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The nation will not be intimidated by threats of subversions of groups reportedly assembling in Djibouti, says President Bihi

As he inaugurates ultra modern multi-storied Somaliland National Museums building

- All Somalilanders regardless of political inclinations are united in defense of the nation, he adds
- He chides Somalia for naive entitlement and celebrating 26th June, a day that concerns them not



By M.A. Egge

The President of the Republic of Somaliland H.E. Musa Bihi Abdi has expressed his utter disgust that the Somalia Government of Mogadishu would always celebrate Somaliland 26th June independence that does not concern them at all hence happens to be the day the nation earned its

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President Musa Bihi reiterates the nation's conviction of seeing to it that Somaliland-Ethiopia agreement binds legally



Somaliland and Ethiopia are determined to see through the MoU and treatise it, he affirms

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Hargeisa Hospital has expanded and modernized its Blood Bank department



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The Financial Bill of 2024 national budget has been finally endorsed by parliament



By M.A. Egge

The parliament has endorsed and passed the Financial Bill of the year 2024 on Saturday. The bill was first dispensed with earlier in March but was not assented to and was returned to the

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The republics of Somaliland and Taiwan discussed the production of Oil



Taiwan and Somaliland officials discussed energy and mineral exchanges as well as potential cooperation during Somaliland Minister of Energy and Minerals Abdi Abdillahi Farar's visit

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Former NEC chair wonders why opposition parties are rejecting optical biometric identification whereas they had earlier embraced its use-



By M.A. Egge

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The nation will not be intimidated by threats of subversions of groups reportedly assembling in Djibouti, says President Bihi



sovereignty from the British Empire. Somalia was, on the other hand, colonized by the Italians. He took a swipe for the Mogadishu government and its leadership for insinuating that the re-assertion and re-establishment of the entity of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Somaliland is tantamount to terroristic action.

The Head of State gave the sentiments as he inaugurated the new ultra modern seven stories twin buildings that house the Somaliland National Museum.

He reminded the nation and the world at large that Somalia leader Hassan Sheikh was publicly quoted as seeking and soliciting terror support from the like of al Shabaab in a move to thwart the country's aspirations.

The President also said that the

nation of Somaliland would not be intimidated nor cowed by a group of insurgents grouping in Djibouti on a mission to subvert the country. He chided the Mogadishu government for exuding naivety in its guise of entitlement given that it is a different country altogether. He gave a recap of the struggles for the independence and how the museum would aid in rendering the journals of history immortal. He reiterated the country's resolve to continue its aspirations undeterred in charting its future path of development and progress.

The president was joined at the event by several cabinet ministers, esteemed personalities and hundreds of city residents who witnessed the inauguration. The Director General of the Presidency Mr. Mohamed Abdi Bile

who was personally charged with the task of overseeing the construction gave a detailed speech that highlight the works that was on for about three and a half years. He paid tribute to the Head of State who mooted the idea of the museum and saw it through hence hailed all the architects and the constructors who built the structure impeccably. He said that of the twin buildings one section was the administrative offices which has already be furnished and the other is the museum section which will display the archive for artifacts and assorted natural and contemporary historical dossiers etc. Indeed the museum will be a legacy the Head of State H.E. Musa Bihi Abdi will have bestowed the nation and would be remembered for by the nation's posterity.



The Financial Bill of 2024 national budget has been finally endorsed by parliament

parliament by the Presidency owing to amendments made. However, after reflection the lower House of the Representatives dealt duly with it on 29th June dispelling fears that its failure would have disrupted appropriations and government administrative services, especially given the fact that this was a crucial elections year. With attendance of 58 MPs, 35 voted to endorse the bill in its entirety, that had nine members abstaining, and by thus, the nation and the people sighing in relief at last. Initially the state hand approved it in the council of ministers' cabinet meeting in its 122nd Session on the



28th of December 2023. The Finance Bill this year was mainly based on bolstering the

defence and geared towards electioneering processes of the country.

President Musa Bihi reiterates the nation's conviction of seeing to it that Somaliland-Ethiopia agreement binds legally



By M.A. Egge

The President H.E. Musa Bihi Abdi has once again highlighted the fact that the Republic of Somaliland is on course to see to it that the crucial bilateral MoU entered with the neighbouring government of Ethiopia in the beginning of the year holds and successfully binds in a lawful manner.

He appealed for the nation's unity and solidarity during this electioneering year to steer through it in concerted efforts and a harmonious manner, pointing out that the government is at hand to facilitate the processes as is incumbent upon it.

The Head of State reiterated the facts as he addressed the nation on the eve of the 64th National Independence Day celebrations marking the day the country won its independence from British at the Presidency.

He was quite convictional, and at the same insisted, that the maritime agreement was made in great the interests of the country hence ought to be seen through to officially treatise.

He said that Hargeisa and Addis Ababa are committed to the implementation of the agreement, and they are always ready to implement it.

"Somaliland and Ethiopia are determined to see the MoU and comes into effect legally," President Musa said in his speech. He noted, "Whenever the other party is ready we are too", meaning that the nation is ready and only awaiting

for their neighbours to complete their dossier. He was quite vivid that the main issue and purpose in the pursuit for international recognition is the precursor of having the MoU agreement itself. The President said that Somaliland and its people have an important opportunity to be recognized, and he announced that many countries are interested in Somaliland. He pointed out that the acknowledgement of the geographical strategically important area we have naturally been bequeathed with is indeed valued and the country is noted for it. The President was unequivocal that the Somali government of Mogadishu to claim Somaliland as part of their territory was non-binding and their disagreement with the Ethiopian agreement naive hence that they would not be consulted in the implementation at all. As concerns the elections and their preparations, he said that the government has already catered for its facilitations in funding and security aspects saying that it is necessary for the national political parties and organizations concerned to work together for the success of the electioneering processes. The event was attended by eminent personalities in the official state circles and the social sector. Speakers invited to the podium spoke in unison and suggested that they join hands for the development of peace and stability in Somaliland.

The 2024 annual budget presented by the Ministry of Financial Development of Somaliland, totals 3,432,316,337,448 (Three Trillion, Four Hundred and Thirty Two Billion, Three Hundred and Sixteen Million, Three Hundred and Thirty Seven Thousand, Four Hundred) and forty-eight) Somaliland shillings; In a glance it consists; General government budget

Central Government budget
Local government budgets
Independent Institutions
World Bank projects
The 2024 budget is guided and centred on the following points:
Strengthening the country's security system,
The cost of elections
Balancing income and expenses,
Inflation control,
Promotion of judicial service,
Promotion of production.

