

SEMINARS ON THE OBJECTIVE SITUATION FOR DIASPORA NATIONALS



Seminars focusing on the objective situation were organized for Eritrean nationals in Switzerland and Austria from 16 to 23 August.

Mr. Ismail Mohammed-Nur, Head of Public and Community Affairs at the Eritrean Embassy in Switzerland, conducted seminars for nationals residing in the Swiss cities of Zug, Schwyz, Schaffhausen, and St. Gallen.

At the seminars, Mr. Ismail noted that the Government of Eritrea is closely following developments unfolding in the Horn of Africa and is working earnestly, in collaboration with peace-loving countries, to avert potential dangers. He also said that the Government is working to translate its national security program and principles of social justice into practice, implement

sustainable development programs, and improve citizens' livelihoods.

Noting that the Eritrean people remain in a strong position as a result of their unity and organization, Mr. Ismail urged nationals in Switzerland to enhance their awareness and organization and play their due part in national development programs.

Mr. Mihreteab Malik, Chairman of the Eritrean National Committee in Switzerland, called on nationals to exert strong efforts to reinforce their organization, nurture young people and children who uphold noble societal values, and particularly promote mother-tongue education.

The participants called for the Ministry of Education to prepare a curriculum for

Eritrean community schools abroad, sustainable training to be provided to the heads of national organizations, and tours of Eritrea to be organized for young people, among other proposals.

In related news, Mr. Kibreab Tekeste, Eritrea's Consul General in Frankfurt, and Mr. Teame Haile, Head of Public and Community Affairs at the Eritrean Embassy in Germany, conducted a seminar for nationals residing in Vienna, Austria. The seminar focused on the objective situation in the homeland, regional and global developments, the significance of strengthening organizational capacity, and the timely responsibilities of nationals. They also provided a briefing on the timely and efficient provision of consular services.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ESTABLISHMENT OF REVOLUTION SCHOOL

The Commission of Culture and Sports announced that the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Revolution School will be celebrated at the national level from 17 to 20 September under the theme, "Vibrant Commemoration: New Impetus for Nation-Building."

Ambassador Zemed Tekle, Commissioner of Culture and Sports, said that the objectives of the celebration are to document the history and development of the Revolution School and pass its legacy on to future generations; highlight the EPLF's education system, which integrated theory with practice and was founded on social justice; and create a conducive environment for Eritrean nationals in the Diaspora to strengthen their contribution.

Ambassador Zemed went on to say that the celebratory events, which will be conducted inside the country and abroad, will feature photo exhibitions, musical concerts, seminars, sports competitions, and a symposium. The official programs will be conducted in Asmara, while each region of the country will organize similar activities.

Accordingly, a photo exhibition that will remain open to the public



for one week will officially open on 17 September in front of the Central Region Administration building.

Likewise, on 18 September, a concert and cultural carnival involving all 13 sub-zones of the region will be held along the main streets of Asmara. On 19 September, seminars focusing on the role of the Revolution School in nurturing nationalism and the contribution of education to the nation-building process will be organized at the Expo compound, while a cultural program will be held at Cinema Roma.

Ambassador Zemed further noted that a symposium and concluding ceremony will be conducted at the Asmara Palace Hotel on 20 September.

According to reports, celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Revolution School have already been conducted in countries including Sweden and Canada.

EFFORTS TO ENHANCE CAPACITY OF EDUCATION SECTOR

Dr. Halima Mohammed, Minister of Education, noted that strong efforts will be exerted to enhance the capacity and expand the provision of educational services. Dr. Halima made the remarks at a meeting conducted from 24 to 26 August to review the implementation of activities by regional education offices during the 2025/2026 academic year.

At the meeting, which was conducted at the headquarters of the Ministry of Education and attended by Ambassador Abdella Musa, Minister of Local Government, Dr. Halima said that the objective of the meeting was to thoroughly review the activities implemented in all six regions of the country and at Warsai-Yikealo Secondary School in Sawa, consolidate the achievements registered, and address the challenges encountered.

Noting that the successful provision of educational services across the country requires the strong participation of partner



institutions in general and regional administrations in particular, Dr. Halima said that efforts are being exerted to expand educational services from preschool through secondary school, both qualitatively and quantitatively. She also urged the participants to put forward constructive ideas that could support the initiative.

The heads of the regional education offices presented reports focusing on efforts to enhance the capacity of the education sector and ensure that all children receive preschool education; the capacity-building training provided to veteran and newly recruited

teachers; and the supervisory activities carried out.

The participants held extensive discussions on the reports presented and adopted various recommendations, including providing preschool education in the mother tongue, reinforcing capacity-building training for teachers, and establishing laboratory facilities.

Speaking at the event, Ambassador Abdella Musa called on teachers to play their due part in enhancing the quality of education and on parents to strengthen their participation in the development of the teaching and learning process.

MODERN MEDICAL EQUIPMENT INSTALLED AT ADI-KEIH HOSPITAL

Modern medical equipment installed at Adi-Keih Hospital is making a significant contribution to the healthcare services provided by the hospital. The observation was made by beneficiaries and health professionals.

Dr. Tsegazeab Kiflezgi, Medical Director of the hospital, said that the Government is making significant investments to equip health facilities with modern medical equipment and qualified personnel, contributing to the improvement of healthcare services provided to the public.

