



## FUNERAL SERVICE OF VETERAN FREEDOM FIGHTER MINISTER SEMERE RUSSOM

The funeral service of veteran freedom fighter Minister Semere Russom was held yesterday at 10:00 a.m. at the Asmara Martyrs Cemetery, accompanied by a guard of honor.

The funeral service was attended by President Isaias Afwerki, Ministers, senior Government and PFDJ officials, religious leaders, family members, and a number of nationals, and was broadcast live by Eritrean Television.

Minister Semere, who joined the EPLF in 1976, served his country and people in various capacities with exemplary dedication and distinction for almost half a century.

During the armed struggle for independence, veteran freedom fighter Minister Semere served as a representative of the EPLF Foreign Relations Department and later as Head of Intelligence Services at the

EPLF office in Khartoum.

After independence, Minister Semere was appointed First Secretary of the Provisional Government of Eritrea in Sudan from 1991 to 1992; Director General of the American Desk at the Foreign Office from 1993 to 1996; Eritrea's Ambassador to the United States from 1997 to 2003; Governor of the Central Region from 2003 to 2006; Minister of Education from 2006 to 2018; and simultaneously Minister of Education and Eritrea's Ambassador to Ethiopia from 2018 to 2025.

President Isaias Afwerki laid a wreath on the tomb of veteran freedom fighter Minister Semere Russom. Minister Abdella Musa laid a wreath on behalf of the Ministry of Local Government; Minister Osman Saleh on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Minister Dr. Halima Mohammed on behalf of

the Ministry of Education; and his son, Ramiel Semere, on behalf of the family.

Veteran freedom fighter Minister Semere Russom is survived by his wife and five children.

Veteran freedom fighter and seasoned diplomat Minister Semere Russom passed away on 21st July at the age of 83 following an illness.

## VOLUNTEER STUDENT-TEACHERS RECOGNIZED IN CENTRAL REGION

An appreciation ceremony was held on 22 July to recognize volunteer student-teachers who participated in a summer educational support program organized by the First-Round National Service Cooperative Association in cooperation with the Ministry of Education branch in the Central Region.

Mr. Jemal Saleh, Chairman of the Association, said the initiative aims to encourage students who demonstrated strong academic performance and commitment.

He noted that enrollment in the program had increased from about 400 students in 2022 to more than 20,000. The curriculum has also expanded from Mathematics and English to include Mother Tongue and Citizenship Education.

Minister of Education Dr. Halima Mohammed commended the initiative and emphasized the importance of cooperation between communities and government institutions in advancing education.

General Flipos Woldeyohannes, Chief of Staff of the Eritrean Defense Forces, said the program strengthens youth participation in society and promotes appreciation of the teaching profession.

The program, conducted under the theme "Give Freely What We Received Freely," is being implemented in seven sub-zones of the Central Region.



## ANNUAL ERITREAN COMMUNITY FESTIVAL IN SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES



The 28<sup>th</sup> annual festival of Eritrean nationals in the Scandinavian countries was officially opened on 23 July, by Mr. Fesehatsion Petros, Eritrea's Ambassador to Italy, under the theme "Our Resilience: Our Guarantee."

The festival is being attended by members of all Eritrean communities and national organizations in the Scandinavian countries, reflecting the unity in diversity of the Eritrean people and national culture and values.

Reflecting on the journey of the Eritrean festival over the past

28 years, its development, and the challenges encountered, Mr. Alem Teklegergis, Chairman of the

Holidays Coordinating Committee, said that the festivals have served as forums for transferring the history and culture of the Eritrean people and as a source of national pride.

The festival will feature a seminar by a senior Eritrean Government representative, professional briefings, a photo exhibition, a bazaar, a book fair, children's programs, as well as cultural and artistic performances by a cultural troupe from Eritrea.

The festival will continue until Sunday, 26 July.



## STUDENTS' SUMMER WORK PROGRAMME IN GASH BARKA REGION

Mr. Habtom Gebreyesus, coordinator of the students' summer work programme in the Gash Barka Region, reported that commendable activities are being carried out through the programme, focusing mainly on soil and water conservation.

Mr. Habtom indicated that about 1,300 students, coordinators, and agricultural experts from 17 high schools are participating in the programme at 17 centres in the sub-zones of Logo-Anseba, Akordet, Barentu, Molqui, Laelai-Gash, Haikota, Forto-Sawa, Teseney, and Golij.

Mr. Habtom also said that the programme includes the planting

of 240,000 tree seedlings, the cultivation and maintenance of more than 150,000 trees, the construction of over 400,000 metres of water-catchment structures and terraces, as well as the renovation of dirt roads.

The programme coordinators and forestry and wildlife conservation experts noted that the students are actively participating in the programme and said that the tree seedlings prepared for planting will be planted on time.

The students, on their part, expressed their readiness to strengthen their participation and ensure the timely implementation of the planned programme.