The republics of Somaliland and Taiwan discussed the production of Oil



Somaliland's investment potential, fostering long-term, mutually beneficial relations.

MOFA Vice Minister Chen Li-kuo said that Taiwan and Somaliland signed an energy and minerals cooperation agreement in 2022, followed by an inaugural joint working group meeting on energy and minerals in Somaliland in 2023.

Abdi's visit to Taiwan aims to further deepen cooperation in exploring and developing oil, gas, and strategic minerals, Chen said.

Chen also highlighted the shared commitment to freedom and democracy between both sides, noting that Taiwan and Somaliland have closely cooperated since establishing representative offices in 2020.

on Thursday, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In a statement, MOFA said Abdi highlighted Taiwan's crucial role as an international development partner for Somaliland and the

African country's abundant energy and mineral resources during a banquet on Thursday night.

He expressed hope that the Taiwan-Somaliland energy and minerals meeting will boost Taiwanese business recognition of

Former NEC chair wonders why opposition parties are rejecting optical biometric identification whereas they had earlier embraced its use-

has wondered why the opposition fraternities are against the use of optical biometric identification system whereas they had once embraced its introduction and use. He averred that the said system was instrumentally quite appropriate in enhancing and achieving a very free and fair election.

The former chair made his sentiments in the wake of ping pong arguments either for and/or against the use of the optical identification system in the upcoming presidential and national political parties' and organizations' elections due in November.

He said it was an important tool for the nation and a progressive development in the electioneering processes especially given the past elections that the country has gone through.



He recalled that when he headed the NEC they had opted for that same system and had then consulted with the political parties who indeed embraced the idea.

He wondered why the same political fraternities are making an about turn and rejecting it whereas it would

have been a a plus for the achievement of the efforts of thee realization of a totally free and fair election.

He described the use of the equipment in the country as a step that the Somaliland would have reached before the rest of the world.

Somaliland has always been peaceful and will always safeguard its stability, says Sports Minister as he scoffs at naysayers



By M.A. Egge

The Minister of Youth and Sports of Somaliland Hon. Abdirisq Musa Farah has scoffed at the naysayers who insinuate through the social media that the peaceful scenario in the country is jeopardized.

He said that the government of Somaliland has vouched for and

guaranteed the safety and security of its people and that is one of the main reasons that foreigners are contented to come and work in the country.

He said that the nation of Somaliland had all along been enjoying peaceful stability that it continues to maintain and

safeguard.

The minister gave the sentiments during the Hargeisa International Half Marathon competition event that was held on Friday.

He noted that even the participation of various athletes from different nations in the event attested to the stable and harmoniously peaceful security prevalent in the country. In contrast to Somalia, the minister pointed out, the athletes would not dare participate in similar events in Mogadishu owing to persistent insecurity turmoil.

Saying that Somalia's illusions of holding sway over Somaliland was a pipedream hence observed that Mogadishu could not service its budget without comprehensive foreign funding unlike Somaliland which charts out its own path funds itself without much ado hence dispenses public services applicably.

Understanding MoU signed between Somaliland and Ethiopia-Abdi Daud



This is a semi-monthly series of insights into the aftershocks of the MoU signed between Somaliland and Ethiopia.

The conversation about the MoU in June shifted from the question of "if" to "when." We are no longer talking about months but days. The latest verified source is Ethiopian MFA spokesperson Amb @mufti_dina, who told the BBC that they will provide new details in the coming days.

Nevertheless, there are anti-MoU diplomatic efforts by Qatar and Türkiye that even exclude Somaliland from the process. However, these efforts are limited. Many countries have been "rebuilding Somalia" for 34 years without paying attention to what has been happening in Somaliland.

The diplomats from these countries are equally ignorant and arrogant when it comes to understanding the history, geography, and diplomacy behind the MoU.

In this series, my aim usually is to cover the impacts of the MoU, its feasibility, legality, benefits, and the #aftershocks. Today, I make a U-turn and instead discuss the main drivers behind the MoU.

Historical Drivers

This is not the first time that Somaliland and Ethiopia have signed a trade deal.

- In 2018, Ethiopia became a major shareholder following an agreement with DP World and the Somaliland Port Authority. DP World holds a 51% stake in the project, Somaliland 30%, and Ethiopia the remaining 19%.

- In 2005, Somaliland and Ethiopia officially signed the Berbera Corridor Agreement (BCA), allowing Ethiopia to import and export goods through the port of Berbera.

In brief, Somaliland and Ethiopia have a history of striking successful deals and talks, which makes the 2024 MoU a natural step to the next level. Compare this to 12 years of fruitless talks with Somalia that yielded nothing but war and conflict. Meanwhile, the talks with Ethiopia have contributed to Somaliland's GDP for almost two decades.

Geographical Drivers

A picture speaks a thousand words. Below is the population density of regions within Ethiopia. When people speak about the Berbera corridor, it is not just about linking a port to a landlocked country. It is a chain of the most densely populated

cities and regional areas from the coast all the way to Addis Ababa. It is a chain of population hotspots that is rarely found in the horn. Imagine the economic activity that will be fostered once the right infrastructure is in place for this region. That is why Djibouti or ports in Somalia have issues not just with distance but with the disconnections these corridors will make with desert and sparsely inhabited regions.

Diplomatic Drivers

Why has Ethiopia decided to make this move now? The reason could be the recently active diplomacy of the Somaliland government that has gained attention from the UK, United States, Taiwan, and the UAE. Ethiopia has always viewed Somaliland as a neglected place that no one is interested in. The NDAA 2023 has instructed the US government to conduct a feasibility study on Somaliland. The conversation between Hargeisa and Washington shifted to whether the US should have a military base with recognition or no recognition. This is very different from the Somaliland of the late 90s. Ethiopia understood that it would be harder to strike a good deal with Somaliland after a deal with the UK or the US. With Somaliland demanding recognition in the MoU, this also sent a hidden message to the US that there can never be a US base without recognition, following the Ethiopian example. With a Republican president potentially coming soon, this will even be exacerbated as Somaliland has very strong allies in the Republican Party.

