

Eritreans in the Washington DC Metropolitan Area celebrate 20th Independence Day in style.

ENHOC- DC 29 May 2011

Washington, DC: Sunday evening's conclusion of the 20th Eritrean independent day celebrations began with Mr. Ghirmay Berehe, Chairman, ENHOC's opening remarks. In his remarks he welcomed the attendees and expressed his appreciation to all Eritrean organizations in the Washington DC Metropolitan Area for hosting such an extraordinary fun filled weeklong celebration. Mr. Berhane G. Solomon, Head of Public and Community Affairs of the Embassy of Eritrea in Washington, DC in his remarks also thanked all members of Eritrean communities in the metro Washington, DC area for their hard work and dedication in making this monumental 10-day festivity possible.

As part of the celebration, the Organization of Eritrean Americans (OEA) hosted a conference on "The Quest for Peace in the Horn of Africa" on 24 May. The conference drew members of the diplomatic community, Academicians, government representatives and other dignitaries.



On Saturday 28 May, the festivities continued outdoors at the spacious Montgomery Blair High School in Maryland with a parade of Eritrean organizations, sports activities, poetry reading and musical entertainment including Washington DC's Wilson High School marching band. Special to this year's milestone celebration was kids drama titled, "Zeynetsef Wirsha"





As the 10 day festivities continue, on Sunday 29 May in the afternoon hours. Dr. Andemariam Gebremichael, Associate Dean, Orotta School of Medicine briefed Eritreans and guests the about the schools activities and future plans.

He updated the attendees on the growth and development of the school and its contribution in improving the Eritrean health sector. He also extensively talked about the establishment of the Orotta School of Dental Medicine and where it stands as an institution. Dr. Andemariam also shared the schools plans to establish a School of Graduate Studies in Biomedical Sciences and how Eritrean Scientists in the Diaspora can enrich the school by contributing in their respective field of expertise.

Sunday's entertainment festivities continued at the Washington Convention Center in downtown with a parade of seasoned Eritrean musicians.

Thousands of attendees were on hand dancing, chanting and expressing the ultimate joy of Eritrea's 20th year birthday through out the night. More poetry readings and a drama titled: "Eru" were also a part of the evening's festivities as the night came to a conclusion. This year's celebrations in the metro Washington D.C area were special and will be remembered for years to come.

On this special occasion of this year's independence day celebrations, the Washington D.C area metro Eritreans and friends of Eritrea would like to wish the Nation of Eritrea many more years

of prosperity, peace and the steadfastness of it's people and leadership. Meanwhile the mayor of the Washington D.C expressed his wishes to Eritrea on this special occasion.

wetru Awet n'Hafash!!

Zel'alemawi Z'khri n'semaetatna

ENHOC- DC Media team.