## Statement by Mr. Biniam Berhe at the 20<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Summit of the African Union Assembly on Health

### Statement by the Delegation of the State of Eritrea at the 20<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Session of the African Union Assembly on “Ending AIDS by 2030, Addressing Preventable Maternal Deaths, Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases Endemic to the Continent, and Strengthening Health Systems by 2030”

Your Excellency Chairperson,

All Protocol Observes,

I wish, at the outset, to express my delegation's gratitude to the people and Government of the Republic of Ghana for the warm hospitality accorded to us since our arrival in the beautiful city of Accra.

The holding of this Extraordinary Summit with the theme ‘Health Justice, Equity and Universal Health Coverage in Africa’ is important and timely. The draft AU Roadmap to 2030 and beyond towards ending HIV/AIDS by 2030, addressing preventable maternal deaths, communicable and non-communicable diseases and strengthening health systems, presented for adoption by this Summit is an important initiative.

Mr. Chairperson,

In the spirit of experience sharing that can accelerate that implementation of the Roadmap, I wish to briefly share Eritrea's experience in advancing maternal, newborn, and child health; and health equity.

Eritrea considers health as a fundamental human right. Guided by the principle of social justice, Eritrea is committed to ensuring that every citizen—regardless of where they live—has equitable access to quality healthcare at nominal cost or free of charge.



This commitment is operationalized through a strong Primary Health Care system. Today, more than 80 percent of Eritrea's population lives within 10 kilometers of a functional primary health facility, including health stations and health centers. By decentralizing health services, Eritrea has shifted resources into rural communities, bringing preventive, maternal, and essential healthcare closer to the people and reducing geographic disparities.

However, expanding access alone is not enough. Between 2022 and 2026, Eritrea strengthened quality assurance across all levels of primary healthcare, ensuring that increased access is matched by high standards of care.

Mr. Chairperson,

One of the areas where Eritrea has made significant progress is maternal and newborn health. The country has placed mothers and newborns at the center of its national development agenda through sustained investment in a resilient and expanding healthcare system.

Coverage of antenatal care has steadily improved, with the proportion of pregnant women receiving at least one skilled antenatal consultation increasing from 83 percent in 2022 to 87 percent in 2025. Facility-based deliveries also rose significantly—from 73 percent to 85 percent over the same period—reflecting growing confidence in the health system and improved access to skilled birth attendance. At the same time, Eritrea expanded surgical capacity in zonal hospitals,

increasing the national Caesarean section rate from 3.8 percent to 6.5 percent by 2025, bringing it within the World Health Organization's recommended range of 5 to 15 percent.

A key contributor to this success has been the establishment of 159 functional Maternity Waiting Homes located near hospitals and health centers. These facilities provide expectant mothers from remote communities with safe accommodation before delivery, helping to overcome the challenges posed by difficult terrain and long travel distances.

Mr. Chairperson,

These investments have translated into tangible health outcomes. Maternal mortality declined significantly, from 291 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2023 to 184 in 2026. Neonatal mortality also fell markedly, from 34 to 18 deaths per 1,000 live births.

Community-based healthcare remains the backbone of Eritrea's health system. Community Health Workers, known locally as Community Health Agents, connect formal health services with remote villages, ensuring continuity of care through health promotion, disease prevention, and early treatment.

Eritrea has consistently maintained routine immunization coverage of approximately 98 percent. Community Health Agents play a central role in the Expanded Programme on Immunization.

The same community-driven

model has contributed to Eritrea's internationally recognized progress toward malaria elimination. Community Health Workers diagnose and manage around 80 percent of uncomplicated malaria cases directly at the village level, ensuring prompt treatment and reducing transmission.

To reach the country's most isolated populations, Eritrea has also revitalized its Barefoot Doctor initiative. Originally developed during the struggle for independence and reintroduced in 2019. The program provides a flexible, community-based healthcare safety net for remote and nomadic communities. Following six months of formal training, Barefoot Doctors deliver essential preventive and basic curative services, extending the reach of the national health system to populations that would otherwise remain underserved.

Through its long-standing unwavering commitment to social justice, strong primary healthcare, community participation, and

equitable access, Eritrea continues to demonstrate that meaningful health gains are possible when no community is left behind.

Mr. Chairperson,

Following the adoption of the roadmap, the issue that requires the full attention of the African Union and its Member States is the practical implementation of the plan by putting in place conducive policies, dedicating adequate human and financial resources, with a focus on the needs of disadvantaged section of the societies.

In conclusion, I wish to reaffirm that Eritrea will redouble its efforts towards expediting the achievement of health-related development goals at national level and remains committed to working hand in hand with sisterly African countries for the achievement of the goals at regional and continental levels.

Thank you!

22 July 2026,  
Accra, Ghana

## ... Southern Region's Cultural Showcase

Continued from page 4

As they delivered their heartfelt verses, the atmosphere was charged with reverence and hope. Each line spoke to the power of faith and collective spirit as these women embodied the essence of their culture—united in prayer and purpose. They called upon the heavens not only for rain but for the well-being of their community, evoking a profound sense of solidarity.

In a remarkable display of community interconnectedness, the ritual took on an interactive dimension. Any member of the group facing personal challenges was encouraged to voice their struggles. In response, the community would chant their praises, surrounding the individual with a wave of collective support and empathy, asking for their problems to be alleviated and solutions to emerge. As one voice shared their burden, the chorus of encouragement enveloped them, reinforcing the idea that no one has to face their difficulties alone.

