

SUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO EXPAND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES



the 35th Independence Day anniversary, Dr. Halima said that the most fundamental policy of education in Eritrea is tied to the realization of social justice. She added that the Government has worked relentlessly to expand access to education, even in the most remote corners of the country, and that significant achievements have been recorded over the past 35 years.

Dr. Halima Mohammed, Minister of Education, said that, as a result of the strong efforts exerted to provide educational opportunities equally and equitably across the country, immense achievements have been registered in the expansion of educational facilities, the participation and competitiveness of females, as well as in the eradication of illiteracy.

In an interview with national media outlets in connection with

Dr. Halima further noted that the number of pre-schools, which stood at 359 in the 1991/1992 academic year, increased by 544% in the 2024/2025 academic year, reaching 1,952.

The number of elementary schools has increased from 381 to 1,097, junior schools from 65 to 469, and high schools from 25 to 132, Dr. Halima added.

Regarding the number of students and teachers, Dr. Halima said that

the number of students at all levels, which was over 267,000 in the 1991/1992 academic year, increased to 880,000 in the 2024/2025 academic year, while the number of teachers increased from 5,456 to 29,448.

Noting that earnest effort is still required in technical and vocational training, Dr. Halima indicated that the number of technical schools has increased from two to six.

Dr. Halima further said that the Ministry of Education 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.

ERITREA PARTICIPATES AT “AFRICA FORWARD SUMMIT”

An Eritrean delegation led by Mr. Beyene Russom, Eritrea’s Ambassador to Kenya, participated at the “Africa Forward Summit” convened in Nairobi, Kenya, on 11 and 12 May.



The summit, jointly hosted by President William Ruto of Kenya and President Emmanuel Macron of France and attended by over 30 leaders and foreign ministers, was aimed at establishing mutually beneficial partnerships between African countries and France for sustainable development goals.

The summit also adopted resolutions on the introduction of new technology, investment expansion and knowledge transfer, improving agricultural activities, food security, climate change mitigation, and other significant issues.

In other news from the diaspora,

Mr. Fesehatsion Petros, Eritrea’s Ambassador to Italy and non-resident Ambassador to Sweden, and Mr. Mohammed-Ali Mohammed-Seid, Charge d’Affaires at the Eritrean Embassy in the Scandinavian countries, held a fruitful meeting with Mr. Dag Hartelius, Swedish State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and other officials of the Ministry.

The two sides conducted extensive discussions on mutual cooperation and Eritrea’s role in regional issues. They also agreed to work in partnership to strengthen diplomatic and economic programs.

ERITREAN DELEGATION ADDRESSES AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS SESSION

An Eritrean delegation led by Mr. Biniam Berhe, Charge d’Affaires at the Eritrean Embassy in Ethiopia and Eritrea’s Permanent Representative to the AU and the Economic Commission for Africa, participated in the 87th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, convened in Banjul, The Gambia, from 11 to 20 May.

Addressing the session on 13 May, Mr. Biniam said that in a few days, on 24 May, Eritrea will celebrate the 35th anniversary of its independence under the theme “Our Resilience: Our Guarantee.” In celebrating this momentous occasion, Eritreans renew their oath to fulfill the martyrs’ vision by building a peaceful and prosperous nation.

Mr. Biniam went on to say that, despite the turbulent regional and international environment and persistent external pressure, the Government of Eritrea remains firmly committed to the promotion of human rights through a people-oriented and holistic approach. He added that Eritrea has continued to register tangible progress in key sectors directly linked to improving the well-being and living standards of its people.

Noting that Eritrea’s achievements in the promotion of human rights are deeply rooted in the principles of social justice and strong community participation, Mr. Biniam reiterated that community-led infrastructure development and public mobilization campaigns continue to serve as important mechanisms for advancing sustainable development and ensuring local ownership of national programs.

While acknowledging the progress achieved, Mr. Biniam underlined that Eritrea remains fully aware that several challenges persist. Nevertheless, he said, Eritrea remains committed to continuing its people-centered development trajectory, strengthening national

institutions, expanding access to essential services, and enhancing the realization of all human rights for its people.

The delegation also gave a briefing at a forum conducted on 12 May focusing on Eritrea’s experience in ensuring the supply of water and community-based environmental sanitation systems.

The video-supported briefing focused on the efforts Eritrea has been exerting through internal initiative and capacity to ensure the supply of potable water, including the construction of dams, rehabilitation of water catchments, afforestation, and the establishment of water distribution centers, among others.



SEMINAR FOR FEMALE MEMBERS OF THE DEFENSE FORCES



Asmara, 15 May 2026- Ms. Tekea Tesfamicael, President of the National Union of Eritrean Women, conducted a seminar for female members of the Eritrean Defense Forces focusing on the “Role of Eritrean Women in Resilience and Development.”

At the seminar, conducted yesterday, 15 May, at Denden Camp, Ms. Tekea noted that the EPLF exerted strong efforts to realize equality through practice and carried out extensive awareness and organizational activities. As a result, the National Union of Eritrean Women was established in November 1979 during the armed struggle for Independence.

Ms. Tekea went on to say that, as a result of the opportunities created for women during the armed

struggle for Independence, Eritrean women were able to receive political and vocational training and effectively participate in all sectors of the struggle, including as army commanders.

Noting that after Independence the Eritrean Government abolished and amended laws that harmed and discriminated against women and issued new equitable laws, Ms. Tekea said that these measures, combined with the values nurtured during the armed struggle, have created new opportunities for women.

Ms. Tekea also said that the union is exerting strong efforts to strengthen its organization inside the country and abroad, and called for reinforced efforts and greater participation of women.

