ERITREA PROFILE

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SPUTNIK AFRICA INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT ISAIAS



In an interview with Sputnik Africa, President Isaias Afwerki stressed that respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity is a fundamental pillar of international law and the global order.

In the interview, which focused on relations between Eritrea and Russia, regional and global developments, Russia's relations with African countries, and global challenges hindering strategic partnership, President Isaias said that partnership cannot be nurtured unless independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity are respected.

President Isaias said that enhancing strategic partnership requires, first and foremost, addressing global obstacles, particularly those related to the global financial system. Otherwise, discussions on trade, investment and economic cooperation would be meaningless.

President Isaias also stressed that conflicts, tensions, political pressure, sanctions and policy limitations are obstacles to strategic partnership and must be addressed beforehand.

Meanwhile, the Third Russia-Africa Summit, which President Isaias Afwerki attended, concluded.

At the Summit, held at the Kremlin Palace under the theme "For Peace, Security and Development," discussions focused on Russia-Africa cooperation in the areas of economy, investment, trade, energy, food security, agriculture and security.

The two-day Summit was attended by Heads of State and Government from over 50 countries.

MEETING ON EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR 2026/2027

The Ministry of Education branch in the Northern Red Sea Region conducted a meeting on 26 and 27 October to review the implementation of programs during the 2025/2026 academic year and discuss the planned program for the 2026/2027 academic year. Representatives of relevant partner institutions participated in the meeting.

Mr. Reshid Mohammed-Osman, head of the education office in the region, said that efforts to expand educational services across the region, taking into account the overall condition of the region, are yielding promising results.

According to the report presented at the meeting, over 85,000 students received educational services at about 829 schools during the 2025/2026 academic year, and 225 pre-schools were established with the participation of the community and members of the Defense Forces.

The report also called for active participation by the community, school communities and administrations at all levels to increase female students' school enrollment.

The participants conducted extensive discussions on the report and adopted various recommendations, including organizing capacity-building training for teachers and addressing shortages of school materials.

Noting that the region's size and terrain require substantial investment in the expansion of educational facilities, Ms. Asmeret Abraha, Governor of the region, commended the efforts being made by teachers, educational institutions, administrations and members of the Defense Forces in this regard.

Dr. Halima Mohammed of the Ministry of Education also provided a briefing on the Ministry's future programs.

NATIONALS IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES EXPRESS READINESS TO CONTRIBUTE TO NATIONAL RESILIENCE

At seminars held in Sweden, Germany, Angola, Australia, South Sudan, and France, nationals expressed their readiness to contribute to national resilience by strengthening their organizational capacity and unity.

At a seminar held for nationals in Stockholm, Sweden, Mr. Mohammed-Ali Mohammed-Seid, Chargé d'Affaires at the Eritrean Embassy in the Scandinavian countries, gave a detailed briefing on the objective situation in the homeland in light of regional and global developments. Mr. Mohammed-Seid urged nationals to enhance their awareness and consolidate their unity. He also said that Eritrea is making its modest contribution to peace and stability by expanding its diplomatic relations.

The participants, for their part, expressed their commitment to effectively discharge the responsibilities expected of them.

In the same vein, at a seminar organized by the national committees in Nordrhein-Westfalen, in the city of Wuppertal, Germany, Mr. Kibreab Tekeste, Eritrea's Consul General, and Mr. Teame Haile, head of Public and Community Affairs, provided briefings on the objective situation in the homeland and the current responsibilities of nationals.

Likewise, in Angola, Mr. Desale Tekleab, Eritrea's Consul General in Lubango, and Mr. Hagos Zemicael, head of Consular Affairs in Benguela, Huambo, and Bié, conducted similar seminars for nationals.

Similarly, at a seminar conducted in Adelaide, Australia, by Mr. Endrias Abraham, Eritrea's Consul General, and Mr. Yasin Omar, head of Public and Community Affairs, the participants expressed their readiness to play their due part in national affairs.

At a seminar conducted for nationals in Wau, Republic of South Sudan, Mr. Romodan Ahmedin, head of Public and Community Affairs, provided an extensive briefing on the objective situation in the homeland and on regional and global developments.

Mr. Bereket Paulos, Chargé d'Affaires at the Eritrean Embassy in France, and Mr. Kahsai Tewolde, head of Public and Community Affairs, also conducted a seminar for nationals residing in Paris and its environs.

At the seminar, the nationals expressed their readiness to strengthen their participation in and contribution to national affairs.



SpotLight

Eritrea's Coveted Geopolitical Location and Irreplaceable Strategic Role in the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa

Eritrea's geopolitical significance and strategic role is deeply rooted in its geography, history, and the resilience of its people and statehood. From the earliest human migrations and the development of ancient civilizations to the emergence of the modern international system, the territory of present-day Eritrea has occupied an important position at the crossroads of Africa, the Middle East, and the wider world. Its strategic importance, already considerable in antiquity (part of this history is covered in the book 'Periplus of the Erythraean Sea'), has assumed even greater significance in the modern era, particularly following the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869.

Today, as the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea region face mounting geopolitical rivalries, armed conflicts, and state fragility, Eritrea's location and political choices have implications extending well beyond its borders. Understanding this role requires looking at the historical, geographical, and political forces that have shaped the region.

A Crossroads of Human History and Civilization

The territory of present-day Eritrea is part of one of the world's historically significant corridors of human origins, movement and interaction. Archaeological discoveries in the wider Horn of Africa have contributed to our understanding of early human settlement, migration, and adaptation. Evidence of ancient human occupation, together with the development of agriculture and increasingly complex societies, places the region within the broader story of humanity's emergence and expansion.

Over millennia, the area evolved into a meeting point of civilizations, cultures, religions, and modes of production. Its Red Sea coast facilitated exchanges between the African interior, the Arabian Peninsula, and territories farther afield. Trade, migration, and cultural interaction helped shape the societies that developed on both sides of this maritime corridor.

Eritrea also occupies a distinctive place in religious history. The region embraced Christianity during the 3rd century, the remains of the cathedrals built by the early followers was recently discovered in the ancient Port City of Adulis.

Prophet Muhammad's (PBUOH) earliest followers sought refuge across the Red Sea landing in Port of Massawa, and built there the Sahaba Mosque- (Mosque of the Companions) dating back to the First Hijrah (circa 615 CE) -the first mosque outside of the Arabian Peninsula.

These historical connections underscore a central point: Eritrea's strategic importance did not begin with European colonial competition or the establishment of modern nation-states. Its location has long connected societies, facilitated exchanges, and attracted the attention of political powers seeking influence over regional commerce and communications.