So what can Qatar and Türkiye change? Do not forget, all these drivers combined have caused a paradigm shift in the thinking of the youth in Somaliland. The statement "We are more related to Addis Ababa than to Mogadishu" used to be called "hardline" but today it is in songs and shared all over social media in Somaliland. Finally, after decades of fascist ethnonationalism brainwash by dictator Siad Barre, Somalilanders are returning to their ancient existence where Somaliland ports have been mainly doing business with Ethiopia since 1AD.

I argue that the inhabitants of this land were actually the first globalists, working with all races—a skill that is handy today in the pursuit of international recognition.

Deadly Kenya protests spurred by international debt woes

JOHANNESBURG — “Kenya is not IMF’s lab rat,” was just one of many slogans condemning the International Monetary Fund that was seen this week on demonstrators’ placards at protests in Kenya against proposed tax hikes.

The protests, fueled by tech-savvy youth on social media, were sparked by the Kenyan government’s plans to significantly raise taxes to pay off its enormous debt.

The government did a U-turn after things turned deadly Tuesday when protesters broke into parliament in Nairobi and police opened fire, killing over 20 people, according to rights groups.

Embattled President William Ruto announced he was listening to the protesters’ concerns and was



scrapping his controversial finance bill. He said he would instead introduce budget cuts and austerity measures to try to shore up the

country’s finances. But the chaotic events in one of Africa’s major economies, also a key U.S. ally, have led to questions about

the debt choking many developing countries, and who is to blame.

International financial institutions

Kenya owes \$80 billion in domestic and foreign debt. Its debt stands at 68 percent of GDP, well above the World Bank and IMF’s recommended maximum of 55 percent.

The tax hikes in Ruto’s unpopular bill were aimed at avoiding default and came after an agreement earlier this month between Kenya and the IMF on a comprehensive reform package.

Most of Kenya’s debt is owed to international bondholders, while its biggest bilateral creditor is China, to which it owes \$5.7 billion.

Washington frequently accuses Beijing of “debt trap diplomacy” — unscrupulous lending that leaves developing countries overly burdened. China, which has undertaken large infrastructure projects across Africa under President Xi Jinping’s global Belt and Road Initiative, vehemently rejects the allegations.

Experts have different takes on whether China or Western monetary institutions are to blame for Kenya’s current woes. Kenya owes billions of dollars to Western countries and the IMF as well as China.

“The key culprit is the lack of a well-functioning global financial safety net,” said Kevin P. Gallagher, director of Boston University’s Global Development Policy Center.

“Programs from the International Monetary Fund and World Bank made the situation worse, rather than better, and the flaws in the G20 Common Framework to work out debt problems were seen as too risky for Kenya to enter into,” he said, referring to the debt restructuring mechanism that other indebted African countries like Zambia and Ghana have been using.

China’s role

Gallagher said China’s loans to Kenya have decreased in recent years, according to his university’s data, and it has little to do with the East Africa country’s debt woes.

“Indeed, the Kenyan case disproves accusations of ‘debt-trap diplomacy’ on the part of China. If China was doing debt trap diplomacy it would be seizing Kenyan assets, instead Chinese capital has been the most patient during these rough times,” Gallagher told VOA.

David Shinn, a former U.S. diplomat, said the blame couldn’t be placed on any one factor.

“China is the largest bilateral lender, but its loans are quite modest when compared to the international financial institutions and holders of Eurobonds,” he told VOA.

“All of these players share the blame for too much debt. The Kenyan government should not have allowed itself to take on so much debt and those who offered loans should have

been more circumspect,” he continued.

Alex Vines, director of the Africa Program at Chatham House, was also even-handed, saying, “China is part of the debt burden, but private equity is also contributing to the overall burden.”

Aly-Khan Satchu, a Kenya-based economist, said Kenya was “in a perfect debt storm.”

“You know you’d get whiplash for looking at Kenya’s politics. From a period of looking east, we’re back to looking west again ... and therefore a big decision has been made to wrestle Kenya away from the Chinese orbit, with the support of the World Bank and the IMF.”

However, Satchu said, one of the problems is that Kenya has had to reroute some of the IMF and World Bank’s money in order to pay its debts to China, particularly for a Chinese-built railway.

Harry Verhoeven, a senior researcher at Columbia University, told VOA neither China nor the IMF is uniquely responsible for Kenya’s problems.

“I think the IMF is not wrong in its diagnosis that there’s not enough revenue being raised, I think that’s certainly right,” he said. “Where you can be more critical of the IMF is, so far at least, that it hasn’t spoken up very much ... about the distributional effects of how that revenue should be raised, or what the government has proposed to raise it.”

Other factors

Analysts note it wasn’t just loans that got Kenya into its fiscal predicament. The country was hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and has also suffered from the fallout of Russia’s war on Ukraine — which has seen global food and energy prices rise. Climate change-induced floods have also hurt the country’s economy.

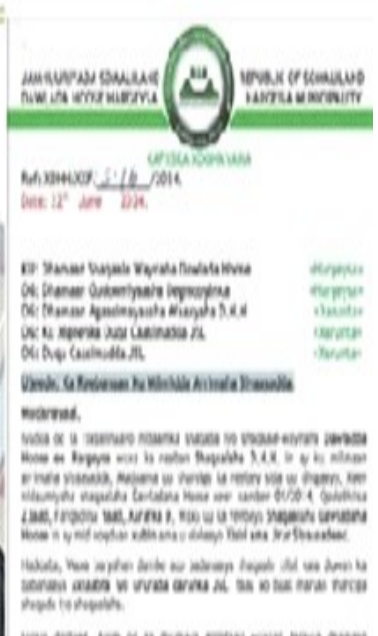
Samuel Misati Nyandemo, a senior economics lecturer at the University of Nairobi, said the Kenyan government, having withdrawn the controversial finance bill, now has a tough road ahead.

“The government should try to balance between raising revenues and address the cost of living and doing business in the midst of entrenched corruption, impunity and wastage of public resources,” he said.

Kenya, he warned, might not be the last African country where frustrations boil over and citizens take to the streets.

In impassioned remarks in April, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said, “the world cannot afford to continue throwing developing countries’ plans and futures onto a raging bonfire of debt.” He said around 40% of the world’s population now live in countries that spend more on interest payments than health or education.

The Hargeisa Municipal Council warns employees risk of termination if found indulging publicly in politics



concerns politics they would be interdicted immediately subject to be dismissed altogether.

