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## It's now official: NEC officially declares elections date set for the presidential and political parties

Only the existing official political parties will front aspiring presidential and vice-presidential candidates



By M.A. Egge  
The Somaliland National Elections Commission (NEC) has officially publicized the date of holding the upcoming simultaneous national elections of both the Presidential and the national political parties. The NEC at the same time specified the bonafide political parties which will field their aspiring candidates.

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### Somaliland government to establish national development fund, as it reveals that population has reached 6.2million



By M.A. Egge  
The state has revealed that it is planning on establishing a national development fund in 2025.

It has also announced that the population of the country of

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### Somaliland Parliament Slaps DP World Berbera on the Wrist for Unlawful Tariffs



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### All Somalilanders from east to west have, share the same destiny and aspirations, says Rayale

He scoffs at diasporans who misuse social media in efforts to plant seeds of discord  
He calls for harmonious solidarity unity and sense of belonging as a nation



By M.A. Egge  
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### Water minister, colleagues jointly lay foundation stone for water-well in Sallahley district



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### Deputy Minister Rhoda Jama Elmi: Leading the Charge for Somaliland's International Recognition



The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Somaliland, Rhoda Jama Elmi, has called on the international community to recognize the Republic of Somaliland as a fully recognized state.

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Ethiopia remains steadfast in its commitment to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with Somaliland and the recent furor in

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### PVPV police unit established by Ministry of Religion and Endowments



By M.A. Egge

The Ministry of Religion and Endowments of Somaliland has created a Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vices (PVPV)

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# It's now official: NEC officially declares elections date set for the presidential and political parties



In a detailed press release circulated by the elections body on Saturday that was signed by the Chair of the NEC Mr. Musa Hassan Yusuf, the commission declared the following:-

1. That the Presidential and Vice-Presidential elections and that of the official National Political Parties elections will be held on the 13th of November 2024.
2. That only the aspiring candidates fronted by the three National Official Political Parties of UCID, KULMIYE and WADDANI will be fielded in Presidential and Vice-Presidential elections.
3. That the elections of the official National Political Parties will

be entered by the existing three official political parties and the ten Political Organizations that had been verified and cleared by the Committee for the Registration and Verification of Political Organizations and Political Parties. It is worth noting that in the context of the country's national constitution, only three political parties are mandated to exist. With the coming elections, the nation is going to polls for the umpteenth time for yet another general election through universal suffrage by voting in secret ballots in less than a quarter of a century, an unprecedented fete in the Horn of Africa region. In the NEC circular, the electoral institution quoted various articles

that specifies its mandate of slating the elections date. It specified that the election date has been set a month before the expiry of the current presidential as per the constitution. Following the official publication of the NEC notice, the declaration will according to the law be forwarded to the Head of State for sanctioning approval for action through a Presidential Decree. This has at last put to rest political disgruntles that has bedeviled the electioneering processes that was put on hold for a while, following conciliatory efforts that the NEC itself mentioned in its publication hence noted that it also shaped in forming their opinion of setting the elections date.

## All Somalilanders from east to west have, share the same destiny and aspirations, says Rayale



the Lughaya port and that the Office of the Presidency will pay the first million USD fund injection to the project. He at the same time scoffed and told off diasporans who try to foment insurgencies through the social media terming their efforts to be in utter futility. He called for harmonious solidarity unity and sense of belonging as a nation. The former president who is held in high esteem across the country also prevailed upon naysayers who hail from his region from distracting the residents from the cause of the nation's aspirations. H.E. Rayale made the revelations as he made an unprecedented political public address in Borama, Awdal region for the first time in fourteen years since he left office. The meeting which was indeed large was attended by the Minister Trade and that of Council Relations

and Constitution, Awdal regional government officials, cultural traditional and contemporary leaders, scholars and eminent personalities and a audiences from the social sectors. He gave a long speech that highlighted the gist of the meeting as being one to rally the populaces of the region together in upholding the essence of belonging as a nation. In emphasizing the seriousness and magnitude he had for the meeting pointed out, "This is the first time that I am holding such a meeting with the leaders of the Awdal fraternity in fourteen years' time". He decried and condemned the unnecessary calamities and upheavals that has been ruffling over time and advised on the ways and means of combatting them. He lamented that the use of social media to plant seeds of discord **Continue on page 3**

# Somaliland government to establish national development fund, as it reveals that population has reached 6.2million

Somaliland has hit 6.2 million. Similarly, the government has directed that a committee be formed to put in check the rising numbers of the spates of accidents whose incidences has caused a lot of carnages. These were part of the resolutions reached during the 127th session of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Somaliland meeting on Thursday which also had their deliberations dwell on the upcoming presidential and political party elections, finance, security issues and also the increasing incidences of road carnages in the country. According to a press release from the Presidency, the cabinet members analysed various points that are based on how to harmonize the pertinent issues that are being prepared for this year's elections and the nation's general plans in terms of finance, security and traffic accidents that are increasing from time to time. Customarily, the Council of Ministers listened to a general briefing which were given on the security of the country from the Deputy Minister of Interior, who is the acting minister,



Hon. Abdullahi Hussein Mohamed, who updated the council on the security situation in the country and in the Horn of the region. He also informed the cabinet on the ongoing preparations of commemoration of the 34th anniversary of the re-asserting of the independence the Republic of Somaliland on May 18.

