

MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATIONS

President Donald Trump of the United States, President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China, President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkiye, King Charles III of the United Kingdom, General Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan, President of the Transitional Sovereign Council of Sudan, President Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno of the Republic of Chad, President Frank-Walter Steinmeier of Germany, King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, President Ukhnaa Khurelsukh of Mongolia, President Hakainde Hichilema of the Republic of Zambia, President Anura Kumara Disanayaka of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, President Droupadi Murmu of India, Prof. Arthur Peter Mutharika of the Republic of Malawi, and King Abdullah II of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan have sent messages of congratulations to the people and Government of Eritrea on the occasion of the 35th Independence anniversary.

In their messages, sent on behalf of their respective countries and themselves, the leaders conveyed their best wishes for good health to President Isaias Afwerki, as well as peace and prosperity to the Eritrean people.

They also expressed their countries' readiness to enhance mutual relations and cooperation with Eritrea and to work together on issues of mutual interest.

In his message, President Donald Trump said that the American people join him in congratulating the people and Government of Eritrea on the 35th anniversary of Eritrea's independence, May 24.

ERITREAN DELEGATION PARTICIPATES AT WORLD URBAN FORUM

An Eritrean delegation led by Mr. Beyene Russom, Eritrea's Ambassador to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UN Habitat Institutions, participated at the 13th United Nations World Urban Forum, convened in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 17 to 22 May under the theme "Housing the World: Safe and Resilient Cities and Communities."

Addressing the Forum, Ambassador Beyene said that the theme reminds us that cities

He also expressed respect and admiration for the steadfast spirit and resilience of the Eritrean people, as well as for their dedication to Eritrea's national sovereignty.

President Donald Trump further noted that, consistent with the sentiment he expressed in his letter to President Isaias last year, and with the previous era now behind us, he believes the time is right to move forward and work together on shared peace and prosperity across the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea.

Noting the historical relations between the two countries based on mutual cooperation and partnership, President Xi Jinping said that over the past 35 years, the Government and people of Eritrea have remained steadfast in the spirit of independence, self-reliance and unyielding endeavor, striving relentlessly for national prosperity and development and raising their voice to uphold international fairness and justice. He also wished Eritrea continued and greater achievements in its future development endeavors.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, on his part, said that bilateral and multilateral cooperation between Eritrea and Turkiye will be further strengthened across all areas.

General Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan expressed his country's desire to further develop the existing deep friendly relations and cooperation in various sectors between Eritrea and

do not exist in isolation, but are connected to towns, villages, and farming communities. He noted that when cities are developed at the expense of rural areas, they create inequality, migration pressure, and vulnerability.

Indicating that Eritrea's approach is based on integrated urban-rural development, Ambassador Beyene said that

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Sudan for the mutual benefit of the two peoples.

King Charles III also said that Eritrea's experience in conserving water and protecting its precious natural resources offers valuable lessons as communities everywhere adapt to environmental change.

President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, for his part, said that at a time when the Horn of Africa and the Middle East are passing through great challenges, Germany desires to work in partnership with Eritrea to ensure peace, stability, and development in the region and beyond.

DIASPORA NATIONALS CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY ANNIVERSARY

Eritrean nationals residing in Luxembourg and Germany have celebrated the 35th Independence Day anniversary with patriotic zeal under the theme "Our Resilience: Our Guarantee."

At the celebratory event in Luxembourg on 16 May, Mr. Russom Habbitai, representing the Eritrean community, congratulated the Eritrean people and its Defense Forces, and called on the Eritrean community to strengthen its organizational capacity and contribution to national development drives.

Noting that the Eritrean people have ensured their independence and national sovereignty in unison by foiling all sorts of hostilities, Mr. Michael Tesfay, First Secretary at the Eritrean Embassy in Belgium, said that the colorful celebratory event attested to that.

Eritrean nationals in the German cities of Stuttgart, Kassel, Cologne,

INDEPENDENCE DAY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IN NEW YORK

Eritrea's Permanent Mission to the United Nations enthusiastically celebrated the 35th Independence Day anniversary at the UN Headquarters in New York on 21 May.

The celebratory event, conducted under the theme "Our Resilience: Our Guarantee," was attended by permanent representatives of various countries, diplomats, senior UN officials, representatives of regional organizations and media outlets, members of civil society and friends of Eritrea, Eritrean workers at the UN, as well as Eritrean nationals residing in New York and its environs.

The event featured programs re-

flecting the culture and diversity of the Eritrean people, as well as the history and national values of their country.

Noting that Eritrea's independence was the culmination of the heavy sacrifice paid and perseverance demonstrated by the Eritrean people, Ms. Sophia Tesfamariam, Eritrea's Permanent Representative to the UN, underlined Eritrea's commitment to sovereignty, self-reliance, as well as regional peace and stability.

She also noted the significance of enhancing cultural diplomacy in creating common understanding and strengthening relations between countries and peoples.



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At the event in Stuttgart, Mr. Yohannes Woldu, Chargé d'Affaires at the Eritrean Embassy, congratulated the Eritrean people and its Defense Forces, and said that the contribution Diaspora nationals are making to national development programs attests to their commitment and love of country.

At the celebratory event in Kassel,

Mr. Kibreab Tekeste, Eritrea's Consul General in Frankfurt, delivered a message of congratulations.

Similarly, nationals in Stockholm, Sweden, celebrated the 35th Independence Day anniversary with patriotic zeal, featuring sports and general knowledge competitions as well as cultural programs.

Nationals in the Norwegian city of Trondheim and its environs also enthusiastically celebrated the 35th Independence Day anniversary, featuring various programs.



OPINION & ANALYSIS

Eritrea at 35: Honouring Independence, Building Partnership

Ms. Nahla Valji,
UN Resident Coordinator in Eritrea

This month, Eritreans across the country and around the world celebrate 35 years of independence. Marked this year under the theme "Our Resilience: Our Guarantee," it is a milestone that resonates with particular force for a young independent state. Independence was not handed to Eritrea. It was won through a long struggle of three decades. Because this history is still recent, and within the lived experience of a generation, every family and every community continues to carry some memory of the struggle - and the cost of freedom.

This milestone is an opportunity to reflect on what has been built since 1991: national institutions, schools, clinics, roads, water systems, and a strong sense of shared identity, guided by the values of self-reliance and social justice.



For the United Nations, this anniversary carries special meaning. Eritrea is one of the younger Member States of the United Nations - following its internationally observed referendum and formal independence, Eritrea joined the United Nations in May 1993 as the 182nd Member State. That moment placed Eritrea's flag among the nations of the world and affirmed a principle at the heart of the UN Charter. Every nation, regardless of

and the United Nations has not always been easy, and this should be acknowledged. The UN is first and foremost a space for engagement among Member States, which means it brings together diverse and sometimes competing views, priorities, and responses. The years after independence were marked by difficult moments related to borders, peace, and the implementation of international decisions, and some aspects of the relationship remain complex. These issues are part of the history of the relationship, but do not define the whole or the future. As Eritrea marks 35 years of independence, there is reason to recognize a partnership that is growing through honest engagement and shared work.

On the global stage, Eritrea's role in multilateral spaces is becoming more visible. In New York, Eritrea's Permanent Representative has led the Group of African Ambassadors, served as Vice-President of the UNICEF Executive Board, one of the United Nations' largest agencies, and has given visibility to women's leadership in the multilateral space. In Geneva, Eritrea has served on the Human Rights Council. And across forums, the country has helped draw attention to the issue of unilateral coercive measures and has actively engaged on development, education, climate, and the concerns of least developed countries. This growing presence reflects a Member State using its voice in ways that reach beyond its borders.

size or history, has an equal place in the international community.

