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## This year's elections should exhibit the credibility of Somaliland and raise its standard as a democratic nation, says the President

*He urges traditional leaders to further foster cohesion within the communities terming them as dependable pillars of stability*



By M.A. Egge  
The President of the Republic of Somaliland H.E. Musa Bihi Abdi has said that the election scheduled to be held in the country on November 13<sup>th</sup> this year would be one that will further enhance the

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## President receives UNSG's special rep Ambassador James Swan



By M.A. Egge  
The President of the Republic of Somaliland H.E. Musa Bihi Abdi, on Saturday received at the Presidency the Special Representative to the region from the

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## Sixty top students in national exams land scholarships abroad



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## The state once again urges the populaces to be ready for the elections and stand up in defence of the country



By M.A. Egge  
The government has urged the members of the public to be readily participate in the upcoming elections and at the same time to be vigilant in the defence of the nation. This was contained in press

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## Somaliland can Defeat Somalia in an International Court and Win Reparations Beyond a Re-affirmed Sovereignty



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## NIA arrests suspected duo al-Shabaab operatives



The community has greatly welcomed the disclosure of arrests by the intelligence agency and has positively reacted

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## Interior minister meets Kenyan parliamentary delegation



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## Another re-unification with Somalia is a mere pipedream, Minister Ali Marehaan unequivocally states



By M.A. Egge  
The government of Somaliland has clarified the fact that its move to summarily close the Egyptian Cultural Library in Hargeisa was mainly due to the fact that it

veered from activities meant for its purpose and indulged in sinister motives.

The state also unequivocally underpinned the fact that another

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## NEC embarks on countrywide surveying polling locations I readiness of elections



By M.A. Egge  
A delegation of the National Electoral Commission (NEC) led by the Chairman of the National Electoral Commission Mr. Muse Hassan Yusuf has left for Aynabo in Saraar

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## Hargeisa municipality to upgrade Road 150 highway to the tune of USD 19m



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## Inside

Energy minister, officials meets Energy parliamentary committee

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### This year's elections should exhibit the credibility of Somaliland and raise its standard as a democratic nation, says the President



value of Somaliland nationalism. He called upon the traditional leaders to foster cohesion within the country while describing them as dependable pillars as far as harmonious setting and stability within the communities was concerned. He stated the imperativeness of the nation holding a successful election with all the populaces taking their cue in responsible conduct throughout the electioneering processes. "It is incumbent upon us all to see to it concertedly that the electoral processes go smoothly. We cannot afford to have disruptions at all", said the President. The Head of State expressed the sentiments as he addressed the

opening of the National Conference on the Development of Fisheries, which was held on Wednesday in the city of Hargeisa, organized by the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources. While speaking about the importance of fish and other marine resources, he pointed out that the whole nation supports the development of blue economy as a future means given the fact that climate change has worsened the overall world climate and ravaged the environment and habitats to monumental levels. He noted that natural resources like fishes are a blessing bestowed the nation hence ought to be harnessed. He lamented that the plains are now dotted with invasive prosopis or algroba trees and cacti. rainfall

patterns have become more erratic and the livestock population is sadly dwindling, hence it was inevitable that the country should turn to blue economy. While speaking on the country going to polls, which is around the corner, the President underscored the need of having to safeguard peaceful stability and unity hence advised the elderly and the traditional leaders to be at the forefront in fostering national cohesion. He took the opportunity to remind the nation of past upheavals that the nation has sailed through and the constant enemy threats that has the country on its toes successfully for the past 33 years. He recalled how challenges have been overcome not only through loss of blood and material but also by painstaking perseverance in rebuilding the nation. He called upon the traditional leaders and the elderly to soberly maintain their stewardship since the populaces are more warming to traditional tenets in addressing local social issues, especially as concerns amicable settling of disputes and reconciliations. He said that the nation should use this opportunity to raise the nation's credibility by holding free, fair and successful elections in the country. He pointed out that the youth and the female gender were the majority of the voters hence urged them to stand up for their nation.

