

OROTTA COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES GRADUATES 114 STUDENTS



Orotta College of Medicine and Health Sciences, at its 5th commencement on 25 July, conferred Postgraduate Clinical Specialist Degrees, first degrees, and diplomas on 114 graduates, including 60% female students.

Academic fields of study for the postgraduate include Pathology, Pediatrics and Child Health, Radiology and Medical Imaging, Obstetrics and Gynecology, General Surgery, and Internal Medicine.

Academic fields for first-degree programs include Doctor of Medicine, Anesthesia Nursing, Midwife Nursing, Adult Health Nursing, Emergency and Critical Care Nursing, Ophthalmic Nursing, and Clinical Laboratory. At the same time, Medical Laboratory Technician and Dental Therapy are diploma programs.

The guest of honor, Ms. Amina

Nurhussein, Minister of Health, said that with the substantial investment the Government is making in the health sector, human resources and medical equipment, noticeable development is being registered in public health. Minister Amina said that the Ministry is earnestly working to realize the Sustainable Development Goals by designing a roadmap and plan.

Noting that strong effort is required to provide basic health care services to the public, ensure the health of citizens, and deliver up-to-standard health care services, Minister Amina called on the graduates to upgrade their knowledge through reading and practice, and, above all, to possess work and professional ethics.

Dr. Goitom Hagos, Dean of the College, said that human resource development is one of the top priorities among the Government's strategies. Dr Yemane went on to

say that with the Government's substantial investment and sustained commitment, and the combined efforts of the Ministry of Health and the training institution, it was possible to achieve further improvements in the development of health care professionals.

A representative of the graduates said that graduation day places a heavy responsibility on them to raise health care provision in the country to a higher level and expressed a commitment to live up to the expectations.

At the event, awards of merit were provided to outstanding graduates.

ERITREAN COMMUNITY FESTIVAL IN SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES CONCLUDES

The 28th Eritrean community festival in the Scandinavian countries, which was held for four days under the theme "Our Resilience: Our Guarantee," concluded with patriotic zeal on 26 July in Stockholm.

The festival featured educational seminars, a photo exhibition, cultural and artistic performances by a cultural troupe from Eritrea, a seminar on the objective situation in the homeland and regional and global developments, community villages, as well as other entertainment programs.

At the concluding event, in which nationals from all Scandinavian countries and other European countries, as well as invited guests, took part, Ms. Tsigereda Berhe, Secretary of the National Holidays Coordinating Committee, said that the national gathering had been successfully conducted through the strong participation and commitment of national organizations and communities from all cities. She also commended all those who contributed to the successful and colorful event.

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ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE SOCIETY OF ERITREAN EARTH SCIENTISTS AND MINING ENGINEERS

The Society of Eritrean Earth Scientists and Mining Engineers conducted its annual conference on 24 and 25 July in Asmara under the theme "Professional Engagement for Building Shared Values in Mining".

Mr. Daniel Woldeyohannes, chairman of the society, reminded the society that the sustainable development of the mining sector depends not only on technical excellence but also on collaboration, knowledge sharing, professional integrity, and a collective commitment to advancing the profession.

Mr. Daniel went on to say that the objective of the conference was to bring together Earth Scientists and Mining Engineers, foster professional engagement, promote the exchange of knowledge and experience, and contribute to the responsive and sustainable development of Eritrea's Mining

Industry.

At the conference, 14 research papers were presented, focusing on an overview of Environmental Impact Assessment and Developmental Projects; an overview of the Bisha Processing Plant; Eritrea's Mining Strategic Roadmap; an update on the Zara Mining Share Company; and the General Condition of the Mining Industry in Eritrea, among others. The participants conducted extensive discussion on the research papers presented.

The conference also discussed the role of mining professionals in raising public awareness as well as the expectations and challenges of Artificial Intelligence in the mining sector.

The Society of Eritrean Earth Scientists and Mining Engineers was established in December 2019 and currently has over 300 members.



NATIONAL FESTIVAL 2026 COLORFULLY CONCLUDES IN ASMARA

The National Eritrean Festival 2026 officially concluded on July 26 with a vibrant closing ceremony at the Expo Compound in Asmara, following nine days of cultural celebrations inaugurated by President Isaias Afwerki on July 18.

The closing ceremony was attended by ministers, senior Government and PFDJ officials, featured artists, and festival participants representing all six administrative regions of the country.

Speaking at the event, Ambassador Zemede Tekle, Commissioner of Culture and Sports and Chairman of the National Holidays Coordinating Committee, highlighted that the annual festival serves as a vital national platform for accumulating experience and driving continuous development across cultural and creative sectors. He expressed confidence that constructive public feedback would help refine and

elevate future festival programs.

A comprehensive report presented during the event noted that the 2026 edition featured 24 major displays and feature programs. Driven by strong public participation and regional collaboration, the interactive showcases received widespread acclaim from visitors.

Throughout its nine-day run, the festival attracted approximately 500,000 visitors. The diverse program encompassed regional cultural villages showcasing the

heritage and traditions of Eritrea's ethnic groups; institutional and regional product exhibitions; literary and poetry competitions; painting and sculpture displays; book fairs; seminars; academic research presentations; and dedicated educational programs for children.

The closing ceremony featured a series of cultural and artistic performances, culminating in the presentation of certificates of participation and merit awards to the participating regions and institutions.



