

## **EASE ECONOMIC POLICY**

The Afar region is severely underdeveloped in comparison to other Eritrean regions. Dankalia is aggravated by systemic neglect, malnutrition, diseases and inadequate health care, access to health centres and education coupled with food insecurity and malnutrition and diseases. The Afar people have the least life expectancy, the highest rates of maternal mortality (MMR) during pregnancy and the highest infant death in the country. The ruling class (PFDJ) declared in 1997 all land and resources of Afar region (Dankalia) belong to the state of Eritrea. This policy has placed the Afar people among the poorest of the poor in Eritrea and the world. These conditions are the result of the present regime's economic subjugation.

The laws and actions imposed on the Afar people have rendered Afar landless and impoverished. Instead of building the new nation's capacity for economic growth for all nationalities, the wealth of Afar region (Dankalia) and control over its natural resources is generating revenues for the elites of PFDJ and Eritrean Generals. The exploitation of natural resources of Dankalia for personal enrichment is helping build a political base for the ruling class and support terrorism and instability in the region. The Eritrean government policy and actions have dispossessed Indigenous Afar people of their lands, territories and resources.

EASE is committed to putting an end to that exploitation policy and marginalization and will fight poverty of Afar and Eritreans. EASE supports economic growth.

EASE's economic vision and policy is to leverage the re-instating of Dankalia state within a federated Eritrea under a peaceful coexistence among all nationalities in the region; enabling the development of the human potential of Eritrean Afar people by education and economic expansion; and creating an economic environment and foreign policy that encourages international investment and development.

EASE's economic policy is pro-development and about social justice combined with sustainable growth. EASE promotes open, non-discriminatory and equitable trading systems that will enable all nationalities in Eritrea to improve their economic structures and improve the standard of living of their people through sustained economic development.

EASE will combine modern thinking and leveraging our strategic ports and create industries and will leverage Afar social, indigenous and traditional way of life especially our extensive knowledge of our economic environment and region. This can be accomplished through:

1. Develop macro-economic policies that give adequate attention to the empowerment of Eritrean Afar people and contribute to the economic growth through trade and employment.
2. Leverage the proximity of Eritrea's coast to international trade routes and harness the economic value of present and future developments, roads, infrastructure, ports and refineries.
3. Harness Eritrean Afar people's experience as seamen, traders and businessmen while preserving the traditional pastoralist way of life.
4. Further develop the support of the Diaspora Afar communities because of the instrumental role that they can, and will be willing to play, in the future of their Eritrean Afar People and State.
5. Encourage international investment that enables economic prosperity, targeting development assistance and foreign aid.
6. Eritrean Afar Economy will depend on strong Self-Sustaining Communities
7. Salt Mining and the Afar salt fields are a significant source of revenue and output - over 100,000 metric tons per year and millions of dollars for indigenous Afar economy. EASE will pursue Afar entrepreneurs and Afar businessmen and women to re-invest back into Eritrean Afar region.
8. Animal husbandry and agro-pastoralism are another focus area for the majority of Afar people as nomadic pastoralist and semi-agro-pastoralist and a great deal of their way of life and economic wellbeing depends on pastoralism. International institutions look to Eritrean Afar region as a potential for the development of sustainable and profitable integrated cropping, feedlot and abattoir to produce export quality live animals as well as meat while achieving international quality standards. In addition, the pursuit of these objectives in the Afar region will have a significant social impact resulting in better nutrition for residents and livestock which is the main source of wealth. Some members of the international community, have identified as their highest corporate priority, the delivery of significant profitable and sustainable agricultural business projects to meet their strategic goals in Eritrea and other countries in Africa.
9. Since the birth of Eritrea the Afar fishing economy has been reduced to a non-existent level due to the Eritrean government's crackdown on Afar coastal communities. The Indigenous Eritrean Afar are experienced fishermen. The entire Red Sea coastline is home to many species of fish and its quantity is still unexplored. In the past the Afar fishermen have enjoyed economic success with fish exports to their middle-eastern neighbors such as Yemen and Saudi Arabia.
10. Various trade activities have been the backbone of Eritrean Afar people's economy for centuries, whether it has to do with local product for import and export, animal trade, salt or household goods. The trade routes were normally westbound to Ethiopia and southbound to Djibouti and across Eritrean to Yemen and Middle East. Eritrean Afar people have suffered a great deal due to conflicts primarily as result of hostile Eritrean government policies towards its neighbours. EASE's key principle and priority is to restore growth and stability for the mutual coexistence and common economic benefits impacting Eritrean Afar and the region.

