

PREPARATION FOR CELEBRATING THE 34TH INDEPENDENCE DAY ANNIVERSARY

Ambassador Zemed Tekle, Commissioner of Culture and Sports, announced that preparations for celebrating the 34th anniversary of Independence Day, under the theme “Our Cohesion – Our Armour,” have been finalized.

Ambassador Zemed indicated that the celebration will include Independence Day Week in Asmara from May 16 to 23, various activities in the regions, and programs organized by nationals in the Diaspora. He also noted that sports competitions, which began two months ago in the regions, and the Schools Independence Weeks that started on 7 May across the country, are integral parts of the celebration.

Ambassador Zemed went on to say that programs in Asmara will feature cultural performances at Bahti Meskerem Square, cultural and artistic presentations at

Cinema Roma, and street cultural shows involving Asmara residents. The Umoja Cultural Troupe from South Africa will also perform at Bahti Meskerem Square. As of May 10, documentary films and other programs depicting the struggle for national independence and the progress of national development are already being broadcast through national media outlets.

Additionally, public gatherings will be organized on 22 and 23 May in all sub-zones, fireworks displays will take place on 23 May, and the official Independence Day celebration will be held at Asmara Stadium



on 24 May.

Ambassador Zemed also stated that football matches between the national teams of Eritrea, Niger, and South Sudan will be conducted as part of the celebrations.

CONTRIBUTION OF DAMS TO AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

The dams constructed over the past 34 years of Eritrea's independence by the government and its partners have made a significant contribution to agricultural development, particularly in vegetable and fruit farming.

According to a report by the Ministry of Agriculture, the number of dams that were about 130 in pre-Independence has currently increased to about 840 across the country.

These strategic and small dams, in addition to ensuring water supply

for both humans and livestock, have enabled widespread vegetable and fruit farming.

Eritrea is among the countries in the world vulnerable to drought and desertification. The Government of Eritrea has, therefore, prioritized water and soil conservation to address these challenges.

Accordingly, over the years of Independence, agricultural terraces have been constructed on more than 276,000 hectares, while water and soil conservation as well as water diversion schemes have been implemented on 129,000 hectares.



FESTIVAL OF OROTTA COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCE STUDENTS



The 12th festival of students from the Orotta College of Medicine and Health Sciences, which had been underway for six months under the theme “Our Profession for Our Society,” has concluded. The closing event was attended by Dr. Haile Mihtsun, Executive Director of Higher Education Institutions and Research, and Mr. Saleh Ahmedin, Head of the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students.

The festival featured general knowledge quizzes, debates, and other competitions, along with photo and material exhibitions reflecting the knowledge students have acquired during their academic journey.

Speakers at the event emphasized the importance of college festivals, describing them as opportune occasions to strengthen students' overall capabilities, and to encourage their role in preserving national identity, values, and history.

It is worth noting that the 12th festivals of Hamelmalo College of Agriculture, Adi-Keih College of Business and Social Science, and Mai-Nefhi College of Science have also been enthusiastically conducted.

A joint festival involving all colleges is scheduled to take place from 15 to 18 May.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN RED SEA REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Southern Red Sea Regional Assembly held its 21st regular meeting in the port city of Assab on 10 May. The meeting was attended by various Government and PFDJ officials in the region.

Mr. Ali Nur Ali, Chairman of the Assembly, stated that commendable achievements

have been registered as a result of coordinated efforts by Government institutions and the regional assembly. He also expressed readiness to work diligently for even better outcomes.

The participants conducted extensive discussions on the reports and adopted various

recommendations, including the need to strengthen water and soil conservation activities.

Ambassador Mohammed-Seid Mantai, Governor of the region, called on all concerned institutions to actively implement the recommendations and resolutions issued by the regional assembly.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ANESTHETISTS' ASSOCIATION

The National Association of Eritrean Anesthetists conducted its first annual conference on 10 May in Asmara. The conference reviewed the association's activities over the past five years and discussed future plans.

Mr. Michael Haile, Chairman of the Association, noted that the primary objective of the National Association of Eritrean Anesthetists—established in 2019—is to provide high-quality

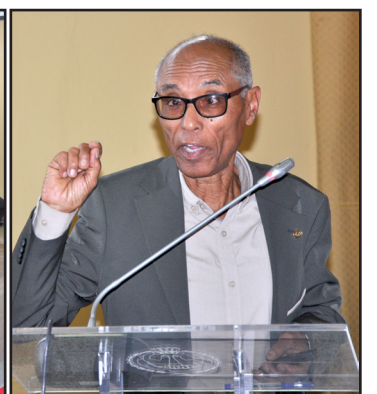
professional services. He added that various forums organized by the association have created opportunities for members to share experiences, while research papers and training programs have significantly supported their day-to-day activities.

Mr. Michael also gave a detailed briefing on advancements in anesthetic equipment and medicines being produced over time. He emphasized that the investment

made by the Ministry of Health on modern technology and in human resource development have led to qualitative improvements in the field.

Participants engaged in extensive discussions on the presented report and adopted several recommendations.

The conference also elected an executive committee for a two-year term.



Development

National Agribusiness Conference on Selected Commodities

The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), organized a National Agribusiness Conference on Selected Commodities on 24 April 2025, at the National Confederation of Eritrean Workers (NCEW) Hall in Asmara. The conference, held under the theme “Enhancing Agribusiness for Sustainable Food Systems,” brought together senior government officials, representatives from the United Nations, sector experts, and development partners to focus on seven selected commodities deemed critical to transforming Eritrea’s food systems.

Speaking on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Tekleab Mesghena, Director General of the Regulatory Services Department, emphasized that agriculture has long been central to Eritrean society. Nevertheless, the sector continues to face a range of significant challenges, including the impacts of climate change, the urgent need for poverty eradication, the ongoing process of rural transformation, issues surrounding food security, the depletion of natural resources, market fluctuations, unequal access to technology, infrastructure,



Mr. Tekleab Mesghena

and finance. He highlighted the importance of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, led by the FAO, as a program grounded in inclusivity, strategic partnerships, and evidence-based planning. He pointed out that the initiative focuses on three strategic pillars: inclusive development, resilient and sustainable systems, and fostering effective public-private partnerships.

