

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP SENDS MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT ISAIAS AFWERKI



President Trump expressed his administration's readiness to re-establish a respectful and productive relationship between the United States and Eritrea, based on "honesty, respect, and opportunities to improve peace and prosperity across the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea."

President Donald Trump sent a letter to President Isaias Afwerki on 30 July, emphasizing his administration's commitment to "reversing the negative and harmful damage of the Biden Administration around the globe."

In his message, President Trump also conveyed his appreciation for the congratulatory letter President Isaias had sent in November last year following his election as the 47th President of the United States.

As recalled, President Isaias Afwerki had sent a warm congratulatory message to President Trump in November 2024, describing his election as a "historic comeback" at a critical time when global peace and stability are of paramount importance.

In his message, President Isaias had expressed hope that President Trump's election would "open a new chapter of fruitful and constructive cooperation between Eritrea and the United States."

ITALIAN HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATION VISITS MASSAWA PORT

The Italian high-level delegation led by Mr. Francesco Lollobrigida, Minister of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forestry, and including Mr. Edmondo Cirielli, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, visited various development sites in the port city of Massawa.

Upon arrival at Massawa International Airport, the delegation was warmly welcomed by Mr.

Tewolde Kelati, Minister of Marine Resources.

The delegation laid a wreath at the Massawa Italian Soldiers Cemetery.

During their visit to the Port of Massawa and the ship repair centre, the delegation received a briefing on the historical background of the port, the services it provided, the expansion activities undertaken after independence, and its current

operational capacity.

In the meeting held with Minister Tewolde Kelati, discussions focused on prospects for strengthening investment in the marine sector. The delegation also received a video presentation highlighting Eritrea's rich marine resources and the ongoing renovation activities carried out using internal capacity.

The delegation also visited Dese Island.



7TH ANNUAL NCEA CONFERENCE CONVENES

The 7th National Council of Eritrean Americans (NCEA) convened on 29 July in the city of Rafaele under the theme "United in Purpose, Strong in Voice – Safeguarding National Sovereignty." The conference was opened with a welcoming speech by Ms. Rim Tesfaselasie and Ms. Adalia Samuel, Chairpersons of the Conference Coordinators.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Berhane Gebrehiwet, Chargé d'Affaires at the Eritrean Embassy, said that the conference is of particular significance as it is taking place at a time when Eritrea has achieved various diplomatic and political victories and has become a major

partner in ensuring regional peace and stability.

Highlighting the importance of strengthening organizational capacity and unity to succeed in national development and resilience efforts, Mr. Berhane expressed his hope that the conference would design viable programs and adopt resolutions to support the national development agenda.

Ms. Hadinet Keleta, Head of Public and Community Affairs, introduced the objectives and agenda of the conference and expressed her expectation that participants would enrich the sessions with ideas and practical resolutions.

The event featured a fashion show depicting Eritrea's ethnic groups, along with music and drama performances by Hidri youth born in the diaspora.

Reports with statistical data were presented by PFDJ organizations and the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Hidri, followed by extensive discussions among participants.

Eritrean-American Nahom Alem, a Space Rocket Engineer who was awarded as "Best Black Space Engineer" last year, and Mr. Al-Nur Humed, head of Consular Affairs, gave briefings focusing on their experiences.



TRAINING FOR HEADS OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BRANCH IN ANSEBA REGION

The Ministry of Education branch in the Anseba Region, in collaboration with partners, has provided training to heads of education regional offices, supervisors, school directors, heads of sub-zonal education offices, and other officials.

The training, conducted from 22 to 28 July in Keren, covered administration and leadership, student-centered teaching methodology, conflict resolution, reporting and statistics, as well as other topics related to the teaching-learning process.

Mr. Kiflai Andemicael, head of the education office in the region, stated that the objective of the training was to identify strengths and challenges, and to enhance the capacity and competitiveness of students.

Ambassador Abdella Musa, Governor of the region, emphasized the significance of the training in ensuring quality education and called for its sustainability.

In the same vein, Brig. Gen. Eyob Fesehay (Halibai), Commander of the Western Command of the Eritrean Defense Forces, conducted a seminar for the training participants under the theme "The Compensation of a Committed Teacher is the Satisfaction of Conscience."

Noting that teachers and teaching are key pillars of resilience, Brig. Gen. Eyob underscored that education is the only development path and called on teachers to discharge the heavy responsibility bestowed upon them properly.

INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT ISAIAS AFWERKI:

ON key Regional and National Issues ^{2nd & last segment-} Domestic issues

President Isaias Afwerki sat down with national media outlets on July 23, 2025 to key insights into regional and national issues, including his perspectives on the Sudan conflict, the nation's National Priority Development Programmes, and Eritrea's approach to Diplomatic and Media Work. The wide-ranging second part interview delved into timely regional and domestic issues. Excerpts of the last part of the Wednesday, July 23, interview follow.

Q. Mr. President, we will now shift our focus to domestic issues. You had repeatedly emphasized that development is Eritrea's highest national priority; under any circumstances. You also mentioned a new phase of national development programs is set to be launched in the second half of this year which will be implemented through extensive public participation in all the six regions. Can you elaborate on these plans?

PIA: The subject is broad and multifaceted, but let me begin by emphasizing the importance of defining our national priorities clearly and pragmatically. Over the years, we have launched a range of development initiatives with varying degrees of success and complexity. We have gleaned valuable lessons from these experiences which will, in turn, guide our current approach.

