



## PRESIDENT ISAIAS RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT OF ZIMBABWE

President Isaias Afwerki has received a message from President Emmerson Mnangagwa of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

The message, delivered by Ambassador Dr. Emmanuel Bulukani, sought Eritrea's support for Zimbabwe to become one of the non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

At the meeting held at

Denden Guest House, President Isaias Afwerki underlined the imperative for Africa to embark on the expensive venture of value addition for processing its vast natural resources, which will, in turn, enable the continent to assume its rightful place in the global order as well as enhance and accelerate mutual partnership and cooperation between all the African countries.

In a press statement to the Eritrean News Agency,

Ambassador Dr. Emmanuel Bulukani expressed Zimbabwe's readiness to promote and work out concrete programs of bilateral cooperation with Eritrea and further consolidate coordination and alignment of their respective positions at multilateral forums such as the African Union and the United Nations.

The event was attended by Mr. Osman Saleh, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

## ERITREA PRESENTS PROGRESS ON CHILD RIGHTS AT THE AFRICAN EXPERTS COMMITTEE SESSION

A multi sectoral Eritrean delegation virtually addressed the 47th Session of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) on 21 April, presenting a progress report on how the nation combines modern legal protections with community based practices to safeguard children's rights.

The 15 member delegation was led by Mr. Mehreteab Fessehaye, Director General of Social Welfare at the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare. It included officials from the ministries of Labor and Social Welfare, Education, Health, Foreign Affairs, and Justice; the National Union of Eritrean Women; the Eritrean Embassy in Ethiopia; and the Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the UN Economic Commission for Africa.

In its address, the delegation highlighted a shift in the national legal framework. Priority is given to community conciliation councils composed of respected local members. Coordination of child protection and social protection programs at national, regional, sub zonal, and administrative levels has delivered more efficient results in safeguarding the rights of women and children.

The delegation reported significant public health milestones. The under five mortality rate declined from 39.1 per 1,000 live births in 2020 to 33.8 in 2025. Eritrea continues to lead the region in immunization, maintaining 97% coverage for the Penta3 vaccine and 99.5% for measles.

*Continued on page 9*



## ERITREAN DIASPORA COMMUNITIES HOLD EVENTS ACROSS DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD

Eritrean communities in Switzerland, Sweden, the United States and Qatar have held a series of events reaffirming their ties to their homeland.

Eritrean nationals in the Swiss cities of Basel, Lugano, Lucerne and Geneva took part in a seminar aimed at strengthening their role in national resilience and development programmes.

Mr. Ismail Mohammed Nur, head of Public and Community Affairs at the Eritrean Embassy, briefed participants on development programmes based on self reliance. He focused on expanding social service institutions and ensuring economic independence. Mr. Ismail called on nationals to strengthen their organisational capacity and unity, and to become part of national development efforts. He

also commended their contribution to the successful completion of the Akordet boarding school.

Participants welcomed efforts



to provide timely and effective consular services and asked for similar seminars to continue.

In Umeå, Sweden, Mr. Mohammed Ali Mohammed Seid, Charge d'Affaires at the Eritrean Embassy for the Scandinavian countries, held a seminar for local nationals. He explained that the

main objective of the "4th Front" is to strengthen Eritrean communities and increase their participation in national development programmes, and called for greater engagement.



Participants noted that recent measures to improve consular services have brought clear solutions. They also commended the work of city committees in addressing challenges in the process.

The national committee of Eritreans in the US Midwest held its annual conference on 18 April in Chicago. Representatives from 13 US cities reviewed the implementation of 2025 programmes and discussed plans for

2026.

Mr. Berhane Gebrehiwet, Charge d'Affaires at the Eritrean Embassy, gave a detailed briefing on the three political actions of the PFDJ (People's Front for Democracy and Justice).

In Doha, Eritrean nationals commemorated International Women's Day – observed globally on 8 March – on 17 April, under the theme "Our Cohesion – Our Armour". The event featured various cultural programmes.

Mr. Ali Ibrahim, Eritrea's Ambassador to Qatar, and the chairperson of the National Union of Eritrean Women briefed attendees on the role of Eritrean women in achieving national independence, safeguarding sovereignty and advancing development programmes.

# UNHCR Guidance Note on Eritrea - Fact, Context, and the Politics of Omission

Editor's note: Below is an abridged version of an article from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, titled "UNHCR Guidance Note on Eritrea - Fact, Context, and the Politics of Omission." The full version is available at [www.shabait.com](http://www.shabait.com).

## 1. Introduction

This submission seeks to clarify factual, legal, and methodological distortions reflected in the 2026 UNHCR Guidance Note on Eritrea.

At the outset, the Government of the State of Eritrea unequivocally rejects the assertions contained in the current UNHCR Guidance Note. The 2026 UNHCR Guidance Note on Eritrea is not the product of rigorous, independent, or methodologically sound analysis. Rather, it represents a continuation of a deeply flawed procedural and evidentiary approach that has characterized successive iterations of these documents.

A cursory examination of the Guidance Note's evidentiary foundation suggests limited diversity of sources and raises questions regarding institutional independence. Of the eighty-six references cited, the overwhelming majority are iterative attributions to a sequestered cluster of sources long associated with openly adversarial and predetermined positions on Eritrea. These include, inter alia, the U.S. State Department Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, the so-called Special Rapporteur for the situation of human rights in Eritrea, Freedom House, Human Rights Watch, and Reporters without Borders.

This pattern reflects a systemic reliance on politically aligned, mutually reinforcing,

tightly knit, closed-loop rather than on diverse, verifiable, and independently validated evidence. A document constructed upon such a methodological foundation cannot plausibly be characterized as grounded in rigorously verified factual analysis as claimed by UNHCR, nor as reflective of genuinely independent expert assessment. It is, instead, emblematic of desk-based compilation, reliant on the wholesale regurgitation of prevailing negative narratives.

