

## VOCATIONAL TRAINING IN THE CENTRAL REGION



The Central Region administration has provided vocational training to 340 of its members, including 124 women, in various fields.

Mr. Bereket Tadesse, head of Human Resources Development, indicated that the training covered administration and leadership, service provision, cultivation of

plants and flowers, production of organic fertilizers, as well as preparation of research papers. He said that the objective of the training was to enhance the capacity of members with a view to providing effective and timely service to the public.

Mr. Tekie Keleta, head of Administration and Finance in the region, explained that Dr. Haile Neguse, a national residing in the United States, delivered the training. He called on the trainees to practically apply the knowledge and skills they acquired in their workplaces.

Mr. Fesehaye Haile, Governor of the region, on his part, noted the significance of the training and commended all who organized the program.

## STUDENTS' SUMMER WORK PROGRAM

Coordinators of the students' summer work program in the sub-zones of Emni-Haile and Mai-Mine reported that commendable water and soil conservation activities have been carried out. The program was participated in by about 800 students, along with coordinators and agricultural experts.

In the Emni-Haile sub-zone, where 488 students took part, over 65,000 meters of terraces and 7,492 cubic meters of water catchment schemes have been constructed, and 5,000 tree seedlings have been planted.

Mr. Angesom Mihreteab, one of the coordinators, noted that beyond contributing to environmental rehabilitation, the summer work program plays a significant role in helping students build social bonds and develop work ethics.

Similarly, in the Mai-Mine sub-zone, 297 students participated in the program and constructed over 25,000 meters of terraces, more than 1,000 cubic meters of water diversion schemes, and planted tree seedlings.

Highlighting that the activities were carried out with the collaboration of students, the public, and members of the Defense Forces, Mr. Yared Gebregergis, head of the education office in the sub-zone, called for strengthened participation of all sectors of society to ensure greater success.

## TRAINING FOR PRE-SCHOOL TEACHERS

The Ministry of Education, in collaboration with partners, is providing training to 1,106 pre-school teachers, 95% of whom are women, from the regions of Anseba, Gash Barka, Northern Red Sea, and Central. The training is being conducted at Hamelmalo College of Agriculture.

Mr. Dawit Kifleyesus, member of the Human Resources Development Department at the Ministry of Education and coordinator of the program, said that the objective of the training is to expand pre-schools and improve the teaching-learning process in the schools.

The trainees include women with educational backgrounds ranging from grade eight to college, as well as 300 female members of the 37th round of the national service.

Indicating that teaching, especially pre-school teaching, requires exceptional talent, Mr. Dawit called on the trainees to properly apply the knowledge and skills they acquire in their future work.

Ambassador Abdella Musa, Governor of Anseba Region, underlined the significance of the Government's investment in human resources development and called on the trainees to live up to expectations. He also expressed the readiness of the regional administration to play its due part in the development of the sector.

## EFFORTS TO CONTROL THE PREVALENCE OF NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

An effort to control the prevalence of non-communicable diseases, including the increasing prevalence of diabetes and hypertension, is being conducted in Anseba Region.

Mr. Michael Teklay, head of non-communicable diseases control at the Ministry of Health branch in the region, said that with proper follow-up, the diseases that cause disabilities and death could be put under control.

Noting that leading causes of the diseases are associated with smoking, alcohol, and environmental pollution, and others, Mr. Michael said that these diseases have a grave

impact on the economic and social condition of individuals, society, and country. He also called for behavioral change and frequenting sports activities, and with a view to staying healthy, as well as frequent visits to health facilities to know one's health condition.

In related news, a popular campaign in collaboration with the public and Government employees has been conducted in Adi-Quala sub-zone to control the prevalence of malaria.

The popular campaign included clearing dump areas and wastes that are susceptible to breeding malaria mosquitoes.



## ENCOURAGING ACTIVITY TO EMPOWER WOMEN

The National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW) branch in the Central Region reported that encouraging efforts have been undertaken to enhance the awareness and organizational capacity of women in the region.

Ms. Alem Belai, head of the branch, said that as a result of sustainable awareness-raising activities, the number of young women joining the union has increased, and various capacity-building training programs have been organized.

She further noted that in the

recently conducted elections in the region, 25 women were elected as area administrators, 42 as managing directors, and 74 as village coordinators. She also called for strong participation of women to achieve even greater things.

Ms. Alem indicated that a workshop reviewing women's participation in development programs was conducted in collaboration with the Agriculture and Land Department of the Central Region under the theme "Women and Agriculture." Female

students who scored high marks in the school-leaving and eighth-grade national examinations were awarded, and an awareness campaign was carried out to encourage women to voluntarily donate blood to enrich the supply of the National Blood Transfusion Service.

She also said that strengthening the organizational capacity of women, as well as organizing training programs for newly elected women and other initiatives, is among the future plans of the branch.



## Statement by Mr. Estifanos Afeworki, Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan and Head of Delegation of the State of Eritrea to TICAD9

H.E. Mr. KISHIDA Fumio, Representative of the Government of Japan, Former Prime Minister of Japan

H.E. Mr. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, AU Chairperson, President of Angola

Let me begin by expressing our delegation's utmost appreciation for the invitation extended to the State of Eritrea by Japan to participate in the Ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD9), being held in the City of Yokohama from August 20 to 22, 2025.

