

ERITREAN COMMUNITY FESTIVAL IN THE US



The Eritrean community in the United States enthusiastically conducted their 51st annual festival from 1 to 3 August in Tracy, California. The event was attended by numerous nationals, friends of Eritrea, and other foreign guests.

The heads of the festival's coordinating committee, Ms. Yodit Tesfamariam and Mr. Alazar Abraham, stated that the festival served as a platform for nationals to showcase their culture and national values, as well as unity and harmony. They commended all who participated in and contributed to the successful organization of the event.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Berhane Gebrehiwet, Chargé d'Affaires at the Eritrean

Embassy, noted that the festival was being conducted at a unique and historically significant time. He expressed gratitude to the participants, the coordinating committee, artists, children, youth, parents, and national associations for their efforts.

Ms. Nancy Young, Mayor of the City of Tracy, expressed appreciation for being invited to the festival. She said that based on her experience, the Eritrean people are known for their strong work ethic, perseverance, and discipline. She also commended the nationals' efforts to preserve and promote their culture, values, and traditions within their communities.

The festival featured village displays organized by the National Council of Eritrean Americans, cultural and artistic performances, seminars, and programs targeting

children and youth, among other activities.

In the same vein, the 7th National Council of Eritrean Americans (NCEA), which was convened from 29 to 31 July in the city of Rafaele under the theme "United in Purpose, Strong in Voice – Safeguarding National Sovereignty," concluded.

The conference held extensive discussions on Eritrea's diplomatic and political victories, future opportunities and challenges, and called on diaspora nationals to intensify efforts in consolidating national unity, preserving and transmitting Eritrean culture and identity, and strengthening national associations.

The conference also outlined a roadmap aimed at ensuring strong organization, enhanced national awareness, and resilience.



MEMBERS OF THE 38TH ROUND OF NATIONAL SERVICE DEPART TO SAWA



The second group of members of the 38th round of national service from the Central Region departed on 3 August for Sawa to continue their 12th-grade education.

The students are from 22 high schools in the region, with female students comprising 56% of the participants.

The students expressed their readiness to focus on their education during their stay in Sawa and to fulfill their national responsibilities through exemplary performance and conduct.

It is to be recalled that the first group of students from the Central Region departed to Sawa on 30 July.

Students from the Anseba, Gash Barka, Southern, and Northern and Southern Red Sea regions have already departed.

According to the report, out of the 8,000 members of the 37th round of national service from the Central Region who sat for the national school-leaving examination, 33.5% qualified for degree and diploma programs.

PREPARATION FOR THE NATIONAL FESTIVAL 2025 FINALIZES

Ambassador Zemed Tekle, Commissioner of Culture and Sports, indicated that preparations for the National Festival 2025 have been finalized. The festival is set to be conducted from 9 to 17 August at the Expo Grounds in Asmara.

Noting "Displays depicting our cultural diversity and unity have been prepared", Ambassador Zemed said that the festival will feature cultural and music performances, traditional villages depicting the cultures and traditions of the various ethnic groups in the country, display of products by various institutions and regions of the country, children's educational and entertaining programs,



books display, paintings and sculptures exhibition, as well as seminars among others.

Ambassador Zemere noted that the national festival, beyond being an entertainment event, is a reflection of the unity and diversity of the Eritrean people.

ERITREAN COMMUNITY FESTIVAL IN GERMANY

The Eritrean community festival in Germany was colorfully conducted on 2 and 3 August in Frankfurt.

Mr. Yohannes Woldu, Chargé d'Affaires at the Eritrean Embassy, noted the significance of the timing of the festival, stating that it attests to the strong unity between the Eritrean people and Government as well as the resilience of the citizens.

The festival featured seminars, awards to outstanding students, youth-centered programs,

interactions with foreign friends of Eritrea, community gatherings, cultural and artistic performances, a children's village, African camp, and presentations on the Afambo boarding school project.

The annual festival was successfully conducted with the strong participation of national associations, particularly the National Union of Eritrean Women.

Mr. Yohannes Woldu also conducted a seminar for festival participants, focusing on the

objective situation in the homeland and regional developments.

Highlighting that external hostilities aimed at demonizing Eritrea's history, culture, identity, and values have been thwarted through the resilience and awareness of the people and Government, Mr. Yohannes called on nationals to strengthen their organizational capacity and participation in national affairs.

During the event, awards were presented to winners of various competitions.



OPINION

Ambassador Dina Mufti's Misguided Vision: Eritrea Will Not Be Gaslighted into Submission

Ambassador
Sophia Tesfamariam

Ambassador Dina Mufti's article, "Transcending the Eritrean Conundrum," purports to offer a vision for 'cooperation and integration' through a 'supranational union' between Eritrea and Ethiopia as a panacea to the 'cycle of violence and conflict.' However, beneath its polished veneer lies a familiar pattern: revisionism, distortion, deflection, and a veiled call for Eritrea to capitulate to Ethiopia's desperate hegemonic ambitions.

The article further presents itself as a lofty reconciliation vision on peace, regional integration, and a shared future for the peoples of the Horn of Africa. On the surface, it appeals to noble ideals: reconciliation, forward-looking diplomacy, and a break from the cycles of conflict that have long plagued the region. However, one doesn't need to go deeper to find the more familiar and myth-driven narrative, a carefully veiled framework of historical revisionism, erroneous premises, and soft power projection aimed at rehabilitating Ethiopia's tarnished domestic and regional image at Eritrea's expense. In a nutshell, the article misrepresents history, erases critical legal facts, and subtly undermines Eritrea's sovereignty, all under the guise of reconciliation, cooperation, and integration.

