

MEETING ON IMPLEMENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS



Ambassador Mohammed-Seid Mantai, Governor of the Southern Red Sea Region, conducted meetings with residents of Tio and Ayumen in Araeta sub-zone, focusing on the implementation of development programs and the utilization of social service institutions.

Providing a briefing on the development policy of the



Eritrean Government, Ambassador Mohammed-Seid said that efforts are being exerted to expand social service institutions with a view to providing equitable services to the public. He also called on the residents to strengthen their participation in community-level efforts to enhance the utilization of social service institutions.

At the meetings, heads of

education, health, and the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students provided briefings on the activities they had implemented, as well as the measures taken to address shortcomings.

The participants conducted extensive discussions on the issues raised at the meetings and adopted various recommendations.

Ambassador Mohammed-Seid also visited educational and health facilities in the villages of Hamarti, Igroli, Ferer, and Ayumen, as well as the potable water project in Ayumen, and was provided with briefings on the current situation of the institutions.

TRAINING ON SOCIAL SCIENCE IN NORTHERN RED SEA



The PFDJ office in the Northern Red Sea Region provided training in social science to its members with the aim of enhancing their capacity.

The training, which was conducted at Mai-Habar, was attended by 190 members, including 106 females, from 10 sub-zones in the region.

The training covered the history and development of ideology and its meaning, the history and development of Eritrean identity, as well as psychological warfare.

Noting that the objective of the training was to nurture committed citizens with an awareness of social science, Mr. Idris Ali, head

of Political Affairs at the PFDJ office in the region, called for sustained and organized support for the families of martyrs.

The representative of the trainees, underlining that they had received extensive training in politics, economics, culture and diplomacy, called for the continuation of the program.

Noting the significance of the training programs being organized in raising public awareness and understanding, as well as participation in national development programs, Ms. Asmeret Abraha, Governor of the region, expressed the regional administration's readiness to play its part.

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS IN KEREN SUB-ZONE INCREASES

At an assessment meeting on educational activities during the 2025–2026 academic year, it was reported that, through the integrated efforts of the public and the Government, the number of schools in Keren sub-zone has increased from 68 to 79.

Noting that the main objective of schools is to nurture well-rounded and competent youth, Mr. Yosief Okbaselasia, head of the education office in the sub-zone, urged teachers and school communities to fulfill their mission of realizing this objective in accordance with the policies and guidelines of the Ministry of Education.

Mr. Yosief went on to say that the main objective of the assessment meeting was to sustain the achievements registered and address the challenges being

encountered in the teaching and learning process.

Commending the achievements registered in educational activities in the sub-zone, Mr. Kiflai Andemicael, head of the education office in Anseba Region, called for the proper utilization of human, financial and material resources, as well as time, to achieve better outcomes.

Underlining that enhancing the teaching and learning process should not be left solely to teachers and school communities, Ms. Letenigus Abraha, representing the administrator of Keren city, called for the reinforced participation of the community and other partners. She also expressed the readiness of the Keren Municipality to provide the necessary support toward the effort.



WARSAI-YIKEALO SCHOOL OFFICIALLY BEGINS 2026/2027 ACADEMIC YEAR

Students from high schools across the country who arrived in Sawa to complete their 12th-grade education and fulfill their national service obligations as members of the 39th round have officially begun the 2026/2027 academic year.

At the opening orientation held on 16 August, the director of the school, Mr. Russom Gebrehiwet, outlined the school's regulations and operational guidelines. He urged the students to take full

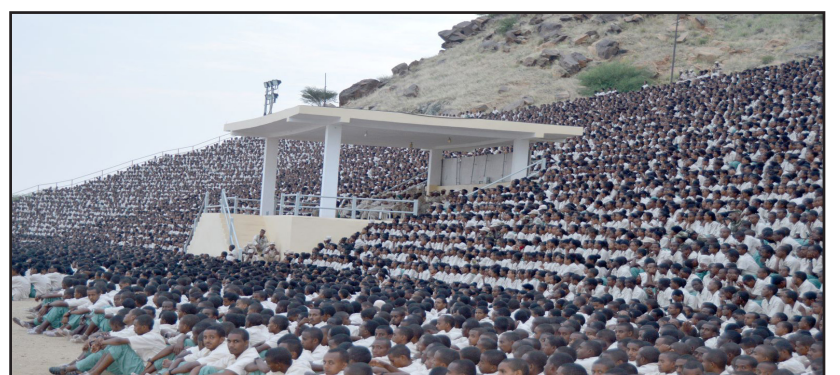
advantage of the educational opportunities provided and strive for academic excellence.

Highlighting a 20% increase in student enrollment compared to the previous academic year, Mr. Russom confirmed that both the school and the National Service Training Center have completed all necessary preparations to support the expanded student body.

Mr. Russom added that alongside the core curriculum,

the school hosts a wide range of extracurricular initiatives, including sports and cultural events, general knowledge competitions, debates, female empowerment programs, educational seminars, and community service campaigns.

Expressing appreciation for the orientation session, the incoming students voiced their readiness to dedicate themselves to their studies and make the most of their time at the institution.



SpotLight

The Weaponization of Victimhood: How Ethiopia's Prosperity Party Trapped itself in Its Own Regional Expansionist Ploys

The recent coordinated diplomatic and media assaults launched by the Prosperity Party (PP) against Eritrea represent the height of geopolitical irony. Platforms like the Ethiopian News Agency, the Institute of Foreign Affairs, and the Horn Review are now orchestrating a narrative that falsely portrays Eritrea as an aggressor while frantically urging the international community "to intervene".

