

ANNUAL ERITREAN COMMUNITY FESTIVAL IN RIYADH



The annual Eritrean community festival in Riyadh and its environs was enthusiastically held on 20 and 21 November at Nakfa Hall on the premises of the Eritrean Embassy, under the theme “Our Cohesion – Our Armour.” The festival was officially opened by Mr. Estifanos Habtemariam, Director General of the Desks Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The festival featured a photo exhibition depicting the

resilience of the Eritrean people and the nation-building process; traditional and cultural displays of the Eritrean ethnic groups; educational presentations by students of Eritrea’s International School; cultural and artistic performances; a bazaar; as well as a seminar focusing on the objective situation in the homeland and regional and global developments, along with various sports activities.

Noting that national festivals

serve as gatherings that highlight national culture and identity and portray the true image of Eritrea, Mr. Tesfay Tekle, Chairman of the Eritrean Community, commended all those who contributed to the successful implementation of the festival.

Ms. Weini Gerezgiher, Charge d’Affaires at the Eritrean Embassy, said that at a time when the world is facing rapid changes and developments, Eritrea is conducting strong diplomatic and political activities to develop partnerships and cooperation based on respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity.

At the seminar, Ambassador Estifanos Habtemariam provided an extensive briefing on the national development programs being implemented by the public, Government, and members of the Defense Forces. He also commended the participation and contribution of Diaspora nationals in the national development programs.

ERITREA SHINES AT THE AFRICA CYCLING CHAMPIONSHIP

The Eritrean National Cycling Team that participated in the Africa Cycling Championship 2025, held in Kenya from 20 to 23 November, clinched a total of 10 medals in both genders, including three gold, five silver, and two bronze.

At the final road race on 23 November, Olympian Merhawi Kudus in the elite group, Awet Aman in the under-23 category, and Natan Medhanie in the junior category shone, winning gold medals.

Likewise, Nahom Efrem won a silver medal in the junior category, while Mewael Germal secured a silver medal in the under-23 category.

In the women’s category, Adiam Tesfu won a silver medal in the junior time trial, Monaliza Araya won a bronze medal in the under-23 category, Suzana Fesehaye secured a bronze medal in the under-23 category, and Birikti Fesehaye won a silver medal in the road race.



WORLD CHILDREN’S DAY OBSERVED AT NATIONAL LEVEL



World Children’s Day, 20 November, was observed in Sheib sub-zone, Northern Red Sea Region, at the national level under the theme “Outstanding Children Attest Proficient Upbringing of Parents.”

The event was attended by Ms. Leul Gebreab, Minister of Labor and Social Welfare; Ms. Asmeret Abraha, Governor of the Northern Red Sea Region; Ms. Hawa Page, representing UNICEF in Eritrea; and several Sheib residents.

Noting that the investment the Eritrean Government is making toward the well-being of children

is bearing encouraging results, Mr. Abubeker Ibrahim, Administrator of the sub-zone, said that the achievements being registered in the health and education sectors, as well as in the eradication of harmful practices, attest to that.

Highlighting that a society that preserves its noble values is always prosperous in nurturing children, Ms. Hawa Page commended the efforts of the Eritrean Government to protect and care for children.

The event featured cultural and artistic performances by the Wadi-Labka and Red Flowers cultural groups in the sub-zone.

BRIG. GENERAL GEBREKIDAN HABTEAB (WEDI MINEY) PASSES AWAY

Veteran freedom fighter Brig. General Gebrekidan Habteab (Wedi Miney) passed away on 22 November at the age of 73 due to a long illness.

Brig. General Gebrekidan joined the EPLF in 1973 and served his nation and people in various military posts, including Division Chief of Staff.

After independence, Brig. General Gebrekidan served his country in several leadership roles, including as Division Commander, Corps Chief of Staff, and Head of Immigration and Nationality from 2003 to 2017.

Brig. General Gebrekidan Habteab (Wedi Miney) devoted 52 years of his life to serving his nation and people with exemplary commitment.

Brig. His wife and two children survived General Gebrekidan.

The funeral service of Brig. General Gebrekidan was held on Monday, 24 November, at 10:00 AM at the Asmara Martyrs’ Cemetery in the presence of President Isaias Afwerki, senior government and PFDJ officials, religious leaders and his family.



SpotLight

Eritrea Unyielding: Defending Sovereignty against Ethiopia's Recycled Ambitions

Research and Information
Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The recent flurry of statements, articles, and commentaries circulating through think-piece echo chambers and partisan blogs, amplified by the theatrical stand-up performances of Ethiopia's leadership and its surrogates, reveals not strength but a profound crisis of narrative. What is unfolding is a political establishment struggling to reconcile long-held illusions with present realities. In doing so, it projects a distorted understanding of Ethiopia's normative rights to access the sea and of international law, conveniently omitting its own 75-year history of Red Sea ambitions, destabilizing regional policies, scorched-earth tactics at home and abroad, and the immense human cost of these actions. The latest wave of performances by Prosperity Party cadres epitomizes this crisis.

This orchestrated chorus of statements and reports is a futile attempt to recast Ethiopia as a de facto key stakeholder in the Red Sea. Its "sovereign" port-access arguments, framed through selective invocations of security, historical memory, and economic necessity, are legally untenable. They deliberately omit foundational facts: the inviolability of State sovereignty; the African Union and United Nations Charters' norms on territorial integrity; Ethiopia's

two-decade occupation of sovereign Eritrean territory; and the conflation of legitimate development needs with extraterritorial claims no regional or international framework can legitimize.

Ethiopia's latest narrative laundering, wrapped in appeals to security, stability, economic necessity, and "kinship", is a calculated attempt to transform a strictly bilateral matter into a regional obligation. This is not merely misguided; it is strategically dangerous.

At the core of this campaign lies a deliberate identity construction designed to legitimize claims for "sovereign access" to the Red Sea, using security discourse as a Trojan horse to smuggle in political ambitions that supersede established borders and sovereign arrangements. By laundering these ambitions through the language of regional necessity, Ethiopia seeks to normalize exceptional remedies that international law categorically rejects and that no sovereign state can be compelled to entertain.

