

The Horn Tribune

Vol III/ Issue 1458

Sunday 24 July 2022

25 Dul-Haj 1443 AH

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

Vice President Attends the Opening of 15th Hargeisa International Book Fair



Teenagers who are overwhelmingly interested in culture & writing have filled the center

Vice-president H E Abdirahman Abdillahi Ismael Sayli'i was the chief guest at this year's Hargeisa International Book Fair. The event held annually by Somaliland Cultural Centre brings together authors around the world to show-

case their work. Speaking at the Book Fair the vice-president said, "Today is a great day for us to come to participate in the 15 anniversary of Hargeisa International Book Fair". The VP congratulated the founder of Somaliland Cultural Centre Dr. Jama Musa Jama for his vision to

create this marvelous International platform for authors and cultural ambassadors. He said that the Director of the Cultural Centre had transformed it to what it is today, an international bonanza for authors. He praised Director Jama for

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15th HIBF: Linking Somaliland and the World with the beauty of literature and culture



The Chairman of the Hargeisa Cultural Center, Dr. Jama M. Jama, said that they are celebrating 15 years of great progress at HIBF. In a multi-prong speech by Dr. Jama at the opening of the Hargeisa International Book Fair yesterday, Jama's speech began;

"H.E. Vice President, the Mayor of the city of Hargeisa, members of the parliament, dear ministers, delegates and guests of the Hargeisa International Book Fair, representatives of the International Community, friends, ladies and gentlemen,

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The Government and Three National Parties held meetings with the Finnish envoy for peace in the Horn of Africa



The Vice President of the Republic of Somaliland, H.E. Abdirahman Abdilahi Ismail (Sayli'i), has received the Special Envoy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland in charge of peace in the Horn of Africa, MP Sultan Said

Ahmed, who came to visit the country. The meeting of H.E. Sayli'i and the Ambassador of Finland who flanked by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs

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Kulmiye states its Stance about Talks with the Opposition

Minister of Internal Security Hon. Mohamed Kaahin Ahmed who is also the vice chairman of the ruling party Kulmiye and other top party officials have



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The members of the public hail the government ban on the BBC as overdue



Mohamoud Walaaleye The community has welcomed the government's ban on the BBC, calling it a decision that was long overdue. The government last Tuesday suspended the operations of the

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Opposition parties oppose inclusivity within the nation, says Minister Koore

Mohamoud Walaaleye The Minister of Information, Culture and Awareness of the Republic of Somaliland, Hon. Suleiman Yusuf Ali Koore, said that the people who oppose the opening of political organizations do not want to see a Somaliland that is inclusive.



He said that they want to see "only three men from the same clan to be the leaders of the national parties, which is not inclusive, as communities of the edges are excluded". The Minister of Information has

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Seasonal Politician Mohamud Hashi establishes KAAH Political organization



Mohamoud Walaaleye In a well-organized event, members of the House of Representatives and 600 delegates from the six regions approved the name and symbol of the political organization KAAH. Politician Mohamud Hashi Abdi, who

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Somaliland calls for African solidarity through book fair



Somaliland is calling for African solidarity through the Hargeisa International Book Fair Celebrating its 15th anniversary of the famed Hargeisa Book fair with

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Minister of Environment meets FAO SWALIM Delegation



Mohamoud Walaaleye Minister of Environment and Climate Change Hon. Shukri H. Ismail Bandare

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Somaliland included in ILO Programme



Mr Ali Abdi BEM, stated Welsh Government are ready for the inclusion of

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Vice President Attends the Opening of 15th Hargeisa International Book Fair



promoting Somaliland internationally. Vice President said, "Hargeisa International Book Fair has made it possible for international friends of Somaliland to come to a visit the country. Many intellectuals have also come to share their experience and expertise." At the opening various government officials, Hargeisa Mayor and diplomats from England and Taiwan and Dahabshil made speeches that praised the 15th anniversary of HIBF, and called to take advantage of it. Teenagers who are overwhelmingly interested in culture & writing have filled the center, and anticipate attending during the six days.

15th HIBF: Linking Somaliland and the World with the beauty of literature and culture

Welcome to the 15th Anniversary of the Hargeisa International Book Fair. It is such an honour and pleasure to have you with us, for full six days of packed programming, readings, books, and for who came to Somaliland for the first time, a learning process and knowing this country, its people, the inspiration and the willingness of this youth; the love for art and togetherness.

It has been 15 years of revolution for culture of reading and writing, the crucial passage from an oral society to written culture, started in Hargeisa, the capital of the Republic of Somaliland, known as "The Mother of Modern Art", but spread to entire Horn of Africa and beyond.

15 years of connection between Somaliland and the rest of the world, where the youth of Somaliland, who - because of non-recognition and no recognize passport - confined in the territory, and cannot travel and visit other contemporary, finally found a window to see the rest of the world, the beauty of literature; the same window that allowed the rest of the world to know about Somaliland, to understand the inspiration of its youth, the will of its people, and fond desire to become a member of the international community. The spirit for peace, development, humanity, and tolerance.

15 years of invitation of 14 African countries, to connect each of them to Somaliland, and among them, to build pan-African ties through literature, to know each other, 15 years of discussing 15 different themes that reflect on the situation of this country and its own people, and allow its people to meditate and come up with solutions to the challenges of nature: what is culture if not learning from, developing, and shaping an answer to the fundamental questions that the nature asks the humanity; the collective reactions of the actions of the harsh nature of this world;



political natural and man-made injustice and conflicts; learning from the odd, raising from the ash, and building this beauty of Somaliland we are enjoying today.

15 years that we were building a home for art, a hub for culture, history, knowledge-production, getting together, older and young generation of our people, to exchange ideas and learn from the past, to develop and give home art for the young and brilliant minds of this nation. I want to remember Said Jama Hussein, a progressive scholar whose work and participation as a major pillar in this festival who recently passed away. May Allah reward for his deeds.

This year we have **Solidarity** as our theme of the year, and Senegal as our guest country.

We will talk about these two issues for the entire week, and I leave them for others to talk, but allow me to mention why we chose Solidarity. Our city recently has been challenged the most devastated fire at Waaheen Market. Our people reacted in solidarity with victims; the world reactive in solidarity with us; Solidarity can be simply defined as unity or agreement of feeling or action, especially among individuals with a common interest; mutual support within a group. It is social cohesion based upon the dependence that individuals have on each other in more advanced societies.

Droughts, COVID19, Droughts, Waaheen Market fire, again Droughts, and still this society

thriving and supporting its weak elements in solidarity. We need to talk the value, the positive values of this society.

On Senegal, we have many things in common, Somaliland is the eastern part of frontier towards the sea, gate for to Africa continental, and Senegal is the same in the Western part. We had common experience in terms of welcoming Islam and civilization to the continent. It is not only geographical similarities that link to the two countries and to the two people. We will know more about this during the week.

Hargeisa International Book Fair presents over 70 young men and women invited from all regions of Somaliland, also know Reading Clubs, over 25 international guests coming from 18 countries, launching around 49 new books, those who were lucky to get slot, and promoting over 100s and 100s of books in Somali and other languages, songs, traditional dances, two theatrical plays, music and other performances, for every age,

.... and this would not have been possible if not support of the historical friend of this festival. I want to thank the EU, members states of the European Union, the UK, supports local and international; business community in our country represented here by my friend Abdirashid, the CEO of Dahabshil Group who never fails to support us. Thank you.

The Government and Three National Parties held meetings with the Finnish envoy for peace in the Horn of Africa



and International Cooperation, Dr. Isse Keyd Mohamud and Livestock and Fisheries Development, Hon. Said Sulub Mohamed never provided any details on the issues they discussed.

The Finnish envoy has had a meeting with the leaders of the opposition parties and some of the civil society.

