



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



President Isaias Interview with Local Media on Domestic and Regional Issues

In an extensive interview that was broadcast live on Eri-TV and Radio Dimsti Hafash on 22 and 23 January 2016, President Isaias Afwerki elucidated Government policy on key domestic issues, overall developmental progress achieved in the past year as well as Government sectoral priorities and programmes for this year.

President Isaias underlined that issuance of the new Nakfa Currency Notes is part and parcel of the structural adjustments that must be taken to strengthen and invigorate the economy. Issuance of the new Nakfa currency notes will not, in itself, bring about miraculous economic change. However, the Government is taking incremental and supportive measures to bring about the desired changes. There are positive signs and trends even if the time elapsed so far is too short for comprehensive assessment, President Isaias noted.

President Isaias explained that the new increased salary scales implemented for new graduates drafted in the Civil Service will be fully applied to the entire Civil Service, PFDJ and associated bodies with appropriate adjustments when the ongoing processing of relevant personnel data is completed.

In responding to the food situation in Eritrea this year in view of the harvest



shortfall that has affected the whole Horn of Africa region, President Isaias stated that the country will not face any crisis in spite of reduced agricultural output due to the Government's judicious policy and approaches of bolstering its strategic food reserves.

President Isaias also described in detail the Government's comprehensive policies on urban and rural housing. Noting the chronic housing problems that still prevail in virtually all cities and towns, President Isaias stated that the Government intends to ramp up its capabilities and work with other partners to fully address this challenge on an expeditious basis.

President Isaias also talked at length on Government policy of zero-tolerance to corruption as well as Government approaches to and progress made so far in the constitution drafting process. President Isaias further stressed the need to strengthen the political work of the PFDJ.

Full text of the interview can be accessed at: <http://www.shabait.com/eritrea-profile>

Vol 3. Issue 48

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Inside this issue:

Eritrean Delegation Participated at the 26th AU Summit 2

Eritrea Awarded for Achieving the Target of Malaria Control 2

Eritrea and EU Conclude a Cooperation Accord 3

Asmara's Nomination Dossier to the World Heritage List Submitted 4

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 **Eritrean Mission to
AU & ECA**

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Eritrean Delegation Participated at the 26th AU Summit



An Eritrean Delegation led by, Mr. Biniam Berhe, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the State of Eritrea to the African Union (AU) and UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) took part in the 26th AU Summit held at the Headquarters of the Union in Addis Ababa, on 30 and 31 January 2016. The Summit was held under the theme 'African Year of Human Rights with a particular focus on Women Rights.'

The Delegation of Eritrea also attended the preparatory meetings of the Executive Council held from 27-

29 January, as well as the meeting of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) that took place from 12-22 January. The Delegation expressed Eritrea's views on the various issues raised at the meetings.

One of the Decisions adopted by the Summit was on the violation of the immunities and privileges of the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the AU and UNECA, Ambassador Araya Desta, and his spouse by Ethiopian security personnel on 14 May 2014 at the Addis Ababa Airport. The Executive Council regretted the violations and urged the Ethiopian Government "to accord to the Permanent Mission, its Head and diplomatic staff of Eritrea the same immunities and privileges it accords to the diplomats from other AU Member States as well as to abide by its hosting obligations."

The Eritrean Delegation also attended the meeting of the AU Peace and Security Council at the Level of Heads of State and Government, held on 29 January, to deliberate on the fight against terrorism and the promotion of peace in South Sudan.

Eritrea Awarded for Achieving the Target of Malaria Control

Eritrea received the 2016 African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA) Award for Excellence for Achieving the Malaria MDGs Target, at a ceremony held at the Headquarters of the AU on 30 January 2016, in the presence of African Heads of State and Government, UN Secretary-General and AU Commission Chairperson.

The Executive Secretary of ALMA, Ms. Joy Phumaphi, stated that Eritrea had been a model for other nations in the fight against malaria, and that Eritrea was at the right path toward 100 percent elimination of malaria.



