

PRESIDENT HASSAN SHEIKH MOHAMUD CONDUCTS WORKING VISIT IN ERITREA

President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud of the Federal Republic of Somalia arrived in Asmara in the early afternoon hours of December 25 for a working visit.

As part and parcel of their regular consultations, President Isaias Afwerki and President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud held extensive discussions on further consolidation of bilateral ties between the two sisterly countries as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest.

The two leaders underlined that as a great nation in the Horn of Africa, securing and guarantying Somalia's stability is pivotal for enduring regional peace and stability. In this respect, the two leaders discussed, in greater depth, salient agendas that promote achievement of the desired

objective.

President Isaias elaborated on the imperative for the region to extricate itself from external interventions that often advance agendas of incubating and fomenting conflict and chaos in the region. In the event, it is critical for the region to address and resolve its own challenges.

President Isaias further reiterated that the Agreement reached at the Tripartite Summit between Eritrea, Somalia, and Egypt in Asmara, has no fundamental objectives other than the consolidation of existing and historical ties of cooperation; guaranteeing the peace and stability of Somalia; and more broadly, the promotion of the interests of the Horn of Africa and Red Sea regions.

In a subsequent statement to



the Eritrean Press, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud expressed his appreciation for Eritrea's contributions in the ongoing efforts for bolstering Somalia's National Army as well as related sovereign institutions, which are vital for the

stability of Somalia as well as the Horn of Africa region. President Hassan added that Somalia can glean useful benefits from Eritrea's vast experiences in the efforts to foster viable and robust partnerships.

Upon arrival at the Asmara International Airport, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud and his entourage was accorded warm welcome by President Isaias Afwerki accompanied by guard of honor.



NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FOOD SAFETY

The Ministry of Agriculture organized a national conference on 24 December in Asmara under the theme "Working Together to Ensure Food Safety." The event was attended by over 160 representatives from institutions actively involved in food safety initiatives.

Speaking at the conference, Mr. Tekleab Misgina, Director General of Regulatory Services at the Ministry of Agriculture, highlighted the shared responsibilities among Government institutions in ensuring food safety. He emphasized their commitment to ensuring that food products in the market are safe and meet established standards, with each institution leveraging legal frameworks to address food control issues within its jurisdiction.

Mr. Tekleab acknowledged the

complexity of food safety, which requires close collaboration and coordination among relevant stakeholders. He stressed that any gap in the food chain could compromise safety. He also pointed out that the main objective of the workshop was to exchange knowledge and experiences among participants and to generate ideas for improving food safety practices.

During the conference, research papers were presented on various topics, including the introduction of Codex Alimentarius and Eritrea's participation, a review of experiences in ensuring the safety of agri-food products, and assessments of sanitary standards in food and drink catering establishments. Other topics included the evaluation of heavy metal status in sedimentary

deposits of the Tokor and Mai Nesfhi reservoirs, the role of standards and testing in food safety, aquatic food safety control systems, the role of fish quality laboratories, and the impact of environmental factors on food safety.

Extensive discussions followed the presentations, resulting in several recommendations. These included the need to coordinate policies and efforts, clarify roles and responsibilities among stakeholders, strengthen research in food safety, enhance monitoring systems throughout the food chain, and conduct sustainable public awareness campaigns, particularly targeting food service providers as well as to extend food inspection services to local administrative areas to ensure comprehensive oversight.

COORDINATED EFFORT TO ENHANCE BIODIVERSITY

The Forestry and Wildlife Authority held an activity assessment meeting on 24 December, where participants underscored the importance of coordinated water and soil conservation efforts for their critical role in enhancing biodiversity.

Detailed briefings were provided on various topics, including nursery development, nomadic lifestyles and herding practices, household energy consumption, deforestation, and the occasional occurrence of wildfires.

The meeting highlighted the achievements made in 2024, including the planting of 6.2 million tree seedlings, the construction of 8,000 hectares of terraces and the renovation of an additional 1,700 hectares, as well as the construction of over 262,000 cubic meters of water diversion schemes. These efforts demonstrate the commitment to preserving natural resources and promoting biodiversity.

Col. Kinfu Habtom, General Manager of the Forestry and Wildlife Authority, called for stronger public and stakeholder participation in combating illegal deforestation and conserving forests and wildlife resources.

The participants also engaged in extensive discussions on strategies and programs for 2025, aiming to build on the successes of the past year and address ongoing challenges.



REPORTAGE

National Food Safety Initiative: Working Together for Safe Food

Habtom Tesfamichael

The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) convened a national conference dedicated to bolstering food safety standards across Eritrea. Held on 24 December under the theme “Working Together to Ensure Food Safety,” the event brought together approximately 160 participants who represent ministries, other governmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations that engage in food-related activities.

In his opening address, Mr. Tekleab Mesghena, Director of Regulatory Services at the MoA, underscored the importance of

food safety, emphasizing that food must meet both nutritional and safety standards to be considered truly consumable. The purpose of the conference, Mr. Tekleab said, was to deepen the understanding of existing regulatory systems and to critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses throughout the food chain (both seafood and agricultural products) at both national and sectoral levels.

Eritrea’s food regulation system operates through a collaborative framework that involves several key ministries -- the MoA, Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Marine Resources (MoMR), Ministry of Land, Water and

institutions and stakeholders involved in food safety and to gather valuable insights and ideas for the improvement of existing regulatory systems.

Throughout the day, participants engaged with 13 research papers presented by representatives from various ministries. The first session featured four key presentations: “Introduction to Codex Alimentarius and Eritrea’s Participation in Codex,” by Awet Ruesom of the Regulatory Services Department-MoA; “Ensuring the Safety of Agri-Food Products in Eritrea - a review of experiences,” by Betesaida Sibhatleab, also of the Regulatory Services Department-

standards, guidelines, and codes of practice (known collectively as Codex Texts). These texts are applicable to processed, semi-processed, and raw foods intended for consumer distribution. Established in 1963 by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), the CAC plays a crucial role in formulating globally accepted food standards.

