

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HEARING-IMPAIRED CONDUCTS CONGRESS



The National Association of Hearing Impaired conducted its fifth congress in Asmara on 8 August under the theme “Sign Language: Center of Attraction for the Overall Development of the Hearing Impaired.” The congress was attended by ministers, senior Government and PFDJ officials, and representatives of the association from all regions of the country.

Noting that hearing impairment, beyond its impact on communication, also affects the teaching-learning process, Mr. Woldemicael Se’ele, chairman of the association, called for integrated efforts to address the challenges facing citizens with hearing impairment. He also said that the congress



will significantly contribute to encouraging investment in the development and expansion of sign language.

Mr. Mihreteab Fesehaye, Director General of Social Welfare at the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, said that the Government is working to create a conducive environment that enables citizens with hearing impairment to access equitable opportunities, like other citizens living with various disabilities.

At the congress, the National Association of Eritrean War Disabled Veterans, the National Association of Visually Impaired, and the National Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disability presented messages of

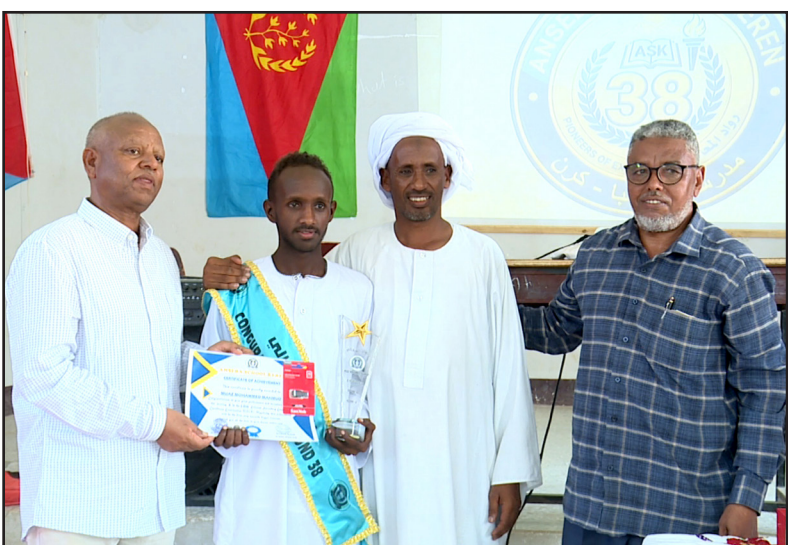
solidarity.

According to the report presented at the congress, the National Association of Hearing Impaired implemented commendable activities between its fourth and fifth congresses, including ensuring the rights of people with hearing impairment, improving their livelihoods, developing sign language, expanding educational opportunities, and enhancing public understanding.

The congress also elected a new executive committee for a four-year term.

The National Association of Hearing Impaired, established in 1998, has about 30,000 members nationwide, 40% of whom are female.

AWARDS PRESENTED TO OUTSTANDING STUDENTS IN KEREN



Anseba Junior and High School presented awards to 10 outstanding students who attained high scores in the national school-leaving examination for the 2025/2026 academic year on 8 August. The awardees are members of the 38th round of national service.

The awardees included two students who attained a GPA of 4.0 and eight who attained a GPA of 3.0 and above. Sixteen students who attained the required scores for diploma programs were also encouraged.

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NATIONAL HALF-MARATHON COMPETITION IN MENDEFERA

The National Athletics Federation of Eritrea conducted the 31st National Half-Marathon Competition in Mendefera on Sunday, 9 August.

More than 150 male and female athletes from the Southern, Central and Gash-Barka regions, as well as the Ministry of Defense’s Denden Club, took part in the competition.

In the men’s category, Athlete Major Tedros from the Southern Region won the race, finishing in 1 hour, 4 minutes and 41 seconds.

Athlete Teklehaimanot Berhane from the Southern Region and Athlete Saimon Mebrahtu from Denden Club finished second and third, respectively.

In the women’s category, Olympian Nazareth Woldu from the Gash-Barka Region won the race, finishing in 1 hour, 19 minutes and 1 second. Athlete Mikal Tsegazeab and Olympian Dolci Tesfu, both from Denden Club, finished second and third, respectively.

Likewise, in the men’s five-kilometre category, Athlete Yobel Zerit from the Central Region won the race, finishing in 14 minutes, 14 seconds and 3 microseconds. In the women’s category, Athlete Delina from the Central Region finished first in 16 minutes, 43 seconds and 24 microseconds.

In the one-mile race, Athlete Fitsum Abraham from the Southern Region and Athlete Canary Teklemariam from the Central Region won the men’s and women’s categories, respectively.



TRAINING ON COMPOST FERTILIZER PRODUCTION

The Ministry of Agriculture branch in the Gash-Barka Region, as part of its efforts to increase agricultural production and ensure access to nutritious food through soil enrichment, provided farmers in the Barentu sub-zone with training on compost production.

During the theoretical and practical training, Mr. Musie Bahta, Head of the Agriculture Office in the sub-zone, indicated that organic fertilizer makes a significant contribution to boosting agricultural productivity and production. He called on the farmers to apply the knowledge they gained from the training in their agricultural activities and share it with fellow farmers.

Noting that organic fertilizer can easily be produced from

leftover household waste, Eng. Azekia Alfayo, a water and soil conservation expert, said that its application makes a significant contribution to boosting agricultural production.

Indicating that similar training programmes will be organized for farmers on a regular basis, Eng.

Azekia called for the avoidance of chemical fertilizers.

The trainees, for their part, commended the training they received and expressed their readiness to apply the knowledge they gained to their agricultural activities. They also called for the continuation of the programme.



From Social Media



Yemane G. Meskel @hawelti



The Potemkin Party’s propaganda machinery is increasingly edgy and seems to spin out of control to miss the whole plot these days.

