

The Horn Tribune

Vol III/ Issue 1541

Sunday 10 March 2024

Shabcan 29/ 1445 AH

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

President calls for unity, solidarity and harmonious setting during this election year

He tells the international community that when it comes to Somaliland's sovereignty it is non-negotiable



By M.A. Egge

The President of the Republic of Somaliland H.E. Musa Bihi Abdi on Saturday noted that this year was one of holding the presidential and political parties' elections and the country come November 2024. He appealed to the people of the nation to make sure that the

Continue on Page 2



British Somaliland communities greatly support the Somaliland - Ethiopia MoU agreement as they depict in UK demo



By M.A. Egge

The Somaliland diaspora communities in the UK have shown great support for the agreement between Somaliland and Ethiopia in London by underscoring it in a picketing demo held in London.

Continue on Page 4

The Technical Committee on Somaliland-Ethiopia MoU implementation modalities tour Berbera Harbour

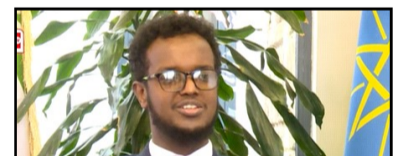


Continue on Page 3

It is good omen that Somaliland's aspirations are being achieved at last, says Ambassador Barkhad

By M.A. Egge

Somaliland Deputy Ambassador in Ethiopia



Continue on Page 3

The President signs the amended comprehensive elections law Bills into Acts of Law



By M.A. Egge

The President of the Republic of Somaliland, His Excellency Musa Bihi Abdi has on Saturday 09/03/2024 issue officially enacted the Bills on the general laws of elections in to law after signing it.

Continue on Page 2

Ministry of Information bolsters and fleges its FM's beam to all major cities in the country



Continue on Page 3

The election Commission announce that they are ready to hold the expected elections



Mohamoud Walaaleye

The Chairman of the National Elections Commission Hon. Musa Hassan Yusuf declared that the NEC is ready to hold the expected elections.

Continue on Page 2

Parliament approves the 2024 budget estimate



By M.A. Egge

The House of Representatives of the Republic of Somaliland on Monday approved the budget estimates for the year 2024.

Continue on Page 4

Putting Somalia back together has not worked, Britain should turn to the recognition of Somaliland, says Lord Stuart Polak



Lord Stuart Polak called on the British government to recognize Somaliland to contribute to the stability of the region. In a debate in the British House of

Continue on Page 3

Hargeisa Mayor leads mourners in laying to rest the late celebrated philanthropist Mohamed Hashi Qawdan to rest

By M.A. Egge

This week saw the passing on of celebrated philanthropist



Continue on Page 4

Inside

"ABANDONING THE 'PUTTING BACK SOMALIA' APPROACH: LORD PICKLE CALLS FOR SOMALILAND RECOGNITION"



Continue on page 5

Ethiopia-Somaliland Deal:

Somaliland's Pathway to International Recognition

| Dr. Mohamed Farah Hersi |

Continue on Page 6

Academy for Peace and Development | January 2024 |



President calls for unity, solidarity and harmonious setting during this election year



electioneering processes are successful and that they are held and go on without incidences. The Head of State reiterated the need to see to it that the efforts seeing to it that the aspirations of the people and the nation of Somaliland in achieving international recognition is fully realized and that the country joins the global community as a sovereign country. The President reminded the populaces of the need to uphold unity and solidarity especially during the electioneering year. He gave the sentiments as the nation joined the international community in observing the 123rd year since the International Women's Day which was inceptioned in March 1911, with it's this year's theme being "inspire Inclusion". It is usually celebrated on the 8th of February every year. The President stressed the need to have the elections go on without

incidents given that the nation has many enemies that would not like to see the country prosper. He emphasized that the main priority of the nation and the people of Somaliland was to see to it that the country achieves and realizes its aspirations of being a sovereign country that is fully recognized internationally. He told the international world community that "when it comes to the issue and matter of the aspirations of the nation of Somaliland the country will not tolerate any impediments from any quota and would assume those undermining its aspirations as outright enemies". He was quite categorical that the issue of sovereignty of Somaliland is completely non-negotiable. He made it clear that the nation will not entertain any entities, be they individuals, institutions or countries that would seek to undermine its

endeavours. He was emphatic that the nation would continue its path to chart its future and that it was sure that it would indeed triumph. "As for the efforts towards achieving our aspirations we will do whatever necessary to realize it", he said. President Musa wondered why when it comes to the rule of the sacrosanct nature of the colonial borders that of Somaliland is not respected. He said that it was ironic that in the latest agreement reached by the governments of Egypt and that of Kenya, they both "accepted and agreed on the sacrosanct nature of the colonial borders whereas they do not acknowledge that of Somaliland". Earlier on the morning the Head of State had signed the amended comprehensive laws of elections Bills, both Act 91/2024 and Act 14/2024 hence enacting them into law.

The election Commission announce that they are ready to hold the expected elections



He was giving his comments following media probs after the election laws were enacted on Saturday. He explained that as far as the NEC was concerned all aspects related technical and administrative matters incumbent upon the elections institution was well in place.

"We hope that the elections will go on as planned", he said. "The commission's task is to conduct free and fair elections in the country, and we are ready for it. I am instructing the stakeholders and the community to cooperate with the commission so that the elections will be held smoothly", he said when probed on their diligence.

Press Release
The Electoral Commission of Somaliland is welcoming the signing of the Somaliland Election Act, marking a significant milestone in the country's democratic journey. The Somaliland Election Act, signed by the Somaliland President HE. Musa Bihi Abdi, underscores the commitment to upholding democratic principles and ensuring free, fair, and transparent elections in Somaliland. This legislative framework sets the stage for the conduct of elections in accordance with international standards and best practices. "We welcome the signing of the Somaliland Election Act as a crucial step towards strengthening our democratic institutions and processes. This Act will serve as the cornerstone for conducting credible elections that reflect the will of the people of Somaliland." said by Musa Hassan Yusuf, Chairman of the Electoral Commission.

The President signs the amended comprehensive elections law Bills into Acts of Law

A circular from the Presidency to the effect, that reached our desk, confirms the enacting of the Bills that saw comprehensive reviews and amendments to both Act 14/2023 and 91/2023. the press release on the Presidential Decrees went as follows:-

Presidential Decrees
Presidential Decrees to implement two laws namely:- Implementation of Amendments and Supplements to the General Law of Elections and Voter Registration; Regulation No. 91/2023. And Implementation of Amendments and Supplements to the Organization System and Political Parties Act No: 14/2023.

