



## PRESIDENT ISAIAS ARRIVES IN MOSCOW

President Isaias Afwerki and his delegation arrived in Moscow in the late afternoon hours of yesterday, for a four-day official visit to the Russian Federation on the invitation of President Vladimir Putin.

Upon arrival at Moscow's Vnukova-2 Airport, President Isaias and his delegation were accorded a warm welcome by Mr. Rudenko Andrei, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

President Isaias Afwerki will

have an extensive discussion with President Vladimir Putin and other senior Russian government officials on strengthening bilateral relations and cooperation between Eritrea and the Russian Federation, as well as on global issues of interest to the two countries.

President Isaias will also lay a wreath at the Alexander Garden Patriots Cemetery.

The Presidential delegation includes Foreign Minister Osman Saleh and Commissioner for

Culture and Sports, Ambassador Zemede Teclé.

## INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS ABROAD

Eritrean nationals in Kuwait, Germany and Cote D'Ivoire celebrated the 32<sup>nd</sup> Independence Day Anniversary with patriotic zeal under the theme "Heroic Feat Anchored on Cohesive Ranks".

The celebratory event organized in Kuwait on 26 May in which Government officials and members of the Diplomatic Corps as well as a number of nationals and friends of Eritrea took part, Mr. Humed Yahya Ali, Charge d'Affairs at the Eritrean Embassy in Kuwait, explaining the heavy sacrifice the Eritrean people paid in realizing their Independence and safeguarding the national sovereignty said that the Independence Day celebrations have significant contribution in transferring the national values to the young generation.

The event was highlighted by a cultural troupe from Eritrea.

National in the German cities of Dusseldorf, Tubingen, Stuttgart, Frankfurt and its environs also enthusiastically celebrated the 32<sup>nd</sup> Independence Day anniversary under the theme "Heroic Feat Anchored on Cohesive Ranks" featuring cultural and artistic performances.

National in Cote D'Ivoire also celebrated the 32<sup>nd</sup> Independence Day anniversary with patriotic zeal under the theme "Heroic Feat Anchored on Cohesive Ranks".



The leaders of the Federal Republic of Somalia, United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Syria, Hungary, Malta and the United Nations sent messages of congratulations in connection with the 32<sup>nd</sup> Independence Day Anniversary.

President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud of the Republic of Somalia, Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan of the United Arab Emirates, King Abdullah II of Jordan, President Bashar Al-Assad of Syria, President Katalin Novak of Hungary, President George Vella of Malta as well as Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations wished good health to President Isaias Afwerki and peace and prosperity to the Eritrean people.

## MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS

President Isaias Afwerki on 29 May, sent message of congratulations to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on his reelection as the President of the Republic of Turkiye.

In his message, President Isaias expressed his trust that the reelection of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will, advance the tasks of economic development and progress of the Republic of Turkiye and will afford to advance the bilateral ties of cooperation that exists between Eritrea and Turkiye.

President Isaias also



wished good health to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan as well as peace and prosperity to the people of the Republic of Turkiye.

## MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATIONS

In their messages the leaders expressed their countries readiness to develop and develop bilateral relations with Eritrea.

President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud of the Republic of Somalia, indicating the significance that Eritrea has made over the

years since independence to build a strong and prosperous nation, expressed readiness to work together to promote peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

President Bashar Al-Assad of Syria on his part expressed his country's interest and keenness to develop the friendly relations with Eritrea and create opportunities for fruitful and constructive cooperation that achieves the common interest of the two countries and brings benefits and good to the two peoples.

Likewise, Mr. Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Vice President and Ruler Dubai, as well as of Mr. Mansur bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice

President and Deputy Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Mr. Demeke Mekonnen, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Dr. Riad AlMalki, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Palestine sent similar messages of congratulations.

Similarly, the leaders of Kuwait, Algeria, and Zambia sent messages of congratulations in connection with the 32<sup>nd</sup> Independence Day anniversary.

Emir of Kuwait Sheik Nawaf Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Crown Prince Sheik Meshal Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and Prime Minister Ahmed Nawaf Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, President Abdelmadjid Tebboune of the Republic of Algeria, President Hakainde Hichilema of the Republic of Zambia wished good health to President Isaias Afwerki and peace and prosperity to the Eritrean people.

The leaders also expressed their countries readiness to develop and strengthen bilateral relations for the benefit of their countries and Eritrea.

President Abdelmadjid Tebboune of the Republic of Algeria expressed his country's readiness to conduct regular consultation with Eritrea on regional issues of interest to the two countries as well as to ensure peace, stability and development in Africa.



