

MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATIONS

The leaders of the Republic of Serbia, Equatorial Guinea, Yemen, Uzbekistan and Nicaragua have sent messages of congratulations to the people and Government of Eritrea on the occasion of the 35th Independence Day anniversary.

In their messages, sent on behalf of their respective countries and themselves, President Aleksandar Vucic of the Republic of Serbia, President Obiang Nguema Mbasogo of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, the Chairman of the Presidential Leadership Council of Yemen, Dr. Rashad Mohammed al-Alimi, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev of Uzbekistan, and President Daniel Ortega Saavedra of the Republic of Nicaragua conveyed their best wishes for good health to President Isaias Afwerki, as well as peace and prosperity to the Eritrean people. They also expressed their countries'



readiness to enhance mutual relations with Eritrea.

President Daniel Ortega said that this day holds profound historical significance for the courage, resilience, and steadfast determination of the Eritrean people. He also reiterated his country's willingness to continue strengthening the historical bonds of solidarity, friendship, cooperation, and mutual respect that unite the two peoples and Governments.

UNESCO DELEGATION MEETS SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

A UNESCO delegation met with senior Government officials on 28 May, and discussed bilateral cooperation and issues of mutual interest.

The delegation, led by Mr. Mohamed El Faranawy, Acting Assistant Director-General (ADG/AI) of UNESCO, and comprising Ms. Louise Haxthausen, UNESCO Regional Director for East Africa, met and held talks with Mr. Osman Saleh, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Yemane Gebremeskel,



Minister of Information; Dr. Halima Mohammed, Minister

of Education; and Ambassador Zemed Tekle, Commissioner of Culture and Sports. The discussions focused on the sectors of education, documentation of Eritrea's rich historical and intangible heritage, as well as experience sharing in digital science and Artificial Intelligence in education and information.

At the meeting, in which Ms. Nahla Valji, UN Resident Coordinator in Eritrea, took part, consensus was reached to develop and strengthen the existing cooperation.



DIASPORA NATIONALS CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY ANNIVERSARY

Nationals residing in Austria, South Sudan, the US, and Canada have celebrated the 35th Independence Day anniversary with color and flair under the theme "Our Resilience: Our Guarantee."

At the celebratory event in Juba, Republic of South Sudan, in which a number of nationals and invited guests took part, Mr. Tsegay Mehari, Eritrea's Consul, expressed the importance of coordinating capacity and knowledge in the implementation of national development programs, as well as strengthening the resilience, unity, and perseverance demonstrated in foiling external hostilities in the past.

The event was highlighted by a musical performance by a student musical troupe from the Eritrean community in Uganda, as well as sports competitions.

Similarly, nationals in the South Sudanese cities of Aweil, Renk, and Kalot celebrated the 35th anniversary of Independence Day with various



South Africa

The Eritrean community in Vienna, Austria, also celebrated the 35th anniversary of Independence Day on 23 May.

At the event, which a number of nationals and friends of Eritrea took part in, Mr. Okbai Abadi, chairman of the Eritrean community, said that the Independence Day anniversary is unique, as it is being celebrated at a time when Eritrea is concentrating on national development and thwarting all sorts of external hostilities. He also congratulated the Eritrean

people and their Defense Forces.

Nationals in the US cities of Oakland and Philadelphia also enthusiastically celebrated the 35th anniversary of Independence Day.

Similarly, nationals in Edmonton, Canada, celebrated the 35th Independence Day anniversary with various programs that depicted their attachment to their homeland and conveyed history and societal values to the younger generation.

Meanwhile, an official ceremony in connection with the 35th Independence Day anniversary was

held at Eritrea's Cultural Center in Washington, D.C., the US, on 24 May under the theme "Our Resilience: Our Guarantee."

The event, in which about 3,000 people took part, was highlighted by programs presented by students of the Adal School of Civics and Languages and the "Bahlina" cultural group, as well as fashion shows that reflected Eritrea's nine ethnic groups.

Mr. Berhane Gebrehiwet, Chargé d'Affaires at the Eritrean Embassy, underlined that Eritrea's independence is the gift of martyrs, realized through

steadfast perseverance, relentless commitment, and unyielding spirit and heroism. He also called for practical effort, commitment, and sacrifice for Eritrea's continuity as a country and for its people to live proudly in peace and harmony.

At the event, which featured cultural and artistic presentations by veteran and young artists, awards were presented to winners of various sports competitions.

The Eritrean Embassy also hosted a reception on 21 May, in which 120 Ambassadors, Diplomats, officials from the State Department, and friends of Eritrea took part.



Atlanta

Development

35 Years of Water Infrastructure and Reservoir Development in Post-Independence Eritrea

Mussie Efriem

Before achieving independence, a lack of sustainable, year-round water sources prevented many Eritrean communities from establishing permanent settlements. Instead, survival demanded an exhausting nomadic existence, forcing people, their livestock, and native wildlife into a relentless search for water. Rather than mitigating these natural hardships, successive colonial administrations remained entirely indifferent, failing to invest in infrastructure or alleviate the population's suffering.

Consequently, before independence, the infrastructure for clean water was nearly non-existent. Potable water coverage in urban areas stagnated at 30%, while in rural areas, where the vast majority of the population resided, it was below 7%. The impact of this severe rural marginalization was borne by women and children, who faced the greatest hardships. Mothers and young children paid a heavy price, enduring exhausting, hours-long journeys across unstable, treacherous terrain to fetch water. Ultimately, the water they secured at such a high physical cost was often highly unsafe to drink, perpetuating a brutal cycle of exhaustion and waterborne disease.

