



ERITREA PARTICIPATES IN 8TH INDIAN OCEAN CONFERENCE

An Eritrean delegation, led by Foreign Minister Osman Saleh, Minister of Foreign Affairs, is participating in the 8th Indian Ocean Conference, which will be held in Muscat, Oman, on 16 February under the theme “Voyage to New Horizons of Maritime Partnership.” The two-day conference is organized in collaboration with India and Oman.

The conference aims to enhance mutual cooperation and partnerships among countries bordering the Indian Ocean. Representatives from 40 countries, including 28 foreign

ministers, are attending.

Addressing the conference, Minister Osman Saleh stated that the Indian Ocean, spanning nearly 70.56 million square kilometers, is one of the world’s most crucial maritime regions, playing an indispensable role in global trade, geopolitics, and environmental sustainability. He emphasized that the 8th Indian Ocean Conference underscores the ocean’s significance and highlights the strategic imperatives that must be addressed.

Minister Osman underlined that Eritrea, with its strategic

location along the Red Sea, holds a significant position in the maritime landscape. It provides access to key global shipping routes from the Mediterranean to the Indian Ocean via the Suez Canal and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. As global dynamics shift in the Indo-Pacific and the Middle East, Eritrea is committed to enhancing maritime security and economic development through strengthened, mutually beneficial partnerships with neighboring African and Gulf countries.

(Full text of the statement is on page 2)

COMMEMORATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1975 MASSACRE



The observance of the 50th anniversary of the atrocities and massacres of innocent civilians perpetrated in Asmara and its environs in January and February 1975 by the Ethiopian army of occupation was held at Bahti Meskerem yesterday.

The poignant remembrance event, held under the theme “We Have Not Forgotten,” featured harrowing testimonies from survivors and moving poems and songs.

Ministers, senior government and PFDJ officials, Ambassadors, and members of the diplomatic community, as well as students and the general public, attended the event.

Mr. Asmerom Tsegabrhan, coordinator of the program, stated that the enemy forces committed numerous atrocities in an attempt to force the Eritrean people into submission and to suppress the

Eritrean revolution by depriving it of support. He emphasized that the objective of the program was to ensure that the atrocities committed by the occupation forces were not forgotten over time and to educate the younger generation about these tragic events.

Mr. Fesehaye Haile, Governor of the Central Region, highlighted that around 11,000 innocent Eritrean civilians were massacred in an indiscriminate killing spree that continued across the city and in 57 surrounding villages for over six weeks. Many villages were wantonly burned, and Churches were vandalized as the army mercilessly slaughtered helpless civilians who had sought sanctuary in Holy places. He also commended the participants for their role in successfully implementing the program.

Meanwhile, a photo exhibition commemorating the 50th anniversary of the massacre committed by

the Ethiopian colonial regimes in Asmara and its surrounding areas was officially opened on February 14.

The exhibition, staged in front of the Asmara Municipality office, featured 50 photographs, partial lists of the victims’ names, and documentary films highlighting the tragic event.

Mr. Ghidey Gebremichael, one of the exhibition’s coordinators, stated that the materials on display were sourced from the archives of the Eritrean Police.

In tribute to the victims of the massacre, Mr. Fesehaye Haile, Governor of the region, Mr. Yosuf Saiq, Head of PFDJ Organizational Affairs, and Mr. Zerit Tewoldebhan, Managing Director of the area, laid wreaths.

The exhibition remained open to the public until Sunday, 16 February.

From Social Media



Yemane G. Meskel
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The Pancea does not Lie in Externalizing the Conflict or Scapegoating Eritrea

In classical fashion, Ethiopia’s former figure-head President, Mr. Mulatu Teshome, raises a false-flag alarm to accuse Eritrea of stoking a “new conflict in the Horn of Africa”. The audacious claim is precisely intended to conceal and rationalize a war-mongering agenda. The facts are otherwise crystal clear:

1. Contrary to distorted historical accounts that Mr. Mulatu attempts to project, Eritrea and Ethiopia went to war in 1998 precisely because the TPLF-led Ethiopian regime occupied sovereign Eritrean territories - including Badme, Adi Murug, and other places - in flagrant violation of international law and the OAU cardinal principle on the sanctity of colonial boundaries.

2. Even after the costly war, Ethiopia continued to defy international law and occupy sovereign Eritrean territories in breach of the Arbitral EEBC Award for twenty-long years. Mulatu endorsed—even if his authority was arguably nominal—the violation of international law and the “regime change” agendas of regional destabilization of the Melles regime during his Presidency (2013-2018).

3. Eritrea normalized ties with Ethiopia in 2018 when the Abiy Government publicly announced its readiness for the full and unequivocal acceptance and implementation of the EEBC Award of 2002. Eritrea reciprocated in good faith and worked in earnest to foster and nurture good-neighborly ties with Ethiopia on the basis of full respect for each other’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.

4. But soon, Ethiopia was embroiled in a deadly conflict with its Tigray region when the latter unleashed what was widely termed as a War of Insurrection on the night of 3 November 2020. Eritrea gave sanctuary to the contingent of the Ethiopian Northern Command, who escaped from coordinated and massive assaults in the TPLF “blitzkrieg.” The TPLF’s war plans also included massive and phased attacks on Eritrea.

5. Eritrea’s involvement in the imposed war was dictated by these circumstances as well as the request of the Ethiopian Government. Shameful and unconscionable acts of backstabbing aside, the Ethiopian Government and its Defense establishments officially and publicly paid tribute to Eritrea’s indispensable role during Ethiopia’s dark days.

