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Taiwan National Day celebration marked in Hargeisa

The Taiwanese envoy to Somaliland Allen C. Lou hosted its second National Day ceremony on Friday. Over 150 people attended the event, including Abdulrahman Ismail Saylici, Vice President of Somaliland, ministers, government officials, MPs, members from the business sector, academia, Diplomatic Corps and the media.

At the National Day event, head of the Somaliland Office Allen Lou said that on Taiwan's success against the COVID-19 pandemic and its outstanding economic



performance as Taiwan plays a vital and indispensable role in the global

economic recovery, as well as the establishment of secure industrial

supply chains in the post-pandemic era. Taiwan will not only enhance

solidity with like-minded countries which is based on mutual assistance for mutual benefit but also devote every endeavor to safeguarding sovereignty, democracy, freedom and advancing regional peace and stability. Amb. Lou said that Taiwan was proud to support Somaliland's parliamentary and local elections this year and reiterated that the Governments of Taiwan and Somaliland mutually launched Representative Office in 2020. In one year both countries have promoted

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New Police Rapid Force fort established in Las Anod



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Cabinet Discuss mitigation of Covid-19 in Somaliland

The Council of Ministers meeting held yesterday virtually and discussed ways to mitigate the soaring cases of Covid-19 pandemic across the country. It was the 80th meeting of president Musa Bihi Abdi administration, and it discussed many salient issues including land disputes, the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic and the expulsion of southerners from Lasanod. President of the republic of Somaliland H.E. Musa Bihi Abdi chaired the cabinet meeting virtually



from the presidential palace. Deputy SL President H.E. Abdurahman Sayli'i who is the chair

of the committee tasked for the preparedness and response of the

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French senate hail Somaliland election processes and pledged developmental support



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Somaliland Begins Deportation of Somalia Nationals from Las Anod

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French Senate praises the Somaliland people and government peacefully holding recently ended parliamentary and local elections in the country, and pledges to support for the development of Somaliland. The representative Republic of Somaliland to France Ambassador

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OIL PRICE HITS \$80 A BARREL FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THREE YEARS, WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE UPSTREAM PETROLEUM EXPLORATION (EPS) INVESTMENTS?



Crude Oil, the black gold as it referred to sometimes is the economic essence of every industrialized nation and has remained thus far the world's most vital source of energy since the industrial revolution. With all the

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Taiwan unveils demonstration farm in Arabsiyo town



Press Release

Ambassador Allen Chenhwa Lou, Taiwan Representative in the Republic of Somaliland and Mohamed Haji Osman, Minister of Agricultural Development of the Republic of Somaliland, co-hosts the opening ceremony of the Demonstration Farm in Agamse, Arabsiyo on 4th October 2021.

The Demonstration Farm is the "fruit" of the joint efforts of the Taiwan Technical Mission and Ministry of Agricultural Development for the

Improving Production and Quality of Vegetables and Fruits Project.

The demonstration farm was assigned to the Taiwan Technical Mission to use in April this year. After 6 months' hard work, the farm has reached a functional status and is ready to do the extension work with local farmers. This farm is designed to be a technical exchange platform. Techniques and know-how related will be tested on the farm and will be extended to local farmers if it is

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Taiwan National Day celebration marked in Hargeisa



cooperation projects in agriculture, health care, ICT, and education based on the rock-solid political foundation with fruitful results. In terms of agriculture, the Taiwan Demonstration Farm officially launched on 4th of October and became the benchmark of the Improving Production and Quality of Vegetables and Fruits Project and a venue for training and extensions work in Somaliland; In terms of health care, Taiwan not only donated medical supplies including masks, PPEs, PCR, rapid test kits and oxygen concentrators to assist Somaliland in combating COVID-19 pandemic but also cooperated with project-related hospitals to promote the maternal and child health care, as well as to benefit the people of Somaliland; in terms of ICT, the Somaliland Innovation Zone will be opened soon to enhance Somaliland E-Government capacity with information and communications education. In terms of education, 37 Taiwan Scholarships awardees traveled batch by batch to Taiwan. It is encouraged that they will contribute to Somaliland after completing their studies in Taiwan.

In addition to the aforementioned

achievements, Taiwan actively develops mutually beneficial economic and trade and investment cooperation with Somaliland. For instance, Taiwan dispatched oil and mining survey teams to explore resources for the future investment of Taiwanese businessmen. Furthermore, Taiwan EXPO 2021 in Somaliland will be held in Hargeisa on the 4th- 5th of November, which will focus on areas such as Argo-Processing, Bio-Medical, Car Parts, Green Energy, ICT, Ocean Freight and Air Freight Logistics etc. This forthcoming Taiwan EXPO 2021 is expected to create strong international ties related to trade relationships and investment opportunities with neighboring East African countries



and the Horn of Africa.

Furthermore, Representative Allen C. LOU concluded with "Square miles do not measure the greatness of a nation. Integrity does. Resilience does. Value does. And in granting "highly official relations" to each other, both Taiwan and Somaliland have become GIANTS."

The Vice President and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Somaliland echoed with high praises of the relations between Taiwan and Somaliland, they appreciated the Taiwan government for granting scholarships to young students of Somaliland as well as enhancing the human capacity of Somalilanders through implementing various cooperation projects. "Somaliland stands united in the commitments to values of democracy and freedom with rock-solid partner Taiwan."

In dedication to this 2-hour celebration of Taiwan National Day, exquisite calendars printed with photos of mutual cooperation achievements between two countries were gifted to all the distinguished guests, following by their praises and appreciation.

Cabinet Discuss mitigation of Covid-19 in Somaliland

pandemic gave a presentation at the meeting which is aimed at mitigating of the virus and ways of keeping it at bay.

The DP said in the report that the death toll skyrocketed for the past three months. Sayli'i noted that 28 people succumbed to the complications of Covid-19 for the past 6 days. He further notified that the committee against the prevention of the virus will soon release new guidelines which will

be aimed at mitigating the spread of the pandemic.

The cabinet discussed resolutions aimed at bringing an end to land disputes that transpire in both rural and urban areas in Somaliland. Finally, the ministerial delegation which oversaw the deportation of southerners from Lasanod spoke of the implementation of the security operation and reiterated that the security operation was successfully launched and is progressing well.

Quality Improvement in health care in Somaliland

King's Global Health Partnerships is excited to be partnering with the Ministry of Health Development in Somaliland, the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust and the World Health Organisation (WHO) to develop Somaliland's first national strategy for quality of care, based on the WHO's recently developed package of resources: Quality of Care in Fragile, Conflict Affected and Vulnerable Settings.

In low resource settings, there are many challenges and constraints to the delivery of quality care. We will bring together relevant stakeholders to understand the current status of quality care in Somaliland, and the challenges and gaps in quality improvement (QI) approaches in the health system. Our NHS partners will support colleagues to undertake facility assessments of Borama Regional Hospital, our newest partner in Somaliland, and up to seven health centres within its referral area, using audit tools developed by WHO.

