

FESTIVAL OF COLLEGES COMMENCES AT MAI-NEFHI



The 12th Festival of Colleges commenced on May 15 at Mai-Nefhi College of Science under the theme “Our Profession for Our Society.” The opening ceremony was attended by Ministers, senior Government and PFDJ officials, as well as members of the college community.

The festival, which will continue until 18 May, includes cultural and artistic competitions portraying the diversity and unity of the Eritrean people, knowledge-based competitions, seminars and

discussion forums, innovation and creativity displays, as well as other activities.

Ms. Mensura Ismail, Head of the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students branch for Higher Education Institutions and Sawa, said the objective of the festival is to enhance the creativity and critical thinking of the youth, enable students to exchange experiences among themselves, solidify their unity, and promote a sense of positive competitiveness among students.

Noting that about 900 students are directly participating in the festival, Ms. Mensura called on all partners to strengthen their participation and contributions to ensure the sustainability of the program.

Prof. Gebray Asgedom, Dean of the College, said the festival will significantly contribute to helping students identify their talents alongside their regular education and work towards developing them.

The event featured cultural and artistic performances.

RESILIENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY: BARENTU SEMINAR ECHOES ANNIVERSARY THEME

A seminar focusing on the meaning of Independence and the sacrifices made to achieve and safeguard national sovereignty was conducted in Barentu. The event was organized by the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students in connection with the 34th anniversary of independence.

Brig. Gen. Eyob Fesehaye (Halibai), Commander of the Western Command of the Eritrean Defense Forces, emphasized that independence goes beyond mere words, carrying deep significance and an immeasurable cost. He noted that due to the tireless efforts of the Eritrean people and Government since independence, the values of the revolution have been preserved,

placing Eritrea on a firm footing while foiling direct and indirect external hostilities.

Highlighting this year's theme as a reflection of the resolute stance of the Eritrean people and Government, Brig. Gen. Eyob elaborated on the importance of remembering the resilience of the Eritrean people and the heavy price paid for independence. He also called on the younger generation to play their part in preserving the legacy of their forebears and protecting national sovereignty.

Participants called for the organization of similar seminars to enhance the younger generation's understanding of their history.

Similarly, a seminar focused on the history of Eritrean resilience and the atrocities committed by enemy forces was conducted for students and members of the Defense Forces from May 11 to 13 in the port city of Massawa, in connection with the 34th anniversary of Eritrea's independence.

During the seminar, Mr. Simon Woldemicael, a member of the PFDJ Central Office, gave an extensive briefing on the Eritrean people's struggle for independence. Mr. Simon also urged the public, particularly the youth, to actively and consciously participate in preserving and transmitting Eritrea's vibrant history to future generations.



WORLD MUSEUM DAY OBSERVED AT NATIONAL LEVEL

World Museum Day was observed at the national level yesterday at the National Museum of Eritrea under the theme “Museums and the Rapid Transformation of Society.”

Ministers and other dignitaries attended was officially opened by Ambassador Zemedede Tekle, Commissioner of Culture and Sports. The program featured

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The occasion in which



ERITREA: SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

The US Senate Foreign Relations Committee Hearing on East Africa, convened on 13 April this week, unfortunately repeats several misconceptions and unsubstantiated allegations against Eritrea. It is essential to clarify these matters based on verifiable facts.

At the Hearing, Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-Maryland) raised concerns over a “boiling situation” between Eritrea and Ethiopia, singularly referring to Eritrea's alleged “military mobilization”. As far as Eritrea is concerned, these statements echo skewed media reports rather than established facts or nuanced analysis.

Needless to emphasize, Eritrea is not mobilizing for war and has not, certainly, been engaged in provocative military action or political brinkmanship against Ethiopia.

And for the record, the specter of tension and apprehension in the region stem from unsettling Ethiopian pronouncements and frantic domestic media campaigns to acquire a “port and coastal territory through diplomatic and legal means if possible, and by force if necessary”.

This is an unacceptable proposition in international relations and fraught with unnecessary and avoidable destabilization of the region. In the event, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and other relevant policy experts must call a spade a spade.

In the same vein, the testimony of former State Department official Joshua Meservey, who alleges without ascertaining the true facts, that “Eritrean troops are still inside Ethiopian territory in Western Tigray” is deplorable provoking serious questions of underlying motive and intent.

As Eritrea has underlined on various occasions, such statements deliberately couched in ambiguous terms, actually refer to and are euphemisms for the sovereign Eritrean territories – also endorsed in the EEBC Arbitral Ruling of 13 April 2002 – including Badme and other towns that remained occupied for almost two decades by previous Ethiopian regimes in flagrant violation of international law.

Eritrean troops have otherwise fully redeployed, after the end of the war in Northern Ethiopia, and remain inside our sovereign territory.

*Embassy of The State of Eritrea
Washington, DC
16 May 2025*

REPORTAGE

Engineering Day at MCET: A Celebration of Innovation and National Development

Kesete Ghebrehiwet



Dr. Araya Zeray

Engineering Day was held on 8 May at the premises of the Mai-Nefhi College of Engineering and Technology (MCET) under the theme “Engineering for National Development.” The event brought together students, faculty, professionals, and policymakers into a collaborative forum that highlighted the country’s advancing technological capabilities and development vision. Celebrating science, innovation, and technology, it provided a platform to showcase student-led innovations, departmental achievements, and professional research—all reflecting Eritrea’s determination to build a self-reliant, knowledge-based economy.

