

A Letter to the President

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AUTHOR	LetterToLeader AI Editorial
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To His Excellency Isaias Afwerki

President of the State of Eritrea

State House, Asmara

Mr. President,

I am writing this from the quiet, winding streets of Asmara, a city that holds the memories of our long struggle for independence and the silent prayers of a generation that has waited too long to see the fruits of that freedom. Eritrea is a land of iron-willed people, a nation of 3.5 million souls shaped by the harsh winds of the Horn of Africa and the resilience born from decades of conflict. We are a people who have sacrificed everything for sovereignty, but today, we are a nation looking for a reason to believe in a tomorrow that isn't defined by the past.

We are a nation of unmatched discipline. Our people are builders, soldiers of peace, and workers who can construct greatness out of nothing. Look at our athletes; when they compete on the global stage, they embody the Eritrean spirit—lean, focused, and

relentless. Look at our researchers and medical professionals who, despite operating in a system that is often cut off from the rest of the world, fight to keep our clinics running and our knowledge alive. They are the true gems of this nation, proving that even in isolation, the Eritrean mind is sharp and capable of excellence.

But, Mr. President, this discipline is becoming a burden. Our youth, full of fire and ambition, are leaving. They do not want to abandon their home, but they are forced to choose between a life of indefinite service or a future in a foreign land. They want to be engineers, programmers, and entrepreneurs, but they find themselves caught in a system that prioritizes collective duty over individual dreams. Our economy is stagnant because we have locked the doors to the innovation that comes from open exchange, and our people are tired of being kept in a state of permanent mobilization.

We don't need more rhetoric about our history; we need a vision for our future. We need an economy that opens its doors to the world, allowing our local markets to breathe and our small businesses to thrive. We need an education system that encourages the young to create, not just to comply. We need hospitals that are equipped with the modern technology our doctors are capable of mastering.

Mr. President, we have secured our borders. Now, it is time to secure our potential. Give our people the freedom to use the discipline we have honed for the benefit of our own families. Open the path to a life where our children can contribute to the nation without losing their own identities. We are ready to serve—not just as citizens in uniform, but as citizens in progress.

With the persistent hope of a patriot,

A Concerned Eritrean

Sovereign Performance Audit: Eritrea (June 2026)

Sector

Score

Summary

Political Stability

4.0

Extremely tight control; absolute internal order but no political space.

Economic Development

1.0

Heavily isolated; lack of private sector and infrastructure hampers growth.

Social Infrastructure

1.0

Extremely limited access to modern services; focused on state utility over welfare.

National Resilience

4.0

Remarkably high; the population is incredibly disciplined and accustomed to hardship.

Final Verdict: 2.5 / The Fortress State.

Eritrea maintains impressive social discipline and order but at the cost of extreme economic isolation and brain drain. The mandate for 2026 is a transition from a "mobilization economy" to a "development economy." Without easing the restrictions on civil society and trade, the nation's most valuable asset—its disciplined youth—will continue to depart.

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