



MORE LEADERS SEND MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATIONS



The leaders of France, Italy, Cote d'Ivoire, the Kingdom of Jordan, Switzerland, Sweden, Hungary as well as the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States have sent messages of congratulations to the people and Government of Eritrea.

In his message, President Francois Holland of France expressed his wish that the people and Government of Eritrea demonstrate great efforts for the economic and social development of their country like

that they demonstrated during the struggle for independence.

Likewise, the President of Italy, Mr. Sergio Mattarella, expressed readiness to strengthen the existing strong and historical relations between his country and Eritrea. Similarly, President of Cote d'Ivoire, Mr. Alassane Ouattara, sent message of good will to the people and Government of Eritrea. King Abdullah II of the Kingdom of Jordan wished good health to President Isaias Afwerki and peace and prosperity to the Eritrean people. The President of the Swiss Confederation, Mr. Johann Schneider-Ammann on his part expressed conviction that the existing mutual trust and friendship between his country and Eritrea will deepen in the year.

Similarly, King Carl Gustaf of Sweden wished peace and prosperity to the Eritrean people on the auspicious. Also in his message of congratulations, the President of Hungary, Mr. Jonas Ader, expressed

desire to strengthen cooperation between his country and Eritrea in the sectors of agriculture and education.

The Secretary General of the ACP, Mr. Patrick Gomes on his part sent message of good wish to the people and Government of Eritrea. He also expressed appreciation for Eritrea's meaningful contribution to the cohesion and solidarity within the ACP group.

The leaders of Qatar, Swaziland and Oman have also sent messages of congratulations to the people and Government of Eritrea in connection with the Silver Jubilee Independence Day anniversary.

Also in his message, the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, wished good health to President Isaias and peace and prosperity to the Eritrean people. Likewise, the Vice Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Thani, and the Chairman of the Qatar Council of Ministers and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser

bin Kahlifa Al Thani, have sent messages of congratulations.

Also in the message he sent, King Aswati III of Swaziland wished a happy Independence Day to the people and Government of Eritrea. He also expressed desire to develop the friendly relations and cooperation between his country and Eritrea for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

Meanwhile, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said of Oman wished good health to President Isaias Afwerki as well as peace and prosperity to the Eritrean people.

Also in their messages of congratulations, leaders of other countries and international organizations have sent messages of congratulations to the people and Government of Eritrea in connection with the Silver Jubilee of Independence Anniversary.

In their respective messages, the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the

President of Portugal, Mr. Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, the King of the Netherlands, Willem-Alexander, President of the Republic of Korea, Ms. Park Geun-hye, President of Mexico, Mr. Enrique Pena Nieto, King Felipe VI of Spain, President Joko Widodo of Indonesia, and the Director General of FAO, Mr. Jose Graziano Da Silva, wished good health to President Isaias Afwerki as well as peace and prosperity to the Eritrean people.

Also in his message, the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, expressed good wish to the people and Government of Eritrea on his behalf, the Government and people of Kuwait. He further underlined firm belief that the prevailing friendly relations between Eritrea and Kuwait would be further strengthened in all aspects of mutual interest.

In the same vein, the President of Indonesia, Mr. Joko Widodo, expressed readiness to strengthen the relation between his country and Eritrea.

NAEWDVF RECEIVES FINANCIAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT



The National Association of Eritrean War Disabled Veteran Fighters (NAEWDVF) has secured support from its branches abroad. The support includes three containers of different types, 40 thousand Kroner, 20 thousand Euros, 2,400 Dollar as well as medicines.

The chairman of the Stuttgart branch, Mr. Husein Kalifa, indicated that the support from the branch include 900 bicycles, construction materials, motorized wheelchairs, sewing machines,

office materials and others.

Similarly, the German branch of the NUEW contributed medicines worth over 10 thousand Euros. The chairman of the Swedish branch office handed more than 40 thousand Kroner to the Association.

Likewise, the chairman of the Netherlands branch, Mr. Yohannes Mebrahtu handed over 20 thousand Euros and said that assistance to war-disabled veterans would continue.

Similarly, Ms. Hannesu Berhane from the UK along with her husband Mr. Berhane Asfaha donated 12 monitor computers, 30 sewing machines, while two Eritrean citizens in San Francisco, USA, donated 2,400 Dollars.

ERITREA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN ATTENDS AT WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT

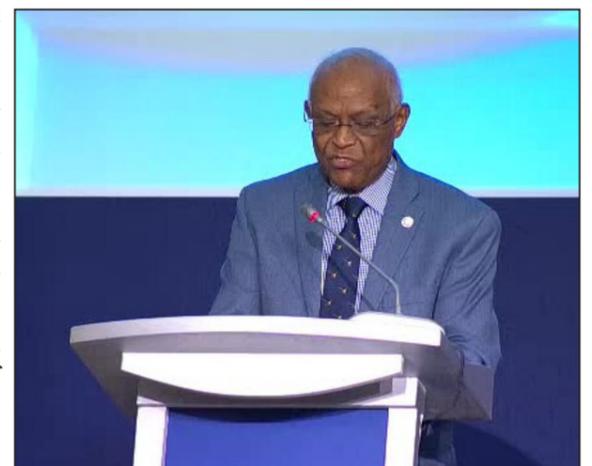
The Special Envoy of the President and Eritrea's Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the UN, Ambassador Girma Asmerom has participated at the World Humanitarian Summit conducted from 23 to 24 May in Istanbul, Turkey.

