



PRESIDENT ISAIAS MEETS AND HOLDS TALKS WITH KENYAN POLITICIAN RAILA ODINGA

President Isaias Afwerki met and held discussions yesterday afternoon, with Kenyan politician Raila Odinga, who is a candidate for the Chairmanship of the African Union Commission.

During the meeting held at Denden Hall, President Isaias and Mr. Raila Odinga exchanged views on key African issues of mutual

interest, economic partnerships, and the role of infrastructure in economic development, as well as internal conflicts and security challenges.

Speaking to Erina, Mr. Odinga explained that the purpose of his one-day visit to Eritrea was to share perspectives on various African matters with President Isaias, particularly to seek his endorsement

and vote for the upcoming election of the Chairmanship of the African Union Commission, scheduled for February 2025 at the 38th African Union leaders' summit.

It is worth noting that Mr. Raila Odinga, who served as Kenya's Prime Minister from 2008 to 2013, is campaigning for the Chairmanship of the African Union Commission.

ERITREAN DELEGATION PRESENTS NATIONAL STATEMENT AT UNCCD COP 16 IN RIYADH

Eritrea's delegation, led by Mr. Semere Amlesom, presented the country's national statement at the Sixteenth Conference of Parties (COP-16) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The conference, held in Riyadh from December 2-13, 2024, focuses on addressing desertification, land degradation, and drought.

In his address, Mr. Amlesom, Director General of Agricultural Extension at the Ministry of Agriculture, commended Saudi Arabia for hosting COP-16 and congratulated it on assuming the

presidency. He outlined Eritrea's ongoing efforts to combat environmental challenges, including the development of drought mitigation plans, the expansion of water conservation, the promotion of climate-smart agriculture, and the enhancement of soil and water conservation practices. The country is also implementing disaster risk management and climate change adaptation projects across its agro-ecological zones.

Mr. Amlesom further emphasized Eritrea's commitment to the global goal of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and highlighted the country's

initiatives to combat sand and dust storms, particularly through date palm plantations along the coastal areas.

COP-16, which continues until December 13, places a special focus on drought mitigation. Eritrea's delegation is actively participating in plenary and technical sessions, including discussions on sand and dust storms and drought consultation meetings.



TRAINING ON LEADERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION IN AFABET

Training program on leadership and administration was conducted for 32 youth government employees in the Afabet sub-zone.

The training covered fundamental concepts of leadership and administration, constructive communication, teamwork, workplace conflicts, and their resolution.

Mr. Musa Mohammed-Seid, head of the NUEYS in the sub-zone, stated that the training aimed to enhance the capacity of young workers and enable them to provide effective and timely services to the public.

Highlighting the importance of such training in improving workers' capabilities, Mr. Ahmed Mohammed-Nur Rejib, administrator of the sub-zone, emphasized the need for the training to continue regularly.

At the conclusion of the training, certificates of participation were awarded to the trainees, and letters of appreciation were presented to the trainers.

ERITREA COMMEMORATES WORLD SOIL DAY FOR THE FIRST TIME

Eritrea marked World Soil Day for the first time under the central theme "Caring for Soils: Measure, Monitor, Manage." The event, held on 5 December at Mai-Nefhi Hotel, emphasized the crucial role of soil health in sustainable agriculture and global food security.

Speaking at the occasion, Mr. Tsegai Berhane, Director General of the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI), highlighted that over 95% of the global food supply relies on soil. He noted that it can take up to 1,000 years to produce just 2 to 3 centimeters of soil and explained that sustainable soil management has the potential to increase food production by 58%. Mr. Tsegai also outlined NARI's key research achievements, including soil sampling and testing, the development of solid and liquid fertilizers, and the creation of a soil map covering 50,000 hectares of land.

Representing the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) office in Eritrea, Mr. Tedros Solomon described healthy soil as the foundation of productive and sustainable agriculture. He stressed that soil health management reduces erosion, improves water infiltration and nutrient cycling, and enhances agricultural land resilience. Mr. Tedros also reaffirmed FAO's commitment to working closely with the Ministry of Agriculture in preserving soil health.

The event featured the presentation of six research papers on various topics, including soil management, the impact of soil and water conservation, soil salinity control, and the role of compost in boosting soil productivity. Participants engaged in a panel discussion, which underscored the importance of establishing soil laboratory branches across all administrative regions, documenting crop-soil compatibility, and utilizing agroforestry foliage as a source of organic matter.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Samuel Bereket, Director of the Natural Resources Management Research Division at NARI, emphasized that soil is the foundation of life. He called for the sustainable use of soil resources and stressed the importance of soil monitoring in evaluating and managing soil health.

The event was attended by officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, other government ministries, experts, and representatives of various stakeholders.



INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT ISAIAS AFWERKI: ON GLOBAL, REGIONAL, AND DOMESTIC ISSUES

On November 30, 2024, national media outlets conducted an interview with President Isaias Afwerki, discussing timely and important global, regional, and domestic issues. Second part of the interview follows.

Mr. President, various initiatives were taken to resolve the civil war in Sudan that broke out in April 2023, but they have not succeeded. Why? In view of General Al-Burhan's working visit to Eritrea this week, what should be the role of the Sudanese people, Sudanese political forces, as well as the international community?

There are two concepts within this discussion that require careful articulation. First, the term "political forces" should be extracted from general rhetoric, and I will elaborate on this point later. There is also the phrase "international community", which conveys a misleading impression of a cohesive global entity capable of shouldering responsibilities.

Returning to the situation in Sudan, the conflict has now dragged into its second year. This situation is, for evident reasons, a pressing issue in our region. Looking back at the tragic situation that has unfolded in the country, one must question whether this conflict is rational or justifiable by any standards. To fully comprehend the unfolding current reality, it is essential to examine the geopolitical significance of Sudan, along with the origins and dynamics of the raging internal strife.