The event was officially opened by Dr. Araya Zeray, Dean of MCET. In his keynote speech, Dr. Araya underscored the significance of hosting a national Engineering Day. “We are embarking on a new tradition—a collaborative endeavor to highlight the skills, creativity, technical expertise, and groundbreaking projects emerging from every corner of our engineering college,” he said. “The theme of this Engineering Day, Engineering for National Development, deeply resonates with the core purpose of our college and the expectations of our stakeholders.”

Dr. Araya further noted that Eritreans are acutely aware of the transformative power of engineering in shaping the country’s future—through building resilient infrastructure, ensuring food security, responsibly harnessing national resources, driving technological progress, and fostering sustainable economic growth.

The one-day event was marked by enthusiastic participation of students and academic staff from various departments, including Civil, Mechanical, Agricultural, Chemical, Marine, Computer Science and Engineering, Electrical and Electronics, Mining, and Earth Science. The atmosphere was charged with intellectual curiosity and mutual respect, underscoring the crucial role that engineering and technology play in national development.

In his speech at the event, Dr. Yemane Keleta, Associate Dean



Dr. Yemane Keleta

for Academic Affairs and Chair of Engineering Day 2025, stated, “This day is more than just a convention; it is an opportunity for students, faculty, and professionals to connect, learn from one another, and explore new opportunities for growth and national development.” He added that the event has the potential to drive innovation in product development, research, and design through joint efforts, and it provides students with exposure to industry professionals, enhances the college’s reputation as a hub for engineering talent, fosters a sense of community among engineers and researchers, and gathers valuable feedback from stakeholders on college performance, curriculum, and research.

Dr. Yemane also noted that in recent years, in collaboration with the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students, the college had hosted intra-college festivals featuring project exhibitions, cultural shows, sports, general knowledge competitions, and debates. Building on this

momentum, he said, Engineering Day was expanded into an interdisciplinary platform where the academia and other professionals could share their research studies and innovations.

Eritrea’s philosophy of development has long emphasized self-reliance, efficient use of local resources, and sustainability. Within this framework, engineering is not merely academic but a strategic and applied tool essential to fulfilling national priorities such as infrastructure development, energy production, agricultural modernization, resource exploration, and industrial innovation.

A key session during the event focused on Engineering Education in the Context of National Development. Speakers emphasized the importance of aligning academic training with the practical needs of national development projects. Graduates working in diverse sectors shared how their college experiences prepared them to contribute meaningfully in real-world environments—from infrastructure construction to mining operations and energy installations.

Following its independence, Eritrea has made notable progress across sectors, much of which owes to the expertise in engineering. The construction of roads and bridges in challenging terrains, the installation of solar energy systems in remote communities, the establishment of local water-harvesting infrastructures, and the transformation of the mining



Dr. Seife Berh

sector into a leading national industry all reflect the critical role of engineering in the country’s post-independence growth.

Exhibitions and presentations at the event provided an open space for extensive deliberation between students, faculty, and visiting professionals. Panel discussions were organized on pressing issues, including the future of renewable energy in Eritrea, engineering ethics, digital transformation, and innovation policy.

Student exhibitions and academic research papers enriched the day’s proceedings. The exhibition showcased a wide range of student-developed projects, ranging from basic mechanical tools to complex electronic prototypes. They included solar-powered iceboxes for fisheries, a cost-effective wood-chopping machine for innovative carpentry and animal feed processing, and mobile applications for domestic and industrial use.

A group of undergraduate and postgraduate students involved in the development of the innovations said that the emphasis was not merely on innovation but on its relevance. “As we worked on our projects, we asked ourselves, ‘How can this help Eritrea? How does it support local communities or conserve resources?’ That’s what drives us.”

The Department of Earth Science and Mining Engineering played a particularly prominent role in the event. As Eritrea continues to harness its mineral wealth, the demand for skilled geologists, mining engineers, and environmental scientists is



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**ERITREA
PROFILE**

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SpotLight

Eritrea: a Nation Forged Through Struggle (Part I)

Bana Negusse

Located in the volatile Horn of Africa and blessed with a long, unspoiled Red Sea coastline, Eritrea is a nation with a rich, complex, and often turbulent history marked by successive external rules and occupation. After waging one of Africa's most prolonged and most devastating liberation wars, Eritrea secured independence from Ethiopia in 1991. This multipart series sheds light on the country's decades-long struggle for freedom and identity.

Origins at the dawn of humanity

Archaeological discoveries in Eritrea's Danakil Depression – especially in Buya – have revealed hominid remains dating back approximately 1.5 to 2 million years, placing the region at the very roots of human history. Prehistoric sites scattered across the country feature rock art, ancient tools, and artifacts, while evidence of early agriculture and animal domestication dates back to around 5000 BCE.

Moreover, many scholars identify Eritrea as the most likely site of the fabled Land of Punt – an ancient trading partner of the Egyptians, which further emphasizes its significance in early human civilization.

Before the colonial era, various parts of present-day Eritrea experienced intermittent invasions and occupations by foreign powers. Egyptians and Ottoman Turks held sway over coastal cities like Massawa and swathes of the lowlands. Meanwhile, rival warriors, feudal lords, and monarchs from surrounding regions launched periodic, short-lived incursions, often met with fierce resistance.