11. Assab and Massawa Ports are home to two international standard and capacity ports. The Afar coastline from the edge of Massawa, Dankalia in Eritrea to Rahayta bordering Djibouti serves as a bridge between Africa and the Middle East and is the route to international waterways including Bab-el-Mandab. EASE promotes the right of Eritrean Afar to operate and leverage such assets for the benefits of its people and all Eritreans. The global importance of these ports as gateways to oil fields in the Persian Gulf and the role such ports can play in peace, security and stability is vital in addition to economic growth for the region.
12. Tourism in Dankalia is another great potential for the Afar people with its pristine coastline and sandy beaches and over 200 hundred small islands which can attract tourism dollars and generate economic development of Eritrean Afar. The area is an unexplored touristic haven.
13. Infrastructure projects such as the Assab Refinery facility can be upgraded to process crude oil for much needed energy and fuel. Existing main asphalt roads are critical for land transportation linking mainland Ethiopia, Djibouti and Asmara.
14. Dankalia's natural resources range from natural gas to petroleum. Mineral deposits are widely available in Dankalia. Gold, silver, copper, zinc and large deposits of potash can be found throughout Dankalia. There is an untapped undersea mineral deposit ready for exploration. EASE's priority is to leverage such resources to the benefit of Eritrean Afar people and Eritreans alike.

## **A. Introduction**

The inspiration for our economic plan for Eritrean Afar people and Dankalia emanates from our people's rights to self determination, and a call by [Samara Declaration](#) for Afar economic freedoms in Eritrea. In line with the principles of Samara Declaration and Afar indigenous values, historic Afar self sufficiency and self reliance, the Afar expertise in traditional coastal economies, the environment, our plan is determined to put an end to the policies of exploitation of Afar lands, territories and resources, alleviate Afar poverty, fight harmful practices such as corruption and extortion. Our plan will turn the page on poverty, historic discrimination, marginalization of Eritrean Afar People by President Isaias Afwerki and his regime in Asmara.

The Afar region of Dankalia and its socioeconomic, political, education systems and cultural institutions are a stark contrast of its past. Dankalia is severely underdeveloped in comparison to other Eritrean regions. Dankalia's economic wellbeing is aggravated by current Eritrean regime's systematic policy of marginalization of Afar people and exploitation of Afar natural resources.

The government of Eritrea consider Afar region of Dankaila a no-go- military zone, long after two decades of no war-no peace with Ethiopia. All borders in and out of Dankalia's immediate neighbours remain closed in an effort to deliberately preventing foreign aid and international aid agencies from assisting affected Afar communities.

Excessive militarization of Dankalia is causing unprecedented suffering and threatening the livelihoods of thousands of Eritrean Afar. Dankalia and the Afar suffer from high unemployment, food insecurity, and lack of access to basic health care, education, economic development opportunities and deterioration of infrastructure.

As a result of these policies, the Afar communities in Eritrea are one of the most impoverished communities in the country and remain highly vulnerable to starvation, malnutrition, disease and premature infant death. The Afar in Eritrea have the lowest life expectancy rate, the highest rates of maternal mortality (MMR) during pregnancy and the highest infant death in the country.

The Afar traditional economies such as cross border trade, animal husbandry, salt mining and fishing economies have all been decimated.



