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President is bargaining for Recognition, and that's about to change

President Bihi's interview with the Economist:



“They need the sea as we need recognition,” he explains as concerns Somaliland – Ethiopia MoU, “We are ready.” The details of the text have not been fully revealed and the deal is expected to treatise; however, the memorandum of understanding signed by Ethiopia and Somaliland on January 1st has sent shock

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The essence of Somaliland cannot be disputed, says UCID Chairman Feisal

By M.A. Egge

The Chairman of the UCID Party, Faysal Ali Warabe, said that no one at all can dispute the identity and essence of

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The Annual National Certificate Examination for Primary and Secondary Schools 2024 kicks-off



By M.A. Egge

The President of the Republic of Somaliland H. E. Muse Bihi Abdi, has inaugurated the kicking-off of the national certificate examination for the fourth grade of primary and middle schools which

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Somaliland, US officials hold a meeting on security and electoral issues



By M.A. Egge

The Republic of Somaliland and the United States of America congress officials held a meeting and discussed security issues and the democratic process in Somaliland after it

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Treasury appraises proficiency for staffers in data collection and research

By M.A. Egge

A two-day workshop on use of modern technology for data collection and research for treasury's IT and private enterprises

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Somaliland Statehood Recognition: A Game Changer in Africa Policy in Trump's Second Term



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Bipartisan Congressional Delegation Visits Somaliland Amid Heightened Regional Diplomacy



Powerful bipartisan congressional delegation has arrived in Somaliland to bolster U.S. engagement in the strategically critical Horn of Africa region. This visit comes amid

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President is bargaining for Recognition, and that's about to change



waves through the Horn of Africa. Somaliland, which re-asserted its independence from Somalia in 1991, says that Ethiopia will become the first country to grant it recognition. In return, it will give its landlocked neighbour access to the sea.

The deal has outraged Somalia, which describes it as an act of "aggression". In April it expelled the Ethiopian ambassador. Now it is threatening to do the same to more than 8,000 Ethiopian soldiers who are stationed on its soil to fight al-Shabab, a jihadist group linked to al-Qaeda.

But in Somaliland, a de facto state with its own government, flag, army, currency and courts, the mood is very different. "We are struggling for our independence, as every other country in the continent...has done," says Muse Bihi Abdi, the president of Somaliland, speaking to The Economist in Hargeisa, the capital. Sitting in his presidential palace, Mr Bihi rehearses the arguments for Somaliland's statehood. The territory it claims was once ruled by

the British; the southern part of Somalia, with its capital at Mogadishu, was under Italian control. The two former colonies united in 1960, but the marriage was an unhappy one. Rebels from Somaliland rose up against a dictatorship, which killed tens of thousands of civilians and bombed Hargeisa into oblivion—a trauma that explains support for separate statehood today. When Somalilanders unilaterally declared independence in 1991, they said they were dissolving a union between states, not starting a breakaway country from scratch. "We are not secessionist," says Mr. Bihi, a former soldier who has held office since 2017.

Even so, the idea of breaking up a state unnerves other African governments, many of which face separatist movements of their own. None has recognized Somaliland, a land of 6m people, which has now ruled itself for longer than it was ever governed from Mogadishu.

Hence Mr. Bihi's bargain with Ethiopia, which lost its own coastline

in 1993 with the secession of Eritrea. "They need the sea as we need recognition," he explains. "We are ready."

Mr Bihi says that Ethiopia will lease a strip of coastline between Lughaya and Bulahar, some 20km by 20km, on which to build a naval base (see map). Ethiopia has said that it will consider its position on Somaliland, but has not given a public guarantee of recognition. A full agreement is still being hashed out.

Even if Ethiopia recognizes Somaliland, others may be reluctant to follow. Foreign governments have weighed in to support the sovereignty of Somalia, which was voted in as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council on June 6th. Egypt, which is already irked by an Ethiopian dam on the Nile, has pledged to defend Somalia. White House officials are concerned that the fallout could disrupt the fight against al-Shabab. "Why are the Americans against this?" asks Mr. Bihi in exasperation. "They never explained to me."

Moustafa Ahmad, a researcher in Hargeisa, says that popular feeling is "very mixed", combining excitement about recognition, concern about transparency and scepticism about whether Ethiopia will honour its side of the bargain. Meanwhile, in the eastern town of Las Anod, the push for statehood faces its biggest challenge since the formative years of the 1990s. People there have long felt ambivalent about independence, which they say has disproportionately benefited the majority Isaaq clan. Last year leaders in Las Anod declared they wanted to be part of Somalia instead.

Mr. Bihi swats away suggestions that he has been too heavy-handed, saying that internal strife is "a stage that all countries go through".

Somaliland, US officials hold a meeting on security and electoral issues

regained its independence.

A large delegation from the United States of America, who came to Somaliland for an official visit, had a meeting with Somaliland's Minister of Interior Hon. Mohamed Kahin Ahmed and top military commanders on security and elections issues.

A statement from the interior ministry disclosed that wide-ranging issues were discussed in the meeting that also gave a recap of the three decades of the country's developments since the nation re-asserted its sovereignty.

"The Minister of Interior Hon. Mohamed Kahin Ahmed, together



with the commanders of the different forces of the Republic of Somaliland, the Director General of the Ministry of Interior and the Director General of Security in the ministry Mubarak Ahmed Ali, held a wide meeting with a delegation from

the United States, who are on an official visit in Somaliland", read the statement.

The bipartisan staff delegation from the United States Congress came to Somaliland to find out about the

The Annual National Certificate Examination for Primary and Secondary Schools 2024 kicks-off



officially started Saturday morning in the whole country.

The Head of State who flanked by the education department dons who included the Education minister himself, the Head of the National Examinations Council and heads of university institutions who have this year been co-opted into coordinating and bolstering the invigilation unveiled the test papers and distributed them personally to the candidates seated at a classroom in Farah Omar High School.

This year will witness a total of 38,489 students seating for the fourth-grade certification exam this year, thus 15,542 students in high schools and 22,947 students in elementary and middle schools all over the country.

Initially before the unveiling of the test papers exams, the President underscored the imperativeness of examinations in education describing it as a step in life that all learners have to go through, while explaining the subsequent similar stages destined in the pursuit of education.