Noting that several pieces of digital equipment have been installed at the hospital since 2023, Dr. Tsegazeab said that the development has increased satisfaction among both patients and health professionals.

Dr. Tsegazeab also called on

the public to increase awareness, maintain a proper diet and engage in regular physical exercise to help control the prevalence of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and hypertension. He also advised the public to avoid canned foods.

Mr. Teshome Tekle, from the physiotherapy unit, indicated that the hospital provides healthcare services to patients from the Adi-Keih and Senafe sub-zones, as well as from the Northern Red Sea Region. He said that the modern medical equipment installed at the hospital is contributing to the provision of effective healthcare services.

The beneficiaries, noting that they are receiving effective and timely healthcare services from the hospital, expressed gratitude to the Government for installing the modern medical equipment.

Development

Empowering Communities: The Role of SMCP in Poverty Alleviation and Economic Growth

Habtom Tesfamichael

The Saving and Micro-Credit Program (SMCP) has played a pivotal role in Eritrea since launching its wide-scale initiatives to alleviate poverty and provide accessible loans to those eager to engage in economic activities but lacking the necessary capital. Originally established in 1996 as part of the Community Development Funding under the Ministry of Regional Administration, the program operated there until 2002, when it was incorporated into the Ministry of National Development.

The SMCP was initiated with a clear vision: to improve the livelihoods of impoverished communities, create employment, and encourage entrepreneurship across the nation. Its mission is to provide small credit to the wider public, prioritizing ease of access and the trust it builds with its customers. The institution operates specifically to serve rural and sub-rural communities who lack traditional collateral, formal paperwork, or the ability to reach central banks due to geographical distances. Acting as a vital intermediary between national banks and the public, the SMCP sources its funds from national banks and ensures that serviced loans are deposited back into these institutions. By removing the hurdles that often prevent citizens in remote areas from improving their livelihoods, the

SMCP fosters a culture of financial inclusion.

The SMCP provides access to credit through three distinct formats, each tailored to different needs:

Group loans involve three to four people who can collectively borrow up to 20,000 Nakfa.

Entrepreneur loans target trade license holders and farmers engaged



Mr. Menkem Kahsay

in specialized activities such as beekeeping, poultry, or dairy farming; these individuals can access loans of up to 200,000 Nakfa.

Government worker loans allow individual civil servants to borrow an amount equivalent to six months of their gross salary, with repayment made through monthly salary deductions.

Notably, the interest rate for these loans decreases each month as the balance is paid down. This program is particularly helpful as it enables individuals to secure funding without the high collateral requirements typically demanded by central banks. All loans are provided at a 7% interest rate, with 1% of that directed toward insurance services. This insurance ensures that if a borrower passes away, the debt is forgiven, protecting guarantors and immediate family members from any remaining financial burden.

The impact of these initiatives is clearly visible in the Southern Region, where the Dekemhare branch provides services to six sub-zones: Adi-Keyh, Senafe, May Ayni, Tserona, Segenyti, and Dekemhare. This year alone, the Dekemhare branch has served approximately 3,200 customers—though this number fluctuates annually. Currently, the outstanding amount extended to borrowers in this region stands at around 13 million Nakfa.

This capital has enabled many people to significantly improve their livelihoods. For instance, numerous farmers who have borrowed from the SMCP have invested in solar energy.

This transition to a sustainable, 24/7 energy source has facilitated sustained harvests and saved them from the difficulties and high costs associated with procuring fuel.

Mr. Menkem Kahsay, Director of the SMCP Southern Region Dekemhare branch, recently shared his insights during a working trip to Adi-Keih. He noted that some sub-zones have not yet fully unlocked the potential offered by the SMCP. Consequently, the institution is actively campaigning to raise awareness about how the program works and the benefits it offers. Mr. Menkem explained that the number of beneficiaries and the amount of outstanding money in certain sub-zones remain lower than desired. The goal of these awareness campaigns is to encourage people to seize these opportunities to create their own sources of revenue and achieve economic independence.

The SMCP aims to help people become self-reliant and free from dependence on external assistance. Mr. Menkem observed that in many areas, a significant portion of the population remains dependent on remittances from abroad. Traditionally, only a few have taken the initiative to use SMCP loans to invest in businesses. However, the institution's efforts are beginning to shift perspectives, and more individuals are starting to engage in productive activities. For the institution, seeing people grow their businesses and support themselves provides immense satisfaction, as these individuals ultimately contribute to the national economy.

To ensure the sustainability of these improvements, the SMCP is careful to ensure that borrowed money is not used for unnecessary or unproductive investments. The loan approval process is rigorous; applicants are carefully assessed and provided with professional advice before any funds are extended. The institution does not simply grant whatever amount is requested. Instead, they evaluate the applicant's capacity—whether it be a farm or a business—to ensure the loan size is manageable and can be serviced. If the business's capacity is judged insufficient to repay a large sum, the loan amount is scaled down to prevent the customer from falling into a debt trap.