The wealth of Afar region (Dankalia) and control of Afar natural resources is generating revenues for the elites of Eritrean Generals and ruling PFDJ. The exploitation of natural resources of Dankalia for personal enrichment is helping build a political base for president Afwerki's ruling class and creating hostilities and instability in the region.

Tens of thousands of Eritrean Afar are now living as refugees in Ethiopia, Djibouti, Sudan, and Yemen. Many Afar have perished trying to escape Eritrea's repressive system and economic subjugation.

### 1. Getting to Know the Afar and Their Homeland

**DANKALIA- ERITREA:** Dankalia is on the most sought after and prime real estate in Eritrea and the Horn of Africa. The Afar homeland of Dankalia and its 40,000 Square Kilometers of land, coastlines, territories and vast deserts holds Eritrea's 70% of economic future with untapped natural resources, various minerals, precious metals, potash, and natural gas and more.

Geographically, Dankalia is strategically situated on international shipping routes between the strategic passages at the heart of the red sea near Bab-el-Mandeb in proximity of Yemen and Saudi Arabia, Dankalia presents key geo-strategic asset for Afar

and Eritrea to link the continent of Africa to Middle-East and Europe for global trade and intercontinental partnerships for development.

Geopolitically, Dankalia and the Afar are critical in terms of peace and security in the region, for international security, research and global investment opportunities and global fight against religious fundamentalism affecting regional peace and the development in the Horn of Africa.

Dankalia's coast is also home to what was and could again become a bustling international port of Assab and port of Massawa. With more than 1100 KM of coastal areas, 200 small islands and wide species of marine life, Dankalia has a great potential to support Eritrea's tourism industry. Temperature in Dankalia varies from very hot regions, to hot and dry to semiarid climate suitable for small scale farming.

### **Quick Facts on Dankalia**

- Eritrean Afar Population: 600,000 - 800,000
- 200 islands and pristine beaches
- Wide variety of fish species
- Pumice, quartz, salt, sand, and silica sand
- Chromium, copper, iron, lead
- Magnesium, nickel, silver, and zinc
- Potash, gold, granite, gravel, gypsum, kaolin, lime, limestone, marble

## **2. Getting to Know Afar Traditional Economy and the Way of Life in Eritrea**

### **Traditional Salt Mining:**

Afar salt mining and salt fields have been a significant source of revenue and output over 1,000,000 metric tons per year and millions of Dollars for indigenous Afar economy.

Revenues generated from traditional salt mining has sustained growth of local economy and direct investment by Afar businessmen into local afar initiatives such as community programs, small

business startups, funding of afar Education, free healthcare and operating boarding schools for underprivileged Afar boys and girls from across Dankalia.





### **Animal Husbandry and Agro-Pastoralism:**

Majority of Afar people are nomadic pastoralist and semi-agro-pastoralist and a great deal of their way of life and economic wellbeing depends on pastoralism. The Afar pastoralists raise mixed species of primary livestock, usually camels and cattle and keep



supplementary herds of goats and sheep. Camels are best suited to the arid desert-like area of Afar region. Traditionally and predominantly as pastoralist nomadic people of horn of Africa, the Afar people are heavily dependent on their animals for livelihood, food and trade. Raising goats, sheep, camels and cattle in the desert has been the age-old Afar tradition and story of survivals in one of the harshest environment in this part of the world.

### **Afar Traditional Fishing Economy:**

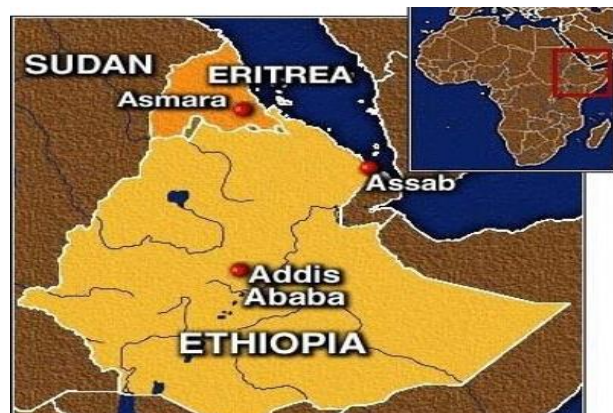
The coastal region in Dankalia, Like Bori, Iddi, Tio, Barasori, Assab has been the bedrock of Afar Indigenous fishing economic lifeline.



