

## VARIOUS ACTIVITIES BY DIASPORA NATIONALS



Eritrean communities in Switzerland, Australia, Germany, and Saudi Arabia have conducted various activities to strengthen awareness, organizational capacity, and participation in national development drives.

Accordingly, the Eritrean Professionals' Association in Switzerland conducted its founding congress on 3 May in Zurich.

Underscoring that organization has a significant role in enhancing capacity, Mr. Habtom Zeray, Charge d'Affaires at the Eritrean Embassy in Switzerland and Eritrea's Permanent Representative to the UN Human Rights Council, expressed expectation that the professionals' association, in collaboration with other national organizations, will play its due role in enhancing Eritrean capacity as well as in upholding national interests.

Mr. Ismail Mohammed-Nur, head of Public and Community Affairs, congratulated the association's members on holding their founding congress and wished them success in all their future endeavors.

Mr. Isaias Hadgu, acting chairman of the association, said that the association's objective and mission are to strengthen contributions to national affairs by coordinating Eritrean professionals and to encourage young Eritreans born in the Diaspora to strengthen their attachment to their homeland.

Dr. Toni Locher, supporter of the Eritrean struggle for independence and Eritrea's Honorary Consul in Switzerland, said that the EPLF is an organization that emerged victorious through strong organization and perseverance, and called on Eritrean nationals in Switzerland to face challenges in unison with their Embassy.

In the same vein, seminars and activity assessment meetings have been organized for members of Eritrean communities, as well as PFDJ, National Union of Eritrean Women, and YPFDJ organizations, in the Australian cities of Perth, Adelaide, Brisbane, and Sydney under the theme "Our Unity and Social Harmony: Guarantee for Our Existence."

Mr. Yasin Omar, head of Public and Community Affairs, provided a briefing focusing on conflict resolution and management.

Mr. Endrias Abraham, Eritrea's Consul General in Australia, on his part called on nationals to strengthen organization, unity, and contribution to national development programs.

The German branch of the National Union of Eritrean Women also conducted its 22nd congress on 25 and 26 April in Frankfurt.

At the congress, in which representatives from 24

branches of the union took part, Mr. Yohannes Woldu, Chargé d'Affaires at the Eritrean Embassy, presented a three-year activity report.

Ms. Negisti Tsegay, chairperson of the union's Europe branch, conducted a seminar on time management for participants.

At the congress, a three-year road map was adopted, and an executive committee was elected.

Likewise, training was provided from 20 to 30 April to heads of the National Union of Eritrean Women and youth organizations in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The training covered basic ideology and politics, psychological warfare and resilience, the history of the Eritrean people, the significance of organization, religion and religious extremism, the National Charter, and other related issues.

Mr. Abdurahman Osman, Eritrea's Consul General, and Mr. Ahmed Jaefar, head of Public and Community Affairs, emphasized the importance of strengthening organization and urged the trainees to apply the knowledge they gained from the training in their daily activities.

A conference focusing on strengthening organizations was also conducted in Jeddah from 18 to 25 April.

## WATER RESERVOIRS CREATING SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

The water reservoirs constructed over the past 35 years by the Government of Eritrea, in collaboration with partners, have played a very significant role in agricultural development in general, and in vegetable and fruit production in particular, according to a report by the Public Relations Division of the Ministry of Agriculture.

According to the report, the number of dams, which stood at only about 130 at the time of independence, has now increased more than sixfold, reaching approximately 850. These water reservoirs—ranging from strategic large-scale dams to small and micro-dams, as well as diversion structures—have not only

contributed to water supply for both humans and livestock, but have also boosted vegetable production by more than sixfold and fruit production by more than 71 times.

Residents across the country who benefit from these dams also confirm that the reservoirs constructed after independence have had a major impact on improving livelihoods, supporting livestock, enabling the establishment of new farms, and expanding the production of vegetables and fruits.

Eritrea's geographical location makes it highly vulnerable to drought and desertification. As a result, the Government and people

of Eritrea have made soil and water conservation, as well as the construction of water reservoirs, among their top priorities and have been actively engaged in these efforts.

Accordingly, over the past 35 years, extensive soil and water

conservation activities have been carried out. These efforts include treating more than 293,000 hectares of agricultural land and over 135,000 hectares of catchment areas, as well as constructing check dams with a total capacity exceeding 6.2 billion cubic meters, as highlighted in the report.



## PRESS RELEASE

### THE BACKDROP OF UNWARRANTED SANCTIONS

At a time of heightened interest, and reportedly, positive and impending measures that may be on the offing to redress unwarranted sanctions imposed on Eritrea for more than two decades now, a sober and retrospective overview of the episodes is perhaps appropriate for matters of historical record and to place the current discourse in its proper perspective.

As it will be recalled, the Obama Administration managed to impose unfair and illicit sanctions on Eritrea on Christmas eve, 24 December 2009, through the UNSC by peddling fabricated allegations that had no basis on fact and law and that were not corroborated by any credible or substantive evidence.

Unfortunately, the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation in New York unreservedly supported this deplorable charade, while the Chinese Representative's stance was confined to nominal "abstention". Eritrea had no choice but to deplore and put on record its utter dismay.

