

OFFICIAL CELEBRATION MARKING 26TH INDEPENDENCE DAY ANNIVERSARY

The official celebration marking the 26th Independence Day Anniversary was conducted on Wednesday May 24 with enthusiasm at Asmara Stadium.

Addressing the nation, President Isaias Afwerki underscored that Eritrea's independence and sovereignty have special attributes in comparison to other analogous cases. In the first place, the Eritrean people were entitled to, and should have been allowed as, or more so, than other peoples in Africa, to exercise their inalienable right of self-determination.

The President went on to explain that the powers that emerged victorious in the Second World War unfairly decided to suppress these inviolable rights and subdue the Eritrean people through brute force. In the event, the people of Eritrea had to wage, without any external succor, an arduous struggle and vanquish the biggest army in Sub-Saharan Africa that was alternatingly supported by the two superpowers. Their military

victory notwithstanding, the Eritrean people chose to respect the rule of law and assert their inalienable national right, which is solemnly enshrined in international law, through a referendum, the President elaborated.

Moreover, President Isaias stressed that the people and Government of Eritrea have not only vanquished all machinations and subversions but also managed to safeguard their sovereignty and independence scaling numerous obstacles and hurdles, in addition to consolidating their national unity and cohesion.

President Isaias further noted that the Eritrean people have overcome formidable economic challenges – both natural and those created by the machinations of the nation's archenemies and have registered spectacular achievements in a quarter century without flinching or capitulation and imbued greater radiance to the independence they achieved in 1991 and are presently poised to embark on a new chapter



of development.

Stating that the nation-building process will continue with a more robust and comprehensive development as well as greater pace and refined strategy, President Isaias said that this is not a matter of choice but historical obligation.

In conclusion, President Isaias urged the Security Council to respect the rule of law, for its members to

shoulder their responsibilities and to ensure eviction of occupation from the sovereign Eritrean territories and appealed to the friends of Eritrea who stand for justice to further strengthen their solidarity.

Also speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Zemede Tekle,

Commissioner of Culture and Sports, said that the Independence Day celebrations have significant contribution in reflecting the unity and identity of the Eritrean people.

The ceremony highlighted military parade by members of the Eritrean Defense Force and different cultural as well as artistic performances.

ERITREANS ABROAD CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY

Eritrean communities in Italy, Norway, Kuwait and Kenya have celebrated Independence Day Anniversary with patriotic zeal. Nationals and friends of Eritrea residing in the Italian cities of, Milan, Bologna, Catania, Napoli, Pescara and Parma celebrated the event through staging cultural and sports programs.

Noting that the people and Government of Eritrea have demonstrated strong perseverance to safeguard national sovereignty and build a prosperous nation, Mr. Russom Gebreyesus, Head of Consular Affairs at the Eritrean Embassy in Italy, said that commendable efforts have been exerted to promote national identity, in addition to empowering the culture of work and productivity.

Eritrean nationals residing in Bergen, Norway, equally celebrated the 26th Independence Day with different activities. They expressed resolve to bequeath the



noble national and societal values to their children.

Likewise, Eritreans in Kuwait colorfully celebrated the 26th Independence Day anniversary. Mr. Idris Mohammed Ali, Charge d'Affairs at the Eritrean Embassy, said that the national celebration are indicative of the respect the Eritrean people have to fallen heroes and the platform for renewing their pledge to build a developed nation.

In another report, Eritreans in

Kenya celebrated Independence Day with patriotic zeal. Mr. Beyene Russom, Ambassador of Eritrea to Kenya and Tanzania, said that Eritrea's peace and stability in the nation are the outcome of the strong harmony, mutual respect and commitment of the Eritrean people. "Provided such values are carefully nurtured, they will have strong impact in efforts being conducted to build a developed nation and thereby ensure economic emancipation", the Ambassador added.

MORE MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATIONS

Presidents Emmanuel Macron of France, Janos Ader of Hungary and Ms. Doris Leuthard of the Swiss Federation have sent messages of congratulations to the people and Government of Eritrea in connection with the 26th Independence Day Anniversary.

In their respective messages, the leaders wished President Isaias Afwerki good health as well as peace and prosperity to the Eritrean people.

President Janos Ader of Hungary noted that relations between his country and Eritrea has been steadily expanding to new domains in recent years, especially the cooperation and exchange of experience in agriculture and education.

The President of the Swiss Federation, Ms. Doris Leuthard, equally expressed conviction that the mutual trust and friendship between Eritrea and her country would deepen in the years ahead.

In the same vein, The President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, Muhammad bin Rashid Al-Maktum, the country's Vice President,

Minister of Defense and Prime Minister, Mohammed Bin Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, President Mahmoud Abbas of Palestine, President Jacob Zuma of South Africa, President Salva Kiir Mayardit of South Sudan, President Sergio Mattarella of Italy, and President Ernest Bai Koroma of Sierra Leone, respectively sent messages of congratulation to the people and Government of Eritrea in connection with the 26th Independence Day anniversary.

In his message, President Salva Kiir expressed appreciation to Eritrea's heroic feats and the exemplary development achievements it has registered and affirmed his country's conviction to reinforce ties of cooperation between the two countries.

Similarly, the President of Italy, Sergio Mattarella, reaffirmed readiness to reinforce the historic and cultural ties that exist between the two sisterly nations.

The leaders wished President Isaias good health and peace as well as prosperity to the Eritrean people.

President Isaias Afwerki's Speech on the Occasion of the 26th Independence Day Celebrations

Distinguished Participants and Honourable Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Congratulations to the people of Eritrea inside the country and abroad. Words of gratitude to those who have organized and embellished the celebrations of Independence Day.

The current year is the first year of the second quarter century of our independence. It is occurring at a juncture of a quarter of a century that has elapsed in numerical terms and in which important changes and transitions are unfolding in global and regional developments.

Eritrea's independence and sovereignty have special attributes in comparison to other analogous cases. In the first place, the people of Eritrea were entitled to, and should have been allowed as, or more so, than other peoples in Africa, to exercise their inalienable right of national self-determination. But the powers that emerged victorious in the Second World War unfairly decided to suppress these inviolable rights and subdue the Eritrean people through brute force. In the event, the people of Eritrea had to wage, without any external succor, an arduous struggle and vanquish the biggest army in Sub-Saharan Africa that was alternately supported by the two super-powers. Their military victory notwithstanding, the people of Eritrea chose to respect the rule of law and assert their inalienable national right, which is solemnly enshrined in international law, through a referendum.

