

## EASTER HOLIDAY CELEBRATED NATIONWIDE



Easter was colorfully celebrated across Eritrea on Sunday, marked by prayer, joy, and community gatherings.

In Asmara, the central Easter prayer service was held at Saint Mary Church and led by His Holiness Abune Basilios, the 6th Patriarch of the Orthodox Tewahdo Church of Eritrea. President Isaias Afwerki and a

large congregation of the faithful attended the ceremony.

Delivering his Easter message, His Holiness Abune Basilios extended warm congratulations to the Eritrean people at home and abroad. He wished all citizens, particularly members of the faithful and the Eritrean Defense Forces, a joyful Easter filled with peace and national development.

His Holiness also urged the faithful to extend support to disadvantaged community members as an expression of solidarity and compassion during the holy season.

Easter festivities were similarly observed throughout the country in a vibrant and celebratory spirit, underscoring the holiday's cultural and spiritual significance.



### AWARDS TO OUTSTANDING STUDENTS IN DEKEMHARE

Bana Harinet School in Dekemhare has awarded outstanding students who achieved high scores in the national school leaving examination. The awardees included 28 students—15 of whom were female—who scored above a 3.0 GPA.

Additionally, 11 students who scored 90 points and above in the eighth-grade national examination received special prizes.

Congratulating the students and their parents, Mr. Asmerom Tadesse, director of the school, expressed his best wishes for the students' future educational careers.

Mr. Hibtizgi Kidane, head of the Education Office in the Southern Region, emphasized the importance of the awards in motivating students to strive for academic excellence and called on the awardees to work hard and remain competitive.

## 19<sup>TH</sup> CONFERENCE OF YPFDJ IN EUROPE

The YPFDJ organization in Europe conducted its 19<sup>th</sup> conference in Frankfurt, Germany, from 17 to 21 April under the theme "Building on Triumph; Eritrea Focus on Development." The conference was attended by over 600 youth, members of the 'Hidri' organization, national associations, as well as heads of Eritrea's diplomatic missions.

The objective of the conference was to review the victories attained and challenges encountered by the YPFDJ over the past 20 years, discuss priorities in nation-building and development, and generate new ideas to support the nurturing of a conscious national movement.

At the conference, the guest of honor Mr. Fesehatsion Petros, Eritrea's Ambassador to Italy, and chairman of the YPFDJ organization in Europe and the organizing committee, delivered a keynote speech. In

their deliberations, the speakers highlighted the contribution of YPFDJ in transferring noble social values among the youth and supporting the implementation of national development programs. They called for reinforced participation and contribution to achieve better outcomes.

Ambassador Fesehatsion, noting

the significance of the 19<sup>th</sup> YPFDJ conference, expressed high regard for its organization amid today's delicate global situation and transformation of the international order, stressing the capacity and readiness to face all forms of challenges.

During the event, the YPFDJ

organization in Europe also held its 6<sup>th</sup> congress and elected a new executive committee for a two-year term. Seminars were conducted by experts and professionals.

The 19<sup>th</sup> YPFDJ conference concluded with the adoption of various resolutions and recommendations.



## MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCES



President Isaias Afwerki has sent a message of heartfelt condolences to the Vatican, on behalf of the people and Government of the State of Eritrea and on his own behalf, on the sad news of the passing away of His Holiness Pope Francis.

In his message to His Eminence Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of the State of the Holy See, President Isaias Afwerki paid tribute to Pope Francis "whose distinguished life was dedicated to the service of humanity and especially to advance the cause of social justice for marginalized segments of our global society".

President Isaias further expressed his condolences, on this sad occasion, to His Eminence Cardinal Pietro Parolin, and through him, to all the Cardinals, the clergy and all faithful members of the Roman Catholic Church around the world.

Pope Francis, the 266<sup>th</sup> head of the Roman Catholic Church, died on April 21 at the age of 88.



# Development

## Teseney-Aligider Agro-Project: Ensuring Food Security and Empowerment of Farmers

**Habtom Tesfamichael**

The vast Teseney-Aligider Agricultural Project in Gash Barka is a vital national asset operated by the Eritrean Crops and Livestock Corporation (ECLC). Located 376 km west of Asmara and covering 16,000 hectares that stretch towards the Sudanese border, the project is a testament to Eritrea's agricultural resilience and development.

The farm's history dates back to 1918 when a dam with a capacity of 10 million cubic meters was constructed, laying the foundation

for irrigated farming in the region. By 1920, the crucial primary irrigation canal that stretches to Iket was completed through manual excavation.

Following three years of operation, the farm's management was handed over to the Sociata Impresa Africana (SIA). Under the SIA, the enterprise focused heavily on cotton plantation. The harvested cotton, grown on 150 hectares of farms, was exported to Italy.

A new chapter began in 1963 when Baratollo, founder of Asmara

made and in 1998 a new textile and ginning factory was constructed on site; however, the facility suffered destruction by the TPLF in 2000 during the Eritrea-Ethiopia war.

