

## OFFICIAL 35<sup>TH</sup> INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The official ceremony for the 35<sup>th</sup> Independence Day anniversary was held on Sunday afternoon at the Asmara Stadium under the theme “Our Resilience: Our Guarantee.” The grand event took place in the presence of President Isaias Afwerki, Ministers, senior Government and PFDJ officials, Army Commanders, religious leaders, Ambassadors, members of the diplomatic community, and a massive gathering of patriotic nationals.

In his keynote address, President Isaias Afwerki extended his warmest congratulations to the patriotic Eritrean people at home and abroad, as well as to all friends-in-struggle worldwide, and expressed profound gratitude to those who organize these annual commemorations. He underlined that the annual celebration serves as both a manifestation and a measure of the trajectory of the generational mission of nation-building. This progress, he noted, must be assessed not only against the backdrop of the heroic liberation struggle and its immense sacrifices, but also in light of the additional sacrifices made over the past 35 years to confront persistent external hostilities while simultaneously advancing integrated national development.

Turning to global and regional frameworks, the President reiterated the importance of carefully assessing the policies and potential ramifications of the Trump Administration’s return to the White House,



urging patience and rigorous analysis rather than premature conclusions regarding its complex economic and diplomatic measures. He stated that the world must transition away from an exhausted, exploitative global system characterized by zero-sum paradigms and modern forms of dependency. Furthermore, he highlighted that the Horn of Africa requires sustained attention, noting that nation-building in the sub-region continues to face precarious challenges—such as vertical polarization along ethnic and clan lines, institutional erosion, and detrimental foreign interventions—the immediate termination of which remains

a mandatory precondition for regional stability.

Regarding domestic affairs, President Isaias outlined that Eritrea’s short-term developmental objective remains improving people’s livelihoods, with a priority on marginalized regions, while the long-term strategy focuses on transitioning from a subsistence economy to advanced industrial manufacturing, infrastructure expansion, and high-quality healthcare and education. He emphasized that the decisive factor in ensuring the synergy and sustainability of these programs is the effective coordination between nationwide popular participation, the

expertise of young professionals, and the support of patriots in the diaspora. Concluding his remarks, the President declared: “Kudos to the dedicated, hardworking, courageous, patient, and steadfast people of Eritrea, along with the ever-present Defense Forces—the kernel, strong shield, and cornerstone of our development programs. Even if obstacles are encountered, there is no cause for apprehension. Rest assured!” Earlier in the program, Ambassador Zemed Tekle, Commissioner of Culture and Sports and Chairman of the National Holidays Organizing Committee, delivered the welcoming speech, commending

all those who participated in the extensive preparations for the vibrant Independence Day celebrations.

The official ceremony of the 35<sup>th</sup> Independence Day anniversary celebration—which featured a magnificent military parade, highly disciplined calisthenics presentations by thousands of local students, and diverse cultural and musical performances representing the nation’s nine ethnic groups—was broadcast live globally by Eritrean Television, Radio Dimtsi Hafash, and Denden Media. *(Full text of President Isaias’s Speech is on page 2)*

President Zoran Milanović of the Republic of Croatia, President Guy Parmelin of the Swiss Confederation, President Tharman Shanmugaratnam of the Republic of Singapore, President Mahmoud Abbas of Palestine, President Sergio Mattarella of the Republic of Italy, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of the Federative Republic of Brazil, Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, President Salva Kiir Mayardit of the Republic of South Sudan, President Dr. Mohamed al-Menfi, Chairman of the Presidential Council of Libya, and Mr. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, have sent messages

### MORE MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATIONS

of congratulations to the people and Government of Eritrea on the occasion of the 35<sup>th</sup> Independence Day anniversary.

In their messages, the leaders conveyed their best wishes for good health to President Isaias Afwerki, as well as peace and prosperity to the Eritrean people.

They also expressed their countries’ readiness to enhance friendship and cooperation with Eritrea.

In his message, President Guy Parmelin of the Swiss



Confederation said that the good relations between the Swiss Confederation and Eritrea, based on trust and mutual respect,

enable the two countries to tackle challenges together and provide a solid basis for continued cooperation in areas of common interest.

President Sergio Mattarella expressed his hope that dialogue and cooperation between Italy and Eritrea will continue to deepen, in line with the shared aspirations of the two peoples to promote peace, development, and stability in the Horn of Africa.

Mr. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf said that the important occasion reflects the resilience,

determination, and aspirations of the Eritrean people for sovereignty, peace, and national development. He also reaffirmed the African Union’s commitment to working closely with Eritrea in advancing the shared goals of peace, regional stability, integration, and sustainable development across the continent.

President Salva Kiir Mayardit, on his part, said that the day marks a significant milestone in Eritrea’s history, as it embodies the sacrifice and resilience of the Eritrean people. These pillars of sacrifice and resilience, he said, were the foundation of the country’s pursuit of sovereignty and self-determination.

# Keynote Address by President Isaias Afwerki on the Occasion of the 35<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary

**Dear Participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

First and foremost, allow me to extend my warmest congratulations to the patriotic Eritrean people at home and abroad, and to all its friends in struggle around the world.

I would also like to express my profound gratitude to all those who, year after year, organize and present magnificent events and celebrations in various places to commemorate and honor this glorious Day, as well as to all friends of Eritrea who have sent messages of congratulations.

The annual celebration of our Independence Day is indeed both a manifestation and a measure of the trajectory and progress of our generational mission of nation-building. This must be assessed not only against the backdrop of our heroic liberation struggle and the immense sacrifices it exacted, but also in light of the additional sacrifices made in the last 35 years to confront persistent hostilities and subterfuges, while simultaneously advancing the integrated task of national development. Independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity constitute an ongoing process that must be continuously consolidated and sustainably strengthened. In this regard, we must reflect on where we stood yesterday, where we stand today, and what the future will hold.

These are profound considerations for introspection at this historic juncture of our Independence Day. Such considerations compel us to evaluate the progress achieved objectively, draw appropriate lessons from our experience, and further refine and intensify our efforts to achieve optimal results. Glory and

honor to the Eritrean people and to our Martyrs!

Our national situation and developmental progress cannot be viewed in isolation from a just international order and from the regional architecture of stability, cooperation, prosperity, and integration that we, together with the peoples of the world, cherish and aspire to realize. As such, it is imperative that we comprehend and analyze, through objective metrics, the prevailing global and regional frameworks and evolving trends.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In view of the palpable global stature of the United States, I had highlighted in my address on the occasion of the 34th Independence Anniversary last year, the prudence of undertaking a serious and careful assessment of the policies and potential ramifications of the Trump Administration upon its return to the White House for a second presidential term. Nevertheless, the phenomenon remains highly complex and heavy, requiring patience and caution against premature conclusions even as rigorous analysis grounded in the compilation of relevant facts and evidence, as well as standard and comprehensive inferences, is routinely made.

In this respect, to further examine and explore the substance and contours of President Trump's "MAGA" doctrine through relevant metrics – including wealth, industrial output, technological dominance, military power, and sphere of influence – within the historical trajectory of the United States, particularly during the Cold War and the subsequent, reckless phase of the "unipolar world order," is both timely and of paramount importance.

When viewed through the lens of economic indicators of natural endowments and industrialization, including value addition through processing, the national debt accumulated by prolonged fiscal wastefulness under successive Administrations in Washington has reached alarming proportions. This quagmire has been exacerbated by strategic economic imbalance stemming from the misguided policy of "offshoring". The latter was essentially designed to consolidate US "economic and financial hegemony and domination" by capitalizing on low wages, abundant manpower, and reduced energy costs in other countries. This policy orientation, which gained currency especially after the end of the Cold War, was predicated on the assumptions of its "unassailable superiority in innovation and industrialization..." as well as the perception that "others cannot compete but merely imitate US products". The galloping aggregate

US debt, which I referenced last year as exceeding 30 trillion dollars, now appears to have reached 40 trillion. This is by no means an insignificant factor.

President Trump's acute recognition of the impending danger associated with this trajectory and prospects of decline may,



in itself, be considered positive. However, questions persist as to whether the measures pursued by the new Administration – including expenditure reduction, the repatriation of industries and investments, increased tariffs, domestic tax cuts, monopolization of rare minerals, recourse to threats and intimidation, and intensive diplomatic and information campaigns – can truly constitute a functional remedy. Where, and with whom, can these policies possibly succeed?

Regarding technological dominance, including Artificial Intelligence, there are no indicators that establish Washington's competitive advantage, although the topic warrants a more elaborate comparative analysis.

