

Good Morning-The Ambassador and the Head of Public Affairs is here.

On September 13, 2008, Eritrea's Ambassador to the United States of America, Bitsai Ghrmai Ghebremariam and the Head of Public and Community Affairs hosted a public seminar over the weekend in Minnesota.



The weekend-long seminar began at 9:00 AM on Saturday morning; the representative Y.P.F.D.J. (Young People's Front for Democracy & Justice) group had an intimate discussion with leaders Bitsai Ghrmai

Ghebremariam and Bitsai Berhane Ghebrehiwot over breakfast at the Embassy Suite Hotel. Passing the torch to the youth was the overarching topic of discussion. The leaders covered the following topics: how to unite the youth, where the youth needs improvement, and the need for the youth's input in developing the overall vision of the charter's Six Pillars. All topics were geared to motivate and unite the Minnesota Y.P.F.D.J. chapter—as well as Eritrea as a nation.



Next, Bitsai Ghrmai Ghebremariam and Bitsai Berhane Ghebrehiwot headed to Como Park located in St. Paul, Minnesota to watch Denden's Sports Club play soccer. Denden's Sport Club is an Eritrean youth soccer league founded by local Eritrean moms and dads. The leaders received a warm welcome from the youth and their families. The crowd sang the Eritrean national anthem, followed by a moment of silence for those who sacrificed their life during the struggle. The match between the Denden boys and the Denden girls lasted throughout that afternoon.



Later that afternoon, Bitsai Ghrmai Ghebremariam and Bitsai Berhane Ghebrehiwot headed off to host a youth discussion held at the Eritrean Community Center in St. Paul, Minnesota. Two main goals were addressed: the importance of serving Eritrea and the importance of serving the local Eritrean community. In an answer to the question of, “How can one serve back home?” The Ambassador said, “For a minimum of three-months, people will soon be able to travel to Eritrea and serve in an area of their choice.” This will help develop a self-sustaining nation faster. In addition to serving in Eritrea, improving the local community is helpful as well because it empowers more youth with a strong base to learn from, which will ultimately cultivate a united Eritrean nation. Lastly, Bitsai Ghrmai Ghebremariam and Bitsai Berhane Ghebrehiwot stressed the importance of an organized society, and closed by answering any and all questions.

Sunday at 2:00 PM, Bitsai Ghrmai Ghebremariam and Bitsai Berhane Ghebrehiwot spoke with various organization leaders at the Eritrean Community Center in St. Paul, Minnesota making sure everyone was on the same page. The meeting covered the importance of teamwork among the community, and how vital it is to Eritrea's national harmony.



On Sunday afternoon, Bitsai Ghrmai Ghebremariam and Bitsai Berhane Ghebrehiwot held a public seminar to share and discuss

the nation's concerns and achievements. The following issues were: Eritrea's current stage of independence, where Eritrea is going, recent positive developments, the importance of unity, and the importance of contributing to the vision of the charter.

The challenges addressed were: silent embargos, the recycling-of-bad news among the community and the economy. In adding to the challenges; the importance of becoming familiar with new Eritrean laws when traveling back home was brought up. People traveling back home must learn any old or new laws, not only for the society, but for their own well-being, too. By and large, Bitsai Ghrmai Ghebremariam and Bitsai Berhane Ghebrehiwot were impressed with the positive developments in Minnesota. They were happy to see the creation of a youth soccer club. While praising the parents for creating a soccer club, they encouraged the community to continue in their support of all youth activities. The Ambassador Ghebremariam said, "We're happy to help in any way

we



can." The seminar was productive, effective, and ended with a Q & A session that satisfied everyone. This weekend was another testament Eritrea's nation developing around the globe, but together in harmony.

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By Y-Media Team