

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ERITREAN AGRICULTURAL STUDIES CONCLUDES IN ASMARA



The two-day National Conference on Eritrean Agricultural Studies 2026 concluded yesterday, 21 August, at the National Confederation of Eritrean Workers Hall in Asmara. Held under the theme “Advancing Sustainable Agri-food Systems for National Economic Growth,” the gathering brought together over 300 participants, including Ministers, senior Government and PFDJ officials, agricultural experts, farmers’ representatives, food processors, and development partners. Organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, the conference provided a vital national platform to examine sectoral challenges, showcase research, and outline actionable strategies for transforming the nation’s agri-food systems.

At the opening session, Mr. Tekleab Misgina, Director General of Regulatory Services representing the Minister of Agriculture, noted that the momentum for this event originated from the International Conference on Eritrean Studies held



in January 2025. He emphasized that the gathering reflects a renewed commitment to positioning agriculture as the bedrock of national economic prosperity through open dialogue, knowledge sharing, and collaborative planning.

Throughout the two-day event, experts presented dozens of comprehensive research papers covering critical agricultural domains. Key topics included agricultural extension and farmer adoption, digitalization, agribusiness value chains, food security and nutrition, biotechnology, climate change mitigation, genetic resources, and regulatory frameworks. Specific presentations addressed practical field studies such as evaluating sesame varieties for yield optimization, testing fish amino acid and seaweed liquid fertilizers on barley, improving post-harvest banana handling, assessing dairy cattle performance, documenting native flora, and analyzing the genetic diversity of indigenous

chickens.

In his concluding address, Minister of Agriculture Mr. Arefaine Berhe congratulated the organizing body and attributed the success of the event to nearly a year and a half of dedicated preparation. Concurrently, Dr. Efrem Gebremeskel, Chairman of the Conference Coordinating Committee, underscored that the core takeaway of the gathering is the urgent need to bridge research, policy, and field implementation. He stressed that achieving long-term sustainability requires seamless, ongoing collaboration among government bodies, academic institutions, farmers, the private sector, and development partners.

DENDEN AWARD PRESENTED TO OUTSTANDING STUDENTS IN THE SOUTHERN REGION

The National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education branch in the Southern Region, presented the Denden Award to outstanding students who achieved high scores in the national school-leaving examination. The award recipients are members of the 38th round of national service.

At a ceremony held in Mendefera on 20 August, the award was presented to 302 outstanding students, 42% of whom were female, who attained GPAs of 3.0 and above. Of these, 81 students attained a GPA of 4.0. Durarwa High School also

received a special award for having the highest number of students who achieved passing marks in the national school-leaving examination.

Underlining that the quality of education can be enhanced through the active participation of all institutions, Mr. Girmay Gebru, Head of the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students in the Southern Region, said that the Denden Award makes a significant contribution to promoting healthy competition among students.

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CALL FOR STRENGTHENED EFFORT TO PRESERVE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Mr. Abraham Yohannes, Director General of Culture and Sports in the Southern Region, called for reinforced effort to conduct scientifically based research for the expansion of the initiative to preserve and document the cultural and historical heritage of society.

At the meeting conducted on 17 August in Mendefera, Mr. Abraham noting that the Eritrean people possesses rich culture and values reflecting its social status and resilience, called for conducting organized effort to transfer it to generations.

Indicating that encouraging research have been carried out in

various sub-zones, Mr. Abraham commended the initiative to develop the traditional music and dances preserving their originality.

Mr. Abraham also said that coordinated effort will be exerted to enable the rich resources and cultural heritage so that they play due role in the development of the tourism industry and cultural activities.

The participants for their part called for conducting reinforced exploration on the undocumented rituals and folklores, for conducting sustainable training programs to produce more young artists, and conducting cultural festivals at sub-zonal levels.



PUBLIC SEMINARS IN KASSEL AND HANOVER



Mr. Kibreab Tekeste, Eritrea’s Consul General in Frankfurt, Germany, conducted public seminars for nationals in Kassel and Hanover on 15 and 16 August.

The seminars focused on the objective situation in the homeland, regional and global developments, the role of conscious participation in strengthening national organizations, the Afambo Boarding School project, and consular services.

Mr. Kibreab noted that, at a time when the world is being tormented

by war and a lack of peace, Eritrea is focusing on nation-building, safeguarding its unity and peace, and consciously pursuing its course of development despite smear campaigns intended to derail it.

In a briefing titled “Conscious

and Strong Public Participation in Strengthening Organizations,” Mr. Teame Haile, Head of Public and Community Affairs, said that strong organizations could not be established without public participation. He also said that concerted efforts were being exerted to ensure strong public participation.

Mr. Teame underlined that nation-building should not be left to the Government alone but is the responsibility of every citizen. He called for the strengthening of national organizations and increased participation in national affairs.

The participants, on their part, expressed their commitment to strengthening national organizations and contributing to national affairs.



OPINION & ANALYSIS

Failed Asylum Policies and Irresponsible Journalism

Bana Negusse

As I was scrolling through my social media feed earlier this week, I came across a horrific case. A migrant to the United Kingdom was convicted of the rape of a pensioner in a disturbing assault outside St John's Church in Harrow, north London. The case received extensive coverage across Western mainstream media and quickly spread across social media, where the details of the brutal crime became entangled with wider debates over migration, nationality and public safety.

The case also inflamed tensions directed at Eritrea and Eritreans, as the accused was widely described as Eritrean. Yet credible sources, including the Eritrean Embassy, have strongly rejected that characterization, and there appears to be no documented record establishing that the man was ever registered as an Eritrean national.