Conversely, for those who are productive, the lending process is progressive. If a customer engages in a viable business and services their debt on schedule, they can increase the amount they borrow in future cycles. Borrowers are

required to provide clear reasons for their loan and specify exactly how the money will be invested. Local administrations play a crucial role here, as they possess better knowledge of the applicants and provide testimonies regarding their reliability. Customers are also given precautions and advice on how to invest wisely to avoid falling into debt. Since interest is calculated on a monthly basis, those who skip a payment are promptly reminded. Additionally, applicants must provide a clearance showing they are free of other debts and a testimony from local administrations confirming their ability to work and utilize the loan effectively.

The success of the SMCP is reflected in the lives of the many people who have transformed their circumstances through the program. Numerous beneficiaries have built and diversified businesses, expanded agricultural firms, improved their housing, and purchased private vehicles. Some dedicated participants have borrowed up to 5

million Nakfa through successive cycles of borrowing and servicing. For these individuals and many others, the SMCP has become an esteemed institution that provides the foundation for a better and more independent life.

Looking ahead, Mr. Menkem affirmed that the institution will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that no citizen is sidelined from productivity due to financial constraints. He noted that the program's future objective remains centered on enabling individuals to improve their standard of living, escape the cycle of dependency on remittances or aid, and eventually transition to becoming self-sufficient owners of their own capital. He further urged beneficiaries to utilize their loans effectively for trade and developmental purposes, expressing his firm conviction that the wider community will ultimately benefit from the efficient and high-quality services and products generated by these empowered local entrepreneurs.

From Social Media



Yemane G. Meskel @hawelti · 22h
Potemkin Party's disingenuous ruses and delusional hysteria know no bounds!

As underlined on several occasions before, coveting or hallucinating about aggressive designs on the port/coastal region of a sovereign neighbor is a political blasphemy of the highest order. It indeed constitutes a grave and flagrant violation of international law; the UN Charter as well as the Constitutive Act of the African Union.

Invasion can never be packaged and camouflaged as "Ethiopia's (good-faith) maritime aspirations for Africa's unfinished integration".

In the event, the Potemkin Party's crass and ludicrous ploys only accentuate how far it has strayed from the realm of common sense and sanity.

"ከትብላዓ ዝደልኻ ኣባቲ-ምበኣኻ ሊ: ዛግራ ትብላ" እዩ ነገሩ!

Fana Media Corporation S.C. (FMC) @fanatelevision · 23h
Opening the Horn to the Sea: #Ethiopia's Maritime Aspiration and #Africa's Unfinished Integration

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**ERITREA
PROFILE**

**Published Every
Wednesday & Saturday**

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Language as a Bridge

Bana Negusse

Language is far more than a means of communication. It is a fundamental expression of who we are, connecting individuals to their communities, cultures, histories, and collective identities. Through spoken, signed, and written forms, language enables people to communicate, participate in society, transmit knowledge, and preserve cultural heritage. It is therefore not only central to human interaction but also deeply connected to social, economic, and cultural life.

The importance of language becomes particularly evident in education. A child's ability to learn is closely linked to whether they understand the language in which they are being taught. Yet millions of children around the world continue to face a fundamental barrier to education because the language of instruction is unfamiliar to them. The United Nations estimates that approximately 40 percent of the world's population does not have access to education in a language they speak or understand. This challenge can have particularly serious consequences during the early years of schooling, when the foundations for future learning are established. As the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) has emphasized, children learn more effectively when they understand the language used for instruction.

inclusion. Teaching children initially in a language they know and understand can help reduce barriers to learning, particularly among communities that speak minority, indigenous, or otherwise non-dominant languages. At the same time, protecting linguistic diversity has implications that extend well beyond the classroom. When societies recognize and respect their linguistic traditions, they create greater space for tolerance, mutual understanding, dignity, and social cohesion. Language, in this sense, can serve not only as a vehicle for learning but also as an instrument for unity.

One country that illustrates the close relationship between language, identity, and social cohesion is Eritrea. It is home to nine ethnolinguistic groups, each with its own linguistic and cultural heritage. Together, these communities form a rich and distinctive national mosaic in which linguistic diversity represents an important component of Eritrea's identity.

This diversity has not always received equal recognition. During successive periods of foreign rule, language policies were often used as instruments of political and cultural control. Under one such system, Amharic was designated as an official language, while indigenous Eritrean languages faced restrictions and were prohibited

long advocated by the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), the preeminent force during the independence struggle, the country adopted a pluralistic approach to language that placed linguistic inclusivity at its center. Rather than elevating a single language to a privileged national status, the policy framework recognized the country's languages as an integral part of Eritrea's cultural heritage.

This approach has helped safeguard linguistic diversity while affirming the linguistic rights and cultural identities of the country's various communities. More broadly, it reflects a commitment to non-discrimination, social justice, mutual respect, and peaceful coexistence. Such principles are particularly important in a region and wider world where ethnic and identity-based divisions have too often contributed to conflict and social fragmentation.

The practical benefits of Eritrea's multilingual approach are especially evident within education. Since independence, Eritrea has made considerable efforts to expand educational opportunities and improve literacy. School enrolment across all levels has nearly tripled since independence and now stands at approximately 700,000 students, while youth literacy has risen to more than 93 percent. These gains reflect a combination of



learning.

