



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



President Isaias Received the Special Envoy of the President of Senegal

President Isaias Afwerki received and held talks, on 6th of December 2016, with Mr. Mamadou Talla, Minister of Trade of Senegal and Special Envoy of President Macky Sall.

President Isaias expressed to the Special Envoy that Eritrea looks ahead to strengthen ties of mutual cooperation and reach common consensus on pertinent issues regardless of geographical distance between the two countries.

Stating that the African Union has not lived up to the expectations of the African people nor materialized its founding principles, President Isaias underlined that joint effort is highly decisive in meeting the envisaged goals.



Mr. Talla on his part, pointing out that Eritrea has strategic importance to his country, expressed his country's readiness to reinforce the relations between the two countries. The Special Envoy expressed that his country looks forward to Eritrea's support for its candidate for the position of Chairperson of the AU Commission.

International Human Rights Day Commemorated in Asmara

Text of the Statement by Mr. Osman Saleh, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Eritrea, at a ceremony organized in Asmara to commemorate Human Rights Day on 09 December 2016.

The UN adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to set out common standards which every country should strive to achieve. The essence of this is promotion of the ideals of humanity. Human Rights Day is an opportunity to reflect on the human rights situation globally and its implications to Eritrea.

As a country that emanated from the struggle for human rights, Eritrea has mainstreamed it in the nation building

process. Hence, equal rights and opportunities sanctioned by national laws are promoted. Dignified livelihood targeting poverty elimination is evolving and the equitable distribution of resources ensured. Above all the responsible participation of the people has prevailed.

In this vein, the rule of law is also instituted but fast tracking the political process to strengthen the infrastructure that enhances human rights is a vital goal. Revised national codes have been declared and writing a new constitution is on course. The initiative to reorganize government institutions
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**Eritrean Mission to
AU & ECA**



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International Human Rights Day Commemorated in Asmara... (Contd. from page 1)

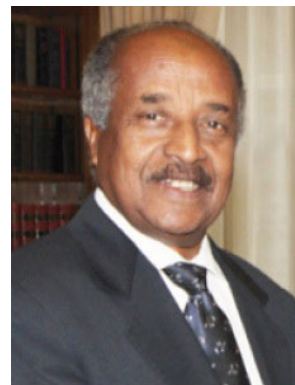
and administrations is also ongoing to consolidate guidance and effective services.

The above are home grown pragmatic efforts driven by an independent political stance. They embody national ownership and priorities. They are based on Eritrea's context, needs and human betterment ideals. Peace and stability thus prevails, as an achievement earned by the effort and sacrifice of all the citizens.

However, there is no complacency, as there is a long way to go. But the achievements and resilience of the people and government to sustain this development trajectory epitomize the nation's strength.

The ongoing plan now is to redouble the efforts and create a qualitative leap in the foreseeable future.

On the other hand, Eritrea still faces existential external threats i.e. occupation, illegal sanctions and belligerent stances. Neither has these threats succeeded to roll back Eritrea's progress, nor have they subdued the resilience of the people and government. Even so, they all constitute a violation of the human and people's rights and depict the failure of the international system.



Humanity is faced with the challenges of global injustices aggravated by geopolitical agendas and interests. The prevailing level of underdevelopment and global poverty also poses challenges to human and people's rights.

Every nation faces human rights challenges. However, the politicization of human rights by the powers of domination to vilify and destabilize nations is unlawful and constitutes a grave danger. The human rights architecture is already suffering from the emerging polarization as a result of this situation.

In the above context, the all-round development basis of rights including the right to development is negated. Dichotomy in the handling of rights, the focus being on political and civil rights, has become symptomatic. The pressure on developing countries to leap frog political rights at the expense of economic, social and cultural rights is also being used as a means of coercion.

In the event, the Human Rights Council as a body formed out of the failure of its predecessor seems to be at the crossroads and is falling prey to the above situation. The Human Rights Day is thus a solid reminder of the need to rectify the looming functional crisis in the international system.

