



PRESIDENT ISAIAS AFWERKI MEETS AND HOLDS TALKS WITH GEN. ABDEL FATTAH AL-BURHAN

President Isaias Afwerki, in the early hours yesterday, met and held talks with Chairman of Sudan's Sovereign Council, General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his delegation.

the two leaders held extensive discussion on bilateral relations, developments in the Sudan, as well as regional and global issues of mutual interest.

home after concluding their brief visit.

General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his delegation returned back
At the meeting at the State House,

AUDITOR GENERAL'S OFFICE PROVIDES TRAINING



The office of the Auditor General in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and National Development provided training to 75 internal auditors, including 23 females, from the Ministry of Defense and other Government institutions.

The training that was conducted in two shifts included general concept of internal audit, ethics of internal auditor, concern centered annual internal auditing plan, internal audit reporting, budget execution, Government bookkeeping system, procurement system, Government material management and disposal system, as well as basic concept of the new coordinated Government financial management.

At the conclusion event of the training on 16 July, the Auditor General, Mr. Gerezgiher Gebremedhin, said that the objective of the training was to equip internal

auditors with necessary knowledge and skill and play due role in realizing proficient and effective financial and material administration and bring sustainable improvement in their places of work.

Representative of the trainees noting on the significance of the training in the development of financial and material administration, expressed conviction to apply the knowledge they gained from the training in the daily activities in their places of work.

General Flipos Woldeyohannes, Chief of Staff of the Eritrean Defense Forces, underlining of the significance of organizing sustainable training programs to enhance the capacity of internal auditors, urged the trainees to apply their knowledge in addressing and fixing challenges that could occur in their places of work.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE CONDUCTS MID-YEAR REVIEW OF REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Public Relations Office of the Ministry of Agriculture reported that the Ministry conducted a meeting on 16 July to assess the implementation of regional work plans during the first half of 2026, as well as the progress of the Comprehensive Small and Productive Farm Plot program.

During the assessment meeting, comprehensive reports were presented by all six regions of the country, covering a wide range of activities, including soil and water conservation, the construction of water reservoirs, river diversion works, the status of crops and the rainy season, the multiplication and distribution of improved seed, the production of organic fertilizer, the development of vegetable and

fruit production, crop and livestock health, beekeeping, the distribution of chickens and supply of eggs, as well as the implementation of the Comprehensive Small and Productive Farm Plot program and other related activities.

According to assessments conducted up to the end of June 2026, of the 2,003 villages identified as having the potential to implement the Comprehensive Small and Productive Farm Plot program, 1,672 villages, or more than 83%, have successfully implemented it in at least one household, while many villages had extended the program to more than one household.

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HAMELMALO COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE GRADUATES 375 STUDENTS

At its 19th commencement ceremony, Hamelmalo College of Agriculture postgraduate on 375 students in various fields of study, including veterinary doctors.

The graduates included 20 in doctoral programs, 174 in degree programs and 181 in diploma programs in the fields of Agronomy, Animal Science, Plant Pathology, Horticulture, Veterinary Science, and Food Science and Technology.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Woldeamlak Araya, Dean of the College, said that after many years of effort and commitment, 20 students, including seven female students, graduated with doctoral

degrees in Veterinary Science for the first time. He expressed his expectation that the graduates will contribute to efforts to ensure access to nutritious food, promote economic development and sustainably manage natural resources.

The guest of honor, Mr. Tesfay Gebreselasie, Minister of Land, Water and Environment, underlined that ensuring the health and prosperity of citizens is a declared objective of the Eritrean Government. He expressed the expectation of the people and Government that the graduates will play their due part in ensuring access to nutritious food by contributing to national

agricultural development.

A representative of the graduates expressed gratitude for the educational opportunity and affirmed their commitment to living up to the expectations of the people and Government who supported them throughout their academic journey.

At the event, outstanding students were awarded medals of recognition.

Since its establishment, Hamelmalo College of Agriculture has graduated 7,166 students from doctoral, master's degree, first-degree and diploma programs.



SpotLight

Ethiopia's Prosperity Party: Delusional Precepts as Tools of Regional Destabilization

Recent, ostensibly “academic” analyses floated by certain state-aligned circles in Addis Ababa are not only untenable in content and substance but also laced with blatant and irreconcilable contradictions in their packaging.

Indeed, in synchronized waves of publication by the Ethiopian Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA) and The Horn Review, among others, Prosperity Party (PP) media outlets seem to have set out to outline a malicious and aggressive agenda arrogantly flaunted as the “Grand Strategy on Eritrea”.

On the one hand, this state-backed media blitz attempts to pathologize the Eritrean state model as a “collapsing, disorganized, and highly militarized predicament” suffering from a self-styled “Nakfa syndrome” and a “defunct Isaias doctrine”; whatever that means!

Yet, in the very same breath, these publications warn that the ruling People's Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ) maintains such a powerful, deeply entrenched, institutional depth and domestic organizational control that fractured, disjointed, external opposition groups that the PP regime has been doggedly propping up have no prospects whatsoever of challenging it.

In many respects, Addis Ababa's sudden focus on Eritrea's

“governance architecture” is a classic psychological operations gimmick.