Notwithstanding the writer's glaring oblivious and disparaging stance against Eritrea's

independence, sovereignty, and its people, if not for a fact-checking rebuttal, it is compelling to shed light on rectifying some of his misguided narratives and the political adventurism propagated by his ilk. Just as Ambassador Mufti's portrayal of Eritrea's colonial history, particularly the deceptive federal arrangements, is fundamentally flawed, so too is his proposed vision of a "supranational union" between the two countries, which rests on equally problematic assumptions. It amounts to a prescriptive political arrangement, thinly veiled as a project of 'cooperation and integration.'

To begin with, the UN-sponsored 'federal arrangement' of 1952 was never a "compromise between the competing demands for autonomy and unity." Conversely, it was an epitome of historical injustice imposed on the Eritrean people against their will for independence to serve the geopolitical interests of the then global powers and the Imperial regime of Ethiopia. The blunt admission by then-U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles encapsulates this betrayal:

"...From the point of view of justice, the opinion of the Eritrean people must receive consideration. Nevertheless, the strategic interests of the United States in the Red Sea Basin and world peace make it necessary that the country be linked with our ally Ethiopia..."

Contrary to Mufti's distortion portraying the federation as a recommendation of the UN Commission of Inquiry on Eritrea, the Commission itself was deeply divided: Pakistan and Guatemala advocated for Eritrean independence; apartheid South Africa and Burma proposed a federation in which Eritrea would form an autonomous unit alongside Ethiopia; and Norway alone suggested a complete merger with Ethiopia. Ironically, even before the Commission's findings were formally submitted to the UN, the United States and Britain had already established a joint committee, later joined by Ethiopia, to predetermine Eritrea's fate. Consequently, the sham federation was neither the product of internal Eritrean negotiations balancing autonomy and unity, nor a genuine proposal emanating from the UN Commission of Inquiry.

Ambassador Mufti's distortion of history is no accident. More troubling, however, is that the geopolitical

expediency of the post-World War victors, coupled with Ethiopia's imperial ambitions that denied Eritreans their inherent right to self-determination and independence, still reverberates in his thinking and that of successive Ethiopian regimes. No matter how polished or tempting it may appear, any proposition for 'cooperation' or 'integration', within a regional configuration of sovereign States, must begin with honesty and historical truth. Regrettably, Ambassador Mufti's diplomatic overture fails to meet even the basic standards it demands of others.

In his historical revisionism, Ambassador Mufti, an unapologetic nostalgist of the defunct Derg regime, devotes a section to what he calls the "complex history of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF)," only to advance the disingenuous narrative that the TPLF was responsible for Eritrea's secession and, by extension, Ethiopia's landlocked status. This assertion is not only historically untenable but also indicative of a more insidious agenda. Eritrea's hard-won independence was achieved through the immense sacrifices of its own people, not as a result of political charity or goodwill from any external actor.

The 1993 referendum, conducted under international supervision, was the logical and legal culmination of the Eritrean people's thirty-year struggle for self-determination. It reflected the EPLF's longstanding commitment to allowing the people to decide their future freely. With a resounding 99.8% voting in favor of sovereignty, Eritrea emerged as an independent state through a process that was unimpeachably legitimate. No amount of historical distortion or regressive rhetoric, such as that espoused by Ambassador Mufti, can negate or revise this unalterable truth.

Ambassador Dina Mufti sidesteps well-documented realities, distorting both the causes and consequences of the Eritrea-Ethiopia conflict. Most notably, he fails to acknowledge the central legal instrument designed to resolve the dispute: the final and binding ruling of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC). Rather than confronting Ethiopia's two-decade defiance of its treaty obligations and international law, a defiance tacitly endorsed by successive U.S. administrations, Amb. Mufti deflects

attention toward amorphous calls for "transcendence." In doing so, he implicitly urges Eritrea to set aside its legitimate grievances and acquiesce to a regional arrangement shaped largely by Ethiopia's political ambitions and strategic calculus.

One of the most glaring flaws in Ambassador Mufti's article is the deliberate obfuscation of the root causes, progression, and internationally adjudicated resolution of the 1998–2000 Eritrea-Ethiopia war. It makes vague allusions to "a tragic chapter" and "needless conflict" without ever acknowledging the core fact that the war was triggered by Ethiopia's armed encroachment into sovereign Eritrean territory, specifically in and around the town of Badme.

Moreover, the article conveniently erases the existence and significance of the EEBC, the independent body established under the Algiers Peace Agreement and mandated by both countries to deliver a final and binding legal ruling on the border. The EEBC, after extensive hearings and evidences presented by both parties, ruled on April 2002 that Badme and other contested areas claimed by Ethiopia unequivocally belonged to Eritrea. However, Ethiopia, emboldened by its handlers, refused to accept the ruling and engaged in a 16-year-long military occupation of Eritrean territory, in open violation of international law and the very agreement it had signed. That illegal occupation not only undermined peace and security in the region but also made a mockery of the notion of the rule of law and international arbitrations.

By omitting the EEBC's ruling, Mufti's article attempts to rewrite history, sidestepping legal accountability and instead emphasizing abstract notions of "moving forward" and "shared destiny." This sleight of hand serves to shift the burden of normalization onto Eritrea, suggesting that it is Eritrea's unwillingness to embrace regional integration, rather than Ethiopia's failure to comply with international law, that remains the primary obstacle to peace. Such misrepresentation is not only disingenuous but dangerous. It erases a vital legal precedent and emboldens a narrative that places 'diplomacy' above justice, and shielded ambitions above hard-won international rulings. Reconciliation without truth and legality is not peacebuilding; it is appeasement,

a recipe for grievances and another cycle of conflict.

