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WORLD NURSES DAY OBSERVED AT NATIONAL LEVEL

World Nurses Day, 12 May, has been observed for the first time at the national level in Asmara at Orotta Hospital Hall under the theme “Our Nurses. Our Future. Empowered Nurses Save Lives.”

Mr. Efram Zib’ay, President of the Eritrean Nurses Association, said that the progress registered in reducing maternal and infant mortality rates, as well as in eradicating diseases that

can be controlled through vaccination, is the result of the strong intervention of health professionals and, in particular, the relentless efforts of nurses.

Mr. Efram indicated that, as a result of the substantial investment the Government is making to enhance the capacity of nurses, training that was previously limited to certificate programs has been upgraded

to first- and second-degree programs, as well as postgraduate programs. He also said that nurses equipped with various medical skills are currently becoming the main players in the provision of health care services at hospitals and health facilities.

At the event, research papers focusing on the history of the Eritrean Nursing School, the characteristics of outstanding nurses, the Six Rights of Medication Administration, and nursing as a profession were presented. Veteran nurses also shared their experiences.

The Eritrean Nurses Association was established in 1992 and has thousands of members.

World Nurses Day is being observed for the 52nd time at the international level.

PROGRESS IN LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION

The Ministry of Agriculture’s Public Relations Division reported that over the past 35 years of independence, significant achievements have been registered in livestock development and animal health.

According to the report, in order to control various livestock diseases, the Government introduced a compulsory vaccination program in 2013. Since then, about 2.5 million livestock have been vaccinated annually against diseases such as lumpy skin disease, sheep and goat pox, peste des petits ruminants (PPR), foot-and-mouth disease, and others. Beginning in 2025, this number has increased to more than 6 million livestock and poultry. As a result, outbreaks of diseases and animal deaths have been reduced to very low levels, the Ministry’s report explained.

The report further noted that at the time of independence, apart from traditional poultry keeping in rural areas, poultry production was practiced by very few people. Since the early years of independence, the Government has been importing selected parent-stock breeds from abroad, multiplying them, and distributing them to beneficiaries. Accordingly, over the past 35 years, around 113,000 parent-stock chickens have been imported, while more than 8 million day-old chicks have been distributed to beneficiaries.

Similarly, regarding beekeeping, it is estimated that in 1991 there were about 19,000 bee colonies in the country. This number has steadily increased and currently has surpassed 46,000 colonies. Traditional beehives are gradually being replaced by modern frame hives and top-bar hives. Of the total bee colonies currently available, 51 percent are managed using modern frame hives, 41 percent with traditional hives, and the remaining 8 percent with top-bar hives, according to information obtained from the Ministry.

As a result, honey is now being produced throughout all regions of the country, and the price has dropped by more than half compared to the prices recorded in the early 1990s.

INVESTMENT IN POTABLE WATER SUPPLY AT NATIONAL LEVEL

Eng. Mebrahtu Eyasu, Director General of the Water Department at the Ministry of Land, Water and Environment, reported that about 125 billion Nakfa has been invested to ensure potable water supply across the country, raising coverage to over 85%.



Eng. Mebrahtu went on to say that in 1991, potable water supply coverage was below 7% in villages and 30% in cities. By 2025/2026, coverage had increased to 80% in villages and 95% in cities, benefiting 85% of the total population of the country.

Eng. Mebrahtu also said that over 8,300 schools, health facilities, and public institutions have become beneficiaries of potable water supply.

Among the potable water projects,

Eng. Mebrahtu said that 675 are operating with hand pumps, while 890 are operating with solar energy, generators, and electric power. He added that 2,775 km of water pipelines have been installed and 2,760 water distribution centers have been put in place.

Eng. Mebrahtu also said that regular follow-up is being carried out to ensure the safety and cleanliness of the potable water supply.

NOTICEABLE PROGRESS OF MENDEFERA REFERRAL HOSPITAL

Dr. Seare Tesfu, Medical Director of Mendefera Referral Hospital, reported that over the past 10 years, the hospital has made noticeable progress in modern infrastructure, manpower, and medical facilities.

Dr. Seare went on to say that the hospital has been equipped with an oxygen-producing machine, a solar power system, a machine capable of producing 400 liters of chlorine per day, and a waste disposal facility.

Regarding manpower, Dr. Seare said that the hospital currently has capable healthcare professionals, including specialists in internal diseases, surgery, ophthalmology, fistula treatment, and pediatrics.

Dr. Seare also said that, beyond providing healthcare services, the hospital offers theoretical and practical training to assistant nurses from the School of Assistant Nurses, as well as military hospitals. He added that the hospital is working to put in place facilities resistant to both manmade and natural calamities.

‘FITEWRARI’ AWARD PRESENTED TO OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

The ‘Fitewrari’ Award has been presented to 481 outstanding students in the Central Region who scored 90 and above in the eighth-grade national examination for the 2024/2025 academic year. Female students accounted for 55% of the awardees.

At the event, which was organized on 9 May, medals and certificates of recognition were presented to the outstanding students. Six top-performing students were also awarded cups, while financial support was extended to outstanding schools.

