



President held talks with South Sudan Delegation

On 25 April 2015, President Isaias Afwerki received and held talks with a South Sudan delegation headed by Mr. Nhial Deng Nhial, Chief Negotiator of the Government of the Republic of South Sudan.



During the meeting, the two sides conducted discussion focusing on bilateral relations and the peace process in the Republic of South Sudan.

Mr. Nhial told Erina that the discussion with President Isaias was very significant, and explained that the peace process that was in progress under the auspices of IGAD has not so far produced concrete outcome. He further

indicated that he had given detailed briefing to President Isaias on the peace process and the problems encountered. He also disclosed that the delegation has received vital advice from the President.

Mr. Nhial Deng Nhial elaborated that President Isaias has underlined that in order for the peace process to succeed, the two parties need to discuss the South Sudan problem in earnest and free from external interference. In this connection, Mr. Nhial Deng Nhial stated that the President cautioned against internationalizing the South Sudan issue which would but further complicate it.

Mr. Nhial said that President Isaias has asserted Eritrea's readiness to further enhance bilateral relations with South Sudan, as well as to cooperate in efforts to foster relations of cooperation between South Sudan and the Republic of Sudan.

Eritrea took part in the Asian-African Conference in Indonesia

A senior Eritrean delegation led by Foreign Minister Osman Saleh attended the Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Asian-African Conference held from 22- 24 April 2015, in Bandung and Jakarta.



**Asian African Conference
Commemoration
Indonesia 2015**

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Eritrea and Cuba Agreed to Enhance Cooperation in the Health Sector

Eritrean Minister of Health, Ms. Amina Nurhusein, and her Cuban counterpart Dr. Roberto Morales in their meeting held in Havana on 23 April 2015, reviewed the existing cooperation between the two countries in the health sector and signed an Agreement to further strengthen the cooperation.

Eritrea-EU Partnership Anchored on Mutual Interests and Respect

By Abraham Tesfay (Source: www.shabait.com)

The 22-years old Eritrea-EU ties of development cooperation is firmly anchored on mutual respect and collaboration in sectors that are agreed upon by both sides.

The EU development fund (EDF) that is allocated to Eritrea within the five-year planning cycles is similar to the EDF agreements the former signs with the other 78 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states.

As far as political dialogue is concerned, the EU and Eritrea are bound by the same procedures and modalities that are enshrined in the multilateral Cotonou Agreement.

Eritrea's long cherished vision revolves around securing a life of dignity and prosperity for its citizens in a peaceful and cooperative regional and global setting.

Principles Guiding Eritrea's Engagement in Development Cooperation

Four key factors are important to Eritrea as it considers development cooperation, whether with the EU or other partners:

- ◆ Mutual respect on matters of sovereignty and political independence;
- ◆ Healthy, symmetric, relationship between the signatory parties;
- ◆ Non imposition of political and/or economic conditionalities;
- ◆ Host country ownership of programmes and the channeling of funds directly to implementing bodies on the ground.

Eritrea Attended the International Convention on Public Health in Cuba

An Eritrean delegation headed by the Minister of Health, Ms. Amina Nurhusien, participated in the International Convention on Public Health held in Havana, Cuba from 20-24 April 2015. In a Statement she delivered at the meeting, the Minister elaborated on Eritrea's achievement in the health domain and the experience acquired thereof.

EDF Financing Agreements

The **7th EDF**, the first EU assistance package to Eritrea, was signed in 1994 in the immediate aftermath of the National Indicative Plan (NIP) that the Government of Eritrea (GOE) had charted out. The focus of the outlined projects were infrastructure, including transport and energy; rehabilitation and recovery programmes (Short Term Programme to Aid Reconstruction and Recovery); as well as technical studies. The total budget for this cycle was €55m and it was fully implemented albeit interruptions and delays entailed by the border war.

In 2001, the GOE designed the **8th EDF**, 56 million Euro programme that was primarily funnelled towards restoring macroeconomic stability.

The **9th EDF** cycle addressed post-conflict rehabilitation and especially the demobilisation programme that the GOE embarked on after the signature of the Algiers Peace Agreement and subsequent referral of the border dispute to the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission.

The **10th EDF** was signed in 2009 with a total budget of €122m. The bulk of the funds were allocated to food security and road maintenance. Non-focal sectors included capacity building programmes for Community Courts as well as the Eritrean Center for Organization Excellence. Some of these programmes were restructured subsequently pursuant to GOE programme review amid changing priorities.

Discussions regarding the **11th EDF** cycle and the sectors for funding began in 2013 and the key focal sector for this cycle is energy and economic governance. The agreement is expected to be signed in early May 2015.