ERITREA PROFILE

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PRESIDENT ISAIAS AFWERKI ARRIVES IN MOSCOW

President Isaias Afwerki arrived in Moscow yesterday morning to participate in the Third Russia-Africa Summit, which will be held today and tomorrow 29 October.

The Summit will focus on cooperation in the areas of the economy, investment, trade, energy, food security, agriculture and security.

On the sidelines of the Summit, President Isaias will also meet with President Vladimir Putin to discuss the strengthening of bilateral ties and other matters of mutual importance.

The Presidential delegation includes Mr. Osman Saleh, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The first Russia-Africa Summit was held in October 2019 in Sochi, while the second Summit was held in Saint Petersburg in July 2023 under the theme "For Peace, Security and Development."

THE STATE OF ERITREA AND THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

The State of Eritrea and the Republic of The Gambia established diplomatic relations through a Joint Communiqué signed in New York on 23 October.

The Joint Communiqué was signed by Ms. Sophia Tesfamariam, Permanent Representative of the State of Eritrea to the United Nations, and Mr. Lamin B. Dibba, Permanent Representative of the Republic of The Gambia to the United Nations.

The establishment of diplomatic relations marks an important step in strengthening bilateral ties between the two countries. It provides a foundation for deepening dialogue and mutual understanding while creating opportunities to expand cooperation in areas of mutual interest, including political affairs, trade, economic development, culture, and other sectors.

These relations are grounded in mutual respect for sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.



PUBLIC SEMINARS ON THE OBJECTIVE SITUATION FOR DIASPORA NATIONALS





Eritrean embassies and diplomatic representatives organized a series of public seminars from October 23 to 25 for diaspora nationals residing across Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and North America—with events taking place in Switzerland, Italy, Qatar, Germany, the United Kingdom, Zambia, and the United States.

Throughout these gatherings, diplomats, ambassadors, and community leaders briefed attendees on the current political and socio-economic situation in Eritrea, alongside key regional and global developments. Speakers emphasized the historical resilience of the Eritrean people, urging diaspora communities to consolidate their unity, enhance public diplomacy, strengthen local organizational capacity, and actively support national development initiatives.

In response, participants across the various host countries expressed firm support for the Eritrean government and defense forces. They reaffirmed their commitment to safeguarding the nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity, countering external hostilities, and contributing their resources and efforts toward homeland resilience programs.

TRAINING FOR MINISTRY OF INFORMATION STAFF

Capacity-building training was provided to 59 IT and Engineering staff members of the Ministry of Information, including 14 women, by China Broadcasting International Economic and Technical Cooperation.

The two-week training program covered Digital Broadcasting Transmission Systems and Methods; Parameter Setting and Commissioning of Modulation, Encoding, Multiplexing, and Demodulation Equipment; Core Architecture and End-to-End Workflow Design of MAM Systems; as well as Studio Lighting and Sound Systems.

At the concluding event of the training, 26 October, Mr. Yemane Gebremeskel, Minister of Information, expressed his deep gratitude to the Chinese Embassy, China Broadcasting International Economic and Technical Cooperation, the Ministry of Information's Human Resources Development, and the professors and technical experts who conducted the training. He said the training will significantly broaden the technical knowledge and perspectives of the Ministry's engineers and technicians regarding new technological advances in the fields covered.

Minister Yemane further stated that the training program is an integral part of the Ministry's comprehensive and ongoing project to fully digitalize radio and television broadcasting using advanced technologies.

Mr. Dai Demao, Charge d'Affaires at Chinese Embassy in Eritrea, said the training was part of the cooperation programs between China and Eritrea across all sectors. He expressed his expectation that it will make a significant contribution to the daily work of the Ministry's staff.

Commending the training provided by China Broadcasting International Economic and Technical Cooperation, Eng. Neguse Berhane, speaking on behalf of the trainees, called for similar training programs to be organized.

Certificates of participation were presented to the trainees at the event.



United Nations Day: Address by Foreign Minister Osman Saleh

Honourable Ministers
PFDJ and Senior Government Officials,
UN Resident Coordinator,

Members of the diplomatic community and the UN family

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor to welcome you all today as we gather to mark United Nations Day, commemorating the entry into force of the UN Charter.

As we reflect on the founding ideals of the United Nations, peace, human dignity, sovereign equality among nations, and international cooperation, we do so against a backdrop of a complex and shifting global landscape.

Today, once again, offers us an important moment to evaluate not only the state of our world, but also the nature of partnership, mutual respect, and shared responsibility required to navigate the challenges of our time.

Indeed, we must ask ourselves: Does the United Nations remain an effective guardian of the sovereign equality of nations, or is its founding promise increasingly subordinated to the strategic interests of the powerful?



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For Eritrea, it is a question shaped by a long history of colonial domination, the denial of self-determination, a protracted struggle for independence, and the continuing determination of our people to safeguard their hard-won sovereignty.

The United Nations was established to spare succeeding generations the scourge of war, reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, establish conditions for justice, and promote international cooperation.

Eighty-one years after its founding, these aspirations remain indispensable. Yet the gap between the Charter's principles and their selective implementation continues to undermine the credibility of the international system.

We must confront this contradiction honestly.

Excellencies,

While we do so, for Eritrea, sovereignty, national independence, and self-reliance remain the bedrock of our national identity. Our path has been shaped by resilience, hard-won sacrifice, and a steadfast commitment to determining our own destiny. We firmly believe that sustainable development and genuine peace cannot be imported or imposed from the outside; they must be cultivated from within, driven by the priorities, dignity, and active participation of our people.