These facility assessments will help us understand where to focus our support- regarding staff training and the procurement of resources, such as personal protective equipment for health workers. Clinical experts from the NHS will then volunteer their time to provide top-up training to healthcare workers in one priority area as identified in the assessments, such as Infection Prevention and Control or triage.

We will also train 25-35 healthcare workers in the basic principles of QI over a period of five months, building on our long-term partnership with Amoud University. The trainees will develop and implement their own QI projects during this time with support from their QI volunteer mentors.

Though the project is only eight months long, we are hoping this small pilot leads to further work to support Somaliland's Ministry of Health Development in drafting and rolling out national quality of care guidelines.

Taiwan unveils demonstration farm in Arabsiyu town

applicable.

Considering the constraints of farming resources of Somaliland, such as water availability, soil fertility, high evaporation, and lack of diversity of products. Some tactics such as protection farming, dripping irrigation, mulching, varieties introduction, soil-improving will be introduced in the demonstration farm.

The Demonstration Farm is a venue for training and extensions work. The Demonstration Farm is the

benchmark of the Improving Production and Quality of Vegetables and Fruits Project. Many elements such as capacity-building and value-chain facilitation are to be channelled to the Demonstration Farm and to be implemented together by the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Taiwan Technical Mission.

Moreover, the Demonstration Farm is showcasing the vision of the Taiwan Model of agriculture cooperation in Africa to benefit local farmers directly.



Guards shoot dead six migrants at Libya detention centre

Guards shot dead six migrants at an overcrowded Tripoli detention facility on Friday, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) said, the latest violence against migrants following mass arrests in recent days.

"Shooting broke out and six migrants were killed in total. They were shot by the guards," the UN agency's Libya chief Federico Soda told AFP.

advertisements

"We don't know what triggered the incident today but it is related to overcrowding and the terrible, very tense situation" at the Al-Mabani facility in the capital, he said.

He added that at least 20 other migrants were wounded and that many more had escaped in the chaos.

The killings came a week after sweeping raids in Tripoli, mostly targeting irregular migrants, left at least one person dead and 15 wounded, according to the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL). Doctors without Borders (MSF) said 5,000 migrants and refugees had been swept up in "violent mass arrests", tripling the numbers

detained in the city in just five days. Libyan authorities had said the wave of detentions last Friday and Saturday were part of anti-drug raids on houses and makeshift shelters in Gargaresh, a poor suburb of Tripoli.

Soda said the heavily guarded Al-Mabani centre, which has a capacity of 1,000, had by Friday been housing 3,000 migrants, mostly from sub-Saharan Africa, around a third of them in the grounds outside the building.

Guards had fired into the air to control previous incidents during the week, he said.

"Their detention is arbitrary and indiscriminate," he said.

"There are people there who have legal documents but they are stuck in the country."

Videos posted on social media, some filmed from cars, appeared to show hundreds of people climbing over a metal fence and running across the road.

One showed people running through the streets chanting "freedom! freedom!" in English. In another, a migrant said those fleeing were from "Somalia, Sudan, Egypt"

and other countries.

AFP was unable to immediately verify the footage.

The UN's refugee agency UNHCR had said earlier Friday that it was "increasingly alarmed about the humanitarian situation for asylum seekers and refugees in Libya".

"Following a large-scale security operation by the Libyan authorities in the past week, arrests and raids have been taking place in many parts of Tripoli, targeting areas where asylum seekers and migrants are living," it said.

Amnesty International said on Friday that Libyan forces had used "unlawful lethal force" in the round-up.

"Libyan forces have a harrowing record of subjecting refugees and migrants to unimaginable horrors with impunity," said Diana Eltahawy, the group's regional deputy director. Particularly since Libya collapsed into violence following its 2011 revolution, it has become a key departure point for tens of thousands of migrants, mainly from sub-Saharan Africa, hoping to reach Europe.

Somaliland Begins Deportation of Somalia Nationals from Las Anod



The Councillor was elected to the town hall on 31 May.

In a sudden and swift sweep operation aiming to narrow down assassination squads who have wrought havoc in the Sool regional capital of Las Anod of recent, Somaliland authorities have packed sizeable Somalia nationals living in that city back to their homes of origin.

This time around, the operation singled out a community of mostly small traders who have originally hailed from the Somalia state of Southwest and, specifically, from the Bay and Bakool regions.

Security authorities, drawing from established surmises that link residents of those areas to militant groups in Somalia wished to eliminate that possibility before concentrating on other, local sleep cells in the city.

The regional police Commissioner, Colonel Mohamed Abdi, stated that they narrow down the circle of possibilities was of paramount urgency.

"We started with foreign nationals. No distinction will be made whether they were Somalis, Ethiopians or of other nationals. Then and only, we can tighten the dragnet on other local elements – if any," the Commissioner said.

Besides the security consideration, the Somalian expatriate communities have taken over almost all local small businesses gradually inching up to wholesale, supermarkets and the hospitality industry.

Targeted Killings

Las Anod was in the hands of the now federal state of Somalia, Puntland, until 15 October 2007 when it was driven off the area by Somaliland troops.

In the following three years, Puntland and Somaliland exchanged skirmishes and military operations mostly aimed at supremacy. Killings that happened during the 2007 to 2010 years were mostly of military nature and could be directly linked to Puntland.

Somaliland decided to establish a security zone to protect the city and its citizens. Its troops advanced further east and south to provide Las Anod residents ample room for peace and development.

It was, then, that targeted, well-planned killings started.

Most of the killings since the year 2010, however, could be linked to revenge issues but there were several high-profile assassinations that were clearly of another nature.

In none of these, culprits were neither apprehended nor identified. The killing squads specifically targeted prominent community members among whom were government officials, traditional leaders, local government officials and business people.

Among those who fell victim to the assassins hail of bullets were:

1. Osman Abdi Farah, prominent citizen, 16 January 2010
2. Chief Hussein Dalqaf, Traditional leader, 26 June 2010
3. Suleiman Dheere, educationist, 18 July 2010
4. Mohamed Ahmed Hersi, prominent citizen, 7 March 2011
5. Sheikh Mohamed Ibrahim Samater, religious scholar, 17 May 2011
6. Ibrahim Ahmed Shire, traditional leader, 6 October 2011
7. Ahmed Mohamoud Haji Ali, prominent citizen, 24 June 2012
8. Abdi Awil Hassan, prominent citizen, 3 August 2012
9. Ahmed Sakin Farah, journalist, 23 October 2012
10. Abdurahman Ismail Suleimen, prominent citizen, 8 December 2012
11. Abdullahi Ahmed Arrabey, prominent citizen, 13 April 2016
12. Mohamed Hersi, businessman, 3 September 2016
13. Hassan Mohamoud, prominent citizen, 2 March 2020
14. Abdiqani Guhad, Regional Intelligence Commander, 15 March 2020
15. Abdullahi Mohamed Shire, Head of Regional Electoral Commission, 13 July 2021
16. Abdirizak Ahmed Elmi, City Councillor, 11 September 2021

Las Anod is only 511 kilometres distant from the national capital of Hargeisa.