The farm's lifeblood remains its intricate canal system that originates from the Gash River and waters the farm using gravity. It comprises a primary canal running the length of the farm, secondary canals that distribute water to various sections of the farm, and tertiary canals that deliver water directly into specific plots of farm. The control gates installed on



manages the core infrastructure, and gives essential machinery services and technical assistance. Crucially, the cultivation itself is powered by the dedicated efforts of Eritrean farmers hailing from Aligider, Tesseney, and other places across the country.

seen the successful relocation of farmers interested in agriculture to the area, providing sustainable livelihoods. Around 5,000 farmers now work on around 4,000 hectares, particularly during the productive summer farming season. This influx of

A key government initiative has

**C**ontinued on page 5



*Nourishing a Nation: The vastness of the Aligider farmland underscores the scale of Eritrea's ambition to empower its farmers and ensure a stable food supply for the country*

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Textile Factory assumed control. This era was marked by significant development in infrastructure, most notably the transition from traditional basin irrigation to a more efficient system of furrow irrigation. Cotton remained the dominant product. Half the cotton was ginned locally in Tesseney for seed retention while the remainder was sent to Asmara Textile Factory for further processing. Baratollo's operations ceased in 1974, and the farm lay largely dormant until Eritrea's independence in 1991.

Recognizing its immense potential for national development, the Government gave priority to the revival of Teseney-Aligider agro-project. In 1993, comprehensive repairs began on the canals and dams that had been neglected during the long years of the armed struggle. This commitment enabled the resumption of production, primarily cotton, that served domestic needs and generated hard currency between 1994 and 2006. Investment continued to be

each canal allow for precise water management, ensuring efficient distribution of water.

The water storage infrastructure has also evolved significantly. The original Italian-built dam had a large capacity (reportedly 10 million cubic meters), but it relied on fuel-intensive generator pumps. The current dam has a capacity of around 8 million cubic meters and needs only gravity to fill directly from the Gash River's floodwaters, reflecting efficiency and prudent resource management. This dam is used for irrigated farming in the extensive land below it. The ongoing renovation work on the dam underscores the commitment to maximize the exploitation of this vital resource, which has the potential to irrigate 500 additional hectares of land.

Today, Teseney-Aligider agro-project thrives under a model championing national participation and centralized support. The ECLC provides strategic oversight,

### from Social Media



**Yemane G. Meskel**   
@hawelti

The extreme hysteria and commotion - bordering on lunacy - that continues to literally dominate and suffocate political discourse among self-styled activists/Eritrea-detractors in Ethiopia is mindboggling.

Their singular obsession and infatuation remains gobbling up Eritrea's sovereign ports and coastal lands by any conceivable means.

To this end, their consensual *modus operandi* revolves on churning out outrageous lies on Eritrea on a daily basis; wholesale assaults on its history, culture, development agendas, regional policy etc. Myopic mindset is diversionary on the one hand but also part and parcel of a toxic agenda of regional destabilization.

[x.com/hawelti/status...](https://x.com/hawelti/status...)

6:52 PM · Apr 21, 2025 · 17.4K Views



**Yemane G. Meskel**   
@hawelti

Motely group of inept trolls/political pigmies seem to have contracted a severe strain of Eri-Influenza these days... Their obsession for posting defamatory posts on everything "Eritrean" on a daily basis is bordering on the insane.

Their tantrums stem from their reckless and unquenchable thirst/pursuit of snatching "a port and maritime territory" of their neighbour in flagrant breach of international law and established norms of peaceful co-existence.

**Eritrea's immutale mantra remains, in the historic words of PIA (7th Independence Anniversary; 24 May 1998): "ናጉና ኣፀገህብጎ ፡ ዘፀናጉና ኣፀገልጎ!"**

[x.com/hawelti/status...](https://x.com/hawelti/status...)

2:56 PM · Feb 25, 2025 · 140.3K Views





## SpotLight

# Remembering a Nation's Defining Moment

*Bana Negusse*

Eritrea's calendar is dotted with an array of significant and cherished dates – spanning religious, cultural, and historic milestones. Among the most meaningful are June 20 (Martyrs' Day, remembering those who fell in seeking and defending freedom), September 1 (marking the launch of the armed struggle for independence), and May 24 (Independence Day). Another pivotal moment, albeit sometimes overlooked, is the period of April 23–25, commemorating the historic referendum of 1993 that formally confirmed Eritrea's independence.

This referendum, unfolding 32 years ago this week, marked the culmination of a decades-long, bitter struggle for self-determination. From April 23 to 25, 1993, Eritreans around the world – from the Horn of Africa to Europe, North America, and the Middle East – were finally able to exercise a right long denied to them: the right to determine their national destiny freely. That week remains one of the most emotional, defining, and proud chapters in Eritrea's long and turbulent history. Notably, today, as certain elements across the region (and even further beyond) seek to sow doubt on the legitimacy of Eritrea's independence, remembering that historic week assumes even greater importance.

## A clear mandate for freedom

For decades, the international community largely ignored Eritrea's unlawful annexation by Ethiopia in 1962. However, on December 16, 1992, the UN General Assembly passed Resolution 47/114 by consensus, authorizing the establishment of the United Nations Observer Mission to Verify the Referendum in Eritrea (UNOVER). This came after persistent calls by the Eritrean People's Liberation Front's (EPLF) for international oversight to ensure the referendum's legitimacy.