The provision of a sustainable water supply serves as the absolute foundation for societal development, as virtually no progress can be

achieved without securing this vital resource. Recognizing this imperative, the equitable distribution of clean water has been a primary goal of the Eritrean government since the dawn of the post-independence era, standing as a core pillar of its commitment to social justice. To translate this vision into reality and ensure that every citizen gained access to clean water, the government prioritized the widespread construction of water-preservation infrastructure across the country's diverse landscapes. This monumental task required immense national effort and substantial financial investment over the decades. Now, marking the milestone of 35 years of independence, Eritrea has successfully constructed around 1,150 dams, ranging from massive strategic dams and micro-dams to medium and small-sized local reservoirs. Beyond providing immediate relief to communities, these structures have effectively augmented groundwater tables and secured reliable water sources, laying a strong foundation for the nation's next stage of development programs, particularly by advancing modern agriculture and ensuring long-term food security.

Among the most monumental achievements in Eritrea's post-independence infrastructure drive is the Kerkebet Dam, located in the Gash-Barka region. The Kerkebet Dam, holding 330 million cubic meters of water, stands as the largest strategic dam in the country. While it currently irrigates about 10,000 hectares, it has the potential to irrigate more than 26,431 hectares. This massive reservoir serves as the bedrock for emerging large-scale agro-industrial zones, poised to catalyze economic growth, foster commercial enterprises, and

generate employment opportunities for thousands of citizens. Beyond Kerkebet, the Gash-Barka region hosts a network of strategic and medium-sized dams built after



independence to secure the nation's food supply. This includes the Gerset Dam, with a capacity of over 35 million cubic meters, as well as Fanko Rawi and Fanko Tsume, each holding over 20 million cubic meters. Other vital reservoirs include the Bademit Dam (17 million cubic meters) and the Alighdir Dam (7.5 million cubic meters). Fueled by these reliable water sources, modern irrigation-based farming has expanded rapidly across the region. Consequently, these agricultural centers have successfully produced a diverse range of produce, from cash crops such as tomatoes, onions, grains, and dates to fruits like mangoes, oranges, and lemons, thereby substantially stabilizing and supplying the domestic market over the years. Complementing these massive strategic infrastructures are dozens of smaller, community- and army-built reservoirs that form the backbone of local rural resilience.

Across the Gash-Barka region, collaborative efforts between the military and local communities have resulted in the construction of approximately 28 medium-sized dams, yielding a collective capacity of 5.8 million cubic meters of water. This vast network highlights the success of highly localized water management efforts across various sub-zones. Within this network, the

sub-zones of Goluj, Mensura, Molqui, Mogolo, and Gogne manage multiple reservoirs, each sub-zone ranging from 112,000 to 200,000 cubic meters. Ultimately, this extensive infrastructure represents the remarkable achievements within just a single region of Eritrea.



Beyond the Gash-Barka region, Eritrea's post-independence infrastructural drive has similarly transformed the Southern and Central Regions through the construction of massive strategic dams and localized reservoirs. In the Southern Region, the Mislam Dam in the Dubarwa sub-zone stands out with a substantial capacity of 38 million cubic meters. Not far from it lies the Logo Dam, which holds 31 million cubic meters of water. The construction of the Logo Dam has completely revitalized its surrounding ecosystem, transforming the terrain into a flourishing green belt of intensive irrigation farming. Built entirely through internal national capacity, leveraging the combined efforts of national construction companies, local communities, and the army, these structures represent a triumph of self-reliance. The Logo Dam uses modern sprinkler systems to irrigate more than 17 hectares of farmland, with the primary objective of integrating local communities into sustainable agricultural practices. Consequently, numerous surrounding villages have been empowered, directly partaking in the economic and agricultural advantages generated by the reservoir.

The Mislam Dam, one of the country's strategic reservoirs, serves an equally vital, multi-purpose role in the country's development. It provides a reliable water source for over 500 hectares of farmland in the Halhale agro-industrial zone, primarily used to cultivate a variety of animal feed crops. Beyond irrigation, the dam secures a permanent water

supply for extensive livestock farms. She ensures clean, sustainable water for numerous neighboring villages, significantly upgrading the quality of life in these rural areas. Complementing these two massive strategic infrastructures, the Southern Region boasts an expansive network of 162 dams and 268 ponds constructed in the post-independence era, all of which actively serve local populations and meet local water demands.

In the Central Region, the scale of water conservation is equally impressive, characterized by both new construction and the rehabilitation of older infrastructure. Since independence, 44 new dams and 24 ponds have been built, yielding a collective capacity of 25.3 million cubic meters. Simultaneously, 17 pre-existing dams were completely renovated, expanding their storage capacity by an additional 1.65 million cubic meters. Today, the Central Region features 90 dams and 45 ponds, with a combined storage capacity of over 69 million cubic meters. This network is strategically distributed to meet different civic and economic needs: 78 of the dams are dedicated exclusively to agricultural irrigation, 12 provide essential potable water supplies to urban and semi-urban centers, and the 45 ponds provide direct support to domestic household needs and livestock farming.

This huge increase in water preservation has directly catalyzed agricultural growth in the Central Region. At the dawn of independence, the region could only sustain 232 hectares of irrigated farmland; today, thanks to these reservoirs, that figure has increased to over 2,000 hectares of highly productive land. Furthermore, the government has maximized the utility of these water bodies by introducing aquaculture. More than 60 dams in the Central Region are now actively used to breed freshwater fish, introducing a thriving new industry that regularly supplies fresh, nutritious seafood to the domestic market.

These massive infrastructural undertakings represent an enduring national treasure, thoroughly planned to secure a bright, self-reliant future for generations to come. By capturing and storing scarce rainwater, this nationwide network of reservoirs has profoundly transformed daily life, ensuring that citizens can finally access safe, potable water right at their closest

Continued on page 4

**ERITREA
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generate employment opportunities for thousands of citizens.