Eritrea and EU Concluded a Cooperation Accord

The Government of Eritrea and the European Union concluded a 200-million Euro cooperation agreement focusing mainly on the development of renewable energy. As per the agreement signed in Asmara on the 28th of January 2016, out of the 200 million Euro of the European Development Fund, 175 million Euro will be directed to energy, 20 million Euro on capacity building and 5 million Euro for technical assistance.

The Minister of National Development, Dr. Giorgis Teklemikael, and Mr. Christian Manahl, EU Ambassador to Eritrea, signed the accord. Present on the occasion were Foreign Minister Osman Saleh, General Sebat Ephrem, Minister of Energy and Mines, and Mr. Koen Doens, Director for Eastern and Southern Africa in the European External Action Service.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Giorgis noted the existing cooperation between Eritrea and the EU in different sectors, and explained that the latest agreement attests to the prevailing close cooperation between Eritrea and the European Union.



Ambassador Christian Manahl, on his part, stated that the Eritrean Government's judicious utilization of resources will be decisive in strengthening the partnership.

Dr. Giorgis and Mr. Koen Doens conducted discussion focusing on the cooperation agreement and its implementation.

UN Envoy Conducted Working Visit to Eritrea

Ms. Kyun-wha Kaang, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator of the United Nations, conducted a two-day working visit to Eritrea starting on January 25.



Ms. Kyun-wha met and held talks with various senior Eritrean Government officials and representatives of UN Agencies. Discussions covered ways of strength-



ening engagement and cooperation between the Government of Eritrea and the UN and an exploration of areas for future program support.

Mr. Osman Saleh, Minister of Foreign Affairs, in a meeting he held with Ms. Kyun-wha expressed Eritrean Government's resolve towards consummating development goals in spite of the existing challenges such as the unjust sanctions. *(continues on page 4)*

UN Envoy Conducted Working Visit to Eritrea ...*(Continued from page 3)*

On his part, the Minister of Information, Mr. Yemane Ghebremeskel, underlined that the engagements of UN agencies should not be confined in development programs, but should also play their due part in helping to lift the illegal sanctions imposed on Eritrea in contravention of international law.

In a joint meeting she held with the Ministers of Health, Education, Agriculture, and Labor and Human Welfare, Ms. Kyun-wha made remarks on ongoing fields of cooperation and developments towards ensuring social services, including food security and social welfare.

Moreover, in the company of Minister of Health Ms. Amina Nurhusein, Ms. Kyun-wha Kaang, visited health centers in Seregeka Sub-zone. During her visit,

Ms. Kyun-wha stopped at the health centers in Serejeka and Geshenashim, followed by a tour of Emabdorho elementary and middle schools to assess various health provisions made for students.

The UN envoy also met with Ms. Senait Mehari, Deputy of the Social and Economic Department of the National Union of Eritrea Women, who discussed the progress Eritrea has made in gender equality, including progress in remote areas, and disclosed the Union's role towards this end.

At the end of her visit, Ms. Kyun-wha Kaang expressed appreciation for the provision of social services by national institutions and the priority given to remote areas of the country.

Asmara's Nomination Dossier to the World Heritage List Submitted

The Nomination Dossier and the supporting documents for the candidature of the city of Asmara to the World Heritage List was officially submitted on 1st of February 2016 to the World Heritage Center at the UNESCO Headquarters.

Eritrea's Ambassador to France and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, Ms. Hanna Simon, officially submitted the Nomination Dossier titled "Asmara: Africa's Modernist City" and its supporting documents to the Director of the World Heritage Center Dr. Mechtild Rossier.



The Asmara Heritage Office at the Administration of Central Region prepared the Nomination Dossier and all the supporting documents in accordance with the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

The Historic Perimeter of Asmara, along with its modernist architecture, was put in the Tentative List of UNESCO in 2005. Asmara's application is expected to be approved by July 2017 as the project already responds to several criterion.