The Eritrean Embassy also requested proof from Harrow Crown Court regarding his status as an Eritrean national. So far, no one, including the BBC, Daily Mail, The Telegraph, and GB News, has been able to provide evidence of his Eritrean origin. In the first place, his name, Bruk Desalegn Demise, is uncommon in Eritrea and is considerably

more prevalent elsewhere in the region, raising further questions about the basis for identifying him as Eritrean. In addition, his own Facebook account (see below) corroborates this fact.



Of course, none of this diminishes the seriousness of the crime or the jury's verdict. The assault was horrific, and the conviction speaks for itself. However, examining the circumstances surrounding the case, particularly the identity of the perpetrator, reveals issues that extend far beyond the individual crime.

To begin, the case – and its blatantly erroneous link to Eritrea – highlights the inherent flaws of the UNHCR's deplorable Eligibility Guidelines of 2009/11, which formed a key part of a broader Western strategy of harassment and "strategic depopulation" against Eritrea. Led by certain Western powers, and coordinated with regional proxies and the UNHCR, this policy deliberately incentivized the outward migration of Eritrea's youth during a critical phase of post-independence nation-building, seeking to weaken the country's demographic, economic and institutional foundations.

To give this strategy the appearance of legal legitimacy, the UNHCR's guidelines adopted an exceptionally broad approach to Eritrean asylum claims, including the blanket treatment of Eritrea's National Service members as a persecuted class and facilitating fast-tracked access to third-country resettlement. The refugee camps in neighboring Sudan and Ethiopia, which were often positioned in locations and areas in direct violation of institutional regulations, consequently, became major transit points for this exodus, while the resulting migration was used to reinforce a narrative of a permanent rights and humanitarian crisis in Eritrea.

Quickly, and rather unsurprisingly, the same system also created fertile ground for the systematic misrepresentation of nationality. With Eritrean asylum claims enjoying preferential treatment, nationals from Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia and even further abroad had strong incentives to present themselves as Eritrean. This, in turn, fed a highly organized and often corrupt trafficking ecosystem involving criminal networks and, in some cases, regional officials and intermediaries who profited from the movement and documentation of migrants. Numerous investigations have also exposed cases in which migrants who successfully gamed the asylum system subsequently coached others on how to adopt Eritrean identities, construct persecution narratives and navigate the system.

Some research-based estimates have placed the proportion of non-Eritreans among those granted asylum as Eritreans in certain European countries at between 40 and 60 percent. Similar concerns have also been raised by high-level officials in receiving countries, including strong doubts over the genuine identities and nationalities of significant numbers of applicants presenting themselves as Eritrean. While the precise scale remains contested, the recurring warnings from officials and investigators point to a serious verification problem that cannot simply be dismissed.

In addition to being a horrific crime, the Harrow case is therefore another example of how an inadequately verified identity can be amplified into a damaging narrative about Eritrea and its people.

Alongside the above, the story again highlights the feckless norms and practices of legacy media, which routinely misconstrue heinous and repugnant crimes committed by deranged individuals for purposes of demonization, racism and xenophobic campaigns against migrants and the Global South. Basic journalistic obligations, such as fact-checking, verification, context, and proportion, are too often sacrificed to sensationalism, particularly when a story can be made to reinforce an existing narrative.

And whatever the nationality of the perpetrator, the sick and

depraved actions of a single individual cannot reasonably be transformed into a judgment against an entire nationality or people. To do so is collective stigmatization masquerading as reporting.

With regard to the specific case of Eritrea, poor coverage has long been standard. Facts are routinely overlooked, inconvenient – but absolutely vital – context is omitted, and corrections are rarely made even when serious errors are exposed. Complex realities are reduced to simplistic sound bites and familiar stereotypes, while claims are repeated often enough to acquire the appearance of fact. Western commentators are routinely elevated as authorities

on Eritrea, while qualified Eritrean voices are largely ignored. The result is a deeply distorted picture of the country in which inaccuracies accumulate, corrections disappear, and a one-sided narrative becomes self-reinforcing.

Ultimately, the Harrow case amplifies two deeply troubling realities: the consequences of an asylum policy that has, for years, incentivized and facilitated the exodus of Eritrea's youth while creating opportunities for others to appropriate Eritrean identity, and the extent to which poor media practices can sensationalize, repeat and weaponize unverified claims—particularly in the longstanding and deeply problematic coverage of Eritrea.

From Social Media



Yemane G. Meskel @hawelti · Aug 19

This harrowing crime amplifies two cardinal issues:

1. Inherent flaws of UNHCR's deplorable Eligibility Guidelines (2011/12) originally designed to promote malicious political agendas of harassment and "strategic depopulation" against Eritrea but whose blanket "asylum procedures" have allowed other nationals to obtain asylum masquerading as "persecuted Eritreans"; (the estimates vary from 40% to 70% in several European countries).
2. The feckless norms and practices of Legacy Media who routinely misconstrue heinous and repugnant crimes of a deranged immigrant for purposes of stigmatization and racist/xenophobic campaigns against the Global South; (even RT recycled the story of defamation against Eritrea without any modicum of validation).

Embassy of the State of Eritrea to UK & Irel... @ERUK19... · Aug 19

The Embassy of Eritrea to the UK and Ireland released a statement today, August 19th, clarifying the circumstances of an incident involving 33-year-old Bruk Desalagne outside St. John's Church in Harrow, North London. @HarrowCrownCourt @DailyMail @Telegraph @BBCNews



PRESS STATEMENT

19th of August 2026

The Embassy of the State of Eritrea to the United Kingdom and Ireland hereby wishes to address an incident involving Mr. Bruk Desalagne, a 33-year-old individual, which took place outside St. John's Church in Harrow, North London. This statement seeks to provide a clear and comprehensive understanding of the circumstances surrounding this matter.

