

RECOGNITION OF EXEMPLARY FEMALE TEACHERS IN THE SOUTHERN REGION



The Southern Region's education office has presented certificates of recognition and monetary awards to 65 exemplary female teachers selected from the region's 12 sub-zones.

At the ceremony, attended by the Minister of Education and the Governor of the Southern Region, it was reported that the main criteria for the awards included professional ethics, commitment to work, lesson planning and

implementation, relations with parents and the community, and personal efforts to develop professional capacity.

Mr. Hibtizgi Kidane, head of the region's education office, expressed his expectation that the award-winning teachers will serve as role models and play their due part in enhancing the quality of education.

Dr. Halima Mohammed, Minister of Education, said that

although the participation and capacity of women in education are encouraging, greater efforts are needed to achieve better outcomes. She also called for the recognition program to include all exemplary teachers.

There are 3,943 female teachers working from the pre-school to high-school levels in the Southern Region, accounting for about 55% of the region's total number of teachers.

CELEBRATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF REVOLUTION SCHOOL

The 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Revolution School was celebrated in the Netherlands with patriotic zeal under the theme "Vibrant Commemoration: New Impetus for Nation Building."

Mr. Kibreab Tewolde, Consul of Eritrea, commended the commemorative event organized by former members of the Revolution School and called for the continuation of such events.

Mr. Negasi Kassa, Eritrea's Ambassador to the European Union and the Benelux countries, delivered a congratulatory message and provided a briefing on the Revolution School.

The event featured narrations by former members focusing on the school's objectives, role, and experiences, as well as poems, a photo exhibition, and a video screening.

The former members of the



school expressed their readiness to strengthen their organizational capacity and play their due part in national affairs.

In the same vein, members of the PFDJ organization in Stockholm, Sweden, held an assessment meeting to review their 2026 activities and discuss future programs.

Noting that strong unity and awareness are essential for foiling external hostilities, Mr. Zer'om Kidane, a representative of the organization, called on the

participants to strengthen their participation.

The participants, on their part, expressed their determination to strengthen their organizational capacity and participation in national affairs.

At the event, two sisters, members of the organization, were presented with certificates of recognition by the YPFDJ branch in Sweden for their contributions to the transfer of Eritrean culture and values to youth.

NEWS BRIEF

MEETINGS AIMED AT ERADICATING HARMFUL PRACTICES IN GOLIJ SUB-ZONE

At meetings organized for residents of the 16 administrative areas in Golij sub-zone, a call was made for strengthening public participation, particularly that of religious leaders, in efforts to eradicate harmful practices that affect women's health and have socio-economic consequences for society.

At the meetings, briefings were provided on the negative consequences of female genital mutilation and underage marriage on the health of women and infants.

Noting that harmful practices cannot be eradicated within a short period, Mr. Desie Zer'a'micael, administrator of the sub-zone, called for the increased participation of religious leaders and influential members of society in the effort.

Underlining that female genital mutilation and underage marriage can even result in death, Nurse Gilay Mosazgi, head of health services in the sub-zone, called for sustained awareness-raising activities aimed at enhancing public understanding.

The participants, on their part, noted that the prevalence of harmful practices has been steadily declining as a result of sustained awareness-raising activities and called for their continuation until the practices are completely eradicated.

EXTENSIVE WATER AND SOIL CONSERVATION ACTIVITY IN DEKEMHARE SUB-ZONE

Extensive water and soil conservation activities are being carried out in Dekemhare sub-zone through the students' summer work program, with the participation of the public and members of the Defense Forces.

Mr. Dawit Tekeste, a water and soil conservation expert in the sub-zone, indicated that the program includes the construction of terraces and water catchment structures, as well as the preparation of holes for planting tree seedlings.

A total of 980 students from eight centers in the administrative areas of Hadamu, Metsalu, Amhur, Tikul, Gura'e, Korbaria, Gadien and Mai-Idaga are participating in the students' summer work program in Dekemhare sub-zone.

In related news, Mr. Awelkier Ali, administrator of the Mai-Idaga semi-urban center, reported that a tree-planting program has been conducted in the area with the participation of students, residents and members of the Defense Forces. Mr. Awelkier said that more than 13 thousand tree seedlings have been planted through the program.

ATKUARO NURSERY WORKING TO SUPPLY SUFFICIENT TREE SEEDLINGS

The Atkuaro Nursery in Mai-Mine sub-zone reported that it is exerting strong efforts to provide sufficient tree seedlings for planting.

Mr. Measho Goitom, representative of the Forestry and Wildlife Authority, said that the nursery has prepared more than 170 tree seedlings for planting this year, comprising 22 types of indigenous and non-indigenous trees.

Mr. Measho further said that the planting of tree seedlings has already begun on barren land, at religious sites and in other areas through the participation of individuals and students taking part in the summer work program.

In related news, participants in the students' summer work program in Tserona sub-zone are conducting commendable water and soil conservation activities. The report was provided by Eng. Zena Girmay, an agricultural expert in the sub-zone.

Eng. Zena said that the students are engaged in constructing and renovating terraces and water-diversion schemes, as well as planting tree seedlings. So far, they have constructed about 30 km of terraces, completed 549 cubic meters of work on water-diversion schemes and prepared more than 900 holes for planting tree seedlings.

SpotLight

The Historical Trajectory of Eritrea's National Service

The organization of national defense is among the most fundamental attributes of state sovereignty. Under international law, every sovereign State possesses the inherent right and corresponding responsibility to preserve its territorial integrity, political independence, constitutional order, and the security of its population.

This principle is firmly anchored in the Charter of the United Nations, particularly Article 2(1), which affirms the sovereign equality of States, and Article 51, which recognizes the inherent right of individual and collective self-defense. Consequently, the manner in which a state structures its national institutions, including systems of military or national service, falls primarily within its domestic jurisdiction, provided such institutions operate within the framework of national legislation and applicable international law.

At the same time, international law does not prohibit compulsory military service. On the contrary, it expressly recognizes that compulsory military service constitutes a legitimate exercise of state authority. Article 2 (2) (a) of the International Labour Organization's Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), excludes "any work or service exacted by virtue of compulsory military service laws for work of a purely military character" from the definition of forced or compulsory labour. Similarly, Article 8 (3) (c) (ii) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political

Rights recognizes compulsory military service in countries where it exists. Furthermore, international practice demonstrates that more than 60 countries ranging from Finland to Israel to Cuba to South Korea maintain mandatory military or national service as a lawful component of their defense and public service systems.

The legality and legitimacy of a national service programme, therefore, cannot be assessed in the abstract or divorced from the historical, legal, practical, and security circumstances in which it operates. Like every sovereign institution, its evolution reflects the unique political, socio-economic, and security realities confronting the state that established it. Historical experience; perceived and/or actual threats; regional and global stability; and national development priorities; all influence the design, implementation, and adaptation of such institutions over time.