This reprehensible duplicity and calculated performance of victimhood is akin to the Tigrigna proverb that says: "Chiguarafs baala harima teawi" (ቁጥረ-ፍሰ ሰላ ሃራማ ተጸዊ) – "the whip emits a shrill sound as it hits its prey".

For the past three years, the PP has been openly threatening the sovereignty and territorial integrity of its neighbors; questioned the very existence of sovereign states; and, through its collusion with disruptive external actors, systematically contributed to the destabilization of the Horn of Africa. Yet today, it cries foul, manufacturing a narrative of "encirclement and external conspiracy" to conceal its own crippling domestic shortcomings and regional failures.

A comprehensive and evidence-based deconstruction of these hypocritical state narratives exposes the reality behind the PP's dual-track propaganda strategy, as well as the

destabilizing character of its regional posture.

First, to understand the current media frenzy, it is necessary to examine the PP's dual-track communication strategy, which has been operationalized since late 2023:

- **The Domestic Track (Aggressive Revisionism):** Intentionally designed to radicalize domestic audiences, senior PP officials – including the Prime Minister, the Chief of Staff of the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF), Members of Parliament, and co-opted academics – have indulged in relentless agitation campaigns that are predicated on questioning the very legitimacy of Eritrea's statehood. They framed Eritrea's hard-won independence achieved after a long and costly armed struggle to regain its inalienable rights of decolonization as a "historical mistake" that must be corrected "by all means necessary," effectively maintaining an unprovoked and unilateral declaration of political hostility and warfare for nearly three years.

- **The International Track (Sanitized Coercion):** For foreign diplomats residing or visiting the country and international audiences, the messaging assumes a completely different tone and character. Territorial ambitions are repackaged in the sanitized language of "regional integration," "economic cooperation," and "demographic entitlement." The argument is presented as though Ethiopia's status as a large and populous landlocked country creates a natural, historical, or even legal entitlement to the sovereign waters of other nations, specifically the Eritrean port of Assab. What is presented internationally as an economic necessity conceals a dangerous expansionist proposition that population size can somehow confer a right to annex sovereign foreign territory.

Additionally, the latest state-media hysteria accuses Eritrea of forging a perpetual and hostile alliance against it. Despite the PP's attempt to project its own destabilizing conduct onto others, the historical and contemporary record tells a fundamentally different story. Throughout three years of intense saber-rattling and explicit threats of territorial occupation by the PP, the Government of Eritrea has maintained a consistent posture of strategic restraint. That strategic

restraint has thus far mitigated regional volatility and averted a catastrophic interstate war – a stabilizing posture that required prompt, public acknowledgement from international actors, which failed to materialize and inadvertently emboldened the PP. Had the global community decisively rebuked and openly checked the Prosperity Party's coercive ambitions for a maritime outlet, the current escalation could have been contained. Instead, the PP was left, and in some cases encouraged, to interpret international passivity as a blank check for territorial expansion, directly triggering the systemic crisis that now threatens to destabilize the Horn of Africa.

The truth is it is the PP, not Eritrea that has systematically undermined the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and peaceful coexistence that underpin international law and the foundational frameworks of the African Union. In pursuit of an old imperial ambition to establish Ethiopia as a regional hegemon, the PP has generated considerable regional destabilization across the Horn of Africa by:

- Directly threatening Eritrea's territorial integrity, questioning its very statehood, and going so far as to claim the entirety of Eritrea as part of Ethiopia;

- Violating the sovereignty of the Federal Republic of Somalia through its unlawful Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Somaliland; and

- Aggravating the conflict in Sudan through its support for and hosting elements associated with the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

While simultaneously accusing Eritrea of operating through proxies, the PP has been actively and publicly hosting, training, and financing subversive, sectarian groups pursuing an explicit "regime-change" agenda against Eritrea, including the so-called Red Sea Afar Democratic Organization (RSADO), as well as various fringe and copycat "colour-revolution" groups.

Perhaps the most glaring contradiction in the PP's current posture is its attempt to rewrite the very territorial and political settlement that made the historic Eritrea – Ethiopia rapprochement of 2018 possible. The 2018 peace

became possible because Ethiopia, under the leadership of new Prime Minister, ultimately accepted the legal and political framework established by the Algiers Agreement of 2000 and, critically, the final and binding decision rendered by the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC) in 2002.

The decision established the legal basis for settling the putative "territorial dispute" on the border town of "Badme and its environs". In effect, Ethiopia's belated acceptance, in 2018, of the EEBC Award of 12 April 2002, opened the door for ending the state of war and restore normal friendship and cooperation between the two neighbouring countries.

The 2018 rapprochement was entirely premised on, and re-iterated, the normative and immutable principle on the sovereignty and territorial integrity/distinctness of the two countries, whose borders could not be altered through political convenience, historical revisionism, or military pressure. Ethiopia's unequivocal acceptance of Eritrea's sovereignty and territorial integrity signaled a departure from the politics of confrontation and an acknowledgement that good-faith territorial disputes can only be settled on the basis of international law and established international norms and mechanisms.

It was precisely this recognition that allowed the two countries to move, however briefly, from confrontation to reconciliation. Diplomatic relations were restored, borders were opened, transport links resumed, and a new political vocabulary of peace, friendship, and regional cooperation was introduced. The international community welcomed the development as a historic breakthrough in one of Africa's most protracted interstate conflicts.

Against this background, the current posture of the same political establishment is not merely contradictory, it is deeply disturbing.

A ruling party that once presented the 2018 rapprochement as its crowning achievement – for which Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed exclusively received the Noble Peace Prize for a peace that belonged to two nations – now presides over a war machine that questions the very statehood of Eritrea, challenges its territorial integrity, and advances preposterous claims over "sovereign

access" to territory and ports that fall squarely within Eritrea's sovereign domain.