Somaliland Angle

Some of the targeted killings in the city, however, were not that dissimilar to those carried out by militant elements – and sometimes by NISA operatives – in Mogadishu. In the latest of the latter, councillor Abdirizak Ahmed Elmi was shot in front of his home and killed on September 11, 2021. His killing, at the time, raised many eyebrows. His was not of revenge. It had, instead, all the hallmarks of al-Shabaab, Daesh and those of NISA in Mogadishu. Only two days earlier, Abdirizak has vowed that Somaliland will not tolerate incursions of Puntland troops into Sool areas, and especially in the Bo'ame district. He accused the Somalia state of fomenting unrest in the area making stability and dependable security in the district untenable. As a result, many thought the assassination was a direct result of the Councillor's commitment.

On the other hand, Puntland still claimed jurisdiction over the whole region although the assertion was not supported by facts on the



ground. The Garowe administration still continue to appoint governors, mayors, police commissioners even at this late stage. It was only in July this year that Puntland appointed Colonel Adan Mohamed Abdi to Sool Commissioner of Police.

The fight, this revealed, for supremacy over the region was still being kept fanned in the Somalia region which implicated involvement in insecurity issues that were to its advantage.

Daesh and Al-Shabaab, who operate openly in the adjacent Somalia regions of Puntland and Galmudug, cannot be ruled out altogether although other elements may be contributing to the killings as is being presently investigated.

Somaliland on the Deportation

In Mogadishu, 1027 kilometres to the south, Somali Prime Minister, ministers who were not able to even step out of their homes without heavy security detachments started lip-service claims on Las Anod as soon as the security operation started. Somaliland PM, Roble, drumming up the old 'Greater Somalia, Somali unity' beat even went as far as to incite Las Anod residents to oppose the authorities security measure.

"I call on Las Anod residents to oppose the move demonstrating what unity is, what being a Somali is," he said. The PM was conveniently setting aside that the measure as harsh as it was to prevent or at least tone down a major worse pall of fear shrouding the city in acts that drew parallels from Mogadishu and Bossaso.

Among those who have been feigning indignation decrying what they called a 'violation against citizens in their own hometown' was the Somalia interim minister of justice, Abdulkadir Mohamed Nur – one of those who look out for Turkish interests where he was trained more than he did for Somalis. The minister called the Las Anod security operation 'unfortunate and regrettable that Somali nationals are being deported from their own Somali town'. And, yet, Las Anod was not even in Somalia but in Somaliland. Mogadishu can neither enter the city nor has a say so in any of the city's affairs. But, like the rest of Somaliland, Villa Somalia revealed in claiming sovereignty over the whole of the Republic of Somaliland which had established a better-governed state within its boundaries since 1991. During the same years until now, pockets of Somalia stability – unlike Somaliland – are wholly in the hands of foreign troops.

Taiwan donates oxygen generators to Somaliland to fight together against COVID-19

COVID-19 continues to spread globally to threaten people's lives and cause massive economic losses. In order to assist Somaliland to increase its related capability to combat this pandemic, Taiwan Representative Office in the Republic of Somaliland represents the Taiwan Government to donate Taiwanese-made oxygen generators to the Ministry of Health Development of the Republic of Somaliland on 3rd October 2021.

Taiwan has been side by side with Somaliland to combat COVID-19 by sharing various Taiwanese-made high quality medical supplies including masks, PPE, antigen rapid tests, PCR machines and reagents and many others since the outbreak of COVID-19. Taiwan will continue to share the medical resources and work together with Somaliland to combat COVID-19. "Taiwan can help" and "Taiwan is helping" are not only slogans, they



also show the brotherly friendship between Taiwan and Somaliland. Viruses know no borders and no one is safe until everyone is. No country can remain on the sidelines and should be all integrated to the international community to fight against this pandemic which threatens all mankind. Taiwan is willing and ready to contribute and share more with international community. The G7 foreign ministers, government leaders or high-level officials of diplomatic allies as well as Japan, Sweden, Canada, Belgium, and the United States have publicly expressed their rock-solid support for Taiwan to participate in the related international activities. Taiwan Representative Office in the Republic of Somaliland would also like to express the heartfelt gratitude to Somaliland Government's support in this regard.

The core principles of "Taiwan Model" of cooperation are based on "mutual assistance and mutual benefits" (MAMB). Taiwan and Somaliland are together to shape this new WIN-WIN cooperation model.

New Police Rapid Force fort established in Las Anod



Minister of Interior Hon. Mohamed Kahin Ahmed has opened a new headquarters of the Police Rapid Force in Las Anod.

The fort, whose construction started three months ago and financed by the government, is set to play a key role in strengthening security stability in Las Anod and the rest of the Sool region.

The Mayor of Las Anod Abdurahman Ali and the Governor of Sool Abdiqani Mohamud who spoke at the event appraised the building and underlined that it will strengthen security in the Sool region.

Speaking at the event, Brigadier General Mohamed Adan Saqadi, Commander of the Somaliland Police Force, thanked owner of the plot who donated it to be used for the building, terming the gesture a value added to the security and development of the city and region.

Interior Minister Hon. Mohamed Kahin thanked the President and stated that similar buildings were intended for Police Rapid Force to be erected in all regions.

"I thank the president for his acceptance and fund when me along the Police Chief presented its plan."

Hon. Mohamed noted security and development being the government's utmost priorities in the country.

OIL PRICE HITS \$80 A BARREL FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THREE YEARS, WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE UPSTREAM PETROLEUM EXPLORATION (EPS) INVESTMENTS?

doom and gloom that Oil went through in its glorious past, this week, it has hit the \$80 barrel mark for the first time in three years. The Oil industry as an economic enabler catalyst is so massive that it's divided into three different sub-industries, namely, Upstream, Midstream and Downstream. The by-products/goods that are derived from the oil also powers our modern societies throughout the world, whether it be to fuel energy to the power industries, heating homes, and providing fuel energy for all types of modern machinery, for the advancement and welfare of humanity.

Oil has seen remarkably low prices in recent years in what economists dubbed as 'the period of abundance'. This is due to America's increased oil production through the advancement of hydraulic fracturing more known as fracking and also high efficiency attaining in shale oil production technologies, which all sowed the seeds to its self-dependence. This blissful period of low oil prices has caused investors to be wary in supplying their capital towards new upstream petroleum exploration projects in a time where the world is yet to experience a gargantuan transformation. The arrival of the covid-19 pandemic and its associated worldwide lockdowns has further exacerbated the situation by further reducing overall fuel usage, and thus hit the supply-demand equilibrium by as much as 30% which translated to the price falling to a 35 year low of 9 dollars per barrel. The pandemic has inflicted complications on the oil market that none could've ever foreseen. The disruptions it caused from job losses to unease in the return on investment of oil markets were vigorously felt.

As the planet was recovering from the covid19 pandemic, the investments in new oil exploration and drilling have yet to reach pre-pandemic levels. Total oil market capital has contracted from 750\$ billion in 2014 to merely around 350\$ billion this current year, as reckoned by Saad Rahin of Trafigura. As investments were beginning to dwindle throughout the years, since no new green fields were added to the global production capacity, it was only a matter of time before the prices could surge up. The pandemic was not but a brief pause to this incline in oil price.