Chairman of WADDANI Party Hirsi Ali X. Hassan, who posted a message on his Twitter account, said, "We had a meeting with the special envoy of Finland in charge of peace and reconciliation in the Horn of Africa and MP Sultan Said Ahmed".

Mr. Hirsi added, "We have complimented on the achievements and addressed Somaliland's current Political crises."

Ruling party leaders held a meeting with the Special Envoy of Finland appointed to the Horn of Africa Region, His Excellency Sultan Said Ahmed.

Finland Peace envoy for the Horn MP Said stated that he is interested on behalf of the European Union to mediate in the dispute regarding the elections in in Somaliland.

For their part, the leaders of the KULMIYE party, who gave details on the issues of the Somaliland elections and the points of contention between the opposition parties, declared to the Finnish delegation that they are always ready for dialogue and anything to resolve the current conflict, stressing that the President The nation, the leader of the KULMIYE party, HE. Muse Bihi Abdi, has set the stage for dialogue with his brothers in the opposition before and after.

On the other hand, the representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland in charge of peace in the Horn of Africa, who was recently appointed, had meetings with the President of Djibouti Ismail Omar Gele and the deputy PM of Somalia.

Opposition parties oppose inclusivity within the nation, says Minister Koore



condemned the recent move by the Somaliland House of Representatives members that failed to approve two members from the marginal clans who were among the new members of the Somaliland Elections Commission. He said that it never happened during Somaliland's existence that the House of Representatives members to separate "central" clan members and other clans for rejection purposes.

The minister accused the

opposition parties who have the majority in the House of Representatives are "responsible for this, and it is clear that the opposition parties aren't for inclusivity as the government is".

"The people who oppose the opening of the political organizations, want three men from the same family to sit at a round table alone whereas the main goal of opening the political organization is to build an inclusive nation," said the minister.

Somaliland calls for African solidarity through book fair



the theme of solidarity, the self-declared independent country hopes to bring the continent together through culture, arts and creativity. The festival's country partner this year is Senegal and the theme is "Solidarity".

One of the key corporate partners for the book fair Dahabshiil Group of Companies said this year's theme of "Solidarity" will spur the book fair to another level.

Dahabshiil CEO Abdirashid Duale said the Hargeisa book fair has over the last 15 years exposed the region's creativity in arts and culture. "Over the last 15 years, the Hargeisa Book Fair has helped to open up business and investment avenues to the entire Horn of Africa," Duale said.

He said Dahabshiil will continue inspiring creativity to inspire the youth to take up arts as an opportunity to use their talent to build the African economy.

"Solidarity is also vital when it comes to culture and business. Our company has supported the book fair since day one – and now it's your 15th birthday," Duale said during the opening day of the weeklong book fair.

"Dahabshiil is passionate about creativity and the arts. They inspire us and all our customers to think out of the box, to think globally, act locally, and unite in solidarity to improve people's lives," he added. Duale said this week's naming for the second time of Senegal footballer Sadio Mane as African Player of the Year could not have come at a better time when the Hargeisa book fair has picked Senegal as its partner in the 2022 Hargeisa Book Fair.

"When I watch Senegal's football star Sadio Mane or our very own Olympic champion Mo Farah, I see how with Solidarity you can bring the local and the international together," he said.

Sadio Mane and Mo Farah inspire the youth in Africa and the Horn to work hard to build themselves, their image and that of Africa. As Dahabshiil we are proud of their

achievements and their contribution to Africa," he added.

"It's our core belief that it is the spirit of Solidarity that the public, international and private sector can work together to create common benefits, especially now during the worst drought in 40 years in the Horn of Africa and the fire tragedy three

months ago of the Waheen Market in Hargeisa that affected thousands of traders in Somaliland," he said. For Dahabshiil, he said, solidarity means everything is possible for all, including to all customers, women, minority groups, and people living with a disability.

"By giving them access to finance, we create jobs and opportunities for everybody in society. With Solidarity, everybody can win."

One of the festival's unique offerings is the "country focus" where those who attend get the opportunity to meet writers, poets, scholars, and other personalities from the featured country.

Some of the countries that have been honoured before are Ethiopia, Egypt, Rwanda, Ghana, Nigeria, and Kenya.

For 2022, the country focus is West African nation Senegal, which is known as one of the leading literary powerhouses in that part of the continent.

The members of the public hail the government ban on the BBC as overdue

British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in the country, accusing the broadcaster of undermining the credibility of the Somaliland nationhood.

Information Minister Hon. Suleiman Yusuf Ali Kore told a press conference in Hargeisa that, "the BBC failed to recognize Somaliland as a democratic country that has stood on its feet for 30 years."

"Starting from today, I have commanded all functions related to BBC in Somaliland to be suspended," he said.

Minister Kore said that it is

unfortunate that the BBC Somali radio station which was initially established for the Somaliland Protectorate community has in recent years diminished its neutrality, in the manner they air Somaliland news;

"The ears of the Somaliland people do not deserve the statements which the BBC uses to describe Somaliland."

SLNTV conducted VOX-POP where most of the citizens of the different regions of the country all hailed the government's decision to ban BBC Somali.

Seasonal Politician Mohamud Hashi establishes KAAH Political organization

was one of the founders of KAAH, members of the House of Representatives and former politicians who held various positions in different governments were among the founders.

Members of the House of Representatives who were part of the founders of the Kaah Political Association said that they are predicting KAAH association make changes in the political arena of the country.

The politician Mahmoud Hashi Abdi who spoke at the event said that citizens have the right to organize themselves and he added,

"I was one of the people who wanted to succeed the KULMIYE helmanship, but it has become impossible to fulfill the desire".

KAAH organization will not be



attributed to certain clans but it will belong to the Somaliland nation.

The delegation that attended the meeting elected politician Mahmoud Hashi Abdi as the temporary chairman of the KAAH association, while Abdilah Ibrahim Habane was elected as the vice chairman.

Kulmiye states its Stance about Talks with the Opposition



confirmed the government position pertaining the upcoming presidential elections.

Speaking to journalists at the ruling party headquarters in Hargeisa the minister revealed the how the talks between the opposition parties and the government progressed through the stages.

He confirmed that the president H.E. Musa Bihi Abdi had tried all in his arsenal to make the dialogue a successful outcome. However, he said that the two opposition parties Wadani and UCID had derailed the government's efforts.

Minister Mohamed Kaahin added that the government will continue to engage the opposition to make sure the talks bears fruits.

He said that the opposition were trying to disrupt the talks with impromptu plans to create misunderstandings and further derail the talks.

The Interior Minister informed the press about opposition National Party (Wadani) have requested for a clandestine meeting with the President excluding the Welfare and Justice Party UCID.

He stated that during the duration of the meeting with the opposition the ruling party Kulmiye had put much emphasis to guarding the country's constitution. He went further to say that no one will interfere with the current national political parties and the elections of new political organization that will participate in the election of three new national political parties, as allowed by our laws.

"The law clearly state the procedures and process of creation of new political organizations that will later become national political parties. In the 2012 when the ruling party Kulmiye was a national party no one stopped the opposition party Wadani from ascending to form a new national political party. Today we shall not accept those opposing the new political organizations from competing in the elections to form new political parties", said minister Mohamed Kaahin.

The minister refuted the opposition

ploy not to accept the supreme court ruling about the holding of the elections.

He said "An elections case that was assigned to the supreme court on 26 February 2005, whereby the former president Rayale was forced to seek the courts ruling to hold parliamentary elections following a legal tussle with politicians. The courts ordered the holding of the House of Representatives elections."

He accused the opposition parties of disrespecting the two speakers of both the parliament and senate respectively.

Minister Mohamed Kaahin stated, "These two chairmen of House of Representatives and Guurti are people of integrity and status hence the opposition parties politicians allegations that they are bidding for the president is unacceptable."