His Excellency Weldai Futur, Head of the Eritrean Investment Center, also delivered essential remarks. He commended both the Ministry of Agriculture and FAO for convening a high-impact event that can serve as a strong foundation for targeted, though initially limited, investment in selected agricultural subsectors. He stressed that such investment must support both

keynote address, underscoring the importance of sustainable agricultural practices and the benefits they bring in fostering economic growth, improving public health, and contributing to a more just and equitable world. She also stressed the critical role of government-private sector collaboration in building resilient and inclusive food systems.

A total of seven presentations were delivered at the conference—four by experts from the Ministry of Agriculture, one by an expert from the Ministry of Marine Resources, and two by officers from the FAO. The topics covered were:

1. “Agribusiness and Value Chain Approach to Development: A Shift in Approach” – presented by Mr. Misghina Okbaslassie, Head of the Agribusiness Development and Investment Coordination Unit at the MoA.
2. “Hand-in-Hand Initiative: Global Perspective” – a pre-recorded presentation by Mr. Maximo Torero, Chief Economist at FAO.
3. “Country Update – Hand-in-Hand Initiative in Eritrea: Process and Results” – presented by Dr. Yonas Woldu, the Hand in Hand Focal Person at the MoA.
4. “Hand-in-Hand Initiative:



Ms. Nahla Valji

economic growth through strategic investment in the agriculture sector in Eritrea. The discussion covered key topics, including enhancing food security through agricultural investment, tackling poverty and climate-related challenges, building partnerships with both domestic and international stakeholders, and crafting effective policy frameworks to support sustainable agricultural transformation. In his concluding remarks, Mr. Semere Amlesom, Director General of the Agricultural Extension Department, expressed deep appreciation for the participation of all stakeholders who contributed to the success of the conference. He reaffirmed the Ministry’s commitment to working closely with FAO to ensure the effective implementation of the selected commodity value chains. He also issued a call to action, encouraging all relevant stakeholders—both public and private—to collaborate actively in the success of the initiative.

Reflections from Presenters and Participants

Ms. Nahla Valji – UN Resident Coordinator, Eritrea

Ms. Nahla Valji, the UN Resident Coordinator, expressed the UN’s pride in being part of the partnership between the Eritrean Ministry of Agriculture and FAO. She affirmed the UN’s strong support for the initiative, viewing it as a sound investment in Eritrea’s agri-food systems.

She emphasized that food systems and food security are top priorities in Eritrea. Investing in food security value chains is seen as a pathway to increasing household incomes and promoting economic independence. Strengthening food security is also expected to yield positive effects in health and education, contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

“This is about identifying a specific number of commodities within Eritrea’s agri-food system—bananas, potatoes, anchovies—and truly attracting investment while addressing existing obstacles, so that production can be increased.

We can explore nutrition linkages, as well as export potential and income generation.”

Ms. Farayi Zimudzi – FAO Sub-Regional Coordinator for Eastern Africa

Ms. Farayi Zimudzi, the FAO Sub-Regional Coordinator for Eastern Africa, described the conference as a landmark event for both FAO and Eritrea. She emphasized that the Hand-in-Hand initiative aims to position agriculture at the core of economic development in participating countries.

She noted that agriculture is a vital sector in Eritrea, not only for the national economy but also as the primary source of livelihood for the majority of its population. Through the Hand-in-Hand initiative, FAO seeks to unlock the full potential of this sector by facilitating investment.

FAO is providing technical assistance to Eritrea, including support for investment planning and the identification of key agricultural value chains prioritized by the government. A significant aspect of FAO’s role is connecting smallholder farmers with potential investors at both national and international levels to foster collaboration and development.

Ms. Farayi Zimudzi stressed the need to address challenges within the sector while pursuing opportunities, advocating for a comprehensive “food systems approach.” This involves examining the entire process—from production to consumption—identifying necessary actions at each step, and creating employment opportunities along the way.

She described the forum as a “fantastic opportunity” for Eritrea to boost its economy. She issued a strong call for collaboration among the government, farmers, investors, development partners, and financial institutions to establish agriculture as a primary driver of economic growth.

Mr. Kazuyuki Fujiwara, from the FAO Regional Partnership Office for Africa

Mr. Kazuyuki Fujiwara expressed his privilege in attending Eritrea’s national conference on investment for the Hand-in-Hand initiative. He emphasized the event’s importance as a significant milestone for Eritrea in developing agricultural investment plans aimed at reducing poverty and enhancing food security.

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smallholder farmers and large-scale agribusiness enterprises. Furthermore, he emphasized the pressing need for investments aimed at increasing productivity in other major agricultural commodities, which could have a far-reaching impact on achieving food security and reducing poverty across the country.

FAO Sub-Regional Coordinator for Eastern Africa, Ms. Farayi Zimudzi, delivered introductory remarks and expressed appreciation for the Government of Eritrea’s collaboration with the FAO in identifying and prioritizing agricultural commodities that could be transformed into promising agribusiness ventures. She underlined that the success of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative depends on the strengthening of partnerships that are not only innovative but also inclusive and equitable.

UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Nahla Valji delivered a

Experiences of Zambia, Zimbabwe, and São Tomé and Príncipe” – presented by Mr. Kazuyuki Fujiwara, Regional Partnership Officer, FAO.

5. “Banana and Potato Value Chain Analysis and Business Plan” – presented by Mr. Ermias Asmelash, Head of the Horticulture Development Unit, MoA.

6. “Anchovy Value Chain Analysis and Business Plan” – presented by Mr. Kibrom Gebremeskel, Ministry of Marine Resources. 7. “Cactus and Pepper Value Chain Analysis and Business Plan” – presented by Ms. Saron Yemane, Horticulture Unit, MoA.

8. “Honey and Poultry Value Chain Analysis and Business Plan” – presented by Mr. Kahsay Negash, Director of the Crop and Livestock Development Division, and Mr. Zaid Tekle, Senior Beekeeping Expert, MoA.