The Presidential Decrees are as follows:-

1. Implementation of Amendments and Supplements to the General Elections and Voters Registration Act; Regulation No. 91/2023.

After seing: Articles 75, 77 and 78 of the Constitution of the Republic of Somaliland;

Given that: The text of the House of Representatives with the symbol GW/JSL/10/68/2024, dated 19/02/2024, for the purpose of submitting a decision approving amendments and supplements, to the General Law of Elections and Registration. Entry of Voters, Law No: 91/2023; (Decision No. GW/KF- 7/01/2024);

Given that: The resolution of the Constitutional Court with Ref No MSD/DDL/01/2024, dated 07/03/2024 by which the Court annulled the 5th and 6th Clauses of Article 93 of the Amendment and Supplement to the General Law of Elections and Registration of Voters, Law No: 91/2023;

When I saw: The resolution of the Constitutional Court Ref No MSD/

DDL/02/2024, dated 07/03/2024 by which the Court canceled the word "Hundreds" in Clauses 2, 3 and 4 of Article 93 of the Constitution. - Amending and Supplementing the General Law on Elections and Voter Registration, Law No: 91/2023;

I thus order;
This circular to disseminate the Implementation of Amendments and Supplements to the General Law on Elections and Voter Registration in Law No. 91/2023 and the annexes: - Resolution of the Constitutional court Ref No MSD/DDL/01/2024, dated 07/03/2024, and

- Resolution of the Constitutional Court Ref No MSD/DDL/02/2024, dated 07/03/2024.

2. Implementation of Amendments and Supplements to the Law on Organizations and Political Parties Law No: 14/2023

As per: Article 90 of the Constitution of the Republic of Somaliland;

As per: Articles 75, 77 and 78 of the Constitution of the Republic of Somaliland;

Given that: The text of the House of Representatives with the symbol GW/JSL/10/68/2024, dated 19/02/2024, for the purpose of submitting a decision approving amendments and supplements to the Law on Organizations and Political Parties. No: 14/2023, (Decision No. GW/KF-7/02/2024);

I order that;
This circular broadcast the Implementation of Amendments and Supplements to the Law on the System of Organizations and Political Parties in Law No: 14/2023.

THANKS TO GOD
SIGNED:
Musa Bihi Abdi
President of the Republic of Somaliland



The Somaliland Election Act encompasses provisions aimed at safeguarding the integrity of the electoral process, ensuring equal participation of all eligible voters, and promoting accountability and transparency throughout the electoral cycle.

The Electoral Commission remains committed to working closely with relevant stakeholders, including political parties, civil society organizations, and international partners, to implement the provisions of the Somaliland Election Act effectively

Putting Somalia back together has not worked, Britain should turn to the recognition of Somaliland, says Lord Stuart Polak



Ethiopia formally recognizes Somaliland in return for it giving Ethiopia naval and commercial access to the Red Sea. This has been ratified by the Ethiopian parliament and other prominent African nations are seriously discussing this. I urge my noble friend the Foreign Secretary to look at these positive developments with a sense of urgency. Putting Somalia back together has not worked. The world has changed and has moved on since our "one Somalia" policy, born in 1961. It is time our policy changes too. I hope my noble friend the Foreign Secretary will find the time to recognise and uphold Somaliland's contributions to regional stability and security, ensuring that its vital role is not overlooked or undervalued.

Elders on foreign policy, Lord Polak stated; A very short distance from Yemen's violent and chaotic coast lies Somaliland. Somaliland has 850

kilometers of Red Sea coastline with no piracy; this can be attributed to the pro-western democracy that is Somaliland. On 1 January, Ethiopia, a key partner of the UK, signed an MoU with Somaliland, in which

The Technical Committee on Somaliland-Ethiopia MoU implementation modalities tour Berbera Harbour



By M.A. Egge
The technical committee charged with the task of the implementation modalities of the memorandum of agreement between Somaliland and Ethiopia went on an orientation trip to the city of Berbera to specifically tour the harbor and the docking ports. The committee was welcomed at Berbera port by Somaliland Ports Manager Syed Hassan Abdilahi. They briefly had a meeting with the manager in which they discussed issues related to Berbera Port, its services and the way it works at the moment. The manager conducted them to a tour in the facility taking the committee through the container

sites and the service work at the Port. They were informed that the largest ships to sail in the high seas were now able to dock at the port. The ministry's Director of Somaliland Ports said that the purpose of the committee's trip was to observe the ongoing work at Berbera International Port, to investigate the implementation of the agreement, and he encouraged the committee to maneuver well the destiny of the Somaliland community which fell in their lap, as he testified that the members selected for the technical agreement are able to perform the task assigned to them. On the other hand, the deputy chairman of the technical committee for the agreement

between Somaliland and Ethiopia and Somaliland's ambassador to the United States and Canada, Amb. Bashir Sheikh Omar Goth, said that their trip included observation and information gathering by the committee, to contribute to their work before they hand over their report to the head of state. On behalf of the task force, he lauded the ports chief for a job well done at the harbor. Finally, the committee also held a meeting with the top officials of DP World, which manages the Berbera port, who further briefed them on the work of the Berbera port and the progress so far realized since they assumed management of the port in 2016.

It is good omen that Somaliland's aspirations are being achieved at last, says Ambassador Barkhad

Barkhad Mohamud Kariye has said it is good omen that Somaliland's identity that has been sought for a long time is now realized through reciprocal relations made with Ethiopia. In an interview on concerning different aspects the acting Ambassador had with MM tvon Wednesday, Barkhad talked about the efforts of the President H.E. Musa Bihi Abdi has contributed to the achievement of the goals of aspirations of the people of Somaliland for thirty years and more. He underscored the deep bilateral relations between the two countries

of Somaliland and Ethiopia has that includes trade, security, social, diplomatic and political. He explained that the MoU between the two nations "as the government and the President of the Somaliland have explained severally is a reciprocal exchange of interests, at an international level". He further explained, "The agreement has been signed and technical committees are in the process of cobbling the modalities for the implementation of the landmark agreement". Ambassador Barkhad said that the

community of Somaliland has welcomed the agreement with Ethiopia and they are waiting for its details. "I am correcting one thing, no one is against the MoU, and those who spoke about it pointed out that they are only waiting for details about it", he said. He said that the aspersions cast were only the work distracters and enemies hence when the real modalities are vividly put in place people would appreciate and rejoice.