The oil price as of last month hit its highest in the last three years post a pandemic period. As of Sep 28th (Rod Nickel, 2021), Brent Crude soared past \$80 per barrel for the first time in three years. As the oil demand slowly recovers, with hope next year that it is likely to reach pre-pandemic levels. The question that still lingers around in this mega-industry and ponders us as oil economists is whether the increase in oil price could positively correlate to newer upstream exploration investments and when the inevitable higher oil prices will tickle the interest of the deep-pocketed Oil investors like the giant NoC, IOCs, Banks and other oil hedge funds

Some international oil companies are still fidgeting over their budget despite the resurgence of oil prices. Their cautious attitude will allow them to pay down their debt after a period where they incurred monumental losses due to the drop in oil prices. The combined losses of the oil majors, namely Chevron, ExxonMobil, Shell, Total, and BP, were \$77 billion for 2020 (Demand Is Recovering, But Oil Investments Are Not, 2021). Many of these factors influence IOCs (International Oil Companies) to make tough decisions to either have massive layoffs or significant reductions in the upstream investments. Despite the erratic fluctuations in oil prices, there still seems to be a glimmer of hope in the form of the Brent Crude hitting a high during this period at \$81 per barrel, but the oil industry is still expecting a return in upstream oil investments by International Oil Companies or National Oil Companies.

Another major factor influencing the oil price is the major producers (Opec and Russia) demeanour towards capping the oil production rate stimulate the ever-increasing prices. The period of abundance for the consumers has heavily depleted the treasury reserves of producing countries, inciting them to first fill up their coffers and maintain high oil prices. This does not bloom well in a world that is still heavily reliant on fossil fuels.

On the flip side, there seems to be some hope in the fossil fuel sector as it has portrayed to us over decades that it is a reliable and steady source of income to investors. Some folks may ask themselves whether it would be beneficial to invest in the oil market in this current period but when it comes to oil and gas investments, timing is everything. The industry's performance in 2021 demonstrates this. Crude oil prices were soaring in the first half of the year, with WTI surging by more than 50% from January to June. This aided a similarly spectacular recovery in oil stocks, which saw several of them rise more than 50% in the first half of 2021. The reopening of the world economy as the COVID-19 epidemic faded was the primary driver of the comeback, resulting in increased demand for oil.

Advances in the Oil-Well drilling and completion technologies have allowed the energy sector to tap into new supplies of oil and natural gas to fulfil the increasing global demand. By allowing more oil and gas to be produced with fewer wells, new technologies have also helped to decrease the

environmental effect of energy production. Technological advancements will be essential in fulfilling global energy demand because they allow for the discovery of new resources, access to hostile or inaccessible regions, and the development of challenging well that were previously unprofitable to produce. This offers great newer opportunities and possibilities in the potential regions like the Horn of Africa, and we might be blessed with a newer scramble for Africa.

Other positives await those that invest in the recently maligned oil industry. According to the Financial Times (Hedge funds cash in as green investors dump energy stocks, 2021), hedge funds have recently started picking up the shares of the unpopular oil and gas companies relinquished by the environmentally-minded bigger investors, and these hedge funds are now accumulating and reaping the huge gains as the price of the energy surged. All the massive institutional investors that are more liable for good environmental governance and committed to the universal climate change commitments are so eager to relinquish their oil assets. This in turn leaves a massive gap in the oil market where those looking for returns are sure to take advantage of.

Our parting conclusion in this Oil economy analysing article is investing in the oil industry can provide decades if not centuries of passive reliable income and a strong Return-on-Investments. Newer and upcoming methods to drill alongside the improved technology has certainly shifted the dynamics of drilling to a more positive outtake. It has significantly lowered the risk while simultaneously improving the success rate setting up the stage for strong investment performance. Thus, offering the potential for higher returns than your normal/traditional investments. Oil projects typically also offer the most attractive tax incentives for investments allowing well costs to be depreciated over time. All in all, it is worth remembering that "investments drive up the economy", aside from offering potentially high returns investments has a chance to drive the local market by offering the communities the chance of being employed as well as being exposed to new advanced techniques. A catalyst for change cannot occur without investments, and whenever such opportunity knocks on the door, only fools deny entry and do not welcome it!



Jointly co-authored by Mohd Faisal Hawar and Mohamoud Faisal Hawar, both Oil and Gas Management Graduates, specialized in Oil and Gas Fiscal Regimes, Oil and Gas Economists, Trainers & Consultants on all the Extractive Fiscal Regimes.

Former IRI Staffer Elected to Somaliland Parliament Anticipates Close Collaboration with IRI



On May 31, Somalilanders went to the polls to elect a new parliament for the first time in sixteen years. With no incumbents running for reelection, the result was an 82-member House of Representatives made up entirely of new legislators. One of those winning a seat was Mohamed Hassan Saed, a former IRI employee who leveraged his experience in governance programming to run a successful campaign. He now hopes to continue that momentum by solidifying parliament's ties with IRI, allowing his colleagues to take advantage of IRI's planned legislative strengthening activities in Somaliland.

After working in Somaliland's civil society for several years, Saed became a Program Officer at IRI's Hargeisa office in 2008. Over the next two years, Saed oversaw a variety of programming in the country, including a robust capacity building series for parliament that culminated in the development of a constituency outreach manual for MPs to use as they kept in touch with their constituents. As Saed facilitated positive results for Somaliland's parliament, he attracted the attention of the country's political leadership. This culminated in his appointment as Somaliland's Ambassador to Ethiopia in 2010, ending his time at IRI.

Over the decade since then, parliamentary elections have been postponed multiple times, and Saed watched the MPs who had shown great concern for their constituents during IRI's programming become increasingly detached from the people. The MPs had lost interest in exercising their oversight and representational functions. In response, when elections were finally confirmed for May 2021, Saed decided to declare his candidacy for parliament in the Maroodi Jeh region.

As he launched his campaign, Saed found his experience with IRI to be a great advantage. "It gave me the inside information on what parliament does," he said, allowing him to make a detailed case not only for what he would change but how. "When I worked with IRI, we used to hold campaign training[s] for political parties. I used those training [manuals] for my own campaign." He further drew on the skills he gained as an IRI staffer to streamline the campaigns of others in his party on their way to winning a plurality of seats in Maroodi Jeh.

Now, as he transitions into life as an MP, Saed is eager to begin legislating. The trainings that he designed for parliament 12 years ago are proving useful once more. "As I became familiarized with IRI's programming, I was able to design and initiate my own [curriculum]," he explains. "That opportunity gave me the skills to develop policies," now that he is in parliament.

This background has caught the attention of the new Speaker of the House of Representatives, in which Saed serves. The Speaker recently appointed Saed as the parliament's Liaison MP for Development Partners, meaning he is tasked with coordinating with Somaliland's international NGO partners such as IRI. This comes at a time when IRI is ramping up its activities with the new MPs.