This is further compounded by procedural irregularities that raise serious questions regarding good faith and institutional integrity.

The Government of the State of Eritrea was not informed of the original Eligibility Guidelines issued in 2009 and the subsequent 2011 revisions until 2014, thereby undermining transparency and constructive engagement. While subsequent interactions with UNHCR officials suggested a willingness to consider the Government's position, these engagements failed to materialize into meaningful dialogue.

Notably, a planned high-level meeting between an Eritrean delegation and senior UNHCR officials in early 2015 was ultimately obstructed, reportedly by higher-level officials within the organization.

The consistent position of the Government of the State of Eritrea has been that any credible and constructive engagement must be anchored on the principles of sovereign equality, mutual respect, and procedural reciprocity. This necessarily includes the rescission of fundamentally flawed guidance documents. The refusal of the agency to consider such a step, because it would "set a dangerous precedent", is itself highly revealing. It underscores an institutional posture in which the preservation of internal practice is prioritized over addressing demonstrable deficiencies. In effect, the Guidelines themselves have set a dangerous precedent in the Eritrean context, perpetuating unverified claims while foreclosing genuine dialogue.

We are also concerned about the apparent lack of institutional continuity within the Agency regarding Eritrea. Recent engagements have indicated that the Government's detailed 2015

response, publicly available and directly addressing the substance of these allegations, remains largely unacknowledged within UNHCR's analytical framework. This lack of institutional memory calls into question the integrity of the assessment process and reinforces the perception of a self-referential system detached from primary state engagement.

The broad and undifferentiated categorization of Eritrean nationals as prima facie refugees, in contrast to the more nuanced and differentiated treatment accorded to similarly situated individuals from other national contexts as economic migrants, is neither consistent nor analytically sustainable. It reflects an asymmetry in evaluative standards that lacks a clear methodological justification and raises serious concerns about the coherence of the application of international protection criteria.

## 2. Misrepresentation of Eritrea's Political Context

The assertions contained in the Guidance Note concerning Eritrea's political context are neither novel nor credible. They merely recycle earlier narratives that the Government of the State of Eritrea has already addressed in detail and decisively refuted in its official 2015 response. Once again, the current Guidance Note relies on selective omissions, distortions of legal facts, and a deliberate disregard for the broader historical and security context that has shaped Eritrea's policy trajectory since independence.

The treatment of the Eritrea-Ethiopia boundary issue in the Guidance Note is particularly egregious in its legal and factual misrepresentation. The statement that the arbitral award "was not implemented in full" is a blatant misrepresentation of a legally settled matter. The Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC) delivered a "final and binding" arbitral award, in accordance with the Algiers Agreement, which both parties had voluntarily signed and which was guaranteed by the United Nations and major international actors. Under well-established principles of international arbitration, final and binding awards are not subject to unilateral reinterpretation or selective implementation. This principle is firmly grounded in international arbitration jurisprudence and reflected in the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties.

... This development effectively



validated Eritrea's long-standing and consistent position regarding the Eritrea-Ethiopia boundary question: namely, that the issue was never one of ambiguity or contestation under international law, but of non-compliance by Ethiopia with the final and binding arbitral ruling issued by the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC). The normalization process did not alter or "re-negotiate" borders; rather, it underscored the imperative for Ethiopia to accept, in full and unconditional terms, an already settled legal ruling. Any interpretation that obscures this fact reflects a fundamental misunderstanding of both the legal nature of the EEBC ruling and the diplomatic trajectory that followed.

Even more concerning is the way the document addresses so-called "recent tensions" between

Eritrea and Ethiopia. The absence of any serious engagement with the underlying drivers of these tensions is not merely an oversight; it reflects a broader pattern of analytical avoidance. The repeated failure to acknowledge the public and official declarations by Ethiopia's ruling Prosperity Party regarding irredentist ambitions to gain "sovereign access" to Eritrean ports explicitly, including statements suggesting such objectives could be pursued "legally, if possible, militarily if necessary", renders the analysis incomplete and politically selective in its treatment of relevant facts. To omit such material facts while invoking "tensions" in abstract terms is to engage in a narrative that is at best ambivalent, and at worst, deliberately sanitized.

**C**ontinued on page 5

**ERITREA  
PROFILE**

**Published Every  
Wednesday & Saturday**

**Editor-In-Chief  
Amanuel Mesfun**

**Asst. Editor-In-Chief  
Sirak Habtemichael**

P.O.Box: 247  
Tel: 11-41-14  
Fax: 12-77-49  
E-mail:  
[eritreaprofilemoi@gmail.com](mailto:eritreaprofilemoi@gmail.com)  
Advertisement: 12-50-13

**Layout  
Azmera Berhane  
Betelhiem Tadese  
Monaliza Yemane**

## From Social Media

**Yemane G. Meskel**

@hawelti

**UNHCR Guidance Note on #Eritrea: Fact, Context, and the Politics of Omission**  
**Ministry of Foreign Affairs**  
**22 April 2026**

A comprehensive and nuanced response that elucidates the gross factual, legal, and methodological flaws and distortions that characterize the latest UNHCR Guidance Note on Eritrea.

The poignant fact is that this has become almost a ritual pattern with this Agency.

Indeed, this was the case with its 2009/11 Eligibility Guidelines which were circulated to various governments in a rather stealthy manner without prior interaction with, or notification to, the GoE.

For reasons best known to itself, the UNHCR has, and continues to act, as the principal proponent - *the Trojan Horse so to speak* - of the agenda of "strategic depopulation" against Eritrea. Its periodic reports remain sheer compilations of notorious, NED-funded and affiliated, outfits that harbour hostile agendas against Eritrea.

[shabait.com/2026/04/23/unh...](http://shabait.com/2026/04/23/unh...)