To now question Eritrea's statehood or territorial integrity is therefore not merely another episode of political rhetoric. It represents a repudiation of international law and the very principles that made reconciliation possible.

For a political movement that came to power claiming to have ended the cycle of conflict, such a reversal constitutes a betrayal of the highest order, not only of Eritrea, but of the global will generated by the 2018 peace process itself.

Moreover, in their desperate attempt to frame Eritrea as an opportunistic actor thriving in Ethiopia's weakness, Ethiopia's government trolls are trying to scapegoat the Eritrean Defense Forces (EDF) for alleged "war crimes" in Tigray. However, the facts on the ground contradict this narrative:

- First, the PP has previously contrived with foreign political actors, including certain US politicians under the Biden Administration and international organizations, in a coordinated effort to implicate the EDF.

- Second, unlike the fractured nature of the ENDF, the EDF operates within a strict command-and-control structure that emphasizes uncompromising discipline and the humane treatment of civilians and prisoners of war. This institutional culture is rooted in a decades-long military tradition inherited from Eritrea's liberation struggle for human dignity and national liberation. As it will be recalled, the EPLF released and safely repatriated more than 130,000 Ethiopian troops, including several Generals and senior military officers in May/June 1991 at the end of Eritrea's three-decade long armed struggle for national liberation.

Eritrea's contemporary actions align perfectly with its long-held, principled position on Ethiopia's territorial unity and stability. Eritrea's political doctrine has consistently rejected the fragmentation of its southern neighbor, recognizing that an unstable, balkanized Ethiopia represents a permanent security liability for the entire Horn of Africa.

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**ERITREA
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SpotLight

Development...on its Own Terms

Bana Negusse

Since achieving its independence more than three decades ago, Eritrea has pursued a distinctive development path rooted in self-reliance, social justice, national ownership, and broad-based participation. Rather than simply adopting externally developed models, the country has sought to shape policies around its own circumstances and priorities, drawing on national capacities, rich indigenous knowledge, deeply rooted cultural values, and the active participation of diverse communities. Despite the often polarized and, at times, highly misleading portrayals of Eritrea in international and mainstream discourse, its development approach reflects a consistent focus on building from within while engaging selectively with partners abroad. This article provides a brief overview of that journey, highlighting the

institutional frameworks seek to strengthen national unity, promote equity, and ensure that development benefits all citizens across regions and communities.

Importantly, many of the principles now associated with sustainable and inclusive development, including equality, participation, social justice, and leaving no one behind, were also deeply rooted in Eritrea's independence struggle and national experience. Long before these principles were given greater prominence through the Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals, they had already informed Eritrea's political and social thinking. Since independence, they have continued to influence national development priorities and efforts to address local needs and disparities.

To advance this vision, Eritrea has pursued an array of initiatives



realities, ultimately helping ensure that development remains locally relevant and sustainable.

One of the key pillars of Eritrea's approach has been self-reliance. Contrary to many portrayals, the term does not mean isolation. Development requires cooperation, and Eritrea has consistently engaged with international organizations, regional bodies, bilateral partners, civic organizations, and its global diaspora. Cooperation has supported efforts in areas including public health, education, food security, infrastructure, environmental resilience, and community development. Engagement with neighbouring countries and regional partners is particularly important given the shared challenges facing the Horn of Africa, while wider international partnerships provide additional opportunities for

its bilateral engagement. Just during the recent past, high-level exchanges with countries including Egypt, Kenya, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Italy, China, and Russia have reflected efforts to broaden diplomatic, economic, and development cooperation. These relationships underscore Eritrea's emphasis on partnerships based on mutual respect, sovereign equality, and shared interests.

Social justice remains another central pillar of Eritrea's development approach. Progress, from this perspective, cannot be measured solely in economic terms; it must also be reflected in improved living conditions, greater access to essential services, and reduced disparities across the entire spectrum of the population. Attention has therefore been directed toward groups and communities that can face particular disadvantages, including people with disabilities, nomadic populations, residents of remote areas, and displaced communities.

The country has also worked to strengthen its legal and institutional framework, including through the introduction of new legal codes and measures intended to protect citizens and reinforce equality before the law. Alongside these efforts, national civic organizations representing women, youth, students, workers, and veterans contribute to community mobilization, civic engagement, and social development. Their participation reflects the broader principle that national development is a collective undertaking rather than the responsibility of government institutions alone.

In many ways, Eritrea's experience also merits consideration within today's rapidly changing global development landscape. Traditional forms of development assistance are becoming less predictable, while many developing countries face increasing pressure to finance their priorities with limited resources and greater uncertainty. This makes questions of national ownership, domestic capacity, resilience, and sustainable development particularly relevant.

In this context, Eritrea's longstanding emphasis on self-reliance offers useful insights. Its experience highlights the importance of investing in people and institutions, making effective use of domestic and indigenous resources, strengthening community participation, and ensuring that external assistance complements rather than substitutes for national capacity. This does not diminish the value of international cooperation; rather, it points to the importance of partnerships that reinforce local capabilities and respond to nationally identified priorities.

Overall, Eritrea's development journey is shaped by its history, its people, and its determination to address challenges on its own terms while remaining positively engaged with the wider region and international community. Without a doubt, the country's path is neither a universal blueprint nor without challenges. But its emphasis on self-reliance, social justice, local capacity, participation, and mutually beneficial cooperation offers useful perspectives at a time when the global development system itself is undergoing significant change.



priorities, strategies, and values that continue to shape Eritrea's efforts to build a more inclusive, resilient, and prosperous future.