This touching display of togetherness through mehlela served as a moving reminder of the strength found in unity, the power of communal prayers, and the deep-rooted belief in the possibility of resolution through faith. The

beauty of this tradition resonated among festival-goers, illuminating not just the artistry of the Tigrinya people but also the profound cultural values they hold dear: the importance of community, the strength of shared experience, and the unwavering belief in the power of prayer and tradition to uplift and heal. The evening was not merely a performance; it was a living testament to the resilience and spirit of the Tigrinya community, woven into the very fabric of their identity.

The Southern Region's traditional show on Wednesday was not simply a performance—it was a living portrait of heritage. From the heartfelt fayla farewell songs to the fiery wit of delela, from the pastoral devotion expressed in haycama to the communal prayers of mehlela, the stage became a mirror of daily life, faith, and resilience. Each tradition—whether sung, spoken, or danced—offered a glimpse into the values that bind communities together: respect, unity, and reverence for both people and nature. The show captivated audiences with its artistry and authenticity, reminding all present that culture is strongest when it springs from lived experience. In its music, verse, and ritual, the Southern Region affirmed that tradition is not a relic of the past but a vibrant force shaping the present and guiding the future.



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## SpotLight

# An Overlooked Public Health Story

Bana Negusse

Life expectancy is an important health- and development-related statistic. However, it is much more than that. It is also a powerful reflection of a society's ability to protect, sustain, and improve human life. It captures the combined effects of healthcare access, nutrition, sanitation, education, economic conditions, and public policy. For this reason, it remains one of the most widely recognized indicators of national development and population well-being.

Across the world, life expectancy has increased dramatically over the past century, driven by medical advances, improved living conditions, disease prevention, and stronger public health systems. Unfortunately, however, these gains have not been evenly distributed. While some nations have achieved remarkable progress, others continue to face significant barriers, including limited resources, infrastructure challenges, and persistent health inequalities.

Against this global backdrop, Eritrea represents an often-overlooked public health success story. Despite a variety of challenges, it has achieved one of the most significant improvements in life expectancy in Africa, and even the broader developing world, since independence. Its experience demonstrates how sustained investment in primary healthcare, prevention, community participation, and social infrastructure can produce meaningful health gains even under difficult circumstances.

To begin, international institutions, including the United Nations, the World Health Organization, and the World Bank, define life expectancy as the average number of years a newborn is expected to live if current mortality patterns remain unchanged throughout their lifetime. Although the measure is statistical in nature, its implications extend far beyond a single number.

Life expectancy provides a broad picture of a population's health status and serves as a key indicator of human development. It is incorporated into the United Nations Human Development Index and is closely associated with improvements in education, income, infrastructure, and social stability. Higher life expectancy generally reflects stronger healthcare systems, improved disease prevention, and



better overall living conditions.

Historically, humanity's progress in life expectancy has been extraordinary. Advances in vaccination, antibiotics, maternal healthcare, clean water access, sanitation, and nutrition have transformed survival outcomes worldwide. Global average life expectancy has risen from around 30–40 years two centuries ago to approximately 74 years today, representing a remarkable achievement in human development.

One overlooked story amidst this backdrop of global progress

Over the following decades, however, Eritrea recorded substantial improvements. Life expectancy has increased to more than 69 years, representing a gain of nearly two decades within a single generation. This progress places Eritrea among the strongest performers in Africa, with life expectancy exceeding the average for Sub-Saharan Africa and narrowing the gap with global levels.

This transformation did not occur through a single policy or isolated intervention, but resulted

on primary healthcare and universal access. The country's health policy has focused on ensuring that essential services reach communities across urban and rural areas, particularly populations that historically faced barriers to care.

Primary healthcare has served as the backbone of this approach. Free services, including childhood immunizations, maternal and child healthcare, nutrition support, and health education programs, have helped reduce preventable illness and improve survival outcomes.

Additionally, the country has expanded access to treatment for major health challenges, including tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, hypertension, and diabetes. By emphasizing prevention, early detection, and affordable treatment, Eritrea has worked to reduce both infectious and non-communicable disease burdens.

One of the most significant achievements has been the expansion of healthcare infrastructure in the country. Since independence, Eritrea has multiplied the number of health facilities nationwide, reaching nearly 350 hospitals, health centres, stations, and clinics. Today, more than 80 percent of the population lives within 10 kilometres of a health facility, while over 70 percent live within five kilometres. This expansion has been supported by investments in healthcare professionals. The government has prioritized training, recruitment, and deployment of medical personnel, covering education costs and supporting the growth of a national health workforce capable of serving communities throughout the country.

Notably, Eritrea's health progress has also been supported by constructive partnerships with trusted international and

regional organizations, which have contributed technical expertise, capacity building, and support in areas such as disease prevention, maternal and child health, and health system strengthening. These collaborations have complemented Eritrea's own investments and helped advance shared public health goals.

Alongside the above, Eritrea's progress in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) has contributed significantly to reducing preventable diseases. Expanded access to safer water sources and improved sanitation systems has helped lower the spread of waterborne illnesses, reduce childhood mortality, and address neglected tropical diseases such as trachoma and schistosomiasis.