A statement from the Executive Secretary of the city hall Mr. Saeed Noor Aw Jama, informed all the its workers to understand that it is forbidden for them to actively participate in political matters in public, as the law prohibits it as per Act. No. 1/2014 Article 23, paragraph D.

In his circular he said that in recent times, there has been political activism palpated amongst the city local authority staffers, something he said would not be tolerated at all. He, by thus, directed the Director of Administration and the Head of the Personnel Office to act accordingly and forthwith as per the order against any employees who infringe upon the public service labour laws specified.

By M.A. Egge
Hargeisa Local Government has called on all of its workers to be careful about meddling in political matters and not indulge at all in the

politics especially of the upcoming elections.

The workers were cautionary warned that if they are found to flout the regulations of staff tenets as

Hargeisa Hospital has expanded and modernized its Blood Bank department

By M.A. Egge
The Hargeisa General Hospital has expanded and modernized the blood department of the hospital which plays an important role in saving lives.

The blood department of the Hargeisa General Hospital is a place that works for people in emergency capacities, those who are suffering from anemia (whatever the causes) since it is indeed where the patients can get immediate blood transfusions timely and swiftly. Its centrifugation and associated separation blood plasma fractionation needs have been equipped with modern appliances and facilities to cater for the swift and tentative services at higher skills and levels.

A press release from the office of the Hargeisa General Hospital has detailed the expansion and



modernization of the blood department and it reads as follows:-
“We have expanded and modernized the Blood Bank Department of Hargeisa Group Hospital.

The Blood Bank is the country’s largest blood bank serving the community of Hargeisa and its surrounding areas.

It is a place to serve patients suffering from anemia and those who need blood transfusions. It is the only blood fractionation centrifugal storage facility”
In recent times, the hospital has been undergoing renovation and modernization of all its various departments and its capacity buildings.

Somaliland's 64th Anniversary 1960-2024

On Wednesday, Somaliland is celebrating its **64th anniversary** of independence from Britain on 26th June 1960. It was 64 years ago when Britain granted us our independence. This ended 76 years of being under British protection (1884-1960).

The celebration of the important event will be attended by Somaliland government officials led by the president. It is the day the president his Excellency **Muse Bihi Abdi** addresses the Somaliland nation and shares with them the value of this day and the long journey that the country has gone through to gain independence.

It is important to clarify that this week starting from June 26, there are generally significant and valuable days for Somalilanders. Six million **Somalilanders** including hundreds of thousands more in Diaspora are celebrating their Independence in our home country. Somaliland Diaspora played an important role in all the different struggles Somaliland has been through to achieve its independence.

Somaliland must not be confused with Somalia or with Djibouti. Somaliland has been a distinct country with its distinct history for centuries and since modern history of Africa had began with the demarcation of colonial borders.

As we know, the majority of the population of Somaliland who are now living in Somaliland did not witness independence gained in 1960. It can be said that 2/3 of the population of Somaliland are people born after 1991 when Somaliland regained its independence from Somalia. Therefore, the younger generations of Somaliland must know that Somaliland was never under the British colony, but it was under the protectorate administration. During this period, the administration situation in Somaliland was very much different from other territories where Somalis live. For example, Italy and France have implemented a colonial system in Somalia and Djibouti. **What are the things we remember on our Independence Day?**

This day has its memories that are considered by the people of Somaliland. June 26, 1960, reminds the people of Somaliland that they became the 12th country in Africa and gained its independence from Britain. It



is a history that shows that the existence and independence of Somaliland are older than most of the countries of the African continent.

As a nation, we have to be grateful and remember all those who sacrificed their lives to achieve Somaliland's independence. These people included business community, faith and traditional leaders and ordinary men and women of different ages.

On the occasion of June 26, Somalilanders should be thankful and remember the days and memories that our youth need to be aware of:

First of all, from the earliest time when the protectorate system started, the people of Somaliland have been on a long journey with their challenges and difficulties. They have shown resilience towards the circumstances they have been through. Traditional leaders had a great role in the internal affairs of Somaliland, and they had a great influence on People's lives and their culture. The role of traditional leaders was important, and it was a role that the people needed whether they were in a peaceful or conflict situation. The most important task of the traditional leaders during the time of the protectorate administration was to bring closer the relationship between people and also to build trust between communities. They were always representing the interests of their country and making sure Somaliland clans lived together in peace. Traditional leaders, including elders representing different clans in Somaliland, were the ones who agreed with the British Government to establish Somaliland as a protectorate with its own borders.

Second, we must remember, on a day like this, all the patriots who fought for Somaliland's independence. We cannot mention them all in this short note. **Sayid Mohamed Abdulla Hassan** who led Darawish

fighters, their struggle took 20 years. The movement and resistance of the Darawish were based in Taleh (Sool region of Somaliland). The struggle of Sayid Mohamed and his fighters influenced society to be ready to participate in the struggle for independence. We cannot forget other heroes who fought for the independence of Somaliland such as **Sheikh Bashir, Farah Omar** and other comrades who were fighting alongside them.

We should also appreciate other Somaliland movements who fight for the independence of Somaliland. **SNS** (Somaliland National Society) was the first movement that was announced in Buroa in 1945. As Somaliland historians have mentioned, this movement was mainly created to make the community aware of the problems of tribalism and for the community to live together in peace and tranquility.

SNL (Somali National League) was a political organization founded in Buroa in 1951. The objectives of SNL were based on a political movement aimed directly at Somaliland's independence from Britain. The founders of this movement and its thousands of members contributed to the fight and struggle for independence. Among the other historical events that mark this day is to remember other pro-independence groups in Somaliland. We can take as an example **USP** (United Somali Party), **NUF** (National United Front) and **Hesbollah**. Although these political groups were working on different agendas, they were united in the goal of achieving Somaliland's independence.

On this day, we remember the institutions Somaliland established before the union, such as the **legislative assembly**, which consisted of 33 seats. It was the first parliament that Somaliland had as a state before the union. We remember a day like this when we shared our excitement and freedom with

the other countries of the world on 26 June 1960.

It is the day Somaliland was officially recognised by 35 countries, including all five permanent members of the UN Security Council. We also remember our first Somaliland cabinet whose names were:

1. **Mohamed Ibrahim Egal** (Prime Minister)
2. **Garad Ali Jama** (Minister)
3. **Ahmed Haji Duale** (Keyse) (Minister)
4. **Haji Yusuf Iman** (Minister)
5. **Haji Ibrahim Nur** (Minister).