Minister Kahin said the two speakers had put a lot of efforts and expertise to make the dialogue fruitful however the opposition have thwarted their mediation on the elections with cheap propaganda and malice.

The minister warned the opposition against side stepping the laws of the land. He revealed that the opposition parties had called for civil disobedience during the public demonstrations. They had even formed tribal militias to undermine the country's peace and stability.

He went on to say, "It is very sad that the opposition parties have now become a law unto themselves for they have even created a parallel security apparatus with tribal inclination to reign havoc on Somaliland security."

Internal Security minister confirmed that the government was ready to continue with the talks and reach consensus with the opposition parties.

The minister spoke following the collapse of talks between the opposition and the government about the formation and registrations of new political parties and the scheduling of the presidential election.

Civil Service Institute Scoops Top Slot in State Institutions Ranking

The Executive Director of the Civil Service Institute Mr. Omar Eid Qaloonbi revealed that the Civil Service Commission in conjunction with the Civil Service Institute will this year sponsor civil servants in Ethiopian universities, and the examination for candidates for 15 second-level positions was conducted yesterday. The executive director confirmed receiving a report from the Somaliland commission for higher education. Civil Service Institute

was ranked the top state university in Somaliland after an assessment evaluation.

Speaking about the assessment report of the higher education board Mr. Omar confirmed the criteria of evaluation.

He stated the commission evaluated the system of enrollment of new students, standards of the curriculum of education, the system of evaluation of educational staff, research facilities and facilitation and implementation of the

ministry of education policy of tertiary institutions.

The Director thanked the employees of Civil Service Institute for their in-put in raising the standards of the institution to the next level.

He also thanked the President H.E Musa Bihi Abdi for giving him the opportunity to serve the country.

Director Omar reiterated that the Civil Service Institute the main mission is to uplift the knowledge of civil servants to meet the highest standards.

Ghana confirms first cases of deadly Marburg virus

Ghana has confirmed its first two cases of the deadly Marburg virus, a highly infectious disease in the same family as the virus that causes Ebola.

It says both patients died recently in hospital in the southern Ashanti region.

Their samples came back positive earlier this month and have now been verified by a laboratory in Senegal. Health officials in the West African nation say 98 people are now under quarantine as suspected contact cases.

These include relatives, medics and mortuary workers who came into contact with the two patients.



This is the second time that Marburg has been identified in West Africa. **There was one confirmed case in Guinea last year**, but that outbreak was declared over in September, five weeks after the case was discovered. The World Health Organization (WHO), which is supporting Ghana's health authorities, has praised the country's swift response.

"This is good because without immediate and decisive action, Marburg can easily get out of hand," said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, the WHO's Africa director.

"There's a whole multi-disciplinary team in the field trying to ensure that we are able to unearth the real source of this," Dr Patrick Kumah-Aboagye, the head of Ghana's health service told BBC Focus on Africa radio.

Contact tracing and strict infection control measures have been introduced to prevent more fatalities.

Teams are also going into communities to make them aware of the symptoms and to ensure they alert health authorities if any suspected cases emerge.

No treatment yet exists for Marburg - but doctors say drinking plenty of water and treating specific symptoms **improves a patient's chances of survival**.

The virus is transmitted to people from fruit bats and spreads between humans through the transmission of bodily fluids.

Those at highest risk of getting infected include family members and hospital staff caring for someone who is sick.

It is a severe, often fatal illness with symptoms including headache, fever, muscle pains, vomiting blood and bleeding.

Ghanaian officials are warning people to keep away from caves and to thoroughly cook all meat products before eating them.

Beyond West Africa, previous outbreaks and sporadic cases have been reported in Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, South Africa and Uganda, the WHO says.

The virus killed more than 200 people in Angola in 2005, the deadliest outbreak on record according to the global health body.

The first ever Marburg outbreak was in Germany in 1967 where seven people died.

Minister of Environment meets FAO SWALIM Delegation



received a delegation from FAO SWALIM in the office.

The meeting between the Minister of Environment and the delegation is said to have discussed Inter-ministerial Information Management Centre (ILWRM) project and related matters.

Ugo Leonardi, Technical adviser, SWALIM, speaking about the

meeting, said in a message on his Twitter, "SWALIM team had a productive meeting with HE Shukri H. Ismail Bandare, Somaliland Minister of the Environment and Climate Change.

We discussed about the future of ILWRM project funded by EU Somalia and she renewed her will to give all the necessary support to

FAO Somalia

24 June, 2019 EU, FAO and Somaliland government launch a new initiative to improve land and water management. The event was graced by the EU Charge d'Affairs Dr. Hjordis D'Agostino Ogendo and representatives of the Ministries of Planning, Agriculture and Environment, Livestock, Water and the Agency for Disaster Management as well as other Somali and International partners and stakeholders.

The ILWRM Project will strengthen the capacity of all responsible Government institutions creating an Inter-ministerial Information Management Centre able to provide all the information and services required to design strategies, plans and infrastructures to improve access to water and sustainable use of land resources, especially for rural communities.

Somaliland included in ILO Programme

Somaliland in their International Learning Opportunities programme.

Mr Abdi, who has been a member of the Welsh Somaliland Diaspora has arrived in Hargeisa, Somaliland on a scoping visit to explore the possibility of the ILO Programme sending Qualified and Experienced Diaspora Volunteers to work for up to 8 weeks in the Republic of Somaliland.

During 2 weeks visit to Somaliland, he is working to scope out outplacement opportunities for Qualified and Skilled members of the Somaliland Diaspora to be placed with institutions in Hargeisa and plans to visit both Government and Non-Governmental Organisations.

The successful ILO Participants will be working on projects which help to deliver the UN Sustainable Development Goals. They will also be developing their leadership skills. The ILO programme is designed to

stretch participants. It is an immersive experience which will take individuals out of their comfort zone. The skills and understanding that the programme provides can be invaluable. Invaluable to participants, to organisations in Somaliland and to Wales.

The Welsh Government reported that since 2007 nearly 200 participants have experienced living and working in an African country as part of the ILO Programme. Participants have returned with new found insights into adapting and working with limited resources. This has strengthened their skills as a leader - to improve what is delivered for the people of Wales in challenging times.

Ministry of Parliamentary Relations and Constitutional Affairs who facilitated his itinerary stated really keen to support the Diaspora Volunteers from Wales with their placements in our institutions. We

wish Mr Ali Abdi all the success during his scoping visit and will ensure we meet a cross-section of organisations taking action on SDGs and capacity-building activities in Somaliland."

Mr Ali Abdi, who thanked for the welcome said, first of all I want to thank everyone that has helped to facilitate the visit and make it a smooth process. We already know that Somaliland and Wales have a strong relationship lasting over 150 years and in Wales, there are 10,000 members of our community and among us are Doctors, Nurses, Lawyers, Professors and lots of other expertise all ready to contribute to the development of Somaliland. The ILO programme with the Welsh Government allows us to do just that and place this expertise in places where they are needed the most. It has so far been really well received and I am now looking forward to the possibility of seeing these placements come into fruition."

What is the Marburg virus and how can it be avoided?

Two people in Ghana have died from the Marburg virus - and 98 been quarantined - raising fears of a mass outbreak.

The highly infectious disease causes fever, muscle pains, diarrhoea, vomiting and, in some cases, death through extreme blood loss.

Hundreds of people have died from the virus in the past, mostly in Africa.

What is the Marburg virus?

A cousin of the equally deadly Ebola virus, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), **the Marburg virus** was first identified after 31 people were infected and seven died in simultaneous outbreaks in 1967 in:

- Marburg and Frankfurt, Germany
- Belgrade, Serbia

The outbreak was traced to African green monkeys imported from Uganda. But the virus has since been linked to other animals. Among humans, it is spread mostly by people who have spent long periods in caves and mines populated by bats.