But the Eritrean people's spectacular achievement of liberation and sovereignty did not come to an end in 1991. They have also foiled, in the past years, subsequent machinations of the forces of domination that subscribe to the rule of the jungle. As it happened, the

people of Eritrea have challenged, both through defensive force and legal means, the litany of putative border disputes – from Hanish to Badme and Dumiera – that were willfully concocted to deny the Eritrean people time and space to rebuild their nation devastated in the long protracted war of liberation they had fomented. Unfortunately, these forces have not accepted their failures. Instead, they seem bent on inflicting yet more harm to the people of Eritrea by fomenting interminable crises. To this end, they continue to flout the rule of law and to occupy and inculcate unwarranted damage in sovereign Eritrean territories.

To cover up their incessant failures, these same forces continue to dwell on mendacious smear campaigns against Eritrea. Eritrea's impeccable fight against terrorism – that spans the period prior to independence to the time when Bin Laden was in the Sudan in 1996 and thereafter – has thus been sullied and distorted so as to rationalize spurious accusations and to impose unfair sanctions against the country in 2009 by the UN Security Council. Apparently, this charade has not mollified their appetite and they have subsequently resorted to demonization and farcical campaigns falsely accusing Eritrea of "human rights" violations.

Indeed, the various malicious schemes they have unleashed in the past years are too appalling to comprehend and rationalize. These include: subtle subterfuges woven

to destroy Eritrea's economy; transparent campaigns waged to bring about diplomatic "isolation" of Eritrea; incessant psychological and propaganda wars peddled day in and day out; and the open military assault that was launched in Tsorona last year.

How about the people and Government of Eritrea? They have vanquished all machinations and subversions. They have managed to safeguard their sovereignty and independence. They have scaled numerous obstacles and hurdles. They have consolidated their national unity and cohesion. They have overcome formidable economic challenges – both natural and those created by the machinations of Eritrea's arch-enemies. They have registered spectacular achievements in a quarter century without flinching or capitulation. They have imbued greater radiance to the independence they achieved in 1991 and they are now poised to embark on a new chapter of development.

And the forces of arrogance, domination and their minions?... The various machinations and subversive plots they have woven have failed inexorably exacerbating their frustration and anxiety.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Eritrea's independence in 1991 coincided with the end of the Cold War and the advent of chaotic

upheavals associated with a unipolar global order. The second quarter century that we embarked on last year symbolizes the last phase of the global crises spurred by misguided policies in a unipolar international order. Although it is difficult to predict now where and how long the transition will take, it is imperative to seriously assess its contours and possible trajectories in view of the upheavals that continue to rage in our region and the world at large.

In the event, we must build on the national progress achieved so far and continue our struggle, taking into account all scenarios of international and regional changes, for a more robust, comprehensive and sustainable development with greater pace and more refined strategy. This is not a matter of choice but our historical obligation. I have no doubts whatsoever that the people of Eritrea – both inside the country and abroad – will emerge triumphant in the expansive undertaking that they have embarked upon.

On this occasion, I urge the UN



Security Council to respect the rule of law, for its members to shoulder their responsibilities and to ensure eviction of occupation from our sovereign territories. I further urge the UNSC to rescind the unjust "sanctions" imposed on Eritrea and to redress the damage that this has inculcated. I also appeal to the friends of Eritrea who stand for justice to further strengthen their solidarity.

Best wishes for good Kremti (main) rains!

Glory to our Martyrs!

Glory to the indomitable Eritrean people!

Victory to the Masses!

Enigmatic Eritrea: Engagement, Investment & Development in the 21st Century

The Embassy of the State of Eritrea in the UK hosted a forum on 22 May in London under the theme "Enigmatic Eritrea: Engagement, Investment & Development in the 21st Century" in a bid to portray Eritrea's true image.

Members of the Diplomatic corps, Mining Industry CEOs, Law firms, Consultants, Journalists, and Academics have participated in the discussion forum that aimed to address and share information about Eritrea.

Eritrean Ambassador to the UK and Ireland Mr. Estifanos Habtemariam explained how today's political climate is fitting Eritrea's endeavors of international cooperation, exploring different areas of opportunities of investment and working towards a sustainable development process in Eritrea.

Ambassador Estifanos underlined that the Government and people of Eritrea are tirelessly engaged in the parallel duty of protecting sovereignty whilst working towards

ensuring food security and rebuilding the nation, especially in the sectors of agriculture, healthcare, education, infrastructure and mining.

He further stressed that Eritrea's self-reliant development endeavor is one that has met endless challenges and hurdles concealed as border disputes, unjust sanctions and allegations of human rights abuse seeking to sabotage the rich and proud history and hard won independence.

Mr. Gordon Peters, former chairperson of the Scottish-Eritrean friendship touched upon the pleasant feeling of Asmara's architecture, reforestation, extractive resources and health related success Eritrea has achieved. He further commended the peace and tranquility Eritrea is enjoying and called for integrated efforts to portray the true image of Eritrea as opposed to the counterproductive false narratives of some media.

Mr. Peter Ford, Former UK Ambassador to Eritrea, on his part talked about his three-decade

experience about Eritrea focusing on geo-politics surrounding Eritrea. He gave a briefing on three areas of his experience; namely on the Eritrean people's resilience, resourcefulness, and cohesiveness.

Mr. Seamus Cornelius, Chairperson of Danakil Mining Share Company, gave a brief introduction on the activity of the company, and spoke in detail about the experiences they had with Eritrea referring to personal accounts and how the Fraser Institute review ranked as the 6th most attractive mining investment

destination in Africa. He went on to elaborate on how corruption is non-existent and every government institution works professionally.

In closing, Mr. Yared Tesfay, Head of Media Affairs at Eritrea's Embassy in UK and Ireland, stressed the importance of the forum in bringing together the participants from different areas of profession to address and share their experiences, as well as reflect the reality in Eritrea exploring different areas of opportunities and working together towards a sustainable development.