The Suez Canal and Geopolitics of the Red Sea

The opening of the Suez Canal in November 1869 fundamentally transformed the strategic value of the Red Sea. By linking the Mediterranean Sea with the Red Sea, the Indian Ocean and beyond, the canal created a shorter maritime route between Europe and Asia. The Red Sea consequently became an indispensable artery of international commerce, naval movement, and, increasingly, global energy transportation.

Eritrea's extensive Red Sea coastline, facing the Arabian Peninsula and lying within the broader approaches to the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, acquired heightened geopolitical significance. The strait connects the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean, making it a critical passage for vessels travelling between Asian and European markets. Before the recent disruptions, annually more than 26,000 vessels transited through the Suez Canal, to and from the Red Sea, carrying goods amounting to some 10-15% global trade, worth about one trillion dollars.

The economic and geopolitical crisis that resulted from the closure of the Strait of Hormuz due to the war in that region has increased the urgency of maintaining the stability of the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait and the Red Sea as a whole. Eritrea is therefore a coastal State situated alongside one of the world's most consequential maritime corridors.

Colonial competition, the Cold War, and subsequent struggles over regional influence repeatedly reinforced this reality. The Horn of Africa became an arena for competing external interests, with military installations, strategic partnerships, and political alignments shaped partly by proximity to the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean.

The region's significance has also been amplified by the global energy economy. Oil and gas shipments, commercial shipping, and the movement of strategic commodities have made maritime security a concern extending from neighbouring states to major economic powers. More recently, piracy and attacks on commercial vessels have demonstrated how instability around the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden can disrupt international trade and impose costs on economies far removed from the immediate theatre of conflict.

Eritrea's location consequently gives it enduring strategic relevance, irrespective of fluctuations in the priorities of individual external powers.

From Cold War Rivalries to Contemporary Geopolitical Competition

The end of the Cold War did not eliminate the strategic competition surrounding the Horn of Africa. Instead, its forms and participants evolved. Counterterrorism, access to ports, military deployments, energy security, commercial infrastructure, and influence over regional political arrangements has become important elements of contemporary competition. In addition to the competition among global powers, countries such as the United Arab Emirates are pursing port imperialism across the Red Sea and Indian Ocean.

The Red Sea has increasingly linked the security calculations of the Middle East with those of northeastern Africa. Instability on one shore can rapidly affect the other, while conflicts within the Horn can draw in external actors whose interests extend beyond the immediate dispute.

The war in Yemen has demonstrated the vulnerability of international shipping to regional conflict. The consequences include rerouting vessels, increased transportation costs, and heightened risks to commercial and energy supplies. The strategic importance of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait has direct consequences for international economic security.

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From Social Media



Yemane G. Meskel
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Potemkin Party minions and war mongers seem unduly exhilarated by the purchase of 12 Su-35 jet fighters from Russia.

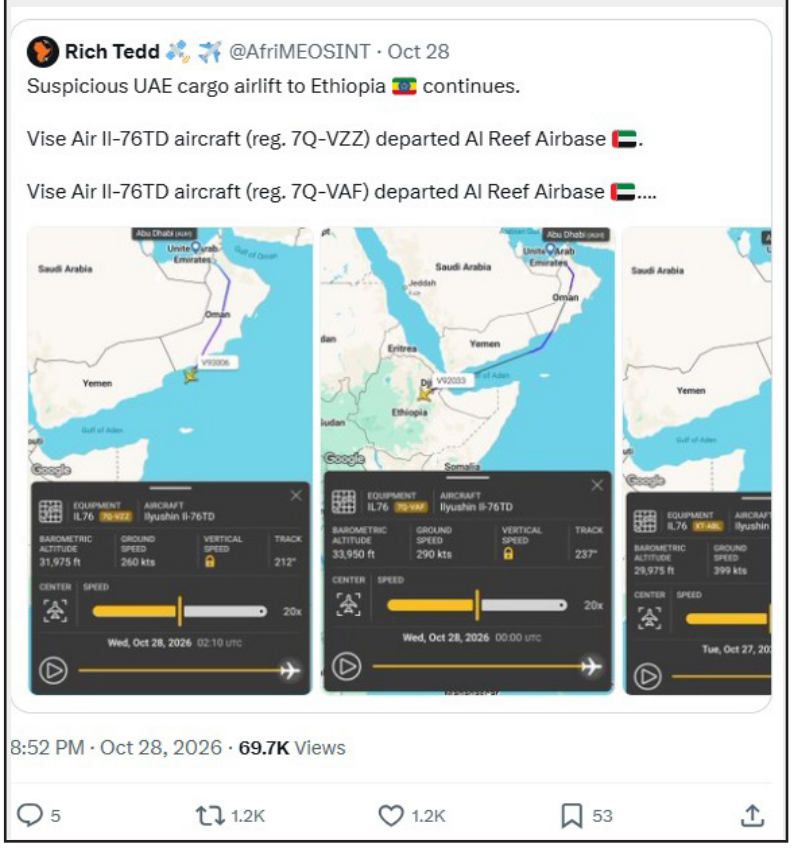
They believe, in the ominous words of their leaders, that this will indeed enhance the regime's capability for its "pre-emptive" war of aggression; oblivious to the legal and security quagmire that this will entail and the lessons from yesterday's history.

The Potemkin Party has indulged in a massive weapons purchase spree for a long time now as the link below demonstrates.

But massive re-armament will neither advance the PP's declared agenda of regional destabilization nor alleviate the dire sufferings of almost 70% of the Ethiopian population who live under abject poverty, classified as "multidimensionally poor" in accordance with standard economic metrics.

The country is also suffering from mushrooming internal chaos and spiraling strife - the upheaval in Moyale is the latest in the string of entrenched inter-communal conflicts - which stem from a dysfunctional governance architecture.

The Potemkin Party has got all its priorities wrong and, by all accounts, it will neither listen to the voices of reason nor retreat from the perilous path that it has chosen to tread.



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SpotLight

Not Simply a Health Intervention, but an Investment in Human Development

Bana Negusse



According to the World Health Organization (WHO), a specialized agency of the United Nations, cervical cancer ranks as the fourth most common cancer among women worldwide. In 2022 alone, an estimated 660,000 women were diagnosed with the disease, while approximately 350,000 lost their lives. Nearly all cervical cancer cases – around 99 percent – are attributable to human papillomavirus (HPV), the most common viral infection of the reproductive tract. HPV is primarily transmitted through sexual contact, and most sexually active individuals become infected at some point in their lives. Although the virus affects both women and men, cervical cancer remains its most significant disease burden. Globally, women account for nearly 90 percent of the burden of diseases that can be prevented through HPV vaccination.

The widespread administration of HPV vaccines offers one of the most effective means of reducing cervical cancer and other HPV-related diseases. Scientific evidence has demonstrated that these vaccines provide exceptionally high protection against high-risk HPV types 16 and 18, which together account for the majority of cervical cancer cases. Furthermore, HPV vaccination has repeatedly been shown to be a cost-effective public-health intervention, offering substantial long-term health benefits while reducing the economic and social costs associated with cancer diagnosis and treatment.