In the coming weeks, IRI will hold a capacity building training for the newly formed parliamentary committees and will support the lawmakers in developing a strategic plan for their term in office. Subsequently, based on the results of a limited legislative needs assessment IRI recently carried out, IRI will initiate a series of activities designed to entrench a more regulated and productive relationship between MPs and their constituents. To overcome the logistical challenges that often prevent lawmakers from returning to their districts and engaging with voters, IRI will pair the parliamentary delegation from each region with a local civil society organization to organize town hall forums, solicit the input of citizens, and aggregate this feedback into policy plans.

Thus, with his legislative programming experience gained as an IRI employee, paired with these activities targeted at constituent outreach, Saed (and his colleagues in parliament) will have the tools to build a stronger relationship with their constituents and rectify the reputation the previous parliament had earned as being out of touch with the needs of citizens, taking the country further along its path of entrenching representative democracy and citizen-focused governance.

How Somali women are breaking tradition to write novels

By Ismail Einashe

In our series of letters from African journalists, Ismail Einashe considers how Somalia's story-telling tradition has changed since the civil war.



Ubah Cristina Ali Farah/ Kate Stanworth for BBC

I recently met the award-winning writer Ubah Cristina Ali Farah at a literary festival on the Italian island of Sicily.

She is a member of a handful of globally acclaimed Somali female writers, including Nadifa Mohamed who was recently shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize for her third novel the Fortune Men.

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For centuries, Somalia has been known as the "nation of poets" but this tradition has largely been the preserve of men.

It is unusual for Somali women to be the primary storytellers, yet they are now the ones taking on that mantle in the diaspora.

Ali Farah tells me this is because they have "more space" outside Somalia to pursue their literary ambitions - unshackled as they are from the cultural expectations

encounters in the Somali capital.

In 1991, at the age of 18 and with a baby son, Ali Farah was forced to flee the escalating violence as the country descended into civil warfare, which continues to this day.

She first returned to Italy but now lives in Belgium.

Hundreds of thousands of Somalis fled - and their experiences inspired her to write - especially about the stories of women.

She says they have a special "memory" of what happened as they were often on the frontline of the conflict.

She wrote, she says, so that Somali women would not be "forgotten".

"My main questions were: 'What happens when everything you are born into has been destroyed? What do you do to root yourself again? What do you do to survive?'"

Her first novel, *Little Mother*,

that writing fiction was a way to root herself again in a foreign land.

For centuries Somali was a spoken language, only becoming a written one with a Latin script in 1972.

This influenced its literature - poetry was recited, memorised and passed down the generations.

So novels have only really come into fruition in exile, though they often nod to Somalia's rich oral tradition. In *Little Mother* there are sensory layers of rhythm and tempo, mimicking the poetic form.

Ali Farah says it includes three classic poems reworked and imagined through the eyes and sounds of women.

Arranged marriages

The author is in Palermo, Sicily's capital, to promote her new book *Le stazioni della luna* (*Phases of the Moon*).

Set in the 1950s when Somalia was under a UN Trusteeship, it is about the struggle for independence - and she takes her inspiration from the godfather of the Somali novel, Nuruddin Farah (no relation).

He wrote *From a Crooked Rib* in English - it was published in 1970 to international acclaim.

It centres on the story of Elba, a young female pastoralist who escapes an arranged marriage, running away to Mogadishu where she finds herself again subjugated by men.

Ali Farah's names her main character after Elba. "It's a tribute to Nuruddin," she tells me.

But her Elba escapes to a more emancipated world with modern possibilities for Somali women.

"Literature is a dialogue with other texts and novels," Ali Farah explains - a conversation between the past and present.

She also explores conversations between the men and women through her work, something that is all too often sadly missing in Somali society.

Her success - and that of her literary peers - has made it clear that Somali women will no longer be silenced.



Ubah Cristina Ali Farah grew up in Mogadishu, which bears the scars of a civil war that has raged since 1991

placed upon them in a male-dominated society.

And what is more, their freedom to write comes from the fact that they are finding their voice in colonial languages such as Italian and English that they have made their own.

Forgotten voices

Ali Farah was born in the 1970s in Verona in Italy to a Somali father and an Italian mother.

Her father had left Somalia to pursue his education, and then returned home to build a new independent nation, taking his new family with him.

Growing up in Mogadishu, Ali Farah was educated in both Somali and Italian.

She was an avid reader and diligently kept a diary of her everyday

published in 2007, centres on two female cousins who are separated and eventually find each other in Europe.

On a personal level, Ali Farah found

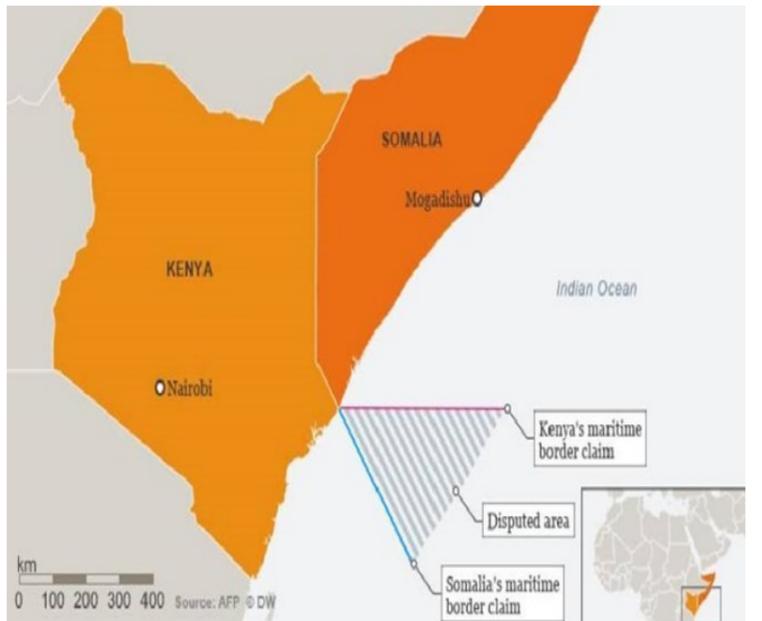


Both Nuruddin and Ali Farah have a female character from a nomadic background who escapes to the capital



Nadifa Mohamed has been shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize for *The Fortune Men*

Kenya rejects international courts jurisdiction ahead of maritime verdict



Nairobi -Kenya has announced that it rejects the International Court of Justice (ICJ) jurisdiction to rule in a maritime border dispute with Somalia. A statement issued on Friday by Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary Amb Macharia Kamau said that Kenya would disagree with the judgment scheduled for next week.

"In addition to withdrawing its participation from the current case, Kenya ... also joined many other members of the United Nations in withdrawing its recognition of the court's compulsory jurisdiction," the foreign ministry said on Friday.

Somalia's lawyers have argued that both countries recognized the ICJ's jurisdiction based on declarations under Article 36, Paragraph 2 of the Statute of the Court submitted by Somalia on 11 April 1963 and by Kenya on 19 April 1965.

At the time, both sides said the recognition came with "[n]o condition or reservation to either declaration".

Kamau further said that the judgment would have a significant impact on matters of security, politics, economy and society, not only between the two countries but also the region.

Kamau noted that already there is an issue within the East African region on matters of instability.