Ministry of Information bolsters and pledges its FMs beam to all major cities in the country



By M.A. Egge

The Minister of the Ministry of Information, Culture and National Guidance, who is also the spokesperson of the Government Hon. Ali Hassan Mohamed (Ali Mareehaan), inaugurated the largest project to date implemented by the ministry which has expanded the reach of the broadcasting of Radio Hargeisa, with 2000 KW radio stations in the cities of Eerigabo, Aynaba, Burao, Oodweyne and Berbera.

In the function held for the expansions of the FMs in the cities was held at the headquarters of the ministry attended by the heads and officials of the ministry. Hon. Ali Hassan Mohamed also revealed that a more powerful and large radio station will soon be brought to the country that can be heard from all over the world, and an education-related FM radio station will be established that will contribute to the promotion of education and community awareness.

The minister noted that in the short period that he has been at the helm of the ministry he has been able to achieve the expansion of the signals reach of the FM radios' strength. He said, "When we arrived at the Ministry, the FM stations in Hargeisa and Borame were both working. However that in Boorame was 300KW which we have now expanded it to 2000KW. Similarly such efforts were extended to have such relays in five other cities with their FM stations expanded to the larger 2000KW strength. These cities include Eerigabo, Aynaba, Burao, Oodweyne and Berbera. With each now reaching a radius of 60 km the beams has now been able to render the services to residents in remote areas almost in all parts of the country, including to the military bases far afield".

Minister Ali Mareehaan said that soon the country will acquire the powerful medium wave radio station, and an educational related FM radio station will be established.

He also praised the technicians and staffers of the Ministry and pointed out that they have made efforts in their work for the nation.

On the other hand, the Director General of the Ministry of Information, Mr. Mustafa Abdi Isse (Shiine), gave details of the efforts that they are making in relation to the expansion of Radio Hargeisa. He said, "The entire leadership team of the Ministry led by the Minister is new. It has been possible for us to listen to Radio Hargeisa in most of the regions of the country, which came with the efforts and leadership of the Minister of Information, who ordered us to be swift in our undertakings and not to delay what we can do."

The Director General noted that the national forces have been complaining for a long time that they used to listen to radio stations controlled by the enemy of Somaliland.

He said, "Since the directives of the Minister have been implemented to expand the broadcasting of the radio station, we, with myself at the helm, are expected to turn to the aspect of improving the programs and what is being communicated to the nation. It was unfortunate that the Ministry of Information, which is considered to be one of the ministries with the highest budget, was only in name since Hargeisa and Borame were the only ones who benefitted from the national radio services".

He added that, "This means that the news of the government and the nation did not reach the rest of the country. There were many complaints that the Somaliland national forces were listening to various foreign radio stations, some of which are in the hands of Somaliland's enemies. Today it is fortunate that Somaliland troops are listening to Radio Hargeisa".

The Director of the Radio Department, Abdirisaaq Osman Mohamed, thanked the ministry officials for their efforts in expanding the reach Radio Hargeisa's broadcasting.

Parliament approves the 2024 budget estimate



With the first deputy Speaker of Somaliland's House of Representatives, Hon. Syed Farah Mire (Giire) chairing, the ayes voted 41 to 8 of the nays.

The House of Representatives also approved the presentation of the motion of legal dispute between the company DP World and Al Waddania.

On the other hand, the House of Representatives rejected the motion submitted by the President of Somaliland, who wanted interdicted National Elections Commissioner Abdiiaziz Hirsi Warsame impeached and voted out of office.

The MPs voted against the president's proposal, with 39 members rejecting motion, against 9 who wanted the commissioner out of office.

With the re-endorsement of the commissioner, he is thus expected to resume his office.

A motion signed by 32 MPs was also presented to the council regarding the opening of the bylaws of the House of Representatives. , there were 9 members, 23 members agreed, failed to reach the one-third minimum (27 members) requirement.

The parliament has now gone to a two month recess.

Various motions were also presented to the House of Representatives, some of which were approved and some of which were rejected.

The former Chairman of the Economic Committee of the Somaliland House of Representatives, Abdirashid Abdilahi Muse (Agawayne), read the 2024 annual budget estimates before the assembly.

He pointed out that the budget was the framework of the national duties, and noted that it can be discussed

depending on the direction of the government within the year. It entails all the economic, political, development, security, priorities and plans of the government, in annual budget year.

Hon. Abdirashid also pointed out that the budget for the year 2024 does not have much difference with that of the previous year.

The budget committee, he said, had perused and had in depth delved upon the estimates hence has just tabled it for approval endorsement to the parliament.

Hargeisa Mayor leads mourners in laying to rest the late celebrated philanthropist Mohamed Hashi Qawdan to rest

centurion Mohamed Hashi Qawdan who was a citizen of Somaliland who gave most of his life and energy to voluntarily help pave Hargeysa roads with his bare hands and shoddy tools for almost half a century, efforts that saw the city reward him with a modern house and shelter.

The late Mohamed Hashi who was 121 years old and happens to be the father of our colleague at Dawan Media Group Khadar Mohamed, breathed his last in the evening of Wednesday.

The funeral of the deceased was attended by the Mayor of Hargeisa, Cllr. Abdikarin Ahmed Mooge, and thronged by traditional leaders, members of the clergy, businessmen and a multitude of different sections of the Somaliland community.

Speakers at the gravesite who gave eulogies testified to the humble, righteous and pious life the late Qawdan lived.

of and his wife, he always admitted during his life that the world has ended his people but the reason he remains in the world is only to improve the roads that he has to do so that his people can travel comfortably.

Every time there was a problem in the community complaining about the lack of roads and a place for vehicles to pass through, he usually made a decision to fix that place. All



sorts of motorists, commuters and pedestrians used to be amazed by his undying resolve and efforts year in year out. All the places he repaired were usually impeccable and many always signed in relief owing to the courageous efforts of the perennial volunteer, quite pleased with him.

The late Mohamed Hashi Qawdan was a close friend of Sheikh Omar Farah Warfaa who instructed him to repair the roads in the city, which he has been working on until his twilight years to repair the roads in Hargeisa.

The late Mohamed Hashi Qawdan was honored and exemplified by the Mayor of Hargeisa, Abdikarin Ahmed Mooge, who acknowledged his courage

and efforts in the city, and coaxed the Town Hall to reward him by building him a modern house.

Tributes to the demise of the fallen real Hargeisa city hero came from far and wide. He is celebrated both in life and after.