The telltale signs of this desperate mindset and quagmire are better accentuated by:

- the marathon interviews of its leader in the past ten days with Amhara Media Corporation (AMECO) and Oromo Broadcasting Network (OBN) principally on domestic issues but with frequent provocative digressions on Eritrea;
- the flurry of articles/Tv programmes on Eritrea by the Potemkin Party’s official/affiliated media outlets – Ethiopian News Agency (ENA), Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation (EBC), Fana Broadcasting Corporate (FBC), FDRE Institute of Foreign Affairs, Horn Review, etc.

PP’s new narrative on domestic issues peddled in the Interviews is naturally an internal matter that has no pertinence to Eritrea. As such, we shall not delve into their substance though we may allude, in passing, to the overwhelming consensus/verdict by most Ethiopian analysts on its dangerously myopic tactical approaches – and double-speak. That the Interviews are maliciously aimed at stigmatizing as well as inciting cleavages and polarization between certain, and especially the Amhara and Tigrayan, ethnic nationalities and intended as desperate appeals for sectarian support from the Oromo ethnic constituency.

In reference to Eritrea, the PP’s manufactured narratives venture into “creative” fantasies and fictitious constructs that are grossly at variance with historical facts and events.

In a nutshell, the new “PP linen”, touted for the market, consists of:

1. Preposterous claims of Oromo “expedition” into Eritrea in the distant past to include full occupation of Mid-ri Bahri (Medieval and independent Kingdom in the Highlands and eastern lowlands of present-day Eritrea). For “incontrovertible proof”, the pretentious PP leader invokes a phony conjecture of semantics to speculate “same origins” between Barentu (Eritrea’s capital city of the Gash Barka Region) and Borona in present-day Oromia Region; as well as Soira (the highest mountain in Eritrea), Debra and other numerous names (not explicitly listed in the Interview) in Eritrea with similar sounding places in Oromia etc.

2. These fantasies could have been routinely dismissed as hollow and risible if they were not fraught with tragic consequences.

3. Indeed, what the newly minted narrative signifies is that the malaise/quest for “sovereign port ownership” by invading Eritrean sovereign territory that the PP leader enunciated in October 2023; his previous and outrageous claims that “he could not find legal documents on Eritrean independence in Ethiopian official archives (Cabinet, Parliament etc.)”; subsequent claims on Eritrea’s Dahlak Islands and the southern coastline for reasons of “strategic depth” to “project Ethiopia’s maritime power” etc. have degenerated further towards terminal metastasis.

4. In effect, the Potemkin Party’s revisionist history and toxic agenda have now morphed into full-scale denial of Eritrea’s inalienable status as a sovereign nation. This recent chorus of aggression and war is of course anti-theoretical to the 2018 Eritrea-Ethiopia Friendship Agreement which was anchored on Ethiopia’s full adherence to international law (and EEBC Award) and for which he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize!

5. Duplicitous and ironic as it is, the Potemkin Party’s agenda of aggression and war are increasingly couched in self-defense terms these days. To this end, Eritrea is constantly portrayed, by the PP’s media outlets, as “inately insecure whose survival depends on perpetual destabilization of Ethiopia”. Eritrea’s independence struggle is denigrated as an “external conspiratorial agenda that was concocted to weaken Ethiopia”.

6. All these transparent ruses are willfully peddled to prepare “historical and legal rationale” for a destructive war. The truth is Eritrea has never had the interest or political design and will to destabilize Ethiopia. The costly and long war of liberation was imposed on Eritrea due to Ethiopia’s expansionist ambitions and annexation in flagrant breach of international law. The border war from 1998-2000 essentially erupted due to the willful desire of the incumbent regime to change the sacrosanct colonial borders in violation of international law, the UN Charter and the AU’s Constitutive Act. The climate of tension and conflict that looms in the Horn of Africa region today is, again, largely a product of the Potemkin Party’s misguided policies of irredentism and hegemony. The illicit MOU that the Potemkin Party signed with Somaliland in 2024; its hosting of military base in southwestern Ethiopia to provide support to the RSF under the bidding of the UAE; and its constant threats and saber-rattling against Eritrea complete the picture of the reckless policies of destabilization to which the Potemkin Party seems wedded to for reasons known to itself.

7. Finally, Eritrea had indeed cultivated networks of support with various Ethiopian liberation movements, including the Oromo Liberation Front, during the armed struggle in 1980s. These were based on common denominators and platforms of opposition to oppression by the incumbent regimes in Ethiopia and recognition of Eritrea’s legitimate rights of decolonization. Even in those times, Eritrea’s principled position on Ethiopia’s unity and territorial integrity were crystal clear and explicitly pronounced; including in its 1984 seminal paper on EPLF ties with Ethiopian Opposition Movements.



5:14 PM · Aug 11, 2026 · 4,351 Views

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Yemane G. Meskel @hawelti



#Eritrea’s detractors (እፍሊ ሓገጢዎች) have gone completely berserk these days.

This time round, the event that has aroused their irrational tantrums is the nomination, and subsequent appointment, of Eritrea’s Charge d’Affaires as Chair-Rapporteur of the 2026 UNHRC Social Forum by the Africa Group.

As it will be recalled, Eritrea’s appointment to UNICEF’s Executive Board and its recent election to the Vice-Presidency of the 81st UN General Assembly had triggered similar commotion in these feckless groups in the past months.

For two principal reasons: i) any limelight/recognition of Eritrea’s voice in the international stage and appreciation of its contributions to multilateral diplomacy pokes a huge hole in their wicked and relentless demonization campaigns; ii) it will ultimately impact on their hefty lobbyists’ fees.

As the saying goes: “the camel marches as the dog barks!” - ሓሳብ፡ ጃጉሩ ርእሱ ኹሖ !