The UNSC sanctions were lifted in 2018 after inculcating considerable damage to Eritrea without any justification whatsoever. Positive and belated as this was, Eritrea's response was not confined to "gracious acceptance". It went further to seek explanations on why the sanctions were imposed in the first place, because this was pivotal for purposes of accountability as well as for the maintenance of the requisite standards for the dispensation of international justice. Those queries remain unanswered to date. Who were the real sponsors of Al-Shebaab then, and even these days? Who is accountable for the illicit sanctions that were unfairly enforced on Eritrea for almost two decades? Is there any legal recourse to examine these events?

In continuation of its visceral hostility, the Biden Administration again imposed unlawful and unilateral sanctions on Eritrea in 2021. Eritrea strongly condemned this illicit act at the time.

There are reports these days that the illegal and unilateral US sanctions will soon be lifted. We earnestly hope that this act will indeed herald an enduring rectification of misguided policies, ensuring justice, legality, and fairness.

*Ministry of Information  
Asmara  
6 May 2026*



# Strategic Communication for Narrative Shaping, Prospects for GoE and UN Collaboration

(Paraphrased and updated version of a speech made at UN Regional Directors Retreat in Asmara in August 2025)

By Yemane G. Meskel

•Strategic Communication is a timely and very important agenda for the Government as a whole, and especially for the Ministry of Information. I often describe the situation – in perhaps somewhat hyperbolic formulation – as the Achilles Heel of the Ministry; if only to emphasize that our performance remains far below the targets we have and should set.

•This description requires some vital caveats and qualifications. As we all agree, Strategic Communication is a binary concept. It has two distinct, mutually exclusive, dimensions or facets – the External and Domestic components, or dualities.

•In its external dimension, Strategic Communication is a potent tool and manifestation of a country's soft power. It is, and must be, employed to nurture bilateral and multilateral ties of cooperation to attract foreign investment; to build consensus on global issues of vital importance; to foster a culture of peace; and to project a good image of the country conducive to a better regional and global understanding.

•But vital as the External Component remains, the Domestic Component is also of paramount importance, especially in our case. Indeed, Strategic Communication is indispensable for cultivating broad consensus on the Social Contract; to further consolidate national cohesion,

tolerance, and unity within a multi-ethnic and multi-religious setting; to instill grassroots ownership of the country's development agenda; as well as to create a platform of vibrant communication for continuous consultation between the government and all segments of society on all issues of national importance.

•So while the Ministry is doing perhaps a mediocre job in the External Component, its performance in the Domestic Component is more than satisfactory.

•The Ministry has operational mandates on publicly owned media outlets – TV Channels, Radio Stations, Newspapers etc. It reaches all the Eritrean Diaspora in all the Continents through Arab Sat and Nile Sat platforms, as well as Live Internet Streaming and YouTube through contractual services with Independent IT outlets.

•In terms of content, all our media outlets focus on, and allocate ample and judicious airtime and space for the four pillars – Informative, Educational, Entertainment, and Interactive programs.

•The Ministry regularly undertakes rigorous and effective monitoring and evaluation tasks.

•It undertakes bottom-up and Ministry-wide Program Audits – using 14 metrics – every three years to gauge scope and breadth of content; relevance of its programs to targeted segments; objectivity, reliability, and credibility of its media products; and the artistic and linguistic packaging of all its audio, video, and printed materials.

•The Ministry also undertakes – every ten years or so – a comprehensive nationwide Audience Audit to gauge public sentiment and feedback on its programs from its audiences.

•The verdict from all these tools is that our TV and Radio Programs have a dominant market share within a deregulated TV and Radio ecosystem. The latest (2017) Audience Audit established that 91% of TV households have access to satellite dishes and can watch around 600 global and regional TV Channels. But this vast access has not made any indent into our huge and dominant market share.

•The Ministry has also cultivated excellent ties with many stakeholders. Our entertainment and Children's

TV programmes are outsourced from private producers on the basis of commercial contracts. We have joint production arrangements with key Ministries and other stakeholders on development agendas.

•I have gone into all these details to demonstrate that the Ministry is quite satisfied on its overall approach of Strategic Communication in as far as its domestic/Diaspora Audiences are concerned.

•The huge challenge: the biggest problem that the Ministry continues to face; its Achilles Heel as I intimated earlier, remains the negative, ugly, narrative that has been out there for almost two decades now.

•In literal and crude terms, we are outnumbered – if not fully eclipsed – by negative media campaigns with huge resources and networks. These networks have organic connections with certain powers that harbour adversarial political agendas against Eritrea.

•In view of these facts, the challenge is not one of Narrative Shaping; it is a challenge of Narrative Rectification; a challenge of debunking the relentless defamation and demonization campaigns.

•The campaign has its ebbs and flows. It is particularly toxic during certain months of the year of historical significance to Eritrea. These are: i) September, that coincides with the beginning of the Armed Struggle for Liberation; ii) May, our Independence Anniversaries; and, iii) June, the month when we commemorate our Martyrs.

•The predictable and repetitive patterns of Eritrea-bashing & defamation, has impelled some of us active in Social Media to designate these periods as Eri-Influenza Months.

•The unremitting campaign has deleterious impacts on the image of the country; and more importantly, in investment, tourism and other developmental aspirations and objectives of the country.

•In the event, cooperation with our development partners in the UN system is both timely and highly imperative.

•As you are familiar with all the facets of this campaign, I will not waste your time by going into unnecessary details. I will limit my remarks to skeletal focus on three issues; i) Substance and Content of

the Manufactured Narrative; ii) Key institutional proponents and vehicles of this Narrative; and iii) Counter measures we have taken to mitigate its negative impacts.