Mr. Awet’s presentation delved into the specifics of Codex standards, codes of practice and guidelines, outlining Eritrea’s participation in the Codex framework and detailing the country’s Food Control System. He emphasized that food safety laboratories are currently set in various government institutions, highlighting the need for enhanced harmonization and coordination. He also pointed out a current gap in analytical and testing capacities for determining heavy metals, organic contaminants such as mycotoxins, pesticide and animal drug residues, and persistent organic pollutants.

Codex support aims to strengthen Eritrea’s overall food control system. Mr. Awet concluded his presentation by emphasizing on the importance of developing a National Food Policy Framework to harmonize food safety control activities, including the coordination of food safety testing laboratories across all relevant government institutions. He further emphasized the need to integrate national Codex issues into sector-specific annual plans and budgets to ensure the long-term sustainability of national Codex activities.

Ms. Betesaida’s presentation provided valuable historical context, highlighting that food safety inspection services in Eritrea have



Mr. Tekleab Mesghena

roots in the Italian and Ethiopian colonial administrations, with a notable focus at the beginning on meat inspection. Formal food safety and quality control and inspection services for agricultural products, as we know them today, began with the establishment of the Regulatory Services Department (RSD) of the MoA in 2003. Food safety is now a cornerstone of the RSD within the MoA’s five-year Strategic Plan (2024-2028), operating under the theme “Safe and Nutritious Food to All and Everywhere,” with the central mission of promoting trade in safe agro-food products in both local and international markets.

In collaboration with key stakeholders, the MoA is working to transition from a traditional food safety control system to a modern, more robust system by enhancing institutional and technical capacities. Ms. Betesaida emphasized that the RSD has legal instruments and guidelines to ensure the safety and quality of agri-food products. These include specific guidelines for the inspection of milk and milk products, meat, good agricultural practice, good manufacturing practice, and organic farms.

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PHOTOGRAPHY BRANCH ERITREA-MOI

Environment (MoLWE), Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoTI) -- and Eritrea Standards institution (ESI). These institutions possess the necessary tools and expertise to assess safety standards and are committed to ensuring that domestically produced food meets these stringent criteria. They are also equipped with the legal instruments required for effective regulatory functions.

Mr. Tekleab acknowledged that while cooperation among these governmental bodies is generally effective, the absence of a clear and comprehensive national policy on food safety poses certain challenges. He also highlighted the positive impact of integrating the national Codex of Eritrea, which facilitates crucial collaboration and experience-sharing among institutions that work on food safety.

The conference had two primary objectives: to share the diverse initiatives of governmental

MoA; “Assessment of Sanitary Status of Food and Drinks Catering Establishments in South East Asmara in 2019,” by Habtom Kidane; and “Assessment of Heavy Metals in the Sediment and Water of Mai Nefhi and Tokor Reservoirs,” by Dr. Zerabruk Tesfamariam.

Eritrea is a member of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), a body responsible for a collection of internationally recognized food



ERITREA PROFILE

Published Every Wednesday & Saturday

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Advertisement: 12-50-13

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An Essential Tool for Individual, Community, and National Development

Dr. Fikrejesus Amahazion

As demonstrated by a large body of empirical work, micro-credit and savings programs are critical financial tools that can greatly contribute to the socio-economic development of developing nations. In Eritrea, these financial services have played a crucial role in alleviating poverty, fostering entrepreneurship, increasing financial inclusion, and promoting social justice and equality.

A long history

In brief, micro-credit refers to small loans provided to individuals, typically in low-income communities, who do not have access to traditional banking services, while savings, basically refer to the practice of setting aside a portion of one's income for future use, often in a formal or informal financial institution. In Eritrea, the Micro-Credit and Savings Program dates back to July 1996, when it was established under the watch and guidance of the Ministry of National Development. (After recent restructuring, the latter is now the Ministry of Finance and National Development.) Its work began through the provision of services to just over 1,500 clients, and it extended approximately 1.3 billion Birr in loans to local citizens.

In the years since its establishment, the Micro-Credit and Savings Program has extended a total of around 4 billion Nakfa in loans, with about one million locals from across the country being recipients. At present, there are over 70,000 clients of micro-credit banks nationwide, with women making up slightly over half of the total client body. Additionally, the number of micro-credit village banks has steadily risen, now standing at about 750, with service provision extending to cover about three-quarters of all administrative areas in the country and nearly 70 percent of the nation's villages.

Importantly, the Micro-Credit and Savings Program offers a variety of flexible options for those wishing to secure loans, with a range of repayment and interest rate options. Of note, overall rates of repayment are relatively high, while public awareness and general understanding about micro-

credit and the national program are quite strong and continue to grow. Also important is that banks offer financial education and literacy services to individuals, particularly in rural areas. This not only helps to ensure the overall sustainability of the program, but empowers individuals to make informed decisions about budgeting, borrowing, and saving, which tends to lead to better outcomes for borrowers and their families.

the provision of tools needed to manage and grow their finances, leading to greater economic opportunities, resilience, and security.

Notably, the initiative has also helped to promote gender equality and empowerment, which remains one of Eritrea's central national aims. Specifically, recall that women have historically had limited access to financial resources and entrepreneurial

and general family well-being.

Micro-Credit and Savings Program reflects a commitment to social justice, equality, and inclusion

In many ways, the Micro-Credit and Savings Program is a powerful reflection of Eritrea's wider and enduring commitment to social justice, equality, and inclusion. To recap, the country's development and nation-building processes are firmly grounded on the principles of equality and social justice, and it places an unwavering emphasis on ensuring that all Eritreans, regardless of any particular distinction or characteristic, can freely and fully participate in, contribute to, and benefit from the achievement of sustainable development.