6. As underlined on previous occasions, the Pretoria Agreement is an exclusive matter for the Ethiopian Government and its internal protagonists. Eritrea has neither the interest nor the appetite to obstruct or tamper with a purely internal Ethiopian affair.

7. Indeed, Eritrea duly re-deployed its troops within its internationally recognized sovereign borders. Still, those who never accepted the EEBC Arbitral Award in good faith or harbor some intent in fomenting conflict have and continue to peddle false allegations of Eritrean troop presence in “the border areas”—apparent euphemisms/references to Badme and other similar territories.

8. The ill-intent and provocations have not been confined to these acts only. For reasons that are difficult to fathom, the Ethiopian Federal Government has unleashed, in the past months, an intensive and unwarranted campaign of provocation against Eritrea through its “thinly-veiled” agenda of acquiring ports and maritime land “legally if possible and militarily if necessary.”

9. The commotion and disquiet precipitated by Ethiopia’s opaque MOU with “Somaliland” remains another element of regional tension. Ethiopia is also embroiled in another vicious internal war in the Amhara Region.

10. In a nutshell, the myriad problems besetting the region stem and find their fulcrum in Ethiopia, not elsewhere. The panacea does not lie in externalizing the conflict or scapegoating Eritrea.

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Remarks by Foreign Minister Osman Saleh at the 8th Indian Ocean Conference

*Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

At the outset, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Government of the Sultanate of Oman for their gracious hospitality and for hosting this vital forum.

Excellencies,

The Indian Ocean, sprawling across nearly 70.56 million square kilometers, stands as one of the world's most crucial maritime realms playing an indispensable role in global trade, geopolitics, and environmental sustainability. The 8th Indian Ocean Conference (IOC) underscores the ocean's significance and outlines the strategic imperatives that must be addressed.

The Indian Ocean is the lifeblood of global commerce. It connects three continents—Africa, Asia, and Australia—serving as a conduit for approximately 40% of the world's offshore petroleum production, 50% of the world's container traffic, and over 70% of the world's seaborne oil trade. Strategic chokepoints like the Strait of Hormuz, the Malacca Strait, and the Bab el-Mandeb are pivotal for energy security, influencing global economic stability.

This Conference, themed "Voyage to New Horizons of Maritime Partnership," thus, provides a pivotal venue for fostering dialogue, enhancing



cooperation, and promoting strategic collaboration among nations within the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). With maritime connectivity being fundamental to global trade, economic growth, and security, Eritrea believes this conference will deepen regional alliances and tackle current maritime challenges.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Eritrea, with its strategic location along the Red Sea, holds a significant position in the maritime landscape, offering access to key global shipping routes from the Mediterranean to the Indian Ocean via the Suez Canal and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait.

As global dynamics shift in the Indo-Pacific and the Middle East, Eritrea is dedicated to enhancing maritime security and economic development through strengthened mutually beneficial partnerships with neighboring African and Gulf countries.

However, recent developments in the region seek to destabilize the Horn of Africa not only by external actors but also regional players. The continuous meddling in the domestic affairs of Somalia, through deliberate attempts to undermine its territorial integrity, must be met with firm condemnation and legal action at all times. Somalia's sovereignty and unity must be respected, and attempts aimed at fragmenting or destabilizing the country can only be fraught with precipitating broader regional tension and instability.

Somalia boasts a coastline of approximately 3,333 kilometers, the longest on mainland Africa. This coastline possesses immense economic potential through its blue economy, rich fisheries, and strategic maritime position along key global trade routes.

If harnessed effectively, these resources could transform the nation's economic landscape, providing livelihoods, boosting trade, and contributing to regional prosperity.

However, Somalia and its people have been unable to fully capitalize on these vast endowments due to persistent external interference, political instability, and exploitative practices by foreign actors. The illegal exploitation of its marine resources and geopolitical maneuvering has significantly hampered Somalia's ability to benefit from its own natural wealth. Somalia must be left alone to govern and manage its own rich resources in a manner that best serves its national interests and the well-being of its people, free from external interference.

It is imperative to raise these concerns given the security and stability of the Horn of Africa cannot be viewed in isolation. Its stability is deeply interconnected with the broader dynamics of the Indian Ocean. This region serves as a critical maritime crossroads, connecting the Red Sea to the vast expanse of the Indian Ocean via the Bab el-Mandeb Strait and the Gulf of Aden. An estimated 10% of global trade passes through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, while the Suez Canal handles around 12%. Additionally, an estimated one-quarter of the world's seaborne oil trade flows through the Strait of Hormuz. Any instability in the Horn of Africa and the wider region directly affects the safety of vital global shipping lanes, with significant repercussions for international trade, energy, economic development, and regional security.

Therefore, it is in the collective interest of all nations to uphold the principles of sovereignty

and territorial integrity as enshrined in the UN Charter. The territorial integrity of all nations bordering these vital waterways is inviolable and non-negotiable. The Indian Ocean Conference must therefore take a firm stance against any interference that seeks to undermine Somalia's unity or exploit the political situation of the Horn of Africa.

In view of the above, the Indian Ocean Conference must amplify the voice of the Global South in the governance of the world's maritime domain. The dominance of a select few in maritime policy-making must be countered with a renewed push for greater participation, ensuring that developing nations play a decisive role in shaping global maritime governance.

Excellencies,

Equitable access to marine resources, fair trade practices, and technology transfer must also be prioritized to empower economies across the Indian Ocean Region. This conference must champion capacity-building initiatives in maritime technology, governance, and law enforcement, ensuring that no nation is left behind in the quest for a fair and balanced maritime order.

