

The Horn Tribune

Vol III/ Issue 1422

Sunday 17 October 2021

An Independent Weekly Newspaper of Dawan Media Group, Tel: 0634414181/0634424590/0634615145

Building a better future in Somaliland

By: Musa Bihi Abdi

This is a decisive time for Somaliland. On 24 June, a new container terminal was inaugurated at the port of Berbera. This has set our country on the course to become a port and commercial hub in the Horn of Africa.

We have every reason to achieve this: peace, security and willingness to ensure stability. Somaliland aims to be a responsible partner in an



unstable region, both through external security cooperation and internal negotiations to bring under-represented groups in the east into the government.

We have ensured sound engagement with the AU, the UN and the EU Institutions as well as its member states. Our foreign policy has taken a positive change towards participatory and inclusive processes.

Continue on page 2

Bihi Graces Edna Adan University Graduation Ceremony



Continue on page 3

Foreign Minister Calls Taiwan Important Partner

Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Minister Dr. Essa Kayd Mohamud, on Wednesday (Oct. 13) said that Taiwan is an important partner of Somaliland and that the East African country's relations with Taiwan will not be affected by external pressure during an online meeting with Foreign Minister Joseph Wu and Vice Minister Alexander Tah-Ray Yui

During the virtual conference, Wu congratulated Somaliland on



successfully organizing a parliamentary election in May this year, becoming a shining example of democracy in the region. Wu also said he looked

Continue on page 3

DP World and CDC Group create a USD \$1.7 billion partnership to strengthen Somaliland, Horn of Africa and wider African trade around the world



Groundbreaking Ceremony for DP World Berbera

Inside

ALL THAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SOMALILAND'S PETROLEUM ACT AND POLICY

On pages 6

Investment in the Berbera port and the Berbera corridor is part of a wider USD \$1.7 billion partnership that will help address stark imbalance in global trade, accelerate Africa's trade potential, and improve the economic prospects of millions of people

• The Berbera port development is

Continue on page 4

Finance Minister meets Parliamentary Committee for the Protection and Oversight of National Assets



Continue on page 2

Central Bank officeholders briefed Senate Finance Committee



The Governor of the Central Bank of the Republic of Somaliland, Eng. Ali Abdillahi Dahir, accompanied by the Director General of the Bank, Mr. Mukhtar Abdi Quule, met with the Finance Committee of the House of Elders at the Central Bank, led by the Deputy Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Mukhtar Mohamud Abdillahi. The purpose of the meeting was to get to know each other and to be

informed about the economic issues of the country.

Governor of the Central Bank Eng. Ali Abdillahi Dahir welcomed the Economic Affairs Committee of the House of Elders and briefed them on the economic situation in the country, and the Central Bank of Somaliland's responsibilities to the nation.

On the other hand, the Director

Continue on page 2

Building a better future in Somaliland

This container terminal inauguration marks the first step of an agreement that was concluded in 2016 with the Dubai port operator, DP World, who has committed to invest \$442m in Berbera. The **annual port logistics capacity of Somaliland has already skyrocketed from 150,000 to 500,000 containers** and can receive the largest container ships in the world. Furthermore, thanks to the new port infrastructure, these ships are no longer kept waiting several days but several hours only.

On course for a **crescendo development**, we are confident to see **Berbera receive two million containers per year** in the near future – making Berbera a credible alternative to Darisalaam, Mombasa or Djibouti.

An alternative that has already been selected by several international operators. Thus, in September 2020, Swiss trader, Trafigura, announced that it would move to the port of Berbera to supply Somaliland with oil products and respond to the growing need for hydrocarbons in Ethiopia.

We are convinced this is the first of many such moves. In fact, within the framework of the 30-year agreement that binds DP World to Somaliland, **DP World has also committed to building an attractive free zone around the port.** This will include depots, offices and services to facilitate investment in Somaliland.

Also, Berbera will soon have an international civil airport. Finally, in 2019, a \$400m road project was launched to connect the port to the Ethiopian border city, Tog Wajaale. Progress so far

The actions we are taking in Berbera are also being taken everywhere for the benefit of the 4.5 million citizens of Somaliland. Our capital, Hargeisa, which was in ruins when we became independent from Somalia in 1991, is still home to one million inhabitants. Shopping centres have opened, hotels have been built, cultural centres offer live music and dancing, you can eat very fine camel in restaurants and there is even an Ikea and a Coca-Cola bottling plant!

The Edna Adan Hospital opened in 2002 to provide maternity services in Somaliland. Funds were raised through personal assets, government, and private donors, as well as the community itself. Today **the hospital provides services to reduce maternal, newborn, and child mortality**, including antenatal and neonatal intensive care as well as pediatrics and adult care.

The quality of life for our citizens has increased a great deal. International runners meet at the annual Somaliland marathon. The annual literature festival has built our reputation abroad: it includes both

Somali novels and poems.

There is an encouragement for women to have a career. It is now more common to see some becoming doctors, entrepreneurs or teachers. To improve women's rights, in 2018, Somalia passed a law condemning rape. Women's participation in the independence of Somaliland was instrumental. Edna Adan was particularly one that we are proud of, who participated in the peace process and is an advocate to abolishing FGM. In fact, the civil society has taken a strong importance in the lives of Somaliland's population and have been instrumental in the process to peace.

Effect of international community's refusal to recognize the state And all of this even though our country, thirty years after its independence, remains excluded from the international community who still fails to recognize Somaliland as a state. Because our country is excluded from international trade agreements, it is much more complicated for investors to arrive and we are cut off from international aid.

There are many obstacles that prevent us from acting as fast as we would like to overcome the immense challenges that lie before us: in terms of education, illiteracy remains widespread and unemployment prevails, we lack power and infrastructure, and access to water, food and healthcare is even more difficult due to the repeated droughts we have experienced over the last few years. This medley of events pushes our young to exile. This is despite the fact that there are many examples of good education, such as the Abaarso school of science and technology in Hargeisa, which shows that children can have brilliant academic careers and reach the most prestigious university-level institutions in the world.

So **why keep Somaliland away from the international community** when all arrows point to the fact that our people are committed to self-determination? Since 1991, has Somaliland not organized several presidential and legislative elections, as well as several local elections and were elections not held once again in June 2021? Did the UK and the US not **finance updated Somaliland electoral registers with a biometric iris recognition system**? Did Somaliland not form its own army, national police and bilateral border control posts? Does Somaliland not celebrate the 20th anniversary of its constitution, which has been massively adopted by all the clans of our country?

The future for Somaliland and its people, is now tangible with the completion of the first phase of Berbera Port, this has made

our strategic vision in taking our place on the global map by **making it a major trade hub in the region.** With the new terminal, along with the second phase of expansion and economic zone along the Berbera corridor, we are now firmly positioned to further develop and grow our economy through increased trade, attracting foreign direct investment and creating jobs.

