ERITREA PROFILE

Vol. 32 No. 8 | *Saturday, 27 September, 2025* | *Pages 8, Price 2.00 NFA*

MINISTER OSMAN SALEH DISCUSSES WITH PRESIDENT TRUMP'S SENIOR ADVISER



Mr. Osman Saleh, Minister of Foreign Affairs, met on 25 september, on the margins of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, with Mr. Massad Fares Boulos, Senior Advisor to President Trump on African Affairs, to discuss avenues for renewed engagement between the two countries as well as the prospects of collaboration on vital matters of regional peace and stability.

At the meeting, Minister Osman underscored Eritrea's readiness to engage in meaningful discussions that respect national sovereignty while exploring areas of common interest, particularly in the Horn of Africa, the Nile Basin, and the Red Sea.

Minister Osman also reaffirmed Eritrea's commitment to regional and sustainable development and welcomed the opportunity to assess potential avenues for cooperation with the United States.

Mr. Massad Fares, on his part, highlighted the United States' interest in fostering dialogue and understanding in a region vital to international trade, security, and counterterrorism efforts.

This engagement will pave the way for a new chapter in US-Eritrea relations, potentially opening doors for dialogue on trade, investment, infrastructure, transportation, communication, and security partnerships, while addressing longstanding concerns in a constructive framework.

The two sides also agreed to continue exchanges in the coming months to renewed bilateral relations.

The meeting was attended by Ambassador Sophia Tesfamariam, Eritrea's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and Mr. Berhane Gebrehiwet, Charge d'Affaires at the Eritrean Embassy.

ERITREAN DELEGATION HOLDS BILATERAL MEETINGS WITH VARIOUS OFFICIALS

Mr. Osman Saleh, Minister of Foreign Affairs, met on the sidelines of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York with Ms. Annette Weber, EU Special Representative for the Horn of Africa, and Ms. Maria Malmer Stenergard, Swedish Foreign Minister.

Discussions with the EU Special Representative focused on vital issues of peace and security in the Red Sea and Horn of Africa region, as well as Eritrea–EU cooperation. Ms. Weber commended Eritrea's critical role in maintaining maritime safety and security in the Red Sea. Both sides emphasized the importance of respecting the territorial integrity, sovereignty, and independence of all States, and agreed to continue engagement and coordination on key regional and bilateral matters.

The meeting with the Swedish Foreign Minister centered on strengthening bilateral relations and cooperation. The two sides also exchanged views on the peace and security situation in the Horn of Africa.

Foreign Minister Osman Saleh also held talks with the Foreign Minister of Cuba, Mr. Bruno R. Parrilla; Mr. Sering M. Njie, Foreign Minister of Gambia; and Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamood Albusaidi, Foreign Minister of the Sultanate of Oman.

The meeting with Cuba's Foreign Minister focused on international issues of mutual concern and enhancing cooperation in multilateral fora, including close coordination in upholding the principles of the UN Charter.

In the meeting with the Foreign Minister of Gambia, the two sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral ties and deepening cooperation in multilateral fora to advance Africa's interests. They also exchanged views on peace and security challenges facing the continent.

During the friendly talks with his Omani counterpart, Mr. Badr bin H. Albusaidi, Foreign Minister Osman Saleh discussed ways to further strengthen the brotherly and historical relations between the two countries, particularly in the economic and trade sectors. They also addressed various international and regional issues of mutual interest.



ERITREA PARTICIPATES IN THE MAINZ MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

The National Union of Eritrean Women Mainz sub-branch in Germany participated in the Golden Jubilee of the multicultural festival in Mainz city, displaying materials that depicted the culture, history, and ethnic diversity of Eritrea.



The festival, held on 14 September, brought together communities from various countries and was conducted for the 50th time.

At the festival, the union branch organized a special reception for the Administrator of Rhineland-Palatinate, Mr. Alexander Schweitzer, the Mayor of Mainz, and other city officials.

Statement by Foreign Minister Osman Saleh at Special High-Level Event on Climate Action

Eritrea like many nations on the frontlines, has been experiencing severe and escalating impacts of climate change. Increasing temperatures and erratic precipitation are driving disasters that undermine our economy and threaten the livelihoods of our people.

In the face of these challenges, the State of Eritrea is fully committed to a path of climate resilience and low-carbon development. As a testimony of this, we have prepared our ambitious third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), which will be submitted prior to COP30.

In this regard our message today is focused on three pillars: ambition, clarity and partnership.

First, on ambition: Eritrea is putting forward a robust conditional target which represents its highest possible ambition. With our internal resources, we commit to an 8.6% reduction below business-as-usual. If international support is secured, Eritrea can do much more in achieving a 24.4% reduction by 2030. This will actually bend our emissions curve downward, bringing them below our 2018 levels.

Second, on clarity: We have a clear, investment-ready pipeline to get there. Our strategy is focused on two transformative pillars: a clean energy transformation and large-scale, nature-based solutions.

And third, on partnership: Achieving this highest ambition requires partnership. The total investment needed is approximately 1.3 billion USD. While we are investing significantly ourselves, we call on our development partners to support 63.4% of this total. This is not merely a request; it is an invitation to invest in high-impact projects that will deliver measurable results for the climate and for the most vulnerable.

Eritrea is ready to do its part within its internal capacity to deter the effects of Climate change in particular and environmental degradation at large. The Government of the state of Eritrea remains politically committed in mobilizing its financial and human resource. Having said that, we call upon the international



community and specially most polluter countries to live up to their historical responsibility in doing what is required from them, by taking the lead in addressing ground breaking measures domestically and sharing the knowledge, skill and technology they acquired and mobilizing adequate financial resource that are reliable and accessible to who needs and when they need it most. Eritrea believes concerted effort can make a big difference.

24 September 2025

Statement by Ambassador Sophia Tesfamariam at the 49th G77 and China Annual Ministerial Meeting

H.E. Mr. Fuad Hussein, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq and Chair of the Group of 77 and China,

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and gentlemen

First, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank H.E Mr. Fuad Hussein and the Republic of Iraq for the able stewardship of the Group throughout the year 2025.

