

The Horn Tribune

Vol III/ Issue 1449

Sunday 08 May 2022

07 Shuwal 1443 AH

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

Cabinet sends message to the citizens



By: M.Egge.

The 91st Cabinet meeting chaired by the President of the Republic of Somaliland, HE Muse Bihi Abdi, and accompanied by the Vice President of Somaliland, HE Abdirahman Abdillahi Ismail (Saylici), discussed issues related to preparations on the May 18th

Continue on page 2



We Should Emulate the Leadership of the Late President Mohamed Haji Ibrahim Egal, says VP Sayli'i



By: Guled A. Mahir

The government and people of Somaliland are marking the 20th anniversary of the demise of the country founding father the late president Mohamed Haji Ibrahim

Continue on page 2

Ministry of Public Works and Hargeisa City Council to Work Together in Rebuilding of Waheen Market



By: Guled A. Mahir

The Minister of Public Works and Housing Hon. Abdillahi Abokor and the Mayor of

Continue on page 2

The House of Representatives Resumes Sessions



President to address the two houses of parliament in his annual address tomorrow

Continue on page 2

Somaliland Quality Control Establishes a Chemistry Laboratory

By: Yusuf M. Hassan

The Somaliland Quality Control Commission-SQCC was established through presidential decree in 2010 with Parliament approval coming in 2014.

With the mandate to promote

Continue on page 3



A significant contribution from American Muslims will be announced soon



By: Mohamoud Walaaleye

Scholars, businessmen, the Somaliland community, the Somalis and the Muslim community in the United States have responded positively to the call

Continue on page 3

University female student among Premier Bank startup competition winners



Premier Bank Entrepreneurship Competition for Somaliland Universities, has been concluded in Hargeisa.

Continue on page 4

Muhoozi Sharpens Focus on Youth

Somaliland & sphere folks honored Muhoozi's 48th birthday



First Son and Commander of Land Forces Lt Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba has promised to engage authorities to create more opportunities for the youth at Entebbe Cricket Oval for his thanksgiving party

Continue on page 4

Former politician Dr. Gabose unveils a new political association Barwaaqo



By: Mohamoud Walaaleye Dr. Mohamed Abdi Gabose, a prominent Somaliland politician and a renowned

Continue on page 3

Inside:

Somalilanders' Quest for Independence Isn't 'Neocolonial' On pages 5



SOMALILAND's first modern Archeology Bill completed

By: Mohamoud Walaaleye

The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism in collaboration

Continue on page 4



Cabinet sends message to the citizens



He noted that the committee plans to build a state-of-the-art market in line with international markets, in collaboration with engineers from the Ministry of Public Works, Housing and Lands along with Hargeisa Municipality Engineers and anyone with experience and expertise in the field.

The Council of Ministers called on all branches of government, both internal and external, and the people of Somaliland to prepare for the May 18th national day celebrations of the Republic of Somaliland, and called on the security agencies to strengthen security in the country. The Vice President of the Republic of Somaliland, HE Abdirahman Abdillahi Ismail (Saylici), attended a large-scale commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the death of the second President of Somaliland, the late Mohamed Haji Ibrahim Egal.

The Vice President, on the other hand, elaborated on the late history of the late, his efforts for nationhood, his eloquence, his ideals and his courage to establish a nation at a difficult time when society was divided.

The Vice President of the Republic of Somaliland, Mr. Abdirahman Sayli'i, described the late Damal as a pillar of the nation of the Republic of Somaliland, and hailed the successful migration of Somaliland. Finally, the Vice President prayed for the deceased to water his gardens, and asked the entire community to pray for him.

anniversary, relief & rebuild of wahaen market, Security and Drought Issues in the Country.

The Minister of Interior, Hon. Mohamed Kahin Ahmed, highlighted the overall security situation in the country, noting that it is good, as preparations are underway for the 31st anniversary of the Republic of Somaliland on 18 May.

Hon. Kahin, who is also the chairperson of the organizing committee for the May 18th commemoration, presented to the cabinet a plan prepared by the national committee to celebrate the 31st anniversary of the Republic of Somaliland on May 18 this year 2022.

The Vice President of the Republic of Somaliland, and Chairman of the Drought Relief Committee, H.E. Abdirahman Abdillahi Ismail (Saylici) briefed the Council on the beginning of the spring rains in the country,

noting that moderate rains have poured throughout in the country and the drought still pertains in the country.

H.E. Saylici, added, the drought relief committee will continue to respond, as there is still a need for food and nutrition for drought-affected livestock.

The Minister of Religion and Chairman of the Waheen Market Emergency and Support Committee, Sheikh Abdirizak Hussein Ali (Albani) briefed the council on the Waheen Market Emergency activities so far, including the registration of damage caused by the disaster of Waheen market fire, registration of traders in the market, total sum of the Waheen relief money that has been received the commission so far, adding, the funds are intended to be given to the victims of the fire and the reconstruction of Waheen market.

We Should Emulate the Leadership of the Late President Mohamed Haji Ibrahim Egal, says VP Sayli'i



Egal. Addressing participants in the event to honor and commemorate the second president of Somaliland, vice president H.E. Abdirahman Abdillahi Ismael Sayli'i had only good words to remember the late president.

He said that leaders need to emulate Egal's leadership style. He went on to state that the late president laid the foundation of Somaliland and today citizens are reaping the fruits of what the late president Egal sowed, freedom and independence from Somalia.

A cross section of the country leaders also attended the commemoration-

Here are their quotations:

Mr.Mohamud Hashi Abdi- "We have to accept history, the late president Mr.Mohamed Haji Ibrahim Egal was founding father of Somaliland."

The widow of the late president Mrs.Kaltun Haji Dahir said "We founded the Egal Foundation in 2006, unfortunately all previous administrations have failed to acknowledge and support the foundation."