This is Ghana's first outbreak - but a number of African countries have had previously had cases, including:

- the Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Kenya
- South Africa
- Uganda
- Zimbabwe

A 2005 outbreak in Angola killed more than 300 people.

But in Europe, only one person has died in the past 40 years - and one in the US, after returning from expeditions to caves in Uganda.

HIBF 2022 6 Days Program: Hargeysa Cultural Centre

The 15th year anniversary of the annual Hargeysa International Book Fair will be held from the 23rd to 28th of July, in Hargeysa, Somaliland. The theme of the year is **Solidarity** and the guest country is **Senegal**. Our previous themes have included coexistence, Wisdom, Connectivity, Freedom, Censorship, Citizenship, Collective memory, Visualization the future, Journey, Imagination, Spaces and Leadership, Creativity and Neighbourhood. Over the years we have welcomed Nigeria, Ghana, Malawi, Djibouti, Kenya, South Africa, Rwanda, Egypt and the last Guest country was Ethiopia in 2021.

Solidarity: The Theme of the Year (2022)

Solidarity can be simply defined as unity or agreement of feeling or action, especially among individuals with a common interest; mutual support within a group. It is social cohesion based upon the dependence that individuals have on each other in more advanced societies. Although individuals perform different tasks and often have different values and interests, order and the very solidarity of society depend on their reliance on each other to perform their specified tasks. What happened, is happening this year: Droughts, COVID19, Droughts again, Waaheen market fire, and the reaction of our people is the pertinent definition of the theme "Solidarity". Ancient philosophers such as Socrates and Aristotle discuss solidarity as a virtue ethics framework because in order to live a good life one must perform actions and behave in a way that is in solidarity with the community. All the human struggles and effective changes that had to follow the resistance are the results of solidarity. The Pan-Africanism we advocate and stand by came as a result of the solidarity among our forefathers who said enough for the oppression and deprivation of the right for human dignity. It is based on these and many more past and present human calamities the world is facing we chose the theme of this year to be solidarity in a spirit of togetherness.

Senegal: This Year's Guest Country We have been celebrating different nations with valuable connection to Somaliland. This year our guest country is Senegal. Having Senegal this year is based on two fundamental reasons. To start with, Senegal was one of the leading nations in the pan-African movement especially in the western Africa, leading the resistance against the French colonial mission and assimilation policies. The nation's first president, Léopold Sédar Senghor, who led the independence movements and was a major proponent of the concept of 'Negritude' is one of the early intellectuals who capitalized on the importance of art and culture for identity and resistance movements. Somaliland has been and still is a champion for Pan-African values and independence from any form of power imposition. This also goes in line with our theme of the year which is Solidarity as all the paths Senegal and Somaliland as a nation and Africa as a continent went through for independence.

The second reason is of the fight for human dignity and independence through the channelling of art and culture as a voice for social justice. Somaliland's nation-building and peace development were facilitated by critical voices that have come through the great poets and literary critics such as Hadraawi, the Somali Shakespeare. This also resonates with the poetic writings of Senghor who has managed to mobilize not only

Senegalese but the wider western African nations for independence and social changes.

Senegal has always been a leader in the continent in many fronts, particularly with regard to arts, literary production, and cinema. Famous filmmakers such as Ousmane Sembène who was well-known as the "father of African film" and Djibril Diop Mambéty and many more all hailed from Senegal. This country also produced one of the leading scholars in Africa, Cheikh Anta Diop, who studied the human race's origins and pre-colonial African culture and challenged western scientific research and developed the notion of race in Africa. Similar to Somali Islamic Sufi traditions, women were a visible and integral part of the study of Islam; prominent names include Mame Asta who was an expert in Maliki Fiqh or jurisprudence and had her own madrassas and Shaykha Muslimatou Mbacke. All this combined not only makes Senegal the perfect guest of HIBF2022 but it was given to the chance to the young Somalilanders of how rich and important this country is.

HIBF 2022 Program: Hargeysa Cultural Centre

22nd of July – 19:00

Dinner reception for guests

Day One: Saturday, 23rd July 2022

MC Sahra Abdi Hassan

09.00-09.15: Opening session: **chaired by Dr. Jama Musse Jama**

[National Anthem | Welcome message]

09:15-10:15 Welcoming Remarks

H.E. Abdikarim Ahmed Mooge, Mayor of Hargeysa City

Ms. Yusur Abraar Friend of the Hargeysa International Book Fair

Government representative of the Republic of Somaliland

Ministry of Foreign Affairs: The Minister, **H.E Dr. Esse Kayd**

Ambassadorial delegation (only two will speak)

EU, Taiwan, British Office, Germany, French, Denmark, Swiss, Ethiopia, Kenya, Djibouti, Turkey, Czech Republic. A word from Somaliland based institutions and business who supported the Book Fair.

10:15-11:00 Theme of the Year: Solidarity by Said Salah Ahmed

The theme of the year "**Solidarity/Wadajir**" will be presented from a philosophical. The linguistic and contextual meaning of it in light of the 15th Hargeysa International Book Fair.

Said Salah Ahmed is a long-standing teacher, playwright, film director, and writer of several

Books. Said Salah is a renowned poet whose lyrics have been translated into different languages.

11: 00-30 Official opening

Vice President of Somaliland Republic HE. Abdirahman Abdallahi Ismail Saylici

[Break – media meeting]

Opening of the Waaheen Market Exhibition

The Waaheen market fire is one of the major catastrophes that happened in Somaliland in recent years. It has devastated the country with a loss estimated of 2 billion Dollars. No human life was lost at the incident but the socio-economic and trauma the community has to deal with is huge. It is in cognizant of this devastation HCC set an exhibition tribute titled "**Solidarity**" portraying pictures taken of the site and material displays collected from the fire site. The exhibition will remain open for a month



starting the book fair week.

11:30-12:30: Panel 1. Who is Said Jama Hussien? Said Hussien Jama's Tribute

A few months ago, we lost one of the greatest Somali literary giants, Said Jama Hussein. He was called the King of Short Stories and also a leading figure in translations. For the HIBF family, he was beyond an artist, he was a leading trainer for the Creative writing courses we provide before the book fair. He was an advisor, great scholar, mentor, and true friend. This panel hence will do a tribute to his life and his literary contribution through the conversation of his friends and lifetime colleagues.

Said Salah is a long-standing teacher, playwright, film director, and writer of several books, Said Salah is a renowned poet whose lyrics have been translated into different languages.

Sh. Mohamud Sh. Dalmar is a long-serving media personality, religious scholar, and author of 'Irdho'.

Ibrahim Jama "Rayte" is a former parliamentarian a good friend of Said Jama Hussien.

Amb. Ayan Mohamoud, MBE is a former ambassador of Somaliland to the UK and a close friend and family to Said Jama Hussien.

12.30-13.00 Music & Traditional Dance, Art Galleries /photography, and Book browsing

16.30-17.00: Book Launch "Cries in the Hinterland" by Abdirazak M. Warfa (PhD)

Dr. Abdirazak Mohamed Warfa, author of 'Cries in the Hinterland: Untold Stories of the Somali Region in Ethiopia, 1948-2018' is a Minnesota-based author and professor of biological sciences at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, MN. Abdi has a long interest in understanding the history and politics of the region. He and his family frequently travel back to the Horn and call the Somali Region and Hargeisa in Somaliland home away from home.

Chaired by: TBA

17:00-18:00 Panel 2: Drought Resilience and Disasters Management

The region of the Horn of Africa is yet again at the brink of another famine due to the recurrent drought affecting the communities in the region. Currently, around 9 million people in the region are facing situations of acute food shortages and famine. Somaliland is one of the nations that is faced with a huge catastrophe and has already experienced water shortage and food insecurity which is causing communities to migrate, with significant losses to both humans and livestock. This panel will discuss the risks facing the communities and the wider region, as well emerging activities and initiatives tackling climate change in Africa, and what has to be done as a priority to address this catastrophe.

