Mekelle - The Ethiopian Mining Action Office (EMAO) disclosed that it has cleared landmines from 730 hectares of land in Afar and Tigray States [northeastern and northern Ethiopia respectively] and the displaced people have settled back in their villages.

(30.03.2004)
Deputy director of the office, Hatsey Gebreselasie, said the landmines were cleared off from 39 woredas [districts] designated as exposed areas. He said 571 anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines, grenades and other explosives were cleared of the area.

The remaining landmine clearing work would be supported by six mine-sniffing dogs and land mine locating equipment which would be purchased at a cost of over 2.2m US dollars until next May, Hatsey added.

The deputy director said that the mass media plays a vital role in landmine these of activities and the office is therefore creating awareness among them.

Over 1,300 people were injured by landmines planted during the Ethiopian-Eritrean conflict, it was learnt.

Von: 30 March 2004, Walta Information Centre. All rights reserved.

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