Indicating that various encouragement programs have been carried out in collaboration with the

Ministry of Education with a view to motivating students to become competitive in their education, Mr. Samson Kifle, head of the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students in the Central Region, said that the number of awardees had increased by 50% compared to last year.

Mr. Belai Habtegebir, head of

the Education Office in the Central Region, said that the objective of the award was to recognize outstanding students and motivate others to work hard in their education and become competitive. He also called on parents to conduct regular follow-up on their children’s educational performance.



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Development

Education: The Bedrock of Eritrea's Development and Social Justice

Habtom Tesfamichael

As the nation celebrates the 35th anniversary of its independence, Eritrea renews its focus on one of its most vital sectors: education. Regarded as far more than a mere social service, education is recognized as a fundamental human right and the primary engine of national development and social justice.

The government's firm conviction that a nation's greatest asset is its people draws deep inspiration from the history of the liberation struggle. Long before independence, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) understood that education was indispensable to the people's emancipation and active participation in the struggle for self-determination. This far-sighted vision led to



Dr. Halima Mohammed

the establishment of schools and literacy campaigns in the rear bases.

In a recent extensive interview, Dr. Halima Mohammed, Minister of Education, underlined that the state's educational policy is designed to deliver quality education equally and equitably across all corners of the country. She stressed that the most fundamental policy of education in Eritrea is tied to the realization of social justice. During the colonial

era, educational opportunities were heavily skewed toward urban centers, leaving vast peripheral regions neglected. Since independence, the Government has worked relentlessly to reverse this historical imbalance by expanding access to even the most remote corners of the country. In Eritrea's diverse, multi-ethnic society, education serves as a vital bridge, narrowing regional gaps and fostering a shared national identity.

citizens with a firm commitment to their country, people, and the ideals of social justice. It aims to develop creative and productive individuals who can contribute to the building of a modern, competitive, harmonious, and self-reliant Eritrea.

Its mission focuses on improving educational outcomes through access to high-quality schools, programs, and resources; promoting equity regardless of gender, socioeconomic status, region, or ethnicity; enhancing teacher quality through continuous professional development; ensuring that curricula remain relevant and aligned with national standards; supporting students' holistic growth via extracurricular activities, sports, and life skills programs; and encouraging lifelong learning to prepare citizens for a rapidly changing world. The Ministry collaborates closely with parents, communities, other government bodies, and international partners to make the education system responsive to societal needs.

The Ministry operates through a robust organizational structure that cascades from the central headquarters in Asmara to regional educational offices, Sub-zonal branches, and individual schools. This arrangement ensures that even the smallest schools in remote areas remain fully integrated into the national framework. Key departments — including General Education, Research and Human Resource Development, Technical and Vocational Education and Training, Adult Education and Media, Finance and Administration, and Special Needs Education — work closely to effectively implement national policies.

The guiding principles of Eritrea's educational policies affirm that education is a fundamental human right, a lifelong process for citizen empowerment, and the key to national development and

improved living standards. Special attention is given to women, girls, and marginalized groups. Mother-tongue instruction is used at the primary level in all nine Eritrean languages, followed by English. The country maintains a unified national curriculum with a strong emphasis on science, technology, and ICT. The four strategic objectives remain Access, Equity, Relevance, and Quality.

At the foundation lies pre-school education, which seeks to create conditions for all children to receive early schooling. Although national participation currently falls short of satisfactory, the Ministry has taken determined steps to bridge this gap by recruiting and training around 3,000 new teachers to expand

services into rural and lowland regions last year.

Basic education, covering Grades 1 to 8, is free and compulsory. It aims to ensure students' progress in line with their age while systematically eliminating regional and gender inequalities. A defining feature of this stage is the pioneering policy of compulsory mother-tongue instruction in all nine national languages. This major undertaking required training specialized teachers and publishing textbooks in multiple languages. This policy removes language barriers and reinforces national unity. Despite progress, quality challenges remain evident.

Continued on page 7



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The Ministry of Education's vision is to produce all-round



From Social Media



Yemane G. Meskel @hawelti

#Eritrea: Strategic Communication for Narrative Shaping, Prospects for GoE and UN Collaboration; by Yemane G/Meskel
(Paraphrased and updated version of a speech made at UN Regional Directors Retreat in Asmara on August 2025)

On this memorable month of May - Eritrea's 35th Independence Anniversary - the notorious Conflict Entrepreneurs and detractors seem to have doubled down on their usual vitriol against the country. Reuters and other mainstream media outlets have also joined the defamatory chorus. For instance, Reuters gullibly recycles, in its news analysis of the lifting of US sanctions, discredited and demonizing labels on Eritrea and its government citing the discredited UN Special Rapporteur and US-based Freedom House as credible and authoritative sources in spite of its avowed commitment to 'balance, neutrality and impartiality' as spelled out in its own Standards- "The Thomson Reuters Trust Principles".

In a more broader context and as underlined in the speech:

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

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

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

"...The defamatory narrative on Eritrea, often cloaked in demeaning and pejorative labels, is widely recycled by pliant and complicit mainstream media outlets as well as the closed loop of hired lobbyists and Intel Operatives masquerading as experts and pundits on the Horn of Africa region - that we aptly call ኢፍሊ ካንፎራሽን".
shabait.com/2026/05/06/str...