The pronounced objective revolves around framing Eritrea as a “fragile power vacuum” ripe for external engineering. Driven by this delusional pipedream, PP's security organs have been incessantly engaged in incubating inconsequential groups of subversion, while admitting deep down that this is indeed an exercise in futility.

Irrespective of material substance and impact, these subversive acts and the ramped-up media campaign accompanying them constitute blatant violations of international law on non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states.

The intensive campaigns are also not confined to, or solely prompted for reasons of, benign academic analyses. They are part and parcel of a dogged agenda aimed at locating, funding, and weaponizing compliant proxies to justify future acts of subversion and annexation.

As the American author William Faulkner famously observed, “The past is never dead. In fact, it is not even past”.

This is a profound description of history and its continuous relevance to the present. It is always necessary to refer to the history of nation-building to comprehend the current situation, as historical foundations constantly inform and shape contemporary state decisions and foreign policy. However, history is also at risk of being altered, distorted, and even fabricated to fulfill ill-intentioned goals. Such is the case with Ethiopia.

Over the past decades, and especially in the past three years, Ethiopian leaders have displayed the proclivity to alter and revise Eritrea's ancient history as well as its checkered ties with Ethiopia in the modern times to satisfy their renewed delusional ambitions of owning a sea outlet. They have gone so far as to question the sovereignty of Eritrea's hard-won independence.

Eritrea and Ethiopia have always shared clear, legally defined and delimited boundaries. The current borders of the State of Eritrea were delimited through the Colonial Treaties of 1900, 1902, and 1908: key and foundational international agreements signed between Italy, France, Britain, and the proto-Abyssinian kingdom.

In addition, the borders between Eritrea and Ethiopia were demarcated

in 2007, in full consonance and alignment with the Colonial Treaties, by digital geographic coordinates following the signing of the Algiers Agreement in 2001, and the final and binding ruling of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Border Commission (EEBC).

Hence, any claim that Eritrea is a territory that “seceded” from the Ethiopian state is both ahistorical and fallacious in legal and factual terms.

The launching of the 30-year independence war in 1961 represented a legitimate war of national liberation prompted by, and in response to, the bogus “Federation” as well as the unilateral and subsequent dissolution of that Act by Ethiopia in flagrant violation of a UN imposed international instrument. The legitimate war of liberation was further fueled by state-sponsored mass atrocities committed by Ethiopian occupiers against the Eritrean population, infamously summarized by Emperor Haile Selassie's declaration that he desired “Eritrean land, not its people.”

In the event, the disparaging allusion to the liberation struggle as merely a “thirty-year Eritrean People's Liberation Front war against the Ethiopian State” by some minions of the ruling Prosperity Party posing as academicians is nothing more than deliberate distortion and revision of contemporary history.

The indelible fact is the liberation war was a just and natural response of a people that were denied their right to decolonization through major power machinations using the UN as a convenient mantle. This was indeed a ferocious and long war fought by every Eritrean, within and outside the country, to liberate their ancestral soil from uninvited foreign occupiers.

This is the historical and political backdrop behind the presumptuous media campaigns, dubbed as the “Grand Strategy on Eritrea”, that the propaganda machineries of the Prosperity Party (Institute of Foreign Affairs et al) are resuscitating these days with unprecedented frenzy.

The postulates are anything but grand, grounded entirely as they are, on flawed reading of history and essentially propelled by expansionist ambitions.

Furthermore, overarching and frequent references to Ethiopia as a “larger and more powerful neighbor” belie a strident imperial mindset that views neighborly relations

through the lens of raw power and demographic grandeur rather than the rule of law.

Innately subversive as the underlying motives are, the articles do not focus on nurturing good neighborly ties with Eritrea and its government. The misguided approaches rest on instigating the “ascent” to power of a younger Eritrean generation that would “drop the torch” and be more “lenient” to Ethiopian aspirations of owning sovereign Eritrean territories.

This is a misleading and toxic presumption that can only hamper and jeopardize prospects for peaceful coexistence between the two states. The depth of Eritrean nationalism and the historical weight of the making of the Eritrean state have never been something confined to a particular generation or, as specified in the articles, the “Tegadalai/freedom fighters generation”.

The flawed assumption flies in the face of the decades-long, multi-generational, struggle maintained by the Eritrean people to ascertain and subsequently safeguard their inalienable national rights.

Disconcerting as it may sound, we must also recall that these “analysts” have taken their cue from the Ethiopian Prime Minister himself.

The specter of a long, drawn-out generational war; the nightmare of perpetual conflict; was first enunciated by Abiy during his disgraceful address to Parliament in which he declared that Ethiopia's existential quest for “sovereign access to the sea” will be achieved “through negotiations if possible and by force if necessary”. He went on to exorcise his audience, and the Ethiopian people at large, by ominously stating that if, for one reason or another, this goal were not achieved in these crucial times, it will surely be accomplished by next generations.

Such inflammatory statements paint a grim picture of perpetual conflict in which future Ethiopian generations would be entangled in zero-sum, irredentist, wars in pursuit of delusional objectives while overlooking and compromising their own vast natural endowments.