The Embassy of Eritrea has confirmed that there is no record of an individual named Bruk Desalagne being registered as a citizen of Eritrea. We also requested proof from Harrow Crown Court regarding his status as an Eritrean national. So far, no one, including the BBC, Daily Mail, The Telegraph, and GB News, has been able to provide evidence of his Eritrean origin. It is important to note that a substantial number of African nationals have misrepresented their nationality as Eritrean to secure asylum, which has led to complications in European and British immigration policies. This issue is increasingly undermining the integrity of these immigration systems. Recent estimates from UK & European immigration officials reveal that a significant portion of asylum applicants claiming Eritrean nationality—between 50% and 70%—are not Eritreans of origin.

This policy has served as a pull factor, encouraging many individuals to seek immediate political asylum. It has also become a focal point of political tension directed against both the people and the government of Eritrea. This situation has created a notable incentive for nationals from other African countries to exploit these policies for economic gain. Following the backlash against UK immigration policies, the Home Office has launched several investigations after migrants from other countries openly bragged on social media about successfully deceiving caseworkers to obtain British residency. This situation highlights the consequences of such flawed policies, which are now backfiring on the UK Home Office. It is a pressing issue, and both European and UK authorities must reconsider and revise their policies.

The Embassy of Eritrea in the United Kingdom and Ireland firmly condemns these actions, as they stand in stark contrast to the cultural values, principles, and beliefs that are foundational to Eritrean society.

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**ERITREA
PROFILE**

**Published Every
Wednesday & Saturday**

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SpotLight

Driving Education Forward



Bana Negusse

Recently, an appreciation ceremony was held in the Central Region to recognize volunteer student-teachers who participated in a summer educational support program organized by the First-Round National Service Cooperative Association in cooperation with the Ministry of Education branch in the Central Region. Conducted under the theme “Give Freely What We Received Freely,” the initiative offers a timely example of the important role young people, communities, and institutions can play in supporting education.

According to Mr. Jemal Saleh, Chairman of the Association, the program seeks to encourage student-teachers who have demonstrated strong academic performance and commitment. Its scale has grown remarkably, from about 400 participants in 2022 to more than 20,000, while its curriculum has expanded beyond Mathematics and English to include Mother Tongue and Citizenship Education. Implemented in seven sub-zones of the Central Region, the initiative has also been commended by the Minister of Education, Dr. Halima Mohammed, for strengthening cooperation between communities and government institutions. General Filipos Woldeyohannes, Chief of Staff of the Eritrean Defense Forces, highlighted its

contribution to youth participation and appreciation for the teaching profession.

Beyond the immediate significance of the program, however, it raises a broader question: What does it take to build and sustain a strong education system, and what role do teachers play in that process? The question is particularly relevant in Eritrea, where education has long been regarded as a cornerstone of national development. It is seen not only as a fundamental right, but also as an essential instrument for developing human resources, promoting social cohesion, and advancing economic and social progress. The National Charter, adopted in Nakfa in 1994, captures this vision clearly:

“Education is the foundation of development. To provide equal educational opportunity means to provide equal opportunity for development.”

It further emphasizes that education is a fundamental right and that Eritrea’s greatest asset is its human resource, whose development must be given high priority through both formal education and continuing training.

These principles have provided an important foundation for the expansion of education since independence. The progress is evident in the growth of

educational infrastructure, enrolment, and literacy.

The number of schools at all levels increased from just over 500 in 1991 to 1,930 in 2015 and 2,351 in 2023. Over the same period, enrolment increased from 353,859 to 398,090 in primary education, from 141,746 to 176,162 in middle schools, and from 87,664 to 88,984 in secondary schools.

Growth has also been recorded at the tertiary level. Between 2016/17 and 2023/24, enrolment in degree programs increased by approximately 89 percent, from 1,672 to 3,155 students, while diploma enrolment has generally remained between 1,000 and 2,000 students annually.

in expanding educational opportunity. It also underscores a simple but important reality: schools and policies alone do not educate children – teachers do.

Teachers stand at the centre of every education system. Infrastructure provides the setting, curricula establish the framework, and policies define objectives, but teachers translate all of these into actual learning in the classroom. Their knowledge, preparation, commitment, and ability to engage students ultimately shape educational outcomes.

Since independence, Eritrea’s teaching workforce has expanded alongside the growth of the education system. Increasing

more valuable when it is shared and used to help others learn.

At the same time, recognizing teachers and aspiring teachers must go hand in hand with strengthening the conditions in which they work.

A high-quality education system requires well-prepared and motivated teachers, appropriate teaching resources, opportunities for continuous professional development, and supportive working environments. Investment in teachers is therefore not separate from investment in education; it is one of its most important forms.

The broader lesson is that education is a shared national



Perhaps even more significant are the gains in literacy. In 1990, adult literacy was estimated at 46 percent, with 59 percent among males and 35 percent among females. By 2018, it had risen to approximately 77 percent, with male literacy at 84 percent and female literacy at 69 percent.

Youth literacy improved even more dramatically, rising from about 61 percent in 1990 to approximately 93 percent in 2018. Male youth literacy increased from 73 to 94 percent, while female youth literacy rose from 49 to 93 percent. These figures represent not only a substantial overall improvement but also a dramatic narrowing of the gender gap. (Of course, with these figures having been registered nearly a decade ago, literacy rates have more than likely increased in parallel with the improvements recorded on other indicators.)

