

EID MEWLID AL-NEBI CELEBRATED NATIONWIDE



Eid Mewlid Al-Nebi, marking the 1448 Hijri year, was celebrated colorfully across the country yesterday, 25 August.

The ceremony at Al-Khulafa Al-Rashidin Mosque was attended by ministers, senior Government and PFDJ officials, members of the diplomatic community, leaders of various Churches, and a large number of the faithful.

Haj Mohammed-Seid Bashir,

Chairman of the Islamic Awkaf of Asmara, gave an extensive briefing on the historical significance of the holiday. He also commended those who participated in and contributed to the colorful event.

Speaking at the event, Sheik Salem Ibrahim Almutkar, Mufti of Eritrea and Chairman of the Higher Assembly of Eritrean Iftae and Islamic Affairs, congratulated the Eritrean people at home and

abroad.

Sheik Salem Ibrahim Almutkar also underlined the importance of continued adherence to Eritrea's foundational ethical principles and standards in this age of globalization. He also called for the preservation and further consolidation of the country's strong national unity and cohesion, which were secured through the precious sacrifices of its martyrs.

The Eid Mewlid celebration was highlighted by spiritual performances.

EFFORTS TO EXPAND THE SUPPLY AND USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

The Ministry of Energy and Mines announced that it is working to expand the supply and use of renewable energy.

Noting that the Ministry has been working to improve household energy supplies and enhance the efficiency of household energy appliances, Mr. Tesfay Gebrehiwet, Director of Renewable Energy at the Ministry, said that training is being organized for those engaged in producing smokeless ovens and other household appliances.

Indicating that the Ministry of Agriculture's initiative to introduce smokeless ovens in 2000 is one notable example of these efforts, Mr. Tesfay said that the number of beneficiaries using smokeless ovens has increased to about 200,000.

Mr. Tesfay also said that efforts to introduce and expand the use of renewable energy for household, agricultural and other purposes, including solar, wind, geothermal,



green-hydrogen and bioenergy, are yielding encouraging results.

Regarding solar energy, Mr. Tesfay said that the 34 megawatts of solar power installed in Dekemhare, 2 megawatts installed around Asmara and 2.25 megawatts installed in Areza and Mai-Dima are notable examples.

Mr. Tesfay went on to say that theoretical and practical capacity-building training has been provided by foreign and national experts and will continue in earnest. He also called for increased public understanding of solar energy systems and their proper use.

PRESS STATEMENT

Hoax News Story on the Phantom "Eritrean Oil Tanker"

The Embassy of the State of Eritrea in London refers to reports carried by supposedly reputable news outlets including Reuters, AFP, BBC and others about the hijacking on 20 August 2026 off the coast of Yemen of what they wrongly claim to be an "Eritrean flagged" oil tanker.

This bizarre story is astounding on many counts:

The reports invariably cite the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) as the primary source of their "information". The Eritrean Embassy in the UK wishes to clarify that in the first place, the report by UKMTO (UKMTO Hijack #118) makes no mention of the said ship being "Eritrean flagged". UKMTO has reiterated this fundamental fact to the Embassy in its response to its official request for clarification this week.

Furthermore, all the information in the public domain about this ship shows that it is not owned by, and has no links whatsoever with, Eritrea. This ship is part and parcel of the growing number of ships in what the IMO categorizes, in its parlance, as the "Shadow Fleet".

Indeed, the IMO maintains that the ship (with Registration IMO 920476) is clearly categorized as being of "indeterminate ownership" in its official documents. Eritrea's Permanent Mission to the IMO has confirmed that IMO records show that "the ship is flying a false Eritrean flag; i.e. as not owned or officially registered in Eritrea".

These are the true facts. Yet, the usual culprits chose to abandon all semblance of journalistic standards to indulge and unleash another despicable campaign of disinformation on Eritrea.

*Embassy of the State of Eritrea
Tuesday, 25 August 2026,
London, UK.*

SEMINAR AIMED AT ERADICATING HARMFUL PRACTICES

A seminar focusing on the eradication of harmful practices was conducted for partner institutions in the Southern Red Sea Region from 19 to 21 August. The seminar was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Justice, the police, social service institutions, and reconciliation committees.

The seminar, organized in collaboration with the Ministry

of Labor and Social Welfare, the Ministry of Health, and the National Union of Eritrean Women branch in the region, focused on women's and children's rights; the objectives and significance of public registration; traditional values and their influence; cases and their resolution; harmful practices from a legal perspective; and the consequences of female genital mutilation, among other topics.

The objective of the seminar was to enhance public understanding and participation in efforts to eradicate harmful practices, particularly underage marriage and female genital mutilation.

Ambassador Mohammed Sid Mantai, Governor of the region, called on the participants to play a leading role in efforts to eradicate harmful practices.



REPORTAGE

National Conference Highlights Practical Pathways for Sustainable Agriculture in Eritrea

By: Kesete Gebrehiwet

The National Conference on Eritrean Agricultural Studies 2026 brought together researchers and professionals from 20 to 21 August at the National Confederation of Eritrean Workers in Asmara. Operating under the theme "Advancing Sustainable Agri-food Systems for National Economic Growth," the event provided a national platform to examine how science, local knowledge, and practical innovation can support the country's agricultural sector. Out of 183 abstracts submitted, 75 were selected for presentation following a rigorous review. The presenters represented various ministries, colleges, research institutes, and regulatory bodies, emphasizing that agriculture naturally intersects with engineering, health, marine resources, business, environmental protection, and public policy.