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SpotLight

A Lifeline, a Driver of Development, and a Foundation for Resilience

Bana Negusse

Water is fundamental to life, health, and sustainable development. Access to clean, safe, and affordable drinking water is not only essential for human survival but also a basic human right recognized by the United Nations. It is central to Goal 6 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which calls for universal access to water and sanitation.

Beyond meeting basic human needs, water plays a transformative role in social and economic development. Reliable access to water supports public health, food production, energy generation, environmental protection, education, employment creation, and economic growth. Sustainable water management also strengthens resilience against natural disasters, climate shocks, and environmental degradation while safeguarding ecosystems and biodiversity.

Despite notable global progress over recent decades, access to safe water and sanitation remains a major challenge. More than two billion people worldwide still lack access to safely managed drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene services. Although conditions have gradually improved in many rural areas, progress in urban centers has slowed due to rapid population growth, urbanization, and rising demand for water resources.

The situation is particularly acute across Africa, where water scarcity continues to intensify. Nearly one in three people in the



African region faces water stress, a challenge compounded by climate change, population growth, weak infrastructure, conflict, and poor water governance. Across the continent, hundreds of millions of people still lack access to basic drinking water and sanitation services, threatening

health, livelihoods, and long-term development.

Eritrea, located within the Sahelian Belt, is characterized largely by arid and semi-arid climatic conditions. The country's geographical location also makes it particularly vulnerable to drought and desertification, further underscoring the importance of effective water management and long-term conservation policies. Eritrea's surface water resources are distributed across five major river basin systems: Setit, Mereb-Gash, Red Sea Basin, Barka-Ansebas, and Danakil Ba. The estimated mean annual runoff from these basins is approximately 9,967 million cubic meters (Mm³). Of this total, around 932 Mm³ flows eastward toward the Red Sea, while nearly 8,613 Mm³ flows westward. The remaining 422 Mm³ is retained within inland



depressions and basin systems.

Although limited in quantity, groundwater remains Eritrea's most dependable source of freshwater. However, rivers, aquifers, and other freshwater systems are increasingly under pressure due to overexploitation, deforestation, limited recharge

practices, and the growing effects of climate change.

Like many developing nations, Eritrea recognizes that the water sector is central to sustainable national development. Water plays a critical role in supporting economic growth,

poverty reduction, food security, environmental conservation, tourism, industrial development, and agricultural productivity.

In response to these challenges and opportunities, the Ministry of Land, Water, and Environment has established a comprehensive legal and policy framework to promote sustainable water resource management. Eritrea's water-related policies, laws, and regulations are guided by the principles of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). These frameworks emphasize inclusive participation by communities and economic sectors in water planning, development, and utilization.

Thanks to sustained investments in infrastructure, supportive policies, and coordinated national development efforts, access to

clean and safe water in Eritrea has improved significantly over the past three decades. National water access has risen from approximately 13 percent in 1991 to above 85 percent today.

Guided by the principle of "leaving no one behind" and Eritrea's longstanding commitment to equity and social justice, notable progress has also been achieved in reducing disparities between rural and urban communities. Urban water coverage has increased from 30 percent to more than 92 percent, while rural access has expanded from just 7 percent to nearly 80 percent.

Important gains have also been recorded in public institutions. More than half of schools across the country now have access to safe water, representing a substantial improvement compared to previous years. Similarly, expanded water access in health facilities has contributed to improved hygiene, safer childbirth conditions, and reductions in neonatal mortality.

A major pillar of Eritrea's water

strategy has been the large-scale expansion of water infrastructure. Through coordinated efforts involving the government,



local communities, and national stakeholders, the number of dams and reservoirs has increased from approximately 130 at independence to around 850 today, significantly strengthening the country's water storage and distribution capacity.

These reservoirs – ranging from strategic large-scale dams to small and micro-dams, as well as diversion structures – have contributed not only to improving access to water for households and livestock, but also to advancing agricultural development, particularly in vegetable and fruit production. According to reports from the Ministry of Agriculture, the expansion of water infrastructure has helped increase vegetable production more than sixfold. In contrast, fruit production has expanded dramatically over the past decades. These developments have strengthened food security, supported rural livelihoods, and created new opportunities for farming communities across the country. Residents in many parts of the country also acknowledge the significant role these reservoirs have played in improving livelihoods, supporting livestock development, expanding cultivated farmland, and enhancing overall agricultural productivity.

Importantly, partnerships with international development organizations have also contributed to these efforts by providing technical expertise, financial support, and institutional capacity-building. Through such cooperation, Eritrea continues to strengthen its ability to implement sustainable water projects and expand innovative solutions nationwide.

Eritrea's water strategy has also placed strong emphasis on soil and water conservation measures to combat drought, land degradation,

and desertification. Over the past decades, extensive conservation programs have been implemented across agricultural lands and

catchment areas, alongside the construction of check dams and other water-retention systems designed to reduce erosion, improve groundwater recharge, and enhance long-term environmental sustainability.

While Eritrea's achievements are significant, the country remains committed to further strengthening its long-term water security. Recognizing that agriculture accounts for the largest share of freshwater consumption, efforts are underway to improve water-use efficiency through modern irrigation systems, conservation technologies, and expanded technical knowledge.