The Indigenous Afar are experienced fishermen. The entire Red Sea coastline is home to many species of fish and its quantity is still unexplored. In the past the Afar fishermen have enjoyed economic success with fish

export to their middle-eastern neighbors such as Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

**Trade:** Various trade activities have been the backbone of Eritrean Afar people's economic lifeline for centuries, whether it has to do with local product for import & export trade, animal trade, salt or household goods. The Trade routes were normally westbound to Ethiopia and southbound to Djibouti and across the Red Sea to Yemen and



Middle East. Since the independent of Eritrea the Eritrean Afar economic and trading activities have suffered great deal due to conflicts and wars primarily as result of Eritrean government hostile policies towards its neighbors.

**Ports:** [ASSAB PORT](#) is one of two international standard Ports in Eritrea. Prior to 2000 war between Eritrea and Ethiopia, the Assab port served as critical economic hub of import export needs of landlocked Ethiopia and its growing pollution of 100M and creating thousands of jobs for local population. The Afar coastline from edge of Massawa, Dankalia in Eritrea to Rahayta bordering Djibouti serves as a bridge between Africa and the Middle East and is route to international waterways including Bab-el-Mandab.



**Infrastructure in Assab:** The **Assab oil Refinery** facility can be upgraded to process crude oil for much needed energy and fuel. **Roads and Airport**

Existing main asphalt roads are critical for land and air transportation, linking mainland Ethiopia, Djibouti and Asmara and the world.

**Tourism:** [Dankalia's tourism](#) potential with its pristine coastline with sandy beaches and over 200 hundred small islands can attract tourism dollars and generate local economic development of Danaklia and the Afar.

**Natural Resources:** Dankalia's unparalleled natural resources range from natural gas to petroleum. Mineral deposits are widely available in Dankaila. Gold, Silver, Copper, Zinc and large deposits of Potash can be found throughout Dankaila. There is an untapped undersea mineral deposit ready for exploration.

### 3. Turning Page on Poverty and Marginalization

**Eritrean Afar State in Exile (EASE)** proposes People-First approach to economic development and economic culture. Our economic plan is about our people. Known as **Qafar Sarrimanne**, meaning **Afar Sustainability**, our economic policy will open up Dankalia and its potential into a free market economy and regional powerhouse for local business initiatives, regional and international development and trade opportunities. Our inclusive economic agenda for economic growth of Dankalia will set precedence for other regions of Eritrea to follow suit on advancement of equality, democracy, social justice, human rights and fair play which are all critically needed for sustainable economic growth for Eritreans.

Our pro-development and pro-social justice policy for economic development will promote all inclusive, an open and non-discriminatory trading system that will enable all nationalities in Eritrea to improve their economic structures and improve the standards of living of their respective peoples through sustained economic development plan.

EASE's economic action plan for Dankalia will focus on key areas of development, free trade, investment relations, building capacity and the human capital of Eritrean Afar people. Dankalia's has the strategic advantage and the right environment for significant economic growth and prosperity in the region.

Our plan will explore the existing Afar indigenous economies, traditional knowledge, the strategic coasts, resource management by combining advanced modern technologies for leveraging our strategic coastal regions, building infrastructure such as Assab port, roads and research capabilities for marine biodiversity, renewable energy and the environment.