On this occasion, I wish to reiterate the Eritrean Government's commitment and responsibility to advance human rights to its people. It will also strengthen its engagement and cooperation as well as join the collective effort to address the emerging crisis in the global human rights architecture.

I thank you!



Besides, Eritrea has been targeted under the politically motivated, country specific resolutions and mechanisms of the Human Rights Council. This futile attempt is perpetuated to subdue the nation under the pretext of human rights. Nevertheless, Eritrea continues to strengthen its bilateral, regional and international level engagement and cooperation including on human rights. The UPR in particular serves as a vital entry point and the evolving cooperation partnerships with the UN and EU are considered important in this respect.



Government of Eritrea and the UN Launched the Strategic Partnership Cooperation Framework (SPCF) 2017-2021

The Government of Eritrea and the UN launched the Strategic Partnership Cooperation Framework (SPCF) for 2017-2021 on 1st of December in Asmara. At the same time the UN in Eritrea and partners commemorated the 71st anniversary of the United Nations.

The event was held at the National Confederation of Eritrean Worker’s Union and attended by Government officials, senior officials from the People’s Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ), Ambassadors and members of the diplomatic corps, UN staff, development partners and the media.

In the statement read on behalf of the UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon for UN Day, it was noted that in 2016, humanity entered the era of sustainability – with a global commitment to fulfil the promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. “In this, the Organization’s 71st year, we have 17 goals to propel us towards a better future for all on a healthy planet”, he added.

While delivering the opening remarks, UN Resident/ Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative Ms. Christine N. Umutooni said that the new SPCF starts on 1st January 2017 and is aligned to

Eritrea’s National Indicative Development Plan (NIDP). She also added that the SPCF makes reference to the Africa Union Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The key note speaker for the event was H.E. Berhane Habtemariam, Minister of Finance, who was representing H.E Mr. Osman Saleh, Minister of Foreign Affairs. He attributed the success of SPCF 2013- 2016 and achievement of some MDGs to the close collaboration between the Government and the UN. He also added that the results and challenges of the first SPCF 2013-2016 will be useful in informing the implementation of the next SPCF 2017-2021 and the implementation of the SDGs.

Ms. Leila Gharagozloo-Pakkala, Regional UN Development Group focal person for Eritrea and UNICEF Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa also graced the event. In her remarks, Ms. Pakkala said that her mission to Eritrea focused on discussing ways that the Regional Director’s team can continue to support the work of the Government and the UN family, including the operationalization of the new SPCF 2017 – 2021. She commended the work of the UN in *(Contd. on page 5)*

Ministry of Information Press Statement False Reporting by Al-Mayadeen

In its evening programme, “Maydania”, of current news analysis (7:00p.m.-8:00p.m.) on 13 December, the Beirut-based Arabic TV channel, Al-Mayadeen, wrongly asserts, that the “United Arab Emirates has acquired a 30-year lease for a military base in the Port of Assab”.

This is not the first time for Al-Mayadeen to broadcast wild and speculative news on Eritrea in a highly dramatized manner and without rudimentary verification.

On 20th June this year, Al-Mayadeen had falsely claimed that “Israel has completed the construction of its largest listening post at Emba-Soira, Eritrea ... to monitor maritime movements in the Bab-el Mendeb and eavesdrop on Iran.”

The TV channel was requested by Eritrea at the time to explain its sources, rectify the false news, and desist from unwittingly serving as a gullible mouthpiece for sinister forces who harbour hostile agendas against Eritrea.

The latest false story broadcast by the same channel is evidently curved from the same mould. Periodic disinformation on Eritrea will not serve the interests of Al-Mayadeen’s audiences and only dent the reputation of the TV channel.

Ministry of Information
Asmara
14 December 2016

Eritrea-France Investment and Partner’s Event Held in Paris

The Embassy of the State of Eritrea in France launched the Eritrea-France Investment and Partner’s Forum with an event designed to bring together friends and partners of Eritrea. About 40 friends, diplomats, investors and Eritrean counterparts attended the event which took place on the 3rd of December at the Embassy premises in Paris.

The participants’ areas of expertise and affiliation included tourism, wildlife, telecommunication, investment, research, media, public relations and international organizations.