As well, the country is gradually transitioning from traditional furrow irrigation to more efficient pressurized irrigation systems. At the same time, aging water pipelines are being replaced and new distribution networks expanded to improve reliable access to safe water for communities across the country. Parallel efforts are also being made to protect freshwater-dependent ecosystems and ensure that environmental sustainability remains an integral component of national water policy.

Water is not just a natural resource. It is a lifeline, a driver of development, and a foundation for resilience. Eritrea's comprehensive and inclusive approach to water management demonstrates how sustained commitment, long-term planning, and collective national effort can deliver meaningful progress even under challenging conditions. As the world works toward achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, Eritrea's experience highlights the importance of integrated solutions, sustainable infrastructure, and resilience-centered planning in securing a water-secure future for all.



The Proud Smile of Eritrean Resilience

By Kidane – Shimendi

Bright, sparkling smiles that shine even in difficult situations raise profound questions. We often expect smiles only in moments of joy, yet in Eritrea, a smile also emerges in hardship—an emblem



of resilience, a cherished national culture nurtured across generations.

Eritrea, a resilient nation with a clear vision, has embraced smiling in trying times as a tradition. This smile reflects unity in diversity, national consciousness, confidence, determination, and an unwavering belief in sovereignty.

Throughout history, Eritrea’s strategic significance has drawn external challenges. In response, the people forged resilience as both shield and armor. Yet resilience in Eritrea is never grim—a proud smile accompanies it. Far beyond warmth or kindness, this smile embodies defiance against despair, turning challenges into opportunities for growth, problem

solving, and creativity.

For outsiders, smiling in hardship may seem like denial or ignorance. In truth, it is a declaration of strength. It instills resilience deep within, enabling citizens to endure and prevail.

It enables citizens to instill resilience deep into their bones and blood. Furthermore, it enables nationals to turn challenges into opportunities for growth and learning, cultivating critical skills such as problem-solving and creativity.

Eritrea’s genuine smile of resilience is contagious. It warms the spirit of unity in diversity, creates a conducive environment, and inspires individuals to hold this treasure close in their own life struggles. Beyond that, the smile reminds nationals of their strength, determination, vision, and unwavering belief in national victory.

The Eritrean smile signifies inevitable national victory. Surrendering one’s smile during difficult situations shows defeat, as the smile shields people’s unity, nationalism, and determination. Giving away your smile to adversity destroys the spirit of victory and overwhelms citizens with ongoing internal and external challenges. Knowing this wisdom, the Eritrean smile never surrenders—it always means victory.

Traveling through Eritrean historical photo archives, particularly from the armed

struggle, freedom fighters widely exhibit proud smiles as they march into battle, even toward sacrifice. Amid intense battles, women were known to cheer, marking the people’s army’s resilience and inevitable victory. Despite all odds, the smile has prevailed to this day.

The Eritrean smile and resilience are inseparable. In Eritrea, the terms are often used interchangeably. To understand this durable union, a deep insight into resilience is essential. According to research, resilience means adaptability and comprises four main types: physical, mental, emotional, and social. Physical resilience refers to the ability to tolerate bodily pain; emotional resilience relates to one’s emotional response to challenges; psychological resilience refers to the ability to remain flexible and calm during trying times; and



social resilience denotes a group’s ability to address collective trials. The Eritrean people possess all these forms of resilience. Consequently, an overwhelming smile undermines challenges and ensures indispensable victory.

Resilience takes many forms—physical, emotional, psychological, and social. Eritreans embody them all. Their smile undermines challenges, strengthens unity, and ensures victory. Studies affirm that both smiling and resilience boost mental and physical health, strengthen immunity, and even extend longevity.

The sacred union between the Eritrean smile and resilience symbolizes the people’s transformative national values and norms, upon which national identity is built. Among the most prominent of these values is national unity.

Eritrea is popularly known for its unity in diversity—a precious value cultivated over generations to overcome challenges and thrive in



peace. This sacred unity continues to label Eritrea as a “peace island with abundant treasure.” It reflects the people’s deep trust and high level of awareness, which are vital for building resilience. Across several historical periods,

particularly during the six offensives of 1982, when the enemy furiously launched its biggest military campaign to destroy the Eritrean revolution once and for all, heavily backed by external powers—the resilient smile never vanished. On the contrary, it shone brighter, foreseeing victory before the battles began. Freedom fighters jumped with joy at the prospect of extensive battles ahead. They never hesitated in their certainty of Eritrean victory.

In Eritrea, the people’s love for the nation is miraculous. During the armed struggle, freedom fighters fiercely competed with one another to sacrifice their lives for freedom. This expression of love continues to this day in the process of nation-building and the protection of national sovereignty. Remarkably, even with their last breath, the resilient smile never fails.

In conclusion, the proud Eritrean smile signifies not only the people’s happiness, warmth, and kindness but, most importantly, national resilience. No matter what kinds of challenges strive to overshadow a situation, the smile never fades. On the contrary, it shines brighter, lighting up the darkness that difficult situations create. All precious national values and norms are beautifully exhibited in the proud national smile. Beyond being a means of emotional expression, it is a symbol of Eritrean national identity.