Mr. Chairman,

ERITREA PROFILE

Published Every
Wednesday & Saturday

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In the aftermath of a devastating war, eighty years ago, the United Nations was founded on a visionary Charter. Though the majority of our nations in the Global South were not at the table back then, its core principles like the sovereign equality of all states, peaceful dispute resolution, and respect for territorial integrity, were designed to promote a better life for all and to protect humanity from fear, war, and deprivation.

Yet today, the United Nations, as a system and its noble objectives, has been hijacked. Too often, hegemonic greedy powers have diverted it from its mission, turning it into a tool for coercion, unilateral agendas, and the perpetuation of unjust world economic order.

The answer should not be to abandon multilateralism but rather to reclaim its true spirit. We must reaffirm our commitment to unwavering adherence to the letter and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, to international law, and to the fundamental principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of states. True multilateralism is all about respectful dialogue and cooperation among equals.

Eritrea's commitment in this regard is firm and clear. We believe in a world built on International Law, fair multilateralism, genuine cooperation, and sustainable development without leaving any one behind.

Eritrea's story since independence is indeed unique in many respects. It is one of resilience, determination and steadfastness. After independence, guided by the principles of equality, justice, and self-reliance, Eritrea started from scratch and with high hopes, bold ambitions, clear vision and a comprehensive national development plan. However, this was quickly tested by external hostilities, existential threats and unilateral coercive sanctions that threatened the very survival of the nation. Unfortunately, these challenges persist to this day.

Choosing to defend its sovereignty, Eritrea faced these challenges head-on, and through it all, the country has emerged with a strengthened sense of determination and resilience. Today, more than ever before, Eritrea is ready and determined to defend its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, while striving to thrive, develop and grow.

Eritrea is committed to using its own strengths and resources, while also partnering with global initiatives such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is equally committed to the goals and principles of the group of 77 and China and to the South-South cooperation to foster solidarity and achieve shared progress.

In the struggle for a fairer international system, we believe that the Group of 77 and China is our collective voice. It embodies the hopes of the Global South. Since its founding sixty-one years ago, this group has been the cornerstone of the fight for equity, mutual respect and partnership of equals. Under Iraq's capable leadership this past year, it has shown what principled unity can achieve.

Mr. Chairman,

At a time when geopolitical rivalries, tensions and conflicts are rising; the trust gaps between nations are widening, and unilateralism is gaining momentum and fertile grounds; the challenges we face demand greater solidarity, sharper focus, and clearer resolve from our Group. We must be more assertive in shaping the global development architecture and in correcting the deliberately skewed balance among the three main pillars of the UN system so that development is no longer sidelined, but placed at the center where it belongs.

This requires the comprehensive reform of the United Nations as a whole, and a fundamental overhaul of the international financial institutions that are increasingly becoming unresponsive. They must be made more democratic, representative, efficient, effective and responsive to the needs of developing countries.

Our voice must not only be heard; it must be heeded and respected. Our development needs must not only be acknowledged; they must be addressed and fulfilled. In the Global South, as a group or individually, we must have full ownership and leadership of our own development priorities, strategies and programs.

For Eritrea, national sovereignty, self-reliance, as well as ownership of development policy and philosophy are not up for debate or compromise. For us they are not abstract ideals, they are the essential foundations for a peaceful and just global community and the prerequisites for any genuine sustainable development.

On this 80th anniversary, let us recommit ourselves, not to the flawed UN system we have, but to the visionary one we were promised. A system that serves all of us. A system where every nation, no matter its size or wealth has an equal voice and an equal right to peace, development and justice.

I Thank you

Development

A Beacon of Progress: Transformations Shaping the Gash-Barka Region

kesete ghebrehiwet

The Gash-Barka region, often referred to as the breadbasket of Eritrea, is traditionally renowned for its fertile farmlands, abundant livestock resources, and resilient communities. For decades, this vast region has been the foundation of national food security. Today, however, Gash-Barka is undergoing a remarkable, holistic transformation. Sub-zones like Tesenei, Golij, and Haykota, along with all the villages within them, are witnessing profound changes across various sectors, including education, healthcare, water supply, and agriculture, setting new standards for rural development and raising the hopes of their people.

Agriculture remains the backbone of Gash-Barka, but traditional, subsistence-based farming is giving way to modern, entrepreneurial practices. This shift is powered by government investment, the adoption of modern techniques, and strong community determination. A notable success is the introduction of teff cultivation in the lowlands, a crop previously confined to the highlands. Now, some farmers are successfully cultivating vast tracts—up to 52 hectares each—of this popular grain between November and January, demonstrating the limitless agricultural potential that can be achieved with proper planning and innovation.



Key agricultural centers, such as Talata-Asher and Aligidir in the Tesenei sub-zone, are highly productive in growing onions, sorghum, millet, and sesame. Talata-Asher, utilizing irrigation from the Gash River, is also known for its banana plantations. Additionally, seasonal sorghum cultivation is now widespread during the rainy season, making Tesenei and Golij the region's most productive sub-zones. Beyond crops, the livestock sector has received a significant boost. With technical support and veterinary services from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Eritrea Crops and Livestock Corporation (ECLC), herders are better equipped to protect and expand their herds, leading to increased household incomes and stimulating local markets.

One of the most profound transformations is in the field of education. Schools are no longer distant institutions confined to towns; new buildings have been constructed, and old ones upgraded across villages in Tesenei, Golij, and Haykota, equipped with modern facilities. More than just "bricks and mortar," this transformation includes enhanced teacher training and the use of mother tongues in primary education, ensuring children receive quality, culturally connected learning. Education is now closer than ever for remote villages, aligning with the national vision of building the future by investing in people and ensuring no child is left behind.

