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Somaliland And Ethiopia Set to Finalize Groundbreaking Agreement in Approximately 2 Months- FM Dr Essa

In recent developments, officials from the Republic of Somaliland and the Ethiopian government are on the brink of finalizing a groundbreaking agreement that could reshape the geopolitical landscape of the region.



The possibility of Ethiopia establishing a naval base along Somaliland's coastline and potentially recognizing Somaliland's sovereignty has captured the attention of international observers and stakeholders alike.

A New Chapter in Regional Cooperation

The Memorandum of Understanding

[Continue on Page 2](#)



SOMALILAND OBSERVES WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY:



Bill on Press Act will be drafted swiftly, says Minister Ali Marehaan, as he calls on the opposition fraternity not to be wary of public media

[Continue on Page 2](#)

Somaliland National Army apologizes for the statement article unauthorizedly reposted on its site



By M.A. Egge

The Somaliland National Armed Forces have expressed their regret and

[Continue on Page 4](#)

Somaliland and Somalia have adopted different approaches to their relationship with neighboring Ethiopia



[Continue on Page 4](#)

Unpacking Regional Security Challenges: Will Ethiopia-Somaliland MoU Move Forward? Matt Bryden

The recent Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ethiopia and



[Continue on Page 5](#)

NEC calls for readiness of electioneering processes, urges adherence to good conduct



[Continue on Page 5](#)

SOMTEL Telecommunications Company internationally recognized for providing quality services

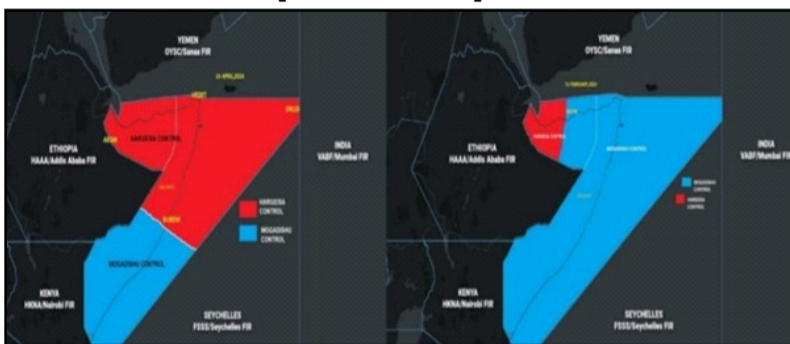


[Continue on Page 5](#)



[Continue on Page 7](#)

Somalia admits that Somaliland successfully controls its own airspace and part of Somalia's, SAAA reveals



By M.A. Egge

The Somaliland Aviation and Airports Authority (SAAA) revealed that the Mogadishu based Somali government has acknowledged that they have lost control of much of the airspace in many areas of their country.

[Continue on Page 3](#)

In Search of Re-Recognition: The Somaliland Road-Ed



"We are working to rectify the mistake and restore the recognition of Somaliland," Dr. Jama Musse explained.

Somaliland is reclaiming the recognition it received 64 years ago

[Continue on Page 3](#)

The visible aura of national festivities is starker than ever before



By M.A. Egge

The nation is in preparatory mood of observing the 33rd anniversary of the commemoration of the 18th May

[Continue on Page 4](#)

Inside

Crime prevention workshop for police officials

[Continue on page 4](#)

Somaliland And Ethiopia Set to Finalize Groundbreaking Agreement in Approximately 2 Months- FM Dr Essa



Understanding (MoU) between Ethiopia and Somaliland is groundbreaking because it provides Ethiopia, the second most populous country in Africa, with a unique opportunity to break free from its geographical constraints, which could have serious consequences for its future.

The MoU also presents Somaliland with a chance to gain recognition as a fully independent state from a major regional and continental power. The economic potential for both nations is described as immense, with the belief that everyone involved stands to benefit. The success of this agreement relies heavily on the dedication of the Ethiopian government and its ability to make decisions independently in alignment with its core economic and political interests, free from external pressures.

The journey towards this potential agreement began four months ago with the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Somaliland President Muse Bihi Abdi. Since then, negotiations have been in full swing, with technical committees diligently working towards a mutually beneficial outcome.

Somaliland's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Essa Kayd, told Deutsche Welle that the agreement on the lease of the Ethiopian naval base to Somaliland is expected to be signed in about two months. The minister stated that three alternative locations have been identified for Ethiopia to lease a naval base.

Somaliland officials, opposition political party leaders, and diplomats are expecting the "partnership and cooperation memorandum of understanding" signed by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and President Muse Bihi Abdi to be implemented in the coming months.

When the MoU was signed four months ago on January 01, 2024, the Ethiopian government announced at the time that the negotiations would be completed within one month. Somaliland's

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Essa Kayd, told Deutsche Welle that after the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, discussions have been held and technical committees have been appointed. "Things have been moving well," Dr. Essa Kayd told Deutsche Welle, although the process has slowed down during the fasting month of Ramadan.

"Everything depends on when the two groups meet to negotiate the agreement," said Dr. Essa. I think it will be completed in the coming months, maybe in about two months," he told Deutsche Welle.

Chapters Unfolding

1. Naval Base Agreement

Central to the discussions is the prospect of Ethiopia leasing a portion of Somaliland's extensive 850-kilometer coastline to establish a naval base. While three potential areas have been earmarked for this purpose, the specifics are yet to be disclosed pending further deliberations.

"There are certain areas that we have identified. After we meet with our Ethiopian counterparts, one will be chosen," said the Somaliland Foreign Minister, refusing to name the three locations.

The establishment of a naval base holds significant strategic implications for both countries and could pave the way for enhanced security cooperation and maritime activities in the region.

Somaliland's finance minister, Dr. Saad Ali Shire, said Berbera port "will be open for use by all parties, including Ethiopian businessmen and the government. So, there is no need to build another port," he told Deutsche Welle.

2. Sovereignty Recognition

In a potential game-changer, talks are also underway regarding Ethiopia's recognition of Somaliland's sovereignty. Such a move could bolster Somaliland's standing on the global stage, unlocking avenues for international engagement, investment, and development. Additionally, it could facilitate access to much-needed financial resources from

international institutions, heralding a new era of growth and prosperity for Somaliland.

Somaliland Finance Minister Saad Ali Shire expressed his hope to Deutsche Welle that the agreement will be signed, "when we get recognition, it will be politically important because we will have a voice on the international stage."

The Minister of Finance said that the recognition that Somaliland will receive will "open the door for investment, trade, travel and development, and it will be beneficial in terms of economy."

"We can borrow money from international financial institutions," said Dr. Saad Ali, who expects "many doors" to open for Somaliland as a result of the recognition.

The agreement, which gives the first recognition to Somaliland, will allow the Ethiopian navy to get a military base on a 50-year lease. As Dr. Essa says, "They are not two different things. They are two interconnected things."

"When we agree to sign the lease agreement, at the same table and on the same day, the Ethiopian declaration recognizing Somaliland should be followed immediately," explained the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

3. Geo-Political Ramifications

However, the path to this historic agreement is not without its challenges. The opposition from Somalia's Federal Government, citing concerns about territorial integrity, underscores the complex dynamics at play. The involvement of the Group of Seven (G7) countries, urging dialogue and peaceful resolution of tensions between Somalia and Ethiopia, further highlights the delicate balancing act required to navigate this intricate geopolitical landscape.