The situation in Sudan is not a distant issue; it has indeed a direct impact on us. The Sudanese people

have played a significant role in our struggle for independence and our nation-building efforts. Their contributions cannot be underrated. To understand the current dynamics, we must reflect on the state of affairs before and after the 1990s. How did we engage with Sudan during these periods? What was the nature of our bilateral relationship, as well as our regional interactions? Our stance during the discussions surrounding South Sudan serves as a pertinent example.

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) was established in Asmara with the explicit aim of addressing the challenges in Sudan. Although it operated from Asmara, it ultimately did not achieve its objectives. The people of South Sudan were largely opposed to secession. Key figures like John Garang and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) advocated for unity, expressing a near-unanimous, 99% preference for a united Sudan, with secession seen as a last resort at 1%.

Regrettably, a myriad of complexities and external interventions—often driven by hidden agendas—led to the secession and subsequent independence of South Sudan in 2011. The primary goal of the extensive efforts and sacrifices made was to realize the vision of a 'New Sudan'—a nation founded on the principles of citizenship, where individuals are not differentiated by ethnicity, tribe, clan, or skin color. This vision was widely discussed and resonated deeply within society. It was not a new invention, but rather a fundamental human aspiration. Had a conducive environment been established, this idea could have flourished in Sudan. However, certain individuals within the regime, motivated by religious and other agendas, were not willing to embrace this idea as a solution. Their actions—both direct and indirect—contributed to the secession of South Sudan in 2011.

The situation in Sudan, which has persisted for 30 years since 1989, has become increasingly intolerable for its citizens. Numerous conflicts and developments have unfolded during this period, and we have been firsthand witnesses to these events. Since the arrival of Osama bin Laden in Sudan until 1996, the emergence of various alliances signaled troubling developments. Nevertheless, we remained



optimistic and continuously sought to contribute to positive solutions.

At the end, a popular uprising (Intifada) erupted. This uprising was spontaneous, not organized or led by any political party. It would be inaccurate to suggest that we anticipated this eruption. The ongoing challenges faced by the Sudanese people culminated in this spontaneous uprising, which succeeded in ousting the regime.

The key question is: what were the aspirations of the people? Despite its spontaneous nature, the uprising demonstrated the political maturity and consciousness of the population. The citizens were acutely aware that the existing system was not compatible with aspirations and needs of the country.

The situation in Sudan is primarily the sovereign matter of the Sudanese people. However, as we live in the same neighborhood, close consultations to explore viable solutions is imperative due to the obvious ramifications. Our past experiences have provided important lessons in this regard. We recognize that to foster peace in Sudan, it is imperative for us engage actively in this process. This commitment is not merely based on perceived concerns; rather, it stems from the understanding that stability in Sudan can yield positive outcomes for our own nation. For this reason, we submitted a proposal in mid-2022, which represents our modest contribution and fulfills our responsibility to promote the mutual interests of both countries.

Like many regions around the world, Sudan faces a significant challenge in the way of nation-building. While the political journey of Sudan since gaining independence in 1956 has been relatively unique and more

successful relative to many regions in Africa, it has not been without its difficulties. The emergence of the issue surrounding South Sudan presented a substantial obstacle. As the South Sudan situation remained unresolved, additional challenges arose, particularly in regions such as Blue Nile, Kordofan, Darfur, and Eastern Sudan.

Later, the accession to power by the National Congress Party - "Muetemer Watani" - further disrupted the nation-building process and severely undermined Sudan's economy. Their actions isolated the country and compromised the interests of its people, ultimately leading to a significant degradation of Sudan's status.

In the event, the Sudanese people declared that they have had "Enough". What is the way forward? There are no new (miraculous) novelties; the only viable solution lies in the concept of nation-building. Sudan must evolve into a nation that embodies the citizenship aspirations of all its people. But how do we achieve this? Despite numerous initiatives and efforts to address the issues at hand, the problems remain unresolved. The root cause does not lie with the Sudanese people themselves but rather with external interference. The notion of "Huruya Weteqeyr" (The Forces for Freedom and Change) emerged from various quarters.

What does "Huruya Weteqeyr" represent in the first place? Historically, there were traditional political parties. What role did they play in this context? Is it necessary to discuss these old political parties at this juncture? Can we instead focus on new political parties? For now, let us set these considerations aside; there is no need to debate this issue at this juncture.

The Sudanese people are fully aware of their needs and have successfully removed the previous regime, expressing a collective desire for a bright future where they can thrive in peace. In this context, the Sovereign Council has assumed responsibility for the transitional period. It is essential to focus on the nature of the Sovereign Council itself rather than the identities of its members. When the popular uprising occurred, the Sudanese Army took on the critical role of maintaining order to prevent the situation from deteriorating further. Thus, the Sovereign Council is entrusted with this trusteeship by default, acting as a bridge to guide the Sudanese people towards their desired future. The notion that other individuals or groups can assume this responsibility or effectively resolve the ongoing challenges may complicate matters further.

It is evident that no other entity can provide innovative or exceptional solutions. But, this does not mean that the Sovereign Council is the sole decision-maker. For those familiar with Sudan's history, the Sovereign Council represents the most viable solution, and we have affirmed our position on this matter without any ambiguity or equivocation. The Sovereign Council is the body entrusted with steering the country towards the path/destiny of stability and internal peace. This is the central premise. Dwelling on the viewpoints of groups such as "Huruya Weteqeyr", as well as the traditional political parties, will not be constructive at this juncture. Necessary discussions or agendas can be revisited or accommodated once the Sovereign Council fulfills its entrusted responsibilities.

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**ERITREA
PROFILE**

**Published Every
Wednesday & Saturday**

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Advertisement: 12-50-13

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In the current situation in Sudan, rivalry among political forces and individuals is unproductive and will not lead to any solution. Internal acrimonies and rivalries only opens the door to external agendas and meddling, which is detrimental to prevalence of enduring peace. The ongoing meddling has caused the situation to spiral out of control, leading to a scenario where the core issues facing Sudan are no longer in the hands of its people.