Thus, it is within this comprehensive framework that Eritrea's National Service must be understood. Far from emerging as an exceptional or anomalous institution, it was established through Proclamation No. 82/1995 essentially as part and parcel of broader defense architecture in the immediate aftermath of Eritrea's independence and against the backdrop of a massive demobilization programme of the relatively large EPLF army of freedom fighters. Its subsequent evolution cannot be separated from the extraordinary regional security environment that Eritrea has faced since independence, including armed conflict, occupation of its territories, and prolonged existential external threats to its sovereignty.

Against this backdrop, the following sections trace the historical evolution of Eritrea's National Service, from the international decisions that shaped Eritrea's struggle for statehood, through the country's post-independence demobilization efforts and legislative framework, to the regional security challenges that fundamentally shaped its implementation trajectory. Only through such a historically grounded analysis can the National Service be assessed fairly, objectively, and in accordance with the realities that have defined Eritrea's modern statehood.

In the mid-20th century, when the European colonial empires were being dismantled across the African continent, Eritrea's legitimate right to decolonization and self-determination was openly compromised and bargained away in the corridors of the United Nations.



Global powers chose to mollify their overriding geopolitical interests in the Red Sea corridor by forcibly federating and later allowing the outright annexation of Eritrea by the Ethiopian Empire, directly violating the visible and loudly expressed will of the Eritrean population.

For decades, the international community chose strategic convenience over international law, setting the stage for a bloody conflict that could have been avoided had regional and global organizations such as the United Nations and the African Union adhered to their foundational principles and shouldered their responsibilities.

Later, during the grueling thirty-year liberation struggle spanning from 1961 to 1991, the Eritrean people waged a long and arduous war for survival, identity, and independence entirely on their own. Throughout this generation-defining struggle, the international community largely left the Eritrean liberation movements to their own devices. No global powers rushed to offer humanitarian assistance or diplomatic recognition to the fighters in the field.

Instead, successive superpowers actively bankrolled, armed, and politically shielded the brutal occupying regimes in Addis Ababa, first the feudal empire of Haile Selassie, and later the Soviet-backed military junta known as the Derg.

Despite facing massive conventional armies backed by global empires, the Eritrean freedom fighters relied exclusively on the resilience, unity, and resourcefulness of their own population to achieve total military victory in 1991. This foundational experience deeply ingrained the principle of self-reliance into the nation's political ethos, proving to the Eritrean people that their survival depended entirely on their internal cohesion rather than the fickle promises of international partners.

Sadly, this pattern of international apathy and overt hostility did not vanish after Eritrea achieved its hard-won independence and formal

international recognition through a UN-supervised referendum in 1993.

When Ethiopia unleashed an all-out war of aggression from 1998 to 2000 under the pretext of a minor border dispute centered on the village of Badme, the international community relapsed into its traditional position of indifference. Even after both countries signed the Algiers Peace Agreement in December 2000, and the independent Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC) delivered its final and binding ruling in 2002, the guarantors of that peace treaty, including the United Nations Security Council, the European Union, and the United States of America, stood by and watched silently as Ethiopia rejected the verdict and illegally occupied sovereign Eritrean lands for sixteen long years.

To revert to the main theme, the explicit military doctrine established at the dawn of independence was to maintain a small, highly professionalized standing army of roughly 35,000 troops, which would be supplemented by a broad civilian reserve army or people's army. Accordingly, in 1992, prior to the declaration of formal independence following the Referendum, and at a time when the country was in complete ruins, the Provisional Government of Eritrea embarked on an ambitious, self-funded program to drastically scale down the 100,000-strong army of freedom fighters who had successfully executed the war of liberation. This bold initiative successfully reduced active military personnel by approximately 65 percent, returning tens of thousands of battle-hardened veterans to civilian life to participate in the reconstruction of the country. This design ensured that the young state would not bear the crushing economic burden of a massive standing military during peacetime, while still maintaining a robust defense capability that could be rapidly mobilized in the event of a grave external threat to national survival.

It was precisely within this

defensive, civilian reserve army blueprint that the National Service programme was introduced by legal proclamation No. 82/1995 in 1994.

The institutional design of the service was clear, legally binding, and closely modeled after successful civic and military service frameworks found in several sovereign nations across Europe, Asia, and the Americas. By law, the active-duty component of the National Service was explicitly limited to 18 months. This period was carefully divided into two distinct phases: six months of military and civic training at the Sawa Academy, followed by a 12-month deployment in vital developmental, administrative, agricultural, or environmental projects across the country. From its inception until May 1998, this 18-month operational modality functioned exactly as intended, producing successive rounds of young citizens who completed their service on schedule and transitioned smoothly into higher education, specialized vocational training, or the civilian labour market.

Beyond its original utility as a defense mechanism, the National Service evolved with time and was celebrated as a powerful, indispensable mechanism for national integration. Eritrea is a multi-ethnic and multi-religious society composed of nine distinct ethno-linguistic groups who have coexisted peacefully for centuries. The Sawa Academy and the subsequent National Service deployments served as a grand melting pot, bringing together young men and women from every geographic region, social class, and cultural background to live, study, and work together. This shared experience fostered an unbreakable sense of national consciousness, social solidarity, and mutual respect among the youth, effectively insulating the country from the destructive forces of ethnic factionalism and religious division that have plagued many countries in the Horn of Africa. However, this normal, highly productive national developmental framework was disrupted only when Ethiopia's unprovoked war of aggression transformed a peaceful nation-building project into an emergency existential struggle for survival and territorial integrity.

Even during the bitter and costly conflict, the Government of Eritrea consistently sought the earliest viable opportunity to return to normalcy and resume its development agenda. Immediately following the Cessation of Hostilities and the signing of the Algiers Peace Agreement, the

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OPINION

From Tradition to Transformation

Bana Negusse

Just over a week ago, officials and community representatives gathered in Mendefera to review efforts to eradicate harmful practices and protect children's rights in Eritrea's Southern Region. Over the previous six months, awareness activities had reached approximately 148,000 people across the region's 12 sub-zones, addressing the physical, psychological, and legal consequences of harmful practices, including female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) and underage marriage.

The meeting offered a timely reminder that progress does not mean the work is finished. As Southern Region Governor Habteab Tesfatsion noted, while progress against deeply rooted harmful practices can be made quickly, their elimination requires sustained and coordinated action. Few issues illustrate that reality more clearly than FGM/C.

Today, FGM/C remains one of the most persistent violations of the rights, health, and bodily autonomy of girls and women worldwide. Defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as procedures involving the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to female genital organs, for non-medical reasons, FGM/C can result in immediate complications as well as lifelong physical, psychological, sexual, and reproductive consequences.