In addition to the presentations, a panel discussion was held on the theme of catalyzing inclusive

SpotLight

Training for Impact: Graduation of Nurses Reflects Eritrea's Commitment to Health

Bana Negusse

Last week, the Asmara School of Assistant Nurses, located in Adi-Halo, graduated 348 students, including 84% female graduates, at a ceremony held at the Expo Compound. The students received both theoretical and practical training over an 18-month period. The institution began providing training at the Teachers' Training Center in Asmara in 2023 before relocating to Adi-Halo. It is part of a growing network of national nursing schools, including campuses in Mendefera, Ghinda, and Barentu.

At the ceremony, officials from the Ministry of Health announced that around 700 assistant nurses have graduated across the country this year alone – a testament to Eritrea's ongoing commitment to strengthening its healthcare workforce. This article highlights the vital role young health professionals are playing in advancing healthcare and development across Eritrea.

Pillars of national health and development

A strong, equitable healthcare system is vital not only for ensuring public well-being but also for driving national development. Health is closely linked to poverty eradication, economic productivity, and sustainable growth. National health systems generate employment, boost labor productivity, and support economic resilience. Moreover, access to quality healthcare is essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), while intersecting with many other goals, including those focused on education, gender equality, and reducing inequalities.

Across the globe, young health



professionals have emerged as key drivers of health sector transformation. Eritrea is no exception.

Positively impacting national health, well-being, and living standards in Eritrea

Against the broader backdrop of a young, growing population, alongside rapidly evolving national healthcare challenges and different needs, the role and multifaceted contributions of deeply motivated, highly skilled, and well-educated young professionals remains indispensable. For several decades, young health professionals in Eritrea – ranging from doctors and general or specialist practitioners of all kinds to nurses, midwives, dentists, and pharmacists, among others – have offered fresh views, insights, and critical perspectives, a plethora of innovative ideas, and a deep-rooted, strong eagerness to help address the various health challenges facing the country. The benefits of their participation and control role within Eritrea's national health sector are multifaceted, and over the past several decades the country's young health professionals have positively impacted the nation's overall health, well-being, and living standards in a

variety of ways.

To begin, Eritrea's young health professionals, freshly graduated from the nation's network of health-related training institutions (including those based at Orotta, in Asmara, Barentu, and Mendefera, among several others), are equipped with the latest body of knowledge and best practices. Crucially, they are well-versed in modern medical technologies, diagnostic techniques, and treatment methods, all of which combine to allow them to apply contemporary practices and approaches to healthcare. It goes without saying that this is vital in a young country like Eritrea, where the healthcare infrastructure and system is still developing, and there remains a considerable need to bridge the gap between traditional methods and modern medical advancements. The great adaptability, ability, and willingness of Eritrea's young health professionals to learn new systems quickly have made them a critical national asset, particularly as the country works to improve its health information systems and clinical protocols.

Second, alongside the vast general academic and theoretical knowledge that they accumulate through

years of deep study and hands-on, practical training, Eritrea's young professionals are increasingly tech-savvy and blessed with the capacity to utilize new, modern technologies that serve to enhance healthcare delivery in the country. The integration of these innovations and technologies to existing frameworks or contexts can serve to streamline patient care and extend services to hard-to-reach areas in the country.

Importantly, these innovations are essential in overcoming geographical barriers that limit access to healthcare for those residing in remote or rural regions, which continue to make up a significant portion of the nation's population.

and awareness programs has led to measurable improvements in community health and disease prevention. These initiatives have not only improved individual outcomes but have also reinforced the health system's resilience and long-term sustainability.

Despite facing the persistent challenge of brain drain – which is a common issue across the Global South – many young Eritrean health professionals choose to remain and serve. Their dedication to improving the national healthcare system and uplifting communities is both inspiring and vital. Their contributions represent more than professional achievement; they



By leveraging emerging and leading innovations and technologies, such as newer digital tools, Eritrea's young health professionals are positively contributing to the realization of social justice and equality within national healthcare – ultimately allowing more people of all backgrounds to have better access to essential services.

Beyond clinical and institutional settings, Eritrea's young health professionals are central to public health efforts. They actively engage in campaigns addressing maternal and child health, communicable disease prevention, nutrition, and rising non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, cancer, and heart conditions. Their involvement in vaccination drives, health education,

embody a profound commitment to national progress, resilience, and equity.

Building a stronger, healthier nation

Overall, Eritrea's young health professionals are helping to transform the country's healthcare landscape. Their knowledge, passion, and innovation have helped to elevate the sector, expand its capacity, and contributed to broader national developmental goals. As the country continues to invest in healthcare training and infrastructure, the new generation of young health professionals will remain central to building a healthier and more just, inclusive, and sustainable future for all Eritreans.



OPINION

Significance of May in the History of Eritrea

Simon Weldemikael

In the annals of Eritrean history, many important events that have far-reaching consequences happened in the month of May. These dates serve as markers of significant events that shaped the course of Eritrean history. By connecting these individual events we get a complete picture of the Eritrean history that helps us understand where we came from. These important dates allow present and future generations to learn from the past, giving them insight into the causes of events. Here are some events that happened in the month of May.

2 May 1889, the occupation of Keren by the Italians: After establishing control over Massawa in 1885, The Italians gradually advanced to the inland, occupying Keren in 1889. This was part of their strategy to consolidate their rule over Eritrea, which was officially declared an Italian colony in 1890.



The plan of the EPLF commando attack on Asmara Air Force base in 1984, the 18 minute wonder

5 May 1941: Mahber Fiqri Hager (Association for the Love of Country) was established in Asmara. Shortly after the end of the Italian colonial rule and the beginning of the British military administration, Eritreans began to come together to establish an organization that could stand for the aspirations of the people. With the collapse of the Italian rule, Eritrea came under the control of the British military administration, and this transitional period created a political atmosphere of uncertainty about Eritrea's future. Mahber Fiqri Hager was the first national Eritrean political organization that aimed to represent the entire society and its interests. The leadership of the organization had 12 members, equally divided between Christians and Muslims to reflect the diversity of the Eritrean society. The formation of the association was

significant because it marked the beginning of organized Eritrean political activism, united Eritreans across religious and ethnic lines and laid the groundwork for future movements that fought for self-determination and Eritrea's independence.