#### **4. Key components and areas of focus for our economic action plan**

- Protecting Indigenous Economies and Traditional Knowledge
- Leveraging Dankalia's Strategic Coasts, Ports and Oil Refinery
- Natural Resources and Mining Sector
- Free Trade and Foreign Investment
- Promotion of Tourism and The Environment
- Micro financing and Local Small Business Initiatives



## **B. Investing in Afar Indigenous Economies**

Eritrean Afar are experienced fishermen and traders. Our indigenous economic plan will harness the Afar expertise as seamen, livestock raisers and traders, indigenous miners while preserving the environment and the traditional pastoralist way of life. EASE economic policy for Dankalia will protect Afar Indigenous rights to the soil.





EASE economic policy will invest in the special infrastructure needs of indigenous and traditional economies of the Afar people. Our economic plan for advancement Afar economic growth and market accessibility will include leveraging the proximity of the red sea, strategic coasts, ports and fisheries, animal wealth as well as implementing socially responsible resources and mineral extraction policies.

The Eritrean Afar Economy will depend on strong Self-Sustaining Communities for economic success.

1. **Fishing industry:** The current Eritrean government's crackdown on Afar coastal communities has reduced the Afar fishing economy into a non-existent level. In the past the Afar fishermen have enjoyed economic success with fish exports to their middle-eastern neighbors such as Yemen and Saudi Arabia. The Afar fishermen have the knowhow of fishing, building seaworthy vessels and fishing boats. The entire red sea coastline is home to many species of fish and its quantity is still unexplored. Our investment initiatives for local fisheries will invest in fishing technologies building modern fishing boats and marinas and trading strategies that will stimulate economic growth.
2. **Salt Mining and extraction:** has been the long-lasting economic lifeline for the indigenous Afar people in the coastal regions of Eritrea. Dankalia coast has large deposits of salt beds extending from vicinity of Buylul down to Rahayta borders. This distinctive economic pursuit makes the Afar unique and further testament to their durability and Indigenoussness. The Eritrean regime has been destroying this traditional economic pursuit, confiscating Afar salt fields in the areas of Assab estimated at hundreds of millions of lands. Our plan will restore the land and property rights to back to indigenous Afar. Our economic strategy will invest back in Salt business, Afar entrepreneurs and trade opportunities that will transform this age-old Afar tradition into new and modern technologies such as high-efficiency processes including modern evaporation systems and conveyor belts technologies for increased revenue and creation of jobs.
3. **Animal husbandry:** livestock raising and trade are another focus area of our indigenous economic revitalization plan. For the majority of Afar people nomadic pastoralist and small scale framing constitutes a great deal of their day to day way of life and economic activities. Afar economic wellbeing depends on healthy animals and healthy pastoralist environment. Severe restriction of movement by Eritrean government on Afar pastoralist and their animal has paralyzed their indigenous economy. Our plan will lift barriers of freedom of movement for Afar pastoralist put in place by current Eritrean regime and introduce programs for pastoralist community training in animal trade, animal health science and technologies. These economic programs will restore once vibrant border

communities in pursuit of their economic freedom that will return significant social impact resulting in better nutrition for residents and livestock which is the main source of wealth in the Afar region.

4. **Palm Date Farming:** provides another economic opportunity for Afar farming in an area such as

Dankalia's coastal villages which are otherwise very hot and dry and unsuitable for most agricultural activities. Due to its high tolerance to salinity and harsh climate,



date palm plantation will be a very effective solution for farming needs of the population. EASE's economic plan will make use of the vast lands and suitable environment for large scale plantation of date palm trees and explore export opportunities to neighbouring countries such as Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Djibouti and Ethiopia where there is high demand for date fruits to give some examples. Locally, date palm plantation and date fruits will provide high nutritional value and economic growth for the local population.

### **C. Leveraging Dankalia's Strategic Coasts**

DANKALIA has unparalleled strategic advantage in the horn of Africa region. Eritrean government's hostile policies towards its neighbors have had the crippling effect in the lives of tens of thousands of Eritrean Afar and restricted their human growth potential. The Eritrean Afar people continue to suffer both socially and economically. Dankalia is isolated from international community and most underdeveloped region in the country. Leveraging the strategic coasts and port will set Danaklia and the Afar Eritreans in a new course for economic rejuvenation and new partnership for development. EASE understands the importance of infrastructure driven economic development. Infrastructure connects people to people, business to business. Investing in infrastructure projects will create jobs, enhance the quality of life for Afar and will promote friendly relations and trade in the region.