At the forefront is agriculture. Increasing agricultural production across all categories such as cereals, pulses as well horticulture is a central pillar of the programme. The objective is not just to increase output, but to do so in a measurable and impactful way. This is anchored in the fact that Eritrea already

possesses substantial natural potential: vast arable land, ample water resources, and access to modern technologies. We need not go into lengthy details on mapping out specific crops in accordance with ecological advantages of each region here; but it is the foundation upon which our development efforts rest.

We are also working to revive and expand cotton cultivation, a long-standing initiative dating back to colonial times. The goal is to establish a chain of integrated industry—from cotton farming to textile production and garment manufacturing. Areas such as Kerkebet, Marsa Gulbub, Marsa Teklai, Asra, Teseney, and Ali Gidir are well suited for this purpose. The approach will be incremental starting from small projects which will expand to extensive programs with time.

A similar integrated approach will be taken, in due time, with other key crops, such as sugarcane, each tailored to specific regional conditions. All these programmes will be pursued within specific and quantifiable output indicators as well as rigorous implementation timelines.

Another major area of focus is our marine resources, which remains significantly underutilized. The Red Sea's rich fish stocks, particularly in Eritrean waters, remain largely untapped. Indeed, the annual Maximum Sustainable Yield in Eritrea for all the different species of fish is estimated between 80,000-120,000 tons. Perhaps, most of these may not be the most expensive or high-value species. What we have harvested in the past years may be minimal in contrast to the latent potential.

Indeed, although various facilities were built in areas like Edi, Tio, and Gel'alo, these centers have suffered from critical shortages: water, electricity, and transport facilities. The challenge now is not to dwell on the past but to look forward to increase overall productivity. In this perspective, upgrading and furnishing these areas with reliable utilities is now a key component of our broader plan to develop the fishing sector on a national scale.



Scaling up our agricultural and fisheries productivity will have vital impact on economic growth, which transcends food self-sufficiency or a narrow interpretation of food-security that we have never entertained as an end in itself in philosophical terms. Our objective has always been and remains augmented surplus production that goes beyond the requirements of national consumption. These programmes will require rigorous and functional ecological data accumulation and analysis; building of dams of appropriate sizes across all the country; as well as vigorous afforestation and catchment-area treatment through an integrated and comprehensive national plan of action.

Water Storage

Water storage is an indispensable enabler of both agricultural productivity and land restoration. Our strategy involves the construction of large, medium, and small dams, and extensive water harvesting systems, both in highlands and lowlands, to enrich groundwater and capture seasonal runoff. This includes managing floodwater, exploring the use of seawater, and even recycling wastewater. To make all this effective, modern and efficient distribution systems are critical; for agriculture and livestock, all household consumption etc.

We are also moving towards modern irrigation. Traditional rain-fed farming practices consume far more water and are inefficient. Pilot projects using water-efficient irrigation systems are already underway. What is important is that we are not simply importing technology – we're innovating and adapting systems to our own context, using natural gradients and gravity, where

feasible, to maximize water-use efficiency.

Energy Development

Reliable electricity supply is crucial across all sectors. The prevalent energy supply system consisted of a national grid in Hirgigo with 120MW aggregate output supplemented with several, localized, power supply installations. The current expansion plan does not envisage a new nation-wide grid. We are developing 12 regional mini-grids, a hybrid system, powered by a mix of thermal and renewable sources, primarily solar energy. Each grid will initially have a capacity of 30 megawatts (MW), amounting to a combined starting capacity of 360 MW. Over time, these grids will transition to predominantly solar-based systems, especially in regions with high solar potential.

The distribution network must also be modernized to ensure continuous and reliable service for agriculture, industry, and households alike. In doing so, we aim to complement imported technologies with domestic innovation to increase reliability and reduce costs.

Housing and Urban Planning

The central kernel of national development is raising the standard and quality of life of the citizens. In this respect, housing remains a critical challenge, particularly in urban areas. Sub-standard and make-shift housing structures in various rural areas must be replaced by appropriate facilities while also addressing acute housing shortages in urban areas. This is being pursued in tandem with job creation and infrastructure development. Previous housing projects – some of which were delayed

or left incomplete – are being reviewed and reactivated, with a focus on design, sustainability, and access to essential services. Implementation of these programmes will be expedited henceforth as part and parcel of our short-term national developmental priorities.

Social Services

Equally vital are education, health, and social welfare. We are undertaking a comprehensive review of the education system – from kindergarten to higher education – to improve both quality and relevance. Human capital is our most valuable resource – more so than land, water, or technology.

The health sector must also be strengthened. Even though facilities exist in many parts of the country, including Referral Hospitals in all the regions, their coverage and effectiveness need to be significantly improved, particularly in remote and underserved areas. Emergency preparedness, public health networks/preventive care, and the cultivation of trained professionals must be prioritized.

With regard to social welfare, support will continue for those unable to work due to disability or illness. However, and even if the magnitude remains small, we must move away from policy precepts and models that perpetuate dependency. The focus will be on expanding employment opportunities, so individuals can lead dignified and self-sufficient lives. Longstanding programs such as “food for work” have been helpful, but they too require restructuring and a longer-term perspective.

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Transportation Infrastructure

A functional transportation system is indispensable for effective implementation of all development programs. Without reliable roads and transit networks, economic activity falters. Many of our roads are narrow, winding, and heavily burdened. There is an urgent need to upgrade major highways and expand road access, especially in remote regions.

The transport of people and goods, particularly agricultural produce, is essential for market integration and price stability. We have already procured a significant number of buses, but more are needed. Efficient freight transport is needed to prevent supply bottlenecks/artificial shortages, inflated prices, and other barriers to economic growth.