At the heart of this policy is the principle that children should have the opportunity to begin their elementary education in a language they understand. Under the leadership of the Ministry of Education (MoE), instruction is provided in students' mother languages from pre-primary through elementary school, while additional languages are introduced progressively as learners advance through the education system. The rationale is straightforward: children learn more effectively when the language of the classroom is familiar to them. Mother-language instruction creates a natural bridge between the home and the school, enabling children to draw upon the knowledge, experiences, and vocabulary they have already developed within their families and communities. Instead of having to master an unfamiliar language before they can fully engage with the curriculum, students can focus more directly on acquiring new concepts and skills.

This approach can improve comprehension and facilitate learning while also helping students develop greater confidence in the classroom. Being able to express oneself in a familiar language gives children a stronger sense of participation and belonging. In turn, this can contribute to self-confidence and self-esteem, both of which are important dimensions of children's broader emotional and psychological development.

Mother-language education also has benefits beyond individual students. When children can communicate effectively with their families about what they are learning, education becomes less confined to the classroom. Parents and other community members are better positioned

to participate in and support the learning process, strengthening the relationship between schools, families, and communities.

Recognizing that a policy is only as effective as its implementation, Eritrea's MoE has also invested in the resources and human capacity required to support mother-language instruction. In recent years, the Ministry, working with international partners including the GPE, has trained teachers across the country to strengthen their capacity to deliver mother-language-based education. In addition, more than one million textbooks and teachers' guides covering all nine languages have been produced and distributed in recent years. These investments are particularly important because alongside robust policy, effective multilingual education requires trained teachers, appropriate learning materials, curriculum development, and sustained institutional support.

A public language committee has also been established to help oversee the implementation of mother-language instruction and promote greater public awareness of its importance. Together, these initiatives demonstrate an effort to translate the principle of linguistic inclusion into practical measures within the education system.

Overall, Eritrea's experience demonstrates that language policy can have implications far beyond the preservation of cultural heritage. When children are given the opportunity to learn initially in a language they understand, linguistic diversity can become an educational asset rather than a barrier. It can facilitate participation, strengthen connections between schools and communities, and create a more inclusive learning environment.



For this reason, mother-language-based and multilingual education has emerged as an important pathway toward greater educational access and

in certain spheres. However, the political and social landscape changed significantly with Eritrea's independence in the 1990s. Drawing on principles

factors, but the country's mother-language education policy has been an important element of its approach to expanding participation and improving



Karora to Rahayta: Inside the Eritrean Coffee Ceremony

By: Mussie Efriem

The coffee ceremony is an ancient social ritual in Eritrea, where green beans are roasted, hand-ground, and slow-brewed in a multi-stage process that prioritizes hospitality, community, and deliberate conversation over quick caffeine consumption. Serving as the ultimate gesture of welcome across the Horn of Africa and Middle Eastern traditions, this sacred gathering spans one to two hours to engage every sense. Burning frankincense clears the air, the crackle of raw beans roasting over hot coals fills the space, and the host presents the rich aromatic smoke to guests before grinding. Participants gather to exchange news, discuss family matters, and strengthen community ties while progressing through three distinct rounds: **አወል**, the potent first brew that sets the tone for meaningful discussion; **ከለላይ**, a medium-strength second round; and **በረካ**, the final, milder cup served to deliver a blessing of peace and good fortune to the household.

What sets the Eritrean tradition apart are its specific spatial arrangements, cultural omens, and specialized utensils. The ceremony unfolds over a floor mat draped in fresh green grass, symbolizing vitality and fruitfulness. Central to the brewing process is the traditional Eritrean **ጽባብ**—a spherical clay pot featuring a distinct single spout used for both filling and pouring, unlike variations elsewhere that

incorporate a separate neck. Hosts brew the ground beans over hot charcoal, frequently infusing the liquid with fresh crushed ginger. The coffee is then poured in a single, continuous stream from a height of a foot or more into small, handleless ceramic cups (**ፈንጃል**), a skillful technique that creates a delicate froth without spilling. This rich roast is accompanied by traditional snacks such as roasted barley, popcorn, or freshly baked bread, yielding a complete cultural experience rooted in deep-seated generosity.

Having traveled across Eritrea from the northern border of Karora down to the southern coastal edge of Rahayta, I have sat at the hearth of nearly every ethnic group in the nation. These travels confirmed that the coffee ceremony stands as the undisputed, most revered domestic tradition in Eritrean society. Regardless of geographical or linguistic differences, the ritual retains a unified core of warmth, social prestige, and unyielding hospitality. It acts as a seamless threadbinding diverse communities under a shared heritage, serving as the highest mark of respect for anyone crossing the threshold of an Eritrean home.

In every town and village, the coffee hour functions as a non-negotiable anchor of daily family life—a dedicated space reserved for genuine togetherness and spirited dialogue. To an outside observer, the first striking element is the beverage's searing heat

served in small finjal, compelling guests to slow down and savor the moment. Visitors also note how the three rounds shift in character, moving from a thick, potent initial extraction to a lighter final cup. This intensity is heightened in many regions by ginger crushed directly into the brew, adding a spicy kick that cuts through the daily heat, stimulates the senses, and leaves an unmistakable warmth in the throat. The sheer strength of the initial sip often produces vivid, sharp reactions from uninitiated guests, testifying to the brew's remarkable potency.