### The state once again urges the populaces to be ready for the elections and stand up in defence of the country



released circulated by the Presidency following the weekly cabinet meeting. The 132nd session of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Somaliland chaired by the President of the Republic of Somaliland, His Excellency Musa Bihi Abdi was held on Saturday with important issues related to security, the country's economy and preparations for the elections. The meeting heard a report on the general situation of the country's security from the Minister of Internal Affairs Hon. Mohamed Kahin

Ahmed. So too was the cabinet briefed on the general economic situation of the country by the Finance minister Hon. Sa'ad Ali Shire. Of note int the information he shared was the 2025 financial bill. The cabinet similarly discussed and analysed the draft of the General Penal Code. The Minister of Information Hon. Ali Hassan Mohamed and the Attorney General Mr. Abdisamad Omar Maal presented the draft of the Somaliland Media Acy which is to replace Press Law LR.27/2004.

They gave detailed explanations to the cabinet members about the content and importance of the new law and highlighting the facts of stark differences in the draft. The Media Bill draft would be pondered on further in their next sitting session. The members of the cabinet discussed in details about the electioneering processes underway and at the same time urged the populaces to rise up to the occasion in readiness of the elections and at the same time be vigilant in defence of the nation.

### NIA arrests suspected duo al-Shabaab operatives



By M.A. Egge  
The Somaliland National Security Agency (NIA) has announced that they have arrested two members of the Al-Shabaab movement, who are suspected to be bent on subversion by disrupting the upcoming presidential and political party elections. A statement published by the Somaliland intelligence institution on their social media X handle, notes that the "Somaliland Intelligence Agency (NIA) had on September 16, 2024, arrested two people who are from the AS group fighting in Somalia". It noted further that the "two people who were involved in a plan to disrupt the elections in Somaliland". The intelligence agency said that the captured group was trained in Jilib and that they had already fought in Somalia in attacks on Ugandan bases in Somalia.

It is not the first time that the Somaliland intelligence forces have arrested such suspected al Shabaab members. They are always engaged in ensuring security of the nation diligently. The action of the Intelligence Agency comes at a time when the National Security Committee has been holding consecutive meetings on strengthening the security of the country. It also comes at a time when preparations for the upcoming national presidential and political party elections are in high gear and less than a couple of months away. Meanwhile, the Somaliland community has greatly welcomed the disclosure of arrests by the intelligence agency, and has positively reacted greatly to the message in the social media by noting support for the work of the institution.

### Another re-unification with Somalia is a mere pipedream, Minister Ali Marehaan unequivocally states

re-union with Somalia is extremely impossible and a mere pipedream. The state re-affirmed to the international community and especially to the Arab world that the nation of Somaliland's re-assertion and regaining of its independence and sovereignty over three decades ago was a foregone conclusion that would not be overturned owing to the peoples' resolve. The statements were expressed by the Minister of Information, Culture and National Guidance Hon. Ali Mohammed Hassan, popularly Ali Marehaan, as he spoke the international Arabic world television channel Al-Arabiya, a major Arab Gulf media house. The minister who happens to be the official government spokesperson reminded the world the reasons of how and why the union first entered in 1960 when Somaliland and Somalia were two different nations

collapsed. He was convictional that there was no way whatsoever a similar re-union may take place since the populaces resolutely decided the path of the nation and their aspirations, never wanting to return to making the same mistake again. "The union we entered into with Somalia was a big failure and it is not possible for us to reunite with them ever again", said the minister. He said the country had already turned its page hence its resolve in joining the international community as a peer with a de-jure stature. On why the Government closed the Cultural Library of Egypt in Hargeisa, he responded that the closure of the Cultural Library was based on the fact that its operators were indulging in completely different sinister acts that veered from the original purpose of the center.





## Somaliland can Defeat Somalia in an International Court and Win Reparations Beyond a Re-affirmed Sovereignty

The Republic of Somaliland's quest for international recognition and potential claims against Somalia represent a complex tapestry of historical, legal, and geopolitical factors. As the region navigates ongoing tensions and diplomatic manoeuvres, Somaliland's case for independence and compensation has garnered increasing attention on the global stage.

The roots of the current situation stretch back to the colonial era, when Somaliland existed as a British protectorate from 1884 to 1960. In contrast, Somalia was under Italian rule during this period. On June 26, 1960, Somaliland gained independence from Britain, only to join with the former Italian Somalia five days later to form the Somali Republic.

Crucially, a Somaliland legislature or a signature by its leaders ever ratified the Act of Union that Somalia claims formalized this merger, creating a significant legal ambiguity that underlies much of the current debate. The subsequent years saw the rise of Siad Barre's dictatorship in Somalia, which ruled from 1969 to 1991. Barre's regime was particularly oppressive towards Somaliland, culminating in a brutal civil war that left deep scars on the region.