While hailing the candidates and wishing them well in the exams, the President coaxed them to be confident and have a positive attitude of bravery and determination towards the exams saying that he hoped that they would all excel.

He gave a recap of the stages of development the education services and system has undergone in the nation for the past over three decades to where it is cherished today with almost 40k students seating at once all over the country for their mandatory primary and secondary exams.

progress of the Republic of Somaliland and the peace that has been implemented in Somaliland in the last 30 years since the country regained its independence.

The visit of the officials to come to Somaliland was facilitated by the US Congressional think-tank which advises it on a cross board of issues, the HDI and the AGI.

HDI organizes and implements visits by Members of the United States

The chairman of the national examination office, Mr. Daoud Ahmed Farah said in his brief inaugural speech that they have taken a big responsibility as an office to protect and safeguard the official copies of the exam and have full confidence in the process water-tight nature against loop-holes of the exam.

Education minister Dr. Ahmed Aden Buhane, on his part said that the examination test papers have been safely transported hence have reached all the designed examination centers in the country, this year consisting 129 locations. Earlier on in the week the President H.E. Musa Bihi Abdi, inspected the new building built for the National Museum, which is nearing completion.

He was received at the site in the city center by the Director General of the Presidency, Mr. Mohamed Ali Bile, who was entrusted with the construction of the museum.

The DG briefed the President about the status of the construction of the museum and its components.

The president toured all the different parts of the museum which is currently in the final stage and will soon be opened.

The President also praised the director for his efforts to implement the concept of the national museum and become a legacy that will go down in history.

The President was accompanied by various officials including Ministers, the Mayor of the capital, the Regional Governor, senior civil servants and other politicians.

Congress and their staffs to countries around the world. Since 2012, HDI has organized more than 30 delegations to every region of the world. These trips give Congressional decision makers the opportunity to learn firsthand about vital issues which impact the United States and to discuss important issues with governmental, academic, business, and cultural leaders and the international community in country.

Bipartisan Congressional Delegation Visits Somaliland Amid Heightened Regional Diplomacy



Somalia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Fiqi in Minnesota with Rep. Ilhan Omar in June 2014

heightened diplomatic activity involving Somaliland, Ethiopia, and Somalia, signaling a pivotal moment in regional geopolitics.

The delegation includes Hunt VanderToll, the legislative director for Rep. Andy Barr (R-KY), a key member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party. VanderToll's participation underscores Rep. Barr's focus on the complex geopolitical dynamics unfolding in the Horn of Africa and Somaliland's unique sovereign status.

This visit follows a recent trip by Somalia's Foreign Minister to the U.S., where he emphasized Somalia's newly acquired United Nations Security Council membership and, more importantly, lobbied against a pending memorandum of understanding between Somaliland and Ethiopia. The agreement would grant Somaliland formal recognition by Ethiopia in exchange for allowing a strategic naval base on the Red Sea coast, marking a potential diplomatic breakthrough for the Republic of Somaliland.

Despite Somalia's considerable efforts to thwart the Somaliland-Ethiopia MoU, it appears to have exhausted its options and has recently escalated tensions by threatening to bar Ethiopian troops from participating in future peacekeeping missions in the war-ravaged country. This move, prioritizing opposition to the agreement over its own security, reflects the high stakes involved in the regional power dynamics.

Meanwhile, Richard Riley, the incoming U.S. Ambassador to Somalia, is set to assume his post in the coming days. His stance on whether to support the "One Somalia" policy or hold the federal government of Somalia accountable for unwillingness to engage terror groups and threatening its neighbors remains unclear, adding another layer of complexity to U.S. involvement in the region.

The trip is organized by the Humpty Dumpty Institute (HDI), known for facilitating strategic dialogues and track two diplomacy, and co-organized by the American Global

Institute with sponsorship from the Redsea Cultural Foundation, led by Dr. Jama Muse Jama. The delegation consists of senior congressional staffers from both parties representing powerful legislative committees:

- Rep. Andy Barr (R-KY) – Vice Chair of Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Nonproliferation
- Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-CA) – Intelligence and Judiciary Committees

- Rep. André Carson (D-IN) – Intelligence and Transportation Committees

- Rep. Suzan DelBene (D-WA) – Ways & Means Committee

- Rep. Stacey Plaskett (D-VI) – Ways & Means, Budget, and Agriculture Committees

- Rep. John Carter (R-TX) – Appropriations Committee

Congressional committees wield significant influence, shaping legislation, providing oversight, and impacting critical areas of governance. The Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Nonproliferation is pivotal in preventing weapons proliferation and formulating arms control and global security policies. The overarching Foreign Affairs Committee addresses diplomatic relations, foreign aid, and human rights promotion. Concurrently, the Intelligence Committee oversees intelligence agencies and operations, ensuring adherence to laws and values while safeguarding against threats and protecting civil liberties. These committees enable comprehensive legislative action and robust governance over crucial spheres impacting America's global stance and citizen safety.

Rep. Barr has been outspoken about China's growing influence in Africa through the Belt and Road Initiative, emphasizing the importance of engaging with partners like Somaliland that remain independent from authoritarian influences. The U.S. aims to secure

a stronger position in the Red Sea region to counter the increasing Chinese and Russian presence. Somaliland, significantly free from their influence, presents a key opportunity.

Somaliland's ties with Taiwan in 2020 further strained its relationship with China after breaking from Somalia's recognition of Beijing, despite warnings about consequences for development aid. However, Somaliland remains resolute in pursuing broader international recognition. Senator James Risch (R-ID), ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has praised Somaliland's stability and democratic governance, stating that supporting regions upholding these values is crucial for maintaining a strategic balance.

The delegation is led by Dr. Al Khalafalla, a prominent public policy authority on the Middle East and Africa with deep ties to the U.S. Congress. Dr. Khalafalla, President of American Global Consulting and Chairman of the Humpty Dumpty Institute, has a distinguished career in advancing international peace and economic development through education initiatives. His work has earned recognition from the U.S. Congress and humanitarian awards. Dr. Khalafalla, who holds a PhD in Public Policy and Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University, is a sought-after voice in major media outlets and global forums.