Italian colonization and the rise of modern infrastructure

In the late 19th century, Italy began acquiring coastal territory and gradually extended its reach inland, seeking to establish a settler colonial state. With tacit British support – motivated by geopolitical rivalry with the French – Italy formally declared Eritrea its “colonia primogenita” (first-born colony) on January 1, 1890. Massawa was named the capital before Asmara assumed the role in 1897, which it retains today.



This 1950s photo shows Kagnew Station in Asmara, a US military base gained through a 1953 agreement with Ethiopia. The establishment of such bases was prioritized over the Eritrean people's right to self-rule, as the US backed the federation with Ethiopia for strategic Cold War advantages.

Over the next 50 years, Eritrea remained under Italian rule. Eritreans endured systemic exploitation, racial segregation, forced labor, and land dispossession. Education was restricted to basic levels, meant only to serve Italian needs. Eritreans were barred from many parts of Asmara and suffered under colonial apartheid policies.

Yet amid this oppression, the colonial period saw significant infrastructure development and modernization. The period saw the building of ports, railways, airports, hospitals, factories, and communications networks, positioning Eritrea as one of the most industrialized regions in Africa at the time. The Teleferica Massaua-Asmara – a 75-kilometer aerial tramway – was the world's longest cableway when constructed.

In an enlightening 2006 article, the Eritrean scholar Rahel Almedom wrote how, after assuming control of Eritrea following Italian colonization, “the British had inherited a thriving local economy,” while Brigadier Stephen H. Longrigg, a civilian who from 1942 to 1944 served as chief administrator of the British Military Administration (BMA) in Eritrea, described the country as “highly developed,” and noted that it had, “superb roads, a railway, airports, a European city as its capital, [and] public services up to European standards.”

Additionally, as noted by two Westerners who lived in Eritrea, “In 1935, Asmara, which was made the Eritrean capital in 1897, was the most modern and progressive

city in Italian East Africa,” while at the same time, the port of Massawa boasted the most extensive harbor facilities between Alexandria and Cape Town. Other Eritrean cities also reflected progress and industrialization. Tessenai was a hub for transportation and economic activity, while Dekemhare, about 40 km south of Asmara, was referred to as “zona industria” and “secondo Milano” and was full of busy factories and industries.

Critically, the period of Italian colonial rule also forged the basis of an Eritrean state and created its modern territorial boundaries, while contributing to the formation and development of a common, shared social history and unique national identity.

British occupation and post-war betrayal

In April 1941, after the decisive British-led victory at the Battle of Keren, Eritrea was placed under British Military Administration (BMA). Despite British promises of independence in return for assistance against Italian forces, these were quickly abandoned. British propaganda even promised, “Eritreans! You deserve to have a flag! This is the honourable life for the Eritrean: to have the guts to call his people a Nation.” These assurances proved hollow.

Instead, the British plundered Eritrea's industrial assets and infrastructure, selling them off for profit. Sylvia Pankhurst condemned this exploitation as “a disgrace to British civilisation.” Meanwhile, the BMA sowed division among Eritrean communities, seeking to

fragment the territory and portray it as too weak and divided to be viable as an independent state. They aimed to partition Eritrea between the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan and imperial Ethiopia.

Federation by force

Ethiopia, too, portrayed Eritrea as economically dependent and politically fragile. In a 1947 speech to the UN, Aklilu Habtewold claimed Eritrea “could not live by itself.” The US echoed this narrative, fearing that an independent Eritrea might fall under Soviet influence during the Cold War. In reality, one of the main reasons the British, Ethiopians, and Americans

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from Social Media



Yemane G. Meskel
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As we celebrate the 34th Anniversary of our hard-won Independence, let us ponder on these cogent facts:

- *Eritrea's legitimate and normative right to decolonization was suppressed in the 1940s on the altar of the geopolitical interests of major powers against the backdrop of the Cold War.
- *This ignominious decision that flouted international law and the fundamental and inalienable rights of a small nation incubated Africa's longest war of national liberation that raged for three decades to exact unparalleled and inordinate sacrifices from the Eritrean people.
- *Even after its hard-won independence, Eritrea was subjected to several and unrelenting subterfuges at various junctures in its post-independence trajectory simply because it did not kowtow to the *diktats* of various powers who could not “tolerate” its independent policies and development agendas.
- *Eritrea has surmounted and triumphed over all these adverse, and often, bellicose external agendas due to its signature/unparalleled resilience and cohesion.
- *These are Eritrea's innate attributes.
- *Eritrea's natural and human endowments are, otherwise, huge by any standards; its potential and prospects for rapid and sustainable economic growth and development in accordance with its independent policies and vision crystal clear.
- *Reason why its hard-won Independence is cherished so much and the Independence Anniversaries celebrated with such vigour and vibrancy.



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SpotLight

“ዘራዮ ሃገርን ጠምጉ ተግዘባ” (Zura’ mo hagerka temt teazeba), a powerful Eritrean invitation to “tour your country and observe keenly.” This isn’t just a saying; it’s a guiding principle, echoing the evocative lyrics of the late Okbagabir Gebretnsae, whose iconic song captures the essence of Eritrea in a handful of poetic stanzas. Inspired by this call, my journey over the past year and a half has been a firsthand exploration of Eritrea’s six regions.