# SpotLight

## Confucius Institute Celebrates Eritrean Independence Day

Simon Weldemichael

Eritrea's 32nd Independence Day was celebrated very colorfully. On the eve of the Independence Day, Harnet (liberation) Avenue, inarguably the most popular avenue of Asmara, hosted concerts. Harnet Avenue was packed with young and old residents of Asmara from all walks of life and members of Eritrean communities in diaspora who celebrated the occasion in great patriotic zeal. They danced to the patriotic songs of Eritrea's young and veteran singers from all ethnic groups who performed on concerts that were staged at various locations of the avenue.

Alongside the Eritrean cultural troupes that were performing on Harnet Avenue, Confucius Institute, the school of Chinese

language and culture in Eritrea, presented entertaining programs. I read Yosief Hailemariam's, a journalist of Haddas Ertra (Tigrigna newspaper), article on the event, which included interviews of China Embassy officials, that was published on 26th May. I've found it important to share with readers of Eritrea Profile, and here is an abridged translation of the article along with my personal thoughts.

The objective of Confucius Institute's concert is to add color to the celebration of Eritrea's Independence. Dressed in Chinese attire, Eritrean students at the institute sang in Chinese language, entertaining people and expressing Eritrea's Independence with Chinese culture. Overall, fourteen entertainment programs were

celebrate Eritrean independence together with the people of Eritrea."

People-to-people exchanges is often reiterated in the Chinese foreign policy discourse and behaviour. The people-to-people exchange involves broad aspects of social and cultural elements. As one Chinese saying goes human relationships made merely based on material interests may break up as soon as those interests are gone, and relationships can stay long only if rooted in sincere heart-to-heart communications among people. And the goal of the Confucius Institute is to enhance mutual understanding and trust among people and cultivate friendship through sincere and candid dialogues. The people-to-people relationship solidifies the base of the interstate relationship.

After congratulating the people and government of Eritrea, Mr. Dai De Mao, State Counsellor at China Embassy in Eritrea, said, "The year 2023 is a very significant year for China and Eritrea. On the one hand, it marks our 30th anniversary of our diplomatic ties, and, on the other hand, and most importantly, it marks President Isaias Afwerki's historic visit to China. All this, I believe, gives additional impetus to our relationship and friendship. Confucius Institute is working to facilitate cultural and language exchange and strengthen people-to-people exchange between China and Eritrea. I am very happy with the initiative taken by Confucius Institute to add its input in Harnet Avenue in celebrating Eritrea's independence."

Joy and Shuan, who work as environmentalists at ESMC Company, were impressed by



Dai DeMao

the way Eritreans celebrate their independence. They also expressed their happiness to see the growing relationship of the two countries both at leadership and people-to-people level.

Although China and Eritrea are located far away from each other, the two countries have enjoyed a long history of interaction bound by strong social and cultural ties. Historically, the interaction of the two people goes back thousands of years. Ancient Chinese merchants had trade relations with their counterparts at the ancient port city of Adulis. Archaeological findings proved that there existed a direct contact between Adulis and China. Chinese pottery, metallurgy and other artifacts that are excavated in and around Adulis are preserved at the Museum of the Northern Red Sea region.

When it comes to modern history, both Eritrea and China have similar experiences in their fight against colonization. During the long and bitter armed struggle, veteran Eritrean revolutionaries, including President Isaias Afwerki, were given political and military training in China in the late 1960s. During his recent state visit to China, President Isaias expressed his appreciation of China by saying "the people of Eritrea will

never forget the precious support of China in their efforts to win independence and liberation."

China and Eritrea have historical ties. The positive perception and mutual understanding on the part of the people is important in strengthening diplomatic ties. The history of China is well known to Eritreans. I know many freedom fighters who have been nicknamed after Mao. In short, there exists a good and solid ground on which to build and constantly strengthen bilateral relations based on mutual understanding. Given the long historical relations and the similar outlooks on various vital international issues, Eritrea and China have sufficient reasons to constantly strength relations and work in tandem toward a better and safer future.

The participation and contribution of Confucius Institute in the celebration of Eritrea's independence demonstrates, in part, the cardinal cultural value in Chinese society. The Confucian harmony respects difference and presupposes the coexistence of different things. Confucianism puts weight on harmony but not sameness. Harmony is the essence of Confucian theories of social interaction.

Confucius Institute, as a school of Chinese language and culture, was established in 2013 in Asmara to facilitate the cultural exchange and strengthen friendship between Eritrea and China. In its ten-year journey, the Institute has made significant contribution toward fostering cultural exchange and mutual understanding between the two countries. Confucius Institute has celebrated Eritrea's Independence for a third time.



Shuan and Joy

presented to the public, including Tai chi and Kungfu, Mongolian songs, Han and Tibetan dances, modern Chinese dances, and children's dance. In between the Chinese cultural performances were Eritrean songs and dances performed by the young Eritrean students.