The tradition is further enriched by subtle local touches and living omens woven into the routine. While local adaptations may feature durable metal vessels alongside classic earthenware pots especially made for making coffee **ጽባብ**, the cultural prestige of the **ፍንጃል** remains absolute. The entire atmosphere is steeped in playful symbolism; for instance, walking into a home just as the first round is being poured prompts joyful smiles and the cherished phrase “**አማኑክ ከትፈትወክ**”—an auspicious omen declaring how much your mother-in-law loves you for arriving at the luckiest moment.

Cultural etiquette strictly dictates that guests compliment the brew by saying **የዐ-ም** to acknowledge its quality and sweetness. Offering this customary praise honors the host's effort, time, and generosity regardless of whether a specific pot turned out slightly strong or



bitter. In Eritrean culture, offering taste critiques would disrupt the harmony of the gathering, whereas expressing heartfelt satisfaction affirms that the sacred bond between host and guest has been fully honored.

At the heart of this practice is the **አቁሐት ቡን**—the essential coffee brewing apparatus comprised of sacred household objects often passed down through generations or assembled upon marriage. A complete setup requires specific tools: the **መንከሸሽ**, a long-handled metal pan used to roast green coffee beans over open coals; the **መሸረረት**, a small woven cooling basket gently shaken to release fragrant chaff and pass the aroma among guests; and the **መጉድኡ ቡን**, a heavy wooden or metal mortar and pestle used to hand-grind the roasted beans. The centerpiece remains the **ጽባብ**, engineered to extract rich flavors over a charcoal brazier (**ፈርኔሎ**) while naturally settling the grounds before pouring.

To protect these cherished items, nearly every Eritrean household utilizes a specialized, low-sitting coffee cabinet or chest. Serving as

a miniature station for hospitality, this cabinet is ubiquitous across urban apartments and rural homesteads alike. Its top surface neatly displays rows of **ፍንጃል**, while its drawers store sugar, incense, and spare tools. Positioned prominently in the living area, this dedicated chest signals to all who enter that warm coffee and sincere conversation are readily available.

While the core ritual remains constant, it adapts gracefully to local topographies. In the warmer lowland regions, coffee is traditionally served in slightly smaller **ፍንጃል** and features a sharper profile due to a heavier addition of ginger. Lowland communities also observe the ritual multiple times a day to break up intense daily heat and provide structured moments of rest in the shade. Ultimately, participants recognize that the tradition transcends the beverage itself. The ambient scent of roasting beans, the drift of frankincense smoke, and the rhythmic pouring create an inclusive haven where even non-coffee drinkers eagerly join to share in the storytelling, camaraderie, and timeless warmth of Eritrean home life.



Development

Zenawi Zakarias: a Pioneering Innovator of Organic Solution for Pest and Disease Control

Q: Tell us about your background.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity. My name is Zenawi Zakarias. I work as a Plant Protection expert at the Ministry of Agriculture in the Southern Region, May-Mine subzone. I was born and raised in Adi Chigono, May-Mine Subzone and attended Adi Chigono Elementary School from grades 1 to 5. I had my middle and secondary school education at May-Mine School, walking about two hours each way from my village to the school. In the 2011/2012 academic year, I went to Sawa (25th Round) to complete my final year of secondary school and fulfill my national service. Having earned the required grade for admission to college, I joined Hamelmalo College of Agriculture.

Q: What did you study in college?

I specialized in Plant Protection. I chose Plant Protection because it is closely related to Biology, which I like. After completing my studies, I was assigned to the Ministry of Agriculture in the Southern Region, May-Mine subzone, where I have been working as a Plant Protection expert for the past ten years.

As the son of a farmer, I grew up working on farms and herding livestock. Like my parents, I have a deep love for farming and animal husbandry.

I firmly believe that agriculture is the backbone of our nation's economy, and this conviction has made me passionate about agriculture from an early age.

Q: You were given an award for developing an organic bio-pesticide in May 2026 by the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students. Could you tell us more about your innovation?

It is disconcerting to see farmers in our communities dealing with crop pests by resorting to chemical pesticides because they have few alternatives. I was greatly concerned about the harmful effects of chemical pesticides, and when you witness such a problem, you cannot simply stand by and do nothing. Moreover, the Ministry of Agriculture's strategy encourages the promotion of organic agriculture, including organic pest-control methods. So, inspired by my observation of the problems farmers were facing and the ministry's strategy of promoting organic agriculture, I began doing research on natural pesticides.

Q: What materials did you use to develop the organic pesticides, and what makes them unique?

When I began developing the organic pesticides, my goal was to create an effective alternative to chemical pesticides. Using two local tree species known as Alqe (*Cissus quadrangularis*) and Andel (*Capparis tomentosa*), I developed two organic pesticides.

Both products are made entirely from natural plant materials found in our local environment.

Alqe and Andel are plants, and I used their leaves and tender stems to prepare the pesticides. Before introducing them to farmers, I tested them on crops affected by aphids, which both damage plants directly and spread fungal diseases, making them particularly destructive. The results were very encouraging.

I, then, tested them on cabbages, oranges, tomatoes, lemons, and other crops and fruit trees. In every case, they performed very well. The pesticides successfully put under control a wide range of pests, including aphids, leaf miners, and even pests affecting taff. These initial trials produced solid results and, therefore, I was so confident to introduce them to farmers.

Q: What was the farmers' reaction after using the organic pesticide?