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AWARDS PRESENTED ...

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Mr. Mohammed-Saleh Mohammed-Seid, director of the school, said that the program was organized not only to recognize the outstanding students but also to provide them with a general briefing on college education and motivate fellow students to follow their example.

Members of the parents’ committee, for their part, congratulated the outstanding students and called for a stronger parental role in nurturing competent students.

Noting that the program was aimed at recognizing outstanding students and motivating them to work hard and become competent in their future studies, Mr. Kiflai Andemicael, head of education office in Anseba Region, wished the awardees a bright future.

SpotLight

Essential Partners in Building more Inclusive, Peaceful, and Sustainable Societies

Bana Negusse

Observed annually on 12 August, International Youth Day recognizes young people as essential partners in building more inclusive, peaceful, and sustainable societies. It draws attention to the challenges and opportunities facing youth around the world while providing a platform for governments, youth organizations, civil society, academia, United Nations entities, and other stakeholders to promote dialogue, strengthen partnerships, and showcase youth-led initiatives.

For Eritrea, this global recognition of youth participation resonates with a longstanding national emphasis on the role of young people in shaping the country's development and future. Youth are regarded not simply as beneficiaries of development, but as active participants in nation-building – contributing to education, health, environmental protection, innovation, culture, community life, and the defence of national sovereignty.

This commitment is reflected in Eritrea's policy framework. The 1994 National Charter identifies human resources, particularly the country's youth, as its greatest asset, while successive policies have placed education, health, skills development, and empowerment at the centre of national development strategies. Eritrea also ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child soon after independence and later the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. Laws prohibit child labour, trafficking, early marriage, and harmful practices such as female genital mutilation/cutting. Programmes for vulnerable children and youth, implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, civil society organizations, and youth associations such as the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS) and the National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW), provide protection, education, and skills training.

These efforts have helped create opportunities for young Eritreans to contribute their knowledge and skills to national development. Young teachers work in remote communities, contributing to literacy and human-capital development. In health care, young professionals provide essential services across the country, while graduates contribute to

research and innovation in areas including agriculture, engineering, and infrastructure. Together, these contributions illustrate the importance of investing in young people not only for their own development, but also for the country's broader social and economic progress.

The contribution of Eritrea's youth to nation-building has deep historical roots. Long before the armed liberation struggle took shape, young Eritreans were among those who challenged colonial rule and expressed the growing demand for self-determination. Students and other young people participated in protests, demonstrations, awareness-raising activities, and other forms of resistance, helping to build political consciousness and mobilize wider sections of society.

Later, as the struggle for independence developed into an armed liberation movement, youth participation took many forms. Young Eritreans helped mobilize communities, raise awareness, gather essential supplies and resources, and sustain the movement's social and political base. Many also joined the frontline directly, serving as fighters, medics, educators, logisticians, and in other essential capacities. Their involvement reflected a strong sense of responsibility for the future of their society and became an important part of the struggle for independence.

That tradition of participation continued after independence. When Eritrea's territorial sovereignty and independence were challenged, young Eritreans again found themselves on the frontlines of national defence, while others contributed through vital civilian and support roles. Their service reflected values that had characterized earlier generations – resilience, solidarity, courage, and a determination to safeguard the country's independence.

Taken together, these experiences show that youth participation in Eritrea has evolved with the needs of the country. From student activism and resistance, to the liberation struggle, to the defence of national sovereignty, and now to the work of national development, successive generations of young Eritreans have played an active role in responding to the defining challenges of their time.

Today, Eritrean youth continue



to contribute across a broad range of sectors. In environmental protection, young people participate in reforestation, terracing, and water-conservation initiatives that strengthen community resilience and protect natural resources. They contribute to efforts promoting gender equality, disability inclusion, mental health awareness, and social solidarity. In arts, music, sports, and culture, young talents are helping shape Eritrea's creative identity and cultural life.

Their contributions are equally evident in professional and community life. Young educators help expand access to learning; health professionals serve communities across the country; and graduates in agriculture, engineering, research, and other fields apply their knowledge to practical development challenges. Through community initiatives and environmental programmes, young people also contribute to

strengthening local resilience and improving livelihoods.

These contributions reflect many of the qualities at the heart of International Youth Day: creativity, innovation, leadership, resilience, and service. They also demonstrate why meaningful youth participation is essential to sustainable development. A society's ability to build a more resilient and prosperous future depends in significant measure on whether its young people are equipped and enabled to contribute their skills, ideas, and energy.

International Youth Day offers an opportunity not only to celebrate what young people have achieved, but also to consider how their potential can be further supported. For Eritrea, the history of youth participation provides a powerful foundation: generations of young people have contributed to the country's political awakening,

liberation, defence of sovereignty, and development.

The forms of participation may change with time, but the underlying values of responsibility, resilience, solidarity, and service remain relevant. Today's young Eritreans are building on that legacy in classrooms, health facilities, farms, workplaces, research institutions, cultural spaces, and communities across the country.

As the world marks International Youth Day, Eritrea's experience offers a reminder that youth are among the most important resources of any society. Their energy, creativity, skills, and determination can help address present challenges while opening new possibilities for the future. Investing in young people is therefore not simply an investment in the next generation – it is an investment in the continued development and future of Eritrea.



The Power of Art and Resistance: Political Songs in Eritrean History

By: Luwam Kahsay H.

It all started with a haunting melody heard over the radio—a revolutionary song from the armed struggle era that carried a weight and emotion difficult to shake off. As a well-known veteran once powerfully remarked, “One song is more powerful than a seminar of three hours.” That profound truth captured exactly how I felt.

