

PRESIDENT ISAIAS AFWERKI MEETS CHINA'S SPECIAL ENVOY TO THE HORN OF AFRICA



President Isaias Afwerki met with Ambassador Hu Changchun, China's Special Envoy to the Horn of Africa, in the late afternoon hours yesterday at the Denden Guest House.

During the meeting, President Isaias reiterated Eritrea's readiness to consolidate its constructive engagement with the People's Republic of China. He stressed the imperative for a more prominent Chinese role in various global

and regional affairs, particularly in these tumultuous times of heightened turmoil and instability.

President Isaias also alluded to Africa's immense natural and human endowments and underlined the invaluable role China is expected to play in the development and enhancement of these resources.

Ambassador Hu Changchun, for his part, expressed China's

readiness to work with Eritrea to deepen the existing bilateral strategic partnership for mutual benefit, as well as to leverage synergetic development strategies for the joint promotion of peace and stability across the Horn of Africa.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Osman Saleh.

ERITREA PARTICIPATES IN 11TH OACPS SUMMIT IN MALABO

An Eritrean delegation took part in the 11th Summit of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) Heads of State and Government, held from 27 to 29 March in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

Mr. Michael Tesfay, First Secretary at the Eritrean Embassy in Brussels, and Mr. Berhane Rezene, Second Secretary, represented Eritrea. The Summit was held under the theme: "A Transformed and Renewed Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States in a Changing World."

During the meeting, participants discussed modernizing and strengthening the organization, financial management, support for member states, regional integration, and enhancing global partnerships.

The Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States was founded in 1975 and currently has 79 member countries.



MEETING TO REVIEW PROGRESS OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

The Gash Barka Region administration held a meeting to review progress on development programs in the first quarter of 2026.

According to the report presented at the meeting, most programs for the first quarter are progressing well, and a call was made for greater effort in water and soil conservation, as well as in preparing land for cultivation.

Moreover, the report indicated that commendable progress has been registered in the construction and renovation of infrastructure, health facilities, and potable water projects, as well as in the construction of small and large bridges, dirt roads, and water reservoirs.

Underlining that the report presented indicates the potential to

implement the planned development programs of 2026 through strong collaboration with Government institutions, the Western Command of the Eritrean Defence Forces, administrative organs, and the community, Ambassador Mahmud Ali Hirui, Governor of the Gash Barka Region, called for more coordinated effort in the preparation of land for cultivation and in water and soil conservation.

Noting that enhancing agricultural production is a priority task of the regional administration, Ambassador Mahmud called on agricultural experts and concerned institutions to encourage and support farmers in that regard.

The participants conducted an extensive discussion on the report presented and expressed readiness to strengthen participation in the implementation of the charted development programs.

SEMINAR FOR NATIONALS IN NAIROBI AND ITS ENVIRONS



On 4 April, Eritrea's Ambassador to Kenya, Mr. Beyene Russom, conducted a public seminar for nationals living in Nairobi and the surrounding areas.

During the seminar, Ambassador Beyene provided an extensive briefing on the current situation in the homeland and regional and global developments. He called on the nationals to strengthen their unity and organization in order to overcome any challenges they



may face.

Urging the community to fulfill their national obligations by organizing themselves through community and national associations, Ambassador Beyene emphasized the importance of understanding both their rights and responsibilities. He also encouraged them to take advantage of the opportunities available in their country.

Mr. Dawit Hagos, chairman

of the Eritrean community in Kenya, stated that strengthening and developing the Eritrean community, as well as participating in national affairs, is a timely responsibility for all nationals.

In response, the participants expressed their commitment to strengthening the Eritrean community in Kenya and called for organizing similar seminars in the future.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER OSMAN SALEH AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE ON UNILATERAL SANCTIONS

Excellencies, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, allow me to convey Eritrea's sincere appreciation to the organizers of this timely and consequential conference. We commend Professor Alena Douhan, the Special Rapporteur on the Negative Impact of Unilateral Coercive Measures on the Enjoyment of Human Rights, and Professor Attiya Waris, the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt, for advancing a principled and evidence-based discourse on what has become one of the most pressing, yet insufficiently scrutinized, features of the contemporary international system.

Wegatheratamomentofprofound significance. The international order is increasingly characterized by the normalization, expansion, and quiet institutionalization of unilateral coercive measures. Their scope has widened, their application intensified, and their reach extended far beyond national jurisdictions. This evolution has unfolded largely outside the framework of multilateral legitimacy and in tension with the foundational principles of international law, sovereign equality, non-interference, and the importance of the Charter of the United Nations.

Excellencies,
Eritrea's encounter with sanctions regimes spans nearly two decades. The imposition of United



Nations Security Council sanctions from 2009 to 2018, grounded in unsubstantiated claims and geopolitical expediency, marked a period of significant constraint on the country's development trajectory. Although these measures were eventually lifted, their residual effects persist.

More critically, they have been supplanted and, in certain respects, deepened by an expanding architecture of unilateral coercive measures imposed by influential state actors.

The cumulative impact of these measures has produced what can only be described as systemic financial exclusion. Eritrea, while formally part of the global economy, faces persistent barriers in conducting routine financial transactions essential for trade and development. Payments are delayed, denied, or subjected to excessive scrutiny. This is further compounded by a pervasive culture of over-compliance among financial institutions, which, seeking to mitigate risk, often exceed formal requirements, transforming restrictions into far more severe de facto barriers.