In stark contrast to these delusional precepts, Eritrea continues to play its modest but genuine contributions to the promotion of regional peace and stability anchored on fundamental pillars of international law, and that is cultivated through mechanisms

and matrices of bilateral and regional cooperation based on unequivocal respect of each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

What PP minions deride as the “Isaias doctrine” and “Nakfa syndrome” are, in reality, constructive policy parameters of regional cooperation and integration that do not compromise the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the constituent parts, while also championing ownership of their individual development policies that eschew structural dependency and subservience to extraneous powers.

Indeed, Eritrea's diplomatic engagements demonstrate a proactive commitment to healthy regional equilibrium.

The visits of several high-level Eritrean delegations to Sudan and the consistent reiteration of Eritrea's commitment for the resolution of the conflict in a peaceful, Sudanese-led manner – free from meddling by foreign actors – stand as prime examples of its stabilizing role. An additional example is the constant institutional support extended to the government of the Federal Republic of Somalia in its continuous efforts to build sovereign national institutions, combat terrorism, and navigate the structural challenges of state-building.

And, despite the Prosperity Party's wicked and deliberate historical amnesia, Eritrea had indeed contributed significantly to Ethiopia's stabilization when the latter was enveloped in a vicious war few years ago; even if Eritrea's response was also driven by its own exigencies of self-defense.

In recognition and as a tribute to this role, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed had publicly praised, in a speech to the Ethiopian parliament in 2021, Eritrea and its army for their support during Ethiopia's darkest chapter. In his own words: “Ethiopia remains deeply grateful and indebted to Eritrea for its solidarity during a time when Ethiopia felt abandoned by others”.

In a broader perspective and although the underlying causes and dynamics of the intra-State and inter-State conflicts in the region are multi-layered and complex, it must be acknowledged that they have been exacerbated, to various degrees, by the Prosperity Party's ill-advised policies as illustrated below:

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SpotLight

Cultivating Environmental Stewardship and National Unity

Bana Negusse

Every summer break, thousands of Eritrean students leave their classrooms behind to take part in one of the country's most enduring and impactful national initiatives: the Students' Summer Work Program. Far more than a seasonal employment scheme, the program has evolved into a powerful vehicle for environmental restoration, community service, and youth development. For nearly three decades, it has mobilized young people to restore degraded landscapes, strengthen local communities, and cultivate a sense of civic responsibility and national purpose.

This year's program continues that tradition on an impressive scale. Speaking at a media briefing last week, Mr. Fitwi Woldegergis, Director of the Students' Summer Work Program, announced that the 28th edition will run from 6 July to 15 August across five regions of the country. More than 30,000 students – 37 percent of them female – will participate alongside approximately 1,000 teachers, agricultural experts, barefoot doctors, and coordinators working from 160 operational centers.

According to Mr. Fitwi, 97 percent of participants will engage in water and soil conservation and afforestation activities, while others will contribute to environmental sanitation, documentation, traffic safety, the renovation of dirt roads, and the construction and rehabilitation of school compounds.

The program also includes planting more than 1.4 million tree seedlings, along with the construction and rehabilitation of terraces and water-harvesting structures to improve land productivity and strengthen water security. Students in Asmara, Keren, Mendefera, and Barentu will also participate in traffic safety initiatives. Owing to climatic conditions, activities in the Southern Red Sea Region commenced earlier, on 8 June, with approximately 600 students taking part.

Since its launch in 1994, the Students' Summer Work Program has become a cornerstone of Eritrea's environmental and community development efforts. Established as a strategic response to widespread deforestation and land degradation, it represents a collaborative initiative involving

the Ministry of Education, the Forestry and Wildlife Authority, the Ministry of Agriculture, and other key stakeholders. Over the years, students have participated in a broad range of activities, including constructing and rehabilitating terraces, digging tree-planting pits, supporting the families of martyrs and other vulnerable groups, and undertaking numerous community



service projects.

Beyond its tangible environmental and developmental contributions, the program instills discipline, a strong work ethic, teamwork, and a deep sense of national identity among participants. These qualities help explain why the Summer Work Program has endured for nearly three decades. More than an annual campaign, it represents a long-term investment in both the country's natural environment and its future generations. As Eritrea confronts mounting environmental and developmental challenges, the program offers a compelling example of how youth engagement can simultaneously advance ecological restoration, community resilience, and nation-building.

Although Eritrea contributes only a negligible share of global greenhouse gas emissions, it ranks among the countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Over the past six decades, average national temperatures have risen by approximately 1.7°C – equivalent to about 0.37°C per decade – placing increasing stress on both terrestrial and marine ecosystems. The consequences include biodiversity loss, coral bleaching, and declining ecological resilience.

Climate variability has also intensified, bringing more frequent droughts, increasingly erratic rainfall, and more extreme weather events. Long-term climate records spanning 1912 to 2005 indicate a steady decline in precipitation, particularly across the central and southern highlands, where most agricultural production depends on rainfall.

The implications extend far beyond the environment. Agriculture, water resources, and coastal systems – which continue to be the foundations of Eritrea's economy and rural livelihoods – are all under growing pressure. Water security, in particular, faces mounting challenges as prolonged droughts, rising temperatures, and declining river flows reduce both

the availability and reliability of water for households, livestock, and industry.

Against this backdrop, reducing climate vulnerability has become a national imperative. Achieving this objective requires sustained, community-driven approaches that combine environmental restoration with public participation. The Students' Summer Work Program exemplifies such an approach by mobilizing thousands of young people each year as active contributors to climate adaptation and environmental recovery.

