

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND SOCIAL SCIENCE GRADUATES OVER ONE THOUSAND STUDENTS



In its 19th commencement, the College of Business and Social Science in Asmara on 4 July, graduated 1,018 students in degree and diploma programs, of whom 536 graduated in degree programs.

Dr. Estifanos Hailemariam, Dean of the College, said that the students graduated in Accounting, Management and Public Administration, Economics and Finance, English Language, Geography, History, Law, Library Science and Information, Anthropology, Sociology, and Tourism and Hotel Management. Dr. Estifanos also said that 47% of the graduates are female students.

The guest of honor, Mr. Yemane Gebremeskel, Minister of Information, congratulating the graduates, their parents, and lecturers,

said that although Eritrea is endowed with natural resources with potential for development, producing committed and industrious citizens equipped with vocational knowledge is essential for channeling those resources into the country's economic development and improving the livelihoods of citizens.

Mr. Yemane went on to say that implementing effective, sound programs to develop human resources is one of the main priorities of the Eritrean Government's development policy.

At a time when scientific and technological progress is rapidly advancing toward artificial intelligence, Mr. Yemane underlined the significance of advancing professional capacity in parallel, with a view to narrowing the gap

and increasing investment in human resource development, irrespective of other challenges. Mr. Yemane also provided a numerical presentation on the progress registered in the education sector over the past 35 years of Independence.

Stressing the significance of balancing natural science with soft power in order to preserve the ethics of society at a time when phenomena are emerging that challenge the basic beliefs of

societies, Mr. Yemane called on the graduates to consciously, with awareness and commitment, participate in national development programs and the nation-building process, and to practically apply and further develop the knowledge they have gained.

A representative of the graduates, expressing appreciation for the educational opportunity they received, affirmed their commitment to live up to the expectations of the people and the government who supported their journey.

At the event, outstanding students were awarded medals of recognition.

At its 19th commencement, the College of Business and Social Science has graduated over 14,000 students in postgraduate, first-degree, and diploma programs.

EFFORT FOR TOTAL ERADICATION OF MALARIA

Mr. Kiros Sereke, head of malaria control at the Ministry of Health branch in Anseba Region, called for integrated effort on the part of the Ministry of Health and partners towards the total eradication of malaria prevalence in the region.

Indicating that malaria prevalence has currently declined significantly, Mr. Kiros called on administrations at all levels and health facilities to organize sustainable environmental sanitation activities for the total eradication of the disease.

Noting that all health facilities have finalized preparations for any occurrence of the disease during the coming rainy season, Mr. Kiros called on administrations and partners to encourage the public to clear areas susceptible to mosquito breeding.

ERITREAN COMMUNITY IN SWITZERLAND HOLDS COLORFUL ANNUAL FESTIVAL IN LAUSANNE



Eritrean nationals residing across 26 regions of Switzerland colorfully conducted their annual festival from July 4 to 5 in the city of Lausanne.

The annual event was officially opened by Ms. Sophia Tesfamariam, Eritrea's Permanent Ambassador to the United Nations, alongside Mr. Habtom Zera, Chargé d'Affaires at the Eritrean Embassy in Switzerland and Eritrea's Permanent Representative to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva.

The festive grounds featured dedicated exhibition villages representing the distinct

geographic regions of Eritrea as well as the National Union of Eritrean Women. The multi-day program included diverse cultural presentations, children's activities, educational seminars, and an array of community events.

A central highlight of the festival included interactive presentations styled as friendly competitions, which visitors highly acclaimed. These programs were designed to introduce attendees to the rich cultures and traditions of Eritrean society, highlight ongoing progress toward social justice, and preserve the history and core values of the Eritrean people. Displays also showcased

traditional costumes of the nation's diverse ethnic groups, regional agricultural products, and rich natural resources.

During the event, Ambassador Sophia Tesfamariam delivered an official briefing on the agenda items discussed at the United Nations Human Rights Council session last June. Following her address, she engaged with the audience to answer questions raised by the participants.

Organizers noted that the fundamental objectives of these diaspora festivals are to enable nationals abroad to preserve their unique cultural identity, discuss ongoing national matters, and project the true image of Eritrea and its people. Furthermore, the events serve as a vital bridge to transfer noble societal values and heritage to the younger generation.

Vibrant cultural and artistic performances from a visiting cultural troupe from Eritrea highlighted the weekend celebration. The event concluded with the presentation of certificates of participation to those who helped make the festival a success.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Central Committee of the National Association of Eritrean Teachers held its second regular meeting on 3 and 4 July in Asmara. Mr. Simon Mehari, chairman of the national association, said the objective of the meeting was to review the reports presented and discuss the association's future activities.

At the meeting, heads of the association in the regions, in Sawa, and at the central office presented activity reports. The participants held extensive discussions on the reports presented and adopted various recommendations, including organizing sustainable training programs to upgrade teachers' capacity and coordinating to implement the charted-out programs, among others.

The recommendations also included earnestly working to raise the community's awareness of the association's vision and programs, so as to strengthen participation in their implementation, as well as the expansion and renovation of school buildings, with a view to enhancing the teaching-learning process.



REPORTAGE

College of Business and Social Sciences Held 19th Graduation Ceremony

Milka teklor

The College of Business and Social Sciences (CBSS) held its 19th graduation ceremony on Saturday, July 4, at its campus in Asmara, marking another milestone in the institution's commitment to producing qualified professionals for the nation's development. The ceremony brought together graduates, parents, faculty members, guests, and government officials in a celebration of academic achievement and future promise.