Moreover, the Indian Ocean faces mounting environmental threats—rising sea levels, coastal degradation, and extreme weather events—endangering both livelihoods and economies. The 8th Indian Ocean Conference must drive an ambitious agenda for sustainable maritime policies that reconcile economic imperatives with environmental stewardship. The resilience of coastal communities must be reinforced through robust climate adaptation strategies, enhanced marine conservation efforts, and the promotion of green shipping

technologies. Our commitments must align with global climate frameworks to safeguard the ecological integrity of the Indian Ocean for future generations.

Historically, the Indian Ocean has been a melting pot of civilizations, facilitating the exchange of ideas, traditions, and commerce. Strengthening educational exchanges, research collaborations, and tourism initiatives will further reinforce the bonds between Indian Ocean nations and promote a sense of shared destiny.

Excellencies,

In closing, the changing global political landscape, marked by the increasing naval presence of major powers, underscores the need for a nuanced approach to tackle emerging challenges. We must ensure that regional security mechanisms evolve to counterbalance these geopolitical shifts, advocating for cooperative security frameworks that respect national sovereignty while reinforcing collective stability and development.

The 8th Indian Ocean Conference, therefore, signifies a recommitment to cooperation, unity, progress, and the reaffirmation of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations. As we navigate toward new horizons, we must emphasize collaboration over competition and resilience over vulnerability. By building a robust maritime partnership, the Indian Ocean Region can realize its full potential, ensuring stability and growth for future generations.

And for these partnerships to be truly meaningful, they must be built on solid foundations of trust, mutual respect, and transparency. Any opportunistic alliances, lacking sincerity and genuine commitment, will not serve the best interests of the nations in this region.

As such, as we proceed with this conference, our collective goals should translate into actionable policies and initiatives that will shape the future of maritime cooperation in the Indian Ocean. Through dialogue, innovation, and solidarity, this journey toward new horizons will map out a path to a more secure, interconnected, and prosperous Indian Ocean Region.

I thank you.

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Muscat, Oman

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A principle of fairness and equality

Rooted in the concept of fairness, social justice represents a long-term, ongoing process and a standalone end goal. In brief, it is the belief that all people, regardless of race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, gender, age, religion, physical and mental ability, or other particular distinctions, should have equal rights, opportunities, and treatment within a society. Unlike general notions of justice, social justice is a relatively recent concept and it has gained increasing prominence in public discourse. Several key principles or pillars, including human rights, equality, diversity, respect, access, and participation underpin social justice.

Social Justice in Eritrea

In Eritrea, social justice is a



foundational principle and robust anchor for nation-building and development. The country's *National Charter*, which was adopted in February 1994 and articulates a guiding vision for the nation, underscores this commitment: *"Equitable distribution of wealth, services and opportunities, and special attention to be paid to the most disadvantaged sections of society."*

President Isaias has also described the key place of social justice within Eritrea's policy framework and national strategy, explaining, *"Our development strategy is anchored on prioritizing deprived regions and segments of the population. The strategy strives to ensure fairness and equity through structured governance configurations and a social contract that promotes equal opportunities and a level playing field for all stakeholders. Our central objective, and for which we have paid precious sacrifices in a long struggle, is to secure and enhance effective participation of the population within the fair framework described above..."*

Across the past three decades, Eritrea has crafted a broad spectrum of policies and adopted a variety of legal instruments to help

Promoting Equality and Expanding Access to Opportunity



address the specific needs of and catalyze progress for vulnerable groups, such as the poor, women, children, persons living with disabilities, nomadic populations, and those residing in highly remote or hard-to-reach areas. These vital interventions continue to play a critical role in cultivating

for breaking the cycle of poverty, reducing inequality, and fostering sustainable development. The United Nations states, *"Education is the key to achieving many other Sustainable Development Goals.... When people can get quality education, they can break out of the cycle of poverty. Education, therefore, helps reduce inequalities and reach gender equality."*

However, global inequalities persist, with millions of children out of school and widespread illiteracy affecting people of all ages. It is widely understood that when educational injustice prevails, it hinders national progress and particularly impacts young people and children – society's most valuable resource.

In Eritrea, education is regarded as a fundamental right to which all citizens are entitled, and it remains a central pillar of society. The country's national policy provides for equitable access to education free of charge to all, extending from the primary level up to and including the tertiary level. Beyond this policy framework, social justice is evident through many initiatives.

For example, the adult literacy and outreach program has steadily expanded over the years, particularly benefiting women and historically marginalized groups. In communities nationwide, the initiative has promoted literacy and provided learning opportunities to

those the formal education system may have left behind.

Additionally, the mother language policy, developed and implemented by the Ministry of Education (with the close support of international partners, such as the GPE), further illustrates Eritrea's commitment to social justice in education. Through this specific policy, Eritrea's different ethnic groups – there are nine in total – have access to instruction and teaching materials in their various languages. In addition to playing a crucial role in preserving cultural diversity, protecting human rights, and promoting social cohesion, the mother language policy has improved literacy rates, enhanced academic performance, and stronger community engagement in the teaching and learning process.

Another example is affirmative action. Historically, women made up only a small proportion of students enrolled in higher education. This was due not to an inherent lack of ability on their part but to a combination of cultural, economic, and social factors, including traditional gender roles and early and child marriage, among others. However, affirmative action within the admissions process (along with policy measures targeting other areas) has helped to address past injustices and current disparities, ultimately boosting gender equity, increasing women's access to opportunities in higher education, combating discrimination, fostering diversity, and empowers future female leaders in academia, business, and society.

