



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



## **President Isaias held talks with Egyptian Delegation**

President Isaias Afwerki met and held talks in Asmara, on 5 April, with Egyptian Business Delegation led by General Hamdy Badeem, General Manager of the Egyptian Company for National Service.

On the Eritrean side, Mr. Hagos Gebrehiwet, Head of PFDJ Economic Affairs, Maj. Gen. Humed Karikare,



Commander of Eritrean Navy, Col. Melake Tesfamariam, Chief of Staff of the Eritrean Navy as well as Mr. Fasil Gebreselasie, Eritrean Ambassador to Egypt attended the meeting.

The Egyptian delegation is slated to discuss and finalize with Eritrean counterparts investment proposals on prioritized sectors; and especially on fisheries. The delegation will also visit Massawa and other areas in the Red Sea coast.

**Contact Addresses:**  
Tel: +251-116620052  
Fax: +251-116620011  
Email: [eritreanaumission@gmail.com](mailto:eritreanaumission@gmail.com)  
P.o.Box: 5527  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

 *Eritrean Mission to  
AU & ECA*

 *@EritreaAU*

**Vol 4. Issue 65 and 66**

**10 April 2017**

### **Inside this issue:**

- Senior Eritrean Delegation Conducted Working Visits to Egypt, Morocco, and South Sudan** 2  
2  
3
- Asmara Architectural Exhibition in Cape Town and Nairobi** 3
- Ethiopia Must Unconditionally Withdraw from Sovereign Eritrean Territories Including the Town of Badme** 4
- NCEW held its 7<sup>th</sup> Congress** 6
- Asmara hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of OSMA** 7
- Eritrean Delegation Addressed the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNHRC** 8
- Eritrea Participated at the 61<sup>st</sup> Session of the UN CSW** 8

### Senior Eritrean Delegation Visited Egypt

A senior Eritrean delegation comprising Foreign Minister Osman Saleh and Presidential Advisor Mr. Yemane Gebreab conducted a four-day official working visit to Egypt.

During the visit, the Eritrean delegation held talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister, Mr. Sameh Shoukry and with several business people. The delegation also visited the large scale national project for fisheries and aquaculture, the Cairo International Fair for Egyptian Products and a number of other enterprises.

The bilateral talks centered on strengthening existing social, economic, cultural and trade relations between the two countries with special focus on the sectors of marine resources, agriculture, renewable energy, health, as well as banking and financial services.

In this respect, the two sides agreed to initiate at this stage concrete cooperation programmes in the sectors of marine resources and agriculture through the establishment of a fishing project as well as a joint model farm in Eastern Eritrea. They also agreed to boost bilateral trade, particularly in terms of increased Eritrean imports and mutual investment, starting with Egyptian investment in Eritrea in identified priority sectors.

Furthermore, the two sides agreed to enhance their continual political consultations and joint efforts aimed at greater coordination in regional and international forums. The agreement encompasses coopera-



tion and joint work to combat terrorism, piracy and human trafficking.

In his concluding remark at the wrap up session, Eritrea’s Foreign Minister, Mr. Osman Saleh, expressed his appreciation for the warm hospitality accorded to his delegation by the Egyptian Government and officials of all the Egyptian institutions. Mr. Osman further underlined that the Egyptian high level and multi-institutional delegation’s visit to Eritrea in the past month and the Eritrean delegation’s current visit to Egypt “underscore the determination of the two countries to develop their bilateral fraternal ties into a solid, multi-faceted, partnership that is mutually beneficial”.

The Egyptian Foreign Minister, Mr. Sameh Shoukry for his part asserted “Egypt’s willingness to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries in all fields, for which there is great potential”.

### Senior Eritrean Delegation Conducted a Working Visit to Morocco

A senior Eritrean delegation comprising Foreign Minister Osman Saleh and Presidential Advisor Mr. Yemane Gebreab conducted a three-day working visit to the Kingdom of Morocco.

The Eritrean delegation met the Moroccan Foreign Minister, Mr. Salehaddin Mzwar and delivered a message from President Isaias Afwerki to King Mohamed the Sixth.

The two sides discussed consolidation of bilateral ties as well as regional and global issues. Minister Osman Saleh congratulated Morocco for the resumption of its membership in the AU and its valuable contribut-



ion to Africa. Minister Mzwar on his part thanked Eritrea for its strong support for Morocco and underlined his country’s readiness to develop partnership with Eritrea.

In the course of its working visit, the delegation met with a number of Moroccan officials and investors.

### Eritrean Delegation Visited Juba

Eritrea’s delegation consisting of Foreign Minister Osman Saleh and Presidential Adviser Yemane Ghebreab met, in Juba, South Sudan’s President Salva Kiir Myardit on Monday 3 April.