At the same time, Eritrea recognizes the vital importance of constructive, principled international engagement. Through frameworks like the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, our nation continues to collaborate with United Nations agencies and international partners in areas that align with our national development goals.

We have made progress in public health, preventive medicine, immunization, sanitation, and community-based services despite considerable resource constraints. The United Nations' 2025 results report for Eritrea recorded routine immunization coverage above 95 percent, skilled birth attendance rising to 85 percent, and approximately 250,000 people benefiting from more reliable solar-powered water systems.

These are meaningful advances. They demonstrate the importance of preventive health care, community participation, appropriate technology, and investment in essential services.

This momentum extends directly into rural development, where climate resilience, water security, and agricultural self-reliance are



critical in narrowing the urban-rural divide.

Complementing these health milestones, significant strides in rural development and agricultural transformation have expanded the national road network from connecting more than 85 percent of cities and villages and increasing rural public transport buses from 267 to over 2,000. To counter arid vulnerabilities and enhance food security, water reservoir capacity has grown from roughly 138 dams at independence to approximately 850 water reservoirs, while the land area under irrigation has expanded to forty-one thousand hectares.

Furthermore, robust environmental and land management initiatives, including a national ban on cutting live trees, hillside closures, and student-led tree-planting campaigns, have resulted in the planting of roughly 150 million trees since 2006, expanding forest and woodland cover from under 1 percent in 1995 to 13.5 percent of the country's land area alongside significant mangrove restoration.

Community resilience has been further reinforced through targeted rural packages such as the Minimum Integrated Household Agricultural Package (MIHAP) and the Small and Productive Farm Plot (SPFP) initiative spanning nearly 39000 active plots, supported by an improved farmer-to-extension worker ratio of 1:717 and the industrial-scale production of hundreds of thousands of liters of organic liquid fertilizers that boost crop yields by up to 50 percent.

At the same time, we recognize the challenges that remain. Food security, access to reliable water, climate resilience, employment, infrastructure, and economic diversification require sustained effort and investment.

Our objective is to strengthen these foundations while expanding opportunities for future generations.

We believe that development must be judged by its impact on human dignity. The wellbeing of a nation cannot be measured exclusively through aggregate economic growth, the scale of construction projects, or the volume of foreign financing received. It must also be assessed through access to health care, education, safe water, productive employment, food security, and the fair distribution of opportunities between urban and rural communities.

Development assistance, where provided, must support national priorities and strengthen local capacities. It must not become an instrument of political conditionality, strategic dependency, or external interference.

Partnership is valuable when it respects the development of its partners. Cooperation is sustainable when it is founded on mutual respect.

Continued on page 3

From Social Media



Yemane G. Meskel
@hawelti

Potemkin Party Officials (speech at 12th Tana Forum by Director of NSA) are invoking "increasing Red Sea militarization... and its consequences on maritime security" to argue for a "seat on the table for its stabilization".

The unhealthy obsession/irony is too palpable to merit elaboration.

This regime has been embroiled in, and has become the principal incubator, of the multiple and perennial internal conflicts that have gripped Ethiopia (Tigray, Amhara, Somali Regions etc.) for most of its relatively short incumbency.

It continues to host a military base in the Beni-Shangul Gumuz Region in western Ethiopia for UAE sponsored military training camp; main conduit for mercenaries; and for launching Drone attacks against the Sudan.

For more than three years now, it has declared an unprovoked war of aggression against Eritrea under the mantra of "sovereign access to the sea" and projection of "naval power" in the sovereign territorial waters of its neighbour.

Its destabilizing act against Somalia is another dimension of its delusional pursuit of "regional grandeur" and insatiable appetite for the status of a "surrogate mini-hegemon" under the beck and call of other regional hegemons.

This charade has to stop before it entails further regional chaos and turmoil!

Time to tell the aspirant "mini-hegemon" to shed these hollow pipedreams and grapple with its intractable domestic agendas. Time to openly pronounce - as the saying goes - that "the Emperor has no clothes".

4:52 PM · Oct 24, 2026 · **36.5K** Views

5 1.4K 1.3K 35

SpotLight

A Community-Oriented Response to the Challenges of Distance

Bana Negusse

United Nations Day was commemorated in Eritrea late last week, marking the anniversary of the entry into force of the UN Charter. The occasion featured various activities reflecting on international cooperation, peace, development, and the role of the United Nations. In his address, Foreign Minister Osman Saleh highlighted Eritrea's commitment to national development, self-reliance, and constructive international engagement, while also underscoring progress in public health, including preventive medicine, immunization, and skilled birth attendance. Such progress is underpinned by a range of health interventions, including initiatives at the community level that receive less public attention. Among these are maternity waiting homes (MWHs), an important component of maternal health care in Eritrea.

Maternity waiting homes (MWHs) may appear to be a modest intervention, yet they address one of the enduring challenges in maternal health: ensuring that pregnant women can access skilled care when they need it. Established in different forms across countries for decades, these facilities provide accommodation near health centres or hospitals for women approaching childbirth, particularly those who live far from medical services. By reducing the distance between expectant mothers and health facilities, MWHs help overcome geographical barriers that can delay access to essential obstetric care. Their significance is especially pronounced in rural and remote settings, where difficult terrain, limited transport, and long journeys can turn the onset of labour into a serious challenge.