**Building Infrastructure:** Our Economic Plan will invest in depleting Dankalia's infrastructure such Assab Port, Assab Oil Refinery, Roads and the unique trading infrastructure needs of our border communities.

**The Port of Assab:** The Assab port represents a significant chapter in the history of Afar commerce and trade relations going back to ancient times in the region. In early 18<sup>th</sup> century, the Afar have used Assab port as caravan terminus and merchants carrying African goods like incense, spices, salt, animals, fish and other valuable items for trade and exchange with old Empires like Ottoman Turks, the Egyptians and with the neighbouring Arabia. With arrival of Italy to the Afar coast, the Assab Port has become more important not just economically but geopolitically as well.

In November of 1869 Afar Sultans and the Ankaala Chieftains of the day have signed official agreement to lease the Port to Italian corporation Societa Rubattino. Under Italian rule, the Assab port was modernized to international standard port and became first free-trade zone for landlocked Ethiopia connecting it to the red sea coast.



Supported by newly constructed asphalt roads the Italian rule made the Afar region of Dankalia a geopolitical asset for the Europe and Asia. The new road to Addis-Ababa penetrated the Afar hinterlands and territories through harsh terrains and tunnels into mainland to capital Addis Ababa and Desse. Under Ethiopian rule, the Assab Port was used to handle all Ethiopia's export-import needs and served its link to the world. [Construction of Assab-Desse-Addis Ababa Road 1939 Footage](#) (Credit: [CinecittaLuce](#))

After the secession of Eritrea in 1993, Assab port could no longer be viable option for Ethiopia. Years later (1998-2000), the relations between Ethiopia and Eritrea broke down, triggering two years of bitter war between the two neighbors. The ASSAB port was abandoned and the infrastructure has crumbling subsequently further devastating local Afar economic activities all together.

Currently Ethiopia is paying nearly one billion dollars annually to Djibouti for the use of port and conducts over 90% of its trade relations with Djibouti. With growing populations nearing 100 million and with ballooning port fees in Djibouti, Ethiopia is increasingly looking for second alternative. Assab port provides a viable option to address those needs.

**Building Capacity:** Our Economic Plan will invest in education and skilled labor force training to strengthen capacity of Afar professionals such as engineers, technicians, boat operators, police officers, health care providers and labors.

**Creating Jobs:** Our Economic plan understands the significance of Assab City's notable past as the business and political center point of Afar renaissance. Creating socially sensitive projects and high paying jobs will enhance economic growth and productivity in the region.

**EASE Infrastructure projects include:**

- Construction and Revamping of Assab port and Port Storage system
- Expansion of existing wharfs, upgrading and modernizing crane capabilities.
- Expansion of Oil Refinery and Crude Oil Processing Plant
- Water reservoirs and Filtration plants
- Construction of Fishing Market and Boat Marinas
- Trade Road Re-Construction between Djibouti and Ethiopia
- Solar and Renewable Power Systems Infrastructure Project

## **D. Free Trade and Foreign Investment**

Throughout Afar history in our region various trade activities have been the backbone of the Eritrean Afar people's economy for centuries. Local export economies like fishing, animal products or importing of household goods sustained local trading and small business in the region. The trade routes were normally westbound to Ethiopia and southbound to Djibouti and across the Red Sea to Yemen and other Middle East destinations. The Eritrean Afar people have suffered a great deal due to conflicts primarily as result of Eritrean government's hostile policies towards its neighbors.

Resorting mutual coexistence, good relations and stability is our key principle and priority for our economic agenda. Our economic plan will immediately lift economic embargo with our neighbors, restore economic relations and sign bilateral trade agreements with our immediate neighboring States, especially with Ethiopia and Djibouti.

