



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

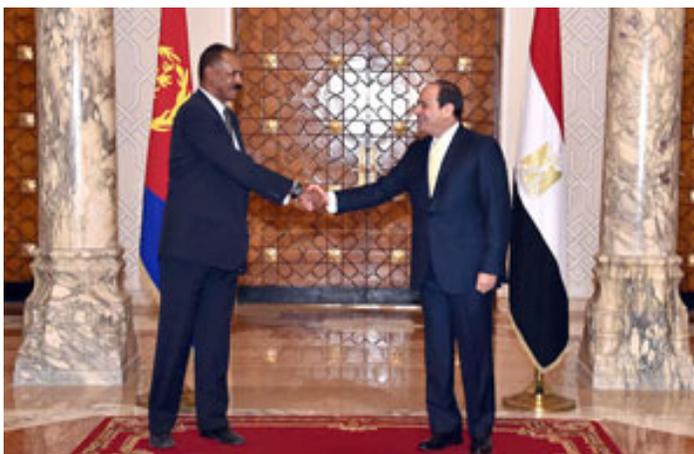


President Isaias Held Talks with his Egyptian Counterpart

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President Isaias Afwerki and President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi of the Republic of Egypt met and held talks on 29 November in Cairo on boosting bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries. The meeting took place during President Isaias' three-day long visit to Egypt.



In their meeting, the two leaders expressed readiness to enhance cooperation in various sectors including fisheries, agriculture, livestock resources as well as trade and investment.

They also agreed that the already established joint committees should play their due role to ensure the practical implementation of the programs.

President Isaias and President El-Sisi reached agreement to reinforce coordination for ensuring the peace and stability of the Red Sea region as well as in combating terrorism and human trafficking.

President Isaias underlined that Eritrea look forward for Egypt's enhanced role in the region and across the African continent.

President Isaias Received the Credentials of Six Ambassadors

At a ceremony held at Denden Hall on 22 November 2016, President Isaias Afwerki received, the credentials of H.E. Ian Richards of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, H.E. Jabir Ali Salim Al-azba of the State of Qatar, H.E. Abdalla Ali Muqbil Al-Seri of the Republic of Yemen, H.E. Stefano Moscatelli of the Republic of Italy, H.E. Gadi Harpaz of the State of Israel and H.E. Francois Goldblatt of France.

During the presentation ceremony with the Ambassador of the UK and Northern Ireland, President Isaias explained the erroneous stance of the British government towards Eritrea and reiterated that Eritrea advocate for amicable relations.

Similarly, during the meeting with the Ambassador of the State of Qatar, *(Contd on page 2)*

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*Eritrean Mission to
AU & ECA*

President Isaias Received the Credentials of Six Ambassadors (Contd. from page 1)

President Isaias underlined that Eritrea would strive to further strengthen the existing friendly relations between the two countries.



While receiving the credentials of the Israeli Ambassador, the President noted that the existing predicament in the Middle East and the modality to find solution is directly affecting the region and called on Israel to play due role in promoting regional peace and stability.



Also in the meeting with the Italian Ambassador, President Isaias stressed that Italy is not playing due role in former colonies and asserted that the country is expected to play due role in bilateral relations and regional issues.

Likewise, President Isaias and the French Ambassador discussed the forthcoming election in that country. Moreover, the President conducted discussion with the Yemeni Ambassador on efforts to bring about peace and stability in that country and the region as a whole.

Eritrean, Kuwaiti Foreign Ministers Met in Malabo

Foreign Minister Osman Saleh met with Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah in Malabo on 22 November 2016.

During the meeting held on the sidelines of the Fourth Africa-Arab Summit hosted by the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, the two sides discussed on reinforcement of bilateral ties and on regional issues.

Minister Osman underlined that the historic relations between Eritrea and Kuwait need to be strengthened on the basis of development cooperation in all fields, particularly in marine resources, mining, trade and infrastructure.



Stressing that Eritrea’s strategic location plays significant role in regional issues, Sheikh Al-Sabah expressed his country’s readiness to reinforce the existing bilateral relations to higher level of cooperation.

Minister Osman also met and held discussion with Mr. Tomas Mechebe, Equatorial Guinea’s Minister of Tourism, on issues of mutual interest, particularly promoting cooperation in the tourism sector.