Panelists:

Dr. Emmanuel Osuteye Urbanization and sustainable development researcher based at the Development Planning Unit (DPU), University College London.

Mohamed Abdi Mahamoud Director of the Institute of Pastoral and Agropastoral Development Studies (IPADS) of Jigjiga University.

Aden Ahmed Hasen Head of Department of Environmental Safety and Climate change.

Ms. Sacdiya Muse Director of PENHA Somaliland

Chaired by: Amb. Ayan Mohamoud, MBE

18:00 – 18.30: Panel 2. The Guest Country Panel

The guest country panel is a panel where the guest country is presented using the voices of citizens of the country. The panel will bring together representative artists and academicians to talk about Senegal. It will be a stage where the social, artistic, and cultural aspects of Senegal are presented in a conversational manner. Panelists:

Professeur Maguèye Kassé Specialist in Intercultural Studies, Art Critic (Former General Curator of the Biennale of Contemporary African Arts, Dak'Art 2008) Curator of exhibitions. Literary critic, specialized in the representation of African literature in Germany, and also in the literary and cinematographic work of Sembene Ousmane, the first African filmmaker. He is the President of the Association Sembene Ousmane, President of the Association Jazz Festival: Memory and Resilience, and President of the Dakar International Film Festival (RECIDAK). Fulbright Scholar 2012 Howard University Washington DC and studied the representation of Africans and African-Americans in Germany (during the 18th century, the National Socialism and the Contemporary periods) - Provided a lecture at the Library of congresses Washington DC.

Aichatou Dieng is a visual artist who graduated from the National School of Fine Arts. She has won several awards. individual exhibitions in Galleries and Museums. She is active in contemporary painting, engraving, drawing techniques, artist videos and installations; and all that is secondary trades of the building. Her recent project is Humanity.

Chaired by: Minister Dr. Esse Kayd Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Somaliland

19:00-21:00: In Conversation with the Author: Mr. Omar Ali Hassan (Serbia)

Fan Iyo Fannaan

Mr. Omar Ali Hassan is the department director of Somali Music and art of Astaan Tv a local Cable television network based in Mogadishu and Hargeisa and widely viewed across the Somali region. That provides entertainment content like



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music, sports, and entirely non-political issues. For the last ten years Mr. Omar has been focusing on Somali music researching and collection of whole information in music. He did paid visitation across the Somali region areas and did many rich interviews with a lot of veteran musicians. He is the author of the newly born book of FAN IYO FANNAAN (Art and artist) which has been archived in the most notable information of Somali music history.

Chaired By: Farax Dayaxweerar Day Two Sunday, 24th July 2022

08:15 – 08:45 Arts & Book Stalls - visiting

09.00-9:45 Panel 3: Senegal and Its Regional Role

This panel is the second part of the Guest country panel whereby we honour the role and contribution of the guest country to the region and the continent in general. The panelist will present the experience of the nation in relation to the aspiration of a culturally, socially, and politically stable country and neighbour in Western Africa and the wider continent.

Panelists: Professeur Maguèye Kassé Specialist in Intercultural Studies, Art Critic (Former General Curator of the Biennale of Contemporary African Arts, Dak'Art 2008) Curator of exhibitions. Literary critic, specialized in the representation of African literature in Germany, and also in the literary and cinematographic work of Sembene Ousmane, the first African filmmaker. He is the President of the Association Sembene Ousmane, President of the Association Jazz Festival: Memory and Resilience, President of the Dakar International Film Festival (RECIDAK). Fulbright Scholar 2012 Howard University Washington DC and studied the representation of Africans and African-Americans in Germany (during the 18th century, the National Socialism and the Contemporary periods) - Provided a lecture at the Library of congresses Washington DC.

Chaired by:

9:45-10:15: Meet the Authors: Mohamed Barud Ali and Said Shukri **Weerane** and **The Footsteps of Flag Mohamed Barud** is the Chairperson of the National Human Right Commission of Somaliland. He is a member of the courageous UFO group. His book 'Weerane' is a reflection of these experiences and SNM.

Said Shukri is a veteran SNM member and the Owner of the SNM memorial Museum in Somaliland called Saryan. His book 'the Foot Steps of Flag' is his memoir of the SNM days.

Chaired by: Dr Ali Yusuf is an author with PhD in Electrical Engineering. He holds more than seventy US and

Continued on page 6

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international patents. His latest book "Dhimbiishi Hlagan ka Bwiloowday" documents the life history of the "Dagaxtuur" stone-throwing students' movement which he was a member of.

10:15-11:00 panel 4: Women and new political parties' registration in Somaliland.

Political development in Somaliland usually is criticized for being male-centric leaving women off of the leadership space. Several attempts have not yet yield practical solutions for women inclusive politics. The current democratic juncture of opening the registration of new political parties and associations is yet hoped to be an opportunity for women. Hence, this panel intends to bring the discussion on how women intend to capitalize on this process.

Panelists

Suad Ibrahim is a leading women and gender inclusivity advocate. She was also one of the highly expected parliamentarian contenders who was nominated by her clan making her the first female nominated by her clan.

Suad Armiye is a former parliamentarian candidate from Saaxil region. She is also a businesswoman.

Ms. Sacdiya Muse was a parliamentary candidate from Sanaag region. She is the director of the PENHA Somaliland.

Chaired by: Guleid Ahmed Jama is a lawyer and founder of the Human Rights Center (HRC), a human rights watchdog organization in Somaliland

Break 10:45-11:00

11:15-12:00 panel 5: Indigenous knowledge

The critical conversations for the past 10 years involve reclaiming the knowledge production in the Global South and the advocacy for recognition of Indigenous knowledge as "scientific" knowledge. These conversations usually are framed in "decolonizing" frameworks. This panel hence will reflect on where the advocacy stands now and what efforts need capitalization to have the aspiration of methodological and academic acknowledgment for African-based initiatives.

Panelists

Prof. Sarah Agnela Simons is a self-motivated African Forensic Psychologist and Victimologist whose expertise extends to advocating recognition and a paradigm shift to applying untapped reservoirs of Indigenous African Knowledge to designing solutions that counter modern challenges in the areas of health, nutrition, conflict prevention and resolution for sustainable peace.

Dr. Idris Y. Elmi is a senior former director of UNESCO Djibouti office. His area of expertise is on indigenous knowledge management.

Chaired by: Tirsit Yetbarek Coordinator of the Academic Dialogue in Hargeysa at HCC.

12:00-12:30: Book Launch

Somaliland: A Brief Outlook on Tourism presented by **Muse Ibrahim Yusuf (Salaf)**

Deputy Minister Of Trade and Tourism
Chaired by: Ayanle Abdirahman Ibrahim, Director of Tourism (Archeology and Heritage Protection) at the Ministry of Trade and Tourism.

Lunch Break

16.30 – 17.15 panel 6: Urban Planning in the Horn of Africa

With the Rural-Urban migration being massive, cities are faced with ill-proportionate population distribution and issues of urban planning delays. The cities in Somaliland and even in the wider African context are not well visioned and

are a lot of the time in a demolishing and rebuilding mode of practice. Nevertheless, there are few promising Urban planning initiatives and collaborations. This panel hence will discuss the practice of urban planning in Somaliland and the lessons learned.

Panelists

Prof. Micheal Walls Director of the Development Planning Unit of the University of London.

Mayor Mohamed Amin, Mayor of Gabiley, has won a second term in the mayor's office of Gabiley.

