

ent clans are engaged in a murderous conflict.

The EPLF has placed great emphasis on unity, and every effort is made to include all communities in governance and to ensure that all groups in society are represented in government at all levels. The obvious stability they have achieved emphasises the importance of peace for democracy and development.

Although Eritrea is terribly poor, with one of the lowest per capita incomes in the world, signs of development are everywhere. Buildings are being repaired or built, roads are being tarred, agricultural areas are being restored and factories are being repaired. The streets are spotless and no one appears to be without shelter.

There are no extremes of wealth or dire poverty. In fact, most EPLF officials in government have up until now also operated as fighters and have received no salary beyond a subsistence allowance.

All the foreign development workers testify to the enormous changes taking place. They say the government works very hard and there is minimal corruption.

The spirit of self-reliance is very strong. During the war the Eritreans received little support from any other country. Even now, despite major reconstruction projects, Eritrea has been very cautious about accepting foreign aid and investment and apparently has no foreign debt. The country compensates for its lack of capital by careful planning and making the most of what it has – valuable human resources.

In the city of Massawa, the war destroyed public transport and there was no money to buy new buses. At an urgently convened community meeting, mechanics volunteered to rebuild vehicles from abandoned wreckages and within weeks three buses had been constructed.

World tour holds lessons for SA cities

the burdensome and positive aspects

- Service delivery through community-based organisations. Most service provision in New York is through non-profit and community-based organisations. Because these organisations are more accountable than big bureaucracies, they perform better. This method also performs a
- Promotion of economic development. The problems of unemployment in New York are being addressed by local governments becoming more proactive in economic development. Policies include zoning for a mix of commercial and residential use; developing local

'New York has many jurisdictions, and transport and service provision have to be co-ordinated in a area that stretches across three states. New York does not have a primary local authority, and a number of principles have been entrenched to ensure accountability'



Statue of Liberty