Before distributing the pesticide, it was essential to raise the farmer's awareness and provide them with training. To do this, I traveled all over the areas of May-Mine subzone, conducting awareness raising campaigns and training sessions. Farmers accepted the innovation enthusiastically and adopted it.

Initially, the farmers produced and used 1,142 liters of the Alqe and Andel pesticides. Some even stored additional quantities for later use. After seeing the results in their farms, they gave us very positive feedback. Later on, following the Farmers' Day and its coverage on Eri-TV, more farmers became convinced of the effectiveness of the pesticide and began making requests for large amounts. At present, around 500 farmers are producing and using the organic pesticide.

Q: Why have farmers embraced the organic pesticides?

They have adopted them because they are inexpensive, easy to prepare, and made from materials that are readily available nearby. They require very little financial investment and can be produced using simple methods. Preparation mainly

involves collecting leaves from the trees, crushing them, and processing them into the pesticides. Because it is so practical and affordable, farmers have readily accepted the innovation.

Q: Did you check whether the products have any side effects?

To date, we have found no evidence that the Alqe and Andel pesticides pose any risk to human health. They do not pollute the environment or harm the ecosystem.

In addition, our observations show that the preparation provides three important benefits to crops. They protect plants from pests, serve as natural nutrients and act as organic fertilizers, helping plants grow healthier. As a result, plants develop stronger, broader, and healthier leaves, which ultimately contribute to higher agricultural productivity.

Q: Now, let's come back to your award.

This innovation was first presented during a Youth Week in May-Mine subzone, where it was recognized as an outstanding innovation. It later advanced to the regional and national levels, receiving many valuable suggestions, and finally a first-level award.

Q: What is the secret behind your success?

I believe this innovation is both timely and environmentally friendly, offering farmers an



Alqe and Andel Organic Pesticides

excellent alternative to chemical pesticides. It also has the potential to reduce many of the harmful effects associated with synthetic pesticides.

Q: Do you have plans to expand the innovation?

I will continue doing everything in my capacity to expand this work. My goal is to be able to package the pesticides in a quality standard, just like other agricultural products, and make them available to every farmer throughout the country. When that's achieved I hope to be able to export them. To achieve this, I hope the Ministry of Agriculture will continue supporting me as it has done so far and that other relevant institutions will also provide the necessary assistance.

We wish you success in your future endeavors!

Prepared by: Berhane Andemeskel

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Eritrea-China Exploration and Mining Share Company

Ararib Street, House No. 37 Kebabi maekele ketema, ; Tel. +291-1-200009; Asmara, Eritrea.
Eritrea-China Exploration and Mining Share Company (ECEM) invites qualified applicants for the following posts:
1, Position: Environmental Engineer

Place of Work: Augaro
Starting Date: August
Salary: As per company scale
Contract type: Indefinite period
Number required: One (1)

Position Overview	Eritrea-China Exploration & Mining Share Company (ECEM) is seeking an experienced and proactive Environmental Engineer to join our site operations in Augaro, Eritrea. Situated in the Gash-Barka region, our operation, requires high standards of environmental stewardship and strict regulatory compliance. The Environmental Engineer will oversee on-site environmental monitoring, statutory compliance, waste management, water stewardship, and progressive land rehabilitation. You will ensure that site activities comply with the Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM) guidelines, Ministry of Land, Water and Environment (MLWE) regulations, and international frameworks
	1. Environmental Monitoring & Field Operations
Key Responsibilities	- Sampling Programs: Inspect site-wide sampling and monitoring programs covering groundwater aquifers, surface runoff, air quality, dust emissions, and ambient noise levels etc. - Water Stewardship: Manage surface and groundwater quality programs, paying special attention to the region’s semi-arid hydrological conditions and seasonal river channels. - Infrastructure Inspections: Inspect and evaluate critical site infrastructure including Tailings Storage Facilities (TSF), waste rock dumps, heap leach/CIL plant areas, and fuel storage facilities to prevent Acid Rock Drainage (ARD) and chemical leaks. - Data Precision: Oversee on-site sampling protocols, maintaining proper chain-of-custody and analytical precision with internal or external laboratories. 2. Regulatory Compliance & Permitting - Statutory Alignment: Ensure all site activities strictly align with the Eritrean Environmental Assessment Procedures and Guidelines and national mining legislation. - ESMP Implementation: Implement and update the Environmental & Social Management Plan (ESMP) and monitor fulfillment of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) commitments. - Reporting: Prepare and submit routine statutory environmental reports (weekly, monthly, and annual) to corporate management and government regulatory bodies (MEM, MLWE). - Auditing: Lead internal environmental audits and support external regulatory inspections, tracking corrective action plans to closure. 3. Waste & Hazardous Materials Management - Waste Facilities: Oversee total site waste management practices, including hazardous waste storage, domestic landfill operations, sewage treatment facilities, and incinerators. - Spill Response: Maintain spill-prevention protocols and emergency response preparedness for hazardous chemicals (e.g., reagents, hydrocarbons, cyanide where applicable). - Operational Integration: Work alongside mine planning and processing teams to minimize waste generation and integrate sustainable practices into daily operations. 4. Mine Reclamation & Biodiversity - Closure Planning: Contribute to the implementation and continuous refinement of the Mine Closure and Reclamation Plan. - Land Rehabilitation: Supervise progressive rehabilitation, soil stabilization, land contouring, and native re-vegetation trials across disturbed operational footprints. - Ecosystem Monitoring: Monitor local ecosystem health and flora/fauna impact within and surrounding the mining lease. 5. Safety, Training & Stakeholder Engagement - Inductions & Training: Conduct environmental awareness inductions and specialized toolbox talks for site personnel and contractors. - Community Relations: Assist the Community Relations team in addressing community environmental concerns and supporting local stakeholder consultation in the Gash-Barka region.
Qualifications	- Bachelor’s degree in Environmental Engineering, Environmental Science, Chemical Engineering, or Mining/Civil Engineering with environmental specialization. 3–7 years of direct environmental engineering experience in open-pit mining, mineral processing, or heavy industrial operations. - Strong knowledge of Eritrean mining and environmental law, or knowledge of the international guidelines . Practical experience in water management in arid environments, ARD mitigation, dust control technologies, and GIS software (e.g., QGIS or ArcGIS). - Professional fluency in English (written and verbal) is required. - A valid Eritrean driving license will be an advantage.
Personal Attributes	- Strong sense of responsibility, integrity and coordination. - Excellent organizational and problem-solving abilities. - Ability to work under pressure and mining environments. - Good teamwork and communication skills.