Today, 64 years ago, we also remember the concept of unifying Somalis under the Greater Somalia dream. This is why Somaliland formed a union with Somalia four days after its independence. As stated by the people who are knowledgeable about international laws, that union was not based on agreements that are signed when two countries form a union, therefore there was no act of union signed together by Somaliland and Somalia.

Today is a special day in the history of Somaliland. It is the day we remember poems such as **Abdillahi Sultan Timacade, Abdi lidaan** etc. Poems that were presented during Independence Day were those that expressed or elaborated the value of Independence Day. We also cannot forget the artists who created our most precious songs on Independence Day: **Ismail Cagaf, Ali sugule, Abdillahi Qarshe, Hussein Aw-Farah, Sahardiid Maxamed (jebiye), Yusuf Haji Adan, Abdi Muhumed Amiin, Hassan Sheikh Muumin, Ahmed Ismail Diriye** (Qasim), **Maxamed Ismail** (Barkhad Cas) and others. Their heir literature, poems, songs and music have influenced Somalilanders to become more patriots.

The songs composed at the time of Somaliland's independence are memorable. Listening to these songs is very enjoyable to listen to. The lyrics of these songs show the unity of the people of Somaliland and their struggle during the independence time. These are the songs sung by: **Mohamed Saleebaan Tubeec, Mohamed Ahmed Kuluc, Mohamed Yussuf, Guduudo Awo, Magool, Maandeeq, Baxsan, Omer Dhuule, Maxamed Adan** (Dacar), **Cismaan Gacanlaw** etc. **Third**, it is important to point out the disappointment and the frustration of the Somaliland

people. Immediately after the union, they faced injustice and oppression under the successive governments of Somalia. This issue hurt the people of Somaliland, which led to the failed coup that was initiated by junior officers from Somaliland in 1961. The purpose of the coup was to restore the independence of Somaliland. Therefore, on this day, we remember all 23 officers who made sacrifices for their country. We especially remember **Abdillahi Said Abby** who was killed in the coup confrontation

Fourth, it is also very important to mention that as a result of the oppression, torture, and killing of thousands of the people of Somaliland, the **SNM** (Somali National Movement) was formed in London in 1981. After a long struggle, Siad Barre's forces were defeated. The sovereignty of Somaliland was restored on the 18th of May 1991. The two celebration days of May 18 and June 26 have a historical connection. The celebration of 18th May is (regaining sovereignty Day) and the 26 June is (Independence Day). Both of them are national days.

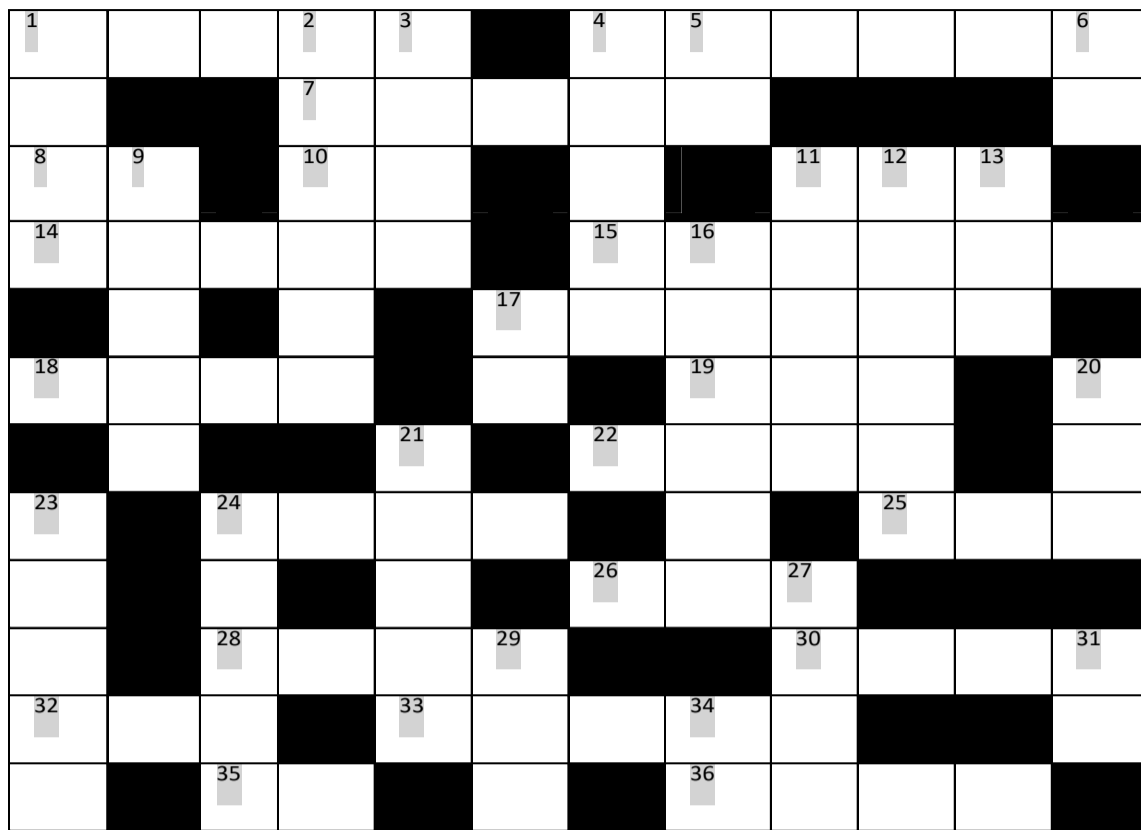
Fifth, we also remember and are grateful for the state and the system we have rebuilt since 1991. What we have accomplished is something we and other nations in the region as a whole should be proud of. Our young people need to study and reflect on the long journey we have gone through. We, finally remember all the leadership of the successive Somaliland governments and the progress they have achieved and also reflect on the setbacks faced.

Finally, as we celebrate Somaliland's 64th anniversary, the challenges we are facing today are huge. Because of the MOU agreement between Somaliland and Ethiopia, Somaliland's neighbors have created a diplomatic war against Somaliland since January 2024. The hostility of these two countries is increasing day by day. The November 13 election is one of the other challenges ahead. What we need today is to strengthen our unity and togetherness so that we as a nation can peacefully overcome all the challenges that are in front of us.