More importantly and as I emphasize earlier, all our projects must be carried out within a measurable framework and clear timeframe of implementation. In this connection, Regional Administrations will take responsibility to implement the national development projects within their respective regions. Community participation is critical for the success and ownership of these programmes. The Defence Forces will contribute in the implementation of large infrastructural programmes. The Diaspora can also participate in the development programmes through investment in accordance with appropriate modalities.

Q. Mr. President, tangible measures are being taken to address shortcomings and bottlenecks in the energy sector. You have also mentioned the programmes underway to address housing as well as transport issues. Could you elaborate further on the delays and current implementation status of transportation projects?

PIA: Transportation, both public and freight, is a complex and essential component of our development strategy. When we talk about inner-city mobility, we are not referring solely to taxis; a functioning public transport requires a diverse fleet of buses, suited to different terrains and road conditions. Reliable, around-the-clock service demands a robust support system: garages, spare parts, maintenance facilities, and logistics coordination.

Freight transport is even more urgent. Farmers must have affordable and reliable means to get their goods to market. At present, due to inadequate transport, prices skyrocket as goods move from rural production centers to urban markets. Areas like Haykota and Teseney face near-complete transport shortages, further straining livelihoods and limiting economic opportunity.

We must also strengthen our capacity to modify and assemble vehicles locally, especially four-wheel-drive models suited for a rugged topography. This initiative is taken seriously and is already underway. But it is not a simple task. Effective transport requires the coordination of many elements – vehicles, roads, trained personnel, and long-term equipment sustainability.

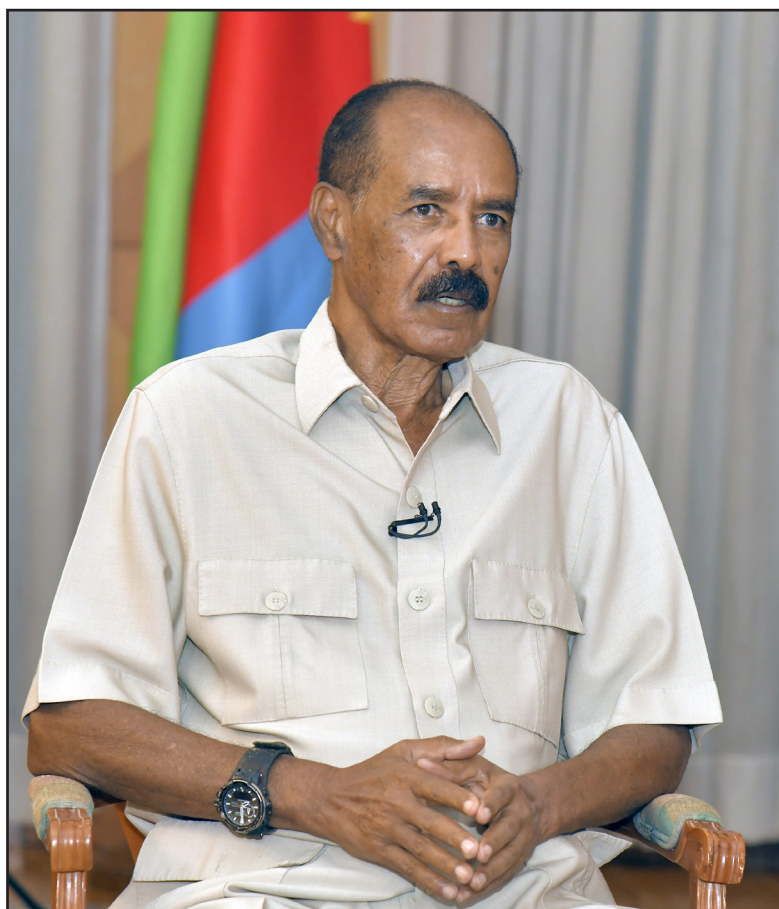
As for efficient transport networks related with export, it does have the same urgency at this point in time. Our immediate priority is to guarantee domestic distribution of goods at fair and stable prices. Until we bridge the transportation gap, advances in production will not translate into tangible improvements in the lives of our citizens.

Q. In your Independence Day message, you placed emphasis on diplomacy, media, and politics in navigating today's fluid global and regional environment. How do you assess Eritrea's current diplomatic and media engagements, especially in the region? What steps are envisaged to strengthen it more?

PIA: Let us start with preoccupying problems close to home. As I emphasized earlier, Eritrea has no desire for, and has never been a proponent of, war. Indeed, it has no reason whatsoever to be embroiled in war. We believe in addressing provocations early before they spiral.

True diplomacy begins with clarity of purpose and principle. Real diplomacy means avoiding escalations, and refusing to be drawn into reckless rhetoric or conflict.

As I have said before, foreign interference – whether from the UAE or others – does not benefit anyone. Our position remains that the people of Sudan, Ethiopia, and neighboring countries must be the ones to resolve their own internal crises. Too often, external actors, under the guise of humanitarian intervention, pursue economic interest, influence, or control,



and only end up exacerbating conflicts rather than resolving them.

We believe in constructive, cooperative, and proactive diplomacy. Needless to emphasize, Eritrea has its own road-map of diplomacy for constructive engagement in the wider neighborhood as well as the world at large.

In this respect, we must nurture a shared understanding across the region: the Horn of Africa, the Nile Basin, the Red Sea, and the Gulf. This is predicated on promoting overall stability and enhancing the common agendas of complementarity and integration. Our neighbors – Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Djibouti, Somalia, and South Sudan – must be part of a broader strategic framework. Regional organizations like IGAD and the African Union have roles to play, but our efforts must also focus beyond these institutions to cultivate direct bilateral and multilateral engagement.