Continued on page 7



1, Position: Driver (Light and Heavy vehicles)

Continued from page 6

Place of Work: Augaro
Starting Date: August
Salary: As per company scale
Contract type: Indefinite period
Number required: One (1)

Position Overview	The Site Driver is responsible for providing safe, reliable, and efficient transport services across the Augaro mining and exploration sites
Key Responsibilities	1, Transport & Field Operations - Provide safe transportation for site staff, geologists, contractors, drill crews, and site visitors - Transport core samples, geological gear, camp provisions, and hazardous materials (fuel, spare parts) following company transport protocols. - Execute long-distance supply runs between the Augaro site and regional hubs or corporate offices in Asmara, Barentu, and other surrounding areas as scheduled. 2, Vehicle Inspection & Maintenance - Safely operate 4x4 light vehicles (e.g., Toyota Hilux), medium supply trucks, or personnel buses across rough, unpaved terrain and seasonal dry riverbeds (wadis). - Ensure assigned vehicles are kept clean, fueled, and mechanically sound; immediately report defects, wear, or service needed. - Maintain detailed, accurate vehicle logbooks documenting journey purpose, mileage, fuel usage, and cargo manifests. 3, Safety, Health & Environment (HSE) - Strictly observe company health and safety rules, site speed limits, seatbelt policies, and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). - Verify that vehicles carry required safety and emergency equipment at all times (first-aid kits, fire extinguishers, spare tires, and jack).
Qualifications	- Education: Grade 10/12 completion certificate or equivalent technical/vocational training. - Driver’s License: Valid Eritrean Driving License (Grade 3/4 required; Grade 5 Heavy Duty License preferred). - Experience: Minimum 3 to 5 years of professional driving experience, including at least 2 years in off-road/remote site operations - Technical Proficiency: Demonstrated expertise operating manual 4x4 vehicles in complex, off-road terrain. - Language Skills: Fluency in Tigrinya and/or Arabic (local knowledge of Gash-Barka region is highly advantageous); basic working knowledge of English to read signs, logs, and safety instructions.
Personal Attributes	- Ability to perform minor emergency repairs (changing flat tires, replacing belts/fuses, basic engine troubleshooting in remote areas). - Proactive attitude toward risk reduction, defensive driving, and strict adherence to environmental/safety mandates. - Ability to work extended hours in hot climatic environments and assist with manual loading/unloading of camp supplies and core samples. - Strong discipline to ensure scheduled field movements and passenger transfers occur seamlessly.

Additional Requirement for Nationals:

- Having fulfilled his/her National Service Obligation and provide evidence of release paper from Ministry of Defense
- Present clearance paper from current/last employer
- Testimonial documents to be attached (CV, experience credentials, copy of your National Identity card etc.)
- Only shortlisted applicants would be considered as potential candidates for an interview.
- Application documents will not be returned to sender.
- All applications should be sent through the post office.
- Deadline for application: 5 days from the day of publication in the Newspaper.

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



Q and A

"Eritrea Isn't Just Surviving; It's Building Something Unique. The World Should Pay Attention."

Milka Teklom

Can you describe your first impressions of Eritrea?

From the moment I arrived in Asmara, I was struck by the city's beauty. The streets are immaculate, the people are warm, and there's a quiet discipline in the air. It was



immediately clear that Eritreans are hardworking and take genuine pride in their country.

What stood out to you about Asmara's architecture?

Asmara is an architectural time capsule. The UNESCO-listed buildings—from elegant Art Deco facades to modernist public structures—tell a story of cosmopolitan ambition. Walking the boulevards, I felt the city's layered identity: Italian-era design, local adaptations, and a civic pride that keeps these buildings alive. The city felt orderly and cared for.

I visited the Fiat Tagliero Service Station—it resembles an airplane about to take off, yet it was built in the 1930s! Cinema Impero and the Asmara Opera House also amazed me. These aren't just relics; they remain functional parts of daily life. It's rare to see history so beautifully preserved and still in use.