This principle matters. Eritrea is not simply a country where the United Nations works - it is a sovereign Member State of the United Nations, with its own voice and role. It contributes to global discussions as an equal member of the international community, bringing its perspectives and priorities, shaped by a firm belief in national ownership and regional leadership.

The relationship between Eritrea Here in Eritrea, the partnership



benefiting from stronger services. At Mendefera Referral Hospital, a hybrid solar-powered oxygen system now serves a catchment population of more than 1 million people and supplies dozens of health facilities. This is a practical example of partnership aligned with national priorities, one that supports health services while drawing on renewable energy and local capacity.

between the Government and the United Nations Country Team has grown significantly over the years. The Government of the State of Eritrea has achieved important development gains through its own leadership and national effort. The United Nations has been privileged to partner where it can add value, through technical support, capacity building, data, global expertise, and resource mobilization.

This milestone also coincides with the start of the next chapter of the UN-Eritrea partnership. The current UN Cooperation Framework is drawing to a close, and the Government and UN are preparing the next five-year Cooperation Framework (2027 - 2031). This is a moment to take stock of what the partnership has achieved and to set a new direction together. The new framework will be our shared partnership agreement, guiding the way the UN Country Team works with national institutions to support Eritrea's priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals.

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From Social Media



Yemane G. Meskel @hawelti

Audacity of Potemkin Party minions and their hired apologists is indeed beyond the pale.

The PP regime's delusional policies continue to foment, beyond any shred of doubt, unnecessary tension in the region:

- Exhibit 1: the illicit MOU that the PP regime signed stealthily with Somaliland in January 2024;
- Exhibit 2: the relentless media and diplomatic campaigns, accompanied by incessant saber-rattling, that the regime has unleashed since December 2023 to invade Assab in pursuit of its pipedream of "sovereign access to the sea";
- Exhibit 3: PP's widely reported (Yale University findings etc.) involvement in the conflict in the Sudan whose tentacles and dangerous ramifications (link below) are multi-layered and grave indeed.

Still, PP minions and their apologists accuse Eritrea and other countries in the region for "conspiracies... for forming an axis of powers" against Ethiopia.

These false flags are too transparent and cannot camouflage the real source and incubator of unnecessary and avoidable tension in the Horn of Africa region.

The lofty aspirations of the peoples of the region remain enduring peace and cooperation anchored on respect of each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity; not perennial conflicts to mollify elusive ambitions of hegemony and domination.

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#Eritrea: the Long Road to Independence (part II)

By: Shabait Staff



On December 2, 1950, after years of international debate and political maneuvering, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 390(V). The resolution denied Eritreans their full independence and instead



“federated” Eritrea with Ethiopia as “an autonomous unit...under the sovereignty of the Ethiopian Crown.” Under the arrangement, Eritrea was meant to retain legislative, executive, and judicial authority over domestic affairs, while Ethiopia assumed control over defense, foreign affairs, and international commerce.

Yet almost immediately from the outset, Emperor Haile Selassie’s imperial regime viewed the “Federal Arrangement” with open contempt. The regime regarded Eritrean autonomy not as a binding international obligation, but as a temporary obstacle to complete annexation. This attitude was made unmistakably clear in a speech delivered to the Eritrean Assembly on March 22, 1955, when the Emperor’s representative declared:

“There are no internal or external affairs as far as the office of His Imperial Majesty’s representative is concerned, and there will be none in the future. The affairs of Eritrea concern Ethiopia as a whole and the Emperor.”

Over the following decade, Ethiopia systematically dismantled

Introductory note: Situated in the volatile Horn of Africa and blessed with a long, pristine coastline along the Red Sea, Eritrea is a nation shaped by resilience, sacrifice, and a long struggle against foreign efforts at domination. After enduring one of the longest and most devastating liberation wars in modern African history, Eritrea finally achieved independence from Ethiopia in 1991.

This second installment in the series examines the dismantling of Eritrea’s UN-mandated federal autonomy under Ethiopian imperial rule and the events that ultimately pushed Eritreans toward struggle and armed resistance. While Part I explored the colonial foundations of the Eritrean state and the international decisions that denied Eritreans their right to self-determination, this chapter focuses on the systematic erosion of the Federal Arrangement, the intensification of repression, and the birth of the armed liberation struggle.

the “Federal Structure” piece by piece.

Just 19 days after the “federation” formally came into effect, the imperial regime issued Proclamation 130, placing Eritrea’s highest court under the authority of the Ethiopian Supreme Court, thereby directly violating the Eritrean Constitution. In the years that followed, Eritrea’s constitutional autonomy was steadily stripped away. The Eritrean flag was abolished and

replaced with Ethiopia’s, while Amharic was imposed as the official language. Eritrean languages were progressively excluded from schools and official administration.

The erosion of Eritrea’s autonomy extended far beyond constitutional matters. The country’s elected local officials were forced from office, while its customs revenues were seized, and foreign investors were pressured to redirect economic activity toward Ethiopia proper. Eritrea’s tax revenues increasingly served imperial interests, while profits generated by Eritrean industries were funneled into the Ethiopian heartland.

At the same time, political repression against Eritreans intensified, and all forms of peaceful dissent were met with violence. In 1957 and again in 1962, Eritrean students from across the nation, representing various ethnicities, organized mass demonstrations against imperial rule. In February 1958, underground trade unions launched a four-day general strike that effectively paralyzed the country. Ethiopian security forces, as had become their wont, responded brutally, killing

demonstrators, wounding many others, and arresting hundreds. Prominent nationalist leaders such as Woldeab Woldemariam and Ibrahim Sultan were also forced into exile, where they continued organizing opposition movements abroad.

Notably, although there were explicit provisions to protect the “Federal Arrangement” as an international instrument and to have the “UN to be seized of the matter in the event of any violation”, loud and repeated appeals by Eritrean political leaders and activists against Ethiopia’s brazen acts were met with abject silence. The international community, despite its central role in imposing the “federation”, completely failed to enforce its own guarantees or hold Ethiopia accountable for violating the “federal arrangement”. As the situation gradually deteriorated, Eritreans increasingly lost faith in the United Nations and in the possibility of securing justice through peaceful means.

The final bitter blow came in November 1962, when Emperor Haile Selassie formally dissolved the Eritrean Parliament and annexed Eritrea as Ethiopia’s fourteenth province. The move was widely condemned by observers abroad, some of whom described it as a “putsch” and “a brutal and arbitrary act”. Inside Eritrea, meanwhile, anger and disillusionment deepened, and many Eritreans refused to participate in the regime’s orchestrated celebrations marking the annexation.

Despite the clear violation of Resolution 390(V), which stipulated that only the United Nations General Assembly possessed the authority to alter Eritrea’s “federal” status, the international community once again remained silent. Rather than extinguishing Eritrean nationalism, however, the Ethiopian regime’s annexation transformed it. The destruction of the federal arrangement became a decisive turning point, convincing many Eritreans that peaceful

political struggle alone could no longer secure their national rights or dignity.

Indeed, if Eritrea had first been denied decolonization in the 1940s, the international community’s silence during the years-long systematic dismantling of the “Federation” convinced many Eritreans that armed struggle had become the only remaining path toward liberation and inviolable nationhood.

It was within this atmosphere of repression, betrayal, and growing political frustration that Eritrea’s formidable armed resistance was born.