Worldwide, the principal target group for HPV immunization is girls and young adolescents, generally between the ages of 9 and 15. Vaccination is most effective when administered before exposure to the virus, which is why it is recommended before the onset of sexual activity. Importantly, extensive scientific research has found no evidence that HPV vaccination encourages earlier sexual activity or changes sexual behavior among adolescents. Rather, it provides an important opportunity to prevent future disease and protect long-term health.

Despite being a global public-health concern, cervical cancer disproportionately affects women in low- and middle-income countries. Some of the highest incidence and mortality rates are recorded in sub-Saharan Africa, Central America, and South-East Asia. These disparities reflect significant inequalities in access to HPV vaccination, cervical screening and treatment services, alongside other contributing factors such as HIV prevalence, poverty, gender inequality and limited healthcare infrastructure. Moreover, despite the proven safety and effectiveness of HPV vaccines, global immunization coverage remains inadequate, particularly in developing countries. Although more countries are incorporating the vaccine into their national immunization programs, considerable gaps in access and coverage persist.

In Eritrea, cervical cancer is among the most commonly diagnosed cancers in women, second only to breast cancer. Against this backdrop, the introduction of the HPV vaccine in recent years represents an important milestone in the country's ongoing efforts to strengthen public-health services and protect women's health. Given the relatively limited availability of cancer screening and treatment facilities, which can contribute to diagnoses at advanced stages, preventing HPV infection before exposure is particularly important. At the same time, it is essential to emphasize that HPV vaccination does not eliminate the need for regular cervical-cancer screening, as vaccination and screening are complementary components of effective prevention.

Eritrea's efforts should also be understood within the broader context of the country's sustained investments in public health and human development. The country has recorded notable improvements in maternal health, including a substantial reduction in maternal mortality from historically high levels. Progress has also been made in addressing female genital mutilation (FGM) and other harmful traditional practices. Life expectancy has increased considerably over the years, reflecting broader improvements in health and living conditions. Collectively, these developments underscore the importance of sustained national efforts to strengthen healthcare delivery, improve public awareness and safeguard the well-being of vulnerable populations.

Equally important, Eritrea's HPV vaccination initiative has been accompanied by efforts to expand public awareness and promote informed understanding of the virus and the protective benefits of immunization. Information and educational campaigns have been disseminated through national media outlets, including television, radio and newspapers, in the country's various languages. Complementary initiatives in schools and youth groups have sought to equip adolescents with accurate information, address misconceptions and counter misinformation surrounding the vaccine. Community-level awareness sessions and outreach activities have further helped foster public understanding, encourage participation and build confidence in preventive healthcare.

Eritrea's HPV vaccination efforts also reflect the country's constructive cooperation with international partners in advancing public-health priorities. These partnerships, grounded in trust, mutual respect and alignment with national priorities, help address locally identified gaps and strengthen the capacity of the national health system. Importantly, such cooperation supports Eritrea's own development objectives while contributing to the shared goal of improving the health and well-being of women and girls.

Crucially, the benefits of HPV vaccination extend well beyond the immediate prevention of disease. Protecting women and girls from preventable cancers contributes to their ability to pursue education, participate in the workforce and engage fully in family and community life. Reducing the burden of illness also helps ease the social and economic pressures on families and the healthcare system. In this respect, investment in HPV immunization is not simply a health intervention; it is also an investment in human development, productivity and the country's long-term socioeconomic progress.

The introduction of HPV vaccination is also consistent with Eritrea's longstanding commitment to gender equality, women's empowerment and the protection of fundamental human rights. Since achieving independence in 1991, the country has placed considerable emphasis on advancing gender justice, improving women's participation in national development and expanding access to essential social services. Incorporating HPV prevention into the national immunization framework represents another important dimension of these broader efforts, recognizing that protecting women's health is fundamental to achieving equality and meaningful social progress.

Of course, access to healthcare is a fundamental human right, and women's and girls' sexual and reproductive health forms an integral part of that right. International human-rights frameworks, including the work of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, recognize that the right to health encompasses sexual and reproductive healthcare. Similarly, the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action places considerable emphasis on improving women's access to comprehensive healthcare, including sexual and reproductive health services. It remains a landmark international framework for advancing women's rights and gender equality.

Sadly, millions of women and men around the world continue to experience the consequences of HPV-related diseases, many of which are preventable through timely vaccination, screening and appropriate healthcare. The burden falls particularly heavily on women in sub-Saharan Africa and other resource-constrained regions, where access to preventive services remains uneven. For Eritrea, the introduction of the HPV vaccine marks a meaningful step forward in protecting the health and future of women and girls. By strengthening prevention, expanding awareness and investing in the well-being of younger generations, the country is helping create conditions in which more women can lead longer, healthier and more productive lives and realize their full potential.

Culture & Arts

The Cultural Significance of Eritrean Nose Piercing

Kidane Shimendi

Beyond its aesthetic appeal, nose piercing can carry several layers of cultural significance in Eritrean communities where the practice is established. Although interpretations differ across ethnic groups, families, and generations, its meanings may encompass social status, marriage, economic security, spirituality, cultural continuity, and feminine beauty.

In some communities, nose piercing and the wearing of a nose ring have been associated with a woman's transition into adulthood and her readiness for marriage. Jewelry may communicate aspects of her social position, marital status, or place within the family and community.

Following marriage, a nose ring can become part of the adornment through which a woman expresses her identity as a wife and her connection to a new household. In this sense, the jewelry extends beyond personal decoration to reflect social relationships and customary expectations.

Such meanings are not universal, however, and their significance depends on the traditions of the particular community.

The materials used in traditional jewelry can also communicate economic standing. Gold, silver, and, in some cases, copper have been used in different forms of adornment, with their value depending on the material, craftsmanship, size, and historical context.

In communities where jewelry forms part of marriage gifts, the quality and quantity of the pieces presented may reflect the financial circumstances of the groom or his family. Nose rings, earrings, necklaces, and other ornaments can therefore function as visible expressions of prosperity and social standing.

Yet jewelry has significance beyond displaying wealth. When a woman receives precious jewelry as a marriage gift, it may become her personal property and a valuable asset. In circumstances where women retain ownership of their jewelry, these objects can provide a measure of personal financial security, preserving value that may be relied upon in times of need.

Thus, traditional jewelry can occupy an important position at the intersection of beauty, family relationships, wealth, and women's economic independence.

Body adornment has carried spiritual meanings in numerous societies throughout history, and some traditional communities have associated precious metals and jewelry with blessings, protection, and well-being.