Days later, while at the office, I ran into Mr. Tesfalem Gebreslasie—better known by his pen name Chare—a veteran journalist at the Ministry of Information who was deeply engrossed in a book about that very era. Chare is a prominent Eritrean author, journalist, playwright, and lyricist. That encounter sparked a conversation that unlocked the history behind the music, ultimately inspiring this article.

Music is a subtle force that stirs the human spirit and moves people to action. Songs with political content carry a profound impact, and Eritrean music has historically reflected this truth. During times of oppression, music served as a vital weapon. To bypass the heavy veil of colonial censorship, artists employed sophisticated metaphors, allowing listeners to decode messages of liberation and national identity woven into the lyrics.

Among these pioneering artists, Attoberhan Segid—often celebrated as the “Father of the Nation’s Tigrinya Melody”—was a master of symbolic composition. One of the founders of the Asmara Theatre Association (MaTA), which was established in 1961 just weeks before the start of the armed struggle, Attoberhan produced over 150 songs. He composed numerous politically charged pieces that he presented on stage across Eritrea and Ethiopia, often in the presence of Emperor Haile Selassie’s top officials.

His iconic symbolic song, *አጉዶ ኔራትኒ* (Agudo Neratni / “I Had a Hut”), features the poignant refrain:

“አጉዶ ኔራትኒ አጉዶ ናይ በይነይ
አጉዶ ኔራትኒ አጉዶ ናይ በይነይ
ኢደም ኣይሰኣኑ ወሲዶሙሊይ”

“I had a hut, a hut of my own,
I had a hut, a hut of my own,

They couldn’t stand this and took it from me.”

In this composition, the traditional hut symbolizes Eritrea itself. The audience immediately understood the underlying reality: a peaceful homeland had been forcibly taken. The message quietly instilled a vital resolve—what was seized by force had to be reclaimed by force.

This piece was closely tied to another of his famous calls to national consciousness:

ዓደየ ዓዲ ጀጋኑ በሃል መን እየም ዝጠለሙ (“My country, home of heroes, who betrayed you?”).

Attoberhan deeply understood the British Military Administration’s strategy to sow division between the highlanders and lowlanders as well as along religious lines. Recognizing that unity was essential for survival, he sang out with unifying conviction:

“ኣሰላማይ ክስታናይ ወዲ ቆላ ደጋ
ንምክሪ ጸላኢ ኣይትሃቦ ዋጋ
ኣይትሃቦ ዋጋ ከይትኾን ዕዳጋ”

“Muslim, Christian, child of the lowlands and highlands,

Do not give value to the enemy’s advice,

Do not give it value, lest you become bankrupt.”

Tewolde Reda, another co-founder of MaTA and a pioneer of modern music, composed melodies deeply tied to the land. Most notably, his live performances of *ሸገይ ሃቡኒ* (Shigey Habuni / “Give Me My Torch”) inspired countless young people to join the liberation movement:

“ሸገይ ሃቡኒ ሸገይ ሃቡኒ
ሸገይ ሃቡኒ ኣይተታልሉኒ
ሸገይ ሃቡኒ ኣይተጸብዩኒ
ሸገይ ሃቡኒ ኣይተዳልወኒ
ወረ ምሳኹም ዘረባ ኔሩኒ
ሓደ ዓርክይ ኔሩ ንዓይ ጠለሙኒ
ትኽእሉ እንተኹንኩም እዚኣ ሓግዘኒ።”

“Give me my torch, give me my torch,

Give me my torch, do not deceive me,



Give me my torch, do not make me wait,

Give me my torch, do not betray me.

Wait, I had something to say to you:

One friend of mine has betrayed me—

The lyrics in Shigey Habuni address the deception and broken promises of the United Nations and reflect the historical grievances of the Eritrean people surrounding the 1950s UN decision to federate Eritrea with Ethiopia, stripping away its autonomy. The song delivered an unmistakable rallying cry: fight to reclaim the torch of liberty.

Tsehaytu Beraki, fondly remembered as the “Queen of the Sun,” was one of the earliest female musicians to master the *krar*. Beginning her career at local beverage houses, she initially delivered political messages directly encouraging listeners of her songs to join the struggle. When she started recording her songs in studios, which was done under strict rules of censorship, she shifted seamlessly to metaphorical imagery:

“አንቆልቀለ ክወርድ ናብ ማይ ጃሕጃሕ

*ጠምየ ኔረ ንግዛይ ንኸምሳሕ
ኣማዕድየ ርእየካ ተሓጉሰ
ሰላም ክብለካ ንድሕሪት ተመለሰ”*

“I descended toward the rushing waters,

I was hungry, wanting to go home for lunch,

I looked up, saw you, and was happy,

Just as I was about to say hello to you, I turned back.”

The visual narrative linked the federation’s dissolution to the origins of the armed movement. “Descending” referenced traveling from the central highlands down to Barka—the birthplace of the armed struggle—while the “rushing waters” symbolized the growing stream of recruits marching toward the front line. “Hunger” voiced a deep yearning for independence. Tsehaytu presented over 70 political songs on stages across Asmara and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, before formally joining the liberation movement in the field in 1974.

Similarly, evocative songs like *አባሻውል ዝገነ ጨርሐ ተወሊዖ ወርሐ* (“Abashawul, Behind the Hill, the Moon is Lit”) signaled that the revolution was advancing from Western Barka and Sahel toward the capital, creating immense emotional resonance among the urban youth.

Reflecting on how these artists navigated severe political repression, I turned to Chare with a question that had been lingering in my mind: “How did female artists like Tsehaytu Beraki and Teberh Tesfahuney navigate such a dangerous environment to keep the fire of resistance alive?”

He paused before replying: “You have to remember that their role was monumental. They weren’t just singing; they were breaking barriers in a traditional society while operating right under the authorities’ noses. Through coded lyrics, the *krar*, and sheer stage presence, they gave voice to mothers, sisters, and the youth aching for freedom. They made the struggle personal and urgent.”