I wish you a happy and successful celebration

Abdirahman Abdillahi Jibril (Awliyo)

THT Puzzle



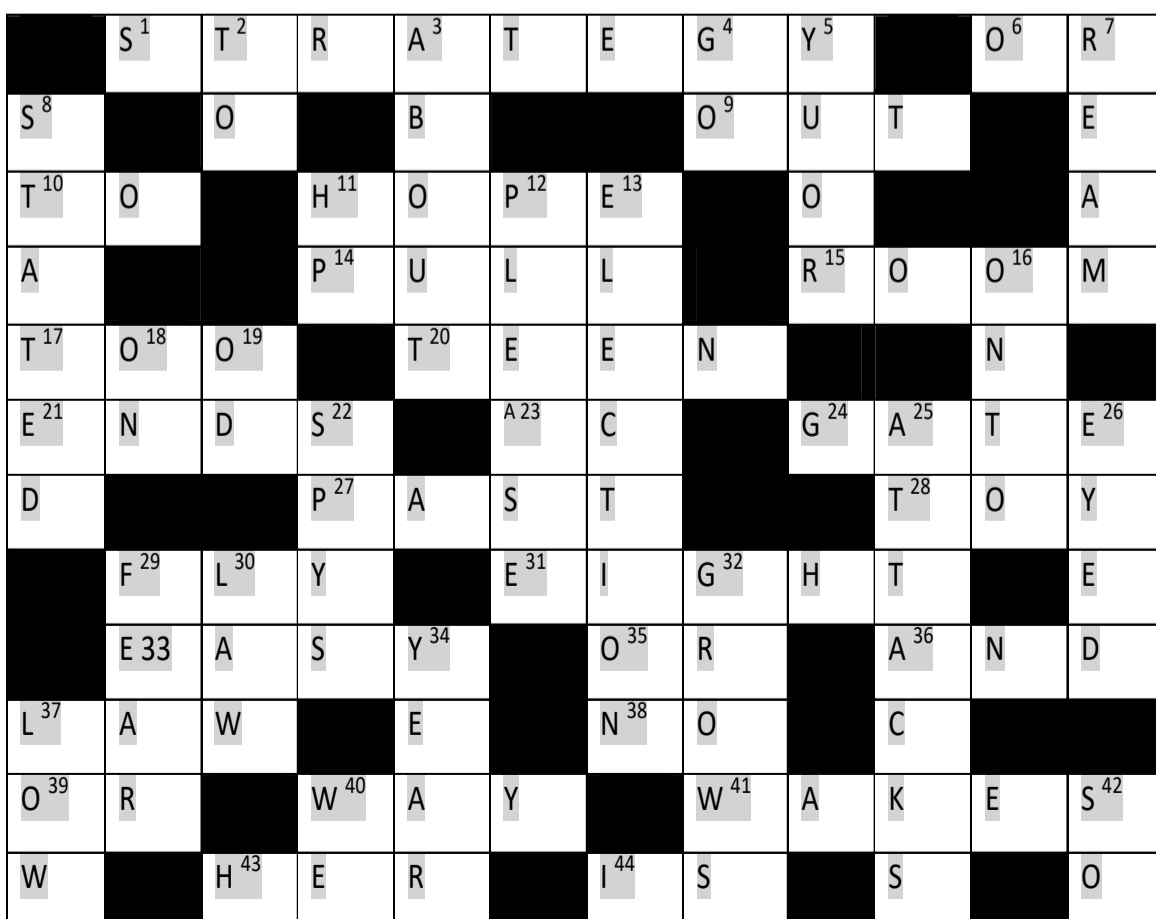
Across

- 1 Disc brake
- 4 Sweetmeats or something tasty
- 7 Stately
- 8 Leave
- 10 Toward
- 11 Label
- 14 Piece destroys
- 15 Armed forces
- 17 Workplace
- 18 Take away
- 19 Payment
- 22 Tenders
- 24 Chant
- 25 Sun shine
- 26 Reddish
- 28 Want
- 30 Broadcasts
- 32 Request
- 33 Raining
- 35 Thus
- 36 A capital city of Norway

Down

- 1 Requests
- 2 housing estate
- 3 pauses
- 4 Employees
- 5 Pronoun
- 6 Thus
- 9 Marine
- 11 Attempted
- 12 Entry
- 13 an active insect make honey
- 16 Workplace
- 17 Otherwise
- 20 Child
- 21 Put in the ground
- 23 Clan
- 24 Tunes

Previous Answer



Julian Assange lands in Australia a free man

Julian Assange has landed back home in his native Australia, after a plea deal allowed him to walk free from a London prison.

There were emotional scenes at Canberra Airport, as the Wikileaks founder kissed his wife and hugged his father, his lawyers watching on, visibly moved.

"Julian needs time to recover, to get used to freedom," Stella Assange said at a news conference shortly after her husband arrived.

For the past 14 years, Assange has been in a legal battle with US officials who accused him of leaking classified documents, which they say put lives in danger.

The 52-year-old did not attend the news conference in Canberra, instead letting his lawyer and wife speak for him.

"You have to understand what he's been through," Mrs Assange said, adding that they need time to "let our family be a family".

The couple married in London's Belmarsh prison in 2022, and have two children together.

The plea deal saw Julian Assange plead guilty to one charge of conspiracy to obtain and disclose national defence information, rather than the 18 he was originally facing.

The case centred around a massive Wikileaks disclosure in 2010 when the website released a video from a US military helicopter which showed civilians being killed in the Iraqi capital Baghdad.

It also published thousands of confidential documents suggesting that the US military had killed hundreds of civilians in unreported incidents during the war in Afghanistan.

The revelations became a huge story, prompting reaction from all corners of the globe, and led to intense scrutiny of American involvement in foreign conflicts.

Assange formally entered the charge on the remote Northern Mariana Islands, an American territory in the Pacific, two days after leaving Belmarsh prison.

In return, he was sentenced to time already served and released to fly home.

His lawyer, Jen Robinson, told media that the deal was "criminalisation of journalism" and set a "dangerous precedent".

Echoing this, Mrs Assange said she hopes the media "realise the danger of this US case against Julian, that criminalises, that has secured his conviction for newsgathering and publishing information that was true, that the public deserved to know".

His lawyer also gave details on a phone call between Assange and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, who has been instrumental in securing his release.