Supporting vulnerable populations

Moving past education, social justice is evident through the financial and other support extended to a variety of vulnerable population groups, such as families of martyrs, the disabled or those living with mental health challenges, and low-income families. A large body of empirical work from settings and contexts around the world shows how these groups are often at a significantly heightened risk of unemployment, poor physical and mental health, poverty, social exclusion, and discrimination. However, Eritrea's targeted programs and services – grounded in social justice and the fundamental belief in the inherent worth and equality of all – aim

to empower these individuals, promote dignity, and create opportunities for meaningful, productive lives.

In addition, notwithstanding an array of challenges, Eritrea provides essentially free healthcare to its citizens as part of its commitment to universal health coverage. (Those with chronic and long-term conditions, such as HIV/AIDS and diabetes, also receive medicines. This coverage extends to everyone in the country, not just citizens.) This approach helps to ensure that everyone, regardless of income, has access to essential medical services, reducing health disparities and promoting equality. Importantly, it upholds the principle of social justice by prioritizing human well-being and recognizing healthcare as a fundamental right rather than a privilege. By removing financial barriers to healthcare, Eritrea empowers historically marginalized communities, improves public health outcomes, and fosters a more just and equitable society.

Bridging the Historic Urban-Rural Divide

Finally, social justice is also reflected in Eritrea's sustained emphasis on rural and historically underserved areas nationwide. Across the world, discussions on development have disproportionately focused on urban centers, leaving rural communities marginalized. Despite their immense contributions, these areas are often neglected in policy planning. Eritrea's longstanding efforts to provide infrastructure, education, healthcare, economic support, and other services to these areas demonstrate a strong commitment to ensuring that "no one is left behind". Guided by social justice, Eritrea is helping to improve its quality of life and fostering long-term social and economic equity.

Going beyond rhetoric

Eritrea's approach to social justice goes far beyond rhetoric – it is a practical and integral component of national policy. The country continues to work to create a society where fairness, inclusivity, and opportunity are accessible to all. These efforts strengthen national unity and cohesion and set the foundation for sustainable development and long-term prosperity.



Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Massacre in Asmara and its Environs

Mussie Efriem

A photo exhibition was held at the heart of Asmara, in front of the Central Region Administration building, from 14th to 17th February to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the atrocities committed in January and February 1975 against innocent civilians in Asmara and its surrounding areas.

The exhibition served as a powerful testament to the enduring spirit of the Eritrean people, a space to acknowledge the pain of the past and to honor the resilience that has paved the way toward healing and rebuilding.

The commemoration was also held at Bahti Meskerem Square on February 15th, further underscoring the importance of preserving history and ensuring that the lessons learned from the tragedy are never forgotten. It was attended by ministers, senior PFDJ leaders, high-ranking military officials, diplomats, and thousands of residents of Asmara. Held under the banner "We Did Not Forget," the commemoration featured a parade by students, a procession of taxis, and diverse cultural and artistic shows.

The atrocity in Asmara and surrounding villages, which occurred in approximately 60 locations and villages across the Central region, was not an isolated incident but one in a long history of violence inflicted upon the Eritrean people. It formed part of a calculated campaign by the Ethiopian regime to crush the burgeoning Eritrean struggle for independence by targeting the civilian population.

Fifty years on, the memories of the atrocities remain fresh. The scale of the brutality is difficult to comprehend: the indiscriminate killing of civilians, including women and children; the widespread wounding and maiming of countless individuals, leaving many permanently disabled; the razing of entire villages by fire, leaving families homeless and destitute; the arbitrary imprisonment and torture of Eritreans; and the systematic looting of homes and personal belongings. These acts of terror were designed to break



Mrs. Gidey Araya

the spirit of the Eritrean people and force them into submission.

History is not merely a collection of dates and events; it is the bedrock upon which we build our present and future. Understanding our past, particularly its darkest chapters, empowers us to confront contemporary challenges and to safeguard against repeating past mistakes. The exhibition that has been held in Asmara serves as a stark reminder of this truth, bringing to light the brutal realities of the Ethiopian occupation and its impact on the Eritrean people. By showcasing the atrocities committed in locations across Asmara from Ziban Sinqey, Gejeret, and Bar Gino (now Bar Amanuel) to Bar Tiblets and Mai-Temenai, and extending to surrounding villages such as Wekiduba and Adi-Bakuakoy, the exhibition aimed to educate the new generation about the sacrifices made in the struggle for independence.

For those who lived through the Haile Selassie and Derg

regimes, the memories of those dark days remain vivid. Mrs. Gidey Araya, an eyewitness who was at the exhibition, lived in an apartment building where one of the most brutal killings took place -- approximately 50 citizens were killed at Bar Gino. Mrs. Gidey vividly remembers the soldiers, rifles slung over their backs, forcing her and other residents out of their apartment. They were made to walk over the corpses, the stench of death permeating the air. She said that the exhibition took her back to that horrific moment.

Another eyewitness at the exhibition, Mr. Eyob Yaqob, was eight years old when he saw the killings of civilians. His family owned a shop near Markato, which was in close proximity to the scene of the horrific events.