To fully understand the implications of Ethiopia's defiance, and the dishonesty embedded in Mufti's narrative, it is essential to revisit the Algiers Peace Agreement of 2000, which both Eritrea and Ethiopia signed under international auspices, including the United Nations, the African Union, the United States, and the European Union. The Agreement was not a political pact; it was a legal contract that bound both parties to accept the EEBC's ruling as "final and binding" without precondition or appeal. Eritrea upheld its obligations. Ethiopia, despite having formally agreed, reneged once the ruling awarded the flashpoint town of Badme to Eritrea. This betrayal of an international agreement not only prolonged instability but undermined the very credibility of international mediation efforts.

Throughout the protracted and frustrating process, Eritrea maintained a consistent legal position: full respect for international law and implementation of the final and binding decisions as the cornerstone for sustainable peace. Far from being the spoiler painted in Ambassador Mufti's article, Eritrea remained steadfast in its demand for a lawful and principled resolution. The call was never for endless confrontation, but for genuine normalization rooted in justice, not political expediency. Eritrea's stance was not one of stubbornness, but one of legal integrity, a refusal to compromise sovereignty or reward aggression under the false flag of pragmatism. Any reconciliation that fails to acknowledge these hard truths is neither honest nor durable.

The 'rapprochement' of July 2018 between Eritrea and Ethiopia that Amb. Mufti claims to have brought Eritrea out of 'isolation' came as a result of Ethiopia's statement on June 5, 2018 announcing that Ethiopia fully accepts the 2000 Algiers Agreement. Eritrea had steadfastly resisted decades of injustice stemming from this unlawful occupation and the sanctions imposed thereafter. Eritrea remains firmly committed to the final and binding decisions of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC), which Ethiopia had accepted but persistently defied until the rapprochement.

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PROFILE**

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**Editor-In-Chief
Amanuel Mesfun**

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

P.O.Box: 247
Tel: 11-41-14
Fax: 12-77-49
E-mail:
eritreaprofilemoi@gmail.com
Advertisement: 12-50-13

**Layout
Azmera Berhane
Betelhiem Tadesse**

SpotLight

Building the Nation's Future: Orotta Honors New Health Graduates

Bana Negusse

Last week, the Orotta College of Medicine and Health Sciences (OCMHS), located in Asmara, held its fourth annual commencement ceremony, marking another important milestone in Eritrea's healthcare and education sectors. A total of 391 students graduated across various academic levels and areas of specialization, with women comprising 55 percent of the cohort.

In his address, Dr. Yemane Seium, Dean of the College, emphasized that the graduates

of the institution's educational capacity.

Delivering the keynote address, Minister of Health Ms. Amina Nurhussein commended the country's steady health sector progress, attributing it to the government's comprehensive investments across all sectors and the enduring participation of the Eritrean people. She called on the graduates to actively contribute to the implementation of the national health roadmap and to carry forward the momentum of progress.

Expanding health systems



significant number of healthcare facilities. The country now has close to 350 facilities – including hospitals, health centers, stations, and clinics – representing a nearly fourfold increase since 1991. Equally important is the dramatic rise in the number of healthcare workers, supported by a government policy that fully covers the costs of education, training, and salaries for all health professionals. There are no recruitment ceilings, ensuring an unrestricted pipeline of skilled personnel into the national health system.

Healthcare workers at the heart of national progress

The improved quantity and quality of healthcare professionals has been a decisive factor in the country's notable health outcomes. Alongside infrastructure expansion, these human resources have driven improvements in health service delivery, particularly in areas historically underserved.

Maternal mortality, for instance, has been reduced from 998 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990 to fewer than 200 today. The under-five mortality rate has fallen by about 75 percent, from 153 to 35 per 1,000 live births, with an average annual reduction of above 4 percent – placing Eritrea among the fastest-improving countries globally.

Substantial progress has also been recorded in combating infectious diseases. HIV prevalence among adults aged 15–49 has declined from 1.1 percent in 1991 to 0.4 percent.

Incidence rates have continued to fall, and Eritrea is nearing the elimination of mother-to-child HIV transmission – a milestone achievement.

The country is also making significant strides toward the elimination of malaria and has registered consistent progress in reducing the burden of tuberculosis, hepatitis B, and neglected tropical diseases. National immunization efforts have likewise been highly successful, with more than 95 percent of children receiving full age-appropriate vaccinations. Life expectancy has climbed from 49.6 years in 1990 to over 67 years today, according to figures from the United Nations.

These achievements are not the result of chance. They are deeply rooted in the country's long-standing commitment to public health, substantial investments in infrastructure and human capital, and the dedication of Eritrea's health professionals. Today, around 80 percent of the population resides within a 10-kilometer radius of a health facility, and 70 percent within 5 kilometers – dramatically enhancing access and reducing geographic barriers to care.

Health as a foundation for rights and development

Eritrea's investments in the health sector are also closely tied to the promotion of fundamental human rights and the pursuit of broader socioeconomic development. The right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health is

enshrined in international law and includes key dimensions such as availability, accessibility, acceptability, and quality. While challenges remain, Eritrea's consistent progress serves as a tangible expression of its efforts to realize this right for all citizens.

Beyond rights, the country's focus on health is a forward-looking strategy for national development. As Minister Amina emphasized during her address, improving population health contributes directly to national productivity and economic resilience. While it is well established that higher income correlates with better health outcomes, the reverse is also true: healthier individuals and communities are more capable of driving economic growth and development.