We must also reassess continuously how we interact with global powers: the United States, Europe, China, and Russia. Take Italy, for instance: our relationship has evolved steadily, and a government delegation is expected to visit soon. An agreement on which we have been working for a long time could be signed.

Needless to emphasize, international partnerships must move beyond bilateral transactions; they must contribute meaningfully to regional stability and development.

Media and Strategic Communication

We must transition from a defensive stance to an active, strategic communications approach – one that clearly and assertively articulates our vision and priorities across both traditional and digital media platforms. We need to evaluate the impact of our messaging, enhance our technical and human capacity, and build a media network that functions in parallel and enhances our diplomatic efforts.

This requires serious institutional support: dedicated research and strategic centers that monitor international developments, analyze misinformation, and guide our strategic positioning. Our media institutions must evolve from being reactive defenders to proactive drivers of our national narrative.

Assertive and principled media will have its dividends and reinforce our diplomatic engagements. In this acrimonious and highly competitive environment, we cannot remain complacent. These are not peripheral issues. They are core national priorities that must be pursued with seriousness and sustained focus.

LOCAL NEWS

CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS AUGMENTING MARTYRS TRUST FUND

The Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare reported that nationals inside the country and abroad have extended financial support to augment the National Martyrs Trust Fund.

Accordingly, nationals in south-west Stockholm contributed 33,000 Kroner; the Eritrean community in Sundsvall and its environs contributed 25,000 Kroner; nationals in Norrköping contributed 13,000 Kroner; the Eritrean community in Älmhult contributed 5,000 Kroner; and members of the 'Nakfa Hidri Martyrs' contributed 5,000 Kroner.

Similarly, nationals in Los Angeles, including Priest Teklehaimanot Kiflezgi and his spouse Ms. Abrehatsion Asgedom, contributed 1,000 Dollars, while Mr. Haile Mihreteab, Mr. Ambassador Berhane, and Mr. Yohannes Abraham collectively contributed 700 Dollars towards enhancing the National Martyrs Trust Fund.

Likewise, the National Confederation of Eritrean Workers contributed 96,000 Nakfa; the Eritrean community in Sundsvall and its environs contributed another 25,000 Kroner; the Eritrean cooperative association in Linköping contributed 15,000 Kroner; and nationals in Norway, Ms. Semhar Habtemicael and Mr. Daniel Gebremeskel, contributed 10,188 Nakfa. Nationals in Sweden, Ms. Tsigehana Keleta and Ms. Beilul Tsegai, contributed 5,760 Kroner; Mr. Siem Yemane contributed 1,900 Kroner; and Ms. Freweini Teklu contributed 1,400 Kroner. Youth members of the Kidane Mihret Association in Edmonton, Canada, contributed 1,000 Dollars; Mr. Temesgen Kifletsion, a resident of Angola, contributed 720 Dollars; and nationals in Leiden and its environs in the Netherlands contributed 5,040 Euros in support of families of martyrs.



Unlocking a New Frontier: The Inspiring Prospect of Ostrich Farming in Eritrea

Kidanemariam Feday

Ostrich farming presents a promising opportunity for agricultural diversification and could become a new frontier in Eritrea's development strategy. Ostriches require relatively low amount of water and feed compared to other farm animals, making them well-suited for arid and semi-arid regions. They offer high-value products such as meat, leather and feathers, which can serve both domestic and international markets.

The establishment of ostrich farms could lead to significant socio-economic gains, including job creation, enhanced food production and increased income generation for rural communities. By raising the public's awareness about the benefits of ostrich farms and providing assistance in the form of access to finance, training and marketing, ostrich farming could be instrumental in motivating entrepreneurs and the youth to explore this untapped sector. Considering Eritrea's commitment to innovation and self-sustained development, it has the potential to flourish—transforming lives and contributing meaningfully to the national economy.

Ostriches roam freely in Gash Barka and the Northern and Southern Red Sea regions. These regions offer ideal climate and terrain for ostrich farming. Eritrea's wild ostrich population, a testament to the country's rich bio-diversity, is large and untapped. It is an abundant untapped resource. The protection of the wild ostriches can be ensured through conservation while their use for commercial purposes can be ensured through breeding at ostrich farms, a promising sector that offers a unique opportunity to leverage natural resources for sustainable growth, employment and tourism.

Ostriches are remarkable creatures endowed with valuable products. Lean, low in cholesterol, and high in protein, an ostrich's meat is considered a healthy alternative to red meat and has a growing demand in the international market. An ostrich's egg is big, equivalent to 24 chicken eggs, and prized for its nutritional value and culinary uniqueness, and its feather is a luxury item used in fashion, décor, and as a ceremonial attire. An ostrich's leather is known for its durability and unique texture that is used in high

end fashion and accessories. Ostrich leather products can be developed into premium products for export by adding value through processing industries, creating a reliable means of generating much needed hard currency for Eritrea.

Ostrich farms are not just agricultural ventures; they can become centers of learning, recreation and tourism. The farms could be made to have observation towers and eco-educational exhibits, making them uniquely attractive that maximize visitors' satisfaction. Thus, Eritreans at home and in the diaspora as well as expat tourists could enjoy guided ostrich farm tours. The farm tours may include the observation of feed preparation areas, incubation rooms, chick nurseries and adult ostrich enclosures. Visitors can watch and feed the ostriches, learning about these fascinating birds up close. They can also enjoy ostrich-themed cuisines at the farms and visit the egg painting and craft workshops, and the farm boutiques.

Ostrich farming offers employment and skill building opportunities for the local community, who can learn how to raise ostriches and engage in giving hospitality services. Special emphasis could be placed on training the youth and women to ensure an inclusive growth. In addition to providing direct employment, ostrich farming creates opportunities for local artisans to make handcrafts using ostrich eggshells, feathers and bones that can be sold to tourists and exported.