REPORTAGE

National Festival 2026 Concludes with Colorful Ceremony

By: Kesete Gebrehiwet

Eritrea Festival 2026 concluded on the evening of 26 July with a colorful and spirited ceremony at the G3 Hall of the Expo Grounds in Asmara. Officially opened by President Isaias Afwerki on 18 July, the nine-day festival brought together cultural groups from Eritrea's six administrative regions, as well as artists, innovators, exhibitors, and various presenters. Featuring around 24 distinct programs celebrating Eritrea's history, cultural diversity, creativity, resilience, and national unity, the event concluded in the presence of ministers, regional administrators, government officials, guests, and members of the public.

Even before the formal closing program began, cheerful sounds filled the G3 Hall. Regional cultural groups danced and clapped to music presented in Tigre, Saho, Afar, Kunama, Tigrinya, and Bilen. Traditional clothing, musical instruments, rhythmic footwork, ululation, and coordinated movement transformed the venue into a vivid expression of the country's cultural wealth. As guests entered, the song "Tegadalay" played over the main sound system, prompting members of the Southern Region cultural group to clap and sing along spontaneously, setting an energetic tone for the evening.

The official ceremony opened with a rendition by artist Rezene Alem highlighting Eritrea's long and victorious struggle for independence and the spirit of determination that



Ambassador Zemed Tekle continues to guide its path toward comprehensive self-reliance. The song emphasized that the peace and stability enjoyed today are the results of sacrifice, a focused national vision, and steadfast commitment—a message warmly received with applause, cheering, and whistles.

Ambassador Zemed Tekle, Commissioner of Culture and Sports and Chairman of the National Holidays Coordinating Committee, welcomed the regional administrators, official representatives, participants, and guests. He praised the collective effort that drove the festival's success and emphasized the enduring value of its activities.

"All the activities presented at the festival are to be remembered and cherished," Ambassador Zemed noted. "The experience gained should serve as a stepping stone for further improvement and better outcomes in the future. The festival is held annually, and the experience accumulated over the years has become a driving force for the introduction, improvement, and expansion of its programs."

He highlighted that, in consultation with the Ministry of Tourism, food, beverage, and catering services were kept affordable and cost-effective for visitors—one of the notable operational achievements of this year's edition. Around 500,000 people visited the Expo Grounds throughout the week, while extensive media coverage enabled Eritreans across the country and in the diaspora to follow the main programs.

Artist Solomon Drar presented a brief overview of the festival's overall execution, explaining that 24 major shows and feature programs were presented. These included exhibitions, regional pavilions, cultural performances, seminars, poetry readings, short dramas, traditional dances, and researched presentations on local social

practices.

The festival displayed both tangible and intangible heritage—ranging from traditional architecture, clothing, ornaments, household utensils, and farming tools to oral traditions, customary laws, childhood activities, marriage ceremonies, conflict-resolution mechanisms, communal work campaigns, and memories associated with the armed struggle.

Participants ranged from seven-year-old children to elders up to 80 years of age, demonstrating that cultural preservation is a vibrant, cross-generational responsibility. Their active involvement underscored that heritage is not merely a collection of static historical objects, but a living practice sustained through performance, education, and community involvement.

The regional cultural villages were among the main attractions. Traditional houses built according to local architectural knowledge demonstrated how different communities historically adapted to varied environmental and climatic conditions. Live demonstrations of farming, animal husbandry, weaving, pottery, and traditional culinary techniques offered practical insights into everyday life across generations.

Oral traditions also held a central place, fostering active dialogue among communities, institutions, artists, and visitors. Through poetry, proverbs, songs, and theatrical sketches, presenters preserved historical memories, conveyed moral values, and highlighted social relationships, underscoring the necessity of documenting and passing this knowledge on to younger generations.

The festival's literary and artistic components drew significant public engagement. A total of 144 authors presented their published works, while the Aughet Bookstore featured approximately 1,450 second-hand books at the book fair. Painting and sculpture exhibitions broadened the visual arts display, while the increased participation of women in traditional music groups was commended as a prominent development.

Technological innovation provided another vital dimension. Thirty-seven projects were showcased by young innovators, students, and technicians addressing practical challenges in agriculture, energy, technology, environmental protection, communication, and

national infrastructure. By placing young inventors alongside cultural heritage, the festival illustrated how respect for tradition and a commitment to modernization can mutually reinforce one another.

Additionally, the Eritrea Crops and Livestock Corporation received recognition for supplying essential consumer commodities at fair prices throughout the event. Safe, dedicated children's playgrounds and structured youth activities were well-organized, while comprehensive media coverage ensured seamless public access.

Highlights from the Regional Cultural Showcase

The evening's cultural performances showcased the distinct artistic traditions of Eritrea's six regions:

- **Northern Red Sea Region:** Presented "Mergedi" in the Tigre language. Traditionally performed during marriage ceremonies primarily by men (with young boys joining to learn the movements), performers dressed in fine traditional attire carried sticks as they swayed, jumped, and struck the floor in unison.

- **Southern Region:** Staged "Ali-babe," a Saho-language performance celebrating a traditional Saho hairstyle. Performed in unison by women alongside a male vocalist, the highly rhythmic presentation featured continuous circular movements forming a revolving pattern.

- **Southern Red Sea Region:** Delivered "Miga'e Etto" in Afar. Women adorned in colorful traditional clothing and jewelry began with a graceful, rhythmic dance, subsequently joined by male

dancers wearing traditional daggers, whose swift, precise movements added dramatic intensity.

- **Central Region:** Displayed "Kumbraza" in the style of the traditional Tigrinya "Estalile" dance. Men and women performed together; holding flowers, male dancers used humor, song, and stylized movement to portray themselves as hardworking, worthy suitors.