In this light, Eritrea's emphasis on strengthening its healthcare system is both a moral imperative and a strategic investment. It is not only the right thing to do – it is also the smart thing to do.

A moment of pride and a reflection of commitment

The graduation of 391 students from Orotta College is a moment of pride and celebration – for the graduates, their families, and the nation at large. But more than that, it represents a deepening of Eritrea's commitment to health, equity, and development. As these new professionals enter the workforce, they carry not only their personal achievements but also the hopes of a nation striving toward a healthier, more prosperous future.

will play a crucial role in reducing the costs of medical training, enhancing the quality of healthcare delivery, and alleviating the national shortage of healthcare professionals.

Dr. Yemane also highlighted that academic activities at the College are supported by 90 faculty members – 70 Eritrean and 20 international professionals. He added that during the current academic year, 12 faculty members are engaged in postgraduate studies, both within Eritrea and abroad, contributing to the long-term strengthening

and building human capacity

The expansion of healthcare infrastructure and the training of skilled health professionals remain core priorities of Eritrea's national development strategy. The country's health policy is anchored in principles of universal access, equity, and the right to quality healthcare for all citizens. To this end, Eritrea has steadily expanded access by broadening the geographic reach of services, strengthening infrastructure, and building human resource capacity. Since independence, Eritrea has constructed or renovated a

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In an apparent effort to reconcile his association with the EPRDF's rule in Ethiopia, Ambassador Mufti's article romanticizes the country's ethnic federal experiment as a commendable model of diversity and decentralized governance. However, this portrayal glosses over the toxic pitfalls and destructive legacy of "institutionalized ethnicity". Rather than fostering unity, the ethnicized federal architecture entrenched divisions, exacerbated historic grievances, and institutionalized an exclusionary polity in Ethiopia while also venturing into an expansionist agenda regarding Eritrea.

Ambassador Mufti's omission of this fundamental truth is deliberate and serves as the foundation for the revisionist narrative advanced in his article. Eritrea is called upon to "transcend" history and embrace a shared regional future, yet the political authorities within Ethiopia have neither publicly nor unequivocally renounced the irredentist ideology that precipitated the 1998–2000 conflict and the subsequent decades of occupation. Although appeals for "integration" are presented as progressive, they in fact circumvent established legal obligations, historical injustices, and the deeply entrenched asymmetries of regional power. Eritrea cannot be expected to engage in normative regional integration frameworks when the essential prerequisites for sustainable peace, namely, the mutual recognition of sovereignty and the inviolability of borders, remain unsettled or selectively acknowledged.

Ambassador Mufti's narrative seeks to deliberately diminish and distort the profound contribution Eritrea made to Ethiopia during its time of crisis. His revisionist account not only downplays the decisive military role of the Eritrean Defence Forces, forces whose valor and effectiveness were instrumental in halting the war of insurrection. This deliberate erasure of Eritrea's pivotal role ignores the historic reality that Eritrea stood as Ethiopia's reliable ally, at a time of when both countries faced a grave adversity and threat of considerable magnitude. Such a cynical attempt to rewrite history undermines the very foundation of regional solidarity that was forged through shared struggle. Ambassador Mufti's narrative thus reveals itself as less an honest reflection and more a political effort to rewrite facts to suit transient agendas.

Ambassador Mufti's assertion that "Eritrea was not happy with the signing of the Pretoria Agreement and feared that the Federal and TPLF forces could launch a joint attack against it" is not only speculative but legally irrelevant. In the first place, why would Eritrea countenance backstabbing and conspiratorial alignments of this nature when the central objective of the Pretoria

Agreement was on silencing the guns for enduring regional peace? Indeed, such a statement reflects a fundamental misapprehension of both the facts and the principles governing international agreements. Eritrea, not being a signatory or party to the Pretoria Agreement, bears no legal or political obligation under its terms. Consequently, Eritrea's position, whether in favor or against, has no bearing on the validity, implementation, or enforceability of the Agreement.

If Ambassador Mufti is genuinely concerned with the status of the Pretoria Agreement, the appropriate inquiry should focus on his government's failure to implement key provisions more than two and a half years since its signing. To deflect responsibility onto Eritrea, a non-party to the accord, amounts to both a factual distortion and a legally untenable position.

Ambassador Mufti's article conspicuously omits one of the most recent and provocative developments in Ethiopia's posture toward Eritrea: the renewed and publicized demands for "sovereign access to the Red Sea" by curving up and violating Eritrean territory. This demand constitutes a redline, an inviolable element of Eritrea's sovereignty and territorial integrity under international law. Ethiopia's repeated pronouncements regarding "access to the sea" are not mere political rhetoric; they represent a continuation of a well-documented pattern of asserting claims and pressures that infringe upon Eritrea's sovereign rights. Any attempt by Ethiopia to undermine, encroach upon, or otherwise compromise Eritrea's territorial sovereignty constitutes a direct violation of the United Nations Charter and contravenes established principles of international law concerning the territorial integrity and political independence of states.

Such provocations are not isolated statements, but part of a broader strategic posture aimed at exerting undue leverage over Eritrea and diluting its sovereign agency. Demands for "access," when decoupled from full and unequivocal respect for Eritrea's sovereignty and consent, amount to an attempt to erode the legal and political foundation upon which Eritrea's independence and territorial integrity rest. Eritrea retains the sovereign right to take all necessary and proportional defensive measures to safeguard its national interests against unlawful pressure or threats to its territorial integrity.