In terms of military power – setting aside the weakening status of NATO, which cannot serve as the only benchmark – assessments cannot be gauged merely on dramatic episodes, intimidation, targeted killings, the elimination of "small" forces, the possession of nuclear arsenals, drones, and missiles alone. Twentieth-century and contemporary military history provide ample evidence in this regard.

Regarding the sphere of influence, various trial balloons floated in the past year, including Greenland, Canada, Mexico, and Cuba. Were these motivated by natural resources, geography, strategic influence, or prestige? And what might their ultimate ramifications be? Accurate appraisal requires tremendous patience and restraint from speculative conclusions.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Beyond these trial balloons, it may be appropriate to focus on Venezuela and Iran among the major events of

the past year.

The issue of drug trafficking in the Americas is longstanding and complex. Where is Venezuela ranked in this pecking order? What was the role of President Maduro? If he could have been indicted in accordance with international law, why and on what legal basis did the White House

take unilateral action of "arresting" Maduro? Does Venezuela truly pose a threat to the national security of the United States, and if so, in what way? Was Maduro, as an individual, a direct threat to U.S. national security? Was the operation launched as a pretext for other agendas? The episode requires patience, with no speculative conclusions pending full clarification of the facts.

**Iran:**

Iran's nuclear program was initiated in the early 1970s during the reign of the Shah. Who supported and encouraged it is well-known. How it developed after 1979 is a long story. Nevertheless, fundamental questions remain regarding the war waged against Iran. Which countries possess nuclear programs? Which countries possess and have developed various nuclear weapons? Who granted them the right or authority to possess and develop such weapons? If there are entities empowered to grant such rights, where do those prerogatives and privileges come from? Why is Iran alone prohibited? Does Iran genuinely constitute a threat to the U.S.? What legal privilege does the United States have to take unilateral military action?

Rather than focusing on the closure of the Strait of Hormuz as a consequence, it is more prudent to engage in the broader issues pertinent to regional and global stability. It is evident that this was driven by grave miscalculation and must be halted to avert potentially far-reaching risks.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The developments I have attempted to address are the events that have unfolded, especially over the past year and a half, as well as the policies and actions President Trump has taken since his return to the White

House. Still, two and a half years remain. How will Trump's policies toward Europe, China, Russia, India, the Middle East, Asia, Latin America, and Africa evolve? How will countries engage, individually and collectively, on various issues and at different junctures? What cumulative outcomes may emerge over the coming thirty months? While it is imperative to monitor unfolding developments on the radar screen hour by hour, what alternative pathways can be considered?

It is equally important to note that criticism should not be directed at President Trump alone. Those who are complicit in these aberrations must be given due consideration. Furthermore, those who claim to be "influential" and strive to mislead and corner Trump must not be forgotten.

More importantly, how do the various agendas pursued by great powers and others affect us? Our responses should not be limited to reactive contingencies. Indeed, there is no alternative to the formulation, through active initiative, of proactive ideas and strategies grounded in fundamental principles and values.

Transitioning from the old and exhausted global order, which the peoples of the world have grown weary of, is no longer optional. The prevailing global system, characterized by the absence of genuinely free trade and fair distribution of resources and wealth; by exploitative financial mechanisms rooted in usury, plunder, and deception; and by zero-sum paradigms that perpetuate modern forms of slavery/colonial domination and dependency, must come to an end. The establishment of a new global order founded upon fairness and justice must be regarded as one of humanity's foremost missions and should not be relegated to the sidelines.

The present era represents a transitional phase from the old global order to a new one. Although these principles are not new, they reflect the enduring values of the Eritrean people's armed struggle for liberation. In this spirit, the concepts listed below, which may be elaborated and further refined, were what we presented during the 80th General Assembly of the United Nations to contribute to a new roadmap:

- Human beings must fairly own their economic resources and the produce of their work, and march on a sustainable path of generational progress and prosperity by accumulating wealth.

- To secure peace and stability, and guarantee prosperity and economic growth.

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**Editor-In-Chief  
Amanuel Mesfun**

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

P.O.Box: 247

Tel: 11-41-14

Fax: 12-77-49

E-mail:

eritreaprofilemoi@gmail.com

Advertisement: 12-50-13

**Layout**

**Azmera Berhane  
Betelhiem Tadesse  
Monaliza Yemane**

# REPORTAGE

## “Our Resilience: Our Guarantee” – Eritrea’s 35<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary

By Mussie Efriem

The 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Eritrean independence was celebrated with immense pride across the nation and by Eritrean communities worldwide. This year’s anniversary was observed under the theme, “Our Resilience: Our Guarantee.” Far more than a date on the calendar, the entire month of May brings a wave of vibrant energy and festive enthusiasm. Across the country, local communities marked the occasion by gathering to share meals and celebrate together, beautifully embodying the deep unity that defines the Eritrean people.

The streets of Asmara and other major cities vividly reflected the spirit of independence, bustling with joyful strollers from all walks of life. Throughout Independence Week, the main avenues of Asmara hosted a vibrant display of events, highlighted by a colorful carnival organized by the city’s subzones. This parade beautifully showcased the traditions of Eritrea’s nine ethnic groups, which form the very essence of the nation. In addition to the carnival, dynamic artistic programs and live performances took over Bahti Meskerem Square and stretched along Harnet Avenue (Liberation Avenue). Mirroring the capital’s joyful atmosphere, similar celebrations were held simultaneously in cities and towns across the entire country.

At dawn on May 24<sup>th</sup>, a resounding cannon salute welcomed the sunrise, heralding the voice of independence. This tribute set the stage for the official national celebration held later that afternoon at Asmara Stadium. The stadium filled with energy as thousands of Eritrean citizens, invited dignitaries, and international friends of Eritrea gathered to mark the historic occasion. The grand ceremony officially commenced in the esteemed presence of President Isaias Afwerki, joined by senior government officials, religious leaders, members of the diplomatic corps, and a vibrant, celebratory crowd.

The official ceremony for Eritrea’s



35<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary began at 4:30 PM. The event opened with a military salute, followed by a solemn minute of silence in honor of the fallen Eritrean heroes who sacrificed their lives to make this historic day possible. The stage was then given to the Chairman of the National Holidays Organizing Committee and Commissioner of Culture and Sport, Ambassador Zemed Tekle, who officially opened the ceremony with a welcome speech.

In his remarks, Ambassador Zemed praised the high spirit and enthusiasm displayed during the vibrant Independence Week celebrations, held both across the nation and abroad with a unified heart. He also extended his gratitude to everyone who participated in and contributed to the months long preparations for the closing events.

In his keynote address, President Isaias Afwerki extended his warmest congratulations to the Eritrean people and members of the Defense Forces. He said that the significance and splendor of this momentous day radiate more with time, year in and year out. Beyond instilling immense jubilation and pride, it impels us to ponder several indelible truths, President Isaias added.

President Isaias further emphasized the historical backdrop – the bedrock and statue – on which the significance of Independence Day rests: the ferocious struggle the Eritrean people waged with heroism and resilience to assert their country’s independence and sovereignty at great sacrifice.

President Isaias also stated that the prevailing turbulent global and regional setting underscores

the imperative to strengthen our development endeavors, beyond the efforts we make to preserve and protect our national independence and sovereignty.

Finally, President Isaias urged extensive popular participation in more dynamic and vigorous initiatives to effectively implement national security and development programs, based on a revised, broad roadmap for mobilization. He also called for greater participation of nationals abroad, in view of their greater potential and unique opportunities.

The celebration showcase commenced with a highly anticipated and magnificent military parade featuring the 38<sup>th</sup> round of Eritrean national service trainees. This impressive display brought together a comprehensive representation of the country’s defense forces, including the Land Force, Navy, Air Force, Police Force, and the National Service itself. Moving in perfect unity to the rhythm of the national marching band, the trainees’ synchronized footsteps resonated deeply with spectators. More than a display of military precision, this collective march stood as a powerful reflection of the nation’s core foundations: national unity and unwavering integrity.

Drawing together young Eritrean men and women from every corner of the country and all ethnic groups, the parade served as a vibrant display of unity. This diverse gathering is far more than a mere ceremonial showcase. It served as a profound reminder that national service remains Eritrea’s foundational concept. It underpins the core principles of both ongoing nation building and national security, proving that the country’s strength lies in the shared responsibility of its youth.