6 May 1998: Ethiopian forces crossed into Eritrean territory and attacked Eritrean forces, killing six members of the Eritrean Defense Forces. This incident marked the beginning of the Eritrean-Ethiopian War, which lasted until June 2000. The conflict escalated and intense battles were fought at multiple fronts. The war ended with the Algiers Agreement in 2000, and a final and binding ruling was made in April 2002 by the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission established for the purpose.

9 May 1949: The infamous Bevin-Sforza Plan was proposed to determine the fate of Eritrea. The plan, named after British Foreign

Secretary Ernest Bevin and Italian Foreign Minister Count Carlo Sforza, called for the partitioning of Eritrea, with most of its territory to go to Ethiopia while the Western province would be incorporated into Sudan. The proposed plan was met with strong opposition by Eritreans who demanded independence. It was widely criticized for its colonial arrogance and injustice, as it ignored the principle of self-determination and the aspirations of Eritreans. The plan did not succeed, but Eritrea's fate remained uncertain, leading to intense deliberations and debates. Under pressure by the USA, the United Nations passed a resolution in 1950 federating Eritrea with Ethiopia. This led to widespread dissatisfaction and resistance among Eritreans. When Eritrea was annexed by Ethiopia in 1962, Eritreans had no choice but to reclaim their right

to self-determination through an armed struggle that lasted thirty years, culminating in Eritrea's independence in 1991.

12 May 1988: The Ethiopian army committed a heinous crime, massacring civilians in She'eb. It razed the town to the ground, killing 400 civilians, including women, children, and the elderly. Survivors reported that those who could not flee were rounded up and run over by tanks, while others attempting to escape were shot. The She'eb Massacre came after a major Ethiopian military defeat at Afabet in March 1988. The Eritrean People's Liberation Front launched a successful offensive, overwhelming the Nadew Command that had been stationed at Nakfa Front for ten years. This defeat left the Ethiopian army in disarray. In retaliation, the Ethiopian army targeted civilians, committing mass killings in She'eb and surrounding villages. This atrocity was part of Ethiopia's broader campaign of violence against Eritrean civilians in a futile attempt to subdue them. This tragic event remains a painful memory in Eritrean history, symbolizing the brutality of the enemy and the magnitude of the sacrifices made in the struggle for independence.

12 May 2000: Ethiopia launched its third military offensive against Eritrea that was repulsed by the Eritrean Defense Forces. This offensive marked one of the most intense phases of the war that lasted for two years, from 1998 to 2000. The Ethiopian military mobilized a large force with an intent to capture Asmara. The offensive went on for several weeks at different fronts, but the Eritrean resistance was firm. The Eritrean Defense Forces inflicted heavy losses on Ethiopian forces, crushing their ability to continue fighting and forcing Ethiopia into accepting a peace settlement -- the Algiers peace agreement.

15 May 1995: Weldeab Weldemariam, a veteran nationalist leader, passed away at the age of 90 in Asmara. Weldeab Weldemariam was one of the founding fathers of the struggle for independence. Throughout his life, he was a strong advocate of Eritrean independence. He was a vocal opponent of Eritrea's annexation by Ethiopia and worked tirelessly to unite Eritreans. Seven assassination

attempts were made on him. His writings and radio broadcasts in exile played a crucial role in shaping Eritreans' political consciousness. His passing was deeply mourned. He was honored with a state funeral, and his body was laid to rest at the Martyrs' Cemetery in Asmara. Weldeab Weldemariam is a very highly revered figure in Eritrean history.



May 28 1993: Eritrean flag flying high at the UN

21 May 1984: The EPLF Commando Operation was carried out successfully against the Ethiopian Air Force base in Asmara. The operation was later dubbed "the miracle of 18 minutes" because that was how long it lasted. In just 18

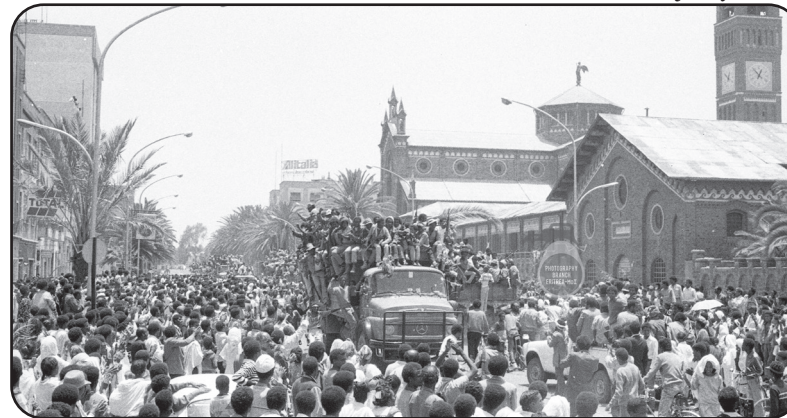
struggle, the loss of countless civilian lives, immense material and environmental destruction and the sacrifice of 65,000 freedom fighters, the struggle for independence ended with victory. Eritreans conducted the longest liberation war in Africa and had military and political victory. Eritreans' quest for self-determination was answered with



minutes, the commandos destroyed 33 Ethiopian military aircraft. The operation demonstrated the military sophistication of the EPLF. The prowess exhibited in planning and executing the operation stunned the Derg regime. The operation remains one of the most remarkable

the capture of Asmara on 24th May 1991.

28 May 1993: Eritrea was officially admitted to the United Nations as an independent nation. This status was earned following a referendum held in April 1993, where the absolute majority, over



commando missions in the Eritrean history.

24 May 1991, Eritrea's Independence Day. After half a century of political and armed

99 percent, voted for independence. Eritrea's admission to the UN symbolized its international recognition, allowing it to participate in global diplomacy and decision-making.

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Mr. Fujiwara highlighted that this national dialogue is crucial for attracting both public and private sector investment. It provides a platform to determine practical steps—"what needs to be done"—to transform challenges into investment opportunities, while also addressing risk management among stakeholders.