New political forces have emerged recently. We have to ask who are these new political forces and what basis are they organizing conferences and holding meetings? Such activities appear to be entirely driven by external agendas, particularly given Sudan's pivotal role in the region.

The primary agenda involves utilizing Sudan as a strategic platform or springboard to expand interferences from Libya to Chad, the Central African Republic, and South Sudan. Numerous "initiatives" – which are in essence bazaars of meddling – have emerged that primarily serve external agendas. Such initiatives facilitate external interventions, which we strongly oppose. The situation in Sudan must be approached with utmost seriousness.

In May 2022, we submitted a proposal that advocated for the Sovereign Council to assume responsibility for the transition. Needless to emphasize, the matter fundamentally concerns the Sudanese people, who are well-acquainted with their own circumstances and do not require external advice. However, sharing our perspectives on the matter cannot be misconstrued as improper. Our proposal was not controversial, and it was accepted by the Sovereign Council. We never claimed that our proposal is the best possible option; if there are better alternatives, we encourage their presentation. We submitted our proposal in the spirit of making our modest contribution; without any publicity or media fanfare. The feedback we received indicated that our proposal was well-received and recognized by the Sovereign Council as a viable starting point.

There are certainly additional points that could enhance the proposal and accommodate necessary suggestions and improvements. However, there is no substitute for the framework that we originally proposed



in mid-2022 and that can be examined today by any interested person. We are, therefore, not inclined to engage in unproductive discussions. In the event, wrangling at this stage will not be fruitful and we should not dwell on pronouncements and opinions of diverse political parties and combatant forces etc., regardless of whether they hail from the East, Blue Nile, Kordofan, or Darfur. As I stressed earlier, it is essential that the Sovereign Council take responsibility for realizing the aspirations of the Sudanese people. This does not mean that the Sovereign Council should seize or control power; rather, it suggests that the Sovereign Council should guide the Sudanese people towards a stable situation. Once stability is achieved, the Sudanese people will determine what is best for their future.

Accordingly, we should refrain from engaging in discussions about meaningless meetings and initiatives that may lead to endless debates, whether they occur within a specific country, the UN, the African Union, or regional organizations. Proliferation of initiatives often prolongs the situation and complicates the issues at hand. Time is of the essence and should not be wasted in fruitless efforts.

Those who have alternative political views, philosophies, ideologies, or options should prepare their proposals for the post-transition period. Individuals with diverse economic, cultural, social, military, or security programs can present their ideas then.

Our position on these matters is longstanding and consistent. Recently, Al Burhan visited

Asmara, where we focused on this issue; we had no other agenda. We have not extended any special support to him or assumed a position on his side. It must also be recalled that Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (Hemedti) was visiting Asmara frequently until the very last moment before the war erupted. We shared our perspectives equally with both of them while also considering their viewpoints. It is surprising that despite all these consultations, conflict ensued. Outsiders may offer their speculative interpretations or analyses, but neither side has a clear explanation for the outbreak of the war. There were no justifications whatsoever for resorting to armed conflict. Even those claiming to understand the reasons fail to provide valid answers.

In our view, the conflict is in essence a proxy war. The complexities of the ongoing situation are extensive, involving factors such as geography, military mobilizations, logistical supplies, diplomacy, and media coverage. External interventions are exacerbating and prolonging the conflict, with various actors exploiting the situation for their own interests. This is often presented under the pretext of "humanitarian concerns", with exclusive focus on lingering starvation and displacement while glossing over the fundamental underlying causes and enduring solutions.

genuine efforts had been undertaken since 2021/22 when our proposal was presented, the desired transition to enduring peace and stability would have been smoothly achieved and the conflict that ensued avoided. The

suffering of the Sudanese people has been unnecessarily prolonged by proliferation of meaningless meetings which have only resulted in prolongation of the conflict, the sufferings and displacement of the people, and the expansion of makeshift refugee camps.

I call this hypocrisy and the shedding of crocodile tears. Why do we postpone addressing a problem that could be resolved today until next year? This procrastination is perpetrated by those who claim to represent the people. Such actions are illogical and unacceptable.

External meddling must cease if we are to resolve this issue. The core concern is not about supporting or opposing Al Burhan, nor is it about conspiring against Hemedti; rather, it is the welfare of the Sudanese people that must take precedence. Despite Sudan being the breadbasket of the region, makeshift camps continue to be set up here and there. Sudan possesses abundant resources, and the Sudanese people do not wish to abandon their homes unless they are forced to do so. They are capable of addressing their challenges without external assistance. Unfortunately, fomenting internal strife will only serve external agendas and vested interests.

In this context, we have no choice but to fulfill our moral obligation. This is not an act of charity; rather, it was our duty to submit our proposal at the appropriate time. However, excessive external meddling complicates the situation.

The interventions are coming through various routes: Libya,

Chad, South Sudan, and Ethiopia.

In our recent meeting with Al Burhan, we reaffirmed our position: there must be constructive contributions from all regional stakeholders. Eritrea, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and other neighbouring countries should engage in meaningful consultations, not only to address the situation in Sudan but also to tackle other pressing issues in the region. Collective efforts can yield significant results, and this has been a central theme in our discussions.

Ultimately, peace must prevail across our entire neighborhood, which comprises four components: The Nile Basin, the Horn of Africa, the Red Sea, and the Gulf. This entire region must be at peace; as true peace is achieved through collective effort. One cannot claim to be an "island of peace" while the rest of the region faces turmoil, and Sudan is a pivotal part of this dynamic. This is what we discussed with South Sudan during our recent meeting at an International Summit. The meeting had no other purpose than to foster mutual understanding and encouraging South Sudan's positive contribution. I emphasize this because the situation in Sudan requires a detailed understanding. The international community has no compelling reason to intervene.