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“We must further strengthen the multi-dimensional cooperation between Eritrea and Egypt,” President Isaias

Part I

It is to be recalled that President Isaias Afwerki conducted a two-hour live interview with local media on May 20 on the occasion of the 26th Anniversary of Independence Day. Excerpts of the first part of the interview follows.

Many have been concerned with respect to the intensive work visits and discussions between senior government officials of Eritrea and Egypt as part of the bilateral relationship between the two countries. Some also tend to distort this situation and speculate about its negative effect on our region. Further, it has been repeatedly claimed (propagated) that Egypt is establishing a military base in Eritrea. What is the basis of this speculation and what are the pillars of the relations between Eritrea and Egypt, and other countries in the region as well?

Let me first convey my best wishes for a happy Independence Day to the Eritrean people living inside and outside the country as well as to the friends of Eritrea.

In regard to the bilateral ties between Eritrea and Egypt, I do not wish to dwell on innuendos but rather focus on the substantive issues. It must be seen within the context and framework of our regional policy. That our ties are growing at a fast pace in various sectors and field is too palpable to merit emphasis. The underlying doctrine of our foreign policy is naturally anchored on our domestic situation and geared towards the promotion of a congenial regional environment or safe neighborhood which will significantly influence the successful implementation of our domestic plans and projects. We have to exert vigorous efforts to promote this reality. The cultivation of common understanding with all our partners in the region is indeed imperative for the establishment of robust ties. Ties fostered for tactical or short-term benefits will not be sustainable. In spite of considerable challenges, we have been pursuing an active and not passive diplomacy in the past 25/26 years to create the desired conducive environment with all the countries and peoples in our wider neighbourhood.

The Red Sea is one of the four constituent geographic pillars in our wider region. The importance of the Red Sea Region is too evident to merit explanation. The second geographic zone is the Horn of Africa that includes Kenya. The Nile Basin is the adjacent region that extends westwards. The fourth part is the Gulf States region. All these regions or sub-regions have interrelated linkages in strategic terms. The geopolitical and economic importance of these wider region in global terms are also obvious and primary causes for the

various conflicts that have raged in the past 25 years as well as in preceding periods. These conflicts must be resolved to usher in a stable neighborhood. Upheavals, wars, atrocities, conflicts had become the order of the day in the past 25 years. The mayhem has become boundless in the past four/five years. Why are conflicts exacerbated and deteriorating from bad to worse with time in this region? Do these conflicts stem from the domestic realities in each country? Are these provoked by strained ties between the countries in the region? Are they instigated by mainly extremist forces who have their own disparate agendas? The negative implications of these conflicts both in regional and global terms cannot also be underrated.

How can these conflicts be resolved? More importantly and beyond the mere resolution of conflicts, is there a mechanism for common action to ensure mutual respect, cooperation and unity of all the peoples in the region to guarantee their common economic and security interests? Why are these problems perpetuated and aggravated with time? The primary causes must be addressed fully and comprehensively. These are precisely the agenda of our talks when we foster bilateral or multilateral ties. We are neighbours that live in this given region. We have common interests. How can we cultivate robust ties – economic, trade, investment – and cooperation when conflicts are pervasive? Is it possible to consolidate economic and other cooperation without first securing regional stability? These and other related issues have remained the subject of our diplomatic engagements.

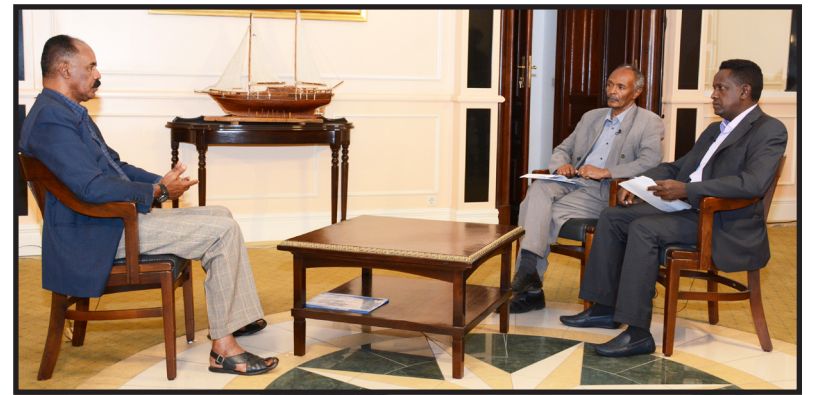
We have since long adopted a strategy of engagement in our relationship not only with Egypt but also with all the countries in the four regions. We have strived to create mutual understanding with all the countries by addressing the crucial issues candidly and fully. A crucial parameter in this regard is how to resolve and find a panacea to imbalances in the region that often prompt and fuel extraneous interventions? If we take the Red Sea region for instance, we can easily see its distinct strategic importance. What can we say about its stability in the past 25 years and in earlier times? Have all the littoral States been contributing their share to secure their national interests as well as the maritime importance of sea lane? Or have they been sidelined as mere observers? How does

the Red Sea affect the individual countries concerned and the region as a whole? The Red Sea will not be stable if extraneous intervention is preponderant and the countries and peoples of the region have no role. These are various related issues mulled for a long time but that have not found satisfactory solutions to date.

In the Horn of Africa, the prevailing realities in Somalia and Ethiopia; the conflict instigated by patrons of the TPLF regime between Ethiopia and Eritrea; the consequent instability that has afflicted the region are matters that merit scrutiny. Why have the Somali people been plunged into a situation of interminable turmoil for the past 25 years? Why are they unable to establish their own government? Why are they not active in managing and shaping their own affairs? How long can the situation continue with the intervention of UN or African forces? How can its negative ramifications in the region be rectified? Which are the forces that are active in this region?

With respect to the Nile Basin region, there is one evident problem. This problem stems from the agenda that the TPLF regime resuscitated 23/24 years ago. This boils down to the utilization of the waters of the Nile as a political instrument to advance the agendas of domination, influence, control and subordination of others. All riparian States have their own interpretations and approaches on this matter. The main problem or controversy at this point in time is the Millennium Dam Project. This is a fantasy and has become an additional cause of discord to prevalent misunderstandings and friction in the region. The situation in the Gulf States is evidently. There are also new realities in the vast arc extending from Afghanistan to Libya and Iraq.. that have unfolded in the aftermath of what is termed as the “Arab Spring”. In general, bilateral and multilateral ties will not flourish seamlessly as long as instability and conflict in these four regions are adequately addressed. This is indeed the prevailing consensus among all the countries in the region. In this regard, identification of the fault lines and imbalances is crucial. This is still work in progress.