Nutrition has been another important component of the country's health improvements. Adequate nutrition strengthens immune systems, supports healthy childhood development, and reduces vulnerability to both infectious diseases and chronic conditions later in life. The nation's investments in agriculture, school feeding initiatives, and community nutrition programs have contributed to reducing undernutrition and improving overall population health.

A crucial element of Eritrea's progress has been its focus on prevention. Public health campaigns, vaccination programs, and community-based health workers have helped identify risks earlier and reduce disease transmission.

Community participation has been particularly important. By bringing health services closer to households, local health workers have helped improve awareness, encourage preventive practices, and connect people with essential care before illnesses become more serious. This preventive approach has strengthened the efficiency of the health system by reducing pressure on hospitals while improving health outcomes across the population.

Overall, Eritrea's improvement in life expectancy demonstrates that meaningful public health progress is possible even in countries facing significant economic and structural challenges. Its experience challenges the idea that only wealthy nations can achieve rapid improvements in population health.



is Eritrea. When it gained independence in the early 1990s, life expectancy was below 50 years. The country inherited a fragile healthcare system with limited infrastructure, inadequate medical resources, and significant public health challenges.

from a long-term strategy centered on expanding access to essential services, strengthening prevention, and prioritizing healthcare as a foundation of national development.

At the heart of Eritrea's health strategy has been a strong emphasis





# Echoes of the Highlands: Southern Region's Cultural Showcase

*Milka Teklom*

On July 22, Festival Eritrea once again became a vibrant stage for cultural pride and artistic expression. It featured an unforgettable traditional show by the Southern Region's artists, a performance that seamlessly wove together music, dance, and oral traditions. It was more than an entertainment, offering a profound glimpse into the rich heritage of the Saho and Tigrinya ethnic groups, who are the predominant inhabitants of the region.

The Heartbeat of the show: Music and Dance

The centerpiece of the afternoon was the traditional music and dance, which seamlessly blended rhythmic drumming, melodic string instruments, and choreography. The musicians played Eritrean traditional instruments, most notably the kirar (a string instrument), the wata (a single-stringed bowed lute), and various drums such as the keboro and negarit.

With its resonant twang, the kirar provided the harmonic foundation for the songs while the wata added an emotive, haunting quality to the melodies. The drums set the tempo, dictating the dancers' movements in a call-and-response dynamic that captivated the audience.

The choreography was a sight to behold—groups of dancers moved in formation, their steps reflecting the agricultural rhythms, historical narratives, and communal bonds of their ancestors. Women, adorned in beautifully embroidered chiffon (a traditional dress) swayed gracefully, their hands moving in sync with the percussion, while men performed energetic jumps and turns, embodying the strength and vitality of their culture.

Oral Traditions: Poetry and Storytelling

Interspersed between musical performances were captivating recitations of oral poetry and proverbs from the Saho and Tigrinya traditions. The oral tradition is an essential part of Eritrean heritage, preserving history, wisdom, and social values through generations.

The oral traditions of the Saho community came alive on stage with a moving performance of Angarish—short verses of condolence—presented by Ismail Abdukadire. His chosen verse recounted the sorrow of Sheik

Ahmed, a man of faith who, upon losing his beloved wife, found himself inconsolable. Relatives urged him to turn to the scripture, as he always did, but his grief poured forth in verse instead:

"My life has no meaning no more  
The fire in my house is burned out

Now I am like the log that's cut  
from its tree

How can you say move on?

When moving-on is so hard

So cold and so sad."

Moved by the lament, the audience fell silent. Fortunately, tradition also offers balance, and comfort came from his father, Mr. Ali Endego, who responded with words that have since become popular among the Saho:

"Son, for years we have seen  
people come and go,

Sons after fathers, daughters after  
mothers.

Nobody's life is guaranteed,  
including yours.

The Almighty is never wrong.  
Instead of weeping for the past,

Let's praise the life we have  
today.

Following Ismail's performance, a Saho story teller recounted ancient folktales using a mix of song and spoken word—a tradition known as Madehoh—putting across moral lessons wrapped in allegory. These oral performances were not merely entertainment; they were a spiritual connection to the past, a reminder of the endurance of Eritrea's intangible heritage.

After the oral tradition, the stage came alive with a vibrant procession of women adorned in radiant yellow dresses, their ensembles accentuated by striking red-spotted shawls and multi-colored striped broomstick skirts. They had gathered to perform the Saho ceremonial tradition of Fayla—a poignant farewell ritual for a bride on the eve of her wedding.

This deeply symbolic custom brings together the bride's closest friends and family, who sing fortale (praise songs) in her honor, extolling her virtues, lineage, and ancestral blessings. The melodies, made rich with emotion and cultural resonance, weave together joy and nostalgia as the community bids her farewell.

On the wedding day itself, a recurring verse echoes through the celebrations: 'Badi isha abuba

tubeleki eshi ado arbona tablo haba.' This heartfelt refrain carries the weight of collective goodwill, wishing the bride prosperity, love, and happiness in her new journey.