### Early Signs of Discord: The 1961 Referendum and Coup Attempt

The seeds of Somaliland's discontent with the union were sown almost immediately after its formation. Two pivotal events in 1961 clearly demonstrated the region's early misgivings about the merger with Somalia, foreshadowing the decades of conflict and separation to come.

In June 1961, a constitutional referendum was held to ratify the provisional constitution of the Somali Republic. The results of this referendum are telling: while the

south overwhelmingly approved the constitution, the northern regions (former British Somaliland) largely rejected it. Since the fate of the then northern regions was to be decided in the referendum, the relatively more populous south should not have been allowed to vote.

This stark regional divide in the referendum results clearly indicated that the people of Somaliland were far from unified in their support for the union. The low turnout and near-even split in votes suggested significant reservations about the merger and the new constitutional arrangement.

Perhaps even more revealing of Somaliland's dissatisfaction was the attempted coup that occurred in December 1961, mere months after the referendum. A group of Somaliland military officers, led by Hassan Kayd Waalawal, staged an uprising in Hargeisa, the capital of the former British Somaliland.

The coup plotters aimed to dissolve the union and restore Somaliland's independence. While the attempt was ultimately unsuccessful, it highlighted the depth of discontent among Somalilanders with the new political arrangement. The swift emergence of this separatist sentiment, less than two years after the union's formation, is a crucial piece of historical evidence supporting Somaliland's case for independence.

The coup attempt was quickly suppressed by forces loyal to the central government in Mogadishu, but its occurrence sent a clear message about the fragility of the union and the distinct political aspirations of the Somaliland region.

Both the referendum results and the attempted coup of 1961 serve as critical historical markers in

Somaliland's narrative of independence. They demonstrate that from the very outset of the union, there was significant opposition to the merger among Somalilanders. These events provide historical context for Somaliland's current claims, showing that the desire for self-determination has deep roots, predating even the atrocities of the Barre regime.

In the context of international law and the principle of self-determination, these early expressions of dissent strengthen Somaliland's argument that the union was problematic from its inception. They offer concrete evidence that the merger was not universally embraced by the people of Somaliland, lending weight to the argument that the region's current push for recognition is not merely a recent development, but the culmination of a long-standing desire for independence.

### Unconscionable Brutality

The Siad Barre regime's oppression of Somaliland reached unconscionable levels of brutality, particularly targeting the Isaaq clan. At the height of this campaign, there is evidence of a systematic attempt to eradicate the Isaaq people entirely. This genocidal intent is starkly illustrated by a chilling communiqué from the era.

A letter, written by the commanding military ruler of the northern regions (as Somaliland was then designated) – dubbed the 'Letter of Death', addressed to his father-in-law, President Siad Barre, proposed a horrifying strategy. The memo (parts of which are shown below) outlined a plan to arm clans allied with the military regime, pitting them against the Isaaq. In a macabre incentive, these clans were to be promised the lands of the Isaaq as



a reward for their participation in what amounted to ethnic cleansing. This document serves as damning evidence of the regime's willingness to orchestrate mass atrocities and demographic engineering in its attempt to crush Somaliland's spirit and any aspirations for self-determination. The planned obliteration of an entire clan group underscores the depths of the human rights abuses perpetrated by the Barre regime. It provides a stark illustration of why many in Somaliland view a return to union with Somalia as both untenable and deeply traumatic. It appears, though, that the remnants of that regime – left unpunished – interpret the gesture as a weakness on the part of Somaliland, and that misdeeds are not laid aside at the moment but forgotten and unrecorded. Groups and movements are rallying around false causes to try for another kill – this time joined openly by countries that approved but did not conspicuously come to the open in the 'kill but the crows' '80s. Following the collapse of Barre's government, Somaliland unilaterally declared independence on May 18, 1991. Since then, it has functioned as a de facto independent state, complete with its own government, currency, and democratic institutions.

### Principles of Self-Determination

Self-determination is a principle deeply embedded in international law, enshrined in the United Nations Charter and reinforced by various human rights instruments. The legal framework surrounding self-determination provides a crucial foundation for assessing claims of statehood, particularly in the context of the Republic of Somaliland's aspirations. While the Montevideo Convention outlines criteria for statehood, including a defined territory and a permanent population, it does not account for entities like Somaliland, which assert their sovereignty in response to historical grievances and failed governance from recognized states, such as Somalia. Moreover, the examination of past United Nations initiatives, like the Council for Namibia, demonstrates that international law can support the legitimacy of quasi-states in their quests for recognition and self-governance. Somaliland's claim for independence thus aligns with these established principles, underscoring a pathway not only to

statehood but also to potential reparations for enduring injustices..