Ostrich can be added to the community's diet, providing nourishment and extra options the country's menu has to offer. Of course, it is not easy to change peoples' eating habits instantly. So, to successfully introduce the community to ostrich products, it's essential to have campaigns

to raise people's awareness about the nutritional benefits of ostrich meat and eggs through cooking demonstrations and local tasting events. If this is done rigorously, people are likely to gradually become familiar and comfortable with these foods. Ostrich meat and eggs need to be integrated into traditional dishes and community leaders involved in the campaigns to help build public confidence in the new product. And providing affordable access through small scale farming projects and local markets ensures availability, while offering training and support encourages people to use ostrich products sustainably.

These steps create a positive and culturally sensitive path to making ostrich products valued and regular parts of the community's diet. The introduction of ostrich farming into the country's agriculture will also enhance food diversity and contribute to food security.

Leading the world by producing over 65% of global ostrich products, including meat, leather, and feathers, South Africa is the world's powerhouse in ostrich farming and a model for agriculture and economic success in Africa. Centered around Oudtshoorn in the Western Cape, the country raises more than 150,000 ostriches annually and sustains over 20,000 jobs in farming, processing, leather crafting and tourism. Exports contribute millions of dollars to South Africa's economy each year. Many farms have expanded into ostrich-based safari tourism by blending agriculture with eco-tourism, offering interactive experiences that attract thousands of visitors. Tourists enjoy ostrich rides, egg art, leather goods, and educational tours. Through strong local value addition, sustainable farming practices, and strategic export development, South Africa has created a thriving,



globally competitive industry that can inspire similar ventures across Africa.

The development of ostrich farms in Eritrea will trigger a series of ancillary industries: feed production, veterinary services, leather processing plants, meat packaging and preservation units, tourism-related services (lodges, restaurants, craft markets). This creates a multiplier effect, stimulating economic activity beyond the farm gates. Infrastructure, transportation and service giving sectors would experience positive spillovers as the industry grows.

Ostrich farming in Eritrea can benefit tremendously from the infrastructure the government has been building. The government has invested heavily on the construction of dams, roads and power supply in regions that are suitable for ostrich farms. Gahtelai strategic dam is set to become a crucial water reservoir for the surrounding plains, providing much needed irrigation and potable water. For ostrich farming, a reliable access to water means having the potential to grow crops and green feed that form the backbone of an ostrich

diet and raising healthier birds that are essential for commercial scale production. Ostriches are generally resilient but thrive best when they have a consistent water supply and nutrient rich feed.

The success of ostrich farming as an industry requires strong institutional framework; research on ostrich behavior, breeding and health; startup fund, accessible training programs and veterinary support. Small farmers can benefit by working together to reduce costs, access markets efficiently and develop feed plans that make best use of local resources, building small scale processing facilities and motivating local craftsmanship using ostrich leather, feather and egg.

The prospective development of ostrich farming in Eritrea is more than a business opportunity – it is a vision for inclusive, sustainable and forward thinking economic development. By capitalizing on our natural assets and learning from global best practices, Eritrea can build a thriving ostrich industry that uplifts communities, strengthens food security and showcases the country's ingenuity in the international arena. This inspiring initiative stands as a beacon of innovation and resilience, proving that even in the most untapped areas lies the potential for extraordinary transformation.

Ostrich farming is a novel income generating opportunity that helps diversify the agriculture sector, complements eco-tourism and supports rural development. By tapping into this high-value niche, Eritrea can create sustainable livelihoods and reduce dependency on traditional exports.



Development

Afambo Boarding School: A Catalyst for Change

Habtom Tesfamichael

Eritrea places a high value on education, channeling significant investment into developing and providing quality education across the nation. This stems from a vision to build a skilled human capital essential for Eritrea's development, with a particular focus to remote areas that had minimal access to formal education. The endeavor includes the establishment of boarding schools in communities that are scattered in settlements.

Several boarding schools have been set up in various parts of the country, and many are strategically located in the Southern Red Sea region, an area given particular attention due to the vast distances between settlements. In such challenging terrains, students often struggle to continue their education, especially as they advance to higher grades such as secondary school. To cater to the needs of junior and senior secondary students, Afambo Boarding School (ABS) was established in Central Denkalia sub-zone in 2003.

Mohammed Edo Abdurahman, Director of the Central Denkalia Bureau of Education, says they are now focusing on equipping the schools in Central Denkalia with modern facilities and providing quality education to improve student performance in the national examination.

The performance of students is improving due to the regular tutorials provided in cooperation with the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students. However, challenges persist. Mr. Mohammed Edo identifies wastage of time at the start of the school year, a high rate of student absenteeism, and inadequate English language proficiency as the main factors affecting students' performance, particularly in the eighth-grade national examination.

To address these issues, Mr. Mohammed said, an exam has been introduced for students promoted to the sixth grade, the beginning of junior secondary education, which lasts three years. At the end of grade eight, students sit for the national exam, after which they join senior secondary schools. The exam, Mr. Mohammed asserted, helped them identify the problems affecting students' performance, which the schools used to draft performance improvement plans that led to a significant increase in the passing rate of students in national

examinations.

Founded to provide education for disadvantaged children, including orphans and children of nomads and those from low-income families, ABS addresses critical education gaps in one of Eritrea's most underdeveloped regions. Its holistic approach extends beyond traditional academics, integrating life skills, health, and environmental education, along with robust student support systems like counseling and health services.