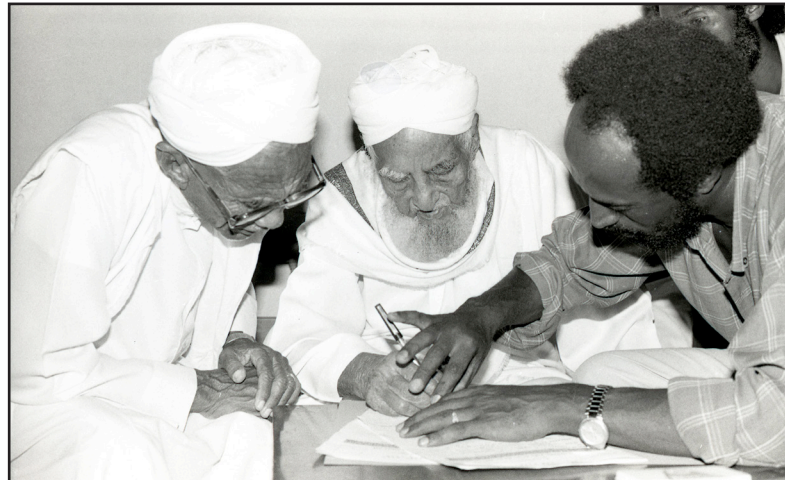
Though Eritrea had achieved de facto independence in 1991 after the total defeat of Colonel Mengistu's regime, the EPLF resisted the urge to unilaterally declare full sovereignty. Instead, the EPLF chose to pursue a path grounded in popular principles and international legitimacy, determined to let the world witness **Eritreans' overwhelming desire for independence.**

As early as May 1991, EPLF Secretary-General and provisional

leader Isaias Afwerki publicly urged the UN to take responsibility for overseeing a referendum. That call was formalized in May 1992 when Eritrea's Referendum Commissioner invited the UN Secretary-General to observe the process from start to finish. After a series of assessments and consultations, the UNGA approved the creation of UNOVER.

UNOVER deployed to Eritrea in January 1993, establishing headquarters in Asmara and regional offices in other prominent urban centers, such as Keren, Mendefera, and Adi Keih. Composed of dozens of representatives from 35 countries, UNOVER monitored voter registration, civic education, campaigning, polling, and vote counting. International observers included delegations from the UN, the Organization of African Unity (now the African Union), the Arab League, the Non-Aligned Movement, and other multilateral bodies.

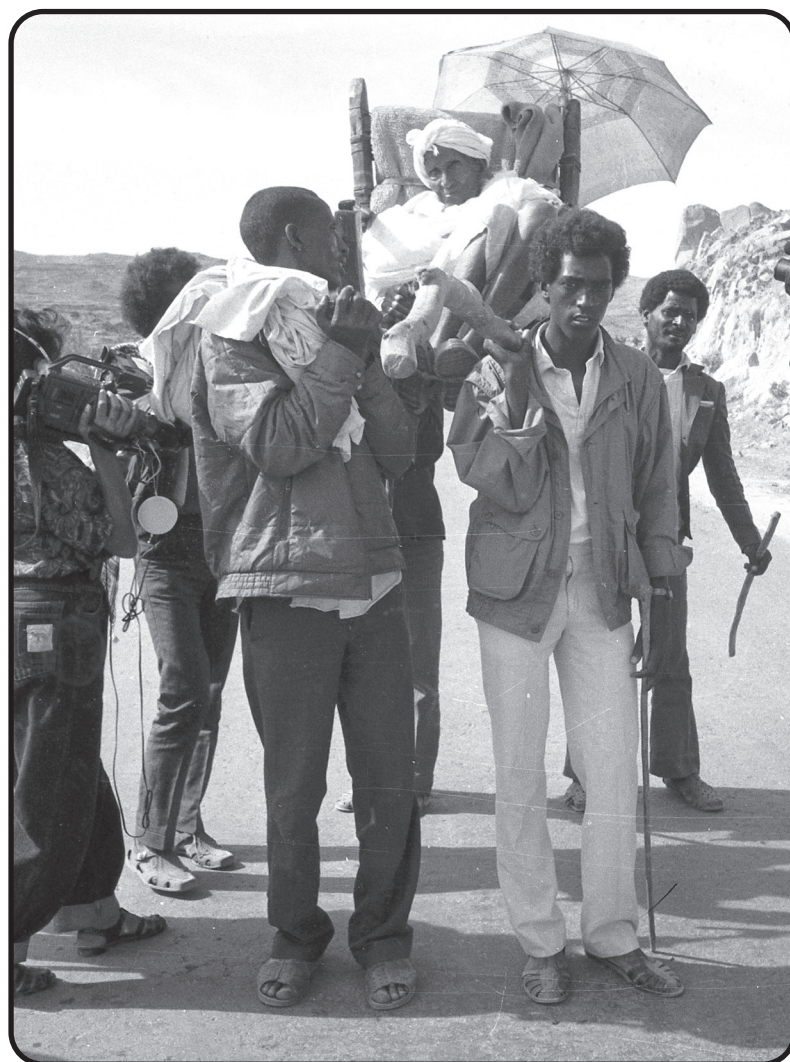
Invariably, these observers were deeply moved by what they saw. As one OAU delegation noted, "We admire the tenacity and courage of the Eritrean people. We saw people with their shirt sleeves rolled up, engaged in reconstructing a war-ravaged country. The Eritrean people are very strong, and Africa



can learn from their courage and commitment."

## The process: a model of integrity

Eritrea's referendum process was conducted in three phases. The first, voter registration, unfolded from October 1992 to March 1993. According to Eritrea's Referendum Proclamation (No. 22/1991), all Eritreans aged 18 and above were eligible to vote. Citizenship was defined through a separate law, the Nationality Proclamation (No. 21/1992). Over 861,000 Eritreans registered to vote within Eritrea, with more than 154,000 in Sudan, 66,000 in Ethiopia, 44,000 in Saudi Arabia, and approximately 76,000 in other countries. Special efforts were made to ensure inclusivity, overcoming challenges such as illiteracy, gender bias, and geographic isolation.