Minister of livestock development Hon. Saeed Sulub noted, "The children of the late president Egal never inherited a dime from their late father, since the late President Mohamed Haji Ibrahim Egal left

nothing."

The minister of finance Dr.Sa'ad Ali Shire- "We remember Egal through the country's Airport which was named after him. Time has come for us to remember him in our education syllabus and public libraries."

Jama Musa Jama- "It is important to teach our children about the history of Somaliland independence and the people behind the independence struggle such as the late president Mohamed Haji Ibrahim Egal. This vital part of history should be published in our school text books."

The House of Representatives Resumes Sessions



By: Mohamoud Walaaleye

The Speaker of the Somaliland House of Representatives, Hon. Abdirizak Khalif Ahmed, has officially opened the third session of the House of Representatives, where the agenda of the session were distributed.

The members of the House of Representatives were asked to review the agenda for the following da. The third session agenda include:

1. Statement of the Speaker of the House of Representatives
2. Report of the Standing Committee and other committees of the House of Representatives
3. The general situation of the country;
4. Legislative projects before the House
 - a. Petroleum law draft;
 - b. Law on the prevention and control of human trafficking;
 - c. Amendments to the Public Financial Management Act no. 75/2021;
 - d. Amendments to the Inland Revenue Act. No. 72/2016;
 - e. Draft Law on Refugees and Asylum Seekers;
5. Approval of government appointees;
6. Regulations returned by the House of Elders;
7. Anything else that comes up

Hon Ahmed, responding question asked MP's regarding whether MP's is allowed to ask question President H.E. Abdi, said that matter depends on both leaders of the Senate and the House of Representatives to deliberate upon, and decide how the procedure will be.

The members of representatives were asked to review the agenda, to be discussed on latter days.

On the other hand, Speaker Hon Khalif informed MP's that The President of the Republic of Somaliland, His Excellency Muse Bihi Abdi, will address the two Houses of the National Assembly and the House of Representatives on Monday.

The speaker urged lawmakers to arrive at the parliament building at 9 am on Monday.

Ministry of Public Works and Hargeisa City Council to Work Together in Rebuilding of Waheen Market

Hargeisa, Cllr. Abdikarim Ahmed Moge have confirmed the appointment of two committees that will initiate the reconstruction of Waheen Market. The meeting brought together top ministry of public works officials and members of the local council to discuss about the future of Waheen Market which was destroyed by a raging fire.

The minister stated that the two committees which were appointed has one as a technical committee and the other as the implementing committee. Minister Abdillahi Abokor reiterated that the government works like a body hence the importance of collaborating tasks with other government organs such as the local government.

Also addressing the press at the meeting was the Mayor of Hargeisa, Cllr. Abdikarim Ahmed Moge who said, "In the name of Almighty Allah the most gracious the most merciful today 7th May 2022 we have completed talks between the local council and ministry of public works about

cooperation on planning and reconstruction of the burnt Waheen Market between the two government organs."

Mayor Abdikarim revealed that they have appointed a 5 man committee to assist in planning and designing of the new Waheen Market. They will also redesign the Gobonimo Market. The Mayor stated the committee will over see the day to day management of the project.

The committee job entails:-

1. Recruitment of engineers and project workers for the construction project.
2. Collections of necessary data and information for the project.
3. Implementing of a work plan suitable for the project.

The names of the committee members are as follows:

- 1.Mr Mohamud Avdi Elmi Geedi
- 2.Mr Abdirizak Mohamed Farah (Wiiwaa)
- 3.Mr.Abdikadir Iman Warsame
- 4.Mr.Adam Jama Hadi Mideye
- 5.Eng. Issa Yusuf Hamari

A significant contribution from American Muslims will be announced soon



by President JSL Md. Muse Bihi Abdi and the National relief and Support Committee to the world and the Somaliland Diaspora around the world.

Fundraising efforts to help traders whose property was destroyed in the Waheen market fire, initiated by the Somaliland community in the days following the fire blaze were said to have been organized by Abdirahman Kahin, one of the community's leading businessmen in the United States, especially in Minnesota, such as AFRODENI, as told to THT's Mohamoud Walaaleeye by Iman Sheikh Sa'ad Muse Sh Isaac.

In the interview with the Iman Sheikh Sa'ad Muse Sh Ishaq on Wednesday, May 4, 2022, when asked about his officialdom, replied, "I am the Imam of Minnesota presently".

After the collapse of the Twin towers 9/11 in the United States, he founded the World Peace Organization, which aims to work for peace in the United States, and for the Somali community and Muslims in the United States and the general public to work together. He was also, the cleric who recited the Koran at the White House during President Obama's inauguration.

Asked about the efforts of the Somali

community, particularly Somalilanders in Minnesota, in support of the traders who lost their property in the Waheen market fire, Sheikh Sa'ad said, "we have collected enough funds, and will be announced in the near future before transferring to the accounts earmarked by the National Commission".

Sheikh Sa'ad said the initial efforts has been made by Abdirahman Kahin, a prominent businessman in the Somaliland community in Minnesota, such as AFRODENI, and supported the initiative by the scholars, businessmen, the Somaliland community, Somalis, and Muslims in the United States at large.

He said they held Iftar events for Somalis in Minnesota, as well as requested to be raised donations from all mosques heads by Somali-Americans in the United States, and all donations were saved by HARRO, an organisation chaired by Sheikh Ali Haji.

In addition, Hope & Dev. Org. headed by Abdiwahab Abi, is running a fundraising campaign, which will transfer their donations to Harro, Sh Sa'ad added.

When asked about the contributions so far they have collected, Sh Saad

replied, "Thank God, it is a big contribution, but the amount will be known to the public, upon transferring to the earmarked accounts of the National relief Commission, but, I can inform you, it is over one million Dollars.