- **Kunama Representation:** Performed the song "Gda-anana." Traditionally sung during the construction of houses for grandparents to honor their contributions, the songs were accompanied by men and women in full traditional dress dancing to the sound of drums, horns, and the rhythmic jingling of foot ornaments.

- **Anseba Region:** Presented "Ahiel" in Bilen, accompanied by the traditional Eskista dance and expressive harmonica melodies. Male performers, wearing wooden combs in their hair, delivered a confident and precise routine.

At the conclusion of the performances, Ambassador Zemed Tekle presented certificates of appreciation and awards to representatives of all six participating regions in recognition of their contributions.

The National Festival 2026 formally concluded as participants and guests stood together to sing the national anthem. The moment captured the overarching spirit of the event: that Eritrea's cultural diversity remains a foundation of national strength. By bridging heritage, innovation, artistic expression, and public participation, the festival connected generations and renewed a collective commitment to preserving shared national values.



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SpotLight

Orotta Graduation Marks Another Step Forward

Bana Negusse

The graduation of 114 students from Orotta College of Medicine and Health Sciences (OCMHS) in Asmara last week was more than an academic milestone. It was a reflection of Eritrea's sustained effort to expand healthcare capacity, strengthen national expertise, and build a health system capable of meeting the needs of its people.

At the College's fifth annual commencement ceremony, graduates from different academic levels and fields of specialization received their qualifications, with women accounting for 60 percent of the graduating class. Their achievement represents not only years of study and commitment but also an important addition to

was clear: the graduates are joining a national journey that has placed healthcare development at the center of Eritrea's broader development agenda.

Since independence, Eritrea has pursued a healthcare strategy based on accessibility, equity, and the belief that quality health services should be available to all citizens regardless of location or socioeconomic status. This approach has focused on two interconnected priorities: expanding healthcare infrastructure and developing the human resources required to sustain it. Over the years, the country has steadily increased the number and reach of healthcare facilities, while investing heavily in the education, training, and deployment of health professionals.



efforts is reflected in major improvements across key health indicators. Maternal mortality has declined significantly, falling from 998 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990 to fewer than 200 today. Similarly, under-five mortality has decreased by approximately 75

within 10 kilometers of a health facility, while approximately 70 percent reside within five kilometers — a significant improvement in reducing geographical barriers to care.

Alongside the above, Eritrea's health sector development is closely connected to the broader goals of social and economic progress.

Access to healthcare is recognized internationally as a fundamental human right, requiring systems that ensure availability, accessibility, acceptability, and quality of services. While no health system is without challenges, Eritrea's continued efforts reflect a commitment to expanding these principles across the country.

At the same time, investment in health is an investment in national capacity. A healthier population is better positioned to participate in education, employment, and economic activity. Improved health outcomes strengthen communities, increase productivity, and contribute to long-term national resilience.

This connection between health and development explains why the training of healthcare professionals has remained a central priority. Every doctor, nurse, pharmacist, and health specialist represents not only an individual achievement but

also an addition to the country's collective capacity.

The latest OCMHS graduation therefore represents more than the completion of an academic program. It symbolizes the continuation of a national effort that began decades ago — an effort to create a healthcare system built on access, self-reliance, and sustainable human development.

For the graduates and their families, the ceremony marked a moment of personal accomplishment and pride. For Eritrea, it represented another step in strengthening the foundations of public health.

As these new professionals begin their careers, they carry with them both the knowledge gained through years of study and the responsibility of serving communities across the country. Their journey reflects a broader national aspiration: to ensure that progress in healthcare continues not only through expanded facilities and improved services, but through the dedication and expertise of the people who make the system work.

The future of Eritrea's health sector will ultimately depend on this combination of investment, innovation, and human commitment. The graduates of Orotta College are now part of that future.



Eritrea's growing pool of healthcare professionals.

Addressing the ceremony, government and institutional officials underscored the wider significance of the graduates' contribution. Beyond filling critical roles in hospitals and health facilities, the new professionals are expected to support efforts to reduce reliance on costly external training, improve the quality of healthcare services, and help meet the country's ongoing demand for skilled personnel.

The ceremony also highlighted the expanding academic foundation behind Eritrea's medical education system. OCMHS activities are supported by nearly 100 faculty members, most of whom are Eritrean professionals, as well as several international specialists. Many faculty members are themselves pursuing postgraduate education both inside and outside the country, strengthening the institution's capacity to train future generations of health workers.

The message from the ceremony

Today, Eritrea has around 350 healthcare facilities, including hospitals, health centers, health stations, and clinics — representing a nearly fourfold increase compared with 1991. Alongside this physical expansion has been a significant growth in the healthcare workforce, supported by a policy that covers the costs of professional training and provides employment opportunities for qualified health workers.

By removing recruitment ceilings for health professionals, Eritrea has sought to maintain a continuous pipeline of trained personnel entering the national health system. This investment in people has become one of the most important pillars of the country's healthcare transformation.

Of course, infrastructure alone cannot deliver better health outcomes. Accordingly, the availability of trained and committed health professionals has been central to Eritrea's progress, particularly in rural and historically underserved communities.

The impact of these combined

percent, from 153 deaths per 1,000 live births to 34, representing one of the fastest rates of improvement globally.

Progress has also been recorded in the fight against infectious diseases. Adult HIV prevalence among those aged 15–49 has declined from 1.1 percent in 1991 to approximately 0.4 percent, while the country continues to move closer to eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

Eritrea has also made notable progress in reducing malaria and continues to strengthen efforts against tuberculosis, hepatitis B, and neglected tropical diseases. Immunization programs have achieved high coverage, with more than 95 percent of children receiving complete age-appropriate vaccinations. Life expectancy has risen from 49.6 years in 1990 to more than 69 years today, according to United Nations figures.

