



ERI-NEWS



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

President Isaias Received the Credentials of Five Ambassadors and UN Representative

President Isaias Afwerki received, on 19 December in Asmara, the credentials of Ms. Susan Ngongi-Namondo, United Nations Resident Coordinator; Ambassador Toshitsugu Uesawa of Japan; Ambassador Michael-Christos Diammisis of the Hellenic Republic; Ambassador Agrina Mussa of the Republic of Malawi; Ambassador Daniel Cavegn of the Swiss Confederation; and, Ambassador Ramiah Yogarajan of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

In the meeting with the UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Susan Ngongi-Namondo, President Isaias emphasized the need for UN agencies in Africa to seek ways and means of resolving the underlying problems rather than limiting their activities to the mere mitigation of

humanitarian challenges entailed by drought, hunger and conflicts. In this regard, President Isaias noted the priority and importance that should be



President Isaias with the UN Resident Coordinator

accorded to capacity building to enhance the objectives of development and self-reliance in the continent which is endowed with rich natural and human resources. *Contd. on page 2*

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President Isaias with the non-resident Ambassador of Japan

President Isaias underlined the higher dividends that accrue from Japanese investment in Africa in his meeting with Ambassador Toshitsugu Uesawa. Relief assistance has marginal impact and what Africa really needs from a resilient Japan that rose to prominence from the huge devastation it suffered in the Second World is its expertise and experiences.

Noting the impressive development Japan has registered through the hard work and rich tradition of its people in overcoming the devastation it sustained in World War II, President Isaias underlined that Africa needs Japanese experience and knowledge, apart from humanitarian aid.



President Isaias with the non-resident Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation

In his meeting with the Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation, President Isaias dwelt on the scourge of people smuggling and human trafficking. President Isaias noted that the global crime of people smuggling and human trafficking, stoked by various parties, constitutes an abominable act of slavery in the 21st Century. As such, it warrants collective action.

Eritrea has been pressing for an independent, transparent, and accountable investigation of this crime with the involvement of the United Nations, President Isaias stated. The President reaffirmed Eritrea's unreserved readiness to cooperate in this legal process. Eritrea does not contemplate illicit and fruitless bilateral mechanisms to address this multi-faceted issue, President Isaias stressed.



President Isaias with the non-resident Ambassador of Malawi



President Isaias with the non-resident Ambassador of Sri Lanka



President Isaias with the non-resident Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic

President Isaias similarly discussed the enhancement of bilateral ties in his meetings with the Ambassadors of the Republic of Malawi, the Republic of Sri Lanka, and the Hellenic Republic.

‘Eritrea Registering Major Achievements on the Diplomatic Front’: Foreign Minister Osman Saleh

Foreign Minister Osman Saleh, during an interview he conducted with national media outlets, said that Eritrea is registering major achievements on the diplomatic front.

The Foreign Minister indicated that attempts by special interest groups over the past 17 years to diplomatically isolate Eritrea have been foiled thanks to the strong resilience of the people and Government of Eritrea.

Pointing out that Eritrea’s foreign policy does not compromise national values and interest, and respects the interest of other countries, Minister Osman said that this policy is gaining wide acceptance and that a growing number of countries are expressing their readiness to diplomatically engage with Eritrea.

The Foreign Minister went on to indicate that the illegal and unjust sanctions imposed on Eritrea by the UN Security Council in 2009 and 2011 were continuations of hostility in the guise of the border conflict. He further explained that unprecedented vile campaign has been conducted to demonize Eritrea and its leadership and such an attempt has been foiled through the staunch resilience of the Eritrean people at home and abroad.

Minister Osman reiterated that the main actors which pursued a policy of hostility against the people and



Government Eritrea are presently demonstrating readiness for constructive engagement with Eritrea in the wake of the nation’s perseverance and resilience.

Meanwhile, pursuant to the Eritrean Government’s policy of promoting peace and stability in East Africa, especially in the Horn region, Foreign Minister Osman underlined that Eritrea equally gives due attention to the task of fostering mutual cooperation which is bearing encouraging outcome.

The Minister underscored that the ultimate goal is to strengthen bilateral relations based on mutual respect and interest in addition to portraying Eritrea’s true image and that the nation will continue to exert relentless effort on the basis of strong organization and resilience.

Eritrean Delegation Attended the 5th AU-EU Summit

An Eritrean delegation comprising Permanent Representative to the African Union and UNECA, Ambassador Araia Desta, and Eritrea’s Ambassador to the European Union, Ambassador Negasi Kasa, attended the 5th AU-EU Summit held in Abidjan, Ivory Coast from 26-30 November 2017.

The summit was convened under the theme “Investing in Youth for Accelerated Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development.” The Summit agreed to focus the cooperation on four strategic priorities, namely investing in people- education, science, technology and skills development; strengthen-

ing resilience, peace, security and governance; mobilizing investment for African structural sustainable transformation; and migration and mobility.



On the sidelines of the summit, the Eritrean delegation met and held talks with the delegations of Romania and Bulgaria on strengthening bilateral relations.