Similar progress is evident in healthcare. New clinics and health centers are being built and equipped with better facilities across the sub-zones. Immunization campaigns have achieved near 100% coverage, even in remote areas, significantly controlling previously rampant diseases. Maternal and child healthcare has seen significant improvements, resulting in reduced mortality rates due to expanded prenatal services and improved delivery facilities. Sanitation and environmental health programs, particularly those targeting malaria during the rainy season, are making a significant difference. By improving health, the region empowers its people to live fuller, more productive lives, shifting community focus from disease management to development.



Reliable access to clean and safe drinking water has been a long-standing challenge, but it is now being addressed through potable water supply projects. In the Golij sub-zone alone, over 18 reservoirs and two small dams have been constructed, ensuring a steady supply for households, farming, and livestock. For women, this availability of nearby water is life-changing, freeing time previously spent carrying water for education, farming, and other productive activities. The improved irrigation also allows farmers to diversify crops and increase year-round production.



The region's transformation also embraces environmental sustainability. Efforts to create and protect an elephant corridor running through Gogne, Haykota, and parts of Tesenei are yielding positive results, with the elephant population steadily increasing. This is coupled with widespread land conservation practices, including soil leveling and reforestation, which are implemented in cooperation with local communities and government experts, ensuring a balanced and sustainable future for both wildlife and agriculture.





Finally, development is measured by the strength of the community. Support for the families of fallen heroes remains a cornerstone of social programs, reflecting a culture of respect and solidarity. Micro-credit schemes, often distributed through village banks, have provided small loans to residents, enabling them to start businesses or expand their herds, thereby empowering them to build better livelihoods. Furthermore, Farmers' Associations in Tesenei help members pool resources, share knowledge, and secure fairer prices, bolstering collective productivity.

What makes Gash-Barka's story so noteworthy is the interconnectedness of these changes. Education informs modern farming practices; healthcare ensures a strong, healthy workforce; clean water supports both health and agricultural productivity; and social programs weave a tighter social fabric. This holistic approach proves that development isn't about isolated projects but about comprehensive, interconnected progress. From Tebeldya to Omhajer, the story remains the same: transformation is everywhere. Though challenges remain, the spirit of resilience, combined with government investment and the unwavering determination of residents, is making the Gash-Barka region a beacon of progress for Eritrea. The region's most significant wealth is not just its fertile land, but the resilience, unity, and hope of its people.

Culture & Arts

A Cautionary Tale of Mesqel

Simon Weldemikael



Beauty in Eritrea is not merely aesthetic; it is symbolic, expressive, and layered with meaning. It speaks of identity, heritage, and social standing. Eritrea's nine ethnic groups bring their own aesthetic traditions to the national mosaic. Women's beauty is often expressed through intricate hairstyles, facial markings, and elegant traditional dress worn with grace and dignity. The jewelry worn by women, usually made of silver or gold, has symbolic meaning, including marking marital status.

Mesqel, celebrated on 27th September, is one of Eritrea's most vibrant religious and cultural holidays. It is also a day when beauty is on full display. Women dress in their finest traditional attire and adorn themselves with jewelry and elaborate hairstyles, radiating with joy. There is a popular saying that goes **ጓል መስቀል ርኢኻ አይትተሓጸ**, which is roughly translated as "Don't decide to engage a girl you see on Mesqel." The saying is a reminder that the beauty of girls during Mesqel is enhanced by makeup and ceremonial dress, which may not reflect everyday reality and does not last long. It serves as a caution against making life-altering decisions based solely on appearance. It's a cautionary saying not to let momentary beauty displayed at celebrations prevent you from seeing the substance of character.



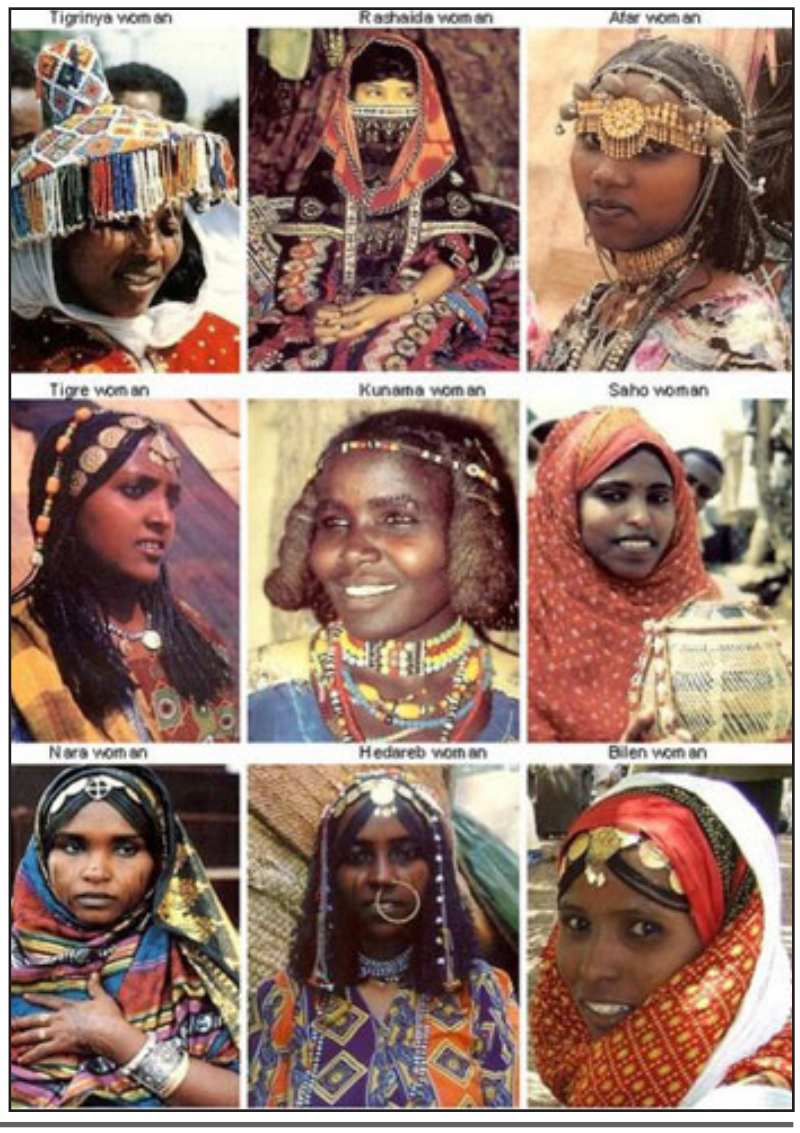
In Eritrean society, beauty is both celebrated and scrutinized. On the one hand, physical beauty is admired and praised in songs, often associated with notions of grace. A well-groomed woman in a flowing traditional dress, adorned with traditional jewelry and intricate braided hair, is often seen as the embodiment of elegance. On the other hand, beauty is treated with caution as the saying shows. There's skepticism in the saying that warns against being deceived by appearances. It suggests that beauty, especially when boosted by celebration, can mask more profound truths. It encourages judgment based on a look beyond the surface, paying attention to a person's character. The proverb is not a condemnation of beauty, but a call for deeper insight.