Recently, Ramtane Lamamra visited Asmara to discuss the situation in Sudan. We welcomed him and shared our proposal, engaging in a three-and-a-half-hour discussion to convey our thoughts.

What is the benefit of the "aid business"? What does Sudan and the region gain in the continuous displacement of the people? Clarity on these matters is emerging with time. All actors, particularly the Sovereign Council, must bear their responsibilities.

Following Al Burhan's visit to Asmara, some have alleged that Eritrea seeks to support him... that Eritrea has its own agenda. What agenda could we possibly have? Why would we assist Al Burhan? Against whom would we be acting? Our primary interest lies solely in the well-being of the Sudanese people and the stability of Sudan. The interests of the Sudanese people must come first. Any other intentions appear designed to deliberately complicate the situation. Over the past two years, there have been efforts to keep the issue unresolved by establishing forums in various locations to obstruct viable solutions.

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As I have emphasized earlier, the deliberate prolongation and attendant suffering of the people cannot be accepted passively. In the event, it is imperative that we enhance our efforts. All our previous engagements with various countries, including discussions with Al Burhan, center around a singular, clear position articulated in the proposal we presented to the Sovereign Council two years ago.

Mr. President, the people of Ethiopia continue to suffer from persistent internal conflicts. Furthermore, tensions between Somalia and Ethiopia regarding Somaliland have escalated concerns in the region. Some parties, including certain media outlets, are attempting to depict the Tripartite Summit between Eritrea, Egypt, and Somalia as an alliance directed against Ethiopia. What insights can you provide on this matter?

Most of messages disseminated through various social media platforms and other media outlets are misleading and largely speculative. It is in fact distortion and disinformation. In today's context, distortion and disinformation have become weapons in their own right. What does it mean to label this alliance as being against Ethiopia? I would ask which Ethiopia they are referring to. Does this emanate from concern for Ethiopia, or is it merely intended to stoke conflict? They speculate about the Tripartite Summit while distorting its objectives so as to foment discord. This is a clear indication of an external agenda at play.

Anyone genuinely interested in analyzing the issue would not arrive at such conclusions. On what basis can one claim that this is an alliance against Ethiopia? How? And quite sadly, such peculiar speculations have come to be accepted as "normal". This acceptance stems from a lack of objective questioning. In any case, which Ethiopia is being referred to? There are so-called experts who specialize in spinning false narratives. Why do they not choose to view the situation from a constructive perspective? Why frame it as a conspiracy? Presenting this as an alliance against Ethiopia serves no purpose other than to further external agendas.

The Tripartite Summit did not invoke any new issues. We visit Egypt, and officials from Egypt visit us routinely and periodically to discuss our common concern: the stability of our region.



Regional destabilization stems from imbalance. Therefore, all countries in the region must play their part in fostering stability. We urge Egypt to fulfill its role in this regard. Similarly, Saudi Arabia and other regional players should also contribute to this effort. It is essential that we resolve our own problems in the region without extraneous intervention. For over 30 years, we have worked tirelessly to deter such outside interference across various issues.

How should water resources in the region be managed? This is a critical discussion. Why is the Nile issue a source of conflict? Where does the problem originate? Why are there speculations about an alliance between Eritrea and Egypt?

One of the tools for fomenting discord is speculative lies revolving around the Millennium Dam. Much has been said about the Nile. During the armed struggle, it was referred as the Tana Beles Project, managed by Salini, an Italian company. The agenda of that project may warrant further elaboration at some appropriate time. Rumours were rife; one of which claimed that "Egypt wanted to sell water to Israel through the Suez Canal."

In 1993, I traveled to Cairo with Meles to participate at the OAU Summit for the first time. We exchanged views on those rumours.

Melles asked for my opinion whether he should raise the matter with the Egyptian authorities. My frank opinion was that this was not necessary in view of other pressing matters in our first attendance of the OAU Summit. He agreed with my opinion.

Later in the afternoon, Melles was visibly upset. I asked him what was wrong? .

"I should have followed your advice. I just met Omer Suleiman and spoke to him about the rumor,"

he told me.

He continued: "You know what he said to me?"

"He asked me who I was to even broach the issue. But I'll show him; I will bring him to his knees," he asserted.

This is how the problem developed. Subsequently, there was a push to rebuild the Ethiopian Air Force, directly related to the Nile issue. Then, the Millennium Dam became a focal point. Statements were made about subduing the Egyptians, akin to Turkey's actions with Iraq and Syria. When such perilous ideas are raised, one must consider their ultimate trajectory. Shortly thereafter, they began sending their MiG fighter planes to Bulgaria and Romania for maintenance. However, this was not solely Meles's issue; other players were ready to exploit the scenario. They offered to construct the Millennium Dam for him. Therefore, when construction commenced in 2011, it was not just an Ethiopian initiative; it was a direct continuation of the Tana Beles project. Numerous issues arose later, including utilization of the Setit River, which we ultimately opted to abandon. I have

digressed into these details in very broad terms in order to underline the historical perspectives.

The Millennium Dam is slated to produce 5,000 to 6,000 megawatts of energy. However, what real value would 6,000 megawatts have for Ethiopia? Essentially not much, in view of its aggregate needs. Issue is why would Ethiopia risk conflict with Sudan and Egypt over this?

In spite of the pronounced intention of selling electricity to neighboring countries, the fact is 6,000 megawatts would barely meet a quarter of Ethiopia's energy needs. Total output of 30,000 to 40,000 megawatts would be necessary to truly support Ethiopia's development objectives. In this context and in relative terms, it is plainly unreasonable to go to war over a project like the Millennium Dam.

I am dwelling on these details to dispel the erroneous notion that the Tripartite Meeting represents an anti-Ethiopia alliance. Why would Ethiopia be marginalized? What motives do we have to conspire against Ethiopia? Why would we invite various parties solely to attack Ethiopia? Such ideas are unfounded. Ethiopia has every right to seek stability. We have no interest in entertaining notions that foment regional tension and instability. We cherish agendas of regional cooperation, coordination and complementarity and we are prepared to engage in open discussions with all interested parties.

