

**Eritrea: Land of  
Can-Do People!**

*(Yikealo! kikewn eyu  
kemey zeykewn!)*



# ERI-NEWS

**Bi-Weekly Newsletter  
Permanent Mission of the State of Eritrea to AU  
and UNECA  
Press Section**

**National Service: A tool  
for Economic  
Development, National  
Cohesion and the  
Defence of Sovereignty**



## Eritrea's 24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence Celebrated

Eritreans and friends of Eritrea at home and abroad colorfully celebrated the nation's 24<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary under the theme "***Development Through Resilience.***" The celebrations in Eritrea were launched on 15 May and continued till the 25<sup>th</sup> of May with popular participation involving musical performances, sporting activities, artistic and cultural shows.



The Leipzig Philharmonic Orchestra from Germany, the Malian Star Habib Koite, a South African music group 'Sound of Diamond, and musicians from Sudan also graced the celebrations.



President Isaias Afwerki, in his address at the official ceremony held in the Asmara Stadium on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May 2015, gave assessment of the socio-economic and political situation in Eritrea, as well as the situation in the region and the international environment. He also highlighted the major developmental programs prioritized for implementation. *The full text of the speech is available at: <http://shabait.com/news/local-news/19867-president-isaias-afwerkis-24th-independence-anniversary-speech>*



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**Contact Addresses:**

**Tel: +251-116620052  
Fax: +251-116620011  
Email: [eritreanaumission@gmail.com](mailto:eritreanaumission@gmail.com)  
P.o.Box: 5527  
[Addis Ababa, Ethiopia](http://Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)**



**Eritrean Mission to  
AU & ECA**



**@EritreaAU**

## World Leaders Sent Messages of Congratulations on Eritrean Independence Day

Several Heads of State and Government as well as Heads of Regional and International Organizations conveyed messages of congratulations to President Isaias Afwerki, the People and Government of Eritrea on the occasion of the 24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence.

The leaders commended Eritrea's role in the maintenance of peace and security in the region, appreciated the achievements registered in improving the standard of life of the people, and reaffirmed their readiness to enhance the existing bilateral relations with Eritrea.

### Partial list of the Leaders who sent messages of congratulations:

- ◆ General Peter Cosgrove, Governor-General of the Australian Commonwealth
- ◆ King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa of Bahrain
- ◆ President Paul Biya of Cameroon
- ◆ President Xi Jinping of China
- ◆ President Kolinada Grabar-Kitarovic of Croatia
- ◆ President Raul Castro of Cuba
- ◆ President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi of Egypt
- ◆ President Joachim Gauck of Germany
- ◆ President John Dramani Mahama of Ghana
- ◆ President Prokopis Pavlopoulos of Greece
- ◆ President Alpha Condé of Guinea
- ◆ President Pranab Mukherjee of India
- ◆ President Hassan Rouhani of Iran
- ◆ President Reuven Rivlin of Israel
- ◆ President Sergio Mattarella of Italy
- ◆ King Abdullah II of Jordan
- ◆ President Kim Yong-nam of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- ◆ President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia
- ◆ President Arthur Peter Mutharika of Malawi
- ◆ President Enrique Pena Nieto of Mexico
- ◆ King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands
- ◆ President Anibal Kavaco Silva of Portugal
- ◆ President Vladimir Putin of Russia
- ◆ King Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud of Saudi Arabia
- ◆ President Tony Tan Keng Yam of Singapore
- ◆ President Jacob Zuma of South Africa
- ◆ King Felipe VI of Spain
- ◆ President Maithripala Sirisena of Sri Lanka
- ◆ Presidents Beji Caid Essebsi of Tunisia
- ◆ President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey
- ◆ Queen Elizabeth of the United Kingdom
- ◆ Pope Francis of the Vatican
- ◆ Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union
- ◆ Mr. Patrick Gomes, Secretary General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
- ◆ Mr. Jose Graziano da Silva, Director-General of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization

### Message of Congratulations from the Chairperson of AUC

The following is the text of the congratulatory letter that the Chairperson of the AUC, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, sent to President Isaias Afwerki on the occasion of Eritrean Independence Day.

*“On the auspicious occasion of the celebration of the National Day of the State of Eritrea, I wish, on behalf of the Commission of the African Union and on my behalf, to convey to your Excellency, the government and people of Eritrea, our warm and fraternal congratulations.*

*“I would like to seize this opportunity to express my personal appreciation for the efforts that your Government is deploying towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals as well as peace and prosperity for your great country.*

*“I remain confident that under your able leadership, Eritrea will continue to work closely with the African Union for the attainment of the objectives of our Continental Organization.”*

### Africa Day Celebrated in Asmara

Africa Day was celebrated in Asmara on 30 May 2015 in the presence of Ministers, Senior Officials, Ambassadors and representatives of International Organizations.



In a speech he delivered at the occasion, Foreign Minister Osman Saleh said that Africa has witnessed immense changes and transformation which include decolonization. He stated, however, the vision of creating a peaceful, developed and prosperous continent

has not yet materialized. The Minister noted that external interventions and marginalization of Africa continue to be the main drivers of conflicts in the continent.

The Foreign Minister stressed that in order to solve the existing problems in the continent there should be harmony and respect among member states of the African Union (AU). He also underscored the need to strengthen the existing RECs and the organs of the AU.



A South African music group 'Sound of Diamond,' and Nigerian and Eritrean musicians entertained the participants of the event.

### Independence Day Celebrations at Home and Abroad



Leipzig Philharmonic Orchestra

Malian Star Habib Koite

## Independence Day Celebrations 24 May 2015, Asmara Stadium