Dr. Huwang Minfey, director of Confucius Institute, expressed his gratitude to see Eritreans celebrate their independence after lots of hardship and colonialism. He said, "Many people have attended the program we presented to add color to the celebration of Eritrean independence, and this is a testament to the growing relationship between China and Eritrea." Vivian Tseng, Chinese language teacher at Confucius Institute, on her part, also said, "The coincidence of Eritrea's 32nd Independence Day with the 30th anniversary of Eritrea-China diplomatic relations has created enormous joy to me. Through the activities of the Confucius Institute, we've found a venue to



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**Editor-In-Chief**  
Amanuel Mesfun

**Asst. Editor-In-Chief**  
Sirak Habtemichael

P.O.Box: 247

Tel: 11-41-14

Fax: 12-77-49

E-mail:

eritreaprofilemoi@gmail.com

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**Layout**  
Azmera Berhane  
Marta Bedali



# OPINION

## The Benefits of Multilingualism

“To have Another Language is to Possess Another Soul”

- Attributed to Charlemagne, the first Holy Roman Emperor

Delina Yemane Dawit

Here's an interesting fact: the majority of the world population is bilingual (able to speak more than one language) or multilingual (able to speak more than two). Yet, for a very long time, it was believed that multilingualism was a major weakness for growing children: scientists often said that childhood bilingualism was detrimental to linguistic and cognitive development, that it led to poorer results in school and weaker verbal fluency compared to monolinguals. Ironically, these “scientific conclusions” were made by scientists in countries where monolingualism is the norm. Nowadays, the fields of cognitive science and psycholinguistics say otherwise.

According to recent studies, speaking more than one language actually changes our cognition (i.e. the process of acquiring knowledge and understanding) and the cognitive architecture of our minds. Earlier this year, Dr. Viorica Marian, a leading cognitive scientist and psycholinguist, published a book entitled “*The Power of Language: How the Codes We Use to Think, Speak and Live Transform our Minds*”, in which she makes a case for the benefits of multilingualism by shedding light on the latest research findings in her field. Among the many benefits discussed in Dr. Marian's book, some of the most significant are as follows:

- **In a multilingual brain, all languages are processed in parallel, meaning they are all active at the same time across all areas of the brain.**

The fact that multilinguals have to process multiple languages at the same time means that they are constantly undergoing mental exercise, thus becoming stronger, just as physical exercise makes for stronger muscles. In neurological terms, a “stronger” brain means a brain with more pathways connecting different words, memories and concepts.

- **Multilinguals (also known as polyglots) are more creative and divergent thinking than their monolingual counterparts**

A bilingual or multilingual person will see links between words and concepts that a monolingual would not notice: for instance, a Tigrinya-English bilingual notices a connection between the identically pronounced English word “full” and the Tigrinya word “ፉል” (peanuts) that a monolingual of either language would not notice. This kind of connection is particularly important for creativity, which essentially involves linking seemingly unrelated things to one another.

- **If you already know another language, you do not need to take time from your day to practice it in order to continuously reap the benefits**

Regardless of whether or not someone uses their other languages in their daily lives, the mind constantly engages in an exercise of juggling the multiple languages and that continuous work changes the brain for the better.

- **Learning a different language can help your brain age better**

Building multiple neural pathways ensures that the brain has “back-up” connections. To explain this concept, Dr. Marian

offers a thought experiment: imagine taking a certain road home every day after work for many years. One day, this road collapses, and that route is no longer available. If you live in an area where many roads have been built over time, the collapse of one road will not stop you from reaching your destination, because you can always take alternative routes. But if there are no alternative routes, and that road was the only path from your work to your home, the road collapse poses a huge problem. The same applies for neural pathways, which are denser and more interconnected in multilinguals.

Not only are multilingual brains healthier, some studies have even discovered that knowing more than one language delays Alzheimer's and other types of dementia by four to six years. It's not that polyglots' brains don't undergo deterioration; it's that there are enough neural networks that make it possible for the brain to function with less noticeable symptoms for a longer period of time. In other words, polyglots will be able to cope better. By the standards of scientific findings, this is a huge discovery: apart from a healthy diet and regular physical exercise, not much else was known to delay Alzheimer's and dementia in a significant way.

In addition to these particular benefits, the author writes that bi- and multilinguals are also better at reasoning, multitasking,



and at grasping and reconciling conflicting ideas. Some studies have also found that bilingual children seem to understand at an earlier age that others can hold different beliefs and knowledge from their own, thus becoming “less prone to bigotry, to demonizing things or people who are different from [them]”. Even in largely monolingual countries, more and more people are starting to understand the power of multilingualism. Take Mandarin for example: if we learn to speak it, we effectively open new channels of communication with a whopping 1 billion people! Moreover, languages are windows into cultures. The ability to speak another people's language allows us to explore the culture in a more intimate way; and we can understand rich words and concepts that would have otherwise been lost in translation. The outcomes of speaking multiple languages are so significant that, in an interview

with TIME, an American language-immersion specialist deemed monolingualism as “the illiteracy of the 21st century” (Gregg Roberts; TIME; July, 2013).