When asked about the process of raising funds, Sh. Sa'ad said, there is a fundraising committee consisting of scholars, businessmen, the Somaliland community in Minnesota chaired by Dr. Mohamed Abdillahi Shiine, all acted as a team with fundraisers, and working closely with other Somalis and American Muslims, who all stood up to help their brothers who lost their businesses in the burnt Waheen market.

Iman Sheikh Sa'ad Muse Sh Ishaq, who was asked if he would like to send a message to the Somaliland community, the government and the National relief and Support Committee, said he was very grateful to God SW for making it possible "for us to support our brothers and sisters, and applaud the government, and the President of the Republic of Somaliland H.E. Muse, Vice President H.E. Sayli'i, the National Assemblies, Parliament & Constituencies, and the Republic of Somaliland public, as they united to support by their brothers and sisters whose property was destroyed in the fire in Waheen market".

Sheikh Sa'ad urged them to maintain the peace and stability of God has give them their land, thus, a matter deserved to thank Allah.

He also thanked all those who have contributed to the financial support to their brothers and sisters, and asked God to reward them and increase their good deeds in the hereafter, by His will.

Somaliland Quality Control Establishes a Chemistry Laboratory



standardization, metrology and quality assurance in industry and commerce, the SQCC has established a Chemistry Laboratory The Lab carries out chemical analysis of chemical composition of both edible and non-edible products.

The scope of accreditation is calcium, potassium, sodium and metals for water; moisture content for honey; ash content, moisture content, protein content for cereal foods and cereal flour; and metals for fruit and vegetables.

The Chemistry Laboratory provides services that help prevent contaminated and adulterated foods products from entering the domestic market.

The services provided also enhance the quality of the various products manufactured in Somaliland, by providing the industries with advice, information, and test results on the quality of their products.

The mandate of the Somaliland quality control commission is:

The Mandate Of SQCC Is: Article 7 Underlines The Functions And Duties Of SQCC

- To promote standardization, metrology and quality assurance in industry and commerce,
- To make arrangements for, or provide facilities for, the testing and calibration of equipment for the determination of their degree of accuracy by comparison with standards approved by the Commission, and for the issue of certificates with regard thereto;
- To make arrangements for, or provide facilities for, the examination and testing of goods and products, and any material or substance from which, with which, or having regard to the manner in which, they may be manufactured, produced, processed or treated;
- To control, in accordance with the provisions of this Act, the use of standardization marks and distinctive marks;
- To prepare, frame, modify or amend and publish National Standards and any codes of practice intended to be applied in

consultation with competent authorities and stakeholders in line with internationally recognized procedures and best international practices;

- To encourage or undertake educational work in connection with standardization, metrology and quality assurance;

- To assist the Government competent authorities or any local authority or public body, or any other person in the preparation and framing of any standards related deliverables, specifications or codes of practice

- To provide for the testing, on behalf of the Government, of locally manufactured or imported commodities, to determine whether such Page 12 of 25 commodities comply with the provisions of this Act, or any other written law dealing with standards of quality or description;

- To enforce standards in the protection of public health and safety and the environment against harmful ingredients, dangerous products, counterfeits, substandard products and materials, and poor performance;

- To carry out market surveillance to rid the market of dangerous products, counterfeits and substandard goods;

- Combat counterfeiting, trade and other dealings in counterfeit goods in accordance with this Act;

- To represent the country and liaise with relevant regional and international standardization, metrology and quality assurance organizations,

- to give effect to the decisions and recommendations arising from regional and international engagements;

- To promote and facilitate the use of standards as the basis for the development of technical regulations;

- To provide standards and standards related information to the public;

- Do all such acts and things, or enter into all such transactions as are expedient or necessary for the proper and efficient discharge of the functions of SQCC.

Former politician Dr. Gabose unveils a new political association Barwaaqo

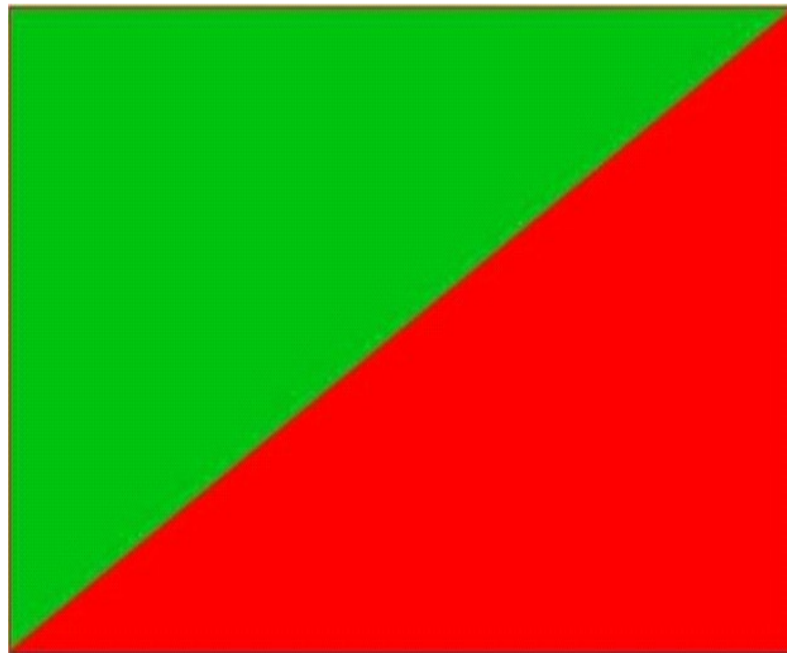
physician doctor has announced the formation of a political party.

Dr. Gaboose, who stated his departure from politics on April 4, 2021, said he had returned to politics due to circumstances, adding that public awareness had changed and that he was considering the public call.

He said, "Although I had previously announced my retirement from politics, my evaluation of the experiences of my people and my country, and the growing awareness of my community and the feelings of my people, made me return to the political arena."

Dr. Gabose announced that he, along with other scholars, had decided to unveil a new political association called Barwaaqo, and would soon officially launch it.