You visited the tank graveyard. What thoughts went through your mind?

I was speechless. Rows upon rows of rusted tanks, artillery, and military vehicles—once belonging to Ethiopia's arsenal—stretch across the landscape, a stark reminder of conflict and sacrifice. The sheer number and variety of equipment made it clear that external support

Emmanuel Daniel is a renowned global traveler, author, and founder of The Asian Banker. Trained as a lawyer, he holds degrees from the National University of Singapore and the University of London, and has attended executive programs in economics at Columbia University and in artificial intelligence at MIT. Dividing his time between Singapore, Beijing, and New York, he has visited 160 countries—most recently Eritrea. His three-day trip left him deeply impressed by the nation's history, culture, and industrious people. In this Q&A, Emmanuel shares his firsthand experiences, from touring Asmara's UNESCO-listed architecture to witnessing the country's remarkable resilience.

played a role in the region's wars. Yet the story that resonated most was not the hardware but the human determination behind the struggle. Learning that Eritreans prevailed in 1991 despite overwhelming odds left a deep impression on me. Standing there, I thought: this is proof of what a people can achieve when they refuse to surrender.

What was your experience like in Massawa?

Massawa has a completely different rhythm. Where Asmara is cool, orderly, and architectural, Massawa is salt-scented, sunbaked, and steeped in maritime history. The old town's ruins and narrow alleys speak of centuries of trade and cultural exchange. The Sheik Hanafi Mosque and the coastal ruins are evocative—they tell stories of a port that once connected the Horn of Africa to the wider world.

I was struck by how clean the coastal land was and how the sea seemed to anchor a different kind of civic memory. But the most eye-opening part was the Northern Red Sea National Museum. It houses artifacts that trace Eritrea's ancient civilizations, including the port city of Adulis. Before visiting, I had heard competing claims about Eritrea's historical relationship with Ethiopia. The museum's presentation of the Adulis civilization and the archaeological record clarified a lot for me. It showed a distinct, long-standing maritime culture with its own identity and trade networks. Having visited Ethiopia first and heard a particular narrative, the museum provided context and nuance that fundamentally changed my understanding.

You called Medeber Market 'one of the most hopeful places' you've seen. Why?

Because it's real sustainability—no gimmicks. It's a sprawling, noisy, hands-on hub where metal is sorted, melted, and repurposed. No fancy machines, just skill and hard work. What impressed me was the scale and ingenuity: people turning discarded metal into usable goods, creating livelihoods while reducing waste. It felt ecological in the truest

sense—environmentally responsible and economically empowering. Watching artisans and laborers at work gave me a glimpse of how Eritrea could build industries. If this kind of ingenuity is scaled up, the country could become a global leader in recycling industries.

You mentioned another moving moment involving cyclists. Tell us about that.

Driving down the spiral road to Massawa is an experience in itself—a ribbon of asphalt that descends from highland cool into coastal heat, with sweeping views of the Red Sea. Along that road, I saw groups of cyclists training, their silhouettes against the landscape, pushing up and down the grades with single minded intensity. I learned



they were following a tradition of many successful Eritrean cyclists on the global stage—one of them being Biniam Ghirmay, the Eritrean rider who made history as the first Black cyclist to win a green jersey at the Tour de France.

What did you learn about Biniam Ghirmay?

The story I was told stayed with me. When Biniam was starting out in national competitions, his father sold one of his woodworking machines to buy him a bicycle. That sacrifice—a

parent trading a livelihood tool for a child's dream—felt emblematic of the country's investment in its youth. Hearing that, and then watching dozens of young cyclists train on that same steep, unforgiving road, made the sacrifice real. It wasn't just a tale of individual talent; it was a community's belief in possibility.

How did witnessing the cyclists affect you?

It was profoundly moving. The cyclists were not merely exercising; they were rehearsing a future. Their training was disciplined and communal. Watching them climb and descend the spiral road, I felt the same hope I'd seen at Medeber: people converting limited resources into global potential. The scene



headlines. Conversations often turned to aspirations—better infrastructure, more industry, opportunities for youth. That combination of warmth and ambition is what I'll remember most.

What misconceptions about Eritrea did this trip correct for you?

I used to hear that Eritrea is isolated, struggling, or dependent. But what I saw was the opposite—a country standing firm on its own. The people are educated, self-sufficient, and fiercely independent. Medeber Market shows how they turn limitations into innovations. Their history proves they've always been their own nation. And their hospitality? I felt at home from day one.

What surprised you most about Eritrea's potential?

The sense that sustainability and industry can grow together. Medeber Market is a microcosm of that potential: it's environmentally sensible and economically viable. Combine that with Eritrea's strategic coastline, its historical trade links, and a population that values hard work, and you can see the outlines of a future where Eritrea builds globally relevant industries. It won't happen overnight, but the foundations are visible.

How would you summarize Eritrea in three words?

Resilient. Innovative. Proud.
Any final message for those who've never been to Eritrea?

Come curious and open-minded. Listen to the stories people tell, visit the museums, walk the streets of Asmara, descend the spiral road to Massawa, and spend time at Medeber if you can. You'll find a country shaped by struggle and sustained by work, where small acts of sacrifice and ingenuity point toward a hopeful, industrious future.

Thank you for your time!