What is conspicuously absent from the many Prosperity Party narratives is no accident. These omissions are deliberate. Never mentioned are Eritrea's sovereign right to its coast, its internationally recognized borders, the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission's final and binding 2002 decision that conclusively settled the purported border dispute over Badme and its environs, or Ethiopia's subsequent, 18-year, illegal occupation of sovereign Eritrean territory in open defiance of the Algiers Agreement and international law.

Instead, attention-grabbing threats such as piracy, or subsea cable vulnerabilities are invoked as pretexts to argue that Ethiopia must "protect regional commerce," thereby justifying a maritime presence and claiming a so-called right to "sovereign access the Red Sea". This follows a historic pattern in which security anxieties are weaponized to rationalize territorial expansion.

Coastal states bear primary responsibility for the security, management, and stewardship of their own coastlines. Ethiopia, as a landlocked state, cannot assume the role of Viceroy over Eritrea's sovereign maritime domain. Yet, in a predictable pattern, these threats are framed not as genuine calls for regional cooperation but as a pretext for advancing Ethiopian

illicit claims. Proponents suggest that Ethiopia's need to "protect regional commerce" legitimizes a permanent maritime presence along Eritrea's coast, a reinterpretation that would effectively override Eritrea's sovereignty.

International law recognizes that a landlocked State has a right of access to the sea through the transit States. However, this right is conditional and must be secured through mutually negotiated agreements and contracts with the coastal state. It does not grant sovereignty, control, or authority to deploy military or permanent security forces in the littoral State's territory. Attempts to reframe conditional access rights as a license for unilateral maritime presence distort both the spirit and letter of the law. Eritrea's internationally recognized borders and its sovereign prerogative over its coast remain inviolable. Any effort to transform these conditional rights into a mechanism for Ethiopian oversight or enforcement along Eritrean waters constitutes a direct challenge to Eritrea's sovereignty and sets a dangerous precedent for regional maritime governance.

At its core, Ethiopia's effort to recast its access as a "regional necessity" is not about security or stability. It is an attempt to reshape regional norms and reinterpret international law to accommodate a geopolitical aspiration long constrained by history, treaties, and the sovereign rights of its neighbors. By framing its ambitions as a "regional obligation," Addis Ababa seeks to transform a bilateral matter into a perceived collective interest, obscuring the reality that it is pursuing unilateral expansion at the expense of Eritrea's internationally recognized sovereignty.

As intimated above, international law is clear and unequivocal: access for a landlocked state must be negotiated through mutually agreed, binding arrangements with the coastal State. Sovereignty cannot be circumvented by power politics or coercive rhetoric. Attempts to establish "sovereign corridors," port rights, or special zones without Eritrea's consent would constitute a direct violation of the principle of uti possidetis, which preserves inherited colonial borders, as well as Article 2(4) of the UN Charter, which prohibits the use or threat of force against the territorial integrity of a State.

Moreover, Ethiopia's framing

dangerously conflates regional security with unilateral entitlement. By invoking threats such as piracy, instability in the Red Sea, or conflicts in Yemen, Addis Ababa seeks to portray its ambitions as a collective good, masking the strategic reality. This narrative laundering, a recurring

tactic in Ethiopia's foreign policy, repurposes historical grievances and security anxieties to rationalize expansionist aims while sidelining the legal rights and sovereign prerogatives of Eritrea.

Continued on page 5

From Social Media



Yemane G. Meskel
@hawelti

Hilarious! The circus **Potemkin Party (PP)'s Parrots Show**, is on.

These Ambassadors have no creativity whatsoever, or modicum of ingenuity, as they sheepishly carry out the smear campaign they are instructed to recycle using the same script issued from the Foreign Ministry HQ.



Ethiopian Embassy Washington DC @E1EmbassyDCA · 9h
At the heart of Eritrea's foreign policy lies the Isayas Doctrine: the belief that Eritrea's survival depends on Ethiopia being insecure, divided, or destabilized. No doctrine built on another nation's weakness can ever bring lasting peace to the region. #EthiopiaChoosesPeace



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Ethiopian Consulate General Puntland, S... @EthConPunt... · 16h
At the heart of Eritrea's #foreign policy lies the Isayas Doctrine: the belief that Eritrea's survival depends on #Ethiopia being insecure, divided, or destabilized. No doctrine built on another nation's weakness can ever bring lasting peace to the region. #EthiopiaChoosesPeace



Yohannes Gashama @GashamaYohannes · 16h
At the heart of Eritrea's foreign policy lies the Isayas Doctrine: the belief that Eritrea's survival depends on #Ethiopia being insecure, divided, or destabilized.



Yibeltal Tegegne @yibeltaltegegne · Nov 19
At the heart of Eritrea's foreign policy lies the Isayas Doctrine: the belief that Eritrea's survival depends on Ethiopia being insecure, divided, or destabilized. No doctrine built on another nation's weakness can ever bring lasting peace to the region. #EthiopiaChoosesPeace



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Lina @Linumy23 · Nov 17
At the heart of Eritrea's foreign policy lies the Isayas Doctrine: the belief that Eritrea's survival depends on Ethiopia being insecure, divided, or destabilized. No doctrine built on another nation's weakness can ever bring lasting peace to the region. #EthiopiaChoosesPeace



Ahmed Idris @id04832532 · Nov 19
At the heart of Eritrea's foreign policy lies the Isayas Doctrine: the belief that Eritrea's survival depends on Ethiopia being insecure, divided, or destabilized. No doctrine built on another nation's weakness can ever bring lasting peace to the region. #EthiopiaChoosesPeace



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Mandefro Shiferaw @MandefroShife · Nov 18
At the heart of Eritrea's foreign policy lies the Isayas Doctrine: the belief that Eritrea's survival depends on Ethiopia being insecure, divided, or destabilized. No doctrine built on another nation's weakness can ever bring lasting peace to the region. #EthiopiaChoosesPeace



John @johndidawa · Nov 18
At the heart of Eritrea's foreign policy lies the Isayas Doctrine: the belief that Eritrea's survival depends on Ethiopia being insecure, divided, or destabilized. No doctrine built on another nation's weakness can ever bring lasting peace to the region. #EthiopiaChoosesPeace



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**ERITREA
PROFILE**

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Progress and Promise: the Journey to Strengthen WASH

Last week, the international community marked World Toilet Day, the annual United Nations (UN) observance held on 19 November to spotlight the global sanitation crisis and the urgent need for safe, dignified toilets for everyone, everywhere. Despite gradual progress, the statistics remain sobering. According to the WHO and UNICEF, two leading UN agencies, 3.4 billion people – nearly half of the world's population – still lack safely managed sanitation services. A further 354 million people continue to practise open defecation, heightening the risk of disease, undermining public health, and exposing vulnerable groups, particularly women and girls, to increased danger. At current rates of improvement, around 3 billion people will still lack access to safe toilets by 2030. Achieving universal access will require a six-fold acceleration of global efforts and, in low-income countries, an 18-fold increase to ensure basic sanitation.