•On the First Dimension; the pejorative labels that define Eritrea are many.

•Eritrea is dubbed as the North Korea of Africa (first coined by President Obama in 2009 when he stated that Washington was partnering with relevant human rights organizations to help children and women flee from Eritrea and North Korea). The real aim was to conceal and justify the policy of "strategic depopulation" that his Administration was embarking on at the time to wean off young members of the National Service to degrade Eritrea's defensive capabilities and developmental agendas.

•It has been wrongly labeled as a country of Religious Concern liable for sanctions: this refers to Eritrea's legitimate regulatory measures that do not allow external funding of new religious groups;

•Eritrea is routinely accused of Exhortation of Diaspora by compelling them to pay tax: this distorts the 2% Rehabilitation and Recovery tax enacted in 1994 to encourage Diaspora participation in the development of the country. This tool has its roots in the liberation struggle where members of mass associations were paying, out of their volition, up to 20% of their income.

•And these days, preposterous accusations alluding to perpetration of transnational crime is being floated by some quarters! ... The list is long.

Let me address now the 2nd Pillar – the Institutional Proponents

•Unfortunately, the worst offenders in this category include some of the politicized agencies in the UN system.

•Most of the accusations above – and many more – were recycled in the UNHCR's Eligibility Guidelines issued in 2009 and 2011 respectively. The GOE had no clue about the report and was kept in the dark for five years.

•Geneva-based UNHRC's annual reports are other tools employed by mass media to perpetuate the Manufactured Narrative on Eritrea. The Resolution against Eritrea was adopted in 2012, sponsored by Nigeria – which has no diplomatic presence in Eritrea; Djibouti, which

was in conflict on a putative border dispute agenda; and Somalia arm-twisted by the US to do so. This was a US/European agenda cloaked in an African mantle. Special Rapporteurs compiled their reports from Ethiopian and Djiboutian sources and so-called opposition elements in the Diaspora. Commission of Inquiry received over 200,000 petitions from Eritreans abroad but ignored all the testimonies to issue a report of 250 or so, so-called dissidents.

•In all these cases, the UN agencies in the country were not properly consulted; at least most of the times.

•US Annual Human Rights Reports; CIA periodic reports etc., remain the other authoritative sources and reference frames for the media's Manufactured narrative.

•Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch Reports complete the institutional backbone of these campaigns.

•Certain European governments also create and fund, from time to time, some outwardly prestigious "Commissions" to further corroborate the Manufactured Narrative.

•The defamatory narrative on Eritrea, often cloaked in demeaning and pejorative labels, is widely recycled by pliant and complicit mainstream media outlets as well as the closed loop of hired lobbyists and Intel Operatives masquerading as experts and pundits on the Horn of Africa region – that we aptly call እናሉ ሓንጠሎንጠጢ.

• In a nutshell, this is the subtle and toxic ecosystem behind the manufactured negative narrative on Eritrea that continues to be recycled with fervent pitch and unremitting frequency.

All these instances illustrate the complexity of the challenges and the urgency of intensifying the countermeasures that I mentioned earlier to set the record straight; to accomplish the task of Narrative Rectification. In this respect and without going into greater details, let me underline that the Ministry of Information is working with other stakeholders and Diaspora communities to debunk the fabricated narrative maintained for over two decades now with the singular aim of tarnishing Eritrea's image and demonizing its Government; essentially to advance sinister geopolitical and other narrow external and regional agendas.

**ERITREA  
PROFILE**

Published Every  
Wednesday & Saturday

Editor-In-Chief  
Amanuel Mesfun

Asst. Editor-In-Chief  
Sirak Habtemichael

P.O.Box: 247

Tel: 11-41-14

Fax: 12-77-49

E-mail:

eritreaprofilemoi@gmail.com

Advertisement: 12-50-13

Layout

Azmera Berhane

Betelhiem Tadesse

Monaliza Yemane

## SpotLight

# Overcoming Adversity Through Sustainable Agricultural Development

*Bana Negusse*

Africa possesses immense agricultural potential, yet the continent continues to import billions of dollars' worth of food every year while remaining heavily dependent on food aid. Despite holding nearly 60 percent of the world's uncultivated arable land, many African countries continue to struggle with food insecurity due to recurring droughts, environmental degradation, climate shocks, and structural challenges in



agriculture. These pressures are particularly pronounced in East Africa, where repeated droughts and unpredictable rainfall patterns continue to threaten already vulnerable populations.

Within this broader regional context, Eritrea's experience stands out as a notable example of a country that has attempted to confront food insecurity through long-term planning, self-reliance, and sustained national mobilization. Although the country continues to face formidable environmental and economic constraints, it has undertaken extensive efforts to strengthen agricultural production, expand water infrastructure, rehabilitate degraded land, and build more resilient food systems. Eritrea's approach to food security, shaped by both necessity and policy, offers insight into how determined and coordinated strategies can gradually transform a vulnerable agricultural sector.

Since independence, Eritrea has treated food security not simply as an agricultural issue but as a central pillar of national development and stability. Emerging from a devastating liberation struggle that severely damaged infrastructure, weakened institutions, and disrupted food production, the country faced enormous obstacles

in rebuilding its economy and supporting its population. Large areas of productive farmland had been abandoned or destroyed, irrigation systems had collapsed, and widespread displacement placed additional pressure on already limited resources. At the same time, there was minimal institutional capacity to support agricultural recovery or establish reliable food systems, deepening the country's food insecurity challenges in the years immediately following independence.