At the proverbial centre of

across key sectors including health, education, agriculture, infrastructure, and human-resource development. Particular emphasis has also been attached to strengthening local capacity and drawing upon the



Eritrea's development outlook is a long-term, people-centred vision that views economic, social, political, and environmental progress as interconnected. Its policies and

country's diverse cultural heritage and indigenous knowledge. The objective is not to reject external knowledge or technology, but to adapt it to local contexts and national

knowledge exchange, investment, technology, and cooperation.

Notably, in recent years Eritrea has also continued to expand



Hor: A Heritage of Harmony and Spectacle

Mussie Efriem

Across the globe, human history has been tied to the ancient, symbiotic bond between communities and their animals. From one edge to the other, cultural festivals involving livestock are much more than mere celebrations; they are living galleries, adrenaline-fueled spectacles, and powerful economic engines. When traditions step out of the past and into the arena, they command the attention of the world, transforming local heritage into global tourism phenomenon.

The magnetic pull of iconic animal-centric celebrations, such as Spain's legendary Encierro (the running of the bulls) during the San Fermín festival or Mexico's vibrant equestrian and bull-handling traditions like the Charreada, are amongst the very well-known in the world. Every year, these events draw hundreds of thousands of international travelers, media outlets, and culture-seekers who yearn to see the authentic, unfiltered traditions. These spectacles succeed because of the efforts made into making them what they have become. Their global media coverage turned the local Spanish and Mexican traditions into bucket-list experiences for global travelers.

Deep within the western lowlands of Eritrea lies a living heritage that has lasted for over eight centuries, weathering the test of time. Known as Hor in Nara language, one of the nine Eritrean languages, this intense and vibrant thanksgiving festival is celebrated every December, marking a sacred period of collective joy, relief, and deep spiritual communion between the community and their animals after months of grueling farm work.

Timed to follow the harvest of pearl millet, a commonly grown grain in the lowlands, Hor is much more than a seasonal marker; it is a profound cultural institution designed to restore vitality to both the people and their livestock. This festival is celebrated by the Nara and Kunama ethnic groups, each honoring the occasion through their own distinct cultural terminology. Speaking specifically of the Nara community, this vibrant event centers around the village of Atonda, located in the area surrounding Gogne.

The event is a highly anticipated spectacle, eagerly awaited by the local community. After enduring long, demanding seasons of relentless labor, this tradition offers a well-deserved period of rest, celebration, and recreation for both men and their herds. It marks a joyful transition in the pastoral cycle, serving as a vital reward for their shared resilience, a time of renewal that finally reaches its peak when the Hor arrives.

The sacred rhythm of the day always begins with reverence, as village elders gather to offer traditional blessings for prosperity, health, and endurance. Once the ritual blessings are complete, the grand spectacle is unleashed. The run spans a thrilling 300-meter course, where herds of livestock surge forward alongside herdsmen. In a breathtaking display of synchronization and mutual understanding, the animals instinctively mirror their human handlers charging with high-spirited energy down the track and coming to a synchronized halt right alongside the men at the finish line, preserving an unbroken 800-year-old link between Eritrea's past and present.

During the festival, the boundaries

and strict rules that typically govern daily farming life begin to fade away. Even if livestock inadvertently intrude upon the farms or stray into un-harvested patches, the animals are not punished and their owners are not fined; farmers simply nudge the animals away gently, which reflects the spirit of the occasion. This temporary amnesty fosters an atmosphere of radical communal harmony, where the relentless pressures of agrarian survival lead to a period of collective jubilation.

In many ways, the animals stand among the primary beneficiaries and most privileged figures of the entire ceremony. Central to the festival's core purpose is the deliberate physical and mental recreation of the livestock, offering them vital respite after enduring the grueling demands of the plowing and harvest seasons. Highlighting this unique bond, Mr. Mohamed Mahmoud, a member of the festival's research committee, said that the livestock themselves seem to intuitively understand and eagerly anticipate the event perhaps even more than the people do.

He notes that it is truly astonishing to observe the visible excitement and disciplined anticipation of the cattle, which appear to know precisely what is expected of them. So eager are the animals that they actively nudge their handlers, practically seeming to be demanding that the game begin without delay, proving that the livestock are among the most enthusiastic participants of all. Even more remarkable is their behavior at the end of the run; the cattle bring themselves to a halt the moment they cross the finish line. They seem deeply attuned and well-trained to the nuances of this cultural tradition, a seamless performance that Mr. Mohamed



Photo by: Qedawi Tewelde

said an unfamiliar cow from another region simply could not replicate.

As the dust settles on the racing track, the organizers publicly announce the winners of the day, but the ultimate reward is reserved for the individual that is crowned the champion of the year. The local community members sing traditional songs of honor and recite lyrical tributes to celebrate the winner's victory, skill, and the exceptional partnership he demonstrates with his livestock. These joyous melodies uplift the winner as a champion until a new victor rises to claim the honor the following year.

In a profound display of offering a helping hand, fellow countrymen rally to support the champion with his upcoming farm work, pitching in to lighten his labor as a tangible token of community respect. In addition to this collective backing, the champion earns a place of high prestige: at the start of the following year's event, he is granted the coveted position at the front of the starting line, standing right alongside his livestock.

Today, this ancient tradition is experiencing a renaissance, blending deep-rooted heritage with modern organizational support. The Gash-Barka Regional Administration has stepped in to elevate the festival, providing prizes and trophies to the winners, giving prestige to the competition. Furthermore, the game is being modernized by introducing elements such as an official time record for the players to test their speed and coordination.