On September 1, 1961, Hamid Idris Awate fired the opening shots of the Eritrean armed struggle in the Gash Barka region. Leading a small group of fighters equipped with only a handful of aging rifles, Awate

launched what would become a thirty-year war for independence.

Awate, a veteran soldier respected for his military skill and long history of resistance against colonial and imperial authorities, had earned a formidable – and even feared – reputation among Italians, British officials, and Ethiopians alike. Only months after the armed struggle began, Abdu Mohamed Fayed became the first martyr of the Eritrean revolution after being killed near Adal, close to Sawa. Awate himself would die from illness less than a year after initiating the uprising, but the movement he sparked would ignite in a blazing wildfire across the country.

For the Eritrean people, the armed struggle emerged not out of ideological extremism but from the suppression of their right of decolonization, accumulated injustice, and the systematic denial of basic political rights. As one scholar observed, the Eritrean revolution became “the expression of the indignation of a people whose rights [were] flagrantly and ruthlessly suppressed.”

Another wrote more succinctly: “Three times denied their dreams, the Eritreans now had no other recourse than to take their destiny into their own hands.”

ERITREAN DELEGATION PARTICIPATES ...

Continued from page 1

the Eritrean Government is investing in rural roads, energy, and water systems that connect villages to towns and towns to regional cities. He added that good roads reduce post-harvest losses, open markets to farmers, and enable students and patients to reach schools and clinics.

Ambassador Beyene also expressed Eritrea’s readiness to share the achievements it has registered over the past 35 years of Independence in putting in place basic social service institutions in

towns and villages, as well as in enabling displaced communities to return home, farm, trade, and live with dignity.

Concluding his remarks, Ambassador Beyene said that, like many African countries, Eritrea faces challenges in accessing concessional finance for integrated rural-urban infrastructure, and supports the African Group’s call for a first-loss guarantee mechanism and reform of credit rating methodologies. Without fair finance, he said, integrated development remains a concept.



OPINION

The Struggle for Independence: A Legacy of Resilience

Dr. Tsegai Medin

Every May, Eritrea honors its independence, offering a profound tribute to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the cause. This historic milestone marks the culmination of over sixty years of struggle against formidable global forces to secure the right to self-determination. The Eritrean independence movement stands as a testament to unbreakable resistance against multifaceted, orchestrated external hostilities. Under determined leadership, Eritrea's heroes and heroines gave their lives to transform the dream of a sovereign nation into a reality. The unwavering commitment shown by both fighters and the fearless populace serves as a unique historical lesson to oppressors worldwide.



While the struggle was grueling, it was fueled by the vision of a prosperous, rising nation. That dream was realized through massive popular participation on May 24, 1991. Over the past 34 years, Eritreans have celebrated their independence with deep-rooted pride and cultural identity. These celebrations magnify the homegrown values of communalism, resilience, and sacrifice, forged during the long liberation war.

For the Eritrean people, resilience is not merely a reaction to hardship; it is a fundamental cultural pillar. It is a collective identity forged over decades of systemic colonial oppression, external hostilities, and an unwavering commitment to self-reliance. A succession of colonial administrations marks Eritrea's history, each attempting to reshape the land and its people to serve external interests.

Italian Colonialism (1890–1941): While this period saw infrastructure development, it was built on a foundation of racial segregation and the exploitation of Eritrean labor and resources.

British Administration (1941–1952): Following WWII, the

dismantling of industrial assets and the uncertainty of the post-war settlement created a volatile environment for the Eritrean people.

The Ethiopian Annexation: The forced federation and subsequent unilateral annexation of Eritrea by Ethiopia ignited a thirty-year struggle for independence. Severe hostilities, including the suppression of cultural identity, language, and political rights, characterized this era.

Faced with overwhelming military odds and a lack of significant international support, the Eritrean movement for independence had to innovate to survive. This necessity gave birth to a sophisticated culture of Self-Reliance. During the

Thirty Years' War, resilience was both physical and psychological. The Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) constructed entire hospitals, schools, garages, and factories underground to protect them from aerial bombardment... etc. This 'hidden state' proved that the people could provide for their own needs — medical, educational, and industrial — even under the most dire circumstances.

Colonial powers often used 'divide and rule' tactics. In response, Eritrean resilience manifested as radical social cohesion. By bridging ethnic, regional, and religious divides, the movement ensured that the struggle was a national endeavor rather than a factional one.

In the post-independence era, the concept of Self-Reliance remains a central tenet of the Eritrean spirit. It is a philosophy that views external dependency as a threat to sovereignty.

Community Labor: The tradition of communal contribution to national projects — whether in soil conservation, dam building, or infrastructure — is a modern expression of nation-building mobilization.

Educational Endurance: The focus on vocational training and domestic capacity building reflects the belief that the nation's future must be built by its own hands.

Cultural Preservation: Despite decades of foreign influence, Eritreans have maintained a fierce pride in their traditional music, languages, and social customs, using them as a shield against cultural erasure. Resilience is the ability to maintain one's core identity while adapting to the harshest of environments. For Eritrea, it is the victory of the human spirit over the machinery of oppression.

Ultimately, the Eritrean story is one of persistence against the odds. The hostilities of the past did not break the national character; instead, they tempered it, creating a society that values independence not just as a political status, but as a cultural way of being.

This year, marking the 35th anniversary, Eritrea prepares to celebrate under the theme 'Our Resilience: Our Guarantee'. Over the next two months, the nation will commemorate both Independence Day and Martyrs Day, reaffirming its ongoing commitment to the legacy of our martyrs and the responsibility of nation-building.

The transition from Independence Day (May 24) to Martyrs' Day (June 20) symbolizes a triumph of solidarity. These occasions foster a unique sense of togetherness vital to the nation-building process. Eritreans take immense pride in their ethical foundation, asserting that their dignity, fairness, and nationalism distinguish their



society.

The thirty-year struggle for independence, followed by thirty-five years of defending self-reliance, has left an indelible mark on society. This history is built upon several key pillars:

1. Total Inclusivity: Every



family, ethnic group, and religious denomination participated without discrimination.

2. Mass Participation: Success was driven by the people and a dynamic and selfless leadership.

3. Defiance of Denial: The struggle overcame the international community's long-standing denial of Eritrea's right to sovereignty.

4. Social Transformation: The struggle dismantled the colonial era's religious and ethnic divisions and secured gender equality,

marking the first time women held a prominent role in the nation's political history.

5. Democratic Mandate: The 1993 referendum, in which 99.83% of voters chose independence, solidified the unity of Eritrea's nine

ethno-linguistic groups.

The Eritrean people have forged a harmonious identity, cultivating a homegrown brand of democracy rooted in self-reliance and cooperation. This model of development and peace provides an exemplary record for the region and beyond. However, this path has often been viewed as a threat by external interests. Hostile forces have frequently attempted to undermine Eritrean self-reliance by imposing external political agendas. These 'imported' frameworks, often implemented by regional proxies, are seen as attempts to return the populace to a state of dependency. In response, the Eritrean people reaffirm a clear message: 'If containing Eritrea was difficult yesterday, it is impossible today'. Eritrea's greatest resource is its people, who have historically defended their identity with 'sweat and blood.' Just as they persevered when 'the stones were burning' during the war, they continue to challenge modern geopolitical pressures with dignity.

The struggle continues today through the same spirit of vigilance and resilience. The goal remains a better Eritrea — sustaining the well-being and quality of life for all citizens through unwavering solidarity.