Mr. Kiflemariam Gebremeskel

In Eritrea, World Toilet Day 2025 was commemorated nationally on 20 November in the Embaderho administrative area of Serejeka sub-zone, Central Region. Speaking at the event, Dr. Andeberhan Tesfatsion, Director General of Public Health at the Ministry of Health, underscored the vital role of toilets as fundamental public-health infrastructure. He highlighted the progress achieved in Eritrea's sanitation initiatives and outlined priority areas for continued improvement. Mr. Kiflemariam Gebremeskel, administrator of Serejeka sub-zone, noted that extensive awareness-raising activities have been conducted since 2008, contributing to a steadily growing public understanding of the importance of proper toilet use for community health. Notably, the observance also featured a panel discussion led by health professionals from the Ministry of Health and the Eritrean Medical Association.

These recent events, alongside the global spotlight brought by World Toilet Day, offer a timely opportunity to examine Eritrea's water and sanitation landscape in greater depth.

To begin, water remains one of Eritrea's foremost national priorities. Over the years, sustained investments in water infrastructure, improved conveyance systems, constructive partnerships with development organizations, and the establishment of a robust policy and regulatory framework have led to significant progress across the country.

Thanks to substantial national financial commitments, in tandem with the combined efforts of the government, local communities, the Eritrean Defense Forces (EDF), development partners, and numerous institutions, the number of large and medium-sized dams has grown dramatically from 138 at independence to more than 800 today. Hundreds of small dams have also been constructed. Significantly, the geographical distribution of these structures has expanded considerably, bringing reliable water access to regions and communities that historically had few or none. Several dozen additional dams, ranging in size, are currently under development and scheduled for completion this year and next.

Collectively, these initiatives have led to increased access to drinking water. In rural areas, where the majority of the population resides, over 79 percent of people now have access



to safely managed drinking water services, up from 72 percent in 2015. In urban areas, access has reached approximately 95 percent, up five percentage points since 2015. Access to water has also increased steadily in schools, offices, and public spaces. At the same time, all health facilities nationwide now have clean, safe water, a key factor in strengthening infection prevention and control, supporting safe deliveries, and reducing neonatal mortality.

Progress in sanitation and hygiene has followed a similarly encouraging trajectory. After several years of sustained public campaigns across all regions, about 93 percent of Eritrea's nearly 3,000 villages have been declared and certified open defecation free (ODF) – which is a remarkable rise from 77 percent in 2022. Educational institutions, health facilities, and public

spaces have also benefited from improvements, with more being equipped with upgraded water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure. Popular campaigns across the country continue to mobilize communities to construct and rehabilitate toilets, latrines, and other essential sanitation facilities, while increasing numbers of schools and workplaces are installing or significantly enhancing their WASH services.

Equally important has been the steady rise in public awareness. Through school-based programs, community engagement activities, and sustained outreach campaigns, more Eritreans now understand the critical importance of good sanitation and hygiene for preventing disease, promoting wellbeing, and reducing early childhood, maternal, and adult mortality. In schools, young people are learning practical

skills such as proper toilet use and handwashing with soap and water. The longstanding Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) initiative continues to play a central role, mobilizing local leaders and residents to eliminate open defecation and adopt healthier sanitation practices.

Looking ahead, Eritrea remains firmly committed to accelerating progress. In partnership with UNICEF – one of the country's key development collaborators – the Ministry of Land, Water and Environment, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Health continue to implement the 2019–2030 One WASH Strategy and One WASH Investment Plan. This long-term framework aims to significantly expand water, sanitation, and hygiene services and realize the national vision of universal access to safe drinking water and sustainable sanitation and hygiene for all Eritreans by 2030.

As Eritrea continues to invest in water, sanitation, and hygiene, the country's recent achievements demonstrate what sustained commitment, community engagement, and strategic partnerships can accomplish. Yet the path ahead requires continued effort, innovation, and collaboration to ensure that every household, school, and public space has access to safe water and dignified sanitation. With national resolve and the momentum of ongoing programs, Eritrea is steadily laying the foundation for a healthier future in which universal WASH access becomes not just an ambition but a lived reality for all.





Eritrea Cements Its Legacy as Africa's Cycling Powerhouse

Simon Weldemikael

Eritrea has once again asserted its dominance as Africa's premier cycling nation, delivering a stunning performance at the African Cycling Championship in Kenya. The team secured a remarkable haul of 10 medals, reaffirming its long-standing reputation on the continental stage.

Organized by the Confederation of African Cycling (CAC), the four-day event brought together over 300 riders from 30 nations. Yet, it was the Eritrean squad that consistently stole the spotlight. The highlight was Merhawi Kudus, the celebrated Olympian, who demonstrated exceptional endurance and strategic mastery to claim gold in the demanding Men's Elite Road Race. His victory sparked jubilant celebrations, with teammates lifting him shoulder-high in a powerful symbol of national pride.

The success was widespread. Rising star Awet Aman seized gold in the Under-23 men category, while Natan Medhanie secured another top podium finish in the junior ranks. Eritrea's women also made their mark: Adiam Tesfu earned silver in the Women's Junior Time Trial, and Birikti Fesehayle claimed silver in the Women's Road Race. Further underscoring the team's depth, Monaliza Araya and Suzana Fesehayle both secured bronze medals in the Under 23 category.

Cycling is more than just a sport in Eritrea; it is a profound part of the national culture, with the capital city of Asmara often called the "cycling capital of Africa." Local races became a popular pastime, laying the essential groundwork for Eritrea's competitive spirit and consistently producing generations of world-class riders who now shine internationally.