The Mayor of Hargeisa described the late Mohamed Hashi Qawdan as a good hearted servant who carried out the will of his Sheikh in his lifetime to fix the roads and manually make gravels.

He said that it was amazing that he continued the efforts to his old age with the hope of only getting reward from his Creator.

We mourn a true and great hero who a born once in several lifetimes.

British Somaliland communities greatly support the Somaliland -Ethiopia MoU agreement as they depict in UK demo



Thousands of people that included young people, women, children, intellectuals, and scholars of all ages from all the cities in the UK demonstrated on Saturday.

The purpose of the picketing organized by the Somaliland embassy in the UK and diverse British communities was to underpin to the British government and by extension the whole world that the existence and independence of Somaliland is not negotiable, and that the international community ought to acknowledge the fact.

Some of the people who participated in the demonstration who spoke to the media said that their country (Somaliland) was an independent nation that already has agreements entered with foreign nations and would continue doing so as necessitated by its sovereign interests.

"The agreement between

Somaliland and Ethiopia as concerns their reciprocated interests was imperative to be implemented and not Somalia nor any other country or entity may hinder it.

Ambassador of Somaliland to the UK Abdi Abdillahi Dayahweerar who addressed the multitude who participated in the demos called on them to redouble their support for the sovereign independence of their country, Somaliland.

The demonstration was also attended by members of the British Parliament who greatly support the cause of Somaliland's independence, who notably included MP Gavin Williamson.

The gathering is expected to further strengthen the efforts of the Somaliland government and the resolve of the community to achieve its aspirations and have the nation join the international communities as deserved.

The House of Representatives, Interpeace Organization meet on elections matters

By M.A. Egge

A delegation from Interpeace visited the office of the Acting Speaker of the House of Representatives who is the 1st Deputy Speaker of the House, Hon. Said Mire Farah "Girre".

The delegation, led by the Executive Director of the Agency, Honde Kakoma, expressed their honor and happiness to attend the meeting at the House of Representatives, given the long history of cooperation.

Hon. Girre warmly welcomed the delegation and briefed them on the efforts the parliament made to review and amend the general elections law that sought to address perennial conflicting hiccups to its fruitful end.

He informed them that the comprehensive elections Bill have not only been finalized but it has been passed by both houses of the parliament and it is waiting enacting into law by the Head of State.

He thanked the delegation for the prominent role that Interpeace took in the country's elections process, and hoped that it would play a bigger role in supporting and promoting democracy in the country, especially in the election process.

Speaker Girre expressed the role that the parliament and individuals want for women to have in the political leadership of the country and how the House of Representatives is committed to it.

"ABANDONING THE 'PUTTING BACK SOMALIA' APPROACH: LORD PICKLE CALLS FOR SOMALILAND RECOGNITION"



We welcome the resounding statement from Lord Pickle, the Parliamentary Chairman of Conservative Friends of Israel in the House of Lords, as he passionately urges the United Kingdom to Recognize Somaliland. Lord Pickle advocates for a departure from the ineffective "Putting back Somalia" strategy, asserting that it has yielded unfavorable results. His emphatic declaration, "Putting back Somalia has not worked," resonates with our stance, and we wholeheartedly align ourselves with his call for a shift in policy towards recognizing Somaliland.

Somaliland boasts an unperturbed 850 km Red Sea coastline, notably devoid of piracy, owing to its steadfast commitment to pro-Western democratic principles. Earlier this year, Ethiopia took a significant step by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Somaliland, signaling a hopeful path towards Ethiopia's recognition of Somaliland as an independent entity. If realized, this historic move would mark Somaliland as the first UN member state to receive such recognition. It is imperative that the global

community views this encouraging development with a sense of urgency, acknowledging the potential positive implications for regional stability and diplomatic relations.

In recent times, it has become increasingly evident that the West's substantial involvement in foreign affairs, with a focus on regions such as Ukraine and the Middle East, highlights the growing global risks. Each passing day seems to magnify these risks, with Houthi attacks posing a severe threat. A tragic milestone was reached with a Wednesday assault in the Gulf of Aden, resulting in the loss of at least three crew members aboard a commercial vessel and compelling the remaining crew to abandon ship. This marks the first instance where a Houthi rebel attack has led to the loss of lives among ship workers.

In the face of these escalating challenges, there is a crucial opportunity for the world to play a significant role in shaping the future of the Horn of Africa. Lord Stuart Polak emphasized this during a debate on the impact of the Russian blockade of Ukrainian ports, highlighting the contribution to the

danger of famine in the Horn of Africa. He stated, "Somaliland has been free of the almost daily terrorist violence inflicted by the al-Qaeda-linked al-Shabaab in the rest of the Somali region. That is because Somaliland spends 30% of its annual budget on security." Furthermore, Lord Polak emphasized the UK's recognition of Somaliland's critical role in securing its 850 kilometers of Red Sea coast by being a leading supporter of its security forces, contributing to the stability that safeguards the UK.

Considering these developments, it is imperative for the UK to revisit the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and ensure the fulfillment of obligations to the people of Somaliland. Somaliland requires assistance, UK support, and international recognition to navigate these challenging times effectively.

The effort to reunify Somalia has proven ineffective. The global landscape has evolved significantly since the inception of the One Somalia Policy, and it is evident that a new approach is necessary. The world's policies must adapt to the current reality and acknowledge Somaliland's noteworthy contributions to regional stability and security. It is imperative to recognize and uphold Somaliland's vital role, ensuring it is neither overlooked nor undervalued. The time for international recognition of Somaliland is long overdue.

Our assessment finds the brief to be distorted, laden with political rhetoric akin to that of the Mogadishu government" Somaliland MFA

Press Release

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Somaliland has reviewed the Heritage Institute policy brief titled "Ethiopia's MoU with Somaliland," which alleges a threat to Somalia's sovereignty and regional stability. Our assessment finds the brief to be distorted, laden with political rhetoric akin to that of the Mogadishu government and is aimed at lending academic legitimacy to recent ramblings of Hassan Sh Mahmoud.

Furthermore, the assertion that the MoU may fuel recruitment for Al Shabab lacks conclusive evidence and is speculative. Extremist groups like Al Shabab operate beyond borders, driven by a broader ideological agenda rather than specific territorial disputes. The brief also overlooks the Mogadishu government's repeated failures in combating Al Shabab effectively.



It is important to recognize that Al Shabab's emergence stems from conditions of lawlessness, warlordism, and poverty, rather than fueled by animosity towards Ethiopia or neighboring countries. Their continued existence is facilitated by weak administrative institutions within Somalia, which fail to address the fundamental needs of their citizens.