It is also an honor for me, to take this opportunity, to join hands with all the esteemed participants of this event and to express our gratitude to the co-organizers for their constructive contributions made for the successful preparation of this important conference.

Regional peace and security dilemmas currently facing the Middle East, the Horn of Africa, and the Nile Basin countries are of strategic concern to my Government of Eritrea—which is in a crucial period of building a nation-state of economic strength, home-grown consensus on human security, culture, politics, democracy, and governance as the main essence and benchmark of its future growth. A nation

straddling 3,300 kms on the Red Sea, which includes 354 islands in one of the main trade corridors of the world with its future pegged on a safe, peaceful, secure, economically integrated, and competitive neighborhood.

People in the region deserve, more than at any time in their recent history, peace not wars and conflicts, be it covert or overt. It is imperative for TICAD9 to limelight and join future mutual efforts in maintaining stability and prosperity in this strategic region in particular.

Peace and security are not a choice but a must for our region and for the planet. Developed economies have much to benefit from this trajectory of history because essential energy and critical mineral resources do matter to their economies more than at any time now.

In brief, TICAD9's focus on building a win-win, robust bridge



of energy and mineral resources diplomacy for the transfer of technology, know-how, and capital is the only viable future, not conflicts and wars now. Powers in the region should desist from

the temptations of militarization, proxy wars to revive historical military engagements because current global economic crisis status deserve a better option, with unwavering recognition of

international law, UN and the African Union Charters.

*Thank you.*  
City of Yokohama,  
August 20–22, 2025

## Ethiopia's Expansionist Ideology . . .

*Continued from page 5*

The Emperor then turned his attention towards the port of Djibouti. Again, the advisor rendered the Emperor's ambitions as unwinnable on the grounds that this would cause trouble with France, which ruled Djibouti and was one of the main allies of the United States. After that, it was the advisor that made a proposal.

After World War II ended with victory for the Allied forces and the defeat of Italy, Eritrea and Somaliland came under British military rule while Ethiopia regained its independence under Emperor Haile Selassie. Keenly aware of the prevailing circumstance, John Spencer took advantage of this opening to turn the emperor's attention to Eritrea to quench Ethiopia's thirst for ports and sea outlet. Emperor Haile Selassie had concerns and asked if "it was possible to annex Eritrea" since it was under the British military administration at the time. Whatever trick he had up his sleeve, John Spencer reassuringly dispelled the emperor's concerns by saying, "don't worry about it; just leave it to us. The US government will prepare a plan to realize this goal." Thereafter, Emperor Haile Selassie, convinced by John Spencer's advice, turned

his full attention towards Eritrea for the realization of his ambitions.

Following the defeat of Italy, the Paris Peace Treaty of 1947 was signed to determine the fate of the former Italian colonies – Eritrea, Libya, and Somalia. The Treaty entrusted the Allied powers (USA, UK, France, and the Soviet Union) to decide the future of the Italian colonies within one year. If they could not agree, the matter was to be referred to the UN General Assembly (Alemseged Tesfai, *An African People's Quest for Freedom and Justice*, p. 101).

The British proposed to partition Eritrea, with the western parts going to Sudan and the highlands and coastal areas awarded to Ethiopia. The US oscillated but ultimately proposed Eritrea to form a full union with Ethiopia. France proposed that Eritrea remain under Italian trusteeship, while the Soviet Union supported international trusteeship. As they could not agree on the future of Eritrea, the matter was referred to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1948 as previously agreed. It's to be noted here that Ethiopia supported the British partition plan when full ownership seemed unlikely to succeed (Alemseged Tesfai, *An African People's Quest for Freedom and Justice*, p. 122-

123). Eventually, through the 1950 UNGA decisions, Libya and Somalia were granted independence while Eritrea was forced into a dubious "federation" with Ethiopia.

It was the US that hatched and sponsored this so-called "federation" with the dual aim of realizing imperial Ethiopia's sea ambition and guaranteeing US strategic and security interests in the Red Sea. Indeed, recently declassified documents of the US State Department's Office of the Historians, titled "Disposition of the former Italian Colonies", clearly spell out the true objective of the Federal Act. The memorandum prepared by the Joint Chiefs of Staff stated "as to the nature of the rights in Eritrea, the Joint Chiefs of Staff would state categorically that the benefits now resulting from operation of our telecommunications center at Asmara—benefits common and of high military importance to both the United States and Great Britain—can be obtained from no other location in the entire Middle East-Eastern Mediterranean area. Therefore, United States rights in Eritrea should not be compromised."<sup>3</sup> Instead, the Eritrean people's rights were sacrificed!

Support for Ethiopia, "the

strategic ally", took precedence over Eritrea's legitimate rights of self-determination. And it was substantial support given by the US government infiltrated platforms that availed it opportunities to influence the process. For instance, Edward Mulcahy was an American diplomat who served as the consular officer in Eritrea from December 1949 till 1952. In a 1989 interview with journalist Charles Stuart Kennedy, Mulcahy notes that he had been assigned to Asmara just as "the UN Commission of Inquiry, on which we were not represented, was going out to recommend to the General Assembly what the future of Eritrea should be. They wanted me to get out there and keep Washington informed on a daily basis, if possible, what the tilt of the report or recommendations of this UN Commission of Inquiry would be. It consisted of South Africa, Burma, Guatemala, Norway, and a number of people from the secretariat, including two Americans. I lived in the hotel, the principal hotel, where they lived and saw them at practically all meal times and entertained them over at the small military base, then called Radio Marina."<sup>4</sup> Reading between the lines, it is not difficult to imagine the level of influence Mulcahy's relationship with the Commission had on the latter's report and recommendations.