Yet, **the international community persists in deeming our country a separatist entity** although its stability could be a role model for the region. In Somalia, presidential elections were set for 10 October following a month of one of the worst political crises in recent times. In Djibouti, president Ismaïl Omar Guelleh was re-elected in April 2021 for his fifth consecutive term while the opposition remained silent.

Given this regional context, **many countries are considering Somaliland to establish diplomatic representation.** This is what the UAE did, following in the footsteps of Kenya who committed to opening a consulate, and most recently Taiwan opened an East-African representation office on our territory. Furthermore, **a dozen countries have already agreed to provide a visa to those with a Somaliland passport.**

Bottom line

Also, the international recognition of Somaliland is very beneficial on an economic level. Today's economy is mainly based on the exportation of livestock and the remittances of our diaspora who send money back to their family. With the support of the Taiwan technology assistance group, our potential is greater for advancement in process management as well with the country's Ministry of Telecommunications and Technology.

A **three-year plan** will involve training qualified staff, launching a cross-ministry data exchange platform, and improving the Somaliland government's internet management.

We can, of course, mention agriculture due to our production of incense, gum arabica, henna, and oilseed or sesame products. Our subsoil contains large reserves of coal and oil.

In terms of finance, thanks to Dahabshiil, **Somaliland has one of the largest African money transfer companies.** Furthermore, 3.5 million people from Somaliland can pay their bills and cover their daily expenses via SMS using the Zaad mobile money transfer system. We aspire to play an active role in the AfCFTA, which has been established earlier in 2021. All Somaliland desires is to play our part.

All Somaliland desires is to be recognized.

Finance Minister meets Parliamentary Committee for the Protection and Oversight of National Assets



Minister of Finance Dr Saad Ali Shire met with the House of Representatives Committee for the Protection and Oversight of National Assets, to discuss the strengthening of cooperation between the Commission and the Ministry of Finance.

Dr. Sa'ad was accompanied by Deputy Minister Roda Jama Elmi, DG Mohamed Abdi Gurhan, and departmental directors of the Ministry of Finance received by members of the Committee for the Protection and Oversight of National Assets led by the Chairman of the Committee MP Mustafe Ahmed Abdillahi is said to be related to the submission of the budget to the Office of the Auditor General, in accordance with Article 56- 76/2016 which requires that the budget of the Office of the Auditor General be prepared by the Oversight

Committee of the House of Representatives.

Minister of Finance Dr Sa'ad briefed the committee on the structure of the Ministry and the process of preparing the national budget.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the committee, MP Mustafe A. Ismail who spoke about the purpose of their visit, said that it was related to the implementation and discussion of the budget of the National Audit Office.

The members of the Monitoring Committee who spoke at the meeting welcomed the strengthening of cooperation between the Commission and the Ministry of Finance, to achieve accountability and transparency in all government institutions, and the Commission to assist in the protection & monitoring and national assets.

Central Bank officeholders briefed Senate Finance Committee

General Mr. Mukhtar Abdi Qule, for his part spoke about the techniques used by the Central Bank to control the exchange rate, and way adopted to improve the functioning of the Bank. The committee of the House of Elders asked the officials various questions related to the Central Bank's responsibilities to the nation. The meeting concluded with an understanding that the House of Elders and the Central Bank should work together to finalize the

remaining legislation.

The Chairman and the Director were accompanied by the Director of the Financial Institutions Monitoring Department, Abshir Abdi Mohamed, Director of the Monetary Policy Department, Mr. Mohamed Abdillahi Ali, Director of Financial Monitoring, Mr. Mawlid Farah Muse, Director of Public Relations and Foreign Affairs Mr. Mukhtar Omar Ali and the Director Abdirahman Warsame Branch.

UN Women partners with the Somaliland Women Lawyers Association (SWLA)

UN Women is partnering with the Somaliland Women Lawyers Association (SWLA) to improve women's access to the local justice system and enhance their legal empowerment.

"UN Women is pleased that the partnership with SWLA will support legal empowerment interventions for the most marginalized through the training of community volunteers, the provision of legal aid, and by establishing women coalitions for community mobilization, legislation and policy advocacy," said UN Women's Country Program Manager, Sadiq Syed.

The UN official was speaking earlier this week in Somaliland's capital, Hargeisa, at the launch of the project – entitled 'Women's access to justice and legal empowerment for women and girls in Somaliland,' implemented in partnership with the SWLA and with funding from the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Joint Program on the Rule of Law.

In her remarks at the launch, SWLA's Chairperson, Ifrah Adam Mohamad, outlined the challenges of women's legal empowerment in Somaliland and highlighted the work of SWLA.

Somaliland is committed to the advancement of women's issues unlike Somalia where it alleged women's are subjected to state killing that sparked division between the Somalia President and his Prime Minister

Foreign Minister Calls Taiwan Important Partner

forward to continued cooperation between the two countries in the future, according to a Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) press release.

He added that Taiwan will continue to support Somaliland's democratic development and work with the East African nation to fight the pandemic. Wu said that Taiwan will also help promote bilateral cooperation in the fields of energy, information and communications, agriculture, and medical care.

Dr. Essa Kayd thanked Taiwan for its assistance to Somaliland during the pandemic and said that Taipei is an important partner of Hargeisa that shares the values of democracy, freedom, and human rights. Somaliland's determination to continue strengthening and deepening relations between the two countries "will not be shaken by external pressure," he said.

MOFA pointed out that since the mutual establishment of representative offices between the two countries last year, bilateral ties have become increasingly close. In addition to successively initiating multiple cooperation projects, the two nations also signed a medical cooperation agreement in June this year.

The ministry said that Taiwan will dispatch medical teams to Somaliland to highlight the cooperative spirit of the "Taiwan Model" that benefits people's livelihoods.

Read Taiwanese MOFA's Press

Release

Minister of Foreign Affairs Wu Zhaoxie and Somaliland's new Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Essa video conference to continue to promote mutually beneficial cooperation

On October 13, 110, Minister of Foreign Affairs Wu Zhaoxie, accompanied by Deputy Secretary-General Yu Dayu, had a video conference with HE Essa Kayd Mohamud, the new Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Somaliland. Minister Wu, on behalf of the Chinese government and people, congratulated the Minister of Somaliland on his new appointment. During the meeting, both parties exchanged views on important issues such as the deepening of democracy, epidemic prevention, and the Taiwan-Somaliland bilateral cooperation plan. Both parties reiterated that they would continue to promote mutually beneficial cooperation.

In the meeting, Minister Wu first congratulated Somaliland on successfully completing the parliamentary election this year and becoming a shining example of democracy in the Horn of Africa. He also welcomed Minister Essa to his new post and looked forward to continued cooperation between the two sides to deepen Taiwan-Somali relations. Minister Wu also emphasized that Taiwan will continue to support Somaliland's

democratic construction project and work with Somaliland to fight the epidemic. My country will also assist in promoting bilateral cooperation projects in the fields of energy, information and communications, agriculture, and medical care.