Eritrea began making its mark in the African Continental Cycling Championships in the early 2000s. Since 2011, Eritrean riders have consistently won medals, especially in road races and time trials, solidifying the nation's position as a dominant cycling giant in Africa.

Eritrea has dominated the African Continental Cycling Championships over the last decade and a half. Of the 13 continental races organized by the Confederation of African Cycling (CAC) and held between 2011 and 2025, Eritrea won 10 events, with the remaining 3 championships won by South Africa.

Eritrea's story in African cycling is a continuous narrative of dominance, resilience, and generational excellence. The nation's history of notable achievements began on home soil:

- The 2011 African Continental Cycling event, hosted in Eritrea, saw its riders sweep several titles, immediately cementing their home advantage and launching a decade-plus of supremacy.
- Natnael Berhane became the champion consecutively in 2011 and 2012.
- In 2013 and 2016, another Eritrean, Tesfom Okbamichael, won the medal of championship.
- Eritrea repeatedly topped the medal tables at the African championships in 2018 and 2019, with Amanuel Ghebreigzabhier and Mekseb Debesay, respectively.
- From 2022 to 2024, Henok Mulubrhan became the uncontested champion of Africa with strong performances.

Merhawi Kudus's recent triumph is the latest chapter in this long lineage of Eritrean cycling champions who have carved out a legacy across Africa and beyond. His victory is not just personal; it's symbolic of Eritrea's tradition of excellence in cycling. He is carrying forward the national pride and tradition established by his predecessors. The victory of Merhawi Kudus serves as a reminder that Eritrea's cycling story is a continuous narrative of dominance, resilience, and, most uniquely, a generational one. Eritrea's place at the top of African cycling is a tradition, a culture, and a legacy that continues to grow.

Apart from continental competitions, Eritrean cyclists have profoundly impacted global

events, transforming races like the Tour de France into stages of African pride and achievement.

The most notable recent success belongs to Biniam Girmay, who in 2024 became the first Black African rider to win a stage in the Tour de France. His performance was historic: Biniam successfully won three individual stages and secured the Green Jersey (points classification), marking Eritrea's most significant achievement in global cycling. Bini described his victory as "a win for all Africans," emphasizing the symbolic importance of Eritrea's success on the world stage.

This success built upon the groundbreaking moment



established earlier by Daniel Teklehaimanot, who in 2015, became the first Eritrean to ride in the Tour de France and famously wore the King of the Mountains polka-dot jersey.



Eritrean cyclists have become symbols of African pride by breaking barriers and reshaping perceptions of African athletes in global cycling. Their victories are not only personal and national

Young Eritreans see their heroes wearing the continental crown and believe they, too, can rise to greatness. In Eritrea, grassroots cycling programs gain momentum after each victory, ensuring a strong pipeline of talent for future championships.

Each championship win also cemented Eritrea's sports culture. Today, cycling is not just a sport; it has become a part of daily life. Becoming Africa's champion reinforces the idea that Eritrea's national identity is inseparable from cycling. Success in African championships positions Eritrea as a continental leader, projecting strength and competence.

Success in African championships is a mirror of national spirit. It shows that Eritrea can excel in global arenas, building confidence in its people and respect from other nations.

The victory demonstrates Eritrea's ability to compete and dominate in a highly demanding sport. It signals that Eritrea can excel in areas requiring discipline, organization, and endurance.

Eritrea's cycling victories are not only sporting milestones but also instruments of nation-building. They project discipline, endurance, and unity—qualities essential for development. Each triumph signals that Eritrea is a nation capable of excelling in demanding arenas.

For Eritrea, becoming the Champion of Africa in cycling is more than a trophy. Each victory is a reminder that Eritrea's story is one of resilience, triumph, and dominance on the roads of Africa. The triumph is not only a sporting achievement; it is a declaration of identity, a projection of strength, and a promise of resilience, reminding the world that Eritrea's story is about the endurance of a nation building itself with pride, unity, and vision.

milestones but also milestones for the entire African continent.

Becoming the Champion of Africa in cycling carries a profound meaning for Eritrea, extending far beyond the medals and trophies. The victory is a powerful declaration of identity, pride, and resilience, serving as a critical source of national unity.

Each championship win places Eritrea on the map as a sporting powerhouse in both continental and international arenas, significantly boosting the nation's global recognition. Also, sporting success strengthens Eritrea's international image, offering a positive narrative of achievement and unity. It shows that Eritrea contributes robustly to Africa's sporting excellence, positioning the nation as a leader in continental athletics.

More importantly, these triumphs inspire the youth generation.

Eritrea Unyielding: Defending Sovereignty against Ethiopia's Recycled Ambitions

Continued from page 2

Beneath the theatrics lies a deeper reality: an abnormal psyche conditioned to view maritime entitlement not as ambition but as destiny. Certain Ethiopian elites have cultivated an obsession with the Red Sea so deeply ingrained that it functions as an ideological reflex, passed from the imperial court to the Prosperity Party. Its foundations are political mythology, not law or geography: a conviction that maritime access is Ethiopia's "right" and that any obstacle is an "injustice". Today, PP cadres simply repackage old fantasies as "integration," "shared security," or economic necessity. The message remains unchanged: Ethiopia's untenable ambitions take precedence over the sovereignty of others.

Ethiopia has never held a lawful sovereign presence on the Red Sea, except during its occupation of Eritrea under the federation and the subsequent unilateral annexation, neither of which was lawful or internationally recognized. For decades, Addis Ababa sought to treat Eritrean territory as its own, ignoring the will of the Eritrean people and international law. Any claims today that Ethiopia possesses a "right" to the Red Sea are a continuation of this historical revisionism. International law is unambiguous: sovereignty over coastal territory belongs to the littoral state, and access for landlocked neighbors must be secured through mutually negotiated agreements, not imposed through coercion, force, or political rhetoric. Ethiopia's attempts to reframe its historical occupation as entitlement cannot obscure the simple truth: Eritrea alone holds lawful sovereignty over its coastline.

This historical record of unlawful occupation forms the backdrop for the selective narratives that the PP is promoting today, revealing a persistent pattern of distortion and denial.

