirmed this responsibility and strengthened the association's commitment to serving both the profession and society.



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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Bisha Mining Share Company is inviting applicants for the following positions

1. Position: Senior Drill & Blast Engineer for Sub Level Caving

Department: Processing and Underground Operations

Section: Asheli Underground

Number required: One (01)

Primary Purpose

- The Senior Drilling & Blasting Engineer is responsible for planning, designing, and optimizing drilling and blasting activities in Asheli Underground operation. This role ensures safe, efficient, and cost-effective extraction while meeting production targets and complying with all regulatory standards.

TASK DESCRIPTION Expanded TO CORE PERFORMANCE

AREAS

Improve Development and production efficiencies

- Production of short term and long-term explosives budgets for the mine
- Develop detailed underground drill and blast designs; production, development, raise, and slope blasting.
- Optimize fragmentation, dilution, and wall control
- Conduct filed inspection, drilling and blasting performance analysis and continuous improvement.

Overall reduction of explosives cost per ton

- Improve production and development efficiency to enhance cost effectiveness
- Track KPIs: drilling meters, powder factor, cost/tonne, fragmentation index.
- Troubleshoot issues such as misfires, overbreak, poor fragmentation, or excessive flyrock.

Provide training for sustainability of attained efficiencies

- Monitor and control explosives usage to reduce explosives costs
- Mentor and coach the Junior Engineer team.

To uphold Explosives/Mining Regulation

- To provide specialized advice on drilling and blasting operations
- To provide designs on stopping and development and set targets of powder factors.
- Provide effective and timely service to production sections
- Manage subordinate development and training for continuity of operations

Responsible for Communication on explosives management

- Attend all training programs organized by either Mining training or the Operating sections themselves.
- Responsible for reviewing, updating and re-writing standard procedures on drilling and blasting operations.
- Responsible for all matters pertaining to personnel working in blasting section

Health, Safety and Environment

- Drive health, safety and environment standards/policy awareness and practice in the Department to ensure compliance.
- Oversee explosive storage, transport, handling, and inventory control.
- Prepare and review risk assessments, standard operating procedures.
- Lead incident investigations related to drilling or blasting.

Additional Duties

- Adhering to all other assignments that are given that are lawful and fair

Unique Requirements / Other Information

- Requisite attributes necessary to perform the role in terms of BMSC core Values.
- The candidate always be organized, competent, dependable, and responsible.
- Provide knowledge training and experience sharing to team members and the workforce.

- The candidate must be Physically and Medically fit.

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor's degree in mining engineering Specialized Training/certification in underground drilling and blasting techniques is an asset 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In depth knowledge of Explosives, drilling and blasting engineering for underground mining. Strong knowledge of underground mining methods. Minimum 5 years' drill & blast engineering experience and other related certification skills. Proven experience in Senior Supervisor role or equivalent leadership. Hands-on experience with underground explosives implantation and safety. Experience in zinc or other base metal mining is essential. Knowledge of plan, design, schedule, control, and direct workloads involving drilling and blasting Engineering.
Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Computer Literacy Conversant with Microsoft Office Suite (Outlook, Excel, Word, Microsoft Project, and Power Point) Deswik, Surpac and other blasting software's. Strategic planning, strong project management and planning skills. Budgeting. Plan, organise, and execution. Strong safety mindset and risk assessment capability. Analytical and Problem-solving skill. Technical Report writing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good oral and written communication skills Ability to work in multi-disciplinary environment. Ability to conduct Engineering matters to various levels. Ability to work under pressure and achieve project milestones. Self-starter, Drive, and enthusiasm Developmental orientated Passion for accuracy and perfection in delivery Excellent leadership skills.

General Information and other requirements:

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

Additional requirements for Nationals:

- Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provided evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defense.
- Present clearance paper from current/last employer.
- Testimonial documents to be attached (CV, work experience credentials, a copy of your National Identity Card etc.).
- Only shortlisted applicants will be considered as potential candidates for an interview.
- Application documents will not be returned to sender.
- All applications should be sent through the post office.
- Deadline for application: 10 days from the day of publication in the Newspaper.