He stated that the conclusions from this conference will equip the Eritrean delegation for the upcoming global Hand-in-Hand Investment Forum, scheduled for October 2025 in Rome, Italy.

Misghina Okbaslassie – Head of the Agribusiness Development and Investment Coordination Unit, (MoA)

This conference is highly significant as it marks a strategic shift for the Ministry of Agriculture. Previously, the Ministry focused primarily on boosting production among smallholder farmers. However, recognizing the growing global emphasis on agribusiness in policy and strategy, the Ministry has adapted.

Reflecting this change, the Ministry recently finalized its Strategic Development Plan for 2024–2028. The new plan explicitly prioritizes agribusiness development and has formally incorporated the Hand-in-Hand initiative as one of its key supporting programs.

Dr. Yonas Woldu – Hand-in-Hand Focal Person, MoA

The initiative holds great importance for Eritrea, as it targets key commodities with significant production potential. It addresses

National Agribusiness Conference on Selected Commodities . . .

all stages from farm to consumer, including production, processing, handling, and management. This comprehensive approach is critical for the relevant departments of the Ministry, and the nation as a whole.

Mr. Mohamed Aw-Dahir – FAO Representative Ad-Interim in Eritrea

Mr. Mohamed Aw-Dahir, the FAO Representative Ad-Interim in Eritrea, highlighted the strong potential of the Hand-in-Hand initiative in the Eritrean context. He noted that, under the guidance of the Eritrean Government, the program strategically seeks to identify key investment opportunities in agricultural value chains, aiming to generate both social and economic benefits.

Despite climate change challenges common across Africa, Eritrea has made significant investments in its water sector. To fully capitalize on these efforts, Mr. Aw-Dahir emphasized the need to strengthen agricultural value chains, which could foster employment and wealth creation.

He expressed optimism about attracting diverse investments—from public and private sectors, as well as grants from international partners. He envisions a promising future for Eritrea's agricultural industry through targeted investments in the government-identified priority value chains.

Mr. Aw-Dahir also emphasized the importance of Eritrea's participation in the upcoming investment forum in Rome and reaffirmed the FAO's commitment to providing ongoing

technical support to ensure the effective presentation of Eritrea's investment proposals.

Mr. Kahsay Negash – Director of Crop & Livestock Development, MoA

Mr. Kahsay Negash, Director of Crop and Livestock Development at the Ministry of Agriculture, provided insights into the conference's focus on identifying investment opportunities across key agricultural and marine commodities. The gathering brought together stakeholders from various ministries, organizations, the private sector, and academia, with the primary objective of refining existing development plans into viable national investment proposals.

The conference addressed six agricultural commodities and one from the marine sector—specifically pelagic fish. Mr. Negash emphasized the significant potential of these commodities to drive economic growth and create substantial employment opportunities across rural and urban communities.

He also highlighted the role of the conference in facilitating the expansion of agribusiness, particularly in sectors such as vegetables, horticulture, poultry, and small pelagic fisheries, all of which are ripe for business growth and investment.

Mr. Ermias Asmelash, Horticulture Development Unit Head, Ministry of Agriculture

The conference focuses on key agribusiness opportunities, including those in banana and potato production.

My presentation was on Banana and potatoes. Bananas have been cultivated in Eritrea, primarily in Gash Barka, for over 70 years and were once exported. Under the initiative, a business plan is being developed to attract investment. Four globally approved varieties (Dwarf Cavendish, Williams, Grand Nain, and Lady Finger) are grown on 1,168 hectares, producing 31.4 metric tons per hectare to meet an annual demand of 54,000 metric tons. With vast land and water resources, Eritrea can expand cultivation to 10,000 hectares and resume exports, supporting food security and poverty reduction.

Potato is a widely consumed vegetable. Eritrea produces 34,063 metric ton annually against a 75,000 metric ton demand, from 1,290 hectares in key regions. Common varieties include Electra, Arizona, Keih Embaba, and Tsaeda Embaba. Over 4,000 farmers are involved, but a lack of adequate quality seed limits productivity. The National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) is addressing this through tissue culture. Expansion to 5,000 hectares is feasible, especially involving the western lowlands during cool seasons.

Ms. Saron Yemane, Horticulture Development Unit, MoA

My presentation was on Pepper and Cactus. The study aimed to highlight potential investment opportunities in both commodities and included a cost investment analysis. Pepper production remains low in Eritrea. It is primarily cultivated in the Gash-Barka and Northern Red Sea regions, with smaller-scale production in the

Mackel and Debub regions. Given Eritrea's potential water resources and arable land, the goal is to expand cultivation to over 4,000 hectares and achieve a production target of more than 17,000 metric tons by 2030. As for Cactus, it is a fruit that has received little attention so far. Commonly consumed during the summer in Eritrea. It is drought-tolerant, well adapted to harsh and dry conditions, and remains evergreen. The plant is easy to establish, maintain, and utilize. It is also multipurpose, serving as a valuable fodder crop due to its high palatability and richness in soluble carbohydrates. Currently, cactus covers more than 18,000 hectares, with an annual production of over 470,000 metric tons. Therefore, it presents a strong investment opportunity.

Mr. Zaid Tekle, Senior Beekeeping Expert, MoA

I presented on the potential investment opportunities in the beekeeping sector, as well as the resources currently available. At present, there are over 50,000 bee colonies in the country, producing approximately 1,000 tons of honey annually. However, this level of production has not yet met the per capita demand.

Eritrea has an estimated 3 million hectares of land suitable for beekeeping, yet only about 5% of this potential is currently being utilized. The aim of my presentation was to highlight the untapped opportunities in this sector and to encourage investment that can significantly boost honey production. With the right investment plan, we can unlock this potential and create a thriving beekeeping industry.

Mr. Kibrom Tekesete, Fish Corporation, Ministry of Marine Resources

I represented the Ministry of Marine Resources and presented a value chain analysis on anchovies, which are a highly abundant pelagic fish. This commodity is produced at an average volume of 50,000 tons per year, although further study is needed. With proper planning and effective mitigation of associated challenges, this resource has the potential to grow significantly, ensuring an adequate and sustainable supply for the public.