Development

Eritrea@35 Eritrea's Agricultural Development Over the Past 35 Years: Significant Progress in the Regulation of Agricultural Products

Ermias Solomon

Over the past 35 years of independence, substantial efforts have been undertaken to ensure the availability of safe and nutritious agricultural products in markets across Eritrea. According to reports from the Regulatory Services Department (RSD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, major achievements in this area are summarized below. It is also important to note that the necessary inspection and control services have been carried out using appropriate regulatory instruments and guidelines.

Ensuring Food Safety and Quality

Because food safety begins at the farm level, considerable efforts have been made to put into practice the "farm-to-table" fundamental principle in food safety. Accordingly, a number of inspection initiatives have been implemented to regulate agricultural products at the production stage.



One notable example is the successful control of pesticide-contaminated tomatoes produced in the Gash-Barka Region and sold in the markets of Asmara. Through strict enforcement measures and awareness-raising campaigns targeting farmers, the misuse of pesticides was significantly reduced. Today, apart from occasional incidents, contamination of tomatoes with pesticide residues is no longer a major concern in the market.

In line with good agricultural and manufacturing practices, efforts have also been made to ensure the safety and quality of raw materials used on farms and in agri-food processing establishments. Over the past 35 years, the number of agri-food enterprises processing animal and plant products—including animal feed manufacturing facilities—has increased from around seven before



vegetables have been developed over the past independence years by the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) of the Ministry of Agriculture. After evaluation and approval by the National Variety Release Committee, coordinated by the Regulatory Services Department, these varieties have been incorporated into seed multiplication programs, which have had a significant impact on crop production and productivity. Over the past 12 years, annual production of improved seed has increased from 700 quintals to 6,000 quintals.

Agricultural Chemicals

Agricultural chemicals can have serious adverse effects on human health, animals, and the environment if they are not properly managed and used. Pesticides, in particular, pose significant risks. In response, a nationwide campaign conducted between 2007 and 2017 led to the safe disposal of more than 360 tons of obsolete pesticide stocks, many of which had accumulated since the colonial era. These stocks were transported to England for disposal in accordance with international standards. Approximately 160 metric tons remain and are scheduled for safe disposal in the near future. In addition, more than 6,500 empty pesticide containers were cleaned and crushed using appropriate technology for safe and easy storage.

With regard to veterinary drugs, 46 metric tons of expired veterinary medicines and vaccines were safely disposed of within the country in collaboration with relevant institutions. An additional six metric tons are expected to be disposed of in the near future.

Natural Resources Regulatory Activities

In collaboration with relevant government institutions and some private entities, the Regulatory Services Department has established

process will also be expanded to further enrich the NDFF and enhance its usefulness to concerned institutions.

Role of the Regulatory Services Department

The Regulatory Services Department was established in 2003 and is responsible for regulating issues related to natural resources, plant resources, and animal resources. The Department is currently playing a significant role in advancing the Ministry of Agriculture's strategic objective: "Safe and Nutritious Food for Everyone, Everywhere."

Public Relations Division
Ministry of Agriculture, Eritrea



Eritrea's independence to nearly 40 in 2026. This figure does not include more than 25 small-scale sesame oil processing enterprises currently operating in the country.

Plant and Animal Quarantine

The primary objective of quarantine services is to prevent the introduction of plant and animal pests and diseases associated with the importation of plants, animals, and their products, while at the same time ensuring that agricultural products intended for export are free from pests and diseases. Quarantine services are provided at official entry points. Currently, four quarantine stations operate in the country: Asmara International Airport, Massawa Seaport, Assab Seaport, and Teseney. Continuous efforts are underway to strengthen both human resources and laboratory capacities at these facilities.

Improving Seed Quality

To increase crop production and productivity, several improved varieties of field crops and

From Social Media



Yemane G. Meskel @hawelti

The defamation campaign against Eritrea has spiked in the past few weeks for rather obvious and predictable reasons and underlying motives.

This campaign, which has been going on for almost two decades now in the aftermath of the border conflict with Ethiopia, could not have gained traction in the first place without the support of certain countries.

The playbook is boringly the same; utilize, for reasons of outward credibility, spurious and coordinated "testimonies" of handpicked Special Rapporteurs within the UNHRC platform; some obscure NGO's; and other narrow interest groups who have never set foot and are generally clueless about the country.

As intimated above, the defamatory agenda is being resuscitated these days with more outlandish accusations and manufactured narratives. Obvious aim is to continue the unwarranted harassment of Eritrea through the UNHRC and its ilk. "አቶም ኣኸለባት ይነብሩ ፣ ገመል ይመርሹ!" እዩ እቲ ነገሩ።

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SpotLight

A Strong Foundation for Evidence-Based Development

Bana Negusse

Recently, Eritrea has been making significant progress in strengthening its national data and statistical systems. As was reported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), one major milestone was the successful completion of the Fourth Round Eritrea Population and Health Survey last year, the country's most comprehensive population and health survey in more than a decade. Covering all six regions of the country and nearly 10,000 households, the survey achieved exceptionally high completion rates despite logistical challenges in remote areas. The National Statistics Office (NSO), working alongside the Ministry of Health and regional administrations, also introduced advanced digital data collection technology through Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI), replacing traditional paper-based systems and significantly improving the speed, accuracy, and efficiency of data collection and processing. In addition, questionnaires were translated into seven local languages – Tigrigna, Tigre, Saho, Afar, Bilen, Kunama, and Nara – to ensure broader inclusivity and representation nationwide.

At the same time, Eritrea made important advances in economic statistics and institutional modernization. The NSO successfully compiled the country's 2023 national accounts using the production (value-added) approach and has already begun preparations for the 2024 estimates, strengthening the foundation for more evidence-based economic planning. Alongside the above, these accomplishments reflect growing national capacity in data governance, digital transformation, and evidence-based planning. These achievements are important, and they underscore several broader themes worth reflecting on.