Moreover, successive governments in Mogadishu have become complacent in managing the conflict, prioritizing external donor engagements over domestic responsibilities.

Academic research consistently highlights the correlation between

poverty, violence, and the proliferation of organized crime and militancy, undermining claims of a direct link between regional agreements and the resurgence of such groups.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reaffirms Somaliland's sovereignty and independence, achieved through the sacrifices of its people. Despite minimal foreign assistance, Somaliland has effectively governed itself for 33 years and will continue to do so despite Mogadishu's unfounded claims.

It is imperative for Mogadishu and its intellectuals to recognize the changing dynamics of the world, transcending past animosities and towards mutual economic cooperation and respect. The historic MoU between Ethiopia and Somaliland signifies a Positive step towards regional stability and prosperity.

Somaliland will no longer be a hostage to Somalia- Omer M jama (OMJ)

Have knowledge about Somaliland and how it regained its lost independence Somaliland people as whole came together and decided their destiny and future as they freed themselves from tyrannical regime of Barre.

Every Somalilander has at least have the stories of struggle for independence of this nation.

There have been thousands of lives that sacrificed for this freedom and many of them are not even remembered.

The most important thing, is that the Nation remembers and pay homage to these legends that died for the country and freedom of their people.

Today, the people of Somaliland are free from horror, genocide and feel the achievement of liberty, equality and dignity for all.

Somaliland is a former British protectorate. It gained independence in 1960 and was recognised as an independent state, however, acting on the desire at the time of Somalis to live in one state.

In 1883, during the scramble for Africa, the horn of Africa was divided between several colonial powers.

Britain had a treaty of protection with the British Somaliland protectorate, which is the Somaliland of today.

Italy had la Somalia Italian. The Somalia of today.

France, the Republic of Djibouti of today. A portion of the Somalis inhabited horn was left with Kenya and today is known as northern frontier district of Kenya.

Somaliland became the first fully independent Somali state among the five Somali nations and was immediately recognised by 34 member states of the United Nations among which were the five permanent member of the Security Council.

This gave Somaliland the position of becoming the first born or the most senior Somali nation.

The two independent Somali states entered into a voluntary union that was never ratified by the people of the two nations.

The union was doomed from the start because the two countries that united had language differences, cultural differences, tribal differences, administrative and educational differences that each had inherited from their respective colonial rulers.

These differences and lack of sharing of power led frictions and disputes which caused the long struggle of Somaliland.

This union turned out disastrous for Somaliland as the people found themselves marginalised in the new state.

It just brought to the people of Somaliland a catastrophic oppression, crimes against humanity, nepotism, indiscriminate killings of Somalilanders including women and children.

These crimes committed by Barre regime was witnessed and well documented by the United Nations and other international human rights bodies.

In 1969, former dictator of Somalia Siad Barre regime overthrew the government of Somalia in a coup and began a policy of calculated repression of the people of Somaliland.

When the Somali national movement stepped up its armed resistance to Barr's oppressive regime in Somaliland in the late 1980s.

The armed forces of Somalia bombed Somaliland, completely destroying the capital city of Hargiesa and other major cities killing an estimated 50, 000 people

and displaced another 500,000 thousand. Dictator Barr's sustained military offensive crippled agriculture production, destroyed nearly all of the region's livestock, all business, places of worships, water infrastructure and uprooted almost the entire population of approximately 3 million people.

In 1991, after the fall of Barre regime and the total collapse of Somali republic. Somaliland broke away from the rest of Somalia and this was a time of hope. The peace-loving people of Somaliland established a country built on the principles of freedom and democracy.

It had successfully managed to solve its past problems through process of reconciliation and the restoration of confidence in the region.

Today, Somaliland has a credible democratically elected government and is a functioning democratic state.

It has its own justice system, constitution, currency, national flag, Military forces, police forces and relatively stable.

It had avoided bloodshed and opposed any kind of violence.

Another historic and successful stories of Somaliland is, it had a series of elections that have been declared relatively free and fair by the international observers, on top of these successful stories, it had succeeded to end all its past problems by using its traditional knowledge which helped them effectively in the cause of a achieving a lasting peace and what appears to be a viable system of democracy.

It has been described as An-African success story and heaven of peace and, it has countless achievements.

Somaliland meets the established criteria for recognition as a state. It has a permanent population, a defined territory, a functioning government and capacity to enter into relations with other states in the international community.

Its achievements have won widespread praises and its case for recognition has been favourably assessed by the African union commission, the conflict prevention NGO, international crisis group as well as the security and development policy think tank.

Today, what does Somaliland want from the international community? It just wants to have its own basic right to join the family of nations or what you call the international community.

As Somaliland nation, it's totally wrong and against humanity to decide on people's future and destiny on the bases to save guard some other country's interest.