It is quite easy for certain parties to disseminate false information, instigate unrest, and escalate tensions to serve external agendas. They seek out topics under the

guise of news, aiming to provoke crises. Their motivations and agendas are clear, but we should not engage with or entertain these misleading agendas.

We have come a long way, avoiding involvement in such dramas. Indeed, all the meetings we have conducted have nothing to do with Ethiopia. Ethiopia is facing its own challenges, and we do not aim to exacerbate its internal problems. If there is an alarming situation in Ethiopia, it should concern us as well, and it requires consultations for resolution. This is not a secret. However, if someone is accusing us of conspiring against Ethiopia, they must be out of touch with reality. Such inciting narratives must be countered by our media outlets and the public events we organize.

Continuous distortion and the twisting of facts have become ingrained these days. We need to debunk these false narratives. We must challenge these falsehoods and demonstrate their fallacy and inaccuracy.

Any agenda regarding the Millennium Dam, the Nile Basin, or other regional issues do not originate from local actors; they are driven by external agendas. These entities seek to stir up conflict to destabilize our Neighborhood and undermine peace and stability. We cannot stand by idly while this occurs. It is our duty to counter such disinformation by presenting the truth and making our constructive goals known. This remains a priority in our efforts. True, we normally avoid entanglement in unnecessary acrimony. This does not mean that we will keep mum in the face of preposterous lies and distortions.



National Conference on Reinforcing Women's Participation in Agriculture and Agri-business

Harmonious Participation of the Women for the Success of Agricultural Business Development"

The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) in collaboration with the National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW) organized a national conference under the theme "Harmonious Participation of the Women for the Success of Agricultural Business Development" on November 7, 2024 in Asmara. The conference which was attended by more than 180 participants from both institutions as well as other relevant government and non-government development partners was carried out as part of the MoA's vigorous efforts to achieve the goal: 'Safe and Nutritious Food for Everyone; Everywhere!' through the new Strategic Development Plan that spans from 2024-2028.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Yuel Yonas, Chairperson of the Technical Committee and representative of the Planning and Statistics Division (PSD) of MoA, indicated that the conference was a continuation of the recent MoA's engagement with the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS) and to include all potential stakeholders in the process of realizing safe and nutritious food security for all Eritreans. He, then, outlined that MoA and NUEW established a committee and worked for about two months to prepare for this important conference. Finally, he announced that 11 papers from both sides and the Eritrean Women in Agribusiness Association (EWAA) will be presented, and a panel discussion with regards to current status, challenges and opportunities of women's participation in Agriculture and Agri-business development will be part of the conference.

According to the schedule of the conference, H.E Arefaine Berhe, the Minister of Agriculture presented first discourse on the MoA's major strategies towards achieving 'Safe and Nutritious Food for Everyone; Minister Arefaine chronologically outlined the major three strategies namely; the Minimum Integrated Household Agricultural Package (MIHAP), the Small and Medium Commercial Farmers Strategy, and the Small and Productive Farm Plot (SPFP) strategy. The Minister, also, presented the five major pillars of the new strategic development plan of the ministry and their implementation modalities towards achieving the MoA's major goals.

Minister Arefaine Berhe, in his presentation, indicated that agriculture, in real sense, is not only about cereal production but also should integrate production of pulses, oil crops, vegetables as well as intensification of livestock production. "For that reason, all the agricultural strategies are designed in such a way that they encompass effective and efficient crop and livestock production systems that include backyard poultry and bee keeping using top bar and frame hives" he affirmed. Finally, he underscored that all these strategies are meant to improve the livelihood of all Eritrean citizens, and demand full participation of all concerned bodies.

Following Minister Arefaine's key presentation, five papers were delivered by MoA experts. The presentations were: 'The Role of Value Addition in Agri-business' by Ms. Samrawit Kidane; 'Agricultural Innovations and Top-bar Hive Making as an Agri-business Activity' by Eng. Heran Yosief; 'Producing Compost from Domestic Waste' by Ms. Adiam Rezene; 'Participation of Women in Value-added Nutritious Food' by Ms. Tsinaat Berhane; 'Importance of Safety in Agricultural Production and Processing' by Mr. Said Nuredin. Then, a short presentation on 'EWAA's Background, Achievements and Challenges' was delivered by Ms. Senait Tesfaldet.

Then, after a thorough discussion on these papers, the program continued with presentations from the NUEW side. President of the union, Ms. Tekia Tesfamichael, delivered a presentation entitled: 'The Role of NUEW in Empowering Eritrean Women'. Ms. Tekia presented a detailed information regarding the Union's vision, goals as well as major activities. In her



Ms. Tekia Tesfamichael

presentation, Ms. Tekia emphasized that full rights and equality of Women can only be realized through their active participation in all sectors. "For this to happen, all Eritrean institutions and citizens should act with full awareness and create conducive environment" she underlined.

Then four consecutive papers were presented from NUEW side. The papers include: 'NUEW Strategies in Empowering Eritrean Women' by Ms. Senait Mehari; 'NUEW Initiative in the Production of Organic Fertilizers from Domestic Waste: A Case Study of Zoba Maekel' by Ms. Elsa Gebrehans; 'Management of Chemical Pesticides and Hazardous Waste: A Case Study from Zoba Anseba' by Tirhas Nirayo; 'NUEW Professional Training Programs' by Ms. Senait Mehari; and 'Small Grant Program Projects and their Contribution towards Natural Resources Management' by Mr. Asmerom Goitom.