Ethiopia's Foreign Minister Gedion recently delivered a sweeping narrative on Ethiopia-Eritrea relations, stitching together selective memory, legal half-truths, and political nostalgia. His account omits key developments that fueled the 75-year conflict, causing his narrative to collapse under its contradictions. When he claims that "the Ethiopia-Eritrean file seems to be one of the perennial flashpoints," he deliberately sidesteps the root cause: Ethiopia's occupation of sovereign Eritrean territories. Backed by external patrons, Ethiopia engineered and later dismantled the UN-

mandated federation imposed on Eritrea, undermining its right to decolonization, abrogating international obligations, annexing Eritrean territory in violation of UN resolutions, and becoming the first African state in the modern era to colonize another African territory, actions that forced Eritrea into a 30-year struggle for independence.

After Eritrea's independence in 1991, it was Ethiopia that waged the expansionist war of 1998-2000. Though the Algiers Agreements ended the conflict, Ethiopia violated them by occupying sovereign Eritrean territories for 18 years, defying the EEBC's final and binding decisions. Ethiopia also played out its surrogate role in orchestrating nine years of UN Security Council sanctions against Eritrea. This legacy of unaddressed violations, not any supposed Eritrean "pathology", is the real "perennial flashpoint."

The binding legal reality remains the EEBC's final and binding decisions, which Ethiopia rejected for almost two decades. The EEBC placed Badme, the *casus belli*, inside Eritrea. Ethiopia accepted the Algiers Agreement affirming these decisions as "final and binding," yet repudiated the ruling upon issuance. No state can invoke international law in one breath and discard it in the next; credibility begins with honoring treaties.

For 25 years, Ethiopia has waged an intensive smear campaign to distort international narratives on Eritrea, framing Eritrea as a "problem" to mask its own ambitions. The recent campaign is merely its latest iteration. The Minister's romanticization of Ethiopia's "courage" in 2018 and its role in "rehabilitating Eritrea's international standing" is equally misleading. Eritrea's so-called "rehabilitation" was not Ethiopian benevolence; it was the international community recognizing that the sanctions lacked credible evidence. The Monitoring Group repeatedly stated it could not substantiate the allegations.

Ethiopia played its part in manufacturing these narratives, working in conjunction with actors in Brussels, Washington, and various multilateral forums who harboured a negative agenda against Eritrea. The irony is unmistakable: the same State that once worked hand in glove with powers intent on isolating Eritrea now seeks to claim credit for "repairing" the very damage it helped engineer.

Revisionism peaks with the claim that "the Eritrean colony was deliberately created to block Ethiopia's access to the sea", a historically false and legally absurd

notion. Eritrea's borders were established through international treaties and in accordance with normative State-formation processes in modern day African nations. Eritrea is not an anti-Ethiopian construct; it emerged through protracted historical and legal processes; occupation under various colonizers; UN-imposed federation, resistance to illegal annexation, an internationally supervised referendum, and UN admission.

The accusation that Eritrea "acts as an instrument for all forces hostile to Ethiopia" is the most laughable of all. Ethiopia's own history shows a consistent pattern of external instrumentalization, from the Korean War to Cold War alliances to post-9/11 militarism, leveraging global powers to pursue regional dominance. Ethiopia's complicity and orchestration of the 2009 UN sanctions, using the AU, IGAD, and Western patrons, is the clearest example. Projection cannot replace accountability. But the rhetoric continues...

In another article, Biruk Mekonnen, Ethiopia's Ambassador to the UK and Ireland claims, Ethiopia stands for:

"...sovereignty, mutual respect, and non-interference in the internal affairs of other states..."

Yet if Ethiopia truly adhered to these principles, it would not issue a continual stream of misleading statements on "sovereign access to the sea," nor perpetuate its daily barrage of anti-Eritrea narratives. Respecting Eritrea's sovereignty would have sufficed.

He further writes:

"...The Horn of Africa and the Red Sea corridor deserve genuine partnership, but partnership built on respect, not paternalism; on collaboration, not competition... The only durable stability is that which emerges from mutual respect, development, and the spirit of the African Union, where sovereignty, equality, and noninterference are not selective principles but shared commitments..."

These sentiments ring hollow against Ethiopia's record, from interventions and lobbying to vilification campaigns.

Mekonnen notes that "stability" and "security" often mask "old ambitions dressed in new attire." No State in the region has deployed such language more consistently than Ethiopia to obscure hegemonic aims. Imperial, military, and federal governments alike have framed expansionist policies as "unity," "stability," or "African solutions."

Similarly, Zerihun Abebe, Director General for African Affairs at Ethiopia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, reveals the deeper psychology of the ruling party. He argues that:

"...Ethiopia is closely linked to its neighbors through shared peoples, resources, and infrastructure...and if it grows in isolation, it risks becoming a 'lonely decoration.'..."

This is another favourite refrain by PP's senior cadres, who now dress expansionist intent in the language of "interdependence," as though neighbouring States must somehow adjust their sovereign rights to accommodate Ethiopia's ambitions. It is, in truth, a recycled version of the old "kinship" narrative once used to rationalize territorial claims. Haile Selassie invoked this same rhetoric, insisting that Eritreans were "Ethiopians by race and tradition," and that they were "Ethiopians in blood, language, and faith", to justify annexation and secure unfettered access to the Red Sea.

What Ethiopia now brands as an "Afar question" is, in reality, a deliberate identity fabrication designed to erode Eritrea's territorial integrity and manufacture a pretext for sovereign claims to the Red Sea. By politicizing Afar identity across borders, reducing a proud people to geopolitical instruments, Addis Ababa is attempting to naturalize the idea that "Afar kinship" entitles Ethiopia to corridors, ports, or territory inside Eritrea.

This mirrors the old imperial script: Haile Selassie invoked cultural affinity to justify federation, then annexation; the Prosperity Party recycles that logic under the guise of regional stability. Yet Eritrea's Afar communities are not pawns in a maritime chessboard, nor do shared ethnic ties dissolve the sanctity of international borders. Eritrea's coast and its sovereign rights remain inviolable. Ethiopia's attempt to repackage expansionist ambition as communal protection or regional necessity is not only historically dishonest, but also a direct threat to legal order in the Horn.