The event started at 9:00 a.m. with an academic procession. The venue was filled with an atmosphere of excitement as graduates, dressed in academic gowns and hoods, took their seats alongside family members and friends.

The ceremony was attended by the guest of honor, Mr. Yemane Gebremeskel, Minister of Information, senior government officials, representatives of various institutions, administrators and faculty members of the college, invited guests and parents of graduates.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Haile Mehtsun, executive director of the National Higher Education and Research Institutes, congratulated the graduating class on reaching an important milestone and expressed his appreciation to the faculty and administrative staff members of

the college whose commitment has contributed to the students' academic success.

"The achievements we're celebrating today are the result of perseverance, commitment and collective support," he said, encouraging graduates to carry forward the values they had acquired during their years at the college.

Congratulating the graduates on their accomplishments, Dr. Stifanos Hailemariam, Dean of the College of Business and Social Sciences described the commencement day as both the end of one journey and the beginning of another.

In his speech, he reminded the graduates that earning a degree or a diploma is not merely an academic accomplishment but a responsibility to use acquired knowledge and skills in ways that benefit society. In today's rapidly changing world, he said, graduates must remain committed to lifelong learning, innovation, and ethical leadership.

Dr. Stifanos emphasized that higher education equips individuals not only with professional competence but also with the critical thinking, discipline and resilience needed to address complex social and economic challenges. He called on the graduates to become ambassadors of excellence in their workplaces and communities, stressing that integrity, accountability and service should remain guiding principles throughout their professional careers.

One of the graduation ceremony's most significant moments came with the awarding of medals to outstanding students. As each graduate crossed the stage to receive a medal, the air was filled with an applause and ululation.

The outstanding graduates were awarded medals by Minister Yemane Gebremeskel. In his address, Minister Yemane congratulated the graduates on reaching an important milestone in their lives and commended the College of Business and Social Sciences for

its continued contribution to the country's higher education. He noted that the institution has played an important role in producing skilled professionals equipped to contribute to Eritrea's social and economic development.

Minister Yemane advised the graduates to approach the future with confidence and determination while embracing the responsibilities that accompany higher education. He urged them to utilize the knowledge and skills they have acquired in addressing challenges, creating opportunities and serving their communities with professionalism and integrity.

Throughout the ceremony, a sense of accomplishment and optimism was evident among the graduates and their families. Many described the occasion as one of the most significant moments in their lives, representing years of persistence, discipline, and sacrifice.

The 19th graduation ceremony reaffirmed the College of Business and Social Sciences' commitment to academic excellence and human resource development. Through quality education and professional training, the institution continues to produce graduates capable of responding to the evolving needs of the nation and contributing to sustainable development across various sectors.

Sened Semere, who earned a bachelor's degree in English, was awarded a medal for his outstanding performance. He described his journey in college as the beginning of him being a better version of himself and his graduation not the end but the beginning of a brighter future and endless journey. He pledged to give back to the community that has contributed to his growth and accomplishments.

Arsena Abrhaley, who earned a B.A in Library and Information Science and was present at the ceremony with her 60 days-old baby girl, said she was very excited that she got to share the day with her

mother who is currently living in Saudi Arabia. She said her mother scarified a lot to raise her and her siblings as a single mother. She also thanked her husband, the biggest supporter of her dreams.

identical twins, earned bachelor's degree in Business Management. They have thanked their parents for their endless efforts and gleefully said they were the envy of the college.

Merry and Mikal H. Mariam,

Continued on page 4

From Social Media

Yemane G. Meskel @hawelti

In characteristic fashion, the Potemkin Party's erratic political pendulum is yet again swinging between two extreme positions:

- A provocative and aggressive posturing that has been accompanied, for over two years now, by incessant saber-rattling to "acquire sovereign access to the sea", on the one hand;
- Simultaneous portrayal of itself as the "aggrieved party" and a "hapless victim of internal and external conspiracies", on the other.

This was indeed the gist of the PM's rambling at the House of Peoples Representatives earlier today.

Hyperbole and associated drama aside, the stubborn facts remain the same.

The sad truth is: the unnecessary and avoidable tensions in the region have and continue to be stoked by the very reckless policies of the Potemkin Party. For brief illustrations:

- The palpable friction with the Sudan squarely emanates from the Potemkin Party's dangerous involvement in the conflict in the Sudan by hosting, under the bidding of certain extraneous forces, a secret military camp and base for the RSF in the Benishangul-Gumuz region of Ethiopia. The evidence, which is overwhelming, is already in the public domain.
- The Potemkin Party's stealthily signed MOU with Somaliland a couple of years ago was another illicit and reckless misstep that aroused consternation in the region as a whole. This act remains in flagrant violation of the AU and IGAD Constitutive Acts as well as fundamental tenets of international law on sovereignty and territorial integrity of States.
- The Potemkin Party has pursued, for over two and half years now, a toxic and revisionist policy against Eritrea by openly threatening to invade/acquire by any means, its Assab port and coastal areas for what it terms as "sovereign access to the sea".
- In the event, its frequent reference to "conspiratorial forces disappointed by, and bent on, scuttling the Pretoria Agreement" is as disingenuous as it is untenable. In as far as Eritrea is concerned, the Pretoria Agreement is a purely Ethiopian affair. Let us also recall - the beans have been spilled now by Getachew Redda's multiple confessions - that the Potemkin Party was scheming against Eritrea (Djibouti and Seychelles events) months before the negotiations and signature of the Pretoria Agreement.