Last edited 4:06 PM · Apr 23, 2026 · 8,921 Views

1
461
543
17

# A Step Forward for Trade and Development in Eritrea

*Bana Negusse*

Over the past year, Eritrea's Customs Department has introduced ASYCUDA World, a sophisticated digital customs management system. Originally developed by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and adopted by over 100 countries worldwide, it is being implemented in Eritrea, marking a significant milestone in the country's efforts to modernize its economy and streamline trade processes. This article offers a brief overview of the system, its rollout in Eritrea, and its potential implications for trade and broader economic development.

To understand the significance of Eritrea's adoption, it is useful first to briefly examine what ASYCUDA is. The Automated System for Customs Data

electronic data exchange between traders and customs authorities. First developed in the early 1980s to improve trade data and modernize customs processes, ASYCUDA has evolved alongside advances in information technology. Its latest version, ASYCUDA World, uses web-based technologies to improve efficiency, transparency, and connectivity in customs administration.

In Eritrea, the transition to ASYCUDA World took place over the past year, replacing a legacy customs management system in operation since 2007. The earlier platform had long served as the backbone of customs administration but was increasingly constrained by its design and by the broader shift away from paper-based procedures. Its replacement, therefore, represents a structural



continuous external connectivity. Supporting infrastructure, including centralized servers, has been established within a dedicated facility powered by solar energy, helping address operational constraints linked to power stability. Alongside the technical rollout, training and awareness activities have been

digitization will help Eritrea introduce tighter control over declarations and duty calculations, thereby strengthening the accuracy of the country's revenue assessment and collection. For traders, the system is designed to simplify clearance procedures and reduce delays associated with manual processing, thereby lowering transaction costs. The creation of a unified electronic customs environment will also improve Eritrea's ability to consolidate and analyze trade data, supporting more coordinated administrative planning and policy formulation. What is more, it may further enhance coordination between relevant government agencies, while improving procedural predictability and reducing reliance on discretionary decision-making in routine customs processes.

More broadly, improvements in trade facilitation can play an important role in supporting economic growth and development in Eritrea. Globally, trade is widely recognized as a key driver of development outcomes, contributing to growth, income generation, and

structural transformation. By easing the movement of goods and improving access to markets, it can support job creation, encourage more efficient resource allocation, and facilitate the diffusion of technology and know-how. In this context, reforms that streamline customs procedures can be seen as part of a broader effort to strengthen Eritrea's integration into trade processes underpinning long-term economic development. As Eritrea's economy continues to expand, these improvements may also strengthen its overall competitiveness and contribute to broader efforts to diversify the economy.

Notably, the initiative also reflects an important element of Eritrea's development approach: the role of partnerships and cooperation. The rollout was supported by the United Nations Development Program and other international partners, illustrating a model of engagement that differs from more conventional aid frameworks. In this case, external support in Eritrea is positioned to complement domestic efforts rather than direct them, with an emphasis on maintaining national ownership and policy autonomy. Such arrangements allow Eritrea to pursue its development priorities while drawing selectively on external expertise and resources where needed.

Overall, Eritrea's adoption of ASYCUDA World is positive news. It marks a significant step in modernizing the country's customs administration, laying the foundation for more efficient trade processes, improved data use, and broader economic development in the years ahead.



(ASYCUDA) is a computerized customs management system designed to support international trade in a modern, automated environment. It streamlines key procedures, including cargo manifests, customs declarations, transit operations, and accounting, while also generating trade data to support economic analysis and policymaking.

A key feature of ASYCUDA is its flexibility and reliance on international standards set by bodies such as the International Organization for Standardization and the World Customs Organization. The system can be adapted to national laws, tariff structures, and administrative practices, while enabling

change in how customs processes are managed, moving toward a fully digital framework rather than a partial or incremental upgrade.

A notable feature of the ongoing implementation process is the transfer of the system's source code to Eritrea, allowing for full national control over future development and adaptation. Work on this customization has already begun, led by Eritrean IT personnel tasked with aligning the system to local operational requirements. The platform is deployed as a secure intranet-based system that connects customs stations and enables internal data exchange without relying on

conducted for customs staff, IT personnel, clearing agents, and other stakeholders to support the transition.

The shift to ASYCUDA World represents a clear departure from a long-standing, paper-based system toward a more integrated digital platform. By reducing reliance on manual procedures, it streamlines documentation and limits administrative redundancy, allowing for more efficient use of time and institutional resources. Increased automation also changes how data is recorded and processed, with implications for consistency, oversight, and the reliability of trade statistics.