Traversing the majority of the nation’s road networks, I’ve witnessed the diverse landscapes and encountered the warmhearted Eritrean people, whose generosity is a common thread, readily sharing what they possess. This immersive experience transforms my journalistic endeavor into a direct act of understanding Eritrea, where each road and interaction unveils deeper insights into the land and its inhabitants.

Encountering all nine Eritrea’s ethnic groups in their natural habitats has profoundly enriched my understanding of the nation’s cultural diversity. Experiencing their customs, languages, and ways of life firsthand, rather than through mere description, transforms this knowledge into a living reality. This direct interaction within their evolved environments allows for a deeper appreciation of the nuances and the intrinsic connections between Eritrea’s diverse people, their cultures, and their values. It moves beyond a superficial understanding to a more embodied and empathetic grasp of Eritrea’s multifaceted heritage, making the learning process vibrant and truly alive.

Continuing this exploration, my recent journey through Eritrea’s southern region covered the subzones of Dekemhare, May Ayni, and Tsorona, 106 kilometers south of Asmara. The road beyond May Ayni was a new experience for all of us, fostering a palpable sense of discovery. While I had previously traveled as far as May Ayni, my recollection was somewhat hazy as I guided the way. Traveling an unseen route offered fresh perspectives, unburdened by prior knowledge or routine. This novelty likely sharpened our awareness, making the act of “keenly” observing the landscape, the communities, and the subtle nuances of the area all the more vivid and impactful, like opening a new chapter in our understanding of Eritrea.

Stepping out of May Ayni towards the south, the immediate and striking landmark is the renowned Mount Tekilo. Its distinct form is

Seeing Eritrea Firsthand: A Traveler’s Deep Dive

visible across vast distances, a clear beacon on the horizon. However, the initial experience is paradoxical; despite traveling what feels like many kilometers directly towards it, Mount Tekilo seems to maintain its distance, creating a captivating illusion of approach without

immediate arrival. Finally, just a few kilometers beyond

nuanced understanding than indirect information. The mountain, seen from different perspectives, becomes a metaphor for any subject where direct experience illuminates truths obscured by incomplete information.

The area surrounding Mount Tekilo is rich in cultural heritage and natural

cultivated in Eritrea solely through seasonal rainfall, holding significant potential for bolstering the nation’s food security. Within the historically significant Tsorona

traces of human presence spanning thousands of years. This concentration of natural bounty and ancient settlements makes this region particularly fascinating for understanding Eritrea’s multifaceted past and present. As you approach the outskirts of Tsorona, the large Tsorona River comes into view, a vital water source for the town and its extensive irrigated agriculture. Within the Tsorona subzone, the indigenous Meqi’e tree thrives, its tiny fruits (mt’ho or agulum) a significant source of income for many residents, their seeds even covering the ground along Tsorona’s streets.

On our return journey, about 18 kilometers northeast of Dekemhare, the Ala-Gadien plains presented themselves as a noteworthy discovery. Their significance extends beyond their fertility; this area also holds a prominent place in Eritrea’s history of the armed struggle for independence. While the plains are fertile, they are particularly known for producing exceptionally high-quality oranges. Firsthand experience truly dispels misunderstandings. The common Asmara street vendor phrase “aranshi A’la” (orange of A’la) signifies premium quality and origin, a distinction confirmed by visiting the farmlands. Having seen numerous orange groves across Eritrea, including those in Elabered and May Ayni, the vibrant, deep orange color, easily peeled, slightly thicker skin, and notably more flavorful taste of A’la oranges stand out, likely due to the specific soil composition and climate of the Ala-Gadien area. Therefore, “aranshi A’la” isn’t just marketing; it reflects a genuine difference in quality and taste.



May Ayni, the imposing presence of Mount Tekilo becomes tangible. Up close, its sheer size and rugged, rocky uniqueness are revealed as

splendor. Within 10 kilometers lies the prominent Hazemo plains, stretching endlessly across the subzones of May Ayni and Tsorona.



a monumental natural structure. Adding to its allure is a verdant belt of fruit gardens on its lower slopes, nourished by a nearby stream.

Interestingly, Mount Tekilo possesses a multifaceted appearance, looking quite different depending on the observer’s vantage point. This variability led to a debate during my first trip to May Ayni, as I only viewed it from one side. Based on the familiar conical shape from photographs, I initially argued that the mountain we were seeing was not Tekilo. It was only upon approaching from the western side that the conical form became clearly visible, resolving my uncertainty. This personal encounter underscores the value of firsthand experience in dispelling assumptions and providing a more complete and

subzone, in the village of Deki Liefay, lies the mystical Liefay cave, its legend passed down through thirteen generations, recounting the tale of a legendary ancestor who sought refuge within its multiple chambers, including grain storage barns and ancient pottery, high in a seemingly inaccessible rocky mountain, climbed using ropes crafted from animal skins.

Adding to Tsorona’s historical significance is the village of Logosarda, where the earliest known written example of the Tigrinya script, dating back to the 13th century, was discovered. Furthermore, the Slum Be’ati cave paintings stand as another testament to the long history of human habitation in this area, representing

These remarkably fertile plains can support the growth of any crop



LOCAL NEWS

TRAINING ON DESERT AND TREE LOCUST CONTROL

Training on controlling desert and tree locusts, along with the application of pesticides, was conducted in Sawa. The training

was jointly organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Service Training Center.