Presently there are both intensive and extensive preparations underway within and outside the country to observe the event in elaborate support the cause of Somaliland's independence. The council also heard reports from the Ministers of Finance Hon. Dr. Saad Ali Shire, Planning and National development Hon. Ahmed

Mohamed Diriye (Toorno), Agricultural Development Hon. Ahmed Mohamed Habbane and Health Hon. Hassan Mohamed Ali (Hasan Gaafadi) on general updates of the dockets that they are charged with and their expected plans in the course of the year. After lengthy deliberations the council issued important points related to the interests of the nation

and members of the public as whole, which were: -

1. To establish a national development fund from 2025, with the procedure to be managed jointly by the ministry of financial development and that of planning and national development.
2. The council reinforces the previous decisions that came out of the previous meetings that related that the development projects that the Republic of Somaliland receives from the international community should not be passed by proxy to any other entity but directly to it.
3. The number of people living in the Republic of Somaliland is currently at 6.2 million hence the government is working steadfastly to provide them with comprehensive services.
4. That urgent legal action should be taken on the repeated issues that cause traffic accidents whose carnages has been causing rampant loss of life and property to the country and the people, by appointing a committee composed of the Ministry of Transport and Road Development and the relevant security agencies to delve into it with the aim of combating it.



## All Somalilanders from east to west have, share the same destiny and aspirations, says Rayale

within the community has reached a virulent high and that it should be not lend credence. He told off diaspora community who hail from Awdal and foment insurgency that they have no future at all in playing to the whims of the Mogadishu government. He stated that the situation of the former Italian colony was rife with constant political turbulences, upheavals, disorganization and pandemonium hence are on the verge of disintegration. He was categorical that the future

of the people was with their nation of Somaliland where they belong and ought to have their sense of belonging and aspirations. He said that Somalilanders in both the eastern and western parts of the country share the same destiny. In driving his point home, H.E. Rayale noted that when the country re-asserted its independence back in 1991 there was only one secondary school in Awdal region, that is Sheikh Bashir which he said was built through volunteering; and

that in comparison, today there were the higher institutions of learning and secondary schools in every town centres. Indeed, the region is regarded as the seat and cr me of education in the country, as it is dubbed the "home of intellectuals". H.E. Rayale said that the government of Somaliland is committed to the construction of Lughaya port, and stressed that the first million will be paid by the president.

## Deputy Minister Rhoda Jama Elmi: Leading the Charge for Somaliland's International Recognition



In a statement posted on her social media account, she argued that Somaliland has been sovereign for 33 uninterrupted years since reclaiming its independence in 1991, longer than it existed in the union with Somalia. The Deputy Minister also highlighted the discrimination and repression that occurred during the union with Somalia, leading to a war of genocide inflicted by the Somalia government on the people of Somaliland. This, coupled with the fact that "75% of Somaliland's population is under the age of 40, makes it evident that the majority of the nation has only known Somaliland's green, white, and red flag as a symbol of their sovereignty and an integral part of their identity," she said. The international community's recognition of Somaliland as an independent state is both logical and morally imperative. "It is both logical and morally imperative for the international community to respect Somaliland's aspirations to reclaim its rightful place among the comity of nations as a fully recognized state, once again," she added. 75% of Somaliland's population is under the age of 40 and has only known the green, white, and red flag, which is not just a symbol of their sovereignty but an integral part of their identity, shaping their lives and aspirations. Somaliland has demonstrated its ability to govern itself and has worked

tirelessly to build a stable and democratic society. The country has held multiple peaceful elections, established a functioning government, and maintained a robust economy. Despite these achievements, the international community has yet to recognize Somaliland as an independent state. While the country has received support from some African nations and organizations, including the African Union, it has yet to be recognized by any major world power. The lack of recognition has had severe consequences for Somaliland, including restrictions on trade, investment, and access to international aid. Additionally, it has prevented the country from participating in international organizations and engaging in diplomatic relations with other nations fully. Somaliland has existed as an independent state longer than it did in the union with Somalia. For Somaliland to reach its full potential, it is essential that the international community recognize its sovereignty. The country has worked hard to establish a stable and democratic society and has demonstrated its ability to govern itself effectively. Recognition would not only be a symbolic gesture but would also provide much-needed support to the country's development efforts. Below is the full statement she

posted today in her X account: "If we set aside Somaliland's status as a separate entity from Somalia before its independence from Great Britain on June 26th, 1960, there's another compelling argument to consider—the uninterrupted 33 years of sovereignty since Somaliland reclaimed its independence in 1991. During this time, Somaliland has existed as an independent state longer than it did in the union with Somalia, which will be remembered for its division, discrimination, and repression, culminating in a war of genocide inflicted by the Somali government on the people of Somaliland. Ambassador Rhoda Jama Elmi, Somaliland's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Furthermore, when we factor in that approximately 75% of Somaliland's population is under the age of 40, it becomes evident that the majority of our young nation has only known the green, white, and red of Somaliland. This flag is not just a symbol of their sovereignty but an integral part of their identity, shaping their lives and aspirations. In light of these realities, it is both logical and morally imperative for the international community to respect Somaliland's aspirations to reclaim its rightful place among the comity of nations as a fully recognized state, once again."