Its impact is perhaps most visible in the country's remarkable reforestation efforts. According to FAO figures, forests once covered roughly 30 percent of Eritrea's



land area but declined dramatically to less than 1 percent shortly after independence, following decades of environmental degradation. Within a decade of the Summer Work Program's launch, forest cover had rebounded significantly, reaching approximately 15 percent by 2003, supported by complementary community-led conservation initiatives.

While this recovery reflects the combined impact of multiple national conservation efforts,

it nonetheless demonstrates the transformative potential of sustained public participation. The Summer Work Program has played an important role in that broader success by empowering young people to become active stewards of the country's natural resources and contributing to measurable environmental gains.

The significance of the Summer Work Program extends well beyond environmental conservation. It is equally an investment in the personal, social, and civic development of Eritrea's youth.

Participants receive a modest stipend that helps offset educational expenses and eases financial pressures on their families. More importantly, the program provides young people with meaningful opportunities to remain productively engaged during the summer months while acquiring practical skills, developing self-discipline, and strengthening their connection to their communities.

Working directly in natural environments also fosters a deeper appreciation of the ecological systems upon which communities depend. A growing body of international research indicates that sustained engagement with nature increases environmental awareness, encourages pro-conservation behavior, and contributes positively to mental well-being, cognitive

mutual understanding, and collective responsibility. Working toward common goals encourages participants to build trust, appreciate different perspectives, and develop lasting relationships that transcend local and regional identities.

In a country as diverse as Eritrea, such opportunities are invaluable. By promoting grassroots collaboration and empowering young people to work side by side in service of the nation, the Summer Work Program reinforces the social bonds that underpin national cohesion. Its peacebuilding value is particularly noteworthy in a region – and indeed a continent – that has too often experienced the consequences of conflict and division. In this broader context, initiatives that strengthen solidarity, mutual respect, and shared purpose assume even greater significance.

As Eritrea navigates the interconnected challenges of climate change, environmental degradation, resource scarcity, and sustainable development, the Students' Summer Work Program stands out as a compelling example of integrated, community-based action. Rather than treating environmental protection and youth development as separate priorities, the initiative demonstrates how they can reinforce one another to produce lasting social and ecological benefits.

Nearly three decades after its inception, the program continues to restore landscapes, strengthen communities, and equip new generations with the values and skills needed to contribute meaningfully to national development. Its success illustrates the power of sustained civic participation, collective responsibility, and long-term public investment.

At a time when many countries are searching for effective ways to engage young people in addressing complex environmental and social challenges, Eritrea's experience offers valuable lessons. By placing youth at the center of climate resilience, community service, and nation-building, the Students' Summer Work Program has become far more than an annual initiative – it has become a lasting institution that is helping shape a greener environment, a stronger society, and a more cohesive nation for generations to come.



Eritrean Festivals: Celebrations of Unity, Legacy, and Dignity

By: Lwam Kahsay

Eritrean festivals stand as monumental expressions of cultural pride, collective memory, and national solidarity. Among the country's most significant annual events, these festivals serve as vibrant platforms where Eritreans—both within the homeland and across the global diaspora—come together to celebrate their rich cultural heritage, honor their history, and strengthen their shared identity.

The origins of Eritrean festivals date back to 1974, when the Eritrean diaspora in Bologna, Italy, organized a cultural gathering to support the armed struggle for independence. These early celebrations quickly evolved into symbols of unity, resilience, and collective purpose. Representing far more than mere cultural expression, they embodied the aspirations of a nation fighting for sovereignty and self-determination.

During those precarious decades, the collective experience of hardship and resilience fostered a nationhood rooted in struggle and sacrifice. Festivals became essential tools for mobilization, uniting Eritreans across borders in their quest for freedom.

For the diaspora, these gatherings served as vital spaces to reaffirm cultural bonds, share stories of resistance, and coordinate support for the homeland. Festivals became platforms where shared history, common aspirations, and cultural symbols converged, forging a collective identity that transcended geographic boundaries. They reinforced the



Long before independence, Eritrean festivals were already planting the seeds of a nation—one dance, one song, one story at a time.

idea of an Eritrean nation built on shared memories, symbols, and values regardless of physical borders.

Spread across the Near East, Europe, North America, and Australia, the Eritrean diaspora played a crucial role in the independence struggle by raising funds, organizing rallies, and mobilizing support for the nationalist cause. Events like the Bologna festival were dynamic arenas where social, economic, and political resources were pooled, negotiated, and projected.

During the liberation movement, these festivals served dual purposes: preserving and transmitting cultural traditions while providing a forum for political engagement. Eritrean cultural troupes, known as Bahli, were established by the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) in the mid-1970s. These troupes traveled to festival venues to perform lively music, traditional dances,

theatrical plays, and cultural displays—all designed to energize diaspora communities and reinforce their commitment to the struggle.

These performances functioned as powerful messages of solidarity, resilience, and national pride. The Bologna festival, in particular, became a vivid demonstration of Eritrean unity, an open declaration of support for freedom fighters, and a testament to the enduring bonds between the diaspora and the homeland. Moreover, it fostered a deep sense of collective purpose, emphasizing integrity and resilience amid adversity.