Beyond Kerkebet, the Gash-Barka region hosts a network of strategic and medium-sized dams built after

Lalay Gash sub-region features four dams with capacities ranging from 135,000 to 700,000 cubic meters. In comparison, the Logo Anseba sub-zone hosts ten dams with capacities ranging from 130,000 to 400,000

SpotLight

Eritrea At 35: Progress, Resilience, and Pride

Bana Negusse

Over the past month, Eritreans at home and across the diaspora have been enthusiastically celebrating the 35th anniversary of the country's independence. And so they should. Freedom was not handed to Eritrea on a silver platter. Rather, it was won through immense sacrifice during one of Africa's longest and bloodiest liberation struggles.

The more than three decades since independence have brought many challenges and hardships. At the same time, however, important aspects of Eritrea and its society remain to be recognized and appreciated. Yet much of the discourse surrounding the country, led by external elements, focuses almost exclusively on its problems, and at times these are sensationalized or exaggerated for political purposes. In the process, many of the genuine qualities, achievements, and strengths that Eritreans value are overlooked, minimized, or dismissed outright.

As a result, discussions about the country are often incomplete. Acknowledging the country's difficulties should not prevent a fuller appreciation of the things Eritreans can genuinely take pride in. With that in mind, the following article highlights some of the qualities, accomplishments, and realities that should continue to inspire pride and optimism among Eritreans.

One of the first things Eritreans can take pride in is the country's developmental progress, particularly because conditions on the ground often contrast sharply with some portrayals from abroad. Recall that Eritrea emerged from its war of independence absolutely devastated: infrastructure was shattered, economic foundations were weak, and much of the country had to be rebuilt from scratch. As many have observed, the nation began independence "below zero."

Yet since achieving independence in 1991, Eritrea has made steady advances across several key sectors. Improvements in healthcare have contributed to substantial reductions in maternal and child mortality and dramatic increases in life expectancy. Access to education has expanded considerably, with rising enrolment and literacy rates, alongside policies such as mother-tongue instruction during early schooling. Infrastructure projects – from roads and dams to telecommunications and health

facilities – have strengthened national connectivity, supported economic activity, and raised living standards. Agricultural initiatives have aimed to improve food and nutrition security, while investments in renewable energy reflect an increasing focus on sustainability and long-term self-reliance.

Notably, many of Eritrea's development indicators and broader social trends compare favorably – sometimes considerably so – with those of numerous countries across Africa and the wider

That Eritrea has not crumbled – despite the stated objective of some external actors who sought precisely that outcome through various punitive measures – but has instead continued to move forward, however gradually, is in many ways remarkable. More importantly, it stands as a powerful testament to the resilience of the Eritrean people, who emerged from a thirty-year liberation struggle only to confront a new set of challenges as they worked to build and sustain their nation.

Closely connected to this

resourcefulness, collective responsibility, and the importance of safeguarding sovereignty while pursuing development grounded in local realities and priorities.

Regardless of whether one agrees with every policy decision, the consistency of this approach is difficult to ignore. It reflects a belief that dignity, independence, and equality are not simply abstract concepts or ideals, but practical foundations for sustainable development and nation-building. Moreover, at a time when the global landscape is rapidly changing and many countries are confronting declining aid flows and growing economic uncertainty, Eritrea's emphasis on self-reliance appears increasingly relevant and, in some respects, forward-looking.

The strong sense of social cohesion, peace, and harmony that prevails across Eritrea is also something that distinguishes the country positively. For many years, much of Africa, the developing world, and indeed many other parts of the globe have been affected by internecine conflict, sectarian violence, and recurring instability. Sadly, in many areas, safety and security are luxuries. In this regard, Eritrea stands in notable contrast.

Despite its considerable ethnolinguistic and religious diversity, Eritrean society has generally remained peaceful and cohesive. Across communities, there is often a strong culture of tolerance, mutual respect, and solidarity. Questions about a person's ethnicity or religion are frequently considered inappropriate or divisive, while interethnic and interreligious marriages are common and widely accepted. In many towns and neighbourhoods, religious institutions of different faiths stand side by side, and neighbours from different backgrounds coexist with little tension or hostility. In many locations, individuals, including women, can walk freely and comfortably, even after dark, while children play freely outside with their parents safe in the knowledge that little harm will come their way.

At a time when so many societies across the region and the wider world continue to grapple with rising polarization, communal violence, and social fragmentation, Eritrea's relative harmony and unity represent something genuinely valuable. It is a reality that many Eritreans understandably view with great pride.

While much of this harmony is rooted in the country's traditions, cultural values, and strong religious foundations, it is also closely connected to longstanding efforts to promote equality and social justice. Government social and development policies have consistently sought to reduce inequality and uplift marginalized communities across the country. Inclusive education, rural agricultural support programs, free healthcare and schooling, adult literacy campaigns, micro-credit initiatives, and efforts to eliminate harmful social practices all reflect a broader commitment to expanding opportunity and creating a more equitable society.

In a diverse nation composed of multiple ethnic and religious communities, such measures contribute not only to development outcomes, but also to social cohesion and national unity. By working to ensure that different communities feel included in the country's progress and development, Eritrea has helped foster a strong sense of shared identity and collective belonging.

Another often overlooked aspect that Eritreans can take pride in is the country's comparatively low levels of corruption. Contrary to many common assumptions and external portrayals, numerous individuals and organizations with long-term experience working in Eritrea have remarked upon the absence of the pervasive, normalized corruption that affects many administrations elsewhere. While perception-based indices may suggest otherwise, those familiar with conditions on the ground frequently note the lack of practices such as routine informal payments, entrenched patronage networks, or the expectation that services and opportunities can be secured through bribery or personal connections.

Viewed alongside the country's broader emphasis on discipline, equality, and national ownership, this reflects a distinct social and governing ethos. In everyday life, there is generally little sense that officials, guards, administrators, teachers, or others in positions of authority can simply be bribed in exchange for favors, preferential treatment, or special access. At a time when corruption remains a major obstacle to development and public trust across much of the world, this relative institutional integrity is something Eritreans can remain proud of.