This year, Eritrea will commemorate the 35th anniversary of its independence under the theme: “Our Resilience: Our Guarantee.” Simultaneously, we will also mark the anniversary of the proud Eritrean smile of resilience. Therefore, let us continue to smile proudly and celebrate our endless victories.

external forces have worked hard to dismantle this unity. However, its foundation is well-established, dating back centuries. Unity is the central pillar of Eritrean resilience, enabling the people to smile with confidence in a bright future. The contagious smile that Eritreans often radiate symbolizes the national unity that gave birth to the people’s firm resilience.

Having a clear national vision, born from national values, makes the Eritrean people resilient and confident enough to smile amid challenges. People with a vivid national vision are aware of the past, current developments, and prospects. A national vision, crafted from values and norms, shapes a people’s destination and determination. Therefore, the Eritrean people stand resilient because national values are well understood and the national vision is clearly drawn. Obviously, people with clear vision smile brightly, seeing the future close at hand.

During the armed struggle—

Happy Independence Day!



Development

Eritrea's 35-Year Journey in Agriculture: Transforming the Nation through Soil and Water Conservation and Water Reservoir Development

By: *Ermias Solomon*

Over the past 35 years of independence, Eritrea has undertaken one of the most ambitious and far-reaching agricultural transformation efforts in its history. At the heart of this transformation lies a simple but



Ms. Grieta Shdin

critical understanding: in a country where rainfall is erratic and drought is a recurring challenge, water is the foundation of life, agriculture, and national development.

Situated in the Horn of Africa, Eritrea is naturally prone to drought and desertification. For generations,



Mr. Omer Ibrahim Jebib

farmers and pastoralists have faced the harsh realities of water scarcity, degraded soils, and unpredictable weather. Recognizing these challenges from the earliest days of independence, the Government and people of Eritrea made soil and water conservation and the construction of water-harvesting structures central pillars of the country's agricultural strategy.



Nebiyat Keleta

Thirty-five years later, the results are visible across the nation. Landscapes once threatened by erosion have been rehabilitated, underground water reserves have

been replenished, and hundreds of dams and reservoirs now sustain agriculture, livestock, and rural livelihoods.

Restoring the Land and Conserving Water

Reports from the Ministry of Agriculture, Agricultural Extension Department, indicate that extensive soil and water conservation programs have been implemented over the past 35 years of independence. These efforts have included the rehabilitation of more than 293,000 hectares of agricultural land and the treatment of over 135,000 hectares of catchment areas. In addition, check dams with a combined capacity exceeding 6.2 million cubic meters have been constructed throughout the country.

These interventions have reduced soil erosion, preserved fertile topsoil, improved groundwater recharge, and strengthened the land's productive capacity. Beyond their technical impact, they have restored hope to farming communities whose livelihoods depend directly on the health of the natural environment.

A Nationwide Expansion of Water Reservoirs

Perhaps the most visible symbol of Eritrea's agricultural progress is the dramatic increase in the number of water reservoirs. At the time of independence in 1991, Eritrea had approximately 130 dams. Today, that number has grown more than six and a half times to around 850 reservoirs, including strategic large-scale dams, medium and small reservoirs, and micro-dams. These reservoirs provide water for human consumption and livestock, while also serving as the backbone of irrigation development. Their contribution to agricultural production has been extraordinary. Vegetable production has increased more than sixfold, while fruit production has expanded by more than 71 times compared with the early years of independence. Across Eritrea, communities that once struggled to secure drinking water are now producing vegetables and fruits, supplying local markets, and improving household incomes.

Lives Changed in Dirfo and Temam'o

In the Central Region, the impact of the Temam'o Dam is evident in residents' daily lives. Ms. Nebiyat Keleta recalls the hardships her community endured before the dam was built.

"Water was a constant struggle," she says. "Women carried water on their backs, and both families and livestock suffered greatly. Today, our lives have changed completely."

Similarly, Mr. Omer Jebib, Administrator of the Dirfo administrative area, explains that nearly 400 people now have access to clean drinking water thanks to the newly constructed 'Dirfo dam'. Wells have been replenished, and residents no longer walk two to three kilometers to fetch water. Livestock also benefit from a reliable water



source.

"This project has solved a problem that burdened us for many years," he says. "We are deeply grateful and hopeful that it will lead to even greater agricultural production."

Opening New Horizons for Farmers

The Afetela Dam: A Catalyst for Change

In the Shakat area of Barentu



Sub-Zone, the Afetela Dam has transformed the surrounding communities. Ms. Greta Shidin remembers spending at least two hours walking to fetch water, while livestock owners traveled long distances to get a water source for their livestock. "Life was very difficult," she says. "Since the construction of the Afetela Dam, everything has changed."

Engineer Gurja Werede, Senior Agricultural expert in Barentu Sub-Zone Agricultural Office, supplements her testimony, saying, "Before the construction of the dam,

Irrigation and vegetable cultivation were virtually unknown in the area. Currently, sufficient water is available to support the cultivation of vegetables and fruits, creating broad opportunities for agricultural development."