The objective of the training was to enhance participants' understanding of the characteristics and life cycle of locusts, to enable effective implementation of locust control campaigns, and to raise awareness about the harmful effects of pesticides on humans, animals, plants, water sources, and the environment.

improve the overall capacity of the staff to ensure they provide timely and efficient services to the public.

ELECTIONS OF AREA ADMINISTRATORS AND MANAGING DIRECTORS

Elections for area administrators, managing directors, and village coordinators were conducted in five administrative areas of the Dahlak sub-zone from 6 to 11 May.

Mr. Ahmed Bokalia, administrator of the sub-zone, reported that elections took place in the administrative areas of Jemhile, Derbushet, Nora, Dihil, and Desse. He noted that the elections witnessed strong participation from local residents, resulting in the selection of 27 area administrators, managing directors, and village coordinators,

including six women.

Mr. Ahmed emphasized that the awareness-raising activities conducted prior to the elections played a crucial role in ensuring a smooth and successful electoral process. He also urged the newly elected officials to serve the community with dedication and integrity.

The newly elected officials, in turn, expressed their commitment to diligently fulfilling their responsibilities and upholding the trust placed in them by the community.

In related news, the Central Region Administration provided vocational training to 460 staff members, including 139 women, across five fields.

The training covered fire control, research paper preparation, financial and material management, administration and leadership, and leadership ethics.

Mr. Tekie Keleta, Director General of Administration and Finance in the Central Region, stated that the training aimed to

Mr. Amanuel Gebrebrhan, Head of Human Resources Development in the region, stated that the ongoing training programs across the region aim to enhance the quality and timeliness of public service delivery.

WORLD MUSEUM DAY OBSERVED...

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displays portraying the history, culture, and the Eritrean people's struggle for independence.

The display included depictions of the armed struggle from 1976 until independence, a number of paintings by veteran liberation fighters, as well as ancient heritage artifacts.

Dr. Yosief Libsekal, Director of the National Museum, stated that World Museum Day—marked annually on 18 May—is being commemorated for the 48th time globally and for the 31st time nationally.

Engineering Day at MCET ...

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increasingly becoming vital. In his speech, Dr. Seife Berhe, Manager of Andiamo Exploration Company, emphasized the importance of synergy among Earth Sciences, Engineering, and Environmental disciplines in the sustainable development of the mining sector.

Engineering Day is more than an annual academic celebration; it is a manifestation of Eritrea's broader vision to build indigenous capacity in science and technology. The colleges of engineering and technology are at the forefront of this effort, training thousands of Eritrean youth who now contribute across strategic sectors nationwide.

In a country where the education sector was severely marginalized before independence, the current emphasis on local problem-

solving, innovation, and interdisciplinary collaboration is not merely strategic—it is indispensable. By rooting engineering education in Eritrea's unique developmental context, the country is nurturing a generation of homegrown innovators who are deeply invested in its progress.

As the event drew to a close, participants expressed a shared sense of pride and purpose in what had been achieved, and they underlined that much more remains to be done. Strengthening research infrastructure, expanding academic-industry partnerships, and scaling up innovations for broader societal impact are essential next steps.

Among the key recommendations that emerged from the discussions were the expansion of funding for student-led research, the establishment of technology

incubation centers, and the institutionalization of Engineering Day as a national event with broader stakeholder engagement.

As Eritrea continues on its path to sustainable development, events like Engineering Day serve as both a milestone and a motivator, highlighting the ingenuity, dedication, and potential of the nation's youth—young minds who are already laying the foundation for tomorrow's progress.

In addition to celebrating achievement, such events foster collaboration between academia and industry. Professionals from various sectors engage directly with students, offering mentorship and exploring avenues for transforming ideas into practical solutions.

In every sense, Engineering Day is a powerful reminder: the future is already under construction.

... a Nation Forged Through

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worked so hard to portray Eritrea as weak and so heavily pressed their claims regarding the country was that it was full of development and considerable economic potential.

On September 20, 1949, the UN General Assembly dispatched a commission to assess Eritrea's future. The delegation confirmed that the overwhelming majority of Eritreans favoured independence. Pakistani delegate Sir Zafrulla warned, "An independent Eritrea would obviously be better able to contribute to the maintenance of peace (and security) than an Eritrea federated with Ethiopia against the true wishes of the people. To deny the people of Eritrea their elementary right to independence would be to sow the seeds of discord and create a threat in that sensitive area of the Middle East."

Nevertheless, on December 2, 1950, UN Resolution 390 (V) imposed a federation with Ethiopia, making Eritrea an autonomous unit under the Ethiopian Crown. Sponsored by the US, the resolution prioritized Cold War strategic interests over Eritrean self-determination. The American Secretary of State John Foster Dulles famously declared:

"From the point of justice, the opinions of the Eritrean people

must receive consideration. Nevertheless, the strategic interest of the United States in the Red Sea basin and considerations of security and world peace make it necessary that the country be linked with our ally, Ethiopia."

Unlike other Italian colonies granted independence after World War II, Eritrea was denied its right to self-rule. Days later, Emperor Haile Selassie declared a national holiday celebrating the "restoration" of Eritrea. During a luncheon attended by the US Ambassador, the Emperor expressed gratitude for America's decisive role in the UN decision.

In return, the US gained key military advantages. On May 22, 1953, Ethiopia granted the Americans the right to establish military bases in Eritrea, including Kagnew Station in Asmara, which was then the world's largest overseas spy facility. Subsequent agreements included comprehensive military aid and training for Ethiopian forces.