One of the first important reflections is on the broader significance of data. Data can be understood simply as raw information, but its value for societies and economies is substantial. Timely and high-quality data is essential for development and growth, forming the foundation of evidence-based decision-making across all stages of governance. This includes monitoring social and economic indicators, allocating political representation and public resources, guiding private sector investment,

and informing development partners in programme design and policy formulation.

Data plays a critical role in shaping strategy and policymaking. It enables the establishment of baselines, benchmarks, and targets, allowing governments to track progress and evaluate the effectiveness of policies and commitments. It also supports improvements in public service design and delivery, while helping ensure that policies are responsive to the needs of vulnerable groups and individuals. In this sense, trustworthy and high-quality data is central to revealing challenges, measuring progress, and strengthening accountability.

A substantial body of empirical evidence from around the world highlights the importance of data for economic growth and development, and data is widely recognized as a key enabler of both the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. However, in many developing contexts, including much of Africa, the demand for timely and reliable statistical data continues to outpace supply. Persistent data gaps across the continent – sometimes described as a “data desert” – generally stem from a combination of constraints, including limited funding, infrastructure challenges, and capacity gaps.

Against this broader backdrop, Eritrea's recent progress in strengthening its data systems is particularly significant. It is expected to support economic growth and development, while also reinforcing the country's evidence-based planning, decision-making, and improved public service delivery. Stronger and more reliable data systems will also enhance investment confidence by reducing information gaps for economic actors. In addition, they will provide a stronger foundation for targeted interventions in key sectors such as health, education, and social protection, ensuring that resources are allocated more efficiently and reach those most in need.

Beyond sector-specific benefits, improved Eritrea's data systems will also strengthen coordination across government institutions by enabling more consistent information sharing and use. This, in turn, will play a positive role in strengthening Eritrea's integrated and multisectoral approach to development, helping to reduce fragmentation and reinforce collaboration across ministries



and agencies in pursuit of national priorities.

Another important element reflected in Eritrea's recent data-related progress concerns the role of partnerships and cooperation. Eritrea's National Charter, adopted in 1994, emphasizes the importance of regional and international cooperation as one of the country's national objectives. In this context, recent efforts to strengthen national data systems were supported by several international partners, including United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Population Fund, and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, among others.

At the same time, Eritrea's engagement with external partners has long been guided by its principle of self-reliance. Contrary to common misconceptions that portray the country as isolationist, Eritrea has generally pursued selective cooperation based on whether partnerships align with nationally defined priorities and contribute to strengthening domestic capacity. This philosophy, shaped in part by the country's independence struggle, reflects a broader emphasis on sovereignty, local ownership, and sustainable development. As a result, Eritrea has tended to favor cooperation models that support nationally grounded solutions rather than externally driven prescriptions.

The country's recent progress in data and statistics reflects this approach in practice. The initiatives were led by Eritreans working within Eritrean institutions and guided by domestically identified priorities, while international partners provided technical expertise, institutional support, and capacity-building assistance where needed. Importantly, these efforts focused not only on delivering short-term outputs, but also on strengthening local technical skills and institutional capacity to help ensure that the country's progress can be sustained and expanded over the long term.

Alongside the above, Eritrea's progress highlights inclusivity

and national representation, which remain strong pillars of the country's development and nation-building efforts. A case in point was the survey process, which saw efforts made to ensure broad participation across Eritrea's diverse communities and regions, including the translation of questionnaires into seven local languages and the successful collection of data from remote and hard-to-access areas. This is significant because effective national planning depends on data that accurately reflects the realities and needs of the population as a whole. More inclusive and representative data can help strengthen policymaking, improve equity in public service delivery, and ensure that development efforts are informed by a fuller picture

of conditions across the country. Accurate and disaggregated data is also an important tool for promoting fairness and inclusion, as it helps identify disparities, better understand the conditions facing different communities and vulnerable groups, and support more equitable policymaking. In this respect, these efforts align with Eritrea's longstanding emphasis on social justice, equality, and inclusion, helping ensure that national development planning reflects the experiences and needs of all segments of society.

Overall, Eritrea's recent progress in strengthening its national data systems represents an important step forward in building a more evidence-based and responsive approach to development. Through improved data collection, stronger institutional capacity, and enhanced inclusivity, these efforts will contribute to better planning, more effective service delivery, and more informed policymaking. As Eritrea's data systems continue to develop, they are likely to play an increasingly central role in supporting national priorities and long-term development objectives.

NEWS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PLANT HEALTH OBSERVED AT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

The International Day of Plant Health was observed on 12 May 2026, marking the fifth celebration since its inception in 2022. The event, held both nationally in Eritrea and internationally, carried the theme “Plant Biosecurity for Food Security,” aiming to raise awareness about the critical role plant health plays in food security and economic stability.

Plant biosecurity focuses on preventing the introduction, establishment, and spread of pests and diseases that reduce crop yields and threaten livelihoods. Since plants make up 80% of human food and produce 98% of the oxygen we breathe, the theme underscores that plant biosecurity is not only foundational to food security but also essential for sustaining life on Earth.

Eritrea's agriculture depends heavily on crop production, making it vulnerable to new pests and diseases that could devastate food security and farmers' livelihoods. To counter this, Eritrea enforces Plant Quarantine Proclamation No. 156/2006 and implements phytosanitary measures to inspect imported plants at ports of entry, while also benefiting from the 48 International Standards for

Phytosanitary Measures developed under the International Plant Protection Convention.

Eritrea currently operates four quarantine stations—Asmara International Airport, Massawa and Assab seaports, and the Tesseney land port—with continuous upgrades to human and infrastructural capacity. Surveillance, early detection using rapid diagnostic tools, farmer training, and collaborative monitoring are being strengthened to ensure plant biosecurity.