Anchovies were selected for analysis because they remain largely underexploited, are highly nutritious, and rich in omega-3 fatty acids. If managed and harvested efficiently, especially at the right time, they can be collected in bulk and enhanced through value addition. Anchovies can serve as a food source for human consumption, and when dried and processed, they can be preserved for extended periods. Additionally, they have the potential to be used as livestock feed. With the right infrastructure in place, the anchovy value chain presents a highly productive investment opportunity.

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Given your focus on marginalized groups, what insights does the book offer—if any—into the perspectives and experiences of diverse segments of Eritrean society under President Afwerki's leadership?

Eritrea, once an Italian colony, developed a strong industrial base, second only to South Africa on the continent. However, when the British defeated the Italians, they dismantled nearly ninety percent of that capacity, driven by geopolitical interests. Later, distant powers sought to use Eritrea as a strategic military outpost due to its extensive coastline. The U.S., supporting a feudal Ethiopian regime, orchestrated a forced union between Eritrea and Ethiopia under the guise of federalism, despite Ethiopia lacking a constitution. This deception sparked a prolonged struggle in Eritrea, centered on self-determination through a referendum. But beyond that, there was a deeper vision: what kind of nation-state should Eritrea become? What economic foundation would support it? How could it build a harmonized society rooted in equality? In Eritrea today, all languages are considered national and treated with equal

"My Struggle for Eritrea and Africa": Decoding President . . .

respect, reinforcing a diverse yet unified national identity. Programs like Sawa, often misrepresented and disparaged, serve as crucial nation-building tools, bringing together youth from all backgrounds to forge a shared identity. Those attacking Sawa aim to weaken Eritrea by undermining its unity and removing its youth. By targeting the Head of State through propaganda, they obscure the tools that hold the nation together. But these narratives are weakening, and the Eritrean experience, rooted in resilience and a clear vision, has kept the country on a steady course.

The book presents President Afwerki's perspectives on peace and prosperity in the Horn of Africa. How do you reconcile these perspectives with the region's ongoing challenges, and what role does Eritrea play in fostering stability?

The book is primarily aimed at youth in the region. Growing up in Ethiopia, I was exposed to decades of false propaganda about Eritrea. But that narrative is crumbling. Four


years ago, Eritrea showed its true face—one of solidarity—when it supported Ethiopia in a time of crisis. Today, the propaganda machinery in Ethiopia is weak. Despite efforts by external powers and some local actors with financial backing to portray Eritrea negatively, public perception is shifting. Young people are beginning to question why Eritrea is succeeding while Ethiopia appears on the brink of collapse. I often engage in discussions with fellow Ethiopians, using this book to stimulate awareness and reflection. President Isaias Afwerki's vision is grounded, coherent, and forward-looking. Unlike other nations in the region, Eritrea operates with a long-term vision despite its smaller size. Those countries gained independence earlier and maintain large armies, yet lack the clarity and consistency of purpose reflected in this book. It is not a personal biography, but a presentation of a national vision that invites comparison and inspires rethinking of governance and leadership.

As a scholar who has studied state-formation processes, what

observations can you make about President Afwerki's approach to state-building in Eritrea, as reflected in the book, and how does it compare to other regional models?

State formation is inherently difficult. Eritrea, only 34 years into its independence, has made significant strides that many older African states have yet to achieve. A foundational milestone is the establishment of a shared national identity. In Eritrea, people don't primarily identify by ethnicity—Saho, Tigrigna, or otherwise—but as Eritreans. This sense of unity remains elusive in many parts of Africa. Failing to build that base opens the door to division and foreign interference. While diversity is a strength, it can also be exploited if not managed wisely. Even in countries with relative homogeneity—where a common language and religion exist—conflict still persists, proving that unity requires more than surface-level similarities. Eritrea's state-building efforts, though young, are notable for their emphasis on inclusivity, cohesion, and a clearly articulated national vision.



 <div>Zara Mining Share Company</div>	Vacancy Announcement	
Position:	Ass. Catering Supervisor	
Number required	01	
Location:	Based at Koka Gold Mine (Site)	
Reporting to:	Catering Supervisor	
Primary Responsibility & Scope of work	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Run & instruct the kitchen when supervisor is on Roster/sick etc. all aspects.Be in full control of the staff, kitchen, store & mess Hall always.Manage all catering, 3X meal per day for the entire mine staff refeeding etc.Look after all safety & hygiene of all food, kitchens, store, staff etc.	
Essential function		
Duties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Be able to give instruction to Staff and the Staff to listen and respond accordingly.Must be able to keep good Housekeeping and Order in the Stores and Fridges and Freezers.Must be able to work closely with the Stores Co Ordinator and follow instruction she gives.Be able to ensure all Fridges and Stores, Kitchen and Dining Hall are all kept clean, tidy and in order.Ensure there is Stock for FOH and BOH to carry out their jobs correctly and Efficiently this whilst working with the Stores Co Ordinator.HSE is carried out and managed on a Daily Basis.All Staff to be Managed and assisted with any problems or issues they may encounter at their place of Work.Be presentable and professional at all times.Understanding the Environment, you are overseeing to ensure it runs smoothly and efficiently.Ensure stock is drawn from stores, Freezer and Fridges so that it coincides with the daily Menu.Menu may be changed if there is an issue with the Stock, and must be addressed with the Chef on Duty, for an alternative to be made .Ensure all processes during Service flow properly i.e. : Enough K/F/S and Plates, Glasses and Cups are sufficient to allow Service flow.No hitches in the Scullery during Service.Ensure of a Safe environment for all Workers.Manage Rosters in case of Staff issues i.e. : Injury, Late Coming, Sick and No Shows for work.	
Formal Education, Certifications or Equivalents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Must have a Grade Twelve and Above	
Working Experience – Nature & Length		
Leadership Experience - Nature & Length of time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ability to work under extreme pressure.Organization skillsTime management skillsAttention to details	
Other skills and abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Must be able to Speak and Read English.	
Other Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Physical strength.Liveliness.Mental alturnes.Willingness to listen.Ability to follow a lead.Commitment to organization	
Salary: according to Company’s salary scale.		
Place of work: Zara Mining Share Company Koka Gold Mine Zoba Gash Barka		
Additional Requirement for nationals: Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligations and provide evidence of a release paper from the Ministry of Defence. Provide a Clearance paper from office of the Eritrean Police, from the current/last employer and medical check-up report. only short-listed applicants would be considered as potential candidates for an interview. Deadline for application: 05 days from the day announced in the Newspaper. Application documents will not be returned.		
Checked By	Title: HR Manager	Signature:
Approved by:	Title: General Manager	Signature:
Date: 14 th March 2025	Deadline for application: 10 days from the day of announcement.	