Continued on page 8



developing world. Moreover, these achievements, impressive as they are in their own right, become even more significant when viewed against the backdrop of the immense challenges that Eritrea has faced, including external aggression, sanctions, regional instability, economic constraints, and climate-related pressures.

Another important quality that distinguishes the country is its resilience. Indeed, the country's developmental gains cannot be fully understood apart from the sheer determination and endurance of its people. As noted, the progress made has come against the backdrop of years of external aggression, sanctions and other coercive measures, recurring regional instability and crises, economic constraints, and climate-related pressures.

resilience is Eritrea's longstanding emphasis on self-reliance. This principle, despite often being misunderstood or misrepresented, remains another source of pride for the country. Emerging from a long liberation struggle during which Eritreans frequently found themselves isolated and forced to depend primarily on their own people and resources, self-reliance became deeply embedded in the country's national outlook and approach to development.

In practice, this approach does not mean rejecting international engagement altogether. Rather, Eritrea has generally sought forms of cooperation that strengthen domestic capacity and national ownership, rather than fostering long-term dependency. Rooted in the experience of the independence struggle, this philosophy emphasizes

OPINION

Innovation Forged by Resilience

Kidane Shimendi

Resilience has been a strong pillar of Eritrean national identity, serving as the guiding principle of the national struggle for liberation and nation-building. By bringing communities together, it enables them to address challenges with ingenuity. In the long and bitter struggle for Eritrea's independence, the creativity forged by resilience was immense. One of the most profound technical creations made during the armed struggle was the mechanical transformation done by the EPLF's garage in the Department of Transportation.

In Eritrean history, the groundbreaking creativity, well-engraved across all of the revolution's sectors, continues to attract global audience and is a living museum of human creativity. In the transportation department, the immense effort invested in connecting every sector of the revolutionary base and ensuring timely supply of critical provisions such as fuel, food, and weapons was profoundly crucial to national liberation. The department, which originally relied mainly on pack animals, gradually evolved and operated modern vehicles of the time. However, no vehicle was ever dispatched on a mission unless it was modified in order to be compatible with Sahel's topography, which is characterized by difficult terrain. In this process, the principle of self-reliance – addressing challenges with locally available resources – was the driving motto of the revolution, and, by extension, that of the Department of Transport. Technical experts in the department demonstrated remarkable creativity, captivating visitors and global technical experts.

The technical modifications applied to the Mercedes-Benz trucks, popularly known as “Adietat” (mothers) by the freedom fighters, are among the department's living heritage. Initially, very few Mercedes trucks taken from the enemy were



functioning at the base. Later on, in 1984, some 60 new Mercedes trucks were bought from the Mercedes-Benz Company. After their arrival at Port Sudan, they were delivered to the EPLF garage in Suakin, Sudan.

Their primary mission was transporting heavily loaded supplies from Port Sudan to Beref, the revolution's central place where revolutionary supplies were stored and later distributed across the base.

Unfortunately, the lift springs of most of the new trucks broke due to the incompatibility between the heavy loads the trucks were carrying and the rugged topography of the place. Soon, the EPLF garage unit reported the situation to the central garage office. There, Michael Fishaye, a well-known technical expert at the garage, took the report and came up with a solution that he shared with his colleagues. Michael suggested turning the “U-shaped” lifting spring upside down and adding a firm layer as reinforcement for the lift spring. When applied, Michael's technical suggestion did miracles for the Eritrean revolution. What's more, his idea eventually became transformational for the production of Mercedes trucks by the parent company.

Michael's idea sparked discussion among the company's experts, who expressed their admiration for Michael's innovation and solution. To see the Mercedes truck with the

modified lift spring the experts from the company in Germany arrived at the revolutionary base in Sahel.

A group comprising Eritrean and German experts arrived at the revolutionary base to see compare the performance of two types of Mercedes trucks: one ordinary truck and one modified by the EPLF's garage. First, the experts from Germany had a look at the challenging topography dominated by mountains, rocks and sand. Then, a load of 200 tons each was placed on the two Mercedes trucks. The trucks were set to cross the challenging river, Cor-Baraka. As the trucks were crossing the river, the ordinary Mercedes truck's lift spring broke while that of the modified one stayed intact and the truck easily crossed the river. The German experts were surprised by the outcome and named the modified lift spring the “Eritrean version”.

As an expression of its admiration, the Mercedes Company presented the EPLF's garage with special tools and spare parts that were not accessible at open markets. This achievement demonstrates the level of creativity of the Eritrean revolution at the time and the benefits of taking self-reliance as the EPLF's guiding principle. Since that historical moment, Mercedes has manufactured trucks using the Eritrean version of lift spring in its trucks.

the revolution's heavy load. At night, drivers used a white sheet carried by a comrade ahead of the vehicle as a guiding lamp, in order not to be seen by the enemy.

Today, Adietat is in active service both as a means of transport and as a national monument. Surprisingly, they are technically well-maintained, showcasing Eritrea's rich technical experience rooted in a long history. This also reflects the essence of Eritrean national values and norms embracing self-reliance, creativity, commitment and resilience. Values that immensely contributed to the armed struggle are still accelerating nation-building. Let's strive to preserve our rich national history to safeguard our national values and inspire the young to continue to be an innovative generation.

35 Years of Water Infrastructure . . .

Continued from page 2

local stations. In the Anseba Region, this commitment is reflected in the construction of approximately 141 dams and numerous supplementary water reservoirs, with the majority of these structures boasting a capacity of over 100,000 cubic meters each.