Despite these tenuous claims of kinship, successive Ethiopian regimes committed widespread violence in Eritrea: gross atrocities, destruction of villages, burning of farmland, and dismantling of social and economic life. The "kinship" narrative masked domination, not unity. Its revival today serves the same purpose: softening expansionist aims with cultural language. Just as Haile Selassie instrumentalized kinship to colonize Eritrea, the PP leadership is now

instrumentalizing Afar identity to advance geopolitical objectives.

Cross-border kinship exists across Africa; it does not confer a right to annex. Indeed, Ethiopia itself would be severely balkanized if this logic is pushed to its limits. Oil-rich Ogaden would be incorporated into Somalia; Benishangul into South Sudan etc. By invoking Afar identity, Ethiopia seeks to frame Eritrea's sovereign coastline as a natural entitlement. Statehood and littoral status are legal facts, not demographic or emotional constructs. Ethiopia's size does not convert a landlocked state into a littoral one.

PP's latest campaign for "dialogue" is disingenuous. Even as it speaks the language of peace, it amasses weapons and openly promises to use "millions" of Ethiopian lives to "overpower" Eritrea's small population and seize sovereign Eritrean territories. A regime that treats its youth as expendable assets, human fuel for geopolitical ambition, cannot be trusted. Such rhetoric exposes not a commitment to dialogue, but a readiness to sacrifice its own people in pursuit of territorial revisionism. Despite decades of aggression and condescension, Eritrea has upheld its sovereignty. By contrast, the Prosperity Party continues to burn bridges, undermining prospects for peace for Ethiopians who seek development, not conflict.

The Prosperity Party's leadership is touting the *Medemer* philosophy, presenting it as the definitive playbook for peace, stability, and prosperity in the region. Its record tells a starkly different story. Over the past few years, it has brought nothing but death, destruction, and the displacement of millions. Beneath the glossy façade lies an Ethiopia teetering on the edge, imploding under the weight of corruption, crippling debt, and governance failures.

In this context, Foreign Minister Gedion's mockery of the Nakfa Principles as a "syndrome" is revealing. Nakfa embodies self-reliance, discipline, resilience, and national sacrifice, the very values that have allowed Eritrea to maintain stability and sovereignty despite decades of external aggression. By dismissing Nakfa as a "syndrome," Gedion exposes not Eritrea's shortcomings, but Ethiopia's discomfort with a neighbor whose discipline, independence, and cohesive national ethos it cannot easily comprehend. Where *Medemer* remains a rhetorical project, Nakfa is a lived reality: a blueprint of survival, governance, and unwavering defense of the people and the state.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Aggreko International Eritrea Project LTD is inviting applicants for the following position for its Bisha Site Project;

Electrician (2)

Job Title 1: Electrician

Reporting Level: The position reports to the Site Operations Supervisor

Purpose of the Job: To operate, maintain and repair Aggreko equipment as per work instructions in accordance with Aggreko standards.

Key responsibilities:

- To carry out major electrical equipment maintenance as per work instruction on Aggreko equipment
- To carry out systematic fault finding and repairs on electrical and control equipment.
- To carry out high voltage Aggreko equipment maintenance.
- To carry out procedural based failure reporting using paper and electronic systems
- To carry out ‘A’ service maintenance as per work instruction on Aggreko generators
- To carry out ‘On the Job Training’ for Service Crew.
- To complete and maintain paper and electronic records as per site specifics
- Operate the Aggreko service mobility system
- To operate and diagnose Aggreko control systems.
- Issuing AC electrical ‘permit to work’.
- To carry out switching on LV and HV Aggreko equipment
- Assisting with the installation and demobilisation of Aggreko equipment.
- To follow and comply with Aggreko QHSE standards
- Adherence to 5S
- Safety of self and others
- Aggreko places a strong emphasis on health, operational safety and environmental protection. It is a requirement and moral obligation of each employee to be actively committed and accountable for compliance to the Aggreko Health, Safety & Environmental policies, operating procedures and compliance to local legislation.

Qualifications and Skills

- Qualified artisan in accordance with local labour laws
- Must successfully complete ALL assessments in compliance with Gen Tech Electrical requirements.
- The ability to use specialist tools and ensuring all tooling is calibrated in accordance with Aggreko standards and local legislation.
- Must be capable of working in a restricted space and at heights up to 2.5 metres
- Ability to work autonomously when required
- Ability to coach and mentor
- To be certified as AP/HV or CP/HV after a defined grace period and maintain certification throughout employment

Mechanic (1)

Job Title 1: Mechanic

Reporting Level: The position reports to the Site Operations Supervisor

Purpose of the Job: To operate, maintain and repair Aggreko equipment as per work instructions in accordance with Aggreko standards.

Key responsibilities:

- To carry out ‘A’ and ‘B’ service maintenance as per work instruction on Aggreko generators
- To carry out major maintenance as per work instruction on Aggreko generators
- To carry out systematic fault finding and repairs on mechanical

equipment including DC control circuits.

- To carry out Aggreko ‘Health Checks’, interpret results and carry out required adjustments / repairs
- To carry out procedural based failure reporting using paper and electronic systems
- To carry out ‘On the Job Training’ for service crew.
- To complete and maintain paper and electronic records as per site specifics
- Operate the Aggreko MMS and M3 system
- To operate, diagnose Aggreko generator controllers.
- Issuing non- AC electrical ‘permit to work’. (LOTO)
- Assisting with the installation and demobilisation of Aggreko equipment.
- To follow and comply with Aggreko QHSE standards
- Adherence to 5S
- Demonstrate value for safety of self and others
- Aggreko places a strong emphasis on health, operational safety and environmental protection. It is a requirement and moral obligation of each employee to be actively committed and accountable for compliance to the Aggreko Health, Safety & Environmental policies, operating procedures and compliance to local legislation.

Qualifications and Skills

- Qualified Mechanical Technician with a minimum of 5 years’ experience in power generation equipment and systems.
- Diploma in Mechanical Engineering or equivalent qualification
- PC literacy in a Microsoft environment or ERP system
- Must successfully complete ALL assessments in compliance with Gen Tech Mechanical requirements.
- The ability to use specialist tools and ensuring all tooling is calibrated in accordance with Aggreko standards and local legislation
- Must be capable of working in a restricted space and at heights.
- Ability to work autonomously when required
- Ability to coach and mentor
- To be certified as LOTO after a defined grace period and maintain certification throughout employment

General Information and other requirements:

- **Place of Work:** Bisha site.
- **Type of contract:** Indefinite Period.
- **Salary:** As per Company salary scale.