Such progress demonstrates the impact of sustained investment

attention has also been directed toward teacher recruitment, training, professional development, and support. These efforts are essential because the demands placed on teachers continue to evolve. A teacher must do more than transmit information; teachers help students develop knowledge, practical skills, values, confidence, creativity, and a sense of responsibility toward their communities and society. This makes teaching both a profession and a form of public service.

Notably, the recent summer educational support program illustrates this principle particularly well. The participation of more than 20,000 student-teachers demonstrates the potential of young people to contribute to education while developing their own professional experience. The program’s theme, “Give Freely What We Received Freely,” conveys a powerful message: knowledge becomes

responsibility. Government institutions have a central role, but communities, families, educators, students, and other social institutions all have contributions to make. The cooperation behind the summer program demonstrates the value of mobilizing these different actors around a common educational purpose.

As Eritrea continues to expand and strengthen its education system, the achievements of the past three decades provide an important foundation. The growth in schools and enrolment and the substantial gains in literacy demonstrate significant progress. The next challenge is to consolidate these gains while continuing to improve educational quality and ensure that students are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed for the future.

If education is the foundation of development, then teachers are among those who build upon that foundation every day.



Statement of the Ministry of Health of the State of Eritrea at Fourth Regional Ministerial Steering Committee (ReSCO)

"Advancing Africa's Health Security and Sovereignty: Predictable and Innovative Investments in Maternal and Child Health and Primary Health Care"

Your Excellencies,
Honourable Chair,
Ministers of Health of Eastern
African countries,
Distinguished Delegates,
Colleagues from Africa CDC,
Partners, Ladies and
Gentlemen,

It is an honour to address the Fourth ReSCO Meeting in Dar es Salaam, held under the theme, "Advancing Africa's Health Security and Sovereignty: Predictable and Innovative

in a community-based primary health care system anchored in a cost-effective Basic Health Care Package that extends essential services to rural, remote and nomadic communities.

The backbone of this system is our network of more than 300 health facilities and over 3,000 community health agents, who serve as the first line of defense in disease detection, maternal and child healthcare, and health promotion.

waiting homes for women from distant communities, provided emergency obstetric care training for health workers, and strengthened antenatal and postnatal care. These efforts continue to contribute to reductions in maternal and child mortality.

Child Health

Through the Expanded Programme on Immunization and the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness, Eritrea has maintained immunization coverage above 90 per cent and reduced under-five mortality by more than 70 per cent since 1990.

We remain aligned with the regional objective of reducing the number of zero-dose children and building integrated and resilient primary health care systems.

3. Health Security, Financing and Cross-Sectoral Investment

A key lesson from Eritrea's experience is that community-based and preventive health systems are essential for resilience. Strong community engagement encourages early care-seeking, promotes preventive health practices, supports immunization uptake and strengthens responses during disease outbreaks.

Importantly, Eritrea's health policy does not stand alone. Our Government's broader approach is to reach marginalized communities with an integrated package of basic services, recognizing that health outcomes cannot be separated from their social determinants. These interventions include:

1. Education: Mobile schools and boarding facilities for pastoralist communities and remote villages.

This approach directly supports ReSCO's priorities of strengthening primary health care systems, ensuring sustainable financing, promoting community engagement and building long-term resilience.

2. Key Accomplishments in Maternal and Child Health

Guided by our Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Health Agenda Strategic Plan 2022–2026, Eritrea has focused on practical and inclusive interventions in the following areas:

Maternal and Newborn Health

Eritrea has established maternity



Investments in Maternal and Child Health and Primary Health Care."

This meeting comes at an important moment as Africa works to align regional priorities with the Africa Health Security and Sovereignty Agenda and strengthen resilient primary health care, immunization, community engagement and epidemic preparedness.

1. Eritrea's Approach: Primary Health Care as the Foundation of Sovereignty and Security

Eritrea strongly believes that resilient primary health care is the foundation of both improved health outcomes and stronger health security. We have invested



2. Water: Boreholes, small-scale dams and water points that reduce the distances women and children travel daily and help prevent waterborne diseases.

3. Agriculture: Irrigation schemes, micro-dams, and soil and water conservation programmes that improve food security and help prevent stunting and malnutrition.

4. Housing: Low-cost housing in resettlement areas to address sanitation challenges and overcrowding.

Regarding financing, more than 85 per cent of Eritrea's health budget is domestically sourced. This reflects our firm commitment to health sovereignty.

We also welcome innovation in digital health, solar-powered health facilities and the local production of essential medicines to reduce supply-chain vulnerabilities.

4. Call for Regional Action

Eritrea stands ready to share its experiences, learn from fellow

Member States and support regional collaboration.

To advance the ReSCO agenda, we call for:

1. Predictable, multi-year regional financing for primary health care and maternal and child health;

2. Greater cooperation in the local manufacture of vaccines and other essential health commodities;

3. Stronger cross-border preparedness and regulatory harmonization; and

4. Strengthened community health systems as Africa's first line of health security.

Eritrea reaffirms its commitment to Africa CDC, the regional priorities that will emerge from this meeting, and the achievement of a stronger, healthier and more self-reliant Africa.

Thank you.

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania —
Aug. 18, 2026



NEWS

DENDEN AWARD PRESENTED TO ...

Continued from page 1

Noting that proper follow-up and guidance from parents and teachers are key to students achieving outstanding results, Ms. Blale Araya, speaking on behalf of the Head of the Education Office in the region, said that the recognition provided to students who achieve high scores in the eighth-grade and national school-leaving examinations makes a significant contribution to improving students' academic performance.

Mr. Habteab Tesfatsion, Governor of the region, congratulated the award recipients and wished them success in their college education.