### Additional Arguments for Somaliland

Somaliland's case for independence rests on several key legal pillars. First and foremost is the unratified nature of the 1960 union, which provides a strong argument that the merger was never legally binding in the first place. This is bolstered by the principle of self-determination under international law, particularly given Somaliland's distinct colonial history and its current de facto independence.

The region's effective self-governance since 1991 further strengthens its case, demonstrating its capacity to function as an independent state. Historical precedents, such as the dissolution of other voluntary unions like Senegambia and Egypt-Syria, offer additional support for Somaliland's position.

Moreover, the human rights violations committed by the Barre regime against Somaliland's population could be grounds for arguing that the union was invalidated by these actions, providing both a moral and legal basis for separation. More than 200 000 people either died or were maimed or were never accounted for dead or alive and more than 300 000 more fled the aerial bombardments and indiscriminate massacres of the army. At least two of its major cities were left in shambles.

### 2005 AU Mission Findings

A significant milestone in Somaliland's quest for recognition came in 2005 when the African Union (AU) sent a fact-finding mission to the region. The mission's report acknowledged several key points that lend credence to Somaliland's case.

The AU mission recognized that Somaliland's situation was unique and did not fit the typical narrative of secession. They noted the region's relative stability and functioning governance structures, starkly contrasting the ongoing instability in much of Somalia. The mission also acknowledged Somaliland's distinct colonial history and the circumstances surrounding the 1960 union.

While stopping short of explicitly endorsing independence, the mission suggested that the AU should "find a special method of

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## Sixty top students in national exams land scholarships abroad



By M.A. Egge

The Minister of Education and Science Hon. Ahmed Aden Buhane has disclosed that the government has made good its pledge of availing foreign educational scholarships to top students of this year's national examinations.

Following the announcements, 60 top students from all over the regions

of the nation are recipients.

Saying that he had promised the scholarships the day upon which the exams kicked-off, he expressed his elation that at least the hope and wish has at last been realized.

The scholarships are meant for top students with A+ grade.

"I promised here on the day of the

exam that we would do all we can to avail foreign scholarships for tertiary education to sixty top students who achieved grade A+", he said, and happily announced; "we are now making good the pledge".

He noted that the government efforts have been rewarded and that the acquired chances would be distributed across the nation on a quota basis.

He further disclosed that they had set 15 reserve spots as replacers if the awardees would not take the opportunities.

The National Somaliland Certificate of Examination was announced on Thursday, in which this year Somaliland girls surpassed the boys hence had put more efforts in education.