A central paradox lies at the heart of this system. These measures are often justified as tools for promoting and protecting human rights. In practice, however, they undermine the very rights they purport to advance. In Eritrea, the consequences are concrete and far-reaching.

In the health sector, access to life-saving medicines, diagnostic equipment, and essential technologies is routinely impeded by formal restrictions, disrupted financial channels, and supplier hesitancy, thereby affecting the realization of the right to health.

In agriculture, constraints on financing and logistics limit access to inputs and machinery,

undermining food security and rural livelihoods. Across infrastructure sectors, water, energy, and transport, difficulties in securing financing and procuring equipment impose structural limitations on development.

These represent systemic impediments to the realization of the right to development and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Distinguished Participants,

Equally concerning is the growing gap between the formal articulation of humanitarian exemptions and their practical implementation. While such exemptions exist in principle, their effectiveness is undermined by the reluctance of financial institutions to process even permissible transactions.

The fear of secondary sanctions, regulatory penalties, and reputational risk creates an adverse impact. As a result, legally permissible transactions become practically impossible. Access to essential goods is thus obstructed not by explicit prohibition but by the cumulative weight of financial and administrative barriers. This divergence between legal frameworks and operational reality raises serious questions about the credibility of existing safeguards.

Excellencies,

The enforcement of unilateral coercive measures has also diffused responsibility across a complex network of state and non-state actors. Decisions with profound humanitarian consequences are increasingly made within opaque compliance systems, often without transparency, explanation, or recourse.

This diffusion of agency has fragmented accountability, obscuring responsibility. Affected states and populations are left with limited avenues for redress.

The current legal lacuna, wherein harm is evident but redress is elusive, cannot be sustained if the international system is to regain its normative coherence.

Distinguished Participants,

Eritrea holds the view that addressing these challenges requires a principled and collective response.

First, there must be a reaffirmation of the Charter of the United Nations' centrality. Measures with far-reaching humanitarian consequences must be anchored in multilateral legitimacy and collective accountability, not unilateral discretion.

Second, the phenomenon of

over-compliance must be addressed through greater regulatory clarity, safe harbor provisions, and the establishment of protected humanitarian financial channels.

Third, the international community must move toward enforceable frameworks of responsibility that encompass both state and non-state actors, ensuring that those affected have access to meaningful remedies.

Finally, it is imperative to reassess the underlying assumptions that sustain the widespread use of unilateral coercive measures. Policies that claim to advance human rights must be evaluated against their actual, lived impact.

Excellencies,

Allow me to conclude with a reflection. Unilateral coercive measures are often portrayed as targeted and temporary. In reality, their effects are expansive, indiscriminate, and enduring. They shape economies, constrain development, and profoundly affect the daily lives of ordinary people.

If the international community is to remain faithful to its commitment to human rights, it must confront these contradictions with clarity and resolve. Eritrea stands ready to engage constructively in this effort, guided by the principles of genuine multilateralism and mutual respect.

I thank you.

ERITREA PROFILE

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From Social Media

Yemane G. Meskel @hawelti · Apr 8
Potemkin Party's antics and theatrics seem to increasingly transcend the bounds of rationality.

This is the only explanation for the bizarre conference that the Institute of Foreign Affairs convened this week under the theme: "Inclusive Maritime Governance". Speakers included some obscure and hired "pundits" as well as the senior officials of a Ghost Navy.

The Horn of Africa countries have roundly and firmly rejected, without equivocation or ambivalence, the Potemkin Party's quest for "sovereign access to the Sea" as toxic and avoidable threat to regional peace and security.

The response from the international community has, likewise, been the same.

And yet, Potemkin Party officials and minions seem to double down and indulge on this perilous path.

The multi-layered ramifications of this delusional policy are otherwise very evident as the attached link elucidates: "ከብ ጉዳይ ምውጃል ፣ ከላይ ምላሽ!"
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The "Sovereign Sea Gate" Delusion: Ethiopia's Expansionist Narrative Disguised as Strategy shabait.com/2026/04/08/the...

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World Health Day: Reflecting on Eritrea's Health Journey

Bana Negusse

On April 7, the world came together to commemorate World Health Day. The day, which marks the World Health Organization's founding in 1948, is celebrated annually and highlights specific health topics of global concern. This year, it was observed under the theme "Together for health. Stand with science," highlighting the role of scientific collaboration in protecting the health of people, animals, plants, and the planet.

In Eritrea, the day was marked at the national level in Asmara at the National Confederation of Eritrean Workers Hall. The event featured official remarks and activities, bringing together government officials and international partners. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Andebrhan Tesfatsion, Acting Director General of Public Health at the Ministry of Health, emphasized that effective health care delivery depends on integrated and measurable efforts, noting that Eritrea's approach is grounded in building a strong health system. He also outlined key priorities under the health sector's five-year strategic plan for 2026–2030, including expanding universal health coverage, strengthening health safety systems, and improving coordination and administration. Representatives from the WHO and UNICEF highlighted the role of sustained public health interventions, and the program also included a general knowledge competition with awards for participants.