Egypt has not played its appropriate role in the region in the last 30 years due to its own domestic realities and the influence of external political forces. This was one of the major gaps. Activating its regional role is now one of the goals of the Egyptian government. This will bring positive dividends and benefits to the region. It cannot be harmful at all. The same is true with Saudi Arabia in spite of its considerable resources



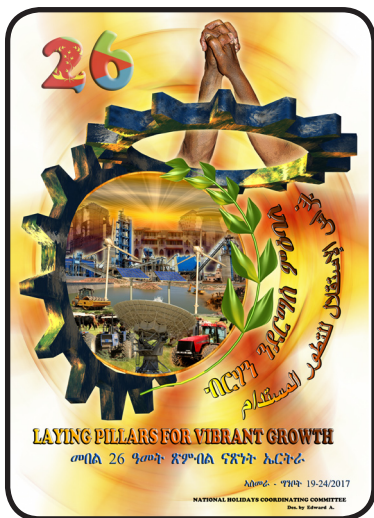
and opportunities. This may not, perhaps, be termed as a “major gap” but Saudi Arabia’s “potential” has not leveraged to enhance the regional importance of the Red Sea, the Horn, the Nile Basin as well as the Gulf region. Focus on these countries is not meant to underrate the respective roles that all the other countries in the region must play. All countries must contribute in accordance with their capabilities. We in Eritrea have to do the same without exaggerating our role. The ultimate objective is to ensure the contribution of all the countries – big and small – in a manner that is commensurate with their capabilities to advance the common good; i.e. the stability of the region; for our common economic and security interests. This must of course be predicated on mutual respect and mutual interest. It must be predicated on shared values and developed further to consolidate the overall benefits to the regional. In this perspective, we need to exert efforts to create the necessary mechanism that will promote and lubricate collaborative work to achieve our common goals. The fact is the existing continental and regional institutions (African organizations, the Arab League etc.) are rather nominal and not as effective as expected. In this context, there were no mechanism for activating robust ties in various sectors – agriculture, trade, education, health and other areas – with Egypt and other countries in the region in spite of the prevalent good will. Now we can say, these have begun in good earnest. In our relation with Egypt and other countries, there have been aspirations to work together in different sectors such as agriculture, trade, education, health and others. In tandem with this, we have to identify and jointly thwart the threats in the region. We have to vanquish the forces of terror and conflict in this region.

Discourse about “a military base here or there” is a throw-back to old times; it represents an outdated philosophy. We have no desire or appetite to entertain and resurrect concepts of military and security alliances/blocs in the Horn of Africa that existed not only in the past 25 years but also before and that did not contribute to regional and international peace. To create and

pledge allegiance to this or that bloc is a redundant philosophy and politics at this time. What is discussed now is outside this old framework. It is not about establishing military blocs. Obviously, fostering military and security cooperation is not a taboo. We all have our respective capabilities in this regard. The central issue is how we pool and leverage our respective resources. Essentially, these revolve around the exchange of information, identification of common threats and consultation on joint tactics. This is not in fact a matter of choice but normative relations between all countries. Therefore, the cooperation between Eritrea and Egypt or Eritrea and other countries in the region, which aims at promoting stability, should not be surprising at all. It should not be misconstrued as a problem by any standards. On the other hand, military cooperation and the cultivation of a common approach do not materialize through the signing of agreements only. They are built incrementally in phases by diligently preparing the ground.

If we look at the speculative innuendos on the issue at hand, they essentially stem and are an extension of the smear campaigns against Eritrea by the TPLF regime and its patrons. The latter have chosen to prop up the TPLF regime as a plaint vehicle to advance their interests. In their view, this must be accompanied by an unrelenting invective campaign against Eritrea. This has been underway for years now. The aim is to attribute any problem in the region to Eritrea and to distort facts and events to demonize, isolate and actually undermine Eritrea. The preposterous accusations against Eritrea for “gross violation of human rights... as a spoiler in the region... for sponsoring terrorism etc.” originate from the same quarters and for the misguided motive described before. ... The spurious accusations related to the Millennium Dam Project – the false allegations that Eritrea and Egypt are conspiring (have used the Bene Shangul) to attack the Millennium Dam - are linked to such fabrications. A sane person cannot possibly harbor these ideas. And in any case, why should they be obsessed with normal ties of cooperation that Eritrea cultivates

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Makda Solomon

Coming together to set up a place and preparing feasts to celebrate their victory is a dear culture of the Eritrean society. On this specific day of grand victory, the Eritrean people celebrate with passion. Regardless of religion and ethnic differences communities gather in the neighborhood to celebrate this important day.

The Eritrean society has a long history of working together, fighting together and supporting each other. Crying together, laughing together and inspiring each other. As a result of this it is natural for a community to have a communal gathering and arrange amazing celebrations for a long period of time. In fact Eritreans



Ms. Senayt kfle

all over the world do the same to celebrate Independence Day.

The Independence celebrations have become a corner stone of Eritrean cultural values.

ComawiDas,communal gathering, is the main way of celebrating the day with in different parts of subzones in each region of Eritrea. The ultimate goal of communal gatherings is to reflect on the common struggle for independence and to renew the resolve to protect the sovereignty of the nation. At the same time, being together gives the people a sense of ownership of their history.

National holidays in Eritrea are meant for Eritrean people to strengthen their solidarity. Hence, a communal gathering is a wonderful moment and a heart touching gathering which is hard to explain in simple words. Everybody rejoicing together and cutting cakes for Eritrea's Independence.

It is also a juncture in which values and history are handed down to the youngsters. I saw freedom fighters

Days of Independence - Communal Gathering



sharing their experiences of the armed struggle.

Though every administration has its own beautifully decorated, amazing, outstanding and splendid communal gathering, I chose to focus on few to serve as an example. I went to Abashawl administration, Arba'ete Asmara administration and Akrya administration. And I can proudly say that my visit was wonderful.