**ERITREA  
PROFILE**

**Published Every  
Wednesday & Saturday**

**Editor-In-Chief  
Amanuel Mesfun**

**Asst. Editor-In-Chief  
Sirak Habtemichael**

P.O.Box: 247

Tel: 11-41-14

Fax: 12-77-49

E-mail:

eritreaprofilemoi@gmail.com

Advertisement: 12-50-13

**Layout**

**Azmera Berhane  
Betelhiem Tadesse**



# Turning the Tide Through Persistent and Holistic Efforts

*Bana Negusse*

Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) remains one of the most pressing global challenges in advancing gender equality and safeguarding human rights. Defined as the partial or total removal of external female genitalia – or other injury to female genital organs – for non-medical reasons, it causes immediate and long-term physical, psychological, and social harm. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that more than 200 million girls and women across Africa, the Middle East, and Asia have undergone FGM/C. While the practice is deeply entrenched in many societies, global momentum against it has been steadily growing. Among the countries that have achieved tangible progress, Eritrea stands out as an example of how sustained and comprehensive efforts can bring about dramatic change.

For generations, FGM/C was widespread in Eritrea, cutting across socioeconomic, ethnic, linguistic, and religious boundaries. Rooted in patriarchal norms and reinforced by cultural expectations, it was seen as essential for ensuring a girl's marriage prospects, preserving her "purity," and preparing her for adulthood. Communities regarded it as a rite of passage despite its damaging consequences. Families feared stigma and rejection if they failed to conform, and myths – including the mistaken belief that it was a religious requirement – helped perpetuate the practice. Against this backdrop, Eritrea's journey toward abandonment has been remarkable, demonstrating how legal, social, and cultural strategies can combine to dismantle even the most deeply rooted traditions.

A pivotal moment came in 2007 with the passage of Legal Proclamation No. 158, which outlawed FGM/C. The law introduced strict penalties for practitioners – whether traditional or medical – as well as for those who promoted, facilitated, or failed to report the practice. This legal action was built on earlier steps taken during the independence struggle, when the Eritrean People's Liberation Front



(EPLF) had already denounced and discouraged FGM/C. With the new law, Eritrea sent a strong message: FGM/C was not only harmful but also unacceptable in a society committed to protecting the dignity and rights of its citizens.

Yet the government recognized that criminalization alone could not uproot a practice so closely tied to identity and community life. Laws without cultural change risked driving FGM/C underground. To prevent this, Eritrea and its partners launched nationwide awareness and advocacy campaigns. Collaborating with groups such as the National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW), the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students, and international organizations including UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, and UNAIDS, they developed a comprehensive approach that combined education, media outreach, and grassroots engagement.

The role of NUEW has been especially pivotal. Operating in all six zones and their 67 subdivisions, NUEW brings together more than 300,000 members and a network that reaches 90 percent of Eritrean villages across all ethnic groups. As a women-led movement, it has been active since its inception in promoting the elimination of FGM/C and other harmful practices through dialogues at community, regional, and national levels, anchoring national efforts

in local realities. reproductive health services to survivors, while also encouraging public commitments to abandon FGM/C. Schools nationwide have integrated FGM/C education into their curricula, equipping younger generations with knowledge and fostering progressive attitudes. Religious and traditional leaders – whose influence is critical in shaping community norms – have also been engaged to clarify that no faith requires the practice and to support its eradication.

The impact of this multifaceted approach has been substantial. Mapping studies led by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, in collaboration with NUEW and international partners, have documented the decline. The prevalence of FGM/C among girls under 15 fell from 33.2 percent in 2010 to 18.2 percent in 2014, and then to just 2.3 percent by 2020. Among girls under five, the decline was even steeper: from 12.4 percent in 2010 to 6.9 percent in 2014, and then to only 0.54 percent in 2020. These are more than statistics – they reflect profound changes in family decisions, community attitudes, and the prospects of a new generation of girls.

Recent progress underscores the depth of this transformation. In 2024, public declarations in 460 villages, representing more than half a million people, demonstrated a powerful collective commitment to ending FGM/C. To sustain these commitments, Eritrea introduced community-led surveillance systems that monitor compliance across all six administrative

zones. As a direct result, 136,966 girls were protected from FGM/C in 2024 alone, marking a decisive step toward nationwide abandonment.

Equally important is the shift in perceptions. Communities that once enforced the practice through stigma are now publicly rejecting it. Awareness of the law is widespread, and more Eritreans (both men and women) recognize FGM/C as a violation of rights rather than a cultural necessity. Instead of being associated with honour and identity, the practice is increasingly seen as harmful, unequal, and outdated.

Eritrea's experience offers valuable lessons, showing that progress requires more than a single intervention. Laws matter, but they must be reinforced with education, grassroots mobilization, and survivor support. Community buy-in is essential, and public dialogue is often more effective than top-down enforcement in shifting norms. Importantly, Eritrea's progress demonstrates that meaningful change is possible even in resource-constrained settings when political will and community commitment align.