Other prominent musicians joined this cultural resistance. Bereket Mengesteb—a veteran freedom fighter and founder of Mekhalih Gwayla Band—composed influential pieces such as *አንታ ሓላፍ መገዲ* (“O Passerby”):

*“አንታ ሓላፍ መገዲ እንተረኽብኪያ
መለይ ሰላም በለለይ
ትርእየኒ ማዕዶ ተኸዊላ
ብንፋሰ በረኻ ደሃይ ሰዲደላ
ብዙሕ ናፊቕያ መለይ ድሓን ዶ ኣላ?”*

“O passerby, if you happen to find Meley (my homeland), say hello for me.

She appears visible yet hidden far in the distance;

I sent my greetings on the desert wind.

I have missed her so much—tell me, is she safe?”

Using themes of journeying and longing, Bereket reassured the youth that freedom, though distant, was visible on the horizon. He boldly performed these pieces at numerous stages before eventually joining the armed struggle.

Osman Abdelrahim similarly contributed to this movement, using the metaphor of a mother to represent the homeland in songs like *ኣብ ገዛና ዘለኹም ተቐማጦ ሰብ ክራይ* (“To You Who Live in Our House as Tenants”). His popular track *ትካብር ኔራ ቆጸራ ጠሊማ* (“She missed an appointment”) linked urban spaces and everyday scenarios to political awakening:

*“መግልቲ ፈለና ቆጸራ ጌራ ኣፋንየያ
ግዜያቲ ኣኸሉ ደልየ ቀበጺያ
ነዊሕ እየን ኮይኑ ጭራሰ ምስ ተሓለልኩ
ኣብ ሲነማ ኣተኹ ሃንደበት ከይመደብኩ”*

“We set a day, made an appointment, and I saw her off;

Her time arrived, I searched and lost hope.

After a long time, completely exhausted,

I unexpectedly walked into a cinema without planning to.”

Here, the unexpected entry into a cinema served as a clever metaphor: a hall where action unfolds under bright light, signaling that political appeals had failed and that the public had to step into the dramatic arena of struggle to reclaim their rights.

Poet and vocalist Teklemichael Gebru (Wedi Gebru) used regional geography in songs such as *Ruba Anseba* (“The Anseba River”) to chart the revolution’s progress as it spread across the countryside. Meanwhile, Teberh Tesfahuney, known as the “Queen of the Stage,” delivered sharp critiques of colonial rule with lines like:

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Development

Eritrea's Success Story in Reducing Maternal and Child Mortality

Lwam kahsay

The health and well-being of mothers and children are among the most important indicators of a nation's development, reflecting its commitment to human rights and public health. Recognizing this, countries around the world make concerted efforts to improve maternal and child health outcomes, aligning their strategies with global frameworks such as the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's, and Adolescents' Health in 2016-2030, and the Sustainable Development Goals set for 2030. Eritrea is actively engaged in these efforts with a view to enhancing the survival, health, and overall well-being of women, children, and adolescents while also working towards ending extreme poverty, fostering resilience, and achieving sustainable development.

Despite significant progress, millions of women, infants, and children, especially in underdeveloped regions, still lack access to essential health services, education, clean air and water, and proper nutrition. Addressing these disparities remains a formidable challenge, yet it is crucial to ensure that no one is left behind. Maternal and child health services encompass a wide range of interventions designed to safeguard the health of women during reproductive years and that of children from birth through early childhood. These services include family planning, reproductive health education, antenatal and postnatal care, immunization, nutrition, sanitation, and health education.

A critical issue is the high rate of preventable maternal and infant deaths, often linked to inadequate access to quality healthcare, socio-economic disadvantages, and limited awareness. Ensuring that pregnant women have access to comprehensive, high-quality obstetric care throughout their pregnancy is essential. Prenatal check-ups are a key strategy for preventing complications, reducing infant mortality, and promoting healthier births. The Ministry of Health (MoH) has prioritized widening equitable access to quality maternal health services across the country. These efforts are crucial in reducing maternal and neonatal mortality rates and improving overall health outcomes.

Eritrea's approach to maternal and child health focuses on several core components, including family planning, reproductive health services, antenatal and postnatal care,

immunization programs, nutrition initiatives, hygiene promotion, and strengthened health systems. The overarching goal is to increase utilization of high-quality healthcare services and promote healthy practices across communities. A fundamental aspect of maternal health is the presence of skilled birth attendants during delivery. Experts emphasize that a maternal health delivery system must include skilled healthcare providers, a supportive environment, and an efficient referral system, which are essential in reducing maternal and infant mortality.

Over the years, Eritrea has achieved notable progress. The neonatal



mortality rate, which refers to deaths occurring within the first 28 days of life, declined from 27.2 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1999 to 16 deaths in 2019. Similarly, child mortality decreased substantially, from 90.1 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1999 to 41.9 deaths in 2019. Neonatal deaths account for nearly half of all infant deaths and approximately 27% of deaths under the age of five. Many of these deaths happen within the first 24 hours, primarily caused by infections, prematurity, low birth weight, and maternal health issues. Despite these improvements, challenges remain, particularly in rural and remote areas where access to healthcare services is limited. The maternal mortality ratio has



also declined, from 486 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2010 to around 184 in 2019. Nevertheless, maternal mortality continues to be driven by complications such as postpartum hemorrhage, preeclampsia, severe

anemia, postpartum sepsis, and uterine rupture. Currently, only about 60% of births are attended by skilled health personnel, with rural populations facing the greatest obstacles in accessing specialized healthcare.

