

Eritrea's Culture of Openness – a Unique and Fabulous National Value



6 May 2009

EDITORIAL

Asmara — On the occasion of the 18th Anniversary of Eritrean Independence, President Isaias Afwerki is conducting extensive and in-depth interviews with various media outlets. The head of State is addressing issues such as the nation-building process, the political status of our region along with its possible directions and also in regard of the position of the Eritrean Government in different global and political issues.

The comments offered provided by the President reflect his candor and straightforward style – stemming from his unique background and political experience - and provide insight on many global issues with no reservation and doubt; such analysis.

As is often pointed out, the Eritrean people have never subscribed to any ideology either from the West or the East, but fought for their independence united in a common cause. The Eritrean people have since been engaged in rebuilding their nation without expecting external assistance and they are striving for economic emancipation with an ardent commitment to self-reliance.

This unique historic background has enabled the government of Eritrea to develop and generate its own ways of thinking which is neither “avant-garde” nor conservative, and to embrace new models and political ideologies. Not surprisingly, the president's interviews are attracting attention because his perspectives and representations are based on his first-hand knowledge of regional and global affairs and willingness to share his experience and perceptions.



One of the things that foreign journalists visiting Eritrea observe is the possibility and ease to reach and interview government officials of all levels, as well as their freedom to disseminate their findings without reservations or hesitations. On one occasion, a journalist who came to interview President Isaias thought it was standard protocol to submit his questions beforehand. To his surprise, he was told that the president does not actually review questions ahead of time. The journalist went on

record to say that he had not seen such freedom anywhere else in the world. Indeed, such candor is extremely rare and can be considered a unique and fabulous Eritrean value.

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