The UN-mandated federal arrangement granted Eritrea legislative, judicial, and executive autonomy in domestic affairs. But from the outset, Ethiopia treated it with contempt. The monarchy began systematically dismantling Eritrean autonomy, paving the way for annexation — actions that would eventually spark one of Africa's longest wars of independence.





Embassy of Sweden

Office of the Embassy
of Sweden in Asmara

The Office of the Embassy of Sweden in Asmara, Eritrea is looking for:

A Driver/Administrative Clerk No. 001/25

Duties and Responsibilities

Under the direct supervision of the Head of Office and Administration the successful candidate will undertake the below tasks:

- Drive Embassy staff and other Embassy Officials inside and outside of Asmara
- Distribute and collect official mail to and from Ministries and other Missions
- Ensure that the car is always clean inside/out and in perfect condition for safe driving. Involves cleaning of the car by the driver him/herself, who will also check the fuel levels, the tyre pressure, etc.
- Fill in the vehicle’s logbook on a daily basis and clearly indicate all moves
- Ensure proper day-to-day maintenance of the assigned vehicle through timely minor repairs, arrangements for service and major repairs, timely changes of oil, check of tires, brakes, car washing, etc.
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- Ensure that all immediate actions required by rules and regulations are taken in case of involvement in accidents.
- Ensure utilities related correspondence are prepared and associated papers and documents are filed. Follow-up utilities bills for timely payments
- Ensure incoming mails are sorted and distributed both outside and inside the Office and dispatch outgoing mails
- Ensure that all logistical and administrative tasks of the office are handled with care, including formalities related to customs clearance and obtaining the required documentation (registration and insurance) for the vehicle
- Ensure regular re-fueling of the car and generator at the residence.
- Assist administration works and tasks of miscellaneous nature and/or secretarial tasks as assigned by the Head of Office or Head of Administration.
- Assist in any other ad hoc tasks assigned by the Head of Office or Head of Administration.

Operational Effectiveness:

- Demonstrate excellent knowledge of driving rules and regulations and skills in minor vehicle repair
- Demonstrate excellent knowledge of protocol
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- Ability to review data, identify and adjust discrepancies
- Ability to handle a large volume of work possibly under time constraints
- Good knowledge of administrative rules and regulations

- Ability to operate and maintain a variety of computerized business machines and office equipment in order to provide efficient delivery of service
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Minimum requirements /Eligibility criteria (necessary for the application to be considered)

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- Excellent command in English and Tigrigna languages i.e speaking, understanding, reading and writing.
- At least three references from previous employers.
- Proven computer literacy in MS Word, Excel and Outlook.
- Very good knowledge of the primary and secondary roads of Asmara.
- Solid knowledge of the primary and secondary roads in Eritrea.
- Solid knowledge of traffic rules and regulations in Eritrea. Knowledge of defensive/safe driving practices.
- Basic technical knowledge of car maintenance. Able to adjust minor problems and capable of supervising repairs and maintenance works carried out by the garage/ workshop. Good knowledge of general functions of vehicles.
- Ability to communicate and understand instructions correctly and liaise with outside organizations and official visitors of the Office.
- Proven ability to plan and organize, establish priorities, manage and monitor work plans, coordinate competing demands, and work to tight deadlines.
- Strong interpersonal skills, including ability to operate effectively.
- Apply sound judgment to resolve a range of issues/ problems; problem solving skills.
- Ability to remain calm, in control and good humored even under pressure.
- Proven experience in driving 4x4 vehicles.

Remuneration:

- As per the salary scale of the Office of the Embassy of Sweden and relevant experiences.

Assets/ selection criteria (basis for awarding points to select the best applicant)

- Grade IV,V driving licence
- Defensive/ safe driving training certificate
- Experience as a professional Driver with an international Organization or Embassy
- Advanced technical knowledge of car maintenance

How to apply

Please submit your application consisting of a cover letter, CV and copies of reference letters proving 3 years of professional experience as a professional driver and provide evidence of completion or exemption of National Service, by hand delivery to the Office of the Embassy of Sweden in Asmara. (reference “Driver/ Admin Clerk post 001/2025”) **ten days from the day it is advertised.**

Our Office is located inside the Delegation of the European Union to the State of Eritrea, Marsa Teklay Street 192, House no. 20/22.

Attention to Head of Administration.

Only shortlisted candidate will be contacted for an interview. Successful candidate will be subject to medical check-up.



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;

Senior Electrical Powerhouse
Number required – (01)
Type of contract – Definite For 2years

Major Duties and responsibilities

- The Senior Electrician at Powerhouse is responsible for maintaining, repairing, and ensuring the optimal performance of HFO/diesel engines and auxiliary mechanical systems within the power plant. This role involves performing routine maintenance, troubleshooting mechanical issues, and collaborating with the operations team to support efficient plant operations.
- This person will report to the Electrical Supervisor Power House and assist with various administrative.