The theme aligns closely with the Ministry of Agriculture's 2024–2028 strategy, “Safe and Nutritious Food for Everyone, Everywhere.” The Ministry is working to prevent exotic pest introductions while strengthening routine control efforts, with special attention to major outbreaks such as desert locusts and fall armyworm.

The Ministry emphasized that the International Day of Plant Health is not merely a commemorative event but an opportunity to reaffirm collective commitment to safeguarding plant health as the foundation of a food-secure, resilient, and prosperous national future.

SpotLight

Eritrea@35

Blood, Resilience, and Liberation: The True Cost of Eritrea's Independence

Lwam kahsay

For Eritreans, Independence Day represents the conclusion of one of the longest and most difficult liberation struggles in modern African history. To appreciate the value of Eritrea's independence, it is necessary to look beyond the formal declaration of independence and examine the colonial experiences that shaped Eritrea's identity, the decades of sacrifice, and the resilience required to survive against all odds.

Eritrea's boundaries were established during the Italian colonial period, beginning in the late 19th century. Italian colonizers introduced infrastructure, administrative systems, and socio-economic developments. Railways, ports, and urban centers such as Asmara were built, leaving a legacy that shaped Eritrea's distinct identity.

Following Italy's defeat in World War II, Eritrea came under the British Military Administration. This period was transitional, marked by uncertainty about Eritrea's future. Eventually, the United Nations passed Resolution 390 (V), federating Eritrea with Ethiopia in 1952. However, the Ethiopian imperial regime dismantled the federal structure

to Ethiopian domination was initially political and was later transformed into an armed struggle when the Ethiopian response grew violent. When the armed struggle for independence was launched in 1961, it was a small insurgency. Overtime, it grew into the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), a highly disciplined military and political organization capable of defeating one of Africa's largest armies.

The revolutionary period, known as Ghedli, which means "the struggle", became the central pillar of Eritrean identity. It was characterized by values such as self-reliance, martyrdom, and collective endurance. Freedom fighters lived under harsh conditions and relied on their own inventiveness to survive. Women played a crucial role not only as combatants but also as leaders, medics, and educators. Their role was immense, enhancing the revolution both in number and quality. The spirit of Ghedli emphasized equality, sacrifice, and the belief that independence was worth sacrificing one's life.

For many Eritreans, independence is inseparable from the immense human toll of the struggle. Tens of thousands lost their lives, and many became disabled. Independence for

surrounding infrastructure was left to decay or was intentionally destroyed. The potential for a thriving maritime economy, which could have integrated Eritrea into global trade networks, was stifled by war. The economic opportunity cost of thirty years of war is incalculable, as the nation's human and natural capital was diverted entirely toward survival and defence.

The struggle began with a small cadre of pioneers, but as Ethiopian repression intensified, the movement transformed into a mass mobilization of the entire Eritrean society. Following in the footsteps of its predecessor, the Derg regime engaged in widespread human rights abuses and intensified its massacres. Civilians were executed on the streets of Asmara, Massawa, and Keren, and thousands were detained in notorious prisons where torture was exercised as the best method of terrorizing the society.

The price paid by the Eritrean people included the displacement of nearly a third of the population, who fled to neighbouring countries or lived as internally displaced persons in the rugged Sahel Mountains. The EPLF maintained a high level of discipline and commitment, creating a "state within a state" that provided education, healthcare, and social services even while under constant military pressure.

The commitment of the fighters was absolute; they lived in underground bunkers, shared insufficient rations, and faced a technologically superior and heavily armed Ethiopian army during the 1970s and 80s. Despite these odds, Eritrean resilience never faltered.

By the late 1980s, the tide of the war began to turn. The EPLF's strategic victories, such as the capture of the port of Massawa in Operation Fenkil in 1990, crippled the Ethiopian military's supply lines. Independence was within reach. When the EPLF finally entered Asmara in May 1991, the decades of suffering and fear was totally wiped out and Eritrea was filled with fresh air of liberty.

The cost of the victory was immense: the loss of a generation of youth, the destruction of the



nation's economy and the trauma of prolonged conflict. Yet, the triumph was undeniable. Independence was not a gift; it was a hard-won reality paid for with blood, sweat, and the total dedication of freedom fighters in the field and Eritreans at home and in the diaspora.

In 1993, Eritrea formally declared independence following a United Nations-supervised referendum in which 99.8% of Eritreans voted in favour of independence. The achievement was celebrated as a triumph of resilience and determination.

Independence was the culmination of a collective sacrifice that sought to ensure that no foreign power would ever again dictate the destiny of the Eritrean people. The transition from a colonized territory to a sovereign

state required the dismantling of an oppressive regime that had spent thirty years trying to erase the very concept of an independent Eritrea, and the EPLF made it real by making resilience their core weapon.

The value placed on independence in Eritrea remains profound. Sovereignty is seen as the essential prerequisite for all forms of progress. Independence is not viewed as a gift but a hard-won right, earned through decades of sacrifice. This conviction continues to shape Eritrea's national identity and informs its interactions with the wider world. Eritrea's independence stands as a testament to the resilience of a people who refused to be silenced, proving that the desire for freedom is a force that even the most brutal regimes cannot permanently suppress.