"The delivery of the judgment will be the culmination of a flawed judicial process that Kenya has had reservations with and withdrawn from, on account not just of its obvious and inherent bias but also of its unsuitability to resolve the dispute at hand," said Kamau.

He said that Kenya would no longer be subject to international court without its consent. The PS noted that the Kenyan government would not in any way agree or recognize the ruling.

On the day the hearing was set to begin, Kenya notified the court that it would not proceed with the oral proceedings, despite actively participating in written proceedings.

Kenya's Ministry of Foreign affairs said that it had pulled out for many reasons, including the court's bias, the format of the hearing, and claims that powerful foreign entities are fuelling Somalia's claims.

Kenya argued for a further postponement to the ICJ case be postponed due to the COVID pandemic, but the court refused.

The move to postpone the case was the fourth time Kenya had asked for more time on the matter.

The maritime dispute began in 2014 when Somalia filed a territorial ownership case at the ICJ challenging a 2009 agreement with Kenya that set its maritime border along latitudinal lines. At stake is a 150,000 square-km triangle of water potentially rich in hydrocarbons, fish and other resources.

Kenya rejected the court's jurisdiction at the time, but the court ruled that it was within its rights to rule on the case. It has consistently sought a negotiated settlement to the case.

Two weeks ago, President Uhuru Kenyatta, who met top military officials, said that Kenya would do all it takes to protect its borders.

Speaking in Boni Forest Lamu county, President Kenyatta said during a ceremony commemorating the upgrading of a naval base that he would ensure that the country's borders are protected.

"Those who think we are not ready to take care of our boundaries will be in for a rude shock," he said.

According to Kenyatta, Kenya respects other countries' boundaries and will not relent to protect its borders.

Somalia has rejected diplomatic pressure to resolve the issue outside of the international court, saying that it would wait for a ruling from the UN court.

The case has resulted in deeply strained relations between the two east African neighbours.

French senate hail Somaliland election processes and pledged developmental support



H.E. Ali Hassan Ismail who was invited to the House of Elders in Paris met with the members of the Horn of Africa Friendship Committee.

The meeting chaired by Senator Cedric Perrin, Horn of Africa Friendship Committee Chairman with his deputies Senator Mr. Olivier Cigolotti, in charge of Djibouti, Senator Mr. Alain Marc (Eritrea), Mr. Jean-Yves Roux, (Ethiopia), Mr. Hugues Saury (Sudan), Senator Christine Herzog (South Sudan) congratulated the government and people of Somaliland on the peaceful conduct of the elections hence pledged supporting the democratic process and developments of the country.

A statement issued by the Somaliland office in France on October 9, received by Dawan Newspaper Group read as follows: The Ambassador of the Republic of Somaliland to France H.E. Ali Hassan Ismail, who was invited to

the French Senate, met with Friends of the Horn of Africa friendship committee on Thursday, September 07, 2021.

Ambassador Ali accompanied by a legal expert and the Chairman of the Friends of African Parliaments and France (both who voluntarily liaise with the Somaliland office) to the meeting which lasted for an hour hence, in retrospect, discussed about the just held Representative and Local Elections, Horn of Africa general situation and the ways and means France strengthens Somaliland's development.

Ambassador Ali who briefed the committee on the elections, the situation of COVID, and the general situation in the country, first thanked the people and the government of France for the recent arrival of the COVID 19 vaccine donation, updated its inoculation to the people throughout Somaliland.

In terms of security in Somaliland vis-à-vis the Horn of Africa, he said

the government usually adopted a neutral policy; as stated the President of the Republic of Somaliland, and calls for dialogue to end all disputes.

At the end of the meeting, the Horn of Africa Friends of the Upper House accepted an invitation from Ambassador Ali to visit Somaliland. It is expected that he will be holding a further meeting with the group for notification of a precise date for their forthcoming visit.

Meanwhile, Somaliland's Ambassador to France H.E. Ali was honorably invited to a ceremony marking the 110th anniversary of Taiwan's National Day in Paris.

A well-organized event, attended by most of the foreign diplomats in France, French MPs and government officials praised Taiwan's progress in various fields and how they can contribute to global development, if allowed membership of the UN agencies such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Trade Organization (WTO) etc.

Ambassador Ali predicted that Somaliland would emulate Taiwan's path to greatness.

Officials at the meeting admired Taiwan's role in easing COVID pandemic and how they helped world nations by supplying abundant free preventive equipment of COVID pandemic.

China-Taiwan tensions: Xi Jinping says 'reunification' must be fulfilled

China's President Xi Jinping has said that "reunification" with Taiwan "must be fulfilled", as heightened tensions over the island continue.

Mr Xi said unification should be achieved peacefully, but warned that the Chinese people had a "glorious tradition" of opposing separatism. In response, Taiwan said its future lay in the hands of its people.

Taiwan considers itself a sovereign state, while China views it as a breakaway province.

Beijing has not ruled out the possible use of force to achieve unification.

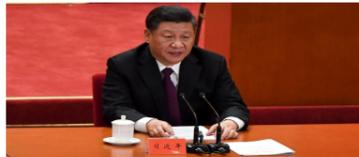
Mr Xi's intervention comes after **China sent a record number of military jets into Taiwan's air defence zone** in recent days. Some analysts say the flights could be seen as a warning to Taiwan's president ahead of the island's national day on Sunday.

Taiwan's defence minister has said that tensions with China are at their worst in 40 years.

● **EXPLAINER: What's behind the China-Taiwan divide?**

But Mr Xi's remarks on Saturday were more conciliatory than his last major intervention on Taiwan in July, where he pledged to "smash" any attempts at formal Taiwanese independence.

Speaking at an event marking the 110th anniversary of the revolution that overthrew China's last imperial dynasty in 1911, he said unification in a "peaceful manner" was "most in line with the overall interest of the Chinese nation, including Taiwan compatriots".



But he added: "No one should underestimate the Chinese people's staunch determination, firm will, and strong ability to defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity."

"The historical task of the complete reunification of the motherland must be fulfilled, and will definitely be fulfilled," he said.

Mr Xi has said he wants to see unification occur under a "one country, two systems" principle, similar to that employed in Hong Kong, **which is part of China but has a degree of autonomy.**

But Taiwan's presidential office said that public opinion was very clear in rejecting one country, two systems. In a separate statement, Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council called on China to abandon its "provocative steps of intrusion, harassment and destruction".

Shortly before Mr Xi spoke in Beijing, Taiwan's Premier Su Tseng-chang accused China of "flexing its muscles" and stoking tensions.

China and Taiwan: The basics
● **Why do China and Taiwan have poor relations?** China and Taiwan were divided during a civil war in the 1940s, but Beijing insists the island will be reclaimed at some point, by force if necessary

● **How is Taiwan governed?** The island has its own constitution, democratically elected leaders, and about 300,000 active troops in its armed forces

Violence against women on the rise



Young women take part in an art lesson at the Elman Peace and Human Rights Centre in Mogadishu on March 24, 2015, where survivors of sexual violence can find refuge, medical care and support. Sexual violence is widespread in Somalia and rarely prosecuted. If anyone is punished at all it is often the victim, not the perpetrator. AFP PHOTO / CARL DE SOUZA (Photo credit: CARL DE SOUZA)

In August 2021, the U.N. Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Pramila Patten, and the U.N. Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, Virginia Gamba, warned about the alarming increase in sexual violence in Somalia and called upon all perpetrators to cease these violations.