Assange told the prime minister that he "saved his life", Ms Robinson said, adding: "I don't think that's an exaggeration".

"This is a huge win that Australia stood up to an ally and demanded the return of an Australian citizen," she said.

Mr Albanese held his own news conference on Wednesday, saying he is "very pleased" that the case is over, adding that the Wikileaks founder has been through a "considerable ordeal".

The PM has said in the past that he does not agree with everything Assange has done, but "enough was enough" and it was time for him to be released, making the case a priority.

When asked whether the plea deal may affect US-Australia relations, he said: "We have a very positive relationship with the United States. I regard President Biden as a friend, I regard their relationship as being absolutely central."

The US State Department said its involvement with Assange's case had been very limited. It added that the 52-year-old's actions had put the lives of US partners, allies and diplomats at risk, and that the Wikileaks releases had "chilled" the ability of US diplomats to build relationships abroad.

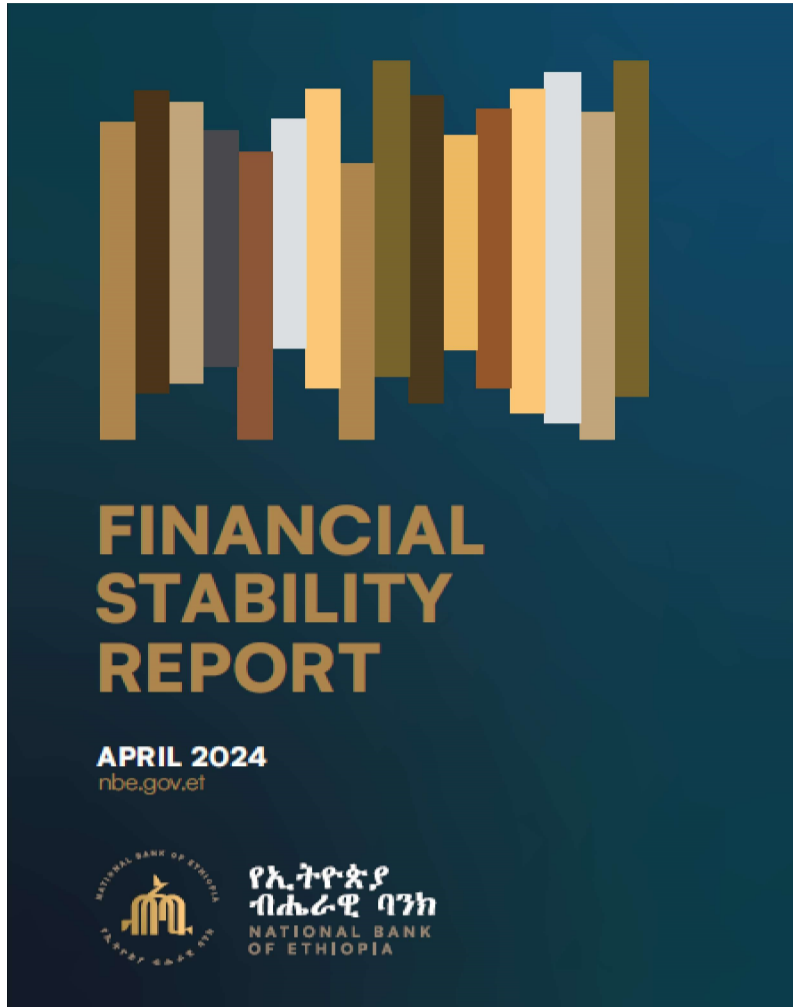
Assange spent the last five years behind bars at London's high-security Belmarsh Prison, fighting US attempts to extradite him to face charges over the document leaks.

In 2010, he faced separate charges of rape and sexual assault in Sweden, which he denied. He spent seven years hiding in Ecuador's London embassy, claiming the Swedish case would lead him to be sent to the US. Swedish authorities dropped that case in 2019 and said that too much time had passed since the original complaint.

Women's rights groups in Sweden say it is a shame he never faced official questioning over the rape allegations.

"It's a chapter of shame and betrayal that ends with his release," Clara Berglund, head of the Swedish Women's Lobby, told Reuters news agency. "This is about a case that takes place on the major political stages, and men's violence against women is given incredibly little weight."

Ethiopia Financial Stability Report



calibrated according to domestic and international shocks that could negatively impact the recovery and, eventually, the credit risk of the banking industry. 21

The *baseline scenario (pre-shock)* anticipated that the economy will grow according to the IMF forecast, with international and domestic conditions improving, and the country free of droughts and conflicts. The *moderate scenario* assumed that NPLs in the banking industry will increase to

10.0 percent. In principle, this could happen as a result of deteriorating domestic and/or external circumstances, such as drought and heightened conflict or an increasing foreign currency shortage. The *severe scenario* assumed that NPLs will increase to 30.0 percent.

The credit risk stress test results (Table 7) provide an assessment of banks' capital erosion following asset quality impairment under moderate and severe scenarios if

the unfavorable circumstances occur by end-June 2024. The results indicate that all banks have sufficient capital to withstand a moderate shock. Twelve banks would fail the stress test due to an increase in NPLs under the severe scenario, requiring additional capital equal to 1.5 percent of risk-weighted assets. Not all banks have the same requirement for capital injection. Specifically, the systemic bank and the majority of MFIs that converted to banks (in the small banks class) have more capital

Table 7: Results of Credit Risk Stress Test (increase in NPLs)

Impact on Minimum Regulatory CAR due to increase in NPLs	Baseline Scenario (Pre-Shock) *	Moderate Scenario	Severe Scenario
Assumed level of NPL (%)	3.6	10.0	30.0
Pre - shock Regulatory Capital Ratio (%)	14.7	14.7	14.7
Post- shock Regulatory Capital Ratio (%)	-	14.5	10.6
Number of banks below minimum regulatory CAR	-	-	12

Source: NBE Database and off-site reports; *based on data as of June 2023

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 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 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 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).