## The head of the Civil Service Commission meets with the UK Home Office in Hargeisa.



By Goth Mohamed Goth  
The Chairman of the Somaliland Civil Service Commission, Mr. Khalid Jama Qodax on Thursday in his office hosted officials from the UK Home Office in Hargeisa. Mr. Khalid Jama Qodax said, "We had the pleasure of hosting a delegation from the UK Home Office in Hargeisa! We had a fruitful discussion, briefing them on our ongoing reform programs, particularly our efforts in developing policies and guidelines for civil

service management. He added, "It was enlightening to hear about their work in Somaliland and their support of various programs, and looking forward to more collaboration in the future. The Chairman of the Somaliland Civil Service Commission also had a crucial meeting with the Parliamentary Social Affairs Sub-committee to delve into the Pension Bill. He said the meeting was meant to foster understanding and open channels for communication with MPs on this vital legislation. And to speed up the approval process.

## Somaliland Parliament Slaps DP World Berbera on the Wrist for Unlawful Tariffs



In what appears to be the first sign of estrangement between the UAE ports manager, DP World, and the Republic of Somaliland, the House of Representatives (HoR) of the latter annuls tariffs levied on bulk cargo importers, NFMC, for undelivered services. At its 18th session of the 7th sitting of the House, the lower house of the country's bicameral parliament on Sunday scrapped a portage charge of US\$ 3.5/ton on the National Flour Mills Company (NFMC) for uploading bulk imports of wheat despite the company using its own grabbers and hoppers to load up trucks onward to the company's silos and warehouses. Drawing on a detailed report read out to the House panel by Honorable Ahmed Abdi Ibrahim (Timojili), chairperson of an ad hoc committee previously appointed to report back on the lingering dispute between NFMC and DP World, voted 40 in favor of the annulment of the unearned charges, where 8 abstained and 14 voted against the decision.

"The House Corroborates the surmise that the Geelle (quay) porters can only be paid for services rendered on behalf of DP World which is in line with Article 20(3) of the Constitution of the Republic of Somaliland stating 'All employees have a right to payment appropriate to the work they undertake and are free to enter into agreements with their employers on an individual or collective basis. Forced labor is prohibited' which eliminates compensation for services not rendered and on pressuring an employer to pay more than that is due to an employee/worker/service provider," the House Resolution of Sunday stated. The HoR stated that it found no fault in the conclusions several government line institutions and committees appointed by the President to look into the dispute made with the Berbera port manager reached and which, it was reported, the latter largely ignored or declined without plausible

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## Somaliland Parliament Slaps DP World Berbera on the Wrist for Unlawful Tariffs

justification.

“The House concurs the conclusions and decisions of the various committees the president nominated to look into the dispute between NFMC and DP World Berbera,” the House Resolution stated.

Among the officials, ministries, and agencies that corresponded their findings and conclusions included Somaliland Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture. Minister for finance Development, Minister of Employment, Social Affairs, and Family Welfare (who was the General-Manager of Berbera Port at the incident of the dispute), the Solicitor-General, Port and Free Economic Zone BoD, and the incumbent General-Manager of the Port of Berbera.

The Resolution reaffirmed, in line with the conclusions of the House ad hoc committee and the government line institutions, that NFMC was ‘not bound to pay portage charges since no portage services have been rendered’.

“The House Corroborates the surmise that the Geelle (quay) porters can only be paid for services rendered on behalf of DP World which is in line with Article 20(3) of the Constitution of the Republic of Somaliland stating ‘All employees have a right to payment appropriate to the work they undertake and are free to enter into agreements with their employers on an individual or collective basis. Forced labor is prohibited’ which eliminates compensation for services not rendered and on pressuring an employer to pay more than that is due to an employee/worker/service provider.” the HoR resolution said, adding, “Geelle (quay) porters be awarded a compensation commensurate with workload clocked in collecting, packing and loading quayside spillages in accordance with the (DP World) set tariff charges of US\$3.5 per ton”.

The House went on to state that on

the occurrence of disputes that DP World Berbera was ‘legally obligated to respond to arbitration when a dispute arises in accordance with article 15.2 of the Concession Agreement it entered with the government of Somaliland, and that it cannot unilaterally decline complaints raised against it; and that the concession agreement with Somaliland does not offer an immunity against disputes or calls of attendance in front of the Parliament since DP World possesses a legal personality which endows it the right to file suit against parties or be sued for transgression in accordance with Article 28 of the Constitution of the Republic of Somaliland’.

The HoR in at least one instance quite clearly showed its displeasure in what seemed to be a flagrant disregard of the country’s laws and the letter and spirit of the content of the Articles of Association it signed with the government of Somaliland. “House emphasizes that DP World comply with the conclusions and decisions of the different government institutions and committees relating to this dispute and that, if it is not satisfied with them, appear before the London Court of International Arbitration where NFMC has filed its complaint as set forth by Article 28(1 and 2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Somaliland which is concurred by Article 15.2 of the (Shareholders’) Agreement which obliges DP World to acknowledge and sign the formal notice submitted it by the attorneys of the NFMC which the Solicitor General formally forwarded to DP World within 30 days from delivery at which failure on the part of DP World NFMC will have the right to initiate/file suit a case against DP World in the appropriate/competent national court,” the Resolution stressed.

Finally, the House concluded that DP World must refund levies it unjustifiably charged the flour mill company.

“House resolves that DP World refund/recompensate NFMC the

portage charges it previously levied it and funds that the government compensated NFMC from its own coffer in full,” the Resolution emphatically banged down.