Furthermore, if the international community is genuinely committed to peace, stability, and the rule of law in the Horn of Africa, it must abandon the practice of selective engagement and unequivocally denounce all acts, whether rhetorical or material, that violate the sovereignty and territorial integrity of member states. Sustainable peace and regional cooperation cannot be pursued

through coercion, legal equivocation, or the selective application of international principles. The path forward must rest on principled, impartial, and consistent adherence to international law, ensuring that no state, large or small, is forced to concede its sovereignty under political pressure or hegemonic ambition.

Eritrea's measured and disciplined posture in the face of Ethiopia's recurrent provocations, including border incursions, inflammatory war rhetoric, and orchestrated campaigns of defamation and disinformation, has reflected a deliberate policy of strategic restraint grounded in a principled commitment to regional peace and stability. This conduct stands in stark contrast to the narrative of belligerence often imputed to Eritrea. Despite possessing both the legal and moral right to respond decisively to repeated violations of its sovereignty, Eritrea has consistently chosen the path of non-escalation. This restraint is all the more notable given Ethiopia's long-standing breaches of the Algiers Agreement, its protracted refusal to implement the final and binding ruling of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC), and ongoing efforts by external actors to obscure legal and historical facts through politicized narratives.

Rather than acknowledging this record of restraint or recognizing Eritrea's unwavering insistence on mutual respect, sovereign equality, and adherence to international legal norms as a stabilizing force in the Horn of Africa, Ambassador Mufti's article resorts to a reductive and discredited trope: the myth of Eritrean intransigence. Such framing is not only intellectually unsubstantiated but also politically expedient. It enables elements within the Ethiopian political establishment to deflect responsibility for their own internal policy failures by externalizing blame and casting Eritrea as a perpetual antagonist. This narrative construction undermines genuine efforts at regional reconciliation and obscures the root causes of instability in the region.

This pattern has long been reinforced by external actors with vested interests in the region, including certain Western advocacy networks that, knowingly or not, echo the narratives crafted by Ethiopian regimes' propaganda organs. These narratives have helped shield Ethiopia's internal fractures and regional ambitions from international scrutiny, while simultaneously attempting to delegitimize Eritrea's legitimate security concerns and independent political path.

Ambassador Mufti's article, in this context, is not a call for honest reflection or genuine reconciliation. It is a continuation of the same discursive campaign that seeks to pressure Eritrea into acquiescence by misrepresenting its role and

mischaracterizing its intentions. Any meaningful path toward regional cooperation must begin by confronting these distortions, not perpetuating them.

Ambassador Dina Mufti's proposal for regional integration advances a model that is internally inconsistent, historically detached, and perilously dismissive of Eritrea's sovereign rights. Genuine regional integration cannot be premised on abstract idealism or political expediency; it must be grounded in legal certainty, mutual respect, and the unequivocal recognition of sovereign borders.

For Eritrea, any vision of regional integration that does not explicitly and unequivocally commit to certain foundational principles is a non-starter. These include: full respect for Eritrea's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity; an unambiguous rejection of all forms of hegemonic, expansionist, or irredentist agendas, agendas that have been repeatedly promoted by successive Ethiopian regimes and factions through official maps, rhetoric, and territorial encroachments; and a commitment to accountability for past injustices and ongoing provocations, including acts of destabilization and coordinated propaganda campaigns. Without these essential guarantees, calls for integration risk perpetuating historical patterns of domination under the guise of cooperation.

Calls for "integration" that elide these essential prerequisites merely recycle the colonial-era logic that once denied Eritreans their right to independence and attempted to subsume Eritrea's national identity under the guise of serving the "greater good" of regional and geopolitical interests. Such reasoning not only dismisses the legitimacy of Eritrea's inalienable and hard-won sovereignty but also mischaracterizes its principled stance as obstructionism.

Eritrea's resistance and resilience are frequently misunderstood, or deliberately mischaracterized, by external observers like Amb. Mufti, who mistake principled independence for isolationism. In reality, Eritrea's stance on regional and global affairs is not born of fear or retreat, but grounded in hard-earned sovereignty and a deliberate foreign policy built on self-reliance, political independence, respect for legality, mutual respect, and regional harmony based on equity rather than hierarchy. Eritrea has consistently championed peace, cooperation, and regional stability, but never at the expense of its dignity, sovereign rights, or the sacrifices made by its people throughout decades of struggle for liberation and justice.

To reduce Eritrea's firm stance to mere intransigence, as Ambassador Mufti's article implicitly does, is to erase the profound context of Eritrea's historical experience: a nation that resisted successive waves of colonization, endured 30 years of brutal atrocities under Ethiopian regimes to secure liberation and self-determination, and has since

withstood repeated attempts to undermine its independence through war, occupation, sanctions, disinformation, and campaigns of regional isolation.

The article's attempt to subtly co-opt Eritrea into Ethiopia's domestic reconciliation and federal restructuring project, veiled in lofty language like "transcending the conundrum" and "regional cooperation and integration", reveals a fundamental misunderstanding of Eritrea's identity and national trajectory. Eritrea's identity is not defined in opposition to any political entity, including Ethiopia; rather, it is grounded in its own values, history, and future aspirations.

To conflate Eritrea's regional engagement with Ethiopia's internal politics, especially amid Ethiopia's volatile, unresolved ethnic federalism and persistent irredentist rhetoric, is to undermine the very foundation of Eritrea's national sovereignty. Eritrea's path is distinct, and its principled insistence on equal partnership, legal clarity, and respect for statehood should never be mistaken for aloofness. It is a stance rooted in strength, not seclusion.