"Somaliland is a sovereign country. In this way, we can customize bilateral relations and sign agreements with the countries we want," says Somaliland's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Dr. Essa, but he does not fear that Somalia's opposition will become an obstacle.

"We know that Hassan Sheikh and his team have been trying to get the MoU rejected by going to different countries and different partners. But I don't think there is any chance that they will be able to do that," said Dr. Essa, who explained to Deutsche Welle that he is not concerned about the efforts of the Federal Government of Somalia.

Dr. Essa Kayd says that the Gulf of Aden, where Ethiopia can establish its naval base, has become a

SOMALILAND OBSERVES WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY:



By M.A. Egge

The Minister of the Ministry of Information, Culture and National Guidance who doubles as the spokesperson of the government Hon. Ali Hassan Mohamed "Ali Marehaan" has promised that the Somaliland press law will be drafted and will be presented to the legislative councils as soon as possible.

He told the opposition fraternity not to be wary of the public media for the information department will always be impartial as per required legal regulations.

The minister said this at an event to commemorate the World Press Freedom Day usually observed on the 3rd of May which was held in the capital Hargaisa on Saturday and was attended by several members of the council of ministers, the First Deputy chairman of the Kulmiye Party, Somaliland press organizations, and other dignitaries. Hon. Ali Mohamed congratulated the media in Somaliland, Africa and the rest of the world as a whole for the steadfastness being committed to their duties.

He said while acknowledging their chores, "the media fraternity everywhere around the globe work all through the hours hence do their duties to the hilt, however, criticism about whether it is in the public or private media; though what is a necessity is the fact that they should all adhere to honesty, truthfulness and patriotism".

As for the issues regarding the press law, he explained that there is law 27 that came out in 2004 which he said that it is "a brief law and it needs to be expanded and supplemented to include what is missing".

dumping ground for illegal byproducts and sludge. According to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the area is facing many problems including piracy, illegal fishing, and illegal human and wildlife trafficking.

Dr Essa Kayd stated that the Ethiopian Navy has a military base in the Gulf of Aden on the coast of Somaliland and will provide additional guarantees to control and alleviate the problems.

Conclusion: Towards a Brighter Future

He said that he has met the SOLJA journalists committee and that the association was already working on it.

He said that concerted efforts to comprehensively work on the Somaliland Press Act is in the process and would be accomplished as soon as possible. He said that the law had seventy-three articles, and needed some streamlining.

"We will meet soon to draft the law and then according to the procedure, we will submit it to the council of ministers and thence to the parliament", he said.

Saying that the bills of the law was presented to the parliament before during a time that he himself was an MP but several bottlenecks were placed especially by the media fraternity who claimed that they were not consulted.

He pledged that they will see to it that the media Bill will be drafted professionally in due course.

He pointed out that a nation's image ought to be impeccable and it is indeed moulded by the press.

The Minister of Information has made it clear that the national media is in the midst of the election and there is a rule in this regard.

The minister said that the media, including the public one, have legally ought to be impartial.

He called on the opposition fraternity not be wary of the public media for fear of impartiality but should work with them, especially now that the electioneering process is underway and the political campaigning season is around the corner.

As negotiations between Ethiopia and Somaliland inch closer to a potential resolution, the prospect of a naval base agreement and sovereignty recognition holds immense promise for both nations. Beyond the geopolitical ramifications, this agreement has the potential to foster regional stability, economic growth, and enhanced cooperation in the Horn of Africa. As the final chapters of this historic agreement unfold, the world watches with bated breath, anticipating the dawn of a new era in the region.

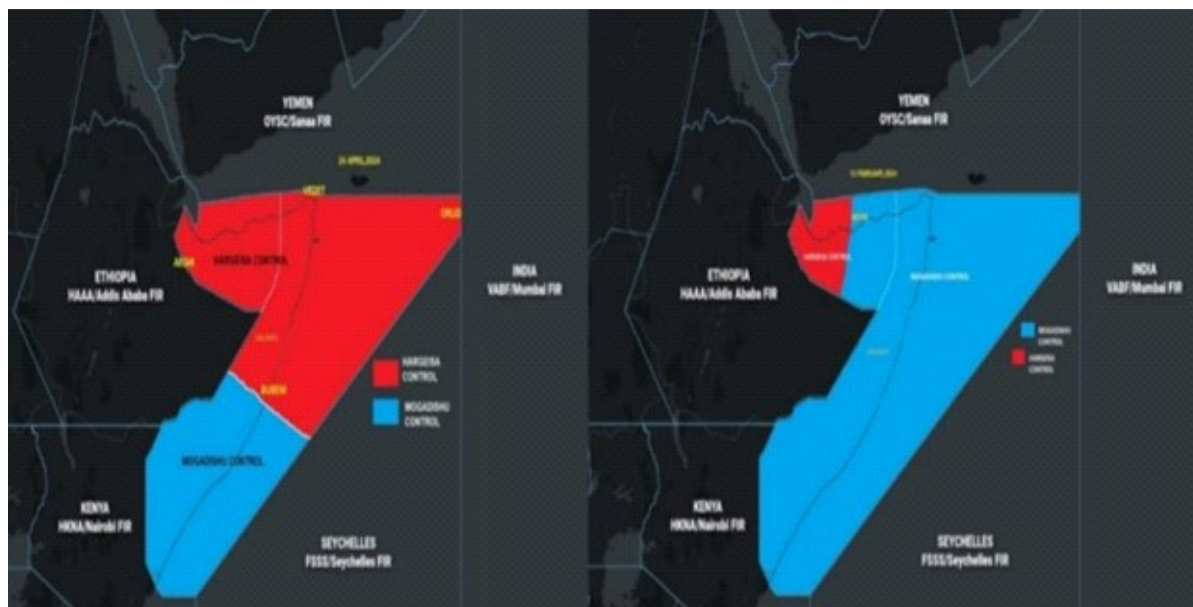
Somalia admits that Somaliland successfully controls its own airspace and part of Somalia's, SAAA reveals

This was disclosed in a press release that highlights the fact that the Mogadishu air controllers have lost the control of the widely traditionally standard voice messaging procedure hence have issued a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) that they should opt for the unorthodox simple text messaging through Controller Pilot Datalink Communications (CPDLC) instead. The SAAA has pointed out that the government of Somalia has realized that 60% of the airspace in the whole of Somaliland and parts of Somalia is directed by the control of the Aviation Information Center in Hargeisa, indeed a major achievement for the Republic of Somaliland in the air saga between the two countries.

It is worth noting that when the SAAA declared its takeover of its Somaliland airspace, the Mogadishu government hastily announced in denial that the

airspace in question was only a 150 mile radius around Hargeisa; but with the NOTAM release it has acknowledged that it had not lost control over the whole of Somaliland but a chunk of its own Somalia airspace depend on the Hargeisa center to direct flights overhead.