After the presentations from both sides and EWAA as well as a panel discussion that included experts from MoA, NUEW and a representative exemplary woman farmer, participants gave the following, but not limited to, important comments and recommendations:

- Designing mechanisms that reinforce participation of Eritrean Women in Modern Agricultural

Development Programs and Agribusiness

- Addressing national challenges with regards to access to farmland and market that bring together farmers and consumers



Mr. Yuel Yonas

- Strengthening Agri-business training and awareness raising programs

- Promoting coordinated efforts by MoA and NUEW to involve more women in Agri-business

- Conducting a survey to assess the current status of Eritrean women participation in agricultural activities

- Integrating bilateral roadmaps from policy to implementation

During the conclusion of the conference, Ms. Tekia Tesfamichael, NUEW President, delivered a brief remark. In her remark, she reaffirmed that Women's participation in the overall development program resilience is one of the major focus of the association, and reinforcing the involvement of women in agricultural development and agri-business is part and parcel of the ongoing efforts of the government in general and that of the NUEW in particular. She, then, urged for strict follow up and monitoring of the implementation of both parties integrated action plans. She also underscored that empowerment



Minister Arefaine Berhe

of women should not be left to the NUEW only but needs to be mainstreamed to all government and non-government bodies as well as individual families. Finally, Ms. Tekia said that the young and educated women are expected to play their due roles in transforming the traditional agricultural activities to modern and efficient agri-businesses.

Minister Arefaine Berhe, in his official concluding remarks, commended all participants for their active roles and recommendations, and expressed his expectation to trickle down all the common strategies up to village levels through the organizational structures of both NUEW and MoA. He also affirmed that a committee from both parties is already established and will strictly monitor implementation of the set goals and objectives. Finally, he underlined that the role of women in achieving 'safe and nutritious food' is very important; and called on all women in the rural areas to implement the Small and Productive Farm Plot (SPFP) so that they can harvest three times a year and feed their respective households and beyond.

During the event, an exhibition that encompassed improved stove by the Ministry of Defence; processed food displays by EWAA and NUEW members as well as video shows that reflect women success stories were presented to participants of the conference. According to the Public Relations Division and event coordinator of the MoA, participants of the conference included senior officials and experts from headquarters and regional offices of both parties; relevant development partners; EWAA representatives as well as an exemplary woman farmer.



ADS



Vacancy Announcement

Eritrea Sichuan Mineral Construction CORP. LTD. (ESMC) is inviting applicants for the following position for Asmara project sites.

Position: Coordinator

Place of Work: Emba Derho Site

Required Number: 01

Contract Type: Indefinite

1) Major Duties and Responsibilities

- ❖ Provide administrative and HR support for expats (mainly Chinese).
 - ❖ Act as a contact point with headquarter in China, subcontractors and business partners.
 - ❖ Build and implement corporate culture.
 - ❖ Organize festival celebrations and team building activities.
 - ❖ Be responsible for employee relationship management, including the preparation of employee handbook, on-boarding training, and the management of employee attendance, rotational leave, termination, welfare, labor contracts, labor disputes, mainly for expats.
 - ❖ Make statistics and update of personnel information and rosters and report the statistical data and information of expats including subcontractors.
 - ❖ Organize and attend contractor and subcontractors' meetings.
 - ❖ Liaise with subcontractors for administrative and HR matters.
 - ❖ Supervise and ensure the subcontractors' compliance of Eritrea's labor law and other policies.
 - ❖ Make Chinese HR policies and regulations understanding.
 - ❖ Support General Manager if so requests.
- Other instruction given by his supervisor.

Qualification and Other Skills

Formal Education, Certifications or Equivalents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Bachelor's degree or above ❖ Major in corporate culture, business administration, HR, public relations, literature, education or a related field
Working Experience – Nature & Length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Minimum two years' experience in administration, HR, public relations or related field ❖ Have work experience in foreign countries Have experience in working with foreign employees
Leadership Experience – Nature & length of time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Team player ❖ Strong sense of responsibility
Other skills and abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Excellent in Chinese language ❖ Good at generating Chinese report ❖ Good communication and interpersonal skill ❖ Be easy-going ❖ Have patience and attention to details ❖ Be optimistic ❖ Good public speaking skill of English ❖ Cultural awareness

General Information and Other Requirement

- ❖ Place of Work: Asmara Project Sites (Emba Derho)
- ❖ Salary: As per Company salary scale

Additional Requirement for Nationals:

- ❖ Having fulfilled his/ her National Service Obligation and Provide evidence of Release Paper from Ministry of Defense.
- ❖ Present Clearance from current/ last employer or Unemployment card from Labor office.
- ❖ Testimonial documents to be attached (CV, work experience credential, a copy of your National Identity card etc.)
- ❖ Only shortlisted applicants will be considered as potential candidates for an interview.
- ❖ Application documents will not be returned to sender.
- ❖ All application should be sent through the post office.
- ❖ Deadline for application; 05 days from the date of publication on the newspapers

Address: Please mail your application to;

Eritrea Sichuan Mineral Construction CORP. LTD (ESMC)
P.O. Box. 4832 Asmara, Eritrea

Required to send a copy of their application to the following address

Mineral Resources Management, Department of Mines
P.O. Box. 272
Asmara, Eritrea

Note to Eritrean applicants:

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

Notice

Here given to the public that members of the **ERI-STAR P.l.c** on their extra ordinary meeting held on 24/11/2024 resolved:-

1. The successors of late Tsehaye Mogos, Ghidey Asfaha and Habte Tsehaye 350 Shares of value of nakfa 350,000.00 nkf transferred to heirs as follows; and Art.1 of the memorandum of the company amended as follows

Members	Shares	Value of shares
1. Micheal Tsehaye Mogos	162 shares	162,000.00
2. Aron Tsehaye Mogos	213 shares	213,000.00
3. Selamawit Tsehaye Mogos	163 shares	163,000.00
4. Merhawi Tsehaye Mogos	162 shares	162,000.00
Total 700 shares		700,000.00

2. Micheal Tsehaye Mogos to be appointed the manager of the company for unlimited period of time.

ERI-STAR P.l.c

Notice

Here given to the public that members of the **Muluom Hafeshawi Nigdi P.l.c** on their extra ordinary meeting held on 24/11/2024 resolved:-

1. To increase the capital of the company by injecting 600 shares of value of shares 600,000.00nkf by selling 500 shares to Goytom Fshatsion and 100 shares to Bisrat Habteslasie.
2. From 600 new shares 500 shares of value 500,000.00 nkf to Goytom Fshatsion Gile and 100 new shares of value of shares 100,000.00 nkf to Bisrat Habteslasie Qeleta par value 1000 nkf each respectively.
3. Bisrat Habteslasie Qeleta is accepted to be the new member of the company.
4. The capital of the company increases from 600,000.00 nkf to 1,200,000.00 nkf par value 1000.00 nkf each

Accordingly, Art. 1 of the memorandum of association amended as follows.