In Eritrean oral tradition, there's a saying attributed to women that crave beauty: "oh Lord, give me beauty; I'll borrow skills from my neighbor." This plea reflects that beauty is often seen as the most desirable thing to have, even more than skills or talent. The saying doesn't dismiss the value of skill; it only highlights the disproportionate weight given to physical appearance. It's a commentary on how society sometimes rewards beauty more readily than substance. This duality reveals that beauty is powerful, but it's not absolute. It can inspire admiration, but it must be balanced with insight.

In Eritrea, modesty is traditionally seen as a virtue. It's associated with dignity, humility, and respectability. A modest woman is often perceived as well-mannered, and morally upright. This is reflected in clothing which covers the body gracefully, and in social behaviors that emphasize restraint and composure. Concurrently, the act of beautifying oneself is also deeply embedded in Eritrean culture. Women adorn themselves with intricate hairstyles, vibrant fabrics, jewelry, and natural cosmetics. During celebrations like Mesqel and weddings, adornment becomes a form of cultural expression and pride. It's not just about looking good; it's about honoring tradition, community, and self-worth. Adornment is encouraged, but only within the bounds of modesty. Beauty is celebrated, but excessive display may invite criticism. This is not a contradiction but a cultural balancing act because both values (beauty and modesty) are upheld.

As Eritrean society continues to evolve, so too must its understanding of beauty. The standards of beauty cannot remain static. Globalization, social media, and foreign influence have introduced new aesthetics. As a result, the definition of beauty is evolving. Younger women embrace modern makeup and fashion while still honoring traditional aesthetics like the traditional dress and hairstyles. In Eritrean society, beauty is deeply intertwined with identity. A woman's appearance often signals age and marital status. Every braid, garment, and piece of jewelry connects the individual to the community. In this way, beauty becomes a powerful cultural identifier. Beauty and identity converge through traditional dress, braided hair, and ceremonial jewelry.

The beauty of Eritrean women is rooted in centuries of tradition. A modern young Eritrean women carry the elegance, wisdom and strength of our mothers. In a world that is changing rapidly, they are brilliantly blending and honoring the tradition and modernity. Let our beauty reflect our roots, our dreams, and our truth. Let us celebrate beauty and reflect who we are, where we come from, and the values we choose to uphold.



SpotLight

Celebrating Tourism Day for Sustainable Transformation

By: Fitsum Okbamicael (Wedi Ade)

This year, on September 27th, the world celebrates Tourism Day under the powerful theme "Tourism and Sustainable Transformation." This theme immediately prompts an essential question: What is tourism, and how exactly can it drive meaningful, lasting transformation in a nation? Before we explore its transformative power, it's necessary to understand the diverse nature of this activity, which is far from monolithic, encompassing several distinct types, each with a unique purpose and impact.

Understanding the Spectrum of Tourism

Tourism spans a broad spectrum of human movement and motivation. Leisure Tourism is the most widely recognized form, where travelers seek relaxation and personal enjoyment, prioritizing quality accommodations, appealing scenery, excellent cuisine, and efficient services. In contrast, Business Tourism is typically organized by companies for professional objectives. Even though its primary purpose is corporate, it inherently offers visitors a chance to engage with the host country's culture, history, traditions, and living conditions, thereby expanding its impact.

Other forms appeal to specialized interests. Cultural and Heritage Tourism attracts those who wish to experience history, art, and traditions different from their own, involving the exploration of historical sites, local customs, and architectural wonders. Medical tourism involves people traveling specifically to receive specialized treatments or procedures, providing a significant source of income for many nations. A growing and vital sector is Agro-Industry Tourism, which merges agriculture with travel, offering visitors experiences on farms and ranches where they can purchase local produce, enjoy scenic landscapes, and appreciate a rural environment. In a country like Eritrea, the development of agro-industries in areas such as Gerset, Elabered, and Gergera holds immense promise for expanding this particular type of tourism.

Tourism as a Catalyst for Sustainable Transformation

The theme "Tourism for Sustainable Transformation" rightly positions the industry as a powerful catalyst for overall development. Globally, tourism is a significant economic powerhouse, accounting for nearly one in ten jobs and contributing substantially to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of both developing and developed nations. Transformation through tourism highlights its crucial contribution across various developmental sectors—including societal, economic, and cultural ones—all of which are intrinsically linked to the daily lives of communities.