In a nutshell, the quest for enduring regional peace and stability that the peoples of the Horn of Africa deeply cherish and deserve has been, and continues to be, jeopardized by the Potemkin Party's delusional policies.

Yemane G. Meskel @hawelti · Feb 23
Ethiopia's Potemkin Party: another despicable display of war psychosis and provocative saber-rattling at Hawassa on the weekend on the occasion of the "Inauguration of the Special Operations Command"!

The Potemkin Party continues to spew and ramp up, at almost every public ...



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SpotLight

Shaping the Nation's Present While Laying the Foundation For a Stronger Future

Bana Negusse

Gender equality is far more than a social aspiration. It is a fundamental human right and an essential foundation for sustainable development. Since the adoption of the United Nations Charter in 1945, equality and non-discrimination have remained central principles



of the international human rights framework, with protections against gender-based discrimination now embedded in nearly every major regional and international human rights treaty.

Beyond its legal and moral significance, gender equality has repeatedly proven to be a catalyst for progress. Extensive research conducted across diverse countries and contexts demonstrates that expanding opportunities for women and girls helps reduce poverty and inequality, stimulates economic growth, strengthens public and private institutions, and improves overall societal well-being. The simple fact is that when women and girls are educated, empowered, and able to participate fully in social, economic, and civic life, the benefits extend well beyond individuals, creating stronger families, more resilient communities, and brighter prospects for future generations.

Eritrea's experience offers an example of how women's roles have evolved over the years, with women and girls making increasingly significant contributions across every sphere of national life. For generations, Eritrean society, like many others around the world, was shaped by deeply rooted patriarchal attitudes that often limited the opportunities available to women and girls. Traditional beliefs frequently portrayed women as less capable than men, reflected in an old saying that claimed, "Just as there is no donkey with horns, there is no woman with brains." Such views, once widely accepted, imposed unnecessary barriers on

countless women and constrained their potential. However, Eritrea's modern history tells a very different story.

From the years of the armed struggle for independence under the EPLF to the decades following the country's liberation in 1991, Eritrean women have consistently challenged outdated assumptions

through resilience, determination, and achievement. Time and again, they have demonstrated that ability and leadership are defined not by gender, but by commitment, skill, and perseverance. Notably, their contributions are evident across virtually every sector of national life.

Within healthcare, for instance, Eritrean women have become indispensable as physicians, nurses, laboratory technicians, public health specialists, and community health workers. Their commitment has been especially visible during periods of national challenge. A few years ago, during the COVID-19 pandemic, for example, female healthcare professionals risked their lives and served on the front lines of the country's response, delivering medical care, supporting public health initiatives, and helping protect communities throughout Eritrea.

Education provides another powerful illustration of this progress. As teachers, administrators, mentors, and counselors working in schools and institutions across the country, Eritrean women have helped shape the next generation by sharing



knowledge, nurturing talent, and encouraging young people to pursue their ambitions with confidence. Their influence extends beyond the classroom, helping cultivate a culture that increasingly values education, service, and personal development.

Equally noteworthy are the achievements of Eritrean girls as students. Across schools and higher education institutions, female enrollment has grown considerably, while girls consistently rank among the country's highest academic performers. Their success offers compelling evidence that educational excellence knows no gender and continues to challenge stereotypes that once discouraged girls from pursuing academic achievement.

The expanding role of Eritrean women is equally evident in public leadership and governance. Across government ministries, public institutions, local administrations, and the civil service, women



increasingly serve in administrative, technical, and leadership positions that support policymaking, strengthen public institutions, and enhance the delivery of essential services. Through their professionalism, expertise, and dedication, they continue to make meaningful contributions to national development while helping shape

the country's future.

Their growing economic participation has been equally significant. Beyond their roles in government and established professions, Eritrean women are active participants in both the formal and informal economy. From managing small businesses and engaging in trade to operating agricultural enterprises and providing a wide range of services, they contribute meaningfully to household livelihoods, local commerce, and broader economic activity. Their entrepreneurial spirit, resilience, and determination continue to create opportunities not only for themselves and their families but also for their communities and the nation as a whole.

Beyond education, leadership, and entrepreneurship, Eritrean women have established themselves as important contributors to agriculture, engineering, public administration, business, and numerous other

professional fields. Their growing participation reflects the gradual expansion of opportunities available to women and highlights the valuable skills and expertise they bring to the country's workforce. Within Eritrea's developing mining industry, for instance, many young women occupy a wide range of technical, administrative, supervisory, operational, and managerial positions, underscoring their increasing role in one of the nation's important economic sectors.

Sport represents another area where longstanding barriers continue to be broken. Activities once considered unsuitable for girls have increasingly become platforms for excellence and national pride. Eritrean female athletes, particularly in athletics and cycling, have earned recognition through determination,

discipline, and impressive performances that have elevated both their own profiles and their country's on the international stage. Their accomplishments continue to inspire younger generations to pursue opportunities once considered beyond their reach.

Women have also remained central to safeguarding Eritrea's sovereignty and national independence. Following the example of earlier generations who played an indispensable role during the liberation struggle, many Eritrean women have continued to serve the nation in various capacities, demonstrating an enduring commitment to protecting the country's hard-won independence and contributing to its continued stability and resilience.