Ambassador Hanna Simon, Eritrea’s Ambassador to France, presented an overview of the present situation in Eritrea, development activities and prospects and various issues related to the nation building process. The Ambassador gave an insight

into the resolute rebuff of the Eritrean people against the sanctions resolution, the ongoing effort to strengthen national capacity, food security, improvement of the quality of life, human capital development and the establishment of local governance systems in support of the grassroots democratic process in the country. She also elaborated on the investment opportunities that exist in Eritrea.

One of the speakers at the event, Mr. Sebastien Crozier, Vice President of Orange Telecommunication Ltd, highlighted the exemplary struggle waged by the Eritrean people for independence and gave an account of his continuous support. He commended the perseverance and spirit of Eritreans, and pledged to continue his support towards Eritrea’s development.

Eritreans in UK Staged Peaceful Demonstration Against the Illegal Occupation and Unjust Sanctions

Eritrean nationals residing in the UK and friends of Eritrea staged a demonstration in London calling for the respect of the rule of law, urging Ethiopia to withdraw from occupied sovereign Eritrean territories in accordance with the final and binding ruling of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC) as well as an end to the unjust and illegal sanctions against Eritrea.

The peace demonstration held on 12 December in front of the British Prime Minister’s Office involved over 1,500 Eritrean citizens and friends of Eritrea.

The demonstration was held in connection with the 14th anniversary of the EEBC ruling and aimed at reminding the British government as member of the UN Security Council, to apply pressure on Ethiopia

put an end to its illegal occupation of sovereign Eritrean territories, in addition to calling on the UK and other guarantors of the agreement to shoulder their responsibility as demanded by the Algiers Agreement.



A petition signed by over 5 thousand Eritrean nationals and foreign friends was submitted to the Office of the British Prime Minister.

Asmara Heritage Dossier Won the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Award

The application dossier presented to UNESCO as part of the bid to inscribe Asmara in the World Heritage List won the 2016 President's Medal for Research of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA).

The project entitled "Asmara-Africa's Modernist City" was prepared in collaboration between Mr. Medhanie Teklemariam, Mr. Dawit Abraha from the Asmara Heritage Project and Dr. Edward Denison from Bartlett School of Architecture. The dossier contains more than 1300 pages of photographs depicting Asmara's historic buildings.



At the opening of the ceremony held in London on 6 December, RIBA President Dr. Jane Duncan said that Asmara, home to buildings like the Fiat Tagliero is not short of extraordinary buildings.

Dr. Duncan further underlined that Eritrea's effort to conserve Asmara's early colonial era architecture represents a profoundly different attitude towards architectural heritage and its interpretation and treatment compared with many other post colonial settings.

For the past 50 years the Royal Institute of British Architects has been awarding successful projects that reflect changes and innovations in architecture, and that display a commitment to designing and developing buildings and spaces for the improvement and enhancement of people's lives.

The application to inscribe Asmara in the World Heritage List is expected to be approved in the first half of 2017.

Government of Eritrea and the UN Launched the Strategic Partnership Cooperation... (Contd. from page 3)

the country and the good collaboration with government and other partners in achieving tangible results.

Other speakers at the event included Mr. Afewerki Tesfai, Director, Office of the Minister, Ministry of National Development; and, Mr. Ibrahim Sambuli, UNFPA Representative. Ms. Pelucy Ntambirweki, UNICEF Deputy Representative made a presentation of the SPCF who clarified to the audience that; the SPCF is the agreement between the Government of Eritrea and the UN on selected areas of work that will constitute development cooperation over the next five years.

The new SPCF will commence in January 2017 and will end in 2021. It has four strategic areas (pillars) for interventions and cooperation: 1) Basic social services; 2) Environmental sustainability, resilience and disaster risk management, 3) Public sector capacity development; 4) Inclusive growth, food security and sustainable livelihoods. The new SPCF is guided by the UN "Delivering as One" approach, ensuring a cohesive response to national development priorities. It was developed through a consultative and participatory process reinforcing the principles of aid effectiveness and mutual accountability.