

## The Eritrean Festival in Holland kicked off today colorfully

The Eritrean Festival held at the wonderful Event Plaza Rijswijk, which is located in the Rijswijk nearby The Hague city, officially opened on Friday the 19th of July 2013. The Festival ceremony was opened by the High level officials of the Eritrean government i.e. the Eritrean Foreign Minister Mr. Osman Saleh and Mr. Yemane Gebreab head of Political affairs at the PFDJ and advisor to the president of Eritrea. The opening ceremony was also witnessed by various distinguished guests of the representatives of the Eritrean government throughout Europe and including representatives of Dutch government and friends of Eritrea from different nationalities.

The colorful Eritrean Festival in Holland, which took place in the city, which is called Rijswijk will continue until Sunday the 21st of July 2013.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, the chairman of the Festival's organizing committee, Mr. Asefaw Tafla, stressed the paramount importance of holding festivals in bringing Eritrean nationals together. He also said, that the Festival will play an important role in enhancing our identity and unity. He further stressed that it is everyone's duty to hand over the torch of our Martyrs' to the future generations. He also thanked to all members of the Festival committee for their tireless efforts to make this year's Festival a wonderful, successful and a colorful one.

Head of consular affairs at the Eritrean Embassy to the Netherlands Mr. Solomon Mehari also gave a welcoming speech, thanking the participants in taking part on the celebration of the Eritrean Festival Holland and also he stressed that this year's Festival was unique because the participation of the youth in preparation was high and successful and it shows a promising future he added. Mr. Solomon also stressed that everyone should use the opportunity of Eritrean Government's new investment policy.

According to reports, the annual Eritrean Festival in Holland have various programs for the following days. There will be a wonderful and unique opportunity to introduce Eritrean cultures and traditions for all walks of life, and also an opportunity of meeting with Eritreans from all over the Netherlands. The participants were provided with a fun and creative environment for networking and discovery. The audience also got a glimpse into Eritrean culture through colorful cultural performances, music and dance, arts and crafts, exhibitions, educational seminars, discussion forums, as well as fun activities for the children & youth.

Hundreds of Eritreans living in the Netherlands were present during the opening ceremony of the 12th year Festival Eritrea 2013 in Holland. After the national anthem a cake was cut in honour of the 12th year of Eritrean Festival in The Netherlands.

The cultural group, Walta Band, that came from Eritrea entertained the Festival participants all night long.