These difficulties have been compounded by Eritrea's harsh environmental conditions. Much of the country falls within arid and semi-arid climatic zones, while its location within the Sahelian Belt exposes it to recurring droughts and highly unpredictable rainfall patterns. Decades of deforestation, environmental degradation, and the growing effects of climate change have contributed to declining water availability, soil erosion, and reduced agricultural productivity. Locust infestations and the continued reliance on traditional rain-fed subsistence farming have further increased the vulnerability of rural communities to climatic and economic shocks.

In response, Eritrea has pursued a broad and coordinated strategy aimed at strengthening domestic food production and reducing dependency on imports and external assistance. Central to this effort has been a policy framework emphasizing self-reliance, sustainability, and equitable rural development. Agricultural development has consistently remained a national priority, with government initiatives focused on improving productivity, expanding irrigation, strengthening rural livelihoods, and enhancing food

distribution systems.

Land reform has played an important role in these efforts. Policies designed to improve access to land for both men and women have sought to support smallholder farmers while encouraging broader participation in agricultural activities. Rural communities have benefited from programs that provide farmers with improved seed varieties, fertilizers, farming tools, and technical training. Government institutions, particularly the Ministry of Agriculture (and its various branches), have also expanded extension services and support programs aimed at addressing pest management, crop diseases, and post-harvest losses. Much of this assistance has been delivered free or at minimal cost, reflecting the government's emphasis on equality and rural empowerment.

Notably, research and innovation have increasingly become key components of Eritrea's agricultural strategy. The establishment of the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) in 2003 represented an important step toward improving crop productivity and resilience. Through research centers located in areas such as Asmara, She'eb, Halhal, and Goluj, the institute has worked to develop drought-resistant, pest-tolerant, and higher-yield crop varieties adapted to Eritrea's challenging conditions. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, thousands of seed accessions have been collected and dozens of improved crop varieties developed, including wheat, barley, sorghum, millet, maize, sunflower, legumes, fruits, and vegetables. These efforts have helped strengthen food availability while also contributing to greater dietary diversity.

Alongside these advances, Eritrea has increasingly promoted sustainable farming practices intended to preserve natural resources and improve long-term agricultural resilience. Conservation agriculture, agroforestry, and soil rehabilitation initiatives have been introduced to help maintain soil fertility, reduce environmental degradation, and support biodiversity. Many of these programs have been

implemented in cooperation with international development partners and reflect broader efforts to promote climate-smart agriculture.



Water development has been another major focus of Eritrea's food security strategy. Given the country's limited and highly

and supported year-round agricultural activity in many areas. Large-scale soil and water conservation programs have also rehabilitated extensive areas

of farmland through terracing, erosion control, and watershed management initiatives. To improve efficiency, the Ministry



variable rainfall, improving water storage and irrigation capacity has been essential for expanding agricultural production. Since independence, the number of medium and large dams has increased dramatically, alongside the construction of reservoirs, water catchments, and related infrastructure across the country. Additional projects remain under

of Agriculture has promoted modern irrigation systems such as drip and sprinkler technologies while continuing to support traditional water-harvesting methods suited to local conditions.

Eritrea has also increasingly linked food security with environmental sustainability



development and are expected to further strengthen irrigation capacity in the coming years.

The expansion of water infrastructure has enabled more reliable irrigation, reduced dependence on seasonal rainfall,

and climate adaptation. National reforestation and afforestation campaigns have aimed to combat desertification and restore degraded ecosystems,

*Continued on page 4*

## Cultural Heritage



# Eritrea's Religious Harmony: A Millennium of Coexistence

Dr. Tsegai Medin

Eritrea's religious landscape is defined by a deep-seated tradition of coexistence that predates many modern concepts of secularism or tolerance. For over a millennium, the country has served as a sanctuary where different faiths do not merely 'tolerate' one another but exist in organic harmony. The country is home to some of the most significant early religious landmarks in the Horn of Africa. This unique identity is anchored in a history that saw the

and Keren. It is common to see the minaret of a mosque and the bell tower of a cathedral sharing the same skyline, often only meters apart. The Al Khulafa al Rashiudin Mosque, the Orthodox Enda Mariam Cathedral, and the Catholic Cathedral form a 'religious triangle' in the heart of the city. This physical closeness (which is common all over the country) reflects a social reality where the call to prayer and the ringing of church bells are heard as a single, harmonious soundscape.

weaponized faith. Missionaries were used to extend political influence across Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Indigenous faiths were frequently dismissed as "pagan" to make way for dominant Western doctrines.

As former Kenyan President Jomo Kenyatta famously remarked: 'When the missionaries arrived, the Africans had the land, and the missionaries had the Bible. They taught us to pray with our eyes closed. When we opened them, they had the land, and we had the Bible.'



holidays are frequently celebrated by Christians and Muslims together.

Since the 7th century, this land has served as a sanctuary for

diverse congregations. Today, this tradition of harmony is more than just a social norm — it is a defining characteristic of the Eritrean national identity.

\*\*\*



birth of major world religions and their peaceful arrival on the Red Sea coast.

**Christianity:** Paleochristian churches in Adulis date back to the 5th and 6th centuries AD, following the faith's introduction in the 4th century. These sites are among the earliest of their kind in the region.