A primary message of the conference was that raising national production requires better support for farmers and more careful management of existing resources. Research conducted among horticultural producers in the Anseba and Central regions highlighted unsafe pesticide handling and a lack of protective gear, underscoring the need for practical training and supervision. On the technical side, studies revealed that irrigation pumps are often chosen based on engine size or price rather than



Minister Arefayne Berhe

system design, whereas precise matching would lower fuel costs, prevent soil erosion, and reduce equipment failure. Furthermore, farm machinery evaluations demonstrated that optimized route planning significantly decreases operational costs, fuel usage, and soil compaction.

Water conservation and soil health received detailed attention throughout the sessions. An assessment of six dams in the Central Region revealed that sediment and pollution are severely impacting key reservoirs, with Tsezega and Hayelo losing approximately 40% and 37% of their storage capacities, respectively. Researchers recommended immediate soil and water conservation in catchment areas, regular maintenance, runoff control, and stronger institutional coordination. Soil studies across the main potato-growing zones of the Central and Southern regions identified widespread organic matter and nutrient deficiencies, proving that uniform fertilizer recommendations are ineffective. Similar research in Gash-Barka confirmed that while irrigation water quality is generally suitable, soil fertility remains a critical bottleneck, reinforcing the need for site-specific testing, balanced fertilization, and increased compost use.

The conference showcased several practical methods to improve crop and livestock yields using locally available resources. Trials

applications of coconut and sesame oils protected stored chickpeas from pulse beetles without affecting germination, offering a low-cost alternative to synthetic chemicals. Researchers also presented a low-cost, naturally ventilated onion storage unit designed to cut post-harvest losses. In addition, trials using fish waste processed into liquid amino acids improved chicken growth, while combined fish- and seaweed-based liquid fertilizers successfully boosted barley yields.

Technology was framed as a practical tool for real-world implementation rather than an end in itself. Satellite mapping was utilized to pinpoint areas at high risk of soil erosion and land degradation within the Alla catchment. In pilot trials, a proposed livestock identification system utilizing barcodes and QR codes improved the accuracy and speed of animal record-keeping. Similarly, a computer-based desert locust forecasting model accurately identified potential breeding areas and swarm movements using historical environmental data. To safeguard these findings, researchers



advocated for the creation of a centralized digital archive to preserve agricultural studies, historical reports, and media documentation.

Analyses of agricultural value chains emphasized that food production must be paired with efficient, safe distribution systems. Testing of Eritrean acacia honey confirmed very low levels of harmful elements, validating its quality and market potential alongside research

links, finance gaps, and the need for stronger cooperatives. Innovative waste-to-product applications were also highlighted, such as the development of biodegradable packaging films manufactured from cactus-fruit peel.

Climate change adaptation formed



a core component of the multi-sectoral discussions. Presenters outlined rising temperatures, increased evaporation, and prolonged droughts, noting that future rainfall may become heavier yet less reliable, heightening the risk of floods and erosion. Proposed solutions included conservation

and farmer training.

Eritrea's biological diversity was emphasized as a national strategic asset requiring preservation and study. Local varieties of pepper, chickpea, sesame, and indigenous poultry displayed strong genetic diversity capable of supporting

breeding programs for drought and disease resistance. Documentation efforts have registered over 2,500 terrestrial plant species, though researchers noted that information gaps remain. Additional papers covered inland fisheries in artificial reservoirs as alternative protein sources, the high-protein indigenous cereal Ales, composite taff-wheat bread formulations, and improved post-harvest handling for bananas.

In the policy domain, economic evaluations suggested that imported chemical fertilizers have not consistently yielded expected staple crop returns, favoring a balanced policy that incorporates farmyard manure and liquid organic fertilizers. Environmental studies identified heavy contamination at legacy pesticide dumping sites, urging site-specific remediation. Land-tenure research revealed that secure, long-term farming rights encourage land investment and empower women and young farmers, though production remains constrained by limited financing and equipment access.

In his closing remarks, Minister of Agriculture Arefayne Berhe commended the young female and male researchers for their dedication and scholarly contributions. He emphasized the vital role of collaborative, innovative solutions in tackling national agricultural challenges and noted that the recommendations generated at the conference provide a critical foundation for long-term progress. Minister Arefayne reaffirmed that ongoing dialogues and future conferences will continue to ensure a steady flow of research-driven, actionable strategies across Eritrea's agri-food sector.

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demonstrated that selected sorghum varieties and sweet-potato vines can be effectively preserved as high-quality silage for dry periods. Natural

into improved beehives. In the dairy sector, papers identified key structural challenges including feed shortages, weak producer-market

agriculture, agroforestry, improved soil management, solar-powered irrigation, biogas, and spate irrigation (locally known as jerif) to capture seasonal flood sediment. One notable study demonstrated that adjusting the planting schedules of tomatoes, potatoes, and onions closer to the rainy season reduced irrigation needs by 72% to 79%, significantly cutting diesel pump emissions.