Happy 35th Independence Anniversary and Eternal Glory to our Martyrs!

Development

Paving the Path to Social Justice: Eritrea's Post-Independence Road Construction

By: *Mussie Efriem*

When Eritrea was liberated on May 24 1991 following a long armed struggle, it immediately faced the monumental task of reconstruction and nation building. To undertake this formidable task, the government has prioritized sustainable national development designed to secure a bright and prosperous future for generations to come. Central to this vision was a commitment to equitable growth across the entire country, ensuring equal opportunities and the inclusive provision of resources for the whole population.

To realize this inclusive goal, the government has committed itself to the core principle of social justice by allocating equal opportunities and essential public services to every citizen, regardless of their geographic location. This foundational principle transformed national recovery efforts into a structured campaign for civic well-being, ensuring that healthcare, education, and clean water are treated as basic human rights.

To ensure the successful realization of these nationwide goals, the Eritrean youth have been placed at the very center of the country's development programs. Under national initiatives, thousands of young men and women regularly undergo technical and vocational training at centers across the country. Students acquire critical skills in essential fields such as technical drafting, heavy machinery operation, building technology, and infrastructural engineering. Armed with essential technical knowledge and skills, the empowered workforce has been crucial in transforming the country's domestic transport network.

Transportation infrastructure is critical in ensuring access to essential human needs and opportunities within a society. Beyond its economic use, transportation bridges socioeconomic gaps, directly linking diverse communities to healthcare, quality education, employment centers, and civic spaces. Ultimately, investing in reliable roads, bridges, and public transportation systems is an investment in social justice and community resilience, transforming society through collective well-being.

Communities that were formerly isolated and cut off from timely medical and emergency services due

to lack of transport infrastructure prior to Eritrea's independence have been fully integrated into the national network through newly constructed roads. This widespread expansion of roads has converted arduous journeys that took days into trips that take just a few hours. A notable testament to this milestone is the critical coastline route linking the strategic port cities of Massawa and Assab. The journey used to take two to three days over harsh terrain, but it now takes not more than a day.

Another significant achievement of the post-independence era is the modernization of the strategic Barentu-Tessenei highway, a route that goes as far as neighboring Sudan. In the first few years following Eritrea's independence, this vital road was rather difficult to navigate; however, with the government's timely intervention, it was transformed into a fully modernized, asphalted route that facilitates efficient cross-border connection. The construction of the Serejeqa-Shebah road, built under the Warsay Yikealo development campaign, stands as another monumental product. Carving a path through some of the country's steepest, most treacherous mountain escarpments required profound sacrifice and dedication. This magnificent road cuts through the breathtaking Eritrean Green Belt, a beautiful ecological zone that is one of the country's thriving natural habitats and premier tourist attractions celebrated for its rich and diverse fauna and flora.

In addition to these major arteries, the government has achieved tremendous progress in the country's Western lowlands by converting impassable tracks into reliable transport routes. This includes the road from Akurdet to Sawa, which was upgraded with a combination of modern half-asphalt and high-quality, compacted soil layers. Similar infrastructural upgrades have fundamentally transformed roads across the Western lowlands, replacing difficult journeys with vastly improved networks connecting Keren to Geleb, Afabet to Felket, Afabet to Nakfa, Akurdet to Grmayka, Tessenei to Omhajer, and Akurdet to Kerkebet.

Alongside the eastern escarpments, the construction of the iconic Egila-Demhina road stands as a monumental engineering achievement linking Adi Keyih subzone to Foro

subzone. Penetrating through cliffs and once-impenetrable mountains via Robrobya, Karibosa, and Wi'a, this new passage replaces the old, highly circuitous Nefasit-Ghinda'e-Gahtelay route, enormously cutting the original travel distance from 300 kilometers to just 120 kilometers.

Building on these successes, ongoing development works are advancing rapidly along the vital Nefasit-to-Serha route, from Dekemhare to Tera Emni and from Adi Quala to Enda Gergis. Furthermore, ongoing projects are shaping the connection from Forto Sawa to Tessenei via Adibara and Tamarat. This aggressive blueprint for countrywide social justice has trickled down to the most isolated populations, remarkably granting full road connectivity to around 90 villages in Mai Mine subzone that previously lacked any form of access to transport.

Some of the world's most monumental infrastructures have been engineered and executed by military workforces. Prime historical examples include Egypt's iconic Aswan High Dam, which successfully tamed the Nile River to provide electricity and irrigation, and the Panama Canal, an engineering marvel constructed under the direction of the United States Army Corps of Engineers to redefine global maritime trade permanently. Utilizing a disciplined, highly organized defense force for public works allows nations to mobilize a large-scale workforce rapidly. This proven strategy of civil-military intervention demonstrates how state institutions can use the military, during peacetime, to serve as primary catalysts for national recovery, turning structured labor toward the vital tasks of building dams, expanding highways, and constructing the foundational frameworks necessary for long-term economic sovereignty.

Similarly, as part of the Warsay Yikelao campaign, members of the Eritrean Defense Forces have served in the nationwide development works, translating their disciplined organization into historic civil engineering achievements. A prime manifestation of this is the road project that stretches from Gulo to Talha Ner'e, Senafe subzone. This vital route cuts across the challenging Emba Soira mountain range, passing through the nation's highest elevation at approximately 3,018 meters above sea level. In



parallel with these rural connections, urban infrastructure have undergone significant modernization in the post-independence years, notably exemplified by the ongoing construction of the strategic Asmara ring road. Once completed, this critical infrastructure will form a comprehensive loop around the capital, seamlessly redirecting heavy trucks around the outskirts, drastically reducing inner-city congestion and minimizing municipal road wear.

In addition to this extensive road network, hundreds of modern bridges have been constructed across the nation over the past

35 years of independence. These crucial structures were erected through the dedication, resilience, and unyielding determination of Eritrean construction companies. By bridging these physical divides, they have not only prevented hazardous washouts during the heavy rainy seasons but have also permanently secured the safety and continuity of national transit. This monumental bridge-building campaign stands as a defining symbol of Eritrea's self-reliance, demonstrating that the country's domestic workforce has the technical capacity and stamina to resolve its most complex infrastructure challenges independently.



Our Resilience, Our Guarantee



Design: Tazaz Abraha
Pics: Tazaz Abraha
Abraham Beyene

Keynote speech by Minister Osman Saleh During a Celebratory Reception of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the Occasion of Independence Day

*Honourable Ministers,
Senior Government and PFDJ
officials,
Members of the Diplomatic
Corps accredited to Eritrea,
Honorary Consuls,
Distinguished invited guests,
Esteemed members of the
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Ladies and gentlemen,*

This year, our nation is commemorating the 35th anniversary of Independence Day under the national theme: "Our Resilience — Our Guarantee." The celebrations are being observed across the country with great enthusiasm and solemn pride. Independence Day remains the foremost of all our national celebrations, embodying the sacrifices, aspirations, and

right to self-determination due to the geopolitical calculations and strategic interests of powerful states. In pursuit of this fundamental and inalienable right, the Eritrean people initially waged a peaceful political struggle throughout the 1940s and 1950s. However, despite their lawful and measured appeals, their voices fell on deaf ears within the prevailing international order.

Confronted by this systemic denial of justice, the Eritrean people embarked upon a bitter armed struggle that endured for more than three decades. Against overwhelming odds, and in the face of successive Ethiopian colonial regimes armed, financed, and politically protected by powerful external actors, the Eritrean people

in particular, while contributing more broadly to international peace and security.