The House ad hoc on whose report the Resolution largely drew on came into force on 30 July 2023. Since then and until it tabled its findings to the panel hall, the committee left no stone upturned to hammer out facts and figures relating or contributing to the dispute reaching as untenable a stage as it has.

The Dubai-based ports manager, DP World signed a 30-year concession agreement with the government of Somaliland in 2018 to manege and develop the strategically located Red Sea port of Berbera.. Whilst the agreement grants much leeway in management and levying issues, it does emphasize that it operate within the law and as is set forth by the concession agreement and the articles of association.

Arbitration in disputes is an accepted form of settlement in differences that arise between partners or associates in business deals.

The dispute between NFMC and DP World, which will also soon affect another flour mill company soon to be inaugurated, Oomaar, may either prove to be a tip of the iceberg, flourishing into a more serious stand off with government, or the beginning of a stronger, mutually respected business partnership depending on how the current situation is handled.

What many see as a more serious consequence of a continued intransigence on the part of DP Word is the resurfacing of a strong opposition to the long-term concession given to DP World at a mere cost of \$442 million. Another consequence could be the discouragement of local industries and the revival of the country’s economic growth which can be crippled by heavy or undue tariffs and taxes.

## Mogadishu objections to Somaliland deal a “hiccup”: Ethiopian senior Foreign Affairs advisor



Mogadishu over the deal is nothing more than a temporary setback, according to Abdulaziz Ahmed Adem (Amb.), chief advisor to the National Intelligence and Security Service and an advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The senior official made the remarks during a conference on regional security in the Horn of Africa organized by the Institute of Foreign Affairs at Skylight Hotel on April 19, 2024.

Abdulaziz told *The Reporter* the Ethiopian government remains committed to the MoU.

He argues that Ethiopian access to sea outlets can facilitate mutual growth with Somalia, which boasts a coastline stretching over 3,000 kilometers. Abdulaziz characterized Mogadishu’s vehement objections to the port deal with Somaliland as a “hiccup,” suggesting it is an attempt to divert attention from Somalia’s internal political challenges.

He said Ethiopia would proceed with the deal as part of its commitment to regional integration. “Ethiopia welcomes people from all neighboring countries, especially Somalia,” he said. “It’s crucial for both nations to unite against designated terrorist groups like Al-Shabab, Daesh (also known as ISIL/ISIS), and human traffickers. By working together, we can thrive and

overcome challenges, rather than opposing an agreement that cannot be stopped,” said Abdulaziz.

He called upon regional countries to prioritize cooperation and prosperity and reaffirmed Ethiopia’s dedication to peace and collaboration with neighboring nations. Abdulaziz mentioned the military contributions Ethiopia has made to peacekeeping efforts in Sudan and Somalia.

He cautioned against the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops from Somalia, emphasizing the potential risks it poses not only to Ethiopia but also to the broader region.

“Our military has made significant sacrifices for Somalia, both within its borders and for the cause of peace. We are committed to fostering peaceful relations with our neighbors and are prepared to undertake further efforts towards this goal. It is imperative that they, along with others, are aware of our dedication to this cause,” he told *The Reporter*. The MoU, signed on January 1, 2024, between Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Somaliland President Muse Bihi has sparked considerable regional and international debate. Abiy Ahmed has previously emphasized the critical nature of sea access for Ethiopia, a stance that has heightened tensions across the Horn of Africa.



Buhane visited Sheikh Ali Jowhar High School, in Borama city, in bid to launch mock trial tests for this year’s form four candidates.

He at the same time was in a monitoring tour that saw him visit several other schools in the area with the aim of assessing the education qualities.

The minister visited the A.A. Good primary school, met with the teachers and students of the school, and urged the students to work hard and surpass in their studies.

At Al-Aqsa High School in Borama, the minister was welcomed by the administration, teachers and students of the school where he took time to plant a tree at the school’s premise to boost forestation exercises.

The education minister who has been in Borama, Awdal region, for the few past days has been visiting and inspecting several educational facilities in the area hence gave words of advice and encouragement to the students and teachers wherever he met them.

## Water minister, colleagues jointly lay foundation stone for water-well in Sallahley district

By M.A. Egge

The Ministers of Water development Hon. Suleiman Yusuf Ali Koore, was flanked by his Health and National Planning colleagues the honourables Hassan Ali Mohamed Gaafadi and Ahmed Mohamed Diriye Toorno respectively as they jointly laid the foundation stone for a new water-well to be implemented in Sallahley district.

The function of laying the foundation stone was also attended by the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, the manager of the Airports Authority, the Deputy Chairman of the national

Tenders Committee, and both the regional and district officials.

This new water well is intended to strengthen the expansion of water supply in Sallahley district, contributing greatly the commodity’s need.

Hon. Suleiman noted in his speech that the borehole water-well drills were more cumbersome than the open water-wells dam, especially in all the Hawt areas.

He underpinned the fact that even both the public and private implements are not able to serve the purpose. He however pointed out that much has been done in the

sector and more projects are underway.

He quipped that he was honoured to expedite his services to the people of the area as far as the sector of water resources was concerned.

The various leaders and officials who spoke on the occasion of laying the foundation stone of the water-well praised the government for its efforts to ensure that the community has enough water.

The Minister of Education inspected some schools in Borama Minister of Education and Science of Somaliland Hon. Dr. Ahmed Aden



## The Minister of the Environment hails the Ministry of Information for championing tree planting efforts

By M.A. Egge

The Ministry of Information, Culture and National Guidance has depicted its unmatched championing in planting trees amongst the premises of all government ministries, agencies and institutions in the country.