Laboratory research underscored the direct link between agricultural practices, animal health, and human health. Scientists reported the first isolation and identification in Eritrea of two bacterial strains causing brucellosis in livestock, recommending public awareness campaigns, disease control measures, and mandatory milk boiling to prevent human infection. Research on Newcastle disease identified circulating viral strains to inform future vaccination strategies, while regional tick surveys recorded high infestation rates, prompting calls for coordinated pest monitoring

SpotLight

As Measles Resurges Globally, Eritrea Makes Quiet Progress

Bana Negusse

Measles is among the most contagious infectious diseases known to humanity. Yet despite the availability of a safe, highly effective, and inexpensive vaccine, the disease continues to threaten children in countries across the world. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that in 2026 nearly 11 million people will contract the virus that causes measles. Most cases are expected to occur in Africa and Asia, but outbreaks are also being reported in countries across the Americas and Europe, affecting hundreds and, in some places, thousands of people. According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), measles outbreaks are currently occurring in every region of the world.

The persistence of measles is particularly troubling because the disease is preventable. There is no specific treatment for measles, but vaccination has been proven safe and effective in preventing infection and its potentially devastating consequences. Unvaccinated people who contract measles can develop serious complications, including deafness, blindness, encephalitis, and, in severe cases, death. The risk of a poor outcome is particularly high among people who are undernourished or unable to access adequate supportive medical care.

Although measles vaccination is one of the safest, most cost-effective, and most established tools in public health, too many children around the world remain unprotected. Global vaccination coverage remains below the level required to maintain strong population-wide protection, leaving room for the virus to circulate and outbreaks to occur.

Against this global backdrop, Eritrea's experience offers an important example of what sustained investment in routine immunization, community-based health services, and child health can achieve. Despite considerable challenges, the country has made substantial progress in protecting children against measles and strengthening its broader national immunization program. Its experience also illustrates how improvements in vaccination coverage can translate into dramatic reductions in disease.

Over the years, Eritrea has maintained relatively high measles

vaccination coverage and made considerable progress toward measles elimination. (While significant strides have been made, the country must still complete the necessary steps before it can achieve formal certification of measles elimination.) For many years, children in Eritrea received one dose of measles vaccine at approximately nine to 12 months of age. In 2009, however, the WHO recommended that reaching all children with two doses of measles-containing vaccine should become the standard for national immunization programs. The two-dose approach is important because a proportion of children, potentially as many as approximately 15 percent, do not develop adequate immunity after the first dose.

Eritrea responded relatively

with the wider African region. By comparison, more than 179,400 measles cases were reported across Africa, corresponding to an average incidence of approximately 141 per 1,000,000 population.

Of course, these figures do not mean that Eritrea can afford to become complacent. Measles remains extraordinarily contagious, and declining vaccination coverage can allow outbreaks to return rapidly. Nevertheless, Eritrea's progress demonstrates the value of maintaining high routine immunization coverage and ensuring that children receive all recommended doses.

Eritrea's progress against measles is part of a much broader national effort to strengthen routine childhood immunization.



quickly. In 2012, only a few years after the WHO recommendation, the country introduced a second dose of measles vaccine into its national routine immunization schedule. Since 2018, Eritrean children have received two doses of the combined measles-rubella vaccine.

The results are encouraging. In 2023, measles vaccination coverage for the first and second doses stood at 93 percent and 85 percent, respectively, with both figures considerably higher than continental and global averages. First-dose coverage has also risen dramatically over the longer term: from 76 percent in 2000 to approximately 34 percent in 1993.

The decline in measles transmission is even more striking when measured in terms of reported cases and incidence. In 2025, Eritrea recorded 27 reported measles cases nationwide, equivalent to an incidence rate of approximately 7.5 per 1,000,000 population. Both figures were slightly higher than in 2024, but remained very low in comparison

Vaccination is among the most important public-health interventions for preventing serious illness, disability, and death among children. In addition to measles, routine childhood immunization protects against diseases including diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), influenza, pneumonia, and rubella.

Since independence, Eritrea has made major gains in routine vaccine coverage. In 1991, only six vaccines were available to children, and overall coverage was below 10 percent. Some of the vaccines available around independence included Bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG), as well as vaccines against diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis.

Over subsequent decades, however, Eritrea steadily expanded its national immunization schedule. Today, the country administers a total of 14 vaccines to young children, collectively protecting them against several dozen diseases. Overall coverage rates are above 90 percent.

The scale of the delivery system

is also significant. Through the Ministry of Health and the National Immunization Programme, approximately 300 health facilities across the country provide free routine vaccination services six days a week. Vaccination services are also offered at approximately 450 outreach sites nationwide. For nomadic communities and people living in extremely remote or difficult-to-reach areas, services are extended through mobile health units, barefoot doctors, and mass vaccination campaigns organized in close cooperation with community coordinators, volunteers, and local contacts.

This emphasis on reaching children where they live is particularly important in a country characterized by geographically dispersed and mobile populations. High national coverage cannot be achieved simply by making vaccines available at fixed health facilities; it requires sustained efforts to reach communities that might otherwise be left behind.