A similar transformation is evident in Nakfa Sub-Zone, where farmer Mohamed Ali Mohamed Salem says water scarcity once limited every aspect of life.

"We had no water and had to bring it from distant places," he recalls.



Mr. Mohammed Ali

land is fertile, and we cultivate without difficulty," he says. "We are witnessing the return of the prosperity our forefathers once knew."

Engineer Kidane Mengsteab notes that two masonry check dams in the area each store about 40,000 cubic meters of water and help supplement irrigation development for up to 30 hectares of surrounding land. These structures are among the first to fill during the rainy season and provide direct benefits to farmers.

Building a Sustainable Future

The achievements of the past 35 years demonstrate Eritrea's unwavering commitment to



Eng. Gurja Werede

sustainable agricultural development and national self-reliance. By investing in soil and water conservation, constructing water reservoirs, and promoting irrigation, the country has laid a strong foundation for safe and nutritious food security, environmental restoration, and improved livelihoods. These accomplishments reflect strong government commitment as well as the active participation and determination of communities across the nation.

As the Ministry of Agriculture continues to advance its vision of "Safe and Nutritious Food for Everyone, Everywhere," Eritrea's experience stands as a powerful example of how strategic planning, collective effort, and wise stewardship of natural resources can transform challenges into lasting opportunities for development and prosperity.

Compiled from Ministry of Agriculture Reports and Archives of the Public Relations Division

says. "Today we have clean water, we cultivate vegetables, we sell our produce, and we are prospering."

Reviving Groundwater in Adi-Ada

In Adi Ada, a village near Mendefera, the capital city of the Southern Region, masonry check-dams have restored groundwater and revitalized agriculture. Priest Abraha Mehari explains that residents once had to dig 8 to 9 meters to access water.

"Today, our wells are full, the



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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Bisha Mining Share Company is inviting applicants for the following positions

1. Position: Chief Engineer

Department: Processing and Underground Operations

Section: Asheli Underground

Number required: One (01)

Primary Purpose

- The Chief Engineer is responsible for planning, directing, and coordinating mining engineering activities to maximize ore extraction while ensuring safety, environmental compliance, and cost effectiveness. He / She provides technical leadership, manages engineering teams, and collaborates with other departments to optimize the Mine operation.

Essential functions

- The Chief Engineer provides overall leadership, technical direction, and strategic planning for all underground engineering functions.

TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS

Underground Project Planning and Management

- Planning and scheduling of the underground projects and update project schedules as required. Monitoring of the progress on project milestones
- Weekly and end of month reporting on projects and department activities, attend meetings as required.
- Understand the strategic, long term mine plans for the projects with the overall strategic BMSC Life of Mine Plan
- The development of short-term plans that maintains the long-term objectives
- Manage, control, and coordinate all Underground technical services departments; Blasting, Ventilation, Survey, Geology & Geotechnical.
- Oversee the optimization of all mine designs and layouts in accordance with best mine procedures and standards
- Ensure legal compliance of all legally appointed personnel. Annual reporting of all resources and reserves. Optimum staffing and development of all personnel.

Administrations

- Project management documentation.
- Compilation of Project reports, attend meetings as required.
- Provide other duties as requested.
- Always ensure ethical behavior and maintain good communication within the department. Always maintain and enforce the BMSC Safety and Health policies.

Budgeting

- Financial tracking of all underground projects, budgets, and capital expenditure
- Development of cost models in and financial analysis for all underground operations.

Mine Engineering

- Development, evaluation and reviewing of mine designs and production scheduling
- Development, review, monitoring and management of the execution plan
- Technical audits and evaluation, including mining

methods, infrastructure, designs, schedules, and financials. Provide other duties as required

- Provide mentoring to the mining engineers and graduate mining engineers.
- Assist with design and integration of underground-related safety protocols, mining standards and SOPs into the BMSC system.

Reporting

- Guide and review LOM updates, monthly engineering reports, and production forecast.
- Compilation of technical reports, NI43-101 or JORC compliant.
- Present technical updates and recommendations to senior leadership.

Unique requirements/other information

- The incumbent should demonstrate prior experience in underground hard-rock mining, ideally in an equivalent role
- Candidate must be physically medically fit.

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor's degree in mining engineering Qualification in Business Administration/Project Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum of 10 years' experience in the mining industry. 7+ years working experience in hard rock underground mining with a proven track record in leadership roles. 3+ years working on feasibility studies is essential. Experience in zinc or other base metal mining is essential. International experience is desirable particularly in Africa. Strong knowledge of underground hard rock mining technologies and methods.
Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proficiency in mining software and modelling tools Exposure to mine expansion projects, feasibility studies, or new mine startups. Strategic planning. 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. Strong financial acumen and experience with budgeting and cost forecasting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent Leadership, communications, and teamwork skills. Ability to work in multi-disciplinary environment. Strong problem-solving and decision-making skills Ability to conduct Engineering matters to various levels. Ability to work under pressure and achieve project milestones. Collaborative mindset with a focus on operational excellence and safety.