In her speech, Ms. Asgedet Luel, administrator of Hadsh Adi and also a member of the organizing committee in Abashawl administration, congratulated the Eritrean people inside the country and abroad and, especially, members of the Eritrean Defense Force, who are dearly preserving Eritrean sovereignty. She continued to say that the Eritrean Independence Day is precious and valuable, and the liberty was achieved through heavy sacrifice. Ms. Asgedet additionally said "good is yet to come" as the last 26 years of independence were years



Mr. Beshir Salh

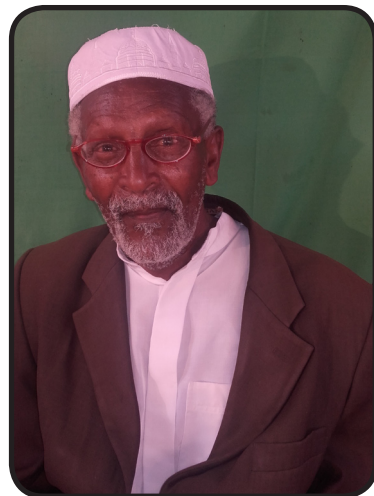
of development that have led us to the beginning of a new stable era.

"Getting freedom means building long lasting peace as an inheritance to the masses", Ms. Asgedet said and



Mr. Rusom kbri (wedi kbri)

added that Eritrean people, especially those involved in the Nation Building Process, are to be thanked for preserving Eritrean sovereignty while foiling external conspiracies. "Eritrean youth have worked hard and toiled even harder by the day" said the administrator thanking the young generations for developing their nation. She highlighted also the country's achievements especially in the sectors of communication, transportation services, foreign investments, mining and tourism.



Teacher Abdelwas'e Abday

Similarly, Mr. Rusom kbri (wedi kbri), present at the occasion to celebrate in the Arba'ete Asmara's communal gathering, explained that such occasions are not conducted to dance or have fun but to show how much Eritrean Independence means. He also added, that communal gatherings are basically a way of passing down the value of unity to young generations.

Akrya is famous for the big number of its inhabitants. Muslims and Christians live peacefully in a rather small neighborhood. Their cohesion was wonderful as always.

Mr. Beshir Salh from Akrya administration, explained that he was happy to be celebrating the day of independence with his fathers and mothers in the communal gatherings showered with love and respect to one another. He also said he has been enjoying the warmth of communal gathering. He said he was able to understand the true meaning of independence and that youngsters like him can learn about the struggle for Independence, sovereignty and development.

Ms. Senayt kfle from Akrya

administration said: "Even though there are some kinds of malign maneuvers towards Eritrea it is not formidable to the Eritrean population as they have had so many worst instances, hence, to develop a peaceful Eritrea we have all dreamt of for long will be easy.

Teacher Abdelwas'e Abday from Akrya administration, on his side, said: "in today's world where people are fighting caused by ethnic and religious differences, Eritrea is an exception. People of Different ethnicity and religion celebrate together. This is basically an Eritrean way of living which existed in the past and still exists. Eritrea has been free for 26 years against long and evil conspiracies. And now the youngsters are very well aware of

their identity and proud of it."

The Eritrean struggle for independence was conducted with limited weapons, great self-reliance and major belief, trust and unity amongst its people. And after independence, the young generation is working hard to develop Eritrea to become a great, developed and respected African country. Eritrea is dearly treasured in the hearts of the young and old, and so shall it perpetually be!

"We must further strengthen the..."

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with any country in the region? .

However, if we look at the Millennium Dam Project from a different perspective, I believe that this project is one of the White Elephant projects in Africa and the Ethiopian people are unlikely to benefit from this project. As I said earlier, this project is associated with the hegemonic motive of successive Ethiopian regimes who claim that the water resource they are endowed with is equivalent to the oil resources the Arab countries are endowed with and it is felt that it can be used as a leverage to control those countries in the region. Regarding the electric supply to be potentially generated from this dam, how are the transmission and distribution mechanisms to be operationalized? For example, how are the people to benefit from this project – at household level, in agriculture, industry, services, etc.? It is also propagated a lot about exporting supply of electricity to such countries as Somalia and South Sudan. Before attempting to assess the feasibility and effectiveness of exporting electricity, it is better to deeply think in terms of the benefits of this dam to the Ethiopian people. There are many questions that that can be raised in relation to this project. Anyone concerned about this project has to think primarily in terms of its usefulness to the Ethiopian people. When it comes to the issues propagated about Eritrea in relation to this project, we are preoccupied with other priorities and this issue is a trivial one for Eritrea. We should be more concerned about enhancing the stability of the Red Sea region as we believe working together to deal with common interests are useful for bringing stability. We should also be

more concerned, to the extent that our limited capabilities allow, about the situations in Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia given the cumulative experiences of the last 25 years. We also work closely with the Gulf States for the same reasons. Unfortunately, this has been worrisome to those who harbor ill-will against Eritrea. This must be seen against the backdrop of the failure of all the unwarranted measures stacked against Eritrea: the imposed sanctions; border disputes; demonization; and, diplomatic campaigns to isolate Eritrea.

Regardless of the speculations and unjustified perceptions, we will continue to work closely with all the relevant actors in our region for the purpose of pooling and synthesizing our resources for advancing the common good. There is no other alternative to this route. The ties that Eritrea is cultivating have good prospects in the near future. As I emphasized before, our history and political tradition attests that we do not join or flirt with military blocs and alliances which are mostly characterized by short-lived benefits and interests. We believe in constructive and interdependent engagement. Our relationship with Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates as well as the peoples of Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia and other peoples in the region are not short-lived; rather they are based on long term and mutual benefits. Concerning the multi-layered cooperation with Egypt, which may currently be at its formative stage, we are determined to scale it up and accelerate its pace in the period ahead. From this perspective, it must also be noted that if we wish to expand our military and security cooperation, it will not be deferred or postponed under any circumstances.

REPORTAGE

Eritrea at 26, Even the Little Rock Matters

Mela Ghebremedhin

This past Wednesday between a mix of a chilly wind and sun, Asmara, the capital city, was getting ready for its official ceremony of Eritrea's independence. As tradition dictates, the 24th of May marks the closing of festivity after a night on Independence Avenue marked by the customary fireworks at midnight. After a night out for the pleasure of bar and club owners, the sound of the artillery awoke people as a symbolic of 24th of May.