Following Eritrea's independence in 1991, the central festival venue shifted from Bologna to the capital city, Asmara. This transition marked a new chapter as festivals assumed broader social functions. They evolved into celebrations of national achievement,

showcasing Eritrea's diverse ethnic groups through cultural performances, art exhibitions, and commercial activities.

The festival in Asmara offers a comprehensive picture of the

cultural exchange and solidarity.

Over the past three decades, Eritrean festivals have remained central to cultural preservation and national unity. The annual summer festival in Asmara stands out as a flagship event for showcasing traditional music, dance, visual arts, and craftsmanship. Outside the homeland, diaspora festivals continue to feature lively performances alongside seminars and community fundraising for development initiatives back home.

Historically, funds raised during festivals have supported major national initiatives, including infrastructure, education, and healthcare projects. During the 1998–2000 border conflict with Ethiopia, festivals abroad also served as crucial platforms for advocacy, public diplomacy, and awareness campaigns, mobilizing international support and pressing for peaceful diplomatic



nation's cultural mosaic. It brings together representatives from all six administrative regions and nine ethnic groups to exchange cultural traditions, exhibit local crafts, and strengthen a shared national identity. Today, it also attracts both local and international visitors who come to experience Eritrea's unique cultural landscape firsthand.

In 1995, the Eritrean government began organizing national festival tours, bringing celebrations to various countries across the diaspora. These events, coordinated closely with Eritrean embassies, aim to strengthen transnational links and promote Eritrean culture worldwide. Over time, major global cities have developed their own annual festivals, creating a global network of

resolution.

Ultimately, Eritrean festivals serve as effective instruments of public diplomacy. They offer a direct, authentic voice through which Eritreans communicate their identity, history, and achievements to the wider world. By highlighting their cultural richness and historical endurance, these gatherings counter misunderstandings and project a unified, forward-looking society.

At their core, Eritrean festivals are expressions of deep love and dedication to the homeland. They invite Eritreans everywhere to remember a legacy of sacrifice, celebrate cultural diversity, and reaffirm their collective strength—a tapestry woven from shared history, resilience, and hope for the future.



REPORTAGE

Hamelmalo Agricultural College Celebrates 19th Commencement

By: Mussie Efrim

On July 15, 2026, Hamelmalo Agricultural College (HAC) held its 19th commencement ceremony on campus, marking a major milestone



with the graduation of 375 students. The event drew a distinguished gathering, including high-ranking government officials, members of the college's Academic Commission, department heads, and guests. Families and friends joined the class of 2026 to honor the academic achievements and dedication of the graduating cohort as they prepare to join the nation's agricultural sector.

The ceremony commenced at 8:10 a.m. as the college faculty and the graduating class processed to their seats, greeted by a standing ovation from the audience. This collective applause served as a tribute to a shared journey: the unwavering support of families, the guidance of the faculty, the government's investment in higher education, and the years of rigorous effort put forth by the graduates to reach this milestone.

In his keynote address, Professor Woldeamlak Araia, Dean of Hamelmalo Agricultural College, emphasized the historic significance of the occasion, noting that the ceremony marked a major milestone for the institution, with the graduation of its first cohort of Doctors of Veterinary Medicine (DVMs). He highlighted that these 20 pioneering graduates had dedicated six intensive years to mastering the theoretical knowledge and hands-on clinical skills required for the professional degree.

Professor Woldeamlak recalled that this program began during the 2020/2021 academic year, when HAC admitted its inaugural vet-

erinary medicine class—selected for their outstanding academic performance from the College of Science at Mai Nefhi. He noted that graduation day represented the ultimate reward for their years of hard work.

He urged the young professionals to deploy their skills across Eritrea to drive meaningful change, particularly in reducing poverty, achieving food and nutrition security, fostering economic development, and promoting sustainable natural resource management.

Taking the floor next, the guest of honor, Mr. Tesfay Gebreselasie, Minister of Land, Water and Environment, underlined that ensuring the health and prosperity of its citizens remains a core objective of the Eritrean Government. Expressing the high expectations of both the public and the government, he called on the graduates to play an active role in national development by contributing directly to Eritrea's food security and agricultural growth.

During the ceremony, a representative of the graduating class expressed gratitude for the educational opportunities provided to them. Pledging to fulfill the expectations of both the public and the government, the representative emphasized the graduates' shared determination to serve their society. The ceremony also featured an awards segment where medals of

recognition were presented to the top-performing students of the graduating class.

In total, the college conferred qualifications on 375 students: 181 diploma recipients, 174 Bachelor of Science degree graduates, and 20 Doctors of Veterinary Medicine. The Bachelor of Science degrees were awarded across six specialized agricultural disciplines: Agronomy, Animal Science, Food Science and Technology, Horticultural Science, Land Resources and Environment, and Plant Health. The diploma program graduates completed their studies in four key areas: Agronomy, Animal Science, Horticultural Science, and Plant Health.

Demonstrating strong representation, female graduates made up the majority of the class at 55.7%, with male graduates accounting for 44.3%. The college noted that this year's graduating class was larger than those of previous years, driven by a significant increase in direct enrollment completions. Having suc-



cessfully fulfilled all academic and practical curriculum requirements, the graduating cohort was formally approved by both the respective Departmental Councils and the Academic Commission.