The parade was further enriched by various thematic displays and imagery illustrating the vital role of national service. In front of the main spectator seats, students delivered an artistic showcase that brought these themes to life. The crowd responded with vivid applause and stood in



collective respect. This moment stunningly illustrated the deep seated integrity and unity shared between the Eritrean people and their army. This bond served as the very foundation of the nation’s hard won independence.

Following the outstanding military parade, the celebration transitioned into a vibrant artistic program featuring fourteen newly selected songs, chosen from one hundred and fifty new compositions written specifically for the event. Reflecting the nation’s rich linguistic tapestry, the performances spanned all nine of Eritrea’s languages, as well as three transitional songs. The musical showcase was brought to life by the lively choreography of various



Eritrean cultural troupes, including the seasoned Sbrit, Walta, Snit, Admas, Mieras, and Senni. Together, they created a remarkable visual feast – Eritrea’s diverse, colorful cultural fabrics and traditional dances in perfect harmony.

Among the standouts of the musical program was a deeply moving performance by renowned Sudanese singer Nada Mohamed Osman. As part of the celebration, she delivered an Arabic song titled “Shukran Eritrea” (Thank You, Eritrea), filled with deep emotion. The performance prompted the audience to rise from their seats in unison to embrace the spirit of the song. This heartfelt display of shared celebration beautifully illustrated the deeply interwoven friendship, mutual respect, and enduring cultural bonds that have long united the peoples of Eritrea and Sudan.

The grand event was further elevated by a calisthenics display featuring three thousand high school students from across Asmara, who transformed the stadium ground into a living canvas. Moving in perfect rhythm to the musical beats, they showcased vibrant artistic creativity through their synchronized movements. The calisthenics performance was split into two distinct parts. The opening segment saw the students dressed in the four colors of the Eritrean national flag. With a variety of choreographed fabrics and formations, they delivered a series of fascinating visual spectacles that captivated the audience. The artistic showcase continued with a monologue titled “Denden” (named after the historic fortification mountains in Sahel, which served as a vital military base during the Eritrean armed struggle), presented by a group of eight performers.

The second part of the program featured a reflective showcase tracing Eritrea’s monumental journey over the last six and a half decades. The artistic display covered the three decades of the armed struggle for

independence and the subsequent thirty five years of post independence history, beautifully capturing the ongoing chapters of nation building and the preservation of national sovereignty. This part served as a profound celebration of national pride, unity, and the unyielding resilience of the Eritrean people. To bring this epic history to life, the performance blended dynamic artistic movements, new and classic poetry, music, and striking visual elements that perfectly encapsulated each era of the nation’s past.

As the evening drew to a close around 7:40 PM, the atmosphere in the stadium reached a spectacular climax with a vivid fireworks display that illuminated the night sky for about twenty minutes. Following this captivating visual finale, the official celebration of the 35<sup>th</sup> Independence Day concluded with the national anthem.





# Mount Denden: The Icon of Eritrean Resilience

By Kidane Shimendi

Mount Denden, Eritrea's famous historical peak, stands proudly at the gates of Nakfa. It became an iconic stronghold following the strategic withdrawal of 1978. Resilience, sacrifice, and victory are among the core national values that freedom fighters demonstrated on this historic mountain, earning it a legendary place in Eritrean history. Today, academic awards, digital platforms, schools, community associations, military camps, sports clubs, and businesses across the nation and the diaspora are proudly named in its honor.

The historical significance of Mount Denden was cemented following the EPLF's strategic withdrawal in 1978. This tactical retreat was necessitated by the massive intervention of the superpowers, which poured in heavy military logistics and advanced weaponry to the Ethiopian Derg regime. This external interference abruptly shifted the balance of power, forcing the Eritrean revolution to alter its military strategy from an offensive stance to a deeply entrenched defensive position.

In the wake of this shift, freedom fighters, strongly backed by the Eritrean masses, transformed the town of Nakfa into an impregnable fortress capable of safeguarding the hopes and aspirations of Eritrean independence. Boasting a commanding elevation and rugged terrain, Mount Denden served as one of Nakfa's most unbreakable defensive shields, leaving a profound impression on both local revolutionaries and foreign visitors.

From 1978 to 1988, freedom



Denden kindergarten inside the Denden Camp

fighters held Mount Denden as a vital, highly strategic defense line. It was during this grueling decade that national values—such as sacrifice, resilience, comradeship, innovation, unity, and patriotism—glowed brightest. Despite the enemy's overwhelming diplomatic backing and military superiority, Mount Denden stood firm alongside neighboring fortresses



as an unbreachable wall against invasion.

## **Etymology, Geography, and the Defense Network**

Etymologically, the name "Denden" comes from the Tigre language and is derived from local oral histories. In Tigre, Denden translates directly to "roaring echo." Residents recall that before the outbreak of the armed struggle, the mountain's imposing presence and the intense, lion-like roar of winds as they howled through its deep gorges meant that few dared to traverse it alone.

Geographically, Mount Denden is located south of Nakfa within the rugged Sahel region. Rising

to an elevation of 1,969 meters (approximately 6,460 feet), its commanding peaks are flanked by other strategic summits like Qrinjehat, Tebayit, and Wantay. This high vantage point provided critical visibility over vast distances, shielding underground revolutionary infrastructure—such as hospitals, workshops, printing presses, and schools—and validating the famous adage: "The EPLF is the government, and Sahel is the nation." Ecologically, the mountain is dominantly blanketed by wild olive trees and endod (soapberry) plants.

During the war, the Nakfa front was split into two primary flanks, divided by the main Nakfa-Afabet road. Mount Denden served as a vital anchor on the right flank; with trenches like Fidel 'Pe', Taba Selam, Globe, Rigole, Wancha, Denden, Gualdenden, Endanepal, Farnello, Testa, Sewra, Sembel, Afncha, Teateq, Kubub Baray, and Sege. On the left flank of the front were Merkebna, Medat, May Kelashin, Arew, Teamamen, Nakura, Anda-sga, Otolu, Sulfur, Volley-ball, Agadu, Enda Krbat, Tiks, Spartacus, Hamukushti, Aibre, and Cubania.

Mount Denden stands as an enduring symbol of Eritrea's revolutionary values, reflecting the robust resilience of freedom fighters who endured relentless, years-long artillery shelling. This steadfast defiance prevented the Derg regime from extinguishing the torch of Eritrean freedom, demonstrating a profound capacity to overcome overwhelming material odds through sheer determination.

Holding the heights of Denden required an immense toll in human life. Because the mountain was so strategically vital, the enemy's attempts to capture it were nearly continuous, met each time by the ultimate sacrifices of the defenders. Ultimately, this ironclad resilience, paired with tactical creativity and unyielding comradeship, paved the way for final victory, allowing the liberation forces to turn the tide and decisively drive out the occupying army.

When the Derg regime and its powerful global allies faced humiliating defeat at the Nakfa front, their military strategists attempted to excuse their failure



Denden Football Club

by blaming Nakfa's complex, precipitous topography. However, history records that it was the fighters' exceptional resolve that made Mount Denden an unbreakable wall. The occupying forces enjoyed a massive logistical advantage. They were stationed in equally sophisticated high positions with the most advanced weaponry of the era. Yet, they were thoroughly defeated by the superior morale and organization of the Eritrean liberation movement.

Today, the name Denden is immortalized across several prominent institutions, associations, and honors:

- Denden Camp: A specialized residential community in Asmara dedicated to war veterans and



Trenches around Mount Denden

their families, serving as a respected hub for those disabled during the liberation struggle and subsequent border conflicts.

- Denden Media: The digital network responsible for streaming ERi-TV and official national radio content online to the global diaspora.

- Denden Sports Club: A prominent national sports organization encompassing highly competitive cycling,

football, and athletic teams.

- Denden Award: A prestigious academic honor presented in the Southern Region of Eritrea to incentivize and celebrate outstanding student achievement.

- Denden Secondary School: A historic educational institution in Asmara, originally founded as a specialized commercial school and restructured into a comprehensive high school in 2022.

- International Footprints: The legacy extends globally through community fixtures like the Denden Eritrean Restaurant in Chicago and the Denden Youth Development Association in Minnesota, USA.

In conclusion, Mount Denden and the historic defense lines surrounding it are essential components of Eritrea's national heritage. Commemorating this iconic peak through civic institutions, awards, and public spaces helps preserve our history and pass it on to future generations. It remains our collective responsibility to deepen our historical knowledge and continuously teach these foundational values through our nation's sacred historical sites.