The Eritrean delegation conveyed to President Kiir a message from President Isaias Afwerki expressing Eritrea's solidarity and support for the people and government of South Sudan.

President Salva Kiir stated that his government was ready to continue and develop its long standing cooperation with Eritrea. He briefed the delegation on developments in South Sudan and reaffirmed his government's determination to restore peace, national cohesion and to rebuild the economy.

Foreign Minister Osman Saleh and the delegation also met First Vice President Taban Deng Gai and discussed priority areas for bilateral cooperation.

Earlier the delegation held a meeting with the Eritrean community in Juba and apprised them about developments in Eritrea. It hailed their steadfastness and contributions to their country.

### Asmara Architectural Exhibition in Cape Town and Nairobi

An Exhibition depicting Asmara’s architectural treasures was staged in Cape Town, South Africa and Nairobi, Kenya.

The exhibition was staged under the theme “Asmara: City of Dreams”.

It is part of the campaign underway in 16 cities in 9 countries with a view to inscribing Asmara in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Diplomats, Eritreans and friends of Eritrea attended the exhibition, and put their signatures in the Asmara World Heritage Appeal document.



## **Ethiopia Must Unconditionally Withdraw from Sovereign Eritrean Territories Including the Town of Badme**

### **The Border Dispute Between Eritrea and Ethiopia Has Been Resolved Conclusively**

The Agreement signed in Algiers in December 2000, by the President of Eritrea and the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, to resolve the border dispute between the two countries is crystal clear. It was meticulously done with no ambiguity or loophole. It was guaranteed by the UN and the OAU/AU and witnessed by the U.S, E.U and Algeria.

As per the Algiers Agreement, the Eritrea Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC) was established in 2001 with the mandate to make Final and Binding Delimitation and Demarcation Decisions. The Commission was composed of five prominent and highly respected lawyers (two British, two American and one Nigerian).

The Commission fulfilled its mandate by unanimously delivering Final and Binding Delimitation and Demarcation Decisions in 2002 and 2007, respectively.

There is no longer contested or disputed border between Eritrea and Ethiopia. What we have is Ethiopia's occupation of sovereign Eritrean territories.

The Government of Eritrea has been calling on the Guarantors and Witnesses of the Algiers Agreement to urge the Ethiopian Government to unconditionally withdraw from sovereign Eritrean territories, including the town of Badme.

### **Final and Binding Delimitation**

After thoroughly considering the extensive arguments presented and evidence submitted by the two Parties, the EEBC awarded its Final and Binding Delimitation Decision on 13 April 2002. The flash-point of the dispute, Badme, was awarded to Eritrea. Eritrea fully accepted the Decision. The Decision was welcomed by the Guarantors and Witnesses of the Agreement.

### **Commencement of the Demarcation Process**

The physical demarcation of the border, on the basis of the Delimitation Decision, was envisaged to be concluded in November 2003.

In consultation with the Parties, implementation and Demarcation Directives and rules of procedure were issued on 21 March and 22 August 2003 and adopted by the Parties. The Commission's Field Offices were established in Asmara, Addis Ababa and Adigrat. A Chief Surveyor was appointed by the Commission and had taken his post in Asmara. Surveying staff were recruited to assist the chief Surveyor. Implementation and demarcation activity started in the Eastern Sector in March 2003.

Unfortunately, the Demarcation process was halted because of the obstructions and intransigence of the Ethiopian Government.

### **Ethiopian Government's Obstructions of the Demarcation Process**

The Ethiopian Government with clear objective of trying to change the Final and Binding Delimitation Decision of the Commission, kept on creating all kinds of excuses and pretexts to obstruct the Demarcation of the border. The actions of the Ethiopian Government were aided and abetted by some western powers, in particular the U.S. Administration.

The EEBC, even though frustrated by the behavior of the Ethiopian Government, deployed every means at its disposal to convince the Government to respect the rule of law and its international obligations.

But Ethiopia insisted on 'dialogue' as well as the 'creation of an alternative mechanism' and introduction of 'third party or a neutral body' to demarcate the border. The Commission rejected Ethiopia's requests. The legal view of the EEBC on Ethiopia's diplomatic games was firm and left no room for ambiguity. The President of the Eritrea Ethiopia Boundary Commiss-

*Contd. on page 5*



## Ethiopia Must Unconditionally Withdraw from Sovereign Eritrean Territories ...

(Contd. from page 4)

ion (EEBC), Sir Elihu Lauterpacht, in a letter (quoted below), dated 27<sup>th</sup> November 2006, addressed to the then Foreign Minister of Ethiopia, debunked Ethiopia's blame game and put squarely the responsibility of the problems encountered in the demarcation process on Ethiopia's intransigence and obstructions.