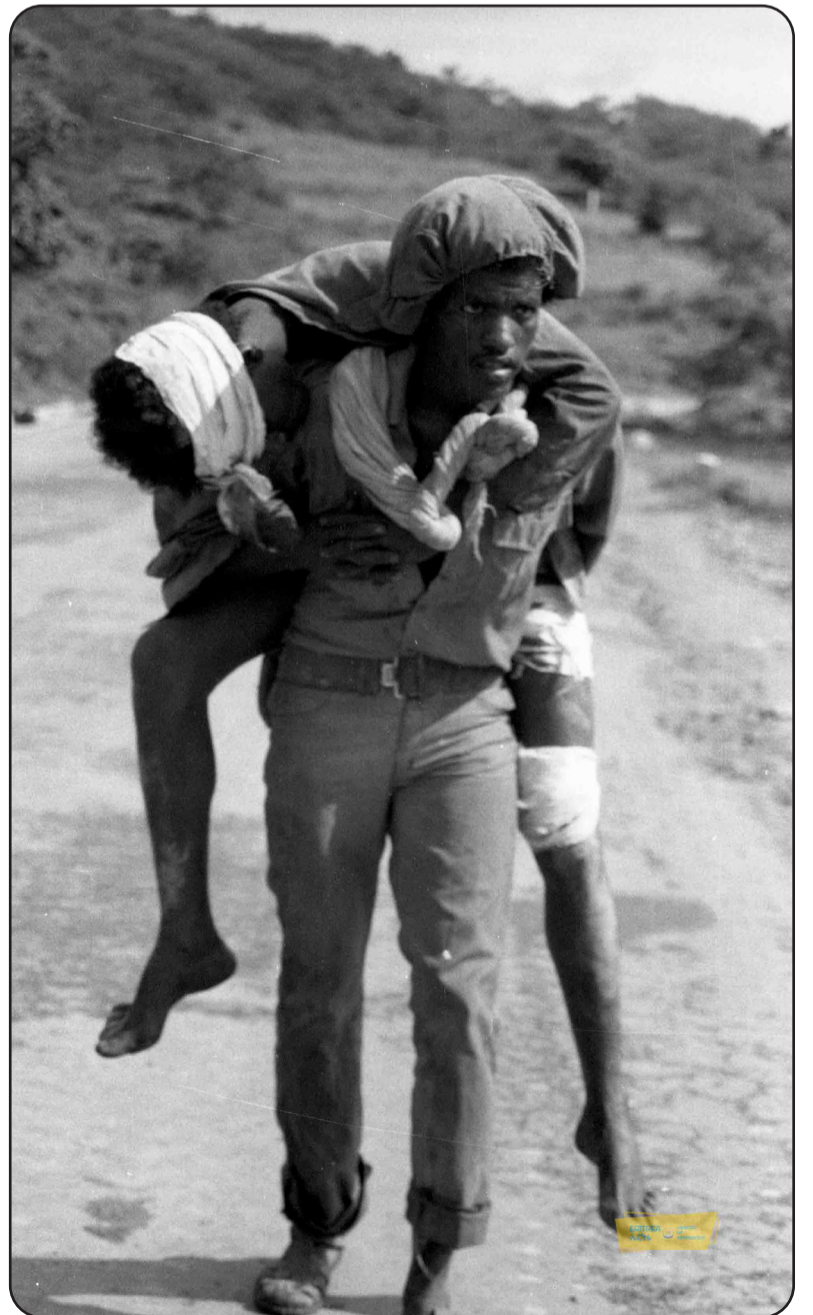


in 1962, annexing Eritrea and declaring it a province in Ethiopia. The political parties that were operating in Eritrea were banned, the press was suppressed, and Amharic was imposed as the official language, replacing Tigrinya and Arabic, which had been serving as official languages in Eritrea. These actions created a deep sense of betrayal among Eritreans, who saw their identity and autonomy being erased.

The Eritrean people's reaction

Eritreans is not only a political right but a sacred achievement, justified by the sacrifices made to secure it.

The Ethiopian occupation turned Eritrea into an economic prisoner. Eritrea's strategic location along the Red Sea, featuring the vital ports of Massawa and Assab, was a primary target for Ethiopian control. Throughout the 1960s, 70s, and 80s, the ports of Massawa and Assab were used primarily for Ethiopian military logistics, while



Development

Eritrea@35

Work Ethic Forged in the Armed Struggle: Foundation of Eritrea's National Culture of Self-Reliance

Mussie Efriem

As Eritrea proudly celebrates its 35th Independence Day, it reflects on a remarkable journey of self-reliance, resilience, and monumental nation-building. Over the past three and a half decades, the country has made enormous progress in the construction of various large and small scale infrastructure in parallel with a wide developmental programs in healthcare, education, and food security.

Driven fundamentally by its own internal capacity and a steadfast commitment to the principle of self-reliance, Eritrea has successfully transformed its landscape without relying on external dependence. Central to this monumental achievement is a highly organized infrastructural model, the backbone of the nation, comprising large-scale highways and medium strategic roads designed and implemented by Eritrea's own national construction companies to ensure nationwide connectivity and economic integration. Concurrently, the vital network of small and feeder roads has been built through the vibrant mobilization of local communities and regional administration initiatives. This synergetic approach not only showcases Eritrea's technical capability but stands as a powerful testament to the enduring spirit of Warsay-Yikaalo where state strategic vision and grassroots popular participation unite to pave the way for sustainable national prosperity.

The formidable capability and work ethic displayed in the extensive road construction projects is a continuation of the rich legacy of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) that developed during the armed struggle for independence. The ingenuity required to carve routes through treacherous terrains was born and refined in the crucible of the armed struggle, where freedom fighters routinely built underground infrastructure and secret supply lines under the harshest conditions. Today, that same spirit, resourcefulness, and expertise have been seamlessly transferred from the battlefields of liberation to the fronts of national development, proving that the present construction of infrastructure is anchored in the historic resilience of the Eritrean people.