Grace Lubaale, Programme Management Officer from the UN-Habitat Somalia Programme

Abdilaahi Abokor Minister of Transportation and Roads Development of Somaliland

Chaired by: Mustafa Khayre
17:15-17:45 Meet the Authors:

Ali Coomay is a historian and researcher, who specializes in Somali history and holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Hargeisa, Faculty of Journalism and Mass Communication. He has Authored Books including: Taariikhda Ururada Islaamka, Colaadihii Geeska, Halgamaagii Aqoonta, Waayotebiye, Xeeladaha Saxaafadda iyo Go'aan iyo Geesinimo. (Mahadhooyinkii SNM)

Professor Mohamed Saed Gees is a writer, political commentator and educator. He served in different ministerial portfolios under the Egal administration. He was the former executive director of Academy of Peace and Development and the author of the book Dharaaro Xusuustood: Gees & Gees

Mohamed Abdilaahi Dalmar is an author of several books as well as editor of many other books in Somali. Currently he is assistant culture and communication departments of The Academy for Peace and Development - Somaliland.

Chaired by: Abdinasir Ahmed Ibrahim

17:45-18:30: panel 7: Digital Democracy: communications technology for inclusion & division

Initially, many of us placed great store in the ability of social media and, more broadly, the internet, to 'democratise' and empower. In politics specifically, there was great hope through the 1990s that digital media would extend information and allow a heightened ability for all to participate in decision-making. That promise has, in some ways, been delivered, but alongside positive outcomes, there has also been a growing realization of a much darker reality in which social media platforms have proven toxic in the way they focus and reinforce uncritical dissent and so foster conspiracy theories and fake news. This session will consider some of the ways in which scale and context contribute, often simultaneously, to widely divergent outcomes from the digitization of the political arena.

Panelists

Prof. Michael Walls, Director of the Development Planning Unit of the University of London.

Ibrahim Mohamed Ismail Director of ICT Department at the Ministry of Trade and Tourism

Dr. Abdiweli Abdillahi Soufi Minister of Communication and Technology of Somaliland

Chaired by: Mustafa Adam the CEO of WADAAG Communications Consultancy Company

19:00-20:00 Book launch

Ahmed Abdi Hassan (Ahmed

Karaama), is an author; his book is focused on the works and the life of the great Somali artist, the late Hassan Qawdhan Yusuf Titled: Joogaha Maqan.

Abdiqani Abdillahi Aden is Somali scholar, and sociopolitical activist. He has an MA in International Relations and Diplomacy and two bachelor's degrees one in Islamic Studies from Gollis University and the other in Law from Inti International University, Malaysia. He is the author of the biography of **Abdirahman Ahmed Cali "Tuur"**

Chaired by: Abdihakiim Xikmaawi

20:00- 21:00: Poetry night with Cuud Adnan Qabyo-tire He is a poet, health educator and author based in Hargeisa. He is an advocate for social development, and came from Miyi.

Cumar Faray is a poet and one of the young literary stars in Hargeisa. He is also a story creator and singer.

Nasriin Hiddodhawra is a poet and an author, Journalist. She is also a social worker who often works on social issues, lives and works in Jigjiga, the Capital city of the Somali Region of Ethiopia.

Cabdixakiim Samawade He is a poet, literary creator, university student and social worker based in Hargeisa Somaliland.

Chaired by: Filsan Dhegjer

Day Three: Monday, 25th July 2022

08:15 – 08:45 Arts & Book Stalls

09:00-9:45 Panel 9: Global Powers and their Policy Towards Africa

Maxwell Webb is a New York based analyst and commentator, frequently writing on the Middle East and Horn of Africa, with a focus on unrecognized States. Academically, his interests revolve around ethno-nationalist definition conflict and proto-states and have conducted research on Somaliland Foreign Policy, Kurdistan, Catalan Secession and Similar cases.

Dr. Gordon Peake is an affiliate of the Center for Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Studies at Georgetown University, and the author of the award-winning Beloved Land: Stories, Struggles and Secrets from Timor-Leste. He is finalizing a manuscript recounting his time living and working in Bougainville.

Chaired by: Mohamed Abdullahi Duale the Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Somaliland. 09:45-10:15 Meet the authors:

Abdillahi Hassan who is a broadcast journalist, documentary filmmaker and Chevening scholar who is currently the deputy director of CBA TV. He is presenting the book "Dhaqaalihii Jamhuuriyadda Soomaaliyeed, 1960-1991" by **Muhumed M. Muhumed (Khadar)**, author and researcher of economics and politics and author of dozen books.

Kamaal Shaacir author of Dabinkii Lacagta "Translation".

Kamal is the translator of this book, *The Trap of Money*, and writes about literature, culture and economics, He holds a bachelor's degree in Islamic economics and a master's degree in project management.

Bashir Mohamed Bashir Author of "Saameynta Dhaqaalaha ee Corona Viruse". Bashir is the founder of ESAC, an expert on economic, social, political and regional issues in the Horn of Africa. Chaired by: **Abdulbasid Bashiir**

10:15-11:00 Panel 10: Waaheen Market fire and Its Social-Economic Impacts

One of the very devastating catastrophes that happened in Somaliland this year is the fire that burned down the Waaheen market, the biggest market of Somaliland. This has left many in destitute and national and regional support systems were solicited to address temporary and long-term impacts. This panel hence brings major stakeholders to shed light on what has taken place and where the initiatives stand today.

Panelists

yDr. Saad Ali Shire Ministry of Finance Development of Somaliland

Mr. Musse Salef Deputy Minister of Trade & Investment and member of Waaheen rebuilding committee

Sh. Abdirazak Albani Minister of Religion and Endowments and member of the Waaheen rebuilding committee

Chaired by: Muna Toosane

Break 11:00-11.15

11:15-12:00 Panel 11: The Geopolitics of the Horn and Berbera Corridor

Mega projects with cross-border community connection missions are the path the regional integration and economic development is envisioned for the Horn of Africa. The Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, the Red and Belt of Chana, the Lami corridor and the Berbera corridor are among the initiatives shaped in this vision. The geopolitics of the region accordingly follows these initiatives and this has brought several positive and also negotiated issues for the region. Hence, this panel will discuss the geopolitical role of the Berbera corridor.

Panelists:

Dr. Nasir Ali is the Director of the Peace and Conflict Studies of the Hargeysa University, Somaliland. His research area of interest includes the peace and security of the Red Sea region. (to be confirmed)

Dr. Smauel Tefera Alemu is an Assistant professor at the Center for African and Asian Studies, Addis Ababa University. He is a lead researcher on the Great Renaissance Dam of Ethiopia and regional integration issues.

Chaired by:

12:00-12:30 Book Launch of "The Country That Does Not Exist: A History of Somaliland"

by Prof. Gérard Prunier

Prof. Gérard Prunier is a renowned historian of contemporary Africa, author of, inter alia, the acclaimed *The Rwanda Crisis: History of a Genocide* and editor of *Understanding Contemporary Ethiopia*. He is also the writer of the famous article "**A Candid View of the Somali National Movement (1990)**".

Chaired by: Khadar Mariano who is a communications specialist and development worker currently based in Hargeisa. His interests include leadership, policymaking and good governance.

Lunch Break

16:30 -17:30: Panel on Translation

Translation has played a paramount role in knowledge sharing and exchange across the globe. Initiatives of creating a community that reads were able to be sustained not only through writings but mainly through translations. This is one of the main missions of HCC. Hence, this panel will discuss the role of translation and its status in Somaliland.

Abdiaziz Guudcadde is an author, essayist and translator. His recent translations are included Frantz Fanon's "The Wretched of the Earth" and Harold Laski's "Liberty in the Modern State." He is also part of the teachers of the Pre-Hargeysa International Book Fair

courses.

Mohamed Hersi is an author and medical doctor who has an interest in literature especially in literary works into Somali language. He is the author of Dabinka Jiraalka and Jiridda Baambu. who has an interest in literature especially in translating literary works into Somali.