This dynamic fusion of the ancient and the new has turned Hor into a major local attraction. Every December, scores of spectators stand on surrounding hilltops and the village square, creating a natural amphitheater of cheering voices, vibrant colors, and shared cultural joy as they gather to witness this truly extraordinary celebration of life, land, and livestock.

In spite of the fact that hundreds of animals sprint across open ground, the Hor festival is a master class in natural synchronization and unspoken communication. Around 400 to 700 livestock participate in the grand run, yet injuries are remarkably rare. Witnessing the stampede reveals an astonishing display of animal agility and awareness: even if a human or a fellow beast stumbles and falls, the oncoming cattle instinctively leap and weave around them, taking meticulous care to avoid harming one another or their human handlers. This seamless choreography highlights the deep, respectful bond cultivated between the herders and their animals over generations.

The grandeur of Hor is not a standalone event; it is the breathtaking culmination of a carefully orchestrated season of community preparation. The main festival is preceded by a series of four consecutive smaller local festivals across the surrounding areas, building anticipation and festive spirit week by week. As the main event approaches, the tension and dedication peak. On the very eve of Hor, a strict communal rule goes into effect: every livestock owner must haul water manually to hydrate their animals at home, as taking the cattle down to the local stream is strictly forbidden ahead of the race to keep them rested and prepared. Anyone who breaks this custom faces traditional penalties, underscoring the disciplined reverence the community holds for the event.

After the celebration shifts from the sunlit hills to the warmth of the evening fire. To cap off the day's triumphs, a lively Hor party is thrown for the youth under the night sky. Music, traditional dancing, and communal feasting carry the energy of the day deep into the night, passing the torch of this heritage to the next generation and cementing Hor not just as a historical duty but as a living, breathing pulse of Eritrean culture.



Photo by: Qedawi Tewelde

Eritrea's Sovereignty Is Not Negotiable: Neither Is the Sovereignty of Any Other African Nation

The Embassy of the State of Eritrea has taken note of recent articles by Deutsche Welle (DW), "Eritrea: Key Player in the Geopolitical Gamble at the Horn," and Foreign Policy Journal, "Eritrea Emerges as a Critical Strategic Player in the Horn of Africa's Shifting Geopolitical Landscape."

While both acknowledge Eritrea's strategic importance, domestic stability and growing relevance in the Red Sea and Horn of Africa, they reproduce remarkably similar narratives that distort Eritrea's history, minimize, and normalize the implications of Ethiopia's declared unlawful pursuit of "sovereign access" to the sea, portray Eritrea's legitimate regional diplomacy as an anti-Ethiopian project, and employ politically loaded characterizations of Eritrea.

At the heart of current Eritrea-Ethiopia tensions is a fundamental question that should not be obscured: commercial access to a port is one matter; sovereignty over another country's coastline or territory is entirely another.

Eritrea has no territorial claim against Ethiopia, demands no Ethiopian land or resources, and seeks no alteration of Ethiopia's internationally recognized borders. Eritrea has never, in recorded history, opposed Ethiopia's legitimate commercial use of regional ports through mutually negotiated arrangements. Landlocked countries throughout the world conduct international commerce through neighboring coastal states without acquiring sovereignty over their territory. In fact, commercial necessity creates opportunities for cooperation among countries; it does not create territorial entitlement.

Ethiopian official rhetoric concerning "sovereign access" to the Red Sea therefore cannot be sanitized as a simple dispute over maritime trade. Economic aspiration, demographic size or geographical disadvantage cannot be converted into sovereign entitlement, nor can they justify revising internationally recognized African boundaries. Any suggestion to the contrary constitutes a flagrant violation of international law and would establish a profoundly destabilizing precedent for the continent.

The historical framing employed in both articles is equally troubling. DW describes Eritrea as having "split" from Ethiopia,

while Foreign Policy Journal asserts that Eritrean independence "stripped Addis Ababa of its direct coastal outlet." Such terminology reverses historical cause and effect and inadvertently lends legitimacy to contemporary territorial revisionism such as that by Ethiopian leaders.

The mere truth is that the Eritrean people are endowed with their own, separate, and rich history in the millennia prior to the advent of European colonialism to the African continent. In this respect, Eritrea's modern territorial boundaries, like those of virtually all African states, were consolidated during European colonial rule, with the Italian colony of Eritrea formally established in 1890. Eritrea subsequently passed through Italian colonial rule, and a ten-year British Military Administration, (BMA), in the immediate aftermath of the Second World War before being linked with Ethiopia under a bogus "Federal Arrangement" to mollify the "overriding" geopolitical interests of major powers and against the expressed will of the Eritrean people.

Moreover, Ethiopia unilaterally abrogated the "Federal Arrangement" ten years later and annexed Eritrea in 1962, precipitating the three decades of protracted armed struggle for independence.

In the internationally supervised referendum of 1993, 99.805 percent of Eritreans voted for independence, after which Eritrea was admitted to the United Nations. To portray this internationally recognized process as Ethiopia being "stripped" of a coastline is historically prejudicial and legally untenable.

Furthermore, the Eritrea-Ethiopia boundary is neither provisional nor unresolved. Following the 1998-2000 border war, both countries signed the Algiers Agreement and voluntarily submitted the "putative dispute" on some areas on the common boundary – specifically, "Badme and its environs" – to independent international arbitration.

The Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC) rendered its delimitation decision in April 2002 based on the "Colonial Treaties of 1900, 1902, 1910) and applicable international law", further expressly stipulating, in accordance with other provisions of the Algiers Agreement, that the determination is final and binding.