Within certain cultural belief systems, ornaments worn around the ears, nose, or other parts of the body have been understood to offer symbolic protection against harmful spiritual influences. Precious metals may also be associated with ancestral connections, good fortune, or other forms of spiritual significance.

These interpretations should be understood within their particular cultural contexts rather than as beliefs shared by all Eritrean communities. Nevertheless, they illustrate how an object that appears decorative can also carry meanings rooted in inherited beliefs and traditional worldviews.

Perhaps one of the most enduring qualities of traditional jewelry is its ability to preserve family memory.

When a mother passes a cherished gold ring to her daughter, or when jewelry is handed down through generations of women, the object acquires a significance that goes beyond its material value. It becomes a tangible connection to the women who came before: their lives, experiences, marriages, celebrations, and family histories.

A traditional nose ring may therefore serve as more than an ornament. It can become a treasured family heirloom, carrying memories and reinforcing a sense of belonging to a wider lineage.

Through these acts of inheritance, cultural traditions remain alive within families. Each generation receives not only a physical object but also an opportunity to preserve, reinterpret, and pass on the stories associated with it.

Above all, nose piercing holds a special place in the aesthetic traditions of communities that embrace it. A carefully chosen nose ring can complement a woman's facial features, enhance the elegance of her traditional attire, and harmonize beautifully with intricate braiding and other forms of adornment.

The combination of jewelry, hairstyle, clothing, and personal presentation creates an aesthetic that is distinctly connected to cultural heritage. Each element contributes to a broader expression of femininity, grace, and identity.

The style of the nose ring may also reflect the occasion. Some women prefer small studs or delicate rings for everyday wear, while larger or more elaborate ornaments may be reserved for weddings, religious festivals, and other important celebrations. On such occasions, jewelry becomes part of a collective visual tradition, connecting personal beauty with the shared identity of the community.

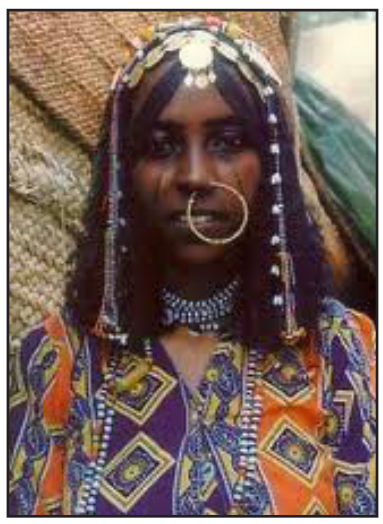
In this way, nose piercing is not simply an isolated fashion accessory. It forms part of a broader cultural language through which beauty is expressed, celebrated, and remembered.

The tradition of nose piercing offers a compelling example of the relationship between personal adornment and cultural identity. As an ancient human practice with diverse expressions around the world, it has also become part of the cultural heritage of several Eritrean communities, where its meanings extend beyond appearance to encompass marriage, social relationships, economic value, family memory, and feminine grace.

Its significance lies not only in the jewelry itself but also in the stories, customs, and relationships that surround it. A nose ring can reflect the craftsmanship of a culture, the generosity of a family, the memory of an ancestor, or the personal style of a woman who chooses to wear it.

At the same time, Eritrea's cultural diversity reminds us that there is no single definition of Eritrean beauty. The traditions of nose piercing coexist with many other forms of adornment and self-expression, each contributing to the richness of the country's cultural landscape.

Ultimately, the beauty of Eritrean nose piercing lies in its ability to connect generations while allowing each generation to express itself in new ways. It is both an ornament and a symbol, both a personal choice and, in some contexts, a collective inheritance.



Like a living museum carried through everyday life, traditional jewelry preserves fragments of history while remaining part of the present. It reminds us that beauty is not merely something to be seen; it is also something shaped by memory, belonging, and the continuity of culture.

Eritrea's Coveted Geopolitical Location …

Continued from page 2

Military competition and interventions driven by narrow interests can aggravate existing tensions, deepen divisions, and weaken the capacity of regional states to resolve their own problems.

For countries such as Eritrea, the central challenge is to safeguard sovereignty and national security while navigating an increasingly contested geopolitical environment. The ability to withstand external pressure and maintain an independent foreign policy is consequently a significant dimension of the country's regional position.

Eritrea recognizes the importance of creating cooperative and complementary relations among littoral states to safeguard the stability of the Red Sea. This aspect is well articulated in "Eritrea's stance on the Security of the Red Sea", of 23 September 2019. Eritrea joined the Council of Arab and African States Bordering the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden with the objective of contributing to collective efforts of the littoral states.

The Horn of Africa and the Red Sea, and the Specter of State Fragmentation

In his influential essay 'The Coming Anarchy', published in 1994 and subsequently developed into a book, Robert D. Kaplan 'warned of the destabilizing effects of state weakness, social fragmentation, and violent competition in parts of the developing world. His discussion of West Africa offered a particularly bleak picture of what might emerge when public institutions deteriorate and armed groups increasingly challenge the authority of the state.

Three decades later, the picture envisaged by Kaplan was mixed. West Africa has experienced both serious insecurity and important examples of political resilience. Meanwhile, many of the dangers associated with state fragmentation have become painfully evident elsewhere, particularly in the Horn of Africa and the adjoining Red Sea region.

Taken together, these crises illustrate how the erosion of state authority, the militarization of political disputes, and external interference can generate instability across interconnected geographical spaces. The danger is not simply that individual states may experience prolonged conflict, but that multiple crises may reinforce one another, creating a wider environment of insecurity.

Beyond its bilateral engagements with the concerned states aimed at contributing towards peaceful resolution of conflicts, Eritrea actively takes part in regional frameworks created by countries of the region to find solution to problems facing the region. One such recent opportunity was the Summit meeting of the Heads of States of Eritrea, Egypt, Sudan and Somalia held in El Alamein, Egypt on the 4th of October this year, which inter alia, "discussed the coordination of joint efforts to achieve regional stability, create a conducive environment for shared and sustainable development, and advance economic, trade and cultural relations…"

Eritrea's Resilience and Regional Responsibility

Against this background, Eritrea's self-reliant stance; independent foreign policy; resistance to alien/colonial occupation, sanctions and external pressures are important elements in understanding its contemporary geopolitical posture. The country's political trajectory has been shaped by a determination to defend its sovereignty and preserve its independence under difficult regional and international circumstances.

A state's capacity to maintain its political independence, protect its territory, and make sovereign decisions is consequential in a neighborhood where several countries face acute challenges to their territorial integrity and institutional cohesion.