Eritrean Delegation's Statement at the 4th Africa-Arab Summit

A Delegation led by Foreign Minister Osman Saleh took part at the 4th Africa-Arab Summit, that was held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea from 17-23 November 2016. The following is excerpts from Minister Osman Saleh statement submitted at the Summit.

More than five decades or so after independence our resource-rich continent still remains politically fragile, economically underdeveloped and globally marginalized. As you are all aware of, colonialism had exploited Africa's sons and daughters and plundered its resources.

The oppressive legacies of colonialism have been affecting the continent's political development and economic performances negatively. Unless we take a strong and clear stand against this looming threat our continent seems destined to be systematically plundered and our marginalization bound to remain so indefinitely.

As you know, Ladies and Gentlemen, achieving sustainable development is one of the pressing challenges facing our continent. It is about time to change the page on the past. There should not be a room for business as usual. We cannot just gloss over to the prevailing inequitable international order.

The obstacles and challenges are there. But we need to make economic choices and need to rely on our own resources. The continent is endowed with suffi-

cient resources to make it happen. Africa should say no to humanitarian aid and yes to mutually beneficial strategic partnerships.

I strongly feel that our task should be devoted to creating mutual understanding, mutual respect and mutual benefit. There is no development without security. Likewise there is no security without development. And both hinge on mutual respect for sovereignty of States.

This strategically-driven partnership could only be viable in the long term; if it sets its strategic priorities right. The common challenges in environmental security, terrorism and migration deserve our coherent approach. Paradigm has shifted and so must our strategy.

In this respect, transformation of the international system, including the UN should be our important goal. Respect of the rights of our peoples to development, sovereignty and to live in peace without any threats should also be the epicenter of the future.

The warm brotherly feelings that Africans and Arabs uniquely share need to be accompanied by a proven track record of performance and reliability. Meaningful, substantive, and strategic cooperation in security, trade and investment is the way forward.

The full text of the Statement can be found at <http://shabait.com/news/local-news/22986-eritrean-delegation->

Eritrean Delegation Attended Fidel Castro's Funeral

An Eritrean Delegation comprising Foreign Minister Osman Saleh and Mr. Yemane Gebreab, Head of PFDJ Political Affairs, took part in the funeral service of the former Cuban President Fidel Castro, held on 4 December 2016 in Santiago de Cuba. The Delegation conveyed the deep condolences of the People and Government of Eritrea.

During its stay in Cuba, the Delegation met and held talks with various Cuban officials on boosting bilateral ties between the two countries.



Eritrea - Opportunity for Development Innovation

The Eritrean Minister of Information Mr. Yemane Ghebremeskel participated at a Conference on issues pertaining to Eritrea held on 28 November at the European Parliament in Brussels.

Mr. Brian Hayes, member of the European Parliament and VITA, an Irish NGO which is currently active in Eritrea, jointly hosted the conference that was held under the theme: "Eritrea-Opportunity for Development Innovation".

Mr. Yemane underlined that Eritrea in past 25 years has put in place firm foundation that guarantee sustainable economic development and social justice despite the TPLF's war of aggression, the unjust and illegal sanctions imposed on Eritrea and external conspiracies. Papers related to mutual partnership and cooperation between Eritrea and the EU, development programs that are being carried out in Eritrea in partnership with VITA (an Irish NGO), UN organizations as well as potash mining activities being carried out since 2009 were presented in the Conference.



In a statement he made at the opening ceremony, Mr. Hayes said that the conference that is the first of its kind is aimed at correcting the negative image that Eritrea has been portrayed by some media outlets and to reflect the practical and realistic observations about Eritrea by those who visited and worked in Eritrea.

Mr. Hayes also shared his impression and experience of his visit to Eritrea and expressed his strong conviction that positive outcomes could be achieved through constructive engagement and cooperation with the country.

Mr. Yemane on his part gave extensive briefing as regards the national policies for sustainable economic development, the optimistic and trustworthy economic policies of the Eritrean Government, procedures and regulations for multiple and bilateral partnerships as well as on the encouraging policies for investment opportunities and other areas of development.

In their presentations the officials and experts that include Ms. Christine Umutoni, UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Representative in Eritrea, explained their affirmative experiences and called on the international community for strong engagement and cooperation with Eritrea.