Overall, across the past three decades, Eritrean women and girls have made remarkable strides across every sphere of national life. While

challenges remain and continued progress requires sustained investment in education, opportunity, and empowerment, their expanding presence in healthcare, education, public service, governance, entrepreneurship, the economy, sports, and national development reflects a profound transformation in both opportunity and expectation.

By challenging outdated stereotypes, demonstrating excellence through their achievements, and contributing meaningfully to their communities and country, Eritrean women have become indispensable partners in the country's continued development. Their story is not simply one of overcoming historical barriers – it is one of helping shape the nation's present while laying the foundation for an even stronger future.

Development

Date Palm Production in Eritrea: Current Status and Way Forward

What is the current status of date palm development in Eritrea?

Date palms thrive best in arid and semi-arid environments. Date palm cultivation is an agricultural venture with enormous economic, nutritional, environmental, and social benefits. Eritrea possesses an extensive coastline stretching from Ras Qeisar to Ras Damera, providing highly suitable agro-ecological conditions for date palm cultivation. To utilize this valuable natural resource for the benefit of the people, the Ministry of Agriculture has launched a large-scale Date

The date palm is one of the world's oldest and most nutritionally valuable fruit crops. Cultivated in the Middle East since around 7,000 BC, its center of origin is widely believed to lie in present-day Iraq and its surrounding regions. Today, this resilient crop forms a vital pillar of coastal agricultural development in Eritrea. To share insights into the country's ongoing efforts, Mr. Musse Fikadu, Date Palm Development Project Coordinator at the Ministry of Agriculture, provided an overview of the sector's current status and strategic vision.

shoots—to produce plants that are genetically identical to the parent variety. By contrast, propagation from seed requires approximately eight years before fruiting and does not maintain the genetic characteristics of the parent plant. Furthermore, the sex of seed-grown palms cannot be identified until they mature after several years, making seed propagation unsuitable for commercial produc-

Dates are highly nutritious fruits rich in natural sugars, iron, potassium, vitamins, and various essential minerals. They are widely recognized for helping prevent anemia and improving general health. Scientific literature also indicates that dates contribute to reducing the risks associated with cardiovascular diseases, high blood pressure, and several other health conditions.

Environmental benefits

Date palms are generally cultivated in arid and desert environments. They help stabilize soils by reducing erosion caused by wind and water. Over time, they improve soil fertility and enhance the local microclimate, making previously harsh environments more suitable for both plant and animal life. Moreover, vegetables, fruit crops, spices, and other agricultural products can be successfully grown beneath date palms, making efficient use of available land. In short, date palm cultivation transforms dry and barren landscapes into productive ecosystems.

Research further shows that a single mature date palm can absorb approximately 200 kilograms of carbon dioxide annually, storing carbon through the process of photosynthesis. Consequently, expanding date palm plantations can make a significant contribution to mitigating climate change.

Social and economic benefits

Communities living along Eritrea's Red Sea coast have long benefited from date palms. The trunks, leaves, and fibers are widely used for constructing traditional shelters and producing household items such as baskets, mats, roofing materials, and various handicrafts. Thus, date palms provide not only food but also raw materials that support rural livelihoods and improve the socio-economic well-being of coastal communities. A date palm can remain productive for well over 100 years, providing continuous benefits across generations. Since date palms flourish where few other crops can survive, they represent an ideal crop for the sustainable development of Eritrea's drylands.

What are the plans for date palm development?

The Ministry plans to significantly expand date palm cultivation along



the Red Sea coastal areas. Under the Agriculture and Food Development Strategy, the objective is to increase the number of planted date palms to approximately one million trees by 2030–2031. Successful implementation of this program will substantially increase domestic date production and enable Eritrea to become a recognized producer of quality dates while generating considerable environmental and socio-economic benefits.

What's different about Eritrean dates?

There are noticeable differences, particularly in processing and packaging. Imported dates are generally marketed using more advanced packaging technologies. Eritrea is working hard to introduce similar modern packaging systems that allow consumers to purchase dates in packages of different sizes according to their needs. The Ministry is also expanding the cultivation of internationally recognized premium varieties such as Medjool and Barhi, both of which enjoy strong market demand.

Is there sufficient opportunity for farmers to invest in date palm production?

Eritrea possesses highly favorable climatic conditions and abundant potential for date palm cultivation. Seasonal rivers flowing from the highlands recharge underground water resources, making groundwater available at relatively shallow depths in many coastal areas. Despite these favorable conditions, much of the country's potential remains underutilized. From Ras Qeisar to Ras Damera lies an extensive coastline suitable for date palm production, complemented by Eritrea's hardworking farming communities.

Many countries with less favorable climates and land resources generate substantial income from date production. Therefore, by addressing the existing constraints and fully utilizing the available resources,

Eritrea can significantly expand its date palm industry.

Final message to farmers

The Ministry encourages all farmers interested in date palm production to avoid propagation by seed, as it is neither economical nor suitable for commercial cultivation. Instead, farmers are advised to consult their nearest agricultural office or extension personnel and use tissue culture-derived or offshoot-propagated seedlings introduced by the Ministry of Agriculture. The use of certified planting materials will ensure higher productivity, earlier fruiting, true-to-type varieties, and better long-term economic returns, thereby supporting the sustainable development of Eritrea's date palm industry.

Prepared by the Public Relations Office, Ministry of Agriculture

College of Business ...

Continued from page 2

Proud parents and relatives celebrated the achievements of their loved ones, taking memorable photos that marked the successful completion of years of hard work. As the ceremony drew to a close, graduates gathered with family members, friends and lecturers to capture the moment in still and moving pictures. The joy and excitement that filled the venue reflected the significance of the day—not only for the graduates but also for everyone that had supported them throughout their academic journey.