In recent developments, Somaliland's inclusion in the U.S. National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) signifies a notable shift in U.S. policy, acknowledging Somaliland's strategic importance. The NDAA's provisions focus on enhancing security cooperation and potentially paving the way for stronger diplomatic and economic ties. This move reflects the growing recognition of Somaliland's stability and its role in countering regional threats such as terrorism and piracy, further integrating Somaliland into broader international security frameworks.

Somaliland declared independence from Somalia in 1991 after the civil war but remains unrecognized by any nation. Its maintenance of peace and stability, in contrast to Somalia's ongoing turmoil, signals enduring U.S. congressional interest, as evidenced by multiple prior fact-finding missions over the past decade.



US Ambassador to Somalia, Richard H. Riley

Somalia reveals that they are behind the perpetrated allied war in Las Anod

By M.A. Egge

The government of Somalia has revealed the role they significantly played in the war of the allied groups last year in the town of Las Anod, which caused untold number of deaths and injuries.

The THT has learnt from reliable sources that the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Somalia Mr. Ahmed Maalin Fiqi, held a secret meeting with a group of clerics living in the United States of America beseeching them to help thwart the implementation of the MoU agreement that was signed earlier in the beginning of this year by both the governments of Somaliland and Ethiopia.

Mr. Fiqi reportedly told the clerics that it has prioritized the forestalling of the MoU hence briefed them on the virulent efforts his government had gone as far as the clandestine efforts was concerned.

It is noteworthy to state that he told the clerics that the MoU signing was an event that totally came to them as a surprising shock, contradicting Somalia's own testament that they were all along privy to the bilateral agreement hence had cautioned Somaliland's President from going ahead with it.

He notably pointed out that Somalia had luckily had to supportively strengthen the Las Anod war, without which, the United States was on the verge of recognizing Somaliland.

"Luckily, if we do not win the battle of Las Anod, Somaliland was on the verge of being recognized by the United States", he reportedly

beamed.

Mr. Fiqi said that the non-permanent seat of the Security Council occupied by Somalia "will be of great help in confronting the opposition to the agreement and the recognition of Somaliland".

Mr. Fiqi urged the clerical groups to gather their resourcefulness and strength to persuade the officials and leaders of the United States of America in being against the Somaliland - Ethiopia agreement.

As for perpetuating clandestine insurgency within Somaliland, Minister Fiqi is quoted as claiming that Somalia have made a lot of efforts in Somaliland in virulently prevailing upon the communities across the board to vehemently oppose the MoU, efforts whose activities, he said, are going on smoothly.

The government, the opposition parties and all the populaces at large, are required to work in solidarity and together to thwart the gross flouting of the integrity and the security of the nation and preserve the unity of the nation.

The government is said to be concerned and wary of the statement of the Mr. Fiqi and the new policy of the President of Somalia who had publicly said that he will enter into dialogue with the al Shabaab terrorist group and seek their support, a matter that Somaliland will deal with through diplomatic channels with friendly countries and the world at large.

The essence of Somaliland cannot be disputed, says UCID Chairman Feisal



Somaliland.

Faysal Ali Warabe also made it clear that Las Anod cannot be cut off from Somaliland hence that the integral borders of the nation would be duly secured.

He gave the sentiments over the week.

He said, "The essence of Somaliland cannot be cause of controversy hence those who are purporting that it will never be recognized are controversial, the

men who own Somaliland today will not be recognized are mere naysayers".

He pointed that he was a presidential candidate who stood with integrity hence sought voters from the whole nation and did not align with clannish tendencies hence never flashed money around.

He was convictional that the elections would be held since he averred that all stakeholders are solidly united about it.

Treasury appraises proficiency for staffers in data collection and research



departments' staffers conducted over the week. The director general of the ministry Mr. Mohamed Hussein Osman (Mu'adinka) noted the importance

of using modern technology, as well as how to always adapt to it, "as there is progress and change in technology every day". He said, "Nowadays, technology is

what works. Technology is growing and changing every day. Every day the technology is evolving, and in the process, the old one is being replaced".

He continued, "Technology makes work easier. So, we have to adapt the technology to its use, and we follow it, depending on the level it is going through, and that comes with continuous knowledge increase for the workers".

He encouraged the staff to take advantage of the training saying, "I encourage you to take advantage of the training, and other more advanced ones".

He however pointed out that the collection of information should start from the sources, and the right information should be used to achieve the expected appropriate plans.

Op-ed: Ethiopian Naval Base in Somaliland is a Strategic Necessity for Regional Security

By Hamidi Jama

Introduction

The geopolitical landscape of the Horn of Africa has witnessed a transformative development with Somaliland and Ethiopia's announcement of a potential Ethiopian naval base in Somaliland. This strategic move is not only aimed at enhancing maritime security in the Gulf of Aden but also addressing broader regional crises that affect the Red Sea and Suez Canal. This article explores the multifaceted implications of this naval base for regional security, political dynamics, and economic stability, emphasizing the importance of support from key stakeholders such as Egypt.

Background

In January 2024, Somaliland, which

has been self-governing since 1991, signed a significant port access agreement with Ethiopia. This agreement allows Ethiopia access to a 12-mile strip of Somaliland's coastline to develop a naval base. This deal is integral to Somaliland's strategy for gaining international recognition and diplomatic legitimacy, which it has sought since declaring independence from Somalia. The Somaliland government views this agreement as a pivotal step towards Ethiopia's goal of regaining maritime access. However, there are differing interpretations, with Ethiopian officials suggesting the inclusion of a commercial seaport, highlighting the complex nature of

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Somaliland Statehood Recognition: A Game Changer in Africa Policy in Trump's Second Term

Why Somaliland Statehood Recognition is Key for US Interests in Djibouti? | What would Africa policy look like in a second Trump presidential term? | Military up, assistance down, and an emphasis on pushing China out.

By Daniel Volman

The election of the next president of the United States will be held this November. If he wins another term, Joe Biden's policy on Africa is predictable because he has followed a consistent policy and is unlikely to deviate significantly from that course in the next four years. But, what would Africa policy look like in a second Trump presidential term?

Based on the Project 2025 report prepared by a number of major right-wing think tanks and lobbying organizations under the leadership of the Heritage Foundation—along with statements made by leading Republican foreign policymakers and information from the media—the Africa policy that Donald Trump is likely to follow if he wins is also clear.