In particular, the country's laws, regulations, and policies, which are underpinned by strong and long-standing socio-cultural values, establish a platform for inclusive socio-political and economic development, while guaranteeing and promoting a wide range of basic and fundamental rights. Discrimination, exclusion, restriction, or preference that is based on the grounds of disability, ethnicity, color, religion, socio-economic status, language, opinion, gender, or other similar distinctions are strongly prohibited and punishable by national law.

Since attaining its independence in 1991, Eritrea has also crafted a broad spectrum of policies and adopted a variety of legal

instruments to help address the specific needs of and catalyze progress for vulnerable groups, such as the poor, women, children, persons living with disabilities, nomadic populations, and those residing in extremely remote or hard-to-reach areas. These interventions play a critical role in cultivating peace and unity within Eritrea's multi-ethnic, multicultural society, aim to mitigate disparities and create a level playing field on which all Eritreans have a genuine opportunity to excel, and seek to ensure that each and every individual is empowered and able to enjoy the fruits of inclusive economic growth and social progress.

Eritrea's deep commitment to the principle of social justice was articulated some years ago by President Isaias Afwerki, where he declared that, "Our development strategy is anchored on giving priority to deprived regions and segments of the population. The strategy strives to ensure fairness and equity through structured governance configurations, as well as a social contract that promotes equal opportunities and a level playing field for all stakeholders. Our central objective, and for which we have paid precious sacrifices in a long struggle, is indeed to secure and enhance effective participation of the population within the fair framework described above and which is vital for political stability, national cohesion, economic and social development, social justice, and cultural progress."



An array of benefits

Since its inception decades ago, Eritrea's Micro-Credit and Savings Program has had a profound and positive impact on individuals, communities, and national development, more broadly. Briefly, it has helped to increase financial inclusion to all segments of the population, supported the establishment of numerous small business and income-generating opportunities, promoted agency, autonomy, and independence, and played a critical role in the positive transformation of lives and communities.

In terms of financial inclusion, for example, historically many individuals in the country, particularly those residing in rural areas, have lacked access to traditional banking services due to factors such as lack of formal identification, geographical barriers, and the inability to meet the collateral requirements of conventional banks. However, the Micro-Credit and Savings Programs has offered these individuals the opportunity to participate in the formal financial system, thereby enabling them to save, access loans, and build credit histories. Crucially, this financial inclusion has helped to lift individuals out of poverty through

opportunities in Eritrea. However, micro-credit programs have empowered women to establish small businesses, such as shops, restaurants, and weaving enterprises, which has led to greater economic independence and has also substantially improved their social status within communities. What's more, since women tend to reinvest their income into their families and communities, micro-credit has had a broader positive impact on improving healthcare, education,



OPINION

In Memory of the 130th Anniversary of the Battle of Halay

Awet Tesfay

Among the various resistance movements initiated by Eritreans against Italian colonialism, the armed uprising of 1894, led by Degiat Bahta Hagos, stands out as one of the most significant. This rebellion was notably expansive in scope and succeeded in garnering substantial support from the peasantry. Its unique prominence lies in the fact that it primarily addressed the issue of land ownership, distinguishing it from earlier and later uprisings that were either more isolated or limited in scale. Despite being geographically contained, the uprising involved the participation of over 2,000 armed peasants—a considerable number given the context of Eritrea at that time. Within the fifty years of Italian colonial presence in Eritrea, this rebellion remains the largest and most impactful resistance effort to emerge against Italian colonial rule.

The issue of land ownership was not confined to a specific tribe but was a matter that deeply affected the entire peasantry. Between 1893 and 1894, as part of their ambition to transform Eritrea into a settlement colony, the Italians confiscated over 400 hectares of fertile land, thereby stripping Eritrean peasants of their primary means of livelihood. For the peasantry, which was still recovering from the devastation of the Great Famine, this forced expropriation of land became an existential crisis. The Italians likely viewed the creation of a colonial settlement as feasible due to the widespread loss of life and the depopulated villages caused by the famine. However, their fundamental misunderstanding of the profound relationship between the peasantry and the land—a clear example of the colonial mindset—led to a poorly calculated decision.

Despite the colonial ambitions, it soon became evident that the peasants, who were gradually rebuilding their lives after the famine, could only be separated from their land through violent force or total extermination. As one foreigner observed, “these natives are hardworking people, and have large, extended families. It is not possible to eradicate them like the aborigines of Australia

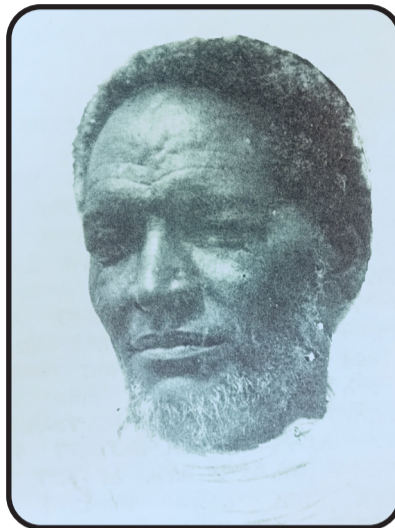
and New Zealand.” Consequently, an inevitable clash arose between the native population and the colonial settlers. This irreconcilable conflict ultimately laid the historical foundation for the uprising led by Degiat Bahta Hagos.

As a result of his opposition to the Tigray lords, Degiat Bahta had sought refuge in the Habbab lands, where he lived for nearly a decade. In 1887, he moved to Massawa and began collaborating with the Italians. By 1888, he had been supplied with arms and, along with several hundred followers, commenced participating in the service of Italian expansion in Eritrea. In 1889, the Italians appointed him as the ruler of Akele-Guzay. His conversion to Catholicism further increased his trustworthiness in the eyes of the Italians, allowing him to maintain this position until 1894.