While anyone, of any age, can benefit from learning a new language, the most effective time (contrary to what was once believed) is during early childhood years. In fact, it's been recently discovered that one can never start learning too early- it turns out, babies can differentiate between languages while they're still in their mothers' wombs, starting from the third trimester of pregnancy. In fact, experiments have found that newborns were able to recognize their mother tongue from a series of different languages. There's also a consensus among psycholinguists that babies six months old and

**C**ontinued on page 5







# ኣይስኔፍን Rai Band's Debut Album

Sona Berhane

*Aysnefn* is Rai Band's first studio album. It contains eight tracks, five of which are covers of songs by renowned Eritrean singers/songwriters. Released at the same night as the band's promotional live performance, the album was distributed in the form of a mobile phone application that could only be opened with its particular QR access code. This made it possible to listen to the songs at any time and any place, while also protecting the album from unauthorized copies. The app comes with the lyrics, as well as a contextual backstory, of each track.

In this debut, Rai Band

experiment with different musical styles that range from funk to classic blues to metal rock. The album opens with *Raena*, a fast-paced, funky piece that may well be the band's theme song. In this track, the short lyrics are backed by an exciting back and forth between the guitar riff and the piano chords.

*Aysnefn*, the titular second track is, in my opinion, the best original song in the album, and provides a taste of Rai Band's authentic sound – which I should certainly like to hear a lot more of in their next album. It is this song (and Track 08) that I would use to make the case that the band is more than capable of writing new songs and

melodies.

This is where we first encounter the deep throaty voice of singer and rhythm guitarist Aron Keleta. The rich texture of his vocals mirror and accompany the song's somber piano melody. A declaration of courage and resoluteness, *Aysnefn* gradually crescendos into a resonant battle-cry. The fall and cadence of Tigrigna words complements the song's rock rhythm. I was quite impressed by this track's arrangement.

Track 03 (*Genzeb Metaleli*) is the band's first cover song. This shortened version of Hagos Berhane's famous, reproachful song is played in the typical style of rock. It preludes with a slow piano accompaniment, and bursts into an exciting rhythm where Aron's heavy vocals are balanced nicely by the choir.

The fourth track (*Embir Embir*) is another cover of a popular revolutionary song from the time of the armed struggle. This delightful earworm continued to echo in my ears for the rest of

the day after I first listened to it. Rai Band interpret the piece by almost completely transforming it, and yet somehow managing to retain recognizable elements of the original. Percussions are featured prominently in the song. The smooth voice of Naomi Andemeskel along with the mournful violin carry the listener fluidly from beginning to end. The result is an arrangement radically different from Zeineb Beshir's raspy, upbeat rendition, but no less appealing to the ears.

It is difficult not to dance to Track 05. Yonus Ibrahim's already lively song is heightened to a cheerful interplay of guitar harmonies and drum rolls supported by the piano's zippy notes. *Msaki Yehsheni* is a wonderful cover that, despite its remorsefully doomed lyrics, lifts one's spirits.

Track 06 (*Enka Wsedo'zi Libey*) made me reconsider my assessment that the second track might be the best song in the album. Played in the classic blues arrangement, this sentimental rendition of Amleset

Abay's iconic song is absolutely beautiful. The vocals are stunning. I almost wish the band would just work within the blues genre exclusively. Both Aron and Naomi can clearly move gracefully in the style. If you don't think you have time to listen to the entire album, listen to Track 06.

The next track in the album, a cover of Yemane Baria's *Nafqot*, was the one song that did not leave its imprint on my ears. Unlike the other cover songs, I had difficulty finding Rai Band in the new arrangement and kept reverting back to Yemane Baria. Perhaps a song can grow too iconic to be sung in any way

other than its original.

I am particularly taken with Aron's deep almost rough voice. It is perfectly suited for the blues – rock fusion the band leans towards. But at times (as in Track 07), the strength of Aron's voice can threaten to overpower the rest of the music. In this case, a more elaborate musical composition would be necessary to counterbalance it. Aron could also focus on his inflection for the production of more nuanced vocals.

The last track in the album, fittingly, is not a cover song. *Nzkrekum* is a moving, catchy piece that again made me wonder why the band didn't venture with more original compositions. The backstory explains that the lyrics are homage to the pioneers of Eritrea's political struggle in the 40's and was inspired by Weldeab Weldemariam's article written after the death of his friend and comrade Ibrahim Sultan. The clarity of Huruy Ghirmay's inspired vocals carry the song very well.