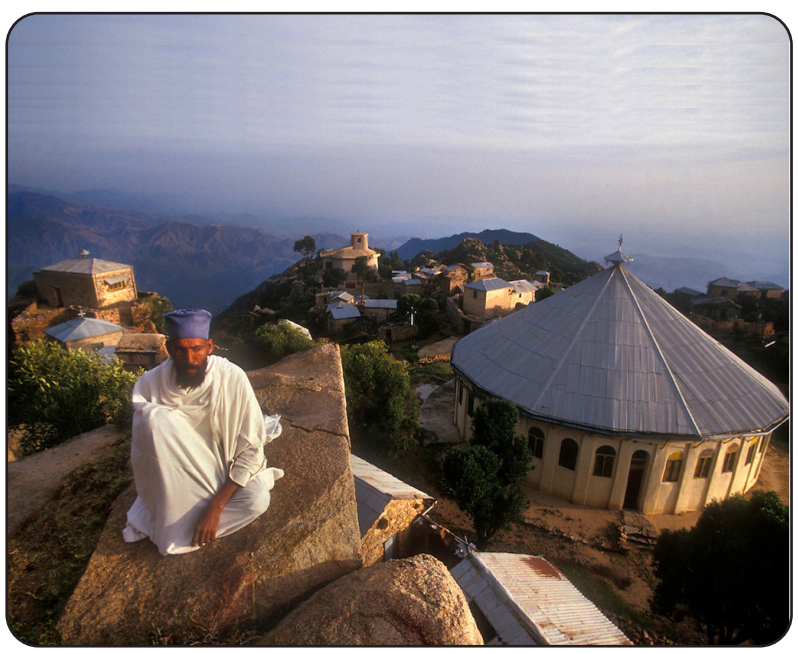
Sahaba Mosque



Mosque in Akurdet



Agro-industry Tourism



Debre-Bizen Monastery

Beyond economics, tourism acts as a cultural bridge, fostering mutual understanding, appreciation of heritage, and global goodwill. The revenue generated by tourism often funds essential infrastructure for local communities, such as roads, schools, and healthcare facilities. When tourism is meticulously aligned with robust sustainability principles—ensuring it drives inclusive growth, protects cultural heritage, and safeguards the environment—it truly becomes a lasting, transformative force.

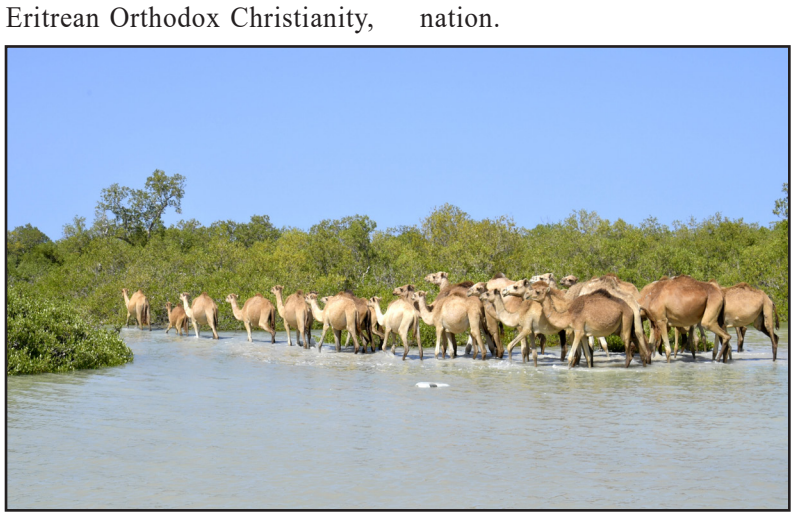
Eritrea is naturally prosperous with numerous endowments that can attract diverse forms of tourism and significantly contribute to the nation's development and transformation. Proper management and promotion of these assets are vital to turning them into substantial and sustainable sources of national revenue.

The nation boasts ancient sites that speak to a long, profound history, appealing powerfully to the cultural traveler. The Ancient Monasteries of Eritrean Orthodox Christianity, such as Debrebizen, Tsaeda-Emba, and Debre Libanos, are rich in history and tradition. They house libraries of ancient manuscripts and offer a spiritual experience, like the rewarding 6 km climb to the Debrebizen Monastery, established in 1360 AD. Equally important is the Al-Sahaba Mosque in the port city of Massawa. Reputed to be the first mosque built in Africa, dating back to the 14th century, it stands as a crucial historical and religious site for researchers tracing the introduction of Islam to the continent.

In terms of urban wonders, the capital city of Asmara is a key attraction. It is famous for its mesmerizing Art Deco buildings, whose unique and intact architecture has earned it a place on the UNESCO World Heritage List. This offers visitors a peerless cultural and historical experience, with similar architectural treasures found in cities like Keren and Akordet.

A Shared Responsibility for Development

Eritrea's natural and historical assets intrinsically support all these varied types of tourism. They are further enhanced by the country's prevailing peace and the famously friendly, loving nature of its people. Since sustainable transformation through tourism drives inclusive growth, protects cultural heritage, and safeguards the environment, developing it is a shared responsibility of all citizens. By consciously embracing sustainability principles, tourism in Eritrea can generate substantial income and become a truly transformative force for the betterment of the entire nation.



SpotLight

Celebrating Tourism Week: Eritrea's progress and challenges in tourism

By: Irdi Issaias
(Ministry of Tourism)

Through the collaborative efforts of regional and national tourism offices and other relevant stakeholders, the tourism sector has been engaged in a nationwide celebration of International Tourism Week.

This week-long celebration is taking place at various locations across the country, featuring a diverse range of activities related to tourism, including seminars, cultural displays, mass sports events, visits to historic sites, and fashion show events. The collaborative effort aims to promote awareness and action plans to foster a more sustainable and responsible tourism industry that benefits both the environment and local communities.

Celebrating Tourism Day is not just a routine event. It is a crucial opportunity for the government and concerned stakeholders to conduct a thorough and detailed assessment of the progress made so far regarding the previous strategies for tourism development in Eritrea, and to design a clear plan for the future.

By analyzing the experiences and achievements of previous tourism development programs, the government and stakeholders can gather valuable insights, understand the challenges and successes of the past, and identify areas for improvement. They can make adjustments and fine-tune strategies as needed, developing a more informed roadmap for future tourism development initiatives.

The careful evaluation of the sector's progress and effectiveness may involve examining specific indicators and metrics, such as job creation and income opportunities for citizens, protection and preservation of natural and cultural resources, promotion of sustainable tourism practices, and an increase in international tourism arrivals and revenue. This structured approach enables the government to draw on valuable lessons learned from past experiences, apply them to new initiatives, and make informed progress towards achieving long-term goals for effective and sustainable tourism development in Eritrea.