These achievements demonstrate the cumulative impact of long-term investment. Currently, around 80 percent of Eritrea's population lives



SpotLight

Bridging Heritage and Tech: Young Innovators Take Center Stage at Festival 2026

By: Kidane Shimendi

Innovation is humanity's most essential mechanism for survival and progress. It is an indispensable mental capability that enables societies to address life's endless challenges creatively. To ensure this social capital is cultivated both as an individual skill and a collective culture, nations actively promote creativity among their youth through targeted programs, exhibitions, and national contests.

Fundamentally, innovation is the process of creating solutions—in the form of products, technologies, or services—that significantly improve people's daily lives and elevate living standards. It rarely occurs in isolation; rather, it is nurtured through continuous practice, hard work, trial and error, and the open exchange of professional experience gathered over time.

In the Eritrean context, innovation is not a foreign concept imported from abroad—it is a culturally nurtured value displayed daily across the country. In ordinary life, watching children construct their own toys, men repair farming equipment or build family homes, and women weave textiles, construct baskets, or refurbish household tools are familiar scenes. These everyday activities demonstrate a deep-seated culture of creativity firmly rooted in the national principle of self-reliance.

This culture of innovation has long reinforced the Eritrean people's confidence to confront challenges through self-reliant effort. This symbolic national value is reflected throughout the nation's oral traditions and popular proverbs. Expressions in Tigrinya such as "The one who relies on others wears out like a shoe" and "Begging turns a person into an ape" highlight how deeply autonomy and self-determination are embedded in the national consciousness.

Historically, this spirit of self-reliance drove the liberation struggle, enabling the nation to confront formidable military adversaries without relying on external aid. Faced with severe resource constraints, freedom fighters turned to innovation using locally available materials. In the field, they self-reliantly constructed and managed subterranean factories and workshops, including pharmaceutical plants, metalworking and machining

units, armament repair facilities, food processing plants, plastic and shoe factories, printing presses, electronics workshops, and hygiene product facilities.

Following independence, this inventive culture persisted, shaping and accelerating the nation-building process. To further encourage this spirit among younger generations, innovation competitions have become a core feature of major national events, most notably the annual National Festival. These platforms allow young citizens to unleash their potential, exchange technical skills, inspire their peers, and reinforce national confidence in a technologically self-sufficient future.

During the 2026 National Festival, participants ranging from primary school students and recent vocational graduates to experienced technicians showcased remarkable projects. The multidisciplinary exhibition showcased advancements in artificial intelligence (AI), software development, electrical machinery, educational software, and modern agricultural equipment. Grounded in the Eritrean reality, these projects demonstrated how respect for local needs and a commitment to technological modernization can mutually reinforce one another.

In the realm of digital tools and artificial intelligence, several standout applications were presented. Innovators Blien Bereket, Surafiel Qelati, and Fnot Solomon developed an offline mapping application tailored for civil engineers and geologists to survey land structures, measure agricultural plots, and assist in designing roads and dams. Addressing early childhood education, the "Sampeco Apps" team—composed of four college graduates—introduced five interactive educational applications featuring puzzles aligned with the national curriculum to help children, both locally and in the diaspora, learn Tigrinya language, history, and culture.

In electrical engineering and digital media, Engineer Rufaiel Micheal created an AI-driven fault-detection software designed for direct installation at national electrical substations, enabling technicians to rapidly identify and isolate grid errors, preventing widespread infrastructure damage. Concurrently, a team of digital creators known as "Group Legacy" presented animated video projects

produced at the Eritrean Polytech Training Center, utilizing AI animation to depict historical events, cultural traditions, and national development efforts.

In healthcare, a team of six young innovators introduced an AI-assisted cardiac diagnostic software designed to mitigate shortages of specialist cardiologists and electrocardiogram (ECG) interpretation equipment. Beyond analyzing cardiovascular data, the application assists clinicians with ECG readings while helping prevent prescription and medical transcription errors. Addressing domestic safety, third-year Electrical and Electronics Engineering student Hiernela Tesfay developed an automated fire outbreak detection system that immediately alerts residents to take emergency precautions.

Mechanical and agricultural engineering projects formed another major highlight of the exhibition. Hanibal Estifanos demonstrated an ultrasonic rodent-repelling device that emits high-frequency sound waves inaudible and harmless to humans while effectively protecting stored crops and homes. Technician Tedros Aminebrhan developed a gabion wire manufacturing machine built entirely from locally sourced materials, producing heavy-duty wire mesh essential for constructing check dams, agricultural terracing, poultry housing, and fencing.

Addressing industrial and manufacturing needs, technical school graduate Essey Rezene developed a computer-controlled biscuit-manufacturing machine equipped with an integrated energy-storage system to mitigate power fluctuations, capable of producing between 400 and 450 biscuits within five minutes. Innovator Seidlab Hagos showcased a versatile waste-recycling complex alongside an



off-grid refrigeration unit. His eco-friendly charcoal manufacturing system converts organic urban waste—including animal bones, dried leaves, poultry waste, and scrap paper—into clean-burning charcoal briquettes. Capable of producing up to 17 tons per day, this system offers an affordable energy alternative that burns twice as long as traditional wood charcoal, helping curb deforestation and reduce air pollution.

Seidlab's companion innovation, an electricity-free agricultural refrigerator, helps smallholder farmers preserve harvested crops without grid power. His testing demonstrated that the unit can preserve potatoes and onions for eight months, bananas for eight to ten months, eggs for up to a year, and fresh meat for six months, significantly reducing post-harvest losses. In another energy-focused project, Yonas Hadera created a system that repurposes used motor oil into a clean-burning fuel for large-scale baking ovens—such as those used for injera—and for domestic cooking, preventing soil and groundwater contamination from discarded vehicle lubricants.