*Beyond Age and Infirmary: The unwavering spirit of self-determination shone through as Eritreans of all walks of life, including the elderly and those facing health challenges, participated in the defining referendum of 1993*

referendum process in Eritrea can be considered to have been free and fair at every stage." That same day, Isaias Afwerki proclaimed: "The referendum was a delightful and sacrosanct historical conclusion to the choice of the Eritrean people. Eritrea is a sovereign country as of today."

Compared to the 50+ independence referendums held worldwide, Eritrea's numbers stood out. While the global average turnout and approval rates hover around 80% and 83%, respectively, Eritrea's referendum figures were dramatically higher. This was not just a powerful testament to the unity of the Eritrean people, but also their dogged determination.



languages—explained the voting process through posters, guides, radio, TV, and mobile outreach teams reaching remote areas.

## Realizing the dream – joining the world stage

On May 24, 1993 – two years to the day after Eritrean liberation fighters entered Asmara triumphantly – Eritrea officially declared independence. Four days later, the UN General Assembly admitted Eritrea as its 182nd member. Eritrea quickly established a permanent presence at the OAU (now AU), joined the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and obtained observer status in the Arab League.

Eritrea thus became the first African nation to gain independence from another African state – emerging victorious from the longest armed liberation struggle in modern African history.

Eritrea's 1993 referendum transformed what the world once deemed impossible into reality. It was the final step in a journey marked by tremendous sacrifice and unshakable resolve. The dream of freedom – so often ignored, dismissed, or violently opposed – was finally realized. For Eritreans, those three days in April remain sacred. They symbolize not just a vote, but a voice finally heard.

The culmination of the process, voting, ran from April 23–25, 1993. The referendum officially began on April 23, with 1,012 polling stations operating from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The ballot posed a single question: "Do you approve Eritrea to become an independent sovereign state?" Voters were given ballots with detachable sections signifying "yes" and "no." After casting their vote in privacy, voters discarded the unused sections in a disposal box to maintain secrecy and security.

## An unmistakable verdict

On April 28, 1993, just days following the vote, the results were announced: a staggering 98.5% turnout, with 99.81% voting in favor of independence. It was an emphatic and deeply emotional moment. International observers, many of whom had monitored referendums worldwide, described the process as one of the most transparent and enthusiastic that they had ever witnessed. The UN Secretary-General's Special Representative, Samir Sanbar, declared, "The



# SpotLight

## Eritrean-Trained Experts Lead the Way in Mining Sector Development

Kesete Gebrehiwet

Eritrea's mining sector has undergone a remarkable transformation in recent years, marked by a significant shift in its human resource structure. Once dominated by foreign technical expertise, the industry is increasingly driven by a new generation of Eritrean-trained geologists, mining engineers, and metallurgists. These professionals—graduates of the College of Earth Sciences and the College of Mining Engineering in Mai-Nefhi—actively contribute to major mining operations nationwide, from Bisha and Zara to the expanding Asmara Mining Project.

This transformation reflects the country's long-term vision of establishing a self-reliant, sustainable, and nationally managed mining industry. At the core of this strategy is the deliberate effort to educate and empower local youth in essential technical disciplines. Decades after this policy was initiated, its impact is clear: Eritrean professionals are not only participants but also leaders in the sector.

Mr. Mebrahtu Ekubazghi, a mining engineer and Director of Mineral Resource Management at the Ministry of Mines and Energy, stated that the Ministry is mandated to oversee all mining operations, including licensing and regulation, in accordance with national proclamations.

Discussing employment trends and the growing influx of graduates entering the sector, Mr. Mebrahtu emphasized the government's commitment to prioritizing local talent. "We push the mining companies to hire Eritrean nationals. Only in the absence of qualified locals are expatriates considered," he explained.

He further noted that when companies cannot find suitable candidates locally, the Ministry facilitates the placement of graduates as trainees within the mining firms. These graduates gain hands-on experience for three to four years or more, after which many are retained and promoted to supervisory, managerial, or superintendent roles while maintaining their positions with the Ministry.

Partnerships between the Ministry of Mines and Energy and companies like Bisha Mining Share Company (BMSC) and Zara Mining Share Company (ZMSC)



have proven instrumental in this process. Mr. Mebrahtu praised these companies for their commitment to recruiting and training graduates beyond immediate operational needs. "Graduates are not confined to a single role—they rotate across various departments to gain a comprehensive understanding of mining operations," he said. "No other platform offers such exposure."

Among the standout professionals is Mr. Daniel Weldeyohannes, Exploration Manager at BMSC—one of Eritrea's most productive mining sites. A veteran exploration geologist with nearly 25 years of experience, Mr. Daniel is one of the first geology graduates from Asmara University. His career spans mineral prospecting, drilling supervision, and geological modeling, all of which have positioned him to oversee exploration activities today independently.

"The skills and confidence we've built over the years allow us to plan, manage, and execute full exploration projects independently—from conceptualization to field mapping,

sampling, drilling, and interpreting results," he said.

The experiences of six recently interviewed graduates highlight both technical excellence and a deep sense of national responsibility. They spoke of early challenges, career milestones, and contributions to building a robust and independent mining industry. Their college education laid a strong theoretical foundation, combined with intensive fieldwork, enabled their current professional achievements.

Eng. Michael Tesfay, a senior metallurgist and process supervisor at BMSC with nearly a decade of experience, oversees daily operations while ensuring compliance with environmental and safety regulations. "We have the training and capacity to meet global standards," he stated. "Eritrean professionals now operate, troubleshoot, and deliver results independently."

Asmerom Kidane, a senior geologist at ZMSC with nine years of experience, emphasized the strong interplay between academic

and field-based learning. "College gave us a broad conceptual understanding of mining, while the field refined our technical skills. The theoretical base serves as a roadmap for real-world applications," he explained.