Jama Mohamud Omar "Foodayacay" is a translator and an author of the book "Kun habeen iyo Habeen" which is a collection of short stories in Somali language translated from the famous collection of "Thousand and One Nights" for young adults. Jama, the translator, aims to promote the culture of reading and writing of the young generation of Somalis by providing a quality translation of such famous books.

Chaired by: Muna Ahmed is a bilingual writer, published Author, and Activist. Muna works with some other robust networks to promote literacy and advocate for reading, self-development, Gender Equality, and Cultural Identity among Somali Youth.

17:30-17:45 Poetry presentation by Hassan Sh. Muuse Sii-arag

He is a poet and writer born in Burao, he wrote poems on many aspects of social awareness, such as peace, Somali culture, religion and patriotism. He is a Author of a book called Samo-sheeg which was published in 2022.

17:45-18:30 In Conversation with the authors

Farhan Abdi Mohamed is a teacher who has been involved in education for a long time. He has studied good discipline and good parenting. He completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Timo-adde University, majoring in geography and history. He holds a master's degree from the same university, the Faculty of Education in the Department of Administration and Management. He is the author of "*Hil Barre*"

Tawakal Cabdi is a writer and educationalist based in Jijiga, Ethiopia. Studied Somali Language and Literature and later specialized in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) he is the author of "*Dheefta Suugaanta*"

Mahamed Hassan the poet is one of the singers and cultural leaders of the Ministry of Information and Culture of JSL. He is an expert in songwriting, music, filmmaking and Somali drama like; War-mooge drama, Laba-wajile drama and Damac iyo Daacad. He is the author of "*Dhaqan & Dhaxal Erey*"

Chaired by: Abdisalaan Ibrahim Chairperson of the Jigjiga Reader Clubs
19:00-19:45: Panel 12: Climate Change

For some time, the conversation was going on about the realness of climate change and the global conversation was more of divided and centred on politics. While the global conversation was going on reality hit hard with a forest fire in the middle of the coldest place and a flood drove away communities who were having their hot sunny days. Accordingly, the conversation on climate change has to touch the ground and be more realistic. This panel hence is a discussion on how to deal with the apparent climate change challenges.

Panelists

Abdulkariin Said DG of Head of Department of Environmental Safety and Climate Change.

Muna Abdalla Ismail, is an environmentalist, sustainability advocate, and climate activist. She is the Co-

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Compiled by: Yusuf Omar Hindi

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founder of 'Revive the Environment Initiative' in Somaliland, an initiative that aims at promoting environmental and climate action in the region.

Louise Ellis is a zoologist who has been working with wild animals for more than 12 years. Currently, she is the Animal Care Manager for Cheetah Conservation Fund Somaliland.

Chaired by: Hana Daud

19:45- 20:30 Panel 8: Global and Regional Research Collaborations

The initiative to create a global balance in knowledge production and dissemination can be a reality only when practical steps in the ownership of the process are made. For this, it is important to have collaboration between institutions in the global North and Global south with the essence of equal partners. This panel presents some of the working collaborative initiatives HCC has managed to build and has brought tangible knowledge sharing and production.

Panelists:

Prof. Michael Walls Director of the Development Planning Unit of the University of London

Dr. Isabela Lourenco member of the Porto University African Studies Institute

Dr. Jama Musse Jama Director of the Hargeysa Cultural Centre

Mr Abdirahman Maktel Director of Academic Vice President of Jigjiga University

Chaired by: Sahra Abdi Hassan

20:15- 21:00 – Poetry Night with Traditional Dance and Cuud

Cawaale Ismaaciil Saleebaan "Deeqsi" is a prominent contemporary poet, songwriter, and lyricist based in Hargeisa. His award-winning distinctive lyrics of joy and peace manifest the current spirit of the vibrant Somali & East African culture.

Ayaan Kaaba is a young female poet and songwriter who is known for her love poems and for writing the lyrics of the popular songs in this generation.

Abdirahman Haldhis is a young poet based in Hargeisa as well as an essayist. He is known for his rich imagination in poetry and eloquence.

Kaltun Nasir Hussein is an award-winning poet and writer based in Burco. She is the winner of the BBC Somali Young Female Poet of the Year 2019.

Chaired by: Abdirihin Sidiq Heello

Day Four: Tuesday, 26th July 2022

08:15 – 08:45: Arts & Book Stalls

09:00-9:45 Panel 13: Manuscripts research in the Horn of Africa

Part of the research focus the HCC has been working on the past two years is Islamic manuscripts and the knowledge they share. The search is still in progress but it has illustrated the need for more collaborative research in the area. Hence, this panel presents the current status of research, collections, and pressing matters for the preservation and promotion of manuscripts research in the region.

Panelists

Dr. Jama Musse Jama, Director of the HCC, has a large collection of Manuscripts collected from the region.

Mohamed Abdilahi Cartan Manuscripts researcher and a private manuscripts collector based in the UK.

Hassan Mohamed Kawo a Ph.D. student at Addis Ababa University in the Department of Philology. His research focus on Islamic manuscripts mainly Arabic Ajami scripts.

Sh. Mohamoud Sh. Dalmar is Islamic scholar based in Hargeysa.

9:45-10:15: Meet the Authors

Cabdixakiin Obsiye is the founder of Iqra Bookshop, Manager at Qalinmaal publisher and has translated four books "Dhambaallada Qurr'aanka, Salaad baa l dhaaftay, Caawiye and Qummane", he is writer and analyser topics about Thought, Islamic Theories and Social issues.

Jim'ale Jama Muhumed (Sharcidoon) is writer of the Novel QUDH-BAX. A law by profession, Sharcidoon is presenting his new book "Hannaanka Caddaalada Dambiyada".

Chaired by: Fuaad Adam Booska

10:15:11:00: Challenging the Challenge: Inspiring activities by youth with disabilities

This panel brings together powerful Somaliland youth who are making an impact in the community in spite of their physical disability challenges.

Hawa Kodah is an advocate for people with disabilities in both Somaliland and the UK. She set up 1st Deaf Somali community UK, young disabled Role model Award 2012 and she also represents the Somaliland Deaf community. Kodah is a campaigner for deaf children's rights in Somaliland.

Hawa Jama Abdi is a poet and an advocate for people with vision impairment or low vision. She uses social media to share her poetry and advocate for people with vision impairment, particularly women.

Hodo lammaanaha Indhaha la' is a family headed by two strong visually challenged people who have created a support system for families with physical challenged children.

Chaired by: Yoonis Abdirahman

11:00-12:30: Meet the authors

Khadiir Mohamad Abdirahman, known as Qawdhame, is the author of the book 'Aqoon-Dhaadhi' on the history of professor Abdillahi Musa Qaalib; whose two editions came out in 2021 and 2022.

Abdishakour Abdillahi is the son of the author of the Nin Miyi iyo Markab. Abdishakour published the second edition of the book Nin Miyi iyo Markab, which was first published in 1994. He studied economics at a university in Malaysia and is currently residing in Burao.

Abdirahman Sheikh Hussein is the author of "Han iyo Hal-adayg" a book that talks about his mission in advocating for people with disabilities.

Sayid-Ahmed M. Yuusuf a renowned writer that have published several books that includes the book *Col iyo Abaar* and "Dhegey" which talks about Muse Mohamed Xaji who was among the leading figures of SNM."

Chaired by: Amal Giliin

Parallel: 09:00-12:00: Visit to Laas Geel

16:30 – 17:30 Panel 14: Humanitarian Journalism

Access to digital tools such as the phone and the internet has enabled the sharing of information and photos easy. This has made both positive and concerning impacts on the journalism community. The fact that people have the chance to share what happens in real-time is the blessing it has brought. Nevertheless, without professional principles and ethical understanding, both words-based and photo-based journalism has become a major concern. Hence this panel will bring professionals to discuss on the

essence of Humanitarian journalism, especially in a time like the one we are where the region and the globe is faced with human catastrophizing.