According to two recent reports, the Report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict and the Report of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, 2020 has seen an almost 80% increase in cases of sexual violence in Somalia as compared to 2019. Among the cases, close to two-thirds reported rape, and the remaining cases included attempted rape, forced marriage, sexual harassment and sexual assault. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia verified cases of conflict-related sexual violence perpetrated against 400 girls, 12 women and 7 boys, primarily attributed to clan militias and Al-Shabaab. The number of cases of sexual violence attributed to Al-Shabaab has doubled. The Islamist militant group continues to use sexual violence and forced marriage against women and girls. The number of acts of violence by clan militia has almost tripled in 2020. Other actors implicated in the crimes were the Somali Police Force (in 16 cases), the Somali National Army (in 25 cases), the Jubbaland security forces (in nine cases) and Puntland forces (in five cases). Unfortunately, the majority of the perpetrators remain unidentified. Impunity for the crimes will only provide fertile ground for further crimes.

The U.N. identified protracted conflict, structural gender inequality and successive humanitarian crises in the country as the main reasons for the ever-growing issue of sexual violence in Somalia. As the U.N. added, "political tensions in the run-up to national elections, inter-communal clashes related to land-based disputes, and a surge in extremist militant group Al-Shabaab's activities, which intensified during the Covid-19 pandemic."

While instances of sexual violence in Somalia is on the rise, the Covid-19-related movement restrictions also mean that survivors of such atrocities have limited access to assistance, including basic services. Among others, "a paucity of personal protective equipment for shelter workers impaired their ability to admit survivors of gender-based violence." Furthermore, some services usually provided remotely, such as psychosocial support, were severely affected by funding shortfalls. Lastly, as reported by the U.N., "judicial services, including the adjudication of sexual violence cases, were temporarily suspended."

The U.N. Special Representatives have urged the Government of Somalia to take concrete measures to prevent sexual violence against women and children. They further called upon the Government to swiftly adopt a new national action plan on ending sexual violence in conflict.

Somalia is only one example of a country where rape and sexual violence is common. The situation in Somalia is yet another reason why we should work towards comprehensive actions to address sexual violence. In this spirit, Dr Denis Mukwege, Nobel Peace Prize laureate, announced a new initiative, the Red Line Initiative, which aims to strike a red line through sexual violence in conflict. The initiative will strive to create a legally binding international instrument to "evoke a clear moral rejection and international outcry when sexual violence is used as a weapon of war; ensure a more robust and timely response by states in line with their international obligations; and establish clear legal obligations that increase the costs not only for individuals but also for governments if they fail to act." No State could object to such a proposal without becoming complicit in a crime that has no end.

Hargeisa Local Government's Revenue Generation Conundrum; the Prevalence of Tax Evasion

Hargeisa, the capital city of Somaliland, has been a rapidly growing city for the last three decades as Somaliland returned to its sovereignty from so-called greater Somalia. Slightly flashing back to the late 80s, Hargeisa has experienced a vast and unprecedented large-scale destruction razed to the ground triggered by massive bombardments targeted by Siad Barre's regime forces.

As a result of this, according to the World Peace Foundation report in 2015, more than thousands of buildings were destroyed. Other thousands were damaged, reflecting 70% of the destruction for the entire city levelled to the ground. Those shelling has also instigated a massacre of thousands of innocent civilians, which also led thousands of residents to flee from the city heading to Ethiopia's refugee camps. From that day on, while Somaliland has mightily returned its sovereignty from the rest of greater Somalia predominantly last ten years, Hargeisa has undergone large-scale facelifts and fundamental reconstructions significantly led by its civil society shifting a thoroughly demolished city to a puzzling metropolis for such a short period- as it is today.

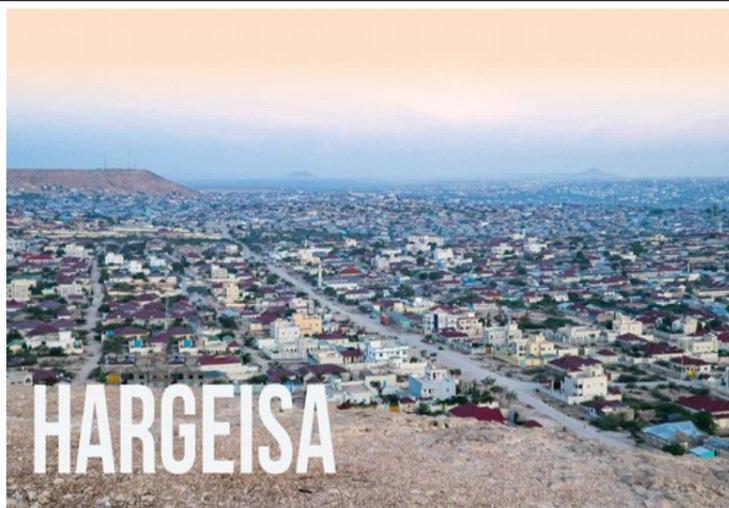
It is the largest city and densely populated metropolis attributable to the enormous number of people shifting from rural areas to urban centres after devastated draughts hit a couple of times which forced them to

leave from rural to urban centres, particularly the capital city. Whereas other innumerable residents continuously shifting from other cities had made it the most populous city in Somaliland since the whole basic, indispensable public services, government centres, and all other important kinds of stuff are centralized within the capital city only, leaving other cities nearly abandoned ones.

The latest estimations have shown that the population that lives in Hargeisa is approximately 1.5 million. The trends likewise demonstrate that the number of people will considerably increase to the subsequent years ahead. Therefore, the city is expanding rapidly. Similarly, the growing concerns of getting a quality public service delivery are increasingly mounting. As the city is in charge of delivering many public services to its civilians and financing its own infrastructure, meeting those obligations requires the generation of sufficient revenue.

Still, the wicked concern is that Hargeisa has exceedingly lower revenue productivity relatively as expected. To briefly pinpoint, the government's overall revenue sources are mainly categorized as revenue from tax- tax directly or indirectly imposed by the government- and revenue receipts from non-tax; including fees, fines, etc.

Therefore, revenue from taxation is major



revenue to be accounted for since the latest assessments from the International Center for Tax and Development indicated that the total tax revenues account for more than 80% of total government revenue in nearly half of the countries in the world this depicts the extent of a significance of revenue from the tax for a government. Focusing on our setting, according to the International Growth Center, Hargeisa has a rather possibly some of the most significant number of disparate tax and fee collections around the world. It is argued that the low revenue productivity of the tax system has been attributable to tax evasion. Even though, in the last decade, the city government has made significant

improvements for raising its source revenues. However, overall collection is still low and far from being sufficient, which led a poor public service delivery and underprivileged urban infrastructures by way of massive mismatch between the expenditure required for financing those responsibilities and the extent of the revenue yielded by the city. Despite this, a substantial misallocation and mismanagement of these handful resources are certainly undeniable.