For the graduating class, the commencement day marked more than the completion of an academic program. It symbolized the beginning of new opportunities, greater responsibilities, and a lifelong commitment to learning, leadership, and service.

The 19th graduation ceremony of CBSS will be remembered as a celebration of achievement, perseverance and excellence—a proud moment for the college and another important chapter in its ongoing contribution to Eritrea's higher education and national development.

A total of 1018 graduated in the current academic year, with 536 earning bachelor's degree and 482 diploma.



Palm Development Project along the coastal areas of both the Northern Red Sea and Southern Red Sea Regions.

To date, approximately 50,000 date palm seedlings have been planted. About 65% are located in the Northern Red Sea Region, 30% in the Southern Red Sea Region, while the remaining plantations are found in the Gash Barka, Anseba, and Southern Regions. The project is not intended solely to increase agricultural production. It also aims to combat desertification and transform dry, degraded lands into productive agricultural areas. Currently, farmers receive date palm seedlings through the support of the Ministry of Agriculture. In the future, however, they will also receive practical training enabling them to propagate and multiply planting materials independently. The Ministry recommends the use of tissue culture-derived or offshoot-propagated planting materials because these produce genetically true-to-type plants and begin bearing fruit within a relatively short period.

What is meant by genetically true-to-type?

Genetic true-to-type refers to the ability of planting materials produced through advanced scientific techniques—such as tissue culture or vegetative propagation using off-

shoots—to produce plants that are genetically identical to the parent variety. By contrast, propagation from seed requires approximately eight years before fruiting and does not maintain the genetic characteristics of the parent plant. Furthermore, the sex of seed-grown palms cannot be identified until they mature after several years, making seed propagation unsuitable for commercial produc-

What are the benefits of date? Where do the seedlings currently come from?

At present, the Government, in collaboration with its development partners, mainly IFAD, FAO, and UNDP, imports superior date palm varieties, provides capacity-building programs, and then distributes them to farmers interested in commercial and household production. The propagation techniques employed ensure that farmers receive high-quality planting materials with significant economic value.

The benefits of date palms are numerous.

Above all, they contribute to the availability of safe, nutritious, and high-quality food. Date palm cultivation also improves farmers' livelihoods and strengthens the rural economy. Currently, farmers harvest between 50 and 70 kilograms of dates per tree per year, and production continues to increase steadily.

Nutritional value

SpotLight

The Bastions of Nakfa: Names Etched in Heroism and Sacrifice

Compiled by **Habtom Tesfamichael**

(Translated and adapted from the original Tigrinya article by Andom Ghirmay, published in Hadas Ertra Newspaper)

During the critical period of the Strategic Withdrawal in late 1978, the Eritrean freedom fighters faced a massive enemy force heavily armed with modern Soviet weaponry and backed by foreign military advisors. From every direction, the onslaught intensified; the skies thundered with the relentless roar of fighter jets, while the ground shook under the steady advance of conventional armor.

While several newly liberated towns fell back into enemy hands under the sheer weight of this asymmetrical firepower, Nakfa stood defiant—the lone urban sanctuary that refused to surrender to the darkness of occupation. Convinced of the absolute justice of their cause, the freedom fighters withdrew into the rugged, familiar mountain ranges surrounding Nakfa in late December 1978. There, they made a solemn, historic pledge: to defend this rocky citadel with their blood and their lives. For more than a decade, these forbidding heights became the stage for epic engagements that transformed Nakfa into the ultimate symbol of Eritrean resilience, determination, and sovereign pride.

The Nakfa Front stretched across vast alpine ridges, exposed plateaus, and deep, labyrinthine ravines. The names assigned to its defensive positions were born from two primary streams: traditional local titles used by the indigenous inhabitants, and highly descriptive nomenclature coined by the fighters of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF). The unique topography, specific battlefield incidents, or tactical vulnerabilities frequently inspired these military names. Today, these names endure as living monuments to the courage, dark humor, and engineering creativity of the Eritrean freedom fighters.

Emba Denden: The Roaring Mountain

Among the many peaks that defined the armed struggle, Mount Denden stands as the most monumental anchor of Eritrean endurance. For nearly a decade, it served as a permanent, immovable defensive stronghold for the EPLF, deeply weaving itself into the psychological fabric of the liberation war.

Rising 1,969 meters above sea level, Mount Denden is a towering sentinel. Its strategic elevation provided a commanding view over vast stretches of the surrounding lowlands, allowing the EPLF to monitor enemy troop movements across the plains. Covered with hardy, indigenous flora such as wild olive and Tehases (hop bush), the mountain is known simply as “Denden” by both local pastoralists and veterans of the struggle. Its rugged terrain, characterized by massive boulders, hidden caves, and interlocking cliffs, perfectly mirrors the raw strength implied by its name.

In the Tigre language, “Denden” evokes a deep, resonant echo or the low, rumbling growl of a lion. Long before the war, the mountain was regarded by locals with a sense of awe and mystery; elders described it as an impenetrable summit where even a single footstep would trigger powerful, wave-like acoustic echoes. Before years of carpet-bombing scarred the landscape, it was also a pristine sanctuary for regional wildlife.