Rai Band are at their best playing in the stronger tempo of blues rock. That is, with the exception of the second and fourth tracks that in their unhurried paces are engrossing. *Aysnefn* is a highly enjoyable collection of songs. I look forward to what they'll do next, and of course, recommend it to all who are lovers of music.

In this debut album, Rai band have also aspired to balance the modern with the old. They arrange iconic Eritrean oldies in their own newer styles. They have created an interesting niche for the Tigrigna language inside typically western genres of music, and even the traditional act of "releasing an album" designed to cater to the instruments of modern technology is sufficiently out of the ordinary.

To really understand this point, think of the last time you or anyone you know went out and bought an album. In an age of singles and one-off music videos, reverting to this conventional album method of releasing one's selected songs sets a very important precedent of professionalism for all of our artists.





# LOCAL NEWS

## COMMEMORATION OF 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF AFRICAN UNION



Commemoration event of the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the African Union was organized on 26 May at Hotel Asmara Palace in the presence of Ministers, senior Government and PFDJ officials as well as members of the Diplomatic community.

In his keynote speech at the occasion, Mr. Osman Saleh, Minister of Foreign Affairs,

said that the commemoration of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the African Union makes it special for it is being celebrated two days after the colorful celebration of the 32nd Independence Day Anniversary of Eritrea.

Foreign Minister Osman went on to say that while our diversity should have been our strength,

the scramble for Africa at the beginning of 1884 was used to divide and conquer Africa by drawing up artificial boundaries along the lines of tribes and ethnicity.

Mr. Osman stressed that the greatest harm Africans suffered under colonialism was not the slave trade or subsequent humiliation, but the disruption of

their social values, the disturbance of their tradition and demolition of their village government. He also added that all the internal conflicts, tribal wars, border wars, corruption, and mismanagement that have almost ruined Africa have their roots in the blunders committed by colonialism and the new world order that prevailed at the end of the Second World War.

Noting that presently the old power order is shifting right in front of our eyes, Minister Osman said that our role as Africans should not be to sit back and ‘hope’ the next prevailing world order will be in our favor but we should be active participants in the change that is happening around us.

In his concluding remark, Minister Osman said that our motto should be “African Vision for Unity through Prosperity, Peace and Modernity for a Better Africa and a Better World”.

The event was highlighted by cultural and artistic programs.

*Eritrea's journey in its*

*Continued from page 8*

of the UN in terms of ensuring that we build that trust and we accompany the government in fostering its development agenda. Eritrea is part of the UN family and that's why we tend not to be prescriptive but rather to look at what it is that the government wants to do to promote its development ideas. We are happy that we have a very strong relation. And I must once again thank the government for providing that space and that platform. I'm sure we will continue to sustain moving into the future and looking forward to further support because at the end of the day we all share a common future, which is to ensure we have improved livelihoods.

*Any final remarks you want to add?*

We are here to share ideas in terms of what we see as viable policy choices and options in an open minded way. We are also here to learn what Eritrea is doing well so that we can share it with other countries. I see a lot of opportunities that are being presented to Eritrea in a number of areas where Eritrea can be a leader -- energy transition, infrastructure, mineral resources and more.

*Thank you!*

## The Benefits of Multilingualism

*Continued from page 3*

younger are capable of hearing and differentiating all phonetic sounds (known as phonemes) in all human languages, even the most subtle variations. But with time, they learn to concentrate on the sounds that are present in their immediate environment, so they slowly let go of all the other phonemes of other languages. This is why a person who learns a language later in life ends up having a discernable accent, no matter how well he/she speaks the non-native language. On the contrary, if a child learns another language simultaneously to their mother-tongue, he/she is able to retain the phonemes of both languages; therefore can sound

like a native speaker in both.

My sister-in-law, Misgana, is a prime example. She is Tigre, was born in Ethiopia and grew up in Keren. From a very young age, she was simultaneously exposed to Tigre, Tigrinya and Amharic, and as a result, can speak all three languages as well as any native speaker, without any telltale accents.

Furthermore, some studies have also seen that children who grow up with two or more languages are better at switching between tasks, meaning they can move from one activity to another more flexibly. They are also better at focusing on what's important and ignoring what isn't; which can help with their academic abilities during the school years. And

among adults, using a non-native language renders them more likely to make decisions that are logical and of greater social benefits, as opposed to the native language, which usually elicits emotional responses.

These findings have essentially turned old myths on their heads, because they imply that monolingual countries like the US and England (where the vast majority are native English speakers) are actually at a disadvantage. Because English is the international lingua franca, native English speakers feel no immediate need to speak another. Even the immigrants whom they encounter speak to them in English, so there is no drive to learn anything else.