**Somaliland can Defeat Somalia in an International Court and Win Reparations Beyond a Re-affirmed Sovereignty**

**Table I**

Region	District	N. voters	Votes in favor of the Constitution		Votes opposed to the Constitution		Schede nulle	
			N.	Percent	N.	Percent	N.	Percent
<b>Benadir</b>	Mogadisho	42 583	26 804	62.95	15 297	35.92	482	1.13
	Merca	94 067	83 450	88.71	10 597	11.27	20	0.02
	Brava	72 770	70 911	97.44	1 599	2.20	260	0.36
	Afgooye	78 901	77 627	98.39	98 39	1.13	379	0.48
	Umanle Umanle	69 000	68 994	100.00	6	0.00	6	0.00
	Villabruzzi	87 679	83 414	95.14	4 234	4.83	31	0.03
	Balad	51 341	38 461	74.92	12 553	24.45	327	0.63
Itala	64 068	60 354	94.21	3 654	5.75	30	0.04	
<b>Regional total Benadir</b>		<b>560 409</b>	<b>510 015</b>	<b>91.01</b>	<b>48 859</b>	<b>8.71</b>	<b>1 535</b>	<b>0.28</b>
<b>Basso Giuba</b>	Chirimaio	44 999	40 302	89.56	4 640	10.31	57	0.13
	Margherita	64 018	60 975	95.25	2 692	4.20	346	0.55
	Afmaada	59 271	58 702	99.05	368	0.62	201	0.33
	Gelib	40 990	39 479	96.32	1 442	3.52	69	0.16
<b>Regional total L. Juba</b>		<b>209 273</b>	<b>19 458</b>	<b>95.31</b>	<b>9 142</b>	<b>4.37</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>0.32</b>
<b>Alto Giuba</b>	Baidoa	114 078	114 441	99.80	213	0.18	24	0.02
	Dur Kacaba	87 331	87 041	99.66	97	0.12	193	0.22
	Lugh Ferrandi	110 978	106 561	96.02	900	0.82	3 517	3.16
	Hodshur	66 051	65 833	99.66	121	0.19	97	0.15
	Dagor	60 856	60 147	98.83	369	0.61	340	0.56
	Bardera	54 991	53 831	97.89	1 157	2.11	4	0.00
<b>Regional total Upper Juba</b>		<b>494 885</b>	<b>487 854</b>	<b>98.58</b>	<b>2 856</b>	<b>0.58</b>	<b>4 175</b>	<b>0.84</b>
<b>Hiran</b>	Defet Uun	16 360	6 930	42.36	9 359	57.21	71	0.43
	Bulo Burti	21 629	7 366	34.06	14 194	65.63	69	0.31
<b>Regional total Hiran</b>		<b>37 989</b>	<b>14 296</b>	<b>37.64</b>	<b>23 553</b>	<b>61.99</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>0.37</b>
<b>Mudugh</b>	Galcaio	53 412	43 476	81.39	9 658	18.08	278	0.53
	Dusa Mareb	26 598	23 098	86.84	2 589	9.78	911	3.43
	El Bar	56 399	52 598	93.26	3 609	6.39	192	0.35
	Gibbia	32 452	29 716	91.56	2 519	7.77	217	0.67
<b>Regional total Mudugh</b>		<b>168 861</b>	<b>148 888</b>	<b>88.18</b>	<b>18 375</b>	<b>10.88</b>	<b>15 98</b>	<b>0.94</b>
<b>Migiurtinia</b>	Bosaso	41 727	29 169	69.91	12 308	29.49	250	0.60
	Canadala	43 992	42 035	95.56	1 924	4.37	33	0.07
	Abula	54 765	54 641	99.78	4 484	0.08	80	0.14
	Siyaacuban	68 107	63 278	92.91	4 44	6.52	345	0.51
	Gardo	80 399	78 190	97.25	2 198	2.74	11	0.01
Eal	83 908	78 876	94.01	4 977	5.93	55	0.06	
<b>Regional total Migurtinia</b>		<b>372 898</b>	<b>346 189</b>	<b>92.84</b>	<b>25 935</b>	<b>6.95</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>0.21</b>
<b>Hargheisa</b>	Hargheisa	37 608	10 449	27.78	27 087	72.02	72	0.20
	Bardera	7 534	2 220	29.47	5 231	69.43	33	1.10
	Borama	14 965	14 380	96.09	522	3.48	33	0.43
<b>Regional total Hargheisa</b>		<b>60 107</b>	<b>27 049</b>	<b>45.00</b>	<b>32 840</b>	<b>54.63</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>0.37</b>
<b>Burao</b>	Burao	19 295	6 427	33.30	12 868	66.70	—	—
	Las Anod	14 661	12 090	82.46	2 553	17.44	18	0.12
	Erigabo	9 970	3 950	39.62	6 019	60.38	1	0.00
<b>Regional total Burao</b>		<b>43 926</b>	<b>22 467</b>	<b>51.15</b>	<b>21 440</b>	<b>48.81</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0.04</b>
<b>Grand total</b>		<b>1 948 348</b>	<b>1 756 216</b>	<b>90.14</b>	<b>183 000</b>	<b>9.40</b>	<b>9 132</b>	<b>0.46</b>

Source: Referendum Costituzionele 1961

dealing with this outstanding case," indicating a recognition of Somaliland's unique status and the need for a tailored approach to resolving the dispute.

**Shared Resources and Economic Claims**

Beyond the question of independence, Somaliland has potential grounds for significant economic claims against Somalia. These include compensation for shared natural resources, particularly oil and gas reserves in disputed border regions, as well as maritime resources such as fishing rights and potential offshore deposits.

Somaliland could also seek compensation for historically shared infrastructure developed during the union period, a share of international aid and debt relief provided to Somalia as a whole, and damages for economic opportunities lost due to lack of international recognition.