EASE economic agenda will put an end to boarder hostility. Our Plan will open up Dankalia's borders to free trade and investment. Our Plan will restore good friendly relation with Ethiopia. With second most populous nation in Africa and the fastest growing economy in the region, building a friendly socioeconomic relation with Ethiopia is a no brainer.

EASE understands the importance of free flow of goods and supporting service sector's role to resuscitate our dying border respective communities in both sides of our borders.

Our regional and international Plan will attract foreign investments and trade opportunities. In addition to our economic agenda, our plan will promote the importance of Afar region and its ports as gateways to oil fields in the Persian Gulf and the role such region can play in peace, security and stability is vital in addition to economic growth for the region.

## **E. Managing Dankalia's Natural Resources and Mining Sector**

Our economic policy promotes a socially responsible, no-one left behind approach to economic prosperity. The natural resources and the wealth of Dankalia needs sound resources management strategy that will guarantee just and equitable share and distribution of wealth to all regions and the stakeholders of Eritrea.

The laws and actions imposed on the Afar people have rendered Afar Eritreans landless and their natural resources exploited. The Afwerki regime has the complete monopoly over the wealth of Afar region (Dankalia) and control over its natural resources. The exploitation and revenues generated from Dankalia is used for personal enrichment by the elites of PFDJ, the Eritrean Generals and helping build a political base for the ruling class to maintain iron fist over impoverished population and democratic values. Our plan will revisit agreements made with multinational corporations and other foreign entities to respect their social corporate responsibilities and invest back in the community based programs and initiatives such as Education system, Heath Care, Jobs, and the environment.

Our policy for economic reform in Eritrea will put an end to exploitation of natural resources.

EASE Economic Policy will transfer the land ownership of Dankalia back to its rightful own, The Eritrean Afar people. The Afar people will own and maintain control of their lands and resources including surface and sub-surface resources, sea coasts, fisheries and air space. Our Natural Resources policy is committed to deliver fair share of natural resources revenues for development and economic empowerment for all Eritrean populations.

EASE believes such process will prevent conflicts and have and have not regions in the future. With agreed upon revenue sharing initiatives, in addition to the creation of a resolution and resource management and relevant bodies, a new social cohesion and coexistence between diverse nationalities will be created and a balance between all nationalities of Eritrea will emerge.

## **F. Promoting Dankalia's Tourism Potential**

Dankalia has a great potential to create Tourism industry and create jobs and boost local economy. With more than 75% of Eritrea's coastline, pristine sandy beaches, hundreds of small islands near Dahlak Archipelago which provides unique opportunity for recreation, sailing and diving in Africa's coastal environment. Dankalia coast stands out with wide varieties of undersea creatures, fish species and marine biodiversity which provide another unique opportunity for research in marine science at the heart of the red sea. Afar a village near Bori Peninsula and gulf of Iddi presents magnificent scenery for rare wildlife, archaeological sites and camping and exploration opportunities to support ecotourism in the region. EASE economic





initiative for Dankalia's Tourism industry will invest in promotion of Dankalia region, hospitality and, tourism management to support local economic growth.

## **G. Micro financing and Small Business Initiatives**

**Small businesses are the engine of community development in Africa.**

Promoting small business start-up and small enterprise adds confidence in the community. EASE Micro financing plan will invest in low income families. Afar women are the carriers of Afar societies. Small communities build the economy of small villages; it puts people to work, and builds confidence in the community. EASE economic plan will setup up microfinance institutions and lending interest free loans to Afar women groups and disadvantages areas to start up small businesses such as animal breeding businesses, small scale farming, welding and indigenous artifacts. Developing macro-economic policies that give adequate attention to the empowerment of Eritrean Afar people will contribute to the long term economic growth and prosperity.



## **H. EASE Economic Policy Call**

**Our Economic Plan for Dankalia is committed to the development of human potential of the Eritrean Afar through economic expansion, and Education and through creating an economic development and foreign policy that encourages international investment and free market economy.**