Likewise, Asmerom Weldezhgi, a project metallurgist at BMSC with six years of experience, recalled his college field trips as pivotal. "They helped us understand real field challenges. When we encountered advanced technologies, our college fundamentals helped us adapt quickly," he said.

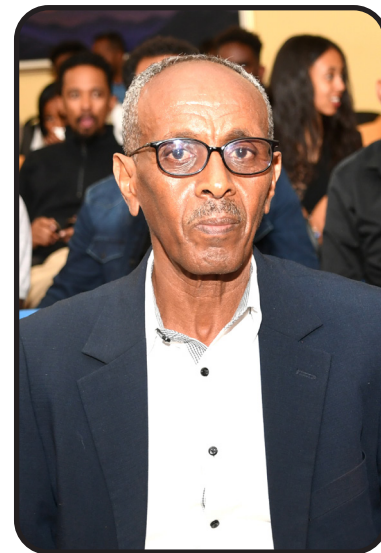
This shift to local expertise marks a clear departure from reliance on foreign professionals. Today, Eritrean geologists and engineers oversee mineral surveys, manage plants, and lead safety programs—no small feat in a complex and capital-intensive sector.

Mr. Tasese Ahmed, Chief Mining Engineer at ZMSC since 2015, described the early challenges in adapting theoretical knowledge to field conditions. "Specialized practical work is just as essential

as theory. We've come a long way, and the experience we've gained is invaluable," he noted.

Many of these professionals are also serving as mentors to the next generation of students pursuing mining and geoscience. Among them is Eng. Robel Mengistu is one of the youngest engineers at BMSC. With five years of experience and three years of company-based training, he sees opportunities for academic growth. "There's always room for improvement. The curriculum must evolve to keep pace with rapidly changing technologies," he said.

This growing confidence and independence reflect Eritrea's broader national human capital development strategy. Since independence, education has been central to the country's socio-



Eng. Mebrahtu Ekubazghi

economic agenda, focusing on strategically vital sectors like mining. The result is a workforce of skilled and committed professionals shaping national development with locally honed expertise.

The strategy has improved local leadership in mining and reduced

**C**ontinued on page 5



**Homegrown Talent, Global Standards: The Bisha mining site, a testament to how Eritrean geologists and engineers are taking charge, ensuring responsible and skilled management of national resources.**





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Eritrea

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

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

- 1. Position: Process Plant Fitter**  
**Department: Process Plant**  
**Number required: Two (02)**

### Primary Purpose

- A Fitter is a skilled tradesperson who maintains, and repairs machinery and equipment used in construction and mining industries. They're responsible for diagnosing and fixing mechanical problems, replacing worn parts, and ensuring that equipment operates safely and efficiently.

### Task description expanded to core performance areas

- Planning
- Implementation of the Plan
- Mechanical Installations
- Mechanical Maintenance
- Conveyor Maintenance
- Grinding mills maintenance
- Crusher maintenance
- Reports & Data

### Unique requirements/other information

- Crushing experience (jaw/gyratory and cone crusher)
- Grinding mills and Isamills experience essential
- Flotation experience essential
- Filtering experience essential
- Kiln experience.
- Candidate must be physically and medically fit.

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Technical College Mechanical.</li><li>Fitter Trade or Fitter and Turner Trade.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>8+ years relevant experience.</li></ul>
Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Attention to detail, Problem solving skill, High level of accuracy, Ability to work towards strict deadlines, Fitting experience on chemical/process plant, Machining/turning experience</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Communication (English), Self-motivation, Prioritizing skills, Coordination skills, Team and leadership skills, Specialized organizational skills (evaluating, planning and scheduling work)</li></ul> |
|--|--|

### 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:**

- Aliens Employment permits Affairs,**  
**P. O. Box 7940**  
**Asmara, Eritrea.**
- Mineral Resources Management**  
**P. O. Box 272**  
**Asmara, Eritrea**

## ... Lead the Way in Mining Sector Development

Continued from page 4

dependence on foreign experts. While foreign investment and collaboration remain vital, Eritrea's model places local professionals at the center of planning and operations, ensuring sovereign control over natural resources.

Relying on national talent has delivered multiple benefits: lower operational costs, improved community engagement, and a professional culture deeply aligned with national values. More importantly, Eritrean workers now view themselves as stewards of the nation's mineral wealth.

All six graduates shared a common sense of duty. Whether in exploration, metallurgy, or environmental monitoring, they see their roles as contributions to national progress. "Being able to run projects, produce reports, and manage teams is empowering," one graduate said. "But it's more than technical capacity—it's about ensuring Eritrea's resources serve its people."

Crucially, the alignment between academic institutions and industry has been a driving force behind this success. Curricula at the College of Earth Sciences and Mining

Engineering are regularly updated based on industry feedback, ensuring graduates are ready for the workforce. Internships, field-based training, and faculty with industry backgrounds have helped bridge the gap between theory and practice.

However, challenges remain. Mining is a dynamic sector requiring continuous upgrades in tools, software, and skills. Yet, Eritrean professionals' determination and foundational strength suggest that the country is on the right path.

With growing enrollment in mining-related programs, the sector is poised for further expansion. The experiences of these six graduates symbolize the beginning of a broader transformation that could make Eritrea a regional model for sustainable, locally led mineral development.

Ultimately, the success of Eritrean-trained professionals speaks volumes about the power of national vision, targeted education, and individual dedication. These experts are shaping the future of Eritrea's mining sector—not as support staff, but as leaders. Their work proves that Eritrea not only trains its professionals but is fully capable of managing its mineral wealth with skill, vision, and integrity.