In response to these challenges, the government has invested heavily in expanding healthcare infrastructure, especially in remote and underserved areas. The construction of health centers across the country, including in isolated rural regions, aims to provide accessible and high-quality prenatal care, nutritional support, immunization services, and early detection of health risks. These health centers serve multiple functions: they act as check-up points for pregnant

coverage of essential vaccines across both urban and rural areas. Over the past decade, the immunization program has expanded to include new vaccines and vitamin A supplementation, further strengthening children's immunity. These efforts are complemented by promoting antenatal care and hospital deliveries, enabling early risk detection and management, which are vital to preventing complications during labor and the postpartum period.

Looking ahead, Eritrea's continued investments in healthcare infrastructure, community engagement, and health literacy are expected to yield further reductions in maternal and child mortality. The removal of financial barriers through free healthcare services encourages more women to seek care and participate in preventive health measures. This comprehensive approach demonstrates the government's dedication to building a healthier society where women and children can thrive.

While much progress has been made, ongoing efforts are needed to ensure that all women, regardless



of their socio-economic status or geographic location, have access to quality maternal and child health services. Strengthening health systems, expanding outreach programs, and raising awareness about the importance of antenatal care, skilled birth attendance, and immunization are vital components of this endeavor. Eritrea's journey toward improved maternal and child health reflects a broader commitment to sustainable development, human rights, and social justice. With sustained political will, community participation, and international support, Eritrea is steadily progressing toward a future in which preventable deaths are minimized, and the health of its citizens is secured for generations to come.

The Power of Art and Resistance . . .

Continued from page 4

“እቲ ገዢ ግብ ህድግ
ትኩሩ ቁጥፊ መለኦ”

“Our house is a large traditional hut,

It is infested with pests.”

Her direct message—that foreign occupiers had overrun the country—inspired many young listeners to take immediate action. In her song *ዘግይ ኪዳ ኪዳ* (Zemay Kido Kido), she urged the youth to stand firm by their commitments to the nation.

Other artists, including Yemane Gebremichael with songs like *Laloye* and *Lula*, Haile Gebru with

Tsubuqat Zanabil, and Alamin Abdelatif—the father of modern Tigre-language music—with compositions like *Sebhi Tsom* (“Lent (unsavory) Dish”), relied on allegorical poetry to sustain national identity and moral courage.

As our conversation drew to a close, Chare offered a final thought that captured the enduring legacy of this era: “Looking back, it becomes evident that music during the colonial era was never just passing sound; it was an active, enduring force that kept the pulse of the nation alive. Through those powerful melodies and verses, a quiet, yet unbreakable, resistance was sustained, proving that the true spirit of a people can never be colonized.”





Eritrea-China Exploration and Mining Share Company

Ararib Street, House No. 37 Kebabi maekel ketema, ; Tel. +291-1-200009; Asmara, Eritrea.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Eritrea-China Exploration and Mining Share Company (ECM) invites qualified applicants for the following posts:

1, Position: HSE Supervisor

Place of Work: Augaro
Starting Date: August
Salary: As per company scale
Contract type: Indefinite period
Number required: One(1)

Position Overview	The HSE Supervisor is responsible for overseeing and enforcing Health, Safety, and Environmental compliance during the development and construction phase of the Augaro mining site.
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Vacancy Announcement

The Embassy of Japan is inviting applicants for the following position.

Position	Clerk
Number Required	One
Requirements	• Bachelor's degree or above • Fluent in English (speaking and writing) • Excellent communication and interpersonal skills • Computer skills necessary to create documents and materials, etc. (especially MS Word, Excel, and PowerPoint)
Duties	• Assistance duties for diplomatic activities by the Embassy (schedule coordination of the diplomats, research, document creation, speech writing, etc.) • Other duties specifically instructed by the diplomats of the Embassy

How to apply:
Please send the documents listed below by mail to the address below. The application must be received within 10 days from the publication date of the newspaper in which this announcement is published. All documents received after the deadline will be excluded from consideration.

Embassy of Japan
P.O. BOX 1131
Asmara, Eritrea

- CV (face photo, date of birth, gender, home address, phone number, email, educational background, and work experiences)
- Photocopy of ID
- National Service completion document
- Proof of no crime records
- Recommendation letter from the current or past employer(s)
- Academic graduation certificates, diploma, etc.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted after the document screening.

Key Responsibilities

On-Site Safety Supervision & Hazard Control

- **Field Inspections:** Conduct daily site walk-throughs across mining exploration sites, processing plant footprints, and camp facilities to identify and resolve unsafe conditions or behaviors.
- **Permit to Work (PTW):** Review and issue Permits to Work (e.g., hot work, confined space, excavation, working at heights) to ensure high-risk activities are properly isolated and controlled.
- **PPE Compliance:** Enforce full compliance with mandatory Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements across all workforce sectors and visitors.

Risk Assessment & Training

- **Job Safety Analysis (JSA):** Lead and assist supervisors and contractors in creating thorough JSAs and Risk Assessments before executing non-routine or complex construction activities.
- **Safety Inductions:** Deliver comprehensive site safety inductions for newly arrived employees, contractors, and visitors.
- **Toolbox Talks:** Organize, audit, and lead daily pre-shift Safety Toolbox Talks to raise risk awareness on specific site activities.

Incident Investigation & Reporting

- **Incident Response:** Act as first responder for on-site safety incidents, near-misses, injuries, or environmental spills.
- **Root Cause Analysis (RCA):** Lead thorough investigations into incidents and near-misses using RCA methodologies, establishing actionable corrective and preventive measures.
- **HSE Metrics & Logging:** Maintain accurate accident/incident logs, leading and lagging indicator metrics, and submit daily/weekly safety performance reports to management.

E. Emergency Preparedness & Occupational Health

- **Emergency Drills:** Assist in planning and executing regular fire, heat stress, evacuation, and medical emergency drills.
- **Occupational Health:** Collaborate with site medical teams to monitor heat stress protocols, potable water quality, kitchen sanitation, and vector-borne disease control.