# Eritrea: The Long Road to Independence

By: Shabait Staff

*Introductory note: This is the final installment in a three-part series examining Eritrea's long and arduous struggle for self-determination. While Part I explored the foundations of Eritrea's colonial experience and the international decisions that denied Eritreans their right to independence, and Part II examined the systematic dismantling of Eritrean autonomy under Ethiopian rule and the events that ignited the armed struggle, this concluding chapter traces the evolution of that resistance into a full-scale liberation war. It explores the immense military and political challenges Eritrean fighters confronted, the global Cold War rivalries that shaped the conflict, and the decisive victories that ultimately culminated in Eritrea's independence in 1991.*

On September 1, 1961, Hamid Idris Awate – a seasoned soldier long regarded as a rebel (or bandit) by Italian, British, and Ethiopian authorities – fired the opening shots of Eritrea's long armed struggle in the Gash Barka region alongside a small band of fighters armed with only a handful of aging rifles. Like a spark igniting a raging wildfire, what began as isolated, small-scale guerrilla attacks would, over time, grow into a fierce, nationwide liberation movement that spread steadily across the country.

Over the next three decades, Eritrean fighters waged one of the longest and most demanding wars of liberation in modern African history. Largely isolated diplomatically and receiving little meaningful international support, they confronted successive Ethiopian regimes that benefited from extensive foreign military assistance and geopolitical backing. At different stages of the conflict, Ethiopia received support from the United States, the Soviet Union, Israel, Cuba, East Germany, Libya, and South Yemen – reflecting the Horn of Africa's immense strategic importance during the Cold War. (In fact, at certain points, both Cold War superpowers supported Ethiopia simultaneously, which was an unprecedented development.)

In the early years of the war, the United States emerged as one of Emperor Haile Selassie's principal international backers, providing substantial military and financial aid to the imperial regime. Israel also established close security ties with Ethiopia, dispatching military advisers, intelligence personnel, and elite training units. Yet despite this external support, Ethiopian forces struggled to suppress the rapidly expanding Eritrean resistance, which evolved from a small insurgency dismissed as "banditry" into an increasingly

organized and formidable liberation movement.

By the early 1970s, mounting military pressure from Eritrean fighters, combined with severe famine and rebellion in the Ogaden, had begun to destabilize the Ethiopian state itself. In 1974, Emperor Haile Selassie was overthrown by the Provisional Military Administrative Council (commonly known as the Derg), led by Lieutenant Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam. The new regime eventually aligned itself with the Soviet Union. However, American and Israeli assistance continued for a period, underscoring the complex and shifting geopolitical calculations surrounding the Horn of Africa.

By late 1977, Eritrean liberation forces had gained control over most rural areas and encircled key urban centers, including Massawa and Asmara. At the same time, Ethiopia found itself engaged in a major war with Somalia over the Ogaden region. Alarmed by the potential collapse of its ally, the Soviet Union intervened decisively, supplying Ethiopia with massive quantities of arms, military advisers, and logistical support. Thousands of Cuban and South Yemeni troops were also deployed to assist the Ethiopian war effort.

The intervention was a pivotal lifeline, as it enabled Ethiopia to reverse Somali advances in the Ogaden and, crucially, redirect its military focus toward Eritrea with renewed force. Backed by extensive Soviet assistance and reinforced by foreign troops and advisers, Ethiopia launched major counteroffensives aimed at crushing the Eritrean liberation movement "once and for all".

Forced into a strategic retreat, the EPLF regrouped in the rugged Sahel region and transformed Nakfa into both a military stronghold and a powerful symbol of resistance. Between 1978 and

## (part III& Final)

1981, Ethiopian forces launched five major offensives to capture the area, but each failed. In 1982, Mengistu escalated the campaign through Operation Red Star, deploying more than 136,000 troops in one of the largest military offensives of the war. Despite overwhelming numerical superiority and extensive Soviet backing, the operation failed catastrophically, costing Ethiopia tens of thousands of casualties and severely damaging military morale.

Following these defeats, the balance of the war increasingly shifted in favor of the EPLF. A decisive turning point came in March 1988 during the Battle of Afabet, where Eritrean forces inflicted a crushing defeat on Ethiopia's Northern Command headquarters. Often compared to battles such as El Alamein and Dien Bien Phu for their strategic significance, the Battle of Afabet became one of the largest and most consequential military engagements fought in Africa since the Second World War.

Then, in February 1990, the EPLF launched Operation Fenkil, a meticulously coordinated land-and-sea offensive that liberated the strategic port city of Massawa. The operation severed one of Ethiopia's most critical military supply routes and inflicted devastating losses on Ethiopian forces, with thousands killed, wounded, or captured. More importantly, it signaled that Eritrean independence was no longer a distant aspiration, but an approaching reality.

With Massawa secured, only Asmara and Assab remained under Ethiopian control. In May 1991, Eritrean forces defeated Ethiopian troops at Dekemhare before rapidly advancing through surrounding towns and entering Asmara on May 24. Assab, along the Red Sea, fell the following day. Remnants of the demoralized Ethiopian soldiers, which had long been regarded as part of Africa's largest and best-equipped military force, surrendered in tens of thousands. Just days earlier, on May 21, Mengistu Haile Mariam had fled into exile in Zimbabwe.

As Eritrean fighters entered the capital that they had fought so long to control, they were

greeted by scenes of jubilation and celebration. After thirty years of war, immense sacrifice, and widespread devastation, Eritrea had finally secured its freedom. Against extraordinary odds, Eritrean fighters had defeated a far larger and heavily armed military backed for decades by powerful international allies.

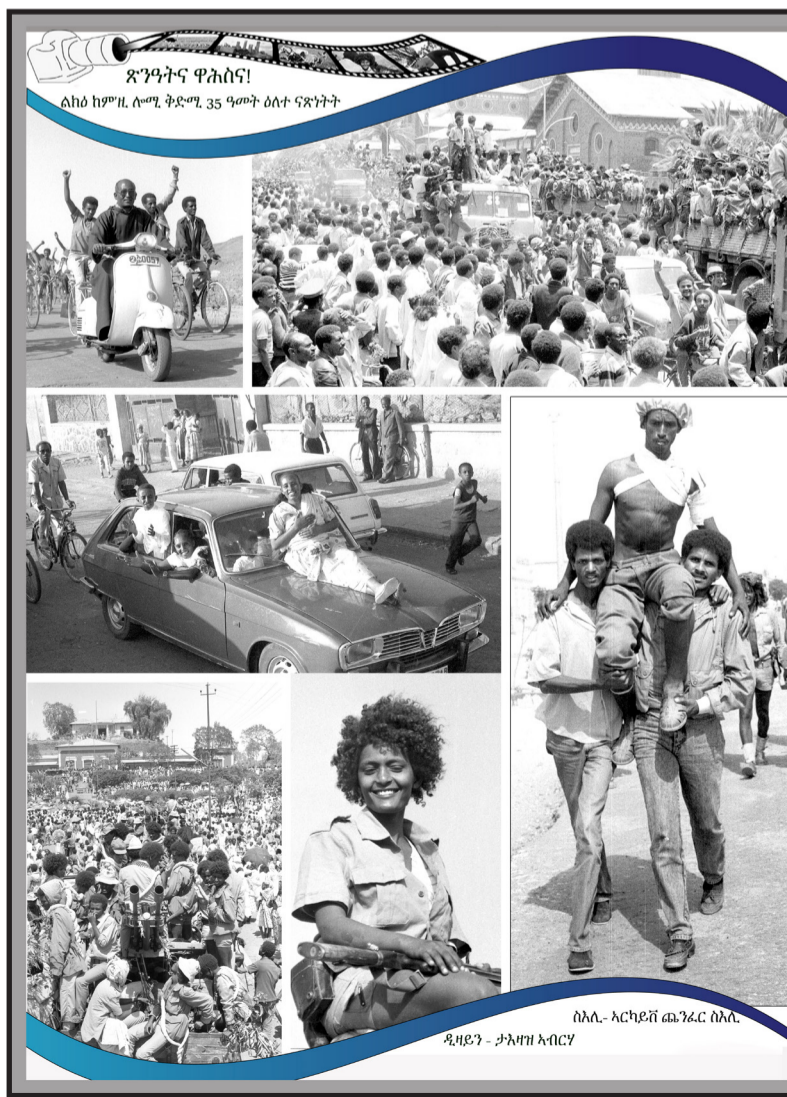
In the months following liberation, preparations began for an internationally supervised referendum intended to formally affirm Eritrea's right of decolonization and complete the final diplomatic chapter of the independence struggle. On May 29, 1991, Isaias Afwerki, then Secretary-General of the EPLF, called upon the United Nations to "shoulder its moral responsibilities" and assist in conducting a free and fair referendum without delay.