When the EPLF integrated Mount Denden into its permanent defensive line, the mystical mountain became an unbreakable wall of resistance. Despite repeated, heavily reinforced enemy attempts to capture it, the Derg regime's forces never seized its summit. Today, Denden remains a profound national symbol of steadfastness, sacrifice, and final victory. Its name became so revered that, during and after the struggle, thousands of Eritrean parents proudly named their children Denden—a lasting tribute to the mountain's legendary fortitude.

Lajin: The Frontline Sanctuary

To the right of Mount Denden lies the strategic ridgeline known as Lajin. In the high-intensity geography of the Nakfa Front, Lajin stood out as a striking paradox: a forward frontline position that simultaneously served as a place of deep refuge.

The name “Lajin” is derived from the Arabic word signifying “refuge,” “asylum,” or “shelter.” Although situated on the active frontline, its precise tactical positioning in the geographical shadow of higher mountains made it relatively shielded from direct enemy artillery and mortar assaults. This unique topographic advantage turned Lajin into a vital rear-operational pocket where battle-exhausted units could temporarily rest, reorganize, and recover after

surviving intense combat in hotter, more exposed sectors. For weary fighters, arriving at Lajin truly meant finding a sanctuary amid the chaos of war.

Wancha: The Traditional Cup

Situated north of Denden, Wancha earned its name entirely from its distinctive physical silhouette. From a distance, the mountain profile perfectly resembles an inverted traditional wooden drinking cup, known locally as a Wancha. Despite years of frequent artillery barrages and heavy aerial bombardment that reshaped the surrounding hills, this striking natural form endured, giving the position its simple yet memorable identity.

Globe: The Rounded Stronghold

Globe earned its distinct moniker from its perfectly rounded, spherical topography. This unique shape meant that any conventional direct assault exposed attackers to simultaneous defensive crossfire from multiple directions. Conversely, it forced the defending EPLF units to maintain a continuous, 360-degree watch. This geometric reality made Globe one of the most formidable defensive positions on the entire front—a stronghold the enemy could never successfully overrun.

Fidel Pe: The Ge'ez Letter “T”

As one ascends the winding, dangerous road from the Hedai River toward the town of Nakfa, the vital defensive position known as Fidel Pe stands guard over the main supply route. Controlling this narrow artery was of paramount strategic importance for protecting domestic logistics and blocking sudden enemy infantry breakthroughs.

The position earned its name from the unique hand-carved layout of its trench network, which closely resembled the shape of the Ge'ez letter “T” (Pe). This highly practical, descriptive naming convention was a hallmark of EPLF field communication, helping fighters quickly identify and coordinate defensive reinforcements without confusion.

Merkebna: Our Ship

Merkebna stands out among the surrounding peaks for both its tactical altitude and its striking visual appearance. When an EPLF sentry stood atop its highest peak, the combined silhouette of the mountain and the guard resembled a massive ship riding at anchor. Fighters affectionately named the

peak “Merkebna”—Our Ship—a proud vessel of resistance anchored firmly in the turbulent sea of the Sahelian Mountains.

Volleyball: The Deadly Game

Few positions on the Nakfa Front capture the sheer intensity and dark irony of the struggle as vividly as “Volleyball.” This strategic high ground overlooked the Naro plains, but its legendary

Taba Te'amamen is defined by its sheer, steep, almost inaccessible cliffs. The slopes facing the enemy lines were so vertical that even an unburdened person would struggle to climb them in peacetime. Despite the razor-thin distance between the opposing trenches—which fluctuated between 50 and 300 meters—EPLF fighters felt entirely secure here due to the natural fortifications. Because



status stems not from the view, but from the terrifying proximity of the opposing trenches.

At Volleyball, the EPLF defensive trenches and the Derg lines were separated by only a small stretch of flat, contested ground. The positions were so close that raising one's head above the parapet to aim a rifle was virtually suicidal. Consequently, hand grenades quickly became the weapon of choice.

The name was born during the enemy's massive Sixth Offensive. As the two sides engaged in a constant, rhythmic, back-and-forth exchange of fragmentation grenades, fighters dryly joked, “This is no longer war—it's a game of volleyball.” The name stuck. Stories of extraordinary reflexes emerged from this sector, detailing fighters who caught incoming enemy grenades mid-air and hurled them back into the opposing trenches before they could detonate. A large, scarred boulder sitting directly in the no-man's-land became the physical focal point of this deadly exchange.

Taba Te'amamen (Enda Dubale): The Hill of Confidence

of this absolute reliability, the position was formally named Te'amamen (The Reliable Hill) in 1979.

However, it is equally known in veteran lore as Enda Dubale (The House of Dubale), a name derived from a dramatic frontline incident. A specialized, elite Derg reconnaissance unit—reportedly comprised of veterans from the Somali war—attempted a daring night infiltration by scaling the sheer cliffs of the hill. EPLF forces detected the movement and quickly pinned them down against the rock face.

In the ensuing close-quarters clash, an Ethiopian scout named Dubale was killed and left behind on the slope as his unit retreated. Throughout the long, pitch-black night, his hidden comrades spent hours desperately calling out his name—“Dubale! Dubale!”—across the empty darkness of the canyon. At dawn, having spotted his body from afar, the remaining enemy scouts withdrew in silence. From that day forward, the hill was forever known among the freedom fighters as Enda Dubale.

Glory to our Martyrs.