The Conference was attended by members of the European Parliament, heads of European Commission, friends of Eritrea, Eritreans from various European countries as well as heads of international organizations.

Meanwhile, the Eritrean delegation led by Minister Yemane along with Mr. Negasi Kassa, Ambassador of Eritrea to the EU, met and held talks with various EU officials as regards reinforcing mutual cooperation.

Eritrea’s Success in HIV/AIDS Control, Prevention and Treatment Can Serve as a Model to the Continent

While many countries have shown significant progress in combating HIV/AIDS, Eritrea’s strong record in battling HIV/ AIDS stands out positively. In Eritrea, HIV/AIDS prevalence among 15-45 year olds is approximately 0.59%, which is one of the lowest rates both within the region and comparatively across the African continent.

Eritrea’s success in combating HIV/AIDS is founded upon a multisectoral approach that also involves the targeting of harmful societal behaviours and traditions. Specifically, the country has: targeted traditional and patriarchal stereotypes and practices, including banning child marriage and FGM/FGC; focused on improving gender equality and decreasing the burden of poverty borne by women; and sought to reduce stigma and discrimination. Furthermore, community awareness programs have been vigorous and effective in the social marketing of condoms, communicating safe practices, offering educational programs, and providing youth peer counselling.

The country’s commitment to the rights and health of citizens living with HIV/AIDS is also illustrated by considering the high levels of support for antiretroviral therapy (ART), which helps avert HIV/AIDS related deaths and is a critical factor in driving down the rate of new infections.

Additionally, Eritrea has established numerous Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) and Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT)

centers throughout the country. VCTs offer rapid testing and pre and post-test counselling, are staffed with trained counsellors, and operate according to national guidelines. While PMTCT centers chiefly focus on pregnant women, offering testing services and supporting those found HIV-positive in preventing the transmission of HIV to their children.

Considering Eritrea’s progress in the context of its various socio-economic, development, and regional challenges, the country’s success becomes particularly striking. Potentially serving as a model for Africa, Eritrea’s HIV/ AIDS success also illustrates what can be achieved with a self-reliant approach, a capacity to adapt, effective coordination, and cost-effective projects. At the same time, however, the potentially devastating consequences posed by HIV/ AIDS – in terms of human rights, severe human toll, and impact on national developmental – mean that the country has little room for complacency.

Ultimately, Eritrea must continue to augment its existing programmes and further promote effective initiatives and interventions in order to control and reduce the harmful impact of HIV/AIDS, while also expanding attention to HIV in national planning, gender equality, and socio-economic efforts.

The above is excerpts from an article by Dr. Fikreje-sus Amahazion. The full text can be accessed at: <http://shabait.com/articles/nation-building/23014-world-aids-day-2016-a-report-from-adi-keyh-eritrea>

Eritrea Tops National and Individual UCI Rankings in Cycling

Africa’s cycling powerhouse, Eritrea, once again conquered the top spot of the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) ‘Africa Tour 2016’ nation standings. Similarly, the 2016 African Continental Champion, Eritrean Tesfom Okbamariam took the top spot in the 2016 ‘Men Elite - African Tour’ Ranking.

Men • Elite • UCI Africa Tour Ranking • Nations
6: 04 Dec 2016

| Individual | | Nation | | | |
|------------|----------|--------|------|------|--------|
| Rank | Name | Nation | Team | Age* | Points |
| 1 (1) | ERITREA | ERI | ERI | | 1660 |
| 2 (2) | MOROCCO | MAR | MAR | | 1417.5 |
| 3 (3) | ALGERIA | ALG | ALG | | 1306 |
| 6 (6) | TUNISIA | TUN | TUN | | 404 |
| 7 (7) | ETHIOPIA | ETH | ETH | | 343 |

Men • Elite • UCI Africa Tour Ranking • Individual
6: 04 Dec 2016

| Individual | | Nation |
|------------|---------------------------|---------|
| Rank | Name | Nation |
| 1 (1) | Issak TESFOM OKUBAMARIAM | Eritrea |
| 2 (2) | Adil BARBARI | Algeria |
| 3 (3) | Soufiane HADDI | Morocco |
| 4 (4) | Abderrahmane MANSOURI *** | Algeria |
| 5 (5) | Mouhssine LAHSAINI | Morocco |