Agricultural productivity was further supported by Amanuel Angosom, who designed an affordable, easily maintained modern beehive made from

readily available local materials. Mechanical engineer Even Tesgay introduced a versatile multi-tine tilling machine adaptable to various power sources—including cars, tractors, motorcycles, and oxen—designed to reduce farmers' field preparation time. Complementing this, Zekarias Beyn developed a dual-purpose agricultural machine featuring interchangeable components that function as both a corn sheller and a sugarcane grinder, and also enable farmers to pulverize crop waste into animal feed.

Adding a distinct perspective to the exhibition, chemistry graduate Mikal Tewelde presented an organic herbal hair treatment named "Shalom." Formulated using eight natural ingredients—rosemary, hibiscus, fenugreek, flaxseed, Moringa, white cumin, clove, and local botanical seasonings—the product was developed through extensive home experimentation and named after her daughter.

The projects presented at the 2026 National Festival inspired visitors, generated lively discussions, and provided young creators with constructive feedback from experts and the general public. This active engagement highlights a growing culture of shared learning and collective problem-solving across the nation.

Innovation remains an integral pillar of the Eritrean national identity. Nurtured through generations of shared history, community solidarity, and practical necessity, it continues to shape the country's development trajectory. By building on its historical legacies, mastering modern technologies, and systematically supporting young talent, Eritrea continues to translate its philosophy of self-reliance into practical, lasting progress. Encouraging, supporting, and rewarding these young innovators remains essential to securing a bright, prosperous tomorrow.



REPORTAGE

Orotta College of Medicine and Health Sciences Graduates 114 Healthcare Professionals

By: Mussie Efriem

Investing in the education of medical students is a foundational pillar for any nation's long-term health, stability, and socioeconomic well-being, as a self-reliant healthcare workforce directly transforms community resilience into national progress. Over the decades following independence, Eritrea has made deliberate, high-impact investments in domestic medical training anchored by national institutions such as the Orotta School of Medicine and Health Sciences. By systematically funding institutional infrastructure, training thousands of home-grown doctors, dentists, and specialized clinicians, and emphasizing community-based public health, the nation has steadily built its medical capacity. This continuous stream of qualified professionals has executed the national vision of equitable healthcare access, ensuring that regional hospitals, community clinics, and mobile outreach programs successfully extend vital medical resources to even the most remote villages.

Building upon this strong national framework, the tangible fruits of Eritrea's sustained investment were on full display during the 5th commencement ceremony of the Orotta College of Medicine and Health Sciences (OCMHS) on July 25, 2026. The ceremony officially commenced at 9:00 AM with a solemn tribute to fallen martyrs as the college faculty and the graduating class processed to their seats, greeted by a resounding ovation from parents and families in attendance.

Addressing the assembly as guest of honor, Minister of Health Ms. Amina Nurhussein underscored that the substantial government investment in health infrastructure, human resources, and advanced medical



Ms. Amina Nurhussein

realize sustainable development goals through strategic roadmaps and target-driven planning. Emphasizing that sustained effort is required to deliver standard, foundational healthcare to every citizen, Minister Amina called on the graduates to continuously upgrade their knowledge through practice and research while upholding the highest standards of professional ethics.

Dr. Goitom Hagos, Dean of the College, echoed these sentiments, noting that human resource development remains a top priority among government strategies. He highlighted that the combined dedication of the Ministry of Health and training institutions has enabled dramatic improvements in professional development across the sector. Speaking directly to the significance of the day, Dr. Goitom noted that the historic 5th commencement serves as a testament to the college's vital contribution to national healthcare capacity.

A representative of the graduating class expressed deep gratitude to the faculty and families, acknowledging that graduation carries a profound responsibility to elevate healthcare provision in the country to higher standards—a duty the cohort is firmly committed to fulfilling. Following the speeches, awards of merit were presented to the cohort's most outstanding graduates in recognition of their academic excellence.

To fully appreciate the magnitude of this 5th commencement,

preceded OCMHS: the Asmara College of Health Sciences and the Orotta School of Medicine and Dental Medicine. Established in 1995, the Asmara College of Health Sciences has stood as a cornerstone of medical education for decades, graduating 5,680 healthcare professionals. This

this proud tradition of excellence by graduating 1,175 healthcare professionals before the current class, including 12 specialized clinical experts, 41 general practitioners, 256 Bachelor of Science degree holders, and 866 diploma graduates.

OCMHS conferred qualifications on 114 graduates across diploma, degree, and postgraduate specialization levels. The diploma division celebrated 35 graduates, including 17 Medical Laboratory Technologists and 18 Dental Technicians. The undergraduate degree division conferred



impressive output was evenly distributed across academic levels, comprising 2,870 degree graduates and 2,810 diploma holders who went on to staff medical facilities nationwide. Simultaneously, the Orotta School of Medicine and Dental

This momentum has carried over directly into the 2025/26 academic year, during which the college enrolled 1,172 students across all programs, with women making up a strong majority at 705. The current student body includes 901 enrolled in

qualifications on 61 graduates, comprising 9 Bachelor of Science in Clinical Laboratory Science degree holders, 26 specialized Nursing degree recipients, and 26 Doctors of Medicine (MD).