 Zara Mining Share Company		POSITION DESCRIPTION	
Position:	LV Supervisor		
Number:	02		
Location:	Koka Gold Mine (Site)		
Reporting to:			
Primary Responsibility & Scop of working	To provide repairs and preventative maintenance for all equipment to ensure optimal availability at the most economic cost		
Duties / Functions			
- Supervise all workshop staff. - Conduct training for workshop employees. - Inspect and monitor work in progress and ensure quality standards are maintained. - Co-ordinate workshop activities. - Supervision of all workshop employees. - Assist with monitoring inventory of all plant and equipment (including spare parts). - Ensure compliance with safe work policies and procedures and maintain a safe and tidy work environment. - Plan, coordinate and deliver all maintenance activities for plant, mobile equipment and infrastructure. - Assist with the development of maintenance procedures. - Adhere to site safety policies and procedures. - Develop and undertake preventative maintenance programs and execute on time. - Carry out any other duties as requested by management. - Design and implement a preventative maintenance schedule for all equipment			
Formal Education, Certifications or Equivalents		Minimum Secondary School. Trade certificate in mechanics or equivalent work experience running a workshop.	
Working Experience – Nature & Length		Minimum of 3 years supervisory in a workshop environment.	
Leadership Experience – Nature & length of time		Minimum of 3 years supervisory leadership experience.	
Other skills and abilities		- Physically fit and healthy. - Strong communication and interpersonal skills. - Team player - Execute and deliver all work safely and to a high professional standard, - Must be able to work and perform under pressure. - Good verbal and written communication skills in English - Flexibility to work outside of normal business hours if required. - Must be able to work under minimum supervision. - Perform any other duties as requested by your supervisor.	
Salary	Company scale		
Room Accommodation	Free accommodation		
Additional Requirement for nationals: - Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligations and provide evidence of a release paper from the Ministry of Defence. Present Clearance paper from the current/last employer. Only short-listed applicants would be considered as potential candidates for an interview. Application documents will not be returned to the sender.			
Please mail your applications to the ZARA MINING SHARE CO P. O. Box 2393. Asmara, 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			
Deadline for application: Seven days from the day of announcement.			



Zara Mining
Share Company

Vacancy Announcement

Position:	Concrete mixer truck operator
Number required	01
Location:	Based at Koka a Gold Mine (Site)
Reporting to:	Project Supervisor
Primary Responsibility & Scope of work	The concrete mixer truck driver is primarily involved in the transportation of mixed concrete from the batching plant to the applicable construction site. The driver will operate and maintain a large, specialized vehicle and have significant responsibilities related to safety and efficiency.
Duties:	• Operating large-scale trucks in mining environments • Transporting mixed concrete from batching plant to construction sites. • Conducting regular pre- and post-operation vehicle inspections and keeping truck clean and tidy. • Performing basic maintenance and repairs on dump trucks • Adhering to all safety protocols and guidelines to maintain a safe work environment • Communicating with team members and supervisors to coordinate tasks and report issues • Good communication skills to effectively interact with colleagues, supervisors and other members of the mining team. • Follow all safety guidelines and procedures, including traffic rules. • Monitor truck for any issues and report any necessary repairs to supervisors.
Formal Education, Certifications or Equivalents	▪ High school diploma or equivalent. ▪ Read and write English language.
Working Experience – Nature & Length	▪ Three years’ experience on driving heavy duty truck
Other skills and abilities	▪ monitor the truck’s operation. ▪ Problem-solving skills to quickly identify and respond to any operational issues that may arise with the truck. ▪ Strong understanding of safety procedures and regulations related to mining operations. ▪ Ability to follow instructions accurately and attentively

Salary: According to Company’s salary scale.

Additional Requirement for nationals: Having fulfilled their National Service obligations and providing evidence of a release paper from the Ministry of Defense—present Clearance paper from the current/last employer. Only short-listed applicants would be considered as potential candidates for an interview. Application documents will not be returned to the sender.

Please mail your applications to the ZARA MINING SHARE CO **P. O. Box 2393**. Asmara, .

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

Deadline for application: 10 days from the day of announcement.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public that Hilna Private Limited Company is formed among the following members.

Name;	Nationality;	Address;	Shares;
1. Mr. Ghirmay Andebrhan Gebremichael,	Eritrean,	Asmara, Eritrea	50 %
2. Mrs. Trhas Tesfahuney Ghebremichael,	Eritrean,	Asmara, Eritrea	25%
3. Mrs. Ruta Yosief Asmelash	Eritrean,	Asmara, Eritrea	25%

4. The head office of the company shall be in Massavwa, Eritrea. However, branch of may be opened within the various regions of Eritrea.

5. The Company has a share capital of 500,000.00 (five hundred thousand) Nakfa at Par value of 5000 (five thousand) Nakfa. All subscribedand fully paid up in cash.

6. The business objectives of the Company includes:-

- A) Provide clearing and forwarding services;
- B) Open and manage travel agency, tour organizing and tour services,
- C) Provide car rent and car wash services;
- D) Engage in cargo handling services,
- E) Engage in import/export, wholesale and retail business;
- F) Generally, the Company shall involve in all such other businesses activities as may appear to it incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objectives or anyof them.

7. The Company is established for unlimited period of time

8, Mr. Ghirmay Andebrhan is appointed as general manager of the company for unlimited period of time.

Hilna Private Limited Company



“My Dream is to Make Eritrea the Tech-Capital of Africa”: An Interview with Tech Expert Isaias Okbai

By: Kidane Shimendi

Please, let's begin with your background.

I was born and raised in Asmara. In 1996, I went to Sawa with the 5th round of the National Service and sat for the Eritrean National Matriculation Examination. Unfortunately, I didn't pass on my first attempt and was assigned to stay in Sawa as a trainer, training recruits from the 6th through the 10th rounds.