Finally, if Ambassador Dina Mufti genuinely seeks a "better tomorrow," let that vision be grounded in honesty rather than skewed narratives, selective amnesia, or rhetorical flourish. It must begin with the moral courage to confront the past truthfully, not with attempts to revise it for present convenience. Lasting peace in the Horn of Africa cannot be built by glossing over historical realities or ignoring the foundational injustices that have shaped regional dynamics for decades. Nor can it arise from narratives that evade accountability or sidestep legal obligations, such as the final and binding Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC) ruling, an agreement Ethiopia refused to implement for nearly two decades, with grave consequences for peace, trust, and regional cooperation.

Any sincere regional initiative must begin by recognizing Eritrea's independent agency, not by subsuming it into Ethiopia's evolving political experiments. True regional transcendence cannot be achieved by overriding the dignity and sovereignty of one nation for the supposed benefit of another. Eritrea will engage, but only as an equal partner, not as an appendage to a neighbor's unfinished nation-building project. Peace, if genuine and sustainable, must be built on truth, justice, and accountability, not on platitudes or political poetry. Let us therefore start with honesty: about the sanctity of sovereign borders, about past injustices, and about the real preconditions for trust. Anything less is not a "better tomorrow," but a repackaged past cloaked in new language.

The conundrum is not Eritrean intransigence, but rather it is the amnesia and blind ambitions of successive Ethiopian regimes.

Development

From Classroom to Community: Eritrea's Student Summer Work Program

Simon Weldemikael

Since its inception in 1994, Eritrea's student summer work program has been a cornerstone of youth empowerment and national development. It engages high school students in environmental conservation and community development work that allows them to develop the skills and values needed to become active participants in their society.

When the school year winds down in summer, many students turn their attention toward the summer work program. Most of the high school students who participate in the summer work program engage in activities aimed at protecting the environment. The activities include, among others, terracing, tree planting, and cleaning the environment.

The summer work program provides invaluable experiences to the students, acting as a bridge between classroom learning and real-world application, which allows students to build practical skills and contribute meaningfully to their communities. Active participation in the summer work program can transform the experience into a powerful catalyst for growth and the cultivation of a strong work ethic, shaping the students' future aspirations and nurturing their lifelong habits of taking responsibility for the preservation of the environment.

Students' engagement in summer work programs also has



a profound and multidimensional impact on the students' personal development. It exposes them to a world that differs from their home and classroom life. It boosts self-esteem, increases confidence, and enhances resilience by giving students opportunities to deal with real-world challenges. It offers an opportunity for the students to learn the importance of integrity, punctuality, and teamwork, preparing them for work life in the future.

When students actively participate to contribute to the common good, the experience becomes even more enriching. Students learn the value of giving back without expecting immediate rewards, cultivating empathy and civic duty. And the community service they give can make them feel more connected to their community. In short, by engaging in summer

work programs, students begin to transition from dependent learners into responsible contributors.

In Eritrea, where cooperation and resilience are highly valued, student involvement in summer work lays a critical foundation for their transformation. When students engage in activities such as planting trees, terracing, or assisting in community service, they learn how to work in diverse teams, sharing responsibilities and working toward common goals. The engagement of students in teams fosters empathy and a sense of belonging, transforming passive participants into engaged citizens. The summer work program is a practical training ground for young students. It marks a transition from adolescence to maturity. Through exposure to adults' roles, students begin envisioning their place in

society as full and productive

for the role of carrying the torch of development. Participants in the summer work program build more than just terraces. They create networks of solidarity and shared purpose.

Eritrea has sustained and refined the summer work program for over three decades. The program reflects the national ethos that education doesn't end in the classroom but continues through service, discipline, and engagement. As each summer passes, a new cohort of students joins the legacy of hands-on learning and contributing to national development, carrying the summer work program's impact into the future. Born out of a vision to mobilize the youth



members of society.

There is a strong belief in Eritrea that the leading resource of a nation is its people, and the development of values such as discipline, cooperation, and self-reliance is given very high priority. The summer work program aims at cultivating these values early on in the lives of students, helping them discover not only what they can do but who they can become. Eritrea's development strategy places its trust in people, particularly the youth, as the architects of transformation. In this respect, the summer work program reinforces this vision by preparing the young

for community service and self-reliance, the program reflects values deeply embedded in the Eritrean society.

The summer work program is a vital avenue for students to grow holistically. It helps shape them as culturally grounded, psychologically resilient, and physically capable individuals. Through the program, they learn a lot about who they are and how they fit into the fabric of their society. The program, which continues to evolve, demonstrates how education, engagement, and communal responsibility can propel a country forward.



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

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

Senior Electrician
Number required – (1)
Type of contract – Definite For 2years

Major Duties and responsibilities

- Assist the Electrical Maintenance Supervisor to recruit, train and mentor a Maintenance team who will deliver quality maintenance services to the fixed plant.
- Ensuring KPI’s that facilitate sustained and productive operations are delivered.
- The role involves organizing day-to-day workshops and maintenance activities.
- Furthermore, the incumbent will oversee and inspect maintenance works to ensure the safe and effective repair and servicing of fixed plant equipment.
- This person will report to the Process Plant Senior Electrical Maintenance Supervisor and assist with various administrative and management functions.
-

TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS

- Planning, prioritizing, assigning, supervising, reviewing, and participating in all tasks related to electrical maintenance.
- Responsibly handling emergency situations or after-hours calls for repair and maintenance
- Taking part in developing maintenance policies and standards for the organization
- Routinely inspecting various elements of the electrical Installations.
- Regularly check and inspect the material and tools inventory and place orders when needed.
- Ensure compliance with quality, health and safety rules, guidelines, and regulations.
- Manage, motivate, develop, and provide direct leadership to maintenance staff.
- Execute electrical isolation and lockout to ensure zero tolerance to unsafe work.
- Perform periodic inspections of recently maintained equipment to observe the quality of the maintenance performed and the operating condition of the equipment using CMMS (Computerized Maintenance Management Systems).
- Troubleshoot electrical systems and equipment to minimize downtime and production loss.
- Ensure all work is done in compliance with company policies, industry standards, and HSE (Health, Safety, and Environment) regulations.
- Participate in plant shutdowns, upgrades, and new installations.