At the operational level,



## SpotLight

# Eritrea's Sovereignty: A Legacy of Blood and Ballot

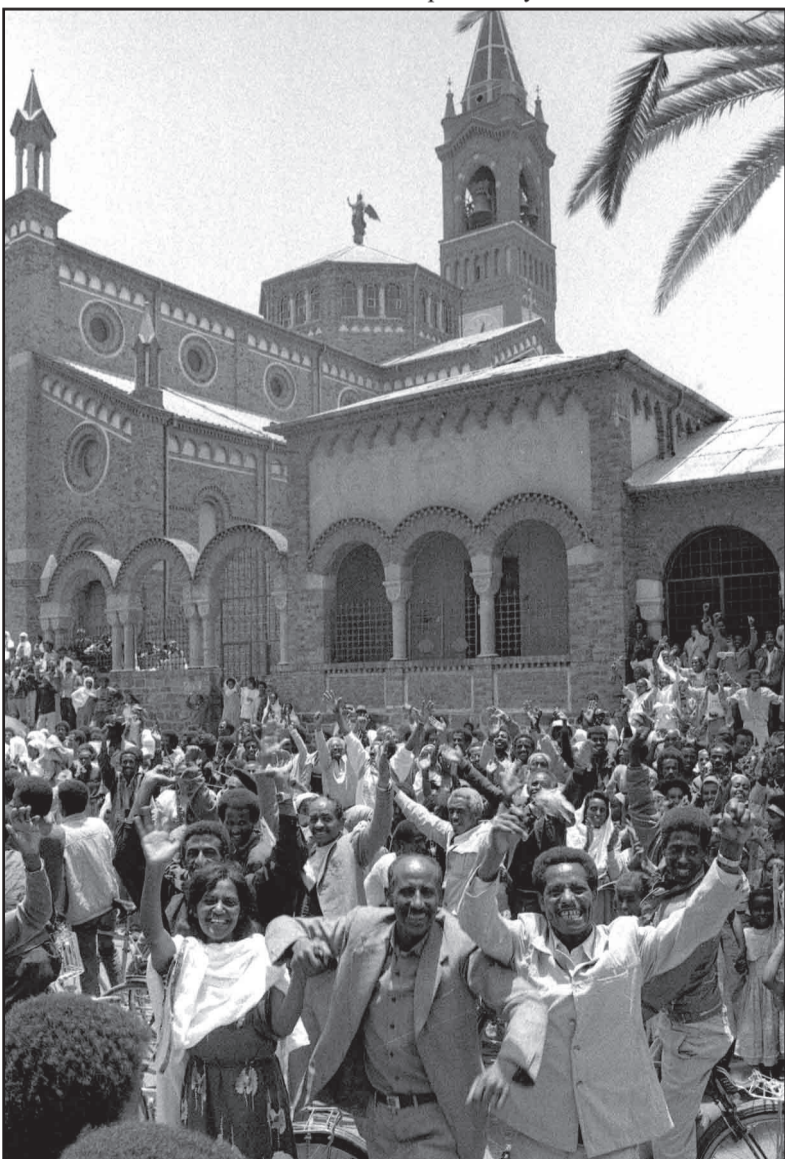
*Habtom Tesfamichael*

The history of Eritrea's journey toward sovereign statehood is not merely a territorial transition but a profound saga of resilience. It is defined by two inseparable pillars: a thirty year liberation struggle of unparalleled sacrifice and a subsequent democratic mandate that gave independence



unassailable legal standing. Unlike many nations whose borders were drawn by colonial convenience, Eritrea's existence was bought with the lives of its youth and ratified by the collective voice of its people. Today, as revisionist narratives and expansionist rhetoric resurface in the region, it is vital to reaffirm the historical and legal finality of Eritrea's sovereignty.

The roots of the Eritrean



struggle lie in a period of systemic international betrayal that followed the conclusion of the Second World War. As the era of European colonial empires began to wane, the principle of self-determination was supposed to be the guiding light for the United Nations. However, for Eritrea, this principle was discarded in favor of cold-blooded

geopolitical calculation. In the late 1940s, while other former colonies were being prepared for independence, Eritrea became the victim of a conspiracy between global powers and the Ethiopian imperial regime. Despite a United Nations commission of inquiry in 1949 discovering a profound and widespread desire for independence among the Eritrean people, the strategic interests of the West—specifically the United States—

demanded that Ethiopia be granted access to the Red Sea as a reward for its regional alignment. This was famously and cynically articulated by the American leadership of the time, which admitted that while “justice” dictated an independent Eritrea, the “strategic interests” of the United States in the Red Sea basin necessitated tethering the territory to the Ethiopian crown.

This forced and artificial federation, implemented in 1952, was never intended to be a partnership of equals. It was a slow-motion annexation designed to erase Eritrean identity and history. When the Ethiopian regime finally and illegally dissolved the federal structure in 1962, it only solidified a resistance that had already begun to simmer. The ensuing thirty-year armed struggle was a grueling, uphill battle against one of Africa's largest and best-equipped militaries, supported at various times by both Cold War superpowers. This period of “precious sacrifice” saw the Eritrean people endure unimaginable hardships, from the scorched-earth policies of the occupying forces to the loss of an entire generation of its brightest minds. Yet, the resolve of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front and the populace remained unbroken. By May 1991, through sheer military brilliance and national unity, Eritrea achieved a total victory, physically liberating every inch of its territory.

However, the leadership of the liberation movement understood that military victory alone, while decisive on the ground, required a final legal seal to silence any future international doubt. In an act of extraordinary political foresight and commitment to democratic principles, the provisional government did not simply declare statehood in 1991. Instead, opted for a two-year transition period leading to a formal referendum. This was done to ensure that the independence achieved through sacrifice was also ascertained through a popular, transparent, and internationally monitored vote. Between April 23 and 25, 1993, the world watched as Eritreans worldwide participated in a monumental act of self-determination. The result was a staggering 99.8% “Yes” independence vote. This was not merely a political triumph; it was a sacrosanct mandate that closed the door on decades of conflict and gave the new state unchallengeable legal standing. When the Eritrean



flag was raised at the United Nations on May 28, 1993, it was the 182nd member of the world body, its borders and sovereignty etched into the ledger of international law.

Despite this clear and final history, we are currently witnessing a resurgence of dangerous, expansionist propaganda from certain regional actors seeking to revive the same imperial ghosts of the 1940s. A new wave of revisionist rhetoric has emerged, claiming that a nation's “need” for maritime

detriment of another nation's sovereignty, would undermine it. The boundaries of Eritrea were not drawn by chance; they were defined by colonial history, defended through thirty years of grueling war, and finalized by a 99.8% popular mandate. The “need” for a port does not grant a country the right to infringe upon the territory of a neighbor that fought for three decades to secure that very land. Any attempt to frame the Red Sea as a point of territorial contention is not a “peaceful proposal” for



access or its landlocked status somehow entitles it to sovereign Eritrean territory or the Red Sea coastline. These assertions, often packaged as “historical rights” or “existential necessities,” are both legal fallacies and direct affronts to the principles of national integrity. The Red Sea is not a communal asset to be claimed by any neighbor based on logistical convenience; it is the sovereign gateway of the State of Eritrea, defended by the blood of its martyrs and the legal verdict of its people. To suggest that Eritrea's coastline is negotiable is to suggest that the UN Charter and the very concept of sovereign borders are irrelevant.