By conducting thorough assessments and evaluations, the government can ensure that tourism development aligns with national development goals, maximizes the benefits of tourism for the country and its people, and drives sustainable tourism development that complements economic and social development objectives.

By establishing these values as guiding principles, Eritrea lays the groundwork for a robust and eco-friendly tourism sector that not only sustains but also preserves the dignity of its citizens and the precious natural resources entrusted to them. As a developing country, Eritrea recognizes the significant contribution that tourism makes to its economic growth and national development. As the tourism sector continues to grow and develop, Eritrea can capitalize on tourism's potential to generate revenue and create jobs; enhance the quality of life for citizens; promote national identity and shared values among citizens; foster international relations, diplomacy, and cooperation; promote cultural exchange and understanding; and facilitate the integration of Eritrea into the global tourism market.

To ensure a positive impact from tourism, it is recognized that there are pressing challenges that require immediate attention and consideration. Some of the key issues that need to be addressed are:

- Damage to nature and culture caused by tourism: While a positive tourism experience can be uplifting, unchecked tourism can result in damage to natural habitats, cultural heritage sites, and the environment.
- Negative impacts on local communities: Tourism can hurt local communities, including displacement and cultural loss.
- Unnecessary misbehavior by tourists: Responsible tourism practices are essential to preserving the values and traditions of local communities, and tourists themselves must be held to the accepted standards of behavior.
- Global warming and its consequences: As the world grapples with climate change, tourism can exacerbate its negative impacts, including increased carbon emissions, pollution, and habitat destruction.
- Globalization and its negative aspects: Lifestyle changes within indigenous people due to globalization highlight the need for careful management and regulation of tourism development.

By taking a proactive approach to mitigating the potential negative impacts of tourism and promoting responsible tourism practices, Eritrea can ensure that tourism benefits not only the economy but also the environment, local communities, and the visitors themselves. Key steps can be taken to address the pressing challenges, such as: protecting environmental and cultural resources from damage; managing the effects of global warming and climate change on tourism development; educating tourists on responsible behavior and the importance of respecting local cultures and the environment; supporting community-led tourism initiatives to manage tourism; and ensuring that local communities are treated with dignity and respect.

Ultimately, the goal is to harness the potential of tourism to drive economic growth, enhance living standards, foster international cooperation and understanding, while also protecting the environment and local communities. By prioritizing sustainability and responsibility, Eritrea can create a positive legacy from its tourism development efforts.

This year's theme of International Tourism Day, "Tourism and sustainable transformation," highlights the importance of harnessing the power of tourism in building the tourism industry into a positive force for economic growth and social transformation, thereby ensuring a sustainable future.

For Eritrea, social justice and equality are not new concepts; they have been deeply ingrained in the nation's history and culture. Throughout its journey, Eritrea has demonstrated a commitment to these principles of sustainable development. The Eritrean Revolution, fought under the banner of social justice and equality, was a powerful demonstration of the effectiveness of these approaches in achieving independence and nation-building.

As the country has moved forward since achieving independence, the core values of social justice and equality have remained a cornerstone of its development efforts. By continuing to apply these values, the country is well on its way to realizing its aspirations for a prosperous, just, and equitable society.

The government of Eritrea has demonstrated a clear commitment to the long-term sustainability and social responsibility of the tourism sector, prioritizing the well-being of both present and future populations. This commitment is reflected in the country's planning and policy-making, which prioritizes environmental and social responsibility alongside economic development. The government has a clear policy prioritizing the protection of the country's marine resources and natural environment from pollution and harm. To this effect, investors in the tourism sector are expected to adhere to the policy, ensuring that the industry benefits both the country's economy and ecosystem. The policy serves as a guiding principle for all tourism activities, supporting the goal of promoting responsible tourism.

Hence, the theme "tourism and sustainable transformation" reminds us that as owners of these valuable assets, it is essential that anyone engaging in tourism development, including investors, managers, and other participants, is guided by this directive. Moreover, conservation and management of Eritrea's unexploited tourism resources is a collective responsibility that demands active participation and vigilance from all citizens. This collective effort acknowledges the interconnection between tourism development and the need for a diverse range of stakeholders to be involved in preserving the environment and conserving natural resources.

In Eritrea, the government is taking the lead in establishing policies and implementing regulations to protect these resources, while empowering citizens to play a more active role in ensuring sustainability and furthering social accountability as well as heritage protection for generations to come. The initiative highlights the importance of collective action in tourism development, underscoring the need for citizens to be mindful of their role in protecting and preserving the country's unexploited natural resources.

The government's commitment to sustainable tourism is centered on acknowledging that the future of our country is rooted in the actions we take today. By engaging with local communities, promoting education and awareness of sustainable practices, and implementing regulations and laws to prevent environmental harm, Eritrea is successfully integrating sustainability into the fabric of its tourism industry.

In Eritrea, it is evident that cultural and natural heritage are integral components of national identity and nation-building. This understanding drives the government to create policies that not only protect and conserve the resources but also ensure the long-term stability and resilience of Eritrea's tourism industry.

The anniversary of International Tourism Day serves as a reminder of the importance of responsible tourism practices. It is a reminder for us to: enhance the quality of tourism services, products, and experiences to create a unique and meaningful experience for visitors from around the world; promote education and awareness about the importance of sustainable tourism practices; encourage visitors to adopt environmentally conscious and culturally sensitive behaviors; foster partnerships and collaborations between tourism stakeholders to address common challenges and opportunities; develop and implement sustainable tourism strategies that balance economic development with environmental and social concerns.

By engaging in collective action toward sustainable tourism development, Eritrea's tourism industry can make a positive transformation and contribute to the well-being of people and the environment.