Additional requirement 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 sender and,
- All applications should be sent through the post office.
- Deadline for application: 10 days from the day of publication in the Newspaper.

- **Address: Please mail your applications to :**
Aggreko International Eritrea Project Limited
P. O. Box 7986 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 Emplyment Permit Affairs
P.O.BOX 7940 Asmara,Eritrea.



Office of the Embassy of Sweden in Asmara

The Office of the Embassy of Sweden in Asmara is looking for an:

Administrative and Consular Officer

Duties and Responsibilities

Under the direct supervision of the Head of the Embassy Office, the successful candidate will undertake the below tasks:

- Treasurer of the Embassy Office. Registers and verifies all financial transactions, prepare verifications and payments by cheque and bank transfer. Responsible for the cash register. Follows up with local bank office.
- Consular Officer of the Embassy Office. Prepares documents related to consular services. Responsible for consular telephone and visiting hours.
- Responsible for preparing Notes Verbales and the Embassy Office's official correspondence.
- Responsible for purchases of materials and equipment.
- Assistant to the Head of the Embassy Office. Manages calendar and administration for the Head of the Embassy Office, as well as arrangements linked to the visiting envoy.
- Act as an interpreter when required, as well as preparation of informal translations.
- Assist in planning of events.
- Performs miscellaneous administrative duties as needed.

The successful candidate needs to demonstrate:

- Excellent knowledge of protocol,
- Excellent knowledge of administrative rules and regulations,
- Ability to communicate in a clear, concise and unambiguous manner both through written and verbal communication, and to tailor messages and choose communication methods,
- Ability to review data, identify and adjust discrepancies,
- Ability to handle a large volume of work possibly under time constraints,
- Ability to organize and complete multiple tasks by establishing priorities.
- Ability to plan and organize, establish priorities, manage and monitor work plans, coordinate competing demands, and work to tight deadlines.
- Ability to apply sound judgment and sound problem-solving skills.
- Ability to remain calm, in control and good humored even under pressure.

Minimum requirements

- Post-secondary education.
- Minimum 10 years of professional experience as an Administrative Officer from an international organisation or embassy.
- Fluency in English and Tigrinya languages.
- Proven computer literacy in office software packages (MS Word, Excel, Outlook, etc) and web-based systems.

Assets/ selection criteria

- Certifications in Administration and Procurement are desirable.
- Strong interpersonal skills.
- Proven experience in both budget/finance and protocolar correspondence.

Remuneration:

- As per the salary scale of the Office of the Embassy of Sweden and relevant experiences.
- The expected start date will be beginning of January 2026.

How to apply

Please submit your application consisting of a cover letter, CV, copies of three reference letters proving 10 years of professional experience as Administrative Officer and provide evidence of completion or exemption of National Service, by hand delivery to the Office of the Embassy of Sweden in Asmara. (reference "Administrative and Consular Officer post 001/2025")

Our Office is located inside the Delegation of the European Union to the State of Eritrea, Marsa Teklai Street 192, House no. 20/22.

Attention to the Head of Office no later than two weeks after the publication of this vacancy notice.

Only complete applications submitted on time will be considered.

The process

Depending on the number of applications received, successive phases of selection may include shortlisting of candidates based on an assessment of the information provided in the cover letter and the CV. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for an interview.



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

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

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Bisha Mining Share Company is inviting applicants for the following position for Bisha site project.

- 1. Position: HME Boilermaker**
Department: Mining
Number required: One (01)

Primary Purpose

- To execute all general “Boilermaker / Welding / Fabrication” work/repairs on HME within BMSC safe work policies at acceptable quality.

Essential functions:

- HME boilermaker fundamental duties include general inspections and repairing structural issues on various HME such as dump trucks, excavators, loaders etc.
- Responsible for welding, cutting, and shaping metal parts to ensure the machinery operates efficiently and safely.
- Performs regular inspections, preventive maintenance, and emergency repairs to minimize downtime and ensure compliance with safety standards. This role demands a deep understanding of mining equipment, welding techniques, and the ability to work in challenging environments.
- Responsible for selecting the correct grade of metal and welding wires for the correct application.
- Drafting of various reports.

TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS

- Planning
- Implementation of the Plan
- Report Writing & Data control
- Manage the operations teams

Unique requirements/other information

- Candidate must be physically and medically fit.

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
○ Formal Trade Certificate for Boilermaker / welding ○ Technical School Certificate ○ Must be a holder of a drivers license	○ Minimum 5 years’ experience in Heavy Mining Equipment (HME) welding maintenance with heavy metals. ○ Experience in Line Boring machines and auto welder will be advantageous. ○ Minimum 5 years’ experience on open pit mine sites. ○ GET Applications and management will be advantageous.
Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
○ Mining HME Boilermaker & Welding Experienced ○ Proficiency in various welding techniques (MIG, TIG, stick welding) ○ Competent in heavy metal welding procedures (Preheating etc.) ○ Proficiency in various cutting methods (oxy-acetylene, plasma cutting, Air Carbon) ○ Line boring experience is compulsory ○ Competent in the reading of construction drawings ○ Computer Literacy (MS Office – Intermediate) ○ Problem solving skill ○ Attention to detail	○ Communication (English) ○ Integrity ○ Prioritizing skills & multi-skilling ○ Ability to work towards strict deadlines ○ High level of accuracy ○ Self-motivation ○ Must be a team player ○ Must be able to share knowledge and skills with the national workforce.

General Information and other requirements:

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

Additional requirements for Nationals:

- Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and 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 will be considered as potential candidates for an interview.
- Application documents will not be returned to sender.
- All applications should be sent through the post office.
- Deadline for application: 10 days from the day of publication in the Newspaper.

Address: Please mail your applications to:-
Bisha Mining Share Company,
P. O. Box 4276 Asmara, Eritrea

Note to Eritrean applicants:

Please send a copy of your application to:

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



By Milka Teklom

From Caregiver to Kindergarten Teacher

Can you tell our readers where you were born and grew up?

My name is Muna. I was born in a small village called Orotta. In 1991, my family moved to the town of Halhal, and I completed most of my schooling years there.