Name No of shares Value in nakfa

1. Goytom Fshatsion Gile 800 shares 800,000.00nkfa
2. Bisrat Habteslasie Qeleta 100 shares 100,000.00nkfa
3. Mulgeta Haile Tekle 300 shares 300,000.00nkfa

Total shares 1200 shares 1,200,000.00nkfa

Muluom Hafeshawi Nigdi P.l.c

Notice

Notice is hereby given to the public that **GAHDI** private limited company is formed among the following members:

A. Name	Nationality	Address	Shares
1. Mr. Binyam Beyene Mesfin	Eritrean	Germany	50
2. Mr. Musie Simon Amanuel	Eritrean	Asmara	50
			Total shares 100

B. Head office of the company will be in Asmara Eritrea and branch offices may be opened within or outside the country.

C. The company has a share capital of Nakfa 400,000.00 (four hundred thousand) at a par value Nakfa 4,000 (four thousand) each subscribed and fully paid up in cash.

D. The objective of the company is to engage in:

1. training which includes but not limited to management, accounting, ticketing, art, computer, software and programming, video shooting and graphics,
2. vocational training,
3. language schools,
4. recreation center,
5. makeup design and event planning,
6. travel agency and tour services,
7. employment services,
8. general trade such as whole sale and retail of goods,
9. general import and export of goods,
10. agent and/or commission agent, and
11. all activities related to the objectives of the company.

E. Mr. Musie Simon Amanuel is appointed as a manager for unlimited period of time.

F. The company is established for unlimited period of time.

GAHDI PLC.


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;

Surveyor
Number required – (01)
Type of contract – Indefinite
Major Duties and responsibilities.

- To provide survey control.
- To lead Survey Assistants and Survey Technicians as required.
- To coordinate and supervise survey assistants.
- To mentor and coach survey assistants.
- To perform any or other duties and functions as assigned by Chief Surveyor and the Senior Surveyor.

Safety

- To adhere to all AMSC procedures.
- Able to perform Hazard identification and Job Safety Analysis for all assigned task or work.
- Perform an incident and accident reporting and investigation.
- Wear personal protective equipment including hard hat, steel toe shoes, safety glasses, respirators, wet suits, earplugs, gloves, or any other equipment to perform duties safely.
- Hear sufficiently to distinguish various pitches of warning alarms, including heavy equipment back-up alarms, blast sirens, fire alarms and various warning alarms in mills and shops.
- Support Mining and Health and Safety Departments to maintain and drive the right safety.
- Conduct regular tools box meetings and work area inspections.

Surveying

- Lay out blast patterns, including marking holes, painting dots on holes, surveying in end holes with field computer and turning in data for input into system.
- Flag blasted material, including establishing proper ore control by surveying dig polygon locations to define lines between material types, carrying wooden stakes in a bundle weighing up to 10 kilograms to the blast site, pounding stakes into blasted muck, attaching ribbon to the stakes and placing color-coded cardboard placards with polygon numbers at site.
- Perform elevation control by determining benchmarks and grades.
- Control pit and bench limits, by looking for problem areas and determining line definition.
- Operate surveying equipment including a tape measure, a compass, a laser level, a level instrument, a total station equipment, a DGPS, a UAV and other equipment as assigned.
- Operate a field level, total station GPS and UAV computer using data collector programs for the purpose of figuring volumes and field calculations.
- Utilize mine engineering computer software to perform a UAV survey, volume determinations, ore control stakeout data and to write reports or presentations as directed.
- Walk and stand on uneven and wet surfaces for extended periods of time.
- Read, comprehend and interpret survey literature, Material Safety Data Sheets, labels on products, warning signs, instructional manuals and numbers on monitors and gauges, to prevent loss of personnel, property and process.
- Handle, operate and maintain survey equipment in a good condition and store in a suitable manner.
- Perform continuous and repeated bending, stooping, lifting, and carrying at waist level and over the shoulder, tools and other items including rods, survey tools and equipment weighing up to 25 kilograms for the purpose of transporting from storage to vehicle, from vehicle to work sites and back to storage.

Training and Development

- Mentor and coach survey assistants.

Administration

- Assist in the evaluation of survey assistant's performance.
- Processing of survey assistants' timesheets
- Administration of discipline.

Reporting

- Assist in producing monthly numbers by the 3rd day of the following month.
- Produce weekly pit updates for mine planning.

Profile: Qualifications and Experience
Formal Education, Certifications or Equivalent

- Two to four years of tertiary degree in surveying.

Working Experience – Nature & Length

- Mining Survey experience – Must have a minimum of two years' experience in mining surveying and open pit operations
- Computer literacy in Microsoft Office suite of programs.

Technical Skills

- Ability to effectively plan daily survey work activities.
- Excellent interdepartmental communication skills.
- Must be well versed in operation of survey equipment.
- Must demonstrate understanding of mine survey functions.
- Must be able to use mine engineering software for performing various calculations including but not limited to volumes.
- Operate light vehicles on haul roads including a pre-operational inspection, mounting and dismounting vehicle, pushing and pulling knobs and levers and turning steering wheels.