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OPINION

A Long-Overdue Test

Bana Negusse

A few days ago, United Nations Day was commemorated at the Asmara Palace Hotel, bringing together Eritrean government officials, diplomats, representatives of UN offices, and invited guests. Speaking at the event, Foreign Minister Osman Saleh underscored the importance of national sovereignty and independence, expressing concern over regional provocations that violate the UN Charter and international law. In his message marking the occasion, UN Secretary-General António Guterres called on nations to uphold the principles enshrined in the Charter. Ms. Nahla Valji, UN Resident Coordinator in Eritrea, said that UN Day provides an opportunity each year to step back from daily work and reflect on the organization. She called on partner countries to make working together to bring about positive change a priority.

Although Eritrea is one of the world's youngest states, its history with the United Nations stretches back decades. However, despite the noble ideals and principles the organization espouses, its historical relationship with Eritrea has been marked by injustice and unfulfilled responsibilities. Today, amid renewed regional tensions and concerns over Eritrea's sovereignty, the UN has an opportunity to reaffirm its founding principles through meaningful action. While the past cannot be undone, it can still serve as a basis for a more principled approach – one that upholds Eritrea's sovereignty and territorial integrity and gives practical meaning to the Charter itself.

In the immediate post-World War II period, the UN overlooked Eritreans' legitimate calls for independence. Contrary to principles recognized by the UN, and unlike the other Italian colonies that received independence at the end of World War II (i.e., Libya and Somalia [Italian Somaliland]), Eritreans' inviolable and inalienable right to self-determination was denied. After a lengthy international process seeking to develop an "appropriate" solution to the Eritrea question, on 2 December 1950, United Nations Resolution 390 (V) was passed by the UN General Assembly. Resolution 390 (V), which was backed and sponsored by the US, extinguished Eritreans' hopes and aspirations for independence, federating Eritrea with Ethiopia as "an autonomous unit…under the sovereignty of the Ethiopian Crown."

However, Ethiopia, an absolute monarchy ruled by Emperor Haile Selassie, viewed the federal structure with disdain and contempt. In November 1962, after years of steadily erasing the federation and subjecting Eritreans to repression, violence, and persecution, the imperial regime dissolved the Eritrean parliament under force of arms and annexed Eritrea, proclaiming it as the empire's fourteenth province. Throughout this period, the UN and the international community remained silent and failed to muster a response. This was despite the fact that Eritrea had been guaranteed a review of its case by the UN if Ethiopia violated the international resolution. The UN also could not claim ignorance since many Eritrean political leaders and activists, on numerous occasions, appealed to and petitioned the organization in protest of Ethiopia's actions.

Subsequently, over a period of several decades, the UN continuously refused to hear Eritreans' calls for self-determination and protection. In fact, not once throughout the long period – from 1950 to 1991 – did Eritrea, the scene of Africa's longest war and victim of some of the grossest violations of human rights, figure on the agenda of the UN. In 1981, ten years before Eritrea would eventually gain independence, the International Commission of Jurists stated that:

"Of all the people who, since the Second World War, have been the victims of Great Power rivalries and ambitions, perhaps the one with the greatest claim for consideration is the people of Eritrea. Nevertheless, no nation has yet been willing to raise the issue of the rights of this people in the United Nations. The truth is that the 'Eritrean question' is a source of embarrassment both to the UN itself and to almost all 'interested parties'".

Nonetheless, in 1991, Eritrea was able to bring about what to many for so long seemed highly unlikely, if not essentially impossible: the defeat of Africa's largest, best-equipped army and the achievement of independence. After holding an internationally-monitored referendum two years later – with 99.81 percent of Eritreans voting for independence from Ethiopia – the country formally announced its independence. Eritrea was finally admitted to the UN as its 182nd member by General Assembly Resolution 47/230 of 28 May1993. Several months later, on 30 September, Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki addressed the 48th Session of the General Assembly. In a memorable speech, he proudly shared how the Eritrean people remained strong despite their struggle being ignored:

"[The years of] deafening silence pained our people. It also gave a free hand to the aggressors, thereby prolonging our suffering and increasing the sacrifices we had to make. But it neither shook our resolve nor undermined our belief in the justness of our cause and the inevitability of our victory. As an Eritrean proverb says: 'The rod of truth may become thinner but it cannot be broken.' Indeed, justice has finally prevailed. This is a source of hope and happiness not only for the Eritrean people, but for all those who cherish justice and peace."

However, it was not long before the UN seemed to return to old form. Although Eritrea and Ethiopia had maintained generally strong and cordial relations after Eritrea's independence, things would soon considerably deteriorate, and between May 1998 and June 2000 the two fought the largest and deadliest conventional war in contemporary African history. After the failure of several efforts by the international community to mediate an end to the conflict, the two countries signed the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities in Algiers in June 2000. Months later, in December 2000, Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki and PM Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia signed the Algiers Peace Agreement. Inter-alia, the agreement established an independent and impartial Boundary Commission to delimit and demarcate the border based on pertinent colonial treaties (from the years 1900, 1902, and 1908) and applicable international law.

After a lengthy litigation process lasting 14 months, the Eritrea Ethiopia Boundary Commission rendered its "final and binding" delimitation decision on 13 April 2002 at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague. While Eritrea accepted the decision



hoping that the final determination of the border would open doors for lasting peace and development between the two countries and the region as a whole, Ethiopia failed to do so and sought an alternative mechanism to reopen the process. The UN, as one of the witnesses and guarantors of the agreement, completely failed to shoulder its legal and moral responsibility to ensure that Ethiopia comply with the decision. For years, it stood idly by as sovereign Eritrean territories remained under an illegal military occupation.

Finally, of course, in December 2009 and December 2011, the UN Security Council adopted resolutions imposing a series of punishing sanctions on Eritrea, despite the lack of any solid evidence for the claims and allegations raised. The measures were biased, unjustified, and not rooted in a genuine concern for international peace and security. Instead, they were engineered by Western global powers in order to punish Eritrea for: a) refusing to yield its position and the legal course on the EEBC ruling, thus thwarting a key imperative for Western powers' "regional enforcer" and proxy, Ethiopia, and b) Eritrea's open and candid criticisms of flawed Western policies in the Horn of Africa. For nearly a decade, far long after the alleged pretexts for their original imposition were clearly shown to be non-existent, the unjust sanctions were maintained. Throughout, they were a great impediment to Eritrea's nation-building and development efforts and also had a negative impact on peace and cooperation in the region.

Today, the question of the UN's responsibility toward Eritrea has acquired renewed urgency. Once again, Eritrea finds itself confronting a regional climate marked by heightened tensions, hostile rhetoric, and unprovoked threats to its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Ethiopia's repeated pursuit of sovereign access to the Red Sea, including rhetoric that raises the prospect of acquiring such access by force, has heightened concerns regionally and globally.

For Eritrea, these developments are not merely another episode in the troubled history of the Horn of Africa. They raise fundamental questions about the sanctity of national sovereignty, the prohibition of the threat or use of force, and the obligation of states to resolve disputes peacefully. These are not optional principles to be invoked selectively according to the interests of powerful states or their allies. They are fundamental obligations enshrined in the UN Charter, which binds the international community irrespective of a country's size, military strength, or geopolitical significance.