Two years later, in 1993, Eritrea formally joined the international community as Africa's fifty-second nation-state following an internationally monitored referendum in which Eritreans overwhelmingly voted for independence. Supervised by the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity, the Arab League, and observers from numerous countries, the referendum recorded a turnout of approximately 98.5 percent, with

99.81 percent of voters supporting independence – figures with few parallels anywhere else in the world.

Eritrea's path to nationhood remains one of the most determined and resilient liberation struggles of the twentieth century. Against immense military odds, constantly shifting geopolitical alliances, and prolonged international indifference, Eritreans fought, endured, and ultimately prevailed. Their victory represented not simply the defeat of an occupying power, but the realization of a collective aspiration for sovereignty and dignity that generations had struggled to achieve.

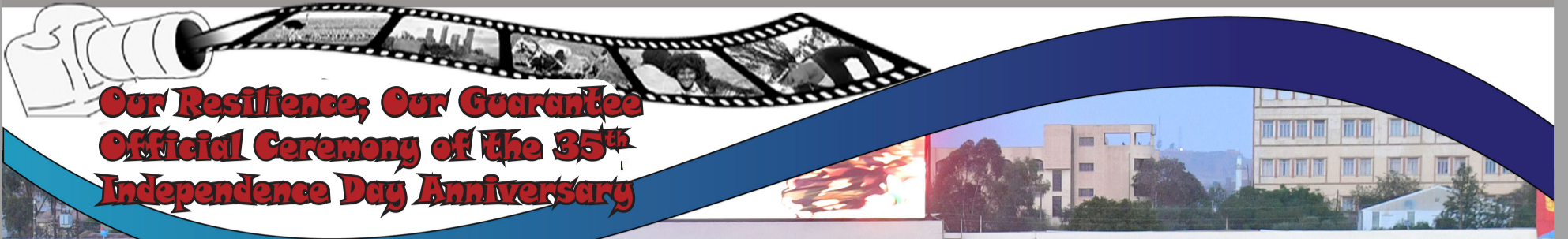
Today, more than three decades after independence, the legacy of the liberation struggle continues to shape Eritrea's national identity and historical consciousness. It remains a powerful reminder of the sacrifices demanded by freedom; the consequences of the flagrant breaches of international law; and the enduring determination of a people unwilling to surrender their national rights. As Eritreans commemorate the 35th anniversary of independence, the history of that long struggle continues to stand as both a source of national pride and a defining chapter in the broader history of liberation movements.



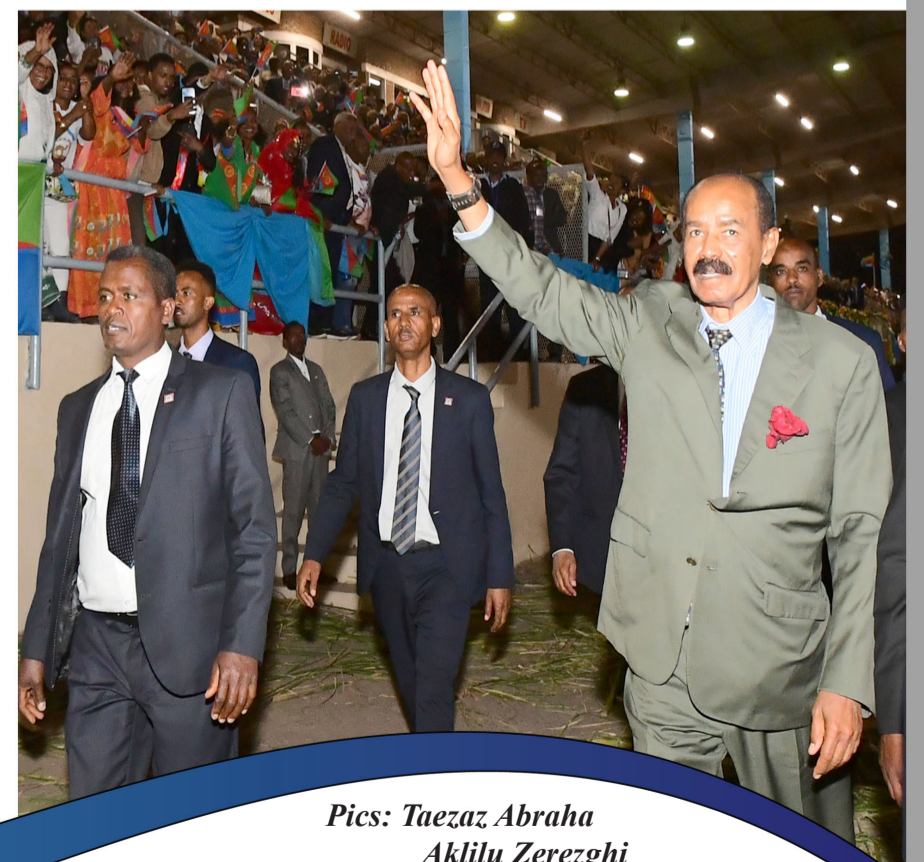
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*Pics: Taezaz Abraha  
Aklilu Zerezghi  
Saleh Abdelkader  
Abraham Beyene*



**Our Resilience; Our Guarantee  
Official Ceremony of the 35<sup>th</sup>  
Independence Day Anniversary**



*Pics: Tazaz Abraha  
Aklilu Zerezghi  
Saleh Abdelkader  
Abraham Beyene*

# OPINION

## 35<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary of Eritrea: Achievements in Social Justice

*Kidanemariam Feday*

As we celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary of Eritrea, it is important to take this occasion to reflect on the deep meaning of Independence.

During the liberation struggle and in the post-independence period, independence in Eritrea has been associated with a broad vision—restoring dignity to the Eritrean people, ensuring equality among communities, and building a nation whose development reaches all segments of society, including those living in remote locations. At the heart of this vision lies the principle of social justice.

The philosophy that has shaped post-independence Eritrea was born during the long armed struggle for independence led by the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF). From the outset, the EPLF understood that national unity could endure only if all regions, ethnic groups, and social classes felt equally included in the national project. And social justice has always been seen as the cornerstone of nation-building.

One of the most significant manifestations of the government's commitment to social justice has been the expansion of education across the country. Following Eritrea's independence, schools have been built all over the country – in towns and villages, at the center and on the margins, and for both permanent residents of villages and towns and nomadic communities. For countless Eritrean families who had never had access to schools, being able to send their children to school meant more than just an opportunity for their children's education; it signified inclusion within the nation itself. And the government's commitment to providing free education -- from elementary to higher education -- reflects its principle that education is not a privilege but a right that every citizen enjoys. Thus, education in Eritrea is a great equalizer.

Educational institutions in Eritrea have been producing generations of Eritrean professionals in engineering, medicine, science, agriculture, and education. Literacy campaigns and educational outreach programs have expanded learning opportunities, especially among women and rural populations. The investments in education are expressions of the government's commitment to empowering citizens and enhancing the nation's human capital, ensuring



the prevalence of social justice.

As with education, progress in healthcare is also guided by the principle of social justice. Clinics, health stations, and maternal care centers have been built in remote regions where access to medical services had once been almost nonexistent. Vaccination programs and community-based healthcare initiatives have improved public health outcomes using minimal



national resources. For many communities, access to healthcare has become a tangible sign that Eritrea's independence delivers practical improvements in everyday life. Social justice, in this sense, means that geography would no longer determine whether a citizen could access basic social services.

One of the most transformative achievements of independent Eritrea has inarguably been the extensive investment in water infrastructure and dam construction. Over the years, approximately 850 small, medium, and strategic dams have been built across the country, many in remote rural areas. For a country that frequently encounters drought and erratic rainfall, water security

is inseparable from human security. The dams, therefore, are critical for the survival and well-being of the people. They are critical pillars of food security, agricultural resilience, and rural stability.

By supporting irrigation systems, improving water availability for livestock, and reducing dependence on rain-fed agriculture, the dams have improved the livelihoods of farming communities and enhanced the nation's capacity to confront

climate challenges. In many regions, they have reduced vulnerability to drought and helped stabilize local economies.

Yet the deeper significance of the dams lies in what they represent socially and politically. The decision to direct such investments toward remote and historically marginalized communities reflects a deliberate commitment to balanced development. Rather than concentrating national resources solely on major urban centers, Eritrea pursues a model that attempts to bring opportunity to villages and rural populations long excluded from infrastructure development. The dams, thus, have become instruments of social justice as much



as demonstrations of agricultural policy.