Eritrea’s Experience in Combating Corruption

An Eritrea Delegation led by Mr. Hagos Gebrehiwet, Head of Economic Affairs of the PFDJ, participated at the World Political Parties Meeting, held in Beijing, the People’s Republic of China, from 30 November - 3 December 2017. In a Statement he delivered at the meeting, Mr. Hagos Gebrehiwet shared Eritrea’s experience in fighting corruption.

Mr. Hagos underscored that corruption is a malignant disease that devours and destroys the fabric of a society; and the soul of a nation and people. He went on to elaborate on Eritrea’s experience and the underlying conceptual and methodological approaches that the country has developed to combat corruption. These include, instituting a zero tolerance policy for corruption; rigorous sensitization campaigns to reinforce policy percepts: lean, clean, efficient and highly paid civil service; strict regulations on business licenses of public servants; strict financial accountability of government ministries and instituti-

ons; and setting up special government bodies to strengthen accountability.



Mr. Hagos indicated that what looks impressive or perfect on paper does not always translate seamlessly in practice. After stating that due to several externally imposed factors the elimination of corruption has not been secured to the level projected, he affirmed that the commitment and policy orientations remains as strong as ever.

Eritrean Festival in Qatar

The Eritrean Festival in Qatar was conducted with patriotic zeal from 23 to 27 November 2017. Eritreans residing in Qatar, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Qatar and members of the diplomatic corps in Doha took part at the opening of the Festival.



The Festival featured seminar on the objective situation in the homeland; pavilions depicting the cultural diversity of the Eritrean people; artifacts exhibition as well as musical, artistic and cultural performances.

Eritrean Airlines Expands Services

As part of efforts to expand its services, Eritrean Airlines has launched new routes to Cairo and Milan starting from 9 December. The Head of Operations, Mr. Gebretensae Petros stated that the Airline has been providing regular services to Khartoum, Jeddah and Dubai. In addition, Mr. Gebretensae announced that the Airlines will also start new flights to Juba, South Sudan on December 22nd.



National Policy on Traditional Medicines Adopted

The Ministry of Health adopted and made public the national policy on traditional medicines at a meeting conducted on 6 December at Orotta Referral Hospital.

At the occasion in which Ministers, professionals and invited guests took part, Ms. Amina Nur-Husein, Minister of Health, commending the research conducted on traditional medicines in a short period of time, called for more effort for continued research activities on the part of the stakeholders with the newly formed national technical committee.

Mr. Eyasu Bahta, Director of the National Medicine and Food Administration in the Ministry of Health, said that the policy is expected to narrow the gap between the modern and traditional medical practitio-

ners and that will help for the introduction of integrated health service provision.

Indicating that traditional medical practice has a long history in the country, the advisor of the Minister of Health, Dr. Mismai Gebrehiwet said that the lack of policy of control and regulations the practice has been in effect without understanding the negative effect and that the policy will help in regulating the practice.

Speaking at the event, the Representative of WHO in Eritrea, Dr. Josephine Namboze indicated that the contribution of traditional medication is not to be lightly viewed in basic health service provision and expressed that WHO will contribute its part in the national effort as regards traditional medical practice.

World AIDS Day Marked

World AIDS Day was observed, on 1 December, at national level in the Port City of Massawa under the theme: “Right to Health” .

Speaking at the event, in which Ministers, senior Government and PFDJ officials, heads of UN institutions in Eritrea, as well as other invited guests took part, the Director General of Public Health in the Ministry of Health, Dr. Andeberhan Tesfatsion indicated that owing to the coordinated effort exerted to combat the prevalence of the disease, the number of HIV/AIDS infections has decreased to less than 1% nationwide, and to 0.28% in that of pregnant women, and in the last 12 years the prevalence of the disease has decreased by 78%.

Commending the endeavors being exerted by the people and government of Eritrea in combating HIV/AIDS, and underlining the difficulty of minimizing the prevalence rate of the disease to its lowest level, the representative of WHO in Eritrea, Dr. Josephine Namboze expressed her strong conviction that Eritrea will meet the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals a head of time.

International Children’s Day Observed

International Children’s Day, 8 December, was observed at national level in Mendefera under the theme “Ensuring Overall Development of Children through their Participation”.

At the ceremony in which Government officials and representatives of UN agencies took part, Ms. Leul Gebreab, Minister of Labor and Human Welfare, said that the Day is a reminder to evaluate the efforts made to nurture children with a view to ensure the continuity of generations, and that encouraging achievements have been registered in ensuring the health of children and their participation in education. Minister Leul called up on the public to strengthen its contribution in the efforts to eradicate harmful practices that affect women psychologically and physically.

Ms. Shaya Asindua, Deputy Representative of UNICEF Eritrea, indicated that UNICEF has been working for over 20 years alongside the Government of Eritrea in the effort to ensure the overall development of children. She said that Eritrea’s accession to the Convention on the Rights of the Child attests to the commitment of the Eritrean Government to the promotion and protection of the rights and wellbeing of children.