The persistence of the practice in many parts of the world reflects its connection to social expectations rather than ignorance alone. Families may understand its health risks and still feel pressure to conform because they fear stigma, social exclusion, or diminished marriage prospects for daughters who remain uncircumcised. For that reason, ending FGM/C requires more than legislation. It requires changing the expectations that allow the practice to survive.

For generations, FGM/C was widely practiced across Eritrean communities. It was reinforced by social expectations surrounding marriage, respectability, femininity, and belonging, while misconceptions sometimes portrayed it as a religious obligation. Families could face pressure to conform, making abandonment difficult even when



the health consequences were understood.

However, Eritrea took a decisive legal step in 2007 with Proclamation No. 158/2007, the Female Circumcision Abolition Proclamation, which prohibited FGM/C and established strong penalties for those involved in performing or facilitating it.

Importantly, however, Eritrea combined the legal framework with sustained public education and community mobilization as part of its comprehensive approach. The National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW), alongside national institutions and international partners, has played an important role in taking awareness efforts into communities. Radio and television, schools, workshops, and community dialogues have helped challenge misconceptions and make the consequences of FGM/C part of public discussion.

Religious and traditional leaders have also been engaged, particularly in challenging the misconception that FGM/C is a religious requirement. Women's organizations and community structures have helped ensure that the campaign is not simply a government message, but one discussed and increasingly owned at the local level. That distinction matters, since social practices change when people begin to believe that others are changing too.

The results among younger girls are striking. FGM/C prevalence among girls under 15 fell from 33.2 percent in 2010 to 18.2 percent in 2014 and 2.3 percent in 2020. Among girls under five, it declined from 12.4 percent in 2010 to 6.9 percent in 2014 and just 0.54 percent in 2020.

These figures point to more than improved awareness. They suggest a fundamental change in family and community behavior.

That shift is also reflected in

collective commitments. In the past few years, hundreds of Eritrean communities have publicly declared their abandonment of FGM/C, representing well over half a million people. Community surveillance mechanisms have subsequently been established to help sustain those commitments across the country.

Today, the work continues. The recent Mendefera meeting, where approximately 148,000 people were reached through awareness activities in only six months, demonstrates that prevention and community engagement remain central to the strategy.

Ultimately, the most important measure of progress is not simply how many people have heard that FGM/C is harmful. It is whether families feel able to reject it without fear of social consequences. A girl should not have to undergo FGM/C to be considered respectable. Parents should not have to choose between protecting their daughter and preserving her social acceptance. Young people should grow up understanding that FGM/C is neither a requirement for marriage nor a measure of religious or cultural identity.

This is where Eritrea's experience offers a broader lesson. Law provides a strong foundation, but lasting change is built through communities. Public awareness, women's leadership, education, religious and traditional engagement, monitoring, and enforcement must work together.

Eritrea has traveled a considerable distance from the widespread acceptance of FGM/C of previous generations. The dramatic decline among younger girls and the growing number of communities publicly rejecting the practice are significant achievements. But that progress must be protected.

In that context, it is encouraging to see continuing investment

in awareness and community action toward a long-term aim of changing attitudes and behavior. The ultimate goal is that no Eritrean girl should face pressure to undergo a harmful practice

simply because generations before her did. Eritrea's experience shows that deeply rooted traditions can change, with the challenge now being to ensure that the change lasts.

The Historical Trajectory . . .

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The operational frontline for this structural hollowing-out strategy was anchored in the expansive refugee camps established in neighboring Sudan and Ethiopia. Run in collusion with hostile regional regimes and Western-funded non-governmental organizations (NGOs), these camps served as processing centers for a manufactured "exodus". As a result, young Eritreans were systematically lured across the border with fraudulent promises of free Western higher education, guaranteed housing, and immediate Western visas. This orchestrated drain was designed to manufacture a false, media-friendly narrative of a permanent humanitarian crisis inside Eritrea, aiming to build an international pretext for foreign interventions. A direct consequence of this blanket, fast-tracked asylum policy was massive, systemic identity theft. Seeing an easy pathway to Western resettlement, tens of thousands of regional migrants from Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia, and other neighboring states falsely claimed Eritrean nationality to guarantee automatic refugee status, artificially inflating the statistics of "Eritrean refugees" to further demonize Eritrea. Some research-based estimates put the proportion of Ethiopians (and others) who have obtained asylum status in various European countries by masquerading as Eritreans in this flawed system ranges from 40%-60%.

While Western powers and aligned international organizations dangled the illusion of "green pastures" to entice the youth away from their national duties, they simultaneously implemented a skewed policy of unilateral sanctions, diplomatic isolations, and "human rights" accusations that suffocated Eritrea's economic growth.

The disconcerting irony is that those who harbour malicious agendas against Eritrea hypocritically demand that it demobilize its forces and scale

back its National Service, even as the expansionist threat from the Prosperity Party (PP) in Addis Ababa remains as existential threat as ever.

Eritrea's National Service is not a flexible policy open to external modification; it is the nation's DNA and its ultimate shield. Built on the bedrock principle of self-reliance, it relies principally on internal strength rather than structural, donor-pampered, and debilitating dependency. It was the youth who won independence through thirty years of armed struggle, it was the youth who protected the state from Ethiopian invasion in the past, and it is the youth today who remain the sole guarantors of the country's territorial integrity.

Hence, in a volatile, unpredictable neighborhood, institutional resilience and the National Service remain absolute necessities for survival. The institution remains Eritrea's primary, time-tested mechanism for safeguarding its hard-won sovereignty, fostering deep-seated national unity across ethnic lines, and ensuring independent development free from external coercion.

Understanding Eritrea's National Service historical trajectory, context and evolution is therefore indispensable. It reveals that Eritrea's National Service was not conceived as an instrument of perpetual militarization, but as a legally established institution designed to balance national defense with civic responsibility, economic reconstruction, and social cohesion. Its subsequent transformation cannot be understood apart from the extraordinary regional circumstances that confronted the country after independence.

Equally, any meaningful discussion of its future must be grounded in an honest appreciation of both Eritrea's historical experience and the continuing security environment in which the country exists.

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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Sona Berhane

Last month, on the 16th, a stellar Italian trio offered music lovers in Asmara an engaging survey of more than half a century of Italian popular music, presenting a carefully curated program tracing the evolution of the country's musical traditions from the post-war years to the modern day. Featuring singer Velia Ricciardi, trumpeter Luigi Paese, and guitarist Massimo Garritano, the concert brought some of the best-known works of music generally known as canzoni italiane. The trio of accomplished musicians preserved the songs' nostalgic appeal by balancing respect for the originals with fresh, intimate interpretations.