It is precisely here that the UN faces a defining opportunity. Having failed Eritrea at critical junctures in its history, the organization must not repeat the mistakes of the past by remaining passive in the face of threats to the country's sovereignty. Nor should it wait until illegal threats give way to open warfare before fulfilling its responsibility to maintain international peace and security. Preventive diplomacy, unequivocal adherence to the Charter, and timely engagement by the Security Council are essential to averting further escalation.

It is true that the past cannot be undone, and no action today can restore the years lost to war, reverse the consequences of annexation, or erase the years of suffering caused by decades of international neglect. But history need not condemn the future to repetition. By acting now, the UN has an opportunity to demonstrate that the principles it failed to uphold consistently in Eritrea's past remain meaningful in the present. For Eritrea, and the world, this would be a long-overdue test of the UN Charter's credibility and the organization's willingness to defend the sovereign equality of nations.

ADS

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

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

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

ERT Coordinator Advisor
Number required – (01)
Type of contract – Definite (2 Years)

Major Duties and responsibilities

- Establish and implement Mine Emergency Response Management inclusive of Emergency Preparedness to facilitate the safe, productive and sustained operations at Asmara Mining Share Company operations.
- Develop training plans for team members and coordinate the development of their skills. Draw a succession plan for identified national ERT Coordinator, mentor, coach, competently train and handover ERT team and activities.

TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREA

- Draw a succession plan for identified national ERT Coordinator, mentor, coach, competently train and handover ERT team and activities
- Advice identified Coordinator to manage daily activities of the Emergency Response Training to ensure effective training of team members.
- Develop the competencies of the emergency response team through competency-based training and assessment.
- Drive standards incorporating international best practice in Emergency Response.

Safety

- Provide leadership coaching to the team in Emergency Response
- Develop ERT in Emergency Management Plan scenarios
- Mentor senior and intermediate management team on Emergency management.
- Provide guidance for the ERT team to work with other departments.
- Mentor & Coaching ERT team members.

Training

- Develop and provide training for the Emergency Response Team
- Ensure training and mentoring plan is implemented to standard.
- Promote training of the National workforce to encourage ERT membership.
- Training of staff in all areas of Safety & Health.

Management

- Coach national Coordinator to manage HR issues for the ERT team and co-ordinate with HR as required.
- Advise national Coordinator to manage compliance with the procedures of ERT team.
- Manage the work capability and availability of the ERT team.

Reporting

- Mentor national Coordinator to prepare monthly and quarterly reports with respect to ERT preparedness and activities.

Develop Standards

- Coach national Coordinator to ensure compliance with local and international legislation and develop relationships with local authorities and other stakeholders.
- Coach national Coordinator to develop new policies and procedures in line with international standards.

Profile: Qualifications and Experience

Formal Education, Certifications or Equivalents	• Formal qualifications in occupational health and safety or similar • Specialist training in Emergency Response related subjects
Working Experience – Nature & Length	• 10 years' experience in large open-pit and underground mining with 8 years in Emergency Response. • Experienced in Mines Rescue Teams and Emergency Preparedness. • Working knowledge in operation and risked associated with heavy mining equipment
Technical Skills	• Leadership and coaching skills in multi-disciplinary environment. • Analytical skills • Attention to detail • Plan, organize and execution skills • Valid Driver's License • Computer Literacy (MS Office – Intermediate, Excel) • Emergency Response and Management skills
Behavioral Skills	• Communication (read, write and speak English) • Strong Supervisory skills. Get things done attitude. • Good Interpersonal and mentoring skills • Commitment to deliver on agreed targets • Demonstrated team building and mentoring skills • Well organized • Commitment to nationalization of the workforce

General Information and other requirements:

- **Place of Work**: AMSC Sites
- **Type of contract:** Definite Period(2 years)
- **Salary:** As per the Company salary scale

Additional requirements for Nationals:

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

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

Please send a copy of your application to Aliens Employment Permit Affairs, P. O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea

Start with the Problem . . .

Continued from page 8

Universities must lead through targeted, applied research. At MCET's Department of Computer Science and Engineering, our primary mandate since 2018 has been applying AI to solve local problems using local data, expertise, and resources.

Under senior faculty supervision, our student research teams have already developed several key Tigrinya language tools, including:

- Speech-to-Text and Text-to-Speech engines
- English–Tigrinya Machine Translation systems
- Optical Character Recognition (OCR) for printed and handwritten scripts
- Tigrinya Grammar Error Checking tools

These methodologies can easily be adapted to support other national languages as dataset collection expands.

Beyond research, academic institutions must update their curricula to build long-term local capacity. We have restructured our degree programs at MCET so that AI forms a foundational pillar, incorporating six specialized courses on AI model development alongside comprehensive prerequisite coursework. Our graduates possess the technical baseline required to engineer modern architecture models locally.

Moving forward, the focus must shift toward transitioning these research prototypes into deployable public applications, while actively contributing to national policy frameworks in collaboration with local authorities and diaspora experts.

LETTER to the EDITOR

Speech delivered by Mr. Mehmet Küçüksakallı, Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye at Turkish Republic Day

Honorable Ministers,

Esteemed government officials and representatives of PFDJ

Distinguished Ambassadors, Heads of Missions,

Dear UN and diplomatic community members,

Dear guests

Today, we have gathered here to celebrate the 103rd anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye. This day marks not only the birth of the Republic of Türkiye from the ashes of the Ottoman Empire, but also resilience and unwavering commitment of the Turkish nation to peace, rule of law, democracy and progress.

As we reflect on our history, we honor the vision of great leader Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, who led Turkish nation first towards liberation then modernization and development. His principles continue to guide us even today.

Dear guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Türkiye, as a country located between the three continents, enjoys strong ties with the West, East and Africa and makes its contribution to global and regional peace and security. To mention some of the high level meetings that are held in Türkiye this year is a clear indication of our active role on this field.

Last summer NATO summit was held in Ankara.