Minister Essa thanked the Chinese government and the people for the various assistance they provided to Somaliland during the epidemic and said that Taiwan is an important partner of Somaliland. Both sides share the values of democracy, freedom, and human rights. Somaliland continues to strengthen and deepen Taiwan-Somaliland relations. The determination will not be shaken by external pressure.

Since the establishment of mutual official representative offices between my country and Somaliland in the last year, the relationship between the two parties has become increasingly close. In addition to successively promoting cooperation projects related to agriculture, information and communications, and public health, they also signed medical cooperation on June 16 this year. According to the agreement, my country will plan to dispatch a medical team based on this agreement, demonstrating the cooperative spirit of the "Taiwan Model" that benefits the people's livelihood. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will also continue its efforts to enhance the substantive cooperative relations between my country and friendly countries.

Somaliland Electricity Access Project (SEAP) Contract Awarding Event

By Goth Mohamed Goth

Minister of Energy and Minerals of the Republic of Somaliland, Hon Abdillahi Farah Abdi today presided over the contract signing and awarding of funds ceremony for the Somaliland Off-Grid Solar Grant Facility project.

Out of the 26 local off-grid solar (OGS) companies competing companies who submitted their bids, only 12 won the contracts.

During the ceremony Dahabshil Bank International (DBI) which has been contracted by the Somaliland Ministry of Energy and Minerals to manage this grant facility signed the contracts and disbursed the funds to the 12 eligible local companies with the aim to support the growth of earlier-stage and/or local solar companies intended to provide companies with flexible capital to invest into business growth.



To help address these challenges, the Government of Somaliland (GoSL), with support from the World Bank, is set up the Somaliland Off-Grid Solar Grant Facility to provide grant capital to Somaliland distributors of IEC certified products.

Present during the meeting were the Ministers of Energy and Minerals, the Minister of Employment, Women and Social Affairs, the Deputy Minister of Finance, the Chairman of the National Electricity Commission, and representatives of the 26 competing companies.

Mr. Liban Haji Mohamud Warfa, the Director of the Energy Department of the Ministry of Minerals and Energy briefing participants on the Somaliland Off-Grid Solar Grant Facility speaking during the event said, "In accordance with the national development plan which calls for the acceleration of the use of energy resources for the economic development of our country and the development of our society."

Eng. Liban Mohamed Mahmoud, the director of the energy department in the ministry of energy and minerals resources presented the ongoing activities of the Somaliland energy sector, starting with the national energy policy, giving an overview of the policy, the energy policy goal, and its objectives.

He added, "The main objectives of the facility include supporting households and SMEs get affordable energy by getting access to Lighting quality-verified Off-Grid Solar (OGS) systems across Somaliland, and Hon. Abdillahi Farah Abdi, the Minister of Minerals and Energy of the Republic of Somaliland, thanked the World Bank for funding the project, and at the same time highlighted the nation's need to rebuild and develop the electricity sector for the benefit of the community.

"As you all know, the war in our country has destroyed all our energy infrastructure and currently we don't have an existing centralized grid that connects electricity in the capital city, surrounding areas, or at the national level", he said.

He added, "Once again the Government of Somaliland represented by the Ministry of energy and Minerals is extremely grateful to the Word Bank group for their support in the development of this important Power Project. Mr. Ahmed Farah Adare, the Chairman of the National Energy Commission, speaking uring the occasion pointed out that the Ministry of Minerals and Energy's project aims to provide efficient and easy access to public electricity services, in collaboration with all national energy development stakeholders.

The Minister of Employment, Family and Social Affairs Hon. Mustafe Mohamud Ali Bile and other officials who spoke at the event praised the Ministry of Mines and Energy and its partners for their joint efforts in implementing the project and urged them to continue the good work.

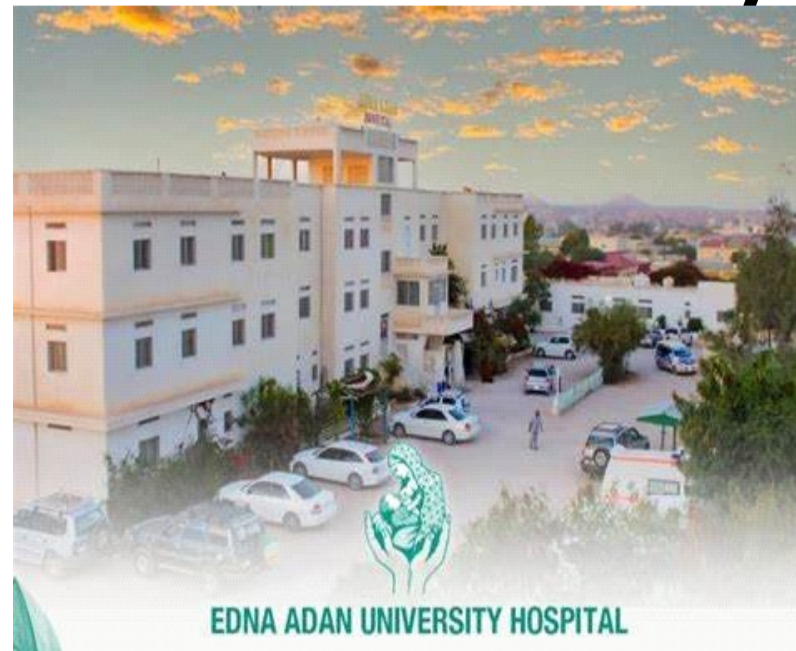
The ceremony was concluded with the announcement of the names of the 12 successful companies which qualified for eligibility criteria.



Bihi Graces Edna Adan University Graduation Ceremony

The President of the Republic of Somaliland, H.E. Muse Bihi Abdi has attended the graduation ceremony of Edna Adan University. The graduation ceremony was held at Mansoor Hotel in Hargeisa, and was attended by cabinet ministers, parliamentarians, ambassadors, and academic administrators of the University, parents along with other dignitaries.

In her remarks, the Chancellor of Edna University, Dr. Edna Adan Ismail addressed the audience on the landmark efforts, dedications and unwavering determination of the graduates. "I have a lot of confidence in the broad knowledge the graduates garnered, and I believe they will bring about visible changes in their communities. I urge the graduating students to always continue learning so they can go on serving their country in the best way possible," said Dr Adna. Speaking at the event, the Minister of Education and Science, Mr. Ahmed Mohamed Diriye Torno alongside with the Mayor of Hargeisa, Mr. Abdikarin Ahmed Mooge all congratulated the



graduating batch and urged them to redouble their efforts in education, keeping in mind that the future of their country rests in their hands.