The decline of FGM/C in Eritrea is not only a public health success. It is a human rights victory. It demonstrates that harmful practices, no matter how deeply entrenched, can be dismantled through persistent and holistic efforts. While challenges remain, the progress achieved so far points to a safer, more equitable future for Eritrean girls and women.



# OPINION

## Revitalizing and Scaling up the “Medeber Model” Across Eritrea

Kidanemariam Feday



Medeber, with its graceful entrance and century-old legacy, has long stood as one of Asmara's most vibrant hubs of craftsmanship, recycling, and commerce. A lifeline for hundreds of families, it embodies Eritrean ingenuity, self-reliance, and the spirit of turning limitations into possibilities. The site represents an organic system of innovation and survival that has supported generations, but it now faces new challenges and opportunities that call for modernization and expansion.

Before entering through its historic gates, visitors encounter a mosaic of roadside shops interspersed with welding stalls, sharpening services, and maintenance workshops. Inside, the rhythm intensifies the hammering of chisels, the hum of drills, and the whir of saws blend into a living melody of industrious activity. Women spice traders, mostly small-scale entrepreneurs, clean and grind berbere, shiro and other staples of Eritrean cuisine, filling the air with aromas that embody tradition and resilience.

Medeber; born out of necessity and creativity, is far more than a market; it is a living training ground, an incubator of small enterprises, and a place where scrap and discarded materials are given new life. Long before the term “circular economy” became fashionable, Medeber was already practicing it through waste minimization, material reuse, and resourcefulness.

Image Eritrean cities from Keren to Massawa, Mendefera to Barentu, each with their own “Medeber Model.” The time has come to expand this legacy into a modern and scalable national

model. These would not simply replicate Asmara's century old model, but rather build on its core principles while addressing shortcomings and adapting to each city's unique demographics, culture, economy, infrastructure and environment that will ensure that its benefits reach wider communities.

This requires careful feasibility studies and expert assessments to determine viability, sustainability and long-term impact. The government and municipal authorities play a central role in supporting the idea and securing appropriate land, integrating sites into urban planning and creating an enabling environment for these noble ideas to thrive. With this support, the new Medeber models can emerge as clean, safe and modern hubs of craftsmanship, learning and enterprise.

The vision is to create safe, modern and inclusive spaces where artisans, entrepreneurs and innovators can flourish. Organized layouts would allow efficient use of land and resources, with workshops for metal, wood, pottery, weaving,

leather, stonework, and electronic recycling. Safety standards, fire prevention systems, medical clinics, and emergency access routes would protect artisans and visitors alike. Graceful entrance designs, echoing the historic charm of Asmara's Medeber, would symbolize pride, heritage, and city identity. By offering exhibition halls, cultural spaces, and sales outlets, these centers could attract customers, tourists, and investors while promoting a distinct “Made in Medeber” brand.

Scaling up the Medeber model



will create jobs, strengthening economic inclusion and social cohesion. Dedicated spaces for the disabled war veterans, women entrepreneurs, and others will ensure social equity and financial inclusion. The models will serve as a springboard for micro,

small, and medium enterprises, reduce dependence on imports, and reinforce Eritrea's self-reliant development strategy. By modernizing traditional crafts and introducing new tools, technology, and safety standards, the Medeber model can preserve heritage while embracing innovation.

Partnerships with vocational institutions will ensure continuous upgrading of skills, safety awareness, and entrepreneurial knowledge, enabling artisans to adapt to changing market demands while

work and learning opportunities helps create a more inclusive, resilient community centered economy.

Experiences from other African countries offer valuable lessons. The Langa Recycled Art Center in South Africa demonstrates how discarded materials can be transformed into unique art and commercial value, while the WEEE Center in Kenya demonstrates how electronic waste can be converted into employment and environmental protection. These models illustrate the importance of integrating training, access to finance, healthcare, market linkages and digital literacy into artisan hubs. Eritrea's Medeber expansion can incorporate such lessons while adapting them to its unique cultural and economic setting.

Realizing this vision will require strong collaboration and coordination among municipalities, national planning bodies, architects, engineering associations, financial institutions, and communities. Government support is indispensable and the involvement of investors and the Eritrean diaspora can also contribute expertise and financial resources. Innovative financing mechanisms, such as pre-selling workshop spaces, could generate early financing and strengthen local ownership.

Ultimately, Medeber is more than a marketplace; it is a mindset. It reflects Eritrea's ability to transform scarcity into opportunity and tradition into progress. Revitalizing and scaling up this model from a single site in Asmara into a nationwide network of artisans and recycling hubs will not only preserve cultural heritage but also foster modern urban development, environmental stewardship, and inclusive economic growth.

By making a bold and collective decision to modernize Medeber, Eritrea can pioneer a model of city-based circular economies in the Horn of Africa and set an example that tradition and progress are not in conflict, but rather, together form the foundation of a shared and prosperous future.



# OPINION & ANALYSIS

## Ethiopia's Expansionist Ideology: The Quintessential Allegory of the Cave

By Sultan Mohammedsied Omer (English Translation and Contribution: Debesai Tesfu)

I recently submitted this article to a major Ethiopian media outlet, recognizing its wide circulation, which could help reach a wider Ethiopian audience and tackle the myriad disinformation and misinformation afflicting our southern neighbors. I was not shocked by their refusal, but by their reasoning. The media outlet explained that it “prohibits providing a platform for content that could harm Ethiopia’s national interest.” The platform recognized Ethiopia’s right to (sovereign) access the sea, which Ethiopian officials have consistently pursued through peaceful and constructive negotiations. I leave it to the reader to judge if Ethiopia’s national interests are ill-served by this article and if engaging the platform was wasteful.