General Information and other requirements:

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

Additional requirements for Nationals:

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

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

Note to Eritrean applicants:

Please send a copy of your application to:

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



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Bisha Mining Share Company is inviting applicants for the following position for Bisha site project:

Position: HR Supervisor – Employee Relations

Department: Human Resources (HR)

Number of Positions: One (01)

Position Overview

The Employee Relations Supervisor is responsible for overseeing the relationship between employees and employers, ensuring compliance with Eritrean labor laws and HR practices. This role provides leadership in managing employee relations cases, guiding policy implementation, and fostering a fair, transparent, and positive workplace culture. The Supervisor acts as both a mediator and advisor, supporting management while advocating for employee welfare.

Primary Purpose

Supervise and administer employee relations, disciplinary matters, wellbeing activities, case management, HR documentation, and compliance tasks, ensuring accurate reporting and adherence to company policies and Eritrean Labour Laws.

Key Responsibilities

- Administer HR processes, documentation, and compliance reports.
- Coordinate employee wellbeing activities, morale surveys, and social events.
- Manage disciplinary hearings, grievances, employee cases, and separation processes.
- Represent the company in labor court cases and ensure compliance with rulings.
- Prepare HR reports including discipline, turnover, case management, and labor court status.

Qualifications & Experience

- Degree/Diploma in HR Management, Business, Public Administration, or Law.
- **Law graduates are highly advantageous.**
- 3–5 years' experience in HR/employee relations; mining industry experience is

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P.O. Box 4276
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Eritrea

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www.bishamining.com

an advantage.

- Strong knowledge of Eritrean Labour Proclamation and employment law.
- Experience in disciplinary hearings, grievances, court representation, and HR reporting.

Skills & Competencies

- Computer literacy (MS Office – Intermediate).
- Strong communication skills (English & local language).
- Report writing, presentation, and administrative skills.
- Integrity, confidentiality, and ability to work under pressure.
- Strategic thinking, problem-solving, and interpersonal relations.

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.**
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Education: The Bedrock of Eritrea's . . .

Continued from page 2

Technical and vocational education and training (TVET) addresses this gap by equipping learners with practical skills for self-sufficiency and immediate contribution to the national economy. Students usually join after Grade 10 for intensive two-year programs that incorporate industrial attachments and apprenticeships. Nine dedicated vocational schools are currently available. Although demand is very high, capacity remains limited due to the substantial investment required. Graduates from these centers are highly competent and readily absorbed into the workforce. Expansion of TVET remains a major priority for the future.

Adult and non-formal education has recorded remarkable success. Through sustained literacy campaigns and collaborative efforts involving the Ministry of Defense, the National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW), the National Union of

Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS), and other partners, the national literacy rate has risen to approximately 89 percent. Complementary Elementary Education (CEE) crash programs enable out-of-school children to complete five grades in three years. Radio Bana, the Ministry's dedicated educational radio program, broadcasts programs in multiple languages to reach remote and nomadic communities. Recent initiatives include English language programs developed in cooperation with the Ministry of Information, while plans for television-based education are advancing.

Higher education is steadily expanding through the establishment of additional colleges to build the professional and technical capacity needed for national development and economic growth. Special Needs and Inclusive Education continues to receive greater attention. At the same time, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is being integrated both as a subject and as a tool for teaching,

learning, and administration.

Significant achievements have been recorded over the past 35 years. The student population has grown from approximately 200,000 at independence to around 800,000 today. Schools have been constructed across the country, national curricula have been developed in all Eritrean languages, and ongoing efforts are being made to strengthen the teaching force by creating opportunities to enhance their qualifications.

Nevertheless, important challenges persist. To address these challenges, the Ministry is focusing on expanding access, particularly in lowland and remote areas; reforming curricula to strengthen vocational pathways; improving teacher recruitment, training, and working conditions; decentralizing operations; strengthening research and evidence-based planning; modernizing schools with ICT, virtual labs, and digital libraries; and enhancing

parental and community involvement. Greater investment in boarding facilities, laboratories, and teaching materials is also underway.

Other critical areas receiving attention include strengthening research activities, further decentralizing decision-making, timely budget allocation, continuous professional development for teachers and staff, and combating administrative inefficiencies.

As Eritrea marks 35 years of independence, its education system reflects both impressive progress and a clear determination to overcome remaining obstacles. The experience accumulated and the foundation built during these decades provide renewed hope and confidence. With sustained commitment, increased investment, and focused reforms, education will continue to serve as the very soul of the nation's march toward social justice, harmony, and self-reliance.



A Conversation with Artist Samandari Yosief

Sona Berhane

You've always incorporated mosaic art into your paintings. What inspires the style?

For me, the inspiration behind that is Asmara itself.

How so?

A good portion of Asmara's urban architecture incorporates decorative tiles, typically made of ceramic, as an integral part of its artistic expression. Many of these buildings are iconic because of these designs, I think. There are two ways these decorative tiles are used: one is to paint an image or mosaic atop the tiles, which serve as the canvas; the second is to arrange differently tinted tiles to create a mosaic or an image. It's sort of like pixels forming a picture.

Another aspect of mosaic art that I appreciate is that a seemingly diverse arrangement of forms and colors can create a unified and cohesive whole. Of course, it's more or less decorative in nature, but that particular quality really appeals to me.

Are there artists with a similar style that you are inspired by?