Since the Denden Award was introduced in 2022 to recognize students who achieve high scores in the national school-leaving examination, 1,467 students have received the award over five rounds.

Development

"We Are the Camels": Two Young Graduates Pressing Opportunity from Sesame

Kesete Ghebrehiwet

Childhood friends Sador Daniel and Biniam Kubrom, who are both 27, are demonstrating how determination, research and innovation can transform a simple idea into a promising enterprise. Through Camels PLC, the two graduates produce organic sesame oil and sell it to households, restaurants and other customers at an affordable price. Their journey—from exploring sesame farms in the Gash-Barka Region to operating a processing plant near the railway station in Asmara—reflects years of sacrifice, persistence and a shared commitment to providing the public with a safe, healthy and accessible product.

Sador studied clinical laboratory and Biniam mechanical engineering at the University of Asmara and the College of Engineering in Mai Nefhi respectively. Specializing in two different fields of study, their knowledge and skills have proved to be complementary. Sador's training helps the enterprise focus on quality control, hygiene and product safety while Biniam's engineering background contributes to the design, operation and maintenance of its processing machine.

The two entrepreneurs have known each other since childhood and attended the same schools. Their close friendship gave them the confidence to exchange ideas freely and develop common goals. Around seven years ago, while they were still students, they began discussing the possibility of producing organic, salt-free sesame oil.

They said as young people they used to brainstorm, share ideas and map out ways of turning their goals into reality. They always looked for opportunities that could



Sador Daniel

provide solutions to society. They underlined that quality, affordability and easy access have remained their primary objectives.

Instead of rushing into production, Sador and Biniam prepared a business plan and conducted research into the sesame sector. In 2022, before graduating from college, they travelled to Gash-Barka to assess traditional and modern systems of sesame cultivation and oil production. Their preliminary plan was to process and bottle sesame oil in Tokombya, Lalay-Gash subzone, where they could establish direct contact with sesame farmers.

The journey was not easy. Until then, the two friends had hardly travelled outside Asmara. So, moving to Gash-Barka required adjustment to a different environment, lifestyle and community. However, they regarded the experience as an important part of their personal and professional growth. As a result, living and working alongside different ethnic groups strengthened their understanding of rural life and the realities of agricultural production.

Their friendship became a source of strength whenever difficulties

threatened their plans. "The strong bond we created during our childhood reinforced our determination to remain committed to our goal despite the persistent challenges," Biniam said. "We've always given more value to the service the business could give to the society than the revenue we might earn."

Financial limitations were among the most serious obstacles the two graduates encountered. They used the money they got from a microcredit program and their families as a starting point. Despite operating with little capital, they established direct relationships with farmers in Tokombya and later developed links with suppliers from neighbouring areas. These connections helped them maintain the supply line of sesame after moving their operations to Asmara.

"We identified reliable suppliers who could provide the raw material



Biniam Kubrom

we needed," Sador explained. "The relationships we built with them became particularly important when we relocated to Asmara. Our main challenge continues to be financial, but we have managed to move forward using whatever resources we have at hand."

During their stay in Tokombya, the family of Hussien Tuti provided invaluable assistance. The family worked with Sador and Biniam in the fields, participated in sesame processing and welcomed the young entrepreneurs into their home. The two friends remember that support with deep appreciation.

"They shared their home and belongings with us as though they were our own," they said. "They helped ease many of the burdens we faced and made us feel at home. We spent a wonderful time with them, and our sincere gratitude goes to the entire family."

Making sure the quality of the sesame supplied to the enterprise was of high quality was another demanding responsibility. Sador conducted assessments of raw materials while also carrying out his daily duties at Barentu Referral Hospital. The work required careful coordination and personal sacrifice, but it allowed the partners to gain

"The satisfaction we get when hesitant customers try our oil and become regular buyers is more valuable to us than the financial benefit," the partners said.

The enterprise makes productive use of the residue left after extracting the oil. Known as sesame oil cake, this by-product is a nutritious animal



practical knowledge about quality assurance throughout the supply chain.

One of their greatest challenges was convincing customers to accept machine-processed sesame oil. Many people were accustomed to traditionally produced oil and were initially suspicious of a product processed by a machine. Sador explained that both traditional and machine-based methods use cold pressing and do not require the addition of chemicals. The difference is that Camels PLC processes its oil through a closed system that reduces the risk of contamination. The oil is then filtered, subjected to quality-control procedures and safely packaged for distribution.

"We worked hard to explain that our product is salt-free, cold-pressed and free from chemical additives," Sador said. "At first, it was difficult to convince customers that machine-processed oil could be both natural and of high quality. We have now overcome much of that challenge, and demand has grown beyond our current production capacity."

Changing public attitudes required patience and practical demonstration. Some customers early on were reluctant to buy the oil, but after tasting and using it, many became regular customers. Well-known restaurants are now among the enterprise's clients. As part of their efforts to promote their product, the young entrepreneurs have displayed their products at the national festival. Camels PLC collaborates with the National Laboratory to confirm the quality and safety of its oil.

feed wanted by poultry and dairy farmers. By finding a market for both the oil and the remaining sesame oil cake, Camels PLC reduces waste and increases the overall value of the raw material.

Sador and Biniam are also promoting the use of sesame in bread, desserts and catering services. Some people have avoided sesame because they fear it may produce an unpleasant smell or bitter taste. The partners explain that the problem often arises when sesame is overcooked.

"Sesame should not be exposed to excessive heat because it may lose some of its natural qualities," Biniam said. "When properly prepared, it can be used effectively in desserts, baked products and many other food types."