## ... Ensuring Food Security and Empowerment of Farmers

Continued from page 2

activity has contributed significantly to the local economy and spurred the growth of Aligider into a vibrant town complete with essential facilities that give social services to its residents.

The ECLC works closely with these farmers, providing them with assistance in land clearing and canal maintenance using modern excavators. While the farmers cultivate essential crops such as sorghum, maize and sesame, the ECLC also directly contributes to national food security through its own large-scale farm operations within the project area. Using drip irrigation, this section produces a variety of affordable crops, vegetables and fruits such as sorghum, maize, tomatoes, onions, peppers, pumpkins, oranges, lemons, mangoes, guavas, bananas, and cotton.

Demonstrating an integrated and holistic approach to agriculture, the project incorporates thriving dairy cattle operations, providing dairy products. Furthermore, Teseney-Aligider agro-project produces animal feed for its livestock at that location and other ECLC-managed dairy centers nationwide, contributing to the broader national livestock strategy.

Drawing water primarily from the Gash River's seasonal floods that come from the highlands and supplemented reliably by the dam during low-flow periods, the project benefits from vast tracts of fertile land. This resource has allowed farmers to successfully produce crops that are commonly grows in the area such as maize, onions and potatoes, and experiment with new ones such as wheat and sunflowers.

While challenges, such as consistent power availability required for energy-intensive agro-processing ventures like the planned large-scale banana plantation, are being addressed within the national development framework, the focus remains to be maximizing productivity. The land designated for the banana project, pending the resolution of power constraints, is currently being productively utilized for sorghum and other essential crops, ensuring no land lies fallow.

The Teseney-Aligider agro-project stands as a powerful demonstration of the nation's unwavering commitment to achieving agricultural self-sufficiency, pursuing sustainable development, and ensuring the empowerment and prosperity of its people.



# Vacancy Announcement

Position:	Heavy Duty Mechanic
Number required	05
Location:	Koka Gold Mine (Site)
Reporting to:	Maintenance Supervisor
Primary Responsibility & Scope of Work	To diagnose and complete repairs on all Mining heavy Mobile Equipment (Excavators, Haul trucks, Bulldozers, FR Wheel Loaders, Graders, Mobile truck Crane, Supportive Trucks (Fuel truck, Water truck, Lowbed Trailer trucks), Compacting Rollers, Forklifts etc.)
Duties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Inspect, test, and diagnose faulty operations and parts including electrical systems to identify issues or potential malfunctions</li><li>Perform regular equipment safety, maintenance inspections of all systems (Lubrication and cooling fluid level and quality checkups, tires rotation for wheeled equipment, Under carriage inspections, Electrical systems etc.) and major and minor repairs including PM tasks as required</li><li>Use Diagnose tools to test and repair malfunctioned systems (Engine, Hydraulic, Brake, Transmission, Ground engaged tools, electrical system and other components of HME)</li><li>Disassemble and reassemble heavy equipment, components and installing new electrical parts and accessories</li><li>Reading and interpreting technical manuals, diagnostic charts, electrical circuit diagrams and schematics to repair existing equipment defects</li><li>Order necessary parts and tools for equipment repair and maintenance</li><li>Work and communicate effectively with equipment operators to identify equipment faults, plan necessary repairs and provide estimated maintenance time</li><li>Test repaired equipment to ensure proper operational performance</li><li>Keep logs of work and report any issues to respective supervisors</li><li>Keep accurate and detail records of serviced machines to maintain a history of repairs and parts used for each piece of equipment</li><li>Comply with safety procedures to maintain a clean and safe work environment</li></ul>
Formal Education, Certifications or Equivalents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>12<sup>th</sup> Grade Completion certificate</li><li>Vocational Certificate in Heavy Duty Mechanic and/or Auto Electrician</li><li>Must have valid driving license (Grade 3 and above)</li></ul>
Working Experience – Nature & Length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Minimum 3 years work experience as a Heavy Equipment Mechanic and Auto electrician, Mine related experience an asset</li><li>Knowledge of mechanical, electrical, and hydraulic systems of heavy mobile equipment</li><li>Willingness to observe all safety precautions for protections against accidents, dangerous fluids, electric lines, chemicals etc.</li></ul>
Leadership Experience - Nature & Length of time	No leadership experience is required but candidate must be self-motivated.
Other skills and abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ability to work independently or as part of a team to complete repairs in a timely and efficient manner</li><li>Able to meet all safety requirements and policies and apply accordingly in any working condition and place</li><li>Knowledge of safety procedures to prevent accidents during repair and maintenance work</li><li>Work overtime as required</li></ul>

Salary: according to the Company’s salary scale.

Place of work: Zara Mining Share Company  
Koka Gold Mine  
Zoba Gash Braka

**Additional Requirement for nationals:** Having fulfilled their National Service obligations, provide evidence of a release paper from the Ministry of Defence. Having present the release paper or registration card issued by the reserve Army. Provide a Clearance paper from the office of the Eritrean Police and present a Medical Certificate from the Hospital.  
Present clearance paper from the current/last employer.  
Short-listed applicants are only considered as potential candidates for the interview.  
Please mail your applications to the Zara Mining Share CO, P. O. Box 2393. Asmara, Eritrea.  
Please send a copy of your application to Aliens Employment Permit Affairs P.O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea.  
The Company will not return Application documents to the sender.