On Saturday 7th April, as he made the announcement, similar ones were made by the association's point-men across the country in all



major regional cities.

He said, "I and other scholars who are taking this opportunity, and we have been waiting for a long time, have decided to launch a new political party/association called Prosperity in the regions of the country separately."

Dr. Gabose, had previously launched two political associations, once during Dahir Rayale Kahin's administration opened a political party called SAHAN in 2002, which ran in the local elections, but not succeeded to become the three official national parties. He also launched the second in November 28, 2012 another political

University female student among Premier Bank startup competition winners

The Entrepreneurship Competition for Somaliland university students, which was launched five years ago by the premier bank, was participated by eleven universities this year, competing in 20 creative projects.

A well-organized event, attended by the winner students, various invited guests and officials from Premier Bank, has been participated by 11 Somaliland universities this year, and where 20 new business projects and ideas presented by graduating students were announced. Golis, Beder & Adal Medical universities have won the Entrepreneurship Competition.

Sahal Monitoring Fuel Consumption, the first place winner, received \$9,000, while the second place winner, Tayo Eye Care and Optical, won \$7,000, while the third place winner received \$5,000.

The students who succeeded in getting their business ventures funded by Premier Bank, including two girls, who expressed their feelings, all thanked for the opportunity.

Premier Bank Somaliland Chairman, Mr. Nuradin A. Elmi, speaking at the event, stated Premier Bank has always stood by the talented and creative young people, and is willing to make it easier for them to get funding for their innovations.

Mr. Nuradin said the innovation competition, which has been its fifth year in a row in Somaliland, has praised and exciting for the community at large, and received positive feedback.

Chairman of the Somaliland Banking Association, Mr. Khalif Nur, who praised the bank's investment, suggested the need to educate our children in schools financial literacy, entrepreneurship and saving culture.

Speaking on the occasion, Somaliland Central Bank Governor Eng Ali Abdillahi Dahir said that Premier Bank's investment deserves to be a national program, and he promised to play a role next year.

Minister of Investment and Industry Hon. Abdillahi Are, in a speech,

congratulated Premier Bank for organizing and funding the creative competition. He promised to work with the bank's management to expand it.

Vice President H.E. Abdirahman Abdilahi Sayli'i, who officially concluded the Somaliland Students Entrepreneurship Competition sponsored by Premier Bank, congratulates Premier Bank for organizing this program and for the three successful innovators. H.E. Sayli'i suggested expanding the creative program, and maintaining it.

At the end of April, Premier Bank held a similar competition in Somalia, where 12 students from 10 universities participated and top three winners were awarded (\$9,000, \$7,000 & \$5,000) dollar respectively.

Premier Bank has not only received much praise from innovator students and participating leaders led by the Vice President, but also from the Somaliland community at home and abroad and the Somali people and the world at large.

Muhoozi Sharpens Focus on Youth



"We shall continue engaging on all fronts, with all those that matter, to ensure that there is more investment in quality health care and education, sports, arts and culture, tourism, Small and Medium Enterprises, ICT, so that we have greater economic opportunities for our young people," said Muhoozi on Saturday night.

He was speaking during his main birthday celebrations at Entebbe Cricket Grounds.

"We should never let our young people stay idle, for we know an idle mind is the devil's workshop," said Muhoozi.

The presidential hopeful has since sharpened his focus on the youth's concerns, saying it's the most powerful force in Uganda today.

Uganda has the world's youngest population with over 78 percent of its population below the age of 30.

With just under eight million youth aged 15-30, the country also has one of the highest youth unemployment rates in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Muhoozi recently called for the rehabilitation of football stadiums, saying sports and entertainment could be harnessed to create jobs for the youth.

Muhoozi said it was an honour "to be with you here today, as you join me to thank the millions of young Ugandans and East Africans, who have given a whole new life and meaning to what began as a simple call to celebrate my 48th birthday."

He also quoted the famous Nigerian Author Chinua Achebe who said, "When we gather together in the moonlit village ground it is not because of the moon. Every man can see it in his own compound. We come together because it is good for kinsmen to do so."

Muhoozi, who addressed a gathering of over 5,000 people, said he didn't invite people because they couldn't have a bite or drink in "your

own homes but rather that we congregate because we are kinsmen and women, united by a strong bond of common purpose and belief."

He said his idea was that like-minded young people would use the occasion to fraternise, celebrate the gains made despite the challenges of the pandemic and importantly reflect on what role and contribution they could make in the advancement of the people, country and continent.

"I must say that what has followed has been an immense outpouring of love, solidarity but importantly hope, for our people and country. From Bushenyi to Mbarara, from Fort Portal to Kitgum, from Mbale to Karamoja, I have seen thousands of young people using the # mantra to organise not just social activities but also cause discussion on what more we can do to make our great motherland even greater," he added. "It is this unexpected wave that has humbled me immensely. That a simple birthday celebration has offered an entry into wide and varied discussions—but importantly those where our young people reflect on their critical role in nation building." Muhoozi said the birthday parties attracting people from all walks of life "symbolize our unity as a nation and unshakeable determination to achieve a prosperous future together."

"Besides unity, hope and optimism, the other thread that emerges from these celebrations has been the appreciation of the role that men in uniform have played to ensure our country and region remains safe and secure," he added.

The event was attended by hundreds of lawmakers, chief executives, politicians and youth representatives from across Uganda among others.

Several public functions have been held in different parts of Uganda to celebrate Muhoozi's 48th birthday.

SOMALILAND's first modern Archeology Bill completed

with the Horn Heritage Organization has jointly drafted the Somaliland Archeology draft act. According to Hayaanews.com, the draft which will be submitted to House of Representatives, once passed by the cabinet and approved, will help protect and preserve Somaliland's rich archeological heritage.

The unveiling ceremony of the Somaliland Heritage Act-to-be bill draft prepared by the Horn Heritage Organization was held at the Ministry's headquarters on Thursday, May 4, 2022 in Hargeisa.