These contemporary Ethiopian propagandists, who now speak of “natural rights” to the sea, ignore that no such right exists in international law and, to the

integration, but a reckless and provocative fantasy that threatens regional stability.

In conclusion, Eritrea's independence is a closed case, both morally and legally. It was attained through a level of sacrifice etched into the hearts of every Eritrean family and ascertained through a democratic process that remains one of the most decisive in history. The sovereignty of Eritrea over its land and its sea is not a gift from the international community, nor is it a temporary arrangement subject to the shifting desires of its neighbors. It is a permanent reality. As we move forward, it is essential to remain vigilant against those who seek to rewrite history to suit their expansionist agendas. There is no room for negotiation on the blood of the martyrs or the sacred verdict of the 1993 referendum.

# UNHCR Guidance Note on Eritrea - Fact, Context . . .

**C**ontinued from page 2

## 2.1. National Service

From a legal perspective, Eritrea's national service is firmly established and governed by Proclamation No. 82/1995, which provides a clear statutory framework for its scope, duration, and implementation modalities. This framework reflects the universally recognized prerogative, and concomitant obligation, of sovereign States to ensure their defense and security, a principle firmly embedded in international law, including the inherent right of self-defense under Article 51 of the UN Charter.

The treatment of national service in sub-paragraph (b) represents one of the most persistently distorted elements of the narrative advanced in the previous Guidelines as well as the current Guidance Note. Eritrea's National Service is governed by the aforementioned Proclamation, which explicitly provides for a duration of eighteen (18) months, followed by reserve status as part of a structured contingency mechanism. The assertion that service is inherently arbitrary or indefinite deliberately ignores the exceptional circumstances that have shaped its implementation. Eritrea had faced prolonged existential threats following the

Ethiopia, including the latter's continued illegal occupation of sovereign Eritrean territories and sustained hostile posture, compounded by the failure of international guarantors to enforce binding agreements. In such a context, the extension of national service was not an arbitrary policy but a proportionate response rooted in the legitimate right of self-defense. Detaching the policy from this context fundamentally misrepresents its purpose. It must also be recalled that the Government of Eritrea had embarked on a second rigorous demobilisation Programme in 2001 – with the support of its development partners, including the World Bank – in anticipation of sustainable and irreversible peace in accordance with the Algiers Agreement and the Arbitration process that the EEBC had begun in earnest at the time.

Equally problematic is the characterization of National Service as “forced labor” or even “slavery”. National Service in Eritrea includes civilian assignments that form part of broader nation-building efforts,

comparable to public service obligations found in various forms across many countries. These assignments are not mechanisms of exploitation but integral components of national development, particularly in a post-conflict setting with limited resources. The language in all the Guidelines and the latest iteration is inaccurate and intentionally inflammatory.

Sawa functions primarily as a national educational center for final-year secondary school students under the Ministry of Education. The limited period of National Service training is distinct from the academic program and occurs separately. The rationale behind this system is to ensure uniform educational standards and equitable access to national examinations, not to militarize education.

## 3. Human Rights Allegations

To begin with, the sweeping allegation that Eritrea “continues to place restrictions on basic human rights” is framed in calculatingly broad, vague, and accusatory terms, without regard to legal frameworks, societal context, or empirical realities on the ground.

**Rule of Law and Detention:** With respect to allegations of arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance, the Government has categorically and consistently rejected such claims as utterly baseless. As stated above, isolated and sporadic cases cited in this context involve some individuals charged with serious national security offenses, including treason and collusion with hostile foreign entities during wartime. The attempt to repackage such cases as “arbitrary” is a serious mischaracterization that trivializes legitimate legal processes. Eritrea's laws, as clearly stated, do not permit unlawful detention, and any violation is subject to sanction under the Penal Code.

**Civil Liberties:** Regarding freedom of religion, the allegation of systemic restriction is demonstrably false. Eritrea is a country with a deep-rooted tradition of religious coexistence, where Christianity and Islam have lived side by side for centuries in a climate of mutual respect. The legal recognition of four religious institutions is not a mechanism of repression but a regulatory framework designed to ensure transparency, institutional accountability, and social harmony, particularly in a region where externally financed sectarian movements have, in

other contexts, destabilized societies. Registration requirements are administrative in nature and do not negate the fundamental right to belief and worship. The suggestion that religious life is broadly suppressed is contradicted by the continued, visible functioning of major religious institutions and by their central role in Eritrean society.

**Freedom of Movement:** On the right to leave and return, the allegation of systematic restriction is contradicted by the observable reality on the ground.

The treatment of the “diaspora tax” and the requirement to sign a letter of regret have also been consistently distorted. The Rehabilitation & Recovery Tax is a lawful fiscal contribution established under sovereign domestic legislation, intended to support national development and post-conflict reconstruction efforts. It is 2% of net salary and not excessive. Income tax in the country is progressive, ranging from 2% to 30%. The “letter of regret” is an administrative procedure used to facilitate the normalization of an individual's status with national authorities. It does not constitute “consent for prosecution,” nor does it automatically trigger punitive measures. The portrayal of these processes as coercive or punitive reflects a deliberate effort to politicize routine administrative practices.

Turning to the situation of trade unions and labor rights, Eritrea's Labor Proclamation No. 118/2001 establishes a clear and comprehensive legal framework governing the formation, registration, and operation of trade unions. The requirement for prior authorization is a standard administrative regulatory measure, common across jurisdictions, designed to ensure legal compliance and institutional coherence, not to restrict or prohibit unionization.