Eritrea's progress has also attracted recognition from regional and international organizations. In November 2009, the country was recognized by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, for its outstanding performance in improving child health and immunization. Among 17 countries recognized at a ceremony in Vietnam, Eritrea received the award for "Best Immunization Performance."

The recognition continued in subsequent years. In 2016 and 2017, Eritrea received back-to-back awards from UNICEF's Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office for effective vaccine-management practices. In September 2018, UNICEF again recognized the country for improvements in its national vaccine store.

During a working visit to Eritrea in late 2021, Mohammed Malik Fall, then UNICEF Regional Director for East and Southern Africa, also praised the country's immunization performance. He said he was "struck by the level of immunization [of children]," adding that "there are many advanced countries that have a hard time reaching [those coverage levels]."

Behind Eritrea's vaccination achievements is a broader national emphasis on the health, welfare, and development of children.

Eritrea is one of the world's

youngest countries and possesses a rich history, diverse cultures, a long Red Sea coastline, significant marine and natural resources, considerable biodiversity, and substantial agricultural potential. Its strategic location along one of the world's major international maritime shipping routes also provides important economic opportunities. Yet its most important resource is neither its coastline nor its natural resources. It is its people, particularly its young.

Across the decades since independence, Eritrea has maintained a strong emphasis on the health and well-being of its children and youth. The first international convention ratified by the Eritrean government after independence was the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Eritrea also acceded to the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in December 1999, not long after the Charter entered into force.

The Eritrean National Charter, adopted in Nakfa in February 1994 and serving as a guiding vision for the country, likewise places considerable emphasis on children. It declares that:

"Eritrea should strive to minimize infant mortality and to care for its children. The children of martyrs, in the tens of thousands, who were deprived of the love of their parents, as well as other orphans, must be provided with proper upbringing and care. In Eritrea, the rights of children to education, health, love, safety, play, and to human dignity must be respected."

Seen in this broader context, Eritrea's high measles vaccination coverage and wider immunization achievements are more than isolated public-health statistics. They represent a continuation of a longstanding effort to protect children and invest in their future.

The progress Eritrea has made against measles is significant, but the global resurgence of the disease is a reminder that such progress cannot be taken for granted. Measles spreads rapidly wherever immunity gaps emerge, and even countries that have achieved substantial reductions in transmission can experience outbreaks when vaccination coverage declines.

Continued on page 5



“Coralley”: Eritrean Women’s Timeless Beauty

By: Kidane Shimendi

One of the most dominant global topics across several social media platforms is the

intricate organic architecture of coral reefs. Also, both share common unwavering spirit of resilience: Eritrean women’s endurance during catastrophes

beautified by nine distinct ethnic groups, each contributing its own signature aesthetic, cultural and traditional values to the national identity.

For instance, women of the Tigrinya ethnic group display classic elegance that is often magnified by their pristine white cotton gowns and fine and delicate facial jewelry.

In the Tigre and Saho ethnic groups women offer a transition into the rolling hills and coastal plains, where their beauty is celebrated through intricate silver adornments and a stunning variety of hair-weaving techniques that reflect the fluid motion of the landscapes they inhabit.

Women in the Afar and Rashida ethnic groups, who live along the searing Red Sea coast, bring a fiery, unforgettable vibrance. Rashida women are famous for their elaborately embroidered traditional veils, stitched with metallic threads and heavy silver jewelry, while Afar women embody a striking, regal nomadic grace, adorned with bold, geometric beadwork.

In the Kunama, Nara, Bilin, and Hedareb ethnic groups, women beautify their natural hair textures through warm golden skin tones and earthy, symbolic bodily ornamentations that honor their deep connection to the land.

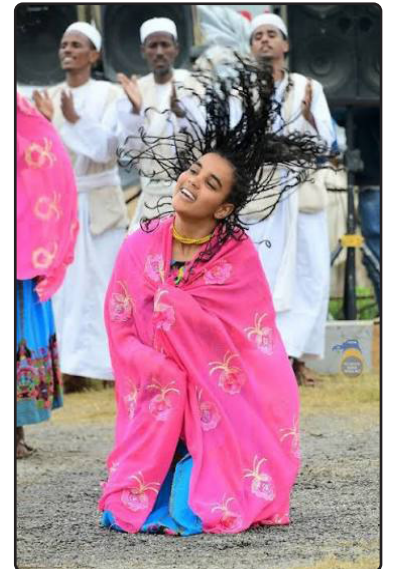
When these nine distinct threads are woven together, they create a national aesthetic that is breathtakingly rich. Just like the coral reef, the beauty of Eritrea is magnificent because it refuses to be a monolith; it is a thriving, collective ecosystem of diverse human expression.

When we see deep into the architectural beauty of Eritrean women’s astonishing hair braiding artistry and coral reefs, we discover a flawless beauty. For instance, in the Tigrinya ethnic group, the “አልባ” type of a hair-braid, is a structural marvel. A skilled braider spends hours creating thick, perfectly parallel cornrow ridges that rise dramatically off the scalp like rolling waves before allowing the remaining hair to cascade into a voluminous, magnificent afro cloud at the back.