Significantly, the ceremony marked the graduation of 18 medical specialists representing the college's third cohort of resident physicians across six critical fields. This specialized group includes five specialists in Internal Medicine, five in General Surgery, three in Radiology and Medical Imaging, three in Obstetrics and Gynecology, one in Pathology, and one in Pediatrics and Child Health.

These graduating cohorts span a comprehensive range of disciplines specifically designed to address the nation's diverse healthcare needs and advance its self-reliant health policy. By producing home-grown specialists and frontline clinicians, Eritrea continues to reinforce its decentralized health network. These 114 graduates step directly into regional hospitals and community health centers, bridging urban-rural divides, expanding surgical and diagnostic capabilities, and ensuring that high-quality, specialized care reaches every corner of the country.



Medicine, launched in 2004 to address the critical need for physicians and dental specialists, made an equally profound impact by producing 515 medical doctors and 83 doctors of dental medicine.

In September 2018, a strategic national vision brought these two pillars together through a merger, officially forming the unified Orotta College of Medicine and Health Sciences. This consolidation streamlined institutional resources, elevated academic synergy, and created a comprehensive powerhouse for medical training. Since its founding, OCMHS has continued

diploma programs, 222 pursuing undergraduate degrees, and 49 resident physicians advancing their clinical expertise within postgraduate specialization programs. Notably, 11 of the 49 resident physicians are female, signaling a positive shift toward gender equity in clinical specialization and leadership. Furthermore, to invest in academic excellence from within, 10 faculty members from OCMHS are currently pursuing postgraduate studies both locally and abroad.

At this year's 5th commencement ceremony,



equipment is yielding noticeable development across public health sectors. She noted that the Ministry is earnestly working to

Dr. Goitom reflected on the foundational legacies of the two pioneering institutions that



State of Eritrea
Ministry of Agriculture
Letter of Invitation for Bids

1. The State of Eritrea, Ministry of Agriculture, and National Project Co-ordination Office (NPCO) has received financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) towards the cost of Integrated Agricultural Development Project (IADP) and intends to apply part of the financing for the purchase of these goods. The use of any IFAD financing shall be subject to IFAD’s approval, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the financing agreement, as well as IFAD’s rules, policies and procedures. IFAD and its officials, agents and employees shall be held harmless from and against all suits, proceedings, claims, demands, losses and liability of any kind or nature brought by any party in connection with Integrated Agricultural Development Project (IADP).

2. The Integrated Agricultural Development Project (IADP) includes three components and has six years’ lifetime. The overall goal of the project is to contribute to poverty reduction and food and nutrition security of rural households. The project Development objective is to enhance small holder agricultural production and productivity in sustainable way and improves rural livelihoods.

3. This IFB follows the general procurement notice that appeared on the IFAD website on 27 April 2026, and national newspapers Haddas Eritrea/ Eritrean profile on 13 May, 2026.

4. The purchaser now invites sealed bids from eligible entities (“bidders”) for the provision of Supply, Installation, commissioning of irrigation scheme pipeline and solar power pumps assorted in 2 lots and Procurement of Shed-net house assorted in 2lots. More details on these goods and related services are provided in the schedule of requirements in this bidding document.

5. This IFB is open to all eligible bidders who wish to respond. Subject to the restrictions noted in the bidding document, eligible entities may associate with other bidders to enhance their capacity to successfully deliver the goods and related services. Potential bidders should first request for a registration form using em-ail address below. Upon filling the form, the bidders should return the filled form through a reply email, and the bidding document will be provided immediately thereafter at no charge.

6. Bidding will be conducted using the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) method, the evaluation procedure for which is described in this bidding document, in accordance with the IFAD procurement handbook, which is provided on the IFAD website www.ifad.org/project-procurement. The ICB process, as described, will include a review and verification of qualifications and past performance, including a reference check, prior to the contract award.

7. Please note that a pre-bid conference will not be held as described in the bid data sheet BDS, Section II of the bidding document.

8. Bids must be delivered to the address below and in the manner specified in the BDS ITB 25 no later than **9:30 am local Asmara**, Eritrea’s time, **15 September 2026**.

Ministry of Agriculture, Procurement and Supplies Management Division (PSMD)

Lidia Russom (Senior Procurement officer) Sawa Street, Asmara, Eritrea
Lidyarusomlidu1221@gmail.com Tel Number:
00291181076/00291189266

Fax Number: 1048 Block Number: 6 Room Number: 8 Asmara, Eritrea

9. Bidders should be aware that late bids will not be accepted under any circumstances and will be returned unopened to the bidder. All bids must be accompanied by a bid securing deceleration.

10. Please note that electronic bids shall not be accepted as defined in ITB BDS 25. Yours sincerely, Ministry of Agriculture, Procurement and Supplies Management Division (PSMD)

Lidia Russom (IADP Project Senior Procurement officer) Sawa Street, Asmara, Eritrea

Lidyarusomlidu1221@gmail.com
Tel Numb00291181076/00291189266
Fax Number: 1048 Asmara, Eritrea



ASMARA MINING SHARE COMPANY
Abo Street, No. 178, House No. 16
Gejeret, P.O. Box 10688

Tel. ++291-1-153986
Asmara, Eritrea

VACANCY
ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Rubber Technician Assistant
Number required – (08)
Type of contract – Indefinite

Major Duties and responsibilities

- To assist and support rubber Technician
- Carry out housekeeping before and after task
- Ensure tools and equipment cleanliness and orderliness
- Follow direct instructions from rubber Technician
- Ability to use basic hand tools.
- Assist rubber and belt technician in carrying out belt repairs and rubber lining.
- Maintain work area/workshop cleanliness and orderliness
- Maintain tools and equipment cleanliness and orderliness
- Perform additional task as required
- Must have good understanding of English.