The pilot program began in Tokombya before the business moved to its current location near the railway station in Asmara. Even at its early stage, the enterprise established basic production, processing, accounting and marketing sections. However, the partners say their present output of approximately 500 litres per day is not sufficient to meet the growing demand.

"The more capital we have, the more we can produce," Sador explained. "Our goal is to increase production, reduce costs and make the oil more affordable. The more efficiently we produce, the more customers will benefit."

Continued on page 8



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 **Position: Chief Geologist**
Department: Mining
Section: Mine Geology
Number required: One (01)

Primary Purpose

- To lead and manage the mine geology function, ensuring accurate resource definition, effective grade control, and reliable geological data to support safe, efficient, and cost-effective mining operations.
- The role is responsible for maximizing ore recovery, minimizing dilution, and enhancing life-of-mine value through high-quality geological services and cross-functional integration.
- The scope of this role encompasses all mine-site geological activities, including near-mine resource definition and extensional exploration, while excluding regional exploration.

TASK DESCRIPTION EXPANDED TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS

SHEC

- Champion a strong safety-first culture across all geology activities
- Ensure full compliance with SHEC policies, procedures, and regulatory requirements
- Implement structured risk identification, assessment, and mitigation controls
- Drive accountability for timely closure of SHEC actions, audits, and incidents

Grade Control & Ore Management

- Establish and maintain fit-for-purpose grade control systems across all ore types
- Ensure effective RC drilling programs, maintaining ≥3 months forward production coverage
- Define and implement standard operating procedures (SOPs) for grade control
- Optimize ore/waste delineation to minimize dilution and ore loss
- Develop and maintain ROM stockpile management strategies
- Collaborating with Processing to optimize mill feed quality and metallurgical performance

Resource Integrity, Modeling & Reconciliation

- Lead the geological interpretation, estimation, development, and maintenance of the Bisha Mine Mineral Resource and Reserve block models for both OP and UG.
- Ensure geological inputs support short-, medium-, and long-term mine planning
- Establish and manage independent Mine-to-Mill reconciliation systems for both Open Pit and Underground operations to track grades, dilution, and metal recovery variances separately
- Accountable for the annual evaluation, estimation, and formal updating of the Bisha Mine Resource and Reserve models in compliance with international reporting codes (JORC / NI 43-101)
- Maintain continuous improvement in resource confidence and geological understanding
- Design and execute near-mine, in-pit, and underground exploration programs to identify and define immediate reserve expansion opportunities.

Geotechnical & Mine Design Support

- Ensure geological inputs support pit slope stability and safe mine design
- Collaborate with geotechnical teams on monitoring, reporting, and risk mitigation
- Ensure geological factors are integrated into mine design and planning decisions.

Data Governance & Quality Assurance (QA/QC)

- Ensure integrity, security, and reliability of geological databases and sampling systems
- Implement and monitor QA/QC protocols for drilling, sampling, and assay data
- Ensure traceability and audit-readiness of all geological data and documentation
- Promote continuous improvement in data quality and reporting systems.

Reporting & Technical Communication

- Deliver accurate and timely weekly, monthly, and quarterly geology reports
- Provide technical inputs for:
 - Budgeting and planning cycles
 - Life-of-mine (LOM) studies
 - Board and executive reporting
- Maintain comprehensive documentation of orebody knowledge development
- Prepare and review technical reports in line with international standards

Human Resource Management

- Manage the work performance of employees reporting directly into this position.
- Identify training and development needs in line with the personal development plans and company objectives.
- Ensure that all team members are appropriately trained and assessed so that they can safely perform.
- Manage people's expectations so that they are in-line with the companies' goals.
- Recruit and retain quality people with appropriate skill sets.
- Provide mentoring and coaching to the Eritrean workforce.
- Deputise for the Technical Services Manager on rotational absences.

UNIQUE REQUIREMENTS / OTHER INFORMATION

- Site-based rotational role with exposure to remote operations
- High level of integration with Mining, Processing, and Technical Services functions
- Accountability for audit-ready geological systems and reporting compliance
- The candidate must be physically and medically fit

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
• BSc Geology (Hons) is essential. • MSc Geology is desirable. • Membership of a recognised international mining professional organisation e.g. AusIMM, SAIMM, PGeo. • Eligibility for Competent Person (CP) / Qualified Person (QP) status under JORC or NI 43-101 is highly desirable / essential	• Minimum of 15 years' experience in the mining industry. • 5+ years working in large open pits/or underground operations. • 3+ years working as a Senior Mine Geologist or as a Chief Geologist • Open pit, Underground mining and Near-mine/operational exploration experience is required. • Experienced with safe mine and mine planning practices with respect to pit slope stability in an active open pit mine. • Knowledgeable about RC drilling methods, sampling and drill management. • Experience with Volcanogenic Massive Sulfide (VMS) ore deposits is desirable. • Thorough understanding of mine geology data collection methods, production planning and open pit mine design. • Knowledge of the Sarbanes- Oxley-Act (SOX).
Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
• Advanced MS Office (Excel, Access, Word & Powerpoint). • Strong 3D mining and geo-statistical software experience (Surpac, Datamine, Leapfrog, or equivalent) • RC and Diamond Drilling (DD) practices, including underground drilling/sampling methodologies. • Grade reconciliation practices. • Open pit production and grade control practices. • Stockpile management • Analytical techniques (QA/QC). • Technical Report Writing. • Presentation skills.	• Ability to train and mentor team members. • Can develop excellent relationships with peers and • Internal/external customers. • Performance management. • Understands the cultural sensibilities of Eritreans. • Good written and verbal English communication skills.

