

**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**



Sudan's President Official Visit to Eritrea

The President of Sudan, H.E. Omar Hassan Al-Beshir conducted a three-day working visit to Eritrea from 16-18 January 2014.

During the visit, President Isaias Afwerki and President Omar Hassan Al-Beshir held extensive discussions on bilateral, regional and global issues. The talks that took place in Asmara and the Port City of Massawa elaborated the ways and means of upgrading the prevailing historic and people-based bilateral relations between the two countries. They also discussed on the expansion and consolidation of the free movement of goods and people.

The two leaders asserted that Eritrean-Sudanese relations have entered a new phase in depth and vitality.

The two leaders expressed similar views on how to resolve domestic and regional problems, and agreed to jointly work in promoting peace and development in the Horn of Africa.

Regarding the prevailing sad situation in the Republic of South Sudan, President



Isaias and President Beshir stated that the issue not only affects negatively South Sudan but also Eritrea and the Republic of Sudan, as well as the countries of the region. They further reached understanding on the need to have consensus towards achieving peaceful solution to the crisis on the basis of coordination and collaboration among all stakeholders.

In the course of his three days stay in Eritrea, President Omar Al-Beshir visited the Dahlak Island, the Filfil-Solomuna zigzag road that was built by utilizing internal capacity and resources, and a number of economic establishments.

Egypt's Special Envoy Delivered Message to the President of Eritrea

President Isaias Afwerki received a message from the Interim President of Egypt H.E. Adly Mansour and held extensive talks with Ambassador Hamdi Sanad Loza, Egypt's Vice Foreign Minister and Special Envoy of the Interim President.

In the meeting that took place in Asmara on 15 January 2014, Ambassador Hamdi Sanad Loza briefed President Isaias on the

steps taken by the Government and people of Egypt during the transition period. He further gave detailed explanation on the ratification process of the new Constitution and the elections to be conducted in the near future.

President Isaias on his part expressed the Eritrean Government's confidence on the capacity and capability of the Egyptian people to overcome the

current challenges.



He also underlined the important role Egypt plays in the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea Region in the promotion of economic integration and maintenance of peace and security.

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Press Release**Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea
US Hostility, Not Eritrean Rigidity, Responsible For Sour Relations**

United States Diplomat and Former Ambassador to Nigeria and South Africa, Princeton Lyman, recently wrote a piece blaming Eritrea for the lack in progress in relations with the United States. By choosing to remain silent about the many, well-documented wrong-doings of the United States (and Ethiopia) in regard to Eritrea and the region, he also tries to absolve them of any responsibility.



The ill-thought policies of US administration officials, that have caused tragic consequences for the region, started during the unnecessary war between Eritrea and Ethiopia in 1998-2000. At that time US officials, who had been invited by both sides to facilitate a peaceful settlement, decided to take sides, convinced as they were that saving the regime of the late Ethiopian Prime Minister at all costs was their number one priority.

When the war ended and the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission rendered its "final and binding" boundary ruling, the United States, ostensibly a guarantor of the Algiers Peace Agreement failed to uphold the ruling and decided to countenance Ethiopia's flagrant violation. US officials went further and attempted to change the ruling, as related by former US Ambassador to the United Nations, John Bolton, with a view to shoring up the Ethiopian regime and strengthening the hand of the Prime Minister against "hardliners in his party."

US hostility to Eritrea increased sharply in the middle of the 2000s when it decided to rely on Ethiopia, whom it had branded an "anchor state," in its war against terrorism in the Horn of Africa. It subsequently instigated the Ethiopian invasion of Somalia and to "reward" Ethiopia, it intensified its effort against Eritrea, maligning its government, which has an impeccable record in fighting extremism and terrorism, as a "spoiler." Some US officials openly spoke of "punishing" Eritrea and called for "regime change." A series of concrete measures, including economic, diplomatic and media pressures, were undertaken by Washington against Eritrea and the Eritrean Diaspora in the United States.

Finally, in 2009, the US administration orchestrated the imposition of unfair and illegal sanctions on Eritrea in order to muzzle the country and kill any discussions of Ethiopia's continued illegal occupation of Eritrean territory in violation of international law and UN Security Council resolutions. Solid evidence, including numerous Wikileaks documents, belie Ambassador Lyman's claim that it was African countries and not the United States that was responsible for sanctions.

Despite US hostile policies and actions, Eritrea has regularly sought to engage the United States. Inter-agency talks in the early 2000s floundered when the US made it absolutely clear that it was not going to shoulder its responsibility in regards to the Eritrea-Ethiopia boundary ruling. Another attempt in 2006 failed when the then US Assistant Secretary of Africa Affairs decided that the international boundary ruling should be changed and Eritrea isolated and punished. Even after the imposition of sanctions a high-level meeting was held to open a new chapter, but US hostility proved a bridge too far. Subsequently, in December 2011, the United States went as far as making it impossible for the President of Eritrea to address the United Nations Security Council on the issue of sanctions.

The conclusion is fairly obvious; it is US hostility, not Eritrean rigidity that is the cause of sour relations between the two countries. It is also undeniable that US flawed policies have contributed to the deteriorating situation in the Horn of Africa and beyond. The time has come for a thorough review.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
29 January 2014
Asmara

Sudan's Minister of Oil, Minister of Water Resources and Electricity Held Talks With President Isaias

On 28 January, President Isaias Hassan Al-Beshir during the Afwerki received and held talks with a high-level Sudanese government delegation that included Mr. Mek-kawi Mohamed Awad, Minister of Oil, and Mr. Mutaz Musa, Minister of Water Resource and Electricity.

President Isaias assured the delegation the readiness of the Eritrean government to implement the cooperation agreements between the two sisterly countries.

In the course of the meeting, the two sides discussed ways and means of fostering cooperation in the domain of energy in line with the agreement and understanding reached between President Isaias and President Omar

A Joint Technical Committee is established to follow up the matter.



UN Human Rights Council Technical Team Visited Eritrea

A technical team from the United Nation's Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights visited Eritrea from 21-25 January 2014.

During their stay, the team held meetings with several government officials, diplomats, UN Country Team in Asmara, as well as a steering committee that consists of representatives from various government Ministries and Civil Society Organizations.

Eritrea has been actively engaged with the UN Human Rights Council including under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism with the aim of exploring areas of cooperation on human rights issues.

Eritrea's second national report under UPR is being examined by the Human Rights Council in the session that is taking place in Geneva, from 27 January-7 February 2014.

Eritrea Expanding from Gold to Copper Production

One of Eritrea's partners in the mining sector, the Canadian Nevsun Resources in its 2014 outlook announced that it was looking forward to its first full year of copper production at its flagship Bisha mine located in Western Eritrea.

Bisha Mining Share Company (BMSC) will also advance its Zinc expansion project through the year.

60% of BMSC is owned by Nevsun, while 40% is owned by the Eritrean National Mining Corporation (ENAMCO).

Eritrean Natnael Berhane Wins La Tropical Amissa Bongo 2014 Tour in Gabon

Natnael Berhane, an Eritrean professional cyclist who currently rides for Europcar team, won the 9th edition of the La Tropical Amissa Bongo Tour held in Gabon, from 13-19 January 2014.

Natnael is the first ever African to win this prestigious race. La Tropical attracts cyclists from 45 countries, many of whom accustomed to the Tour de France. Since its first launch in 2006 the race was consecutively won by Europeans.

The Tour is held annually in memory of the late sister of the President of Gabon.