In a speech he delivered, at the summit meeting, Ambassador Ghirma said that the current global humanitarian crisis cannot be properly understood and effectively addressed in isolation from the violent conflicts, recurring and unjustified armed interventions, widening global socio-economic inequality, and the failure of nation-building on the basis of the dignity, equality and fundamental rights of citizens.

He further underlined that Eritrea's foreign policy is anchored on securing peace, stability,

development and cooperation in the wider Horn of Africa and the Red Sea regions. Ambassador Ghirma further underscored that Eritrea is a land of harmony and is working diligently to transform the volatile neighborhood into economically integrated and peaceful region.

The Ambassador called for the end of the open aggression and continued occupation of Eritrea's sovereign territory by Ethiopia in violation of the UN Charter and the EEBC's final and binding



delimitation and demarcation decision as well as the unjust sanction imposed on the Eritrean people.

In concluding remarks, the Ambassador affirmed Eritrea's commitment to the humanitarian and development actions in an integrated manner.



Statement by Foreign Minister Osman Saleh,

Ministerial Conference on “Sustainability of Migratory Phenomenon; towards a new Model of Dialogue” Rome, Italy

(Excerpts)

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me a great pleasure to address this meeting on “Sustainability of Migratory Phenomenon; towards a new Model of Dialogue”. Immigration has a long history and currently constitutes a mighty force globally with deep ramifications in the economic, social and political landscape of countries. The directions of flows are asymmetric; the broader pool has heterogeneous traits and is linked to human trafficking and related crimes.....

Migration is not peculiar to Eritrea and it assumed different forms at different times of its history. The migration flow in the last decade in particular demands understanding of Eritrea’s concrete reality....

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Eritrea’s development efforts since independence in 1991 has focused on nation building to reconstruct the tattered economy, institutions and infrastructure inherited as a result of colonial policies and the protracted war of occupation....

The promising post-independence reconstruction

and nation building effort has been affected by the 1998-2000 Eritrea-Ethiopia border war and subsequent external threats...

In this situation, illegal migration has also become a politically motivated agenda serving as part and parcel of a larger campaign to vilify, isolate and destabilize Eritrea. It is undeniable that economic challenges in the situation of the last 18 years became a reason for some to migrate in search of improved opportunities..

The youth has been the main target of the migratory conspiracy and protracted psychological warfare to lure them away from national defense and development responsibilities by attracting them to a promising “heavenly life”....Moreover, false and manipulated asylum cases have been orchestrated and used to project a false image of impending crisis so as to accuse the Eritrean Government.... President Obama’s statement in reference to Eritrea at the Global Clinton Foundation Summit in September 2012 in which he stated“ ... we are partnering with groups which are helping women and children to escape from the grip of their abusers, and also helping countries to step their own efforts..”, corroborates the conspiracy perpetuated to use Eritrean migration as a political tool.

Sensationally manipulated statistics and the perceived number of Eritrean migrants, frequently quoted by the UNHCR, also became a tool of political disinformation meant to tarnish the image of Eritrea. ... “UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs for Asylum-Seekers from Eritrea” has served to compound the problem. These reports were strongly refuted by Eritrea in a document submitted to the organization in February 2016 and a joint Eritrea-UNHCR meeting on the document is anticipated soon.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen
Eritrea strongly believes in the

Development-Migration Nexus. Hence the fundamental issue is to address the essence of the problem by ending the external threats mentioned earlier. ... Furthermore, Eritrea continues to advocate for a critical appraisal of the asylum system of recipient countries to redress the effects of pull factors.

...Addressing the critical human development effects has also constituted an important part of development-migration nexus in migration governance. The retention of the human capital is one of the critical challenges. Hence, continuing education and training, strengthening career structure and social mobility and transforming attitude and responsibility have been emphasized in the ongoing effort.

...From the outset, it must be noted that any Eritrean citizen has the inalienable right of coming back to his country...This does not require any proxy and the Eritrean government shoulders its legal obligation of respecting and fulfilling this right. ...Thousands have already returned voluntarily in the last few years thus exposing the myth and perception on the “fear of return and persecution”.

...Repatriation in general should be voluntary, the modality followed being on a case by case basis that avoids mass deportation and that is handled through bilateral engagements. In any event, note is also made that legal identification of Eritreans is the sole responsibility of the Eritrean Immigration and Naturalization Department of the government.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

The worst revelation in illegal Eritrean migration is the establishment of the burgeoning human trafficking global networks scattered across many regions, countries and cities. In the last 15 years these networks have been targeting Eritreans.... Diverse forms of illegal activities including illegal trade, money laundering and other criminal activities have been integrated into this migratory phenomenon

that targeted Eritreans.