This was the observation made by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change of Somaliland Hon. Shukri Haji Ismail Bandare on Wednesday when she toured the information ministry.

The Minister of Information Hon. Ali Hassan Mohamed (Ali Marehaan) who was flanked by the Deputy Minister Hon. Syed Hassan Habbane and the Director General of the Ministry, Mustafa Abdi Isse (Shiine), welcomed Hon. Shukri Haji Ismail Bandare to the headquarters of the Ministry of Information as she paid a courtesy

call and inspected the forestation endeavours of the ministry.

She hailed Hon. Ali Hassan for his personal fete in planting the trees by noting that he had left such a legacy at the water ministry during his stint at there. Minister Shukri highlighted that she appreciated the plan and action of the Ministry of Information to plant a large number of trees that were spread widely around the vast compound of the ministry's headquarters.

The Minister of Information Hon. Ali Hassan Mohamed, said that on the 15th of this month, the ministry of information participated in the reforestation campaign led by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, by planting in its compound 560 trees of assorted species, a move will contribute to combating the global warming and climate change. "We are very happy

because when I see a tree planted, I am happy. Indeed, the Ministry of Information has made a change by planting trees in the ministry", she said. "I congratulate the Minister and greatly honour the ministry for achieving such a wonderful fete", she added. She noted that the number of trees planted was a whopping 500 tree seedlings.

On the same note, she praised the information minister for having paved paths at the ministry's headquarters with 7k marbles and asphalt in quite a short while that he has been at the helm of the information ministry.

Minister Shukri pointed out that the Ministry of Information has onerous tasks and heavy duty to the nation in being the main rapportoire bridging the people and their government and as the mirror of the nation of Somaliland.

## Three children lost their lives as five others survive in Las'iidle flash floods



By M.A. Egge

Flash floods from heavy rains have claimed the lives of three children of the same family who were holed up in their house at Hidiidale in the rural areas of Las'iidle District in the Sahil Region over the week.

The rainfall that poured for two consecutive days in the area had strong currents flowing from uphill south of Las'iidle according to the local district administrator Mr. Adan Omar Ali.

He confirmed the deaths of the children and said that five other people survived the drowning in the same locality.

He added that camels too were swept away including the coveted ones that pastoral families use for transportation in the nomadic life.

The administrator said that they are still combing the area to take the stock of the situation.

Similar rainfall has been pounding many places across the country within the past four day, including Hargeisa city where it is still pouring.

Semi-arid areas are usually prone to flash floods whenever it rains.

## PVPV police unit established by Ministry of Religion and Endowments



drugs and unbecoming and illegal public behaviour such as prostitution and associated social ills.

The establishing of the unit was announced by the Minister of Religion and Endowment of the Republic of Somaliland Sheikh Mohamed Haji Aden Elmi, who has just notified the members of the public that this unit will work in all cities, town and rural centers countrywide.

He called on the populaces to support the cause and be ambassadors of PVPV hence always propagate goodness while shunning evil tendencies hence work with the unit as much as possible as promoters.

"Everyone should report any crime they see and, cooperate with the agencies that are working on it", he said.

police unit to fight against the uncouth social behavioral tendencies and misdemeanors that are against the basic tenets of the Islamic religious regulations.

The new police unit will work with

the ministry and the PVPV committee which in essence preaches and propagates the promotion of good virtue and the total prevention of vices such as consumption and transactions of narcotics or alcohol, usage of illicit

## The Minister of the Ministry of Planning said that the Government is committed to the development of basic things

By M.A. Egge

Minister of Planning Hon. Ahmed Mohamed Diriye Toorno has said that the government is committed to the development of basic needs to which it is responsible for such as in the sectors of infrastructure, agricultural and livestock production, fisheries and water development and also in both the health and education departments. The minister emphasized the fact that the said priorities named are factors that the Government of President Bihi are intent on bolstering. He said, "The development plan of the government led by President Musa Bihi gives priority to basic needs of the people, such as livestock, fish, water and economic infrastructure, including roads and electricity, just as on health and education sectors".



To underpin such importance of necessities, he pointed out that for instance if there is no water then basically there is no essence of life and no development altogether.

The minister gave the sentiments during the laying of a foundation tone for a water rig in Sallahley district.

He said, "This is the tenth water source in this area that is being implemented during the government's existence, and soon another well will be drilled in Waays Odane, a dam will be excavated in Qotandabo, and two others in Labisagale and in Elyo".

## Somaliland's Ministry of Youth and Sports hosts quarterly coordination meeting for stakeholders



By Goth Mohamed Goth

Hargeisa, Somaliland – In a move to strengthen youth development initiatives, Somaliland's Ministry of Youth and Sports this week hosted a quarterly coordination meeting for stakeholders at the Barar Hotel in Hargeisa.

The ministry Director General, Mr. Abdirashid Aided Yassin, and Somaliland Youth Development fund director Khadar Ibrahim opened the conference, which brought together national and international organizations.