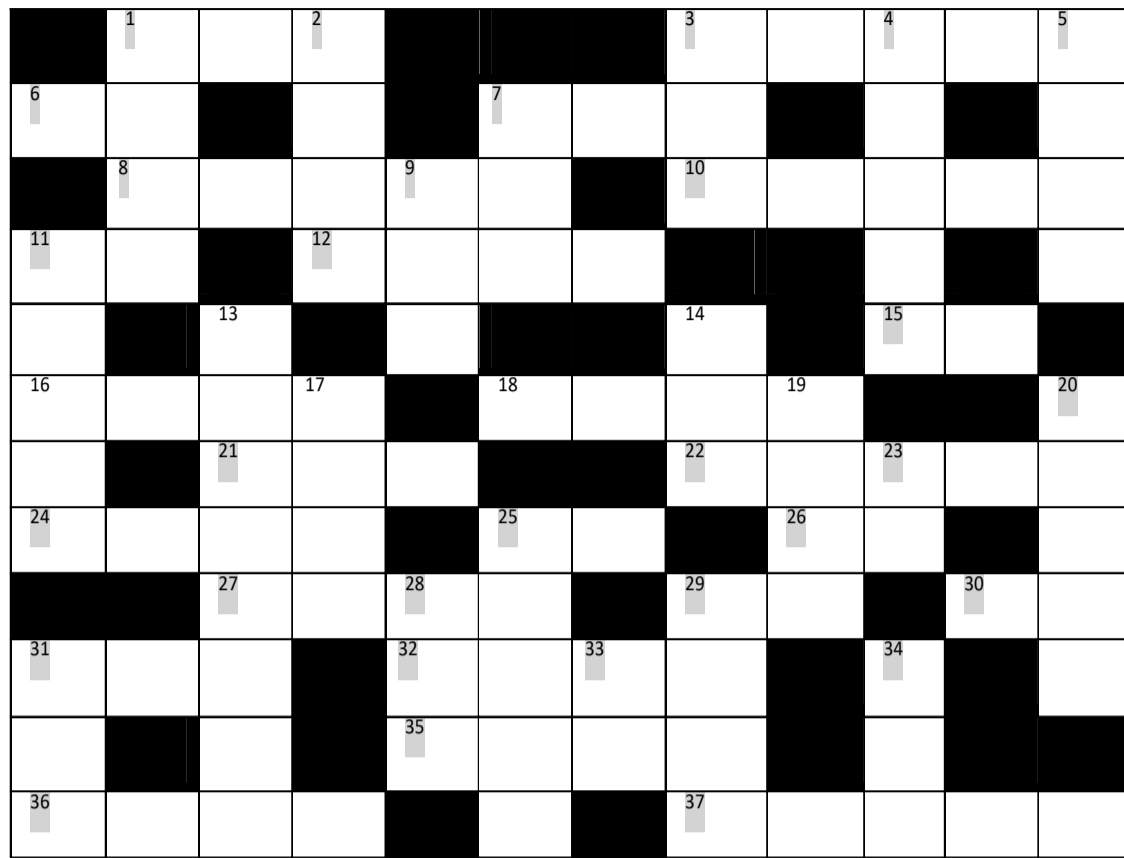
Somaliland will no longer be a hostage to Somalia, because it has a right of self-determination, therefore the international community must accept and grant that. Time to honour the existence of Somaliland.

If the world fails to reconsider the recognition of Somaliland, it would be a great discredit to human rights as well as democracy itself.

Finally, Somaliland will join the family of nations once again, so one voice and one target is the vision of Somaliland people. Unity and togetherness is the survival of this young nation and its every citizen's responsibility to take a great role for the protection of the national unity.

Together, the nation is strong, divided the nation is strong.

THT Puzzle



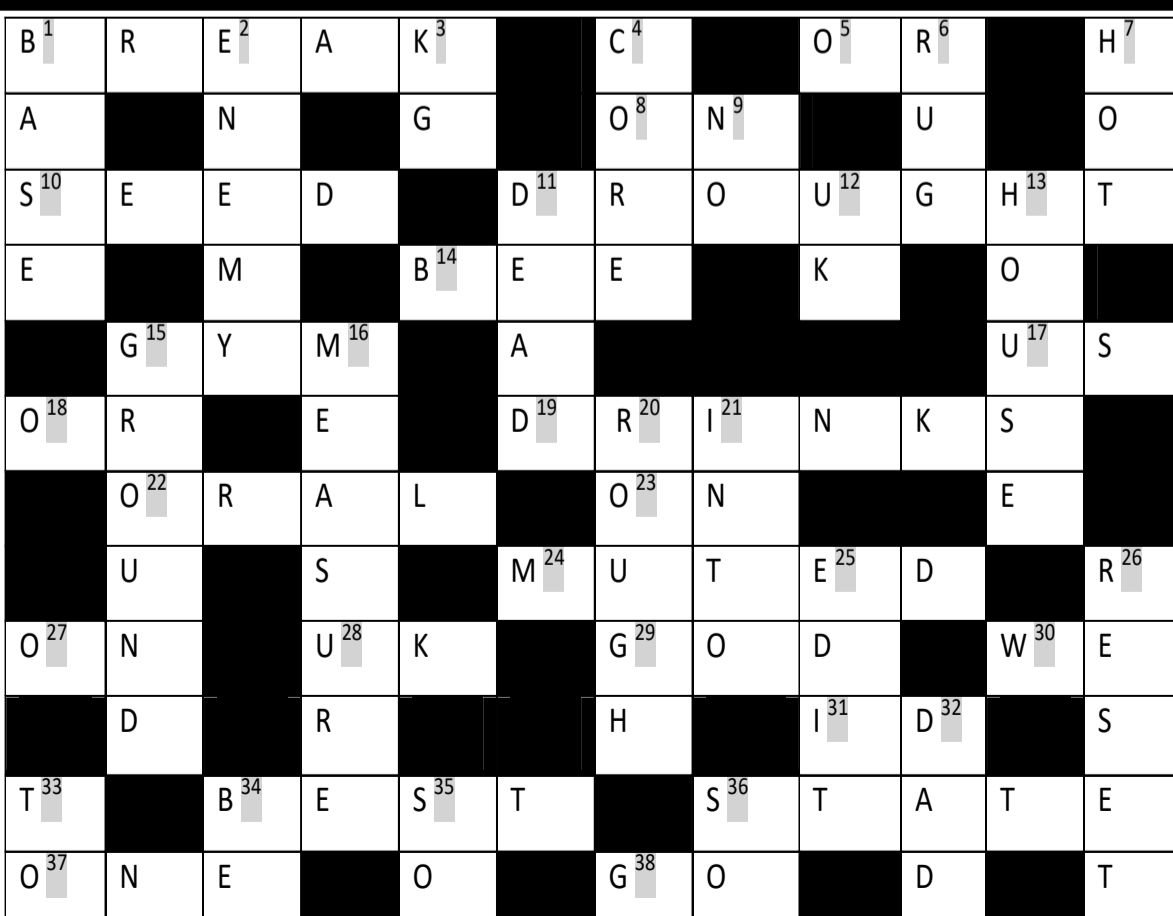
DOWN

- 1 lowest part of something
- 2 quantity of papers (500 sheets)
- 3 pink
- 4 Transparency
- 5 income/ take away
- 7 home furniture
- 11 Chocolate
- 13 Detained
- 14 Record
- 17 Sideways
- 19 Highway
- 20 Once more
- 23 preposition
- 25 Management
- 28 swallowing or having dinner
- 29 Knowledge
- 31 Just how
- 33 I am
- 34 Amount

ACROSS

- 1 Saloon
- 3 Rearrange
- 6 short cuts of not available
- 7 Honey maker
- 8 Astronomical
- 10 Beverage
- 11 Remain
- 12 Finished
- 15 European Union
- 16 Belongs to us
- 18 Entry
- 21 Clear
- 22 Profitable/ walking to
- 24 Requirement
- 25 By way of
- 26 the form of article begins before vowel
- 27 Kernel
- 29 identification
- 30 HELLO
- 31 Cap
- 32 Among
- 35 Period
- 36 Extensive
- 37 Management