Readers may remember Velia Ricciardi from last year's *Aperitivo Italiano* concert, in which she performed as part of a quartet. Velia is the only one from that ensemble to return for another concert, this time in the company of two new collaborators. A professional singer who frequently participates in cultural diplomacy events, Velia has built a reputation for interpreting Italian popular music through a vocal style shaped by jazz influences. Throughout the evening, her precise enunciation, measured delivery, and easy rapport with the audience and fellow musicians added a note of joviality to the performance.

Italian music has long occupied a unique place in world culture. Opera gave Italy its earliest international musical identity.

Grande, Grande, Grande An Evening with the Canzone Italiana

Still, the twentieth century witnessed the development of another equally rich tradition: the canzoni italiana, a style of music that combines poetry, Mediterranean touches, jazz, blues, and folk tradition. Rather than relying on elaborate orchestration, the trio allowed this longstanding tradition to remain at the center of the evening. Supported only by voice, trumpet and guitar, each arrangement focused on the essentials and preserved the melodic strength that has made these works beloved classics.

The evening opened with Lucio Dalla's *Caruso*, one of the most celebrated songs in modern Italian music. Written in 1986 after Dalla stayed in the hotel where the legendary tenor Enrico Caruso spent his final days, the piece draws from both operatic and Neapolitan traditions to explore love, memory, and mortality. When the performance began at 7:00, audiences were greeted not by the entire ensemble but by a two-minute trumpet solo from Luigi Paese, whose instrument carried the lyrical notes through the hall before Velia and Massimo joined him. Positioned at the back of the audience, Luigi made his way down the aisle and onto the stage while continuing his performance. As an opening selection and delivery choice, it



set the tone for an expressive and interactive evening of storytelling. Luigi is an accomplished jazz trumpeter active in chamber jazz and crossover ensembles in Italy. During the concert, he moved effortlessly between lyrical solos, accompaniment, and occasional backing vocals.

From there, the concert moved through successive generations of Italian music. Mina's *Mi sei scoppiato dentro al cuore* ("You burst into my heart") is an icon of Italian popular music that captures the overwhelming force of unexpected love. Later in the program, her internationally celebrated *Grande, Grande, Grande* offered a different perspective on love by combining tenderness with strength, demonstrating why the song has been translated and performed around the world. Velia approached both works with restraint, allowing their emotional intensity to come through naturally rather than forcing dramatic effects. Then, she took on Ornella Vanoni's *La voglie, la pazzia* ("Desire, Madness"), a composition shaped by Vanoni's collaboration with Brazilian musicians and deeply influenced by bossa nova. It introduced new harmonic colors into the evening. For me, this was one of the strengths of the program: its tribute to the contributions of talented women who have defined Italian popular songs over the decades. The concert moved comfortably between different eras and musical styles as Luigi

and Massimo alternated smoothly between accompaniment and improvisation.

Pino Daniele featured prominently in the evening, reflecting his special place in Italian music as an artist who successfully fused blues, jazz, and traditional Neapolitan song. *Alleria* conveyed the reflective, optimistic tone of southern Italy, *Quando* brought Daniele's lyrical and understated simplicity, and the energetic *Je so'pazzo*, which feels a lot like a rock anthem, provided some of the concert's liveliest moments. These pieces also allowed Massimo's skill to shine fully. Massimo is a guitarist, composer, improviser, and university educator who currently teaches jazz guitar at the Giuseppe Verdi Conservatory in Milan. Unlike many jazz guitarists, his work emphasizes texture and atmosphere as much as melody. Throughout the evening, he almost turned the guitar itself into an orchestra, using unconventional techniques and layered harmonic effects that were breathtaking and enriched the trio's minimalist format without overwhelming it.

Later on, Fred Buscaglione's *Guarda che luna* ("Look at the moon") brought to mind the influence of American swing and jazz on post-war Italian music, its hazy atmosphere lending itself naturally to Luigi's trumpet and Massimo's guitar. The era was also explored from another perspective in Renato Carosone's

instantly recognizable classic *Tu vuo fa' l'americano* ("You want to be an American"). Written in the years following the Second World War, the song humorously satirizes Italians eager to imitate American fashions and lifestyles. Although it is rooted in a specific historical moment, its wit and infectiously springy rhythm resonated with the audiences, many of whom joined Velia in singing the refrain.

Roma non fa' la stupida stasera ("Rome, don't be foolish tonight"), from the celebrated musical *Rugantino* by Pietro Garinei and Sandro Giovannini, paid affectionate tribute to the Eternal City and its distinct cultural character. During her performance, Velia replaced Rome with Asmara and roused the audience to serenade their own city.

If only for 90 minutes, this spirited medley of 20th-century canzone italiana took everyone into the halls of Cinema Roma on a wonderful musical journey through different periods of Italian cultural history. The evening concluded with Domenico Modugno's immortal *Nel blu, dipinto di blu*, universally known simply as *Volare*. Since winning the Sanremo Music Festival in 1958, the song has become one of the most recognizable pieces of Italian music ever written – if not the most recognizable. Its opening words, "Nel blu, dipinto di blu" ("In the blue, painted blue"), evoke a lofty, dreamlike sense of limitless possibility, and its famous refrain, "Volare" ("To fly"), gives a fitting conclusion to a program that celebrated the magical power of music to bridge cultures across borders and generations. And *Volare* is, once again, the song that drew an encore from the audience, as was also the case last year when Velia beckoned the audience to join in.

I'm a fan of concerts of this kind where cultural diplomacy events place art at their center and create brief but meaningful encounters between different societies. This latest event was organized through a collaboration between the Embassy of the Republic of Italy in Eritrea and the Commission of Culture and Sports. When I spoke with the musicians backstage after the performance, they said they had enjoyed their stay in Asmara and hoped to return in the future. One can only hope that the audiences in Asmara will see them at another marvelous concert next year.



Manufacturing Crises: A Response to Coercive Diplomacy

Rejecting Manufactured Pretexts and Revisionist Claims: A Defense of Regional Stability and Sovereign Integrity

By: David Yeh

The recent diplomatic statement and public commentary issued from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ethiopia represent a calculated distortion of geopolitical realities, a weaponization of diplomatic channels, and a troubling attempt to manufacture a formal pretext for military escalation in the Horn of Africa. By framing Ethiopia as an aggrieved seeker of dialogue while portraying Eritrea as a chronic regional destabilizer, the Ethiopian Potemkin Party government seeks to invert history, disregard binding international law, and divert international attention away from its own deep seated domestic crises. The assertions that Eritrea is pursuing policies aimed at the political fragmentation or subordination of Ethiopia are completely devoid of factual basis, lacking any verifiable coordinates, third party validation, or empirical proof. Ethiopia's severe political fragmentation, internal armed insurgencies, and regional volatility are not the product of external intervention from Eritrea; rather, they are the direct outcome of internal governance failures, centralizing political policies, and a persistent reliance on military force to settle internal political rivalries.