Set against this backdrop, the occasion provides a useful moment to reflect on Eritrea's health journey.

In Eritrea, traditional medicine and healing practices have a long history stretching back centuries. What is broadly understood as modern medicine was introduced in the late 19th and early 20th centuries by European missionaries and Italian colonial authorities. During this period, health services were largely confined to urban centers and designed primarily to serve Europeans, with limited access for Eritreans.

Later, under the British military administration, some clinics and dispensaries were established, but the period was also marked by economic decline and the dismantling of key infrastructure. Several facilities, including hospitals in Massawa, Ghinda, and Zula, were closed or

stripped down. Although the health system showed early promise during federation with Ethiopia, this progress was short-lived. Resource cuts, administrative restrictions, and neglect weakened services. With the onset of the armed struggle, conditions deteriorated further as facilities were destroyed and many health workers either fled or joined the liberation movement.

Amid these conditions, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front developed a functional health system that served both fighters and civilians, including in remote areas. Guided by an emphasis on broad access and prevention, it established mobile and stationary clinics, regional hospitals, and a central facility in Orotta, while also building local capacity through training and limited pharmaceutical production. Despite severe constraints, this system delivered basic emergency, primary, and preventive care, even if overall provision remained limited.

Following Eritrea's independence, the country has maintained a strong focus on health, advancing a policy framework centered on equity, access, and primary care. Public investment has remained significant, with services heavily subsidized and many essential and preventive interventions provided free of charge. At the same time, the country has expanded its health infrastructure and workforce, extending services beyond urban centers and improving access for much of the population.

Importantly, substantial progress has been made across key health indicators. For example, maternal mortality has declined markedly from pre-independence levels,



while child mortality has also fallen sharply. HIV prevalence remains low, with transmission – particularly from mother to child – approaching elimination. Significant gains have also been made in controlling diseases such as polio, malaria, and tuberculosis, alongside consistently strong immunization coverage, which has drawn recognition from

in recent years. These gains are particularly notable given the broader context in which they have been achieved. Over the years, Eritrea has faced a range of challenges, including periods of conflict and external pressures, as well as the growing impacts of climate change. In addition, restrictions associated with sanctions

system. Eritrea's progress has been underpinned by a set of consistent policy choices. A strong emphasis on equity and social justice has guided the expansion of services to rural and historically underserved communities. As well, health care is provided at nominal cost, with fees waived in cases of need, helping ensure that access is not determined by ability to pay. This has been reinforced by sustained government commitment, including the construction of health facilities across the country and continued investment in training and deploying health workers, whose education and training are fully supported by the state. At the same time, Eritrea's approach has remained firmly rooted in prevention, with priority given to primary health care, early intervention, and public health measures – supported by health education efforts in schools and communities that promote awareness and help address misinformation and stigma.



regional and global institutions. Perhaps the clearest reflection of Eritrea's health-related progress is the steady rise in life expectancy over the years, with the country moving from among the lowest levels on the continent (or the world, for that matter) to significantly higher levels

have at times limited access to essential medicines, diagnostic equipment, and health technologies – through formal barriers, disrupted financial channels, and supplier hesitancy. Despite these constraints, however, the country has continued to advance key areas of its health

Additionally, partnerships have played an important role. Eritrea has worked with a range of international organizations and development partners in a manner aligned with national priorities. These partnerships have largely supported locally defined goals, helping to fill gaps in resources, technical capacity, and service delivery. This approach has helped ensure that external support complements, rather than substitutes, domestic efforts.



Taken together, Eritrea's experience highlights the powerful impact of sustained commitment, clear priorities, and a health system built around access and prevention. While challenges remain, the country's trajectory underscores what can be achieved through consistent, long-term investment and nationally driven strategies. As reflected on World Health Day, it serves as a reminder that meaningful progress in health is often the result of steady, deliberate effort over time.

SpotLight

Moments of Inspiration: The 20th YPFDJ Conference

Dawit Gebremichael Habte

The 20th YPFDJ Europe Conference was more than a gathering. It was an awakening. From the moment I arrived, I felt a sense of purpose that was both familiar and renewed. The theme set the tone for everything that followed. Building a conscious, committed, and capable youth is not a slogan. It is a responsibility. It is a continuation of a journey that began long before this generation was born.

What struck me most was the clarity of direction. There was no confusion about who we are or where we are going. The young Eritreans in attendance carried themselves with confidence, grounded in identity and strengthened by knowledge. They were not searching for meaning. They were building it.

Throughout the conference, I had the opportunity to listen and learn from elder leadership, including ambassadors and seasoned national representatives who have dedicated their lives to the service of Eritrea. Their presence was not symbolic. It was instructive. They spoke with the



weight of experience and forward-looking vision that recognized the central role of youth in shaping the nation's future.

Equally inspiring were the young heads of mission and youth leaders who stood at the intersection of responsibility and action. They represented a generation that is not waiting for direction but is actively shaping outcomes. Their command of issues, their discipline in execution, and their clarity of purpose reflected something deeper than individual ambition. It reflected a collective consciousness.

