London, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2012

The four-day Eritrean Festival in Melbourne which opened on the 5<sup>th</sup> January 2012, in which Eritreans and friends of Eritrea took part. This year Festival once again continued with whole host of activities for kids and adults, that was entertaining and at the same time inspiring. The family atmosphere was witnessed as participants of the festival came flocking early with the beautiful sun shining on them.

Greeting the participants with smiles all-round was the job of every Eritrean on the spot; nonetheless there were well organized programs for the participants, which made their day unforgettable. The chairman of coordinating committee, Mr. Yassin Omar, called on to bequeath the prevailing unity of Eritrean nationals in Australia & New Zeeland, which us a reflection of the country's harmony to the young generation.

The Youth played a major role in the overall process of making the Festival as lively as possible.

Much of the eagerly anticipated program was the public seminar by Mr Zemhret Yohannes, Head of Research & Documentation at the PFDJ (Peoples Front for Democracy & Justice). Mr Zemhret gave an extensive insight about Eritrea and the state of mind that has been developed there by also updating participants about current state of affairs, as well as development campaigns.

An opportunity was also given for comments and questions to the participants where adequate answers were given. Much appreciation from the audience was a testament to the great display of patriotism that the Eritrean people just like the past they are working side by side with their government.

Festival Eritrea Australia 2012 saw participants from all age groups that have travelled from various parts of Australia including as far as New Zeeland.

The General Consulate of the State of Eritrea to Australia & New Zeeland Mr. Beshir Idris Nur, thanked all organizing committees as well as participants that came from far and close to make the festival lively. He also commended efforts of families in promoting the transfer of culture and pointed out that Eritrean people have made impressive headway in the development drive overcoming all challenges.

The night continued on with various entertainments programs lined out, the highlight to the musical extravaganza was the performances by the Eritrean artists, which had traveled all the way to entertain the crowd with performances; festival attendees were treated to three days music and dance. The much admired and respected musical ensemble played old and new songs to the audiences delight, making the festival event even more memorable.

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