Eritrea has been fighting against this crime and the Eritrean Law criminalizes human trafficking and transnational crimes of persons. Many direct and indirect beneficiaries of this scourge have been brought to justice. It must be noted, however, that this criminal activity has the involvement of some countries, organizations, surrogate anti-Eritrean groups and pseudo-human right activists...

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

In the above complex situation, acknowledging and facilitating the dynamic role of the Eritrean Diaspora is an important dimension. There is visible presence of Eritreans in many countries who migrated through various means and modes. It is however, essential to acknowledge that this potential is a critical element of development both in their host country and in Eritrea and the following pertinent issues of development need to be considered:-

Eritrea’s national Laws accords them equal rights and opportunity

Their participation in national development is considered as an asset

Further cooperation with all states to strengthen this feedback spiral with their home country is important as it asserts the development/migration nexus (the co-development concept)

The presence of a strong, successful and competitive network of Eritrean organizations is vital as a bridge for people-to-people relationships

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen



...official visits to Eritrea in the last two years from Denmark, Norway, Germany, the UK, Switzerland, Sweden, Netherlands, Austria, Canada, etc., and by various UN agencies and several international organizations is a testimony to the growing engagement and cooperation on many issues; including on migration.

On the other, hand coordination with neighboring and transit countries has been growing. Eritrea’s effort and its ongoing contribution in regional and international migration cooperation processes is also significant. Eritrea reiterates its commitment to further strengthen its contribution to the regional dynamics under the Khartoum Process and the ensuing Valletta Declaration and Plan of Action. It has also recently signed the Protocol on Transnational Organized Crimes and Trafficking of persons and will strengthen its international obligations to fulfill its duties in synergy with its national laws. In conclusion, Eritrea reiterates its commitment to further strengthen its development diplomacy on the basis of partnerships. Furthermore, it will strengthen its engagement and cooperation at regional and international levels on the basis of pragmatic migration governance that upholds collective efforts to fight illegal migration and human trafficking

I thank you Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

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REPORTAGE

A Shining Night before a MoreShining One!

Semir Seid

The Independence of Eritrea was achieved only three months before I was born. I was only conceived when all Eritreans inside the country and abroad were celebrating their first marvelous day. In that respect, over the twenty five years of independence, every Eritrean has keenly devoted every endeavors to the country's prosperity and have ever since been revering the month of May, especially the 24th, which gave them the real feeling of freedom. May the 24th marks the turning point of the people of Eritrea into the Government of Eritrea. It is like a national pilgrimage. No one remained in the house; the children up to the elders were there, to make the Silver Jubilee of Independence Day more beautiful and attractive and to leave a meaningful impression.

The concerned parties who have been assigned to lead the events of the occasion have been participating the whole week. The eve night was among the many days, where everyone went out to the streets till midnight and over, waiting to see the glamorous fireworks. I was amazed to see people of all ages flowing into the downtown streets of Asmara late after 10 pm when I was running back to my place after a very hectic day of work. Then I realized it was the big night that all the Eritreans waited for the matchless independence night, and there I was, realizing the 25th Independence Day of Eritrea and my 25th birthday as well was due in three months. Hence, here I am putting words for the birthday of my country and my self being on the verge of my 25th birthday.

May 23rd night, was a day before a great day. Soon after the fireworks, the skies were off limit brightened with rocket pyrotechnics along with full moon taking the majority part. More than half an hour of spectacular lights renewed the hearts of the



May 23rd a spectacular night s

people and puffed up the 25 years of Independence. It was a moment of 'Wow!' to anybody who was watching it from different corners of the city. Women expressing and applauding their joy with traditional ways of ululation, 'EIIIIII...EIIIIII', every now and then the lights go up into the skies and look more colorful to welcome the great day. When all of these was happening, I was in the rooftop of my house, so I could see everything.

I could see how everybody was excited and waiting the night while breathing the fresh air of peace being in the homeland. Eritreans residing abroad taking their photos, foreigners asking citizens for the meaning and history of landmarks inside the city, entertainment groups showing their presentations, children having fun with the shining colorful lights, security watching over surroundings making sure the safety of everyone, gave the environment a genuine atmosphere of celebration. The main avenue from Nakfa house, Tegadelti street, Semaetat and Harnet Avenues, all the way up

to Bahti Meskerem Square was full of citizens and visitors who were out there in honor of the great day of liberation. It was easily noted what peace means to Eritreans. The heavy price that has been paid during the revolutionary struggle, and to safeguard the nation's sovereignty after independence was all to secure this historic land, so as its people to live in peace and tranquility.

When I happen to arrive at the Bahti Meskerem square to be part of the remarkable day, the stages were full to capacity with thousands of people; women wearing their stunning Zurias and men with their traditional and formal outfits, along with the special hats and t-shirts of the National Union Of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS). The atmosphere was a lot more than these words can tell, foreigners and citizens waiting for the programs of the day to launch and express their deep feelings by the art performances due to be presented in the event. Before the senior officials and guests of honor arrive at the square, I got the chance to talk to some individuals

from abroad and inside. A surprising coincidence, I met two different foreigners who happen to have Eritrean spouses. Mr. Hans van der Splinter, a Dutch, with an Eritrean wife and Mrs. Edith Gilemariam who has visited Eritrea several times with her Eritrean husband.