I learned a great deal during those days. Not only from formal sessions, but from conversations in hallways, shared meals, and reflections after long days of engagement. The conference was motivational and



deeply educational. It reaffirmed for me that Eritrea's greatest asset has always been its people, and more importantly, its ability to organize, educate, and empower them with intention.

My own contribution to the conference was a presentation titled "AI and the Power Within: Empowering Ourselves to Empower the Next Generation." In preparing for this talk, I reflected on the nature of science and technology and how knowledge moves across time and place. Science does not belong to one people or one nation. It is discovered, refined, and passed on.

Those who recognize it, acquire it, and apply it with purpose become its stewards.

Artificial Intelligence is no different.

AI is not owned by those who invented its early models. It will be owned by those who understand it, shape it, and apply it to solve real problems. This is where Eritrean youth have an extraordinary opportunity. They do not need to start from the beginning. They can begin from where the world is today. They can acquire knowledge at its current stage and take ownership of it, provided the right environment is created.

But technology alone is not enough. This is where the human element becomes central.

I spoke about intentionality. About the need to be deliberate in how we guide and support our children. Nature itself gives us a powerful example. A child develops over nine months in the womb, a process that is constant, uninterrupted, and fully committed. Those nine months amount to 6,480 hours of continuous development. It is a process that nature does not negotiate.

If we take that same principle and apply it to how we raise and guide our children, even in a modest way, the results are transformative. Two hours a day of focused, intentional support add up to 6,480 hours over time. That is the equivalent of nine years of consistent investment in a child's growth. The lesson is simple, but profound. When we are intentional with our time and our attention, we shape outcomes that extend far beyond what we can immediately see.

The reception to this message was powerful. Not because it introduced something entirely new, but because it connected familiar values with emerging realities. Eritrea's foundation has always been built on self-reliance, discipline, and collective responsibility. AI and modern technology do not replace these values. They amplify them.

What I witnessed at the conference was the alignment of these principles with a new generation that is ready to carry them forward.



There was a sense of continuity that was both reassuring and inspiring. The same spirit that sustained Eritrea during its most difficult years is alive today, not as memory, but as practice. It is visible in how the young people think, how they organize, and how they engage



with the world around them. This is what made the experience so eye-opening for me.

I have attended many conferences over the years in different parts of the world and across different industries. Many are informative. Some are inspiring. Few are transformative. This was one of those rare moments when you could see the connection between the past, present, and future with clarity.

I saw a generation that understands its history but is not confined by it. A generation that is open to learning but grounded in identity. A

generation that recognizes that the future is not something to wait for, but something to build.

I also saw something else that is often overlooked: Structure.

There is a disciplined approach to engaging, developing, and empowering Eritrean youth. This is not accidental. It is the result of years of deliberate effort. The conference itself was a reflection of that structure. Organized, focused, and purposeful. Every session, every discussion, and every interaction contributed to a larger objective.

Before concluding, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the organizers of the 20th YPFDJ Europe Conference for their vision, discipline, and tireless effort in bringing this gathering to life. My deepest appreciation goes especially

to the Swiss Eritrean community and the YPFDJ organizing committee, whose dedication, hospitality, and attention to detail created an environment that was both welcoming and purposeful. Their work made it possible for all of us to engage, learn, and contribute meaningfully to the collective journey.

As I left the conference, I carried with me not just memories, but renewed conviction. The journey toward building a conscious, committed, and capable youth is ongoing. It requires effort, discipline, and intention. But it is a journey that is clearly moving in the right direction.

We often speak about the future as something unknown, something uncertain. But there are moments when the future reveals itself, not in grand declarations, but in the confidence of a people who know who they are and where they are going.

This was one of those moments.

OPINION & ANALYSIS

The “Sovereign Sea Gate” Delusion: Ethiopia’s Expansionist Narrative Disguised as Strategy

By Alula Frezghi
(Red Sea Beacon)

There is a point at which language stops describing policy and begins manufacturing it. When words are chosen not to clarify reality but to reshape it, they carry consequences far beyond rhetoric. What begins as framing can become expectation; what becomes expectation can harden into pressure; and what hardens into pressure can, in time, demand action.

The debate surrounding Ethiopia’s “Sea Gate” doctrine sits precisely at this threshold. It is not simply a question of access, economics, or geography. It is a question of how narratives are constructed, how they are internalized, and how far they can be allowed to drift before they begin to dictate outcomes rather than describe them.

Ethiopia’s newly promoted “Sovereign Sea Gate” doctrine is being framed as a historic turning point, a pathway to sovereignty, prosperity, and long-delayed correction. These are unlawful and perilous forays into conflict and mayhem. What is being advanced is not, indeed, strategy, but a narrative device: a reframing of internal weakness as external necessity.

At its core lies a deliberate reframing of geography. Ethiopia’s landlocked status is presented not as a logistical condition to be managed through normative channels, but as an injustice to be corrected; a “prison” from which the State must escape. This is not economic reasoning; it is political construction. Landlocked states are neither rare nor disadvantaged. Across the international system, they function through established commercial agreements and mechanisms. The constraint may be palpable, but it is operational rather than existential. By recasting geography as injustice, the doctrine transforms a manageable condition into a mobilizing grievance. This shift is inherently destabilizing.