Profile: Qualifications and Experience

Formal Education, Certifications or Equivalents	• At least high school graduated
Working Experience – Nature & Length	• Not necessary
Technical Skills	• Not applicable
Behavioral Skills	• English must be understood

General Information and other requirements:

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

Additional requirements for Nationals:

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

- **Address: Please mail your applications to:**
Asmara Mining Share Company,
P. O. Box 10688 Asmara, Eritrea
- **Applicants shall be required to send a copy to:**
Mineral Resources Management
P.O. Box – 272
Asmara

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



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

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

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Bisha Mining Share Company is inviting applicants for the following positions

1. **Position: UG Construction Miner**
Department: Processing and Underground Operations
Section: Asheli Underground
Number required: One (01)

Primary Purpose

- To perform underground mining and construction activities safely and efficiently in support of mine development, rehabilitation, concrete work, wall construction, ground support installation, and production operations while maintaining compliance with company safety standards, operational procedures, and production targets.

Essential Functions

- Perform underground construction and mining duties including drifting, scaling, concrete work, wall construction, ground support installation, and rehabilitation work.
- Install rock bolts, cable bolts, mesh, shotcrete support systems, and other ground control measures.
- Construct underground walls, barricades, and concrete structures according to engineering specifications.
- Operate underground mining and construction equipment safely and efficiently.
- Assist with mine development, service installation, and infrastructure maintenance.
- Conduct workplace inspections and identify hazardous ground or unsafe working conditions.

Main Functions

- Perform shotcrete application to ground surfaces according to engineering designs
- Conduct pre-start inspections and routine maintenance of shotcrete equipment
- Assist with installation of ground support systems, including mesh and bolts
- Monitor work quality and adjust procedures as needed to meet specifications
- Maintain equipment, tools, and work areas in good condition

TASK DESCRIPTION Expanded TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS

Underground Construction and Development

- Perform underground mine development and construction activities according to engineering and operational requirements.
- Assist with drifting, excavation support, rehabilitation, and infrastructure installation.
- Support mine expansion and maintenance projects underground.

Concrete Work and Wall Construction

- Prepare, place, and finish concrete for underground construction projects.
- Construct underground walls, barricades, forms, and support structures according to specifications.
- Assist with formwork setup, reinforcement placement, and concrete curing processes.

Ground Support Installation

- Install rock bolts, cable bolts, mesh, straps, and shotcrete systems.
- Inspect ground conditions and identify areas requiring additional support.

Underground Equipment Operation

- Operate underground loaders, utility vehicles, bolters, and construction equipment safely.
- Perform equipment inspections and report defects or maintenance issues.
- Act as a role model in performance and behavior

Communication and Coordination

- Maintain clear communication with supervisors and team members
- Provide accurate feedback on production and equipment performance

Safety and Compliance

- Adhere to all mine safety regulations, procedures, and company standards.
- Participate in safety meetings, risk assessments, and emergency response activities.

UNIQUE REQUIREMENTS / OTHER INFORMATION

- Ability to work in confined underground environments with exposure to dust, noise, heat, vibration, and varying ground conditions.
- Physically capable of performing strenuous labor, lifting heavy materials, and working extended shifts underground.
- Willingness to work rotating schedules, overtime, weekends, and emergency call-ins when required.
- Must wear personal protective equipment (PPE) and comply with all underground safety requirements.
- Strong commitment to maintaining a safe, productive, and incident-free workplace

- High school diploma or equivalent preferred.
 - Experience in underground development, rehabilitation, and construction activities.
 - Previous experience working in an expat or developing workforce environment (preferred)
 - Trainer/Assessor certification (advantageous for expat role).
- Minimum of 5 years’ underground mining or underground construction experience required.
 - Experience in underground mine development, rehabilitation, concrete work, and wall construction activities.
 - Experience operating underground mobile equipment and mining machinery.
 - Experience with formwork installation, concrete placement, and underground structural construction.
 - Experience working in a multicultural or developing workforce environment
 - Ability to work in physically demanding underground environments and rotating shifts.

Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
- Underground mine development and construction - Concrete work and underground wall construction - Formwork installation and concrete placement - Rock bolting and cable bolting - Underground equipment operation - Material handling and transport - Reading mine plans and engineering drawings - Basic rigging and lifting techniques - Knowledge of ventilation requirements and dust suppression techniques	- Strong safety-first mindset - Effective communication across language and cultural barriers - High level of accountability and professionalism - Drive and enthusiasm - Team-oriented with the ability to influence and coach others - Proactive and solution-focused approach.

General Information and other requirements:

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

Additional requirements for Nationals:

- Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provided evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defense.
- Present clearance paper from current/last employer.
- Testimonial documents to be attached (CV, work experience credentials, a copy of your National Identity Card etc.).
- Only shortlisted applicants will be considered as potential candidates for an interview.
- Application documents will not be returned to sender.
- All applications should be sent through the post office.
- Deadline for application: 10 days from the day of publication in the Newspaper.

Address: Please mail your applications to:-

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

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

Note to Eritrean applicants:

- Please send a copy of your application to:
1. Aliens Employment permits Affairs,
P. O. Box 7940
Asmara, Eritrea.

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
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Art, Passion, and Purpose

By: Sabrina Solomon

Samuel, please tell us about your upbringing and early life.

I was born and raised in the city of Dekemhare. As the youngest child in the family, I grew up surrounded by care and affection. My childhood memories are all tied to Dekemhare, where I lived until I joined the armed struggle for national independence at a very young age.