Mr. Hans told us that he has seen many changes since the last years, and mentioned some out of the many, he had witnessed like the Harat buses progress, new health centers constructed in the country. Mr. Hans further described the people of Eritrea as peaceful, generous, and hospitable and that he feels perfectly safe in the country with them. When asked concerning the theme of the 25th anniversary, "Quarter Century of Resilience and Development", he said that it expresses Eritreans built their country through self-reliance, which means everything. Moreover, Ms. Edith said that on top of their full devotion to their homeland, Eritreans they are an inspiration to African people. A young lady, Feven Woldu from Berlin, Germany, on her part added that she is really proud of

being an Eritrean, to see the nation's progress, and described the event as "family get together" as it was a moment that brought together all Eritreans into one field. Mrs. Nazreth Berhe, who lived in Switzerland for 26 years was overwhelmed on meeting the military forces that are watching over the nation day and night, war disables. She also said that she is even more fascinated with the rapid infrastructure development of dams in Adi Halo and Gergera.

The weeks of the Independence Day had been filled with waves of people who gathered from the whole country and outside to share their sense of freedom in the streets of Asmara. The silver jubilee has indeed been shining all over the month throughout the country. The Independence Torch, 'Sheg Natsenet', had travelled more than 3000 kilometers to finally make it into the Harnet Avenue. The military parade was one of the eye catching moments of the event, when you see all of the highly trained youngsters perform quite beautifully in the field with their straight lineups and resilient voices. As the time runs into the late afternoon, the programs along with the lighting systems got more appealing.

To witness all of the day's happenings, I positioned myself in the bottom of the seats and watched over the joy and how the people were determined to their freedom and that defines freedom in all weights does not have a counterpart. Hence, just as the 25 years of resilience and development have witnessed unmatched development activities founded on self-reliance, the years to come have more prospects than it ever did. Indeed, the nights of the independence shined and made the hearts of everyone shine.

Happy Ever Live Eritrea!



Mrs. Edith Gilemariam from Germany



Mrs. Nazreth Berhe from Switzerland



Feven Woldu from Berlin, Germany



Mr. Hans van der Splinte from Netherland



Taking a stroll down Harnet Avenue

Natnael Yebio.W

Was May of last year as hot as May of this year! People have short memories when it comes to weather. If you find certain days in Asmara unduly hot or cold and you are from Asmara, then you must have changed a lot.

“Hi, where are you coming from?”

“I am just coming from Bahti Meskerem?”

“Watching some performances?”

“Don’t you know that Independence Day festival has already started?”

We have great popular revolution that heralded independence days that fall on hot seasons. The American 4th of July and the French 14th of July are good examples. They say that popular uprising take place often during hot months. Heat makes people impatient and more irritated. That’s why tyrants don’t like summer time.

“Have you seen Gual General at Cinema Asmara?”

“I went in, but I couldn’t come out?”

“What happened?”

“A human avalanche was waiting outside to crash in.”

“How about...?”

“Simply Terrific!”

Some people try to associate mob resurrections with climatic changes. As much as the moon influences peoples moods and temperament so does the sun. But there is something mysterious about summer. Winter is the symbol of death and desolation. Spring herald resurrection and summer is the time boom and the appearances of perfections.

What about the Bolshevik revolution? That one took place on a cold October day, when prince Fgor was still in bed with Princess Tatiana. Some minds respond to cold weather.

Our independence day could have fallen on the month of November or December, where the sun sets

at 6 o’clock and the cold Siberian wind causes everybody to hurry up after work to the warmth of home and the family leaving the streets of Asmara to people with cars and to those who enjoy their beers once in a while.

“Hi, Astier, it has been ages. Do you live in Asmara?”

“No have just arrived from Germany, to celebrate Independence Day?”

“Is that your daughter?...Hi, little girl!”

“She can speak Tigrigna. I have taught her myself.”

“Where is Haile (her husband).”

“He is coming in August for the festival.”

Maybe the trip was expensive for both. And Haile had to save money by working summer. After all he can celebrate Independence Day in Germany and Festival Eritrea here. And it would be the other way round for Astier.

Why Eritrea was freed in May and not in January or in February can only be answered by analyzing a lot of variables and paradigms. It is like cutting down a big tree. You go on hacking at it with an axe. But no one can tell precisely when the tree will fall down.

By the way, does it matter at all to know the exact time? Not much.

But, the season matters to some extent. As far as independence is concerned it may not matter, but as far as celebrating independence is concerned (with street plays, bands performing in open stages, strolling down Harnet Avenue, etc.) season seems to matter a lot.

Rain can sometimes spoil the festivity, but I have never witnessed big festivals marred by rainstorm. It is said that it happened in America one 4th of July. The rain came and spoiled everything. The next day, certain newspaper ran this headline. The Most Unfourthnate July!

I think neither rain nor storm, nor should heat or cold be allowed to dim the enthusiasm and zeal in celebrating independence days.

Of course, the dancing and merriment cannot be the same in the rain under a clear and starry sky. But, since dancing us outward expression of inner joy, the latter can never be dampened down by rain or hailstorm. At least for the majority.