This aggressive dam-building strategy also extends into the harshest, most arid climates of the country's coastal zones. The transformation of water infrastructure in the Northern Red Sea Region also highlights Eritrea's post-independence development. Where only two small reservoirs existed in the Nakfa sub-zone before independence, the government has since built around 26 dams to combat chronic aridity in the region. One of the country's strategic dams built in the region is the Gahtelay Dam. With a capacity of 50 million cubic meters, a height of 42 meters, and a length of 1.5 kilometers, it ranks among the nation's largest reservoirs. Located in the arid coastal climate, the dam is designed to provide fresh drinking water to residents and the coastal city of Massawa, while powering agricultural productivity across 10,000 hectares of nearby fields. The remaining small dams in the region have capacities ranging from 30,000 to 500,000 cubic meters and capture flash floods from the eastern escarpments.

Despite being one of the hottest and most arid places on Earth, Eritrea's Southern Red Sea Region has also seen significant water reservoir infrastructure. Historically an uncultivated area, the introduction of three new micro-dams—two in Central Denkalia and one in Southern Denkalia—has secured a baseline water supply for local communities. These established water structures, in tandem with augmented subsurface water, have enabled nomadic and coastal populations to adopt localized farming, cultivating date palms, sorghum, maize, fruits, and vegetables in an environment once defined by chronic scarcity.

To ensure long-term climate resilience and agricultural independence nationwide, the country's water infrastructure continues to expand, with an additional 758 dams currently under construction. Ultimately, over the past 35 years of independence, this vast network of diverse water reservoirs has delivered monumental socio-economic benefits. By shifting away from a total reliance on unpredictable, seasonal rainfall, rural communities have transitioned to sustainable, year-round irrigated farming. Beyond surface storage, these structures act as vital mechanisms for environmental rehabilitation, significantly enriching and replenishing the country's subsurface water tables. Villages that once endured devastating water shortages now enjoy clean, safe water within their own neighborhoods and households. While these achievements already represent significant progress, they are viewed nationally as just the foundational phase of Eritrea's ongoing development trajectory.



SpotLight

“...Greater Than I Was”

Kesete Ghebrehiwet

On Saturday, 23 May 2026, the eve of Eritrea’s 35th Independence Day, I walked with my family toward the center of the festivities as the nation celebrated. The streets pulsed with movement, color, music, and emotion. People from all walks of life—children, youth, parents, elders, and nationals from abroad—had gathered to share in a historic occasion. It was not merely a celebration; it was a day of memory, pride, renewal, and reflection.

The Eritrean flag waved everywhere—on banners, decorations, clothing, and painted faces. Mothers and young girls



wore colorful outfits decorated with the national colors. Young boys and girls walked confidently in T-shirts bearing images of lions, freedom fighters, and maps of Eritrea, as well as slogans of dignity, resilience, and pride. Every color, design, and smile seemed to carry a message.

Among these sights, one phrase on the backs of teenage boys’ and girls’ T-shirts caught my attention: “I am Greater than I Was.” At first glance, it seemed simple, but the more I looked, the more powerful it became. It was not an ordinary slogan. It was a statement of growth, confidence, and hope—speaking not only for the students but for Eritrea itself.

The students wearing these T-shirts were 11th graders who had come to Harent Avenue for the 35th Independence Day anniversary. They radiated energy, excitement, and pride. Soon, they will enter 12th grade at Warsay Yikealo Senior Secondary School. They are no longer the children they once were. They have grown in age, knowledge, awareness, and responsibility. They are greater than they were yesterday, and tomorrow they will become greater still.

This phrase carries deep

meaning. It reflects the natural growth of youth, as well as Eritrea’s national journey. A young person grows through learning, discipline, and commitment. A nation grows through sacrifice, resilience, unity, and hard work. The greatness of Eritrea and its youth are closely connected: a strong nation builds confident youth, and capable youth build a stronger nation.

Progress is built step by step, generation after generation. Today’s Eritrea was born from a long struggle, deep sacrifice, and unshakable determination. Independence was won through the blood, courage, and perseverance

of freedom fighters and the people who supported them. The freedom today’s youth enjoy was made possible by those who gave everything for their country’s dignity and sovereignty.

Thus, Independence Day is not only about music, lights, and gatherings. It is about remembrance—understanding the cost of freedom and the responsibility it brings. When young people wear meaningful slogans, they are not merely participating in a festivity; they are becoming part of a national story, carrying forward the message of their parents and grandparents while adding their own voice to the



future.

It has become customary for students to prepare themed T-shirts for national celebrations—some

with maps, some with flags, some honoring freedom fighters. Each design looks different, but all share a common spirit: celebrating Eritrea’s independence with meaning and purpose.

The students’ smiles were especially touching. Their happiness was not empty excitement; it reflected confidence and readiness to take part in nation-building. Their bright faces seemed to say they understand their place in Eritrea’s future. They are students today, but tomorrow they will be teachers, engineers, health professionals, farmers, artists, administrators, researchers, and defenders of their nation. Their growth is the country’s growth.

The parents’ happiness was equally moving. Watching their children celebrate freely and confidently—dressed in national colors and carrying meaningful messages—must have filled them with pride. For many parents, independence is not abstract. It is something they lived through, struggled for, or inherited through loved ones’ sacrifices. Seeing their children celebrate is a powerful reminder that their sacrifice was not in vain.

The entire scene was thrilling, even for a stranger unfamiliar with the history. But for those deeply connected to Eritrea’s independence—who understand sacrifice, endurance, and ultimate triumph—the moment carried even greater emotional weight. It was a living picture of continuity: the past remembered, the present celebrated, the future prepared.

The streets were decorated with colorful lights that brightened the evening. The national theme, “Our Resilience: Our Guarantee,” was clearly displayed and well-lit. These words, like the students’

slogans, carried profound meaning: Eritrea’s strength lies in its people’s resilience. The nation’s future is guaranteed not by comfort, but by steadfastness,



unity, and commitment.

The lights were more than decorations. They symbolized a brighter Eritrea being built through citizens’ dedication. Just as the lights transformed the streets, the people’s sacrifices and hard work continue to transform the nation. The colors reflected diversity, harmony, and shared purpose—showing that Eritrea remembers its past and moves forward with confidence.