Previous Answer



Ethiopia-Somaliland Deal:

Somaliland's Pathway to International Recognition

| Dr. Mohamed Farah Hersi |

Academy for Peace and Development

| January 2024 |



(Part 06)

4.2 Security Cooperation

The collaboration and alliance between Ethiopia and Somaliland have elicited concerns from Somalia and Al-Shabaab (AS), both of which have declared war against Somaliland and Ethiopia, asserting that the Ethio-Somaliland partnership undermines Somalia's sovereignty. Furthermore, AS accused Ethiopia of occupying Somali-owned territory that was granted by colonial powers, alluding to the Somali Region of Ethiopia. With these threats and potential threats from other countries, such as Egypt and Eritrea, which are displeased with Ethiopia's access to the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea, the stability and security of Somaliland and Ethiopia, as well as the broader Horn of Africa region, are at risk. Therefore, it is crucial for parties to establish a comprehensive security and defense partnership to prevent such threats and solidify cooperation that safeguards the interests of both sides.

4.3 Trade Agreement and Economic Integration

The significance of cross-border trade between Ethiopia and Somaliland cannot be underestimated. Trade is facilitated by three market chains: Qat, livestock, and re-export of consumer goods. Despite the absence of a formalized trade agreement between the two countries, informal trade plays a pivotal role in their commercial relations. The signing of the MoU presents an opportunity for Ethiopia and Somaliland to formalize trade relations, taking into account the substantial contribution of informal trade to the budget of the Somaliland government.

5. External Risks of the Deal for Somaliland

This section focuses on the external risks associated with the implementation of the MoU, which are more significant than the internal differences.

5.1 Al-Shabaab

Al-Shabaab (AS), an extremist group affiliated with Al-Qaida and prevalent in Somalia, pledged to launch attacks against Somaliland and Ethiopia in an effort to prevent the Ethio-Somaliland agreement. The group's spokesperson, Ali Raage (Ali Dheere), and a member of the Shura council, invoked religious themes and historical events in Islam, connecting Israel and Ethiopia in a campaign of "expansionism." In a chilling comparison, Raage drew parallels between the current Somaliland President Muse Bihi and the Banu Thaqif tribe that guided the Aksumite (i.e. Ethiopian) general Abraha in his assault on Mecca in 570 CE. (Maruf, 2024). In contrast to Somalia, where it wields control over significant portions of territory, AS maintains no physical foothold in Somaliland. Nevertheless, dormant cells and inactive individuals would likely be prepared to serve AS if they are to launch an attack on Somaliland.

5.2 Somalia

Upon the announcement of the MoU, the government of Somalia issued an official statement expressing its disapproval, asserting that Somaliland is an integral part of Somalia and cannot enter into any agreement with foreign entities. The Somali government specifically objected to the prospect of Ethiopia's recognition of Somaliland as a sovereign state, which it perceived as a direct threat to its sovereignty and territorial integrity. However, it is important to note that Somaliland's claim of statehood is grounded in historical and legal facts that are in no way dependent on Somalia's consent. On January 3, 2024, Ali Mohamed, the acting Foreign Minister of Somalia, convened a meeting with diplomatic representatives in Somalia to lodge the Federal Government of Somalia's objection to the MoU. During the meeting, the acting Foreign Minister saw international law as falling decisively on the side of the inviolability of Somalia's territorial boundaries. Furthermore, he criticized Ethiopia for potentially strengthening AS, by linking the Somaliland issue to Ethiopian imperial ambition (Somalia, 2024). A resolution was passed during the Council of Ministers' Extraordinary Session on January 2, 2024, which was presided over by the Prime Minister of Somalia. This resolution included a call to IGAD, the AU, the Arab League, and the UN to protect Somalia's territorial integrity. The resolution also denounced the "egregious" actions of Ethiopia and affirmed Somalia's right to pursue legal remedies through all available channels in response (Somalia, 2024). Similar sentiments were voiced personally in public statements made by two former Somali presidents, Mohamed Abdirahim Farmaajo and Sheikh Sharif, and two former Prime Ministers, Hassan Ali Kheyre and Mohamed Hussein Rooble.

In an effort to exert diplomatic pressure on Ethiopia, Hassan Sheikh Mohamoud visited Eritrea and Egypt, two countries that have historically had a contentious relationship with Ethiopia and saw the MoU as a threat to their strategic interests. Despite this, major global powers, including the United States, the United Kingdom, and the European Union, have adopted a more balanced stance on the matter, advocating for a peaceful resolution. It is noteworthy that despite the significance of the Ethio-Somaliland agreement as a strategic game changer for the Horn of Africa, Russia and France have yet to issue any official statements on the matter.

To be continue next week

Far from a benefactor, the Turkish government is exploiting Somalia's fragility



A decade has passed since Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan landed in Mogadishu at the height of one of Somalia's worst famines, announcing grandiose projects like the launch of Turkish Airlines flights to the Somali capital, the remodeling of a hospital, and the opening of the biggest embassy in Africa, all designed to show that Turkey's mission goes well beyond aid and that Ankara is an alternative to Somalia's traditional donors. Erdoğan's historic visit earned him high praise throughout Somalia. Although his trip appeared to be a heartfelt humanitarian mission, in reality it was part of a long-term, strategically planned effort. Erdoğan had been scouting out Somalia as early as 2007, when he met the former President of the Transitional Federal Government Abdullahi Yusuf and asked him to provide a list of what Somalia needs. His efforts were fruitless, however, until President Sharif Sheikh Ahmed came to power in 2008. Sharif visited Turkey three times between 2009 and 2011, reluctantly signing a military pact with Turkey, which asked to help Somalia with security. If Turkey had come to Somalia before 2011, it would have been seen as a foreign occupying force, just like the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), but in 2011, amid the devastation of one of the worst famines in the country's history, Turkey's self-proclaimed humanitarian mission was perceived differently. Erdoğan's historic visit to Somalia was well-orchestrated and well-timed: It came during the holy month of Ramadan, nine days before the Eid festival, after 250,000 Somalis had starved to death, and during an election year, at a time when Somalia's donors were scrambling to address a major humanitarian crisis.

Ever since Erdoğan declared 2005 "the Year of Africa," he has pursued every Muslim-majority African country that is widowed by conflict, locked out by the IMF, starved by man-made climate change, and neglected by the West; a fragile

Somalia checks all the boxes.