The focus of the meeting was to analyze the progress of three-month plans submitted by participating organizations. One key highlight was the presentation by the

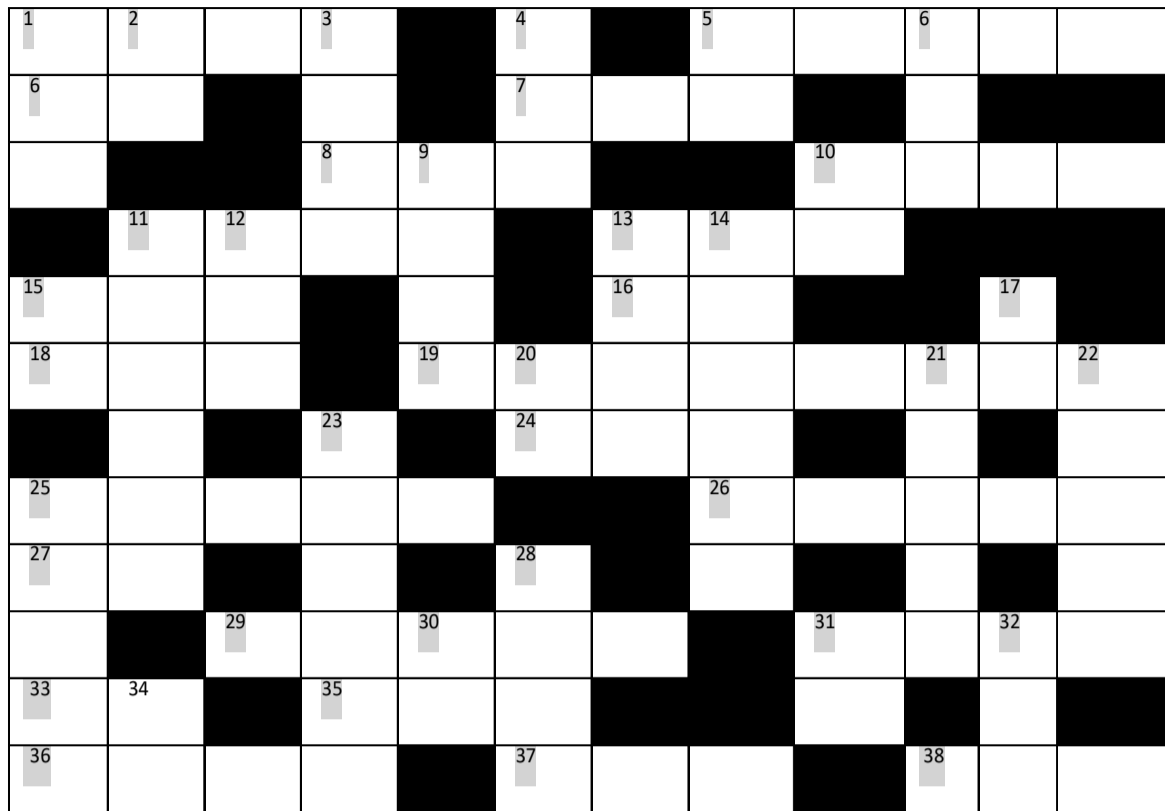
Somaliland Youth Fund regarding the development of a "Somaliland Youth Development Sector Dashboard."

This innovative dashboard aims to become a central platform for tracking and visualizing critical data on youth development. Encompassing areas like education, employment, health, and social well-being, the dashboard will be accessible to government officials, civil society organizations, and the general public.

This initiative is expected to be a valuable tool for monitoring progress toward established youth development goals and pinpointing areas that require further focus and improvement.



# THT Puzzle



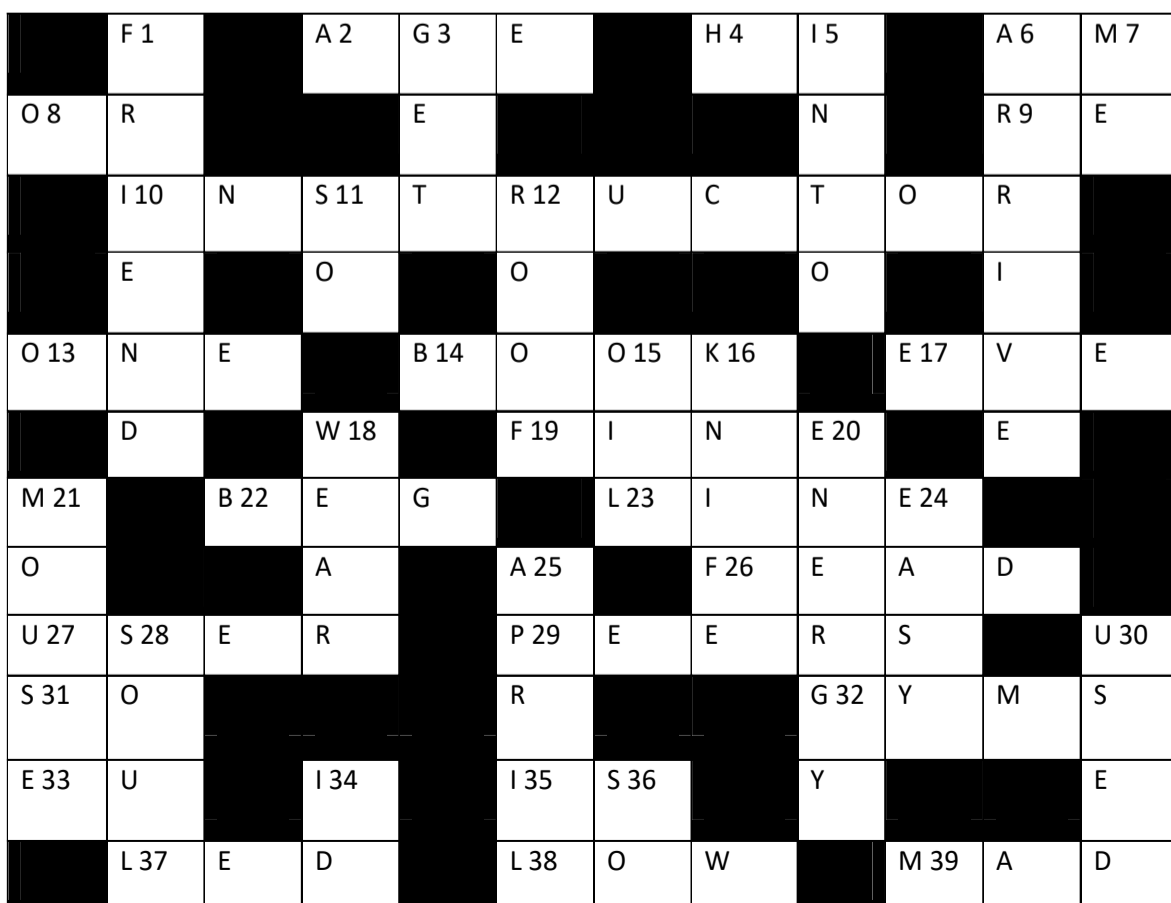
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- 32 Drink
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**ACROSS**