In this sense, everything seemed greater than before. The youth were greater. The celebration carried a deeper meaning. The streets were brighter. The people were more united. The nation, after 35 years of independence, stood firm, proud, and determined. The phrase “I am Greater than I Was” became a national reflection.

Eritrea’s journey has been one of continuous growth through challenge. Like its youth, the

nation has passed through difficult stages, learned from experience, and emerged stronger. Its strength is measured not by buildings or ceremonies alone, but by the spirit of its people. A nation becomes greater when its citizens grow in awareness, responsibility, and commitment.

As I continued walking with my family among the crowds, the phrase stayed with me. “I am Greater than I Was.” It spoke of youth growing into responsibility, a nation advancing through resilience, yesterday’s sacrifices, today’s joy, and tomorrow’s promise. On that festive day, amid flags, lights, smiles, and songs, one truth became clear: Eritrea’s greatness lives in the hearts of its people—especially the young generation preparing to inherit and build the future. They are greater than they were, and through them, Eritrea will continue to grow even greater.



ADS

22nd General Meeting of Shareholders of National Insurance Corporation of Eritrea

The National Insurance Corporation of Eritrea cordially invites all shareholders to attend the 22nd Ordinary General Meeting of shareholders to be held at Hotel Asmara Palace on Saturday 6th of June 2026 at 08:00 hrs.

Shareholders who cannot attend the meeting in person can collect their instrument of proxy from our Head Office or download it from our website www.niceritrea.com and submit it to the Head Office not later than 12:00 hrs on 5 June 2026.

National Insurance Corporation of Eritrea
Share Company
By the order of the Board of Directors



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Bisha Mining Share Company is inviting applicants for the following positions

1. Position: Artisan Plant Fitter

Department: Processing & Underground Operations

Section: Asheli Underground

Number required: Three (03)

Primary Purpose

- Ensuring that first and foremost adhere to all safety precautions.
- Assist Artisan Fitter to inspect, maintain and repair plan equipment (machinery), effectively, efficiently, and safety.
- Maintaining a clean and safe work environment

Main Functions

- Carry out planned maintenance equipment's.
- Carry out repair and preventative maintenance on equipment and fixed Plant assets
- Reading and interpret basic hydraulic schematics
- Observe established safety regulations and procedures during work.
- Ensure that tools/ equipment used for electrical installations is kept in appropriate place.
- Health, Safety and Environment.
- Perusing knowledge and training on evolving practices or technology.
- Following instructions or direction from supervisor
- Additional duties
 - Be able to use and maintain various power tools.
 - Lifting and carrying heavy objects.
 - Performing work on elevated platforms and heights.
 - Performing mechanical work in adverse weather conditions or temperatures.
 - Manual dexterity, Ability to drive vehicles

Unique requirements/other information

- Must be flexible and willing to work as part of a team.
- Demonstrates sound knowledge of the tool, equipment, and materials to be the trade.
- Need to be heat tolerant and fit to work in an underground environment.

| Qualifications: | Knowledge and Experience |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 12; Craft Certificate in Plant fitting or equivalent, • First Aid Certificate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 years' experience based on below • Background experience on submersible pumps and static centrifugal pumps. • Basic mechanical background experience. • Basic experience HDPE/Steel pipes with methods of connections. • Identify the corrects size if pipe work with the type Valves. • Familiar with hand tools and identifying the correct tools. • Basic hydraulics background. • Knowledge of underground plant. • Needs to understand the fundamentals of isolation and lock out with Stored Energy principals, • Basic knowledge of underground mining operations. • Basic knowledge of fix plant assets. |
| Technical Skills | Behavioral Skills |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Computer Literacy • Basic Understanding, MS Office, Excel - • Plan, organize, and execution. • Risk management and assessment. • Analytical and Problem solving. • Technical Report writing • Attention to detail. • Quality assurance skills • Mechanical experience | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good oral and written communication skills and Teamwork. • Ability to work in multi-disciplinary environment. • Ability to conduct Engineering matters to various levels. • Ability to work under pressure and achieve project milestones. • Self-starter, Drive, and enthusiasm. • Developmental orientated, Passion for accuracy and perfection in delivery • Good leadership skills |

2. Position: Electrician
 Department: Processing & Underground Operations
 Section: Asheli Underground
 Number required: One (01)

Primary Purpose

- Ensuring that first and foremost adhere to all safety precautions.
- Assist Electrician to carry out electrical maintenance, repair, and installation work on electrical equipment on fix plant and in underground equipment.
- Maintaining a clean and safe work environment.

Unique requirements/other information

- Must be flexible and willing to work as part of a team.
- Demonstrates sound knowledge of the tools, equipment, and materials to the trade.
- Need to be heat tolerant and fit to work in an underground environment.

| Qualifications: | Knowledge and Experience |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 12 / Equivalent • Craft Certificate in Electrical or equivalent | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 years' work experience on Low voltage systems • Background experience on AC / DC voltages respectively. • Experience on diverse voltage systems ranging from 24V-400V • Needs to understand the fundamentals of Isolation and Lock out. • Be able to use and identify testing measuring instruments independently. • Read and interpret electrical drawings. • Basic knowledge of underground mining operations. • Basic Knowledge of fix plant assets • Basic Knowledge of power generation. |

Continued on page 7



NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public that The National Insurance Corporation of Eritrea Share Company will hold its 22nd Ordinary Annual General Meeting of Shareholders on the 6th of June 2026.