Flags were waving on the streets, each neighborhood celebrated through music and dance at community tents and families gathered together in the morning hours for the coffee ceremony and a breakfast taking a couple of hours watching EriTV. Later on, after taking a nap and resting from a night out, it is time for the official ceremony at the Asmara Stadium.

In the afternoon, ladies and gentlemen wearing their best outfits were rushing to get at the Stadium on time. Guests showed their invitation card at the entrance to youth volunteers of the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS) wearing their blue uniform and handing over the program of the ceremony and the Eritrean flag while showing direction and helping the elders and the disabled.

Elder women were already dancing to the sound of music played while the organizing committee was making last minute arrangements. Protocol was welcoming ministers, PFDJ officials, Eritrean diplomats, resident ambassadors and representatives of UN agencies and the EU.

The marching band was getting ready at the back and at 4:30pm, right on time, the ceremony began. Already the 'elelele' by women echoed and flags were raised high by the audience while the marching band concluded with the official salute to the President of the State of Eritrea, H.E. Isaias Afwerki. After a minute of silence in memory of Eritrean fallen heroes a welcome speech was made by the Commissioner of Sport and Culture, Ambassador Zemede Tekle. The Ambassador expressed his gratitude towards the National Holidays Coordinating Committee for the preparation of the weeklong celebrations taking place nationwide and stressed the importance of synergy among all stakeholders in making this year's celebrations a success.

Following his words, President



Isaias Afwerki gave a keynote speech to the attentive crowd. After welcoming guests and congratulating the people of Eritrea in the country and abroad, he mentioned how Independence Day is the time to reflect on the way forward and how the existence of the nation is always challenged as it "coincided with the end of the Cold War and the advent of chaotic upheavals associated with a unipolar global order". He also stressed how Eritrea, compared to other African countries, had to fight for its right to self-determination. He mentioned that Eritrea faced several challenges but continues to overcome them despite the repeated attempts to challenge the country's existence including through border disputes in Hanish, Damera and Badme. In his speech, the President also highlighted the resilience of the people and called upon the strong mobilization of Eritrean people, the diplomatic efforts, the financial contribution and mobilization in the diaspora to support their nation financially and acting as informal ambassadors.

Importantly, he stressed how Eritrea is now engaged in a new phase of development and how the attempts from the outside continue to be a failure. In fact, Eritrea is now engaged in its second quarter of century since last year which "symbolizes the last phase of the global crises spurred by misguided policies in a unipolar international order. Although it is difficult to predict now where and how long the transition will take, it is imperative to seriously assess its contours and possible trajectories in view of the upheavals that continue to rage in our region and the world at large. In the event, we must build on the national progress achieved so far and continue our struggle, taking into account all scenarios of international and regional changes, for a more robust, comprehensive and sustainable development with greater pace and more refined strategy", the President said.

After wishing for the best rainy season to come, the ceremony

continued with the military parade representing all the Eritrean armed forces, accompanied by instrumental music of the renowned song "tsnatna iyu natsenetna" translated as "our steadfastness is our independence". The singer, Semhar Yohannes, sang for the first time at the stadium "kem qedemki" or "as you have always been" a tribute to Eritrea and how the history of yesterday shall be remembered today.

Simultaneously, air force planes were parading and youngsters were preparing the stage of the next musical performance entitled "kbrti emni", the symbolic rock. Through human made rocks and wood, the musical told the story of Eritrea's struggle to break free from the chains of colonization and domination. Beautifully represented through music and dance, actors were trying to break those chains followed by the arrival of freedom fighters and Hafash Wudubat (clandestine EPLF mass organizations) in trying to deliver the mountains of rocks symbolically representing Eritrea. The audience was completely immersed in this show comprised of songs in Afar, Hedareb and Tigigna. Slowly the rocks were transformed into green and the human made camels marching while pillars of development were laid as the theme of the year: "Laying Pillars for Vibrant Growth". The marine resources, the sea, the graduates, the farmers were all represented as actors of those pillars for growth. Throughout this long musical drama, the stones were a representation of the land and how Eritrea finally made it through. Literally, it depicted Eritrea's determination and how even the smallest rock matters for Eritrea to completely deliver itself from the chains of colonization and occupation.

The show continued representing progress and challenges with the border war, the sanctions and unrelenting people's resilience. Songs continued with Nahom Yohannes singing "Ynges zegelgele" translated as those who serve rule" in tribute to the people since the 1960s

until today defending the country and serving their country in all forms. While mosob, symbol of the collective stood tall in the middle of the stadium.

The wonderful first part was followed by the contribution of about 2,300 youngsters from secondary schools in the Central region under the theme of "our colors". Some were in front of the crowd holding banners of colorful flowers highlighting the stadium while words were created such as our colors, agriculture, mekete, our flag, independence, while wearing the colors of the flag, other young dancers moved in unison. A wonderful representation of how the basic foundation or pillars are vital for vibrant growth. Songs continued in chorus under the theme of colors and a special unique one spelled out with its reggae beats.

Successively, on each side of the mosob, the emblem of the EPLF and the national emblem and the camel, stood on each side of the stadium. Song of "color of mekete", translated as "color of campaigning, advocating or defending" was clearly the main message of this year's ceremony.

From the speech of President Isaias Afwerki and the symbols throughout the ceremony combined with the year's theme of building pillars for growth; a new phase of Eritrea and focusing on mekete showed Eritrea's willingness to engage further in

promoting the nation's image and boost its economy in the future. As a final, the esteemed singer, Helen Meles, wearing a beautiful traditional dress continued to impress year after year with her closing ceremony song, "Adi Sewra", "Nation of Revolution".

Instantaneously, the Mosob opened slowly for the curiosity of the audience letting gold and silver colors out representing the mining resources while the national emblem of the camel stood tall. The official ceremony came to an end with the national anthem sang loudly by all while keeping their right hand on their chest.

A beautiful ceremony, which put the bar far higher than last year, thanks to its musical drama and how it depicted the history of struggle, the resilience of the people and the continued challenges at independence while highlighting the beauty of Eritrea's diversity through colors.