The doctrine’s most revealing feature is its language. It does not emphasize commercial agreements with transit coastal States, the established

mechanisms through which landlocked States operate. Instead, it centers on ownership. This is not rhetorical embellishment; it is a strategic signal. Access operates within the framework of international law. Ownership implies aggressive invasions against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of transit coastal States. There is no credible path to such an outcome that does not disrupt and destabilize the regional order. The vocabulary of the doctrine is therefore not incidental; it is aggressive and declarative.

This logic is reinforced by the framing of maritime access as a national “lung.” The metaphor is not benign. A lung is essential, non-negotiable, and beyond compromise. By adopting this language, the doctrine collapses the distinction between strategic preference and existential necessity. Once that boundary dissolves, the realm of legality and established norms of peaceful coexistence based on foundational principles of international law, the cardinal parameters of respect for each other’s sovereignty and territorial integrity are jettisoned to precipitate war and conflict.

The linkage of maritime access to naval development further exposes the doctrine’s internal contradictions. A navy requires either sovereign coastline or stable and trusted basing arrangements. Neither condition currently exist. In this context, naval ambition functions less as a credible defense plan and more as illicit and hegemonic projection. For the region, such ambiguity is not harmless; it increases the risk of miscalculation and escalation.

The doctrine attempts to justify itself through the language of the “blue economy,” invoking minerals, energy, and economic transformation. Yet this argument does not withstand comparison. Numerous landlocked states have achieved growth through logistics integration, industrial policy, and commercial agreements for market access. They do not predicate their development on sovereign claims to maritime space. What distinguishes the “Sea Gate” doctrine is not necessity, but rhetorical elevation, where opportunity is recast as obligation, and development

becomes justification.

Its timing is equally telling. The Doctrine emerges amid persistent internal conflict, regional militarization, unresolved post-conflict tensions, and declining political cohesion. In this context, it functions as a unifying narrative, an external focal point capable of transcending internal fragmentation. This is a familiar political pattern: when internal coherence weakens, States project unity outward. But projection is not resolution. It is deferral, often at greater strategic cost.

The most immediate danger, however, is not military action; it is narrative normalization. Once the idea that a neighboring coastline constitutes a form of national destiny takes hold, it begins to shape public expectations, elite decision-making, and escalation thresholds. Over time, leaders become constrained not by material reality, but by the narratives they have legitimized. At that point, restraint is no longer perceived as prudence; it is seen as retreat.

This is why sovereignty cannot be treated as elastic. Regional stability in the Horn of Africa rests on the inviolability of internationally recognized borders. Eritrea’s sovereignty is not a variable in Ethiopia’s strategic calculus. It cannot be reframed, redistributed, or reinterpreted to compensate for internal challenges elsewhere. Once sovereignty becomes negotiable, instability becomes systemic.

The “Sovereign Sea Gate” doctrine is not a strategic breakthrough. It is a displacement mechanism. It substitutes rhetoric for policy, and aspiration for feasibility. Its danger lies not in what it achieves, but in what it normalizes.

In the end, the danger does not lie in ambition itself, but in the form it takes. When ambition is grounded in realism, it can be negotiated, managed, and integrated into a stable regional order. When it is anchored in narrative rather than constraint, it becomes resistant to compromise and indifferent to consequence.

The “Sovereign Sea Gate”

doctrine reveals how quickly that transition can occur. It is not the scale of the idea that is concerning, but the logic that sustains it. Once policy is shaped by narratives of inevitability rather than by frameworks of law and cooperation, restraint begins to look like weakness, and escalation looks like necessity.

The Horn of Africa has little margin for such miscalculations. Stability in the region has always depended not on the expansion of claims, but on the discipline to contain them. The future will not be secured by reimagining geography, but by respecting it, managing it, and building within its limits.

YPFDJ and the Enduring Bond of Eritrean Youth in the Diaspora

The convening of the 17th Conference of the Young People’s Front for Democracy and Justice (YPFDJ) - Europe Branch in Venice, Italy, offers a timely reflection on a defining feature of Eritrea’s national experience: the enduring, organized engagement of its youth in the diaspora.

For over half a century, Eritreans living beyond their homeland have demonstrated a rare and consistent ability to remain aligned with national priorities, transcending geographical distance and generational change. This continuity is neither incidental nor symbolic—it is the result of deliberate efforts to cultivate identity, awareness, and responsibility among younger generations.

Within this context, YPFDJ has emerged as a central platform for nurturing these values.

For Eritrean youth born or raised abroad, the question of identity is often complex. Distance from the homeland, exposure to diverse cultural environments, and the pressures of integration can, in many cases, weaken ties to national heritage. Yet, the Eritrean experience presents a different trajectory—one in which youth engagement remains structured, conscious, and purpose-driven.

Participation in YPFDJ provides more than a sense of belonging. It offers a framework for young Eritreans to deepen their understanding of their country’s history, appreciate the sacrifices underpinning its sovereignty, and cultivate a sense of duty toward its future development.

Equally important, it creates a space for dialogue, learning, and leadership development—equipping youth with the tools to navigate both their local environments and their connection to Eritrea in a balanced and informed manner.

The significance of such engagement extends beyond cultural preservation. In an increasingly interconnected and complex global environment, diaspora communities play an important role in shaping narratives, fostering understanding, and contributing to national development efforts. Youth, in particular, are central to this process.