ADS

VACANCY Notice No. 2025/04

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Eritrea is inviting applications from suitably qualified applicants for the post of **Education Officer, NOB,# 132740 , Asmara-Eritrea.**

TYPE OF APPOINTMENT: **Temporary Appointment**

DURATION: **364days**

UNICEF works in some of the world's toughest places, to reach the world's most disadvantaged children. To save their lives. To defend their rights. To help them fulfil their potential. Across 190 countries and territories, we work for every child, everywhere, every day, to build a better world for everyone. **And we never give up!**

For every child, Education!

Under the supervision of **the Chief of section,** the Officer provides professional technical, operational and administrative assistance throughout the programming process for education programs/projects within the Country Program from development planning to delivery of results, preparing, executing, managing and implementing a variety of technical and administrative program tasks to facilitate program development, implementation, program progress monitoring, evaluating and reporting.The post incumbent is technical lead on activities under output 1 related to Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and Early Childhood Development (ECD) The incumbent is responsible for supporting MoE in the implementation of interventions related to enhance access to and improve quality of ECCE and ECD services in the country including in emergencies. Further, the incumbent is responsible for coordinating the section's work on Social Behavior Change Communication (SBCC). Lastly, the incumbent will provide technical support to outputs 2 and 3 as well as any other requirement needed for efficient operation of the Education and Learning Section. The post incumbent assists in the zoba level planning, implementation and monitoring of education projects. The incumbent reports to the Chief of Education and Learning (P4).

Key functions/accountabilities:

Support to program development and planning

- Contribute to the preparation/update of situation analysis for the program sector/s for development, design and management of education related programs/projects. Research and report on development trends and (economic, social, health etc) data for use in program development, management, monitoring, evaluation and delivery of results.
- Contribute to the development/establishment of sectoral program goals, objectives and strategies and results-based planning through research, collection, analysis and reporting of education and other related information for development planning and priority and goal setting.
- Provide technical and operational support throughout all stages of programming processes by executing/administering a variety of technical, program, operational and administrative transactions, preparing related materials/documentations and complying with organizational processes and management systems, to support program planning, results based planning (RBM) and monitoring and evaluating results.

Program management, monitoring and delivery of results.

- Work closely and collaboratively with internal and external colleagues and partners to discuss operational and implementation issues, provide solutions, recommendations and/or alert appropriate officials and stakeholders for higher-level intervention and/or decision. Keep record of reports and assessments for easy reference and/or to capture and institutionalize lessons learned.
- Participate in monitoring and evaluation exercises, program reviews and annual reviews with government and other counterparts to assess programs/ projects and to report on required action/interventions at the higher level of program management.
- Monitor and report on the use of sectoral program resources (financial, administrative and other assets), verify compliance with approved allocation/ goals, organizational rules, regulations/procedures and donor commitments, standards of accountability and integrity. Report on critical issues/findings to ensure timely resolution by management/stakeholders. Follow up on unresolved issues to ensure resolution.
- Draft regular/mandated sectoral program/project reports for management, donors and partners to keep them informed of program progress.

Technical and operational support to program implementation

- Conduct regular program field visits and surveys and/or exchange information with partners/stakeholders to assess progress and provide technical support, take appropriate action to resolve issues and/or refer to relevant officials for resolution. Report on critical issues, bottlenecks and potential problems for timely action to achieve results.
- Provide technical and operational support to government counterparts, NGO partners, UN system partners and other country office partners/donors on the application and understanding of UNICEF policies, strategies, processes and best practices on education and related issues to support program implementation, operations and delivery of results.

Networking and partnership building

- Build and sustain effective close working partnerships with government counterparts and national stakeholders through active sharing of information and knowledge to facilitate program implementation and build capacity of stakeholders to achieve and sustain results on education programs.
- Draft communication and information materials for CO program advocacy to promote awareness, establish partnership/alliances and support fund raising for education programs.
- Contribute towards implementation and reporting on education related results under Outcome 1 of the 2022-2026 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Research information on potential donors and prepare resource mobilization materials and briefs for fund raising and partnership development purposes.

Innovation, knowledge management and capacity building

- Contribute to identifying, capturing, synthesizing and sharing lessons learned for knowledge development and capacity development of stakeholders.
- Apply innovative approaches and promote good practice to support the implementation and delivery of concrete and sustainable program results.
- Research and report on best and cutting-edge practices for development planning of knowledge products and systems.
- Participate as resource person in capacity building initiatives to enhance the competencies of clients/stakeholders.

Other duties as assigned

To qualify as a champion for every child you will have:

Minimum requirements:

- **Education:** First Degree in education, psychology, sociology or other social science fields is required.
- **Work Experience:** A minimum of ٢ years of professional experience in social development planning and management in education and related areas at the international and/or in a developing country is required. Relevant experience in education and related areas, program/project development and management in a UN system agency or organization is an asset.
- **Language Requirements:** Fluency in English and the local language is required. Knowledge of another official UN language (Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian or Spanish) or a local language is an asset.

UNICEF's Core values

- Care, Respect, Integrity, Trust and Accountability

UNICEF's Core Competencies

Demonstrates Self Awareness and Ethical Awareness (1); Works Collaboratively with others (1); Builds and Maintains Partnerships (1); Innovates and Embraces Change (1); Thinks and Acts Strategically (1); Drive to achieve impactful results (1); Manages ambiguity and complexity (1)

UNICEF is committed to diversity and inclusion within its workforce, and encourages all candidates, irrespective of gender, nationality, religious and ethnic backgrounds, including persons with disabilities, to apply to become a part of the organization.

UNICEF has a zero-tolerance policy on conduct that is incompatible with the aims and objectives of the United Nations and UNICEF, including sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, abuse of authority and discrimination. UNICEF also adheres to strict child safeguarding principles. All selected candidates will, therefore, undergo rigorous reference and background checks, and will be expected to adhere to these standards and principles.

People with disabilities are highly encouraged!