The press release read as follows:- "The Somali Civil Aviation Authority issued a notification or NOTAM stating that more than 60% of the control and management of the airspace have been taken over, telling the airlines that from now on they should call Hormuud Satellite Company's phone number which is open to (SATCOM), and the CPLDC equipment, which is not fully capable and in essence the system that caused the scary problems that happened to Qatar Airways and Ethiopian airlines in near-miss collisions; and this is in violation of the ICAO regulations established for



the guidance of civil aviation. The press release added that according to the announcement, the Somali Aviation Authority has confirmed that most of the airspace control (lost hence directed by Hargeisa) are from:-

Ras Caseyr to Bahdo District in Galgaduud Region, Qandala to Buhoodle, Wajale to Lasqoray, Wajale to Dhudub District. On February 13, when Somaliland announced that it had taken over the control of its airspace, the Civil

Aviation Authority of Somalia issued a statement, which said that 150 (miles) of Hargeisa and its surroundings had been taken over". The SAAA press release concluded that "this is a victory for the nation of the Republic of Somaliland".

In Search of Re-Recognition: The Somaliland Road-Ed

when it was liberated from colonial rule. Although this effort faced strong opposition from Somalia, the leaders of Somaliland expressed hope that it would soon succeed. If Ethiopia gives recognition, Somaliland will become the 55th member state of the African Union. Dr. Jama Musse Jama is a mathematician. Jama holds a PhD in African Studies and compiles a collection of Somali folktales. He wrote various books, including those focusing on Somali traditional and social games.

Although he has been outside of his country for more than three decades, he never wanted to be labelled as "diaspora". Jama, the executive director of the Hargeisa Cultural Center, is one of the leaders pushing for Somaliland to gain international recognition again.

"Before colonialists came to the Horn of Africa and Africa in general, the Somali people did not have an administrative unity," says Dr. Jama. The land where Somalis live began to be divided into five "when colonialists came and conquered Africa in 1884." Formerly known as "French Somaliland", Djibouti, areas inhabited by Somalis and annexed to Ethiopia and Kenya, "Italian Somalia" and "British Somaliland" were created by European colonialists in Berlin.

Today's Somaliland was the forerunner when the Somalis were freed from the colonial rule. "We were liberated on June 26, 1960. We are the 12th country to be freed from all African countries," said Mohamed Warsame Duale, a former colleague of the United Nations, proudly saying, "We got our independence before Kenya, Somalia, Djibouti and most other countries."

On July 1, 1960, "Italian Somaliland" was liberated from colonial rule.

"British Somaliland" and "Italian Somaliland" merged in 1960 to form the Republic of Somalia. Aden Abdul Osman Dar, nicknamed Aden Ade, was the first president of the Republic of Somalia and the government was established.

The union of the two was also involved in the formation of "Greater Somalia" by bringing together the five territories of Somalia that were divided due to colonialism. "There was no Somalia and Somaliland project. It is a project started to return the land of the Somali people," said Dr. Jama, adding that it was expected that Djibouti, as well as the areas where Somalis live, would be included in Ethiopia and Kenya.

"Somaliland's desire was to bring together all the Somali people. But this is a feeling that disappeared in a short time," said Dr. Jama, explaining that the contemporary Somaliland leaders wanted to leave in 1961, less than a year after they realized that "that plan was not working on their own."

Formerly known as "French Somaliland", Djibouti, located just outside of Bab El Mandeb, had to wait until June 27, 1977 to break free from its European colonial rule. But it refused to join the Somali Republic.

The second president of the Somali Republic, Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke, was assassinated and General Siad Barre took power in a coup d'état in 1969. An insurgency against Siad Barre, the Somali National Movement, emerged in Somaliland in the 1980s.

In August 1991, the Somali National Movement and other rebel groups ousted Barre from power. In May of the same year, the Republic of Somaliland, with its capital in Hargeisa, declared its

independence.

"Somaliland did not gain independence in 1991. Somaliland became a recognized independent African country on 26th June 1960 and now reclaims re-recognition after 64 years," emphasizes Dr. Jama. It was not easy to regain the recognition of Somaliland as a country. "We are working to rectify the mistake and restore the recognition of Somaliland," Jama explained.

Somaliland has a constitution approved by popular vote, although it is not internationally recognized. The government headed by President Muuse Bihi Abdi has 26 offices organized at the ministerial level. It issues its own passports to its citizens; It holds elections, it has currency.

Mohamed Warsame, a former adviser to President Muuse Bihi Abdi and now a leader of the opposition party, argues that "we have met all the conditions to be a member of the League of Nations." They believe that the fact that Somaliland can be called "a land of stability in an unstable and violent region" makes it better than a troubled region.

Mohamed Warsame, who has been declared by the United Nations and the international community to be free and fair, is the one who is presenting Somaliland as supporting evidence for international recognition.

Somaliland's efforts to regain the recognition it received 64 years ago have gained momentum in the last four months or so. The revival was caused by the Memorandum of Understanding signed by Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Somaliland President Muuse Bihi Abdi.

Dr. Mohamed Farah, director of

Hargeisa-based Peace and Development Academy

The path chosen by Abiye and Muuse Bihi Abdi will meet challenges to achieve what Ethiopia and Somaliland wished so easily. Egypt and Turkey sided with Somalia after the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding. The United States, the European Union and the Arab League have expressed their concern.

But the fear from the international community is not "reasonable" for Dr. Ahmed Farah, the director of the Peace and Development Academy based in Hargeisa. "Somaliland has the right to recognition under international law. Ethiopia also has the right to recognize Somaliland separately," said Dr. Mohamed.

Somalia does not recognize the sovereignty of Somaliland and has also been condemning the international agreements Somaliland makes separately. President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud's government has protested the MoU as "a violation and invasion of Somalia's sovereignty, independence and unity."

President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud said, "No one will surrender the Somali state for a single word."

Dr. Mohamed, who says "Somalia is at war with al-Shabaab," is of the position that "it cannot be at war with Ethiopia." For this, the Ethiopian soldiers said, "Currently, the Somali people from al-Shabaab; They argue that they are in Somalia, protecting the Somali government from collapse and crisis.

Even the threat of a "hand-to-hand war" is not easy for Dr. Ahmed. According to Dr. Ahmed, "There is no reliable security partner that can protect Somalia's sovereignty from Ethiopia."

Somaliland and Ethiopia are expected to sign the final agreement in about two months despite growing opposition, Somaliland's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Issa Kaid told Deutsche Welle.

Like Ethiopia, the full document of the Memorandum of Understanding has not been made public in Somaliland. The first vice-chairman of the opposition Barwako political party, Mubarik Abdullahi, told Deutsche Welle that the agreement signed by Ethiopia and Somaliland must be approved by parliament according to the law.

Mubarak believes that the final goal should be for Somaliland to gain international recognition and become a member of the United Nations. For this, the government of President Moses Bihi Abdi needs to convince the parliament.

"If the government of Somaliland can convince the opposition, the people and the parliament that this memorandum of understanding and the subsequent agreement will serve the interests of the country, I don't see any major obstacles blocking the way," Mubarik said.

"We support him. I can't say that we are against it," said Mubarik Abdullahi, explaining that it is necessary to know the content of the final agreement to take a stand.

Deutsche Welle has learned that the government of Somaliland has started to hold discussions with stakeholders on the documents it has prepared for negotiations with Ethiopia. From the Ethiopian side, nothing is officially known about the process. Mohamed Warsame expressed his hope that "if Ethiopia leads the way, we will become the 55th member country of the African Union."

The visible aura of national festivities is starker than ever before



celebrations 2024.