From the very outset, the Government of Eritrea adopted a foreign policy that respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of neighboring states while advancing cooperation and partnership based on mutual interests. Eritrea has consistently demonstrated its commitment to regional peace despite persistent provocations, hostility, and destabilization campaigns directed against it.

However, both before and after independence, external powers hostile to the very existence of the Eritrean state-acting through subservient Ethiopian regimes-



a period in which the multifaceted hostilities directed against Eritrea and its people have been decisively thwarted through the strong unity between the Eritrean Government and its people, allowing the true image of Eritrea to come to light before the international community.

Longstanding misconceptions and distorted narratives concerning Eritrea and its people are gradually being corrected, and Eritrea's constructive role in advancing regional, continental, and global peace and stability continues to gain well-deserved recognition. This evolving reality has emerged at a time when the international order itself faces profound instability, widening conflicts and deep structural crises.

Eritrea therefore remains steadfast in its conviction that the domestic affairs of sovereign nations must be resolved through nationally owned solutions, free from external interference, coercion, or imposition. Eritrea

further maintains that the establishment of a just, balanced, inclusive, and genuinely representative international order is indispensable to the advancement of lasting peace, justice, stability, and equitable cooperation among nations. These principled positions, once deliberately dismissed, distorted, or marginalized, are today gaining increasing recognition and resonance among peoples and states across the world.

Ladies and gentlemen,

To conclude, the Government and people of Eritrea reaffirm their unwavering commitment to principled engagement in international affairs and their continued readiness to contribute to the peace, stability, dignity, and collective prosperity of the peoples of our region, our continent, and the wider world.

Allow me also to extend my sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Celebrations Committee for their exemplary efforts in organizing and ensuring the success of this important occasion. I further express heartfelt gratitude to all Government institutions that contributed to the realization of this event, including the Commission of Culture and Sport and the Ministry of Information.

*Eternal Glory and Honor to
Our Martyrs.
Victory to the Masses!
20 May, 2026*



enduring determination of the Eritrean people.

Over the past 35 years, Eritrea's nation-building and steadfast resilience undertaken by its people has been neither easy nor without immense hardship. Yet, just as our people demonstrated extraordinary courage, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment during the years of the armed struggle, they have, in the post-independence era, mirrored that same indomitable national resolve, dignity, and sense of ownership over their country. This enduring devotion and patriotic spirit constitute one of the most remarkable chapters in Eritrea's modern history.

As history attests, while many African nations attained independence during the 1950s and 1960s, the Eritrean people were deliberately denied their legitimate

achieved a historic and decisive victory.

The liberation secured on the battlefield in 1991 was subsequently and unequivocally affirmed through the internationally recognized referendum of 1993, thereby establishing Eritrea's independence and sovereignty in full accordance with international law.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since its emergence as an independent and sovereign nation, Eritrea has consistently pursued a strategy of cooperation founded upon the principles of mutual respect, sovereign equality, non-interference and shared benefit. Guided by this vision, the country has remained actively engaged in constructive diplomatic efforts aimed at promoting peace and stability within the Horn of Africa

repeatedly propagated the false narrative that Eritrea constitutes a "threat to Ethiopia." Under this pretext, and with the backing of powerful states wars, sanctions, political isolation campaigns and multifaceted acts of aggression were orchestrated against the Eritrean people, igniting a destructive cycle of conflict that spanned nearly eighty years and three generations.

This formidable trial was ultimately overcome through steadfast resistance, profound resilience, and an unyielding spirit of perseverance. Despite the immense external pressures encountered along the way, the Government of Eritrea remained firmly guided by the principle that "our national development programmes must never be held hostage."

As a result, Eritrea has registered significant achievements in strengthening food security, expanding national infrastructure and broadening access to social services, all anchored upon our core principles of social justice and self-reliance.

*Excellencies,
The present moment represents*



Eritrea at 35 . . .

*C*ontinued from page 2

As Eritrea marks 35 years of independence, the United Nations is also reflecting on 80 years since its founding. This is a difficult moment for multilateralism. Global challenges have proliferated, while official development assistance has fallen sharply. It is a moment that calls for a shift in how development partnerships are understood: from a narrow focus on funding projects to a broader focus on financing transformation. Eritrea's experience with self-reliance, strong coordination, and nationally led development offers useful perspectives at a time when development financing models are evolving. The UN aims to support that ambition into the next chapter of our partnership, helping connect national priorities with the expertise, partnerships, and financing needed to accelerate sustainable development.

Looking forward, important challenges remain, particularly in expanding economic opportunities and ensuring that development gains are inclusive and reach all communities, including those who may be hardest to reach. At the same time, the country is well positioned to accelerate its progress in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, improved health and education outcomes, and greater opportunities for young people and women – all important elements for economic transformation.

Eritrea's voice in the world is growing. Its partnership with the United Nations is growing too. On this 35th anniversary, the United Nations extends warm congratulations to the people and Government of Eritrea and reaffirms its commitment to this shared journey ahead.

Development

Eritrea's Agricultural Development over the Past 35 Years: Scientific Research and Laboratory Excellence Strengthening National Food and Nutrition Security

Over the past 35 years of independence, Eritrea has made remarkable progress in transforming its agricultural sector through sustained investment in scientific research, technological innovation, and modern laboratory services. At the heart of this transformation are two of the Ministry of Agriculture's most important scientific institutions: the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) and the National Animal and Plant Health Laboratory (NAPHL).

While each institution has a distinct mandate, both serve a common national purpose. NARI develops improved crop varieties, conserves genetic resources, and conducts research on natural resources and livestock production. The National Animal and Plant Health Laboratory, in turn, provides critical services in disease diagnosis, vaccine production, food and feed safety testing, and quality management.

Together, these two institutions have become indispensable pillars of Eritrea's agricultural development, helping to increase crop and livestock productivity, protect plant and animal health, improve food safety, and strengthen national food security.

National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI): Advancing Agricultural Innovation and Productivity

The National Agricultural Research Institute has played a central role in boosting agricultural productivity and promoting sustainable farming systems throughout Eritrea. Although it adopted its current organizational structure in 2003, the Institute traces its origins to 1910, making it one of Africa's oldest scientific institutions. Today, NARI employs 270 staff members, about 80 percent of whom are agricultural researchers and technical professionals.

Conserving Eritrea's Genetic Heritage

One of NARI's most important achievements has been the conservation of plant genetic resources. The Institute has preserved more than 6,300 seed accessions representing approximately 160 crop and tree species, safeguarding valuable biodiversity for future generations and providing essential raw material for crop improvement.

Developing Improved Crop Varieties

Since 1997, NARI has conducted



research at nine agricultural research stations located in Halhale, Gahtelay, Shieba, Akordet, Shambuko, Hagaz, Goluj, Aklelet, and Adi Keih. Through these efforts, the Institute has developed 52 improved varieties of cereals and pulses, including wheat, barley, sorghum, millet, maize, sunflower, and various legumes. These varieties produce yields that are often more than twice those of traditional local varieties and have been distributed to farmers across the country. In addition, NARI has developed and disseminated 34 improved vegetable varieties and 36 fruit varieties, significantly expanding horticultural production and diversifying diets.

Among the Institute's recent achievements is the release of a hybrid maize variety known as "Halhale," which yields more than 65 quintals per hectare and has completed research trials before being distributed to farmers.