ABS demonstrates a remarkable academic success. For instance, out of 76 students who sat for the National Matriculation examination last year, 10 percent scored the required grades to go to college. This is an impressive performance considering the remoteness of the area and other challenges students face.

ABS catalyzes broader socio-economic development. It has helped improve health outcomes and plays a vital role in empowering girls within the community. Its multi-stakeholder governance, involving government and local community representatives, fosters a resilient and transparent financial management that is crucial for its sustained operations.

A unique aspect of the schools in Central Denkalia is that many of the teachers were former students of the schools. This is particularly important due to the need for mother-tongue teachers who can teach in the Afar language. To help secure a sufficient number of teachers whose mother-tongue is Afar, local individuals are recruited and provided with the necessary training.

Mr. Mohammed voiced concern about the lack of female teachers in the sub-zone, which negatively impacts female enrollment and advancement to higher grades in schools. Out of the 2200 students enrolled this year, only about 8.2% are female, and this number tends to decrease in higher grades. To motivate girls to go to school, the Ministry of Education (MoE) bureau in the sub-zone, in cooperation with the local administration, gives a regional award known as 'Fiema' to students who excel academically.

Originally, ABS was intended to serve 200 students. However, it could not adequately accommodate the growing number of students. A new junior high school has been opened to cater to residents, particularly those who live in the Afambo administration area, which is home to

most of the subzone's students. ABS itself now accommodates primarily students from across the sub-zone who have no other alternatives.

Due to the growing number of students it's receiving, ABS is now facing some shortcomings, including a shortage of classrooms, dormitories, an adequate kitchen, and teachers' living quarters. Preparations are now complete to address these issues, with the necessary materials in place. The plan includes adding seven classrooms, teachers' residences, and sanitation rooms. In 2003, there were only five sections, but the school now teaches 12 sections, necessitating an upgrade of old and damaged buildings and facilities and the addition of new ones. "We are continuing the teaching process by turning dormitory rooms into classrooms," Mr. Mohammed Edo explains. "Students whose residence is not far from the school come daily, while those from remote areas are allowed to stay in the dormitories."

ABS boasts a comprehensive array of facilities designed to support both the academic and residential needs of its students. These include multiple classrooms, dormitories for its full boarding students, a library, a dining hall, and sports fields. As a whole boarding school, these facilities are central to providing a complete living and learning environment, ensuring students have access to all necessary resources within the school premises.

Crucially, the school has reliable access to clean water and adequate sanitation facilities. These are fundamental provisions, particularly in a boarding environment and a region where such infrastructure can be limited, directly impacting student health and hygiene. The quality and availability of these facilities directly influence student well-being, health, and their capacity to learn.

ABS now also has its energy source: a solar system, along with a digital library that has significantly reduced the shortage of printed materials. This allows students to utilize cellphones for educational

purposes. The original solar system, installed eight years ago with the help of the Ministry of Health, requires some replacements and repairs. In cooperation with the school committee, local administration, and the National Union of Eritrean Women, the school has successfully expanded its solar power capacity. The water system is secure with a supply line powered by a solar pumping system. In case of any interruption, a water truck is on standby, a critical provision in an area like the Denakil depression, known for its unforgiving temperatures often exceeding 40 degrees Celsius.

Mr. Mohammed asserts that without the boarding school, students in the region would not have continued their education due to the scattered nature of settlements and the nomadic lifestyle of the communities. Many teachers, health professionals, and clerks in various public offices in the Southern Red Sea region are former students of Afambo Boarding School, a testament to its long-term impact. The MoE provides all necessary teaching materials, including teachers, textbooks, lab instruments, stationery, and other facilities.

Despite its successes, ABS faces significant challenges exacerbated by its remote location, which creates logistical difficulties and contributes to high staff turnover. Cultural barriers, such as early marriage and nomadic lifestyle, also present ongoing obstacles to student enrollment and retention.

Nevertheless, the impact of ABS extends significantly beyond academic performance, demonstrating a powerful multiplier effect on socio-economic development in the region. By providing a structured and nurturing educational environment, ABS plays a pivotal role in addressing critical educational gaps in an area characterized by low literacy.

One of ABS's most direct socio-economic contributions is the reduction in the number of children



Mr. Mohammed Edo Abdurahman

who stay out of school. By offering a safe and appealing alternative, the school enables children to attend classes and focus on their education rather than being compelled to work. Health outcomes within the student population have also notably improved due to comprehensive hygiene education provided by the school and the consistent provision of balanced meals, which has led to reduced malnutrition among students.

Perhaps one of the most transformative impacts is the school's contribution to the empowerment of girls. This is particularly impactful in a region where cultural barriers such as early marriage pose significant obstacles to girls' education and overall development. By providing a safe and supportive environment for girls to pursue their education, ABS mitigates the impact of these deeply ingrained cultural practices.

These explicit outcomes—reduced number of children that stay out of school, improved health outcomes, and the empowerment of girls—are direct contributions to critical social development indicators. ABS is not just educating individuals; it is a catalyst for broader social change, improving public health, promoting gender equality, and breaking cycles of poverty. It serves as a powerful example of how a well-designed educational intervention can be a primary driver for comprehensive socio-economic development and social transformation in marginalized communities.

The success of ABS suggests that evaluating educational initiatives in developing regions should include a broader set of socio-economic indicators, such as health improvements, gender equality, and child protection, in addition to traditional academic metrics, as these often represent the most profound and sustainable impacts.

Overall, there are fifteen schools in Central Denkalia -- 12 elementary schools, two elementary and junior secondary schools, and one junior and senior secondary school. There have been 2200 students enrolled at all levels in the 2024-2025 academic year, and the enrollment of female students has been steadily growing.