In Eritrea, MWHs have developed into an important element of efforts to extend maternal health services to women in hard-to-reach communities. Introduced in 2007, the initiative has expanded into a network of roughly 50 homes distributed across the country. These facilities provide women with a place to stay as they approach delivery, allowing them to prepare for childbirth without the physical and logistical burden of travelling long distances at a critical moment. Their role, however, extends beyond accommodation. Women can receive antenatal services and health education on nutrition, newborn care, and the recognition of danger signs during pregnancy. Living alongside other expectant mothers also creates opportunities for sharing experiences and receiving social and emotional support during a period that can bring considerable uncertainty.

The homes further complement other essential health interventions. In malaria-endemic areas, health personnel provide preventive medication and distribute insecticide-treated mosquito nets to help protect pregnant women and their babies. Following delivery, MWHs can also provide a supportive environment for recovery, postnatal follow-up, and guidance on maternal and newborn care. Through these combined functions, they help connect different stages of the continuum of care, from pregnancy and preparation for childbirth to recovery and the early days of a newborn's life. In this way, MWHs serve not as isolated facilities but as a link between communities and the wider health system.

Their importance becomes clearer when considered alongside Eritrea's broader achievements in maternal and child health. The country's maternal mortality ratio has declined dramatically from an estimated 998 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990 to fewer than 200 today. Under-five mortality has also fallen substantially since independence. These improvements reflect multiple factors, including the expansion of health services, preventive interventions, skilled birth attendance, and community-based care. MWHs form part of this wider effort by helping women overcome the distance-related barriers that might otherwise prevent them from reaching skilled birth services. Although their individual contribution to national mortality trends requires careful assessment, their practical value lies in addressing a recognised obstacle to safer pregnancy and childbirth.

The continued development of MWHs also illustrates the role of cooperation in strengthening essential health services. Eritrea has worked with a number of longstanding international partners whose financial and technical contributions have supported specific areas of need. Such cooperation is particularly valuable when it complements national priorities, reinforces local capacity, and helps address practical gaps in service delivery. Rather than treating external assistance as a substitute for domestic responsibility, this approach places collaboration within a broader framework of national ownership and self-reliance. At a time when international health financing faces uncertainty and many health systems remain vulnerable to fluctuations in donor support, Eritrea's experience highlights the importance of partnerships that are sustained, focused, and responsive to locally identified needs.



Beyond their immediate health functions, MWHs also have a significant social dimension. By providing accommodation free of charge, they reduce some of the financial and logistical burdens associated with accessing maternal care, particularly for women from rural communities. This helps address disparities arising from where people live and the resources available to them. In practical terms, the opportunity to remain near a health facility before childbirth can make access to skilled care more feasible for women who might otherwise face difficult journeys at an unpredictable time. MWHs therefore contribute to a broader effort to make essential health services more accessible and equitable, ensuring that geographical isolation does not become an insurmountable barrier to safe motherhood.

Their purpose also resonates with international commitments to health and gender equality. Article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recognizes the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including measures to reduce infant mortality and promote the healthy development of children. Article 12 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women calls for equal access to health-care services, including appropriate care during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postnatal period. These principles are echoed in the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly the commitments to reduce maternal mortality and expand access to sexual and reproductive health services. By helping women reach health facilities and obtain appropriate care, MWHs offer a practical means of advancing these broader objectives.

Ultimately, maternity waiting homes are more than physical structures or temporary places of accommodation. They represent a community-oriented response to the challenges of distance, access, and continuity of care, while reflecting the wider importance of making health services available to women regardless of where they live. Although they may receive less attention than national health indicators or major infrastructure developments, their role in connecting pregnant women with skilled care makes them a meaningful part of Eritrea's maternal health efforts. As the country builds on its progress in public health, continued attention to these homes can help sustain improvements in maternal and newborn care and extend their benefits to communities that face the greatest barriers to accessing essential services.

. . . Minister Osman Saleh

Continued from page 2

Eritrea therefore reaffirms its commitment to constructive international engagement that advances national development while safeguarding the country's independence and freedom of policy choice.

Excellencies,

Against this backdrop, the promise of peace and collective security enshrined in the UN Charter is severely tested today. We meet at a critical juncture where the peace and stability of our region are being actively imperiled by ongoing escalations and unprovoked acts of aggression against our sovereignty and territorial integrity.

As Eritrea has made clear to the United Nations Security Council, our nation faces hostile provocations and aggressive posturing that flagrantly violate the UN Charter, international law, and the fundamental principles of good neighborliness. True multilateralism and the credibility of the international system are measured precisely by how it responds when the sovereign borders of a member state are threatened by external aggression. A "rules-based" global order cannot remain in complicit silent, nor can it indulge double standards, when regional stability is systematically undermined by bellicose actions of a habitual irredentist neighbor.

In the event, Eritrea remains steadfast in its sovereign right to self-defense and the protection of its hard-won independence. At the same time, we have always maintained that enduring stability requires honorable respect for sovereignty, absolute non-interference in internal affairs, and the peaceful resolution of disputes.

If the United Nations is to fulfill its foundational promise to succeeding generations, it must champion a fair and just global order, one that holds aggressors accountable, heeds the voice of the Global South, and actively defends the sovereign equality of every nation, without exception.