Address: Please mail your applications to:-
Bisha Mining Share Company,
P. O. Box 4276 Asmara, Eritrea

Note to Eritrean applicants:

Please send a copy of your application to:

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




Zara Mining
Share Company

Vacancy Announcement

Position:	HR & Admin Superintendent
Number required	1
Location:	Based at Koka Gold Mine (Zara)
Reporting to:	HR & Admin Manager
Primary Responsibility & Scope of Work	To lead person in the delivery of human resource services with specific responsibility for providing information to other HR staff and company employees regarding policies and regulations; addressing a variety of issues and providing general support; overseeing the maintenance of records, files, and databases of personnel actions, evaluations, matters; and assisting the HR Manager in ensuring that personnel functions conform to all applicable regulatory requirements.
Duties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop, plan, and implement the department's goals and objectives; recommend and administer policies and procedures. - Direct and participate in developing the department's work plan; assign work activities, monitor workflow, and review and monitor work products, methods, and procedures. - Participate in budget development and administration; assist in forecasting funds needed for staffing. - Participate in the selection and orientation of personnel; approve the appointment of personnel. - Provide administrative support to the HR Manager and act in the HR Manager's absence. - Direct and approve the selection, transfer, and promotion of ZMSC manpower staff. - Interpret personnel policies and regulations, including warnings, dismissals, and disciplinary procedures, and support the HR Manager for correct procedures. Assist staff regarding individual personnel issues. - Ensure the department's compliance with pertinent governmental Labor and other laws, rules, regulations, and policies. - Respond to and resolve complex and sensitive inquiries and complaints regarding recruitment, selection, policies, and procedures. - Attend and participate in professional groups and committee meetings. - Prepare weekly, bi-monthly, monthly, semi-annually, and annual HR reports. - Perform other duties instructed by the HR Manager.
Formal Education, Certifications, or Equivalent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bachelor's degree in human resources management or equivalent.
Working Experience – Nature & Length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Over Eight years of work experience in a similar role. Proven experience and skill in applying HR procedures pertaining to recruits, tracking work hours, leave disciplinary procedures, etc.
Leadership Experience - Nature & Length of Time	Previous experience as HR Supervisor is beneficial.
Other skills and abilities	Extremely detail-oriented, proactive, and organized with strong Microsoft Office skills. Strong interpersonal relationship-building skills and adaptability to work with people of different cultures and areas of the business, including internal and external.

Salary: according to the Company's salary scale.

Additional Requirement for nationals: Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligations and provide evidence of a release paper from the Ministry of Defence. Provide clearance from the current/last employer. Applications should be sent through the Post Office.
Only short-listed applicants would be considered as potential candidates for an interview. Application will not send to the sender.

Address: Please mail your applications to Zara Mining Share Company. P. O. Box 2393. Asmara, Eritrea.

Note to Eritrean applicants: - Please send a copy of your application to Aliens Employment Permit Affairs P.O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea. and Eritrea. Mineral Resources Management P. O. Box 272

The deadline for application is 07 days from the day of the announcement

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public that the shareholders of **LETEMICHAEL P.L.C** on their Extraordinary General Meeting held on the 20th day of April 2026 have resolved that;

The share capital of the Company be reduced from 3,700,000.00 (Three Million Seven Hundred Thousand) Nakfa to 2,300,000.00 (Two Million Three Hundred) Nakfa by reducing the par value of each share from 3,700.00 (Three Thousand Seven Hundred) Nakfa to 2,300.00 (Two Thousand Three Hundred) Nakfa.

LETEMICHAEL P.L.C



Conscious Youth, Bright Future: Insights from Sawa

Kidane Shimendi

Reflections on the Sawa Experience



Sham Micheal

Sham Michael – Head of Guidance & Counseling Department, Sawa.

To me, Sawa is a transformative national institution where youth gather to become mentally and physically fit. They acquire life-changing skills that are difficult to learn elsewhere—skills such as effective communication, time management, and teamwork. I first came to Sawa in 2013 as a member of the 26th Round and returned in 2020 as a counselor after graduating from college. Contributing to the nation-building process here is a rewarding experience that continues to shape my professional journey.

Kisanet Kiflom – Student

It is difficult to find words that truly capture the beauty and power of Sawa. There is no other institution so effective at transforming the youth. Comparing my current mental and physical fitness to what it was when I arrived, the change is significant. I have gained the vision and the essential skills necessary to communicate with ease and work effectively in groups.



Kisanet kiflom

Annually, Sawa—Eritrea’s premier educational and military institution—welcomes thousands of students from across the nation. It is a place where young people fulfill their national service, complete their secondary education, and sit for the National Matriculation Examination. This year, approximately 18,000 students have enrolled in the 38th Round.