The head of the Horn Heritage Organization, Dr. Sada Mire said she was pleased to have handed over the complete draft of the Archeology Bill to the Ministry of Trade and Tourism and said, in collaboration with the Somaliland Ministry of Trade and Tourism, "today (Thursday 5th April) we are handing over the complete draft law on archeology. We have collaborated with experts in the field of law and the preservation of the history and culture of Africa and the Islamic world".

This is the first time Somaliland archeology law on the cultural heritage of the ancient artefacts of Somaliland has been drafted. This law is in line with international archeologies laws, and fortunately, Somaliland succeeded to draft this law, while many great countries that have much knowledge and resources not yet enacted, like, UK did not even have a law in this regard, Sada Mire added.



Mustafe Mohamed Dahir, a lawyer at the Somaliland Ministry of Trade and Tourism, said, who spoke at the handover ceremony stated that this law provides for legal action to be taken against those who violate the archeology of the country, and provides the procedure for preserving it, the manner of how to be recorded, as well as how to be stored.

Chairman of the Natural Resources Subcommittee of the House of Representatives of Somaliland Hon. Mubarik Muse Ismail "Dalaal" thanked the Horn Heritage Foundation and the Somaliland Ministry of Trade and Tourism for drafting the Somaliland Archaeological Draft Law, which he will work on how to pass in the parliament, once transferred from the government.

Ayaanle Abdirahman Ibrahim, Director of the Archeology Department of the Ministry of Trade and Tourism of Somaliland, thanked the Head of the Horn

Heritage Organization, Dr. Sada Mire, and said he hope that this law will be passed by the Somaliland House of Representatives and the Council of Ministers for it is a law of great national importance.

The Director General of the Somaliland Ministry of Trade and Tourism, Hamse Hamud Guled, said they would work on how to make this archeological draft bill become official enacted law.

Horn Heritage and the members of House of Representatives who were present at the hand-over ceremony highlighted the importance of the draft, and pledged to work jointly.

The Horn Heritage Organization has launched the Digitalized Museum, which aims to collect and preserve archeology, culture, skills, arithmetic, and technology invented by the people of the Horn Africa for centuries in a row.

This museum is a repository of the cultural heritage of the Horn of Africa (Somaliland, Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya and Djibouti).

Somalilanders' Quest for Independence Isn't 'Neocolonial' Plot. It's Self-Determination

Salon.com ran a piece recently warning that the American right is "waging a stealth, neocolonial assault on Somalia." The supposed "assault" is a growing campaign within the U.S. and elsewhere to recognize Somaliland's independence from Somalia.

The author, Mohamoud Gaidon, included as evidence a report that I wrote back in October.

Gaidon's piece is an opportunity to examine several common claims made by Somali irredentists opposed to Somaliland's independence. The first is the idea that foreigners—and, apparently even worse, American men—are trying to dismember Somalia:

Today, men in Washington—and they are once again almost all men—are working to decide the fate of Somalis ... [They are] hellbent on reordering Africa as they see fit. For them, Somalia is fair game, a guinea pig, something to be altered with the stroke of a pen.

The ubiquity of this argument doesn't make it any less specious. The truth is that the growing international movement to recognize Somaliland's independence exists only because of Somaliland's decades-old decision to separate itself from Somalia.

In 1960, Somaliland received independence from Great Britain, and then shortly after joined with Somalia, which had just received independence from Italy. Yet Somalilanders immediately expressed their regret:

- They rejected in a referendum the union and the associated constitution in 1961.

- Later that year, Somaliland officers launched an unsuccessful coup designed in part to reestablish Somaliland's independence.

- An armed rebellion against the dictator Mohamed Siad Barre erupted in Somaliland in the 1980s, eventually contributing to Barre's fall.

- Somaliland then declared independence again in May 1991 and has been functionally independent ever since.

It is Somalilanders, and no one else, who have split themselves from Somalia, just as the Eritreans did from Ethiopia in 1991, and the South Sudanese did from Sudan in 2019. I'm sure Gaidon didn't begrudge the Eritreans and South Sudanese their countries, or decry the U.S.' recognition of them as a "stealth, neocolonial assault."

Next up is Gaidon's notion that Somaliland's insufficiencies are disqualifying. The bill he refers to here is the bipartisan Somaliland Partnership Act:

Their bill paints a rosy picture of Somaliland and calls for much closer U.S. engagement with it. This bill relies on a combination of faulty and incomplete information. (The

Freedom House report cited above says that Somaliland 'has seen a consistent erosion of political rights and civic space,' with minority clans subject to 'political and economic marginalization' and a serious social problem of violence against women.)

Somaliland does indeed have democratic (and other) flaws, as I noted in my report. The U.S. must be clear-eyed about the problems and encourage Somaliland to tackle them.

Yet, it's a strange notion that because Somaliland has shortcomings, it should be forced to remain in a paper union with Somalia, a country so dysfunctional it was the most infamous failed state on the planet for two decades.

In fact, Freedom House in its latest 2022 report rates Somalia as "not free" with a score of 7 out of 100. That's the 12th-worst ranking in the world, inferior to basket cases like Yemen, Belarus, and Afghanistan, and tied with Saudi Arabia. (Somalia did eke out a narrow win over North Korea, however.)

Somaliland, meanwhile, was rated "partly free" with a score of 49. If Somaliland's insufficiencies disqualify it from independence, then Somalia has much less of a case for nationhood.

The final claim to examine is the central one of Gaidon's piece:

The persistent claim by the leaders of Somaliland that it is a de facto country in full control of its 'territory' is not true: The two communities through whose territory the presumed border of separation runs are staunchly against Somaliland's secession.