The articles also attempt to interpret Eritrea's relations with Egypt, Somalia, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the United States, and other partners primarily as an effort to construct a "counterweight" against Ethiopia.

This is an Ethiopia-centric and reductive interpretation of the legitimate foreign policy of a sovereign state. Eritrea is a Red Sea nation situated along one of the world's most consequential maritime corridors. Its international relations naturally encompass maritime security, regional stability, trade, investment, transportation, and bilateral cooperation. Eritrea does not require an Ethiopia-centered explanation for every diplomatic relationship it maintains.

Equally problematic is the contradiction between acknowledging Eritrea's remarkable stability while simultaneously disparaging that stability as merely "authoritarian." The articles invoke terms such as "autocratic," "repressive," and "authoritarian," speculate about institutional collapse after a future leadership transition and reproduce sweeping and pejorative comparisons with "North Korea". Political labels and hypothetical succession scenarios are not substitutes for evidence or serious analysis. Eritrea's political system must be examined within its historical experience, social fabric, national institutions, its people's unity, and independent nation-building trajectory – not judged exclusively through predetermined ideological templates.

This contradiction is particularly striking because the articles themselves recognize Eritrea as comparatively peaceful, cohesive, and secure, strategically positioned along the Red Sea, and increasingly important to regional and international partners. These realities deserve examination on their own merits rather than being reframed as evidence of political deficiency.

The overall principle at stake extends far beyond Eritrea. Africa's interstate order rests on respect for inherited international colonial boundaries, sovereign equality, and territorial integrity. If established borders can be reopened because one country is larger, landlocked, economically ambitious or considers another state's territory strategically necessary, virtually no African boundary would remain immune from challenge.

Eritrea claims no territory belonging to another state and seeks peaceful, mutually beneficial relations with Ethiopia and all its neighbors. What is not open to negotiation is Eritrea's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Eritrea's sovereignty is not a geopolitical bargaining chip. It is

an internationally recognized legal right, and the same right upon which the security, sovereignty and territorial integrity of every African nation ultimately depend.

*Embassy of the State of Eritrea
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The Weaponization of Victimhood . . .

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This principle stretches back to the days of the liberation struggle. In the 1970s and 1980s, while the EPLF pursued a legally distinct case for decolonization based on internationally recognized Italian colonial boundaries, it opposed ethnic secessionist tendencies of internal Ethiopian armed groups advocating for a pan-Ethiopian coordinated political stance and strategy to overthrow the Derg and build an inclusive, unified state.

In the event, the aggressive foreign policy of the PP is a standard political maneuver from its compounding domestic crises, including active, unresolved civil conflicts in the Amhara, Oromia, and Tigray regions.

To fuel its war machine and justify its expansionist claims, the PP projects an image of Ethiopia as a surging regional economic powerhouse. However, the hard economic data completely shatters this myth.

A sober analysis of Ethiopia's macroeconomic reality – recently highlighted by financial experts such as the former World Bank President, David Robert Malpass – reveals an economy on the brink of structural collapse:

- Ethiopia has officially defaulted on its international debt obligations, including its failure to make scheduled interest payments on its \$1 billion Eurobond.
- The country remains burdened by tens of billions of dollars in external debt, forcing it to plead for IMF bailouts and painful debt restructuring, while skyrocketing inflation and severe currency depreciation decimate the livelihoods of its citizens.

The contradiction is therefore difficult to ignore. A state that cannot feed its own population without massive foreign aid, and service its sovereign debt, cannot claim the mantle of an economic powerhouse. In this respect, the PP's obsession with securing "sovereign coastline...and projection of naval power in the Red Sea", particularly through claims directed at Eritrean territory, is not simply an economic strategy; it is a political instrument for redirecting domestic frustration outward.

In conclusion, the Prosperity Party's campaign against Eritrea is a naked attempt to externalize a deep-seated domestic crisis and can neither hoodwink its domestic constituency nor the international community.

The irony is profound: a government that has repeatedly violated the sanctity and fundamental principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of neighbouring states cannot simultaneously present itself as the ultimate defender of the regional order. Nor can raw territorial ambition be repackaged as "economic necessity" and presented to the international community as a "legitimate grievance".

Eritrea's sovereignty is not a bargaining chip, nor is it a historical inconvenience to be corrected according to the miscalculations of reckless neighbor. It is an immutable fact of international law and African political history. Duplicious attempts of manufacturing a narrative of encirclement by hostile alliances, and portrayal of the primary initiator of regional tensions as the "the innocent victim" cannot alter that reality.

The Whip cannot strike its prey and concurrently plead for "redress as the aggrieved party!"

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Research and Documentation Division
18 August 2026*



ASMARA MINING SHARE COM-
PANY
Abo Street, No. 178, House No. 16
Gejeret, P.O. Box 10688
Tel. ++291-1-153986
Asmara, Eritrea

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Asmara Mining Share Company is inviting applicants for the following position.

CIL Supervisor Plant Maintenance
Number required – (01)
Type of contract – Definite (2 Years)

Major Duties and responsibilities

- The CIL Maintenance Supervisor is responsible for leading and executing safe, high-quality maintenance activities within the Carbon-In-Leach (CIL) area to ensure plant reliability, availability, and metallurgical performance.
- The role provides frontline supervision of maintenance crews working in the CIL area.

TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREA

- Lead all maintenance activities in strict compliance with site HSE standards and statutory requirements
- Enforce safe work practices including isolations, permits, lock-out/tag-out, and confined space entry
- Ensure correct procedures for working in cyanide areas are always followed
- Participate in incident investigations, risk assessments, and safety improvements
- Conduct toolbox talks and safety interactions daily
- Supervise day-to-day mechanical maintenance activities on CIL circuit equipment including agitators, slurry pumps, pipework, interstage screens, carbon transfer systems, valves, launders, and structural steel, concentrators and kilns.
- Ensure maintenance tasks are executed to required quality and workmanship standards
- Coordinate breakdown response and prioritize work to minimize plant downtime
- Execute planned and preventive maintenance in accordance with the maintenance schedule
- Work closely with Planning to ensure work orders, materials, and resources are available
- Provide accurate feedback on job execution, durations, and defects
- Support shutdown planning and execution for CIL-related maintenance activities

Profile: Qualifications and Experience

Formal Education, Certifications or Equivalents	□ Mechanical trade qualification Specializing in Gold process plants □ Diploma or Advanced Diploma in Mechanical Engineering (desirable).
Working Experience – Nature & Length	□ Minimum 8 -12 years' experience mineral processing environments Especially gold process plants. □ CIL circuits and elution column with additional experience in crushers, mills, conveyors and flotation circuits as well as concentrators, Kilns and smelt house maintenance activities. □ This is a Hands-on position and not an office position.

Technical Skills	□ Strong mechanical knowledge of slurry handling equipment and agitators □ Experience with pumps, gearboxes, bearings, screens, and pipework, Concentrators as in Knelson or Falcon, Metso thickeners and Carbon Screens. □ Understanding of maintenance management systems (PRONTO or similar) □ Ability to read drawings, manuals, and maintenance procedures
Behavioral Skills	□ Strong commitment to safety and disciplined work practices. □ High-quality workmanship with attention to detail. □ Effective communicator with good interpersonal skills. □ Resilient, adaptable, and able to work in multicultural and challenging environments. □ Team player with mentoring and coaching mindset. □ Proactive, initiative-driven, and focused on continuous improvement. □ Reliable, accountable, and able to work independently when required.

General Information and other requirements:

- **Place of Work:** AMSC Sites
- **Type of contract:** Definite Period(2 years)
- **Salary:** As per the Company salary scale

Additional requirements for Nationals:

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

- **Address: Please mail your applications to:**
Asmara Mining Share Company,
P. O. Box 10688 Asmara, Eritrea
- **Applicants shall be required to send a copy to:**
Mineral Resources Management
P.O. Box – 272

- **Asmara**
- **Note to Eritrean applicants:**
- **Please send a copy of your application to**
- **Aliens Employment Permit Affairs,**
- **P. O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea**



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Asmara, Eritrea

VACANCY
ANNOUNCEMENT

Asmara Mining Share Company is inviting applicants for the following position.

Maintenance Mechanical Fitter Plant
Number required – (06)
Type of contract – Definite (2 Years)

Major Duties and responsibilities

- Maintain, repair, and overhaul fixed plant mechanical equipment such as crushers, conveyors, mills, pumps, flotation cells, thickeners, filters and ancillary plant to keep production running safely at target throughput.
- This role involves assisting the Maintenance Supervisor to recruit, train and mentor a Maintenance team who will deliver quality maintenance services to the fixed plant.

TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREA

- Install, maintain, overhaul: jaw crushers, sag and ball mills, apron feeders, conveyors, slurry and water pumps, hydro cyclones, flotation cells, thickeners/rakes, filter press, gearboxes and couplings.
- Shaft alignment with dial gauges/laser, bearing fits, gearbox rebuilds, pump overhauls, coupling alignment to <0.05mm tolerance.
- Change rams, valves, filters, hoses on compactors, gates, clutches.
- Assist with plant upgrades, new conveyor installations, chute changes, pump swaps.
- Plan for major shutdowns and assist maintenance supervisor to raise parts requisitions.
- Regularly check and inspect the material and tools inventory and place orders when needed.
- Perform periodic inspections of recently maintained equipment to observe the performance and the conditions of the equipment.
- Complete work orders, material requests and inspection checklists.
- Mentor and train national fitters on safe maintenance of equipment.
- Any other duties assigned by the supervisor.

Profile: Qualifications and Experience

Formal Education, Certifications or Equivalents	• Trade Certificate/Diploma in Fitting and Turning from a recognized institution. • Any safety certification will be an added advantage
Working Experience – Nature & Length	• Minimum 5 years post trade experience in heavy industry: mining, power or construction as a mechanical fitter. • Familiarity with relevant health and safety standards and regulations.

Technical Skills	• Experience in Slurry Pumps, Crusher, Mills, Conveyor belt and Floatation Cells • Shaft alignment, bearing fitting, hydraulic fitting, pump rebuilds, conveyor maintenance, gearbox rebuilds, reading P&IDs and mechanical drawings • Valid driver's licence
Behavioral Skills	• Safety-first mindset. • High attention to detail for fit-up and tolerances. • Team player able to work with other trades without conflict. • Physically fit and able to work 12-hour shifts, 6-7 days a week depending on workloads and targets • Good communication skills (English) • High level of accuracy • Self-motivation

General Information and other requirements:

- **Place of Work:** AMSC Sites
- **Type of contract:** Definite Period(2 years)
- **Salary:** As per the Company salary scale

Additional requirements for Nationals:

- Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provide evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defense.
- Present clearance paper from current/last employer.
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Asmara
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Please send a copy of your application to
Aliens Employment Permit Affairs,
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Notice

Notice is hereby given that pursuant decision of High Court Zoba Debub Dekemhare rendered on 25/07/2008 under file no. 23/2017 Tirhasena Farm PLC is dissolved as per request of the shareholders conducting all liquidation procedure.