In December 1894, however, Degiat Bahta Hagos orchestrated an uprising that decisively severed his ties with the Italians. This dramatic shift in allegiance, entirely unforeseen and unexpected by the colonial administration, left the Italians deeply astonished.

From at least 1893 onwards, it became clear that Degiat Bahta was becoming increasingly aware of the consequences of the expansion. His transformation from a trusted collaborator of the Italians to one of their most formidable and impactful opponents was not a sudden or divine occurrence; rather, it was a gradual process shaped by specific events. The first decisive incident in this transformation was the forced confiscation of fertile land by the Italian colonizers—a resource that was the lifeline of the Eritrean people. Although this was the primary catalyst, the Italian policies of imprisonment and execution, implemented from 1889 onwards, also began to influence Bahta’s outlook.

However, to assume that these factors alone played the primary role in his shift would be to overlook the Italians’ sophisticated manipulation of local and tribal politics. Nevertheless, it is evident that Degiat Bahta was not oblivious



Degiat Bahta Hagos

to the systematic incapacitation of native chiefs and rulers by the colonial administration. For example, in 1893, when the Italians executed a plan to disarm Degiat Sebhatu of Karneshim—a relative and political ally of Degiat Bahta—and all his followers, effectively rendering him powerless, it became clear to Bahta that a similar fate likely awaited him. This realization marked a critical moment in his eventual break with the colonial regime.

The fundamental issue that led to Degiat Bahta’s revolt was, without question, the matter of land. It was inevitable that actions targeting the very source of the peasants’ livelihood would provoke widespread anger and spark anti-colonial movements. This issue of land not only fueled the resistance of the peasantry but also drove Degiat Bahta—known for his deeply defiant character—to take up arms against the Italian colonial administration.

On December 14th, Degiat Bahta publicly expressed his opposition to the Italian colonial rule. He addressed the people, declaring, “I have liberated you from the foreign authority that has come from overseas to seize your land, impose taxes on your farming, and prohibit your access to the resources of your own forest.” On that same day, he apprehended Lieutenant Giovanni Sanguinetti, the Italian official in Segeneiti, along with two other communications officers, and cut the telegraph lines connecting Segeneiti to Asmara. Through these actions, he unequivocally asserted his resistance to Italian colonialism.

Prior to his declaration

of rebellion, Degiat Bahta communicated with several Eritrean lords to seek assistance. Ernesto Ardemani, present in Eritrea at the time, noted that Degiat Bahta sent similar messages to leaders in Asawhurta, Seraye, and Shimejjana. Evidence of these communications is supported by the execution of one of his followers in Halay, who was accused of writing these letters after Degiat Bahta’s defeat.

Despite his efforts, the responses to Degiat Bahta’s appeals did not yield the desired support. He nevertheless succeeded in rallying strong backing from local peasants who had been adversely affected by the loss of their primary means of livelihood. Ardemani also reported that by December 15, not only Segeneiti and Ackrur but the entire regions of Tsene’a-Degle, Akele-Guzay, Shimejjana, and Seraye were preparing for conflict. On December 16, Degiat Bahta addressed the populace, emphasizing that the uprising was a struggle for land. Documented elements of his address include: “Join me, brothers! Do not fear. I will restore to you that which has been taken from you. Asawhurta will join us, and we shall triumph over the invaders. We will reclaim our land.”

The Italian response was swift and decisive. The revolt posed not only an immediate challenge but also a threatening precedent for further insurrections, prompting the Italians to take military action. On December 15, General Baratieri, stationed in Keren, instructed Major Toselli in Asmara to mobilize troops to Segeneiti urgently. The following day, as Toselli approached Segeneiti, he became aware of additional military units en route from Hirghigo and Ghinda’e. To buy time, he initiated communication with Degiat Bahta through messengers. However, once the reinforcements arrived, Toselli severed communication and advanced into Segeneiti.

Before confronting the advancing colonial troops, Degiat Bahta launched an attack on a military camp of approximately 250 soldiers located in Halay, near Segeneiti. On the afternoon of December 18, he initiated the battle. The engagement lasted about three hours, during which

Degiat Bahta, commanding over 2,000 men, inflicted significant damage on the camp. However, as the fortifications weakened by late afternoon, Major Toselli opened cannon fire from the rear, supported by around 3,500 infantries. In the ensuing confrontation, Degiat Bahta was killed, and his forces, caught between frontal and rear assaults, were compelled to retreat. The Battle of Halay concluded with a victory for the colonial army.

In the aftermath, approximately 500 armed men, led by Degiat Bahta’s brother Sengal and Fitowrari Tesfu of Ko’atit, retreated. The remaining forces, led by Lij Gebremedhin, Degiat Bahta’s son, withdrew to Seled and sought refuge in the Saho territories. Although Lij Gebremedhin continued to operate there, he eventually had to flee due to continued Italian persecution. From there, alongside the infamous Saho rebel Mohammed Nuri, he persisted in opposing Italian colonial rule.

The Battle of Halay had far-reaching implications beyond its immediate defeat. It signaled the collapse of the Italian ambition for colonial settlement in Eritrea, leading to the closure of the settlement bureau based in Italy the following year, in 1895. Furthermore, the battle set in motion events that would culminate in consequent battles.

In the context of Italian colonization in Eritrea, Degiat Bahta’s revolt marked the conclusion of the initial phase (1890-1896) of Italy’s plans to establish a colonial settlement. This uprising not only resulted in the death of a key collaborator of Italian colonization but also heralded the emergence of Degiat Bahta Hagos as an anti-colonial hero, remembered in Eritrean history as “Va Bene Bahta Segeneiti.” In the annals of resistance, even uprisings that end in defeat occupy a respected space, and the Battle of Halay holds such significance in the narrative of the Eritrean struggle against colonialism.