After the ladies concluded their performances, two young men took center stage. Microphone in hand, they engaged in a spirited exchange of playful jabs and clever insults. To the untrained observer, it might have appeared as if the event had veered off course into chaos. However, this was a captivating display of delela, one of the oldest traditions of the Saho, where herdsman entertain one another through sharp-witted banter and good-natured ribbing.

The rules of delela are elegantly simple yet profound: while contestants may hurl insults, the integrity of the interaction is upheld by a strict no-violence policy. Physical altercations are forbidden, ensuring the focus remains on the artistry of wordplay and humor. When one participant runs out of clever retorts and lapses into silence, the victor claims their triumph by exclaiming "Haho!"—a spirited shout that translates to "blind eagle," symbolizing their sharp wit and keen intellect in the face of verbal adversity.

This dramatic showdown was not only immensely entertaining but it offered an insightful glimpse into the daily lives of herdsman, revealing how playful competition is woven into the fabric of community life. Through delela, the Saho exemplify a rich tradition that fosters camaraderie and strengthens communal bonds, emphasizing that while disagreements may arise, resolution and respect are paramount within their culture. This artful exchange illuminated the vibrancy of Saho heritage while captivating audiences with its charm and significance.

The performance continued with a stirring rendition of haycama, a traditional herdsman's song that speaks to the intimate bond between pastoralists and their cattle. Sung during the arduous task of drawing water from deep wells, the song is both a prayer and a proclamation of devotion.

As the melody rose, the lyrics depicted vivid images of sacrifice and duty: "I have baked bread, but having seen my cattle suffer from thirst, I left it and came running to give them water. I put down my first cup of coffee because my cattle need me." These verses captured



the herdsman's instinct to place the wellbeing of his animals above his own comforts. This heartfelt refrain encapsulated the herdsman's lifestyle, illustrating a daily reality in which the well-being of their animals takes precedence over their own desires. The song serves as a powerful reminder of their role as caretakers and protectors, underlining their connection to the land and their livestock.

The refrain celebrated the resilience of entire villages, declaring them heroes for drawing out life-giving water from wells so deep the bottom cannot be reached. Such words were a tribute to the hard work and resilience that characterize the herdsman's existence, acknowledging the often arduous journey they undertake to ensure that their cattle remain nourished and healthy. The performance culminated in a collective wish, as the herdsman sang, "May no harm come to our cattle; let us bear the brunt of their hardships. May sickness never come to them." This declaration of loyalty and protection encapsulates their deep bond with their herds—a bond forged through life's challenges and the unwavering spirit of community.

Haycama serves as a powerful reflection of the herdsman's daily struggles and reinforces the themes of love, sacrifice, and unity in the face of adversity. The song resonated within the hearts of all who attended, reminding everyone that at the core of the Saho culture

lies a profound respect for life's interconnectedness, a celebration of the resilience of their communities, and an unwavering commitment to their livestock. Through the beautiful lyrics of haycama, the herdsman shared not just their story, but their legacy—one of devotion that encompasses both cattle and community alike.

Transitioning to the vibrant display of the Tigrinya ethnic group, the festival showcased the rich oral traditions that are the lifeblood of their culture, captured beautifully through the art forms known as masse, melkes, and weye. These short verses and poems serve various purposes—praising, comforting, and, at times, playfully dissing with an eloquence that resonates deeply within the hearts of the audience.

One of the standout moments of the evening came when a group of elderly women graced the stage, captivating attendees with their performance of mehlela. This powerful griot, a traditional form of praise and supplication, is a cherished ritual practiced right before the onset of the rainy season. With voices that rang out like harmonious prayers, the women sang praises to God and St. Mary, invoking blessings for a bountiful rainy season—a time critical for the fertility of the land and the sustenance of their communities.

*Continued on page 2*

# SpotLight

## Eritrea's Pride: Voices from Every Region

The Eritrean national festival, inaugurated last Saturday, welcomes visitors to embrace the nation's boundless beauty and abundant economic potential, alongside its ongoing achievements. Among the various programs is an exhibition showcasing the six regions' accomplishments in national development endeavors. During the exhibition, presenters echo the pride of self-reliance—a core national principle shaping Eritrea's nation-building process. Eritrean Profile invited some of these presenters to share their thoughts on Festival 2026 and the regional pavilions.

Kidane Shimendi

**Fithawit Mussie, from Northern Red Sea Region**

All the contents displayed here illustrate the region's economic potential, coupled with the Eritrean government's ongoing efforts in national development programs. Particularly in our region, extensive work has been accomplished both on land and at sea, guided by the principle of self-reliance. This promising development process instills greater confidence, as the driving forces are our own citizens using locally available resources.

In the agricultural sector, the



Fithawit Mussie

self-reliant progress—especially in date palm production—is exemplary. Efforts are underway to expand production and market distribution. Finally, looking back from the early days of our independence to the present, we understand self-reliance as the sure path to a bright future.

**Roma Tekeste, from Central Region**

Recognizing food security as key to national security, the national effort in the Central Region is exemplary. Through soil and water conservation programs extensively initiated in the early days of our independence, we are working to ensure food security for the region and the country as a whole. Following the construction of numerous dams and ponds for water preservation, farming irrigation and freshwater fish farming have been encouraged.

