



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



## **President Isaias Afwerki Received the Credentials of the Ambassadors of Russia, Saudi Arabia and Mauritania**

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President Isaias Afwerki received, on 14 August 2015, the credentials of the newly-appointed Ambassadors of the Russian Federation, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.



Ambassador Faleh Mohammed J. Al Ruhaily of Saudi Arabia stated that the centuries-old strong ties between the peoples of Eritrea and Saudi Arabia predate the advent of Islam and have continued to flourish.

During the presentation ceremony, Ambassador Azim A. Yarakhmedov of Russia conveyed greetings and messages of goodwill from President Vladimir Putin to President Isaias. Ambassador Yarakhmedov also underlined his country's desire to further enhance the bilateral ties and increase cooperation in education and trade.



### **Qatar Airways to Increase Flights to Asmara**

Qatar Airways announced that starting from 7 September 2015 flights from Doha to Asmara will be increased from four to five times a week, representing 25 percent increase in capacity.

Ambassador Weddady Sidi Haiba, the first non-resident Ambassador of Mauritania to Eritrea, similarly expressed his country's desire to nurture strong bilateral cooperation, and consultation with Eritrea on important regional and international issues as well as in combating desertification.

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## Eritrea Introduced Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine

Eritrea launched the introduction of Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV-13) in to routine immunization program. Pneumococcal disease is one of the leading vaccine-preventable killers of young children worldwide. The introduction of this vaccine is expected to further reduce child death in the country.

At the launching ceremony, Minister of Health, Ms. Amina Nurhussien expressed that Eritrea has achieved 90% coverage of fully vaccinated children and this is due to the strong commitment of the people, government, health workers and partners. She also reiterated that the government will continue to work hard in this area and the introduction of PCVs will make a difference.

Dr Abdulmumini Usman, WHO Representative to Eritrea congratulated the Government of Eritrea particularly the Ministry of Health for introducing the new vaccine. He added that even though Eritrea has achieved the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), there is more work to be done on the post-2015 agenda.



Deputy Country Representative of UNICEF, Pelucy Ntambirweki, said that Eritrea's achievements in the Expanded Programme on Immunization are a major factor in the country's success in the health-related MDGs, and provides a good foundation to move into the Sustainable Development Goals which will replace the MDGs.

*Source: <http://www.afro.who.int/en/eritrea/press-materials/item/7905-eritrea-introduced-pneumococcal-conjugate-vaccine-into-epi-programme.html>*

## NCEW and ITUC held Consultative Meeting in Asmara

The National Confederation of Eritrean Workers (NCEW) and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) held a consultative meeting in Asmara on 17<sup>th</sup> of August 2015. The aim of the meeting was to explore ways and means of strengthening the ties between the two organizations.

The Secretary General of the NCEW, Mr. Tekheste Baire, pointed out that the National Confederation of Eritrean Workers remains an ardent supporter of the aims and objectives of the ITUC. This is amply demonstrated by the NCEW's active participation in all ITUC fora and its extension of unreserved support to the organization in various areas. Mr. Tekheste intimated that this was not always reciprocated by the ITUC whose stance was particularly unhelpful and ambivalent on the critical sovereignty issue that are of paramount importance to Eritrea and the NCEW.

The Deputy General Secretary of the ITUC, Mr. Wellington Chibebe, commended Eritrea's role in strengthening the Union. Mr. Chibebe, who described his visit to Eritrea as a vital opportunity to obtain first-hand information on the realities in the country, expressed satisfaction at the frank discussions his delegation was able to conduct with counterparts in the country and at the various activities of the NCEW that he was able to observe.

The ITUC delegation, which also included the General Secretary of ITUC-Africa Region, Mr. Kwasi Adu-Amankwah, held subsequent meetings with the Executive Committee of the NCEW, leaders of other national associations, and representatives of trade unions in the country.

NCEW formally acceded to ITUC in 1994 after the country's independence, while it had observer status in the years of the armed struggle.

### Eritrean Festivals Continue with Patriotic Zeal

The 2015 Eritrean Summer Festival season continued with the Festivals held in Western Canada, and East and West Coasts of the US. Similar to the Festivals which took place in Eritrea and the Diaspora over the past few months, these Festivals also featured semin-

nars by senior officials and prominent Eritreans, music and cultural performances of all the ethnic groups of Eritrea, children’s sport competitions, pictorial exhibitions, trade fairs etc. The Festivals were attended by thousands of Eritreans and friends of Eritrea.

#### Eritrean Festival in Western Canada Edmonton, 8-9 August 2015



#### Eritrean Festival - US East Coast Washington DC, 7-9 August 2015



#### Eritrean Festival - US West Coast Oakland, 14-16 August 2015