His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Somaliland, Musa Bihi Abdi, stated how happy he was to be attending this graduation ceremony. In his remarks, the President said "Congratulations to the graduates, their parents and teachers. Today, you graduates are

all a source of pride for our nation and I praise all those who contributed to this great achievement, especially Dr. Edna Adan Ismail. Surely, all of Somaliland will greatly benefit from the arrival of so many scholars."

In the end, the Head of State awarded their Bachelor degrees to the top students who garnered high grades in the health related disciplines.

DP World and CDC Group create a USD \$1.7 billion partnership to strengthen Somaliland, Horn of Africa and wider African trade around the world

first major foreign direct investment in Somaliland

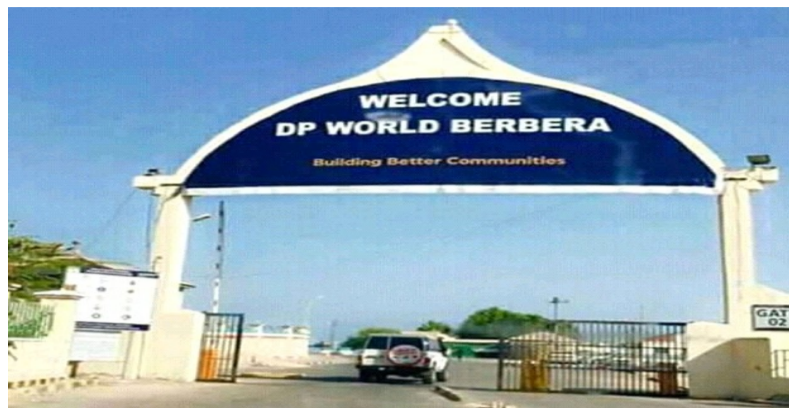
● Additional trade equivalent to 6% of Somaliland's GDP by 2035 is expected to be enabled by the ongoing expansion; by 2035, the trade facilitated by the port is expected to support 53,000 jobs in Somaliland and improve access to staple goods for over a quarter of the population

● The partnership between DP World and CDC will also invest in logistics facilities in the wider Berbera corridor, such as the Special Economic Zone being built outside the town of Berbera

SOMALILAND – 12 October 2021 – DP World, a world leader in global supply chain solutions, and CDC Group, the UK's development finance institution and impact investor are entering a long-term partnership to multiply the capacity of the Port of Berbera and improve surrounding logistics facilities to create a regional trading hub. This will provide a vital economic boost to Somaliland and support growth in the broader Horn of Africa region. The investment is part of a wider US\$1.7 billion partnership to accelerate Africa's trade potential and improve the economic prospects of millions of people, starting in the ports of Berbera, Dakar and Sokhna. CDC is committing \$700 million and DP World \$1 billion.

Africa has a sixth of the world's population, but accounts for just 4 per cent of global containerised shipping volumes[j]. Ports are vital to the long-term prosperity and wellbeing of people. But many ports and logistics facilities in Africa remain constrained, lacking capacity to meet the needs of local economies.

This long-term partnership will help change that. It will address the stark



imbalance in global trade through supporting the modernisation and expansion of ports and inland logistics in Africa.

In Somaliland, Berbera port is a cornerstone of the economy and by 2035 is expected to facilitate trade equivalent to nearly 27 per cent of GDP and 75 per cent of total trade, supporting indirectly 53,000 jobs in Somaliland.

The major investment in the port and surrounding logistics will increase the availability and affordability of goods for over a quarter of the population, with the greatest benefit felt by people who are dependent on imported staple food items. Millions of people who live in the wider region will enjoy similar benefits. Berbera port also plays a key role in enabling humanitarian aid to enter the region, reaching close to 2 million refugees and internally displaced populations.

The port will also provide a gateway to international markets for Somaliland businesses and entrepreneurs, as well as supporting the growth of nascent export industries stymied today by logistics inefficiency. A variety of sectors are expected to benefit from the expansion, including exporters of livestock, agricultural and perishable goods, textiles and construction materials.

The port is the first major foreign

Nick O'Donohoe, Chief Executive Officer, CDC Group, said: "Stable and flourishing economies are built on reliable access to global and intra-continental trade. Africa's full potential is limited by inadequate ports and trade bottlenecks, putting the brakes on economic growth in some of the world's fastest growing economies and undermining social resilience in the least developed parts of the world. This platform will help entrepreneurs and businesses accelerate growth with access to reliable trade routes and it will help African consumers benefit from the improved reliability and reduced cost of vital goods and food staples. We are proud to support DP World to do even more in Africa, charting a stronger course for African trade around the world."

Richard Charlton, Investment Director, CDC Group, said: "The ongoing upgrades to trade infrastructure in the Berbera corridor are expected to significantly enhance economic opportunities for businesses in Somaliland, as well as improve the quality of life for Somalilanders by increasing availability and reducing the cost of vital imported goods. It is our hope that CDC's investment will help demonstrate investability and serve as a catalyst for further private sector FDI in the region. This will foster economic growth in Somaliland and the wider Berbera corridor, creating economic opportunities for local populations."

-Ends-

NOTE TO EDITORS:

About DP World

We are the leading provider of worldwide smart end-to-end supply chain logistics, enabling the flow of trade across the globe. Our comprehensive range of products and services covers every link of the integrated supply chain – from maritime and inland terminals to marine services and industrial parks as well as technology-driven customer solutions.

/ We deliver these services through an interconnected global network of 181 business units in 64 countries across six continents, with a significant presence both in high-growth and mature markets. Wherever we operate, we integrate sustainability and responsible corporate citizenship into our activities, striving for a positive

contribution to the economies and communities where we live and work.

Our dedicated, diverse and professional team of more than 56,000 employees from 140 nationalities are committed to delivering unrivalled value to our customers and partners. We do this by focusing on mutually beneficial relationships – with governments, shippers, traders, and other stakeholders along the global

The Global Partnership in Ethiopia; AKFED IPS the power platform in Africa.

● The company is a leading player in the fight against climate change and has committed more than \$1 bn of climate finance over the last four years. CDC is also a founding member of the 2X challenge which has raised \$10bn to empower women's economic development.

● The company has investments in over 1000 businesses in



supply chain – relationships built on a foundation of mutual trust and enduring partnership.

We think ahead, anticipate change and deploy industry-leading technology to broaden our vision of more efficient, transparent and resilient world trade. We achieve this by leveraging disruptive innovation to create the smartest and most effective logistics solutions, while ensuring a positive and sustainable impact on economies, societies and our planet.

About CDC Group

● CDC Group is the UK's impact investor with over 70 years of experience of successfully supporting the sustainable, long-term growth of businesses in South Asia and Africa.