“Hi, Rajul so you are taking a stroll like everybody else?”

“There is festive mood everywhere; it makes me happy to see smiling faces.”

“Are you watching some of the performances?”

“Yes I think Independence Day is celebrated in a very unique manner in this country.”

“Indeed. Besides don’t forget it is the 25th Anniversary.”

By the way, most of the 14 of



July dancers in Paris have only a vague knowledge of the revolution, and if they danced at all, that was because they were programmed to dance on that day. That’s what their ancestors have been doing for the last two centuries.

However, most dancers in Bahti Meskerem or Harnet Avenue know

about their revolution first hand. Some had taken part in it and have lost a limb or an eye as a result.

“How do you think they celebrate in Dekemhare or Massawa?”

“The same as in here. There may be more facilities and varieties here, but the enthusiasm is same everywhere?”

Renewable Energy ..

Continued from page 5

have concluded that the water to rock ratio in the reservoir is high enough for a developable hydro-thermal system. It appears as possible to install one or several power stations in this area. The distance to the existing transmission line between Massawa and Asmara is not more than about 100 km, which makes the site even more interesting for development. More detailed studies are however necessary for an assessment of the financial and environmental feasibility of exploiting this geothermal resource.

Many of the aforementioned developments suggest that Eritrea has improved its energy capabilities. According to government officials, whereas during the initial period of post-independence, the entire power generation within Eritrea was at a feeble 15 mega watts, today it hovers at 200 megawatts. However, that figure is still miniscule, and the energy sector must continue to remain a key focus. Most immediately, government officials point out that Eritrea has ordered

generators that produce an extra 50 megawatts, and improvements continue at the *Hirgogo plant* as part of a multi-million dollar deal signed with China’s SFECO Group company. Furthermore, the recently signed multi million deal with European Union to rehabilitate Eritrea’s energy sector proves Eritrea is in the right track to energy development.

Additionally, the development of a second power plant is currently in the research and planning stages. Eritrea continues to invest in expansions and enhancements of its solar power capabilities; a capacity of close to 10 megawatts of solar power is to be added to what has already been installed, beginning in early 2014.

In summary, for an emerging, developing country such as Eritrea, alternative, renewable sources of energy represent an extremely effective component within broader national development goals, and they directly and positively impact the lives of individual citizens. The international community and

developmental organizations can play critically constructive roles by supporting new projects or augmenting existing ones, working cooperatively with Eritrean companies and ministries, and – quite importantly – promoting peace and stability in the region. In particular, solar energy is a game-changing prospect for Eritrea.

The nation is accelerating and encouraging the domestic development of renewable energy.

The Eritrean government is legislating favorable policies on permitting process and providing start-up capital to promote the growth of solar energy.

State and central governments are providing initiatives and other supports in order to increase solar power plant capacity. Renewable energy and especially solar energy is a win-win situation for Eritrea and the environment, and has the potential to power Eritrea’s economy, create millions of new jobs and change the face of Eritrea as a green nation.

Development

Renewable Energy: Headway to the Future

Natnael Yebio W.

The energy sector represents a very substantial portion of Eritrea's national infrastructure development. The recently constructed Hirgigo power plant and grid expansion project that has increased installed electricity generation capacity to 130-200 mega watts at an investment cost of at least \$160 million over about five years. This represents more than \$30 million per year of capital investment expenditure. In 1997 capital expenditures by the Eritrean government were 19% of gross national product, and capital investments by the private sector were 829 million Nakfa or 14% of GNP. Energy sector investments are at least 5% of GNP and represent more than 15% of national capital expenditures recently.

The macro economic data described above shows that the energy sector has a very substantial role in Eritrea's development. Energy sector investments are very important for long term economic strategy for several reasons. One reason is that the size of the energy import expenses and the drain that they provide on national balance of payments. The second reason stems from the importance that access to electricity has in economic development and improved standards of living. The effectiveness of electrification in enhancing productivity means that the pace of electricity demand growth will continue at its current rapid rate. The current electrification rate (fraction of people with access to electricity) in Eritrea is about 40%. The third factor that makes energy sector development a crucial strategic issue is the fact that current and future biomass consumption is a potentially growing drain on Eritrea's ecosystem. There is rather limited biomass in Eritrea because biomass production is limited by scarce rainfall. Therefore energy sector investments that decrease biomass consumption or increase the biomass productivity of the ecosystem (e.g. reforestation programs) will have a large impact on Eritrea's future environmental capital.

Energy sector investments in the near-term will have a dramatic impact on future energy sector expenses and environmental



sustainability. If there are no efficiency improvements in the energy sector, then the rapid growth of energy demand will degrade Eritrea's environmental capital and expand Eritrea's already large international trade deficit. On the other hand if aggressive investments are made in all subsectors of energy development, I believe that substantial environmental rehabilitation can be achieved, and Eritrea's trade deficit can be improved with enhanced national capital accumulation.

However, the long term question for Eritrean energy sector development is: How does Eritrea optimize the long term accumulation of energy capital? The answer lies in searching for the full spectrum of energy sector development activities that have both national and global environmental benefits and that result in net positive accumulation of energy resources by decreasing energy sector expenses and resource use. This article provides estimates of the extent to which efficiency and renewable energy programs and investments may contribute to the development of Eritrea's energy sector and the growth of the Eritrean economy.