**Islam:** The foundation of Eritrean religious harmony was laid in 615 AD, during the lifetime of the Prophet Muhammad. Facing persecution in Mecca, a group of the Prophet's companions (the Sahaba) sought refuge across the Red Sea. This established Eritrea as one of the first locations to embrace Islam outside of Arabia. This event led to the construction of the Mosque of the Companions (Sahaba Mosque) in Massawa. It is widely considered one of the oldest mosques in Africa, symbolizing the moment when Islam and Christianity first met on African soil in a spirit of mutual respect.

One of the most striking physical manifestations of this harmony is found in the urban planning of Eritrean cities, most notably in the capital, Asmara,

In Eritrea, religious identity is often secondary to national and communal identity. This harmony is woven into the people's daily rituals. During major holidays, such as Meskel (the Finding of the True Cross) or Eid al-Fitr, it is traditional for neighbors of different faiths to visit one another's homes. A Christian family will prepare food for their Muslim neighbors, and vice versa, ensuring that the celebration is a neighborhood event rather than a segregated religious one.

The culture of communal eating (the Meadi) serves as a social equalizer. Regardless of faith, the act of breaking bread together reinforces a 'family-first' social structure. When people share a meal, they affirm a bond older and deeper than any theological difference.

In many communities, local disputes are settled by a Council of Elders that often includes both Christian and Muslim leaders. Their authority derives from their wisdom and commitment to the community's peace, rather than from their specific religious office.

During the colonial era, European powers often

In Eritrea, too, colonial powers attempted to use religious sectarianism to "divide and conquer" the population. However, these efforts failed utterly because of the enduring, centuries-old, intra-religious harmony that characterized Eritrean society.

Indeed, throughout periods of colonial occupation and external conflict, this religious harmony acted as a shield. External powers often tried to use religious differences to create internal divisions, but the Eritrean people largely resisted these efforts. In Eritrea, religion is a private matter of the heart, while peace and the nation are the public responsibilities of the hand. This 'Unique Identity' is a living example of how history, when rooted in a foundation of sanctuary and mutual respect, can create a society that views diversity not as a source of friction, but as a source of collective strength.

In a modern world often divided by religious sectarianism and conflict, Eritrea stands as a unique example of tolerance. It is common to see mosques and churches built side by side in the same villages, and religious

## Overcoming Adversity Through Sustainable..

*Continued from page 3*

while partnerships with organizations such as UNDP, the FAO, and IFAD have supported the introduction of environmentally sustainable agricultural practices and green technologies. These initiatives reflect a growing recognition that long-term food security depends not only on increased production but also on the protection and restoration of natural resources.

A distinctive feature of Eritrea's development approach has been the active involvement of local communities in agricultural and environmental initiatives. Rather than relying solely on centralized implementation, many programs have incorporated strong elements of community participation and collective action. Traditional practices of mutual assistance have often been mobilized in support of dam construction, soil conservation, reforestation campaigns, and collective farming activities. This community-centered approach has strengthened local ownership while helping improve the durability and effectiveness of development projects.

As alluded above, international cooperation has also contributed to Eritrea's efforts to strengthen food systems and agricultural resilience. Partnerships with several countries, such as

China and India, as well as organizations including UNDP, FAO, and IFAD, have provided technical assistance, training, equipment, and financial support for agricultural and rural development initiatives. These partnerships have supported broader efforts to improve food production, enhance resilience, and strengthen social protection mechanisms.

Although Eritrea continues to face considerable challenges, including climate pressures, environmental vulnerability, and the long-term effects of conflict, the country has made meaningful progress in its pursuit of food security. Through sustained investment, agricultural reform, environmental conservation, community mobilization, and international cooperation, it has gradually worked toward building a more resilient and self-sufficient food system. At a time when global food supply chains are increasingly vulnerable to geopolitical instability, including the ongoing crisis in the Middle East and its broader economic ramifications, the importance of strengthening domestic food production and national resilience has become even more apparent. While significant obstacles remain, Eritrea's experience demonstrates how long-term planning, national commitment, and collective participation can contribute to strengthening food security even under difficult conditions.

# REPORTAGE

## MCET Marks the Second Edition of Engineering Day

By Mussie Efriem

The Mai Nefhi College of Engineering and Technology (MCET) celebrated the second edition of 'Engineering Day' on Thursday, May 7th – an event dedicated to promoting research, innovation, and collaboration in the field. Held under the theme “Innovating for National Development: Engineering Solutions for Communal Problems,” the event served as a dynamic platform for students and faculty to turn theoretical academic concepts into tangible solutions. A wide range of projects addressing modern technical challenges was showcased. By bringing together aspiring engineers and industry experts under one roof, the college fostered an environment



Dr. Araya Zerai

faculty. He explained that the theme for this second Engineering Day represents the institution's vital heartbeat and serves as a direct call to action for the entire engineering community. He also mentioned that the theme reflects

understanding of engineering and technology's essential contributions. Furthermore, he highlighted that the event brings together stakeholders, academics, professionals, and students to interact on common interests and work toward a framework for future collaboration.