In the view of Donald Trump and his supporters, many of Trump's foreign policy initiatives during his presidency were sabotaged by civil servants and disloyal Trump appointees who delayed or obstructed his decisions and plans. So, to ensure the implementation of the "America First" foreign policy agenda in Trump's second term, the Heritage Foundation and other organizations involved in Project 2025 and Trump's advisors are currently recruiting and vetting dependable, obedient right-wing applicants to install as soon as Trump takes office in 2025.

This will end the tradition of political neutrality for personnel working in executive departments and federal agencies, and amount to a purge of all personnel who won't pledge to do whatever Trump demands,

however ill-advised, illegal, or unconstitutional it may be.

According to the Project 2025 report and other sources, Trump's foreign policy agenda for Africa calls for radical changes in U.S. national security policy toward Africa. To begin with, the report contends that the United States must "counter malign Chinese activity on the African continent." In particular, the report insists that the United States should "focus on supporting American companies involved in industries important to US national interests or that have a competitive advantage in Africa."

In its most notable specific recommendation, the report insists on the "recognition of Somaliland statehood as a hedge against the US's deteriorating position in Djibouti." This indicates that the next Trump administration will support Ethiopia, which has just signed an agreement with Somaliland to gain access to naval and commercial facilities on its coast in exchange for a promise to recognize it as an independent, sovereign state, against Somalia, Eritrea, and Egypt if this leads to war in the Horn of Africa, as seems likely.

The report argues that it is in the U.S. national interest to increase U.S. reliance on working with the French in North Africa to lead counter-terrorism operations and to counter the military and political involvement of Russia in the region and throughout the rest of the continent. "In North Africa," the report states, "security cooperation with European allies, especially France, will be vital to limit growing Islamist

threats and the incursion of Russian influence through positionings of the Wagner Group."

The report also calls for the United States to convert all foreign aid grants for African recipients into loans and eliminate all development assistance programs, along the lines endorsed by Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) in February 2024. According to the report, the United States should "shift strategic focus from assistance to growth" and "reorient the focus of U.S. overseas development assistance away from stand-alone humanitarian development aid and toward fostering U.S. private sector engagement" in Africa. "While the United States should always be willing to offer emergency and humanitarian relief," the report goes on to say, "both U.S. and African long-term interests are better served by a free market-based, private growth-focused strategy to Africa's economic challenges."

At the same time, the report maintains that the United States should increase funding for military and security operations by African allies by providing more military education, training, and security assistance because this is necessary to protect American lives at home and abroad and to protect U.S. companies, targets, and interests in Africa.

According to the report, "African country-based terrorist groups like Boko Haram may currently lack the capability to attack the United States, but at least some of them would eventually try if allowed to consolidate their operations and



plan such attacks. The immediate threat they pose lies in their abilities and willingness to strike American targets in their regions of operation or to harm US interests in other ways." Therefore, "the U.S. should support capable African military and security operations through the State Department and other federal agencies responsible for granting foreign military education, training, and security assistance."

The report says that the United States should focus its attention on just a few countries. "Rather than thinning limited funds across all countries (including some that are unsupportive or even hostile to the United States), the next administration should focus on those countries with which the US can expect a mutually beneficial relationship," and "after being designated focus countries by the State Department, such nations should receive a full suite of American engagement."

The report declares that the United States should "stop promoting policies birthed in the American culture wars" and stop pressing African governments to respect the rule of law, human rights/LGBT+ rights, political and civil rights, democracy, and women's rights, especially abortion rights. "African nations are particularly (and reasonably) non-receptive to US social policies such as abortion and pro-LGBT initiatives being imposed on them," by the United States, the

report declares. Therefore, "the United States should focus on core security, economic, and human rights engagement with African partners and reject the promotion of divisive policies that hurt the deepening of shared goals between the US and its African partners."

Trump may not be particularly interested in what he once called the "shithole countries" of Africa, but his foreign policy advisors are clearly determined to implement these policies and recommendations if he wins a second term.

Analysts sought to paint as positive a picture as they could of Trump's Africa policy during his first term, praising in particular the "Prosper Africa" initiative to promote US trade and investment. But even they concede that, as John Campbell of the Council on Foreign Relations, put it, Trump, "does not appear to be personally involved in this initiative nor other aspects of US-Africa policy."

And, Campbell admits, "Congress has proven a bulwark against proposals by Trump's Office of Management and Budget for massive cuts to foreign assistance," and "had those been implemented, traditional US policies with respect to health, democracy promotion, and security assistance in Africa would have been eviscerated." This time around, Trump's foreign policy advisors are going to make sure that Africa gets the Trump administration's full attention.

Eid-ul- Adha Dahabshiil Competition offers lucrative prizes



Dahabshiil Company has offered its clients and customers to participate in prizes for the occasion of Eid al-Adha and have a chance to win lucrative prizes. A post on the company's Facebook page said: "Be one of the winners of the Eid al-Adha Dahabshiil

competition and win a ticket worth £2000 or three winners who will win £100 each. "To share the joy of Eid with your family and friends, visit Dahabshiil's website to participate". Meanwhile the general manager of Dahabshiil Group Mr. Abdirashid

Mohamed Said had congratulated and sent heart-felt greetings to its staffers, general workers and the Islamic community on the occasion of Eid festivities that happened over the week. A statement posted on Facebook reads as follows; "We are sending our best wishes to all our clients and customers of Dahabshiil Group Company, the management, representatives, the general staffers wherever they are and the entire Islamic fraternity on the auspicious occasion that they may all have good health and live to celebrate more Eids". The message further prayed to the Almighty God to alleviate all problems of conflicts from the Muslim world.