First and foremost, the sufficient, reliable and sustainable production and supply of affordable energy throughout Eritrea is the main objective of the Government's policy in the energy sector.

The general policy is to provide the energy services based on a diversified supply of energy sources. The specific objectives of this policy are two fold. Firstly, it is the intention to facilitate the economic growth through the provision of adequate, reliable and

sustainable refined energy at an economic price and at appropriate locations. Secondly, the policy is aimed at improving the living standards of the population through the provision of affordable energy. The implementation of the policy must be mindful of the desire to halt, and in some cases, reverse the recent trend in environmental degradation, and of the need to make the most effective use of limited resources, particularly in the initial stages of development.

To achieve the above mentioned objectives, the Ministry of Energy and Mines is entrusted with the task of designing and refining policies, strategies and regulatory issues in the energy sector, approving the corresponding plans and programmes formulated in the sector and supervising their implementation.

Part of growing Eritrea's energy sector has been to fully concentrate on how to promote renewable energies and it has been indicated that biomass energy source cannot be sustainably harvested at the present rate of take-off relative to the stock. As it will continue to be the major source of energy for rural areas, proper management practices have to be introduced. Development of biomass resources either on a large-scale levels (reforestation, afforestation), community level (community woodlots) or individual level (agroforestry/farm tree planting) when assisted by the removal of barriers to proper tree management like water and soil conservation, tree species selection, land ownership, ownership of planted trees, alternative uses of land etc, could lead to a success story in regenerating the dwindling resource. The Alighider Farm

Estate has the potential to supply raw materials (cotton and sorghum stalks, elephant grass, banana leaves etc.) for briquette production for at least 15 plants each of capacity 4000 tons per year. Briquettes, a chopped and compressed agricultural waste, are excellent replacement for fuel wood and charcoal. Alternatively, the Agricultural waste could be used to generate electricity thermally.

In terms of solar energy, preparation of solar radiation maps for Eritrea is in progress. This work is carried out by the Energy Research and Training Centre of the Ministry of Energy and Mines and is based on satellite data and ground station data measured at 10 automatic recording meteorological stations. The average annual global radiation is found to be in the range of 5-6 kWh/m². There is no doubt that Eritrea has a very high potential for utilization of solar energy. Possible uses are solar photovoltaic systems, solar water heaters and sterilizers, solar crop dryers and tobacco curing, solar desalination plants, solar cooling and refrigeration, solar thermal electricity generation and are among the investment opportunities. A local partial manufacture of solar photovoltaic panels and associated batteries is highly beneficial and attractive to reduce costs.

As a result of meticulous search and investment, solar panels have subsequently been installed throughout the country, and they now power public buildings, streetlights, clinics, hospitals and schools. In 2008, the Ministry of Education began the *Solar Powered Instructional Computer Technology (ICT) in Rural Schools Project*, which sought to address the problem of lack of reliable electric power supply in many rural schools. The first pilot

project was implemented in Gogne junior and secondary school, a remote school in the western lowlands of the country (within the Gash Barka region). With the pilot's broad success, the project soon expanded and witnessed the installation of solar powered ICT labs in 24 schools.

Another form of renewable energy is Wind. The historical and recent data that exists suggest that the southern coastal region has very good wind conditions for electricity generation. In fact the measurements as reflected in the wind-class classification shows Assab and Gahro, close to the border with Djibouti to the south, have among the best potentials in Africa. Windy passes that are suited for electricity generation also exist in the northern mountains as represented by the Dekemhare and Gizgiza stations. The critical average wind speed for wind pumping of about 2.5 m/s is available throughout Eritrea. The recently completed Global Environmental Facility sponsored feasibility study for wind energy applications in the southern coastal areas has shown that a 2.4 MW wind park in Assab and many off grid wind stand alone, wind-diesel or wind-solar hybrid systems are very much feasible and quite economically attractive for investors. Wind pumps for irrigation or watering villages and their livestock have very good potential practically in all locations in Eritrea.

In addition geothermal steam is another endowed renewable energy, though in its early stages of studies, part of Eritrea shows that it is situated in a volcanic area. Measurements at the volcanic mountain Alid indicate an underlying hydrothermal reservoir with a temperature in the range of 250 – 350 °C. Studies

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Eritrea: The Silver Jubilee of Independence!



Tsegai Medin

In this month of May, Eritrea is celebrating its Silver Jubilee of Independence, which is a sensational tribute to our fallen martyrs. It is a historic record, where Eritreans fought against giant forces for more than half a century, to define their self-determination. The struggle for independence is a testimony to the strong resistance of Eritreans against relentless and all kinds of fabricated aggressions. Eritrea's heroes/ heroines gave their precious lives for the possibility of this nation, under a strong and vigorous leadership. The sacrifices and commitments of these fighters alongside the fearless people were historically unique and a big lesson to the giant oppressors. The struggle for independence was unbearable; however, there was a dream that one day this nation would rise up and prosper. A dream which has turned to reality through mass-participation on the 24th of May of 1991, 25 years to this day

Now, 25years later, a distinguished national event of our independence is being celebrated nationwide, in strong vibes and sentiments based on a deep-rooted culture of pride of its citizens. The jubilation magnifies the home-grown traditions of

commonality, resilience and sacrifice, grasped during the long course of the struggle for independence. Eritrea and its people are celebrating in a strong zeal, enthusiasm, and pride, in exclusively public centered festivities. The celebrations may look like simple music concerts for many; however, the meaning is beyond imagination.