*“You place great emphasis on ‘the need for dialogue and support by neutral bodies to help the two Parties make progress in demarcation and normalization of their relations.’ Of course, ‘the normalization of relations’ is a desirable objective but that is a matter that falls outside the scope of the Commission’s mandate, which is solely to delimit and demarcate the border. The scope for ‘dialogue’ is limited to what is necessary between the Commission and the Parties to further the actual process of demarcation on the ground. There is no room within the framework of the Algiers Agreement for the introduction of ‘neutral bodies’ into the demarcation process.”*

*“Your letter seeks to blame the Commission for Ethiopia’s failure to meet its obligations under the Algiers Agreement. Such blame is entirely misplaced. The truth of the matter appears to be that Ethiopia is dissatisfied with the substance of the Commission’s Delimitation Decisions and has been seeking, ever since April 2002, to find ways of changing it. This is not an approach which the Commission was empowered to adopt and is not one to which the Commission can lend itself.”*

### Final and Binding Demarcation

After the Ethiopian Government failed to uphold its commitment under the Algiers Agreement and allow the placement of the pillars and markers on the ground, the EEBC was obliged to resort to another

approach to fulfill its mandate of demarcating the border.

The EEBC, stating that “it evidently, cannot remain in existence indefinitely,” adopted the internationally accepted and practiced procedure of demarcation by coordinates. Previous instances of demarcation by coordinates referred by the EEBC include the Beagle Channel Case, the Iraq-Kuwait Border Demarcation Commission’s (IKBDC) Decision of 1993, the Argentine-Chile frontier case (1966) and the manner in which the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea deals with the limits of maritime claims by states.

The EEBC, using modern techniques of image processing and terrain modeling in conjunction with the use of high resolution aerial photographs, identified boundary points both grid and geographical coordinates and demarcated the Eritrea-Ethiopia border. The Commission wrote letters to the two Parties and the Secretary General of the UN stating that: **“The Commission hereby determines that the boundary will automatically stand as demarcated by the boundary pillars points listed in the Annex hereto and that the mandate of the Commission can then be regarded as fulfilled.”**

On 30 November 2007, the EEBC sent to the Parties signed copies of 45 maps on a scale of 1:25,000 containing the demarcation of the boundary by coordinates. A copy was deposited with the United Nations. Another copy for public reference is retained in the Office of the U.N Cartographer.

### Ethiopia Must Vacate Eritrean Territories

No matter what one Party to the Algiers Agreement may feel and say, the boundary between Eritrea and Ethiopia is Delimited and Demarcated in a Final and Binding Manner. What remains is for Ethiopia to immediately and unconditionally withdraw from the Eritrean territories it is occupying illegally.

## National Confederation of Eritrean Workers held its 7<sup>th</sup> Congress

The 7<sup>th</sup> Congress of the National Confederation of Eritrean Workers (NCEW) was held in Asmara from 27 to 29 March, under the theme “Strong Organization for Robust Union.”

The Congress commenced in the presence of President Isaias Afwerki, senior government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, and representatives of international organizations and trade unions.



In his opening speech, Secretary General of the NCEW, Mr. Tekeste Baire, thanked the participants and expressed his gratitude to Eritrean workers for their devotion towards national development. He said that the concepts of ‘country’ and ‘workers’ are two faces of a coin, which is why he added, that Eritrean youth both fought and worked for the country’s independence and are actively taking part in the ongoing struggle for development and safeguarding sovereignty.

President Isaias Afwerki, in his key note address to the Congress, underscored that “as we pay tribute to the long and proud history of struggle of Eritrean workers, it is imperative and timely to ask where does the NCEW want to go and how will it proceed in the years ahead”. President Isaias then explained that the vision and strategy Eritrea tenaciously pursued for its strategic nation building process was mainly aimed at ensuring sustainable and equitable improvement in the livelihood of Eritrean citizens, to increase productivity for economic growth and prosperity, to build widespread infrastructure in all developmental sectors, to open ample employment opportunities and above all, to cultivate and enhance a professional, experienced and highly disciplined labor force in all sectors, industries and enterprises.



In the course of the three-day Congress, seminars by senior government officials were conducted. Besides, a Ten-year Activity Report of the Confederation was presented and extensive discussion conducted on the reviewed constitution of the NCEW. The Congress adopted a number of recommendations and resolutions and elected 65 Permanent and 7 Alternative Central Committee members. Mr. Tekeste Baire was re-elected as the General Secretary of the Confederation.



Representatives from the International Labor Organization (ILO), the International Confederation of Trade Unions (ICTU), the Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU), International Trade Union Confederation-Africa (ITUC-Africa), International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) as well as Trade Unions delegates from Turkey, Sudan, Kenya, Algeria, Italy and SUKE, a philanthropic association from Switzerland, participated in the Congress.

The Representatives of regional and global workers organizations who participated at the NCEW Congress, expressed their appreciation for the commitment of the Eritrean Government to safeguard and promote the rights of workers and the active participation of the workers representatives at the Congress.