The YPFDJ conferences, therefore, are not merely periodic gatherings. They represent continuity, renewal, and collective reflection. They reaffirm a shared commitment to unity, resilience, and national consciousness—values that have historically defined Eritrea’s path.

As the conference in Venice proceeds, it stands as yet another testament to the vitality of Eritrean youth in diaspora and their unwavering connection to their homeland.

In a world where distance often dilutes identity, the Eritrean youth experience continues to demonstrate that connection—when nurtured with purpose—can remain strong, relevant, and forward-looking.



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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Bisha Mining Share Company is inviting applicants for the following positions

- 1. Position: Mining Electromechanical Engineer**
Department: Processing and Underground Operations
Section: Harena Underground
Number required: One (01)

Primary Purpose

- To comprehensively manage the full lifecycle technical aspects of electromechanical equipment and systems in mining operations (both underground and surface), ensuring their safety, reliability, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness. The role is pivotal in providing robust equipment support for continuous and stable production while achieving cost reduction and efficiency improvement through technological innovation.

TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE

AREAS

Equipment Management and Maintenance (Core Responsibility)

- Develop and implement annual/monthly maintenance plans, preventive maintenance procedures, and inspection standards for key electromechanical equipment (e.g., hoisting systems, ventilation systems, drainage systems, compressed air systems, transportation systems, power supply and distribution systems).
- Lead or participate in major and medium-scale repairs of critical equipment, including technical solution design, process supervision, quality acceptance, and post-maintenance evaluation.
- Establish and maintain comprehensive equipment technical archives (including drawings, manuals, maintenance records, and equipment histories) to standardize and digitize equipment management
- Support development of maintenance strategy, spares philosophy, and critical equipment lists to ensure long term reliability.

Fault Diagnosis and Emergency Response

- Respond promptly and efficiently to unexpected electromechanical equipment failures, conduct technical diagnostics, develop repair plans, and organize emergency repairs to minimize downtime.
- Perform root cause analysis (RCA) for recurring or systemic failures, proposing and implementing long-term improvement measures to prevent recurrence

Technical Support and System Optimization

- Provide round-the-clock electromechanical technical support to production departments to ensure smooth equipment operation.
- Identify operational bottlenecks and energy consumption issues in equipment and systems, leading or participating in technical upgrades, energy-saving initiatives, and automation enhancement projects. Prepare technical proposals, budgets, and feasibility reports.
- Oversee or assist in the technical selection of new equipment, preparation of bidding specifications, factory acceptance testing (FAT), on-site installation, commissioning, and final acceptance (SAT).
- Interface with EPC contractors, OEMs, and commissioning teams to coordinate technical activities, resolve issues, and support project delivery.
- Lead integrated commissioning plans and performance verification for electromechanical systems to ensure readiness for safe operation.
- Support capital and operating cost tracking for electromechanical systems and provide input to forecasts and cost reviews.

Safety Management and Compliance

- Strictly adhere to national, industry, and corporate safety regulations and standards. Serve as the direct responsible person for electromechanical safety in the role.
- Conduct safety risk assessments for electromechanical equipment, identify and address potential hazards, and develop and monitor the implementation of safe operating procedures.
- Participate in or lead investigations and analyses of electromechanical safety incidents, developing corrective and preventive measures.
- Ensure compliance with regular inspections, testing, and management of special equipment (e.g., cranes, pressure vessels) and associated safety accessories

Technical Management, Training, and Communication

- Create, review, and manage electromechanical system drawings (e.g.,

electrical schematics, PLC program diagrams, mechanical equipment layout plans).

- Develop and revise equipment operating procedures, technical standards, and safety manuals.
- Provide professional technical training and assessments for equipment operators and maintenance personnel to enhance team capabilities.
- Maintain close communication and collaboration with production, safety, environmental, and other departments to align electromechanical work with overall mining operational goals.
- Ensure as built drawings, technical records, and turnover packages are complete, accurate, and properly controlled.

Unique requirements/other information

- Candidate must be physically medically fit

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor’s degree or higher in a relevant field, preferably in Mining Machinery, Electromechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Automation, Mechanical Engineering, or Automation Intermediate or higher-level certification in Electromechanical Engineering is required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 8 years of senior experience in electromechanical equipment management, maintenance, or related roles in metal mining, particularly underground mining. Experience in large-scale mining operations or design institutes is preferred. Familiarity with mining machinery characteristics through roles in equipment management, installation, or construction is essential.
Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proficient in the principles, structures, performance, and maintenance requirements of key mining electromechanical systems. Skilled in diagnosing and repairing electrical control systems (PLC, frequency converters), mechanical transmission systems, and hydraulic/pneumatic systems. Proficient in engineering drawing software such as AutoCAD and office software (e.g., Microsoft Office). Strong English reading and writing skills to comprehend technical manuals, drawings, and international standards. Fluent English required for technical coordination. Knowledge of IoT and smart mining technologies and trends is advantageous. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong Problem-Solving and Hands-On Abilities: Ability to handle work pressure, remain calm in emergencies, and quickly identify and resolve complex technical issues. Exceptional Safety Awareness and Responsibility: Prioritize safety in all tasks and strictly adhere to safety protocols. Effective Communication and Team Collaboration: Able to clearly communicate technical details and collaborate effectively with colleagues across departments and backgrounds. Continuous Learning and Innovation Mindset: Proactively stay updated on industry technologies and trends and apply them to improve operational efficiency

- 2. Position: Underground Senior Mine Engineer**
Department: Processing and Underground Operations
Section: Harena Underground
Number required: One (01)

Primary Purpose

- Support mine engineering for the Harena Underground project, a new greenfield shaft sinking and portal development, and support operational readiness. Provide planning, scheduling, and technical coordination. Support safe and efficient development through design review, contractor coordination, and integration of ventilation and dewatering across early works and operational phases.