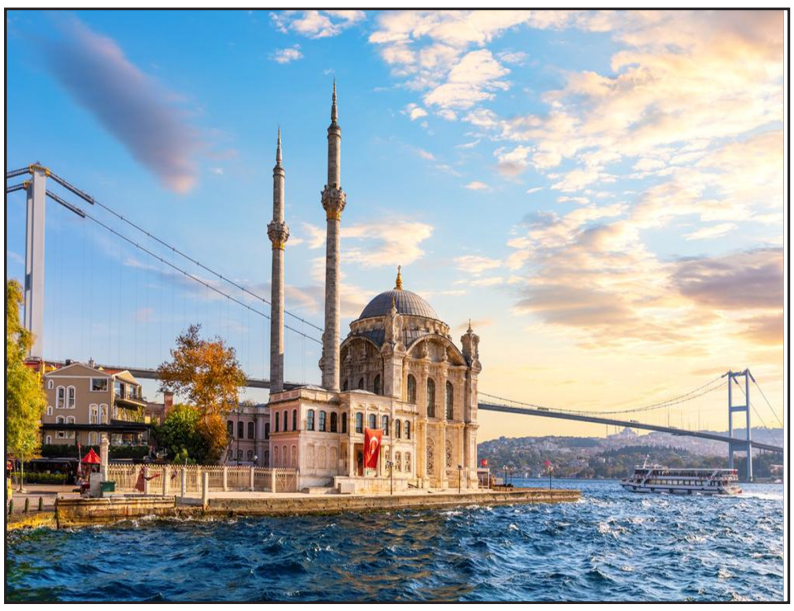
Last week the 9th Istanbul Mediation Conference took place at the Ministerial Level. Foreign Ministers of R4 (Türkiye, Egypt, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia) held talks concurrently in Istanbul with counterparts from France, Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom.

Heads of Turkic States Summit is going on as well in Türkiye.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 31st Conference of the Parties is to be held on 9-20 November 2026 in Antalya.

Dear guests,

Türkiye enjoys historic relations with African countries. Based on this solid ground, the Republic of Türkiye was among the first countries who proudly supported independence of African nations, including Eritrea. Türkiye today continues to work for the stability, security and development of African countries as a reliable partner.



As it was put forward by my President Tayyip Erdoğan in his visit to Ethiopia this year, "Turkey attaches great value on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states in the Horn of Africa. Turkiye certainly does not wish to see any further conflict or suffering added to what the region has already suffered. We believe that solutions to issues of the region should be developed by the countries of the region themselves, and that the Horn of Africa must not be turned into an arena for the rivalries of foreign powers". It is my sincere hope and wish that peace and stability prevails in the region.

Ladies and gentilmen

Türkiye, has an observer status in the African Union and strategic partner for Africa since 2008. In every 5 years in cooperation with the African Union, Türkiye-Africa Partnership Summit is held. The next one is to be held in December in Trablus, in Libya.

Since Africa has been an important pillar of Turkish foreign policy from the out set, our cooperation has become stronger during the last 25 years. As a reflection of such a strong partnership, let me share some figures:

Türkiye has 44 Embassies in Africa, 35 of them opened during the last two decades. Türkiye is also active in Africa with its public institutions such as TİKA, AFAD, Yunus Emre Institute, Maarif Foundation, Anatolian News Agency, TRT as well as private companies; the most prominent one is the Turkish Airlines.

Turkish Airlines flies to 62 destinations in 41 African countries. Its Asmara-İstanbul flights is not an air only but a friendship bridge between Eritrea-Türkiye and the rest of the World.

Turkish Cooperation Agency (TIKA) has 22 offices in Africa. 61 thousand African students are studying in Turkish Universities, 15 thousand of them are in generous Turkiye Scholarship Program. Turkish Maarif Schools are providing science education to some 22 thousand students in 25 African countries.

Turkish companies are active in the continent in many fields such as trade, infrastracture, mining, port and airport operations. Our trade with African countries is on the rise.

Dear guests,

Our relation with Eritrea is one of mutual respect and friendship, based on long common history. We value this relations and ready to enhance based on equal partnership for the benefit of two countries. I am proud to note that Eritrea and Türkiye share similar views on the regional developments such as Sudan, Somalia, Yemen and the just cause of Palestine.

Last year in December Ambassador Ali Onaner, Director General at the Turkish Foreign Ministry for the East and North Africa, visited Asmara and held comprehensive exchanges both on bilateral and regional issues with Honorable Ministers H.E. Osman Saleh, Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Yemane Ghebremeskel, Minister of Information, H.E. Hagos Ghebrehiwet, Head of PFDJ Economic Affairs and other high level government officials. It is my sincere belief that these exchanges will continue for the benefit of the two countries.

I would like to share my great appreciation for the congratulatory message by H.E. Isaias Afwerki, the President of State of Eritrea to my President H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on the occasion of this special day. I thank also for the kind words for the lasting friendship between Türkiye and Eritrea in his message.

Once again thank you all for being here with us on this very special day for Türkiye.

Thank you/ Yeğanilley /Şukran cezilen.

29 October 2026, Asmara

Eritrea's Coveted Geopolitical . . .

Continued from page 4

Eritrea's contribution to regional stability must therefore be assessed in terms of both its strategic position and its conduct. Its constructive engagement with neighboring countries, solidarity with countries and peoples facing complex nation building challenges, support for peaceful settlement of disputes, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and opposition to destabilizing external interference all contribute to a more secure regional environment.

The Eritrean Government considers its constructive role as an obligation, and its support and solidarity with the countries of the region as a solemn responsibility that is pursued with all earnestness and honesty. Indeed, this has been publicly acknowledged by its regional partners on various occasions. To mention a few of recent remarks:

- President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, "conveyed his gratitude to President Isaias Afwerki and the Eritrean people for their firm stance and support for the Government and people of Somalia."
- Sudanese Prime Minister, Dr. Kamil Idris: "Eritrea is an important country in the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea region, occupying a crucial strategic location. Its regional and international stances have always played a significant role in shaping policy. With the charisma and insightful vision that President Isaias Afwerki possesses, along with his strong ideas and intelligent mechanisms, Eritrea has an important role to play. In all situations, Eritrea has stood firmly for what is right and has supported Sudan wholeheartedly…. Therefore, due to its geographical and strategic position and its just stance, Eritrea has a pivotal role in addressing this conflict."
- Egypt's Foreign Minister, Dr. Badr Abdellaty: "[W]e view Eritrea as a fundamental pillar of stability in this troubled region, the Horn of Africa. We admire President Isaias's wisdom in managing relations with a high degree of tact, balance, and de-escalation."
- Chairperson of the AU Commission, H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf; "noted Eritrea's strategic location & potential contribution to advancing regional cooperation, development, & stability."

The Horn of Africa needs approaches that recognize and are predicated on respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all its states rather than treating the region primarily as an arena for geopolitical competition. Durable stability cannot be imposed through threats, coercion, or attempts to subordinate neighbouring countries.

Beyond Geography: Eritrea's Irreplaceable Role in the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa

Eritrea's strategic significance is a product of the interaction between geography, history, and political agency. Its Red Sea coastline places it alongside a vital maritime corridor; its historical connections link Africa and Arabia; and its experience of struggle and resistance has shaped its approach to sovereignty and national independence.

These factors assume greater importance as instability spreads across parts of the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea region. The crises in Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Yemen are distinct in their origins, but together they underscore the dangers of prolonged conflict, fragmented authority, and competition for regional influence.