From the eyes of the audience and from a media perspective, many would appreciate to see more diverse artists and adding a mix of legendary artists and young ones together while adding perhaps translation services to invited guests from the diplomatic corps and others. Laying pillars will continue for the nation while engaging all layers of society under one mosob of colors.



NOTICE



Notice is hereby given to the public that **The National Insurance Corporation of Eritrea**

Share Company will hold its 13th Ordinary Annual General Meeting of Shareholders on the

3rd of June 2017.

Place: Hotel Asmara Palace- (Selam Conference Hall)

Time: 7:30 a.m. Registration of participants

8:30 a.m. Commencement of the meeting

Agenda for the Meeting

1. Adoption of the Agenda

2. Appointment of the Resolutions Committee

3. Approval of the Minutes of the 12th Ordinary Annual General Meeting

4. Matters Arising from the 12th Ordinary Annual General Meeting

5. Management's Report on the Activities of the Corporation

6. Report of the Board of Directors

7. Report on the 2016 Accounts and the Appropriation of Profits

8. Appointment of External Auditors

9. Appointment and election of Directors

10. Any Other Business

11. Date and Venue of the 14th Ordinary Annual General Meeting

All shareholders are called upon to attend the meeting. Documents relevant to the meeting may be

collected from our head office starting from 31st of May, 2017.

Shareholders who cannot attend the meeting in person can collect their instrument of proxy from

our head office or from our website www.niceritrea.com and shall submit the completed form

not later than the 12:00 hrs 2nd of June, 2017.

National Insurance Corporation of Eritrea Share Co.

By the order of the Board of Directors



NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION RECRUITMENT OF GRADUATE ASSISTANTS FOR THE VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION



The National Commission for Higher Education (NCHE) would like to recruit competent Graduate Assistants (GAs) to work in the various institutions of Higher education (IHEs) and is hereby inviting applicants to compete for the vacancies listed below. Applicants should a) have a cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 2.75 or above b) be less than or equal to 30 years of age at the time of recruitment (i.e. September 2017) and c) have completed their national and community services.

INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION	FIELD OF STUDY	No. REQUIRED
1. ERITREA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY		
A) COLLEGE OF SCIENCE	a) BIOLOGY b) CHEMISTRY c) PHYSICS d) MATHEMATICS e) COMPUTER SCIENCE f) EARTH SCIENCES g) LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCE	3 3 4 3 4 3 2
B) COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY	a) CIVIL ENGINEERING b) ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING c) MECHANICAL ENGINEERING d) CHEMICAL ENGINEERING e) COMPUTER ENGINEERING f) MINING & PROCESSING ENGIN. - 1 Mining Engineering - 1 Process Engineering - 1 Mechanical Engineering - 1 Civil Engineering	3 3 4 3 4 4 1 1 1 1
C) COLLEGE OF EDUCATION	a) EDUCATIONL PSYCHOLOGY b) ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING c) CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION - 2 Biology Education - 2 Physics Education - 2 Chemistry Education d) NATURAL SCIENCE EDUCATION - Mathematics Education e) SOCIAL SCIENCE EDUCATION 2 Geography Educ. & 1 History Educ.)	4 6 6 2 3
2. ASMARA COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES		
A) SCHOOL OF ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSION	a) CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE b) BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES	3 2
B) SCHOOL OF PHARMACY	a) P H A R M A C E U T I C A L CHEMISTRY b) PHARMACEUTICS c) PHARMACOLOGY	1 2 2
C) SCHOOL OF NURSING	a) OPHTHALMIC NURSING b) COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSING and PSYCHIATRIC NURSING c) MIDWIFERY & CHILD HEALTH NURSING d) ANAESTHESIA NURSING e) ADULT & BASIC NURSING	2 4 6 2 10
D) S C H O O L OF PUBLIC HEALTH	a) EPIDEMEOLOGY & BIOSTATISTICS b) ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH c) NUTRITION d) HEALTH PROMOTION	1 1 1 1
E) DEPARTMENT OF BBSc	a) ENGLISH b) MATHEMATICS c) PHYSICS d) BIOLOGY e) SOCIOLOGY f) PSYCHOLOGY g) COMPUTER SCIENCE	2 2 2 2 2 2 2

3. OROTTA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY	a) GENERAL MEDICINE (MD)	4
4. COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & ECONOMICS	a) ACCOUNTING b) FINANCE c) PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	2 2 2
5. HAMELMALO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE	a) LAND RESOURCE & ENV'T b) PLANT PROTECTION c) AGRONOMY d) HORTICULTURAL SCIENCE e) VETERINARY SCIENCE f) ANIMAL SCIENCE g) ALLIED SCIENCES - CHEMISTRY - BIOLOGY - MATHEMATICS h) A G R I C U L T U R A L ENGINEERING - M E C H A N I C A L ENGINEERING - E L E C T R I C A L ENGINEERING - CIVIL ENGINEERING - C O M P U T E R ENGINEERING i) AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS - ACCOUNTING - A G R I C U L T U R A L ECONOMICS	2 2 2 2 2 2 1 1 1 3 1 1 1 1 1 1 3
6. COLLEGE OF ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES	a) ANTHROPOLOGY b) ARCHAEOLOGY c) ENGLISH d) HISTORY e) LAW f) POLITICAL SCIENCE & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS g) SOCIOLOGY & SOCIAL WORK h) JOURNALISM & MASS COMMUNIC. i) COMPUTER SCIENCE	1 1 3 1 3 2 1 2 2 2
7. COLLEGE OF MARINE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	a) MARINEFOOD TECHNOLOGY b) MARINE BIOTECHNOLOGY c) MARINE ENGINEERING d) MARINE BIOLOGY & FISHERIES e) MECHANICAL ENGINEERING f) ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING g) MATHEMATICS h) PHYSICS i) COMPUTER SCIENCE j) STATISTICS k) SOCIOLOGY l) MANAGEMENT m) ECONOMICS n) LAW	1 4 3 3 2 3 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
8. ERITREAN CENTER FOR ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE	BA Degree in - MANAGEMENT or - P U B L I C ADMINISTRATION N.B. Recommendation letters from at least 2 senior staff from previous employer required	4

General Instructions

- The deadline for submitting applications to the respective IHEs is **June 15, 2017**. Selection of GAs by all IHEs (as per the standard guidelines) shall be completed by **July 15, 2017**.
- List of selected candidates along with all relevant documents (as specified in the circular sent to all IHEs on January 27, 2017) should be submitted to the Executive Directors Office for scrutiny and finalization of recruitment by **July 30, 2017**.
- List of selected candidates along with all relevant documents will be forwarded to the Human Coordinating Center (Adi Halo) on **August 15, 2017** for final approval and placement of the GAs to their respective IHEs.