The distinct and united artistry of traditional textiles and jewelry also adds color to the beauty of the women. For example, the “Tilfi”, the traditional Eritrean cross-stitch embroidery that lines the borders of hand-woven cotton dresses is a dazzling display of multi-layered, multi-colored geometric shapes. When an Eritrean woman moves, the vibrant, angular patterns of her dress mimic the shifting, sunlit patterns of a shallow coral garden.

This often is crowned by gold spherical beadwork worn across the forehead or neck. The golden spheres catch the light exactly like tiny, radiant air bubbles trapped in a sun-drenched reef, proving that the human instinct for adornment in Eritrea is deeply attuned to the beauty of the natural world.

Another common element of beauty that likens Eritrean women to the coral reef is the value of resilience. Both have the undeniable common bond of absolute resilience. A coral reef is not a fragile decoration. It is a biological fortress. Positioned at the edge of deep waters, it acts as a vital barrier that protects



shallow lagoons and coastlines from the catastrophic fury of ocean storms. It absorbs the immense, crushing energy of massive waves day after day, year after year. It confronts rising temperatures, shifting currents, and environmental pressures, yet it adapts, calcifies, heals itself, and continues to stand. The reef survives because its internal structure is dense, unified, and anchored deeply into the bedrock of the earth.

This is the true heartbeat of Eritrean beauty. The history of Eritrea is an epic narrative of survival, an unyielding struggle for self-determination and independence that lasted for generations. Throughout this turbulent history, Eritrean women were the bedrock of the revolution. Representing over 30% of the liberation fighters, Eritrean women fought on the front lines, handling heavy weaponry, commanding units, and enduring the unimaginable hardships of a brutal, decades-long war.

This historical legacy completely redefined the meaning of beauty in Eritrea. The beauty of an Eritrean woman is a beauty that has looked into the face of hardship and refused to bow. It is etched into the dignified, upright posture of an elder matriarch who raised a family through wartime. Similarly, Snit Habteab has been able to win undeterred by the challenges she faced -- the disability of her sister and the untimely death of her mother.

Represented by Snit Habteab, Eritrea is taking part at Miss Universe for the first time. Through this platform, she is sharing Eritrean boundless beauty globally. Therefore, let us all give our support to Snit. We wish Snit all the best.



Miss Universe in Vietnam, and Snit Habteab, an Eritrean neuroscientist, Montessori educator and disability rights advocate, is representing Eritrea. Through this prestigious world stage, she is promoting Eritrean beauty.

Snit’s strong conviction that is prevalent in her interviews by the media is a testament to her intellect, compassion, resilience and pride in her culture. As I learn more about what she is manifesting at the global stage, I have discovered Eritrean women’s timeless beauty in her inspiring life journey, captivating smile, graceful body motion, and very-well informed briefing.

When I started looking for the right word that can capture Eritrean women’s remarkable beauty, a widely popular love song ኮራል a Tigrinya word for “my coral,” crossed my mind. I felt the majestic beauty of a coral reef could capture Eritrean women’s timeless beauty and Eritrea’s essence as a maritime nation.

Both demonstrate the value of “unity in diversity”. They embody a flawless harmony of their several distinct internal diversities. For instance, Eritrean women’s diverse traditional hair braids can be likened to the

such as war and draught and coral reefs’ endurance in the face of global warming and other human-induced environmental disasters.

In terms of “unity in diversity,” a coral reef is a mosaic composed of hundreds of different species of hard and soft corals, anemones, and marine life, each sporting its own vivid hue, unique texture, and specific role. The reef’s ultimate beauty lies not in a single dominant strain, but in the harmonious blending of its vast, internal diversity.

In precisely the same manner, the Eritrean woman is a magnificent living mosaic



Development

Summer Work Program: Eritrea's Relentless Effort Against Desertification

By: Lwam Kahsay

In recent years, terms like “Super El Niño” have become increasingly common in global discussions as various parts of the world grapple with unprecedented wildfires, severe heatwaves, and erratic weather patterns. According to climate scientists, global temperatures continue to rise due to a range of human-made factors. Uncontrolled natural resource consumption, unsustainable agricultural practices, and rising emissions of greenhouse gases and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) are widely recognized as primary drivers behind these catastrophic climate shifts. While the global community debates long-term solutions, nations on the frontlines of climate vulnerability are forced to take immediate, direct action on the ground to safeguard their environments and communities.

Historically, the incurring natural challenges were severely compounded by human activities.



water conservation programs, the strategic construction of micro-dams and water reservoirs, and the establishment of a nationwide Greening Campaign.

Sustaining such broad-based environmental programs requires active public engagement and awareness. Government bodies and environmental agencies have

environmental recovery strategy. Every year, thousands of high school students across the country dedicate their summer break to hands-on conservation work. The program's broad scope includes afforestation, constructing physical soil barriers, clearing and renovating rural transport roads, conducting community sanitation drives, and leading local environmental awareness campaigns. The execution of Maetot relies on a seamless collaborative framework involving the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Forestry and Wildlife Authority, the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS), and local regional administrations.

The tangible outcomes generated by this youth movement over the past decade, from 2016 to 2026, demonstrate a consistent national commitment to ecological restoration. Across all six administrative regions, cumulative figures highlight significant environmental progress: student participants have planted over 2.3 million tree seedlings and constructed or repaired more than 700,000 terracing structures. These physical interventions directly curb soil erosion during heavy rainfall events, stabilize steep hillsides, and enhance groundwater recharge across critical agricultural catchments.