Behavioral Skills

- Integrity and ethics
- Focus and personal drive
- Pro active
- Ability to exercise independent judgment in evaluating situations and making timely decisions
- Goal oriented
- Flexible and Adaptable
- Charismatic
- Ability to work effectively under pressure

General Information and other requirements:

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

Additional requirements for Nationals:

- Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provide evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defense.
- Present clearance paper from current/last employer.
- Testimonial documents to be attached (CV, work experience credentials, a copy of your National Identity Card, etc.).
- Only shortlisted applicants would be considered as potential candidates for an interview.
- Application documents will not be returned to the sender.
- All applications should be sent through the post office.
- Deadline for application: 10 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 Non-Eritrean applicants:
Please send a copy of your application to
Aliens Employment Permit Affairs,
P. O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea

General Information and other requirements:

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

Additional requirements for Nationals:

- Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provide evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defense.
- Present clearance paper from current/last employer.
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P. O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea



Female Eritrean Engineers Excelling in Innovation Challenges

Sabrina Solomon

Thank you so much for your time, ladies. Please introduce yourselves to our readers.

Thank you for having us. I'm Khamail Alhassen Mohammed, and I was born and raised in Asmara, Eritrea. I went to Jalia Elementary and Junior School, proceeding to Barka Secondary School. I went to the Sawa training center to continue my 12th grade, take my matriculation exam with the 31st round, and joined Mai-Nefhi College of Science and Technology in the Department of Chemical Engineering. I graduated in 2024 with the 17th commencement with a BA degree in chemical engineering. I then took a postgraduate diploma in pedagogy at Asmara College of Education for a year. Currently, I am working as a teacher in Sawa.

And I am Midian Selesion Mogos. I was born and raised in Barentu, Eritrea, where I attended elementary, junior, and secondary school. Like my fellow colleague, I joined Sawa with the 31st round and Mai-Nefhi College of Science and Technology in the Department of Chemical Engineering. Shortly after my graduation in 2024, I took a postgraduate diploma in pedagogy for a year and am currently working as a teacher in Sawa.

You participated in this year's Startupper Challenge. Tell us more about this competition.

Total Energies is a big company that produces energy. The program has been held twice before in Eritrea. This year was the third program held due to the company's 100th anniversary. The challenge strengthens the social fabric in local communities by helping the continent's most innovative entrepreneurs carry out their projects. Total Energies selected three winners from the categories of Innov'Up for the best entrepreneur, Cycle' Up for the best project relating to the circular economy, and Power' Up for the best project relating to sustainable and affordable energy.

Numerous research papers are prepared and presented by engineering students in college in Eritrea. However, despite the numerous papers, only 56 people participated this year. We presented our project under the

Following the success of the first three editions, Total Energies recently held another startupper of the year challenge in 32 African countries. For this special edition, organized against the backdrop of the company's centennial year, 100 entrepreneurs from across the continent were recognized and rewarded via three prize categories.

Today, we have 2 young Eritrean female engineers as our guests. They won this year's challenge in the power-up category for the best project related to sustainable and affordable energy. Here's their explanation of their experience and vision in the chemical engineering field.



Power 'Up category, winning the best project award.

So, what was the project that you prepared?

Our project is called bio-charcoal briquettes Production from Prosopis juliflora. Prosopis juliflora is a palm date tree that

grows in Eritrea and is believed to be an invasive vegetation, locally called 'Temri Musa'. It grows in almost every part of the Eritrean regions. However, the government and Ministry of Agriculture believe this type of tree to be disastrous and negatively influences people's lifestyle due to its destruction of



lands and water sources. A lot of money and energy is spent to remove those plants as they grow on their own without any care.

Seeing this as an advantage instead of a threat, we decided to try and use Prosopis juliflora to make healthier and more affordable charcoal. We consume a lot of traditional charcoal daily, which is inefficient and exposes us to health-threatening emissions. Thus, we planned to minimize the emissions and create more affordable bio-charcoal briquettes with HHV (higher heating value) using these trees. We analyzed the Prosopis juliflora wood's moisture content, fuel characteristics, volatile matter, and so on. We then went through the process of reducing its size and removing the emissions of hazardous chemicals. We didn't release those hazardous emissions out of the air, though. Instead, we condensed, liquidated, and changed it into something useful. We then used eco-friendly products and created compacted or briquette-size charcoal through a binder compressor. So, the product has a higher heating value, is affordable, eco-friendly, and has no hazardous emissions. We are the winners of the Power' Up Startupper of the Year and will benefit from monetary support to make prototypes and document our project. We can then get more commissions to continue our project as a business, along with personalized support and a communication campaign to enhance our project's visibility.

What is your overall goal?

We are young engineers who are passionate about contributing to aiding our society. Our goal is to solve the current problems in society, like this bio-charcoal briquettes production project. Our aim as chemical engineers is to

create solutions for society. This is the first eco-friendly product that we are currently working on. This is just the beginning for us, however. We are striving to come up with more problem-solving products and eventually help in national wellness and development.

As young females, what suggestions do you have for other young girls who are currently in college?

A piece of advice that we would love to give to young girls is that they shouldn't be limited. They should instead go beyond their potential. There's a stereotype that females don't usually join the engineering field, but leaving such conventional formulaic behind, we should all go the extra mile to break such stereotypes. We can do a lot as we have a society that supports and empowers women. Let's use our opportunities and dare to dream big. We Eritrean females can make our dreams come true in any endeavor.

What's next for you in the engineering field?

We are doing a lot of research papers with our advisors that are under review and approved for publication. We are striving to contribute solutions to issues that society might have. We are so grateful to our government, who gave us free educational access and opportunity from elementary to college. We wouldn't have been here right now if it wasn't for this opportunity. We also thank our advisor and instructor, Mr. Ramesh B. Aremanda, Department of Chemical Engineering. We are also grateful to our parents and the support of our society. We will be back with more helpful solutions and products.

Thank you. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors!