A decade on, Somalis are starting to realize that Turkey has evolved from friend to foe, trade partner to trade protectionist, state builder to outright spoiler. Turkey is an opportunist just like any other country and has its own agenda focused on geoeconomics and geopolitics. Instead of facilitating Somalia's development, Turkey has used state-sponsored corporations to exploit its assets, all as part of a development trap cloaked in the guise of religion.

The Turkish development trap

Post-2011, Turkey's humanitarian mission gradually shifted from an emphasis on soft power to a more assertive, politicized state-building effort involving de facto and de jure exploitation of Somalia's federal government development projects and monopolization of the economy in Mogadishu's Benadir region. Turkish private companies Albayrak Group and Favori LLC were given lucrative no-bid contracts to run Mogadishu's port and airport and protected by Ankara. As was documented in a 2016 U.N. monitoring report, these companies have allegedly been engaged in criminal practices ranging from bribery of government ministers to money laundering.

Predatory practices and trade barriers

In 2010, Somalia exported \$1.36 million worth of goods to Turkey and imported \$4.8 million, which was a manageable trade deficit. After Albayrak Group took over the management of Mogadishu Port, however, Turkish exports to Somalia increased exponentially, growing to \$37.5 million in 2011 and reaching \$256 million in 2019, even as Somalia's exports to Turkey rose to just \$6.7 million over the same period. By comparison, in 2019 Somalia exported \$18 million and \$195 million to China and the UAE respectively. Although Somalia has a port revenue-sharing agreement with Albayrak, which receives 45%, this has resulted in one-sided expansion of trade, with Turkish traders importing nearly 50 times as

much to Somalia as Somali traders exported to Turkey in 2020.

In 2015, Somalia's Financial Government Committee (FGC) published a detailed report reviewing public procurement and concessions; among the concessions reviewed in the report were the contracts for Albayrak Group and Favori LLC, which manage two of the largest domestic revenue generators for the Somalia government. The committee found several flaws in the Albayrak concession that resulted in uncompetitive port service costs, reduced revenues, labor disputes, and a lack of clarity on revenue sharing despite a general agreement laying out a 45-55% split. The FGC recommended that "the federal government seek an amicable renegotiation of the contract's more troubling clauses."

Albayrak Group concession

Since Albayrak Group was awarded a non-tendered, 20-year concession to manage Mogadishu Port, it has been embroiled in scandals over allegations of everything from predatory practices like wage theft from employees and attempts to cover up rape to bribing government ministers and artificially inflating port management and operating expenses (thereby reducing government revenues while boosting company profits). Based on existing data before Albayrak took over the port, the monthly revenue was \$6 million, and it subsequently increased to \$10 million to \$12 million per month; however, in 2014 Albayrak Group only reported \$2.7 million per month in revenue. This reduced the government's revenue share from 55% to 16% while increasing the company's from 45% to 84%. Something similar happened in Guinea when Alpha Condé, the now-deposed president and a friend of Erdoğan, awarded Albayrak a 25-year lease for the port of Conakry and 82% of duties in what was widely perceived to be a sweetheart deal.

Favori LLC concession

As with Albayrak's Mogadishu Port

contract, the FGC has also called for amendments to the concession of Favori LLC, a subsidiary of Turkey's Kozuva Group that manages Mogadishu airport under a 15-year deal signed on June 30, 2013. According to an aviation expert who examined the concession, Favori violated its contractual obligations by collecting illegal fees that should have been passed on to the Somali Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority (SCAMA). Separate from the general revenue sharing, these allegedly include but are not limited to fees for landing, air navigation, parking, passenger safety, freight, and fuel.

According to interviews with local aviation experts and former employees, Favori has also failed to reconstruct the airport's main runway, hampered development of local human resources by allocating key positions to non-Somalis, and neglected airport maintenance and safety, as required under its contract. Issues that should have been addressed in 2013 are only now being discussed. In addition, the company illegally built a hotel and shopping mall inside the airport property in a place that was supposed to be a parking lot for airport customers. It's not clear if the revenue generated from the Decale Hotel, which is a Somalia government asset, is supplemental revenue for the government or for Favori LLC.

Furthermore, according to a 2016 U.N. report, Favori LLC has inflated its expenses to maximize its profits, reporting monthly revenue of \$1.16 million and expenses of more than \$500,000 in 2016, compared to revenue of an estimated \$8 million per month before it took over management of the airport. This reduced the government's share of revenue from 45% to just 6%. Favori LLC even went so far as to claim asset depreciation as an expense, despite the fact that the assets in question are the Somalia

government's and not part of the contract. Rather than canceling the Favori LLC contract, the Somalia government re-negotiated terms with the company in May 2019, amid secrecy.

Favori LLC has faced repeated allegations of labor and human rights abuses against its employees, but the government has not taken action against the company. Favori LLC has allegedly bribed Somalia government officials with business class air tickets and free holidays stays in Turkey and seems to enjoy unlimited impunity. The Federation of Somali Trade Unions (FESTU) has published a damning report documenting Favori LLC's serious labor abuses that it says violate both Somalia's constitution and International Labor Organization articles. FESTU filed a specific instance with the Turkish National Contact Point (NCP) of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) against Favori LLC in February 2021.

Turkish concession risk and liabilities

From a legal perspective, both the Favori and Albayrak contracts were awarded under an opaque process and were not approved by the Somali parliament. As one legislator noted, "Any deal that is not approved by the parliament remains null and void." This puts the Somalia government at risk of liability in both cases.

Though the government finally inked a 14-year concession to streamline revenue sharing and port development with Albayrak Group in October 2020, this largely reinforced the company's original concession obligations. In addition, the revised concession has so many ambiguities that it's not clear if the new 14-year deal is an extension of the previous 20-year lease, if it requires Albayrak Group co-

To be continue next week

CAUTIONARY NOTICE TRADE MARK – SOMALILAND



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above trade mark is the trade mark of: CARREFOUR, a French Société Anonyme of 93 Avenue de Paris, 91300 MASSY, France and is used in connection with: Sales promotion services for all kinds of goods, especially those provided in supermarkets, markets and hypermarkets; bringing together for the benefit of others of a variety of goods enabling customers to conveniently view and purchase those goods; physical retail sales services; retail sales services conducted via a website or through a purchasing and payment automation device on a merchant site.

The mark is used in the colours black and yellow.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that legal proceedings will be taken against any person or company who uses the said trade mark or any imitations thereof or who otherwise infringes the rights of the said company.