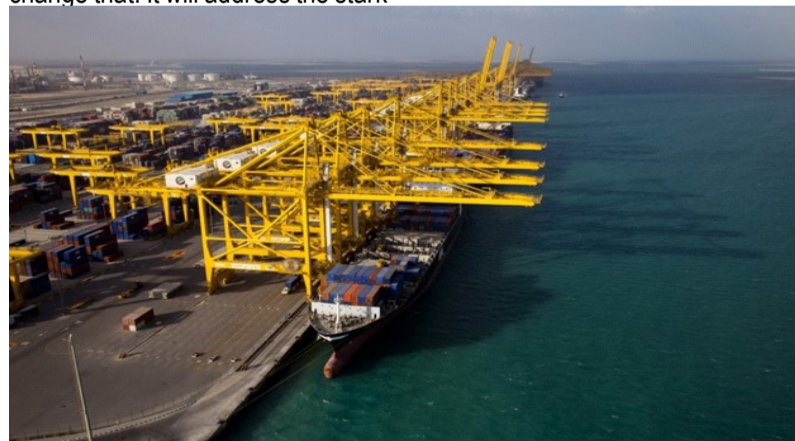
● CDC has a long track record in building infrastructure partnerships in Africa; Globeleq, one of Africa's largest Independent Power Producers; Vodacom/Safaricom for

emerging economies and total assets of \$9.3bn. In 2020, CDC committed over of \$1.5bn to businesses in Africa and Asia, and aims to invest up to \$1.75bn in 2021 – with a focus on driving inclusive growth, job creation and supporting economic recovery from COVID-19.

● CDC is funded by the UK government and is a champion of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. All proceeds from CDC's investments are reinvested to improve the lives of millions of people in Africa and South Asia.

● CDC's expertise makes it an ideal partner for private investors looking to devote capital to making a measurable environmental and social impact in countries most in need of investment.

Muhumed Muhumed (aka Khadar) Political and Communications Officer | British Office Hargeisa |



direct investment (FDI) and the first international non-mineral concession known in Somaliland. The partnership will also invest in a number of associated logistics projects that will further bolster trade capacity, including the Special Economic Zone outside the town of Berbera.

Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, Group Chairman and CEO, DP World, said: "DP World views

Africa as a long-term growth market and the opportunity landscape remains significant. This partnership with CDC offers us greater flexibility to accelerate and capitalise on these opportunities, and will enable us to increase our investment in ports and logistics infrastructure across Africa. The partnership will create transformational opportunities for millions of people over the next decade."



Taiwan slams Chinese 'Global Times' for fabricating malice

Paper alleges DPP offer politicians in Somaliland bribes hence promote independence by funding US think tanks



Ministry Spokeswoman Joanne Ou Photo:Lu Yi-hsuan, Taipei Times

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday denounced China's *Global Times* for disseminating disinformation about Taiwan, after the Chinese state-run newspaper claimed that the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) has been bribing Somaliland politicians. Taiwan in August last year inaugurated the Taiwan Representative Office in the Republic of Somaliland, which is the nation's only representative office whose title uses just the name "Taiwan." The East African country also established a representative office in Taipei, despite the absence of formal diplomatic relations. The Chinese-language *Global Times* on Monday accused the DPP of offering Somaliland politicians and their families considerable bribes, citing anonymous sources. The International Cooperation and Development Fund (ICDF) is

helping with Somaliland's plans to digitize government services and establish an information and communications technology (ICT) center, but there have been some backroom transfers of benefits, the *Global Times* said. The DPP has been promoting its Taiwanese independence campaign with dollar diplomacy, it said, citing another report by the *American Prospect* magazine in June last year that said the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office has been funding US think tanks to advocate for more security and trade cooperation with Taiwan. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a news release on Monday condemned the *Global Times* for disseminating disinformation. Commenting on the issue again, ministry spokeswoman Joanne Ou yesterday told a news briefing that the report is fabricated and aims to smear Taiwan, calling on people to

spurn the paper. Since Taiwan and Somaliland established representative offices in each other's capitals last year, the two governments have launched cooperative projects in agriculture, ICT, education and medicine to improve the lives of people in Somaliland, Ou said. All the projects are open, transparent and legitimate, and lauded by Somaliland and the international community, she said. The projects are listed on the Web site of the ministry-affiliated ICDF, showing an e-government project with Somaliland that started last year and runs through 2023, including plans to establish an ICT center and an inter-agency platform for data exchanges in the country. Meanwhile, the government has been working with several US think tanks on research projects related to Taiwan-US relations and Taiwan's international participation, Ou said. The ministry's funding is subject to the Legislative Yuan's supervision and does not infringe on academic freedom, she added. The research projects aim to promote discussions and understanding about Taiwan in US policy circles, which is a normal practice among democratic countries that an authoritarian regime might not be able to understand, Ou said.

Innovative Somali farmer builds his own tractor



Determined to avoid the high costs of preparing his farm in Jowhar, Hassan Ali Addow, a mechanic, built his own tractor using recycled car parts and a water pump. Hassan, 52, borrowed \$2,000 from relatives and took four years to complete his tractor. It cost him \$4,500 in total and he has yet to repay the debt, but he estimates that it will save him money in the long run. "I have a three-hectare farm in

Jowhar, and I normally pay 900,000 Somali shillings to rent a tractor for just three hours. I also pay a total of 350,000 Somali shillings per day to three labourers helping me to plant the farm," he said. Hassan's tractor has one piston and uses fuel economically to carry out multiple functions, including ploughing, hoeing, and sowing seeds. "It has a hoe to dig narrow furrows and shallow trenches for planting

the seeds. It also has a ploughing tool to turn the soil before sowing the seeds. I also designed it with a tool to till the farm and two buckets on either side of the tractor, where seeds are dropped into the prepared soil," Hassan explained. He tested the tractor on his friend's one-hectare farm, which he planted successfully, and on his own farm. Next, he is planning to use the tractor on his family's four-hectare farm in the rural area of Middle Shabelle region, as the Deyr rains have already begun. He believes his tractor will help farmers in Jowhar to reduce their expenditure and plans to rent it out at 280,000 Somali shillings (\$11) per hour, which is just under the normal hourly rate of 300,000 Somali shillings. Hassan, a father of 13, owns a small garage in town and has worked for 40 years as a mechanic. He builds machines such as maize grinders on order, helped by his eldest son and his brother, both of whom he has trained on the job.

UK interested in Turkish drones, we presented options: Minister



Turkey has presented options to the United Kingdom, which is "very interested" to buy Turkish-made armed drones, the industry and technology minister said on Friday. "The U.K. is very interested in Turkish armed drones. Now, they have to decide. We presented them with the options. Right now, they're seriously considering these options," Mustafa Varank told CNN Turk in an exclusive interview. "I believe that in the very near future, we'll see Bayraktars and Ankas (unmanned aerial vehicles) purchased from Turkey flying in European skies, as well," Varank had said earlier this year during an event jointly organized by the Istanbul Defense and Aerospace Cluster Association and Istanbul Chamber of Industry on Jan. 21. He also noted that in a previous speech, U.K. Defense Secretary Ben Wallace had said Turkish UAVs were a "game-changer." Turkey's defense and aviation revenue has reached \$12 billion annually, Varank said, adding that its defense exports had risen from \$340 million in 2005 to \$3 billion last year. The growing interest in domestic drones is a boost for the Turkish government as it tries to increase exports and underline the growing importance of armed drones in modern warfare. The Turkish military used drones last year in Syria as well as in Libya where Ankara backed the Tripoli-based government against eastern forces supported by Russia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Egypt. In Nagorno-Karabakh, the drones helped Turkey's ally Azerbaijan defeat Armenia-backed occupying forces. Overall Turkish defense and aviation exports totaled \$2.1 billion in the first three quarters of this year, up 39% from \$1.5 billion last year, according to the Turkish Exporters Assembly (TIM).