In contrast, in countries like Eritrea, with diverse ethnicities and languages, most nationals in the country are either bilingual or multilingual, in that they speak their mother tongue (which can be any of the nine languages spoken by the nine ethnic groups) and, if they have continued their education past the fifth grade (which is the case for everyone in the younger generation), English. In fact, it's commonplace for people to speak three or more languages (namely Tigre, Tigrinya and Arabic) in places like Gash Barka, Anseba and both the Northern and Southern Red Sea Regions. I even met an octogenarian, the late Mr. Beyene Ghebreselassie Haile, a librarian by profession, who could speak nine languages (Tigrinya, Tigre,


Geez, Arabic, Amharic, English, Italian, French and Spanish) and, surprisingly, was studying Mandarin Chinese until the year he died at the age of eighty-seven!

Thus, the true victors, in this respect, are the minorities of the world; and the people who needed to learn two or more languages throughout their lives.

So, finally, we can safely conclude that the more languages we know the better. The next time we come across language classes and feel tempted to join, these findings may just be the push we need to finally sign up. For what better gift can we give ourselves -and our children- than the gift of language?

# Vacancy Announcement

Azel Pharmaceutical Sh. Co. is inviting interested applicants for the following positions.

<div>AZEL PHARMACEUTICAL Sh.Co.</div>	
1. Job Title & Number required	Accountant (01)
Major duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Records and categorizes expenses, and reviews financial documents to resolve any discrepancies and irregularities</li><li>Analyzes financial data so as to recommend ways to help the organization run proficiently and recommends financial actions by analyzing accounting options</li><li>Monitors and examines the efficiency and accuracy of existing accounting procedures and financial documents and where they stand with laws and regulations</li><li>Provides guidance on revenue enhancement, cost reduction and profit maximization</li><li>Creates, reviews and presents budgets</li><li>Works and cooperates with external auditors in preparing audit reports</li><li>Records payments and disbursements</li><li>Reconciles already documented reports, statement</li></ul>
2. Job Title & Number required	General Accounts (01)
Major duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Manages and oversees the daily activities of the general accounts section and employees to make sure that the objectivities of the section and the department.</li><li>Establishes and enforcement paper accounting methods, policies and principles to maintain and strengthen internal controls.</li><li>Manages various ledger functions such as journal entry preparation/monthly –end, quarter-end, year –end close processes, account reconciliation and bank reconciliation.</li><li>Supervise the maintenance of the general and subsidiary ledgers, accounts receivables, revenue distribution, depreciation, cost and operating expenses, insurance records.</li><li>Provides oversight for accounts receivable and accounts payable with close attention to cash flow analysis and forecasting, timely settlement of taxes, and update the finance manager on cash position in local and foreign currencies.</li><li>Contributes to team effort by collaborating with cost accounting and financial reporting officer for related results.</li><li>Prepare quarterly and annual statistical financial reports by controlling, analyzing and summarizing account information to the finance manager.</li><li>Manages HR Functions of subordinates to improve performance and ensure their satisfaction.</li></ul>
3. Job Title & Number required	Finacial Reporting Accountant (01)
Major duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Prepares the monthly, quarterly and Annual Financial Statement reporting packages and manage the internal and external review for these documents.</li><li>Provides a narrative explanation of how the company performed in the reporting period, its current financial condition, and its future prospects to help managers understand the current picture of the Company.</li><li>Collaborates with all finance sections and perform account reconciliations and corrections to insure accurate, timely and cost-effective financial statements and reports.</li><li>Investigate financial data discrepancies and prepares solution for finance management personnel.</li><li>Compiles and reviews all financial information, analyze various operating outputs and prepares special reports and studies for senior management and for dissemination to departments as appropriate.</li><li>Assists in the production of the annual budget and periodic forecasting, evaluation and reporting.</li><li>Supports the finance manager with special project and workflow improvements.</li></ul>
Knowledge & Skills Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Proficient in MS Office; knowledge of Accounting Software.</li><li>Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.</li><li>Excellent written and verbal communication skills, including, presentation skills.</li></ul>
Education	➤ BA in Accounting.
Age	➤ 25-45
Experience	➤ Degree, at least four years of work experience as Accountant, or related Financial reporting positions in a manufacturing company.
Place of Work	Azel Pharmaceutical Sh. Co. Asmara and Keren, Eritrea
<div><div><div>– Applicants should submit their full applications including CV, educational credentials and training certificates within 10 days from the date of publication in the newspaper through the following addresses.</div><div>– Salary Negotiable</div></div><div><div>Azel Pharmaceutical Sh. Co. Asmara: P.O. Box 6799</div><div>Azel Pharmaceutical Sh. Co. Keren: P.O. Box 89</div></div><div><div>Tel: 120028/120029</div><div>Tel: 400234/401994</div></div><div><div>Note:</div><div>All applicants must have proof of demobilization or exemption from the National Service.</div></div></div>	



# Vacancy Announcement

Eritrea-Sichuan Mineral Construction Company is inviting qualified and competitive applicants for the following positions: -