How and why was Ethiopia motivated to claim Eritrea in the 1940s? Was it Haile Selassie’s first target? What was John Spencer’s role in this? Where have we seen this “give-and-take” idea before? Where will the daily saber-rattling by the Ethiopian regime and its supporters take the country and the region at large? The article, a condensed translation of the original Tigrigna article “ግንባታ ባሕር – ሃገራ በግድገዳ፣ ኣለገሪ”, will chronologically cover these topics.

Plato’s allegory of the cave portrays mentally conditioned prisoners, shackled at neck and ankle, held captive inside a cave while a bonfire burns behind them in the middle of it. The prisoners cannot see anything beyond the shadow on the wall in front of them that is created by the fire’s flickering reflection. As a result, they perceive this shadow as the entirety of existence. Like the prisoners in Plato’s cave, several Ethiopian pundits, political groups, and their adherents remain imprisoned by the delusional agenda that owning a sea coast will solve the country’s economic and geopolitical issues.

### Introduction

The purpose of this article is to urge this category of Ethiopians to courageously challenge the learned history and narratives that have been ingrained in them. It is a gentle reminder for them to recognize and reject the misguided ambition that

has plunged their fertile land into the swamp of poverty for way too long.

The September 1991 edition of the “Harbegna” (i.e., “Patriot”) magazine aptly captured Eritrea’s enduring belief in cooperative partnerships. In an article titled “Interview with comrade Isaias Afwerki”, the magazine asked about future relations with neighboring countries. Isaias Afwerki, the then Secretary General of Eritrean People’s Liberation Front (EPLF) and current President of Eritrea, explained that “with Ethiopia and Sudan, for example, we can fight external pressures and conspiracies together, cooperate in capital investment through joint programs, use each other’s resources to eradicate external dependence. Therefore, instead of just arranging our own, separate programs, it is undoubtedly better to work by charting programs with extensive and far-reaching implications. Our thinking must also broaden on par with this level. This may have previously existed only as an idea. However, I think it is important to have keen awareness and understanding of it now as it is heading towards becoming a reality.”

Based on this prudent principle, the Eritrean government closed the past dark history of oppression and massacres, without demanding any compensation or apology from the Ethiopian Government, and allowed Ethiopia to use Eritrean ports under preferential terms in the early years of independence. This stance did not change even after the post-independence invasions. On March 24, 2000, in the middle of the war, Eritrea opened its Assab port for use by the international aid effort that was mobilized to feed a large section of the Ethiopian population. But Ethiopian authorities rejected the humanitarian offer.

Ethiopian leaders, unfortunately, have not availed themselves of Eritrea’s good neighborliness. A 2024 strategy document released by the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA) under the title of “The Grand Strategy of Two Waters” confirmed Eritrean ports are indeed open for Ethiopian use. This document admitted, “Since our relations normalized in 2018, the Eritrean side demonstrated a desire to resume port services. However,

### (Part One)

this is not sustainable. In summary, internal and external factors have constrained Ethiopia’s aspirations of port ownership. The document argued that these “obstacles” cannot be overcome unless Ethiopia ignores international and regional laws, including its neighbors’ territorial integrity and sovereignty, it will not succeed in owning its own ports.

These days, as before, some Ethiopian elites and others within the ruling party are planting seeds of hatred and protracted hostility that will deprive the Horn of Africa peace for generations to come. Armed with the evil slogan used to agitate for war, “where there is hunger, the law is of no avail,” they are trumpeting mendacious propaganda ad nauseam to enable their expansionist political discourse to garner the desired attention they so believe. It’s claimed that Ethiopia’s population-driven economic crisis was caused by the lack of a sovereign sea outlet that it “had owned but lost”. The last assertion is patently false. And, international law does not recognize population size or economic “need” as legitimate basis factors for gaining sovereign access to the sea. If that was the case, it would open a Pandora’s Box of territorial disputes globally.

In a speech to the House of Representatives, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed had the temerity to justify his expansionist plans by claiming that “Ethiopia has a natural right to have a sovereign gateway to the Red Sea... the Red Sea is Ethiopia’s natural border and that this is supported by historical, geographical, racial, ethnic and economic arguments. Moreover, for Ethiopia, not directly owning an outlet in the Red Sea is a matter of existence.”

Suddenly, taking their cue from the Prime Minister and discarding their previous praise of Eritrea as their sole “friend during the hard times”, the regime’s propagandists began unleashing venomous barrage of attacks against Eritrea’s independence and sovereignty.

Whenever this undying expansionist ambition is raised in Eritrea, there is a widespread view that all arguments made by Ethiopia are illegitimate and therefore it is pointless and a waste

of time to entangle oneself in their ridiculous agenda. However, it is important to tirelessly repeat the obvious and objective truth to refute their lies from misleading, especially the Ethiopian people.