Historical records from the Ministry of Agriculture reveal that roughly a century ago, dense natural forests covered approximately 30% of Eritrea's total land area. However, protracted conflict, recurring drought cycles, and unchecked timber harvesting reduced that coverage to less than 1% by the time of independence. Reversing this severe historical

decline required a national effort. Through Maetot, the responsibility of reforesting the country was placed directly in the hands of the youth, supported by local communities.

Visible evidence of this transformation is present across the country. In the Maekel Region, for example, the stretch between Serejeka and Adi Akelom has gradually transitioned from barren, eroded slopes into stable green landscapes. Similarly, within the Berik sub-zone, a continuous 6.8-kilometer corridor spanning the villages of Tseazega, Hazega, and Adi Qonxi has been transformed through systematic terracing and tree planting, turning once-degraded land into a thriving ecological landmark.

In parallel with youth-

led summer campaigns, the government maintains long-term conservation programs focused on critical wildlife habitats. According to Mr. Fitsum Hagos, Director of Wildlife Conservation at the Forestry and Wildlife Authority, the Eritrean government has mapped 14 forest and wildlife protected reserves across the country. Active conservation, monitoring, and restoration work are currently concentrated in six key areas: the Gash-Setit Elephant Sanctuary, the Semienawi-Debubawi Green Belt, the Dahlak Archipelago Marine and Island Reserve, Ber'asole, Hawashayt, and Kerkebet.

Desertification remains a complex phenomenon driven by a combination of climate variability, rainfall fluctuations, and soil salinization. However, human intervention remains the single most effective tool for mitigating its damage. Physical terracing and strategic afforestation stabilize fragile ecosystems, while the Maetot program serves as a valuable civic platform that instills practical skills, teamwork, and environmental stewardship in Eritrean youth. While operational challenges persist—particularly regarding seedling survival rates and the need for continuous post-planting care—the integration of community participation and regional planning ensures that Eritrea's ecological restoration efforts remain active and effective for future generations.



Decades of deforestation driven by the demand for firewood, timber for traditional house construction, and widespread overgrazing on agricultural land accelerated the depletion of the country's topsoil. Recognizing that desertification poses an existential threat to national food security and sustainable development, the Government of Eritrea has implemented major environmental transformation strategies over the past three decades to mitigate the severe effects of drought and land degradation.

Because the vast majority of the Eritrean population relies directly on agriculture and pastoralism for their livelihoods, implementing an equitable and highly effective land management system is essential. To restore degraded landscapes and boost agricultural productivity, the government launched several coordinated national initiatives. These efforts center on comprehensive soil and

worked consistently to educate local communities about the critical importance of preserving natural ecosystems and maintaining soil fertility. This public outreach is reinforced by community-led watershed management projects, designed to harvest rainwater from all available sources and optimize its use for agricultural production. Furthermore, to eliminate the root causes of deforestation, the government introduced sustainable alternative energy sources—such as improved fuel-efficient stoves—and promoted the construction of permanent stone-masonry housing settlements to reduce reliance on tree cutting for construction timber.

Among the most impactful policies instituted to protect soil fertility and reverse desertification is the National Youth Summer Work Program, locally known as “Maetot.” Launched in 1994, this student-led initiative has evolved into a central pillar of Eritrea's

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For Eritrea, therefore, maintaining high routine immunization coverage, ensuring that children receive both recommended doses, sustaining outreach to remote and mobile communities, and strengthening disease surveillance will remain essential. Continued vigilance is particularly important as measles continues to circulate internationally.

At the same time, Eritrea's experience demonstrates what can be accomplished through sustained commitment to routine immunization. From extremely low vaccination coverage around independence to coverage rates exceeding 90 percent across much of the national childhood immunization program, the country has built a system capable of reaching children in urban centers, rural communities, remote areas, and among nomadic populations.

As measles continues to challenge countries across every region of the world, Eritrea's experience offers an important lesson: protecting children from preventable disease requires more than having an effective vaccine. It requires sustained political commitment, functioning health services, community participation, reliable delivery systems, and the determination to ensure that no child is left beyond the reach of protection.



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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

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Major Duties and responsibilities

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- Monitoring system performance and ensuring optimal uptime for all IT resources.
- Managing IT security protocols to protect systems from potential threats and vulnerabilities.
- Assisting with data backups, disaster recovery planning, and implementation.
- Recommending necessary upgrades or replacements.
- Documenting IT policies, procedures, and troubleshooting guides for internal use.
- Conducting periodic system analysis and audits to ensure compliance with organizational IT standards.
- Collaborating with other departments to understand technology requirements and integrate new technologies.
- Assist Finance and Admin Manager in driving value through cost effectiveness and efficiency

TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREA

- Maintain essential IT infrastructure, including operating systems, security tools, applications, servers, email systems, laptops, desktops, software, and hardware
- Take responsibility for projects and solutions within the larger business initiative
- Handle business-critical IT tasks and systems administration
- Research and evaluate emerging technologies, hardware, and software
- Track and maintain hardware and software inventory
- Manage, monitor, and maintain Data Centre infrastructure, Server Rooms, HCI platforms, virtualization environments, storage systems, backup solutions, and Disaster Recovery (DR) sites to ensure maximum uptime and business continuity.
- Administer enterprise network infrastructure including Core Switches, Access Switches, Routers, Firewalls, VPNs, Structured Cabling, LAN/WAN connectivity, Internet links, and Corporate Wi-Fi networks, ensuring optimal performance, security, and availability.
- Manage IP Telephony systems, Video Conferencing solutions, Print Management systems, Active Directory, DNS, DHCP, Microsoft 365 services, user accounts, access control, and endpoint management.
- Perform daily IT operations including system health monitoring, security patching, troubleshooting, incident resolution, performance tuning, asset management, vendor coordination, documentation, and implementation of IT security best practices.
- Track IT service performance through Key performance Indicator (KPIs) and Service level agreement (SLAs), prepare operational and management reports, support IT projects and upgrades, and provide regular technical status updates and recommendations to the Manager.
- Manage enterprise infrastructure under a structured framework of shared authority and operational collaboration with IT SI.

Profile: Qualifications and Experience

Formal Education, Certifications or Equivalents	• BA Bachelor’s degree in Information Technology, Computer Science, or a related field. • 7-10 years of demonstrable experience as an IT specialist or in technical support, system analysis, network administration, or a related role. • Proficiency in operating systems (Windows, and Linux,) and network technologies(Cisco & UNIFY). • Knowledge of network administration protocols, firewalls, and IT security best practices. • Strong troubleshooting and problem-solving skills for hardware and software issues. • Familiarity with cloud computing platforms (AWS, Microsoft Azure, Google Cloud). • Understanding of cybersecurity principles and data protection practices. • Excellent interpersonal and communication skills to interact with technical and non-technical stakeholders and assist users with varying technical proficiency. • Ability to work independently or as part of a team to manage IT projects. • Attention to detail and organizational skills to handle multiple tasks efficiently. • Familiarity with IT help desk systems and ticketing tools.
Working Experience – Nature & Length	• 5 years experience in a Mining Environment on FIFO status • Knowledge of Mining IT systems.
Technical Skills	• Minimum 5 years experience • Preferably with Mine start up experience
Behavioral Skills	• Communication (English & local language) • Analytical and problem shooting mindset. • Results oriented • Ability to work toward strict deadlines • Assertiveness • Strong Interpersonal skills • Discretion • Integrity • Self-discipline • Ability to work in multi-disciplinary environment • Risk management & assessment

- 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



Zara Mining Share Company Vacancy Announcement	
Position:	Concrete mixer truck operator
Number required	01
Location:	Based at Koka a Gold Mine (Site)
Reporting to:	Project Supervisor
Primary Responsibility & Scope of work	The concrete mixer truck driver is primarily involved in the transportation of mixed concrete from the batching plant to the applicable construction site. The driver will operate and maintain a large, specialized vehicle and have significant responsibilities related to safety and efficiency.
Duties:	• Operating large-scale trucks in mining environments • Transporting mixed concrete from batching plant to construction sites. • Conducting regular pre- and post-operation vehicle inspections and keeping truck clean and tidy. • Performing basic maintenance and repairs on dump trucks • Adhering to all safety protocols and guidelines to maintain a safe work environment • Communicating with team members and supervisors to coordinate tasks and report issues • Good communication skills to effectively interact with colleagues, supervisors and other members of the mining team. • Follow all safety guidelines and procedures, including traffic rules. • Monitor truck for any issues and report any necessary repairs to supervisors.
Formal Education, Certifications or Equivalents	▪ High school diploma or equivalent. ▪ Read and write English language.
Working Experience – Nature & Length	▪ Three years’ experience on driving heavy duty truck
Other skills and abilities	▪ monitor the truck’s operation. ▪ Problem-solving skills to quickly identify and respond to any operational issues that may arise with the truck. ▪ Strong understanding of safety procedures and regulations related to mining operations. ▪ Ability to follow instructions accurately and attentively
Salary: According to Company’s salary scale.	
Additional Requirement for nationals: Having fulfilled their 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 applications to the ZARA MINING SHARE CO P. O. Box 2393 . Asmara, .	
Note to Eritrean applicants: - Please send a copy of your application to Aliens Employment Permit Affairs P.O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea. and Eritrea. Mineral Resources Management P. O. Box 272	
Deadline for application: 10 days from the day of announcement.	

OPINION

Reflections on the National Conference on Eritrean Agricultural Studies-2026

Dr. Mulugeta Russom,
Ministry of Health

On the morning of August 20, the National Confederation of Eritrean Workers (NCEW) conference halls in Asmara were filled with professionally dressed people of different ages and backgrounds. Around 300 participants, including ministers and senior government officials, researchers, academics, experienced professionals, young scientists, agri-food producers and representatives from different sectors came together for the National Conference on Eritrean Agricultural Studies, organized by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) from August 20–21 under the theme “Advancing Sustainable Agri-Food Systems for National Economic Growth.”

As a participant from the Ministry of Health, I found the conference particularly inspiring—not only because of the scientific works presented, but what the gathering implied for Eritrea’s development journey.