On the eve of 64th Somaliland's independence, its time for Re-recognition of the Republic Somaliland-SLSAG

Somaliland Strategic Advisory Group (SL-SAG) Celebrates Somaliland Independence Day: June 26th, 1960

On the eve of 64th year since the Somaliland's independence, its time for Re-recognition of the Republic Somaliland. The eagerly awaited and anticipation Ethiopia/Somaliland MoU Finalization is on the horizon of being reality. SAG encourages Somalilanders to celebrate and support the MoU. SL-SAG is an advocacy group based in the United States of America, we urge the international community to do right thing and Re-recognition of Somaliland. It's passed time to drop the failed one Somalia policy. As Somalilanders, in US we stand shoulder to shoulder with our fellow Landers, we send them a congratulatory message to the people of Somaliland. On the 64th anniversary of Somaliland's independence, the Somaliland Strategic Advisory Group (SL-SAG) proudly celebrates this historic milestone and calls for international Re-recognition of Somaliland. As we reflect on our nation's journey, we also look forward to the finalization of the critical Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ethiopia and Somaliland, which promises to further solidify our progress and partnerships. **Historical Significance** June 26th marks a pivotal moment in our history, commemorating our independence from British rule in 1960. This day symbolizes the resilience, determination, and achievements of the people of Somaliland. As we honor our past, we also

renew our commitment to a future where Somaliland is Re-recognized as a sovereign state by the international community. **Call for Re-recognition** SL-SAG urges the international community to acknowledge the undeniable progress Somaliland has made in democratic governance, economic stability, and human rights. The time for Re-recognition is now. Somaliland has demonstrated its majority, a capacity for self-governance and has established a stable, democratic, and prosperous society. Recognizing Somaliland's sovereignty will not only honor our accomplishments but also contribute to greater regional stability and cooperation. **Anticipation of Ethiopia/Somaliland MoU** We eagerly anticipate the finalization of the MoU between Ethiopia and Somaliland. This agreement is expected to:

- Enhance Diplomatic Relations: Strengthen ties with Ethiopia, foster greater diplomatic and economic cooperation.
- Promote Economic Growth: Create new opportunities for trade and investment, benefiting both nations and enhancing regional prosperity.
- Improve Security: Encourage collaboration in security and defense, contributing to peace and stability in the Horn of Africa.

One Somalia Does Not Work SL-SAG reaffirms that the concept of "One

Somalia" does not reflect the realities on the ground. Somaliland's distinct culture and history, political stability, and democratic achievements sets apart. The international community must recognize that a unified Somalia is not feasible and that Somaliland's sovereignty is a legitimate and necessary acknowledgment of its unique status. **SL-SAG Message** "We celebrate our independence with pride and a clear vision for the future. The international community must recognize the progress and stability that Somaliland has achieved. The finalization of the Ethiopia/Somaliland MoU is a significant step forward, but true progress requires acknowledging our sovereignty. 'One Somalia' is an outdated concept that does not work in the current context," stated a representative of SL-SAG. **Conclusion** As we celebrate this historic day, SL-SAG remains steadfast in our pursuit of international Re-recognition for Somaliland. The anticipated MoU with Ethiopia marks a new chapter in our history, filled with promise and hope for a brighter future. It is time for the world to recognize Somaliland for the sovereign nation it truly is. **SL-SAG**

The effectiveness of Dahabshiil remittance services is one of the major reasons behind the International Day of Family Remittance (IFAD)

Dahabshiil Company celebrated the International Family Remittance Day which is celebrated every year on June 16 worldwide. "Today, June 16th, we celebrate International Family Remittances Day" was published Dahabshiil Instagram account. In a statement issued by the Department of diaspora Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it stated that the Somaliland diaspora in the world sends funds of two billion dollars a year, apart from other funds

for the activities of donations and disasters that they participate in, as stated by the Governor of the Central Bank of the Republic of Somaliland. According to a World Bank report, Somaliland is the largest recipient of remittances in Africa. The theme of the 2024 Family Remittances campaign is "Digital remittances towards financial inclusion and cost reduction," highlighting the positive effects of digitalization in reducing costs,

improving access, and advancing financial inclusion. IFAD's Resolution Proclamation of an International Day of Family Remittances Approved by 176 Member States of IFAD's Governing Council on 16 February 2015. It is worth noting that for the past two decades the remittances has gone up fivefold globally, hence its costs has duly been going down annually, becoming the cheapest and swiftest means of such services.

Op-ed: Ethiopian Naval Base in Somaliland is a Strategic Necessity for Regional Security

the agreement. **Strategic Importance** The Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea are critical maritime corridors for global trade, especially for oil shipments. These regions have historically been hotspots for piracy and militant activities, posing significant risks to international shipping. An Ethiopian naval presence in Somaliland could bolster maritime security, deter piracy, and counter Houthi rebel activities from Yemen. Somaliland's Foreign Minister, Dr. Essa Kayd, has identified three potential coastal sites for the naval base, reflecting the strategic depth and logistical considerations of this initiative. This development enhances Ethiopia's capacity to project power and influence, aligning with its broader geopolitical and security objectives. Geo-strategy, Geo-security, and Geo-economic Importance of Somaliland



Somaliland's geographic location at the crossroads of vital maritime routes lends it immense geo-strategic, geo-security, and geo-economic significance. The region's stability is crucial for the security of the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea. The establishment of an Ethiopian naval base can serve as a critical element in securing these maritime routes, which are essential for global trade. The MOU between Ethiopia and Somaliland is not only beneficial for the immediate region but also for broader international stakeholders, including Egypt. The stability and security of the Suez Canal, a key global trade artery, are directly impacted by the security of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. Therefore, Egypt has a vested interest in supporting the Ethio-Somaliland MOU as it promises to enhance regional security and by extension, safeguard the Suez Canal. **Historical Context: U.S. and Soviet Agreements** Somaliland's strategic significance is not new. During the Cold War, both the United States and the Soviet Union recognized the strategic value of the region. The Berbera military airport in Somaliland was used by the U.S. as a strategic airbase. In the 1970s, the Soviet Union also utilized Berbera as a naval base, demonstrating the long-standing military significance of this region. These historical agreements underscore the enduring strategic value of Somaliland's location for major powers. **Political Ramifications** The agreement has stirred significant controversy, particularly from the Somalia national government in Mogadishu, which considers Somaliland part of Somalia. Mogadishu's objections