Sahil authority to expel southern Somali nationals from Berbera



Sahil provincial authority is implementing a new directive that Somaliland government has issued which will see the deportation of residents from southern Somalia from the port city of Berbera. This was disclosed by Sahil regional governor, Hon. Ahmed Mohamed Hashi. He revealed that the security order was not only to be conducted in Lasanod alone but will be carried out all major provinces across Somaliland. Mr. Hashi said: "The new security directive is to deport foreigners in order to tighten security. The order was not only intended for Sool administration but will be implemented across the country. We are part of the provincial authorities that is carrying out the national security directive. The registration of foreigners is currently underway. Once it will be wrapped up, we will issue an ultimatum that foreigners should leave from the country." Prior to the deportation of foreigners, Sahil authority heightened security, said Hashi. Somaliland government informed all nationals hailing from southern Somalia must leave Sanaag and Sool regions due to security concerns

ALL THAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SOMALILAND'S PETROLEUM ACT AND POLICY

A comparative review and technical analysis of the Petroleum Policy (2015) & the Upstream Petroleum Act of Somaliland (95/2021), examining its salient features and attractive offerings for the nation and investors.

Preface

In September 2019, and for the first time, we landed in this blessed land of milk and meat abundance as the third generation of diaspora based Somalilanders since we were born and raised in Arabia; so is our Adeni parent and grandparents. As we arrived, we were equipped with tons of excitement and eagerness to contribute to the future economic awakening of the Horn of Africa inhabited by the camel herding Somalis and to be part of the continent's economic development through better utilization of natural resources. We immediately joined the Ministry of Energy and Mineral of Somaliland. We got involved with the progressing extractive resource legal and regulatory fiscal frameworks in two facades the Somaliland Mining Act for minerals and the Upstream Petroleum Bill and Upstream Petroleum Policy for the Oil and Gas. We contributed to both, to the best of our ability, knowledge and experiences.

Before we Xray Somaliland's legal and fiscal framework for the extractive industry, let us warn ourselves that in several countries in Africa, the discovery of natural resources is a missed opportunity. Instead of the natural resource endowment becoming a vehicle for social and economic development, it becomes a resource curse. Those countries end up far worse than before the discovery was made due to corruption, inflation, instability, civil unrest and a negative macroeconomy. While in the other hand, fewer countries avoided the resources curse and translated the discovery of natural resources into blessing right from the beginning to the end when the resources depleted. In the journey, they created a better macroeconomy, jobs, infrastructure, and most importantly, safeguarded their environment.

Introduction - Looking from a bird's eye view!

Immediately after the post-colonial era, the entire continent of Africa went through an aggressive overhauling and harmonising evolution for better extractive industry legal and regulatory fiscal governance policies. Some countries introduced newer legal and regulatory fiscal regimes at their national levels, while others collaborated and established one standard regional extractive policy. For example, the 16 member states of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) as a Regional Economic Community devised a common and harmonised reform to improve their legal and regulatory framework to enhance the inflow of foreign direct investment into their region. They established one standard mining protocol with several interventions like collaboration on geology, mining policy, harmonisation of policy, laws



Mohamed Feysal Hawar

and regulations, and finally establishing centres of excellence for capacity building.

Similarly, the 15 member states of the Economic Community of Central and the West African States (ECOWAS) also followed suit and established a mandatory, standard and harmonized extractive policy directive. The above led to creating a continent level extractive directive called Africa Mining Vision, found and adopted by the African Union head of states in February 2009. African Mining Vision aim was to become the vehicle for the continental framework for ensuring that extractive industry becomes the catalyst for broad-based economic development for the continent and the continent and its people benefit from the rising commodity supercycle. The Africa Mining vision's main goal was to ensure the natural resources endowment of the continent benefit the general public and directly contribute to the structural economic transformation of the continent.

The fundamental tenets of Africa Mining Vision are a broader definition of benefits beyond the revenue streams, optimal use of mineral revenue through good governance and management, and establishing a resource-based infrastructure that benefits the other economy streams.

So, it is natural that Somaliland also joins the race for better legal and regulatory fiscal frameworks for its startup extractive industry nearly two decades since it has established its Ministry that oversees the extractive industry. The recent scramble for Mining and Hydrocarbons contracts like Genel Energy, RAK GAS has pushed Somaliland to the spotlight as a significant potential petroleum producer for the near future. The looming question that remains on all Somaliland citizens is, "How can our nation translate and transform these possibly possible hydrocarbons discoveries into economic success?". In contrast, every citizen wishes that the Upstream Petroleum Act & Petroleum Policy of Somaliland effectively manages the extractive resource revenues for the common good.

The Upstream Petroleum Act (95/2021) & Petroleum Policy (2015) has become the legal framework that governs overall potential

hydrocarbon extractions and set the new age for Somaliland's oil and gas industry. The Act and Policy will establish 'transparency and 'accountability in the oil and gas sector by reinforcing the governing institutions to comply with the nation's rules. In this brief review, we will try to Xray and dissect the latest Upstream Petroleum Act and the Petroleum Policy of Somaliland. We will highlight the most salient features, gaps, and possible improvements, so Somaliland does not waste the one chance to succeed and avoid the ever daunting and looming resource curse.

Both the Upstream Petroleum Act and the Petroleum Policy are inherently the same, with some underlying differences. The Upstream Petroleum Act (95/2021) will govern the upstream petroleum activities, including procedures for fiscal rules, licensing, production, decommissioning, environmental well-being, penal provision, awarding of licenses, and entering into exploration and production sharing agreements. This Act aims to establish a legal framework for the government to manage the State's petroleum resources with full transparency while remaining impartial. At the same time, the Petroleum Policy (2015) aims to establish a broader governance tool for upstream petroleum activities. Xray-ing the Upstream Petroleum Act (95/2021) and we will group it into five major vital categories:

1) Areas for Petroleum Activities and Production Sharing Agreements

In this section, we examine the fundamental structures that set up the Production sharing agreements and also the contest for the areas with potential:

Before initiating any petroleum activities, the Minister of Energy and the environment minister shall conduct a strategic environmental assessment with the internationally accepted protocols. The strategic environmental assessment shall include an appraisal of the impact of the petroleum activities on trade, industry and the environment and the social effects that may arise from the upstream petroleum activities. The Minister shall then prepare a reference map showing the geographical area of land the State divided into blocks. The surface should be divided into blocks of 30 latitude minutes and 30 longitude minutes in size unless adjacent land areas or other circumstances warrant otherwise. Geographical coordinates shall define any site awarded for a license or an exploration and production agreement.