The construction of vital transportation routes was a cornerstone of the Eritrean

revolution's extensive wartime development programs, most notably exemplified by the strategic roads engineered to ascend lines leading to and from the Sahel region, where the rear base of the liberation movement was. What makes this feat truly extraordinary is that these roads were forged without heavy industrial machinery. They were built almost entirely through the sheer grit, determination, and human power of the revolutionary fighters utilizing basic hand tools like mattocks and shovels. Conquering dozens of kilometers of hard landscapes dominated by steep, rugged mountains and sheer rock faces seemed practically unthinkable, yet it was triumphantly realized through a shared vision and a steadfast conviction that nothing is impossible. Indeed, while the armed struggle is rightfully remembered for its innumerable military achievements on the battlefield, the construction of these lifelines represents a parallel, equally heroic story of human endurance. These hand-carved roads served as the literal bloodlines for the revolutionary movement, proving that the engineering triumphs of post-independence Eritrea are deeply rooted in the monumental sacrifices and unyielding spirit of the liberation era.

The genesis of this revolutionary engineering legacy goes back to May 1975, a time when the liberation movement had not yet even established a formal construction division. The historic initiative was an urgent, imperative mission to clear a path and safely evacuate a captured enemy Mercedes truck and several tractors from the Emberemi area to the revolution's main station at Blieqat. To navigate the steep mountain foothills, a force of 600 to 1,000 fighters was mobilized, armed with nothing but basic mattocks and shovels. Lacking even standard crowbars to dislodge massive boulders from the hillsides, the resourceful fighters relied on

wooden sticks to remove the rocks. Immediately following this success, another task emerged to open a supply line from the Sudan border to Blieqat; yet among the 1,000 men deployed, there were only a handful of shovels and mattocks, a single stone hammer, and two adzes. Remarkably, through sheer willpower, this highly challenging, sloped mountain pass was also rendered drivable for heavy lorries within just four days. Later the route was rebuilt and upgraded by an equally dedicated force the following year in 1976. Undertaking these feats meant enduring severe logistical hardships under a scorching, boiling sun, where fighters persevered on a small ration of just one cup of water and minimal food a day, undistracted by the hardship and entirely focused on fulfilling the mission to ensure the job was done.

By the end of 1975, the logistics of the liberation struggle underwent a critical transformation as the EPLF transitioned from relying on pack animals, like camels, to utilizing motorized vehicles, relegating camels to the most inaccessible mountain tracks. Recognizing this shifting dynamic and the escalating demands of the war, the EPLF formally established a Transportation and Construction Division to oversee the increasing infrastructure projects. Among these was the iconic Tsrkia Harnet (Freedom Road), a strategic lifeline built to connect the revolution's rear base in Sahel with Semienawi Bahri, a location at the highland plateaus. This monumental project was executed under severe resource constraints, where tool shortages were so acute that up to ten fighters often had to share the same single tools, a shovel or mattock. Compounding these hardships was the constant threat of enemy air raids as Ethiopian warfare aircraft frequently bombed construction sites to disrupt progress. A prime example of this resilience occurred at the end of 1975 during the massive

300-kilometer project extending a line from Mhmimet to E'ain, a vital line for coordinating operations stretching from the highlands to the northern edge of the country. Even as Nakfa was under tight enemy siege, the fighters worked relentlessly day and night, ensuring the road was completed just in time for a crucial reinforcement battalion to safely reach Sahel.

The division's operational capacity received a massive boost in 1976 when it secured around 2,000 tools, including shovels, mattocks, and much-needed crowbars covertly sourced from a warehouse in Asmara, a logistical triumph that played a pivotal role in expanding the division's capabilities and paving



the way for the historic network that would ultimately win Eritrea's independence.

The deep bond between the liberation movement and the population was vividly reflected as local communities routinely joined forces with the freedom fighters in large-scale road construction campaigns. An example of this collaboration occurred in the period leading up to the EPLF's Strategic Withdrawal, when a joint force of approximately 2,500 fighters and local civilians labored side by side for five months to pave a vital route from Ala to Demas, via Adi Rosso.

One of the ultimate hard times for the Construction Division was during the demanding Strategic Withdrawal of 1978, when they had to literally build and repair roads instantly ahead of the trucks. Working under intense pressure, they cleared new paths through rugged terrain just steps ahead of the vehicles carrying the army and the revolution's vital assets back to the safety of the Sahel rear base. Throughout these historic and dangerous campaigns, women fighters and civilians played a highly significant and indispensable

role, embodying the collective spirit of resilience and equality that defined the Eritrean struggle for independence.

Among the most iconic and miraculous engineering accomplishments of the Eritrean liberation struggle were the strategically vital roads named "Bideho" (The Challenge) and Aynimbirkekkin (We Never Kneel Down). Both were crucial for the very survival of the revolution. These crucial corridors linked the central command of the Sahel with vital rear-base infrastructure, including hidden garages, underground hospitals, and essential supply routes to Sudan. The Aynimbirkekkin road was forged through seemingly impossible mountain terrain to replace a primary route that had been destroyed by enemy attacks during the massive Fourth Offensive. Built with an unyielding spirit that refused to surrender under maximum pressure, its successful completion sent a resounding message to the

enemy that the revolution would never be subdued, delivering a bitter psychological blow to the occupying forces while serving as a profound source of pride for the freedom fighters. The Bideho road is also a spectacular product of wartime engineering, constructed along the steep slopes of Anberbeb and Halibet. Soaring over 600 meters above sea level and featuring 37 switchbacks carved into the sheer rock face, its sheer bravery was famously captured through intercepted radio transmissions, where stunned enemy pilots could be heard expressing their outright awe and admiration for the road as they flew over it.

These feats of the EPLF represent just a few of the many miraculous achievements of the Eritrean struggle. By conquering harsh terrain with bare hands and sheer determination, the revolutionary fighters and local communities laid the foundations of self-reliance. Today, as Eritrea celebrates its 35th Independence Day, this historic legacy continues to drive the nation's capacity for monumental growth and sustainable prosperity.