More broadly, the landscape of recognized associations in Eritrea shows a vibrant, participatory framework for collective organization and representation. These include: (i) civil society associations that contribute to national development objectives, such as the National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW), the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS), and the Confederation of Eritrean Workers (NCEW); (ii) professional and interest-based associations established to advance sector-specific priorities, including those of teachers,

engineers, nurses, pharmacists, agricultural scientists, and various labour federations spanning both urban and rural sectors, which play a meaningful role in promoting professional standards while fostering responsible participation in nation-building efforts; and (iii) organizations supporting citizens with specific needs, including the Eritrean Association of the Disabled, the Association for the Blind, and the National Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Together, these bodies show a well-organized, functional representation that aligns with the country's institutional and developmental context.

**Social Issues and Vulnerable Groups:** On matters relating to sexual conduct laws and child labor, the allegations advanced in the Guidance Note are unfounded and demonstrably false. They rest once again on sweeping generalizations detached from Eritrea's legal, social, and cultural realities. As stated above, the country's legal framework, including its Penal Code, addresses such issues through nationally determined legislative processes that reflect societal values, institutional priorities, and evolving norms.

With respect to child labor in particular, the claims presented are equally without merit. They stand in clear contradiction to documented progress across key social indicators, including expanded access to education, strengthened child welfare systems, and community-based protection mechanisms. Eritrea continues to engage constructively with its international obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, including by consistently submitting periodic reports detailing implementation mechanisms and measurable progress. These reports, publicly available through the respective treaty bodies, provide a comprehensive, evidence-based account that directly refutes the inaccurate and alarmist assertions in the previous Guidelines and the current Guidance Note.

Finally, the allegations concerning ethnic minorities, particularly the Afar, Kunama, and Rashaida, are among the most serious yet least substantiated. Eritrea is a multi-ethnic society founded on principles of unity, equality, and non-discrimination, with all recognized ethnic groups participating in national life. There is no policy, legal or otherwise,

that sanctions discrimination or disenfranchisement of any group. On the contrary, Eritrea's nation-building project has consistently emphasized inclusivity and balanced representation across its diverse communities. Eritrea is indeed an oasis of religious and ethnic harmony within a diversified ecosystem in a region that is often afflicted by endemic and spiraling religious and ethnic internecine conflicts and wars. Claims of systematic discrimination, arbitrary arrest, or targeted violence against specific ethnic groups often originate from external actors closely aligned with regime-change objectives.

## 4. On Refugee Figures and Narratives (Para. 6)

In key host countries, registration processes are administered by national agencies, creating significant room for misreporting, duplication, and manipulation for ulterior motives. UNHCR has, in the past, privately acknowledged discrepancies between reported and actual figures. Against this backdrop, the presentation of aggregated figures without adequate methodological clarification raises legitimate concerns regarding their precision and reliability.

The section on trafficking and smuggling reveals a recurring pattern of analytical inversion, in which causality is distorted, and responsibility is misassigned. Eritrea has consistently and unequivocally opposed the transnational criminal syndicates engaged in human trafficking and migrant smuggling. These networks operate with impunity across multiple jurisdictions and prey upon vulnerable populations throughout the region.

This misattribution is further compounded by earlier international policy orientations that have, by design, incentivized irregular migration and facilitated human trafficking dynamics. The Government of the State of Eritrea had indeed formally apprised the UN Secretary-General of these risks as early as 2013, through a letter from President Isaias Afwerki. This representation did not, however, elicit commensurate corrective action. While migration is an enduring and multifaceted phenomenon, the experience of many Eritrean nationals who departed under the influence of such external inducements underscores a profound disjunction between expectation and lived reality, particularly with respect to integration outcomes in host countries.

**C**ontinued on page 7




# VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Asmara Mining Share Company is inviting applicants for the following position.

## Senior Trainer Fixed- Plant Electrical and Instrumentation Training Officer

Number required – (01)

Type of contract –definite (02 Years)

### Major Duties and responsibilities

- To develop, coordinate and monitor training in process maintenance for both experienced fixed plant electrical personnel and electrical trainees.
- Close supervision and on the job guidance and monitoring of skills development of trainees to develop sufficient skills to maintain independently.

### TASK DESCRIPTION Expanded TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS

#### Health and Safety

- Maintain all necessary processes and procedures as outlined in the Training Management System.
- Model and promote expected behaviors, with emphasis on desired values, safe work practice, punctuality, efficiency and quality of work.

### Accreditations

- Impart required process electrical and instrumentation skills and knowledge in accordance with prescribed curriculum, programs and standards.
- Conduct training needs analysis and develop training plans for process maintenance electrical and instrumentation personnel and contribute towards production of teaching schedules and other training associated administration
  - Conduct assessment and testing as required and maintain accurate records of all training and assessment activities

### Training and Assessment

- Coordinate training in process electrical and instrumentation maintenance for both experienced plant electricians and trainees.
- Develop and modify process training and assessment material where directed.
- Contribute towards production of teaching schedules and other training associated administration.
- Conduct assessment and testing as detailed in curriculum.
- Maintain accurate records of all training and assessment activities.
- Engage with departments to ascertain their needs.
- Develop training content, research, pull together material and seek approval on said content from the coordinator.