CANDIDATES SHOULD PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF COMPLETION/ EXEMPTION FROM NATIONAL SERVICE. PLEASE NOTE THAT COMPLETION/EXEMPTION OF NATIONAL SERVICE IS A REQUIREMENT. COPY OF CARD/EXEMPTION MUST BE ATTACHED. APPLICATIONS WITHOUT THIS REQUIREMENT WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

A more detailed version of the vacancy announcement is available on the online platform

Candidates should submit their application by following the below link:

https://surl.li/poyjrl

In the online application, candidates should complete the online P11, upload their recent CV, highest academic qualifications, evidence of national service Completion and other relevant qualifications.

Closing date of Application: 07 days from the date of advertisement

Remarks: Only qualified candidates will be shortlisted and advance to the next step.

Please note that UNICEF is a smoke-free environment.

Applicants interested in the position mentioned above can also visit the UNICEF Office, located at Hday Street, just before Asmara Palace Hotel, to submit their applications online.

Q and A

Juliano Francesco, an Exemplary Student

Sabrin Solomon

Translated from "Men'essey," a quarterly magazine in Tigrinya published by NUEYS

Let's start with your childhood. Were you always an attentive child in school?

Not really. In fact, I was a rebellious child. I was energetic and enjoyed spending more time playing and having fun. I wasn't necessarily interested in school. My casual attitude made me pay less attention to my studies.

I was born in 1998 in Barentu. My schooling started at Nigus Bazen Elementary School. Then I went to Duta Secondary School before moving to the Southern region and joined the boarding school of the Catholic Mission in Hebo. There, I began learning about religion and morality, which helped me improve my behavior and attitude. I started paying attention to school. I then attended school in Dekemhare for a year before joining Sawa as a member of the 29th batch.









At the boarding school in Hebo, we had set times for studying, relaxing, sleeping, waking up, and eating. We weren't allowed to mess with the schedule. This allowed me to have discipline. Discipline and time management were the most crucial things that I learned at the boarding school and have held onto until now. Since then, I've never stopped working hard and have consistently received prizes for my academic performance.

Were your parents motivating you to focus on your studies?

During my elementary school years in Barentu, every member of my family would tell me to study and focus on my schoolwork. But that was just casual verbal advice. No one paid close attention to check what I learned at school or what homework I had. However, I would like to remind people to be aware of the profound impact a parent has on a child from a young age. Parents should be able to help their children stay on the right track; otherwise, it would be hard to do so once the child has grown.

Anyway, I started to improve once I arrived at an environment where I was pushed to study. I believe that I wouldn't be here now if it wasn't for that school. Now I know for a fact that educational success requires hard work and diligent study.

What was Sawa like for you?

Sawa was a place that helped me learn and grow more as an individual. It imparted a sense of discipline and understanding in every student. I had the opportunity to meet many students from across the nation, learn about the behaviors of different people, and enjoy education more. I usually took notes in class and reviewed them on the same day. I believe that students' priority needs to be education, and to excel in their studies, they need to pay attention in class and study well. When you study hard, you excel. In my opinion, one should study to gain knowledge rather than to pass the exam. If you study to know genuinely, exams won't be hard. Studying and reading should be for the sake of knowledge, which is helpful for the rest of your life.

You got a good grade in your matriculation and joined the College of Business and Social Sciences. Tell us more about it.

Once I joined college, I applied the experience and social skills I had learned in Sawa. My experience in Sawa helped me blend in quickly. I was so fascinated by plants, animals, the earth, and the stars that I decided to study geography. I have loved the subject ever since I was in fifth grade, when I learned about the solar system. In my Freshman year in college, I scored only 2.4. However, after joining the Department of Geography, I achieved scores of 3.6 in my second year, 3.8 in my third year, and 4.0 in my final year.

You are also good at sports, specifically volleyball.

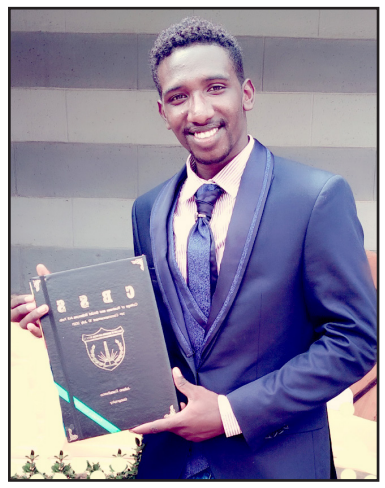
True. I started playing volleyball in high school at the boarding school. If you want to excel in anything, you have to work on it. That is what I learned from this sport. It was part of the academy's tradition to participate in sports at the boarding school. And once I started playing volleyball, I began to improve with time. I was a member of the volleyball teams in Sawa and in college as well. I won four medals alongside my teammates in Sawa and went on to win five medals in college. Sports are a healthy way to relax both your brain and body. My vision for volleyball is to have my own team after playing the sport more and learning more about it.

You were also a member of the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS). What were your roles there?

I love youth activities. And when I joined the association, I fell more in love with the activities. During my third year, I was appointed to lead NUEYS in college, a position I held until graduation. We engaged in numerous activities, and our primary goal was to find ways to encourage students to allocate their time to things that matter. For instance, we played a significant role in persuading excellent students to assist their peers through tutorial classes.

What advice would you give to young people to help them excel in their studies?

First and foremost, there needs to be a will. Without a will, nothing is possible. Thus, students must understand the current situation of the world and know what an educated person can do in this world. They should prioritize their education and study diligently. And they need to know that no matter how hard it is, there is always an excellent outcome afterwards.



What about the role of parents?

The most crucial thing for a child to succeed is having parents who pay attention to their education. Parents should develop the habit of checking their children's notebooks and maintain a relationship with their children's teachers. Even if the parents aren't educated themselves, they should do their best to encourage their kids to study with good students. Parents' motivation greatly influences the way children handle their education.

What is next for you?

I graduated from college and am now a teacher in Sawa. If I have the opportunity, I would love to attend graduate school. Our country is blessed with a variety of stones, which need to be studied. I believe this would also provide numerous opportunities for postgraduate studies.





Thank you. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors!

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