TASK DESCRIPTION Expanded TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS

- Ensure compliance with quality, health and safety rules, guidelines, and regulations.
- Ensure that subordinate colleagues work safely, assist the supervisor to accomplish inspection of work areas and lead daily Toolbox meetings.
- Leads and assists to supervise a team of powerhouse electricians, assigning tasks and ensuring quality work.
- Leads preventive and corrective maintenance activities for HFO/diesel engines and auxiliary power plant systems.
- Follows preventive maintenance schedules to minimize downtime and extend the lifespan of equipment.
- Ensures safety requirements are fulfilled at the workplace, including leading Field Level Risk Assessment (FLRA) and proper use of the appropriate PPE.
- Ensures compliance with the LOTOTO procedures by team members performing any electrical work.
- Conducts regular inspections and oversees troubleshooting of electrical issues, ensuring timely resolution.
- Maintains detailed records of maintenance activities, repairs, and inspections as per CMMS system.
- Manages inventory of spare parts and maintenance supplies, ensuring availability and proper usage.
- Diagnoses and troubleshoots electrical problems, determining the cause of issues and implementing effective solutions.
- Identify and communicate opportunities to improve preventive and predictive maintenance procedures and methods
- Manages, motivates, develops, and provides direct leadership to maintenance staff.
- Provides training and development opportunities for the electrical team to enhance their skills and knowledge maintenance and safety procedures.
- Responsibly handles emergency situations or after-hours calls for repair and maintenance.

Profile: Qualifications and Experience

Formal Education, Certifications or Equivalents

- Minimum Technical College Electrical Diploma (preferably 4 years)

- International recognized trade certificate as an Electrician/ Electrical Technician
- Working Experience – Nature & Length
- Minimum 5 years’ experience in an HFO Power station environment or similar industrial-scale plant as an Electrician/ Electrical Technician
 - Sound knowledge of preventive maintenance programs
 - Functional communication in English is mandatory.
 - Experience working in Africa

Technical Skills

- In-depth electrical knowledge of HFO/ Diesel power plant gensets and related auxiliary equipment.

- Expertise in reading and interpreting electrical and circuit diagrams, flow charts and other related electrical drawings.
- Knowledge of electrical safety standards and practices for incident prevention, particularly LOTOTO.
- Knowledge of PLC controls and automation.
- Train and develop local staff.
- Analytical skills and Attention to detail.
- Decision making and Problem-solving skills
- Plan, organize and execution skills.
- Valid Driver’s License.

Behavioral Skills

- Safety leadership by example
- Good interpersonal skills
- Ability to work under pressure with challenging targets
- High level of initiative
- Demonstrated training and people development skills.
- Strong interpersonal relationship-building skills and adaptability to work with people of different cultures.

General Information and other requirements:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Place of Work: | AMSC Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Type of contract: | Definite Period |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Salary: | As per the Company salary scale |

Additional requirements for Nationals:

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

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

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



Claiming the Narrative: Alemseged Tesfai on Eritrea's Quest and His New Work

Eritrea Profile Staff

Your new book, "An African People's Quest for Freedom and Justice," delves into a significant theme. What key aspects of this quest do you explore in the book, and what message do you hope readers will take away?

I don't think that I can point to "key aspects" from the whole theme. With the exception of a few attempts by various writers, the narrative that poses as Eritrean history in global literature has been largely devoid of Eritrean voices, historical sources and collective memory. The whole story had thus to be retold from the Eritrean perspective – the receiving end of an imposed narrative. But this is not done in isolation from the larger Ethiopian narrative and the international support that has been accorded to it an unassailable status. Three processes that determined the fate of Eritrea in 1941-62 period – the Eritrean, the Ethiopian and the US-UK led international dynamics – are, therefore, analyzed in this book with as much objectivity as available resources allow. I hope that readers will have a clearer understanding of the events that led to the Eritrean war of independence and the attendant quest for denied freedom and justice.

Having been deeply involved in Eritrea's liberation struggle, how has your personal experience shaped your perspective and approach to writing about Eritrean history and identity?

Eritrea's literary and historical landscape is profoundly shaped by the contributions of Alemseged Tesfai, a figure whose life intertwines the roles of renowned writer, dedicated historian, and freedom fighter. His journey from legal studies to the heart of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) underscores a deep commitment to his nation's quest for self-determination. This vantage point, forged in the crucible of Eritrea's struggle for independence, imbues his literary and historical works an unparalleled authenticity and perspective. As a historian, Alemseged has meticulously documented Eritrea's path from federation to independence, offering crucial Eritrean-centric narratives that challenge external interpretations. His impact extends to the realm of literature, where his plays, such as the groundbreaking "The Other War," have illuminated the multifaceted experiences of Eritreans during pivotal historical periods, solidifying his status as a key cultural voice.

In this illuminating Q&A, we delve into Alemseged Tesfai's insights as he releases his latest book, "An African People's Quest for Freedom and Justice." Drawing upon his extensive experience as both a participant in and a chronicler of Eritrean history, we explore the key themes and messages embedded within this new work.

My interest in the necessity of Eritreans claiming ownership over their own history actually started before my direct involvement in the Eritrean liberation struggle. During my studies at various universities in the 1960s and early 70s, I came to realize that Eritreans had been letting others define them in a way that they would not define themselves. Although I wrote a couple of theses that touched on Eritrean history, neither my experience nor the available sources would enable me to tackle the problem effectively. My participation in the armed struggle reinforced my previous belief, especially when the armed struggle was misconstrued and delegitimized as a secessionist movement not worthy of the recognition that it deserved. History and the Eritrean identity were at the centre of the conflict. In 1987, and again in 1997, I was given the opportunity to study, research and write on Eritrean history. My revolutionary experience helped me to identify important issues and to obtain a clearer understanding of Eritrea's narrative.

aspect of the Eritrean character. Beginning with the British attempt to partition the country along religious lines, through to subsequent similar trials, the people have consistently refused to be drawn into strife and ill-feelings not of their making. Their traditional conflict resolution strategy in the event of internal conflicts has also helped them keep their balanced relationships. The survival of the Eritrean identity is, to a large part, attributable to this characteristic, indeed this soul, of Eritrean society.