Driving around Hargeisa, one is immediately touched by the disparity between the flourishing private economy, and to some extent lacking from the public sector through so many efforts are made by the local government. Nevertheless, roads are a perfect example of where the public investment is missing; mostly, every road is potholed. There are few old channels and no properly constructed drainage system. At the times when huge rainfall pours, large areas of the city are flooded, and roads are impassable due to mud. This results in wear-and-tear on cars and often causes more extensive damage than that by threatening many human lives; to overcome these challenges, plentiful revenue is required.

As aforementioned, the poor revenue productivity is attributable to tax evasion and avoidance practices, a worldwide phenomenon by which most developing countries are suffering. Therefore, Hargeisa's tax evasion is caused by many factors, including the following:

In Somaliland, the British Protectorate Administration first introduced a taxation system. Still, Somalilanders were deemed tax as an unfair obligation at that time, which they refused to pay it and yet the majority of the citizens have misconceptions about the fundamental concept behind levying it and benefits they receive for paying it since then they evade it as there is lack of plentiful tax education and awareness in Hargeisa's citizens towards tax. Moreover, the local government administration doesn't put a sound effort to educate well for the citizens about the importance and reward for paying it. Still, the problematic issue is that most of the citizens merely pay tax-avoiding not to be detained, so they evade if it's conceivable. This violates one of the fundamental canons of tax. Particularly, the canon of simplicity formulated by Adam Smith underlines that the tax should be easily understandable by the motive behind levying it for taxpayers and must not be complicated.

The tax administration system in Hargeisa Municipal is inefficient and ineffective in collecting tax charges from taxpayers; meanwhile, they don't have proper and well-developed database systems in which all taxpayers' information can be kept, accessed, and traced. However, in a property tax, Hargeisa Municipality uses a Geographic Information System- GIS,

which makes it the most significant portion of property tax revenue, despite potentially untapped yet.

In addition to this, taxpayers living in Hargeisa's low morale and willingness towards tax payment encourage them not to pay it as they perceive the system as corruptive. All the taxes they pay will be mismanaged because the public mistrust has faded away time over time, so they try to evade it. Besides that, if tax rates are high, it's more probable that the taxpayers won't pay the tax charged. Finally, some of the taxpayers in Hargeisa collude with tax collectors, so they give bribery money less than tax charges as tax collectors themselves don't get enough salaries that cover their overall needs.

This prevalence of tax evasion has left the local government's budget ineffective as it leads not to achieve targeted revenues since a large number of accrued taxes can't be collected; this causes poor public service delivery.

To overcome this prevalence, the city government should try to enhance tax education and awareness of citizens towards tax by formulating a prolific strategy to educate citizens more about tax and tax laws since taxpayers are mostly literate-business owners who are regular taxpayers are not educated—for instance, establishing a team that their responsibility is for merely educating tax and carrying out awareness programs which can sometimes launch a reach-out campaign by visiting taxpayers for enlightening more about taxation.

Moreover, to change taxpayer's negative attitude and willingness towards tax payment, all information related to the local council shouldn't be ambiguous; for instance, the budget details must be easily accessible, and likewise audited budget performance at the end of the year should be set and it should be publicly disseminated, which entails the details about revenues collected and where it was also spent they should be publicly accountable if it's indispensable.

To improve tax collection, the city government should attempt to acquire a well-developed database system in which all information about taxpayers can be retrieved. The city government should establish a compliance centre where taxpayers are cared for and recorded compliances. Intensive training and developmental sessions should be given to tax personnel to collect accrued taxes effectively similarly to avoid accepting to collude with taxpayers, and enough pays should be given to them. Also, fringe benefits like rewards must be given to the tax collectors who have done their job effectively.

Lastly, the very inspiring news is that the combined elections which recently took place in Somaliland had revived thousands and thousands of citizen's diminishing hopes which were losing their faith of experiencing a change in one day when Moge, who was anti tribalism activist, got 26K votes which were the highest ever votes in the history of Somaliland's local council elections and lastly became the new elected and uncontested mayor of Hargeisa City Government for a subsequent five years since then Hargeisians are starving a positive change to come for him and the latest local councils as well. The election of Moge will merely reestablish and rebuild the citizen's mistrust towards the Local Government, which will encourage them to pay their tax charges.

About Author
Subeir A. Salah, is a young researcher based in Hargeisa

Ethiopian Airlines denies transporting weapons in Tigray conflict



Ethiopian Airlines has denied the findings of an investigation by CNN alleging it used its planes to transport weapons to and from Eritrea during the Tigray conflict.

The CNN investigation cited "cargo documents and manifests," and "eyewitness accounts and photographic evidence" that confirmed weapons were transported on Ethiopian Airlines planes between the international airport in Addis Ababa and Eritrean airports in Asmara and Massawa in November 2020.

On waybills examined by CNN, the news outlet found that "on at least six occasions — from November 9 to November 28 — Ethiopian Airlines billed Ethiopia's ministry of defense tens of thousands of dollars for military items including guns and ammunition to be shipped to Eritrea." advertisements

Terms and abbreviations including "Military refill," "AM" for ammunition and "RIFLES" (a misspelling of rifles) appeared on the waybills, according to the CNN investigation, which also cited interviews with airline employees who confirmed

the terms.

If true, the claims are a violation of international aviation law, which prohibits using civilian aircraft to transport military weapons. It could also jeopardise Ethiopian Airlines' membership in the lucrative Star Alliance, a group of 26 global airlines. In response, Ethiopian Airlines told CNN it "strictly complies with all National, regional and International aviation related regulations" and that "to the best of its knowledge and its records, it has not transported any war armament in any of its routes by any of its Aircraft." The Ethiopian and Eritrean governments did not respond to CNN's requests for comment on the story. The Tigray conflict began in November 2020 when the Ethiopian government accused the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) of attacking a federal military base. The TPLF is the northern region's ruling party that had dominated national politics for decades.

In response, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed sent federal troops into Tigray for a military

campaign against the TPLF.

For its part, the TPLF denied responsibility and said the reported attack was a pretext for an "invasion", telling Al Jazeera it was the target of a "coordinated attack" by Ethiopia's federal government and Eritrea.

Since then, the brutal war in Tigray has been marked by reports of massacres, rape and other abuses. It has killed thousands of people with nearly two million displaced and hundreds of thousands facing famine conditions.

Last week, United Nations humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths warned the conflict has pushed people to starvation, with more than 22 percent of people experiencing malnutrition in the Tigray region, forced to survive on leaves, roots and flowers. Griffiths called the situation a "stain on our conscience".

Earlier in September, the UN had warned the humanitarian crisis in the northern region was set to "worsen dramatically".

"Stocks of relief aid, cash and fuel are running very low or are completely depleted," Grant Leaita, the UN's acting humanitarian coordinator for Ethiopia, said in a statement on September 2, adding that food stocks had already run out on August 2.

"The region remains under a de facto humanitarian aid blockade, where access to bring life-saving humanitarian relief continues to be extremely restricted," Leaita added, noting that no trucks had been able to enter Tigray since August 22.