Without the consent of these two communities (the [Warsengali] and Dhulbahante tribes), Somaliland's secession cannot be a reality on the ground, as [Idaho Republican Sen. Jim Risch's] bill claims it already is. The fact that there are unionists concentrated in the Warsengali and Dhulbahante clans is not evidence that the Somaliland government lacks control of its territory—every country has groups that disagree with government policy. What matters is effective, on-the-ground authority.

Somaliland does have a border dispute with the Somali state of Puntland that, because of clan ties, claims parts of Somaliland's territory in which the Warsengali and Dhulbahante live. Both clans have in the past also fought with Somaliland for control of the area.

Yet the authority of Hargeisa, Somaliland's capital, over the region has grown steadily. Now, according to the scholar Michael Rubin of the American Enterprise Institute think tank, who recently traveled to parts of the contested area, it appears to extend all the way to the border that Somaliland claims. Somaliland also routinely conducts state

functions such as elections in the contested areas, where its currency is also widely accepted.

Puntland's claims also breach the standard for determining borders that African countries themselves set. The Organization of African Unity, the precursor to today's African Union, vowed in 1964 to recognize only those borders "existing on [member states'] achievement of national independence."

Somaliland claims the territory of the colonial-era British Protectorate, but Puntland wishes to ignore the decades-old African consensus on borders by insisting on new ones that did not exist during colonial times. Another of Gaidon's errors is that he presumes a unanimity of opposition to independence among the Warsengali and Dhulbahante, for which there is no evidence.

The sentiment is difficult to gauge, and the best data is 20 years old. Nonetheless, during Somaliland's 2001 referendum—which the international observer mission reported was overwhelmingly perceived by Somalilanders as a vote on independence, and which passed with 97% of the vote—the highest percentage of "no" votes in any region was only 16%. Voters who were opposed may have abstained from the vote, and turnout was indeed significantly lower in opposition areas, but it still registered at 35%, even in the most ardently unionist area of Somaliland.

Furthermore, clan elders in the contested regions have in the past reportedly contemplated switching their allegiance from Puntland to Somaliland, suggesting their affinity for their clan brethren in Puntland is not as ardent as some claim.

Finally, while Somaliland should do what it reasonably can to assuage unionist concerns, the reality of living in a democracy is that the groups that win elections—and multiple international observer missions have deemed Somaliland's vote credible—get to set a country's direction.

Until unionists prevail in a vote, it's not unfair that they are prevented from determining Hargeisa's policy on independence.

No matter what irredentists may claim, Somaliland is the only credible government authority within its borders. Those boundaries also comport with the standards for legitimate borders that African states established 60 years ago.

Furthermore, it is Somalilanders and no one else who began the movement for independence decades ago and constructed a government far more democratic and effective than the one in Mogadishu.

Reciting these facts is not a "neocolonial assault." It's a simple acknowledgment of reality

2nd Reimbursement of Traders destitute in the Waaheen Market Fire held



His Excellency the Vice President of the Republic of Somaliland, Abdirahman Abdullahi Ismail 'Zeyli'i', apportioned US\$ 6,766,418 to traders made destitute by the Waaheen market fire of Hargeisa on 1 April 2022.

This is the second round of re-reimbursements the government has supervised since the fire.

This time around 1,016 traders, whose loss ranged from US\$5001 to US\$480,000, have received the amounts distributed back to the people.

The Somaliland business community has pledged more than US\$8 million at one function making it the leading group or entity to call out substantive support to the most affected.

Taiwan pledged US\$500 000, whereas the EU committed US\$100 000 'emergency relief' to the effort.

Much more is expected to come as pledges are still pouring in from many quarters around the world, including Gulf states, the United Kingdom and many more.

An ad hoc committee overseeing the succor and rebuilding effort tentatively estimated the overall loss of the fire at US\$2 billion.

Collections and donations made until now are nowhere near the figure quoted, but reimbursing the bereaved traders a batch at a time is already showing signs of revival in the market.

President Musa Bihi Abdi handed out varying amounts of cash totalling US\$1,872,511 to 988 beneficiaries on April 17.

Somali tycoon Duale, others raise millions to rebuild burned-out market



Somali businessman Abdirashid Duale and other business leaders in the country have raised a total of \$8 million at a fast-breaking dinner hosted by President of Somaliland Muse Bihi Abdi.

The \$8 million fundraised by business leaders at the dinner, which was attended by executives from Dahabshiil, Telesom, Oomaar, MSG (Mohamed Aw Saeed Geeddi), Al Harbi, Shukri, Waraabe, Red Sea and Bahsane will be used to rebuild the country's burnt-out Waaheen market. This move comes nearly a week after a fire razed down shops and assets at Waaheen market, resulting in an estimated \$2 billion in economic losses, according to government estimates.

The capital commitment will be critical not only in rebuilding the market, but also in allowing businessmen and small business owners to reclaim their source of income and means of livelihood.

The businessmen also stated that it was critical that contributors consider the plight of the thousands whose livelihoods depended on the market, whether they were stall owners or employees, as well as the cumulative number of dependents who looked up to them for their livelihood, schooling, and health needs.

Duale, CEO of Dahabshiil Group, emphasized the importance of the amount committed to rebuilding the burned-out Waaheen market, stating that any amount committed to the reconstruction effort will have a cumulative impact on people across the country, helping them reclaim their source of income and means of livelihood.

Dahabshiil is an international money transfer company founded in 1970. The group owns 95-percent of Somtel, which offers a wide range of mobile phone and Internet services to regional customers.

Somtel, a renowned telecom and technology service provider with the most extensive network coverage in Somaliland, announced a strategic partnership with Telesom earlier this year, as the telecom service providers work to advance communication and connectivity in the region.

Taakulaynta Suuqa WAAHEEN



Lambarada Tabarucaadka Gurmada Suuqa Waaheen Waxaa loo kala qaybiyay laba qaybood oo kala ah.

1. Wixii QAADHAAN ah ee ka imanaya Dawladaha Caalamka waxay ku soo dirayaan Akoono ay maamulaan Guddida Heer Qaran ee Suuqa Waaheen oo ah.