Office of the Executive Director, National Commission for Higher Education



Laying Pillars for vibrant Growth



Design: Taezaz Abraha

*Photo: Taezaz Abraha
Aklilu Zerzghi
Yemane Abrha*



OUR INDEPENDENCE DAY!!!

Semhar Mebrahtu

Leaving all behind and moving towards development is the ultimate goal of Eritrean people. The theme of 26th anniversary of independence, as a matter of fact, is “LAYING PILLARS FOR VIBRANT GROWTH.” Apart from standing against external aggressions and conspiracies, the Eritrean people is still fighting for economic growth and political stability. For this reason Eritrea celebrates May 24 in a magnificent way. This year’s 26th anniversary official ceremony was held in the Stadium of Asmara in the presence of diversified guests, tourists and nationals. They all have different impressions and comments, which we’ll share in today’s Q&A.



I noticed how a group of elderly women were joyfully dancing in the ever epic circle of the Eritrean community. They had vibrant smiles and they were beating their chest as they moved to the beat; it is a sign of expressing joy and happiness. One of them was Ms.

Liya Gebremeskel, mother of a martyr. This is the meaning of Independence Day in her words.

Independence Day means a lot. It must have meant more to my son, he fell for it. I celebrate with my soul because I take this day as a day in which my son’s dream came true. My son and his compatriots fought up to death so we can walk proudly with our heads up high. You see us laughing and dancing together without worrying what the colonizers will do to us. I can simply define Independence Day as the day in which we saw the brightest light ever. The brightest light our children gave us at the cost of their lives.

Dr. Eden Tareke, from Sweden and now lives in Eritrea with her daughter to celebrate the 26th Independence anniversary.

Yesterday, I was standing in front of the Ministry of Education building and I saw people walking around peacefully. I have ugly memories of that place. I was born and raised around that place. I remember how cans tied in ropes would make an alerting sound if anyone passed by. Ethiopian soldiers would just kill and incarcerate anyone that passes through. The sound was just so irritating, it disturbed my nights. As a kid I grew up terrified, frightened to pass through that place. But now when I see people passing through laughing, chatting and dancing comfortably it literally shows me the value of independence. And no place is like home, living outside of your country is not as comfortable as living in your own country. Your country is your dignity. I feel happy to see people living freely and comfortably after countless of sacrifices that have been paid. I am so glad that the struggles and the sacrifices of our brothers and sisters did not go in vain. Which is why it’s worthy to rejoice on our independence day.



Jakob Van De Weil, Australia

We are a group of tourists. We are here for eight days and we are visiting Asmara, Massawa, Keren and also we will be doing scuba diving in one of the islands. I have been travelling throughout the world for the last 20 years and Eritrea was to come for so long. I have visited reason I decided to come to Eritrea Eritrean friends in Australia.

I was also interested in visiting grandfather used to live here. He buried here at the Italian cemetery so to it.

So far, I have been here for four was wild, the kids dancing on before... It was well organized; beautiful representation and coordination. I am really enjoying it.

I would highly recommend people to come and visit Eritrea. For those photograph lovers, Asmara and its architecture is just impressive; the landscape is just astonishing. On top of that the people are beautiful, friendly, great hospitality and it is just very safe and a rich culture. Oh, and the food is just amazing. I would definitely recommend anyone to come and visit Eritrea! Happy Independence Day Eritrea!



Dr. Keypi Jeyante, Assistant professor of computer science at the Eritrea Institute of Technology (EIT)

I want to wish a happy Independence Day for the Eritrean people. It has been a long way for your independence, a long struggle. I can imagine it naturally means a lot to the Eritrean people. I have lived in Eritrea for about a year. It is a peaceful country. The people are cooperative and extremely welcoming.

In fact whenever I need anything as a guest in this country I don’t have any trouble. And I can see where people of Eritrea got this behavior from, it is from the struggle in which you had to come together with unity. I can see that you are devoted to make Eritrea beautiful and comfortable as much as possible. I am participating in this special day for the first time and I am honored. I found the Independence Day’s celebration to be memorable in all aspects and activities. People are happy and enjoying the day with a great spirit. It pleases me to see such love and joy. Such a bright and beautiful day!



Mr. Mohammed Brhan Ata. A proud citizen of Asmara.

Independence explains our identity. We are who we are because we became Independent. Hence, Independence for us has a heavy meaning, a paramount essence that we cannot compare with anything as we didn’t get it easily. Nobody has handed it us for free. Our freedom’s cost is the blood of our brothers and

sisters. Every Eritrean celebrates it with great responsibility. Eritrea has people who strongly preserve their national unity no matter what. I have visited so many countries but I have never seen people who prioritize nation over and above anything as much as we do. The colonizers have tried a lot to divide the people. They tried religion and ethnicity as tools of segregation. But it was impossible to accomplish as the Eritrean people are strong, cooperative and respectful of their diversities. I have a strong belief that by keeping our unity we can reach our ultimate goal of development and provide more to our young generation.

Mr. Robel Teklay who works at NUEYS in Eritrea

This year’s Independence Day is different. The celebrations were arranged in a very interesting way: short and interesting. I can see everybody is enjoying it. We all are. And a great deal of attention has been invested to make the programs interesting. After all, it is worth it. Also the reason why, we the youngsters, normally pay great attention in contributing toward the celebrations. Every anniversary has to be remarkable.

That should be the minimal of our duty. Independence is an



as I am half Italian and my great-was a doctor in Asmara and he was my visit has also a personal meaning

days. The celebrations on the eve the streets, the carnival, the week



The official celebration day continued with wonderful programs accompanied by a myriad of colorful cultural shows that included musical dramas and songs in the languages of nine ethnic groups; an indication of Eritrean’s rich diversity and buoyant unity.

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!!!