One particularly traumatic incident remains etched in his memory. He recounted the story of a man he knew who had come to the marketplace to buy groceries. After a brief conversation at their family's shop, the man departed. In a fraction of a second, a car of the Ethiopian killing squad (Afaan) pulled into the area, and Ethiopian soldiers in the car brutally killed the man in full view of Mr. Eyob and others. Mr. Eyob said that witnessing such violence almost daily in those days was very traumatic for him as a child. The photos displayed at the exhibition brought him back to that time, rekindling the painful memories of his childhood.

The Wekiduba massacre, which



Mr. Eyob Yaqob

occurred on February 1, 1975, resulted in the murder of over a hundred people, with many more left permanently disabled and scarred. One of the programs featured at Bahti Meskerem on Saturday was a true story by L. Colonel Zeremariam Tesfay, a survivor of the WekiDuba massacre.

L. Colonel Zeremariam, who was 16 at the time, recounted his unforgettable memories of the event. He described vividly how the Dergue soldiers killed his family members, relatives, and fellow villagers, as well as his own escape from the massacre. Also sharing his story was Mr. Seid Ahmed Ali from Dirfo, a village near Asmara. Mr. Seid, a survivor, witnessed a mass killing in his town, the stabbing of his pregnant mother with a bayonet, and the anguished cries of his four-year-old sister standing beside their mother's body.

Eritrean towns and villages became scenes of unimaginable horror: mass shootings, civilian massacres, and brutal acts of retribution for battlefield losses. This history weighs heavily upon us, a constant reminder of the tyranny Eritreans bravely fought to overcome. It is a history not only of glorious victories but also

of profound suffering and loss.

Successive Ethiopian regimes employed a variety of strategies to subjugate Eritrea, but their efforts ultimately failed. Despite the immense destruction of lives and property, they could not extinguish the Eritrean spirit. Eritrea's unique identity was forged in the crucible of this long and arduous struggle against colonization. The Ethiopian regimes sought to destroy both the physical and spiritual essence of Eritrea. Innocent people were massacred and deported, but the dream of freedom and the will to fight remained alive. These acts of violence, intended to crush the hope and confidence of Eritreans, only strengthened their resolve.

The unwavering spirit of the Eritrean people and their leadership lay in their persistent challenge to Ethiopian hegemony. No place in Eritrea escaped the brutality of the Ethiopian army. An Africa Watch report documented the burning of 62 villages between February and April 1967 alone, with the Ethiopian army employing artillery and aerial bombardment.

In Asmara, the memory of the innocent football fans gunned down near Kidane Mihret in the 1980s remains a painful wound. This act of cold-blooded murder, targeting young people simply enjoying a football match, shattered the sense of normalcy in the city. Daily civilian mass shootings were a grim reality in towns and villages across Eritrea, a brutal tactic used to terrorize the population. Over 170 villages were completely destroyed during the Haile Selassie and Mengistu eras. These were not just numbers; they represented shattered communities, devastated families, and extinguished dreams.

Every village destroyed and every life lost represents a sacrifice made in the struggle for Eritrean liberation and sovereignty. The exhibition serves not only as a memorial to the victims but also as an educational tool for young Eritreans, ensuring that the lessons of the past are not forgotten and that the sacrifices made are honored. It is a call to remember, to reflect, and to build a future free from the horrors of the past.



Statement by Eritrea's Delegation at the 46th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union On Agenda item: "Annual Report on the Activities of the Union, Its Organs and Champions" Mr. Chairperson, thank you for giving my Delegation the Floor.

At the outset, I wish to convey to the Council the greetings of H.E. Mr. Osman Saleh, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea.

We take note of the end-of-term report of the Chairperson of the Commission covering the two terms served by the Chairperson of the Commission. My delegation thanks the outgoing Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, and six Commissioners for their service to the continent during their terms of office at the African Union Commission.

The report and its recommendations provide valuable insight into the state of the Union over the past eight years.

Mr. Chairperson,

My delegation wishes to share its views on a few recommendations in the report.

The raison d'être of the African Union is Pan Africanism. Hence, revitalizing Pan-Africanism and the ideal of continental integration should be given the attention they deserve. By the same token, the AUC and the other organs of the Union need to guard the



ideals of Pan-Africanism.

On Peace and Security: The AU's mechanisms for preventing and resolving conflicts have not adequately addressed the challenges of peace and security our continent is facing. Hence, there is an urgent need to reform the structures and mechanisms for

conflict prevention and resolution. The mantra 'African solutions for African problems' can only be taken seriously when the AU implements and uses the required structures, resources, and commitment.

On Financing the Union: My delegation recognizes the resource limitation the Union

is facing at a time when the AU is mandated with an increasing number of tasks. Similarly, the ability of the member states to contribute to the Union's budget is constrained by their multiple priorities. Hence, it is paramount that the Union prioritizes its activities, uses the resources allocated to it prudently and efficiently, and expands innovative ways of domestic resource mobilization. The ongoing reform process has to be expedited.

On Africa's place in the International System: Africa cannot and should not continue to be marginalized globally. There is an urgent need to undertake an in-depth analysis of Africa's reality and craft a strategy that ensures Africa assumes its rightful place in the international system and upgrades the partnerships into mutually beneficial engagements.

Mr. Chairperson,

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to underscore that the needs and priorities of the 1.4 billion Africans, most of whom live in poverty, should be at the core of the African Union's programs and activities.

*Thank you!
13 February 2025,
Addis Ababa*

NEWS

'INDOMASO' AWARD PRESENTED TO OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

The 'Indomaso' Award has been presented to outstanding students in the Southern Region who achieved high scores in the 2023/2024 eighth-grade national examination. The award ceremony, organized in collaboration with the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students and the Ministry of Education in the region, was held on 15 February at Mendefera Stadium.