Qualifications

- A Bachelor's Degree or Diploma in Occupational Health & Safety, Environmental Science, Engineering, Mining or a related discipline.
- At least 5 years of relevant experience, preferably in mining, construction or other industrial projects.
- Experience in HSE management
- Strong leadership, organizational and communication skills.
- Ability to work independently in a remote mining environment.
- Good command of written and spoken English.
- Computer proficiency in Microsoft Office.
- A valid Eritrean driving license will be an advantage.

Personal Attributes

- 1、 Strong sense of responsibility and integrity.
- 2、 Excellent organizational and problem-solving abilities.
- 3、 Ability to work under pressure and mining environments.
- 4、 Good teamwork and communication skills.



2, Position: Camp Supervisor

Place of Work: Augaro
Starting Date: August
Salary: As per company scale
Contract type: Indefinite period
Number required: One(1)

Continued from page 6

Position Overview	The Camp Supervisor is responsible for managing daily operations, accommodation logistics, catering, sanitation, and life-support services at the Augaro mining development camp. Compliance with Eritrean regulations and corporate Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE) standards.
Key Responsibilities	Daily Camp Operations & Accommodation Management Bed Allocation & Check-In: Manage room/bed, check-ins, check-outs, and accommodation logistics for permanent staff, temporary contractors, and site visitors. Inventory & Requisitions: Maintain complete inventory control over camp assets (bedding, linen, laundry chemicals, cleaning supplies, and maintenance tools); coordinate timely site requisitions to avoid stock outs. Hygiene & Housekeeping Audits: Conduct daily inspections of living quarters, office blocks, ablution facilities, and common areas to maintain high standard cleanliness and hygiene. Camp Capacity Expansion: Coordinate setup, assembly, and layout adjustments for temporary modular housing units as site personnel scale up during mine development. Catering & Food Service Supervision Catering Oversight: Supervise internal kitchen personnel to ensure nutritious, high-quality, and timely meal service for all shifts. Food Safety & HACCP: Inspect cold chains, dry storage facilities, food prep zones, and kitchen sanitation daily, ensuring adherence to strict food safety guidelines. Supply Chain Management: Monitor food supply levels and coordinate advanced orders to prevent inventory gaps in the remote Augaro region. Utilities, Infrastructure & Maintenance Life-Support Utilities: Continuously monitor critical utilities, including water supply, diesel power generators, and fuel storage. Maintenance Coordination: Lead camp maintenance workers (electricians, plumbers, carpenters) for rapid response and preventive repair of camp facilities. HSE, First Aid & Emergency Response Safety Enforcement: Enforce site-wide camp HSE guidelines, fire safety regulations, pest control procedures, and vector prevention measures. Toolbox Meetings & Audits: Lead regular safety toolbox talks for camp staff and participate in comprehensive site HSE risk assessments. Emergency Preparedness: Collaborate with site medical personnel for emergency response plans, medical evacuations, and up-to-date emergency contact rosters. Staff Supervision & Local Community Relations Team Leadership: Directly supervise housekeepers, laundry attendants, kitchen helpers, and maintenance crews, maintaining high team morale and discipline. Local Workforce Integration: Manage local Eritrean casual labor and contractors in accordance with Eritrean labor law and company community engagement policies. Administrative Reporting: Maintain accurate occupancy records, roster schedules, fuel consumption logs, and monthly cost control reports.
Qualifications	Education: Diploma or Bachelor’s Degree in Hospitality Management, Logistics, Business Administration, Safety, or a related field. Field Experience: 3 to 5+ years of remote camp supervisory/management experience in remote areas. Technical Knowledge: Practical understanding of camp life-support systems. Software Skills: Proficiency with Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, Outlook) and camp accommodation management software.
Personal Attributes	1、 Strong sense of responsibility and integrity. 2、 Excellent organizational and problem-solving abilities. 3、 Ability to work under pressure and mining environments. 4、 Good teamwork and communication skills.

Additional Requirement for Nationals:

- Having fulfilled his/her National Service Obligation and provide evidence of release paper from Ministry of Defense
- Present clearance paper from current/last employer
- Testimonial documents to be attached (CV, experience credentials, 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 sender.
- All applications should be sent through the post office.
- Deadline for application: 5 days from the day of publication in the Newspaper.
- **Address: Please mail your applications to:**
Mineral Resources Management
P.O.Box- 272
- **Note to non-Eritrean applicants:**
Please send a copy of your application to Aliens Employment permit Affairs P.O.Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea.



Q and A



By: Milka Teklom

Tell us a little about yourself and your background.

I'm originally from Dallas, Texas, and much of my career has been spent in private equity, investing in diverse private companies, including serving on the investor group behind Wells Fargo.

Today, I serve as Advisory Board Chair for the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at Harvard University. Earlier in my career, I was CEO of the Trammell Crow Company, where I led the restructuring of what was then the largest real estate firm in the U.S., and before that, President of Huffco Group, Inc. My earlier roles included management consulting at The Boston Consulting Group and serving as an Investment Officer at the World Bank.

Academically, I hold an MBA from Harvard Business School, an MA from Oxford University, and an AB from Princeton University. Beyond business, I've long been engaged in policy and education—serving on the Dallas Committee on Foreign Relations, supporting medical research initiatives, and teaching Creative Writing as an Adjunct Professor at Southern Methodist University (SMU). My wife, Debra, and I have three children—Josephine, Emily, and Matthew—and five grandchildren who keep life wonderfully full.

You have traveled to so many countries. What first inspired this passion for world travel?

My journey began with my first role at the World Bank. In my very first year, I insisted on doing fieldwork—something rarely granted to newcomers. My persistence paid off, and I was sent to Somalia, based out of Nairobi, followed by an assignment in Tanzania. Those early experiences ignited my passion for global exploration.