Tirhasena Farm PLC



Nature Treats Nature: A Conversation with Mikal Tewelde

Substituting expensive imported goods with locally available resources continues to be a core Eritrean value. Consequently, young local innovators are increasingly developing home-grown products. Among them is Ms. Mikal Tewelde, whose impressive achievement involves producing a fully organic, homemade hair oil. Eritrea Profile spoke with her to learn about her inspiring journey, passion, achievements, and plans.

By: Kidane Shimendi

Could you please begin by introducing yourself?

I completed my elementary and middle school education in Keren, then joined the 27th round at Sawa to complete my secondary education and fulfill my national service. After taking the matriculation exam, I was admitted to the College of Science at Mai-Nefhi. In 2019, I graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Applied Chemistry. Currently, I work as a laboratory technician at Lem'at Secondary School in Asmara.

Let us talk about your hair care product, which gained significant attention at this year's National Festival.

My product is called Selihom Herbal Hair Oil. It is a premium, 100% natural hair care formulation designed to combat hair thinning, dry scalp, and breakage. It delivers targeted scalp nourishment and offers proven hair growth benefits without synthetic chemicals or harsh additives.

What makes your product unique compared to imported commercial alternatives?

The commercial hair care industry is one of the world's largest markets, and everyone naturally wants healthy, great-looking hair. However, because most commercial products are filled with harmful chemicals and fillers, their long-term damage often outweighs their short-term benefits. In contrast to market alternatives,



Selihom Herbal Hair Oil relies on pure botanical infusions rather than synthetic silicones or mineral oils that cause product buildup. Standard conditioners merely coat the hair shaft without addressing root health, whereas our bioactive herbal extracts penetrate the scalp directly to stimulate circulation and promote hair retention. Furthermore, while imported options remain expensive, our local solution provides a high-quality, affordable alternative.

Which organic ingredients do you use, and what are their specific health benefits?

I use eight key active ingredients alongside two main carrier oils, each selected for its distinct benefits. Rosemary stimulates scalp circulation and promotes cellular renewal, while Neem offers antimicrobial and antifungal support to maintain a clean, itch-free scalp. Clove, rich in eugenol, strengthens

hair follicles and reduces shedding. Moringa is packed with amino acids and antioxidants to fortify weak strands, and Fenugreek provides high protein content to condition roots and add shine. Hibiscus encourages thick growth while preventing premature dryness, Black Seed delivers potent antioxidants to soothe the scalp, and Flaxseed offers rich omega fatty acids for deep, lasting moisture. For carrier bases, I use Sunflower Oil, which is light and rich in Vitamin E—ideal for fine hair—and Olive Oil, an excellent rich moisturizer suited for thicker, dry hair. Selihom Herbal Hair Oil contains no fillers or harsh chemicals, relying solely on the natural power of plants.

What is the story behind your initial initiative and the name of this product?

My daughter was the primary inspiration behind my early

experiments. When she was young, her hair was too weak to grow properly, leading people around us to constantly ask about it. I often covered her head just to avoid their curious questions, and that persistent concern drove me to seek a natural solution. I conducted extensive research into organic ingredients and hair biology, backed by my background in chemistry. After two years of dedicated testing with my daughter as my sole subject, I developed this formulation. The results were remarkable: her scalp soon filled in with healthy, shiny hair. Seeing this transformation, friends and family urged me to prepare the oil for them, which inspired me to market it publicly. I named the product "Selihom" after my daughter, who started it all.

What drove you to manufacture your own product rather than buying market alternatives?

Like many women who care for their hair, I tried countless commercial products over the years. That journey taught me a simple truth: nature treats nature. For natural health needs, we require natural solutions. I have little faith in mass-market products that prioritize corporate profit over genuine results. Many high-end global brands rely on heavy marketing to drive sales regardless of the long-term damage their chemical additives might cause. That reality led me to step away from commercial options and create an authentic, effective alternative.

As a mother of two, a lab technician, and the founder of a growing enterprise, how do you manage these responsibilities?

I believe that with clear focus and hard work, you can achieve any goal. Effective time management and clear priorities are essential. Every evening, I organize my schedule for the following day and stick to that plan disciplinedly, knowing that failing to plan is planning to fail. Beyond personal organization, my husband is the backbone of my efforts. He constantly encourages me to pursue my goals and steps in to care for our children whenever my workload demands it. His continuous support made this initial milestone possible.

How has the public reacted to your product so far?

When I first developed this formulation, I never imagined it would reach so many people.



Mikal Tewelde and her daughter Selihom along the product

Today, receiving calls from customers—especially young men and women—expressing their gratitude and ordering more for their friends brings me immense joy. At the National Festival, visitors showed great interest in the formulation and asked about my scientific background. After learning about the chemistry behind the product, many encouraged me to expand into a broader hair care line. The public response has been deeply inspiring.

What are your plans for Selihom Herbal Hair Oil?

My research is ongoing as I work to develop complementary organic hair care products. Guided by scientific principles, my ultimate goal is to establish a dedicated production facility and shop. Additionally, I hope to inspire other local scientific professionals to explore local manufacturing initiatives.

Do you have a final message for our readers?

I encourage everyone to return to traditional health knowledge by incorporating natural, organic ingredients into daily life. Organic remedies offer safe, long-term health solutions, whereas spending large sums on profit-driven chemical products can lead to costly complications. Focusing on natural resources available in our local environment is key to a healthier future. Finally, I want to express my deepest gratitude to my husband for his continuous inspiration and unwavering support throughout this journey.

Thank you, Ms. Mikal, for sharing your story with us. We wish you continued success in your future endeavors.