517 students who scored above 85 points were recognized for their academic excellence.

Mr. Girmay Gebru, head of the union branch, stated that the award aims to foster a competitive spirit among students. He also highlighted that Fithi Junior School emerged as the overall winner at the regional level for having the highest number of top-scoring students.

Mr. Gebremichael Okbagebriel, head of the regional education office, attributed the students' success to their dedication and their parents' continuous support and guidance. He also called on all stakeholders, including institutions and the public, to reinforce their participation in improving the teaching and learning process.

Mr. Habteab Tesfatsion, Governor of the Southern Region, congratulated the awardees and their parents. He urged all students to take full advantage of available educational opportunities and strive for excellence in their future careers.

The 'Indomaso' Award has been presented annually since 2014 to students who excel in the eighth-grade national examination. Over the past ten years, 3,463 students have benefited from the award.



DIASPORA NATIONALS COMMEMORATE THE FENKIL OPERATION ANNIVERSARY



Eritrean nationals in Austria, Germany, Italy, Sweden, and South Sudan enthusiastically commemorated the 35th anniversary of the Fenkil Operation under the theme "Fenkil: The Right Choice."

At the commemoration event in Vienna, Austria, Mr. Okbai Abadi, chairman of the Eritrean community, said that the Fenkil Operation was a decisive operation that heralded the end of the long years of armed struggle for Eritrean Independence.

The commemorative event was conducted in various German cities, including Dusseldorf, Mannheim, Wiesbaden, Fulda, Nuremberg, and Heidenheim. At the event in Frankfurt, Mr. Kibreab Tekeste, Eritrea's Consul General, said that the 35th anniversary of the Fenkil Operation is being celebrated at the promising stage of Eritrea's engagement in diplomatic activities and bilateral relations. He also called on the nationals to actively participate in the national development programs.



Similarly, the 35th anniversary of the Fenkil Operation was celebrated with patriotic zeal in the Italian cities of Rome, Milano, Bologna, Catania, Firenze, Torino, Pisa, and Verona. At the event in Rome, Mr. Fesehatsion Petros, Eritrea's Ambassador to Italy, said that the Fenkil Operation, which heralded Eritrea's total independence, was a spectacular operation that sent the inevitable signal of Eritrea's independence to the world. He also called for transferring the stunning history to posterity.

The 35th anniversary of the Fenkil Operation was also colorfully celebrated in the Swedish cities of Stockholm and Gothenburg. Mr. Mohammed-Ali Mohammed-Seid, Charge d'Affaires at the Eritrean Embassy in the Scandinavian countries, gave a briefing on the heroic feat demonstrated in the liberation of Massawa and its environs.

The 35th anniversary of the Fenkil Operation was also enthusiastically celebrated in Juba, South Sudan, featuring various programs depicting the occasion.



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VACANCY

ANNOUNCEMENT

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

1. **Position: Underground Mining Manager**
Department: Mining
Number required: One (01)

Primary Purpose

- The Underground Mining Manager is responsible for the safe, efficient, and profitable operation of all underground mining activities. This role will lead and develop the underground mining team, ensuring the achievement of production targets, adherence to safety and environmental regulations, and the optimization of operational performance.

Main Functions

- Operations and Management
- Administration of projects
- Budgeting
- Risk Management and safety
- Report writing

UNIQUE REQUIREMENTS/OTHER INFORMATION

- Actively participate in new employees' skill development.
- Candidate must be physically medically fit.

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bachelor or above Degree in Mining Engineering / Geology / SurveyingTechnical background in underground mining methods with strong financial and budgeting abilitiesGood knowledge of mining software	<ul style="list-style-type: none">15+ years' of progressive underground mining experience, at least 5 years Underground experience in a managerial role.Ability to lead and co-ordinate a multi-disciplinary team (Expatriate experience essential)Thorough knowledge of all phases of underground mine operations including mine construction and projects.
Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Leadership skill in multi-disciplinary environment, Strategic & Planning, Organizing & Execution skills, Computer and associated mining software skills – advanced level, Analytical Skills, Project management skills, Problem solving skill, Business Planning & Development skills, Budgeting skills, Business Writing skills, Delegation skills, Decision Making skills, Attention to detail, Report Writing skills, Understand Machine capabilities and deliverables, Presentation skill, Understands all relevant local laws, statutes, regulatory requirements, and Company policies and procedures affecting the employment and safety of persons in the mining department	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Strong Management skills. Get things done attitude, Interpersonal skills, Ability to interact with various stakeholder groups including communities, government agencies, board members and investors, Results oriented, ability to meet and exceed operational objectives, Ability to work under pressure, Ability to work toward strict deadlines, Assertiveness, Discretion, Ability to multitask, Cultural Diversity, Conflict Resolution

2. **Position: Process Superintendent**
Department: Process Plant
Number required: One (01)

Primary Purpose

- Process Superintendent is responsible for overseeing all aspects of plant operations, ensuring that production processes run smoothly, efficiently, and safely. This role requires a strong leader who is able to manage both the operational and administrative aspects of the plant. The Plant Superintendent plays a vital role in planning, coordinating, and directing all activities within the plant to meet organizational goals. This position demands a deep understanding of manufacturing processes, a commitment to safety, and the ability to lead a diverse team toward achieving a common objective.
- Manages the Lime Plant to ensure targets and budgets set are achieved/exceeded, aligned with the company safety and health policies.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

- Assist end-users in scoping their needs and managing the plant portfolio.
- Define contract agreements and needs for the work execution.
- Manage work execution with internal and external resources/contractors.
- Manage capital budgets, project planning & scheduling.
- Provides clear and supportive leadership to team.
- Able to diagnose problems and potential problems.
- Able to think outside the square and come up with an alternative.
- Thinks ahead and thinks tasks through before commencing or directing them.
- Sees how various tasks fit together.
- Maintains or enhances others' self esteem.
- Listens and responds with empathy.
- Asks for help and encourages involvement – consults with those affected by problem or change.
- Shares thoughts, feelings and rationale (to build trust).
- Provides support but knows when to stand back (to build ownership).
- Manges performance of team members promptly and fairly.
- Actively seeks feedback on own performance as a leader.
- Manges personal stress.
- Decisive, yet flexible when required.