Essential Functions

- Underground Mine Planning and Scheduling
- Contractor Support and Coordination
- Ventilation System, Dewatering, Mine Infrastructure
- Project Management and Report Writing.

TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE

AREAS

Underground Mine Planning and Scheduling

- Develop comprehensive short-term and long-term mine plans for underground operations
- Create detailed production schedules and sequencing plans
- Plan and schedule underground development activities including ramps, levels, and infrastructure



Continued from page 6

- Coordinate mine planning with surface operations and processing requirements
 - Mentor and coach national mine engineers
 - Optimize mine layouts
 - Integrate all underground activities into comprehensive project schedules
- Contractor Support and Coordination
- Provide technical support and guidance to underground construction contractors and EPC Superintendent
 - Coordinate contractor activities with overall project schedule and requirements
- Ventilation System
- Conduct ventilation modelling and airflow analysis using VentSim software working with consultant
 - Plan ventilation infrastructure including fans, airways, working with consultant
 - Support contractor installation and commissioning of ventilation systems
- Dewatering
- Plan & coordinate pumping systems, sumps, and infrastructure; working with consultant.
- Mine Infrastructure
- Plan and design underground infrastructure; working with consultant
 - Development, review, monitoring, and management of the execution plan
 - Technical audits and evaluation, including mining methods, infrastructure, designs, schedules, and financials
- Project Management
- Underground planning projects and coordinate with multidisciplinary teams
- Report Writing
- Generate weekly and monthly reports.
- Unique requirements/other information**
- Candidate must be physically medically fit
 - Start-up experience an asset
 - Strong Deswik skills (Cad & Scheduler).

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degree in Mining Engineering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of 10 years' experience in the mining industry. • 5+ years working experience in Mine Design & Scheduling. • Experience in zinc or other base metal mining is essential. • International experience is desirable • Experience with underground ventilation and dewatering systems.
Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer Literacy- MS Office – Intermediate, Excel – Advanced; MS project – Advanced). • Competent in mining and scheduling software, i.e., Surpac, Datamine, Deswik, VentSim & Strategic planning. • Project planning, Budgeting. • Plan, organise, and execution. • Risk management and assessment. • Analytical and Problem solving. • Technical Report writing, A good knowledge of the mineral reporting codes, including the NI43-101 and JORC code. • Cost modelling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications • Ability to work in multi-disciplinary environment. • Ability to conduct Engineering matters to various levels. • Interpersonal skills. • Ability to work under pressure and achieve project milestones. • Good leadership skills

General Information and other requirements:

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

Additional requirements for Nationals:

- **Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provided evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defense.**
- **Present clearance paper from current/last employer.**
- **Testimonial documents to be attached (CV, work experience credentials, a copy of your National Identity Card etc.).**
- **Only shortlisted applicants will be considered as potential candidates for an interview.**
- **Application documents will not be returned to sender.**

- All applications should be sent through the post office.
- **Deadline for application: 10 days from the day of publication in the Newspaper.**

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

Note to Eritrean applicants:

Please send a copy of your application to:

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

ERITREA (Invitation for Bids [IFB])

IFB Number: 06.2/01/ OCBN/AfDB-DRSLP V/AED/YT/26

Purchaser: MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

Project: DROUGHT RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD

PROGRAM (DRSLP V) - ERITREA PROGRAM

Contract title: SUPPLY OF Vitamines, minerales and antibiotics

Country: ERITREA

Grant No.: 5900155016104/2100155040575

Procurement Method: OPEN COMPETITIVE BIDDING (NATIONAL)

OCBI / LCB No: 06.2/01/ OCBN/AfDB-DRSLP V/AED/YT/26

Issued on: Mar 2026

1. The Ministry of Agriculture of the State of Eritrea has received financing from the African Development Bank Group hereinafter called the Bank toward the cost of DROUGHT RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM (DRSLP V) - ERITREA and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the Supply of **Vitamines, minerales and antibiotics**.
2. The Ministry of Agriculture of the State of Eritrea now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the Supply of **Vitamines, minerals and antibiotics**.
3. Bidding will be conducted through the Open Competitive Bidding (National), (OCBN) method as specified in the Bank's [Procurement Framework](#) dated October, 2015 and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Framework.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Ministry of Agriculture of the State of Eritrea, Yacob Tesfom, yacobtesfom@gmail.com and inspect the bidding document during office hours i.e., 08:00 to 15:00 hours at the address given below.
5. The bidding document in English may be received by interested eligible Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **10:30 a.m.** local time on **05 May 2026**. Electronic Bidding **will not** be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below on **11:00 a.m.** local time on **05 May 2026**.
7. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of **USD 300.00 or its equivalent in convertible currency**
8. The address (es) referred to above is (are): Ministry of Agriculture of the State of Eritrea
 Yacob Tesfom
 Head Office, Gejeret, Sawa Street,
 P.O. Box 1048,
 Tel. 002911189266/002911180699,
 Asmara, Eritrea
 Email: yacobtesfom@gmail.com.