I found myself deeply energized by meeting new

“Eritrea is Unapologetically Itself!” A Conversation with Michael B. Decker

Michael B. Decker is no ordinary traveler. With a passport stamped in 185 countries, he has traversed the globe, immersing himself in cultures, histories, and landscapes that most only dream of exploring. A historian by passion and an explorer by nature, Decker comes from a lineage deeply intertwined with pivotal global events, including the American Revolutionary War and World War I. This family heritage has shaped his profound appreciation for legacies of conflict, resilience, and identity.

For Decker, travel is not merely about ticking off destinations; it is about connecting with people, architecture, and untold human stories. Recently, he added Eritrea to his extensive list, spending two enriching days exploring Asmara and Keren. In his interview, Decker shares his impressions, emotions, and reflections on his brief yet impactful visit.

people, discovering new places, and observing how communities navigate their daily lives. Even when people didn't hold a Harvard degree—or any degree at all—they were rich in life experience, resilience, and resourcefulness. That realization taught me how much there is to learn beyond formal classrooms. From then on, I became determined to travel to every corner of the globe, absorb its lessons, and eventually write a book sharing these insights with travel enthusiasts—and perhaps even more importantly, with those hesitant to see the world in its true



colors.

You began your Eritrean journey in Asmara. What were your first impressions of the capital?

Asmara is unlike any other African capital. Stepping into the city felt like entering a living time capsule of early 20th-century Italian modernist and Art Deco architecture. The buildings are remarkably preserved—each façade tells a story of a bygone era. The Fiat Tagliero Building, with its futuristic airplane-wing design, was a personal highlight. It is rare to see such architectural integrity maintained so beautifully across an entire city.

What was your impression of the Eritrean people during your interactions?

I was deeply moved. The

people were so comfortable in their identity—proud, confident, and genuinely welcoming. As I mentioned to someone during my walk: “They take pride in who they are, and that pride gives them confidence as individuals and as a community.” It is rare to see such seamless harmony between personal and collective identity. There is a quiet dignity in how Eritreans carry themselves, and it is contagious.

Did you notice how this sense of identity connects to the city's day-to-day atmosphere?

Absolutely. Asmara's streets reflect that exact confidence. The cafés are lively, the markets are orderly, and even the simplest greetings carry warmth. There is a distinct rhythm to the city—a balance between tranquility and vibrancy. It isn't a place rushing unthinkingly toward modernity; it is a place that has already defined its own version of it.

Were there any particular moments in Asmara that stood out to you?

Sitting at Café Roma, sipping a macchiato while watching Asmarinos go about their day, was surreal. The city has an effortless rhythm—a blend of African warmth and Italian dolce far niente (the sweetness of doing nothing). I honestly don't know why Eritrea isn't officially dubbed the “macchiato capital,” because the coffee culture here is world-class.

I was also invited into a local family's home for dinner and coffee, which was a tremendous experience. It felt like being welcomed by a second family in another universe. The traditional coffee ceremony, complete with its array of snacks, was irresistible. To become better acquainted with injera—the slightly sour flatbread I saw everyone enjoying—I was encouraged to bake one myself. I normally don't cook (I often joke

that I try to spare people from my culinary attempts), but I made an exception. Pouring the fermented teff batter in a smooth spiral onto the hot clay oven was the easy part; the real challenge was coaxing the bread off the surface. More than once, I found myself jokingly ordering it to jump off the oven on its own!

Moving on to your second day—Keren is known for its rich history. What was your experience there?

Keren was profoundly emotional. I visited the Shrine of Our Lady of Keren, built inside a massive baobab tree—a remarkable fusion of faith, history, and nature. It is one of those sacred places that makes you pause and reflect.

I also visited the Italian and Commonwealth war cemeteries, which commemorate those who fought during World War II. Coming from a family with generations who served in conflicts from the American Revolutionary War to World War I, I felt a deep personal connection. Standing among those graves reminded me of the universal cost of conflict. It is humbling to see how respectfully and serenely Eritrea maintains those sites.

You've seen many war memorials around the world. How did Keren's compare?

They carry a unique stillness. Many memorials elsewhere are grand and monumental, but Keren's are quiet and intimate. You can feel the individual human stories behind each name. The landscape itself—the surrounding hills and the quiet air—adds to the solemnity. It isn't about glorifying war; it is about remembering humanity. Eritrea's approach to remembrance is deeply humane.

Did visiting Keren alter your perspective on Eritrea's place in global history?



It did. Eritrea's history is often presented predominantly through the lens of struggle, but what I witnessed was resilience. The country has endured immense challenges, yet it preserves its dignity and heritage. Keren, in particular, demonstrates how memory and identity coexist—how a nation can honor its past without being trapped by it.

How would you compare the atmosphere of Keren to that of Asmara?

Keren has a raw, untamed beauty. The landscape feels different, and the atmosphere is even more laid-back. The local market was vibrant—filled with spices, colorful fabrics, and the scent of fresh bread. What stayed with me most was the juxtaposition of spirituality and historical memory. That baobab tree shrine, for instance, is a living monument—a true synthesis of nature and faith.

What message would you share with fellow travelers considering a visit to Eritrea?

Come with open curiosity and respect. Eritrea is not a place to rush through; it is a destination to absorb. Walk its streets, talk to its people, and listen to its stories. You will leave with far more than souvenirs—you will leave with a new perspective.

Finally, how would you summarize your impression of Eritrea in a single sentence?

Eritrea is unapologetically itself! It doesn't cater to tourist clichés or manufactured attractions. You won't find artificial resorts or contrived cultural performances. Instead, it is a nation where history and identity walk hand in hand, offering travelers a rare, authentic glimpse into a truly remarkable culture.