Attributing native armed resistance within Ethiopia to foreign orchestration is a familiar political maneuver designed to externalize domestic governance failures. By fabricating an external antagonist, the leadership in Addis Ababa attempts to unite a deeply divided domestic constituency, silence internal criticism, and lay the groundwork for military adventurism beyond its borders. Eritrea explicitly rejects these unfounded allegations and refuses to serve as a convenient scapegoat for Ethiopia's unresolved domestic crises. The assertion that Asmara harbors strategic ambitions to weaken or fragment Ethiopia ignores Eritrea's consistent adherence to the core principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states, respect for inherited borders, and commitment to regional stability.

The revisionist nature of Ethiopia's foreign policy is most acutely revealed in its rhetoric concerning sovereign access to the Red Sea and its persistent questioning of Eritrean

statehood. Under the guise of seeking pragmatic cooperation or commercial dialogue, official statements and state sanctioned commentary from Addis Ababa have repeatedly challenged the legality of Eritrea's independence and asserted existential entitlements over sovereign Eritrean maritime space and port infrastructure.

This expansionist mindset was recently articulated by figures such as Ambassador General Bacha Debele, a former junior officer in the Ethiopian army who was captured in 1981 during Eritrea's war of liberation and spent a decade as a prisoner of war before being released alongside more than 130,000 Ethiopian POWs upon Eritrea's victory in 1991.

Ambassador Bacha, who later commanded Ethiopian troops during the 1998 – 2000 border conflict, published commentary framing Eritrea's 1993 independence as a historic mistake that left Ethiopia unjustly deprived of sea access. The promotion of such narratives by high-ranking military and diplomatic officials demonstrates a structural effort within the Ethiopian political establishment to treat established post-colonial borders as open for renegotiation.

International law and the United Nations Charter do not grant any landlocked state an inherent, existential right to claim, coerce, or seize sovereign coastal territory from a neighboring nation. Commercial access to maritime routes and port services is routinely established through voluntary bilateral agreements between sovereign equals, not through existential demands, historical revisionism, or military posturing.

To suggest that a sovereign state's territorial integrity is subject to negotiation under the threat of regional instability is a direct violation of the foundational tenets that govern international relations; and specifically, the UN Charter, the AU Constitutive Act as well as the OAU 1964 Resolution in the sanctity of the Colonial Boundaries.

The 1998-2000 border war between Eritrea and Ethiopia occurred because the latter resorted to forceful acts of aggression to alter the centuries-old border delimited in accordance with explicit colonial treaties (1902, 1908 and 1910).

After a costly war, the Eritrea – Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC), that was subsequently established under the 2000 Algiers Agreement, essentially endorsed the same border. Both nations were bound, and had committed themselves in advance, to accept the Border Commission's rulings as final and binding. The historical driver of border instability was not Eritrean intransigence, but Ethiopia's long-standing refusal to implement the EEBC's delimitation and demarcation decisions unconditionally.

Demanding that Eritrea perpetually re-engage in dialogue on its inviolable sovereign boundaries under the threat of conflict subverts the sanctity of international treaties and international law.

The Ethiopian Foreign Ministry's emphasis on its public letters and diplomatic appeals, including the formal letter issued in February 2026, must be understood within this broader framework of coercive diplomacy. Diplomatic engagement that conditions peace on the compromise of sovereign rights or the acceptance of irredentist claims is not genuine diplomacy; it is an ultimatum.

The public dissemination of these communications, accompanied by explicit warnings of state collapse, uncontrolled migration flows, and the potential exercise of necessary measures under the guise of self-defense, serves a deliberate operational purpose. It is designed to construct a procedural paper trail, a diplomatic facade to persuade the international community that peaceful options were systematically exhausted prior to any military escalation.

Threatening a sovereign neighbor with state collapse and military intervention exposes an aggressive posture that directly threatens the peace of the Horn of Africa and the safe navigation of the Red Sea corridor.

The international community must look beyond the aggrieved diplomatic language deployed by Addis Ababa and recognize these maneuvers for what they truly represent: a dangerous attempt to subvert sovereign borders and reshape regional geopolitics through force.

True stability in the Horn of

Africa cannot be built on coercive demands, historical revisionism, or the externalization of internal political failure.

Eritrea remains steadfast in its defense of its national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and internationally recognized borders, while remaining fully committed to peaceful coexistence. Ethiopia would be best served by turning its attention inward to resolve its domestic governance challenges while respecting and adhering strictly to international law and established norms of sovereign equality among nations.

In conclusion, the assertions put forward by the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs present a fundamental reversal of cause and effect in the Horn of Africa.

By attempting to externalize domestic governance failures, tampering with established and sacrosanct borders, and framing coercive demands for "sovereign Red Sea access" under the guise of diplomatic engagement, Addis Ababa constructs a dangerous pretext for regional escalation.

Lasting peace, maritime security, and stability in the Horn of Africa cannot be built on historical revisionism or threats to sovereign integrity. Genuine security will only be achieved when Ethiopia respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of its neighbours, turns its focus toward resolving its domestic political challenges, and adheres strictly to the established norms of sovereign equality among nations.

NEWS

CALL FOR ENHANCED ROLE IN DOCUMENTING CULTURAL HERITAGE

At a meeting held in Barentu on 11 August, a call was made for greater public participation, particularly by youth and experts, in efforts to explore and document the rich cultural heritage of the Gash Barka Region and pass it on to future generations.

The meeting reviewed activities carried out by the Culture and Sports Department in the region, in collaboration with partners, to preserve and document tangible and intangible heritage. It also assessed the progress made and discussed future programs.

Mr. Idris Saleh, Director General of Culture and Sports in the region, said that a number of cultural heritage elements that had been on the verge of extinction have been properly documented by an expert-led committee and are being showcased at regional and national events.

Mr. Idris also commended the public and the committees for their contributions and participation in promoting the region's rich tangible and intangible heritage at various forums, including the national festival.

The participants adopted various recommendations, including continuing cultural competitions at the administrative-area level, strengthening exploratory and research activities on cultural heritage, and enhancing public participation in these efforts.



Development

Preserving Tradition Through Innovation

Engineer Amanuel Asgedom's Improved Top-bar Beehive for Eritrean Beekeepers

Innovation often begins with observing everyday challenges and finding practical solutions. For Engineer Amanuel Asgedom, Head of the Ministry of Agriculture Office in Keren Sub-Zone, Anseba Region, that journey began while working closely with farmers during agricultural extension visits. At the Eritrean National Festival-2026, Engineer Amanuel presented an improved beehive that combines Eritrea's traditional beekeeping heritage with modern scientific principles. His innovation demonstrates that meaningful progress can be achieved without abandoning local knowledge and practices.