Sharing Meal, Sharing Love

Kidane – Shimendi

Eating together in a group is an ancient human cultural tradition, found across different times and places. Archaeologists trace this practice back nearly 800,000 years and highlight food sharing as a fundamental chapter in human evolution. From a bio archaeological perspective, sharing a common meal is a ritual that connects the human being as a biological organism to a social person.

In Eritrea, sharing a communal plate has been a well celebrated cultural practice for generations. It creates memorable moments when those gathered can share love and respect for one another, exchange valuable information, address urgent family or community matters informally, and strengthen their relationships. Across all Eritrean ethnic groups, the meaning of eating together goes far beyond a significant cultural tradition—



manner. Until everyone confirms they are satisfied, no one is allowed to leave the *Meadi* except in urgent situations or with the elder's permission. It is a cultural taboo to leave the *Meadi* without anyone's consent, as that would show disrespect to all family members and to the blessing. Consequently, family members learn to sit together until everyone declares they are

sometimes reaching as many as eight during special occasions such as wedding ceremonies.

All Eritrean ethnic groups together share this rich culture, connecting through common values and norms that form the national identity. Such a valuable culture carries centuries old stories from generation to generation, helping to ensure community progress. In contemporary times, despite many preferring to eat on individual plates, this culture endures across all national groups.

In Eritrea, this culture is also practiced during serious community matters such as divorce or restitution. After discussions, guests sit to eat together, narrowing their differences to seal the agreement and normalize the situation.

When a new person arrives during the meal, everyone invites them to share. "*N'Qedembel*" or "*Tefedel*" are popular terms often used to welcome anyone to join the prepared meal. This gesture reflects Eritrean hospitality and marks unity in diversity.

Even during the Eritrean armed struggle, freedom fighters shared their food. Regardless of the ratio, fighters were served in their small, intimate units. Beyond mere provisions, the shared meal was a symbol of unity and resilience. As a sacred culture respected by all Eritrean diversities, eating together inspired freedom fighters to foster a unified national identity. Today, when Eritrean veterans gather for communal meals, they remember the struggles and sacrifices made for national liberation.

Research shows that eating in

a group provides ample social, psychological, and physical rewards.

Among the social and emotional benefits, a shared meal increases a group's social bond, trust, and sense of safety. Through this practice, people feel comfortable and connected, which is essential for their emotional well being. It helps members combat loneliness by giving them a deep sense of community and belonging. It also allows groups to spend consistent time in conversation, helping them build strong bonds with family, friends, or colleagues. People who share mealtimes have lower stress levels and better communication.

Physical and nutritional benefits include mindful eating, lower health risks, and better weight management. Because group meals encourage slower eating, they improve digestion and prevent overeating by giving the brain time to register fullness. This, in turn, lowers the risk of cardiovascular disease by reducing stress and improving nutritional intake. It also reduces

the risk of developing eating disorders in adolescents.

Most notably, children and teens benefit greatly from this culture. By regularly hearing and sharing information and stories, they enrich their vocabulary, enhance their communication skills, internalize their culture, and achieve better academic performance. In addition, this practice helps deter children from high risk behaviors such as depression. Families who raise their children with this culture often develop healthy communication, deep connections, and strong relationships among family members. A mother's love and a father's blessing reward children with remarkable life memories. Through these experiences, children discover their social position and shape their future lives.

In today's world, where busy schedules and digital lifestyles encourage solo dining, the shared meal remains highly valuable because it provides mental well being, trust building, and emotional support.

In conclusion, Eritrea is an icon of unity in diversity, where all national groups share common and complementary norms and values that together build the national identity. Eating in a group is an equally shared and deeply respected cultural heritage across all diversities, through which young generations embrace their future destiny—ensuring its preservation safeguards Eritrean national norms and values against the global cultural wave that erodes social fabrics. Therefore, let us all share a meal—to share a bright future.



it is a determining practice for survival and thriving.

Among the Tigrinya ethnic group, this practice is called *Meadi*. Family members sit around a plate facing each other, ready to taste the food and engage in conversation. After a mother or another female member prepares everything, everyone waits for a blessing from the father or an elder. Following the blessing, the father gives each member a sizable piece of injera, passing it from his right side. This marks the beginning of the eating process in a well disciplined

satisfied.

All Eritrean ethnic groups share this sacred culture, with only slight differences in name. In the Saho ethnic group, eating together is known as *Maddi*; in Bilen – *Meddira* or *Gbar*; in Kunama – *Gonta* or *Nada Gonta*; in Nara – *Gaan*; in Bidawyet – *Tooda*; in Tigre – *Metaagal*; in Tigrinya – *Meadi*; in Afar – *Galadda*; and in Arabic – *Maida*.

Usually, people sit in a circle to share the available meal. The number of people sharing a plate depends on the situation,