In the contemporary era, when climate change seriously affects



Roma Tekeste

the global agenda, the Eritrean government, with the active participation of the people, continues to restore the war-torn national environment, adhering to the principle of self-reliance. Consequently, we can witness our environment turning green, our livestock accessing necessary food close to farms, and an increasing number of farmers. Furthermore, we are self-reliantly supplying organic local products to the national market—a testament to the principle of self-reliance and a promise of our prosperity.

**Leyla Mohammed, from Gash Barka Region**



Leyla Mohammed

All the achievements presented here are direct products of the Eritrean government and people's unwavering principle of self-reliance. This principle, which was key to the victory of our armed struggle, is now shaping our nation-building process with optimism. In the agricultural

sector, despite the milestones we have reached, more work remains in expanding food production and market distribution. Nevertheless, these achievements are integrated with social service provisions, which have leaped forward dramatically. The implemented social service programs are encouraging and well connected with the nation-building process, standing as attributes of the Eritrean government's great leadership and the people's great awareness. Thus, self-reliance is the key to our survival and national victories.

**Filmon Afewerqi, from Anseba Region**



Filmon Afewerqi,

Eritrea's boundless beauty awaits further research and work to accelerate our national development sectors, particularly tourism. Having traveled to other national regions as well, I can say that the natural and cultural heritage our country holds is remarkable. Returning to the Anseba Region, this area embodies several significant tourism potentials essential to the national development program. However, tourism alone will never produce success without other development sectors, including education, health, agriculture, infrastructure, and more. To achieve this success, the Eritrean government, guided by the principle of self-reliance, has been registering inspiring progress.

**Asmerom Zerisenay, from Southern Region**

As the Southern Region is densely populated and farming

remains the main economic activity, enhancing food production remains the nation's top priority. Ensuring access to clean water and increasing food production through soil and water conservation activities, along with building water-conserving infrastructure, aids development. In this context, we cannot refer to any sector separately from others;



Asmerom Zerisenay

every element of development is intricately integrated. Therefore, when we look at the bigger picture, we can understand the achievements recorded in the national development program. The secret and confidence of this development rest on the unbreakable principle of self-reliance.

**Osman - Mussa, from Southern Red Sea Region**

Similar to other national regions, this coastal region possesses great potential and has recorded success in national development programs. Its timeless natural beauty has shaped the distinct cultural heritage of its people. The ongoing programs in marine agriculture highlight the region's rich potential. Although



Osman Mussa

agriculture is limited due to climatic conditions, progress in food production—particularly in date palm cultivation and beekeeping—is encouraging. The provision of essential social services across the region has significantly impacted the promising development programs underway. In all national sectors, unlike other African countries where foreigners run institutions, Eritrean youth take responsibility to drive the wheel of nation-building, affirming the true beauty of self-reliance as the safe path to a bright future.

### Conclusion

Self-reliance is Eritrea's core national principle, deeply embedded in the norms and values of its people. For generations, hard work, resilience, and unity have been elements of this principle, enabling nationals to use their local resources and skills to ensure a better life. Consequently, this principle demonstrated its power in national liberation, despite the enemy's substantial support from foreign powers. Similarly, in the nation-building process, self-reliance is registering inspiring success, free from foreign aid and driven by the people's active participation.





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| Location:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Site: Koka Gold Mine                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Reporting to:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Mechanic Foreman                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| P r i m a r y Responsibility & Scope of work                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | To repair and overhaul electrical systems in automotive vehicles and machineries of ZMSC property at Workshop or at Koka Gold Mine site.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Duties:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Service, identify and repair electrical faults on a wide variety of vehicles and machineries.</li><li>• Undertake electrical installation of accessories and ancillary equipment on a wide variety of vehicles and plant.</li><li>• Test and repair digital control systems.</li><li>• Service and repair ancillary parts and equipment as required.</li><li>• Inspect, maintain and repair all types of petrol and diesel engine motor vehicles and plant.</li><li>• Requisition parts and equipment as necessary.</li><li>• Liaise with manufacturers and/or agents on problems to achieve an efficient repair.</li><li>• By referring to circuit diagrams and using meters and test instruments to find electrical faults.</li><li>• Keep own vehicle clean and tidy any site or work area after use.</li><li>• Adjust engine control systems and timing to ensure vehicles are running at peak performance.</li><li>• Repair or replace faulty ignition, electrical wiring, fuses, lamps and switches.</li><li>• Complete all documentation including inspection sheets, certificates, receipts applying signatures as appropriate.</li><li>• Note the details of any accident incurred whilst driving any vehicle owned, operated by and submit them to the Foreman Mechanic or Maintenance Superintendent.</li><li>• Undertake training as may be required and product training by consultation.</li><li>• Record all times and attendance hours of service.</li><li>• Able in repairing &amp; servicing of all air-conditioning on all mobile fleet (Excavators, loaders, dozers, trucks, busses ect)</li><li>• Any other work required by management</li></ul> |
| Formal Education, Certifications or Equivalents                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Technical School Graduate in Auto Electric.</li><li>• Must have Eritrean Driving License.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Working Experience – Nature & Length                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minimum of 5 years’ work experience as Auto Electrician for all types of equipment and vehicle both in workshop and site.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Other skill, abilities, and requirement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Driving Skill. willing to learn and take direction. Ability to communicate well with co-workers.</li><li>• Ability to work under pressure in some situations.</li><li>• Able to meet all satisfying requirements and applicable safety policies. Work overtime as required. Knowledge of truck and equipment safety.</li><li>• Knowledge of record keeping systems. Knowledge of equipment cleaning standards and procedures.</li><li>• Troubleshoot and inspect equipment to detect faults and malfunctions. Determine the extent of repair required. Adjust equipment and repair or replace defective parts.</li><li>• Test repaired equipment for proper performance. Clean and perform other maintenance work.</li><li>• Service attachments and working tools.</li><li>• Analytical and problem-solving skills.</li><li>• Good Computer skill Effective verbal and listening communications skills.</li><li>• Ability to read and write to keep daily records including maintenance reports and documentation.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Salary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | As per the Company scale                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Additional Requirement for nationals: - Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligations and providing evidence of a release paper from the Ministry of Defense. Present Clearance paper from the current/last employer. Only short-listed applicants would be considered as potential candidates for an interview. Application documents will not be returned to the sender. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Please mail your application to the <b>ZARA MINING SHARE CO P. O. Box 2393, Asmara,</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Note to Eritrean applicants:</b> - Please send a copy of your application to Aliens Employment Permit Affairs P.O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea. and Eritrea. Mineral Resources Management P. O. Box 272                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Deadline for application: 10 days from the day of announcement.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |



ASMARA MINING SHARE COMP-  
NY  
  
Abo Street, No. 178, House No. 16  
Gejeret, P.O. Box 10688  
  
Tel. ++291-1-153986  
Asmara, Eritrea

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Finance Superintendent (Planning, Analysis & Modelling)

Number required – (01)

Type of contract – Definite (2 Years)

Major Duties and responsibilities

Management Accounting:

- Periodic Performance Reporting
- Cost Analysis, Variance Reports, Assets Reporting, Inventory Reporting & P&L Review
- Internal Metrics and KPI tracking

Financial Planning & Analysis (FP&A):

- Budgeting, Forecasting, Scenario Planning & Financial Modelling
- Providing analysis and insight to drive strategic business recommendations
- Exco level reports, dashboards, Power BI etc

TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREA

- Establish and maintain financial policies, procedures, processes and management information systems. Ensure processes are documented in elaborate structures including flowcharts etc
- Ensure operational data (physicals and financial) are collected and organized into flexible and manipulable data sets.
- Prepare periodic (monthly, quarterly and annual) financial statements, including profit and loss accounts, budgets, forecasts,cash flows,adhoc reports, variance analysis and commentaries
- Prepare operational and performance metrics including business unit, activity, process,product costing etc
- Assist in the development of long term financial planning tools including LOM financial models
- Provide a support service by working with all departments and the management team to help make financial decisions
- Ensure expenditure is kept in line with the budget
- Assist to inform key strategic decisions and formulate business strategies.
- Advise on the financial implications of business decisions.
- Analyse financial performance and contribute to medium and long-term business planning and forecasts.
- Offer professional judgement on financial matters and advise on ways to improve business performance
- Interpret and communicate financial data to non-financial managers
- Liaise with other function managers to put finances and accounts in understandable context.
- Monitor and evaluate financial information systems and suggest improvements where needed
- Implement corporate governance procedures, risk management and internal controls.
- Assist the Finance and Admin Manager in preparing Board packs and other stackholder presentations.
- Mentor team members within and outside the department.

Profile: Qualifications and Experience

|                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Formal Education, Certifications or Equivalents | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Degree in Accounting or equivalent</li><li>• Full CIMA/ACCA</li><li>• Good Systems and Microsoft tools knowledge (ERP knowledge a prerequisite</li><li>• Financial Modelling</li></ul> |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Working Experience – Nature & Length | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 8 years FP&amp;A and Management Accounting experience in a Mining Environment.</li><li>• Knowledge of Mining, Business &amp; Commercial acumen</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Technical Skills                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minimum 8 years FP&amp;A and Management Accounting experience.</li><li>• General understanding of mining costing and management information systems.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Behavioral Skills                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Communication (English &amp; local language)</li><li>• Analytical and problem shooting mindset.</li><li>• Results oriented</li><li>• Ability to work toward strict deadlines</li><li>• Assertiveness</li><li>• Strong Interpersonal skills</li><li>• Discretion</li><li>• Integrity</li><li>• Self-discipline</li><li>• Ability to work in multi-disciplinary environment</li><li>• Risk management &amp; assessment</li></ul> |

General Information and other requirements:

- **Place of Work:** AMSC Sites
- **Type of contract:** Definite Period( 2 years)
- **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**



Mussie Efriem

Dr. Natan Yemane earned his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree from Hamelmalo Agricultural College with Very Great Distinction, graduating as part of the institution's historic premier class. As a member of the college's inaugural graduating cohort, Dr. Natan stands among the pioneering group of veterinary professionals trained through this foundational academic program, marking a significant milestone in both the institution's history and the advancement of Eritrea's national veterinary and agricultural expertise.