## Blast Engineer:

- Number Required – One (01)
- Place of work: Debarwa
- Type of contact: Definite period of two years
- Salary: As per the company salary scale

## MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- (1) Design, plan monitor and report on all Drill & Blast activities to ensure productive and efficient mining operations;
- (2) Achieve optimal, safe blast results and align with cost restrains and managing clean ups;
- (3) Coordinate with internal resources (mine planning, geology, production, drill supervisor) to schedule and execute blasting activities in a safe and efficient manner;
- (4) Monitor drill and blast production data and take appropriate action to maintain targets, be able to verify, analyze, and report blast performance data;
- (5) Investigate and introduce new innovations to improve drilling and blasting performance, continuous improvement by identifying opportunities for project improvement and implementing improvements for the Drill and Blast processes;
- (6) Complete the other works arranged by supervisors/line manager;

## Qualification Requirement

### Education:

- (1) Master degree or above
- (2) Major in blasting technology or mining engineering

### Work Experience:

- (1) At least 10 years of mining company with considerable drilling and blasting operation experience
- (2) Relevant certificate is preferred

- (3) People who have the Working experience in Chinese companies
- (4) Excellent English and Chinese

## Other skills and abilities:

- (1) Excellent language skills
- (2) Proficient in operating the OFFICE office software
- (3) Have advanced computer experience using Vulcan, Blast logic, Excel and Word.
- (4) Have Blast Engineer Certificate

## Language:

- (1) Language fluency in English and Chinese is required.

## Additional requirements for Nationals:

- (1) Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provide evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defense.
- (2) Present clearance paper from current/last employer
- (3) Testimonial documents to be attached (CV, Work experience credentials, a copy of your National Identity Card, etc.).
- (4) Only shortlisted applicants Would be considered as potential candidates for an interview.
- (5) Application documents will not be returned to the sender.
- (6) All application should be sent through the post office.
- (7) Deadline for application: 5 days from the day of publication in the newspaper

- **Address: please mail your application to**

Eritrea-Sichuan Mineral Construction Corp. Ltd.  
P.O.Box 4832 Asmara, Eritrea

**Note to Non-Eritrean applicants: Please send a copy of your application to Aliens Employment Permit Affairs**

P.O.Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea



## 19<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of Shareholders of National Insurance Corporation of Eritrea

The National Insurance Corporation of Eritrea by wishing happy 32<sup>nd</sup> independence day celebrations, cordially invites all shareholders to attend the 19<sup>th</sup> Ordinary General Meeting of shareholders to be held at Hotel Asmara Palace on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2023 at 08:00 hrs.

Shareholders who cannot attend the meeting in person can collect their instrument of proxy from our Head Office or by downloading it from our website [www.niceritrea.com](http://www.niceritrea.com) and submit it to the Head Office not later than 12:00 hrs 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023.

**National Insurance Corporation of Eritrea Share Company**  
By the order of the Board of Directors



# Eritrea's Journey in its Economic Development

Sabrina Solomon

*Thank you so much for your time, Mr. James Wakiaga. Can you please give us a brief introduction to UNDP's work in Eritrea?*

Thank you so much for having me. I would like to take this opportunity to convey warm greetings and congratulations to the people of Eritrea as you mark the Independence Day on the 24th of May. I think many are familiar with the works of UNDP. I have been in the country for the past four years, and so this has been quite a journey. I have been carrying out the works of UNDP just like those who were before me in promoting sustainable development in Eritrea. We have covered quite a lot of ground and the work we've been doing touches on many important sectors of the economy.

It's been a very interesting and reveling journey taking into account that we've been working on areas prioritized by the government. For example, UNDP has been accompanying the government in the areas of sustainable management of resources, specifically looking at nature-based solutions to adopt [to deal with] climate change, looking around the works of soil conservation, as well as working closely with the cross segment in the area of capacity development at institutional level and systems. We have seen tremendous progress that has been achieved in the area of human development index.

If you look across the board, even in areas that are critical for the country's investment such as energy, where we see energy transition as a catalyzer of sustainable development, UNDP has been a partner with the government. One good example is that we worked with the government, together with the European Union, in the Mai-dima Areza project where I had an occasion to visit. It had a transformational impact on the community as the beneficiary, on the economy, on health and education.

*Tell us your reflections on your tenure with UNDP-Eritrea on moving the agenda on development?*

When I arrived in 2019, I needed to understand the Eritrean model of development. So I quickly learned the national philosophy in terms of



*Our guest today, Mr. James Wakiaga, UNDP representative to Eritrea, discusses before his departure the economic and social aspects of development that he witnessed during his four-year stay in Eritrea.*

the development approach which is self-reliance. That has been a critical factor on how we as UNDP can find entry points to further engage and support the national development priorities. I would really love to thank Eritrea for providing those platforms and those spaces for us to be able to engage and accompany the government.