Deadline for application: 10 days from the day of advertised





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

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

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

**Position: Clinical Laboratory Officer**

**Department: Employee Services**

**Section: Medical Service**

**Number Required: One (01)**

**Contract type: Indefinite**

**Primary Purpose**

- Performs all levels of laboratory tests, supervise the medical laboratory section, supervise and train mine clinic staff on routine laboratory tests like RDT for malaria, Glucose in blood etc.

**Main Functions**

- Perform high level Blood Chemistry analysis.
- Conduct Hematology & Immunology tests.
- Supervise clinic staff on handling and performing lab tests.
- Conduct microbiology tests.
- Conducting Urine tests.
- Digital data archiving and reporting.
- Plan and perform other mine related blood test.
- Report writing.

**Task Description Expanded to Core Performance Area**

**Conduct Blood Chemistry tests**

- Conduct LFT, RFT, lipid panel, and other necessary tests.
- Register the results daily, supply info to medical staff and patients.
- Keep records for clinic.

**Conduct Hematology tests**

- Conduct tests such as: blood grouping; CBC; RBC and other related tests.
- Registration for tests.
- Results given to patients to give to medical staff

**Conduct Immunology tests**

- Conduct pregnancy tests; hepatitis A, B.
- Conduct Pylori tests; RDT; Malaria.
- Registration for tests.

**Conduct microbiology tests**

- Conduct Sputum tests; gram stain tests and other related tests.
- Registration for tests.
- Patients take the results to medical staff.

**Conducting Urine tests**

- Conduct Albumin; Glucose; Ketones and other related tests.
- Registration for tests.
- Patients take the results to medical staff.

**Conduct stool exams**

- Conduct OVA & Parasite; occult blood tests.
- Registration for tests.

**Another mine related to mine**

- Conduct Lead and other required tests.
- Registration for tests.

**Report Writing**

- Compile weekly; monthly; quarterly; bi-annual; annual laboratory activity reports.
- Complete other reports as requested.
- Supervise, plan, liaise with local regulatory body on Food handler’s medical laboratory tests.

Qualifications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Degree in Clinical Laboratory Science</li></ul>
Knowledge and Experience:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minimum of 3-years working experience as medical laboratory technician</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Knowledge and experience in operating modern automated blood chemistry machines</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Knowledge and experience in operating modern automated CBC machines</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Knowledge and experience in digital laboratory data processing, documenting, archiving &amp; reporting</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Knowledge and experience in procuring routine laboratory reagents and instruments</li></ul>

Technical Skills	Behavioural Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Proficiency in Computer skills (Microsoft)</li><li>• Knowledge of First Aid</li><li>• Knowledge of medical ethics</li><li>• Supervisory skills</li><li>• Attention to detail and analytical skills</li><li>• Proficiency in lab instrumentation</li><li>• Plan, organize and execution skills</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Communication – Good command of English / local language</li><li>• Assertiveness</li><li>• Interpersonal Relations</li><li>• Aware of cultural sensitivity</li><li>• Demonstrate team leadership capability</li><li>• Ability to work towards strict deadlines</li><li>• Multi- tasking and organizing skills</li></ul>

**Unique requirements / Other information**

- Well-disciplined with excellent professional Ethics.
- Mentally and physically heathy.

**2. Position: Physiotherapist**

**Department: Employee Services / Medical Service**

**Number required: one (01)**

**Contract Type: Indefinite**

**Place of work: Bisha**

**Primary Purpose**

- Perform physiotherapy to patients as ordered by attending physician.

**ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS**

- Provide physiotherapy to patients. Prepare and properly maintain physiotherapy equipment.

**MAIN FUNCTIONS**

- Examination of patients before physiotherapy.
- Preparation of essential Physiotherapy Equipment and supplies.
- Perform ordered physiotherapy.
- Report writing.

**UNIQUE REQUIREMENTS / OTHER INFORMATION**

- Candidate must be medically and physically fit.

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Diploma in Physiotherapy</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Experience in a physiotherapy centre</li></ul>
Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Computer skills (Microsoft)</li><li>• First Aid certified</li><li>• Safety experience</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Communication – basic English / local language</li><li>• Interpersonal Relations and Team player</li><li>• Ability to work towards strict deadlines</li></ul>

**General Information and other requirements:**

- **Salary:** As per Company salary scale.
- **Type of Contract:** Indefinite
- **Place of work:** Bisha
- **Additional requirements for Nationals:**
  - Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provide evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defense.
  - Present clearance paper from current/last employer.
  - Testimonial documents to be attached (CV, work experience credentials, a copy of your National Identity Card etc.).
  - Only shortlisted applicants will be considered as potential candidates for an interview.
  - Application documents will not be returned to sender.
  - All applications should be sent through the post office.
  - Deadline for application: 10 days from the day of publication in the Newspaper.
- **Address:** Please mail your applications to.  
Bisha Mining Share Company,  
P. O. Box 4276  
Asmara, Eritrea
- **Note to Eritrean applicants:**  
Please send a copy of your application to
  - 1.Aliens Employment permits Affairs,  
P. O. Box 7940  
Asmara, Eritrea.
  - 2.Mineral Resources Management  
P. O. Box 272  
Asmara, Eritrea



# Development

## Small and Productive Farm Plot and Its Promising Results



Amanuel Yohannes

Guided by the motto 'Safe and Nutritious Food for Everyone, Everywhere,' the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) has developed a strategic plan for the period covering 2024 to 2028. The strategy focuses on producing adequate crops, vegetables, fruits, and animal products through the Minimum Integrated Household Agricultural Package (MIHAP), Small and Medium Commercial Farmers (SMCF), and the Small Productive Farm Plot (SPFP), a newly developed strategy introduced in 2024.