Place: HOTEL ASMARA PALACE - (SELAM CONFERENCE HALL)
 Time: 08:00 a.m. Commencement of the Meeting

Agenda for the Meeting

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Appointment of the Resolutions Committee
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 21st Ordinary Annual General Meeting
4. Matters Arising from the 21st Ordinary Annual General Meeting
5. Management's Report on the Activities of the Corporation
6. Report of the Board of Directors
7. Report on the 2025 Accounts and the Appropriation of Profits
8. Appointment of External Auditors
9. Any Other Business
10. Date and Venue of the 23rd Ordinary Annual General Meeting

All shareholders are called upon to attend the meeting. Documents relevant to the meeting may be collected from our head office starting from 3rd June 2026.

Shareholders who cannot attend the meeting in person can collect their instrument of proxy from our head office or download it from our website www.niceritrea.com and shall submit the completed form no later than the 12:00 hrs on 5 June 2026.

National Insurance Corporation of Eritrea Share Co.
By the order of the Board of Directors



Continued from page 6

| Technical Skills | Behavioral Skills |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic Computer Literacy Basic understanding, MS Office, Excel – Plan, organize, and execution Risk management and assessment. Analytical and Problem solving. Technical Report writing Attention to detail Quality assurance skills & Electrical experience | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good oral and written communication skills and Teamwork. Ability to work in multi-disciplinary environment. Ability to conduct Engineering matters to various levels. Ability to work under pressure and achieve project milestones. Self-starter, Drive, and enthusiasm. Developmental orientated, Passion for accuracy and perfection in delivery. Good leadership skills |

3. Position: Artisan Auto Electrician
Department: Processing & Underground Operations
Section: Asheli Underground
Number required: Two (02)

Primary Purpose

- To diagnose, maintain, and repair electrical systems and components in vehicles and equipment. The auto electrician ensures the proper functioning and safety of electrical systems, including wiring, lighting, control systems, and instrumentation. The position involves troubleshooting electrical faults, performing preventive maintenance, and supporting ongoing technical projects to ensure optimal performance and reliability of all equipment and vehicles.

Main Functions

- Equipment availability
- Reports
- Injury prevention to self/others and safeguard company property
- Preventive Maintenance
- Health, Safety and Environment
- Additional Duties
 - To perform other related work as assigned.

Unique requirement/ other information

- Candidate must be physically and medically fit.
- Effective team member.
- Adhering to all other assignments that are given that are lawful and fair

| Qualifications: | Knowledge and Experience |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Auto Electrical trade certificate or equivalent Grade 12 Certificate Craft certificate in Auto / Power Electrical or equivalent | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 to 5 years relevant experience in a mine environment Ability to distinguish colors used in colour-coding harness and electronic components. Ability to identify electrical problems and apply diagnostic methods to achieve satisfactory results. Proven ability to read and interpret standard electrical blueprints, schematics, technical drawings, parts books, and service manuals (including specifications). Ability to identify, organize and use resources effectively to complete tasks with due regard to cost, quality, safety, and environmental impact. Possess a valid Driver's License with good defensive driving skills |

| Technical Skills | Behavioral Skills |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to assess risk and diagnostically gather information. Attention to detail and planning skills. Results orientated. Good written and oral Communication skill in English | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accept responsibility for work of self and others. Work reliably and effectively without close supervision, to the appropriate codes of practice. Extensive knowledge of site safety, health and environmental regulations pertaining to electrical maintenance in a mining environment |

4. Position: Geo-technician
Department: Processing and Underground Operations
Section: Asheli Underground
Number Required: Three (03)

Primary Purpose.

- To support underground geological operations by assisting with grade control sampling, face mapping, ore control,
- ROM pad management, and geological data collection, ensuring accurate ore delineation, minimization of dilution, and
- Reliable production reconciliation in support of safe and efficient mining operations.

Main Function

- Safety and Risk Management
- Daily Ore Drive Development Assistance & Mapping Support
- Rom Pad Management and Sampling
- Documentation and reporting

Unique Requirements/Other Information

- Physically fit for underground work and extended standing, walking, and sampling
- Comfortable working in confined spaces, heat, water, and low-light environments
- Willingness to work shift schedules and night shifts
- Ability to work under production pressure and time constraints
- Basic literacy and numeracy for recording geological data
- Prior underground mining exposure is an advantage
- Strong respect for safety culture and operational discipline

| Qualifications: | Knowledge and Experience |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior high school or diploma certificate required from a recognized institution. Valid Eritrean driving license | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 years Geology experience preferred (preferably in Base Metal deposits). Good verbal and written English skills, computer literacy (Surpac and associated MS Office Programs) 1 year in geology department involve in sampling is added advantage. |

| Technical Skills | Behavioral Skills |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic structural measurements (dip, strike joint orientation) Computer Literacy (MS Office – Intermediate, Excel – Advanced) Basic understanding of grade control drilling and stope control Geology logging Geology mapping | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good teamwork and communication with mining crews Ability to work in a team Reliability and dependability under shift work conditions Willingness to learn and adapt in underground environments Strong safety awareness and discipline Positive attitude and strong work ethic Ability to follow instructions and standard procedures. |

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

Note to Eritrean applicants:

Please send a copy of your application to:

- Aliens Employment permits Affairs,**
P. O. Box 7940
Asmara, Eritrea.
- Mineral Resources Management**
P. O. Box 272 Asmara, Eritrea



"Asmara Is Not Only the Capital, It Is a Pride of UNESCO": An Interview with UNESCO's Mohammed Elfarnawany

Sabrina Solomon

Mr. Elfarnawany, you have met with several government officials. How do you assess your meetings and visit to Eritrea so far, and what specific goals do you hope to achieve to strengthen cooperation in heritage protection and sustainable development?

Thank you very much. It's a pleasure to be here. This is my first visit to Eritrea, hopefully not my



last. From UNESCO, we see great potential in Eritrea. I bring the greetings of UNESCO's Director General, who is keenly interested in prioritizing engagement not only in Africa (which is one of the two priority areas of UNESCO) but is also keen on seeing how to develop the relationship with Eritrea and how to support Eritrea on cultural heritage, and also a number of other aspects that are within the UNESCO goals. The meetings have also shown that UNESCO is back to engaging with Eritrea, and we look forward to building on this collaboration. We also look forward to rebuilding and strengthening the relationship over the months and years to come.