Any foreign visitor who jets into Somaliland, would instantly think that there was a major celebration underway, or festivities are already in the process going on all over the country.

Indeed, given distinctly stark the aura and celebratory mood, yes, a major celebration that has captivated the populaces this year is expected to be held, marked and commemorated more than it ever had.

The 18th May national celebrations that the country has always annually marked to honour the day the nation

re-asserted and re-established its independence is this year felt, palpitated and expected with more enthusiasm and anxiety than ever before.

The triple coloured national flag of green at the top, white in the middle and red at the bottom, which has the writing of the basic Fundamental Islamic Creed, the Tawheed, written at the top and a black star at the center has adorned and dotted every public and private place, atop buildings, on vehicles and as tailor-made dresses.

The aspirations of the populaces for

the endeavours of their hopes, wishes and wants as far as the Republic of Somaliland is concerned, is more evident than ever.

The forces public parade in the itinerary is expected to be the biggest and largest the country has yet witnessed 33 years down the line.

The anniversary which is still a fortnight away has strongly been felt at the market which has done more than ample sales from miniature flags to billboards, t-shirts and assorted dresses and patriotic materials and gears.

The most sold items in the country's markets in the month of May are the Somaliland flag and the materials to celebrate the 18th of May, and every place and every business is waving the tricolor flag.

People's feelings are similar when you see how happy they are that one might be mistaken to assume that the main event was to be held the following day!

Somaliland National Army apologizes for the statement article unauthorizedly reposted on its site

dismay that an article that has political inclinations contrary to the disciplined and guidelines of the security institution was published unorthodoxly in their official Facebook site in an unduly manner. The repost elicited an uproar from a cross section of the members of the public following several reposts that went viral in the social media. The Somaliland National Armed Forces has, hitherto, never indulged in any political statements and have moved swiftly to assuage and address the hiccup created by the article which portrayed the institution of indulging in politics. The spokesman of the Somaliland National Army, Major General Abdi Abdillahi Hasan, said that a statement published on the army's social media was uncalled for and inappropriate and underpinned the fact that the culprit officer behind the re-post of the article from an on-line source has already been

reprimanded and will be answerable.

The statement issued by the armed forces headquarters reads as follows:-

Press Statement

To Whom It May Concern,

We are issuing this statement to address a recent issue concerning a Facebook postdated Wednesday, May 2nd. It has come to our attention that the post may have caused confusion and discomfort among a cross-section of the members of the public and in particular the opposition party. We want to clarify that the content in question was not a statement from the head of our Army but rather a repost from a local online newspaper.

We regret any misunderstanding this may have caused, and we apologize for any inconvenience or upset it may have triggered. The views expressed in the Facebook

post do not reflect the official stance of our organization. Furthermore, we want to make it clear that we do not hold the opinion that the opposition party has any inclination towards any country.

Although we encourage the international community to support the Somaliland National Army the same way they support the Somalia military, we do not endorse or support any statements that could be misinterpreted or cause undue controversy.

It is important to us that our communications are clear and accurate, and we are committed to ensuring this in the future. We appreciate the ongoing support and understanding from our community and stakeholders. If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to our communications team.

Thank you for your attention and understanding". END.

Crime prevention workshop for police officials

By M.A. Egge

A three-day workshop for police training in prevention of crime is underway.

The seminar was opened by Police Training Commander Brigadier General Abdi Ahmed Tiir within the week convened by the police department and the UNDP in Hargeisa.

A statement from the Police Headquarters said that the purpose of the meeting was to develop a credible crime prevention plan.

Participants were 22 officers who were drawn from different base commands and stations across the board.

The UNDP organization has always



had close cooperation with the police force and had perpetually been at hand to support the department in various and

numerous respective aspects. The Somaliland Police Force is often trained in proficiencies to improve their skills, knowledge and expertise.

Somaliland and Somalia have adopted different approaches to their relationship with neighboring Ethiopia

The differing attitudes toward Ethiopia between Somalia and Somaliland reflect deep-rooted historical, political, and territorial factors.

Somalia and Somaliland have adopted different approaches to their relationship with neighboring Ethiopia. Somalia has historically been reluctant to engage in peace agreements with Ethiopia, while Somaliland has pursued a more positive and cooperative relationship.

On January 1, 2024, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Somaliland President Musa Bihi signed a memorandum of understanding, which caused considerable outcry in Somalia. The agreement was seen as beneficial to both Ethiopia and Somaliland, providing economic and security advantages.

Past attempts at peace between the Somali Republic and Ethiopia have faced significant challenges.

On September 4, 1968, Mohamed Egal, the Prime Minister of the Somali Republic—a union between Somaliland and Somalia that was never formally ratified—signed a peace deal with Ethiopian Prime Minister Aklilu Habte-Wold. (Note: Prime Minister Egal was from Somaliland and later became the President of the Republic of Somaliland.) Shortly after signing the peace deal with Ethiopia, the President of the Somali Republic, Abdirashid Shermarke, was assassinated in Lascanod on October 15, 1969. This assassination is believed to be related to the peace deal with Ethiopia and the discontent among the Somalia political elite over a Prime Minister from Somaliland making deals with Ethiopia.

On July 7, 1969, Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia visited the United States to meet with President Richard Nixon at the White House. During this visit, he also met with Henry Kissinger, then the President's Assistant for National Security Affairs, who was interested in understanding the Emperor's concerns and what assistance Ethiopia might need from the U.S. government. In a memorandum written by Kissinger, Ethiopia was described as the U.S.'s closest friend in Africa. During a briefing to President Nixon, Kissinger noted that the relationship between Ethiopia and the Somali Republic had improved, entering a phase of détente due to the pragmatic approach of Prime Minister Mohamed Egal.

A significant event leading to this détente was the visit of Somali Prime Minister Mohamed Egal to Ethiopia from September 1–4, 1968, which broke the deadlock between the two

countries. According to the communiqué signed on September 4, 1968, by Prime Minister Egal and Ethiopian Prime Minister Aklilu Habte-Wold, Ethiopia agreed to relax emergency measures on September 16, 1968, and return confiscated Somali vehicles with compensation for damages. Additionally, Ethiopia allowed flights between Mogadishu and Hargeisa to overfly Ethiopian airspace. The two governments agreed to negotiate cultural, telecommunications, and trade agreements, and established a joint ministerial consultative committee for periodic discussions on issues between the two countries.

Despite this peace deal, the relationship between Ethiopia and the Somali Republic did not undergo a lasting shift. The Somalia political class, primarily from the Puntland and Gedo regions, was unhappy with a politician from Somaliland making deals with Ethiopia. This dissatisfaction culminated in the assassination of Somali Republic President Abdirashid Shermarke on October 15, 1969, in Lascanod, followed by a subsequent military coup that overthrew the civilian government led by Prime Minister Egal. The military and political elite that seized power were predominantly from the Puntland and Gedo regions, marking the beginning of a period of instability in Somalia, which still leaves Mogadishu unsafe and 90% of Somalia under the control of a terrorist group. Meanwhile, Somaliland has remained safe, progressing in democracy and development.