BAANKA SOMALILAND ACCT

Dollar-ka: 1830

SHILING-ka: 1831

2. Wixii Tabarucaad ah ee ka imanaya Muwaadiniinta Reer Somaliland Guddo iyo Dibadba waxay ku soo hagaajinayaan Akoonada kala ah.

BAANKA SOMALILAND ACCT

DOLLAR 1832

SHILING 1833

DAHABSHIIL BANK: HRGD94390

E-DAHAB: 0657704919

SALAAMA BANK: 61111044

ZAAD SERVICE: 7661111

AMAL BANK: 1014441331

PREMIER BANK: 100700082001

WAHEEN Market Emergency Donations



Waaheen Market Emergency Donations are divided into two categories.

1. Any Contributions from International Governments shall be sent to the blow bank Account administered by the National Waheen Market Committee.

BAANKA SOMALILAND ACCT

Dollar-ka: 1830

SHILING-ka: 1831

2. Any donations from the citizens of Somaliland, both inside and outside the country, will be forwarded to the following accounts.

BAANKA SOMALILAND ACCT

DOLLAR 1832

SHILING 1833

DAHABSHIIL BANK: HRGD94390

E-DAHAB: 0657704919

SALAAMA BANK: 61111044

ZAAD SERVICE: 7661111

AMAL BANK: 1014441331

PREMIER BANK: 100700082001

Why you should know about Somalia's first-ever cheesemaker

At the age of 14, Samira Mohamed Abdirahman left Somalia in order to escape war in her country and to also start life afresh. She found a new home in Sweden where she stayed for more than 20 years.

With the seeming return of calm life in Somalia, Samira joined hundreds of Somalis in the diaspora to return home to contribute to nation-building. Upon return, she saw a country emerging from protracted conflict, a collapsed economy and the absence of thriving small businesses.

"There is a lot of negative publicity about the situation in Somalia. Many think it's all gloom and doom. My challenge to my country men in the diaspora is that let them take one week off, just to come and have a look around town. There are myriads of opportunities and only those who take the risks will make it big", she was quoted by The Somalia Investor.

She continued: "We know Somalia is broken and it needs fixing, everybody has a chance, however small to do their part in the long run the returns will be huge."

Focused and determined, Samira decided to try cheesemaking. She found limited access to cheese as they were imported. But before starting her business, she and her father attended apprenticeship in Sweden to become cheese artisans.



Samira subsequently started a cheese business with her father in Somalia, and she became the first cheesemaker in the troubled country. Her company, Samira Soomaal, became the only manufacturer of dairy products such as cheese, butter, and yoghurt in Somalia.

"Somaal means bring the milk from the animal, so when you bring milk [by] the hand it means Somaal. And I think the beginning of the name Somalia is coming from (the word) Somaal," she explained.

Samira said she sources milk from local farmers and has built a small production facility operating in Mogadishu.

She said she was looking at opening a second outlet in the Somali capital and other regions of the country following the success of her venture. The mother and businesswoman was also mulling exporting to Kenya.

Starting a cheese business and staying relevant is not easy. The beginning was challenging for Samira as she faced frequent blackouts and had to pay more for electricity. These challenges, Samira noted, ruined her efforts to produce in large scale and allow the consumers to benefit from the economies of scale.

"When I cannot produce in large scale it means the per unit cost is high. That means I have to pass on the cost to the consumers. But I am still glad that we have been able to build a robust consumer base which has been able to keep me in business," she said.

Getting qualified staff was another challenge she faced, in addition to importing literally all the machines she needed to start production.



Covid: World's true pandemic death toll nearly 15 million, says WHO



The Covid pandemic has caused the deaths of nearly 15 million people around the world, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates.

That is 13% more deaths than normally expected over two years. The WHO believes many countries undercounted the numbers who died from Covid - only 5.4 million were reported.

In India, there were 4.7 million Covid deaths, it says - 10 times the official figures - and almost a third of Covid deaths globally.

The Indian government has questioned the estimate, saying it has "concerns" about the methodology, but other studies have come to similar conclusions about the scale of deaths in the country.

The measure used by the WHO is called excess deaths - how many more people died than would normally be expected based on mortality in the same area before the pandemic hit. These calculations

also take into account deaths which were not directly because of Covid but instead caused by its knock-on effects, like people being unable to access hospitals for the care they needed. It also accounts for poor record-keeping in some regions, and sparse testing at the start of the crisis.

But the WHO said the majority of the extra 9.5 million deaths seen above the 5.4 million Covid deaths reported were thought to be direct deaths caused by the virus, rather than indirect deaths.

Speaking about the scale of the figures, Dr Samira Asma, from the WHO's data department, said "It's a tragedy.

"It's a staggering number and it's important for us to honour the lives that are lost, and we have to hold policymakers accountable," she said.

"If we don't count the dead, we will miss the opportunity to be better prepared for the next time."

Alongside India, countries with the

highest total excess deaths included Russia, Indonesia, USA, Brazil, Mexico and Peru, the WHO figures suggest. The numbers for Russia are three-and-a-half times the country's recorded deaths.

The report also looks at the rates of excess deaths relative to each country's population size. The UK's excess mortality rate - like America, Spain and Germany - was above the global average during 2020 and 2021.

Countries with low excess mortality rates included China, which is still pursuing a policy of "zero Covid" involving mass testing and quarantines, Australia, which imposed strict travel restrictions to keep the virus out of the country, Japan and Norway.

The academics who helped compile the report admit their estimates are more speculative for countries in sub-Saharan Africa, because there is little data on deaths in the region. There were no reliable statistics for 41 out of 54 countries in Africa.

Statistician Prof Jon Wakefield, from Seattle's University of Washington, helped the WHO and told the BBC: "We urgently need better data collection systems.