Excerpted and translated from the book Resistance Against Italian Colonization in Eritrea [Tigrina] by Zemhret Yohannes

National Food Safety Initiative . . .

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Regular inspection services are conducted to ensure adherence to these established guidelines. "As a result, farmers and processing plants are increasingly becoming aware of the importance of hygiene and sanitation and their implications on safety," Ms. Betesaida stated. "Although it is encouraging to see safe agri-food products in the market, we should not be complacent."

Mr. Habtom's study brought attention to the critical issue of food safety in catering establishments. He cited WHO data, which indicates that diarrheal disease is a leading cause of morbidity worldwide, particularly in developing countries, claiming 2.2 million lives annually, with 70% of these cases attributed to foodborne diarrhea. He stressed that the fundamental responsibility of food and drink catering establishments is to provide safe food to their customers. His study revealed a concerning trend: many establishments give priority to business than sanitary conditions, with greater emphasis placed on dining areas while kitchens, storage and sanitary rooms are given less attention.

Mr. Habtom's study concluded that there is a high risk of food contamination based on the sample studied, and the overall sanitary conditions were found to be poor. Mr. Habtom ended his presentation by giving these recommendations: imposing clear regulations and guidelines governing the basic sanitary requirements of food and drink catering establishments; giving priority to the training of managers and food handlers; and implementing robust promotion and advocacy campaigns. He also recommended establishing a Memorandum of Understanding among relevant ministries for joint planning, monitoring, and evaluation of activities in food and drink establishments.

Dr. Zerabruk's study focused on the presence of heavy metals in the Mai Nefhi and Toker reservoirs, crucial water sources for Asmara and local fish breeding. His research revealed that heavy metal levels in both the water and sediments were generally within the recommended values set by the WHO and Consensus-Based Sediment Quality (CSQ) Guidelines, with some exceptions found in the sediments of the Toker reservoir. Geochemical parameters, including I-geo, EF, Cf, and Cd results, also indicated no to moderate pollution and little to no anthropogenic input. Dr.

Zerabruk concluded that regular water quality monitoring surveys are essential to evaluate the potential build-up of heavy metals and other hazardous chemicals in the sediment and water. He also emphasized the need for further research, particularly given impending mining activities in the upper catchments of the Toker Reservoir.

Like the first session, the second session also featured four research papers. Mr. Alem Araia, head of the Eritrean Standards Institution (ESI), discussed the institution's work related to food safety. He said that ESI's mandate includes preparing mandatory standards for products, practices, and processes; following up on the implementation of these standards; revising standards as needed; temporarily waiving the enforcement of standards under certain circumstances; and examining, testing, and conducting studies on products to ensure conformity with ESI standards. As these standards specify all the requirements set by the ESI, they play a crucial role in controlling food safety. If reviewers confirm through rigorous study that a product complies with relevant requirements, a permit to use the Standards Mark is granted for local products. A Certificate of Conformity is also issued for each consignment of imported products based on test results. Mr. Alem added that by growing its capacity and addressing its shortages, the quality assurance system will be further expanded.

Research papers on Aquatic Food Safety Control system; The Role of Fish Quality Laboratory in Aquatic Food Safety Control; and Food Safety Lab Testing Capacity at the National Animal and Plant Health Laboratory (NAPHL) of the MoA were also presented, providing participants with valuable insights into these areas.

In the third session, five research papers were presented. In her research paper titled "Environment and Food Safety," Ms. Lidya Teklehaymanot, an engineer, highlighted the strong link between environmental health and food safety. She explained how contaminants from polluted soil, water, and air can migrate into crops, vegetables, fish, and animals. Conversely, wastewater from food processing and food packaging materials can negatively impact the environment. She discussed various environmental threats affecting food safety, including emergent chemical and waste pollution, climate change, and

emerging risks to food safety. She also outlined strategies to protect the environment and ensure food safety, as well as the national response to emergent environmental threats. Ms. Lidya identified key challenges that need to be addressed to ensure both environmental and food safety, including technical and infrastructural capacity, the need for better coordination among line ministries, fragmented action plans and budgets, and the lack of proper disposal facilities for hazardous chemicals and waste. She called for the reinforcement of technical and infrastructural capacity to support inspection, detection, monitoring, and risk assessment; the promotion of sustainable innovations such as organic farming and biodegradable plastics for packaging; and increased synergy among stakeholders.

Dr. Mulugeta Ruesom presented a paper on foodborne diseases and the growing concern of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). He elaborated on how foodborne diseases cause millions of infections and deaths annually and, alarmingly, how these illnesses are becoming increasingly resistant to multiple drugs, posing

a significant threat to food safety and public health. He discussed the burden of foodborne diseases and AMR, key drivers for AMR in foodborne diseases, and possible solutions. Dr. Mulugeta called for strengthened food regulation and standards by the government; responsible use of antibiotics and safer practices by producers; and safer practices of food handling and responsible use of antibiotics by the public.

Other research papers presented included "Prevalence and Incidence of Pest and Fungal Infections on Agricultural Produce: Implication for Food Safety," "Contribution of Hamelmalo Agricultural College (HAC) in Ensuring Food Safety: Research and Training Experience," and "Food Regulation: The Role of Stakeholders."

The conference fostered lively interaction and several key points emerged from the discussions. Participants emphasized the importance of disseminating research findings to relevant bodies so that they can be used as a basis for informed action. There was a call for research papers to be made current by

taking account of evolving challenges and for further studies to be made by building upon existing findings. Regular awareness-raising campaigns targeting food and drink catering establishments were deemed crucial, as was improving the technical and analytical capacity of national laboratories. A recurring theme was the need for continuous collaboration among relevant stakeholders to ensure comprehensive food safety.

