

Government targets private firms

Eritrea has temporarily shut down nearly 450 private businesses, the latest in a series of moves that has sent shock waves through the economy of the Red Sea nation. A report on the [allAfrica](#) site notes that the companies were accused of hoarding cash and 'failing to do business through checks and other banking systems'. The Ministry of Information said **most of the affected businesses operate in the hospitality sector** and will remain closed for up to eight months.