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

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VACANCY

ANNOUNCEMENT

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

1. **Position: Systems Engineer**
Department: FITS - IT
Number required: One (01)

Primary Purpose

- Provides a reliable and scalable technology foundation upon which business applications and services are built and delivered.
- Ensures the stability, integrity, security, and efficient operation of the in-house and cloud-based information systems that support core company functions.

Main Functions

- System Administration and Maintenance.
- Performance Tuning and Optimization
- Security and Compliance
- Backup, Disaster Recovery, and Business Continuity
- Tier 3 Technical Support
- Proactive Monitoring and Advanced Troubleshooting
- Documentation

Unique requirements/other information

- A Systems Engineer must excel in designing, integrating, and managing complex IT systems to ensure seamless functionality. They need strong problem-solving skills to troubleshoot issues across hardware, software, and networks. Additionally, effective communication is crucial for collaborating with cross-functional teams and stakeholders.

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
○ Bachelor’s degree in computer science and/or Engineering. ○ IT related certifications with 2 years of experience, or 3 years of experience in IT fields.	○ 2 Years Data administrator experience in an enterprise environment. ○ 3 Years as an IT Administrator.
Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills

- **Operating Systems:** Good-level knowledge of Windows Server (2016/2019/2022) including Active Directory, Group Policy, DNS, DHCP.
- **Virtualization Platforms:** Good experience with VMware vSphere (ESXi, vCenter) or Microsoft Hyper-V and resource management.
- **Cloud Computing:** Hands-on experience with at least one major cloud provider (AWS, Microsoft Azure).
- **Scripting and Automation:** Knowledge in scripting, PowerShell for Windows environments and Bash or Python for Linux environments are essential.
- **Storage Technologies:** Better understanding of SAN and NAS with experience managing storage arrays.
- **Networking Fundamentals:** Strong knowledge of TCP/IP, routing, switching, VLANs, and firewall concepts. The Systems Engineer must be able to collaborate effectively with Network Engineer.
- **Backup and Recovery Software:** Experience with enterprise backup solutions like Veeam.
- **Analytical Problem-Solving:** Ability to logically and methodically troubleshoot complex, mission-critical technical issues under pressure.
- **Communication:** Excellent verbal and written communication skills. Must be able to explain highly technical concepts to both technical peers and non-technical stakeholders.
- **Collaboration and Teamwork:** Works effectively with other IT teams (Networking, third party, management, Help Desk) and business units.
- **Ownership and Accountability:** Takes ownership of assigned systems and projects from inception to completion.
- **Adaptability and Continuous Learning:** Demonstrates a passion for technology and a commitment to continuous learning to keep skills current in a rapidly changing field.
- **Time Management and Prioritization:** Ability to manage multiple projects and urgent support tickets simultaneously

General Information and other requirements:

- **Place of Work:** Bisha.
- **Salary:** As per Company salary scale.
- **Type of Contract:** Indefinite
-

Additional requirements for Nationals:

- **Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provide evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defense.**
- **Present clearance paper from current/last employer.**
- **Testimonial documents to be attached (CV, work experience credentials, a copy of your National Identity Card etc.).**
- **Only shortlisted applicants will be considered as potential candidates for an interview.**
- **Application documents will not be returned to sender.**
- **All applications should be sent through the post office.**
- **Deadline for application: 10 days from the day of publication in the Newspaper.**

Address: Please mail your applications to: -
Bisha Mining Share Company,
P. O. Box 4276 Asmara, Eritrea

Note to Eritrean applicants:

- Please send a copy of your application to:
1. Aliens Employment permits Affairs,
P. O. Box 7940
Asmara, Eritrea.
 2. Mineral Resources Management
P. O. Box 272
Asmara, Eritrea



ASMARA MINING SHARE COMPANY
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;

PLC Programmer
Number required – (1)
Type of contract – Definite For 2years

- Major Duties and responsibilities**
- The PLC programmer is responsible for providing dedicated technical and operational support to the plant.
 - The role requires strong PLC programming skills and field instrumentation exposure to design, program and maintain PLC and DCS based control systems in an efficient, safe, and reliable manner.
 - Ensuring KPI's that facilitate sustained and productive operations are delivered.
 - This role exists to optimize production, minimize downtime, and integrate instrumentation with control systems, ensuring seamless operation in the fixed plant.
 - This person will report to the Process Plant Electrical and Instrumentation Maintenance Superintendent and assist with various technical and administrative functions.

TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS

- Analyse plant control narratives (process descriptions, logic sequences, interlocks, P&IDs) to identify gaps, inefficiencies, or failures in automation logic, then propose and implement PLC program optimizations for enhanced performance, safety, and reliability.
- Design, configure, and sustain SCADA systems to effectively monitor and control plant operations, ensuring optimal performance and reliability.
- Manage SCADA alarms, optimizing alarm configurations to eliminate nuisance alerts and enhance system responsiveness.
- Optimize **control loops (PID tuning)** for better process efficiency.
- Develop and maintain comprehensive documentation for all control system modifications, including the creation and updating of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to ensure consistent and compliant implementation of changes.
- Work closely with **process engineers, plant/control room operators, electrical teams, and maintenance personnel** to improve plant automation efficiency.
- Provide **training to operators and technicians** on new/existing control systems.
- Designs, implements, and maintains industrial network infrastructure (Ethernet/IP, Profinet, Profibus, Modbus, OPC UA) to support seamless data exchange across PLCs, DCS, and field devices.
- Ensure the continuous operation and security of plant automation servers through proactive monitoring and maintenance.
- Maintain and enhance the plant's CCTV surveillance and automatic fire protection systems to mitigate risks and uphold safety standards.
- Optimize PLC/DCS spare parts inventory by tracking usage patterns and obsolescence trends, ensuring cost-effective stock levels while safeguarding plant uptime.
- Install, calibrate, troubleshoot, and maintain **field instruments** (pressure transmitters, temperature sensors, flow meters, level indicators, control valves, etc.).
- Ensure compliance with quality, health and safety rules, guidelines, and regulations.