Building on Tradition



The Improved Top-Bar Bee Hive

For generations, Eritrean farmers have relied on traditional cylindrical beehives made from locally available materials. While these hives have served as the backbone of honey production across the country, they also present several management challenges. Harvesting honey can be difficult, hive inspection is limited, and transporting or maintaining the hives often requires considerable effort.

Rather than replacing these traditional hives with expensive imported alternatives, Engineer Amanuel chose a different approach. "We wanted to preserve the traditional hive while integrating modern scientific improvements," he explains.

His design retains the familiar structure and uses materials that farmers already know well—bamboo, tree branches, straw,

grasses, and clay. The major innovation is the addition of a lightweight, inexpensive welded metal frame built to internationally recognized standards. The improved top-bar hive also incorporates removable wooden frames that allow bees to construct honeycombs naturally while making hive management significantly easier.

A Farmer-Friendly Innovation

One of the greatest strengths of the improved top-bar beehive is its accessibility. Most construction materials are readily available in local communities, allowing farmers to build and repair hives themselves at minimal expense. Only a few

improved design and presented it at the Anseba Regional Innovation and Technology Competition. The innovation attracted considerable attention and was later showcased at a regional exhibition organized in collaboration with development partners.

Strong Institutional Support

Engineer Amanuel credits much of the project's success to the support of the Ministry of Agriculture, agricultural extension experts, development partners, and local institutions. Technical specialists have provided professional guidance to refine the design, while exhibitions and public demonstrations have helped



Engineer Amanuel Asgedom showcasing his innovation

evaluation, and recognition of successful innovators will encourage further improvements in Eritrea's agricultural sector. He also encourages professionals and extension staff to spend more time with farmers in rural communities, where valuable innovations often originate.

"Scientific knowledge and innovation should reach every part of the country," he says.

A Vision Rooted in Local Knowledge

Engineer Amanuel's improved top-bar beehive is more than a new agricultural technology—it represents a thoughtful blend of tradition and innovation. By respecting indigenous knowledge while applying

modern engineering principles, he has created a solution that is practical, affordable, and well suited to Eritrea's rural communities.

As the Ministry of Agriculture continues to promote improved beekeeping practices, innovations like this demonstrate how locally developed solutions can strengthen food and nutrition security, increase honey production, improve farmers' livelihoods, and contribute to sustainable agricultural development across Eritrea.

Prepared by: Tsinat Yibrah
Translated by: Sophia Fekadu
Public Relations Division, Ministry of Agriculture

standardized metal components require fabrication, making the overall cost affordable for small-scale beekeepers. Beyond affordability, the design offers practical advantages. It is easier to inspect, maintain, transport, and harvest from, while still preserving the natural environment that bees require for healthy colony development.

From Field Observations to National Recognition

The idea for the improved hive emerged during agricultural extension work in 2024, when Ministry of Agriculture staff visited farming communities throughout Keren Sub-Zone. During these visits, they identified the difficulties farmers faced in managing traditional hives. Motivated by these observations, Engineer Amanuel developed the

introduce the innovation to farmers and the wider public. According to Engineer Amanuel, visitors frequently spend considerable time discussing the new hive and asking questions about its construction and use. The response has been overwhelmingly positive. Farmers appreciate that the hive is affordable, easy to maintain, and built using familiar materials.

Looking Ahead

Although the innovation has already gained recognition, Engineer Amanuel believes continued collaboration will be essential for its long-term success. He emphasizes the importance of strong coordination among government institutions, development partners, researchers, and agricultural extension workers. Careful planning, regular



Alge and Andie Organic Pesticides

The Historical Trajectory of Eritrea's National Service

C*ontinued from page 2*

Government of Eritrea made the restoration of peacetime conditions a national priority. On 10 April 2001, it established the National Commission for the Demobilization and Reintegration Programme through Proclamation No. 113/2001, creating a dedicated statutory body mandated to implement a comprehensive demobilization and reintegration programme over a phased period of four to five years. Rather than viewing demobilization as a narrow military exercise, the Proclamation explicitly recognized it as an integral component of Eritrea's broader nation-building and development strategy, emphasizing that successful reintegration could only be achieved within a coherent framework of individual rehabilitation, national reconstruction and economic development.

Unlike the self-funded demobilization undertaken in 1992, the 2001 programme was conceived as a comprehensive national reintegration initiative combining demobilization, reinsertion, and long-term economic and social integration. The legislation acknowledged that the programme would affect not only former National Service members, but also their families, dependents, and the wider community, requiring coordinated national planning rather than isolated rehabilitation measures. It further emphasized that the objective was not merely to discharge personnel from military service, but to equip beneficiaries with vocational skills, education, and productive employment opportunities that would enable them to reintegrate into society and contribute to national economic growth.

To achieve these objectives, Proclamation No. 113/2001 established a National Commission vested with broad responsibilities. These included coordinating national policies, mobilizing domestic and international resources, overseeing sustainable reintegration programmes, ensuring continuous vocational training, promoting literacy and free elementary education for demobilized personnel who required it, giving particular attention to the reintegration of women, and coordinating closely with government institutions, development partners, the United Nations, and non-governmental organizations. The Commission was further mandated to prepare detailed implementation plans, monitor programme performance, maintain transparent financial management, and establish regional structures with networks up to the lowest levels of the country's administrative structures capable of

supporting reintegration throughout Eritrea.

Recognizing the credibility and significance of Eritrea's post-war transition strategy, the programme received substantial financial and technical support from the World Bank, the European Union, and other bilateral development partners. As a result, between 2001 and 2007, more than 105,000 National Service members were successfully demobilized, many of whom entered civilian public service, vocational training programmes, or received financial assistance and technical support to establish small private businesses and sustainable livelihoods.

The programme, however, was ultimately overtaken by circumstances beyond Eritrea's control. This massive and highly successful demobilization effort was ultimately forced to a halt and shelved because of external political lawlessness. The incumbent Ethiopian regime, emboldened by the explicit diplomatic and financial protection of global powers and institutions such as the US, EU, UN, AU, and others openly reneged on its treaty obligations, rejected the final and binding ruling of the international boundary commission, and continued to occupy sovereign Eritrean territories – including the symbolic town of Badme – with complete impunity.

For nearly two decades, Eritrea was forced into a grueling “no-war, no-peace” stalemate, facing an aggressive neighbour that openly proclaimed its desire for “regime change” in Asmara, while maintaining a massive military buildup along the border.