*First, congratulations on this remarkable milestone! How was your educational journey?*

Thank you so much! Looking back, my educational journey felt very much like climbing a steep staircase. With every step, I ascended with the extra weight of the work, building upon the load I was already carrying. Yet, as the intensity of the journey grew, so did my capacity to handle it, pushing me to adapt and grow stronger at each level.

Ever since I was a child, I harbored a deep dream of becoming a medical doctor. That ambition carried me through my entire educational journey and eventually led me to Mai Nefhi after I finished high school. It was there that I first learned about the newly launched Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program. The moment I discovered the field, I was completely captivated by its potential and scope. Inspired by this fresh direction, I made the firm decision to join the department and pursue my passion through this pioneering path.

Beyond my childhood dream of practicing medicine, several personal experiences also drew me toward veterinary care. Coming from a household where we always kept pets, I grew up as a passionate animal lover and developed a deep, instinctive connection with them early on. When the veterinary medicine program was introduced, it offered a fresh, unique perspective on healthcare—one that bridged my lifelong medical aspirations with my genuine fondness for animals. Recognizing that I could apply my passion for healing to creatures I deeply cared about was the ultimate spark that pushed me

## Pioneering Paths, Promising Futures: Hamelmalo's Class of 2026 Speaks

*On July 15, 2026, Hamelmalo Agricultural College (HAC) held its 19<sup>th</sup> commencement ceremony on its campus premises, celebrating the graduation of 375 students in a historic milestone for the institution. The momentous occasion was anchored by the conferral of degrees to the college's very first cohort of Doctors of Veterinary Medicine (DVM), marking a major leap forward for national veterinary education. Highlighted by exceptional diversity and achievement, this year's graduating class saw strong female representation, with women making up the majority at 55.7%, alongside their male peers at 44.3%. To mark this momentous occasion, we interviewed some of the award-winning graduates from the Class of 2026 about their experiences.*

to pursue a career as a veterinary doctor.

*You graduated with Very Great Distinction and officially took the veterinary oath. Moving forward, what kind of weight and responsibility does this dual honor place on your shoulders as you launch your career?*

Graduating as part of Hamelmalo Agricultural College's very first Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) cohort carries a profound sense of responsibility, rooted in the substantial national investment made in our education. Having received this education free of charge, we deeply appreciate the sacrifice and resources dedicated to shaping our professional capabilities. Even prior to graduation, we actively engaged in community service, and now we stand ready to be deployed across the country where our expertise is needed most to serve our society. Up until this point, our journey has been guided under the close mentorship and care of our instructors and the college; transitioning beyond those protective walls marks a pivotal turning point in our lives. As we step into independent practice, we are eager to shoulder full accountability, taking the knowledge acquired within the classroom and directly applying it on the ground to advance national livestock health and food security.

*Prior to completing your academic program, you were assigned to practical internships across different sites. In what ways did this early field exposure help bridge classroom learning with the real-world responsibilities of your current role?*

Yes, transitioning from the theoretical environment of a classroom to hands-on field application makes an enormous difference in professional



Dr. Natan Yemane

development. Stepping into the real world was a deeply enriching experience, as it exposed us to practical realities and provided essential preparation for our upcoming careers. Working directly alongside local farmers allowed us to understand their daily challenges, while collaborating with senior veterinary professionals on the ground gave us the priceless opportunity to learn from their years of experience. Personally, my assignment at the Edaga Hamus slaughterhouse in Asmara was a major highlight of this training; the entire staff welcomed us with open arms and extended incredible support, ensuring we gained the confidence and practical skills required to excel in our field.

Ranya Ahmed earned her Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree in Food Science and Technology, graduating with Great Distinction in recognition of her exceptional academic performance.

*You just graduated with Great Distinction in Food Science and Technology and received a medal of recognition for your outstanding achievement. How does it feel to reach such a remarkable milestone?*

Honestly, I am very happy. When you go through so much hardship along the way, standing in a celebratory moment like this where all your sacrifices and sleepless nights are officially recognized is truly incredible. Looking back, achieving this meant carefully managing every single step of my life: cutting back on rest, committing to tireless studying, and staying vigilant against negative peer pressure that could easily pull you off course. It required self-discipline to balance leisure, social life, and non-academic activities, making deliberate choices every single day just to keep the dream alive. To see all those sacrifices finally pay off in this moment makes every moment of effort entirely

worth it.

*Growing up, what were your childhood dreams, and did you always envision yourself on this path?*

Growing up, I always held a deep desire to pursue higher education and reach higher levels of academic success. That dream was continuously nurtured by my father, who inspired and guided me to become a strong, resilient woman capable of achieving greatness. My father truly cultivated that ambition within me from an early age, and I am endlessly grateful to him and to God for guiding me to this moment. Today, as I stand here with my degree, I feel a profound responsibility to give back. Our society provided us with free, accessible education from the very beginning, and I promise to use the knowledge and skills I have gained to actively serve and contribute to the growth of my country.



Ranya Ahmed