As we look ahead, let us renew our commitment to genuine dialogue, mutual respect, and the unyielding defense of our sovereignty. May the spirit of true international solidarity, grounded in justice and mutual accountability, guide our collective efforts toward a peaceful, stable, and equitable world.

I thank you.

Asmara, 23 October 2026

Culture & Arts

Farewell and Union: Funeral and Marriage in the Kunama

Kesete Gebrehiwet

Bidding farewell to an elderly grandparent departing the world and helping newly married couples get started in their new life are highly valued occasions that bring families and neighbors together in the Kunama ethnic group. Songs accompany the remembrance of a long life while gifts, shared farm work and helping build a house support a young couple.

Vitorio Ephrem, from Gash-Barka region, describes these customs as expressions of gratitude, family affection and mutual support. His account connects the care given to newly married couples with the respect shown to grandparents who have lived to see younger generations grow. Understanding that connection helps explain ceremonies whose meaning goes beyond what an observer might see.

At the funeral of an honored elder, grandchildren play a central role. Vitorio identifies them as the Kishkisha, a name also associated with their ceremonial participation. Grandsons and granddaughters prepare their finest clothes and ornaments for the procession. The custom honors grandmothers and grandfathers alike, recognizing the place each holds within the family.

The death of someone who has lived a fulfilling life, raised children and seen grandchildren and great-grandchildren brings both sorrow and gratitude. Relatives mourn the loss of someone they love and depended upon. They also remember the elder's achievements and the guidance that helped shape their lives. Their farewell gives public recognition of that contribution.

Vitorio's account makes clear why the elder's achievements matter to the gathering. Those present are remembering someone whose efforts helped sustain a family and whose example offered direction to younger people. Their prayers express a desire to carry those responsibilities forward.

According to Vitorio, the grandchildren thank God for the years shared with their grandparent. They pray for blessings upon the surviving family and hope for similarly long and worthwhile lives. They also express the wish that the deceased will join the ancestors. These prayers connect their grief with hopes for their own future.

The singing and dancing must be understood within this setting. The grandchildren feel the loss deeply. Through their participation, they express affection and remember the life that has ended while offering comfort to those who remain. The songs carry meanings that can be deeply moving even when the procession appears celebratory.

Vitorio also describes Be'Sa, or Besa Collique, an honor associated with elders blessed to see successive generations of descendants. A grandparent whose grandchildren have grown old enough to run errands has reached a stage he calls Furdaleta or Dadoda. Seeing children and grandchildren establish married lives is another sign of a life blessed with the continuity of a family.

These honors are connected with achievement and family circumstances rather than a fixed age. An elder may be around sixty or older, but age alone does not determine the ceremony. The person's accomplishments and wishes also matter. Vitorio explains that an elder may request such a farewell while still alive, making that wish known to the family.

Kishkisha also has a place in agricultural life. When a grandparent gathers an abundant harvest capable of sustaining the extended family, grandchildren may organize communal harvesting accompanied by the performance. Here, their work and songs express



appreciation for the elder's success. In this sense, the custom belongs to occasions of gratitude during life as well as to the final farewell.

When an elder dies and a Kishkisha procession is to take place, a horn blown announces the death to the community. The grandchildren dress the deceased in beautiful garments and adorn the body with beads. They also provide shelter for the body before burial, continuing their care until the journey to the final resting place.

During the procession, they sing Wey-Kedia as a call to the ancestors to welcome the arriving grandparent. The deceased is named in the singing and dancing, keeping the farewell personal. Those accompanying the body remember the departing person and the life they shared.

The elder's life story is also recalled through songs. Grandchildren sing about bravery,



achievements and experiences with the deceased, sometimes while sharing traditional beverages. These memories allow the family to speak about what the elder meant to them. The biography becomes part of the communal farewell, carried in voices familiar with that life.

Different songs accompany different parts of the observance. Furdu-ala, accompanied by drumbeats, is performed after the funeral procession when participants return home. Songs of bravery may involve singing and clapping. Uleda-Cubla is accompanied by drums and other traditional instruments. Vitorio explains Uleda as departure or migration to another world, expressing the passage from earthly to heavenly life.

The Kishkisha sing and dance for three consecutive days to comfort the bereaved. Participants from neighboring villages may also visit and perform. The wider period of condolences continues until the family decides to conclude it. Through these visits, relatives receive companionship during mourning and are reminded of the support around them.

Vitorio's account of marriage shows how that same support helps a family take shape. In the tradition he describes, the groom moves to the bride's family home. He brings possessions needed for married life, including items provided by his brothers-in-law. The newly married couple start their new life under the protection and guidance of the bride's family.

The traditional house known as Ita-tela is associated with newlyweds during their honeymoon while they remain under parental care. It gives the young couple a place to begin married life within that supportive setting before they are ready to establish an independent household.

The bride's father assumes responsibility for providing what the couple needs during this early period. His support allows them time to adjust to their responsibilities. Married life is a process requiring patience and preparation, with the family helping the couple build the means and confidence to manage their own affairs.

Neighbors also contribute through communal cultivation. This assistance is called Solove-Bisha. Community members work farmland to provide agricultural produce for the newlyweds, helping them meet their needs while they prepare for independence. The support continues until the couple feels ready to sustain itself. Shared labor gives practical substance to the good wishes surrounding a marriage.

When the bride's father believes the couple is ready, he presents his son-in-law with a large log. The groom then informs his friends, who join other community members in constructing a new home. This act marks the next stage of married life as the couple moves toward managing a household of its own.