Lastly, Somaliland and Ethiopia share a historical relationship, while Somalia and Ethiopia have complex and often antagonistic relationships. In contrast, Somaliland, which emerged from the former British Somaliland Protectorate, has pursued a different approach. Seeking stability, economic cooperation, security collaboration with Ethiopia, and international recognition, Somaliland has actively cultivated good relations with Ethiopia. This strategy is driven by a desire for economic partnerships, regional security, and broader engagement in the Horn of Africa.

Ultimately, the differing attitudes toward Ethiopia between Somalia and Somaliland reflect deep-rooted historical, political, and territorial factors. While Somalia's view of Ethiopia as a natural enemy has left a legacy of mistrust, Somaliland's pragmatic approach underscores its focus on stability and regional cooperation, seeing Ethiopia as a neighbor and a partner.

Unpacking Regional Security Challenges: Will Ethiopia-Somaliland MoU Move Forward? Matt Bryden



complexities of the situation. Bryden argues that Somaliland's stability and effective governance over the past three decades justify its bid for international recognition as a separate state. He points out that Somaliland has a stable population, defined borders, and a functioning government capable of foreign diplomacy and internal governance. These are similar to what led to the statehood for South Sudan and Eritrea. Bryden believes that recognition should be acknowledged to prevent further destabilization.

Bryden highlights the tensions between Ethiopia and Somalia following the MoU signing, attributing Somalia's reaction to its lack of full sovereignty and control over its territory. He emphasizes that the dispute is more about Somalia's

Somaliland has the potential to address regional security challenges, but it also presents its own set of hurdles. The MoU has been the subject of significant debate and tension in the region, with many stakeholders weighing in on its legal soundness, the challenges it poses, and the potential outcomes for the involved

parties. Matt Bryden, a strategic advisor at SAHAN and an expert in Horn of Africa politics, offers an in-depth analysis of the implications of the agreement and the broader dynamics at play in the region. In an interview with The Reporter's Abraham Tekle, Bryden provides valuable insights into the

internal issues and reluctance to engage with Somaliland than about Ethiopia's recognition. Bryden also discusses the role of Al-Shabaab in the region and the potential consequences of withdrawing international support in Somalia. Regarding potential solutions, Bryden suggests that Somalia needs to address its internal problems and reconcile with its neighbors, including Somaliland. He emphasizes the importance of good neighborly relations and avoiding conflicts for stability in the Horn of Africa. Bryden believes that Somaliland has already achieved statehood and that recognition should be acknowledged to prevent further destabilization.

The Prime Minister of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Abiy Ahmed and President of the Republic of Somaliland Muse Bihi Abdi exchange a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) after signing where Ethiopia officially recognizes the Republic of Somaliland while Somaliland grants naval and commercial sea access on lease to Ethiopia for 50 years.

In conclusion, Bryden urges Ethiopia to handle the situation carefully, involving other international partners and ensuring a balanced approach to maintain stability in the region. He notes that the failure to resolve the situation could lead to destabilization in Somaliland, which would not be beneficial for any party involved. Despite rumors of Ethiopia pulling out of the deal, Bryden suggests that such a move could have negative consequences for both Ethiopia and Somaliland.

"What would Ethiopia get by doing that if Mogadishu would come down? But would Mogadishu become a more reliable, more stable, and more effective partner? No, not in a single future. And if Somaliland is destabilized in the process, then Ethiopia will lose on both fronts," he said.

The Horn of Africa region has been plagued by conflicts and instability for decades. The recent MoU between Ethiopia and Somaliland has the potential to either exacerbate or mitigate the situation, depending on how it is handled.

NEC calls for readiness of electioneering processes, urges adherence to good conduct

By M.A. Egge

The Somaliland National Elections Commission NEC has called on the members of the public and stakeholders to prepare and be in readiness for the upcoming elections.

The chairman of the NEC Mr. Musa Hassan Yusuf, who spoke to the media after a meeting the NEC commissioners had with the supreme parliamentary Permanent Standing Committee lower House of Representatives, called for the need of upholding good conduct during the electioneering period, which includes the campaigning season and voting.

He also called on the media fraternity to adhere to the tenets of the profession hence follow the expected ethical demands hence conduct themselves responsibly. He said, "The electioneering



process is underway and people are to go to the polls. We hope that that member of the public and the media fraternity would conduct themselves wisely and with maturity hence the press ought to adhere to the ethics of the profession and comply with the rules set".

He underpinned the fact that the NEC should be left to embark on their duties t hand.

Said he, "The NEC should be left to do its duties and incase of any

hiccups it has ways and means of addressing them concertedly with the stakeholders".

The Permanent Standing Committee of the House of Representatives on its part said that they are working with the commission to ensure that the elections are held legally, praising the commission for its efficient work. The set date and time of the holding of the presidential and political party elections has officially been slated for November the 13th, 2024.

SOMTEL Telecommunications Company internationally recognized for providing quality services



By M.A. Egge

The modern telecommunications services company, SOMTEL has won an international award after being recognized as the best company of the year for developing telecommunications and technology companies in Africa. The award was given by the Cambridge IFA organization that

works on good governance in the world, in a ceremony that was held in the Philippines during the week. Officials representing the company were in attendance at the presentation.

A press release from the company explaining the importance of the award read:-

"We are happy that the Somtel Company won the 'Best Growing Business and Modern Technology Company in Africa 2024' which is an international award that held the ceremony in the Philippines.

"This award was given by the Cambridge IFA, an international global institution.

"The prestigious award recognizes Somtel, DahabPlus and eDahab and our commitment to improving telecommunications and digital services in the region.

"It was just recently when the Somtel Company became the first company to launch 5G in the Somali regions of Africa.

"Somtel, DahabPlus, and eDahab are leading the way in modern digital technology and services that boost the economy and boost business in the region". END.

CAUTIONARY NOTICE TRADE MARK – SOMALILAND

PRADA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above trade mark is the trade mark of: Prada S.A., a corporation of Luxembourg of 23, rue Aldringen, 1118 Luxembourg, Luxembourg and is used in connection with: Perfumes, eau-de-toilette and essential oils for personal use, personal deodorants, hand soaps, shampoos, bubble baths, shaving foam, after-shave, body and beauty care preparations for cosmetic use, cosmetic creams and lotions; lenses, namely camera lenses, contact lenses, eyeglass lenses, magnifying lenses and spectacles, sunglasses, lenses for spectacles and for sunglasses, frames for spectacles and for sunglasses, chains and cords for glasses and spectacles, spectacles cases, mobile telephones and accessories thereof, namely cases and covers for mobile phones, multi-media players; cases and covers for multi-media players, personal digital assistants (palmtops, electronic agendas); watches, hand watches, clocks; jewellery made of semi-precious and precious stone, precious stones; imitation jewellery; bags, handbags, traveling bags, briefcases, leather briefcases, leather credit card holders, wallets, leather key cases, purses, trunks, suit cases, cosmetic bags sold empty, sports bags included in this class, bags for athletic equipment, evening and shoulder bags for ladies, leather shopping bags, school bags, garment bags for travel, suit carriers for travel, shoe bags for travel, beach bags, rucksacks, diaper bags, Boston bags, travelling trunks, duffel bags, overnight bags, carry-on bags, bags for mountain-climbing

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.