Bisha Mining Share Company
P.O. Box 4276
Asmara
Eritrea

Tel: (+291) 1124941
Fax: (+291) 1124941
www.bishamining.com

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Bisha Mining Share Company is inviting applicants for the following position for Bisha site project.

Position: Safety Officer
Department: Safety and Occupational Health
Section: Safety and Occupational Health
Number required: One (01)
PRIMARY PURPOSE

- Control “Safety & Health” in order to ensure employees, equipment and facility risks are minimized.

TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS

Planning

- Ensure policies and procedures are in place.
- Ensure mine is compliant with legislative and regulatory requirements.
- Assist with the “Safety & Health” Management System.
Implementing Safety & Health
- Respond to and investigate accidents and emergencies
- Liaise with on-site contractors to ensure compliance with safety regulations.
- Coach and advice employees regarding Safety & Health.
- Identify unsafe acts, conditions, hazards and investigate root causes as well as identifying corrective action. Inspect the workplace for potential hazards.
- Enforce on-site safety, health, and emergency compliance to programs to minimise/prevent incidents and investigate incidents/accidents.
- Conduct planned inspections/audits and Co-ordinate monthly Safety & Health meetings.

Reporting

- Complete daily, weekly, and monthly reports and report any incidents/accidents and risk assessments.

UNIQUE REQUIREMENTS / OTHER INFORMATION

- Candidate must be Medically and Physical fit.
Qualification
- Certificate: Occupational Health & Safety, emergency response
- Grade 12
Knowledge & Experience
- 2-3 years previous experience in Health & Safety & Emergency Response

Technical Skills

- Computer Literacy (MS Office – Intermediate, Excel)
- Supervisory and Analytical skills
- Attention to detail
- Problem solving skills and reniued drivers’ licence
- Plan, organize & execution skills

Behavioral skills

- Communication (English and local language)
- Assertiveness and High level of accuracy
- Flexible and Organising skills
- Integrity, Discretion & Self-Discipline
- Ability to work towards strict deadlines

General Information and other requirements:

- **Place of Work:** Bisha.
- **Salary:** As per Company salary scale.
- **Type of Contract:** Indefinite

Additional requirements for Nationals:

- Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and 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 will be considered as potential candidates for an interview.
- Application documents will not be returned to sender.
- All applications should be sent through the post office.
- **Deadline for application:** 10 days from the day of publication in the Newspaper.
- **Address:** Please mail your applications to;
Bisha Mining Share Company,
P. O. Box 4276 Asmara, Eritrea
- **Note to Eritrean applicants:**
Please send a copy of your application to
 1. Aliens Employment permits Affairs,
P. O. Box 7940
Asmara, Eritrea.
 2. Mineral Resources Management
P. O. Box 272
Asmara, Eritrea

NOTICE

The Public is hereby notified that GLOBE CORE INDUSTRIES PTY LTD a Republic of South African National has been incorporated in Republic of South Africa and opened a Branch in Eritrea.

1. The office of the branch company is in Asmara.
2. The capital of the company is ZAR 6,257,926 (USD 336,041)
3. The business activities of the company are:
 - a) Electrical Installations.
 - b) Commissioning.
 - c) Preventive Maintenance.
 - d) General Electrical and Solar Supplies.
 - e) Personal Protective Equipment.
 - f) Pumps
 - g) Pipes and Valves.
 - h) Solar Installations
 - i) On – Site Training for Eritrean Nationals.
 - j) Labour Hire Supply: Plant Electricians, MV Electrician, Instrumentation Electricians.
4. Mr. Johannes Jacobus Snygans is a Branch Manager of the Company in Eritrea.
5. The Company has been registered as a Branch in Asmara, Eritrea.

GLOBE CORE INDUSTRIES (PTY) LTD.



Q and A

“My Struggle for Eritrea and Africa”: Decoding President Isaias Afwerki’s Vision with Professor Mohammed Hassen

Sabrina Solomon

Professor Hassen, given your emphasis on deconstructing dominant narratives, what specific aspects of President Isaias Afwerki’s perspective, as presented in “My Struggle for Eritrea and Africa,” do you find particularly compelling or challenging to existing interpretations of Eritrean and regional history?

For over two decades, a persistent negative media campaign has targeted Eritrea. As a resident of Belgium and a member of the Labor Party, I witnessed firsthand how these distorted narratives portrayed Eritrea, its Head of State and Government in pejorative terms. Major media outlets, both large and mid-sized, disseminated this image without critical analysis, driven by an agenda focused on “regime change”. This prompted discussions with colleagues, including media expert Michel Collon. In January 2010, I visited Eritrea, already familiar with its liberation struggle but eager to experience the reality firsthand. My interview with President Isaias Afwerki profoundly impacted my understanding. Shortly after my return, renewed media attacks on Eritrea surfaced. Encouraged by my experience, Michel also visited the country. His first trip to sub-Saharan Africa, too, left him impressed.