The environment in which I grew up, combined with the discipline of the liberation fields, shaped me into a person who deeply values loyalty and authenticity. I strive to embody those youth-forged values in all my artistic work.

I attended school in Dekemhare until fifth grade, but my pursuit of formal education was interrupted when my love for country and freedom called me to join the struggle. While we continued learning in the fields, the unstable wartime environment made structured academic progression difficult. After independence, my colleagues and I completed our secondary education through 12th grade. Later, the Ministry of Information offered me an opportunity to study journalism at the University of Asmara. That program was paused when the 1998 border conflict broke out, at which point I returned to the field to serve as a journalist. Eventually, I pursued marketing studies and earned an International Advanced Diploma from the Eri-British Training Center.

How did your journey in the arts begin during those early years?

Cultural and artistic activities were an integral part of life in the field. When I turned 15, I joined a newly formed cultural troupe, serving as a host and presenter. It marked the beginning of a lifelong artistic path. Balancing my cultural work with duties as a combatant during the armed struggle, I sustained injuries to my head, arm, chest, and eye.

Your passion for art is widely

An iconic figure in Eritrean arts and culture, Mr. Samuel Ghebreabonay has dedicated his life to representing his country's true values through creative expression. As an author, writer, playwright, actor, and poet, he has long made his artistic works—including poetry, dramas, comedies, and songs—staples of national holiday celebrations. Beyond his artistic contributions, Mr. Samuel served as a journalist for many years, earning widespread respect and affection across the nation.

Men'essey magazine recently sat down with Mr. Samuel to discuss his childhood, his experience in the armed struggle, his journalistic career, and his lifelong dedication to storytelling. Here is a summary of that conversation.



admired. What drove that lifelong creative impulse?

I was fortunate to grow up in an environment that embraced the arts. Dekemhare was home to many legendary artists during the 1960s, and I was raised in a community that valued reading. Encouraged by my surroundings, I became an avid reader at a young age. By the time I was in first grade, I was reading the Bible, historical books, and novels. My late mother and grandmother were also incredible storytellers who fascinated me with traditional fairytales and folklore.

That upbringing sparked my passion for creative expression. When I joined the struggle, I began learning and writing poetry, which naturally evolved into acting in dramas and hosting public events. I have been writing song lyrics, composing melodies, and scripting screenplays ever since.

Looking back, what are your thoughts on the artistic works produced during the liberation struggle?

Every work produced in the field was filled with genuine hope, resilience, and passion. It remains extraordinary to reflect on how people created such expressive, moving art under such grueling conditions. That is precisely why those works remain so special and enduring today—it was art created by everyone, for everyone.

Could you share your experiences in journalism, particularly on

national radio and in print media?

I officially joined the journalism sector in late 1991 as a member of the radio department. For me, journalism and cultural work share a deep connection, especially given my long experience as a host and presenter. On the radio, I prepared and presented humorous and lighthearted cultural stories.

I also worked for many years as a writer and assistant editor for national newspapers. Over time, I profiled various artists across different publications, including Men'essey magazine, and authored a series of feature articles, artist profiles, and a biographical booklet.

How has your work evolved across acting, screenwriting, and digital platforms like YouTube?

My earliest acting experience actually took place in the Orthodox Church, where we performed religious plays. My very first role was playing Saint Gabriel delivering the Annunciation to Saint Mary. My first piece of writing was in fifth grade, when I presented a debate paper on the role and importance of women. Those early experiences gave me the confidence to step into the creative world.

After joining the struggle, I began writing and acting in theatrical plays that reflected the realities of the armed conflict. Over the years, I wrote numerous poems and dramas. Following independence, I continued producing commemorative works for national broadcasts, particularly for Independence Day and Martyrs' Day.

In recent years, I expanded to digital media to share my perspective and counter false narratives about our country. I now run my own channel, SamiGA Entertainment, where I share cultural and creative content with our audience.

You are widely known for your poetry. What do you aim to express

through your poems?

Poetry is the ultimate expression of my emotions, values, and convictions. It allows an artist to communicate deep messages using rich, evocative language. Just as we have our unique traditional cuisine, we also inherit a distinct poetic tradition from our ancestors that has enlightened and entertained our society for generations.

In my work, I try to bridge traditional and modern poetic forms. My poems are born from intense feeling—whether of deep joy or profound sadness. Having lived through the liberation struggle, I feel intensely about our nation's history and sacrifices, and those emotions flow directly into my writing.

Over the years, I have written and performed poems in various formats, including monologues, musical dramas, and opera-style poetry, which received a warm reception from the public. While I haven't kept

an exact count, I have composed over a thousand long and short poems, and written lyrics for more than a hundred songs performed by Eritrean vocalists.

Looking at your extensive body of work, are you satisfied with what you have achieved?

I am grateful for the work I have been able to produce so far. However, when I consider my age and the endless stories left to tell, my only regret is that I haven't produced even more. My overarching goal has always been to tell the story of my people and my homeland through art.

What are your plans?

I am the product of my audience, my supporters, and the people who have stood by me throughout this journey. I am motivated to keep moving forward and creating larger, more impactful works. I have no intention of stopping now.

News

ERITREAN COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

Continued from page 1

At the event, Mr. Fesehatsion Petros, Eritrea's Ambassador to Italy and non-resident Ambassador to Sweden, conducted a seminar for the participants focusing on the objective situation in the homeland, regional and global developments, as well as the efforts the Eritrean Government

is making to ensure social justice.

Mr. Yemane Gebrekidan, Head of Consular Affairs, also gave a briefing on consular activities and the guidelines that nationals should follow.

At the event, certificates of recognition were presented to national organizations, communities, and other contributors.

