*Source: Eritrea Ministry of Information: Shabait*

***Messages of congratulations* 27th Independence Day anniversary.**

*Asmara, 17 May 2018-*

*The leaders of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Republic of Korea, Republic of Austria, India, Kingdom of Morocco, Lebanon, Mexico and the Governor of the Commonwealth of Australia sent messages of congratulations to the people and Government of Eritrea in connection with the 27th Independence Day anniversary.*

*King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, President of the Republic of Korea, Moon Jae-in, President of the Republic of Austria, Alexander Van der Bellen, President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, King of Morocco, Mohammed VI, President of Lebanon, Gen. Michel Aon, President of Mexico, Enrique Pena Nieto and the Governor of the Commonwealth of Australia, Sir. Peter Cosgrove wished good health to President Isaias Afwerki as well as peace and prosperity to the Eritrean people.The leaders also expressed readiness of their countries to strengthen bilateral relations with Eritrea.*

***Other news****: Reports indicate that Eritrean nationals residing in Demam, Saudi Arabia, Cairo, Egypt, Djibouti and South Sudan have colorfully celebrated the 27th Independence Day anniversary under the theme “Vision though Toil”.*

*At the celebration held in Demam on 11 May, Ms. Weini Gerzgiher, head of the Consular Affairs in Riyadh, said the Independence Day celebrations are indicatives of the respect the Eritrean people have =to the fallen heroes and in which they pledge to strengthen unity and participate in the implementation of the national development drives.*

*The Eritrean nationals residing in Cairo, Egypt, also celebrated the Independence Day anniversary with patriotic zeal.*

*The First Secretary at the Eritrean Embassy, Mr. Ismail Idris said that the over all achievements so far registered are the result of the strong organization and resilience of the Eritrean people.*

*Like wise, the Eritrean nationals residing in South Sudan have started the Independence Day celebration on 13 May with football competitions.*

*The Independence Day celebration has been also conducted in Djibouti on 11 May featuring various activities including pictorial exhibition portraying the culture and tradition of the Eritrean people as well as historical heritage among others.*

Asmara, 17 May 2018- The Commission of Culture and Sports reported that preparations for the 27th Independence Day anniversary celebrations have been finalized.

Ambassador Zemde Tekle, Commissioner of Culture and Sports, indicated that the independence day celebrations that will be held from 18 to 24 May includes programs that will be staged in cinema halls, public squares and streets depicting the cultural diversity and harmony as well as the unity and national values of the Eritrean people.

Indicating that sports activities and schools independence week have been underway beginning from the end of April, Ambassador Zemede pointed out that the official celebrations will start from 18 May with children’s programs, photo, handicrafts and innovation exhibitions, carnival, musical and artistic performances, community gatherings as well as cultural and community programs.

This year’s carnival will be conducted under the theme “Behind the Frontline of the EPLF” and the 13 sub-zones of the Central region will participate representing the 13 departments of the front that contributed in the success of the struggle for independence, Ambassador Zemede added.

It was also indicated that mass sports and half marathon competitions will be conducted in connection with the Independence Day celebrations.

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