Suppose the Minister declares an area open for exploration/petroleum activities after conducting the strategic environmental



Mohamoud Feysal Hawar

assessment. In that case, the Minister may then grant a license for a reconnaissance site within a precisely defined area to a qualified entity. No preferential rights shall ever be given to any entity, and when granted, be set for up to 2 years. In the case of competition for a block, the Minister may decide and hold a competitive public tender or auction round to grant an exclusive reconnaissance area. This whole reconnaissance area will also last for two years.

The Minister may announce to invite oil and gas companies to participate in a competitive round for exploration and production sharing agreements. Applicants must meet the minimum requirements for financial and technical capacity to carry out work obligations and apply for an exploration and production sharing agreement to be submitted to the Minister according to the regulations set. The applicant will pay an application fee which covers the costs for the State to properly assess the applicants, including the costs for hiring external evaluation. The Act stipulates that the exploration and production sharing agreements shall include two phases:

- An exploration phase not exceeding ten years
- A production phase not exceeding 30 years

The content of the exploration and production sharing agreement that all contractors shall abide by are as follows:

- The geographical coordinates of the awarded agreement area.
- If several contractors, the allocation of participation interest between these.
- Section 18 (2) of this Law stipulates the duration of the exploration and production sharing agreement and its sub-phases.
- The Act also sets the minimum work obligations and expenditure commitments for the exploration phase.
- Provisions concerning any State participation;
- The Act also sets provisions concerning environmental conditions which address specific issues for the area awarded.

The Upstream Petroleum Act has also set mandates for relinquishments and the right to surrender. A contractor may only

abandon their exploration and production sharing agreement after achieving the minimum work obligation and settling all other financial fees. In the case of the discovery of other natural resources, the contractor must notify the Minister.

2) Development, Production and Decommissioning

In this section, when the contractors make a discovery, the different stages of activities are:

When the contractor makes a discovery, the contractor shall notify the Minister within 48 hours after the date of such natural resource discovery. The operator/contractor will then have to submit to the Minister for field development plan per the terms of the Law. The approval will be an onus on the Minister, but if the planned expenditure exceeds \$50 million, the authorisation will be on the Council of Ministers.

The two sections of the Field Development plan are:

- To first conduct an environmental impact assessment (According to the Act)
- Developing petroleum reservoir resources

If accepted, the contractor or licensee will then be responsible for laying out the pipelines within the agreement area. No test production shall occur without the approval of the Minister. Several laws have been stated in the Upstream Petroleum Act when a situation arose that a petroleum reservoir extends across the line from the agreement area into another. Contractors will be required to agree on the most efficient and coordinated way to secure optimal recovery. Contractors will then enter into a Unitisation Contract. Contractors from two or more adjacent areas containing petroleum reservoirs may agree to operate jointly.

The Law also address a "Decommissioning Plan". Under the Law, contractors shall present to the Minister at least three years before a planned surrender of the exploration and production sharing agreement. A decommissioning fund should be set aside by each contractor for each petroleum field. The State will then 'free of charge' take over the ownership and right to use facilities if the exploration and production sharing agreement is surrendered or terminated. Upon takeover, the State will then take ownership of the funds dedicated to decommissioning.

3) Entitlement, Fees, Taxes, Health, Safety & Environment.

In this section, we inspect the fiscal and environmental regime of the Act. Before the commencement of activities, the contractor shall pay a fee for the area for exploration purposes in progressive and

Continued on page 7

ALL THAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SOMALILAND'S PETROLEUM ACT AND POLICY

calculated per square kilometre and will differ based on whether the site is offshore or onshore. A royalty fee is payable for each barrel produced before any costs are deducted and paid to the government in cash or kind. Petroleum prices shall be determined using procedures established by regulations and based on oil prices acquired from independent parties in the global market for petroleum of equivalent grade.

Contractors and licensees engaged in petroleum operations on the State or region and coastal waters are subject to the taxes and levies imposed by Law. The Petroleum Revenue Law governs all fees, royalties, bonuses, and other payments to the State linked to petroleum activities.

Before conducting any petroleum activities, a licensee or contractor must document a health and safety plan according to prescribed regulations and preserve it at the worksite. A safety plan capable of adequately dealing with fire, oil spills, blowouts, accidents, or other emergencies to prevent or control such situations and minimise loss or damage. Suppose a licensee fails to carry out petroleum activities safely and the best available international techniques and practices prevailing in the petroleum industry in comparable circumstances at any time. The Minister will seek reimbursement from the faulting licensee or the contractor for the costs and expenses of the faults.

4) Miscellaneous Provisions In this section, we examine the different types of variations in the Act: Except for army sites where they have a license to carry out petroleum activities, the government, contractor, or licensee shall have the authority to enter any area. They can enter provided that:

(a) All entities that have some claims in the worksite on which activities are to be carried out; must be informed of the purpose, nature of the proposed operations before starting such operations;

(b) If an entity claims legit title or interest on a worksite and suffers a loss or harm due to the petroleum operations is entitled to compensation. The appropriate regulations define all the temporary or permanent expropriation and compensations.

(c) The compensation will be computed based on the land's worth before the start of the petroleum activity.

The Law requires the Licensee/ Contractor to have recognised insurance to cover all their petroleum operations. The insurance must at least cover:

i. Damage to the facility.
ii. Damage caused by pollution and environmental hazards. Also, other third parties liabilities.
iii. In the case of Petroleum accidents, the contractor and insurance must remove all physical remains and eliminate hazards.

iv. Licensees' and contractors' employees engaged in petroleum activities.

5) Penal Provisions

Under this section, we shall look at

the different penalties that occur for the contractors that disobey the Law: Non-compliance with the mandates of the Act attracts heavy penalties, including fines and jail terms for those responsible for any wrongdoings/ not obeying the Law. Some of those law offenders are as follows:

(a) engages in petroleum activities in Somaliland without the Ministry of Energy and Minerals' permission.

(b) Conducts petroleum exploration in Somaliland without obtaining an exploration license.

(c) Engages in any activity that requires a permit as defined by this Act and its rules.

Has committed an offence and is punishable with a fine of Somaliland shillings equivalent to 500,000 US\$ (Five hundred thousand United States Dollars) or an imprisonment term not exceeding ten years and not less than three years or both.