In such an environment, where an existential threat loomed constantly over the horizon and the international community refused to enforce its own treaties, the Government of Eritrea had no choice but to depend on, and mobilize, its only national human resource and extend national service duties beyond the legal and normative peace-time duration of 18 months to safeguard its borders and prevent the outright erasure of its sovereignty. The extension of service was not a policy of choice, but a painful necessity dictated by the lawless behavior of its neighbors and their global sponsors.

The geopolitical landscape of the Horn of Africa has undergone dramatic shifts and realignments over the past decade, yet the underlying threat matrix facing Eritrea remains remarkably consistent.

The political mindset of successive leadership groups in Addis Ababa remains, in many fundamental respects, a continuation and aggravation of the misguided, expansionist, and deplorable policies of aggression practiced by their predecessors.

Despite fleeting moments of diplomatic hope, hostile rhetoric regarding territorial irredentism, regional hegemony, and the questioning of legal, colonial-era borders continues to emanate from prominent regional actors and their intellectual echo chambers.

This persistent instability and volatile political climate require Eritrea to maintain a robust, highly adaptive, and deeply resilient defensive posture. These include, among others, the prolongation of national service duties, regular refresher military training for members of the reserve or people's army, restriction on the movement of certain age groups of servicemen from foreign travel, and related obligations. A nation that lets its guard down in such a volatile neighborhood risks immediate destabilization, making the preservation of its defense architecture a matter of life and death.

Yet, even while managing these protracted, multifaceted security challenges during incredibly trying times, the Government of Eritrea has not remained static.

It has taken consistent, proactive domestic measures to mitigate the socioeconomic burden of the National Service on its citizens and adapt the institution to contemporary realities. Chief among these interventions was the introduction of a completely restructured and substantially higher Civil Service salary scale.

This economic reform ensures that National Service members deployed across various national institutions receive competitive remuneration aligned with their educational qualifications, effectively transforming the service into a sustainable livelihood and a viable pathway for personal advancement. Today, the overwhelming majority of National Service members are assigned to the civilian public sector, serving as the backbone of the nation's development. They are the educators staffing rural schools, the healthcare professionals operating modern regional hospitals, the engineers building national transport infrastructure, the young diplomats representing their country abroad, and the agricultural technicians ensuring food security in arid regions. By channeling these human resources into vital public infrastructure, the state effectively fuses the requirements of national defense with the goals of sustainable national development.

Thus, any objective legal assessment of Eritrea's National Service must begin with its historical trajectory. Detached from this context, legal analysis becomes incomplete and risks substituting political narratives for objective evaluation. No national institution emerges in a historical vacuum. The

structure, purpose, and trajectory of any country's defense and public service institutions are products of its unique historical circumstances, constitutional choices, geopolitical realities, and developmental priorities. Eritrea's National Service is no exception.

The valuation of the institution must therefore begin not with contemporary political debates, but with the historical processes that forged the Eritrean State itself: the denial of self-determination, the thirty-year liberation struggle, the immense challenges of post-independence reconstruction, the devastating border conflict with Ethiopia between 1998 and 2000, and the 16 long years of occupation of Eritrean territory by Ethiopia that followed and the current dangerous rhetoric of “maritime imperative” from Ethiopia. Without this broader context, shallow analysis risks producing conclusions that are not only incomplete but fundamentally misleading.

Unfortunately, many contemporary portrayals of Eritrea's National Service suffer precisely from this historical deficiency. Rather than examining the institution as part of Eritrea's broader nation-building and security architecture, they frequently isolate it from the circumstances that necessitated its establishment and subsequent adaptation. Such approaches overlook the interaction between international law, regional security dynamics, and the sovereign responsibility of states to ensure their territorial integrity, constitutional order, and national survival. Moreover, the prevailing premise pushed by external critics that Eritrea is “an inherently militaristic society or resistant to demobilization” is flatly contradicted by the actual historical record.

Indeed, demobilization is not a foreign concept forced upon the country, but rather an Eritrean precedent initiated on the state's own volition immediately after the liberation of the country.

When viewed through the objective lens of history, legal precedence, and actual regional security realities, the narrative surrounding Eritrea's National Service shifts focus entirely. The renewed, highly coordinated, and aggressive smear campaigns peddled by certain external quarters are completely devoid of any genuine desire to foster regional peace, stability, or the welfare of the Eritrean people.

Those external forces who have traditionally abandoned Eritrea during its cyclical historical ordeals, and who actively enabled the lawless occupation of its territory, cannot now pose as good-faith partners offering unsolicited advice on how the nation structures its national security and protects its population.

If these external actors truly cared about the youth of Eritrea, they would focus their diplomatic energy on enforcing international law, respecting international boundaries, and ending the unfair economic sanctions and politically motivated special mechanisms used to isolate the country and incite youth “exodus” through a subtly engineered scheme of “strategic depopulation”.

In this respect, the recent, coordinated resurgence of media and diplomatic attacks against Eritrea's National Service is neither a novel phenomenon nor an isolated response to current regional dynamics. For nearly three decades, targeting this institution has been a core strategic objective for the country's arch-enemies. The underlying calculation has always been transparent: hollow out the National Service, drain the nation of its human capital, and downgrade and compromise Eritrea's independent defense capabilities, rendering the state vulnerable to external aggression and regional hegemony.

At the heart of the post-2000 political architecture following the non-implementation of the Algiers Agreement lays an insidious campaign of strategic depopulation. By deliberately engineering and incentivizing the continuous outward migration of Eritrea's youth during a pivotal phase of post-independence nation-building, hostile external actors directly targeted the country's ability to maintain equilibrium across defense, socio-economic development, and institutional growth. The primary multilateral vehicle for executing this depopulation policy was the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

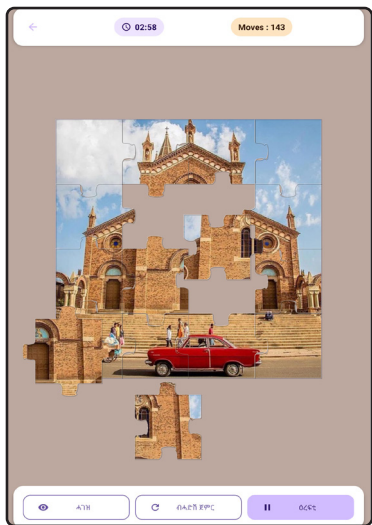
To cloak this demographic warfare in legal legitimacy, the UNHCR released two highly biased “Eligibility Guidelines” in 2009 and 2011. These documents advocated for the “blanket, automatic granting of asylum to all National Service members”, explicitly designating any youth eligible for National Service as a member of a “persecuted class”. This unprecedented blanket policy bypassed standard individual refugee status determination procedures. Coupled with direct recruitment incentives that actively urged youth to cross into neighboring states under the promise of “fast-tracked third-country resettlement”, these UNHCR guidelines became the chief engine driving Eritrean emigration over the last two decades. In this context, it must also be underlined that the scheme has impelled tens of thousands of young Eritreans to fall prey to transnational human trafficking syndicates, with all the perils that this entails.