Plant Health and Tissue Culture

To ensure that improved planting materials are healthy and disease-free, NARI carries out extensive plant health research and diagnostic testing. The Institute is also strengthening its tissue culture program to produce clean planting materials for large-scale multiplication and distribution to farmers.

Natural Resources Research

NARI's laboratories provide essential analytical services that support sustainable land and water management. Over the years, the Institute has analyzed:

- More than 16,000 soil samples
- Over 500 water samples
- More than 1,750 plant samples
- More than 170 fertilizer samples

These analyses generate vital information that helps improve soil fertility, optimize irrigation, and increase agricultural productivity.

Livestock Research

In livestock research, NARI has evaluated more than 268 forage species, identifying and multiplying promising varieties for distribution to farmers to improve the availability and quality of animal feed. The Institute is also researching livestock breed selection and genetic improvement. In 2026, it launched a new initiative to develop improved varieties of backyard poultry.

National Animal and Plant Health Laboratory (NAPHL)

Protecting Agricultural Health and Producing Vital Vaccines

The National Animal and Plant Health Laboratory is one of the earliest laboratory institutions established in Africa. Constructed in 1903, it was renowned for its high-quality services until 1973. However, from 1974 until Eritrea's independence in 1991, much of its infrastructure and equipment was damaged, and only limited laboratory activities continued.

Following independence, the Ministry of Agriculture, with support from the Government and development partners, undertook extensive rehabilitation and modernization efforts. These included constructing new laboratory sections, expanding electricity and water systems, procuring advanced equipment, training personnel, and ensuring a steady supply of chemicals and consumables.

Institutional Expansion and Infrastructure Development

Before independence, the laboratory operated in only a few sections and examined no more than 600 samples annually. Today, it is organized into seven divisions—five technical divisions and two divisions dedicated to administration and quality management. These divisions encompass 34 specialized units, each containing three to six functional sections. A perimeter fence measuring approximately 700 meters has also been constructed to secure the compound.

Core Functions

The laboratory's major responsibilities include:

- Diagnosis of animal diseases
- Diagnosis of plant diseases and pests
- Testing the safety and quality of animal feed and human food
- Production of animal vaccines
- Establishment and strengthening of regional animal and plant health laboratories in all regions of Eritrea

Rapid Growth in Laboratory Services

Over the past 35 years, the laboratory has greatly expanded both the range and volume of services it provides. Currently, it analyzes approximately 16,000 samples annually. Depending on the availability of samples and laboratory consumables, the facility can process more than 12,000 samples per month and produce over 100,000 vaccine doses.

Major Advances in Vaccine Production

Since 2023, in line with national priorities and the ministry's needs, the laboratory has produced more than 3 million vaccine doses against Newcastle Disease, Infectious Bursal Disease, and Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR). Using its own technical capacity and internationally accepted procedures, the laboratory has also produced vaccine seed for Infectious Bursal Disease and Infectious Bronchitis. Work is underway to develop vaccine seed for Infectious Laryngotracheitis, while additional priority vaccines are being tested and developed. The laboratory also conducts quality testing on selected imported vaccines.

Human Resource Development

During independence, the laboratory had fewer than 20 employees, with more than 96 percent holding diploma-level qualifications or lower. Today, the workforce has expanded to 183 staff members, 58 percent of whom are women. Among them, 79 employees (43 percent) hold diploma-level qualifications or higher, reflecting significant progress in technical capacity building.

Supporting Facilities and Services

To ensure effective operation, the

laboratory has established several strategic facilities, including:

- A Laboratory Animal Center housing sheep, goats, rabbits, mice, guinea pigs, and chickens for diagnostic and vaccine production purposes
- Secure solar power system
- A 700-square-meter central warehouse
- A 500-barrel water reservoir
- A dedicated Maintenance Unit
- A Quality Management System (QMS) Division

Regional Outreach and Academic Support

Regional animal and plant health laboratories have been established in five regions of Eritrea, bringing laboratory services closer to farmers and livestock producers. Moreover, each year, approximately 260 students from colleges and technical institutions receive practical laboratory training. In addition, about 12 undergraduate students and two to three MSc and PhD candidates conduct short- and long-term research projects at the laboratory annually.

Science as a Foundation for Agricultural Transformation

The achievements of the National Agricultural Research Institute and the National Animal and Plant Health Laboratory demonstrate Eritrea's strong commitment to building a modern, science-driven agricultural sector.

NARI has increased agricultural productivity through improved crop varieties, conservation of genetic resources, and applied research in crops, natural resources, and livestock. The National Animal and Plant Health Laboratory has evolved from a damaged and under-resourced institution into a modern national center of excellence in diagnostics, vaccine production, and food and feed safety.

Together, these two institutions have made indispensable contributions to improving crop and livestock productivity, protecting plant and animal health, strengthening food safety systems, and enhancing food and nutrition security. As Eritrea marks 35 years of independence, its accomplishments stand as clear evidence that scientific research, innovation, and institutional development remain essential pillars in the nation's journey toward sustainable agricultural development and self-reliance.

Public Relations Division
Ministry of Agriculture

SpotLight

Kidane Shimendi

One People, One Rhythm

The unbreakable resilience of the Eritrean people reflects the seamless rhythm of a single, collective heartbeat. Beats of unity, equality, patriotism, sacrifice, self-reliance, and comradeship compose this singular national rhythm, echoing messages of peace, regional cooperation, and sustainable development far beyond national borders. Whether facing hardship or ease, this shared rhythm is never disrupted; instead, it is strengthened. Challenging circumstances only serve to tune the harmony of these beats, causing them to sound even louder.

During national holidays, this rhythm fills people's hearts with endless joy and dignity, making every citizen stand prouder. Eritreans of all ages share this immense happiness, gathering rhythmically inside colorful community halls or neighborhood tents. This celebration embodies the unity in diversity, resilience, equality, nationalism, and comradeship that constitute the vibrant national identity.

Currently, the Eritrean people are celebrating the 35th anniversary of Independence with the theme "Our Resilience: Our Guarantee." Every national begins celebrating this honored holiday a week ahead of the official celebration on May 24. For these festivities, district administrations organize ceremonies in their respective areas, building upon previous celebrations held by students in schools and employees in their workplaces.

Typically, community gatherings for Independence Day take place on the eve of May 24. For these events, elders and youth work side by side to prepare programs that honor the day. Women walk into beautifully decorated halls, cheering in their white traditional attire. Pictures, historic slogans, and festive themes hang throughout the venues, while national flags of various sizes wave proudly in every corner, often carried by enthusiastic children. In a striking display of national pride, some women even braid or style their hair using the vibrant colors of the national flag: blue, red, green, and yellow.

Children and parents joyfully circumnavigate the festive halls. Community-prepared food is warmly served in large groups, showcasing a deep-rooted culture of social coexistence. The evenings feature carefully prepared poems, dramas, and songs composed specifically for the occasion. Eventually, everyone stands to dance in unison, accompanied by



music that highlights the heavy price paid for Independence Day.

Such colorful national traditions allow the community to strengthen its unity, refresh its values, and bequeath these core tenets to the younger generation. Furthermore, these gatherings foster an atmosphere of profound warmth, camaraderie, and national pride, bringing people together to smile, share joy, and celebrate their collective identity.

During these events, children and youth spearhead artistic performances, paving the way for a smooth transfer of the values and norms that weave the national fabric. Concurrently, elders seize the opportunity to enthusiastically share their collective memories of past hardships and victories, allowing all members of society to unite in spirit. Therefore, community gatherings carry meanings that go far beyond drum beats and dance; they signify deep national love, patriotism, resilience, and self-reliance, all tuned into one colorful national rhythm.