Halhal had primary and middle schools, but no high school. To continue my education I had to attend a boarding high school in Dekamhare. That move was difficult because it meant living away from home and family for the first time.



Muna Yasin

During my sophomore year I heard that my mother had become terribly sick. As the eldest child I felt it was my duty to return home. I first took a leave of absence, but when I arrived her condition worsened. I ultimately decided to quit school to care for her.

I cared for her for a few years. It was exhausting and uncertain, but I never regretted being there. Watching her health slowly improve gave me hope. When she was able to stand on her own again, she became a tireless advocate for my return to education.

My mother personally went to the town administrators and begged them to let me continue my studies. It felt like her prayers were answered: two high schools were built in the subzone where we lived, and one was close to our hometown. This made returning to school feasible.

Did you immediately return and finish your education?

I returned and completed 11th grade, but then my teenage emotions got the better of me. I decided I would not go to Sawa for the matriculation exam. I left home and went to my village Asmat without telling my mother. After a few months I realized I could not leave her alone, so I came back.

The Power of Second Chances: Muna and Romodan's Journey to Reclaim Education and Rebuild Futures

Second chances in education restore dignity and unlock potential. The story of two resilient dreamers, Muna Yassin and Romodan Ibrahim, proves that statement, showing how determination, community support, and personal sacrifice can overcome life's most significant interruptions.

What happened when you returned home after that?

My mother welcomed me back with open arms but insisted I at least complete national service. I accepted and served in different units. After discharge I found a job in the administration office, which gave me stability and new chances.

When did you take up formal studies again?

While working at the administration office, I had the opportunity to pursue my education further. I was already married and had two children by then, so it seemed impossible at first. With the encouragement of my husband, his family, and neighbors, I decided to try.

How did you manage being a student, a mother, and an employee all at once?

It required careful planning and a lot of cooperation. My husband took on many home responsibilities, his family helped with childcare, and neighbors stepped in when I needed quiet study time. I used small pockets of time for revision and set realistic goals each week. It was never easy, but breaking tasks into manageable steps made it possible.

I completed my school-leaving exam and later took two courses in early childhood education. Those courses helped me get a better-paid job and more confidence in teaching. Today I work as a kindergarten teacher and feel proud contributing to children's early learning.

What keeps you motivated after all these interruptions and responsibilities?

My mother's belief in me never faded, and that made a deep impression. Also, seeing the impact I can have on children as a teacher motivates me daily. Education opened doors at many points in my life — when I was able to return, when I completed my matriculation exam, and when I trained to teach.

What advice would you give young women who might face similar obstacles?

Please don't stop your education while you are relatively free of heavy responsibilities. Learn when you can; it will give you options later. I know life can interrupt plans and responsibilities can overwhelm you, but education is one of the few things that compounds over time and creates long-term opportunities.

Romodan Ibrahim—
Overcoming Setbacks for a Public Service Career

Please tell us where you were born and a little about your early family life.

My name is Romodan Ibrahim, I was born in 1995 in a village called Melebso. My father is a martyr, so my mother raised me by herself. Growing up in a single-parent household shaped much of my childhood: we had limited resources, but my mother filled our home with determination, discipline, and love.

I did my elementary schooling in Melebso. After that, we moved to the central region where I attended junior and high school. That move exposed me to a broader environment and new classmates, which helped me grow academically and socially. Eventually, I went to Sawa for the school-leaving exam.

What happened during your first attempt at the school-leaving exam?

After I took the exam in Sawa, I had serious personal problems. At the time I didn't care about my results; I didn't even ask what marks I had scored. I was distracted, discouraged, and emotionally overwhelmed, so school performance fell far down my list of priorities.

What made you decide to give it another try?

After a long period of contemplation and self-reflection I realized I had thrown away an opportunity that could change my future. I decided to try again, sat for the matriculation exam a second time, and this time I succeeded and scored for a diploma program. That decision to return was pivotal; it reopened paths I had closed through impatience and hardship.

After that, I joined Adi Keih

College of Business and Social Sciences. I spent my freshman year exploring different subjects and then chose Public Administration as my major. The program gave me tools to understand how institutions work and how public resources can best serve communities.

How did college life intersect with your personal life?

College was transformative in both education and relationships. I met my future wife early on; we actually knew each other since first grade and were seat mates. We married while I was still in college and had our first son around the time of my graduation. That period was intense: balancing classes, exams, and a young family taught me an enormous amount about prioritization and responsibility.

How has family influenced your journey?

Family has been central. My mother was the backbone of my life, especially after my marriage. She supported me emotionally and practically, helped with childcare, and provided advice at every crossroad. My wife understood my history and ambitions from the beginning, and that shared history made our partnership resilient. Together we managed studies, work, and raising children.

What challenges did you face returning to study after the setbacks?

The first challenge was internal: overcoming doubt and regret about the time I had lost. Practically, balancing adult responsibilities with the discipline of study was hard. I learned to structure my day tightly, to use small pockets of time effectively, and to accept support when it was offered.

Public Administration taught me that governance is a tool for improving daily life, not an abstract concept. It highlighted the importance of transparent institutions, responsive services, and accountable leadership. That perspective reframed my own ambitions: I want to contribute to practical improvements in my community, whether through



Romodan Ibrahim

administration, community projects, or civic engagement. And since I am back working in Melebso, I feel like I am giving back to the community.

How many children do you have now and how do you balance work with family responsibilities?

Now I have three children. Balancing work and family is a continuous negotiation. I prioritize family time, set clear boundaries around work hours when possible, and rely on a close support network. My mother remains a steady presence, and my wife and I coordinate schedules so each of us can rest and recharge. Small routines—shared meals, consistent bedtimes, and weekend family moments—help maintain stability.

What would you say to young people facing setbacks or distractions during their education?

I would tell them that setbacks are not the end. Take time to reflect, then make a deliberate choice to return. Education opens long-term doors even if the path is interrupted. Be patient with yourself, accept help when it comes, and remember that determination combined with practical planning can restore momentum.

Any final thoughts about how your past shaped the person you are today?

Losing my father and watching my mother shoulder everything taught me resilience, humility, and gratitude. My early mistakes taught me to value second chances. Today I aim to be a stable husband, father, and public servant who uses the lessons of hardship to help others find steadier paths.

Thank you both for your time