Vacancy Announcement

We are seeking to hire the following staff:

1. Public Relations Coordinator
2. Assistant Accountant
3. Secretary
4. IT Specialist
5. Driver
6. Hospitality Worker
7. Cook

◆ **Public Relations Coordinator (Both Gender):**

- University degree in Public Relations or equivalent
- Minimum 3 years of experience
- Excellent communication skills

◆ **Assistant Accountant:**

- Degree in Accounting or Finance
- Minimum 3 years of experience in the same field

◆ **Secretary**

- Degree or certificate in secretarial science, the same field or equivalent
- Minimum 3 years of experience in the same field

◆ **IT Specialist (Both Gender):**

- Degree in the IT technology, same field or equivalent
- Minimum 3 years of experience in the same field

◆ **Driver:**

- Valid driver's license
- Experience driving and traveling within and outside Asmara

◆ **Hospitality Worker (Both Gender):**

- Degree in the same field or equivalent
- Minimum 3 years of experience in the same field

◆ **Cook**

- Minimum 3 years of experience or equivalent in the same field

◆ **Required Qualifications:**

- Age not exceeding 35 years
- Proficiency in Arabic, English, and Tigrinya (depending on the position)
- Good conduct and character
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Exemption from or discharge from national service, with proof from the Eritrean Ministry of Defense
- A clearance certificate from the current/previous employer
- Attach required documents (CV, experience certificates, copy of national ID card, etc.)
- Submitted documents will not be returned.
- Work Location: Asmara
- Send Applications to P.O. Box 9315
- CV submission deadline: 11/6/2026.

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Vacancy Announcement

Position: Underground Maintenance Mechanic
 Number required 2
 Location: Based at Koka Gold Mine (Site) Eritrea
 Reporting to: Maintenance Supervisor/Superintendent
 Primary Responsibility Position Overview: The Underground Maintenance Mechanic will repair and troubleshoot Sandvik underground mining equipment. The ideal candidate will have a strong background in mechanical systems and focus on ensuring optimal performance and reliability of equipment in a challenging underground environment.

Duties:

- Perform routine and preventive maintenance on Sandvik underground equipment.
- Diagnose and repair mechanical, hydraulic, and electrical issues on mining machinery.
- Conduct inspections and tests to ensure equipment operates safely and efficiently.
- Maintain accurate records of maintenance activities and repairs.
- Collaborate with the operations team to minimize equipment downtime and maximize productivity.
- Adhere to all safety protocols and regulations to ensure a safe working environment.
- Provide technical support and training to junior mechanics and operators.
- Stay updated with the latest advancements in Sandvik equipment and maintenance practices.

Educational Qualification - Minimum school education – Grade 11 or N2 certificate

- A recognizable Trade certificate or higher.
- Ability to read, write, and speak in English.

Working Experience- Nature & length: - Sandvik maintenance certificates

- Minimum of 5 years of experience working on Sandvik underground equipment.
- Strong knowledge of mechanical, hydraulic, and electrical systems.
- Ability to read and interpret technical manuals and schematics.
- Excellent problem-solving skills and attention to detail.
- Strong communication and teamwork abilities.-.

Leadership Experience- Nature, Length of time - Liaise with internal and external stakeholders professionally and courteously and provide advice where required.

- Familiarity with best practices in Workplace Health and Safety and Environmental procedures and legislation policies

Other skills & abilities Physically fit and healthy.

- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
- Team player
- Execute and deliver all work safely and to a high professional standard,
- Must be able to work and perform under pressure.
- Good verbal and written communication skills in English
- Flexibility to work outside of regular business hours if required.
- Must be able to work under minimal supervision.
- Perform any other duties as requested by your supervisor.

Key Performance Indicators: Willing to undertake tasks requested by management outside the job description, should the need arise

Salary As per the Company scale

Additional Requirement for nationals: - Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligations and providing evidence of a release paper from the Ministry of Defence. Present Clearance paper from the current/last employer. Only short-listed applicants would be considered as potential candidates for an interview. Application documents will not be returned to the sender.

Please mail your applications to the ZARA MINING SHARE CO P. O. Box 2393 Asmara, .

Note to Eritrean applicants: - Please send a copy of your application to Aliens Employment Permit Affairs P.O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea. and Eritrea. Mineral Resources Management P. O. Box 272

Deadline for application: 10 days from the day of announcement.



Vacancy Announcement

Position: Underground Maintenance Auto-Electrician
 Number required 1
 Location: Based at Koka Gold Mine (Site)
 Reporting to: Maintenance Supervisor
 Primary Responsibility Position Overview: The Underground Maintenance Auto-electrician will repair and troubleshoot Sandvik underground mining equipment. The ideal candidate will have a strong background in electrical systems and focus on ensuring optimal performance and reliability of equipment in a challenging underground environment.

Duties:

- Diagnose and repair electrical issues on mining machinery.
- Conduct inspections and tests to ensure equipment is operating safely and efficiently.
- Maintain accurate records of maintenance activities and repairs.
- Collaborate with the operations team to minimize equipment downtime and maximize productivity.
- Adhere to all safety protocols and regulations to ensure a safe working environment.
- Provide technical support and training to junior electricians and operators.
- Stay updated with the latest advancements in Epiroc and Sandvik equipment and maintenance practices.

Educational Qualification & Experience - Minimum of 3 years of experience working on Sandvik underground equipment.

- Strong knowledge of mechanical, hydraulic, and electrical systems.
- Ability to read and interpret technical manuals and schematics.
- Excellent problem-solving skills and attention to detail.
- Strong communication and teamwork abilities.
- Ability to work in a physically demanding and challenging underground environment.

- Commitment to safety and continuous improvement.

- Perform routine and preventive maintenance on Sandvik underground equipment.

- Diagnose and repair electrical issues on mining machinery.
- Conduct inspections and tests to ensure equipment operates safely and efficiently.

- Maintain accurate records of maintenance activities and repairs.
- Collaborate with the operations team to minimize equipment downtime and maximize productivity.