Profile: Qualifications and Experience

Formal Education, Certifications or Equivalents	• College Diploma/certificate in electrical engineering • Trade certificate as an Electrician. • Formal apprenticeship training in electrical trade.
Working Experience – Nature & Length	• 5 years’ experience as a Process Plant Electrician • Familiarity with relevant health and safety standards and regulations. • Strong knowledge of MV and LV electrical systems, switchgear, motors, and control systems. • In-depth knowledge of different Electrical Fixed Plant Equipment, i.e. Crusher, Mills, Conveyor belt, Pumps etc. • Experience with PLCs, DCS, VSDs/VFDs systems. • Comply with all HS&E policies, procedures and instructions. • 11Kv switching authorization certificate.
Technical Skills	• Experience in Slurry Pumps, Crusher, Mills, Conveyor belt and Floatation Cells • Train and develop local staff • Analytical skills & Decision-making skills • Basic knowledge of CMMS systems & Proficient Microsoft skills • Valid Driver’s License
Behavioral Skills	• Ability to work in developing country • Good Interpersonal skills • Demonstrated team building and mentoring skills • Strong interpersonal relationship-building skills and adaptability to work with people of different cultures.

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



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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Senior Instruments Supervisor
Number required – (2)
Type of contract – Definite For 2years

Major Duties and responsibilities

- Assist the Electrical and Instrumentation Maintenance Superintendent to recruit, train and mentor a Maintenance team who will deliver quality maintenance services to the fixed plant.
- Ensuring KPI's that facilitate sustained and productive operations are delivered.
- The role involves organizing day-to-day workshops and maintenance activities.
- Furthermore, the incumbent will oversee and inspect Instrumentation & Automation maintenance works to ensure the safe and effective repair and servicing of fixed plant equipment.
- This person will report to the Process Plant E & I Maintenance Superintendent and assist with various administrative and management functions.

TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS

- Provide leadership and direct supervision to a team of Instrument technicians and assistants.
- Oversee preventive and corrective maintenance of all plant instruments.
- Develop and review standard operating/maintenance procedures for all instrumentation tasks.
- Installation, fault finding and replacement of instrumentation equipment in area of responsibility.
- Coordinate with superiors, contactors & other departments during plant commissioning.
- Troubleshoot and repair instrument failures and conduct root cause analysis on recurrent problems.
- Ensure traceable calibration of instruments and maintain up to date records.
- Manage spare parts inventory for instrumentation systems.
- Take charge of the plant distributed control system (DCS), PLCs, SCADA and automation servers ensuring that periodic program backups are retrieved and properly archived.
- Excellent understanding of the control narratives / P&ID's / PFD's and all other related instrumentation drawings of a hydro-metallurgical processing plant in relation to the instrumentation equipment installed.
- Recommend and implement necessary plant upgrades.
- Ensure that subordinates and colleagues work safely, assist the superiors to accomplish inspection of work areas and lead daily Toolbox meetings.
- Collaborate with other disciplines to ensure smooth and reliable operation of the plant equipment.
- Identify and communicate opportunities to improve preventive and predictive maintenance procedures and methods.
- Take all useful actions to avoid forced deterioration, break or damage of the Company's assets; provide a report to the immediate hierarchy.
- Troubleshoot and repair hydraulic and pneumatics systems.
- Manage / align / control costs of area specific instrumentation section according to the operational business plan
- Ensure the correct and safe usage of all workshop tools and PPE. Apply and practice correct and safe working principles and standards during all instrumentation maintenance tasks.
- Maintain and enhance the plant's CCTV surveillance and automatic fire protection systems to mitigate risks and uphold safety standards.
- Other duties, as per instruction from superiors.

Profile: Qualifications and Experience

Formal Education,
Certifications or
Equivalents

Working Experience –
Nature & Length

Technical Skills

Behavioral Skills

- Technical diploma in instrumentation.
- Formal Apprenticeship training in Instrumentation and Control.
- Trade certificate in instrumentation.
- 5+ years' experience in a metallurgical processing plant.
- Experience of instrumentation found in mineral processing plants
- Deep knowledge of PLCs, SCADA and DCS systems.
- In depth knowledge of Fieldbus networks; Profibus, Profinet fiber optic, ethernet.
- Able to read and interpret electrical drawings, loop drawings, hydraulic circuits and layout schematics.
- Ability to lead and co-ordinate a multi-disciplinary team.
- Strong understanding of industry standards: ISA, IEC, ISO
- Excellent knowledge of concentrator plant instrumentation and automation systems.
- Excellent troubleshooting skills
- In depth knowledge of hydraulics & pneumatics.
- Valid Driver's License.
- Ability to analyze data collected from instruments and use it for troubleshooting.
- Strong supervisory skills.
- Proactive and Self driven; ability to work with minimum supervision.
- Strong Supervisory skills. Get things done attitude.
- Safety leadership by example.
- 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.
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Lighter Side

The Enduring Symbol of the Eritrean Struggle: Twyo Netsela

Kidane-Shimendi

The “Twyo Netsela,” a simple 2-meter rolled sheet of fabric, stands as an iconic symbol of resilience and self-reliance during the Eritrean armed struggle. For freedom fighters, this ubiquitous item was far more than just a piece of cloth. It was an indispensable tool of survival, embodying the ingenuity and unbreakable spirit of the Eritrean revolution. Every family that sent a loved one to the front provided one, and it became an emblem of a struggle that drew on every available resource.