All day long, the campus buzzed with energy. Students from all engineering departments stepped up to show off their prototypes and projects. These displays demonstrated how engineering is evolving to solve real problems that people face in their daily lives – aligning perfectly with the year's theme. The exhibition stands were packed with inventions designed to help the community. Many students focused on projects that improve the harnessing of



Professor Zemenfes Tsighe

foundational solutions for their own local communities. By aligning these two goals, the students demonstrated that they are capable of thinking about the big picture – protecting the planet – while ensuring their inventions are useful and accessible to the people living right around them.

It was not merely a technical display; the entire atmosphere reflected a shared commitment to excellent work. The event inspired students to pursue research that balances smart engineering with a genuine sense of duty toward their neighbors. Instead of just looking at blueprints, visitors saw working models that could actually make a difference for society and national development.

In the afternoon, participants attended detailed presentations and panel discussions within their respective departments. These breakout sessions allowed students, faculty, and visiting experts to sit down together and dive deeper into the technical aspects of the projects and the presented research papers.

Each department hosted its own talks, creating a space for lively debate and the exchange of ideas. On this platform, student presenters had the chance to explain their inventions, while professionals offered practical feedback and shared their own field experiences. These discussions were not merely about academic theories; they focused on translating these innovations from the classroom into real-

world projects. By the end of the afternoon, the panels had helped bridge the gap between student creativity and professional expertise, sparking new ideas for future collaboration.

The initiative is instrumental in building the talent needed to drive the country's future industries. The event proved that the college is a vital training ground, preparing the next generation to find practical, innovative answers to the world's most urgent infrastructure and energy challenges.

MCET is driven by the combined energy of its eight vital departments: Agricultural, Chemical, Civil, Computer, Electrical and Electronics, Marine, Mechanical, and Mining Engineering. By encouraging excellence across these diverse fields, the college ensures it is not focused on a single area but takes a comprehensive approach to building the nation's future and supporting industrial success.

This second edition of Engineering Day served as a strong reminder that the college is a foundation for the country's technical advancement and development. By bringing together the unique strengths of all eight departments, the event showed how vital each field is in building a self-reliant and modern nation. This collective effort ensures that the college is not merely producing graduates, but actually creating the architects of the country's future.

Beyond the technical displays, the day was deeply inspiring for the students. By sharing important ideas and collaborating with experts, students realized they were part of a much bigger mission. This exchange of knowledge fosters a sense of pride and responsibility, proving that when young minds are encouraged to innovate, they become the driving force behind the industrial and social progress the country needs to thrive.



of intellectual exchange, emphasizing the importance of interdisciplinary cooperation in driving national technological progress.

During the event, Dr. Araya Zerai, Dean of the College, delivered a keynote address stating that the commemoration stands as a powerful testament to the college's growth. He noted that MCET continues to thrive as a vibrant hub of learning and innovation, steadily becoming the primary cornerstone of the country's technical advancement.

Dr. Araya emphasized that the college is deeply committed to fostering a culture of curiosity and supporting the academic ambitions of both students and

a strategic shift in focus: while the college remains dedicated to broad national progress, it is now placing special emphasis on communal goals – tackling grassroots challenges that directly affect citizens' daily lives.

In his keynote address, Professor Zemenfes Tsighe, Director of the Bureau of Higher Education Administration and International Linkages at the National Commission for Higher Education in Eritrea, congratulated the college on organizing this important event. He noted that the occasion provides a vital forum where students and academics can demonstrate their actual and potential capacities for innovation and creativity, while promoting public

natural resources, such as better ways to use solar power or more efficient water systems for local farming. The exhibition featured several clever designs aimed at reducing energy consumption – essential for saving money and preserving fuel. It also included many environmentally friendly innovations, ranging from eco-friendly building materials made from local resources to smart machines designed to minimize waste.

Beyond theoretical classroom lessons, these projects proved that students are deeply engaged in practical engineering. At the same time, the projects showed that students are tackling global environmental concerns while simultaneously creating





**ASMARA MINING SHARE COMPANY**  
 Abo Street, No. 178, House No. 16  
 Gejeret, P.O. Box 10688  
 Tel. ++291-1-153986  
 Asmara, Eritrea

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Asmara Mining Share Company is inviting applicants for the following position.

**Shift Operations Supervisor**  
**Number required – (04)**  
**Type of contract – Definite (2 years)**

### Major Duties and responsibilities

- The Shift Supervisor at the Powerhouse is responsible for overseeing the performance of the operational team, ensuring efficient and safe operation of the HFO/Diesel power plant and the associated auxiliary equipment. The role involves supervising the daily control room and field operations, assisting with problem resolution and maintaining a high standard of operational excellence.
- This person will report to the Senior Supervisor Powerhouse and assist with various administrative and supervisory functions.

### TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREA

- Ensures compliance with quality, health and safety rules, guidelines, and regulations.
- Ensures that subordinate colleagues work safely, assist the supervisor to accomplish inspection of work areas and lead daily Toolbox meetings.
- Oversees the activities of the power plant control room operators and shift operators to ensure adherence to operational protocols as well as safe and efficient plant performance.
- Regularly reviews system data and operator reports to identify potential issues and ensure compliance with performance standards.
- Assists control room operators in diagnosing and resolving operational issues, escalating to senior management as necessary.
- Prepares and submits operational reports to senior power plant supervision, highlighting key performance metrics and areas for improvement.
- Ensures all operations are conducted in accordance with safety regulations and protocols, conducting AMSC safety initiatives and inspections.
- Coordinates shift schedules, ensuring adequate staffing and smooth transitions between shifts.
- Provide training and support to control room operators and shift operators, enhancing their skills and knowledge on the relevant and applicable SOP's.
- Identifying opportunities for operational improvements and working with the team to implement best practices.
- Conducts risk assessments and hazard identification before carrying out any task.

