

# I enjoy you - Eritrea!

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The musical drama Me-Se-J or *Melikti Serawit Jigna*, a Tigrigna expression meaning: the message from the Eritrean Defense Forces is BRAVERY (jigninet) said it all. It was a true handoff or passing of the torch to the young generation. It is fitting for a nation that just turned 19 to hand its youth the responsibility by offloading the load from the shoulders of the *Ghedli* generation. This generation gave Eritrea freedom, safeguarded the nation from deceitful attempt to re-colonize Eritrea, provided the necessary social and physical infrastructures, created human resources development mechanisms and bestowed the nation a social psych that will serve as a trajectory for the blossoming future of this miraculous nation.

I enjoy the fact that Eritrean leaders are consciously seeking the youth inside and outside of the country encouraging them to take ownership of their future. It is a glaring fact around the world including in the most advanced countries that the youth are feared and marginalized. In most Western countries, activities of youth are always a source of concern. This is also true in Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, Saudi Arabia, and many countries around the world. Contrary to the image the desperate corners want to portray, Eritrea is rearing, encouraging, embracing, and educating her youth to take ownership. And the efforts are paying off big time because the youth have embraced the challenge and accepted the burden of carrying freedom over for generations to come. That is what this Independence Day showed.

I enjoy the fact that Eritrea can hatch talent and display it en-masse for the world to see. From the very little that endears the *Kobero* (traditional drums) with delight, to the up-and-coming stars and, those who have embraced stardom with grace. I enjoy the fact that this generation knows their history, have embraced their history, understand deeply the challenges their parents overcame and know fully the challenges that await them. They understand deeply what it will take to put them in par with the rest of the developed world.

I enjoy the fact that Eritrea is a blessing for the youth because it gives the youth purpose, a challenge (seemingly insurmountable challenge), a way of life and joy. Nowhere in the world do you see a military training facility turning into an epicenter of growth and attraction for youth from around the world, just in SAWA. The youth from the US, Germany, Italy, Saudi Arabia, all over the Middle East and around the globe is going to SAWA to join their fellow youth, to encourage them and to enrich their own lives in return.

It was a blessing in disguise that, the parents of Eritrean youth had to go through hell to realize the seemingly insurmountable challenge of yanking-away a nation from the hands of super powers and their intoxicated slaves. They are lucky to come from a generation that seeded a seed of a nation that is gritty, witty, resilient, uncompromising, brave and simply brilliant. They came from a generation that knew the true meaning of sacrifice for

a nation, for each other, and their future; a generation that understood its place in the world, region and history; a generation that understood what it takes to establish a nation from inside out with hard work. They are lucky, extremely lucky and blessed, that their heroes are their fathers and mothers who have seen death and through-it the promise of life for the sake of the youth that is today.

I enjoy seeing Eritrea humble, so mature it puts the “civilized” word to shame. I enjoy seeing Eritrea that is so unique at expressing her true nature in millions of ways. Eritrea always handles and expresses her challenges joyfully, colorfully and beautifully. It is doubly rewarding when all the collective positive experiences are establishing layers of historic foundations that will serve future generations. For example, the pharmaceutical industry that is ready to blossom in Eritrea was a product of needs during the struggle for liberation. They established capacity from scratch in caves and now they are ready to export to the world. We can talk about military, education, farming, medicine and human resources development; it is all generic, organic and indigenous. I enjoy the fact that has turned out to be the salvation of a nation. Self Reliance!

I enjoy the fact that Eritrea has the capacity to express herself collectively and in one voice. You can talk to a 10-year-old child and 85-year-old man or a woman in Eritrea, you will hear the same feeling expressed. They will tell you, the world has betrayed us, that we are on our own and YES, WE CAN DO IT, not a doubt of that fact. I enjoy the fact that, that is a key motivating factor and no matter what they try to do, as the saying goes” The Camel will march, as the DOGS bark!”

I enjoy the fact that enough time has elapsed for shaking (mHquan) to take place and expose the true Eritreans from the bubbles and bubblers. I enjoy seeing and hearing these bubblers squirm during Eritrean independence celebrations and the fact that there is nothing, they can do about it. I enjoy the fact that they breathe, or try to breathe with the lungs of the enemy from three and half internet websites. I truly enjoy the fact that Eritrea keeps the losers who felt they could make Eritrea their purpose for living at the end of their traitorous lives, away and for good. I enjoy the fact that these desperados have stood out like sore thumbs and that they are irredeemable discards, and irrelevant, destined to the dustbin of history.

Most importantly, I enjoy the fact that I come from a nation that believes and knows no matter what, she is always going to prevail. She knows she is going to prevail because the odds that she overcame to get here are simply beyond the capacity of humanly expressions. It is unmatched by any nation in our surroundings. It is a miracle, a blessing and sheer doggedness that a nation blossomed, a nation that knows how to balance it all. I am proud to come from a nation that believes; the challenge before us is nothing compared to what we went through and that no matter what there is nothing any power can do to stop Eritrea from marching forward.

I enjoy the fact that I come from a nation that have five million leaders, leaders that could all share stage at once and feel special in the role that they play for the defense and betterment of the nation. I enjoy the fact that Eritreans are very classy, attentive and

disciplined. They are the epitome of civility in a world where those who claim to be civilized are acting uncivilized.

I am full of joy to be from a nation that embraces her past as a virtue and a lever, and a nation that uses the past not as a vice but inspiration. I enjoy the fact that those who fought know, that what they fought was worth every effort and blood. That the nation they fought to bring about turned out to have a unique and a powerful voice that the world cannot afford to ignore. She turned out a country that marches in the arena of world diplomacy in the true spirit of the camel that marched for freedom.

Most importantly, what I enjoy most is the fact that this nation is moving together and on the same direction in honor of our martyrs. February 22<sup>nd</sup> should serve as evidence that no nation in the world could come together for the same purpose the way Eritreans can. Eritreans marched in a synchronized fashion on the same day to show solidarity with their government, and to cry foul to a world that is playing games in the name of justice and security. I was fortunate to have witnessed how Eritreans can come together in a very short period. Just a little story to drive the point: the march that took place on February 22 was supposed to have taken place on February 15 a week earlier. However, a bright mind alerted the committee that February 15 was Presidents Day and that no one will be in DC. In less than a month notice, Eritreans adjusted their date to coincide with that of DC and marched in unison around the globe on February 22 making history.

What February 22 showed was that the investment Eritreans made during the struggle became a branch of the Eritrean tree that is rooted deep into the foundation they bestowed. This foundation is serving as core strength in the Eritrean heart. Eritrea knows that she has arrived. Eritreans know there is nothing that can stop them. That is the reason why, even when surrounded by primitive surroundings, they can still stand atop the mountaintop and believe they are.

"Nihna aykonan halefti megedi, nihna aykonan n'egri megedi, nehna ena ba'lina ba'lina eti megedi nihna nayza adi beza adi.."

Awet N-Hafash  
Happy 19<sup>th</sup> Independence Day Eritrea

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