For ordinary Eritreans, especially women and children, improved access to water has also brought relief from daily hardships. It has reduced the time wasted walking long distances to fetch water, increased household water security, and improved household sanitation, thereby enhancing overall quality of life. Such changes may appear modest in statistical terms, yet they carry profound meaning in the daily lives of communities.

Infrastructure development has played a central role in Eritrea's social vision. Roads connecting isolated villages, expanded telecommunications, schools, clinics, and community facilities have all contributed to narrowing regional inequalities. Infrastructure in Eritrea has been viewed not solely through the lens of economic modernization but also through the principle of equality among citizens. Development becomes more meaningful when all citizens, both those at the center and those in remote areas, feel connected to the national community and included in the country's future.

The growing emphasis on renewable energy, particularly solar power, represents another important dimension of Eritrea's long-term social development strategy. The solar energy projects implemented across the country have demonstrated the potential of sustainable, decentralized power systems. Rural clinics, schools, water pumps, and off-grid communities are increasingly benefitting from solar-based solutions that improve daily life while reducing dependence on imported fuel.

The expansion of solar energy carries strategic significance for Eritrea's future. In a world increasingly facing climate change and energy insecurity, renewable energy can be a major driver of equitable development. Solar infrastructure offers the potential to bring electricity and modern services to isolated communities that traditional grid systems may not readily reach. In this sense, renewable energy is not only an environmental initiative but also an extension of social justice itself — ensuring that modernization includes those at the geographic margins of development.

Women's participation in Eritrean society has similarly reflected the

transformative aspirations of the liberation struggle. Women played central roles during the armed struggle as fighters, educators, health workers, and social organizers. Their contribution challenged traditional barriers and helped redefine women's place in public life. Since Eritrea's independence, expanded access to education and professional participation have further strengthened women's role in national development. This demonstrates that the pursuit of social justice in Eritrea has always recognized that national progress cannot be achieved while half the population remains marginalized.

On Eritrea's 35th anniversary of independence, there is much to celebrate. The resilience of the Eritrean people, the preservation of the nation's sovereignty under difficult circumstances, and the achievements in education, healthcare, water infrastructure, and rural development all deserve recognition. At the same time, the anniversary should inspire a reflection on the future.

The next phase of Eritrea's development will require renewed investment in economic opportunities, technological advancement, agricultural modernization, and youth empowerment. Expanding renewable energy systems, strengthening higher education and research institutions, improving irrigation and climate resilience, and creating broader pathways for innovation and skilled employment will be essential. Social justice cannot remain static; it must evolve to meet the aspirations of a new generation.

The central lesson of Eritrea's post-independence experience is that national unity becomes stronger when development is shared and when ordinary citizens see themselves reflected in the nation's progress. Social justice, therefore, is not simply a moral ideal. It is a strategic foundation for stability, dignity, resilience, and national cohesion.

On the occasion of its 35th Independence Anniversary, Eritrea has an opportunity to reaffirm the values that have sustained it through the armed struggle and reconstruction: self-reliance, equality, inclusion, and collective responsibility. The work ahead remains significant, but the achievements already realized demonstrate that even under difficult conditions, a determined nation can pursue development rooted in justice and human dignity.

# Development

## Arteries of Progress: Eritrea's Transport and Communications Sectors Drive National Development

**By: Habtom Tesfamichael**  
(Paraphrased Report from extensive local media interview with Mr. Tesfaselassie Berhane, the Minister of Transport and Communications)

Over the three and a half decades since independence, Eritrea has undertaken major efforts to rebuild and modernize its transport and communication sectors, transforming them into essential foundations for national development, economic activity, and social integration. Emerging



**Minister Tesfaselassie Berhane**

from a period of severe infrastructure depletion, the country pursued a strategic approach to create a more integrated national system that would improve connectivity and ensure equitable access to services nationwide.

In this regard, after the country's independence, the Ministry of Transportation and Communications was tasked with coordinating and managing all modes of transportation (Land, Air, and Sea) and conducting requisite regulatory oversight of these subsectors.

Significant progress has been achieved in public transportation, particularly in connecting rural and previously hard to reach areas. After independence, through road construction and rehabilitation projects, transportation services expanded into regions that had limited access during the colonial periods. Accordingly, the expansion of road network routes from only 26 in 1991 to 342 today, has improved accessibility across the country. In brief, transport routes have grown exponentially by 1,215%; bus services by 613%; daily passenger capacity by 857%; and taxi services by 760%. In terms of aggregate investment; the figures for Rural Transport Investment stand at 626 million Nakfa while total financial outlays for Urban Transport Investment amount to 385 million Nakfa.

Freight and liquid transportation have also become central to Eritrea's economic infrastructure by facilitating the movement of goods, fuel, and commodities between production centers, markets, and ports. Considerable investments have helped expand transport capacity, although maintaining an aging vehicle fleet remains a challenge due to spare parts shortages and technical constraints.

*Current Status of Freight and Logistics*

Indicator	Current Status
Government investment	Over 1.1 billion Nakfa
Freight and liquid transport vehicles	15,000
Dry cargo capacity	82,000+ tons
Liquid transport capacity	238,000 m <sup>3</sup> /day

Road safety and regulation have independence, telecommunications

received increased attention through policy reforms, studies, and safety initiatives. Mandatory vehicle inspections, traffic management systems, and improvements in road safety infrastructure have been introduced to address transportation challenges and reduce accidents.

Equally significant progress has been achieved in Eritrea's communication sector. Following



systems were largely non-functional, requiring emergency measures to restore international connectivity. To overcome the problem, the Government made

huge investments totaling over 35 billion Nakfa over the 35 years of independence.

**C**ontinued on page 10

### Keynote Address by President . . .

**C**ontinued from page 2

- To ensure the prevalence of fairness and justice as vital prerequisites for peace and stability.
- To promote mutual respect, complementarity, and cohesion/integration to bolster far-reaching regional and global peace and stability, as well as mutual growth.
- To establish an appropriate legal executive structure and associated mechanisms for the implementation of these fundamental human aspirations.

While the dismantling of the old global system and the establishment of a new one concern humanity as a whole, these issues carry particular significance for marginalized peoples and victims of the prevailing zero-sum order, especially across Africa, where many societies continue to endure subsistence livelihoods. It is therefore imperative that Africa and its sub-regions formulate complementary strategies and clearly defined plans within the larger global framework. This was, indeed, the very reason that prompted the transition from the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to the African Union (AU). Should the African Union fail to fulfill its lofty mission, it risks losing its relevance. Consequently, our engagement and efforts to strengthen friendship and cooperation within Africa must become increasingly active and vigorous.

To focus on our Region:

Last year, I addressed issues in what we call our neighborhood; specifically, the Nile Basin, the

Horn of Africa, the Red Sea, and the Gulf, with particular reference to Ethiopia and the Sudan. Because the global vulnerability of the region has worsened, following the crisis surrounding the Strait of Hormuz, the importance of a collective security mechanism based on an agreement and cooperation among the States in the neighborhood – rather than the normalized interventionist policies of self-proclaimed regional powers and external actors – that we have been advocating for long has, once again, become abundantly clear. It is high time that serious efforts are exerted towards this end.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Horn of Africa is the sub-region of the neighborhood to which we devote close and sustained attention for its evident practical significance. The efforts we exerted in the past years, since our independence, to transform IGAD from its original, limited mandate of “combating drought and desertification – IGADD” into a vehicle for development – IGAD – that leverages stability for a regional framework of development and cooperation, did not come to fruition. The situations in Somalia, Ethiopia, the Sudan, and South Sudan remain deeply precarious and increasingly demand greater attention and effort. What are the fundamental problems?