 General Information and other requirements:

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

Additional requirements for Nationals:

- Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provided 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.
- 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



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 positions

1. **Position: Mining Engineering Superintendent**
Department: Mining
Section: Management and Planning
Number required: One (01)

Primary Purpose

- The primary purpose of this job is to provide technical engineering direction, provide forward thinking vision, maintain or develop essential production monitoring systems and enforce engineering standards for the open pit mines. Communicate mining strategy to Mining Operations both verbally and through presentations.
- Support the Mining Manager by developing and implementing business improvements and strategic planning to leverage opportunities.

Main Functions

SHEC (Safety Health Environment and Community)

- Ensure that all employees are aware of their SHEC responsibilities and follow company policies and procedures.
- Develop a risk management approach to the team activities and ensure that high risk controls are audited.
- Support the creation of a workplace culture where people have a deep commitment to working safely.
- Ensure that all SHEC actions are completed on time and to the required standard.
- Ensure the slope stability is maintained.

Leadership

- Provide strong leadership to the Mining Engineering Section.
- Ensure that the companies’ core values are upheld and lead by example.
- Deputise for the Mining Manager as required.

Mine Plan Quality and Compliance

- Updating the design of the mine utilizing mine engineering software.
- Review and ensure the Mine Plan is carried out by production personnel.
- Oversee operational planning of Weekly, Monthly Rolling Forecast and Life of Mine Plan.
- Ensure that resource reporting complies with the Canadian National Instrument NI43-101 and the Australian Joint Ore Reserve Committee (JORC) standard.
- Ensure that the mill feed meets the quality requirements as requested by the Processing team.
- Ensure current systems are documented and allow for consistent quality output.
- Meet the agreed Mine Planning section KPIs and strategic objectives.
- Ensure that all data collection practices are supported with systems, quality control and training.
- Managing Mining Projects aside from day to day responsibilities through Project Engineer.
- Daily Drive coordination with Mine Operations Superintendent & Mine Planning Engineer to agree on the 36 hour plan.
 - Mine Planning Engineer review weekly plans against actual production.
 - Review Drill & Blast plan.
 - Discuss Geotechnical hazards and requirements.
 - Discuss Geology requirements.
 - Identify safety hazards that staff should be aware of when implanting 36-hour plan.
- Draft Standard operating procedures for Mine Planning Section to be reviewed and approved by the Mining Manager.
- Liaise with Consultants on current and future projects as required.
- Ensure ongoing optimization of pit designs and mining operation through benchmarking.
- Develop a Production Improvement (Infrastructure, People, Equipment, Systems & procedures etc.)
- Conduct workshops and develop action plans with Superintendents to identify opportunities & areas of improvement and potential impacts of various ideas.
- Lead Mining Budget Preparation.

Report Compliance and Data Control

- Review variances and deviations from the mine plan on a weekly basis.
- Manage stock control by monitoring levels and checking the supply reports.
- Review and sign off various designs and plans such as Drill and Blast designs.
- Ensure that mining department reporting system (weekly, monthly, quarterly, yearly) is completed on time and to a high standard.
- Ensure sufficient resources are available to complete the NI43-101 external report on time.
- Track and report physical and cost variances to the budget each month.

Human Resources Management

- Support team member personal development plans ensuring that all team members are appropriately trained and assessed so that they can safely perform all aspects of their position.

- Recruit and retain quality people with appropriate skill sets.
- Manage people’s expectations so that they are in-line with the company’s goals.
- Responsible to lead, train and mentor Mining Engineers, Project Engineers and Graduate Engineering Students.
- Manage the Section Roster: Nationals, Internationals, Trainees and Contractors ensuring sufficient coverage are maintained.

Life of Mine Plan and Strategic Planning

- Ensure that the life of mine plan is fully optimised by providing sufficient human and financial resources.
- Manage feasibility studies for mine life extension.
- Lead and drive practical solutions to meet Life of Mine designs and plans.
- Understand the strategic, long term mining plans and implement short term plans into the longer term plan.
- Support equipment selection and scheduling activities.

Geotechnical and Slope Stability Management

- Ensuring appropriate design criteria are defined and implemented.
- Analyse the optimum pit design parameters to achieve the optimum NPV to the operation.

UNIQUE REQUIREMENTS / OTHER INFORMATION

- The incumbent must have the necessary experience to oversee the development of Life of Mine plan
- The candidate must be physically and medically fit

Qualifications:	Knowledge and Experience
• Degree in Mining Engineering • Degree in Geology is an advantage • Membership of recognized international Mining Professional organization e.g AusIMM, SAIMM, CIM	• Minimum 15 years previous experience or related experiences • 3 + years in senior role • Exposure to Copper or Zinc Mining is preferred • Experience with Volcanogenic, massive sulfid (VMS) ore Deposits is desirable • Experience on strategic planning and Open Pit Optimisation
Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
• Computer Literacy (MS Office – Advanced, Excel – Advanced, Mining optimisation, design and scheduling software – Surpac, Whittle and Minesched preferred), Analytical Skill, Budgeting and cost management skill, Attention to detail, Problem solving skill, Planning, Organizational & Execution skills, Presentation skills, Fluent in English, Leadership and delegating skills, Ore Control best practices, Risk management & assessment, Technical Report writing, Mine production efficiency best practices, Metallurgy and ore blending principles.	• Ability to develop excellent relationship between peers, sub-ordinate and Supervisor in both within Mining Department and inter-department • Ability to work under pressure • Ability to work toward strict deadlines • Assertiveness • Result and performance oriented • Ability to multitask • Ability to work in multi-disciplinary environment • Understand the cultural sensibilities within the team • Ability to mentor large group of technical employees.