Beyond the rigorous curriculum, Sawa organizes numerous activities designed to strengthen social integration and academic performance. One such highlight is the annual school exhibition. For today’s edition, Eritrea Profile invited the organizers and participants of the exhibition to share the mission and achievements of this impactful program.

Zakir Mohammed – Student

Sawa is a life-shifting environment. Here, we learn self-discipline, confidence, and tolerance. All nine of Eritrea’s national ethnic groups live together in harmony, sharing our cultural beauty and discussing our history. The investment in our education, driven by experienced teachers



Zakir Mohammed

and a disciplined schedule, has significantly enhanced our academic performance. We do everything as a group, truly reflecting our national motto: ‘Unity in Diversity.’

Merwa Abdelaziz – Student

Sawa serves as a pillar of



Merwa Abdelaziz

nation-building, nurturing youth who are conscious, organized, and equipped for the future. It is the engine of Eritrea’s prosperity. Personally, I have learned patience, self-reliance, and diligence. I feel an immense sense of pride in my national identity, especially when I see women participate equally

and actively in every facet of life here.

Mr. Sham, let’s talk about the exhibition. What were the primary goals and achievements of the program?

The Warsay Yikalo Secondary School in Sawa organized the exhibition under the theme ‘Conscious Youth: Bright Future.’ The mission stems from Sawa’s overarching goal: to produce all-rounded, qualified citizens. This program allows students to organize and share their knowledge with the wider community, helping them develop vital research and public speaking skills.

The process began with academically excelling student volunteers from every class. Under the guidance of their instructors, they developed ideas worth sharing with their peers. The topics were diverse and forward-thinking, including: Study Skills and Time Management, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Psychological Warfare, The Impact of Social Media, The Power of Music in Life, The History of the Camel as a National Emblem, and Sports and Youth Development.

The students presented these topics artistically, drawing a large audience and receiving widespread praise. This event serves as a benchmark, proving Sawa’s role in fostering a mentally conscious youth.

Student Perspectives on the Program

Kisanet Kiflom

I presented on social media—a trend shaping our global perspective. My focus was on how youth can wisely manage the risks and opportunities it presents. This program allowed me to clarify my personal vision and meet like-minded peers. It was a life-changing experience.

of psychological warfare from ancient times to the modern era. Today, where AI challenges the exchange of information, this topic is more complex and significant than ever. I gained a wealth of knowledge from the other presentations and the public’s comments. I am deeply grateful to the Sawa community for this opportunity.

A conscious youth determines a nation’s future. Therefore, it is the duty of the state to

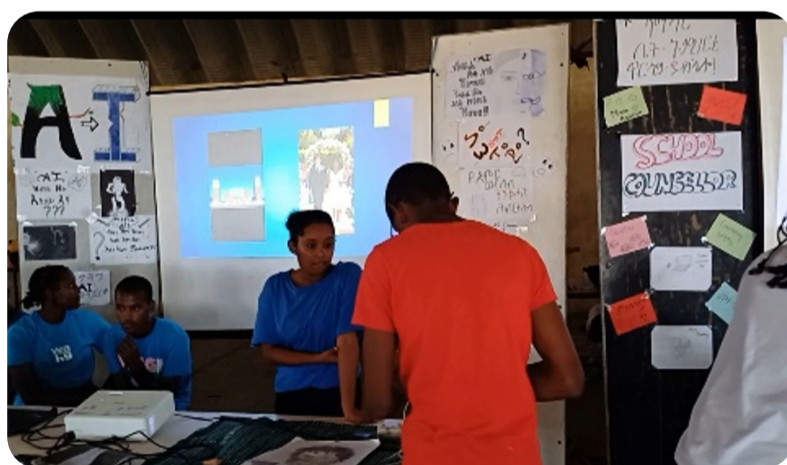
Zakir Mohammed

Our group tackled Artificial Intelligence (AI). We collected data and prepared a creative



presentation on AI’s growing impact on national institutions. Seeing everyone engage so deeply in the discussion reflected the

establish institutions that foster an organized, well-equipped generation. Sawa stands as a testament to this mission, utilizing



program’s success. In an era of swift technological change, this exhibition heightened our digital awareness.

educational programs to empower youth capable of shaping a prosperous Eritrea.

Merwa Abdelaziz

My group covered the history

Thank you all for your time, and we wish you great success in your future endeavors.



Our Resilience: Our Guarantee!