Going back in time, Ethiopia reached the Red Sea coast for the first time in its history in 1952, after illegally annexing Eritrea under the guise of a “Federation” endorsed by foreign superpowers. For 39 years, until 1991, it violently controlled the coast through reign of terror and widespread massacres.

### Ethiopia during the 20<sup>th</sup> century

In the beginning of the 20th century, when the whole of Africa came under European colonization, Robert Pete Skinner, the United States Consul General in France, established an office in the port city of Marseille. The American diplomat was captivated by the bountiful raw materials being transported to this city bustling with commercial activities. Hence, he set out to undertake further research on the source. As he observed the variety of supplies being unloaded from the ships, he realized the significant amount of profit Europe was collecting from its exploitation and plundering of Africa’s resources. It was then that he schemed to make his country a beneficiary of this blessing.

Until this period in time, the United States had shown little interest in Africa. That is why Robert Skinner repeatedly messaged his government, doing his utmost to draw attention to, and capitalize on, the potential of this rich continent.

There were two points that motivated his country’s effective use of Ethiopia as the gateway to enter Africa. The first was that Ethiopia (then called Abyssinia) was the only African territory that had not fallen under European colonial rule and was thus unrivaled while the second being that the recently crowned emperor was eager to establish trade relations with foreign powers. Also at that time, the United States was beginning to change its isolationist stance. President William McKinley, before his assassination, had said that “indeed, the politics of isolationism is no longer viable for us, neither do we desire it.”

and based on the scheme he designed, Skinner endeavored hard to establish contact with Ethiopia, which he dubbed “the country chosen to play a major role in Africa’s future”. As a result of his efforts, President Theodore Roosevelt allowed Skinner to lead a delegation and visit the emperor. It was after this visit that the United States established official diplomatic relations with the Abyssinian kingdom and signed various trade deals (Ruth Simon, Ethiopia: Kabey Nabey). As an outcome of this contact, Addis Ababa became the location of the first American consulate in Africa in 1903. Thereafter, the belief that the only way to secure US interests in Africa in general, and in East Africa in particular, was by placing Ethiopia at the center of this strategic network of interests became ingrained in the thinking of US politicians and policy pundits. That is why Ethiopia was chosen as the anchor country in the region. But in order for Ethiopia to fulfill its chosen mission of protecting American interests, there must be a “clientele regime” in the country. That is what happened.

### “Through Eritrea, to the sea” John Spencer

In modern Ethiopian history, initiatives and conspiratorial schemes to attain a sea outlet began during the reign of Emperor Haile Selassie. At that time, Ethiopia’s focus was on ports belonging to three different countries. The port of Zeila in Somalia; the port of Djibouti; and the Eritrean ports of Assab and Massawa. When Emperor Haile Selassie set his eyes on these four ports, he was not trying to reclaim what he lost, rather he was vying to attain what he previously never had.

This is where the truth begins. The port of Zeila was the primary focus of the Emperor’s attention. However, the Emperor’s adviser, John Spencer, in his memoir “Ethiopia at Bay: A Personal Account of the Haile Selassie Years”, documented in detail (from p. 141) that since the port was under British rule and Britain being a close ally of the United States, he advised the emperor that pursuing the port of Zeila would be viewed as open hostility towards Britain and therefore impossible to execute.

*C*ontinued on page 2

Inspired by this policy change



**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;

**Electrician Powerhouse**  
**Number required – (2)**  
**Type of contract – Indefinite**

**Major Duties and responsibilities**

- The Electrician at Powerhouse is responsible for maintaining, repairing, and ensuring the optimal performance of HFO/diesel engines and auxiliary electrical systems within the power plant.
- This role involves performing routine maintenance and troubleshooting electrical issues
- This person will report to the Electrical Supervisor, Power House.

**TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREA**

- Ensures compliance with quality, health and safety rules, guidelines, and regulations.
- Ensures that subordinate colleagues work safely, assist the supervisor to accomplish inspection of work areas and lead daily Toolbox meetings.
- Oversees the activities of the power plant shift operators to ensure adherence to operational protocols as well as safe and efficient plant performance.
- Monitors equipment in the Powerhouse via the available control system for generators as well as the associated auxiliary equipment.
- Detects evidence of operating problems and communicates with the shift supervisor.
- Records powerhouse critical data at the set intervals.
- Opens/closes valves and switches in sequence to start or shut down equipment whenever required as per available SOPs.
- Knowledge of safety practices and procedures to be observed within the power plant environment.
- Reads meters, gauges for recording and controls devices for purposes of process control.
- Ability to carry out oral and written instructions given by the Shift Supervisor.
- Communicates with major power consumers' representatives/ stakeholders regarding load status, switching and other critical information.
- Conducts risk assessments and hazard identification before carrying out any task.