Seventy-six scientific papers were presented within two days—an achievement that speaks not only to the scale of the conference but also to the commitment of the organizing and scientific committees. Behind such visible success, there is usually an invisible story of preparation, coordination, trust, and teamwork. Perhaps the most encouraging thing was seeing many young professionals actively contributing to such a major national scientific undertaking. This demonstrated that when young professionals are entrusted with responsibility, they can deliver with remarkable professionalism.

The power of bringing people together

One of the conference’s greatest strengths was its inclusiveness. Agriculture does not exist in isolation. Food production is connected with nutrition, health, water, environment, education, trade, industry, livelihoods, climate resilience and economic development. What this implies is that the improvement of agri-food systems requires more than expertise in agriculture. By bringing researchers, representatives of government institutions, the academia, development partners, producers

and other stakeholders into the same space, the conference created an important platform for knowledge exchange and professional networking, demonstrating the value of looking beyond institutional boundaries and recognizing that many national challenges require inter-sector solutions.

A promising generation of researchers

Another encouraging observation was the strong participation of young researchers and professionals. Many presenters demonstrated academic excellence and professional competence, with a considerable number holding master’s degrees and above. This reflects the MOA’s commitment to human-resource development.

Such platforms can be transformative. Scientific capacity is not developed only by acquiring academic qualifications. It grows through practice, mentorship, constructive criticism, collaboration and opportunities to communicate one’s work. Conferences such as this can therefore become important components of a broader national research-capacity development agenda.

From research findings to national action

Perhaps the most important question following such a conference is not how many papers were presented, but what happens to the knowledge generated afterward. Scientific research becomes truly valuable when it informs decisions, improves practice, stimulates innovation or contributes to solving real problems. Research becomes truly valuable when it moves beyond reports and conference halls and contributes to better decisions, improved practices, innovation, productivity and livelihoods. The conference could therefore evolve into a broader platform through which research findings are documented, shared, reviewed and translated into practical interventions and policies.

A benchmark for other sectors

The MoA has demonstrated that a sector-specific national scientific conference is both possible and valuable. As Minister Arefaine Berhe noted during the



closing ceremony, the idea for the conference emerged only about a week after the International Conference of Eritrean Studies held in Asmara in January 2025, which brought together a large number of professionals from Eritrea and the diaspora. There is something encouraging about this progression. A successful national scientific gathering in one field can inspire similar initiatives elsewhere, creating a broader culture of professional exchange and evidence-based dialogue.

Other sectors could now consider organizing similar platforms according to their own priorities and circumstances. Such platforms can strengthen a culture in which research is not viewed as an academic exercise alone, but as an instrument for solving problems, informing decisions and advancing development.

There is always room for improvement

Institutions with a serious commitment to quality understand that continuous improvement is part of excellence. Therefore, here are some areas for improvement:

- Future conferences could benefit from continued investment in research methodology, scientific writing, presentation skills and effective communication of research findings. Structured coaching and mentorship for early-career researchers could help transform promising research ideas into stronger studies and, ultimately, findings capable of informing policy and practice.

- It was observed that researchers with several years of experience had limited publications. Research that remains within a report,

presentation or institutional archive has limited reach. Knowledge gains its greatest value when it is shared, challenged, refined and ultimately put to use. Thus, supporting researchers, particularly early-career professionals, to transform completed studies into high-quality publications could greatly increase the visibility and usefulness of Eritrean research.

- A national digital repository for conference proceedings, research papers, presentations, guidelines and related materials would also be valuable. Beyond improving accessibility, such a platform would strengthen institutional memory and prevent valuable knowledge from becoming difficult to retrieve over time.

- The conference venue itself also demonstrated the country’s capacity to host sizeable professional gatherings. The NCEW halls provided an attractive and functional setting for the event. Continued attention to environmental comfort, mainly ventilation, would further enhance the experience of participants and preserve the quality of such facilities.

Looking forward: from conference to movement

The next opportunity is to build on this momentum. The MOA could consider establishing a structured research coaching and mentorship program for promising researchers, linking experienced professionals with emerging scientists and providing continued support in research design, analysis, scientific writing, publication and knowledge translation.

Further engagement with Eritrean professionals in the diaspora could also be explored further in future conferences. Their participation could bring

additional expertise, perspectives and networks while creating opportunities for collaboration around areas of current national interest—including livelihoods, food and nutrition security, economic development, technology and innovation.

Most importantly, the value of the conference should not end after the conference. The real measure of its success will be what happens afterward: which ideas are pursued, which findings influence decisions, which collaborations emerge, which young researchers are mentored, and which innovations eventually reach communities and contribute to national development.

A message beyond agriculture

As a participant from the health sector, I left the conference with a strong sense that the event was about much more than agricultural research. It was about recognizing that our institutions have professionals with ideas, experience and accumulated knowledge that deserve platforms where they can be presented, challenged, refined and connected to national priorities. It was also about seeing what becomes possible when people from different generations, institutions and professional backgrounds gather around a shared national purpose.

The MoA deserves recognition for setting this important event. The hope now is that the momentum created by this conference will encourage similar initiatives across other sectors, eventually contributing to a stronger national culture of scientific inquiry, professional exchange and evidence-informed action.