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- 7 Take aim
- 8 Sunlight
- 10 Intimidating
- 11 Wages
- 13 Guy
- 15 Older
- 16 Otherwise
- 18 Reddish
- 19 Frame
- 24 Look at
- 25 Property
- 26 Seating
- 27 Be there
- 29 Legal
- 31 Becomes
- 33 U'S
- 35 Everything
- 36 Implement
- 37 Angry
- 38 Eyeball

## Previous Answer



## The Head of the Civil Service Commission meets with the UK Home Office in Hargeisa



The Chairman of the Somaliland Civil Service Commission, Mr. Khalid Jama Qodah on Thursday in his office hosted officials from the UK Home Office in Hargeisa. Mr. Khalid Jama Qodah said, "We had the pleasure of hosting a delegation from the UK Home Office in Hargeisa! We had a fruitful discussion, briefing them on our ongoing reform programs, particularly our efforts in developing policies and guidelines for civil service management. He added, "It was enlightening to

hear about their work in Somaliland and their support of various programs, and looking forward to more collaboration in the future. The Chairman of the Somaliland Civil Service Commission also had a crucial meeting with the Parliamentary Social Affairs Subcommittee to delve into the Pension Bill. He said the meeting was meant to foster understanding and open channels for communication with MPs on this vital legislation. And to speed up the approval process.

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# Ethiopia Financial Stability Report



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Global annualized headline inflation is set to fall from 8.9 percent in December 2022 to 6.4 percent in December 2023 and 5.1 percent in December 2014. Monetary policy tightening is expected to gradually dampen inflation, but a central driver of the disinflation projected for 2023 and 2024 is declining international commodity prices.

With the exception of Rwanda and Uganda, which recorded 21.6 percent and 10.2 percent inflation in December 2022, respectively, annual inflation in most East African countries remained at single digits in 2022 despite the shock to commodity prices following the war in Ukraine. Ethiopia, which had previously seen double-digit inflation, saw a spike in December 2021 at 35.1 percent; and the rate hardly changed in 2022, standing at 33.8 percent in December 2022. But it is expected to drop to 24.5 percent and 18.5 percent by the end of 2023 and 2024, respectively (Figure 2).

Currency fluctuations in 2023 against the United States Dollar presented a mixed picture (Table 1). Currencies of other developed economies showed limited fluctuations against the dollar, with the Euro showing a strong performance, probably reflecting the larger increase in policy interest rates in the euro area than in the United States. Most currencies of emerging economies continued to depreciate by up to 10 percent. Outliers with higher depreciation (above 20 percent) included the Turkish Lira, the Russian Ruble, the Egyptian Pound, and the Kenyan Shilling, all of which can be explained by country-specific reasons. Emerging markets whose currencies appreciated against the Dollar were the Brazilian Real and the Moroccan Dirham. The Ethiopian Birr depreciated slowly, at 3.8 percent over 11 months. Interest rate developments in 2023 diverged across countries but rates

mostly increased throughout the year (Table 2), reflecting continued attempts to reduce inflation. For example, the European Central Bank and the Fed increased policy rates from 2.5 percent and 4.4 percent in December 2022 to 4.5 percent and 5.4 percent in November 2023, respectively. Among the BRICS, India, Russia, South Africa and other emerging economies such as Morocco and Saudi Arabia increased their policy rates [Türkiye registered the highest increase, from 9.0 percent in December 2022 to 40.0 percent in November 2023] Only Brazil and China had lower policy rates at the end of November 2023 than 11 months prior. Ethiopia held its rate constant throughout the period, reflecting a balancing approach to keeping inflation at bay without stifling growth.

towards higher benchmark (policy) interest rates could increase the foreign exchange and interest rate risks that financial institutions face in Ethiopia.

Positively, though, global growth has proven remarkably resilient against a background of rising geopolitical tensions and violent conflicts. In addition, the diversity of

growth, which is projected to continue in the coming years (Figure 1). Real GDP growth at above 6.0 percent remains higher than the average growth for Sub-Saharan Africa (projected at 3.3 percent for 2023 and 4.0 percent for 2024).