- Adhere to all safety protocols and regulations to ensure a safe working environment.

- Provide technical support and training to junior electricians and operators.

-

Other skill & abilities Physically fit and healthy.

- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
- Team player
- Execute and deliver all work safely and to a high professional standard,
- Must be able to work and perform under pressure.
- Good verbal and written communication skills in English
- Flexibility to work outside of regular business hours if required.
- Must be able to work under minimum supervision.
- Perform any other duties as requested by your supervisor.

Key Performance Indicators: Willing to undertake tasks requested by management outside the job description should the need arise

Salary As per the Company scale

Additional Requirement for nationals: - Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligations and providing evidence of a release paper from the Ministry of Défense. Present Clearance paper from the current/last employer. Only short-listed applicants would be considered as potential candidates for an interview. Application documents will not be returned to the sender.

Please mail your applications to the ZARA MINING SHARE CO P. O. Box 2393. Asmara,

Note to Eritrean applicants: - Please send a copy of your application to Aliens Employment Permit Affairs P.O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea. and Eritrea. Mineral Resources Management P. O. Box 272

Deadline for application: 7 days from the day of announcement.



Our Independence Day is the Sacred Gift of Our Heroes: An Interview with Two Young Artists

Kidane Shimendi

Please, introduce yourselves to our readers!

Nahier Ashebr: I was born in 2006. I completed my elementary education at Kisanet, attended junior school in Sembel, and went to high school at Denden Secondary School. Last year, I arrived in Sawa as a member of the 37th Round, where I successfully earned my diploma following the National Matriculation Exam. Currently, I am a student at the College of Business and Social Sciences in Adi Keih, within the Department of Sociology.

Edna Ashebr: I was born in 2008. I completed my elementary school at Kisanet and my junior high at Model School. I achieved a strong score in the National General Examination, which allowed me to enroll in high school. Currently, I am a student at Denden Secondary School, and in three months, I will head to Sawa as a member of the 39th Round.

Let's talk about your passion for art. How did you first discover it?

Since our childhood, our parents have relentlessly endeavored to help us discover and nurture our inborn talents. In this process, we found art by following our father's passion; he is highly skilled in poetry and short stories. Growing

Introduction In Eritrea, it is a common and heartening phenomenon to see young students passionately expressing their profound national love through various artistic mediums. Among these rising talents are two well-known young artists from the same family: Nahier Ashebr and Edna Ashebr. They are dedicated to glorifying Eritrea's resilient history and rich heritage. Eritrean Profile invited them to share their passion for the arts and the dreams they are pursuing.



our parents encouraged us to join "Wari," one of Eritrea's famous cultural troupes. In this group, we learned the foundations of art and began pursuing our dreams with encouraging early achievements.

Have you taken any additional art courses to supplement your talent?

Of course. Every year during our summer school breaks, we take additional art lessons to enhance our knowledge and technical performance. So far, we have completed courses in graphics, video editing, literature, drama, and vocal training. As a result of this structured learning, we are seeing very positive developments in our work.

Most of your artistic work focuses on national history. What is the inspiration behind this choice?

We grew up hearing our country's

Eritrean history and our deep national norms and values. This background made us incredibly passionate and fall in love with our identity. Every time we hear a new, breathtaking story about our people, we discuss it together as a family to decide how we can artistically retell that story to the public and our peers. We feel very fortunate to have this mission.

How many completed works have you published so far?

To date, we have published about 25 monologue videos covering various subjects of public importance. For instance, during the COVID-19 pandemic, we released a video to raise public awareness and express gratitude to the medical experts battling the virus. We also produce specific content for special occasions and national holidays.

What is your take on the public feedback you receive?

Public comments have truly shaped our ongoing development and future programs. Since our work focuses on history and our people's precious values, we have earned wide respect and motivation from the public. They often advise us to remain focused on our academic studies so that we can excel in our performance and reach higher professional standards.

What is your shared dream for the future?

Our dream is to serve our people with all the talent we possess until our last breath, following the example of our martyrs. We know our independence was won through the heavy sacrifices of generations. This gives us a massive responsibility to continue realizing the vision they gave their lives for. Consequently, all nationals, especially the young ones, must direct their talent and energy toward this ultimate national vision.

What is the secret behind your success?

Our parents are the true secret behind our success story—Mr. Ashebr Abrha and Ms. Ruta Tesfamariam. Since our childhood, they have guided us to be successful

in everything we do. Education is our family's primary goal, and they provide us with everything necessary to be victorious. As parents, they worked hard to recognize our personal talents and took the time to cultivate them.

How would you explain the

louder.

What are your future plans?

Our primary plan is to complete our academic journeys successfully by graduating from college. Alongside that, we want to acquire more updated skills to improve our



up, we read his artistic pieces, which drew us naturally toward the creative field. Consequently,

rich and miraculous history. Our parents, particularly our father, worked hard to help us explore

meaning of "Independence Day"?

Our Independence Day is the sacred gift of our heroes. We, the Eritrean people, earned our freedom through the great sacrifice of our precious martyrs. They gave their lives to give us life and freedom. We are very lucky to be raised among such a resilient people with a rich history and precious national values. We are working to learn more of our story and tell it to the world even

artistic works. By enhancing our historical knowledge and artistic techniques, we have extensive plans to widen our work and expand it into other national languages in addition to Tigrinya.

Do you have any final message for our readers?

Finally, we want to send our deepest appreciation to our parents for their fruitful efforts in raising us with discipline and knowledge, and most significantly, for helping us discover our passion at such an early age. We also appreciate our instructors and peers who continue to encourage us with their valuable advice and comments. Last but not least, we urge all parents to play a significant role in helping their children identify and cultivate their unique talents.

Thank you both so much for your time. We look forward to your future success. Happy Independence Day!



Our Resilience: Our Guarantee!