There have been aspects which are critical in the area of youth and skills development which is an important project. Here, we've been working with NUEYS (National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students) to advance skills development across the country in different youth centers. The area of energy transition, as I mentioned earlier, has been one area that we look for to further advance in terms of moving forward and delivering critical important development results for the country. So, I think there is a whole range of areas where I still see we have an opportunity.

I had an opportunity to visit Massawa, and saw the whole potential of promoting tourism and promoting the marine industry. I see this as another area which can catalyze development particularly in the area of the blue economy. There is also the date palms, and this is another area that the Ministry of Agriculture is pursuing and investing in, and as UNDP we are happy about our partnership to support the growth of the dead palm in the Red Sea region. This can open up job opportunities and we'll witness more women's engagement as well. But what's most important is seeing Eritrea become one of the nine exporters of dates globally.

*How's Eritrea doing on some of the key development indicators, and where does it need to invest and accelerate actions to deliver results?*

I must say that Eritrea is on the right track in terms of its development

trajectory. We are looking at investment in the human capital because it is critical in supporting the country's development process. In the area of education, we have seen an increase in enrollments, and we've witnessed how Eritrea has been performing in the area of health. As you know, Eritrea is among the first countries that achieved health indicators under the MDG paradigm, and, therefore, it's building on these in the context of the sustainable development goals.

In terms of the human capital, I see a huge opportunity for improving and building on education in terms of the quality and in terms of skills



development in areas that will be critical in powering the country's development. Secondly, I look at the area of food security and Eritrea, again, has a good track record. The investments that the Ministry of Agriculture is making by going beyond food security to achieve its trajectory on areas of food nutrition is critical particularly for children. Diversification in terms of production in the area of agriculture by shifting towards value chain systems is an area in which the Ministry of Agriculture is working with other partners the UN is already looking in to. Another important resource is water where the government has been increasingly making a lot of investments over the years in providing clean water to citizens in rural as well as urban areas.

*How do you feel about working*

*here in Eritrea?*

I'm proud to have the opportunity to work in Eritrea. Eritrea's journey is something that I deliberately looked forward to be part of as it is one of the youngest countries to gain its independence. Eritrea is a young proud nation and it offers a lot of lessons to other countries in terms of its credentials in pan Africanism and in terms of its development approach, the philosophy of self-reliance. I think this is a paradigm that offers vital lessons on how you rely on your own resources to sustain your own development. This is a vital lesson I carry with me. And I'm looking at the ambition of the country. The ambition to be a country that is peaceful and able to create job opportunities for its young population, and able to provide the basic necessities to each and every Eritrean. I think this is an aspiration for all countries, and this is part of what we call the SDG agenda.

*What are the key drivers of change?*

One of the key drivers of change

that I see is agriculture, not just for Eritrea but for the continent as a whole. It will be important in food security and the provision of the necessary material for the manufacturing sector, particularly that of the value chain system.

Another area is tourism and heritage. I'm always proud of Eritrea's heritage in terms of the fact that it was able to conserve the culture and maintain the beauty of Asmara as one of UNESCO heritages. It's a huge attraction.

The other area I see is innovation. I must say I have been in contact with a lot of youth in the country and I get amazed with their knowledge and their level of understanding of areas such as digitalization. And so as UNDP, we've been working closely with the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students to look,

for example, at how we can develop the capacity of the innovation lab that is under establishment.

Then, of course, the fact that the country has invested a lot on soil conservation and afforestation is a key driver of change. Those projects are something to be proud of because of the transformative nature in soil conservation, land security and diversification of crops. A lot of the initiatives that are being taken in the country are people-centered, which is critical, and it aligns with UNDP mantra of ensuring that nobody is left behind.

*You have travelled to different parts of the country. Tell us your impressions.*

It was good to travel and I had the opportunity to travel to different parts of the nation and interact with the community. One thing that always struck me is the solidarity of the community and the role of the community in driving the development agenda in those areas. I saw that community has always been central and it aligns with our African tradition where we have to view everything from the lenses of the community. And the warm welcomes I received to share coffee and injera and the generosity were truly impressive. The landscapes and the mountains that I saw during every trip are also amazing attractions the country offers. Also the sandy beach of Massawa with its clean water and amazing fisheries is something to be proud of.

*How do you see the partnership with the government and what potential lays ahead as you leave Eritrea?*

What I have witnessed in the past four years is the deepening of the partnership between the Government of the State of Eritrea and the UN. The hallmark of this was of course the recent signing of the cooperation framework that run from 2022 to 2024, which accentuates the confidence and the trust between the government and the UNDP. My role as a UNDP representative over the years has been to cultivate the confidence and the trust to achieve their ambition in the area of development through dialogues with the government and the people. This has been the mantra

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