Main Functions

- Planning & Management
- Implementation
- Production
- Reporting & Data Control
- Team Management

UNIQUE REQUIREMENTS / OTHER INFORMATION

- The candidate employment age 55 years maximum
- The candidate must be physically medically fit.
- The candidate must be able to source the project parts from variance suppliers.
- Must have presentation skills.
- Must be able to work outside exposed to Heat, wind, and dusty environments.
- Must be able to work at Heights.

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Degree or Diploma in Mechanical/ Electrical EngineeringDegree or Diploma in business/ Financial management, or a related field is advantageous	<ul style="list-style-type: none">10 - 15 years in manufacturing or industrial environment or relevant experience5 - 10 years management experience
Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills



Continued from page 6

<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Computer Literacy (MS Office – Intermediate, Excel – Advanced, MS Project - Intermediate)○ Process Plant Engineering maintenance and environment experience○ Excellent analytical skill and attention to detail○ Familiarity with safety regulations and compliance requirements○ Proven leadership and managerial skills○ Excellent problem-solving and analytical skills○ Experience with budget management and financial planning Skills and Project Management○ Strategy Exposure and understanding of quality control procedures and safety standards○ Experience with Lean Manufacturing principles and continuous improvement methodologies○ Knowledge of production management software and Microsoft Office Suite○ Strong organizational and multitasking skills and ability on Greenfield and Brown Fields Project Execution○ Ability to analyze data and create reports for senior management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Strong communication (English) and interpersonal relations skills○ Assertiveness○ Strong interpersonal relations skills○ Integrity○ Prioritizing skills & multi-skilling○ Ability to work towards strict deadlines○ Coaching & Team-building skills○ Discretion○ Self-motivation○ Cultural Diversity experience○ Stakeholder Management
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3 . Position: HME Component Rebuild Mechanic
Department: Mining
Number required: One (01)

Primary Purpose

- Responsible for the disassembly, inspection, repair, and rebuilding of HME Components to ensure optimal functionality and extend equipment life.

TASK DESCRIPTION Expanded TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS

- Planning and Preparations.
- Component rebuilding
- Safety and compliance
- Documentation and reporting

UNIQUE REQUIREMENTS / OTHER INFORMATION

- Must be physically fit and capable of handling heavy components.
- Familiarity with HME Brands such as Caterpillar, Sany and Shantu are advantageous.

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Formal Trade Certification in Diesel Mechanics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 8 - 10 years of relevant experiences in component rebuilding (Engines, Transmissions, differentials, hydraulic pumps, and motors)○ Comprehensive understanding of HME Systems and components○ Knowledge of workshop safety standards and practices
Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills

<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Familiarity with component rebuilding procedures and manufacturer specifications○ Ability to read technical manuals, blueprints, and schematic diagrams.○ Proficient in using diagnostic tools, precision measuring instruments, and workshop equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Communication (English), Assertiveness, Interpersonal relations skills, Integrity, Prioritizing skills & multi-skilling, Ability to work towards strict deadlines, High level of accuracy Discretion, Discretion, Self-motivation
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General Information and other requirements:

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

Additional requirement 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

Notice is hereby given to the public the current shareholder and heir of the deceased members of “Galaxy General Electrical Private Limited Company” in their extraordinary meeting conducted 29th day of January 2025 have passed the following resolution.

1. Feven Tewelde Yishak is admitted as a new member contributing 20 shares at par value Nakfa 1,000.00 for each share equivalent to Nakfa 20,000.00 (Twenty thousand).
2. The shares of the company have increased from 1000 to 1020 and the capital is increased to Nakfa 1,020,000,00 (One million twenty thousand)
3. The new shares of the members are managed as follows:

Name	No. of Shares	Value in Nakfa
Mr. Bereket Mebrahtu Gebrendrias	737	737,000.00
Mr. Yohannes Mebrahtu Gebrendrias	263	263,000.00
Mrs. Feven Tewelde Yisehak	20	20,000.00
Total shares	1020	1,020,000.00

“Galaxy General Electrical Private Limited Company”

OPINION

The 35th Fenqil Anniversary: A Legacy Carried Forward

Awet Tesfay

I received this text message invitation about two weeks ago, on the 5th of February. I was packed and ready to start my trip to Massawa the next day, but something about the invitation intrigued me. The journey itself was quite an adventure. We wound through the eastern escarpments above Nefasit, passing through the thick cotton-white fog that settled over Ghinda'e. We drove along the strait, expansive roads of Gahtelay and finally reached Dogoli. The moment we approached Massawa, the heavy, salty breeze of the Red Sea greeted us—an unmistakable sign of arrival. After checking into my hotel and freshening up, I ventured out for a walk. As I stood among the lively crowd in Massawa, the salty air of the sea mixed with fervent chants of celebration for the

Thirty-five years ago, our valiant freedom fighters chose to make a stand in the legendary and decisive operation fenqil, making eritrea's independence inevitable!!