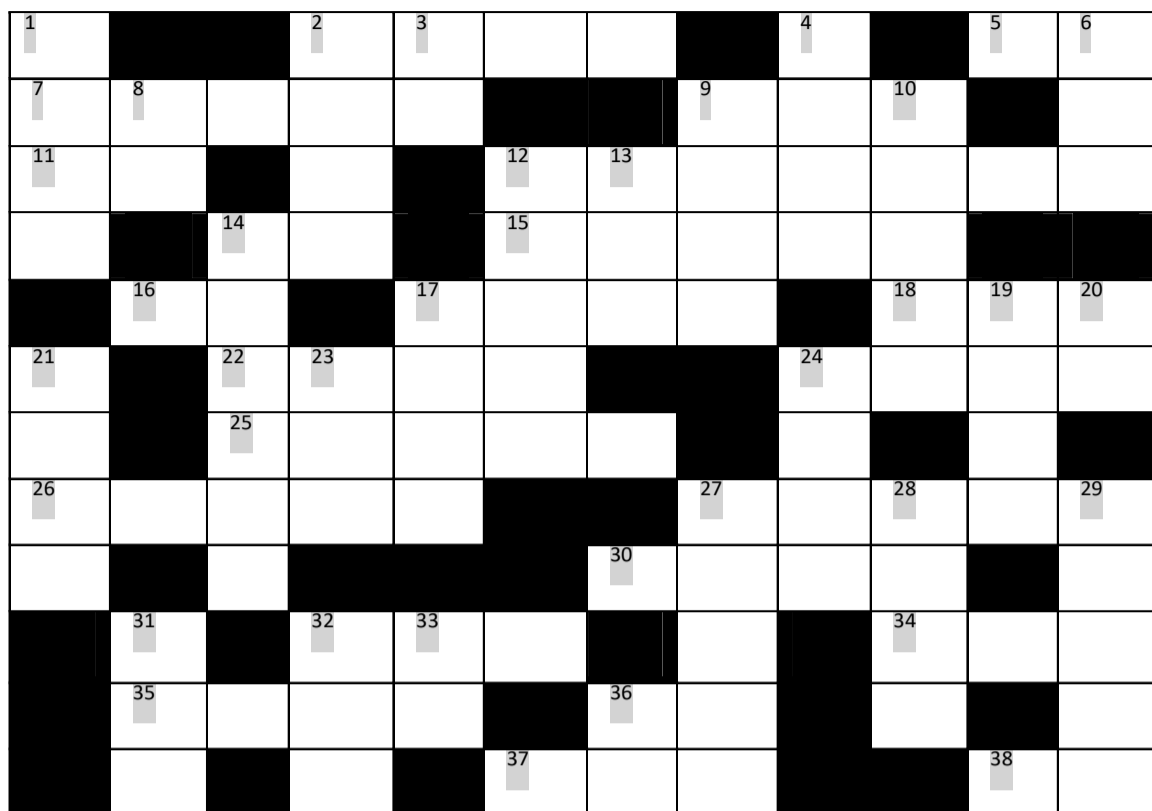
CAUTIONARY NOTICE TRADE MARK – SOMALILAND

PRADA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above trade mark is the trade mark of: Prada S.A., a corporation of Luxembourg of 23, rue Aldringen, 1118 Luxembourg, Luxembourg and is used in connection with: Satchels, opera bags, vanity cases, not fitted, hides, cases and boxes made of leather, bags made of leather for packaging, leather straps, umbrellas, leather leashes, clothing for pets; clothing for men, women and children, coats, raincoats, belts, waistcoat, blouses and pullovers, jackets, trousers, skirts, dresses, suits, shirts and chemises, sweaters, underwear, socks and stockings, gloves, ties, scarves, hats and caps, boots, shoes and slippers, mantles [clothing], jeans, tee-shirts, jerseys [clothing], blazers, cardigans, sashes for wear, shawls, bandanas, foulards, night gowns, pyjamas, bathrobes, bathing suits, sports jackets, wind-resistant jackets, anoraks, sweat suits, neckties, wedding dresses.

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.

THT Puzzle



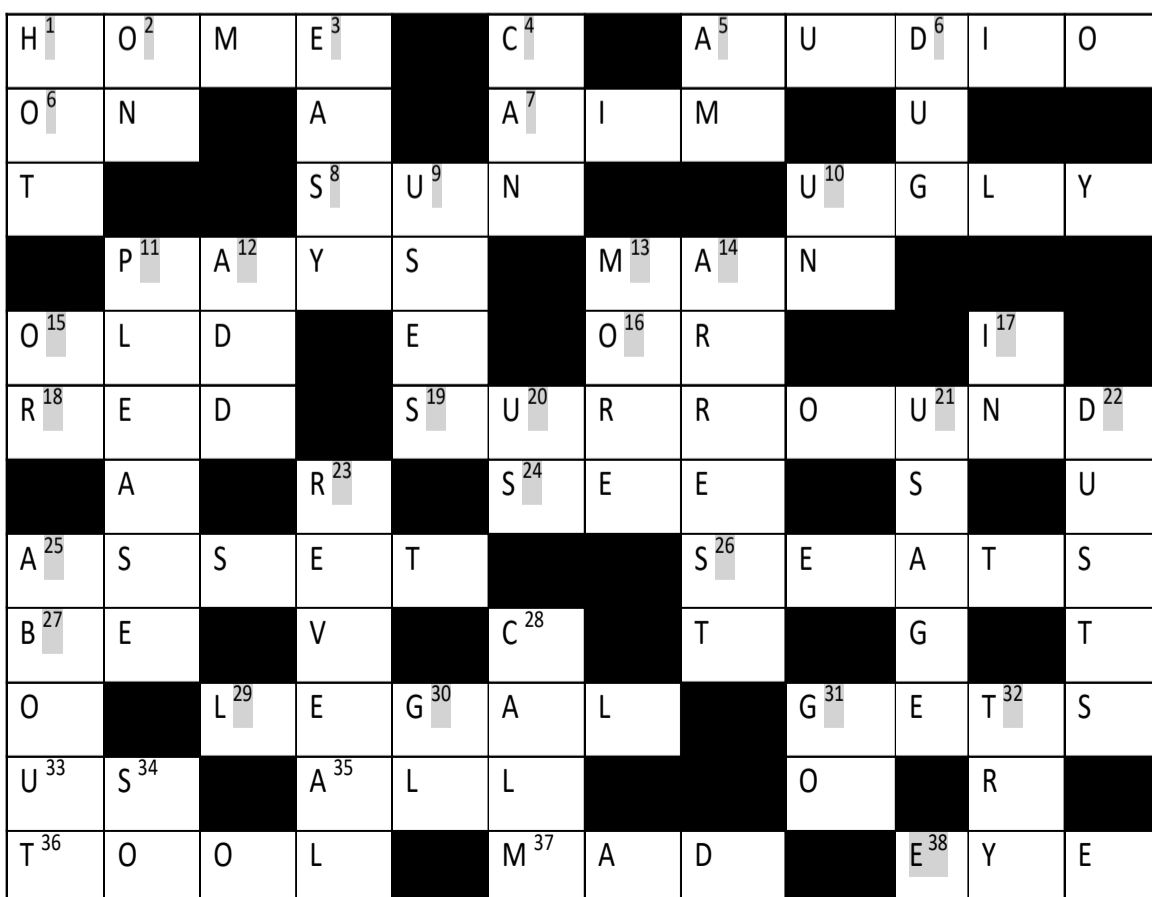
ACROSS

- 2 should
- 5 drive
- 7 onion plant
- 9 also
- 11 therefore
- 12 art/ knowledge
- 14 COMPACT DISC
- 15 Hot-press
- 16 Otherwise
- 17 Grasslands
- 18 Finish
- 22 Proposal/ ideal
- 24 Astronomical/ super star
- 25 Sea snake
- 26 Inexpensive
- 27 Signals
- 30 Hopefulness/ expect
- 32 Boy
- 34 Reddish/ one of the kinds of the color
- 35 eager/ willing
- 36 INSIDE
- 37 Add together
- 38 Remains/ preposition of place