Early in the struggle, fighters folded the sheet into a square and carried it on their armed belts. As more provisions were added to their gear, the method evolved; they began to tightly roll the sheet and carry it over their shoulder or on their head. This practical change became an artistic act of comradeship, with two fighters twisting the sheet in opposite directions to create a durable, compact roll. Some even decorated their sheets by dyeing them diagonally in water boiled with tree bark, a simple act of personalizing an essential item.

The Netsela’s functions were as diverse as they were critical. In battle, it served as an emergency bandage to slow bleeding and ease pain until a wounded fighter could reach a clinic. For more minor injuries, a fighter could tie the wound with the sheet and continue fighting. It also doubled as a stretcher, tied to two pieces of wood, to transport the severely wounded.

Beyond its medical use, the Netsela was a lifesaver in the harsh Eritrean climate. Fighters would set up sheets with branches to create makeshift shelters against rain and sun. During long marches, it protected their shoulders from the pain of carrying heavy loads, such as the wood needed to build trenches.

The Netsela also played a role in the cultural life of the revolution. Fighters would use it during dances, mirroring the traditions of many Eritrean ethnic groups. The revolution’s cultural troupes even used collected sheets to create stage curtains for their performances. Its utility extended to logistics as well, serving as a makeshift bag to carry everything from food and medicine



to weapons and ammunition.

Perhaps one of the most incredible examples of its ingenuity was its use as an alternative to a car lamp at night. To avoid being detected

by enemy forces, drivers navigated perilous mountain roads with their headlights off. A comrade walking in front of the truck would use a white Netsela as a guide, with the

driver focusing on the visible sheet to safely reach their destination. This scientifically sound, life-saving solution was a testament to the resourcefulness of the fighters.

Today, the Twyo Netsela continues to serve the Eritrean defense force, and its presence holds deep emotional significance. It is a powerful reminder of the nation’s history and values. On Martyr’s Day, a rolled Netsela, placed alongside a lit candle and traditional Shida sandals, symbolizes the fallen heroes and the tireless service they gave until their last breath.

The Netsela is not just a sheet; it is a monument to the national identity of Eritrea. It embodies resilience, comradeship, self-reliance, and commitment. For many families, preserving their loved one’s Netsela is a sacred act, a tangible link to a heroic past. It stands as a timeless symbol of a nation built on boundless sacrifice and an unbreakable spirit.

LOCAL NEWS

WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK OBSERVED AT NATIONAL LEVEL



World Breastfeeding Week is being observed from 1 to 7 August with various activities under the theme “Prioritize Breastfeeding – Create Sustainable Support System.”

At a national-level ceremony organized yesterday in Asmara, Sister Amleset Hagos from the Ministry of Health stated that breastfeeding protects against various diseases, supports physical and mental development, contains all essential nutrients, and ensures the future health of infants.

Sister Amleset also called on all institutions to establish daycare centers to ease the burden on breastfeeding mothers.

Mr. Abdulah Mohammed Yosuf, UNICEF Representative in Eritrea, noted that according to the 2010 Eritrea Public Health

Survey, over 90% of children are breastfed within the first hour, and 69% are exclusively breastfed for six months. These achievements have significantly contributed to reducing neonatal and child mortality, placing Eritrea among the global leaders in breastfeeding practices.

At the discussion forum moderated by the Association of Medical Doctors of Eritrea, female doctors shared their experiences with participants, focusing on the general benefits of breastfeeding, maternity leave, the importance of establishing daycare centers at institutions, and support for breastfeeding mothers in the workplace.

Awards were also presented to winners of the general knowledge competitions conducted during the week.

SEMINAR ON ROLE OF YOUTH IN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

A seminar focusing on the role of youth in development programs was conducted for members of the students’ summer work program in Tesenay sub-zone on 3 August. The seminar was organized in collaboration between the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students and the Ministry of Education branches.

Highlighting that the contribution of students to development programs should not be taken lightly, Mr. Meles Gebrai, Head of the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students branch in the sub-zone, called on the youth to actively participate.

Mr. Meles also urged the participants of the students’ summer work program to strengthen their involvement in the greening campaign, environmental sanitation, and other assigned activities.

The participants, on their part, expressed readiness to engage in the program with utmost dedication.

According to reports, about 600 students are taking part in the students’ summer work program in Tesenay sub-zone.

In related news, commendable water and soil conservation efforts, as well as a greening campaign, are being undertaken by participants of the students’ summer work program in Mendefera sub-zone.

Mr. Bereket Tekleselasie, Head of the Agriculture Office in the sub-zone, indicated that 250 thousand tree seedlings planted last year in seven areas are in good condition.

Mr. Bereket further noted that this year about 900 students, coordinated by teachers and agricultural experts, are participating in the programs in the sub-zone. He also reported that approximately 27 km of terraces have been constructed and 28 thousand tree seedlings planted so far.