Before this 19th commencement, Hamelmalo Agricultural College had conferred degrees and diplomas on 6,791 students (3,505 diplomas, 3,231 Bachelor of Science degrees, and 55 Master of Science degrees). With this latest graduating class, HAC's all-time total number of

alums has reached 7,166, spanning diplomas, BSc degrees, MSc degrees, and now its inaugural DVM cohort.

Throughout their academic tenure, HAC students engaged in extensive practical training on campus, utilizing the college's crop museum, horticultural nursery, dairy farm, meteorological observatory, and watershed areas to prepare for their careers.

To complement classroom instruction, HAC maintains active collaborative partnerships with government ministries and specialized institutions, establishing off-campus training grounds where students acquire real-world experience. Through its close relationship with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), students access advanced diagnostic facilities at the Villaggio Plant and Animal Health Laboratory in Asmara. Students also train at the Crops and Livestock Corporation in Halhale and the Encode facilities, completing required internships to master practical industry skills.

In specialized fields, veterinary medicine students complete crucial clinical rotations at the Keren Veterinary Clinic and the Keren slaughterhouse, gaining practical exposure to clinical animal care, pathology, and public health regulations. Through these strategic alliances, HAC ensures its graduates transition seamlessly from study to professional



practice.

The establishment and expansion of HAC align directly with the macro policies and strategic priorities of the Government of the State of Eritrea, particularly in human resource capacity building to achieve sustainable economic development through qualified agricultural scientists and resource managers.

To support its long-term institutional development, HAC continues to invest in staff development. During the 2025/2026 academic year, 22 academic staff members pursued advanced studies abroad. Recently, five staff members returned home after completing their programs in China, Hungary, and the Russian Federation (two earning PhDs and three earning MSc degrees). Currently, 17 staff members are actively pursuing higher studies in China, Kenya, Russia, and Hungary, including 13 doctoral candidates and four master's candidates.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE CONDUCTS ...

Continued from page 1

Following extensive discussions on the reports presented, the participants made a number of recommendations. These included strengthening the monitoring of the distribution and impact of improved seed, assessing the performance and impact of distributed chickens, and enhancing the promotion and practical application of organic fertilizers, along with several other important recommendations and observations.

In his closing remarks, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Arefaine Berhe, reaffirmed that the Ministry is committed to achieving its strategic vision of "Safe and Nutritious Food for Everyone, Everywhere." He emphasized that the full implementation of the Comprehensive Small and Productive Farm Plot program remains one of the Ministry's leading strategies for achieving this objective.

The Minister noted that although the progress achieved so far was encouraging, agricultural experts should continue working with greater commitment until the program is fully implemented by every household in every village. He further encouraged frontline extension workers to facilitate practical learning and promote wider adoption of the program.

Minister Arefaine also stressed that soil and water conservation forms the foundation of all agricultural development. He therefore called for the preparation of well-defined action plans and the establishment of close monitoring mechanisms to ensure the effective implementation of soil and water conservation activities.

The mid-year review meeting was attended by senior officials and experts from the Ministry of Agriculture, together with heads of regional agriculture and land departments and technical experts from all six regions of the country.





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Desirable- Degree (Human Resources, Management, Psychology, Personal Management)	
Desirable- Driving license	

Technical Skills	Behavioural Skills
Computer Literacy (MS Office – Intermediate) Proficient in HR System Attention to detail Knowledge of Policies, Procedures and Processes Ensure that HR audit requirements are met Address HR issues Business Communication skills Knowledge of current legislation Administrative skill Report writing skills Knowledge of current Labor legislation, Analytical skills	Demonstrate excellent people management and interpersonal skills, as well as the ability to deal with in different types of people at various levels. Friendly, empathetic, and open-minded, with high standards of personal and professional integrity, fairness, and an unbiased approach

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

Additional requirements for Nationals:

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

Address: Please mail your applications to: -

Bisha Mining Share Company,
P. O. Box 4276 Asmara, Eritrea

Note to Eritrean applicants:

Please send a copy of your application to:

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

Vacancy Announcement

We are seeking to hire the following staff:

- Public Relations Coordinator
 - Assistant Accountant
 - Secretary
 - IT Specialist
 - Driver
 - Hospitality Worker
 - 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: 18/8/2026.



Bisha Mining Share Company
P.O. Box 4276
Asmara
Eritrea

Tel: (+291) 1124941
Fax: (+291) 1124941
www.bishamining.com

VACANCY

ANNOUNCEMENT

Bisha Mining Share Company is inviting applicants for the following positions

1. **Position: Underground Shotcrete Operator**
- Department: Processing and Underground Operations**
- Section: Asheli Underground**
- Number required: One (01)**

Primary Purpose

- The Underground Shotcrete Operator is responsible for the safe and effective application of shotcrete for ground support in underground mining environments.
- The role ensures that all shotcrete activities are completed to the required quality standards to maintain ground stability and support mine development.