Those who engage in petroleum activities in a manner contrary to the provisions of this Act and its regulations have committed an offence and will be subject to a fine of \$50,000 US\$ (fifty thousand United States Dollars) or imprisonment not more than three years and not less than one year. Anyone who begins to implement a field development and operation plan without the Ministry of Energy and Minerals' approval has committed an offence and is subject to a fine of \$1,000,000 US\$ (One million US Dollars) and a payment of \$200,000 US\$ for the duration of the operation.

Whereas the Upstream Petroleum Act lays down the groundwork and foundation for the successful extraction of the resources, the Petroleum Policy applies down the tools to enforce such laws. It addresses the need for a NOC (National Oil Company) to successfully engage on behalf of the nation to control the petroleum sector better. Somaliland has no established National Oil Company, and it needs to establish one governance tool for the petroleum activities on behalf of the nation.

The policy also follows up on the need to differentiate petroleum activities that occur offshore and onshore, improve our nation's local content (employees/workforce), and address the health, safety, and environment.

The petroleum policy also addresses the different approaches to capturing resource rent. Somaliland will use the production split model using the R-factor. Several countries in the region use such as Algeria, Tunisia, Colombia etc. It allows the government to bear no risks and collect royalties from an IOC (International Oil Company)/ Contractors.

Our parting conclusion and observations.

As two specialists in the oil and gas sector and careful and detailed analysis done here, the Upstream Petroleum Act & Petroleum Policy seems highly likely to create the foundation for sound management of the country's hydrocarbon resources.

● Due to the high demand for petroleum and the need for the good

governance of Somaliland's potential and untapped natural resources, the Upstream Petroleum Act (95/2021) and the Petroleum Policy (2015) will set the stage for substantial transformative growth for the country by ensuring a higher and sage government take. The government has done its due diligence and laid the groundwork for the legal and fiscal framework to successfully extract our untapped Oil and Gas potentiality.

● The Act and Policy seem to set a precedent that will be followed and improved for years to come; however, gaps and conflicts will still occur within the Act, and time will refine the processes.

● Somaliland should look to implement the EITI (Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative) and join them to set the global standard for the good governance of oil and gas resources. Our African counterparts Tanzania, Nigeria, Uganda, and many more, are all Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative members.

● Furthermore, the Upstream Petroleum Act (95/2021) and the Petroleum Policy (2015) introduce a range of new actions that must be abided by, by the upstream operators/contractors. The successful implementation will require the various ministries to function as one and protect the nation's resources to facilitate sustainable use and management. It will require all ministries' collective effort and collaboration, mainly the Ministry of Energy and Minerals and the Ministry of Finance, to oversee if the Act and Policy got implemented and followed by all.

● Further strengthening the legal framework with ring-fencing, capital gains taxation, income measurement, thin capitalisation and narrowing scope of the stability clauses.

● **R-Factor:** That allows the government's petroleum share to increase with the ratio of contractor's cumulative revenues to contractor's incremental costs (**'the R Factor'**).

● **Rate of Return (ROR):** That allows the government's profit petroleum share is linked to reference to the cumulative contractor rate of return achieved until the period of sharing.

● Transparently get engaged with the public and manage the tremendous public expectations associated with attractive resource contracts, especially when announced significant discoveries.

● Capacity building for the local workforce; encouraging local social and economic development; reducing regional inequality; finally, securing buy-in from all communities and avoiding conflicts.

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

'Terrorist incident': UK MP David Amess stabbed to death

British Member of Parliament David Amess, 69, has died after being stabbed several times during a meeting with his constituents at a church in eastern England. A 25-year-old suspect has been arrested.

Reports said a man walked into Belfairs Methodist Church in Leigh-on-Sea, south Essex, where Amess was holding a surgery with locals on Friday and attacked the politician.

"He was treated by emergency services but, sadly, died at the scene," police said. "A 25-year-old man was quickly arrested after officers arrived at the scene on suspicion of murder and a knife was recovered."

In a statement, the Metropolitan Police has said that the murder Amess has been declared as a "terrorist incident", with the investigation being led by its Terrorism Command, the agency said in a statement posted on social media.

Detectives said they were not looking for anyone else in connection with the incident. There was no detail about the motivation for the attack but the chief constable of Essex police later said counterterrorism officers are leading the investigation.

"The investigation is in its very early stages and is being led by officers from the specialist counterterrorism command," Ben-Julian Harrington told reporters.

"It will be for investigators to determine whether or not this is a terrorist incident."

Colleagues from across parliament expressed their shock and sorrow and paid tribute to Amess, who held regular meetings with voters on the first and third Fridays of the month, saying he was diligent in his duties to his local area. Amess leaves behind a wife and five children.

Flags in Downing Street were lowered in tribute.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said he and his cabinet were "deeply shocked and heart-stricken".

"David was a man who believed passionately in this country and in its future, and we've lost today a fine public servant and a much-loved friend and colleague," Johnson said. The prime minister would not say whether the attack meant politicians needed tighter security, saying, "We must really leave the police to get on with their investigation."

Amess has been a member of parliament for Southend West, which includes Leigh-on-Sea, since 1997, but has been a lawmaker since 1983. He was a well-liked member of parliament, best known for his ceaseless campaign to have Southend declared a city.

His website lists his main interests as "animal welfare and pro-life issues". Violence against British politicians is rare, but two other British lawmakers have been attacked this century during their "surgeries", regular meetings where constituents can present concerns and complaints.

In June 2016, Labour Party lawmaker Jo Cox was fatally stabbed and shot in her northern England constituency. A member of the far right was convicted of her murder.

In 2010, Labour lawmaker Stephen Timms survived a stabbing in his constituency office.

Jacqui Smith, chair of the Jo Cox Foundation, said in a statement on Twitter that Amess's death is a "tragic loss for those who knew and loved Sir David".

"I knew him as a generous and dedicated colleague in Parliament. Public life must be safe for those we ask to serve in our democracy – that is a responsibility for us all."

Leader of the Labour Party Keir Starmer said on Twitter that David was a "dedicated public servant".

"Informed by his faith, David had a profound sense of duty, that I witnessed first hand in parliament," Starmer said.

"We will show once more that violence, intimidation and threats to our democracy will never prevail over the tireless commitment of public servants simply doing their jobs."

Chris Doyle, the director of the Council for Arab-British Understanding – who knew both Amess and Cox – told Al Jazeera that the killing of Amess would have a "chilling effect on British politics – the way in which you get that vital interchange between an elected member of parliament, part of the legislature, and the constituents that they represent."

"There are 650 British MPs that will now be thinking 'that could have been me', he said. "They will be looking over their shoulders, they will be thinking 'how can we improve our security. But above all of course the main sentiment is for David's family and friends – to have lost him in such a way is just beyond belief."

British lawmakers are protected by armed police when they are inside Parliament, but have no such protection in their constituencies. Amess published the times and locations of his open meetings with constituents on his website.

"Questions are rightly being asked about the safety of our country's elected representatives and I will provide updates in due course," Home Secretary Priti Patel said on Friday.