It is a sign of triumph that maintains the solidarity of its people by orchestrating the unique sense of togetherness of its people towards a nation building process. We Eritreans celebrate our nation as being exceptionally ethical and confidently contend that dignity; fairness and a unique sense of nationalism are what differentiate us from other societies.

The celebration of our independence is valuable as it is bounded by extraordinary reminiscences which are not yet known and /or narrated to the world. The long year's battle for freedom had left an unforgettable impact on the Eritrean society. It is not possible to disclose the miraculous history of the Eritrean struggle for independence in this short paper; meanwhile, it is worth mentioning some bold points. The Eritrean struggle for independence was:

- (i) involving every family, ethnic and religious group, who represented the entire Eritrean society without discrimination;
- (ii) a struggle, based on exclusive mass-participation and dynamic leadership,
- (iii) a struggle that whitewashed the World Community denial to Eritrea's independence;
- (iv) a struggle, that culminated the hideous religious discriminations introduced by opportunistic colonizers;
- (v) a struggle, that women affirmed and secured their equality for the first time in the country's political history;
- (vi) a struggle, with 99.83 % vote in favor of independence that assured the well-built solidarity and self-esteem of its nine ethno-linguistic groups.

Within the last 25 years of post-independence, Eritrea's sovereignty has been unequivocally violated. For a decade and a half, Eritreans condemned the continued military presence from the neighboring country (Ethiopia) in our sovereign land, after signing the final and binding Algiers Peace Treaty on 18 June 2000. However, despite Ethiopia's violation of the rule of law, the International Community (UNSC) and its allies intimidated Eritrea's sovereignty with fallacious allegations to deviate the right



path to development. But, this has not been unanticipated to the Eritrean people, who have been spent more than half a century fighting evil atrocities and fictitious accusation.

The Eritrean people melted together into a harmonious whole with a common cultural struggle and fought vigorously for their identity, peace and sovereignty. They cultivated a home-grown brand of democracy, by the people and for the people. This democracy fostered self-reliance, mutual cooperation and secured sovereignty, peace, and development which is incomparable and provides an exemplary historic record for the region.

However, this kind of democracy was a threat to the aggressors and their allies. They tried to demolish ours and plant their own conjured democracy, in order to throw the Eritrean people again into never-ending hardships and poverty. The corrupt political agenda in our region was unquestionably deceiving our people and sadly it is not organic. This baloney political agenda is manufactured and politically imported by cold-hearted superpowers and

manipulative societies, lately obediently implemented by treacherous allies in the region. However, once again the Eritrean People is re-affirming, "If war with Eritrea was difficult yesterday, it is impossible today".

Eritrea's crystal-clear resource is its people, and historically it is proven. The Eritrean people died more than once for the country they loved, and defended their identity with sweat and blood. During those hard times, that is, when even the stones were burning, everything was against us; likewise the same people are now challenging superpowers. At this very moment, these people are celebrating their Silver Jubilee of Independence with pride and dignity. The people are expressing their jubilation, remembering the valuable prices paid in each second of every step they take.

The struggle is still continuing with the same vibe of solidarity, vigilance, and resilience against continuous repulsive fabrications, in order to create a better Eritrea and to sustain the well-being and quality of life of its people.

Awet N'Hafash!





**NATIONAL INSURANCE CORPORATION OF ERITREA NOTICE OF THE
12TH ORDINARY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 12th Ordinary Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of National Insurance Corporation of Eritrea will be held in Hotel Asmara Palace on Saturday 4th June 2016 at 8:30 hrs.

By Order of the Board

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Agenda

To formally adopt this agenda of the meeting

2. Appointment of the Resolutions Committee

To appoint two shareholders to draft and report the resolutions of the General Meeting along with the Secretary of the Board

3. Approval of the Minutes of the 11th Ordinary Annual General Meeting

To confirm Minutes of the 11th Ordinary Annual General Meeting held on 6th June 2015

4. Matters Arising from the 11th Ordinary Annual General Meeting

To discuss on the issues that arose at the previous General Meetings.

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

To consider and note the management's report as stated on page 6 to 10 in the Annual Report & Financial Statements of 2015

6. Report of the Board of Directors

To consider and note the Board of Directors report as stated on page 11 and 12 in the Annual Report & Financial Statements of 2015

7. Report on the 2015 Accounts and the Appropriation of Profits

To consider and approve the Annual Report & Financial Statements of 2015 as recommended by the external auditors and the Board of Directors

8. Appointment of External Auditors

To appoint external auditors to audit the accounts of the Company for the financial year of 2016

9. Any Other Business

To consider any other business not specifically covered on the Agenda

10. Date and Venue of the 13th Ordinary Annual General Meeting

To agree on the date and venue of the next Annual General Meeting

Documents pertaining to the meeting will be ready for collection 1st June 2016.