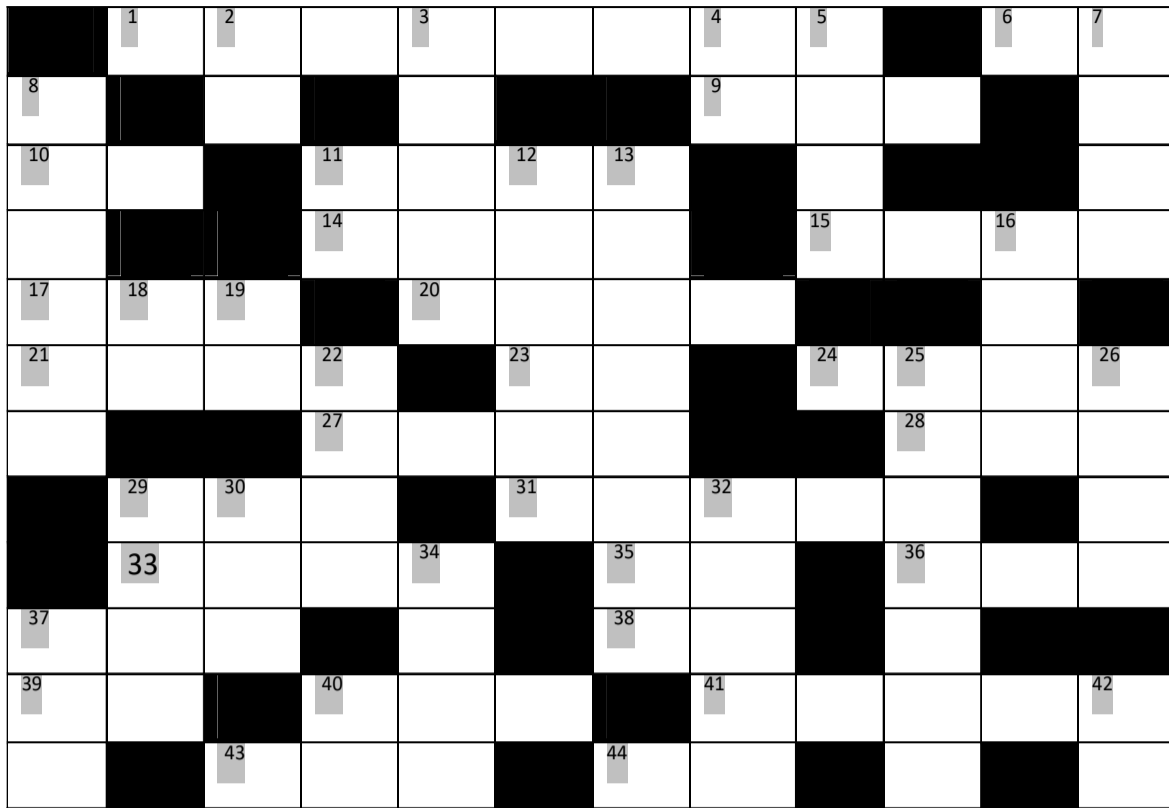
highlight the contested nature of Somaliland's status. Despite this, Somaliland maintains that the naval base is a pathway to increased regional stability and international recognition. Interestingly, Mogadishu has shown some openness to negotiating terms for an Ethiopian commercial port, indicating a potential area for diplomatic engagement. This nuanced position reflects the complex interplay of sovereignty, security, and economic interests in Somalia-Ethiopia relations.

Security Implications Somaliland President Muse Bihi Abdi has highlighted the security benefits of the Ethiopian naval base. In an interview with the Financial Times, Abdi suggested that an Ethiopian naval presence could help contain the Houthi threat in the Gulf of Aden. The Houthis, an armed group in Yemen, have disrupted shipping routes and contributed to regional instability. A robust Ethiopian naval base could serve as a deterrent to these militant activities, ensuring safe passage for commercial vessels and strengthening the overall security architecture in the Gulf of Aden. This development aligns with broader international efforts to stabilize the region and secure vital maritime trade routes.

Conclusion The establishment of an Ethiopian naval base in Somaliland represents a significant shift in the geopolitical dynamics of the Horn of Africa. It holds the potential to enhance maritime security, deter piracy and militant activities, and contribute to regional stability. The support of key stakeholders, particularly Egypt, is crucial for the success of this initiative, given its implications for the security of the Red Sea and the Suez Canal. As the region navigates these dynamics, the ability of the involved parties to manage their divergent interests and collaborate towards shared security objectives will be critical. The unfolding developments in Somaliland will be closely watched by regional and international stakeholders, given their far-reaching implications for security and stability in the Gulf of Aden and beyond.

Editor's Note: Hamidi Jama is a maritime security commentator and analyst. He can be reached at hamidijama8@gmail.com

THT Puzzle



- DOWN**
- 2 TOWARDS
 - 3 Approximately
 - 4 Leave
 - 5 years
 - 7 Quantity/papers
 - 8 Said
 - 11 kinds of laptops
 - 12 Desire
 - 13 Voting
 - 16 On top of
 - 18 Atop
 - 19 short forms of operation department
 - 22 detectives
 - 25 Assaults
 - 26 Eye up
 - 29 Terror/scarcity
 - 30 By-law
 - 32 Get Bigger
 - 34 12 months
 - 37 Low down
 - 40 pronoun
 - 42 Thus

- ACROSS**
- 1 Plan
 - 6 Otherwise
 - 9 Outside
 - 10 Toward
 - 11 Expect
 - 14 Pull out
 - 15 Apartment
 - 17 Also
 - 20 Juvenile
 - 21 Finishes
 - 23 opposite of DC power
 - 24 Gateway
 - 27 Earlier
 - 28 Doll
 - 29 Take flight
 - 31 8
 - 33 Simple
 - 35 Otherwise
 - 36 Furthermore
 - 37 Ruling
 - 38 Negative
 - 39 Or else
 - 40 Direction
 - 42 Hence

Previous Answer

G 1	O	O 2	D		B 3		R 4		S 5	U	N 6
O		K		A 7	R	R	E	S 8	T		O
	O 9		M 10		E		M 11	O	O	N 12	
A 13	F	R 14	I	C	A		O		P 15	A	N 16
T		O 17	N		D 18	I	V	E		M 19	E
T 20	R 21	A	D	E 22			E		F 23	E	W
R 24	E	D		U 25	P 26		D 27	R 28			S
A 29	D		F 30		U 31	S 32		U 33	S	E	
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Kenya's port of Mombasa falls behind Berbera in World Bank rankings

For the second year in a row, Kenya's Port of Mombasa has ranked below Berbera in the #World_Bank's Container Port Performance Index. Mombasa dropped to 328th position globally out of 405 ports, down from 326. Meanwhile, the Port of Berbera climbed to 106th from 144th, highlighting its increasing efficiency and prominence. Despite Mombasa's decline, it still fared better than Dar es Salaam, which fell to 367th from 312th, and Djibouti, which saw a significant drop from 26th to 379th.