### Profile: Qualifications and Experience

Formal Education, Certifications or Equivalents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum Technical College Diploma in Electrical/Mechanical trade</li> <li>Certificate in Plant Operations</li> <li>Basic Supervisory Course</li> </ul>
Working Experience – Nature & Length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Min of 4 years' experience in a supervisory role within a power plant or similar environment</li> <li>Knowledge of HFO/ diesel MAN engines or similar.</li> <li>Experience in SCADA operated control rooms.</li> <li>Shift work experience in 24/7 operational environment</li> <li>Functional communication in English is mandatory.</li> </ul>

Technical Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operational knowledge of HFO/Diesel power plant gensets and related auxiliary equipment or similar plant.</li> <li>Computer literate.</li> <li>Ability to diagnose equipment issues.</li> <li>Analytical skills and Attention to detail.</li> <li>Decision making and Problem-solving skills</li> <li>Plan, organize and execution skills.</li> <li>Train and develop operational staff.</li> </ul>
Other Skills and Abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ability to lead and motivate team, make informed decisions and prioritise tasks</li> <li>Effective communication skills (written and verbal)</li> <li>Ability to interact with team members and other stakeholders</li> <li>Ability to manage time efficiently</li> <li>Strong commitment to Health and Safety regulations</li> </ul>

### General Information and other requirements:

- Place of Work:** AMSC Sites
- Type of contract:** definite Period (2 years)
- Salary:** As per the Company salary scale
- Additional requirements for Nationals:**
  - Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provide evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defense.
  - Present clearance paper from current/last employer.
  - Testimonial documents to be attached (CV, work experience credentials, a copy of your National Identity Card, etc.).
  - Only shortlisted applicants would be considered as potential candidates for an interview.
  - Application documents will not be returned to the sender.
  - All applications should be sent through the post office.
  - Deadline for application: 7 days from the day of publication in the Newspaper.
- Address: Please mail your applications to:**  
**Asmara Mining Share Company,**  
**P. O. Box 10688 Asmara, Eritrea**
- Applicants shall be required to send a copy to:**  
**Mineral Resources Management**  
**P.O. Box – 272**  
**Asmara**
- Note to Eritrean applicants:**  
**Please send a copy of your application to**  
**Aliens Employment Permit Affairs,**  
**P. O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea**

## Notice

Notice is hereby given to the public that the members of Brhan Media Services P.L.C. have resolved the following

- The Share of late Yemanabrhan Girmatzion has been transferred to his spouse Muse Kibreab Gebremariam and his 4 children. 1- Emnet Yemanabrhan
- Girmay Yemanabrhan
- Temesgen Yemanabrhan
- Huruy Yemanabrhan

The new share members shall be as follows

	Member	Shares	Value of Share
1	Muse Kibreab Gebremariam	64	96,000 nakfa
2	Emnet Yemanabrhan Girmatzion	9	13,500 nakfa
3	Girmay Yemanabrhan Girmatzion	9	13,500 nakfa
4	Temesgen Yemanabrhan Girmatzion	9	13,500 nakfa
5	Huruy Yemanabrhan Girmatzion	9	13,500 nakfa

2- Muse Kibreab Gebremariam is the appointed manager of the company Brhan Media Services P.L.C. for unlimited time.



**ASMARA MINING SHARE COMPANY**  
 Abo Street, No. 178, House No. 16  
 Gejeret, P.O. Box 10688  
 Tel. ++291-1-153986  
 Asmara, Eritrea

**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

Asmara Mining Share Company is inviting applicants for the following position.

**Laundry Crew – Collector**  
**Number required – (05)**  
**Type of contract – Indefinite**

**Major Duties and responsibilities**

- Collection of Washing
- Health and Safety
- General

**TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREA**

**Collection of Washing**

- Collect dirty clothes from the room and record the room number.
- Responsible to remove stains prior to washing.
- Separate the colours and different materials and hand over to the Washer.
- After ironing process separate all clothing and return to correct room number.
- Ensure that the correct temperature is used for different materials.
- Take washing out and place in trolley to be dried.
- Place wet clothes in dryer.

**Health and Safety**

- Required to wear PPE as specified.
- Safety awareness of work area.
- Report any hazard or potential hazard to Team Leader.

**General**

- Required to be team player and stand in for other positions whilst waiting for washing and ironing process to be completed.

**Profile: Qualifications and Experience**

Formal Education, Certifications or Equivalent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grade 8 – 10.</li> <li>• Basic communications of Local language and basic English.</li> </ul>
--	--

Working Experience – Nature & Length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of collecting clothes from blocks and numbers and recording of the collection.</li> <li>• Must be able to read and write – basic English.</li> </ul>
Technical Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of procedures to collect dirty clothes.</li> <li>• Knowledge of procedures to deliver clean clothes.</li> <li>• Assist with filling out forms for washing.</li> </ul>
Behavioral Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication (Local language and basic English).</li> <li>• General Courtesy.</li> <li>• Clean and presentable.</li> <li>• Required to work in a team.</li> </ul>

**General Information and other requirements:**

- **Place of Work:** AMSC Sites
- **Type of contract:** Indefinite Period
- **Salary:** As per the Company salary scale

**Additional requirements for Nationals:**

- Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provide evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defense.
- Present clearance paper from current/last employer.
- Testimonial documents to be attached (CV, work experience credentials, a copy of your National Identity Card, etc.).
- Only shortlisted applicants would be considered as potential candidates for an interview.
- Application documents will not be returned to the sender.
- All applications should be sent through the post office.
- Deadline for application: 7 days from the day of publication in the Newspaper.