Could you elaborate on the process you undertook to research and ensure the historical accuracy and cultural sensitivity in your narratives?

I spent many months examining the primary sources available at the RDC, the newspaper articles and political speeches from the period; the Eritrean Government, Assembly, Supreme Court documents and files; the Ethiopian, "Federal", UN, British and American documents, etc. I travelled to Addis Ababa, London and New York for documentation and interviews. In an attempt to represent the cross-section of Eritrean society, I tried to be as inclusive of the diversity in our society as I possibly could. Interviews with major figures from the period were of crucial importance. No book on history can confidently claim perfection and accuracy. I hope that readers will point to me areas where these may be identified and corrected.

Beyond history, your writing also touches upon the socio-political landscape of Eritrea and the Horn of Africa. What are some of the key contemporary issues that you feel are crucial to address in your literary work?

Peace is in short supply

everywhere in the world these days. Our region is no different. I believe that the factors that unite the peoples of the Horn of Africa far outweigh the issues that divide them. I would like to see history and literature move away from the brinksmanship and intolerance of the past to help open up an atmosphere of dialogue and mutual respect.

For readers who are new to your work, which of your books would you recommend as a starting point to understand Eritrea's history and culture, and why?

This largely depends on the interest of the reader. For Tigrinya readers, "Wedi Hadera" would be a good start, as it is also entertaining. "Two Weeks in the Trenches," both in Tigrinya and English, would also be a good introduction to my larger books. Tesfaye Gebreab's, "The Nurenebi File," which I translated into English, would also effectively serve the purpose. Readers can then tackle my three Tigrinya history volumes and "An African People's Quest for Freedom and Justice," more easily.

Considering the evolution of Eritrean literature and historical scholarship since independence, what are some of the emerging voices and perspectives that you find particularly noteworthy?

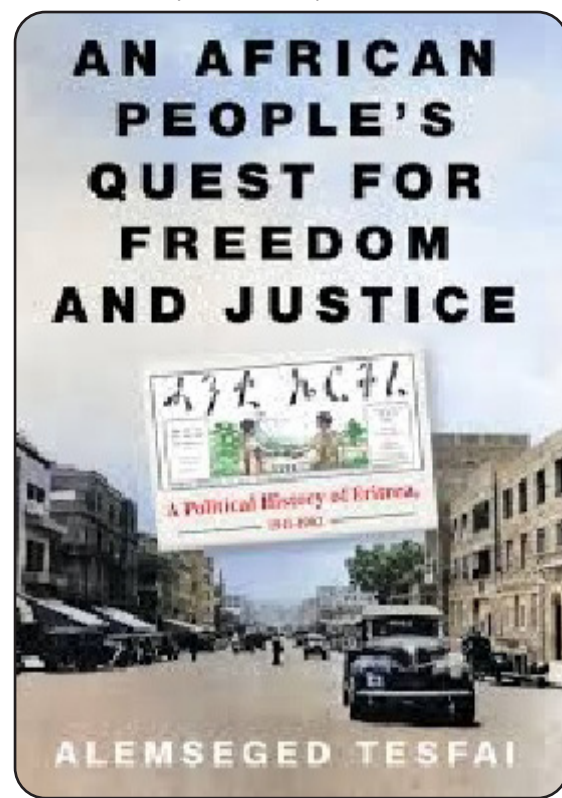
It is encouraging to see Eritrean writers, many of them young in age, publishing books. But, publishing books is not, by itself, a sign of progress in literary and historical scholarship. For literature to strive, the ground on which it operates needs to expand; it needs to examine social issues and explore the richness of our people's and diverse cultures and traditions. Writers need to understand that



reading and research are essential prerequisites to literary success. There is a manifest weakness in this area, among many of our writers. Recent works of thorough research, Netsereab Azazi's, "Ona and Bisikdira;" the late Mekonen Shabay's, "Dinget ab Agamet;" and Girmalem Tekie's, "Salina 77," are among the few books that stand out in terms of the in-depth detail and investigation that went into them. I am not forgetting the voices of our poets. But our writers need to be recognized if the "emerging voices and perspectives" are to be "noteworthy."

As both a participant in and a chronicler of Eritrea's history, what are your hopes and aspirations for the future of Eritrean society and its place in the broader African context?

My hope, especially in regards to history, is to see Eritrean historiography and the Eritrean narrative take its proper place in the history of the Horn, Africa and the world. I have concentrated only on one period of Eritrean history. To obtain a composite body of Eritrean history, more writers and researchers need to emerge and be encouraged to the earlier and latter parts of our history. Eritrea has a unique history waiting to be told.



Your literary works are often described as deeply rooted in Eritrea's rich history and cultural heritage. What aspects of this heritage do you find most compelling to explore in your writing?

The ability of the people of Eritrea to live in harmony and mutual tolerance despite their religious, linguistic, ethnic and regional diversity is, for me, the most compelling