Cattle, agricultural produce, utensils and other gifts received during their stay with the bride's family help the couple make that transition. The new household is supported by resources gathered over time and by the labor of others. The couple's independence grows from the assistance provided by relatives and neighbors during the early stages of marriage.

Vitorio notes that arranged marriage is traditionally practiced while emphasizing the bride's right to accept or reject a proposal. Family involvement leaves room for her decision about her own future. Her consent remains an important part of the marriage customs he describes.

The support given at marriage also helps explain the respect shown at an elder's funeral. A young couple begins with help from parents and neighbors, then works toward the ability to provide for its own family. Years later, children and grandchildren remember what their elders gave them. Vitorio's descriptions bring these stages together through the ordinary tasks of growing food, caring for relatives and establishing a home. The ceremonies make that shared history visible to the whole community.

For Vitorio, preserving these traditions requires understanding their meaning and passing that knowledge to younger generations. The songs of Kishkisha carry gratitude and comfort; the work surrounding a marriage helps a couple become self-reliant. Keeping these purposes alive gives the customs value beyond the occasions on which they are performed.

Development

A Reflection on Rozina Mebrahtom's Journey

By: Mussie Efriem

Eritrea's agricultural journey demonstrates how national development can be strengthened through the collective determination of individual farmers. Across the country, agriculturalists continue to cultivate land under varying conditions, constantly adapting techniques to available resources. Whether working fertile plains or



battling rocky, degraded, and saline soils, these farmers share a steadfast work ethic and a commitment to sustaining their families while contributing to their local communities.

Over the years, the combined efforts of these smallholder farmers have supplied domestic markets with locally grown produce, enhancing national food security and reducing reliance on external imports. Their daily labor underpins the nation's long-term agricultural development, complementing strategic national initiatives to conserve water, restore degraded soils, and build resilient agrifood systems.

Beyond national statistics and policy frameworks, the real impact of this effort is best understood through the stories of individual farmers. Their experiences illuminate the persistence, ingenuity, and personal sacrifices behind Eritrea's agricultural progress.

One such story belongs to Mrs. Rozina Mebrahtom, a farmer from the Mesalih area near Tekonda'e in the Adi Keih subzone. On October 16, 2026, Mrs. Mebrahtom was recognized in Rome as one of the "FAO 100 Women Heroes 2026" by the FAO, selected from a global field of 600 exemplary women across 131 countries.

Along the road leading toward Mount Soira—Eritrea's highest peak—a short distance from Adi Keih, the surrounding landscape tells a story of ecological transformation. Turning off the main road toward Mesalih, visitors encounter lush, irrigated fields that stand in striking contrast to the land's original state.

What was once largely uncultivated grazing land with saline, unstable terraces has gradually evolved into highly productive farmland. Among those who spearheaded this transformation is Rozina Mebrahtom, whose courage and enterprise have inspired neighboring farmers—both women and men—to pursue irrigated farming.

Rozina's achievement goes beyond producing crops from difficult terrain; it represents years of disciplined work, experimentation, and endurance in an environment defined by unforgiving soil and unpredictable climate. Together with her husband, Rozina began the arduous task of rehabilitating the site to secure a sustainable family livelihood. However, shortly after work began, her husband passed away.



Suddenly, Rozina was left to manage the land alone while raising seven children. The challenges were daunting: restoring depleted soil, maintaining regular crop cycles, and managing household life without a partner. Yet she persevered. Rather than abandon the project, she worked with patience and resolve, transforming an unpromising parcel into a thriving source of food and income. Her journey illustrates how single-minded determination can alter the trajectory of a household and uplift an entire community.

Rehabilitating the site demanded far more than routine plowing. Because the soil was severely saline and degraded, conditioning it required physical labor, soil amendments, transport, and years of effort. Rozina recalls hauling organic fertilizer on pack animals—often borrowing stock from neighbors to meet the required volume. She and her family also transported topsoil from nearby excavation sites, including dam construction areas, mixing it with sand and organic manure through repeated plowing cycles to build soil structure and fertility over a decade.

Rozina's success underscores the role of local initiative in environmental stewardship. While large-scale soil and water conservation projects are vital to Eritrea's agricultural future, individual landholders play an equally critical role by restoring the plots under their care. Their efforts reinforce nationwide conservation efforts and translate sustainability goals into direct community benefits.

Today, Rozina's two-hectare farm serves as the primary engine of her household economy. Seed potatoes are her primary focus, complemented by a rotation of chickpeas, wheat, and maize following the potato harvest. This multi-crop sequence optimizes land efficiency, preserves soil health, and minimizes risk compared to single-crop reliance.

Several factors guided her focus toward potato production. The Ministry of Agriculture provides high-quality selected seed potatoes, and years of soil conditioning have made her land exceptionally well-suited for the crop. In favorable seasons, she harvests up to 280 quintals of potatoes from an initial planting of roughly 20 quintals of seed—yields that have reinforced her confidence in potato farming.



While yield remains vulnerable to climate variability and rainfall patterns, the combination of soil restoration and targeted irrigation provides a buffer that safeguards her yields. Rozina's experience demonstrates how integrated land management—combining soil rehabilitation, precision irrigation, quality seed selection, and crop rotation—can turn environmental constraints into productive opportunities.