Following in the Footsteps of Excellence: Zuhura Jibril Adem's Journey to a Perfect 4.0

By: Merina Pawlos



Can you introduce yourself?

I was born in 2007 in Mendfera, located in the Southern Region. Like all students, I progressed through several academic stages, starting from kindergarten up to 12th grade at Warsay Yekalo. I attended Mendfera Kindergarten, moved to Abdela Gonafer Elementary School, and then achieved top marks at Orrota Junior High School. After earning a score of 92 on the 8th-grade national examination, I joined Haben Secondary School. Finally, in 2026, as part of the 38th round, I attended Sawa Warsay Yekalo Secondary School to complete 12th grade and fulfill my national service. By the grace of God, I achieved my goal of receiving a perfect 4.0 score.

What was your study routine and technique?

I held long-term goals, and to achieve them, I stayed disciplined and focused during my study time. First, effective

In recent years, many students across Eritrea have achieved outstanding academic performance. During the 38th round at Sawa Warsay Yekalo Secondary School, numerous students earned top marks on the national examination. To celebrate these achievements, the government presents the prestigious Denden Award to top-performing students in the Southern Region. Among the distinguished honorees is Zuhura Jibril Adem, who earned a perfect score of 4.0 on her matriculation exam. Below is an interview highlighting her journey and success.

time management was crucial. Second, I paid close attention in class, taking full advantage of the insights and experiences shared by our teachers. Group discussions with friends also played a major role; surrounding yourself with dedicated peers significantly influences your academic success.

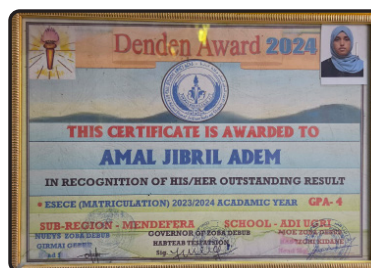
How was your academic performance in previous years?

I have consistently been among the top academic award winners. In 8th grade, after scoring 92 on the national exam, I received the Endamaso Award. Rather than becoming complacent, I used that recognition to work even harder, which ultimately helped me achieve a 4.0 on the national matriculation examination.

Who inspired you to achieve this level of success?

My main role models are my elder sisters, Tahira Jibril Adem and Amal Jibril Adem. They set an incredible example for me in every aspect of life. Both of them also earned perfect 4.0 scores on their national examinations. Tahira is currently a third-year Chemical Engineering student at the College of Engineering and Technology in Mai Nefhi, while Amal is a second-year Computer Science student at the same institution. Seeing their dedication served as the main engine driving my ambition to follow in their footsteps.

What role did your family play in supporting your academic journey?



The foundation of my success from kindergarten to this Denden Award is my mother and father. Both of my parents invested enormous time, effort, and patience into my education, providing extra learning opportunities whenever possible. Guiding a child through years of schooling requires immense dedication, and my family continuously offered moral and emotional support at every step.

What are your plans for the future?

My future plan is to continue working hard and become a medical doctor. Although medical studies require years of intensive effort, I am confident that with God's help and my

family's support, I will achieve this dream. Ultimately, I want to use my education to give back to my community and country.

What message would you like to share with other students?

I want to tell every student that everything is achievable if you give it proper attention and dedication. No one is without talent or potential. The key is to manage your time wisely. I especially want to encourage young women to pursue their education to the highest level and complete their high school journey at Warsay Yekalo with

determination.

Is there anyone you would like to thank?

First, I thank Almighty God, without whom none of this would be possible. I express my deepest gratitude to my parents, Jibril Adem and Jemila Ahmed, who stand beside me and support every effort in my life. I also want to thank my elder sisters, Amal and Tahira, who act as my best friends and guides. Together, we look forward to finishing our studies and using our skills to serve our society across every corner of the country.

... Two Young Graduates Pressing ...

Continued from page 5

Local innovation has played an important role in developing the enterprise. Sador and Biniam work as a team, taking on responsibilities as designers, welders, maintenance workers and production managers. Mr. Haile, the owner of a metal workshop in Kehawta and Engineer Abel provided technical ideas that helped them develop machinery that is easy to clean and maintain. Most of the materials used in constructing the equipment are locally available.

The partners maintain contact with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Economic Development and the Investment Center. Although they still consider themselves beginners, they are determined to demonstrate their potential through practical results. Their plans include acquiring their own farmland to secure a stable supply of sesame, expanding the machinery section and introducing a hydraulic pressing machine to increase production.

Their short-term objective is to reach as many local customers as possible. Once domestic demand can be adequately met, they hope to enter export markets. "Our ultimate goal is to provide every household with quality, safe and affordable sesame oil and to see it used in different food recipes," Sador said.

The name Camels PLC reflects the spirit of the two founders. Camels are known for their endurance, ability to carry heavy burdens and capacity to continue travelling under difficult conditions. Sador and Biniam believe that their own journey—from the hardships they faced in Gash-Barka and their initial difficulties in selling the oil to the growing acceptance of their product—resembles the persistence of a camel.

"We worked as hard as camels to reach this stage," they said with pride. "That is why we named the enterprise Camels PLC. We are the camels."

Their journey is far from complete, but it already provides an encouraging example of youth entrepreneurship. Sador and Biniam acknowledge the sacrifices they have made, the support of their families and the role of the Government in providing them with education. They also express gratitude to the farmers, technicians, customers and communities who supported their efforts. With stronger investment and extended use of machinery, Sador and Biniam believe Camels PLC can increase production, create further opportunities and make organic, salt-free sesame oil accessible to more people—one carefully pressed bottle of sesame oil at a time.