SPFP is a strategy that is applied over a 1,000-square-meter area and aims to improve access to safe and nutritious food in the rain-fed and semi-arid areas of Eritrea. It involves the cultivation of crops such as cereals, pulses, oilseeds, and vegetables to benefit rural households that rely on rain and those living in water stressed areas. It is implemented in three phases based on the agro-ecological zones of the country. The primary objective is to harvest significant amount of cereals from a small plot of land by applying row planting, compost, improved seed varieties, and sufficient water when needed. An additional benefit of the strategy is the incorporation of vegetables, such as sweet potatoes, as staples.

The first round of SPFP was implemented for the first time in four regions: Central, Anseba, Southern, and Gash Barka. More than 12,000 rural households in these regions, which have summer rains from June to September, participated in the first round. According to reports from the four regions, the highest yields recorded were 9.7 quintals (0.97 ton) of wheat, 9.5 quintals (0.95 ton) of maize, 4.2 quintals (0.42 ton) of barley, 7.3 quintals (0.73 ton) of sorghum, and 2.3 quintals (0.23) of pearl millet. The weighted average was 3 quintals (0.3 ton).

Inspecting his farmland in 'Grat Alat', Mr. Amanuel, a notable

farmer from Adi Gebru, Berik subzone, Central region, said he harvested over 9 quintals (0.9 ton) from less than 1,000 square meters of farm, which is five to six times more than what is traditionally harvested.

Tsegay Berhe, a farmer from Kudo Midri, an administrative area in Mai Edaga, Dekemhare subzone, Southern region, stresses

of wheat and properly aligned vegetable plots are remarkable.

"Before joining the SPFP program," Selam recounted, "we were fully dependent on labor-intensive methods. Now, we are introduced to better alternatives. We've learned the importance of preparing the land properly, planting in rows to maximize space, and using compost. As a result, we have been able to

livelihoods.

Selam and Leteberhan urge other women to join the program as it is not labor intensive, allowing women farmers to have time to focus on other equally crucial aspects of life.

The smartest farmers work in harmony with nature, not against it. Choosing crops that are well-suited to the environment and



Tsegay Berhe

of chickpeas I harvested from less than 9 % of a hectare plot of land."

Eritrea is estimated to have around 2.1 million hectares of potential land for rain-fed farming and around 600,000 hectares for irrigated farming. With a focus on maximizing land production,



Leteberhan Mehari

the MoA strives to reach a ratio of agricultural production, with cereals (50%), pulses (25%), and oil crops (25%) by 2028.

SPFP is expected to play a key role in guaranteeing that every farmer contributes to the national objective of providing safe and nutritious food for all citizens.



Selam Birhane

require less intervention is, therefore, key to sustainable and productive farming.

Mengisteab Gebru, a farmer from Adi Dirar Ayni, Adi Quala subzone, Southern region, appreciates the provision of selected wheat seeds by the MoA's branch office at Adi Quala subzone. He said he was provided with 13 kg of selected wheat seeds, and in the first round of SPFP, he harvested over 9 quintals from a farm of less than 1,000 square meters. In the second round, he said he harvested 3 quintals (0.3 ton) of chickpeas. Mengisteab gave emphasis to the role of improved crop varieties in the the success of SPFP's goals.

Experts from the MoA have played significant roles in demonstrating the diverse benefits of the SPFP. Yosief Teklemariam, from Qusmo Dongolo in the Southern region, applauds the role of expert intervention in his harvest of over 9.7 quintals (0.97 ton) of wheat on a tenth of a hectare of land. He stresses the importance of expanding transformative services to remote areas.

Yosief said, "Pragmatic consultancy services are crucial. I had no prior knowledge of SPFP's farming techniques, which contributed to this bountiful harvest, including the four quintals

Amanuel Yohannes, an exemplary farmer, recalls how skeptical he initially was about the farming methods SPFP employs. However, the results have eventually proven to be impressive. He said, "Many farmers are now encouraged by what I have harvested from the small plot, and I am planning to distribute half of the produce as seeds to aspiring farmers."

The government's commitment to achieving food security through safe and nutritious food signals a strong drive to expand and strengthen initiatives like SPFP and improve livelihoods.



the multiple benefits of the SPFP in maximizing yields. He said, "I notice that the output per hectare we used to get is similar to what we are now getting from a 1,000 square meter farm, which is 6 quintals (0.6 ton)."

SPFP can also enhance the resilience of smallholder farmers to climate change and unpredictable weather patterns. The emphasis on row planting and compost application improves the soil's health and its fertility and encourages sustainable farming practices using locally available resources.

Selam Berhane Emba is from Mai-Lafo, Adi Quala subzone, Southern region. Her 1,000-square-meter farm demonstrates her meticulous planning and unwavering dedication. Her orderly rows

harvest 5 quintals (0.5ton) from the 1,000-square-meter plot."

Leteberhan Mehari, from Mehabesh, Ela-Berid subzone, Anseba region, asserts that through the SPFP, she has been encouraged to cultivate wheat for the first time. She said, "We thought this kind of cereal was suitable only for the highlands. But this perception has now changed completely. Through SPFP, I've cultivated wheat on a 250-squaremeter plot across difficult terrain and harvested 2.5 quintals (0.25ton) in the first round." Her farm is covered with a variety of crops, vegetables, and pulses.

As the SPFP program encourages the cultivation of vegetables, such as sweet potato, as staples alongside cereals and pulses, women have recalibrated their ability to guarantee better alternatives to improve their