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Technology as a Bridge Between Generations: A Conversation with Shambko Apps Group

Kidane Shimendi



Jigsaw

Please introduce yourselves to our readers.

•**Yacob Merhawi:** I was born in 1982 and graduated in pedagogy from the Asmara Teachers Training Institute (ATTI) in 2002. Over the past 24 years, I have served as a teacher, head of pedagogy, and director for Tigrinya language training programs. In 2011, I collaborated with Eng. Sham Mesfin to co-develop Tigrinya language-learning software, and I have authored seven educational textbooks for students. I also contribute regularly as a columnist for the Termuma and Crossword Puzzle sections in the Hadas Eritrea newspaper. Within Shambko Apps Group, I draw on this background to serve as project coordinator and language expert.

•**Samson Girmay:** Born in 1994, I earned my degree in Computer Technology from the College of Engineering and Technology in 2012. Assigned to the Eritrean Air Force, I have spent the last decade designing software and mobile applications for operational and administrative use. My projects include inventory management systems for the Air Force, specialized mobile platforms for educators, and a container control system implemented at Massawa Port. I also teach computer science and provide IT consulting for private institutions.

•**Yonatan Tesfu:** Born in 1997, I graduated from Mai Nefhi College in 2020 with a degree in Computer Applications. I currently work at the Beit Gergish Adi Halo workshop, focusing on Android application development and systems programming. In 2023, I designed a student record management application that is currently used by the Kidane

Every year, the community of young tech innovators in Eritrea continues to expand. Across vital national development sectors—including education, healthcare, and agriculture—many young professionals are applying technology to drive tangible progress. Among them is the Shambko Apps Group, a collective using software engineering skills to bridge generational gaps and preserve national culture through specialized mobile applications. Eritrea Profile spoke with the group to discuss their recent achievements, vision, and plans.

Mihret Church in Sembel.

•**Nazrawi Gidey:** Born in 2003, I studied Computer Applications at the College of Technology and Engineering and currently work

content available in local languages that mirrored the national school syllabus. To address this need, we began by developing Tigrinya-language platforms and plan to expand

application showcasing high-resolution imagery of Eritrea’s natural landscapes, historical monuments, traditional artifacts, and prominent figures, reinforcing cultural heritage while building spatial reasoning skills.



SHAMBKO APPS GROUP

as an IT specialist at Asmara International Airport. Passionate about software architecture, I have built custom applications for local organizations and have co-developed five apps with the Shambko Apps Group.

What is the meaning behind the name “Shambko Apps Group”?

Shambko is the Tigrinya word for a traditional flute—a simple yet iconic musical instrument known for its clear, resonant sound. Historically, pastoral herders crafted the shambko using readily available natural materials to entertain themselves and their herds. We selected this name to reflect our operational philosophy: creating high-impact, accessible, and intuitive educational tools using practical local resources.

What is the core vision of your group?

Our overarching goal is to leverage digital technology to strengthen academic performance by designing mobile apps aligned with the official national curriculum across all nine Eritrean languages.

Our initial research highlighted a clear gap: there was virtually no digital educational software, mobile applications, or video

into Eritrea’s eight other national languages.

What applications has the group developed so far?

We have successfully launched five mobile applications:

•**‘Fidelatey’ (My Alphabets):** Teaches the Ge’ez script used in Tigrinya using standard classroom pedagogical methods. Featuring



SHAMBKO APPS LOGO

interactive exercises, audio guides, and quizzes, it is designed primarily for kindergarten and primary school pupils.

•**‘Zitemesagele Qalat’ (Crossword Puzzle):** A language enrichment tool featuring vertical and horizontal word grids. It allows students and adults to expand their Tigrinya vocabulary through engaging word puzzles.

•**‘Habesha Jigsaw’:** A puzzle

•**‘Qalat Dileyu’ (Word Search):** A classic word-search platform featuring multiple difficulty levels to help users systematically build vocabulary skills in Tigrinya.

•**‘Gidel Dede’ (Dede’s Puzzle):** Focused on mathematics and logic, this numerical puzzle helps primary students build core arithmetic and analytical skills. Players use basic addition and subtraction operations on an eight-number setup to derive missing values.

What are your plans?

Our primary goal is to adapt our existing frameworks into Eritrea’s other national languages. Additionally, we are prioritizing mathematics education. Given the recent national emphasis on improving STEM performance, we are developing gamified modules to simplify core mathematical concepts for young

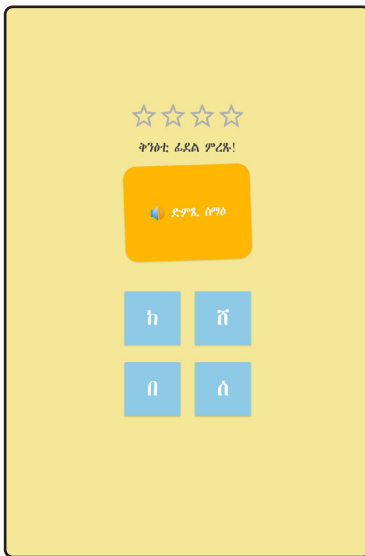
learners.

Furthermore, all our applications are structured to serve members of the Eritrean diaspora, offering young people abroad an accessible way to learn their native languages and maintain ties to their cultural roots.

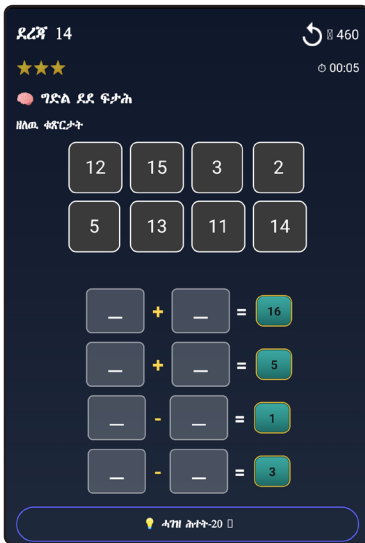
Do you have any message for our readers?



Ge'ez word search



Fidelatey (My Alphabet)



Math Puzzle Game

We invite fellow software developers, translators, and educators—particularly native speakers of Eritrea’s various national languages—to collaborate with us on this initiative. By combining our efforts, we can expand digital learning tools for young students across the country.

Finally, we extend our gratitude to everyone who has supported our work. We welcome partnership opportunities with relevant institutions, ministries, and community organizations to help us scale these tools nationally.