The impact of Rozina's work extends far beyond her two hectares. For her, agricultural production was key to raising seven children independently following her husband's death. Balancing farm management with domestic responsibilities demanded exceptional discipline and endurance, challenging the notion that agricultural success should be evaluated solely by land size or crop volume.



Her welcoming presence, optimism, and strong work ethic remain integral to her story. Her achievements on the field have not diminished her role at home; rather, she continues to manage household duties while running a productive farm enterprise. In doing so, she offers a compelling example for female farmers across the region, demonstrating that women are central drivers and innovators in agrifood transformation.

Rozina's contributions have earned recognition locally and internationally. Before her 2026 FAO recognition, she was honored at the 2022 National Potato Conference in Asmara for achieving outstanding yields with selected potato seeds.

Reflecting on that initial recognition, she remarked: "For me, the recognition was completely unexpected. I had never imagined that I would receive such an award, so when I was recognized as an exemplary farmer at the 2022 potato conference, I was deeply moved. It was a meaningful moment because I knew how difficult the journey had been."

That national award marked an important milestone on a journey that has now gained international recognition—serving as a testament to what patience, local knowledge, and determination can accomplish against environmental and economic odds.

ADS

Zara Mining Share Company

Vacancy Announcement

Position:	**Maintenance Fitter**
Number required	**2**
Location:	Based at Koka Gold Mine (Site) Eritrea
Reporting to:	Maintenance Supervisor/Superintendent
Primary Responsibility	Mechanical fitter provides detailed inspection, troubleshooting, oversight, and diagnosis of operational problems in plant and distribution systems including boilers, heat exchangers, chillers, pumps, compressors, crushers and piping systems including expansion joints, valves, supports, and anchors.

Duties

Installation, Fault Finding and Replacement of Machinery & Equipment in area of responsibility - ensuring that both Company and Vendor Safety and Quality standards are adhered to, whilst ensuring minimum disruption to the Process Plant Operation or Production.

- Provide maintenance support for process equipment including crushers, screens, conveyors, pumps, grinding mills, hydro cyclones, pre-leach Thickeners, CIL Agitators, Reagent mixers, Stripping and gold rooms equipment, CCD thickeners and pressure filters to maintain optimum performance
- Provide mentorship and skills transfer for trainees and apprentices
- Carry out routine and preventative maintenance, e.g., greasing/lubrication
- Carry out repairs and/or modifications to the plant components, including potential small fabrication work.
- Always keep equipment and tools in a good condition
- Access martials/parts required to repair or fixing
- Appropriate use of all plant and equipment to minimize downtime
- Carry out break down repairs in the plant as well as the workshop as instructed by supervisor
- Carry out repairs as to the CMMS (Computerized maintenance management system) and follow the maintenance system as they are directed
- Read drawings, work orders and production schedules to determine product or job instructions and specifications
- Set up and operate hand and power tools common to the mechanical maintenance
- Monitoring equipment condition and escalating issues to prevent further deterioration
- Environmental performance and good housekeeping. Specifically:
- To take reasonable care for the health and safety of himself /herself and that of other persons who may be affected by his/her acts or omissions
- To report to his/him immediate manager any hazard which may be discovered at, or in the vicinity of the place of work.
- To maintain high standards of environmental performance in compliance with operational requirements.
- Perform Fault Analysis / Fault Finding / Root Cause Analysis in order to Eliminate Re-Occurrences of Repetitive Faults and improve Process Efficiency and Equipment
- An Understanding of the Operating Narratives of the Processing Plant in relation to the Machinery & Equipment installed and ability to Operate / Configure / Set-Up installed Machinery & Equipment
- Adherence to the Company Planned and Preventative Maintenance Schedules in Area of Responsibility and Procedures.

- Execute all Machinery & Equipment Maintenance Schedules in area of Responsibility and focus on effective Communication with respect to Maintenance Works Orders and keep Back Log to the Minimum.
- Keeping Record / Compile of all Machinery & Equipment Log Sheets in Area of Responsibility and Provide Adequate / End of Shift Feedback to Direct Line Managers.
- Ensure the Correct and Safe Usage of all Workshop Tools and PPE. Apply and Practice Correct and Safe Working / Operating Principles and Standards during all Machinery & Equipment Maintenance Tasks and Comply / Adhere to all Safe Working / Operating Procedures.

- Be a Team player in the Mechanical Engineering Section and Comply with all KPIs, Health and Safety Requirements.

- Liaise with Senior Supervisors (Mechanical), Engineering Supervisors, Planned Maintenance Officers, Electrical, Instrumentation & Control Systems Specialists to provide a Full Range of Fitting Services / Support to Production, Processing Team, other Engineering Teams.

- Ability to Setup, Calibrate and Maintain a wide variety of the latest Machinery & Equipment related to Processing Plants.

- Conduct Shiftily or Regular Inspection of the Plant to gather fresh information as basis in creating Work Schedules with Preventative Measures in mind.
- Through Effective Work Practices and OEM requirements to cultivate, nurture and foster an enabling and Continuous Improvement Climate / Culture in the Specific Allocated Mechanical Work in Area of Responsibility
- Adherence to the Call-Out / Breakdown Procedure - where all Major Equipment Failures are Reported immediately to the Engineering Supervisors and proper Feedback on the Progress of the Breakdown Task together with a proper auditable Root Cause Analysis.