### Staff Leadership

- Supervise and provide on-the-job guidance to the trainees.
- Conduct assessments to establish current competencies and report on same in areas where competency gaps are identified.
  - Monitor progress of process trainees and provide coaching and instruction as required.
  - Apply vocational guidance and counselling as needed

## ASMARA MINING SHARE COMPANY

Abo Street, No. 178, House No. 16

Gejeret, P.O. Box 10688

Tel. ++291-1-153986

Asmara, Eritrea

### Profile: Qualifications and Experience

- Formal Education, Certifications or Equivalents
- Bachelor's degree in electrical engineering.
- Workplace Trainer and Assessor IV
- Working Experience – Nature & Length
- Minimum of 5 years' generalized experience in Process Plant maintenance, with previous facilitation experience, of which 2 years should be in a supervisory capacity.
  - Previous training experience in the mining industry is essential.
  - Technical Skills
    - Extensive theoretical and practical experience, knowledge and understanding of fixed plant electrical & instrumentation
    - Excellent teaching and facilitation skills.
    - Possess a knowledge of competency-based curriculum.
    - Effective interpersonal and communication skills.
    - English language ability (spoken and written).
    - Advanced computer skills.
    - Experience preferred in Gold Processing environment
    - Extensive experience in High Voltage, PLC, Instrumentation
    - Valid Driver's License
    - Behavioral Skills
      - Approachable | Assertive | Continuous Learning | Dedicated | Goal Oriented | Influential | Initiative | Leadership | Pro-Active | Reliable | Results Driven | Safety Conscious | Technically Inclined | Organized

### UNIQUE REQUIREMENTS / OTHER INFORMATION

Strong ability to train, mentor and build a competent electrical maintenance team.

- General Information and other requirements:
  - Place of Work: AMSC Site
  - Type of contract: definite Period
  - Salary: As per the Company salary scale
- Additional requirements for Nationals:
  - Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provide 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 would be considered as potential candidates for an interview.
    - Application documents will not be returned to the sender.
    - All applications should be sent through the post office.
    - Deadline for application: 7 days from the day of publication in the Newspaper.

- Address: Please mail your applications to.**
- Asmara Mining Share Company,**
- P. O. Box 10688 Asmara, Eritrea**
- Applicants shall be required to send a copy to:**
- Mineral Resources Management**
- P.O. Box – 272**
- Asmara**
- Note to Eritrean applicants:**
  - Please send a copy of your application to
  - Aliens Employment Permit Affairs,
  - P. O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea

# UNHCR Guidance Note on Eritrea . . . .

Continued from page 5

In this context, the role of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) merits rigorous scrutiny. Its expansive and, at times, indiscriminate advocacy for the conferral of bona fide refugee status virtually to all Eritrean applicants/economic migrants has operated as a significant pull factor, fostering systemic misperceptions regarding the accessibility of asylum and the attendant socio-economic entitlements in destination countries.

## 5. On Humanitarian Access and Development Claims (Para. 7)

1998–2000 war with The assertion that Eritrea “significantly restricts humanitarian access” is a deliberate misrepresentation of the Government’s principled policy framework. Eritrea does not obstruct developmental engagements and partnerships; rather, it insists, legitimately, that:

- External actors operate within their defined humanitarian and development mandates.
- Such activities are aligned with national priorities and legal frameworks; and
- Implementation modalities do not substitute or duplicate the mandates and functions of Line Ministries.

Moreover, the claim of “limited information” is disingenuous. Eritrea hosts multiple UN agencies, including UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, OCHA, the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs, FAO, etc., which produce regular reports and maintain operational presence in the country. The suggestion that no credible data exists is therefore factually incorrect and serves primarily to justify reliance on secondary, often hostile, external sources.

## 6. On Economic and Human Development Indicators

The selective presentation of Eritrea’s economic indicators is stripped of context and analytical integrity. The Government has consistently emphasized that Eritrea’s development trajectory has been shaped, and at times constrained, by a protracted history of conflict, including the devastating Eritrean–Ethiopian War, as well as the subsequent period marked by continued occupation of its sovereign territories, externally imposed sanctions, and sustained political pressures.

Despite these challenges, Eritrea has made tangible, sustained progress across key social sectors, reflecting a consistent commitment to human development and social equity. Data reported by the World Bank, UNDP, and UNICEF provide supporting evidence of progress across key human development indicators. Notable achievements include:

- A substantial increase in life expectancy, rising from 46 to 69 years;
- Marked improvements in literacy, with adult literacy reaching 76% and youth literacy 93%;
- Significant reductions in maternal mortality, declining from 668 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2000 to approximately 291, alongside continued improvements in child survival indicators, under-five mortality decreasing from 39.1 per 1,000 live births in 2020 to a projected 33.8 by 2025, with corresponding declines in infant and neonatal mortality;
- Steady expansion in access to education, with the Net Enrolment Ratio in elementary education increasing from 30% in 1992/93 to 81.2% in 2022/23, and the successful attainment of gender parity in both primary and junior secondary education.

These gains, documented through national surveys and international cooperation frameworks, directly contradict the narrative of systemic developmental failure.

## 7. Conclusion

The 2026 UNHCR Guidance Note on Eritrea does not withstand serious analytical scrutiny. Notwithstanding its formal assertion that it supersedes previous iterations, the Guidance Note does not constitute a substantive methodological revision nor a principled epistemic departure from earlier frameworks. Rather, it represents a continuation of the same entrenched analytical assumptions and policy orientations that have historically informed these instruments. In substance, it perpetuates guidance that has consistently failed to reflect objective realities on the ground, while reinforcing interpretative narratives that are neither evidence-based nor normatively neutral.

At the core of this continuity lies a more troubling dynamic: the persistence of political agendas of strategic depopulation that have, over time, shaped the orientation and application of these documents. The cumulative effect of such orientations has been to encourage sustained outward migration of Eritrea’s youth at a critical juncture in the country’s post-independence nation-building trajectory, thereby affecting its capacity to maintain equilibrium among the imperatives of defense, development, and institutional consolidation. This cannot be credibly framed as an unintended byproduct of humanitarian concern; rather, it reflects a pattern of external intervention in which migration policy is instrumentalized to achieve broader geopolitical objectives.

A meaningful corrective or remedial measure, therefore, requires more than incremental revision; it demands a clear repudiation of approaches that, explicitly, advance depopulation strategies under the guise of humanitarianism.