**Profile: Qualifications and Experience**

Formal Education, Certifications or Equivalent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum Technical College Electrical Certificate</li> <li>• Trade qualifications as an Electrician or equivalent</li> </ul>
Working Experience – Nature & Length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Min 3 years' experience in an HFO Power station environment or similar industrial-scale plant as an Electrician.</li> <li>• Sound knowledge of preventive maintenance programs</li> <li>• Functional communication in English is mandatory.</li> </ul>

Technical Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of installation and maintenance electrical equipment for HFO/Diesel power plant gensets and related auxiliary equipment.</li> <li>• Expertise in reading and interpreting electrical and circuit diagrams, flow charts and other related electrical drawings.</li> <li>• Knowledge of electrical safety standards, codes and practices for incident prevention, particularly LOTOTO.</li> <li>• Basic knowledge of PLC controls and automation is an advantage.</li> <li>• Analytical skills and Attention to detail.</li> <li>• Decision making and Problem-solving skills</li> </ul>
Behavioral Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety leadership by example</li> <li>• Good interpersonal skills</li> <li>• Ability to work under pressure with challenging targets</li> <li>• High level of initiative</li> <li>• Demonstrated training and people development skills.</li> <li>• Strong interpersonal relationship-building skills and adaptability to work with people of different cultures.</li> </ul>

**General Information and other requirements:**

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

**Additional requirements for Nationals:**

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

- **Address: Please mail your applications to;**  
**Asmara Mining Share Company,**  
**P. O. Box 10688 Asmara, Eritrea**
- **Applicants shall be required to send a copy to:**  
**Mineral Resources Management**  
**P.O. Box – 272**  
**Asmara**
- **Note to Eritrean applicants:**  
**Please send a copy of your application to**  
**Aliens Employment Permit Affairs,**  
**P. O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea**



**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;**

**Mechanic Power House  
 Number required – (8)  
 Type of contract – Indefinite**

**Major Duties and responsibilities**

- The Mechanic at Powerhouse is responsible for maintaining, repairing, and ensuring the optimal performance of HFO/ diesel engines and auxiliary mechanical systems within the power plant.
- This role involves performing routine maintenance, troubleshooting mechanical issues.
- This person will report to the Mechanical Supervisor, Power House.

**TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREA**

- Follows the AMSC health and safety rules, guidelines, and regulations.
- Attends and takes part in daily Toolbox meetings for enhancing safety at the workplace.
- Conducts risk assessments and hazard identification before carrying out any task.
- Fulfills safety requirements at the workplace, including leading Field Level Risk Assessment (FLRA) and proper use of the appropriate PPE. Reports any safety issues/incidents.
- Follows direct instructions from Mechanical Supervisor Powerhouse.
- Performs installation, maintenance, and repair of HFO/Diesel engine mechanical and associated auxiliary equipment within the Powerhouse.
- Maintains control of plant tools, manuals, repair parts, assemblies, and consumables.
- Capable of reading and disseminating information from schematics and maintenance manuals.
- Ensure maintenance works in compliance with norms and standards applicable in Eritrea.
- Inspect assigned work units to ensure schedules and objectives are attained.
- Maintain his/her equipment clean as well as that of the site under his/her responsibility.
- Maintains detailed records of maintenance activities, repairs, and inspections as per the maintenance management system.
- Collaborates with other tradespeople to ensure work is completed on time and to a high standard.

**Profile: Qualifications and Experience**

Formal Education, Certifications or Equivalent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum Mechanical Trade or Vocational certificate</li> <li>• Technical school certificate</li> </ul>
--	--

Working Experience – Nature & Length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Min 3 years’ experience in a Power station environment, heavy diesel equipment workshop or other heavy industries as a mechanic or fitter.</li> <li>• Basic knowledge of medium speed diesel engine operations, mechanical systems, and maintenance techniques</li> <li>• Functional communication in English is mandatory.</li> </ul>
Technical Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mechanical knowledge of HFO/Diesel power plant gensets and related auxiliary equipment.</li> <li>• Ability to read and interpret equipment manuals.</li> <li>• Proficiency in using and maintaining a variety of mechanical special tools and equipment.</li> <li>• Analytical skills and Attention to detail.</li> <li>• Problem-solving skills</li> </ul>
Behavioral Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety conscious.</li> <li>• Good interpersonal skills</li> <li>• Ability to work under pressure with challenging targets</li> <li>• High level of initiative</li> <li>• Communication (English)</li> <li>• High level of accuracy</li> <li>• Self-motivation</li> </ul>

**General Information and other requirements:**

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

**Additional requirements for Nationals:**

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

- **Address: Please mail your applications to;**  
**Asmara Mining Share Company,  
 P. O. Box 10688 Asmara, Eritrea**

- **Applicants shall be required to send a copy to:**  
**Mineral Resources Management  
 P.O. Box – 272  
 Asmara**

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



# YouTubers Rama and Luis Share Their Impressions of Eritrea

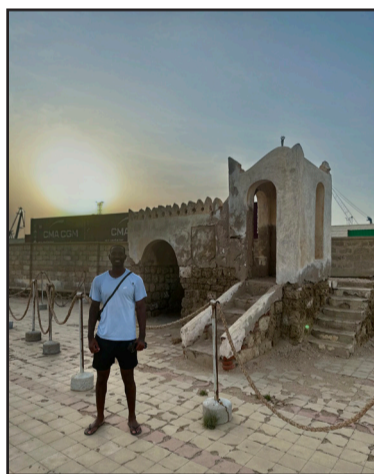
Milka Teklom

Let's start from the beginning. What made you choose Eritrea as your next destination?

Rama: Honestly, Eritrea had been on my mind for a while. I kept hearing Asmara being described as a "time capsule," and that deeply intrigued me. As a travel content creator, I'm always on the hunt for places that challenge expectations.

Luis: For me, Africa is home, but even within our own continent, each country tells an entirely different story. I'd read about Eritrea's Italian-era architecture, its quiet streets, and how it doesn't quite match the stereotypical images people have of Africa. I wanted to see that difference with my own eyes.