We engaged with various individuals and produced the documentary “Eritrea: Come and See,” borrowing President Isaias’s phrase. Released in 2014, in French and English, the film reached millions, offering an Eritrean perspective rarely seen in mainstream media. Following the documentary’s success, we formed a solidarity committee to foster people-to-people engagement. We brought approximately 300 individuals from Europe—Belgium, Italy, Spain, and the Netherlands—to Eritrea, encouraging firsthand understanding over filtered narratives. Despite lacking the resources of major media outlets, our grassroots efforts gradually countered the dominant discourse. We translated Eritrean documents into Spanish, Dutch, French, English, and Russian, and launched a website to support global awareness. We began to question the nature of the propaganda itself. The first step, we observed, was the dehumanization of leadership, particularly President Isaias. Our interviews revealed the necessity to document and share his long-term vision, especially with younger

Distinguished Ethiopian historian and scholar of Ethiopian Studies, Professor Mohammed Hassen, brings his critical lens to the Horn of Africa’s history and politics. His analysis, shaped by his background and diplomatic experience, challenges dominant narratives and explores marginalized perspectives. As a contributor to the upcoming book “My Struggle for Eritrea and Africa,” Professor Hassen offers insight into President Isaias Afwerki’s vision for Eritrea, the continent, and the world, emphasizing the crucial role of historical awareness for the younger generation’s understanding of Eritrea’s path to success. Excerpts of the interview Professor Hassen conducted with Eritrea Profile and Eri-TV follow.

generations across Africa. His concept of “a good neighborhood,” for instance, challenges the divisive framing of regional relations. Contrary to portrayals of perpetual conflict between Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Sudan, his approach emphasizes cooperation among neighboring states.

This vision threatens external interests benefiting from disunity, leading to efforts to isolate Eritrea and suppress such ideas. “My Struggle for Eritrea and Africa” stems from our extended interviews with President Isaias. It explores not just his political life, but his pan-African vision, advocacy for sovereignty, and role in Africa’s longest liberation struggle. Our goal was to present his perspective, particularly to younger readers across the continent. Currently available in English and French, it will soon be translated into Somali and Arabic, with plans for Amharic for Ethiopian audiences. It’s imperative that Africa’s youth understand the legacy, ideas, and strategic thinking of one of the continent’s most experienced leaders.

The book highlights President Afwerki’s vision for Africa’s “awakening.” How does this vision align with—or challenge—your

own understanding of the historical and contemporary challenges facing the Horn of Africa, especially regarding self-determination and regional cooperation?

In 2013 or 2014, we published a three-part article, “What You Are Not Supposed to Know About Eritrea,” a strategic journalistic piece aimed at revealing overlooked truths. It received significant attention on major platforms in the U.S., Canada, and elsewhere. With Ruth Simon’s assistance, we translated and integrated it into a broader initiative to explore Eritrea’s regional role. Central to this was President Isaias Afwerki’s worldview, whose leadership and commitment to Eritrea’s independence merit deeper reflection. His role in Eritrea’s liberation, arguably Africa’s longest armed struggle, occurred in a geopolitically complex environment, with superpowers and regional actors opposing the Eritrean cause. Despite this, Eritrea prevailed. Post-independence, the Eritrean leadership cooperated closely with the transitional Ethiopian government, where I served as a diplomat. This cooperation, the “honeymoon period,” lasted seven years until external forces undermined it, fearing strong regional alliances.

In 2018, the peace agreement between Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and President Isaias rekindled hope, but was challenged by external players who exploited internal weaknesses, particularly in Ethiopia, to reverse progress. Despite Eritrea’s critical role in preventing broader regional destabilization, attempts were made to distort its intentions and marginalize its contributions. We believe Tigray’s

educated and youth populations—and the region at large—deserve to hear directly from President Isaias. A central theme in “My Struggle for Eritrea and Africa” is the interconnectedness of Eritrean independence with regional stability. The president consistently emphasizes that Eritrea’s liberation is inseparable from the broader African context. He advocates for regional integration built on mutual respect and cooperation, countering the narrative of African disunity. This threatens foreign interests that have long profited from division and conflict. Unlike movements that have succumbed to regime change, Eritrea has remained resilient, largely due to its leadership’s strategic depth and vision. Our interviews also explored topics like gender equality in the armed struggle, where women comprised nearly half the combatants, a fact unmatched even by revolutionary icons like Vietnam. This book was created not just for Eritreans, but for the African public, especially young people, who are under constant ideological attack and require historical knowledge and political clarity. Our aim is to introduce them to the vision of a leader advocating for African sovereignty, unity, and strategic self-reliance.

As someone who has engaged with the Eritrean Ministry of Justice and presented at the International Conference on Eritrean Studies, how do you see the book contributing to a more nuanced understanding of Eritrea’s role in the Horn of Africa, beyond prevailing narratives?

While the EPLF published numerous documents during the liberation struggle, this book stands out by presenting not only the movement’s perspective, but also President Isaias Afwerki’s personal vision. To reach broader audiences, both within Africa and beyond, this vision must be translated into accessible language and communicated effectively. Though we are not confrontational, we believe raising political consciousness requires strategic communication and outreach. The book has already attracted interest from unexpected quarters; young people from Serbia, for instance, are keen to read it. They are curious about Eritrea’s experience building a unified state in a multi-ethnic, multi-religious society, especially as their country grapples with identity politics. The book offers



insights into how Eritrea has navigated ethnic and cultural differences without succumbing to division. The Ministry of Justice’s conference, and the International Conference on Eritrean Studies, were designed to showcase this underrepresented Eritrean narrative. They provided a space for international scholars to engage with the reality of a nation often misunderstood or misrepresented. The Ministry highlighted not only the formal legal system, but also how Eritrean society organically resolves disputes and administers justice at a community level. The experience shared through the book reveals this “hidden Eritrea,” grounded in resilience, innovation, and indigenous problem-solving.

You have consistently advocated for the importance of addressing “falsified history.” In your assessment, does the book effectively challenge historical distortions related to Eritrea’s liberation struggle and its subsequent political trajectory?

Yes, I believe it does. The distortion of Eritrean history was confronted and corrected, at least in part, through the 1993 referendum, where Eritreans overwhelmingly affirmed their independence. That vote was not just political, but a rectification of historical falsehoods. However, correcting history doesn’t end there. The next step is nation-building. This book explores how Eritrea has pursued a unique model of state formation in a multilingual, multi-faith society. It offers valuable lessons, especially in contrast to Ethiopia’s approach, which institutionalized ethnic divisions and brought the country to the brink of collapse. Eritrea, on the other hand, has fostered a policy of peaceful coexistence, a “good neighborhood” principle, despite political differences. The idea is simple: work together, respect differences, and understand that there is no natural contradiction or hatred between peoples.

Continued on page 5