DOWN

- 1 Wasted
- 2 Temper
- 3 One of the international organizations
- 4 Makes
- 6 Individual
- 8 Negative
- 9 Joins/ connection with other stakeholders
- 10 Beginning
- 12 Speak a language
- 13 Shed tears
- 14 Disasters
- 17 Jump/ dive
- 19 Surname
- 20 Doctor in short forms
- 21 Appearance or front appearance
- 23 genetic material
- 24 Soap powder
- 27 Injury/ hurt
- 28 Exceptionally
- 29 Edges
- 31 The skies
- 32 Perceive
- 33 Scheduled
- 36 ID card

Previous Answer



TRADE MARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above trademark, is the property of **Foshan Haitian Flavouring & Food Co., Ltd.** of **NO. 16, WEN SHA ROAD FOSHAN CITY, GUANGDONG PROVINCE, CHINA.** The colours red, yellow, white and black are features and elements of the trade mark as depicted above. The trademark is used for the following goods:

Class 29: Edible oils; Edible fats; Sesame oil; Sunflower oil for food; colza oil for food; corn oil for food; Olive oil for food; Vegetables, preserved; fermented bean curd; Marinated pickles; preserved peppers; Tomato paste; Prepared soups; Dried turnip; Soups; Frozen convenience dishes; Fruit, preserved; Snacks, mainly of fruits or vegetables; sesame seed paste; Peanut butter; Processed seafood; Food products made of fish; pre-packaged dinners consisting primarily of meat; Meat; processed eggs; Eggs; Marinated eggs; Meat, tinned; Vegetables, tinned; Nuts, prepared; Beancurd sticks; milk; Butter; Dried edible mushrooms; Seaweed extracts for food; gelatine; Processed areca; sausage casings, natural or artificial; roasted fish; boiled fish with Sichuan pickles; prepared meals consisting primarily of fish; soya milk.

Class 30: Condiments; Oyster sauce; soya bean paste [condiment]; chicken essence powder [condiments]; Monosodium glutamate; Ketchup[sauce]; Chow-chow[condiment]; hot pot seasonings; Spices; chiyou [seasoned soy sauce]; douchi [fermented black soybeans]; Seasoning sauces; Seasonings; Sauces[condiments]; Meat gravies; Relish[condiment]; Soya sauce; Vinegar; Cooking salt; Rice; Wheat flour; meat tenderizers for household purposes; Cereal preparations; sugar; Castor sugar; Brown sugar; crystallized rock sugar; Cubic sugar; Starch for food; Thickening agents for cooking foodstuffs; Noodles; Instant noodles; Noodle-based prepared meals; Asian noodles; Instant rice; Pre-packaged lunches consisting primarily of rice, and also including meat, fish or vegetables; Prepared meals consisting primarily of rice; yeast; Cereal-based snack food; rice-based snack food; food flavorings, other than essential oils; bee glue; Pastries; Tea-based beverages; candies; coffee flavourings; tea; Gluten prepared as foodstuff; Preparations for stiffening whipped cream; Edible ices, soybean; .

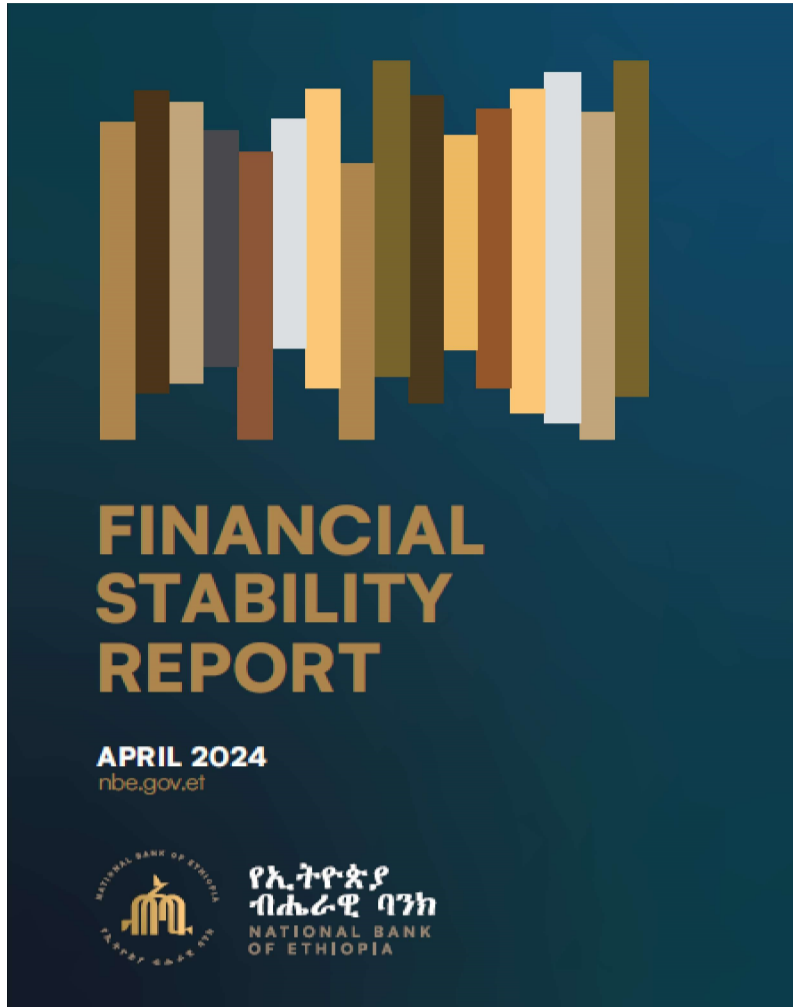
Class 31: Fodder; Animal foodstuffs; Pulses, fresh; Grains [cereals]; edible sesame, unprocessed; edible linseed, unprocessed; Live animals; Vegetables, fresh; Fruit, fresh; Plant seeds; Malt for brewing and distilling; Betel nuts, fresh; Trees; Flowers, natural; litter for animals; Soya beans, unprocessed; .

Class 32: Mineral water [beverages]; Non-alcoholic fruit juice beverages; rice-based beverages, other than milk substitutes; Fruit nectars, non-alcoholic; Soy beverages; Plant-based beverages; soft drinks; Non-alcoholic preparations for making beverages; Non-alcoholic beverages; Waters [beverages]; .

Class 33: beverages;

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that **Foshan Haitian Flavouring & Food Co., Ltd.** claims all rights in respect of the aforesaid trademarks in Somaliland and will initiate appropriate legal action against any person or persons found to be using the aforesaid trademarks or any other trademarks deceptively or confusingly similar, or otherwise infringes on its rights.