The future of this strategically vital region will depend partly on whether its states and their international partners can move beyond zero-sum calculations towards arrangements grounded in mutual respect, peaceful coexistence, and shared interests.

Eritrea's strategic location and its resilience in overcoming orchestrated conflicts and external pressures, and its success in nurturing a self-reliant and resilient nation ensures that it will remain an irreplaceable stakeholder in the future of the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea
Research and Documentation Division
29 October 2026

Q and A

Start with the Problem, Not the Technology: AI and Eritrea

By: Sabrina Solomon

Dr. Yemane Keleta is a distinguished scholar and expert in computer science and engineering at the Mainefhi College of Engineering and Technology (MCET). As a leading researcher and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Dr. Yemane brings a unique blend of technical expertise and academic leadership to his department. Holding master's and doctoral degrees from Japan, he is uniquely equipped to tackle complex challenges in artificial intelligence and natural language processing. His research focuses on developing innovative, practical solutions to localized problems.

Below, Dr. Yemane shares his insights and perspectives on the evolving landscape of AI in Eritrea.



For those who want to learn about AI, where do you think they should start?

There are different starting points depending on what "knowing AI" means to you—whether it is using AI applications or building AI systems.

If the goal is simply to use AI applications, the good news is that you don't need specialized technical expertise beyond basic computer literacy. However, if your focus is content generation using chatbots like ChatGPT and Gemini, the key skill to master is prompt engineering—learning how to state your requirements clearly. You must articulate your goals without omitting crucial context or constraints so the model can narrow its output to what you actually need.

For example, instead of asking, "How do I learn AI?", it is much better to ask: "What free offline resources, daily study routines, and beginner projects should I follow to learn AI with limited internet access?"

The first question is too vague. The second provides context, constraints, and specific parameters, yielding far more actionable results. Since mobile phones are widespread even where connectivity is limited, I strongly encourage learners to take advantage of offline AI models and downloadable video tutorials to get started.

If your goal is to develop AI systems, you should begin by understanding how AI works, as well as its inherent limitations and risks. Fortunately, there are accessible video tutorials and textbooks that guide learners from fundamental concepts all the way to state-of-the-art Generative AI at their own pace. You can also use conversational AI tools to assist your learning by asking targeted questions, working through practice exercises, and building small starter projects.

What are some of the most pressing research challenges in AI today?

AI systems vary widely in the accuracy of the outputs they generate. While some deliver super-human precision, others yield useful results that still contain errors. For instance, an AI-translated text might contain grammatical flaws, but if the core intent remains clear, it is still functional. Therefore, the primary challenge remains reliability.

Furthermore, chatbots can exhibit bias, hallucinate, or present misinformation in a highly persuasive tone. Users must cultivate a habit of verifying AI-generated information against trusted sources.

Another critical challenge is access and representation. Most major models are trained predominantly on English data, making data scarcity and limited language coverage major hurdles for developing nations. For us in Eritrea, our most pressing research tasks involve building high-quality datasets in local languages, collecting locally relevant domain data (such as in agriculture and public health), and optimizing models to perform effectively on smaller datasets.

What challenges have you faced in teaching AI, and how have you overcome them?

Training AI models requires high-performance servers and dedicated cooling infrastructure to run training passes quickly, evaluate models, and make iterative adjustments to improve accuracy. Our primary constraint has historically been a lack of sufficient computing power; students were often restricted to conducting small-scale experiments on personal laptops.

However, our laboratory capabilities have improved significantly thanks to the support of patriotic nationals in the diaspora, who donated high-performance computing hardware, alongside Segen Construction, who prepared our specialized server room facility. Moving forward, our students will fully utilize this improved environment for their AI project work. We extend our sincere gratitude to all stakeholders whose continuous support made this possible.

What advice would you give to students interested in pursuing a career in AI?

My core advice to aspiring students is simple: start with curiosity, cultivate purpose, and maintain consistency.

- Curiosity drives exploration.
- Purpose keeps your efforts targeted.
- Consistency converts daily effort into genuine mastery.

Regarding technical pathways:

1. Build core foundations: Mathematics, statistics, and foundational programming are indispensable for anyone aiming to engineer AI systems. However, do not wait for ideal conditions—mobile devices and offline materials are more than enough to begin building skills today.

2. Learn by doing: Put theory into practice by using offline tools, working through structured video tutorials, and building personal projects.

3. Pursue formal study: For a professional engineering career, enroll in a structured program—such as our Department of Computer Science and Engineering at MCET, where AI is a core pillar—and supplement your coursework with independent projects. Because the field evolves rapidly, continuous self-study is the ultimate career skill.

How can local students and developers stay current with the latest advancements in AI?

While keeping pace with cutting-edge developments often requires internet access, offline-capable language models on mobile devices offer a viable alternative.

Educational media also plays an important role. Watching technology features on broadcast channels—such as Eri-TV's Tech Insight or Al Jazeera's Studio B: The AI Series—helps maintain awareness of industry trends. Additionally, whenever internet access is available, users can batch-download research papers or use AI tools to generate summaries of recent breakthroughs, making sure to verify facts against primary sources.

Where can AI effectively support education, and where must educators hold the line?

In teaching, AI assists educators by streamlining lesson planning, generating quizzes, and organizing instructional materials. This frees up instructors to focus on mentorship, direct guidance, and motivating students.

In learning, AI acts as an on-demand tutor that can explain complex concepts through multiple perspectives, generate tailored practice problems, and evaluate student responses.

In research, AI accelerates literature reviews by scanning and summarizing thousands of academic publications to uncover patterns across disciplines.

However, educators must hold the line against passive reliance. AI should support—never replace—human cognition and critical reasoning. Students should actively grapple with problems before consulting AI. When writing, students must draft their own original arguments and use AI only to critique logic, identify missing evidence, or refine style—not to generate text wholesale.

Consider a student solving a mathematical problem: AI can explain the governing principles, offer practice problems, provide hints when the student gets stuck, and verify the final answer. That is constructive support. But if the student simply prompts AI for the final answer and pastes it into an assignment, no learning occurs. Productive struggle must precede AI assistance.

What is the fundamental question an institution should ask before adopting an AI system?

AI is a tool, not an end in itself. Before adopting any solution, ministries, universities, clinics, and businesses should ask: "Is AI genuinely the right solution for this problem, or is there a simpler, more reliable alternative?"

The follow-up question must be: "Does this tool deliver a measurable increase in efficiency that clearly outweighs its operational risks and limitations?"

Because AI introduces risks related to accuracy, data privacy, and bias, its adoption is only justified when the benefits unambiguously outweigh those concerns. Always start with the problem, not the technology. If a simpler tool solves the problem effectively, use the simpler tool.

What role can universities play in digitizing local languages and creating locally grounded AI resources?

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