Participants stressed the importance of clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder within a centralized framework. The prevailing view was that effective food safety can only be achieved through collaborative efforts, not through fragmented actions by individual entities involved in food safety regulation. The specific recommendations given included: exploring the existing legal framework for food regulation; establishing a formal multi-sectoral committee to coordinate these efforts; jointly conducting a situational analysis of existing systems to identify strengths and weaknesses; developing plans for reformation and reassignment of responsibilities where necessary; and clearly assigning authorities and clarifying jurisdictional boundaries to avoid duplication and gaps in oversight.

LOCAL NEWS

TWO DAMS INAUGURATED IN GELEB SUB-ZONE



Two dams, constructed in collaboration between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Geleb sub-zone administration, were inaugurated on 23 December 2024.

Mr. Gebremeskel Tewolde, head of the agriculture office in the sub-zone, noted that the dams, with a combined capacity of over 310,000 cubic meters, are expected to ensure water supply for both human and livestock consumption as well as support agricultural development in the region.

Mr. Osman Adem, administrator

that their involvement highlights the significant role of the Defense Forces in national development programs.

Ambassador Abdella Musa, Governor of Anseba Region, commended the active participation of both the Defense Force and local residents, calling for continued public engagement to ensure the sustainability of the dams.

Reports indicate that from late 2023 to 2024, 15 dams have been constructed in the region, with two more under construction in the Elaberet and Halhal sub-zones.






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- Able to perform Hazard identification before a start of all assigned task or work.
- Good housekeeping for the survey offices, equipment, stores and vehicle.
- Wear personal protective equipment including hard hat, steel toe shoes, safety glasses, respirators, wet suits, earplugs, gloves, or any other equipment to perform duties safely.
- Hear sufficiently to distinguish various pitches of warning alarms, including heavy equipment back-up alarms, blast sirens, fire alarms and various warning alarms in mills and shops.

Surveying

- Assist experienced Surveyors in laying out blast patterns, including marking holes, painting dots on holes, surveying in end holes with field computer and turning in data for input into system.
- Assist experienced Surveyors in flagging blasted material, including establishing proper ore control by surveying in dig polygon boundaries to define lines between material types, carrying wooden stakes in a bundle weighing up to 10 kilograms to the blast site, pounding stakes into blasted ore, attaching ribbon to the stakes and placing color-coded cardboard placards with polygon numbers at site.
- Assist experienced Surveyors with elevation control by determining benchmarks and grades.
- Assist experienced Surveyors in control of pit and bench limits, by looking for problem areas and determining line definition.
- Operate small hand tools such as saws and hammers weighing up to 3 kilograms.
- Operate surveying equipment including a tape measure, a compass, a laser level and other equipment as assigned.
- Hold and operate a telephone or radio with sufficient voice and hearing to carry on a conversation for the purpose of issuing directives and providing feedback.
- Walk and stand on uneven and wet surfaces for extended periods of time.
- Perform continuous and repeated bending, stooping, lifting, and carrying at waist level and over the shoulder, tools and other items including rods, survey tools and equipment weighing up to 25 kilograms for the purpose of transporting from storage to vehicle, from vehicle to work sites and back to storage.

Profile: Qualifications and Experience

Formal Education, Certifications or Equivalents

- Secondary schooling to intermediate level
- Already been enlisted in the army.

Working Experience – Nature & Length

- Entry level. Survey Assistance experience is desirable, but not required.

Technical Skills

- Read and write English
- Read and understand mine plans
- Computer skill desirable

Behavioral Skills

- Integrity and ethics
- Focus and personal drive
- Pro active
- Flexible and Adaptable
- Charismatic

General Information and other requirements:

- Place of Work: Asmara and AMSC Sites
- Type of contract: Indefinite Period
- Salary: As per the Company salary scale

Additional requirements for Nationals:

- Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provide evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defense.
- Present clearance paper from current/last employer.
- Testimonial documents to be attached (CV, work experience credentials, a copy

of your National Identity Card, etc.).

- Only shortlisted applicants would be considered as potential candidates for an interview.
- Application documents will not be returned to the sender.
- All applications should be sent through the post office.
- Deadline for application: 10 days from the day of publication in the Newspaper.

- Address: Please mail your applications to;
Asmara Mining Share Company,
P. O. Box 10688 Asmara, Eritrea
- Applicants shall be required to send a copy to:
Mineral Resources Management
P.O. Box – 272
Asmara
- Note to Non-Eritrean applicants:
Please send a copy of your application to
Aliens Employment Permit Affairs,
P. O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea



厄特四川矿产建设有限公司
ERITREA-SICHUAN MINERAL CONSTRUCTION CORP. LTD.

NOTICE

Eritrea Sichuan Mineral Construction Corp.Ltd. Announces replacement of its previous Executive Director Mr.Song Hulin and has now assigned Mr.Liu Xiaoping to be its new legally Authorized Executive Director.

Notice

Notice is hereby given to the public that the shareholder of Wdubna PLC on its extraordinary meeting conducted on 18th day of November 2024 have resolved as follows:

1. The capital of the company has decreased from Nakfa 3,000.000.00 (three million) to Nakfa 1,500.000.00 (One million five hundred thousand Nakfa) and the par value of one share is decreased from Nakfa 10,000.00 (Ten thousands) to Nakfa 5,000.00 (five thousands).
2. The new shares of the members are managed as follows:

	<u>Name of shareholders</u>	<u>Shares</u>	<u>Value in Nakfa</u>
1.	Mr. Tesfay Bokretsen Tsegay	210	1,050,000.00
2.	Genet Zeweldi Gebremedhin	90	450,000.00
	Total	300	1,500,000.00

Wdubna PLC

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public that the shareholders of Saribo P.L.Co in their extra ordinary general meeting held in December 4th the year 2024 have agreed to add new members by increasing the capital of the company.