Eritrea's unified national rhythm encompasses the pleasant, distinct beats of nine ethnic groups. When a society's diverse cultural beats fail to compose a harmonious national rhythm, fragmentation, discord, and violent conflict can easily erupt. Conversely, when diverse groups unite to compose a single national rhythm, peace prevails, unity strengthens, resilience wins over challenges, social justice expands, and nation-building accelerates. As the historical leader, Mikhail Gorbachev once noted:

"Peace is not unity in similarity but unity in diversity, in the comparison and conciliation of differences."

Most significantly, the Eritrean

community gatherings for independence reflect this principle. Unity in diversity is the cornerstone of stability, progress, and strength for nations worldwide—a vital path that many countries continuously strive to embrace and sustain. This soft power is inherently built on resilience; it is the deliberate process of bringing together diverse groups into a unified country where every citizen feels a deep sense of belonging and responsibility. This is particularly significant in multicultural societies where ethnic, linguistic, and religious differences coexist. As Mahatma Gandhi famously stated:

"Our ability to reach unity in diversity will be the beauty and the test of our civilization."

Obviously, such a rich and decent national culture did not evolve overnight or by miracle. It is a generational culture forged through a long, bitter struggle for freedom. For the Eritrean people, history bears witness to the heavy price generations paid to live in peace. Consequently, Independence Day stands as the most honored national holiday, alongside Martyrs' Day, which is solemnly commemorated in June.

Historically, the genesis of Eritrea's unified rhythm dates back centuries, catalyzed by successive colonial powers seeking to seize the country's highly strategic geopolitical position. During those periods of resistance, the Eritrean people forged the unbreakable resilience that eventually guaranteed national independence. Furthermore, Eritrean identity formed a distinct political entity, clearly distinguishing it from neighboring regions (Richard Lobban, 1976, p. 339).

During the British and Ethiopian

colonial periods in particular, abundant resources. The secret to this historic victory lay in a unified rhythm encompassing resilience, creativity, comradeship, patriotism, and self-reliance. This irreplaceable national spirit continues to shape the ongoing nation-building process today actively.

In safeguarding this precious national rhythm, the family unit holds a serious, foundational responsibility. Families serve as the primary environment for fostering social discipline, enhancing national consciousness, transmitting cultural heritage, celebrating diversity, instilling morality, and ensuring that history is understood through communal gatherings.

In conclusion, Eritrean community gatherings for Independence Day celebrate a highly harmonious rhythm. It is a melody of unity in diversity, resilience, creativity, equality, and comradeship forged by the heavy sacrifices of past generations. This unified rhythm is always accompanied by bright smiles, joyful dances, and cherished collective memories. During these moments, men and women of all ages float over shared joy in an eternal national rhythm.

**"One People, One Rhythm."
"Our Resilience is Our
Guarantee."
Happy Independence Day!**



**On this proud and glorious day,
We remember the price we had to pay.
With courage bold and hearts so true,
Our heroes fought for me and you.
Chains were broken, dreams took flight,
Eritrea rose to morning light.
The 4 color waves in skies so high,
A symbol of hope that will never die.
Let's stand united, hand in hand,
To love and serve this precious land.
For freedom's not just a gift, but call,
To rise, to shine, and give our all.**

Tamar Teele, Netherlands

NOTICE

The Shareholders of HADERA and SONS LEATHER and LEATHER PRODUCTS Plc. in the extraordinary meeting, held on March 25, 2026, have resolved to approve the contracts of donation made by Ato Hadera Zemichael and W/ro Dehab Kubrom and their shares to be transferred to Ato Erimias Hadera and W/ro Misgana Mesfin.

Accordingly, Arts. 1 and 7 of the Memorandum of Association of the Company are amended to read as follows:

Art. 1. Members

<u>NAME</u>	<u>NATIONALITY</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>SHARES</u>
1. ERMIAH HADERA	ERITREAN	DUBAI	5,160
2. MISGANA MESFIN	ERITREAN	ASMARA	2,580

Art. 7. The shareholding of the members of the company is as follows:

S. No.	Name of Shareholders	No. of shares	Value in Nakfa
1	Ermias Hadera	5,160	5,160,000.00
2	Misgana Mesfin	2,580	2,580,000.00
	Total	7,740	7,740,000.00

HADERA & SONS LEATHER & LEATHER PRODUCTS Plc.



HAPPY
35th

INDEPENDENCE DAY

TO THE PEOPLE OF ERITREA

★
***Our Resilience:
Our Guarantee***

Honoring our past.
Celebrating our present.
Building a stronger
future together.





ON THIS REMARKABLE 35th ANNIVERSARY OF ERITREAN INDEPENDENCE DAY
LIBYAOIL ERITREA & TAMOIL MALINDI ERITREA SH. CO. MANAGEMENT
SINCERELY WISHES:

PEACE, PROSPERITY & DYNAMIC DEVELOPMENT TO THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF ERITREA.
&
A COLORFUL FESTIVE HOLIDAYS FILLED WITH PRIDE, HAPPINESS AND THE SPIRIT OF FREEDOM

السلام والرخاء والتنمية
الديناميكية لشعب وحكومة
إريتريا.

عطلات احتفالية مفعمة بالألوان
ومليئة بالفخر والسعادة وروح
الحرية

በምክንያት ዝኸሪ መበል 35 ዓመት መዓልቲ ነጻነት ኤርትራ፣
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**State of Eritrea
Ministry of Agriculture
Procurement and supplies management division**

General Procurement Notice¹

Government of: Eritrea

Project/procuring entity: Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)

GPN version: 2026.2

GPN publication date: April 27, 2026

The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) has received financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) towards the cost of Integrated Agriculture Development Project and intends to apply part of the financing to payments for contracts for goods, works and services.

The procurement program for the 2026-year period will include the following:

Procurements for 2026	
Estimated value - 53,627,595.00 ERN / 3,034,849.54 EUR / 3,575,173.00 USD	
1	Procurement of Goods, to include:
11)	Cassava food lab Equipment
12)	Procurement of Shad-net house assorted in 2 lots
13)	Procurement of soil kit materials, consumables, Plastic bags, plastic boxes, Secateurs and pollen Po

1 This GPN is based on the 1st edition of standard procurement document for the general procurement notice issued by IFAD on www.ifad.org/project-procurement for use in projects financed by IFAD. IFAD does not guarantee the completeness, accuracy or translation, if applicable, or any other aspect in connection with the content of this document.

14)	Supply and installation of solar power and irrigation with accessories assorted in 4lots
15)	Supply, installation and commission of potato seed cold storage facility at adi-keih
16)	Procurement of Small Machines and power Tools for Farm tools workshop
17)	Farming tools and small scale food processing equipment
18)	Supply, installation and commissioning of irrigation scheme pipelines and solar powered pumps assort
19)	Procurement of rabbit cage (stainless steel) with all its accessories, sticky yellow trap and mini-i
2	Procurement of Consulting Services, to include:
21)	cassava food processing technology
22)	TA for Establish Veterinary Drugs and Biologics Registration System
23)	Updating National Pesticide List and introduce pesticide registration system
24)	TA on food and feed safety

Contracts for goods, works and services will be implemented according to the provisions of Eritrea's procurement regulations, to the extent such are consistent with the IFAD Project Procurement Guidelines and IFAD Procurement Handbook as amended from time to time.