For the next five days, we invite you to come down to the pearl of the red sea to celebrate, commemorate, and champion this great victory with us!!

Massawa is waiting, folks!!

Come and bathe in the beautiful waters of the red sea!!

youthful force that carried the legacy of Fenqil forward. Young men and women, some barely in their twenties, waved the Eritrean flag high, their voices echoing the songs of resilience their parents once sang. For them—for me—the story of Fenqil was not distant history; it was a calling, a responsibility, a torch being passed.

A particularly poignant moment

told me, eyes shining. “But being here—standing where history was made—it changes everything.”

The celebrations extended beyond Eritrea's borders, with patriotic zeal mirrored in the Italian cities of Rome, Milan, Bologna, and numerous other European cities. The Eritrean diaspora's active participation showed a collective commitment to preserving and honoring the



35th anniversary of the Fenqil Operation. At that moment, I felt a profound sense of connection and belonging—both to the city and the history that this occasion represented.

The festivities, held from February 7th to 9th under the theme “Fenqil: The Right Choice,” were a vivid display of national pride and remembrance. The event commenced with an exhibition organized by the Ministries of Defense and Marine Resources, alongside the Port Authority, showcasing Eritrea's maritime heritage and the pivotal moments of the liberation struggle.

Everywhere I turned, there was an undeniable energy, a

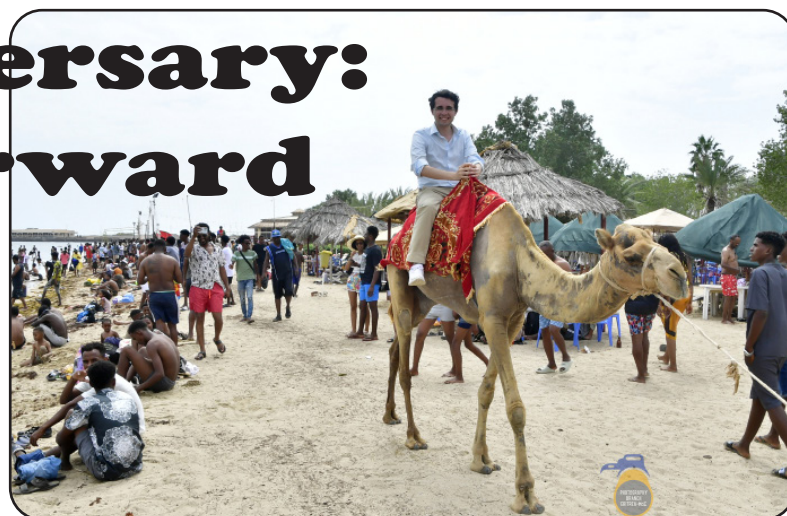
was President Isaias Afwerki's visit to the Thewale Martyrs Cemetery, where he laid a wreath in honor of those who sacrificed their lives for Eritrea's freedom. This remembrance resonated deeply, especially with the younger attendees, who viewed it as a solemn reminder of the price paid 35 years ago.

I found the influx of Eritreans from the Diaspora equally striking. From Europe, the U.S., the Middle East, and beyond, they had returned, driven by an unshakable bond with their homeland. I spoke with a young woman who had traveled from Canada; her Tigrigna tinged with the soft accent of someone raised abroad. “I've heard these stories from my parents all my life,” she

nation's history, regardless of geographical distance.

The streets of Massawa pulsed with celebration and reflection. As I walked along Sigalet in the evenings, I could feel the heat emanating from the pavement. It was crowded. I looked around me and saw veterans of the struggle, their faces lined with the weight of sacrifice, standing shoulder to shoulder with teenagers who celebrated them and their achievements. Members of the Diaspora, especially those who'd come from cold countries, had put on a nice and lively tan and looked revitalized by the humid air.

One of the most exhilarating experiences was the five-day celebration at Gurgusum Beach.



It was at this event that I was invited. The pristine shoreline was transformed into a vibrant festival

to bow in acknowledgment of the youth who gathered around them, inheritors of a legacy forged in



ground, with thousands of young Eritreans from both the homeland and the diaspora dancing to the rhythmic beats of traditional and contemporary music. The air was filled with laughter, song, and the unmistakable scent of Eritrean cuisine being prepared in open-air stalls. I was quite impressed with the organizer's initiative and their ability to infuse historical commemoration with contemporary enthusiasm.

Another iconic symbol that drew countless visitors was the Three Tanks Monument in Tulalet. These trio of tanks—Jaguar, Tiger, and Commander—stand as silent sentinels, embodying the fierce battles that led to Massawa's liberation. I watched as groups of people took photos beside them, capturing moments against the backdrop of these crouching giants—menacing yet proud. Even as relics of war, they seemed

fire and sacrifice.

And so, under the shadow of Fenqil's legacy, with the waves crashing against the historic shores, I saw a nation reaffirming its commitment. The youth were not just participants in this anniversary—they were its heirs. The Eritrean story, carved through hardship and resilience, was in good hands. As the sun set over the historic port city, casting a golden hue over the assembled crowd, I felt a profound sense of optimism. The 35th Fenqil Anniversary was a reflection on past glories and a vibrant affirmation that Eritrea's future is in capable and passionate hands. The youth, inspired by the sacrifices of their forebears, stand ready to carry forward the mantle of their mothers and fathers, ensuring that the legacy of resilience and unity endures for generations to come.

