

Eritrean Independence Day Event for Children Youth and Family: Strengthening Social Security



As part of the “UK program, May in Honor of the 19th Eritrean Independence Day” an event for **Children Youth and Family** was colorfully celebrated. Saturday 15th May 2010 a bright day that marked the resilience and unity of Eritreans in the UK. The event was attended by H.E. Tesfamichael Gerahtu Eritrea’s Ambassador to the United Kingdom and Ireland along with Embassy officials and Eritrean community organizers.

The Eritrean community in London enjoyed the event throughout the day with a positive and forward moving atmosphere, once again showing their unity by coming together and acting as a big family.

The day started off with the sun breaking over an overcast morning, bathing the Eritrean Sports Day UK 2010 in rays of light.

As preparations conclude many, parents, youth and children began to flock into the Lee Valley Leisure Complex and the games begin with all the best Eritrean music being played through the sound system.



Organizers planned the day around the attendees with games for athletics, football, sac race, karate, egg and spoon race where children, youth, and parents took part. The teams were given names that have Eritrean relevance with regards to heritage as they came prepared with team colors, team tactics and team captains exhorting their players into action. The football plays hard and fast as the teams put their all into progressing through the tournament.

Surrounding the football games, also other games took place on the athletics track where all in their respective groups try to stake their claim as the fastest of their peers and there is a palpable, almost raw feeling of competition.



Second is the first of the losers, but even in this case, there is joy and frivolity over the finish line with the competitors laughing

and hugging each other, showing real grace, sportsmanship and above all the priceless Eritrean brother and sisterhood.



The youth exert all their efforts which bridges gaps of immeasurable size, and this was evident at the event with real camaraderie amongst the children. The commentators gee up the capacity crowd filled with cheering and clapping parents, bursting with joy at the sight of their children racing and playing football.



One of the most impressive sights of the day was the karate group from South London. The groups gave a show of real discipline as they go through their impressive karate routines. Out of the group, a young Semir Johar, a black belt no less, took off his shoes and socks to show the assembled people what real karate is. The crowd was impressed as he completes his second show of balance and poise, giving an example to the crowded children of just what they are capable of.

On the outskirts of the field, there were tents set up for catering to food & drink, and also were members of the YPFDJ involved in making sure the youth and parents signed petition letters being sent to present Barack Obama regarding the unjust and unfair sanctions being executed against Eritrea.



There were also other tents set-up which attracted parents and children that contained all the activities that the younger children can partake in. These involve an introduction to their cultural heritage via drawing Eritrea's map by cakes as well as face-painting and bouncy castles for a more fun filled day whilst they learn about their country.

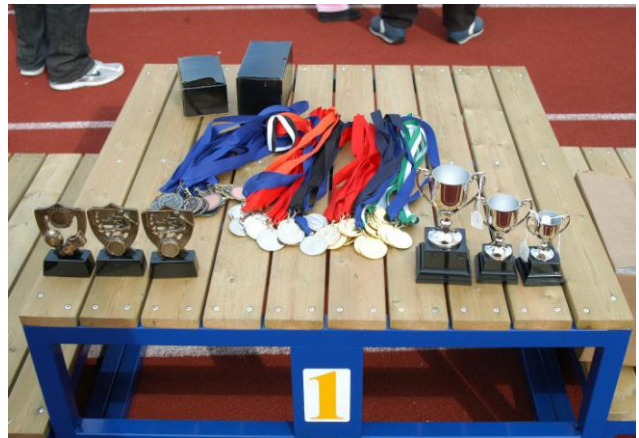


The closing ceremony included the handing out of medals and certificates to those who participated and won the football, and athletic sports. The day concluded with Mrs Senait Tekle gathering the children in the centre to sing Happy Birthday to Eritrea, also the end ceremony included everyone gathering around to sing the national anthem, a heartwarming sight made warmer by the enthusiasm that everyone threw into the singing.

A fantastic end to a fantastic Sports Day for Children Youth and Family!

May 15, 2010

ENCC Information & Communication



View all the photos on the link below

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/50271104@N08/sets/72157624078422354/>