Essential Functions

- Operate underground shotcrete spraying equipment safely and efficiently
- Ensure ground stability and support through accurate application of shotcrete
- Maintain compliance with all safety, environmental, and operational standards
- Support overall underground development and construction objectives

Main Functions

- Perform shotcrete application to ground surfaces according to engineering designs
- Conduct pre-start inspections and routine maintenance of shotcrete equipment
- Assist with installation of ground support systems, including mesh and bolts
- Monitor work quality and adjust procedures as needed to meet specifications
- Maintain equipment, tools, and work areas in good condition

TASK DESCRIPTION Expanded TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS

Shotcrete Application:

- Apply wet or dry shotcrete to achieve required thickness, coverage, and adhesion
- Follow pre-determined shotcrete patterns and specifications
- Use depth measurement tools and visual checks for quality control

Equipment Operation & Maintenance:

- Perform pre-start checks and routine maintenance on pumps, hoses, and nozzles
- Troubleshoot minor equipment issues underground
- Maintain proper handling and storage of cement, additives, and shotcrete materials

Safety & Compliance

- Identify hazards and report unsafe conditions immediately
- Adhere to site safety protocols, including PPE and confined space regulations
- Participate in safety meetings and toolbox talks

Documentation & Reporting

- Record daily shotcrete application volumes and quality checks
- Report equipment faults, operational delays, or ground conditions affecting work

Additional Duties

- To perform other related work as assigned.

UNIQUE REQUIREMENTS / OTHER INFORMATION

- May assist in other underground construction or mine development activities as required
- May provide training or guidance to junior operators or offsidars
- Role requires flexibility to adapt to varying shifts and underground conditions
- Direct contribution to mine productivity, safety, and ground stability performance
- Travel underground frequently and may work in confined or challenging environments

- Minimum High School Diploma or equivalent; technical or vocational training in mining or construction preferred
 - Valid mining-related certifications (e.g., shotcrete operator, heavy equipment, safety training)
 - Competency in underground work permits, confined space entry, and safety regulations
 - Valid driving or equipment operating licenses as required.
- Minimum 5 years of experience in underground shotcrete operations in mining or tunneling environments
 - Knowledge of underground ground support systems, including bolting, meshing, and shotcrete applications
 - Familiarity with mining methods, tunnel development, and construction best practices
 - Understanding of mine safety legislation, environmental regulations, and quality standards.

Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
• Proficient in operating mechanized shotcrete equipment (e.g., Normet, Putzmeister, or equivalent) • Ability to calibrate and adjust spray parameters (air pressure, flow rate, accelerator dosing) • Understanding of wet and dry shotcrete mix designs and material properties • Competency in thickness control methods (depth pins, visual profiling, rebound management) • Basic mechanical troubleshooting and maintenance of pumps, hoses, and spray nozzles • Ability to interpret engineering drawings, shotcrete specifications, and ground support designs • Knowledge of ventilation requirements and dust suppression techniques • Familiarity with quality control processes such as cube sampling, adhesion testing, and application documentation.	• Strong safety awareness and commitment to zero harm • High level of reliability, punctuality, and accountability • Good communication and interpersonal skills for teamwork • Proactive, flexible, and adaptable to changing operational requirements • Problem-solving and critical thinking in high-pressure underground environments • Attention to detail and commitment to quality workmanship.

General Information and other requirements:

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

- **Type of Contract:** Indefinite

Additional requirements for Nationals:

- **Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provided evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defense.**
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2. Mineral Resources Management
P. O. Box 272 Asmara, Eritrea

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
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A Journey of Duty: From Calgary to Sawa

Habtom Tesfamichael

Could you introduce yourself and explain the journey that eventually led you back to Eritrea to join the 38th round of National Service?

I am 28 years old and originally from Dekemhare. My journey has been a long one. Before moving to Canada, I lived in Sudan until 2014, where I completed 11th grade. I always had it in the back of my mind to do my national service alongside my peers. I wanted to experience Sawa just like every other Eritrean.

However, when my family moved to Canada, I had to put those dreams aside temporarily. As the only person able to support my family at the time, I had to work while pursuing my college studies. This extended my timeline, which is why I am here at 28—much older than the typical age for Sawa. But I believe it is never too late to accomplish a dream that keeps you awake at night. If you have a goal in mind, you will never find true peace until you achieve it.

Coming from the diaspora, you must have encountered many different opinions about Sawa. What influenced your decision to come, and how did your family's history shape your patriotic outlook?

When I told people in Canada I was going to Sawa, many were skeptical. There are so many rumors—some say it's a correction camp, while others warn about a harsh environment and strict punishments. They even doubted I could fit in because of my age. But I also had good friends who had been through Sawa; they told me the truth about how it makes you a better version of yourself, both mentally and physically.

Ultimately, my motivation came from my roots. I was born in Addis Ababa, and my mother and I were expelled during the 1998 war under very harsh conditions. I was raised by my grandmother, who was a

Eritrea Profile features an interview today with Henok Tsegazeab, who traveled from Calgary, Canada, to fulfill his national service obligations. Having built a successful professional life and business in Canada, Henok felt a deep-seated pull to return home and complete the rite of passage that defines his generation. We sat down with him to discuss his motivations, his experiences in Sawa, and his vision for the future.

member of the EPLF's underground cells in Asmara during the struggle for independence. She lost her son—my uncle—in the war. She always



reminded me never to forget my roots and that my uncle would have been here if not for his sacrifice for our independence. As the only boy in the family, I felt it was my duty to honor this legacy. I wanted to make him proud and ensure that my own children will one day continue this journey.