Mrs. Solyana Yemane Yigzaw & Mrs. Rahel Teweldemedhain Zewolday have been added as new members to the company by buying 10 new shares each at the par value of Nakfa 6,000 per share.

Henceforth the capital of the company has increased from Nakfa 6,000 million to Nakfa 6,120,000 as shown in the table below with members and their shareholding.

S/N	Name of Shareholder	No. of Shares	Share Value in Nakfe
1.	Furtuna alazar araya	500	3,000,000
2.	Amanuel Teweldemedhin Zewelday	500	3,000,000
3.	Ms.Soliana Yemane	10	60,000
4.	Mrs.Rahel Teweldemedhn Zewelday	10	60,000
	Total	1,020	6,120,000

In addition, it was unanimously agreed in the meeting that Mrs. Furtuna Alazar to be general manager of the company. Articles 3 And 8 of the memorandum of are amended accordingly.

SARIBO PRIVATE LIMITED COMPANY

ADS



RED SEA BOTTLERS SH .CO. (COCA-COLA)



HAPPY NEW YEAR & MERRY CHRISTMAS TO THE
PEOPLE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ERITREA.

RED SEA BOTTLERS SH.CO. (COCA-COLA)



Bisha Mining Share Company
P.O. Box 4276
Asmara
Eritrea

Tel: (+291) 1124941
Fax: (+291) 1124941
www.bishamining.com

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Bisha Mining Share Company is inviting applicants for the following position for Bisha site project.

Position: Sectional Surveyor
Department: Mining/Asheli UG
Number required: One (01)

Primary Purpose

- To carry out survey duties on underground at defined mine and Controlling and monitoring all mining developments by providing directions, holing notes, grades, and advising where necessary.
- Updating underground developments, calculation of control points, preparation and preservation of survey plans thereof.
- Establishing new underground surveys (shaft plumbing and sub level survey transfers).

UNIQUE REQUIREMENTS / OTHER INFORMATION

- The candidate must be Physically and Medically fit.

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 12 Certificate; Advanced Certificate or equivalent in Surveying • Diploma in Mine Surveying • Specialized Training in underground mining design layouts and planning Techniques-added advantage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have knowledge about surveying. • 3 years working experience in underground mining operations. • Knowledge of interpreting plan, design, schedule, control, and direct workloads involving surveying and design layouts of underground mine.
Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills

- Computer Literacy
- Conversant with Microsoft Office Suite (Outlook, Excel, Word, Microsoft Project, and Power Point).
- Ability to operate computers with new software (Deswik, Surpac, etc)
- Plan, organise, and execution.
- Risk management and assessment.
- Analytical and Problem solving.
- Technical Report writing.
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Ability to work in multi-disciplinary environment & developmental orientated
- Ability to conduct Engineering matters to various levels.
- Ability to work under pressure and achieve project milestones; Self-starter, Drive, and enthusiasm
- Passion for accuracy and perfection in delivery & Excellent leadership skills.

General Information and other requirements:

- **Place of Work:** Bisha.
- **Salary:** As per Company salary scale.
- **Type of Contract:** Indefinite

Additional requirement for Nationals:

- Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provide evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defense.
- Present clearance paper from current/last employer.
- Testimonial documents to be attached (CV, work experience credentials, a copy of your National Identity Card etc.).
- Only shortlisted applicants will be considered as potential candidates for an interview and application documents will not be returned to sender.
- All applications should be sent through the post office.
- **Deadline for application: 10 days from the day of publication in the Newspaper.**

Address: Please mail your applications to:-
Bisha Mining Share Company,
P. O. Box 4276 Asmara, Eritrea

Note to Eritrean applicants:

- Please send a copy of your application to:
1. Aliens Employment permits Affairs,
P. O. Box 7940, Asmara, Eritrea.
 2. Mineral Resources Management
P. O. Box 272, Asmara, Eritrea