Profile: Qualifications and Experience

- Formal Education, Certifications or Equivalents**
- Bachelors' Degree in instrumentation/Electrical Engineering
 - Technician diploma in instrumentation & control
 - Apprenticeship trained instrumentation technician.
- Working Experience – Nature & Length**
- 5+ years' experience instrumentation experience in world class mining and metallurgical processing plants.
 - 2+ years' experience as a system integrator
 - Extensive expertise in PLCs, DCS, HMI, and SCADA systems.
 - Exceptional knowledge of Fieldbus networks: Profibus, Modbus, Profinet, fiber optic & Ethernet.
 - Excellent problem-solving skills and the ability to diagnose and resolve complex technical issues.
 - Able to read and interpret engineering drawings & control narratives
 - Experience working in a multinational setup.

- Technical Skills**
- Strong understanding of industry standards: ISA, IEC, ISO
 - Excellent knowledge of concentrator plant control systems
 - Exceptional knowledge of plant instrumentation systems.
 - In depth knowledge of hydraulics & pneumatics.
 - Valid Driver's License.
 - Ability to analyze data collected from instruments and use it for troubleshooting.
 - Proactive and Self driven; ability to work with minimum supervision.

- Behavioral Skills**
- Strong Supervisory skills. Get things done attitude.
 - Safety leadership by example.
 - Excellent Interpersonal skills.
 - Ability to work under pressure.
 - Ability to work toward strict deadlines.
 - Commitment to deliver on agreed targets.
 - Strong team player, work ethic and commitment to win.
 - Highly organized and efficient in approaching tasks.
 - Demonstrated team building and mentoring skills.

- General Information and other requirements:**
- ☐ **Place of Work:** AMSC Site
 - ☐ **Type of contract:** Definite Period
 - ☐ **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



Italy and Eritrea Strengthen Bilateral Ties With New Plan of Action

Sabrina Solomon

On July 29, a high-level Italian delegation, led by the Minister of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forestry, Mr. Francesco Lollobrigida, and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Mr. Edmondo Cirielli, visited Eritrea to sign a crucial comprehensive plan of action. This visit served as a direct continuation of the diplomatic exchange between President Isaias Afwerki and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni in 2024.

The comprehensive plan of action, signed in the presence of President Isaias Afwerki, aims to deepen strategic collaboration in key areas, including energy, infrastructure, agriculture, fisheries, tourism, culture, sports, and maritime security and other areas. The agreement was formally signed by Eritrea's Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr. Nesredin Mohammed Saleh, and Mr. Edmondo Cirielli. Both nations have agreed to organize a future business forum to facilitate further engagement.

After the signing in Asmara, the Italian delegates visited the port city of Massawa, where they were warmly welcomed by the Minister of Marine Resources, Mr. Tewelde Kelati. The delegation also paid respects at the cemeteries of Italian soldiers in Dogali and Massawa.

Following the signing, we had the opportunity to speak with Minister Francesco Lollobrigida. Excerpts follows:

Mr. Francesco Lollobrigida, what were the main objectives of this visit, and how do they build on previous diplomatic exchanges?

The primary objective was to be here in Asmara to sign a crucial plan of action, which we did in the presence of President Isaias Afwerki and the Minister of Trade. This plan is designed to strengthen the Eritrean-Italian relationship and foster cooperation and mutual growth. Our delegation, which also included the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and a Member of Parliament, has gained a better understanding of where to focus our investments. We see this as just the beginning of a significant increase in relations and potential investments between our two countries.

Can you elaborate on specific areas of cooperation where tangible outcomes are expected?

Again, this is just the beginning, and hopefully, we will be able to organize a business forum to discuss specific areas of investment further, as you mentioned, like infrastructure, fisheries, and the trade economy in general. We have come up with a series of projects that are also inclusive of private and governmental business, and thus, to make it more concrete, we have a business forum currently.

Eritrea and Italy share historical ties. How does this visit aim to deepen strategic collaboration in regional peace, migration management, or maritime security?

We will have the chance to discuss further all of these matters

that you mentioned in the future. We will examine regional peace, migration management, and maritime security in detail, and these are the main objectives that we are willing to prioritize. We will have more occasions to do so in the future, but these are absolutely the priorities of the Eritrean and Italian relationship at the moment.

Has there been any follow-up or implementation of previously signed agreements or memoranda of understanding (MOUs)? If so, could you share examples of projects that are already underway or nearing execution?

We have elaborated this memorandum of understanding, which closes all the discussions and agreements that we, along with our technicians, had, and we are

looking forward to proceeding with action. We have signed this plan of action today, which has been the conclusion of an extended dialogue between Italy and Eritrea, and this is just the start. We will start implementing the plan soon.

Given the geopolitical landscape in the Horn of Africa and Europe's interest in new partnerships, how does Italy view Eritrea's role in regional affairs, and what long-term vision does your government hold for bilateral relations?

The people of Italy and Eritrea have historically had good relations. Still, today, after the signing of the action plan, the



relationship has further improved, and we will work to strengthen this further existing bond. We will work closely with the government of the state of Eritrea, in particular, to

make sure that it will be a strategic port, a strategic hub, for maritime trade in the future.

Thank you!