- Ensure Adequate Record Keeping of all Company and Vendor related Documentation, when required by Direct Line Managers.
- Ensure that Good Work Ethics is sustained by Effectively Discipline with reference to Absenteeism, Lateness, Overtime, Misconduct, etc. within the section.
- Adhere to the Company's policies, rules, and regulation
- Other Duties, as per Instruction from Engineering Management and Mechanical Engineering Supervisors

Educational Qualification & Experience

- Trade or vocational training certificate in mechanical fitting
- Trade certification Diploma in Mechanical Fitting.
- Degree in Mechanical Engineering an added advantage
- Minimum 10 years' experience in heavy industrial or mining environments.
- Proven ability to train and mentor others.
- Knowledge of CMMS as an added advantage

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ADS

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Leadership Experience-Nature, Length of time	• Liaise with internal and external stakeholders in a professional and courteous manner and provide advice where required. • Familiarity with best practices in Workplace Health and Safety and Environmental procedures and legislation policies. • Strong troubleshooting and problem-solving skills. • Excellent communication and leadership abilities. • High commitment to HSE standards.
Other skill & abilities	• Strong troubleshooting and analytical skills. • Ability to work independently in remote and harsh environments. • Excellent communication and teamwork abilities. • High attention to detail and commitment to safety. • Physically fit and healthy. • Strong communication and interpersonal skills. • Team player • Execute and deliver all work safely and to a high professional standard, • Must be able to work and perform under pressure. • Good verbal and written communication skills in English • Flexibility to work outside of normal business hours if required. • Must be able to work under minimum supervision. • Perform any other duties as requested by your supervisor. Knowledge of preventive maintenance, maintenance planning, and reliability engineering processes.
Key Performance Indicators:	▪ Willing to undertake tasks requested by management outside the job description should the need arise
Salary	As per the Company scale

Additional Requirement for nationals: - Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligations and providing evidence of a release paper from the Ministry of Defence. Present Clearance paper from the current/last employer. Only short-listed applicants would be considered as potential candidates for an interview. Application documents will not be returned to the sender.

Please mail your applications to the **ZARA MINING SHARE CO P. O. Box 2393. Asmara,**

Note to Eritrean applicants: - Please send a copy of your application to Aliens Employment Permit Affairs **P.O. Box 7940** Asmara, Eritrea. and Eritrea. Mineral Resources Management **P. O. Box 272**

Deadline for application: 10 days from the day of announcement.

ZHONG CHANG MINING P.L.CO

Jacaranda Sembel Street 199/18 No. 206, Asmara Eritrea Tel:00291-7198802

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Zhong Chang Mining P.L.Co invites qualified applicants for the following post:

1, Position: Drilling supervisor
Place of Work: Mai-Mine
Starting Date: Nov 2026
Salary: As per company salary scale
Contract type: Indefinite period
Number required: Two(2)

Main functions

1. Proficient in all operations of fully automated hydraulic drill rigs to ensure work efficiency and quality.
2. Follow all the health and safety procedures.
3. Prepare drilling reports to head office weekly.

Knowledge experience and skills
Qualifications:
High school diploma and above
& Hold a professional certification
Experience:
Eight years experiences and above
Skills:
1. Good command of written and spoken English.
2. Physically fit.

2, Position: Blasting supervisor
Place of Work: Mai-Mine
Starting Date: Nov 2026
Salary: As per company salary scale
Contract type: Indefinite period
Number required: One (1)

Main functions

1. Proficient in various blasting methods to ensure work efficiency.
2. Guarantee safety at the construction site.
3. Prepare work reports to head office weekly.

Knowledge experience and skills
Qualifications:
High school diploma and above
& Hold a professional certification
Experience:
Eight years experiences and above
Skills:
1. Good command of written and spoken English.
2. Physically fit.

Additional requirements for Nationals:

1.Having fulfilled his /her national service obligation and provide evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defense.
2.Present the clearance paper from current or last employer.
3.Testimonial documents to be attached（CV, work experience credentials, a copy of your National Identity Card, etc）
4.Application documents will not be returned to the sender.
5.Only shortlisted applicant will be considered as potential candidates for an interview.
6.Deadline of application: 5 days from the day of publication in the newspaper.

Address: Please mail your application to the following address

1. Zhong Chang Mining P.L.Co
Contact number: 07198802

2.Mineral Resources Mangerment
P.O.Box-272,Asmara

Note to Eritrean applicants:
1.Please send a copy of your applications to Aliens Employment Permit Affairs. P.O.Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea.

Q and A

Familiar Faces and Art Deco: Rowan Beard on What Makes Eritrea Unforgettable

By: Milka Teklom

Having visited Eritrea five times, Rowan Beard—co-founder of Young Pioneers Travel Agency and a prominent travel guide specializing in niche and off-the-beaten-path destinations—has developed a deep appreciation for the country's people, distinctive architecture, and evolving tourism sector. From celebrating Independence Day along Harnet Avenue to reconnecting with familiar faces, Rowan shares why Eritrea continues to draw him back and why he believes the country deserves greater recognition as a tourist destination.

What keeps bringing you back to Eritrea after five visits?

There are several reasons I keep coming back, but for me, it really comes down to the people and the feeling you get when you arrive. Every time I return, I see familiar faces—people I have met on previous visits who recognize me, welcome me back, and make me feel as though I am returning somewhere I know rather than arriving in a completely new destination. That is a wonderful feeling when you travel. You can visit a country once and enjoy the sights, but when you return and start building relationships, the experience becomes much more meaningful.