While fulfilling my duties, I never gave up on my academic goals. I



retook the matriculation exam, and my perseverance paid off when I earned a score that qualified me for higher education. However, my entry into college was delayed due to the 1998–2000 war. I went to the front lines to defend our national sovereignty and sustained a back injury. Following my, I finally enrolled at the college in Mai-Nefhi in 2003. I initially studied Aeronautical Engineering, later shifted to Aircraft Technology due to personal circumstances, and ultimately graduated with a degree in Electronics Technology.

How did you discover your passion for technology?

Since childhood, I was incredibly curious. I loved watching technicians repair electronics like radios and household appliances. Every time I encountered these technicians, my mind was filled with joy

Eritrean youth, both at home and abroad, continually strive to transform their country into a hub of continental development through modern technology. Isaias Okbai is a prime example of this driven generation. Through opening tech institutes across two national regions, studying at global technology centers, and hosting a popular national television program, Isaias is working tirelessly to put Eritrea on the digital map. Eritrea Profile invited him to share his passion, journey, and ongoing success.

and wonder. Gradually, this curiosity shaped my destiny. Before even joining college, I took several certificate courses in electronics, which fueled my passion further.

My father has also been a massive inspiration. As an ex-freedom fighter, his stories about the EPLF's miraculous, self-reliant successes across all sectors during the armed struggle deeply shaped my mindset. He taught me that “everything is possible if you believe.” That attitude encouraged me to chase my dreams regardless of the challenges.

Let's talk about your institute, Polytech.

Polytech was inaugurated in June 2009 with the grand vision of fostering a technologically literate society. Structurally, the institute is divided into three sections: a training center, a sales center, and a repair service center.

The training center comprises three main departments: Electrical and Electronic Technology, Computer Technology, and Audio-Visual Technology (video production). Through these departments, we offer a wide array of updated courses. These include Digital Electronics, Robotics, Programming, Hardware and Software Development, Networking, Graphic Design, Mobile Repair, and specialized classes like AI for Beginners and AI for Content Creators.

Currently, Polytech operates three branches within Asmara and one in Massawa, with plans to expand to all other regions of the country. Every year, roughly 700 young people—ranging from high school to college students—graduate with certificates. We are already seeing the tangible

impact of this, as many of our alums have gone on to open their own tech shops across Eritrea.

What supplementary courses have you taken to keep pace with rapid global tech advancements?

To expand my knowledge, I have visited about 20 countries for educational programs and trade exhibitions. In 2015, I earned a technical certificate in the United States. Later, in 2022, I completed courses in India associated with Purdue University, earning certifications in Mobile Forensics, Hardware Computer Engineering, Laptop Maintenance, and Data Recovery. I continue to take online and international courses to ensure our institute brings the latest knowledge home.

What is your view on Artificial Intelligence (AI)?

When it comes to building proprietary AI models, this falls under the purview of national policymakers and macro-level planning. However, AI as a tool is already essential and irreplaceable.

My goal is to introduce AI tools to our youth to improve daily management and maximize productivity. This is why we launched our AI for Beginners and AI for Content Creators courses. We had about 50 students graduate from these programs this year alone. Remarkably, some of these new graduates are already producing high-quality animation videos for children, a promising body of work that we hope to see broadcast soon.

You are also a tech journalist on the Eri-TV show “Tech-Insight.” What inspired you to get into television?

My confidence in hosting a television program stems from my time as a military trainer in Sawa. In Sawa, I was highly determined to lead my team to victory, and that environment gave me the confidence to speak publicly and project my ideas clearly.

Later, in 2014, I produced an educational tutorial video on installing household satellite dishes. It was highly sought after by youth across the country, and the positive feedback inspired me to pitch a per-



manent television show. I want to extend my deepest gratitude to the Ministry of Information for providing the platform that allows me to share my technical experiences with the public. The program officially launched in 2016 and continues to elevate technological awareness nationwide.

How do you evaluate Sawa's impact on your personal success?

It is hard to overstate the essential life skills I gained in Sawa. It taught

you will see how resourcefully people repair and maintain their home appliances despite material shortages. As a nation, we are naturally curious and open-minded about new technology, as evidenced by how eagerly the younger generation enrolls in our tech courses.

My dream flows directly from our history. During the liberation struggle, the level of innovation guided by the principle of self-reliance shocked foreign observers. Driven by that same spirit, my



me discipline, time management, resourcefulness, and robust communication skills. When I look back at my personal history, Sawa gave birth to the mindset that shaped Polytech, and Polytech, in turn, paved the way for Tech-Insight. Sawa was truly the foundational milestone of my life.

How do you assess the general Eritrean attitude toward technology?

In Eritrea, technical creativity is practically a national passion. You can see it in the industrial legacy left by our ancestors since the Italian colonial era, and, most profoundly, in the brilliant improvisations born of our armed struggle. Even today, if you visit any ordinary household,

ultimate dream is to make Eritrea the tech capital of Africa. I am entirely confident that this dream will become a reality, regardless of the challenges ahead.

What final message do you have?

My final message to the Eritrean youth is: let us focus on our opportunities rather than our scarcities. By embracing our national principle of self-reliance, we can replicate the miraculous achievements of our past and firmly establish our country as the continent's tech center.

Thank you so much for your time, Mr. Isaias, and we wish you the best of success in all your future endeavors.