"It is a disgrace that people can be born and die - and we have no record of their passing.

"So we really need to invest in countries' registration systems so we can get accurate and timely data."

Hepatitis detected in nearly 300 children worldwide

Nearly 300 probable cases of children with severe hepatitis have been detected in 20 countries worldwide, with some in South East Asia, the World Health Organization (WHO) has said.

Health officials around the world are investigating a mysterious increase in cases of the liver condition which was first spotted in the UK.

A common virus called adenovirus, which has rebounded after the pandemic, could be causing the surge.

One death has been reported by the WHO.

As of 1 May, it said most cases of young children with hepatitis had been detected in Europe with small numbers also reported in the Americas, western Pacific and South East Asia.

The first cases of this unusual hepatitis were spotted in Scotland in children under the age of 10. More than 140 cases are now being investigated in the UK. Most UK children had a mild form of liver inflammation, although 10 children have needed a liver transplant.

They had initial symptoms of vomiting and diarrhoea followed by yellowing of the skin or whites of the eyes, called jaundice.

The hepatitis viruses that normally cause the condition (viruses A, B, C, D and E) were not detected in any of the children. Countries worldwide started looking for the unexplained liver condition 'of unknown origin' in children after it was highlighted by UK health officials.

There is no reason to believe the rare condition itself is spreading around the world.

Higher levels than normal

The WHO says it's not yet clear if there has been an increase in hepatitis cases, or an increase in awareness of the condition which would normally go undetected.

Scientists believe that a common virus which has rebounded since the pandemic could be playing a role. It has been circulating at much higher levels than normal recently.

Adenovirus was the most common

pathogen detected in about three-quarters of the UK children with confirmed hepatitis who were tested.

And a particular type of adenovirus, called F41, was found in many of those samples after testing.

The same adenovirus is also reported to have been found in nine children with hepatitis in the United States.

UK health officials believe young children, who were not exposed to common viruses during the Covid pandemic because of reduced social mixing, are now being infected when they have no previous protection.

There are 50 different types of adenovirus and they generally cause colds, and sometimes sickness and diarrhoea. They rarely cause hepatitis in healthy children.

Health experts are also investigating other causes, such as the emergence of a new strain of adenovirus, a previous Covid infection or both occurring at the same time.

"While adenovirus is a possible hypothesis, investigations are ongoing for the causative agent," the WHO said.

Why India's real Covid toll may never be known

More than 4.7 million people in India - nearly 10 times higher than official records suggest - are thought to have died because of Covid-19, according to a new World Health Organization (WHO) report. India's government has rejected the figure, saying the methodology is flawed. Will we ever know how many Indians died in the pandemic? In November 2020, researchers at the World Mortality Dataset - a global repository that provides updated data on deaths from all causes - asked authorities in India to provide information.

"These are not available," India's main statistical office told the researchers, according to Ariel Karlinsky, a scientist who co-created the dataset and is a member of an advisory group set up by the WHO for its estimates of excess deaths caused by Covid globally during 2020 and 2021.

Excess deaths are a simple measure of how many more people are dying than expected compared with previous years. Although it is difficult to say how many of these deaths were due to Covid, they can be considered a measure of the scale and toll of the pandemic.

India has officially recorded more than half a million deaths due to the novel coronavirus until now. It reported 481,000 Covid deaths between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2021, but the WHO's estimates put the figure at nearly 10 times as many. They suggest India accounts for almost a third of Covid deaths globally.

So India is among the 20 countries - representing approximately 50% of the global population - that account for over 80% of the estimated global excess mortality for this period. Almost half of the deaths that until now had not been counted globally were in India.

Its absence from global databases such as the World Mortality Dataset means that the only national numbers the country has are model-based estimates of all-cause excess deaths. (These models have looked at state-level civil registration data, a global burden of disease study, mortality reported by an independent private polling agency, and other Covid-related parameters.)

Earlier this week, the government released civil registration data showing 8.1 million deaths in 2020, a 6% rise over the previous year. Officials played it down, saying all the 474,806 excess deaths could not be attributed to Covid. According to official records, some 149,000 people died of Covid in India in 2020.

"Essentially, Indian death rates from Covid were not exceptionally low, only exceptionally undercounted," says Prabhat Jha, director of the Centre for Global Health Research in Toronto and a member of the expert working group supporting the WHO's excess death calculation.

Three large peer-reviewed studies had found that India's deaths from the pandemic by September 2021 were "six to seven times higher than reported officially". A paper in *The Lancet* by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), an independent global health research centre, uses subnational all-cause mortality data from 12 Indian states. They come close to the WHO's estimation.

India has consistently rubbished the unflattering independent modelling estimates which many say fly in the face of the government's triumphalist narrative of combating Covid. Authorities have described them as "fallacious, ill-informed and mischievous in nature", and alleged that the methodologies and sampling sizes were flawed. The likelihood of under-reporting was minimal, they said.

"I fear that by now even if [all] the data is available, the government would be hesitant to make it public as it conflicts with their published [death] figure and the narrative that India beat Covid due to various reasons," Mr Karlinsky says.

To be sure, many countries have struggled to provide proper death tolls during the pandemic. Victims were excluded because they were not tested for the virus, and death registration has been patchy and slow. Also all-cause deaths data is published with a significant lag even in many developed countries.

India trails behind countries such as the US and Russia, where vital death registration is complete and published regularly. Death data has been a "bit obscure" in China - the only country comparable in population size to India - but authorities there have released some annual data on all-cause deaths for 2020 and 2021, according to Mr Karlinsky. Like India, Pakistan shared no data, despite having "supposedly good registration".

It's not easy counting the dead in India.

About half the total deaths occur at home, especially in villages. Poor record-keeping means that out of 10 million deaths every year - based on demographic studies and estimated by the UN - seven million do not have a medically certified cause of death and three million fatalities are simply not registered. Women are undercounted and registration is especially low in the poorest states such as Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.