Specific procurement notices for contracts to be tendered under the competitive bidding procedures will be announced as they become available on selected portals, in local newspapers, and other media outlets as appropriate.

Interested eligible bidders and consultants who wish to be included on the mailing list to receive a copy of advertisements, or those requiring additional information, should send an email to the Lidia Russom Andemariam (Lidyarusomlidu1221@gmail.com) using the subject line "GPN 2026.2 for Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)" and indicating which of the procurement items they are interested in.



Q and A

Eritrea's Iconic and Immortal Frame: An Interview with Photographer Mr. Freminatos Estifanos

By: Kidane Shimendi

Mr. Freminatos, let's begin with your childhood.

I was born in Keren. My father was an administrator who took us to several workplaces, including Mendefera, Segeneyti, Massawa,



Senafe, and Dekemhare. As a result, I have adventurous childhood memories of traveling through many regions. I studied in Dekemhare up to sixth grade and was a member of the Red Flowers when freedom fighters captured the town. However, due to the Eritrean revolution's strategic withdrawal in 1978, I joined the armed struggle at the age of twelve.

How did life in the field continue?

Joining the field at a young age, I was sent directly to the revolutionary school. After spending a memorable time there, I was assigned to the Political Bureau Department following military training. In that department, I trained to become a



radio operator and was then reassigned to the Department of News in the same role. In 1981, the Department of News had three divisions: radio station, publishing, and photography

Eritrean history has been profoundly shaped by the extensive campaigns of successive colonial powers to erase national memories and eradicate identity. In response to this existential threat, the Eritrean revolution trained a dedicated generation of artists, journalists, writers, and photographers to weaponize visual and written narratives in defense of their heritage. Among these pioneers is the renowned photographer Mr. Freminatos Estifanos, whose iconic frames captured the raw essence of the struggle. Eritrea Profile invited him to share his inspirational journey and the historic story behind his most famous national photograph.

(more were added later). It was during this early period that I became attracted to photography.

When did you first discover your passion for photography?

When I was in elementary school, a famous artist named Haile – whom I later met again at the revolutionary school – inspired me to make some drawings. In the revolutionary field, I remember making drawings inconsistently.

Later, before I became a photographer in 1987, I took supplementary photography lessons. All members of the news department were like real parents to me. They raised me like their own child, teaching me everything about life and photography.

The movies brought for the freedom fighters were first shown in our division. I was among those who got the chance to see various videos early. Members of the department would translate the stories for me. Since most members came from all over the world and represented all nationalities, bringing essential skills and knowledge, it was a game-changing opportunity for me to broaden my perspective on life and shape my future career. Generally speaking, the news department was the mirror image of Eritrean national identity, which profoundly shaped my future contribution to the armed struggle.

Moreover, I learned camera and projector maintenance. After completing these lessons, I chose to join the photography division. Driven by the passion to capture moving images from still features, I first opened my camera lens during the 1987 Second and Unity Congress of the EPLF. After the congress, I was also recruited as a member of an exhibition committee, contributing descriptive cover pages to several revolutionary magazines.

Let's talk about your iconic revolutionary photo.

I captured that iconic photo in 1988 after the demise of Nadew Command, near Ararib. I encountered freedom fighters who had arrived to observe the general development of the revolutionary field. Immediately, I took my camera and the EPLF flag,

aiming to capture a comprehensive image that reflected the Eritrean revolution's uniqueness: the freedom fighters' endless resilience, sacrifice, comradeship, and the freedom that lay ahead.

First, I took a photo of two rubber sandals lying over a martyr's grave, with a waving flag above it. Yet I was restless, my thirst unquenched. While I was overthinking the situation, I came across wood that freedom fighters had collected to shield a water tank from enemy shelling. Suddenly, an idea sparked in my mind. I asked a comrade to climb a nearby mountain carrying a piece of wood. Surprisingly, he did so swiftly, carrying a heavy log. Immediately, I tied the EPLF's organizational flag to the wood and selected several comrades to climb the mountain together, holding the waving flag among them. On my

the ongoing nation-building process. This makes it a timeless frame that moved the nation and remains an enduring symbol of Eritrean national identity.

What does it feel like to see your photo become famous everywhere?

Honestly, I felt normal until I realized everyone was emotionally connected to it. I saw it widely on pamphlets, T-shirts, street walls, body tattoos, and most significantly, on the national currency. That's when I felt the joy of having contributed a memorable work to my patriotic and resilient people. To this day, I vividly remember coming across a woman from the diaspora who had made it a tattoo on her arm, and I had the chance to tell her the story behind the frame.



command, they climbed to the peak in a pyramid shape, erecting the waving flag at their center. At that moment, joy overwhelmed me. I had accomplished the mission.

Every detail in the photo embodies inspiring meanings. For instance, the freedom fighters' climb of the mountain underscores the Eritrean revolution's indispensable victory. The blue sky indicates Eritrea's boundless victories and progress. The flag marks strong leadership accompanied by a strong national vision. And the resilient freedom fighters signify Eritrea's precious national values and norms that constitute our identity. The secret behind its popularity lies in its geometric pyramid shape, symbolizing progress, and the blue sky, pointing to a bright future.

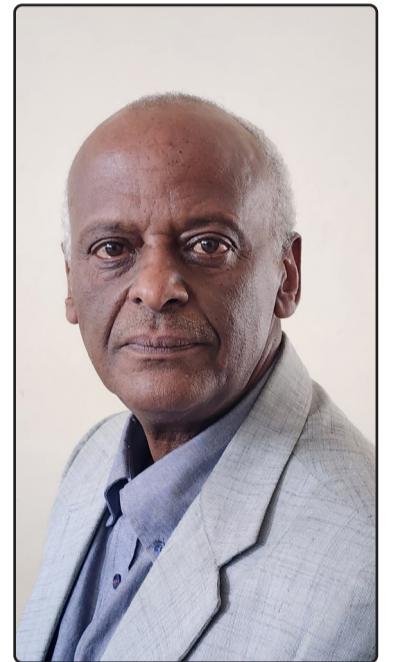
The photo is not confined to the revolutionary period; it also refers to

What makes a photographer a professional?

A camera does not make any person a photographer. It is not an easy profession, as it requires basic research skills. A photographer guided by research produces impactful and memorable work. Research helps the cameraman comprehend reality in a deeply moving spirit.

A photographer does not merely display physical patterns, but the spirit presented within the pattern. Therefore, a photographer is professional when they follow research skills and can capture the moving spirit of a picture in a single frame. In contemporary times, despite technological advancements, a lack of extensive research is common among young photographers. I strongly recommend they develop this basic skill.

What specific perspective in a



Mr. Freminatos - Estifanos

picture attracts you the most?

Current and serious situations often attract me the most, along with people's culture and landscapes. In the process, I first gather valuable information about the places I travel to, then think critically and artistically about how to exhibit reality in a single shot.

What does photography mean to you personally?

Personally, photography is a timeless profession that offers essential skills for understanding life's reality. Anthropologically, the strong relationship between humans and pictures goes back to the cave paintings of prehistory. It directly reflects our mental well-being and purposeful life, recording memories for generations.

Do you have any final thoughts you'd like to share with our readers?

Finally, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Ministry of Information, and particularly to the Division of Photography, for their enduring love and support. They truly shaped my contribution and my future life. Furthermore, I recommend that young photographers follow a basic research process to create lasting memories for generations to come.

Mr. Freminatos, thank you sincerely for your valuable time today. We wish you every success in your future professional endeavors, and Happy Independence Day!

Our Resilience: Our Guarantee!