**Recent Developments and Threats**

The situation has been further complicated by recent developments. In January 2024, Somaliland signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Ethiopia, granting Ethiopia access to the Red Sea in exchange for potential recognition. This move has escalated tensions with Somalia.

In response, Somalia's Foreign Minister, Ma'allin Fiqi, has reportedly made threats regarding regional destabilization and support for insurgents against Ethiopia. These statements could potentially strengthen Somaliland's case, serving as evidence of Somalia's hostility and unwillingness to peacefully resolve the dispute. The same Fiqi also openly admitted to how Somalia bankrolled and militarily supported the Las Anod insurgency – which has since then

become a no-man's land and a haven for extremists and Shabab training camps. He said Somalia wished to derail an international momentum leading to a possible formal recognition of the Republic of Somaliland sooner than they expected which obviously scared the frail Mogadishu administration.

**International Aid and Unintended Consequences**

A critical yet often overlooked aspect of the Somaliland-Somalia dispute is the role of international aid and peacekeeping efforts. While intended to promote stability and development in the region, these initiatives have had the unintended consequence of potentially exacerbating tensions. The substantial financial and military support provided to the Federal Government of Somalia, ostensibly to combat extremism and build state capacity, may, in fact, be enabling Somalia's ability to maintain its hostility towards Somaliland's independence aspirations.

There are concerns that some of these resources are being diverted to support regional destabilization efforts and to extremists such as the al-Shabaab whose operations Somalia is suspected of condoning, especially those that served its purposes. More alarmingly, there have been allegations of indirect cooperation between elements within the Somali government and Al-Shabaab, the militant group that continues to pose a significant threat to regional security. This complex dynamic suggests that international aid, rather than solely promoting peace and stability, may inadvertently be fueling Somalia's capacity to resist Somaliland's independence claims and potentially support proxy conflicts in the region.

This situation underscores the need

for a more nuanced approach to international engagement in the Horn of Africa, one that takes into account the intricate political dynamics and avoids inadvertently strengthening actors that may be working against regional stability and the peaceful resolution of the Somaliland-Somalia dispute.

**International Conscience Must Resurface**

Given the escalating tensions and threats to regional stability, the international community must reassess its approach to Somalia and Somaliland. The global powers that have invested heavily in Somalia's peace process must now consider more stringent measures to ensure that their efforts and financial commitments are not inadvertently fueling conflict. Moreover, it is high time for the international community to address its long-neglected support for Somaliland's sovereignty and the rights of its people.

A recalibration of international policy could include the reimposition of targeted arms embargoes to limit the potential for military escalation. Additionally, the implementation of smart sanctions focused on individuals within the Somalia government who have been identified as obstacles to peace or who have made inflammatory statements threatening regional stability should be considered.

Furthermore, international aid and support should be conditioned on concrete steps towards peaceful dialogue and conflict resolution, particularly regarding the status of Somaliland. This approach should be coupled with increased scrutiny of how international funds are being utilized, ensuring they are not diverted towards destabilizing activities.

Crucially, the international community must revisit its stance on Somaliland's sovereignty. It is worth noting that upon its independence

in 1960, Somaliland was recognized by over 35 countries. This historical fact, combined with Somaliland's sustained stability and democratic governance, calls for a renewed examination of its case for recognition. The international community has an obligation to honor the aspirations and rights of the Somaliland people, who have maintained a de facto independent state for over three decades.

These measures would send a clear message that the international community's tolerance has limits and that actions jeopardizing hard-won peace will have consequences. By taking a firmer stance and addressing the long-overlooked issue of Somaliland's status, the global community can realign its substantial investments in the region with the original goals of promoting peace, stability, and economic development for all people in the Horn of Africa.

This approach would demonstrate a commitment to addressing the root causes of conflict, ensuring that international support truly benefits the entire region, and recognizing the legitimate aspirations of the Somaliland people. It's time for the international community to correct its historical oversight and engage meaningfully with Somaliland's quest for recognition, thereby contributing to a more just and stable regional order.

**Legal Avenues and Potential Outcomes**

Several legal avenues exist for Somaliland to pursue its claims. These include bringing a case to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), although this would likely require Somalia's consent or UN involvement. Alternatively, an international arbitration tribunal could be established to address specific claims and compensation. Mediation by international bodies such as the AU or UN is another possibility, as are direct negotiations between Somaliland and Somalia, potentially with international support.