# NEWS

## ERITREA PRESENTS PROGRESS ON CHILD ...

Continued from page 1

The country has met the criteria for eliminating mother to child transmission of HIV and introduced the Hepatitis B birth dose vaccine in 2025, marking progress toward eliminating vaccine preventable infections.

These health gains are underpinned by primary health care, financial protection, and community based programmes. Approximately 80% of the population now lives within five to ten kilometers of a health facility. Services for major communicable and key non communicable diseases are provided free of charge.

The delegation noted that 95% of the urban population and 79% of the rural population now have access to safely managed drinking water. Innovations such as the Minimum Integrated Household Package (MIHAP) and local aquaculture programs in new dams are diversifying diets and improving food security.

The Education Sector Plan (2026–2030) aims to ensure every child completes high quality primary education while substantially raising national literacy. Net enrolment at the elementary level is 81.7%, and youth literacy (ages 15–24) is 93.3%. The delegation said Eritrea continues to build a resilient education system focused on access, equity, and quality.

On eliminating harmful practices, the delegation reported that a 2025 community mapping exercise found 45.6% of surveyed villages have successfully eradicated female genital mutilation (FGM), with four sub zones declaring themselves entirely free of the practice. The achievement is attributed to sustained community engagement and the promotion of positive social norms.

For children with disabilities, the government has translated the “Comprehensive National Policy for Persons with Disabilities” into the local language to raise public awareness. Strategic focus is now on improving livelihoods and providing mobility aids to ensure full integration into secondary education.

The delegation also provided detailed answers to questions raised by session participants. The chairperson of the Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child commended Eritrea’s progress in child rights and welfare, as well as the Eritrean delegation’s active and constructive engagement.



# NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public that the shareholders of **EXPO HOTEL P.L.C** on their Extraordinary General Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> day of April 2026 have resolved that;

Pursuant to Community Court of Tiravilo’s judgment under file No.73/2022 on 18/07/2022 and 1<sup>st</sup> Instance Court of Asmara’s judgment under file No.AS2024C01CV1284/2022 on 17/06/2025 that, the late Abrha Tecleab’s 1352 (One Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Two) shares per value of 1,000.00 (One Thousand Nakfa) has been transferred and distributed to 338 shares to Mr. Fisshaye Abrha Tecleab, 338 shares to Mr. Daniel Abrha Tecleab, 338 shares to Mrs.Ruth Abrha Tecleab and 338 shares to Mrs. Ghenet Abrha Tecleab respectively.

# EXPO HOTEL P.L.C



# 'We are proud to be Eritreans' – An interview with MAG Studio

Eritrean youth are increasingly combining their passion for nation-building with modern technological skills, making a tangible impact on institutions. Among them is the MAG (Mosaic Art Group) Studio, a collective of young Eritreans who have nurtured a shared vision since childhood. Eritrean Profile invited the founders of the group Mussie Gidewon, Nahom Ghirmatsion, Filmon Zeray, Hussien Khelifa, biniam Nega, Natnael Zaid and Yafet Michael to share their story, achievements and future plans.

**Kidane Shimendi**

*Please introduce your group to our readers.*

We are the MAG (Mosaic Art Group) Studio, established in 2010 when we were still in high school. We grew up together, carrying a group vision for nearly 20 years. Over time, the group has acquired the knowledge and experience to become influential. As children, we did not have the clear vision we have today, but experience shaped us.

All members are university graduates in diverse fields. Currently, we work actively in different national sectors, contributing to nation building. Our diversity in expertise – from graphics to app development – has been an asset for our achievements. Our core value is teamwork, which we believe is the benchmark for durable success.

Key areas of expertise:

- Graphics
- Video and photo editing
- Creative design
- Mobile and computer app development
- Maintenance and networking
- Painting
- Preparing children's books
- Teaching aid materials

*What is the group's grand vision?*

Our vision is "unity in diversity" – bringing together different dreams and skills to contribute to nation building and to glorify Eritrea's beauty on the global stage. This mirrors the "unity in diversity" symbol of our national identity. Through our programs, we strive to amplify Eritrea's values, history, and vision, while correcting distorted narratives about our country.

*What achievements has the group made so far?*

Both achievements and failures occur. We treat failures as lessons. Our successes include work for private and government institutions. To name a few: Bulletin magazines for college and technical school graduates, teaching books for children, and national advertisement campaigns.

Most notably, the "Fila Football Application" – a sports app designed to enhance the sports culture by providing updated international football information and bringing young people across the nation onto one platform to share experiences and skills.

*How do you assess public feedback?*

We are proud to be Eritreans living among a people who truly encourage visionary young people with constructive comments. Public feedback is the secret of our success and the hope for our future journey. In all our



activities, we remain vigilant of public comments, seeing them as a key to success.

*What are your next plans?*

Our future programs focus on educational development for youth and children, while also involving other age groups.

Plans in progress:

1. Newspaper distribution app – Already completed in its first version, awaiting recognition from the Ministry of Information. It will allow newspapers to reach all regions quickly and at low cost, given that mobile phones are in nearly every household. This

will reduce distribution costs, save time, and support national literacy.

2. Expanding the football app – We plan to upload all Eritrean sports programs and activities, aiming to channel national sporting passion beyond borders to continental and global audiences.

3. Educational support apps – Designed to help students improve academic performance. Concrete actions are already underway.

4. Advertising – Recognizing advertising as essential for private and national institutions, we plan to invest

more to magnify Eritrea's beauty at home and abroad.

*Do you have a final message?*

We send our heartfelt gratitude to the Eritrean people for their relentless constructive comments, which continue to shape our progress. Without public support, we would not be here today nor dream of the future. We urge the public to continue their support, and we ask concerned government institutions to provide us with material, moral and technical assistance to help accomplish our national vision.

*MAG Studio, thank you for your time. We look forward to your future successes.*