Asmara was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2017. How do you assess its current state of conservation, and what support can UNESCO offer to enlist other sites and intangible heritage in Eritrea?

Asmara is not only the capital of Eritrea. It is also a pride of UNESCO in terms of cultural heritage. It is a city that has great potential, but also showcases throughout the continent and globally what a modern city is and how it can be conserved and protected. We hope that after nine years of its inscription, we can collaborate more closely with officials here, and I have the specific directions of the UNESCO leadership to see how we can support Asmara, and showcase it as a proud capital of Eritrea and a proud heritage site of UNESCO. We are looking—we have discussed and will continue discussing with Eritrean officials

Mr. Mohammed Elfarnawany, Acting Assistant Director General at UNESCO for Priority Africa, is currently on a working visit to Eritrea. As part of his trip, the senior official who oversees UNESCO's flagship "General History of Africa" project and champions youth coding initiatives across the continent has met with high-level Eritrean officials and toured Asmara, a UNESCO World Heritage site, as well as other cultural landmarks. Upon concluding his visit, Mr. Elfarnawany sat down with Eri TV's Rafael Giuseppe and Eritrea Profile's Sabrina Solomon. Excerpts of the interview follow.

about their priorities, what they would like to inscribe both in terms of tangible and intangible cultural heritage. We know there are a few sites on Eritrea's radar that it would like to prioritize. Eritrea has Asmara to offer, but it also has a whole host of other activities, sites, and locations that showcase the heritage, history, and culture of Eritrea and its people.

You have worked on several projects for Africa, including the Pan-African General History of Africa project. How can Eritrea's unique historical narrative be better integrated into this narrative?

The General History of Africa is a series of well-thought-out and well-written volumes by Africans on Africa. Eritrea is an integral part of this continent. It is reflected in the volumes of the General History of Africa throughout the years. We would like to work with the Eritrean authorities, and we intend to collaborate and discuss with them the potential for translating the volumes of the General History of Africa and the pedagogical material into the school system in Eritrea. We have a number of examples throughout the continent to really put forward the history of the people of the continent to students, youth, and the people, and to help them learn more about their culture and be proud of their

of UNESCO's mandate. It ranges, as you mentioned, from education to culture to science and technology. We see great potential for collaboration on girls' education, working on digitalization, and working together on heritage protection. And we believe that this country has great potential for collaboration within the context of existing conventions to which Eritrea has signed, as well as outside that context. We are here, and my presence, along with the regional director, is here to present to you what it is we can work on, and we have already agreed on a timeline of engagement within the context of UNESCO's mandate on certain aspects of higher education. We will have meetings with the Minister of Education as well; we've had meetings with a number of principals from the Foreign Ministry to the Ministry of Information to Culture, and we believe that each of those key entities of the Eritrean government has great potential to work closely with our institution. And UNESCO is ready to bring all of its capacity to bear.

During your visit to some sites in Asmara, what impressed you the most?

Unfortunately, because of time constraints, I have been limited to Asmara. But I know, and I am aware

and how friendly, how welcoming, how warm they are, and how much this country has to offer in terms

also the pride of the international community.

Is there anything that you would



of tangible and intangible heritage and in terms of tourism, with all that it has to offer, along with its beautiful people and weather. You are a very lucky people; you have great potential, and with the wisdom of the leadership and the support of UNESCO and other organizations that would like to support this country, we believe that what you have to offer can really be showcased not only as the pride of Eritreans but

like to add, or any message you wish to convey to our readers?

As long as we are welcomed in Eritrea, we are happy to engage, happy to support, and we will offer it to various other entities for the people of Eritrea, because UNESCO is UNESCO for the people, and we are proud to support and help the people of this country.

Thank you, Mr. Mohammed.



heritage and history.

Eritrea recently ratified the 2003 Convention for Intangible Heritage. Looking ahead, which areas (education, science, or culture) hold the most promise for deeper UNESCO-Eritrea collaboration?

We think that Eritrea and UNESCO can collaborate throughout the scope

that Eritrea has a lot more to offer. What I saw in Asmara reflected deeply the jealousy my colleagues felt when I told them I was coming to Eritrea. They were not only curious but also wanted to know more and wanted to engage in the various competencies of UNESCO, be it in heritage or education. And I can tell you that what I have found as most striking is the people of Eritrea

Eritrea at 35: progress,.....

Continued from page 3

Beyond the above, there are many other qualities and values that Eritreans can take pride in. These include a deep respect for nature and the environment, as well as a strong culture of humility, modesty, and simplicity that continues to characterize much of Eritrean society. In many communities, ostentatious displays of wealth and status are discouraged, while values such as dignity, mutual respect, hospitality, and collective responsibility remain highly regarded. Together, these qualities form an important part of Eritrea's social fabric and national character.

35 years of independence is a proud milestone, and Eritreans everywhere have every reason to celebrate it. Freedom was not given to Eritrea. It was earned through immense sacrifice, perseverance, and struggle. Moreover, the Eritrean people have continued to make sacrifices in the years since independence to safeguard their

sovereignty and build their nation.

While the preceding discussion has highlighted many positives, this should not be interpreted to mean that Eritrea is without challenges or shortcomings. Like every country in the world, it continues to confront important difficulties and obstacles. Yet what this discussion demonstrates is that the country possess strong foundations upon which to continue moving forward.

The resilience of the people, the spirit of self-reliance, the strong sense of social cohesion, the commitment to equality and national ownership, and the developmental gains achieved under difficult circumstances together provide a solid platform for future progress. As Eritrea marks 35 years of independence, there is ample reason not only for reflection, but also for confidence, pride, and hope in the country and its people.