Although the matter can be discussed in far greater detail, the broadly “similar” characteristics revolve around the challenges of nation-building. First, instead of building citizen-centered nationhood, societies are polarized along vertical ethnic, clan, and religious lines,

thereby stoking hatred and civil strife that often degenerate into internecine killings. Second, the cultivation of warlords to replace and undermine sovereign institutions. Third, the preponderance of a chronic and corrosive culture of corruption and embezzlement. Fourth, and most detrimental of all, foreign interventions and subservience to external interests. While there may be minor disparities in the details, in general terms, these are the principal crises that require resolution. In this context, and as a pragmatic precondition, the immediate termination of external interventions and funding remains mandatory.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On domestic issues:

As it will be recalled, I had elaborated during last year's Independence Day celebrations on our development programs and priorities across various sectors. While the concept itself is not new, the short-term objective remains improving our people's livelihood, with priority to marginalized and underserved regions. The broader and long-term development program consists of extricating the country from a subsistence economy. It encompasses strengthening productivity, ensuring sustainable growth in production, laying the foundations for advanced processing and value-added industrial manufacturing, and service sectors. Beyond the economic dimension, these priorities also extend to encompass the diplomatic and informational domains. Moreover, the significance of capital and technology in the context of emerging opportunities and broad, sustainable

partnerships cannot be overstated. As emphasized repeatedly, the decisive factor is ensuring synergy and sustainability through effective coordination among nationwide popular participation, the quality and number of young professionals, and all patriots in the diaspora. To advance in accordance with our aspirations, we must continue to revise and streamline our programs while strengthening our resource mobilization. All these preparatory and coordination tasks could perhaps affect the pace of our ongoing development programs this year.

Road and transportation projects will be expanded as planned. Extensive housing programs will also proceed in parallel. Implementation of projects aimed at expanding electricity and water services will begin this year despite potential supply chain delays. In the sphere of social services, particular emphasis will be placed on education, beginning from the pre-school level, with broad popular participation. Likewise, the expansion of quality healthcare services will be pursued vigorously.

Kudos to the dedicated, hardworking, courageous, patient, and steadfast people of Eritrea, along with the ever-present Defense Forces, the kernel, strong shield, and cornerstone of our development programs. Even if obstacles are encountered, there is no cause for apprehension. Rest assured!

**Our Resilience, Our Guarantee!  
Eternal Glory to our Martyrs,  
exemplars of steadfastness!  
Victory to the Masses!  
Asmara, 24 May 2026**



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

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

**Laundry Crew Leader**  
**Number required – (02)**  
**Type of contract – Indefinite**

**Major Duties and responsibilities**

- Supervisory/Leader
- Health and Safety
- Administration
- Relief
- 

TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREA

**Supervise and lead the Office Cleaners**

- Lead and supervise the laundry employees.
- Act as a leader to laundry employees.
- Guide and assist the laundry employees to ensure that area of responsibility is maintained at the required level.
- Daily absenteeism and attendance register to Housekeeping Supervisor.
- Check on housekeeping stock and collect cleaning chemicals from the store.
- Direct and assign all laundry employees on each shift.
- Supervise and oversee the laundry equipment and ensure preventative maintenance is in place.
- Prepare and issue work order to the Maintenance Service as required and follow through to completion.
- Responsible to report and send work order to Maintenance department on faulty equipment and to follow through on completion.
- Ensure and supervise area of responsibility to ensure that laundry employees provide a service as required by the Company.
- Schedule employee's daily activities at the start of the shift en to ensure that all areas are covered.
- Carrying out of additional instructions as requested by the Supervisor.
- Check that laundry form corresponds with the clean clothes.

**Health and Safety**

- Required to wear PPE as specified.
- Safety awareness of work area to office staff.
- Report any hazard or potential hazard to Housekeeping Supervisor.
- Ensure that Field Risk Assessment is completed on a daily basis.

**Administration**

- Provide checklist of activities performed to Housekeeping Supervisor.
- Daily absenteeism and attendance register to Housekeeping Supervisor.
- Check on cleaning stock and collect cleaning chemicals from the store.
- Provide the Housekeeping Supervisor with list of cleaning items to be ordered.
- Provide a list of costs on Laundry department to Housekeeping Supervisor.

**Relief**

- Provide a relief service by standing in for absent Office Cleaners.
- Relief for Housekeeping Supervisor in her absence as part of individual development.

**Profile: Qualifications and Experience**

Formal Education, Certifications or Equivalent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Basic Literacy in Local Language</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Grade 12 minimum</li> </ul>
Working Experience – Nature & Length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Years experience required in a laundry environment</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Able to speak and write English and Local language</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Acting or Previous Team Leader experience will be a requirement</li> </ul>

Technical Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge of Laundry Service (washing, ironing and collecting)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Administrative skills</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge of Laundry and Safety policies and procedures</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Organizing and co-ordination of Staff</li> </ul>
Behavioral Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> General Courtesy</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Clean and presentable</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Required to work in a team</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Team Leader</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Motivator</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Coach/Mentor</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Interpersonal Relations skill</li> </ul>

**General Information and other requirements:**

- Place of Work:** AMSC Sites
- Type of contract:** Indefinite Period
- Salary:** As per the Company salary scale

**Additional requirements for Nationals:**

- Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provide evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defense.
- Present clearance paper from current/last employer.
- Testimonial documents to be attached (CV, work experience credentials, a copy of your National Identity Card, etc.).
- Only shortlisted applicants would be considered as potential candidates for an interview.
- Application documents will not be returned to the sender.
- All applications should be sent through the post office.
- Deadline for application: 7 days from the day of publication in the Newspaper.

**Address: Please mail your applications to:**

**Asmara Mining Share Company,  
 P. O. Box 10688 Asmara, Eritrea**

**Applicants shall be required to send a copy to:**

**Mineral Resources Management  
 P.O. Box – 272  
 Asmara**

**Note to Eritrean applicants:**

**Please send a copy of your application to  
 Aliens Employment Permit Affairs,  
 P. O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea**

### Arteries of Progress: Eritrea's ...

*Continued from page 9*

Indeed, although there are still critical challenges and bottlenecks regarding wider access and affordability, substantial efforts have been made to expand telephone and internet services across the country. The considerable investments made so far have gone a long way in the incremental modernization of the national network through landline upgrades, mobile communication services, and the installation of communication towers across the country.

Internet services have also expanded substantially through improved satellite technologies and direct connectivity systems, which have enhanced communication speed and efficiency.

As a result of these efforts, internet service, which started with half a megabyte of bandwidth in 2001, has increased to 1,536 megabytes over the past 10 years and has now reached the 4G level. Wi-Fi Internet service has also been expanded to remote areas and semi-urban centers.

*Communications Sector Growth*

Indicator	Current Status
Telecommunication towers installed	184
Internet capacity (2001)	0.5 MB
Internet capacity (Current)	1.5 GB
Telephone and internet services expansion investment	35 Billion Nakfa

Overall, the development of Eritrea's transport and communication sector reflects a long-term process of reconstruction and modernization aimed at strengthening national integration, expanding economic opportunities, and improving access to services.

While challenges remain, continued investment and strategic planning have enabled important progress in connecting people and communities throughout the country.



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 positions

**1. Position: Computer Training and Resource Administrator officer**

Department: Employee Service

Section : Training and Development

Number required: One (01)

Primary purpose

- Train Employees in computer systems and applications programs to make employees able to work with computers independently in effective and efficient manner.

- Manage computer lab and provide support to employees attending online training.

TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS: -

- Plan for computer training program
- Tailor Training
- Conduct computer training
- Manage Computer Lab
- Evaluate effectiveness of training programs
- Provide user support to the online trainees and general resource center users
- Provide resources center administrative support
- Reporting

UNIQUE REQUIREMENTS / OTHER INFORMATION

- Conduct Training impact assessment and training auditing
- Good verbal and written communication skill in English.
- Produce and maintain effective training results
- Coaching and monitoring skill
- Assessment and Moderation skill Understanding of instruction design system

Qualifications:

- BSc. Or Diploma In computer science or related fields

Knowledge and Experience:

- 2 - 5 years' experience as computer trainer .
- 2 - 5 ears office and computer lab administration

Technical Skills	Behavioural Skills
Advanced Computer skills	Communication (English and local language)
Great verbal and written communication skills	Respectful
Attention to detail	Committed
Analytical skill	Integrity
Problem solving skill	Conflict resolution
Reception skills (ability to greet and receive guests well)	Ability to work towards strict deadlines
Adult education	Flexible and open-minded
Summarization and report writing skills	High level of accuracy
Receive and relay messages effectively	Positive and Professional mannerisms
	Friendly and respectful

**2. Position: Graduate Development Program Coordinator**

Department: Employee Service

Section : Training and Development

Number required: One (01)

Primary Purpose

- To effectively implement and manage the BMSC Graduate Development Program by planning, coordinating, monitoring program activities, supporting graduate trainees and departments, and ensuring proper budget control and expenditure tracking.

Main Functions

- Development and implementation of Graduate Development Program
- Plan & Coordinate implementation of BMSC Graduate Development Program
- Monitor implementation of Graduate Development Programs
- Report on individual Graduate trainees' & GDP progress
- Provide Administrative support to the Graduate Trainees & PDP implementing departments
- Budgeting and Expenditure tracking
- Stakeholder Engagement and Relationship Management.
- Maintaining budget and tracking of expenditure.

TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS

- Development and review of Graduate Development Program
- Compliance and Continuous Improvement

Knowledge, Experience and Skills

<b>Qualifications:</b>
Degree in Management or mining related field
Second-grade driving licence
<b>Knowledge and Experience:</b>
2 Years of Accounting knowledge

1-3 years' experience in accounting environment

Technical Skills	Behavioural Skills
Computer Literacy (MS Office – Advanced)	Integrity
Communication (English and local language)	Assertiveness
Management skills	Interpersonal Relations
Attention to detail	Conflict resolution
Analytical skill	Ability to work towards strict deadlines
Coordination skills	High level of accuracy

**3. Position: Human Resources Officer**

Department: Employee Services

Section: Human Resources

Number required: One (01)

PRIMARY PURPOSE

- Responsible for all Human Resources Administration as well recruitment in area of responsibility.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

- Describe the fundamental duties and functions of the job (what is done and why).

TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS

- Administration
- Recruitment
- HR Documentation
- Performance Management
- Terminations
- Reporting
- Promotions and Transfers
- Others

UNIQUE REQUIREMENTS / OTHER INFORMATION

- Ability to work in a high pressure, fast paced, multicultural environment which demands various skills and experiences to provide effective human resources services to the organization; the candidate must be Physically and Medically fit.
- Carry out any other duties or instructions as requested by the incumbent's supervisor or manager

Qualification	Knowledge and Experience
Essential- Diploma (Human Resources, Management, Psychology, Personal Management)	Minimum one year's experience in employee administration including hiring, looking after, and terminating employees and minimum one year's experience in using Microsoft Word, Excel, and Outlook in a business environment.
Desirable- Degree (Human Resources, Management, Psychology, Personal Management)	
Desirable- Driving license	

Technical Skills	Behavioural Skills
Computer Literacy (MS Office – Intermediate) Proficient in HR System Attention to detail Knowledge of Policies, Procedures and Processes Ensure that HR audit requirements are met Address HR issues Business Communication skills Knowledge of current legislation Administrative skill Report writing skills Knowledge of current Labor legislation, Analytical skills	Demonstrate excellent people management and interpersonal skills, as well as the ability to deal with in different types of people at various levels.  Friendly, empathetic, and open-minded, with high standards of personal and professional integrity, fairness, and an unbiased approach  General Information and other requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Place of Work: Bisha.</li> <li>• Salary: As per Company salary scale.</li> <li>• Type of Contract: Indefinite</li> </ul> Additional requirements for Nationals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provided evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defense.</li> <li>• Present clearance paper from current/last employer.</li> </ul>

- 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

1. Aliens Employment permits Affairs,  
P. O. Box 7940  
Asmara, Eritrea.

Note to Eritrean applicants:  
Please send a copy of your application to:

2. Mineral Resources Management  
P. O. Box 272 Asmara, Eritrea



Q and A

# Echoes of a Shared Harmony: Diaspora and International Voices on Eritrea's Independence

By Kidane Shimendi

Reflections from Foreign Visitors

Angelo Garcia (Spain)

"This is my first time in Eritrea,



Angelo Garcia

and I am very happy and grateful to share this atmosphere of peace and freedom with the Eritrean people on such a special occasion. I can see people walking the streets peacefully, overwhelmed with joy and pride. What impressed me most was seeing parents holding their children and young students wearing T-shirts decorated with national slogans and the flag. The vibrant streetlights add even more color to the people's bright smiles and shining faces.

The Eritrean people possess a powerful culture of resilience, which is evident in how they celebrate their hard-won independence in peace amid global crises. I believe the world—and other African nations in particular—has much to learn from Eritrea. Maintaining a delicate balance between peace and freedom despite ongoing global geopolitical shifts underscores strong leadership and a deep relationship with the masses. Finally, I would like to extend my best wishes and deepest gratitude for the warm love and hospitality of the Eritrean people. Happy Independence Day!"

Zhou Tao (China)

"I have been in Eritrea for more than five months now, spending a very memorable time among its people. Currently, I serve as an instructor at the Confucius Institute, teaching Chinese language and culture to Eritrean nationals. My

Eritrea's 35<sup>th</sup> Independence anniversary was colorfully celebrated across the country, with festivities beginning weeks ahead of the official ceremony on May 24, 2026. Schools, administrative districts, and government institutions marked the milestone with artistic performances, cultural exhibitions, sports contests, street carnivals, and public celebrations. Throughout these events, foreign visitors and nationals returning from the diaspora unanimously praised Eritrea's profound peace and freedom. Eritrea Profile shares some of these visitors' reflections on this honored day.

students are highly intelligent and passionate about learning new skills, which highlights the nation's rich potential and bright future.

Today, we showcased our institute's performance to the public during the street celebrations. It brought me great joy and honor to contribute our part to this vibrant national celebration, and the wide applause from the audience really meant a lot to us. I have experienced exceptional hospitality and warm love here that is hard to find elsewhere. Peace is overwhelming; anyone can walk the streets at any hour, alone or in a group, in complete freedom. This unique



Zhou Tao

treasure highlights the people's deep love for their country, and I am grateful to witness it firsthand. I wish the Eritrean people peace and prosperity in the years ahead as they achieve great milestones in nation-building. Happy Independence Day!"

Ivan Cheng (Australia)

"As a first-time visitor to Eritrea, I am profoundly struck by the nation's precious peace and freedom, which clearly reflect the people's rich culture and history. People walk the streets proudly and peacefully. I noticed children placing flag stickers on their cheeks, students cheering loudly in themed T-shirts, and avenues beautifully decorated with national flags and lights. The artistic performances



Ivan Cheng

engage every generation, bringing young children and parents together.

Furthermore, I visited an exhibition tracing centuries of Eritrean sports history and was amazed by its depth. Putting all of this together magnifies the peace, rich culture, and history that Eritrea possesses. I feel incredibly privileged to share this joy among such a welcoming public. Ultimately, I wish the Eritrean people everlasting joy and success in their ongoing development. I highly recommend that other countries look to the lessons Eritrea offers in ensuring the fair and equal distribution of social services across the nation. Happy Independence Day!"

Amel Adem (United Kingdom)

"This is my first time visiting Eritrea, and I am experiencing immense joy celebrating our 35th Independence Day alongside our resilient, loving, and patriotic



Amel Adem

people. I am profoundly grateful to the Eritrean people for the resilience, strength, and resolve that have safeguarded our sovereignty against external pressures. I feel incredibly lucky to witness this unforgettable celebration, which is accompanied by breathtaking achievements in our national development.

For me, Independence Day is a sacred gift from our fallen heroes, entrusted to us to make our country prosperous. The heavy price paid for our liberation is truly unparalleled. Our resilience, comradeship, unity in diversity, equality, and nationalism allowed us to overcome colonial adversaries, and these same values continue to shape our ongoing nation-building. I wish eternal joy and prosperity to the homeland, and I call upon my peers in the diaspora to visit Eritrea, reconnect deeply with the foundational values that shape our identity, and experience this true freedom firsthand. Happy Independence Day!"

Isayas Haile (Germany)

"Although I have visited Eritrea many times, particularly during the summer, this is my very first time celebrating Independence Day in the homeland. Walking among my people on the beautiful streets of Asmara makes me feel incredibly proud and fortunate to experience a sense of love, peace, and freedom that is rare to witness in many parts of the world today.

The heavy sacrifices paid for this special day make it our most valuable treasure. It reminds us of our profound responsibility



Isayas Haile

to continue realizing the Grand National vision for which our martyrs fell. To achieve this, the youth at home and in the diaspora must remain organized, conscious, and equipped with the necessary skills. Every year, our independence celebrations take on greater significance, just as we see today. I wish our patriotic people endless peace and invite fellow nationals abroad to visit frequently and contribute to our sustainable, self-reliant development. Happy Independence Day!"

## Conclusion

Eritrea's profound peace and stability have been widely celebrated by foreign visitors and returning nationals alike. This environment of peace and freedom is built upon the pillars of societal resilience, unity in diversity, nationalism, self-reliance, and equality.

Despite numerous external challenges, witnessing such overwhelming public safety alongside a promising nation-building process reflects the people's heightened national consciousness, strong leadership, and unwavering determination. Truly, our resilience remains the ultimate guarantee for our peace, sovereignty, and development.

**"Our Resilience: Our Guarantee." Happy Independence Day!**