There is an American painter named Chuck Close, best known for his massive photorealist portraits constructed through grids, cells, and mosaic-like structures. In Eritrea, there was also an Italian artist named Nenne Sanguineti

Born in Asmara in 1982, Samandari Yosief is an Eritrean figurative and portrait painter whose artistic journey has been marked by steady experimentation and stylistic evolution. Initially influenced by more traditional forms of representation, his work gradually developed into a distinctive style of portraiture characterized by simplicity and expressive subtlety. Samandari studied fine arts at the Asmara Art School in 1995 and later took printmaking (etching and engraving) courses at the Alliance Française d'Asmara under the guidance of renowned Eritrean artist Ermias Ekube. His paintings frequently draw inspiration from everyday encounters, particularly children and young women, whose expressions of innocence and nervousness he captures through smooth, delicate brushwork. Alongside earning a BA in Business Management, he currently works as a graphic illustrator at the Ministry of Education and as an art instructor at the Satreb Art Institute. His most recent collaborative exhibition was titled *Visual Poetry*.

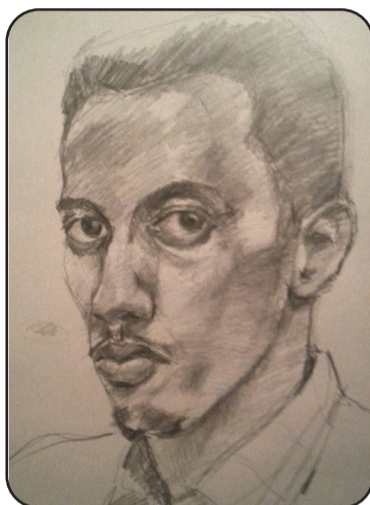
Poggi. She created several large-scale mosaics and public artworks in Asmara, including the famous mosaic panels on Enda Mariam church (Saint Mary's). So much of my inspiration really stems from what constantly surrounds me in the city.

Does using the mosaic/grid art style allow for flexibility, or does it limit what you can do artistically?

No, the style is more versatile than it seems. For instance, in my Afar Youngsters painting, the grid makes up the entire background but also creeps into the foreground. This kind of optical illusion does not disrupt the painting. If anything, it actually accentuates the subjects. The same applies to the painting *Watch Out*. It may appear random, but the background is still a grid of varying colors, blended with broader brushstrokes so that the squares seem to flow naturally into one another. Even the use of different colors within each square of the grid only complements the painting's organic feel as a whole.

What is the origin or history behind mosaic tile art?

Mosaic tile art has Byzantine origins – from Turkey, all along



Self Portrait

the Mediterranean region. It was one of the most prominent art forms during the Byzantine period, whether in architecture or painting. It was brought to Eritrea during the Italian colonial period, but possibly even earlier with the Turks during the Ottoman era, when it was used decoratively on mosques, palaces, and other prestigious buildings.

Who or what would you say influences your creativity?

As a young kid, I was influenced by Memhir Efreem Fikadu, the creator and manager of the children's show *Wari*. When I was a little older, it was the artist Ermias Ekube. He was my art

teacher when I took engraving classes, and I owe much of my aesthetic outlook to him. He introduced me to the concept of aesthetics and artistic philosophy. He has had a lasting influence on many of us who were his students. One of my paintings is actually a kind of response to one of his. It is titled *After Ermias Ekube*. His own painting, showcased during his 2011 exhibition, is titled *Alone, Gentle and Proud*.

I am also fond of Paul Gauguin, the 19th-century French artist who became one of the most influential

absent, other colors will suggest or complement it. I can't help it.

A theme in this present collection of your paintings seems to me to be "slice of life" scenes.

Yes, they are quite realistic scenes. I think of myself as a portrait painter, but at the same time, I am also a socialist or realist painter. I am interested in capturing the daily, ordinary moments of life. In Eritrea, you do not even need to go out of your way to find color. You only need to visit any town or village and observe. Eritreans of all ethnicities are usually draped in the



figures in modern art and post-impressionism. I especially admire his use of bold, non-naturalistic colors, more to express emotions than to represent reality. Particularly after he traveled to Tahiti, his paintings seemed to dance with vibrant colors. These sunny, tropical places are among the most naturally colorful and dazzling environments in the world, and many painters who visit them are affected, developing a pronounced appreciation for bold color afterward.

And you? Do you prefer vivid colors?

Oh, yes. I personally gravitate towards the colors green and orange as well. I like greenish shades. Even when I don't mean to, I'll somehow end up using a shade of green. The color finds a way to come out. Even if the color itself is

most dynamic colors – traditional attire is vibrant and bold, with striking, beautiful patterns.

I was discussing with a friend the other day how there seems to be two extremes in art: the socialist-realist artist, who creates with the audience in mind and believes art is for the masses, and the deeply individualistic artist who creates solely for himself, believing it is up to the audience to go the distance to understand his work, and basically operates with the mindset of "I am, therefore, I am".

I feel like I exist somewhere between these two extremes. I obviously want to create something that engages the observer or audience, which means putting myself in the viewer's place. But at the same time, I also feel very compelled to exercise my artistic independence.



Our Resilience: Our Guarantee!