Can you describe your first impressions of Sawa and the camaraderie you found there? How did you adapt to the training alongside your section-mates?

My arrival was met with great enthusiasm by my relatives in Asmara. When I finally reached Sawa, the reception from my section-mates was incredible. They took my bags, helped me settle in, and even prepared my bed and shower area. Living in a company with hundreds of people—and in Sawa at large—is a very special experience. You get to know people from every ethnicity and background in one shared space.

The physical transition was a challenge at first. On our second day, we had to go for a long run. I wasn't

used to running such distances, especially in plastic sandals. But my section-mates and company-mates were amazing. They told me, "Henok, just stay by our side." They even took my gun and carried it for me when I got tired, slowing down their pace to match mine.

This is where true camaraderie is built—checking on each other and ensuring no one is left behind. This spirit of uplifting one another is something we should apply to every aspect of our lives. Even the mentors and teachers, many of whom are from the 34th or 35th rounds and younger than me, are great inspirations. Their discipline and dedication without complaint made me even prouder of my decision.

You have a background in Mechanical Engineering and run a business in Canada. How do you plan to use these skills to contribute to Eritrea, and what did you learn about professional discipline while in Sawa?

In Canada, I studied Mechanical Engineering Technology and eventually started my own garage door company. My father is a mechanic, and he taught me the foundational skills, which I later refined through my education. In my business, I make it a point to hire and train newly arrived Eritreans to help them adapt to the system and build their resumes.

However, while in Sawa, I reflected deeply on my future. I've realized that I want to contribute to Eritrea in the fields of political science and education. I am fortunate to speak Tigrinya, Amharic, Arabic, English, and French. My goal is to complete my higher education and return here to teach. Those of us in developed countries have so much to offer if we pool our human resources.

Sawa taught me that time management is vital—everything is done on the dot, and no time is wasted. This level of self-discipline, combined with national values, acts as a bridge between who you were and who you want to become.

As someone who has lived in Sudan and Canada, and now in Sawa, what is your final message to fellow Eritreans, particularly those in the diaspora?

Sawa is a melting pot. It is a place where generations meet—the veterans of the struggle, those who fought in later conflicts, and the young generation now filling the ranks. It is a defining rite of passage.

To those in the diaspora who hold different views, I say: come and see it for yourselves. Experience real

life here firsthand. Wherever I went in the world, even when I spoke the local language fluently, I often felt like an outsider. But here, I am home. This country was secured through immense sacrifice, and it is the responsibility of every son and daughter of the soil to protect it and carry that duty forward. Sawa is where you truly learn to be a guardian of the nation.

Ethiopia's Prosperity Party . . .

Continued from page 2

- The Pursuit of Hydro-Maritime Hegemony: through the state-sponsored "Two Waters Strategy," Addis Ababa treats the sovereign territories of Eritrea, Djibouti, and Somalia as zones for unilateral power projection. By attempting to combine hydro-hegemony over the Nile with forced physical access to the Red Sea, the Prosperity Party turns neighborly relations into zero-sum territorial contests that could potentially precipitate and trigger a massive inter-State conflict.

- The Normalization of Demographic and Economic Coercion: the Prosperity Party frequently weaponizes its large population size and economic needs to justify bullying smaller neighbors. This tactic introduces a dangerous precedent into continental politics. If international law is rewritten to allow large nations to annex territory based on demographic weight, it will completely undermine global stability and precipitate a dangerous regional arms race.

- Transnational Proxy Warfare in Sudan: Investigations have confirmed that Ethiopia operates secret military training facilities in its western Benishangul-Gumuz region near Assosa to train thousands of fighters for Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) (com). This covert operation directly feeds the devastating civil war in Sudan and threatens the vital Red Sea trade corridor. By hosting these camps, the Prosperity Party serves as a local agent for the destabilizing policy of "port imperialism" of some regional actors which continues to fuel security crises across Sudan, Libya, and Somalia (aljazeera.com).

- The Fragmentation of the Somali State: Ethiopia's unilateral January 2024 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to lease a naval base from Somaliland is a severe blow to regional diplomacy. This act directly violates the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Somalia. By bypassing a recognized central government to strike deals with a regional administration, the Prosperity Party encourages separatism and undermines decades of delicate state-building efforts in the Horn of Africa.

- The Subversion of Continental Law: By questioning established international borders, Addis Ababa is actively dismantling the foundational pillar of African peace: the sanctity of colonial-era borders (uti possidetis juris). True pan-African integration requires absolute compliance with the African Union's Constitutive Act: non-interference, mutual restraint, and absolute respect for inherited colonial (international) boundaries. The Prosperity Party's continuous disregard for these inherited borders sets a highly destructive precedent, threatening to plunge the entire continent into endless, chaotic border disputes.

In conclusion, the fundamental challenge in the Horn of Africa is not Ethiopia's landlocked geography. The real threat is the Prosperity Party's willingness to sacrifice regional stability, international law, and state sovereignty on the altar of domestic political survival. On this front, Addis Ababa's revisionist strategy will continue to fail.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Research and Documentation
Division
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