You spent five days in Eritrea. How did you divide your time?



Luis at the Sahaba Mosque

Luis: We planned the trip to get both the highland and coastal experiences: three days in Asmara, then two in Massawa. That way, we would feel the contrast—not just in climate, but also in pace and atmosphere.

Rama: And trust me, the contrast was real. Asmara is cool, breezy, and almost meditative. Massawa hits you with that humid, salty air and a completely different energy.



Himberti Natural Lake

In this feature, we sat down with two adventurous content creators—Rama from Spain and Luis from Equatorial Guinea—who recently spent five days exploring Eritrea. From the tranquil charm of Asmara to the coastal allure of Massawa, they share their impressions, highlights, and the moments that left them speechless.

What were your first impressions of Asmara?

Rama: The peace. That's the first thing that hits you. It's not the kind of calm that feels empty—it's peaceful yet alive. People go about their day without the rush you find in most capitals. Then you start to notice the Art Deco buildings, each with its own charm. It's like walking through a living architectural museum.

Luis: I remember your face when we saw the Fiat Tagliero for the first time. You were geeking out.

Rama: Oh, totally. But I think that was your highlight more than mine. For me, it was the Laka Market—so full of colors, voices, and smells. And then, the tank graveyard. Rusting, silent, yet almost poetic in its stillness.

Any memorable moments with the locals?

Rama: Absolutely. One day, we visited a village on the outskirts of Asmara. A family welcomed us into their traditional home. They told us stories about their lives and what the village means to them, and they served us traditional food, which was delicious. The hospitality felt



In the compound of Enda Maryam

completely genuine.

Luis: That was a beautiful day. I think that's something people often forget—travel isn't just about landmarks, it's about human connection.

You also explored Himberti, a town a few kilometers from Asmara. What was that like?

Rama: Incredible. It was like stepping into another layer of history. The cave paintings were mesmerizing—you can almost feel the centuries in those faded strokes. Then there's the natural lake nearby, calm as glass. We climbed to this vantage point where you can see the farmland stretching around the village like a patchwork quilt. That view stays with you.

Luis, you seemed particularly taken with some places in Asmara. Tell us about them.

Luis: Cinema Roma was an absolute treat. Imagine watching a movie in a place that feels stuck in the 1950s, but in the best way possible. Then the fruit and vegetable stalls—I loved the vibrancy. You could tell the



Luis at the fruit and cereals market

produce was fresh, and there was such a rhythm to the way vendors called out to people. And yes, I also enjoyed the Laka Market. Rama and I have different filming styles, so we both captured it in unique ways for our channels.

How was your experience in Massawa?

Rama: Oh, the heat. That was the first shift. But the city itself felt more raw, more textured. I believe the port city has enormous potential as a tourist destination. The Sahaba Mosque and the Old Town were highlights—history and culture woven together in such a unique setting. For me, Eritrea felt like a good trip to the past in the best possible way.

Luis: I agree entirely with Rama. I think Massawa, with a bit of preservation and adjustment,

will be a great tourist attraction. It's already stunning in its own right. The Old Town, with its coral-stone buildings, felt like it held a thousand untold stories.

Did Massawa feel different from Asmara in ways other than climate?



Rama enjoying pool at the Asmara Bowling Alley

Rama: Completely. Asmara feels like a serene capital with preserved elegance. Massawa feels like a port city that has weathered storms and still stands proud. The energy is different—slower in some ways, but heavier with history.

Luis: I'd add that in Massawa, the sea changes the mood. Everything revolves around it—the way people live, eat, and work.

Rama, you've called Eritrea "a trip to the past." What do you mean by that?

It's not about being outdated—it's about stepping into a place where the same breakneck speed doesn't dictate life as in much of the modern world. The architecture, the markets, and even the way people greet each other all feel unhurried, rooted. It's not nostalgic for me since I never lived it, but it still has that timeless pull.

And Luis, you've described Eritrea as "a different kind of Africa." Could you explain?

Yes. People often think Africa is one monolithic thing—all savannahs and safaris. Eritrea shatters that stereotype. The streets of Asmara feel almost European, but layered with



Heading to Green Island

African warmth. The culture here isn't trying to fit any outsider's expectations. That's what makes it so refreshing.

Did the trip change your perspectives in any way?

Rama: It deepened my respect for places that preserve their identity. Eritrea isn't bending over backward to cater to mass tourism, and that's part of its magic.

Luis: For me, it was a reminder of how diverse my own continent is. You can travel a few thousand kilometers and feel like you're in a completely different world.

How would you sum up Eritrea in just a few words?

Rama: Peaceful, historic, and full of untapped potential!

Luis: Eritrea's appeal lies not in flashy tourist infrastructure but in its authenticity—the stillness of its streets, the warmth of its people, and the sense of walking through layers of history.

Any advice for future travelers to Eritrea?

Rama: Go with an open mind and a slow pace. Don't expect big tourist infrastructure—expect authenticity. Learn a few local phrases; it goes a long way.

Luis: And don't underestimate the joy of the small things here—a coffee ceremony in Asmara, a stroll through Massawa's Old Town at sunset, chatting with vendors at the market. These are the real highlights.

Thank you for your time, and we wish you good luck on your future expeditions!