Berbera's success is largely due to DP World's takeover in 2017, leading to a 35% increase in cargo volumes and a 300% rise in vessel productivity. New digital systems and sustainable practices have also reduced vessel waiting times from days to hours. The Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) notes improvements at Mombasa, with the turnaround time for container vessels dropping from three days in 2022 to two days in 2023. Container dwell time also reduced from 3.9 to 3.5 days, and ship waiting time for containerized vessels fell to 0.2 days.

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FORTUNER
LAND CRUISER PRADO
COASTER
HIACE
AGYA

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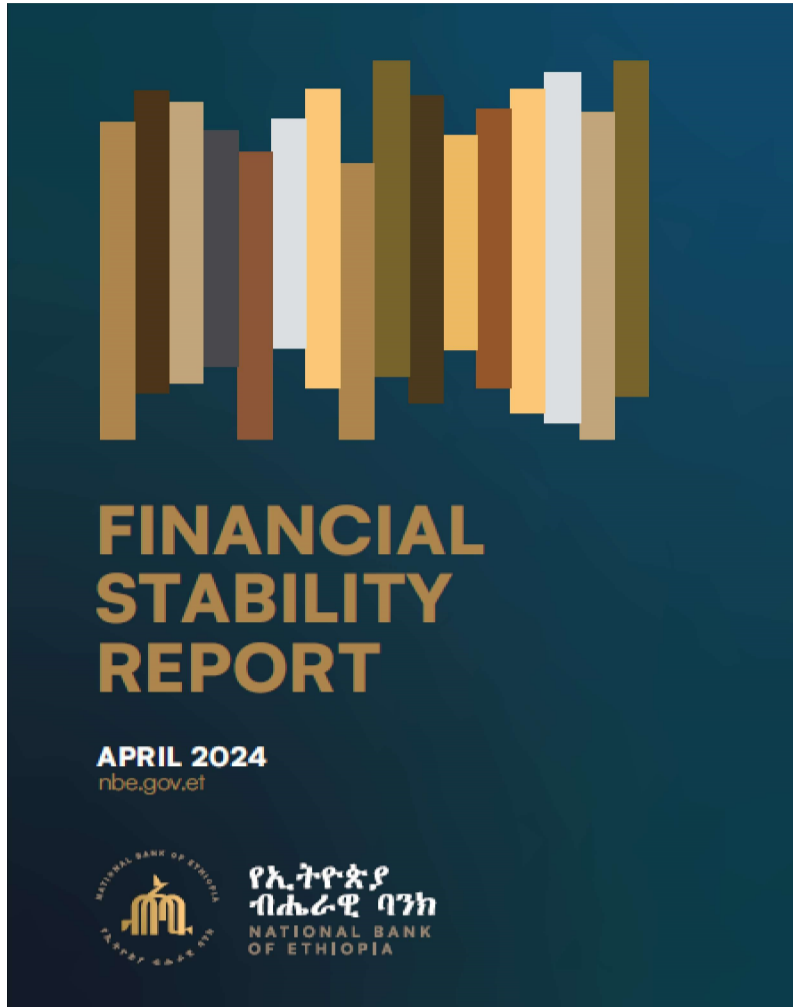


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The mark is used in the colours Green, Red, White and Black..

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Ethiopia Financial Stability Report



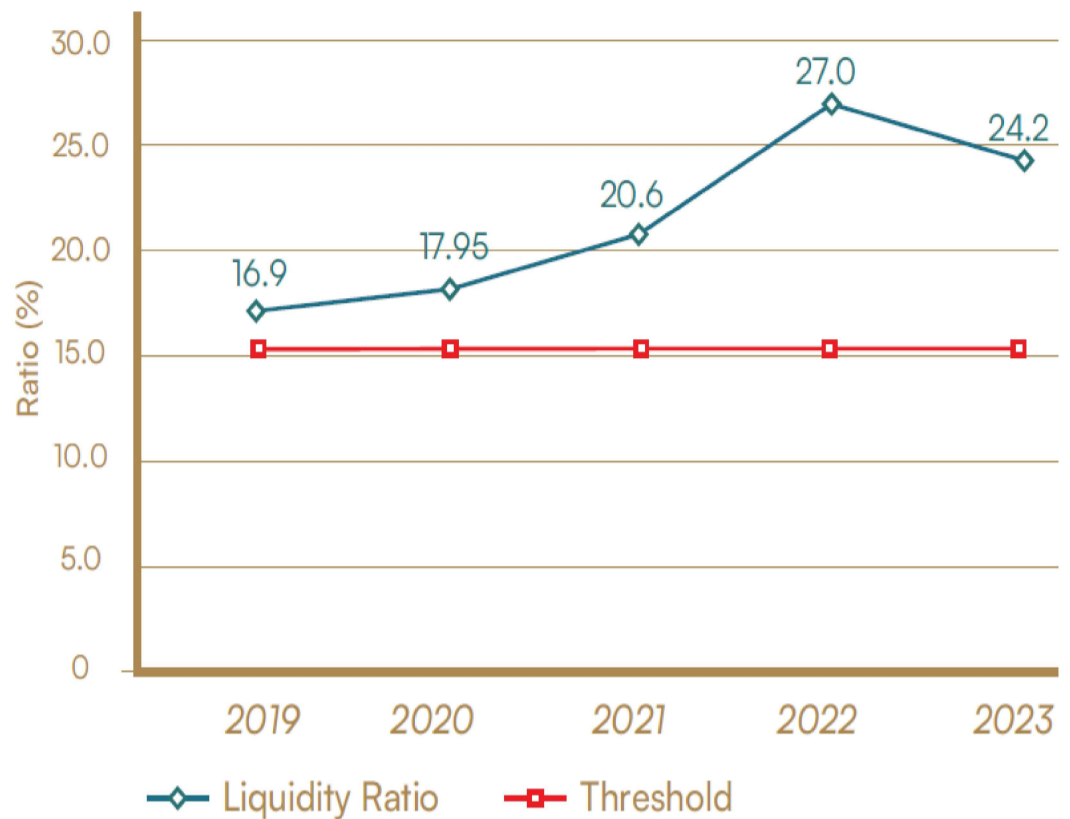
may have been caused by increased lending, particularly to agriculture, domestic trade and services, and households (sta. and consumers) (see Table 6 above). This is in line with the general policy that encourages lending to the key sectors of the economy.

by only 0.5 percent of the total banking sector depositors. In addition, the liquid assets of banks only incorporated a small share of high-quality liquid assets (cash). As a result, some banks were facing real time transaction-level liquidity shortages. This is analyzed

rose by 26.0 percent to 187,450. Hence, net income before tax remained almost stable (Birr 62.9 billion at end- June 2023, compared with Birr 61.8 billion of the previous year).