### Asmara hosted the 5th General Assembly of the Organization of Military Sports in Africa

The 5th General Assembly of Organization of Military Sports in Africa (OSMA) was held in Asmara from 11-13 March 2017.

The Assembly, which was attended by over 50 high ranking military officials from over 22 African countries, elected Col. Kabre David as President of the organization while 18 African countries including Eritrea became members of the Organization's Executive Board.

to the Eritrean government for hosting the meeting and expressed conviction that the General Assembly would eventually bear a sense of common understanding among participating member states that their presence is encouraging in the accomplishment of OSMA's inspiring mission.

At the end of the three-day session, General Flipos Weldeyohannes gave closing remarks expressing conviction that fruitful outcome that could promote



Speaking on the occasion in which senior government and PFDJ officials, diplomatic corps and invited guests were present, General Flipos Weldeyohannes, Chief of Staff of the Eritrean Defense Forces, pointed out that Eritrea is honored to host the Assembly, and underscored the paramount importance of sports in developing the physical and mental fitness, advancing spirit, promoting unity and harmony as well as instilling discipline.

Stating that Eritrea since the liberation struggle has been exerting unremitting efforts to promote sports activities in a well-organized manner, General Flipos underlined that military sports has been going on throughout the country in an annual basis and as a result a number of sportsmen and sportswomen have been able to participate in many of the most popular international sports competitions.

In a speech he delivered on behalf of Lieutenant General Meguedad Benziane, the President of OSMA, Colonel Kabre David expressed appreciation

military sports in Africa has been achieved in the course of the meeting. General Flipos further noted that the meeting has been a platform in which Eritrea's experience in military sports was shared with the participants while it also reflected the country's true image.

The new president of OSMA, Colonel Kabre David expressed appreciation to the Eritrean government for hosting the meeting while reaffirming his readiness to diligently work in collaboration with the member states and particularly with the members of the Executive Board so as to achieve the setout goals of the organization.

The Session was attended by a number of high ranking military officials from several African countries including South Africa, Algeria, Guinea, Cameroon, Kenya, Uganda, Tunisia, Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Senegal, Angola, Egypt, Ivory Coast, Zambia, Botswana, Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Mali, Congo Brazzaville, Morocco and Burundi.

## Eritrean Delegation Addressed the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNHRC



The Delegation of Eritrea addressed the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Human Rights Council, on 13 March 2017, in response to the oral update of the Special Rapporteur on Eritrea. The Delegation outlined the progress achieved in fast-tracking, as part of the overall developmental programs, the implementation of the UPR Working Group recommendations that Eritrea has accepted, inter alia:

1. **National service:** The prolongation of National Service has been imposed on Eritrea due to the threats of war that continue unabated. This state of affairs notwithstanding, the Government of Eritrea has introduced in the past two years a raft of measures, including harmonization and substantial increments on the Civil Service Salary Scale. As a result, National Service Members, the majority of whom are assigned to professional and civilian tasks, as well as those who remain in the Military, are obtaining remunerations that are congruent with their professional/skill and occupational services. The Government of Eritrea also continues to demobilize female members on a continuous basis.

2. **New Legal Codes:** Sensitization campaigns on the revised Eritrean Civil, Penal and their procedural Codes have and continue to be undertaken in a rigor-

ous manner – through public meetings, weekly TV, radio programmes as well as regular columns in the printed press. These campaigns will consolidate public knowledge and full awareness of the laws of the country and enhance the rule of law.

3. **UPR:** Coordinated efforts and expanded Government engagement and cooperation have been stepped up. The first coordinated yearly evaluation was conducted in December 2016 in Asmara. The evaluation has led to planning on wider scale by critically assessing the ongoing process. Agreement was reached to fast track and undertake a midterm formative evaluation in May 2017. This will enhance continuous follow up and preparation of the third Cycle of the UPR Report. In general, significant strides have been made in the implementation of many areas in particular in the administration of justice, in areas of development and social equality, in the penitentiary system, in engagement and international cooperation

4. **Cooperation with UN:** Cooperation in the implementation of the UPR Recommendations and general human rights issues and cooperation with the office of High Commissioner is also proceeding smoothly in accordance to the projected schedule.

The delegation concluded its Statement by reassuring the Council the commitment of the Government of the State of Eritrea to safeguard human rights.

The full text of the statement is available at:

<http://www.shabait.com/news/local-news/23609-statement>

## Eritrea Participated at the 61<sup>st</sup> Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women

An Eritrean delegation headed by Ms. Tekea Tesfamichael, President of the National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW), participated at the 61<sup>st</sup> Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women which was held from 13 to 24 March 2017 in New York.

On the sidelines of the session, Ms. Tekea conducted discussions with representatives of various countries on reinforcing bilateral ties and cooperation.