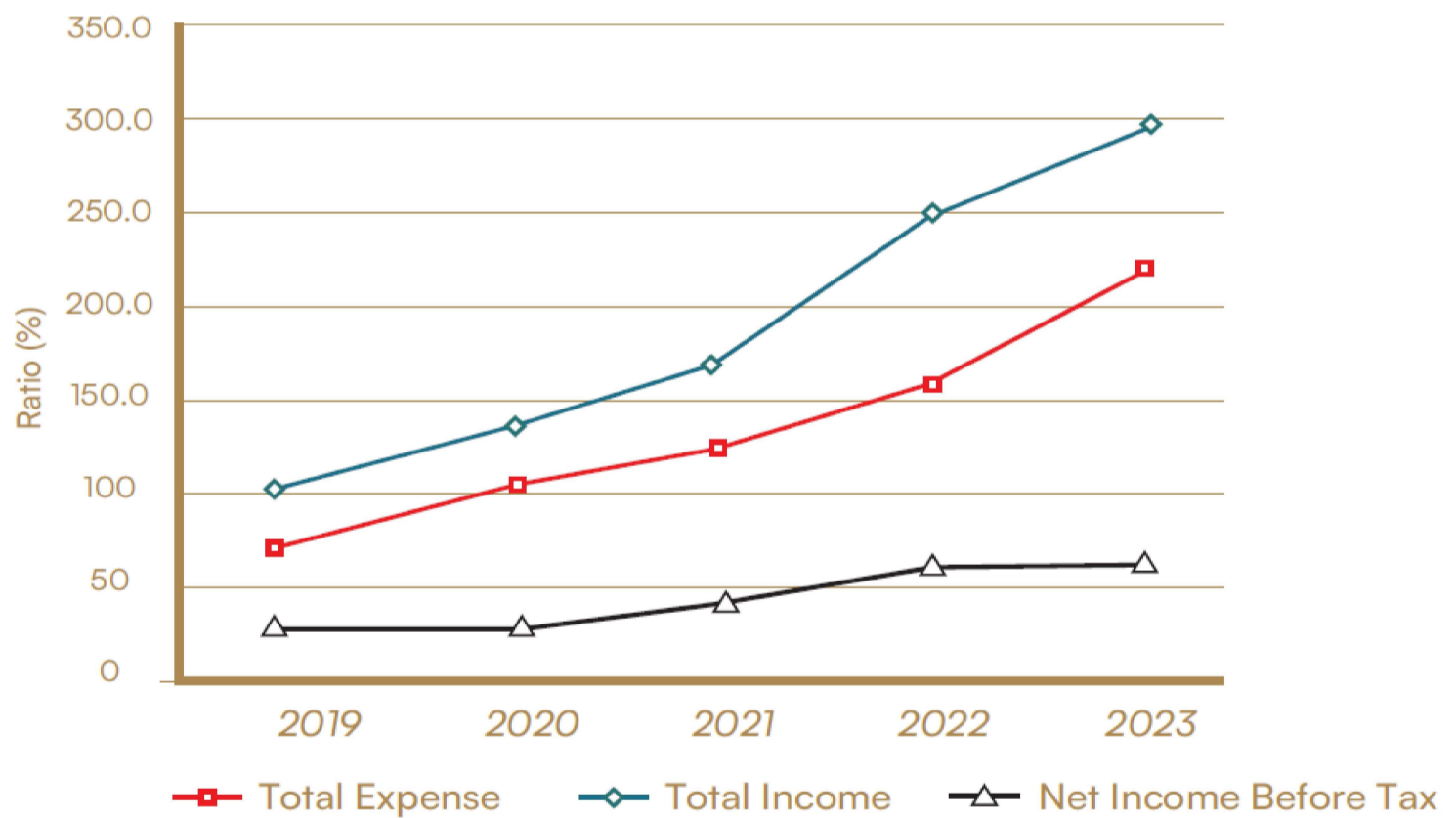
The profitability of the banking industry decreased but is still sufficient. Return on equity and return on assets, measures of profitability, were 25.7 percent and 2.0 percent at end-June 2023, respectively. These figures were marginally lower than those of the previous year, primarily because of an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

3.2.1.5 Risk Stress Tests

A. Credit Risk Stress Test

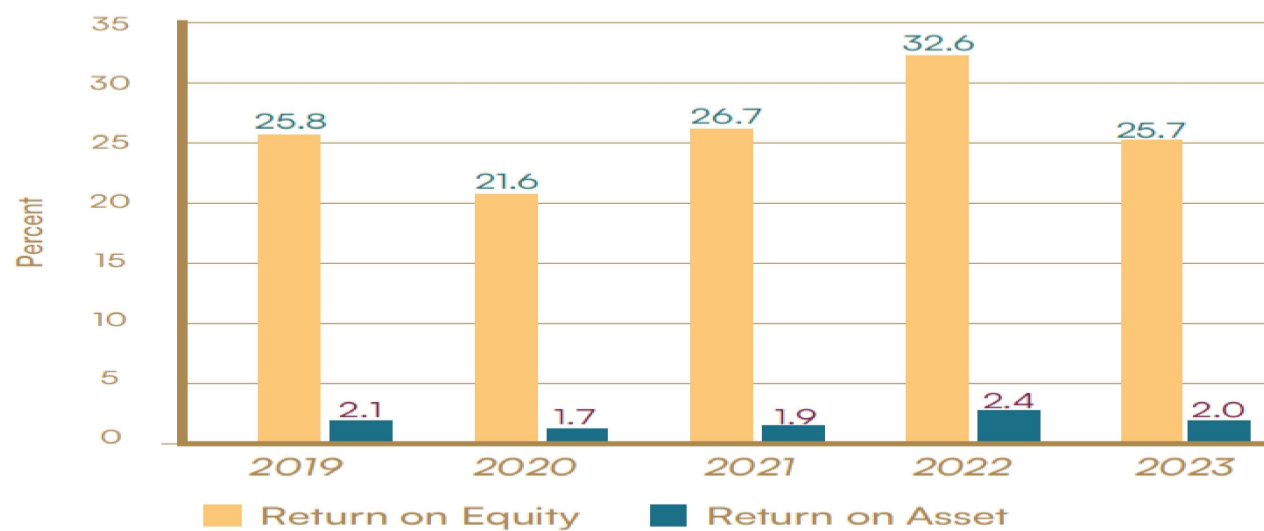
NBE performed a banking sector credit risk stress test at end-June 2023 for the 12 months ahead under a baseline, moderate and severe scenario. The scenarios were

Figure 13: Ethiopian Banking Industry income, expenses and net income before tax, 2019-2023



Source: NBE Database

Figure 14: Ethiopian Banking Industry's Profitability Indicators, 2019-2023



Source: NBE Database

To be continue next week