Panelists:

Mary Harper is a seasoned journalist working as an African editor for the BBC African service. She covers Horn of Africa mainly Somalia. She is also the author of the Books Getting Somalia Wrong and Everything You Have told me is True that cover Al-shababa.

Abdisalam Hereri is a well-known journalist and author who has been working in the Somali media sector for the last 30 years.

Yusuf Dahir a prominent Somaliland photographer and storyteller. He covers all social issues through his photojournalism.

Chaired by: Ismail Ahmed Ismail Executive Director of Somaliland Journalists Association

17:30-18:30 Panel 15: Djibouti Art and Books Panel

This is a panel that brings Djibouti scholars, Artists, and community leaders to share their art and academic-based activities.

Led by: Fadoumo Abdi Isse Head of the cultural delegation of Djibouti

19:00-20:00 Youth-led Somaliland Initiatives

Somaliland youth are making difference locally and in the regional spaces. They lead local initiatives for capacity building and skill sharing, women and girl's empowerment, climate change and peace initiatives. Hence, this panel brings leading young Somalilanders to share their experience and what they see as a way for youth in Somaliland to make their voices matter.

Lucky Othman is a women's rights activist and she is the founder of Somaliland women's Resource Centre an organization that empowers young women by developing strategies for their education and career development.

Huda Osman is a Member of Siraad Initiative and she is a youth activist based in Hargeysa

Chaired by:

20:00-21:30 Poetry followed by Music and Traditional Dancing (Sitaad)

Sidiq Burmad is a poet, songwriter and journalist whose fine words are praised by many as unique and beautiful. He is known for composing some of the popular songs by Xidigaha Geeska and others. Currently, he is the official BBC reporter in Somaliland, based in Hargeysa.

Muna Ahmed is a bilingual writer and Activist. Her interest lies in Somali culture and traditional norms. She wrote about poetry of Xasan Ganey, Somaliland Traditional Games and other cultural pieces. Her latest article is about Sitaad: Women's Spiritual Gathering which is published on Dhaxalreeb Vol.18 No.1 (July 2022) Issue.

Hamda Raage is a young professional lawyer, human rights activist, and researcher. She works with different organizations about gender equality, woman's political participation and equal rights. She is also a culture enthusiast.

Chaired by: Abdirahman Qarayare

Day Five: Wednesday 27th 2022

08:15 – 08:45: Arts & Book Stalls

Parallel session at Gabiley

09:00-10:00 Panel 16: The Role of Libraries and Museums for development It is a piece of great news to see libraries

and museums are coming to public services in Somaliland. The building of the National Museum, the initiative of building the Sanaag Museum comes as a piece of great news to make the existing national and private museums and libraries. This panel will bring museum and library managers to share experiences of the initiative along with how to coordinate the end goal of educating the community about its history and building a knowledge base.

Panelists

Moustafa Ahmad Head of the library and resources management of Hargeysa Cultural Centre

Mubaarak Manno Ergavo Library and Museum representative

Mustafe Muhumed Hassan Gabiley Library and Museum Representative

Abdifatah Mohamed Berbera Library and Museum Representative

Yaasir Ali Faahiye Daami Library

Chaired by: Khalid Ibrahim Head of the Somaliland National Library

10:00-10:30 Book Launch by regional Readers club members

16:30-17:15: Regional Readers Clubs initiatives

This is an annual space for the regional readers' clubs from Somaliland and Jigjiga to present their work initiatives and exchange ideas with each other to have a better network and collaboration.

Chaired by: the Gabiley and National Library Heads

(The above events and conversation will take place at Gabiley library.)

Parallel event at HCC

09:00-11:00: HIBF junior: book reading, drama, traditional dance (Parallel)

Book reading by children assisted by the HCC staff. Games and colouring by Children.

9:00-10:00 Children's books Launch Ardo iyo Mire way ciidayaan by Musa M. Isse

Musa M. Isse is an author, translator, and publisher based in **Stockholm, Sweden**. He is the CEO and Founder of **SomaBooks Publisher** which produces books for children and young adults in Somali, English and Swedish.

Chaired by: Ramla Muhumed Jamac

10:30-11:00 Book launch: Sidee ilmahaagu kuu maqlaa? By Abdalla Shafey

Abdalla Shafey is an author and teacher based in Denmark. Studied Mathematics in Padova University in Italy, Shafey is the author of three books and this year facilitated in the creative courses at Hargeysa Cultural Centre.

Chaired by: Ramla Muhumed Jamac.

11:00-12:00: The Need for children's books in Somaliland

Growth in the publication of books in the Somali language is an encouraging and achievement made in Somaliland. Nevertheless, the books written lack diversity and also don't cover the demographic differences in the nation. Among these missing groups are children. There is a high limitation in access to culturally focused Somali children's books. Hence this panel discusses on the situation and mechanisms that shall be set to address this gap.

Panelists:

Musa M. Isse is an author, translator, and publisher based in Stockholm, Sweden. He is the CEO and Founder of SomaBooks Publisher which produces books for children and young adults in

Somali, English and Swedish.

Abdalla Shafey is an author and teacher based in Denmark. Studied Mathematics in Padova University in Italy, Shafey is the author of three books and this year facilitated in the creative courses at Hargeysa Cultural Centre.

Ismail Osman Ali – Education Sector Expert, Ministry of Education and Science

Chaired by: Ramla Muhumed Jamac.

16:30-17:15: Book Launch by Jamal Gabobe: The path of Difference

The poet, Jamal Gabobe has a Ph.D in Comparative Literature from the University of Washington. The Arabic poetry book he is reading today entitled Qalb La Yanam is his third poetry book. He has published two other books of poetry in English titled "Love and Memory" and "The Path of Difference." Jamal travel essay Termites and Clans was included in the anthology An Ear to the Ground: Presenting Writers from 2 Coasts published by Cune Press. He is launching his Book titled "The path of Difference".

Chaired by: Muna Ali

17:15- 18:30 Panel 18: Archives and Digitalization

Knowledge management and sharing is evolving with the ever-changing digital system. The change accordingly demands institutions working on the production, dissemination, and preservation upgrade their systems in line with this change. This panel will hence discuss on initiatives that are taking place in the region so as to digitalize and archive knowledge source documents.

Panelists:

Hafsa Omer is the cassettes archival digitalization and management officer of Hargeysa Cultural Centre.

Nerisa Kamar is the coordinator and representative of the Information Africa Organization (IAO), Nairobi, Kenya.

Mohamad Ahmed, Head of the Library and Archival of Hargeysa University

Chaired by: Moustafa Ahmad Head of Library and Archive management of HCC

19:00-21:00 Poetry night: Musdanbeed & books published by Maxamed Cali Waji

100 sheeko iyo sheeko

Chaired by: Dr. Jama Musse Jama

Day Six: Thursday

28th 2022

8:30-10:30 Readers Club meeting and way forward

Chaired by: Abdifatah Habane

10:30- 12:30: Chess and Traditional Board Games (Shax, Layligoobalay) tournament.

Authors, who have dedicated themselves to Shax and LayliGoobalay in the past two years, will be available to meet the audience. This session will also organize the Somaliland Shax Game tournament, a popular traditional Somali game. The winner will be named the "Shax Master of the Year".

Book launch of the Shax by Dr. Jama Musse Jama

Chaired by: The Somaliland Chess Association

16:30 – 18:00 - Circus performance

Hargeysa International Book Fair in collaboration with Havoyoco presents the Somaliland Circus, an entertainment hugely enjoyed by the public at large.

19:45-21:30: Final beats: Live concert with Final Beats:

Xiddigaha Geeska and the lead guest singer