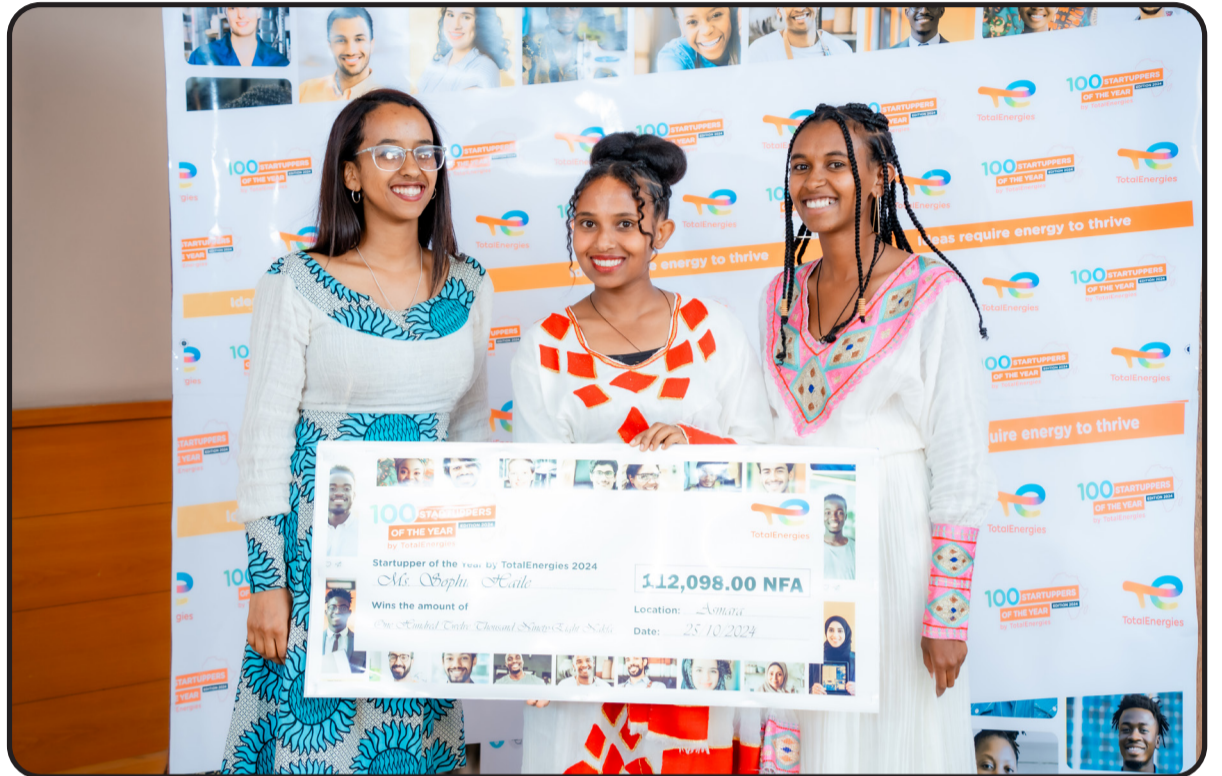


Q and A

Eritrea's first project of Biodegradable Plastic from Brown Seaweed

Sabrina Solomon

Our guests today -- Sophia Haile, Rodas Berhane, Sinit Solomon, Samrawit Fanuel and Sabir Abdelalim - won as a team this year's Total Energies' challenge in the "Cycle 'Up" category. The competition was held on the occasion of the company's centennial, and 100 entrepreneurs from across the African continent have been recognized and given awards in three categories.



Thank you for your time. Please introduce yourselves.

Thank you for having us. We are the winners of this year's start upper challenge of the "Cycle'Up" category. Our group has five members, four females and one male. We all went to Sawa as members of the 32nd batch after completing high school and then went to the College of Science and Technology at Mai-Nefhi, where we earned a bachelor's degree in Chemical engineering. We are now working as teachers in different parts of the country -- Asmara, Adi Tekelezan sub zone, Shambiko sub zone and Foro sub zone -- as part of our one-year service before graduation.

What is Total Energies start upper challenge about?

It is a program of the oil company, TotalEnergies, and the purpose of the challenge is to promote innovation and entrepreneurship and support the socio-economic development of African countries where the company operates. The challenge strengthens local communities by helping the continent's most innovative entrepreneurs work on

and affordable energy. Fifty-six people took part in the competition this year, and our project has been named the best project in the "Cycle 'Up" category.

What was your project about?

Our project's title is "Production of Biodegradable Plastic from Brown Seaweed." We all know that our earth is suffering from plastic waste that takes ages to degrade, and we had a feeling that something ought to be done about it. So, when the time came to choose and work on a project in our final year in college (in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a bachelor's degree in engineering), we chose to work on plastic. In our research to understand the current problems associated with plastic and its influence on our planet and people's lives, we found some solutions that promote the use of natural products such as rice, corn and seaweed.

We started looking for natural products that can be found easily but do not result in food insufficiency for humans or animals. In our research we discovered that brown seaweed can be used as an alternative to plastic. We went through a rigorous

able to enhance the visibility of our project.

Attempts have been made in many first world countries and there are companies that produce eco-friendly products that can replace plastic but they aren't affordable. We are fortunate to have easy access to natural resources like seaweed that enables us to make our project practical.

How did this opportunity make you feel?

We were extremely excited when we heard that we won. You know students don't usually continue to work on their projects after graduating from college no matter

It was teamwork that made us go all the way. If one of us feels like giving up, the rest of the team would stand there and motivate the person to keep going. And we are all very stubborn in what we do and didn't leave room for giving up. We used some comments that were meant to discourage us from pursuing our dreams as motivation to show people that we can do it despite the challenges that might come our way.

As young engineers, what suggestions do you have for other young people?

A piece of advice that we would love to give to young people is that they should keep following their

out in your favor, especially with the right attitude. So our advice to young people is to just have a dream and work towards achieving it with the right mindset and with discipline and commitment. At the end of the day, you'll achieve your dreams or learn a valuable lesson as the fruit of your own hands is amazing.

What's next for you all in the field of engineering?

We actually have a plan as a team that if this works out, we will not stop here. We will continue to search for things that are going to help solve the society's problems. At the moment we are all working as teachers, and we feel it is a good way to give back to the society. But our plan is to apply what we learned about mechanical engineering and come up with more products that will be beneficial to our society. As a young nation we can learn from the mistakes of the developed world and engage in research on finding and developing eco-friendly products.

Anything else you'd like to add...

We are grateful to our families who have supported us all the way, our advisor Mr. Ramesh A. Babu, and people who helped us throughout the whole process of our project. And we are grateful for the opportunity to present our idea.

Thank you. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors!



their projects. It has been held in Eritrea twice. This year's is the third and it has been held on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the company.

Total Energies gives awards to three winners from the three categories: "Innov'Up" for the best entrepreneur, "Cycle 'Up," for the best project related to the circular economy and "Power 'Up" for the best project related to sustainable

analysis and testing to come up with a product made of sea weed that is practical and safe to use, and we were finally able to create a biodegradable product that can compete with plastic in its strength and quality.

After winning the first prize we were given the money award we needed to make a prototype. With our prototype we are in a better position to secure funding to be

how good their projects are. But we were fortunate that Total Energies created an opportunity that made us excited to test our project on the ground and help solve some environmental problems. We were motivated to work on our project because of the assistance we received from governmental organizations.

What is the secret to your success?

dreams. People shouldn't give up. The problem is in the attitude. As young people, we shouldn't leave any negativity in the back of our minds, especially when we are trying to achieve something. The possibility of your project working out should be your point of motivation. If you fail in the end, it's still alright as you have already learned a lot from the process you went through. Take the first step and everything else works