Ethiopia Financial Stability Report



economic liberalization, the peace dividend, and a recovery of the tourism industry.

Furthermore, following the peace dividend and NBE's stringent policies on bank credit growth and direct advances to the government, inflation is projected to fall to 20.7 percent in 2024. Likewise, due to an anticipated rise in government revenue as a result of improvements in domestic resource mobilization, implementation of the fiscal consolidation strategy, and the resumption of the influx of donor funds, the budget deficit is predicted to sustain at 2.5 percent of GDP in 2024.

The current account deficit is anticipated to decrease to 2.0 percent of GDP in 2024 with the expected expansion of exports of goods and services. External debt service to export dropped from 20.4 percent in 2022 to 16.5 percent in 2023. On the other hand, headwinds

include drought in parts of the country, debt vulnerabilities, a widening gap between the official and parallel exchange rate, and the effects of the Russia-Ukrainian war in Europe and the Middle East.

3. FINANCIAL SECTOR STABILITY AND RISK

This chapter analyzes the stability and risks in the Ethiopian financial sector across the banking, microfinance and capital goods financing, and insurance sectors, which are all regulated and supervised by NBE. Policy actions taken by the government and the regulator remain supportive to the sector's resilience and financial stability. Primary and secondary financial markets are not yet properly established although significant work on launching capital markets has proceeded with a new proclamation on Capital Market Authority and preparation is underway for the establishment of

Ethiopian Stock Exchange in 2024. 3.1 OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL SECTOR

At end-June 2023, total assets of the financial sector amounted to Birr 3,120.5 billion, 20.4 percent higher than a year earlier (Table 3). These assets constituted 35.8 percent of GDP^a, compared with 42.1 percent at end-June 2022. The financial sector continued to be dominated by the banking sector, whose total assets accounted for 96.3 percent of total financial sector assets at end-June 2023 (slightly less than a year before because of a stronger growth of the microfinance sector). This implies that the stability of Ethiopian financial system/sector largely depends on the health and stability of the banking sector. As a result, the banking sector is analyzed in more detail in the following sections.

d) Current Account Balance

While the current account deficit has shrunk, the value of the Birr has decreased. The weighted average Birr exchange rate on the interbank market in 2023 was 53.3 per USD, a 9.7 percent decline from 2022 (Figure 5). Due to the significant increase in the surplus of the services trade balance and the narrowing of the merchandise trade deficit, the current account deficit decreased from 4.1 percent in 2022 to 2.8 percent of GDP in 2023.

e) Fiscal Operation in Public Debt

Both external debt and budget deficit decreased in 2023. Public external debt decreased from 28.2 percent of GDP in 2019 to 17.2 percent of GDP in 2023 (Figure 6). In the years 2020 and 2021, Ethiopia had benefited from the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative. However, Fitch and S&P downgraded Ethiopia's sovereign rating from B to CCC when the country applied for the G20 Common Framework for debt restructuring in 2021.

As revenue growth surpassed the increase in spending, the budget deficit went down from 3.4 percent of GDP in 2022 to 2.5 percent of GDP in 2023. Similarly, the ratio of external debt service to exports dropped from 20.4 percent in 2022 to 16.5 percent in 2023.

f) Conclusion

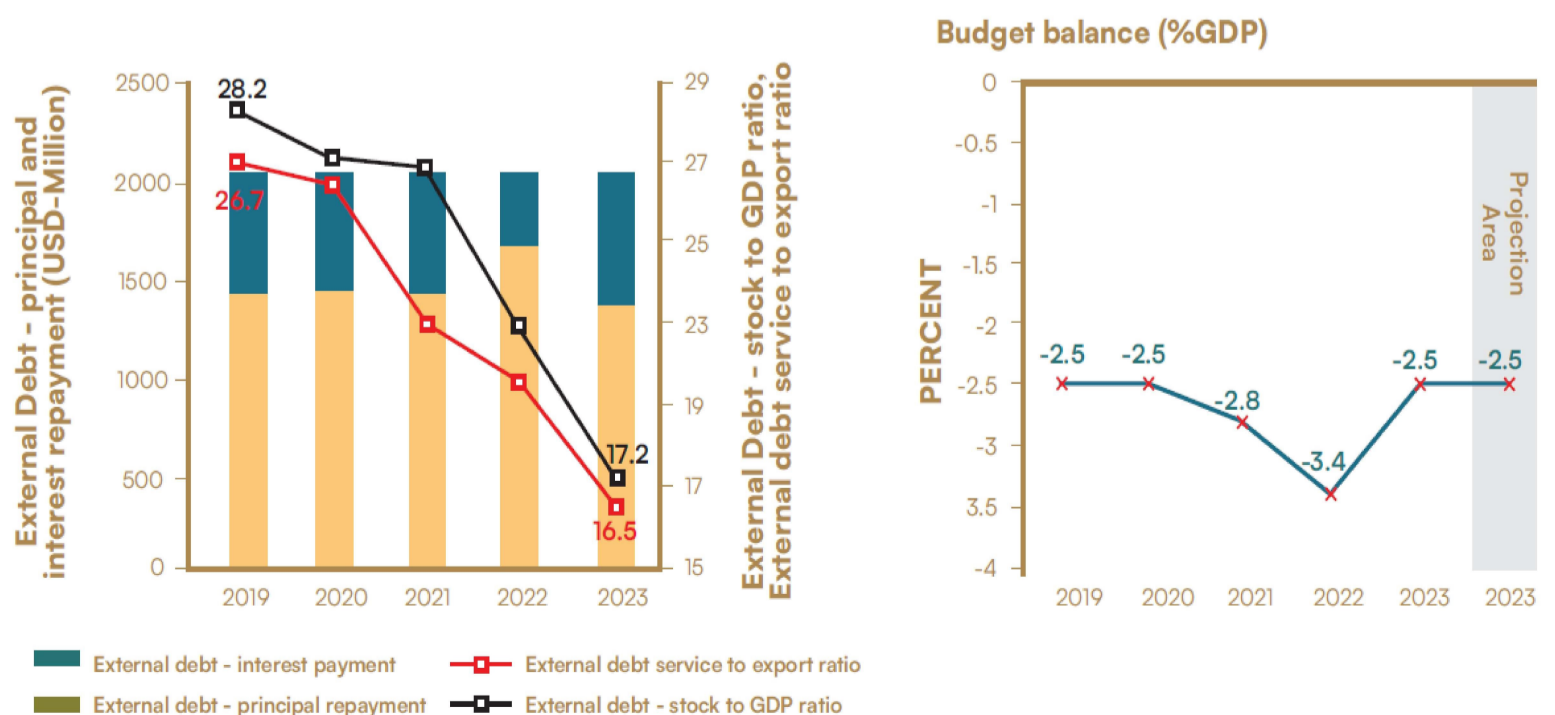
In general, domestic economic conditions are expected to improve in 2024. It is anticipated that the economy will grow strongly by 6.2 percent, equally driven by services, agriculture, and industry from the supply side, and by personal spending and investment from the demand side. The growth is expected to be supported by

Figure 5: Current Account and Exchange Rate, 2019-2024 (Percent of GDP, ETB/USD)



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

Figure 6: Public Debt Service Repayments and Budget Balance, 2019-2024



Source: NBE and projections by the African Economic Outlook team