Eritreans are incredibly welcoming. I have found that people will go out of their way to help you, even when they have very little reason to do so. They want you to feel comfortable, and that genuine willingness to help makes a lasting impression. As someone who works in travel, I know that the success of a destination is not determined by its attractions alone—the human experience matters enormously. You might forget certain places you visited, but you are unlikely to forget the people who made you feel welcome. That is one of the main reasons I continue to return.

As co-founder of Young Pioneers Travel Agency, what first attracted you to the country?

Eritrea is a fascinating country with a character that distinguishes it from many other destinations. When people think about Africa, they often have a particular image in mind, and Eritrea may not immediately come to the forefront. However, once you start exploring, you discover that it



has a great deal to offer.

Asmara is one of the main elements that makes Eritrea so distinctive. While you can find beautiful landscapes across Africa, Asmara's Art Deco architecture gives it a very special identity. The buildings, the streets, and the overall character of the capital make it stand out.

For me, the appeal is also about the opportunity to discover somewhere off the mainstream tourist path. Eritrea offers visitors a chance to experience a country with a strong cultural identity and a history that is reflected in its architecture and everyday life. Working in tourism means constantly looking for places that offer something memorable, and Eritrea certainly does that.

How would you describe Eritrea's progress as a tourism destination?

Tourism in Eritrea is progressing. It may not always be immediately obvious to people who have never visited, but when you return to a destination several times, you begin to notice changes and developments that you might otherwise overlook.

One of the misconceptions I encounter is the idea that Eritrea is standing still in time. People sometimes form that impression from what they read or hear. But having visited five times, I see progress with every trip. Progress does not always mean a dramatic transformation overnight; sometimes it is gradual, visible through small improvements and steady development over time. Returning regularly gives you a clearer perspective because you can compare your experiences from one visit to the next.

I believe Eritrea has the foundations to build a tourism sector that attracts a wider range of international visitors. It has distinctive attractions, a strong cultural identity, and genuinely welcoming people. Of course, there is still work to be done—as in any developing tourism destination—but it is important to recognize the progress taking place rather than judging the country solely through outdated perceptions.

What sets Eritrea apart from other African countries you have visited?

I have traveled to many African countries, and each has its own unique qualities—Africa is incredibly diverse. However, Eritrea has a combination of characteristics that makes it stand out.

First is Asmara. Its Art Deco architecture is distinctive, and the capital has an atmosphere quite different from what many travelers might expect. For anyone interested in architecture, history, or urban culture, it is a fascinating place to explore.

Second, many Eritreans I encounter speak English well. For international visitors, clear communication makes a considerable difference—being able to ask questions, exchange stories, and interact with locals helps travelers feel connected.

Third is the hospitality. I have repeatedly experienced people going out of their way to help me and the tour groups I bring.

Finally, there is the overall environment. In my personal experience, Eritrea has felt exceptionally safe compared with many other destinations I have visited. That sense of comfort, combined with the architecture and the people, makes it a memorable place to return to.



You have visited during Independence Day four times. What makes that occasion so special?

Independence Day is one of the highlights of my visits, and it is an experience I really enjoy sharing with our groups. There is something special about being in the country when people are celebrating such an important occasion in their national history. You can feel the energy and excitement throughout the public sphere.

One of my favorite experiences is being on Harnet Avenue among the crowds. The atmosphere is wonderful, and our groups have the opportunity to join in the celebrations rather than simply observing from a distance.

Reading about a country's history in books is one thing, but being present during a major national celebration provides a completely different perspective. It creates lasting memories for travelers—they return home with more than just photographs; they carry an experience that matters deeply to the country and its people.

What key takeaway do you hope visitors bring home from Eritrea?

I hope they leave with a greater understanding of the country and a desire to learn more. It is easy for people to form opinions about a place without ever visiting, often based on limited information.

When I bring a group to Eritrea, I want them to appreciate the architecture, understand the history, enjoy meeting local people, and experience everyday life—which is often where the most meaningful moments happen. Travel should challenge your assumptions and allow you to see the world from a new perspective. Eritrea certainly accomplishes that. I also hope visitors recognize that the country is constantly evolving and shouldn't be defined by an assumption formed



years ago.

What steps should Eritrea take to attract more international tourists?

The starting point is raising awareness about what Eritrea has to offer. There are many travelers interested in architecture, culture, history, and destinations off the traditional routes, and Eritrea appeals directly to those interests. Asmara should remain central to that narrative, alongside cultural experiences like the Independence Day celebrations.

At the same time, tourism growth needs to be supported by practical arrangements: clear travel information, accessible trip planning, reliable services, and good communication with prospective visitors. It is equally important to build tourism in a way that benefits local communities and respects the country's identity. The natural hospitality of the people is one of Eritrea's greatest strengths, and it should remain central to its travel industry.

What is your response to someone who believes Eritrea is "standing still in time"?

I would encourage them to come and see the country for themselves rather than relying entirely on second-hand information. Having visited five times, I would not keep returning if I did not believe there was something genuinely worthwhile to experience. I see progress on every trip. It may not always happen at the pace or scale people imagine, but it is incorrect to assume that nothing is changing.

Eritrea has a distinctive capital, a rich cultural identity, and people who have consistently made me feel welcome. The tourism potential is significant. For me, the decision to return is simple: I enjoy being here, every visit reinforces my appreciation for the country, and I look forward to coming back again.

Thank you for your time, Rowan. We look forward to welcoming you back on your next visit!