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 12:00 hrs 3th of June, 2016.

Please disregard the submission dates mentioned in our notice of Saturday 14th May 2016 (vol.23 no.21)

National Insurance Corporation of Eritrea sh. Co.

Date 18/05/2016

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public that "EGYPTAIR AIRLINES" has opened a branch office in Asmara City, State of Eritrea

A - Name of the Company	EGYPTAIR AIRLINES
B - Nationality of the Company	EGYPT
C - The Head Office of the Company	Cairo
D - The Capital of the Company	1,800,000,000 EGP (EGYPTIAN POUND)
E - The Objective of the company are to engage in the air transportation activities	
F - Mr. Amr Ragaa Mohamed Eldesouky is the Area Manager of the Company	
G - The duration of the Company shall be for an indefinite period	

"EGYPTAIR AIRLINES"



Q and A

“...A Perfect Example Across the World”

Zahra Ahmed Baduri

We speak today with members of a musical group ‘The Atlanta horns’ from Atlanta, Georgia USA. With their lead singer Mr Peter Peterson a connoisseur of more than fifty years along with their producer and operator of an Atlanta internet radio station Mr Tom Davis (aka Doctor Love) ‘The Atlanta horns’ was formed about a year ago. They along with several foreign cultural and musical troupes from almost every continent, ‘The Atlanta horns’ too, did participate in Eritrea’s silver jubilee celebrations, since the 17th while connecting with countless Eritrean music lovers.

- Our first chat was with the band musicians.

How would you express your experience here in Eritrea as first time visitors?

We are enjoying it very well. We come from the same area in Atlanta and the very first new impression we had in common was the freedom that you have here; you walk freely... you can just go out and have fun. One more thing that made us feel welcome was the people and how nice and welcoming they are.

Although we have heard of Eritrea, coming here and see for ourselves was much different. In addition, to be the first African Americans to perform since the 1960s is a wonderful feeling.

Tell us please what independence means for you as Africans Americans?

It’s all about having an identity, meaning to be able to claim an identity. That is freedom.

Our history as African Americans goes back in time as regards to seeking freedom from oppression. Furthermore to see Eritrean people thus our fellow Africans with a life time of freedom, and becoming part of its celebrations is an untradeable experience. From where we live anything black owned has a certain way of looking.



To have known that and come here and see a place where people love each other and businesses being owned by nationals, indeed this is liberation at its finest, also because we don’t see much of the sort in Africa.

If Eritrea is only here at 25 years we can imagine it in being even more glorious at its 50th. We think anything worth having is worth fighting for and Eritreans should continue the round to maintain this peace they own, it’s a long path, just because you are here right now it doesn’t mean that you won’t face obstacles, it’s all about continuing to maintain this liberty and inspire hope in other people of the world to do so.

Overall the fact that made it a unique experience for us was being among ordinary people

that live peacefully in a place with no ‘statuses’. We took so many pictures for our families back home to see.

The issue that every black African is oppressed all over the world racially made wonder when would it ever stop, until when we came Eritrea and witnessed that it is not even a mere issue!

Regardless of all the hardships Eritrea faces it respects its existence and that made it an honour for us to perform for you.

It’s about time the global population comes together and utilize the perfect example across the world!

What’s told of Eritrea on social media displays the wrong image. We will go back home and tell our people the true

impressions of Eritrea.

Any last words.....

We wish the Eritrean people long lasting victory. Keep embracing what you have and hand it down the billions around the world whom haven’t had the chance of enjoying the real meaning of independence.

- Our dialog with the bands lead singer Mr Peter Peterson and Mr Tom Davis also looks like this.

About the celebrations

Mr Peter Peterson: It’s my first visit to Eritrea. It’s quite wonderful, I love it here and I have been enjoying myself very well, right now am I feel at home because of the warm hospitality of the locals, I am glad I came during the time of festivities

as I am getting to know the cultures being displayed side to side Eritrea’s social context and traditions.

When was the first time you heard about Eritrea?

Our Eritrean friend Berhane back in the US owns an Eritrean community club called Peacock, it’s one of the oldest clubs in Atlanta and many famous African American singers like Marvin Gay, James Brown and others got their start in the 1960s. Mr. Berhane happens to be a good friend of Mr Tom Davis, that is practically how I got the chance to get to know about Eritrea. Additionally I was aware of the fact that Eritreans had Radio Marina and Cagino Station coverage since the time of English occupation, back when there was American military base in Asmara.

Of independence

You get up in the morning and be are able to freely do what you want knowing the ones around you won’t do you ill is a feeling that I wouldn’t trade for anything. I respect that of you, I wish I could have the same.

Any last wishes for the Eritrean people?

I wish you a happy Independence Day, with a long lasting peace and harmony. And Hope to see your happiness grow every year and keep maintaining your unity far greater on your golden jubilee.

QUARTER CENTURY OF RESILIENCE AND DEVELOPMENT