The composition of GDP continued to change gradually, recovering from the distortions caused by the

Figure 3: Ethiopian GDP by Sector and Economic Growth, 2019-2024 (percent)



Source: NBE and \*projections by the IMF World Economic Outlook October 2023 Edition

Table 1: Performance of Selected Countries' Currencies (end of year)

Country	Currency	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (Nov)	Change 2023 (+Dep/-App)
<b>Developed economies</b>	Euro Area	0.89	0.81	0.88	0.94	0.91	-2%
	Canada	1.31	1.29	1.29	1.36	1.36	0%
	Japan	71.27	73.05	74.30	82.79	83.35	1%
<b>BRICS</b>	Brazil	4.03	5.20	5.58	5.22	4.93	-5%
	China	6.99	6.53	6.37	6.99	7.13	2%
	India	71.27	73.05	74.30	82.79	83.35	1%
	Russia	61.91	73.88	74.29	70.34	88.88	26%
	South Africa	14.03	14.69	15.91	16.99	18.86	11%
<b>East Africa</b>	Ethiopia	31.80	39.18	49.19	53.34	55.38	4%
	Kenya	101.34	109.17	113.14	123.37	153.15	24%
	Rwanda	922.52	972.48	1,009.62	1,070.71	1,227.48	15%
	Tanzania	2,287.93	2,298.46	2,297.61	2,324.74	2,505.93	8%
	Uganda	3,665.21	3,650.07	3,544.41	3,715.69	3,817.26	3%
<b>Other developing economies</b>	Egypt	15.99	15.68	15.66	24.69	30.89	25%
	Morocco	9.59	8.90	9.28	10.45	9.91	-5%
	Saudi Arabia	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	0%
	Türkiye	5.95	7.35	12.99	18.72	28.91	54%

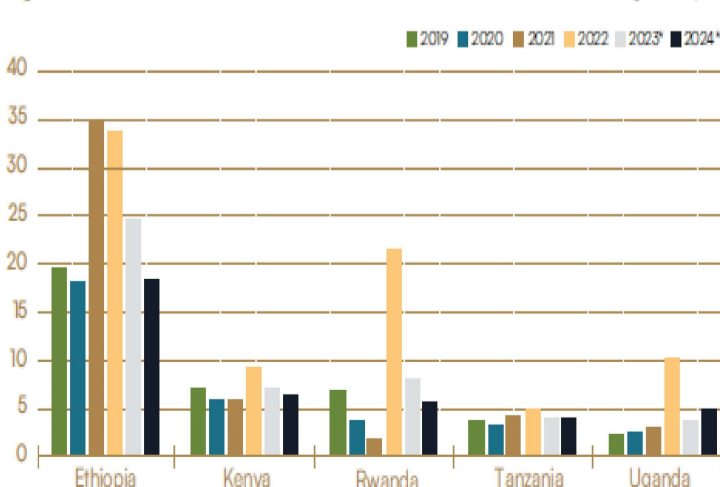
Source: IMF, International Financial Statistics; for data in italics — www.oanda.com

Table 2: Policy (Benchmark) Interest Rates of Selected Countries, 2019-2023

Country	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (Nov)	
<b>Developed economies</b>	Euro area	0	0	0	2.5	4.5
	United States	1.625	0.125	0.125	4.375	5.375
<b>BRICS</b>	Brazil	4.5	2	9.25	13.75	12.25
	China	4.15	3.85	3.8	3.65	3.45
	India	5.15	4	4	6.25	6.5
	Russia	6.25	4.25	8.5	7.5	15
	South Africa	6.5	3.5	3.75	7	8.25
<b>Other developing economies</b>	Morocco	2.25	1.5	1.5	2.5	3
	Saudi Arabia	2.25	1	1	5	6
	Türkiye	12	17	14	9	40
	Ethiopia	7	7	7	7	7

Source: Bank for International Settlements; for Ethiopia — NBE.

Figure 2: Annual inflation rate in East African Countries, 2019-2024, December (percent)



Source: IMF World Economic Outlook Database; October 2023 Edition; \*Projections

Overall, Ethiopia's financial institutions face variety of risks due to the state of the global economy, with multiple macroeconomic shocks implied by the weakening of global growth along with high food, fuel and other commodity prices. This affects Ethiopia's external position by driving up import costs and stifling exports.

Consequently, there by raises the risks for financial institutions in the country.

Furthermore, developments in various foreign exchange markets and the trend

developments across economies offers an opportunity to reduce risks by building diversified portfolios of economic relations.

Domestic factors will also impact the health of the Ethiopian financial system.

According to the analysis, certain factors raise risk while others support stability and resilience.

### a) Economic Growth

Over the last five years, Ethiopia's economy has registered high

COVID-19 pandemic. The share of services in GDP increased slightly from 40.0 percent in 2022 to 40.3 percent in 2023 – surpassing the level of 39.8 percent in 2019, and thus recovering from the contraction induced by COVID-19 (Figure 3). The share of industry decreased slightly from 28.9 percent in 2022 to 28.8 percent in 2023 – above the 2019 (pre-COVID) level, indicating a strong performance of the sector in the longer term. The share of agriculture declined steadily from 33.3 percent in 2019 to 32.1 percent in 2023.

To be continue next week