- **Address: Please mail your applications to:**  
**Asmara Mining Share Company,**  
**P. O. Box 10688 Asmara, Eritrea**
- **Applicants shall be required to send a copy to:**  
**Mineral Resources Management**  
**P.O. Box – 272**  
**Asmara**
- **Note to Eritrean applicants:**  
**Please send a copy of your application to**  
**Aliens Employment Permit Affairs,**  
**P. O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea**

# BADR AIRLINES

# IS

# COMING SOON



port Sudan

cairo

Juba

Addis Ababa

Kampala

TEL - 002911202828

-002911110966

MOBILE-002917546790

ADDRES-INFRONT OF HAWAKIL

Kigali

Jeddah

Riyadh

Entebe

Istanbul



# From Classroom to Driver's Seat: An Interview with Rodas Musie, Mendefera's Young Driving Instructor

By Merina Pawlos



**When did you learn to drive, and when did you start teaching at a driving school?**

I obtained my 1st and 2nd licenses in 2019, my 3rd in 2021, and my 4th in 2025. Now I am working toward my 5th license. I began teaching at Naeb Driving School in Mendefera in 2022. I was not initially interested in driving, but my father always inspired me. He is the reason I have reached this stage.

**What motivates you to become a driving instructor?**

My first inspiration was my father. He always encouraged my sisters and me to drive, from the 1st license up to the 5th. Since our family owns a driving school in Mendefera, it was easy for me to learn whenever I wanted. Not only I, but my elder sisters, Betiel Musie and Hana Musie, have also reached the 5th license, thanks to our father's guidance.

**Who was your role model?**

My model has always been my elder sister, Betiel. When I was at Mai Nefhi College, she was already a driving instructor holding a 5th-grade license. She is now married

*In Eritrea, women's empowerment is evident across generations. From the armed struggle for independence to today's peacetime development, women have played a vital role. Now, regardless of gender, they work in diverse professions alongside men. Among them is Rodas Musie Afwerki, a young driver who holds a 4th-grade driving license and is currently working toward her 5th-grade license. She teaches at a driving school for the 1st- and 3rd-license categories.*

*Rodas was born in 2000 in Mendefera, Southern Region. Her academic excellence was evident from a young age. She attended Mendefera Kindergarten and Mendefera Frekalsi Elementary School. After her general examination, she joined Ahwat Cappuccino High School, then completed 12th grade with the 30th round at Warsay Yekalo Secondary School. She later graduated from Mai Nefhi College with a degree in Statistics.*

*In 2023, after finishing her four year statistics course at Mai Nefhi College and completing one year of national service, Rodas began working in her dream profession – one that her family had also hoped for.*

and not here with us, but she was amazing. Many people admired her – she was the first to earn a 5th-grade license and work as an instructor during her time, and she was even interviewed on Eri TV. I aspired to be like her, and finally, I have achieved that dream.

**How did your family influence your success?**

My family has always been with me. My father, especially, is the reason for my success – he put in a lot of effort and time teaching me. Also, seeing my elder sisters drive so easily and well had a strong influence on me.

**How do you manage your official work and your role as a driving instructor?**

It can be difficult at times, but it just requires good time management. As I said, my parents always encourage and help me in every activity so that I can manage both responsibilities.

Tell us about your early



professional experience as a woman driver.

After I graduated in 2023, I started at Naeb Driving School in Mendefera. At first it seemed hard, but with time I adapted. Many people encouraged me, which gave me confidence. The main reason my work became easier was that I had watched my sister for so long – I learned how to handle students, manage my time, and be patient.

**How did society accept you as a female driving instructor, especially your students?**

I think my sister already went through all the struggles, because she was the first female driving instructor, at least in Mendefera. By the time I started, society had already adapted to the idea. Generally, most people in our community motivate me and accepted me as a driving instructor. I am proud of them for having such a positive perspective toward women.

**In the current context, what is the status of women's participation in driving schools?**

The number of women in driving schools is increasing very well. For example, in the Southern Region, out of 625 driving students, 189 are women. In the past, they were scattered – very few. But now the

Yes, I can also ride a motorcycle. When I started at the driving school, I obtained the 1st license – that is for motorcycles. So I can easily teach from the 1st to the 3rd license.

**What message would you like to share with aspiring students and the public?**

I especially want to say to women: work hard in your profession, take it easy even when it looks difficult, and prove your strength to the world.

**Is there anyone else you would like to thank?**

situation is improving.

**What can we expect from you in the future?**



As I said, I am in the process of earning my 5th grade license. My biggest goal is to become a great role model for my students as a driving instructor, just like my sister.

**Do you have any other driving qualifications?**

First, I give glory to the Almighty Lord. Then I am deeply grateful to you for the opportunity to share my story. I thank my family – my father, Musie Afwerki; my mother, Elsa Habte; and my sisters, Betiel Musie and Hana Musie – for their years of support and encouragement.



**Our Resilience: Our Guarantee!**