The profitability of the banking industry decreased but is still

Figure 12: Banking Industry Liquidity Indicators (percent)

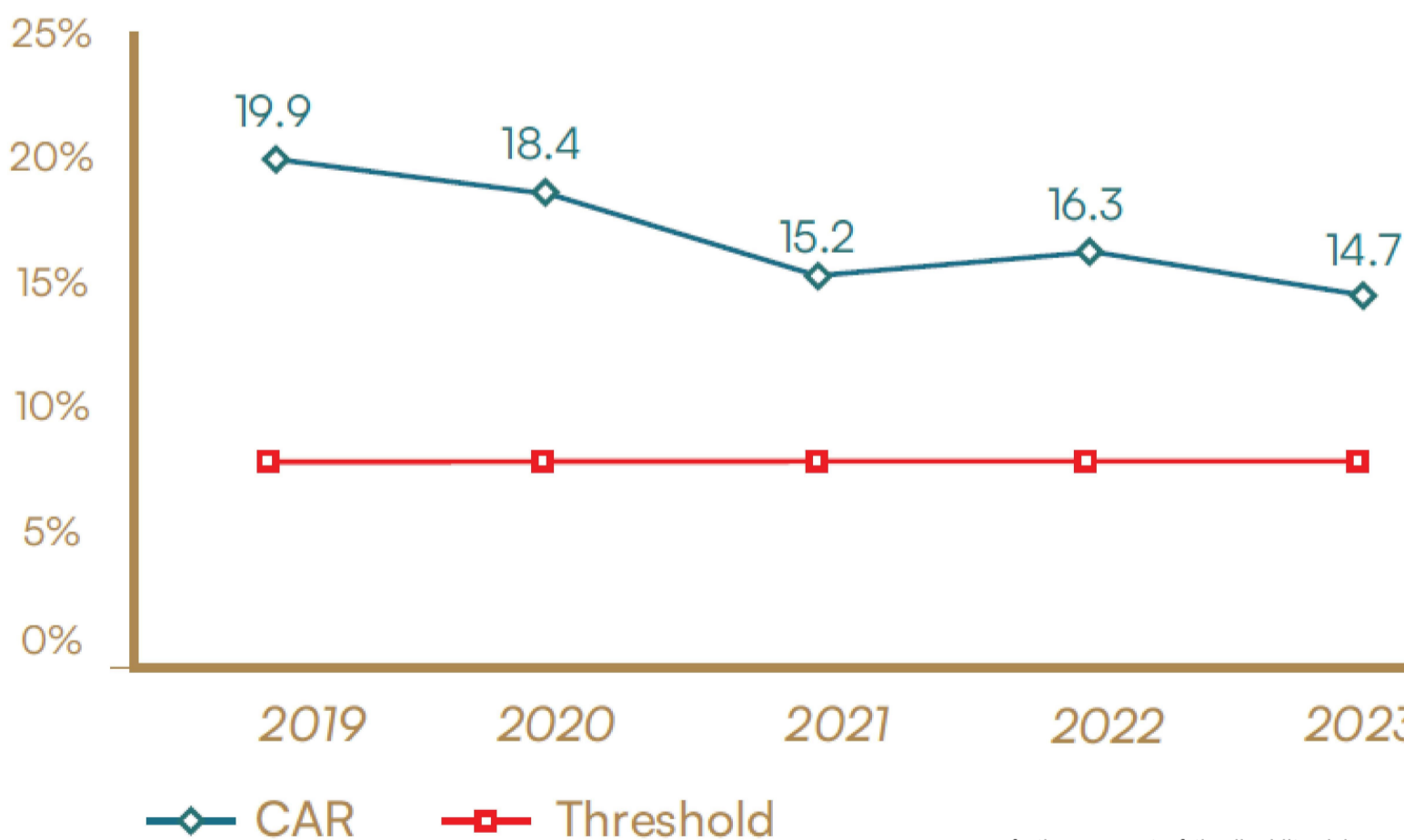


Source: NBE Database

B. Capital Adequacy Indicators
The regulatory capital to risk-weighted assets ratio for the banking sector slightly fell from 16.3 percent in the previous year to 14.7 at end-June 2023, but it is still much higher than the 8.0 percent regulatory minimum (Figure 11).

the 15.0 percent regulatory minimum (Figure 12). During the same period, the ratio of loans to deposits rose by 0.9 percentage points to 60.6 percent. While, the ratio of loans & bonds to deposits dropped slightly to 90.3 percent. This is still very high, though, and suggests that nearly all

Figure 11: Banking Industry Capital Adequacy Indicators, 2019-2023 (percent)



Source: NBE Database

C. Liquidity Indicators
The liquid assets to deposits ratio of the banking sector decreased from 27.0 percent in the previous year to 24.2 percent at end-June 2023, but it is still much higher than

depositors' money is held by borrowers rather than being liquid assets, which could lead to a liquidity problem under unfavorable circumstances. The decrease in the liquidity ratio

High concentration of deposits and the difference in maturities between deposits and loans may create liquidity risk in the banking sector despite the existing high liquidity ratio. At the end of June 2023, 56.3 percent of the total banking sector deposits was held

further as part of the liquidity risk stress test in section 3.2.1.5.

D. Profitability Indicators
Total income of the banking sector reached Birr 297.5 billion at end-June 2023, up from Birr 247.0 billion in the previous year (Figure 13). Expenses grew with the expansion of activities, and the total number of bank employees

sufficient. Return on equity and return on assets, measures of profitability, were 25.7 percent and 2.0 percent at end-June 2023, respectively. These figures were marginally lower than those of the previous year, primarily because of an increase in bank provisioning (Figure 14).

To be continue next week