**Potential Compensation and Damages**

If successful in its legal claims, Somaliland could potentially seek a range of outcomes. These include formal recognition of its independence and sovereign status, confirmation of its internationally demarcated borders, and economic compensation for shared resources and lost opportunities.

Somaliland might also pursue reparations for human rights violations committed during the Barre regime, for the loss it incurred by not equally sharing power and resources, for foreign reserves, and for the blocked development for the past 64 years, as well as international support in gaining wider recognition and assistance.

Finally, Somaliland's case for independence and compensation from Somalia is built on a strong foundation of historical and legal

arguments. The unratified union, distinct colonial history, effective self-governance since 1991, and human rights violations during the Barre regime all contribute to its position. Recent developments, including Somalia's reported threats, may further bolster Somaliland's claims.

**Decisive Action**

The time has come for Somaliland to mount a more aggressive diplomatic and legal offensive to break the 34-year stalemate that has held its people in limbo. The weight of historical evidence, legal arguments, and moral justification all stand firmly on Somaliland's side. The region's stability, democratic governance, and resilience in the face of international neglect only serve to underscore the legitimacy of its cause. However, patience and quiet diplomacy have yielded limited results.

Somaliland must now leverage every available international forum, from the United Nations to regional bodies and international courts, to forcefully present its case for recognition. It should actively seek out allies willing to champion its cause on the global stage and consider innovative legal strategies to challenge its current status. The people of Somaliland have endured decades of economic hardship and missed opportunities due to their lack of international recognition. They can ill afford to wait any longer for the world to take notice.

Somaliland can work to end the cycle of underdevelopment and economic stagnation that has resulted from its unrecognized status by, for instance, adopting a more assertive stance. It's time to break free from the constraints of diplomatic inertia and pursue a bold, multi-faceted campaign for recognition. This approach should include not only traditional diplomatic channels but also increased engagement with international media, civil society organizations, and academic institutions to build a groundswell of global support.

For Somaliland, the path forward remains complex, given the political sensitivities involved and the lack of clear international mechanisms for resolving issues of this kind. As the situation continues to evolve, it will require careful navigation of legal, diplomatic, and geopolitical considerations to reach a resolution that addresses the legitimate concerns and aspirations of the people of Somaliland.

The stakes are too high and the injustice too great for Somaliland to continue accepting the status quo. It must seize this moment to demand its rightful place on the world stage, secure its independence, and unlock the full potential of its people. Only through such decisive action can Somaliland hope to overcome the obstacles of the past and forge a path towards a prosperous, recognized future.



# Interior minister meets Kenyan parliamentary delegation



known as Somalia. The Kenyan delegation members include Senator Hamida Ali Kibwana, Chairperson of the Kenya Women's Organization, Kenyan MPs Fatuma Ali, Ummulkheir Kassim, and Ngelechei Caroline Jeptoo. The delegation had visited the port town of Berbera during their stay. The MPs on their part thanked the minister for his welcome and how happy they are with the progress and the government system that has been implemented in the Republic of Somaliland. Several members of the cabinet were in attendance in the meeting that was convened by the ministry of family and social affairs.

By M.A. Egge  
The Minister of Interior Hon. Mohamed Kahin Ahmed met with a large delegation from the Parliament of Kenya that is in the country for a visit. The minister briefed the delegation on the general security of Somaliland and the progress achieved by the Republic of Somaliland since it regained its independence from the country

# NEC embarks on countrywide surveying polling locations I readiness of elections

region in a bid to survey satisfactorily ample locations for polling stations in the pastoral lands. The elections are due on November 13<sup>th</sup> this year. He was accompanied by the electoral implementation committee that comprises the NEC and officials drawn from both the political parties and organizations. They are to gather information which would aid them in earmarking the best places and locations in preparations for the elections. On the other hand, the delegation of the National Electoral Commission held meetings with the Security Committee of Sarar Region led by the Deputy Governor of Sarar Region and the sectional commanders of various forces, where they discussed the strengthening of security and how

to ensure the safety of the elections at the places where the elections would be held. Meanwhile, a similar NEC elections implementation group led by the Deputy Chairman of the National Electoral Commission, Mr. Ahmed Osman Hassan and Commissioner Ibrahim Ma'alín Adan made a trip to both Awdal and Seel regions for the same kind of tasks.

# Hargeisa municipality to upgrade Road 150 highway to the tune of USD 19m



By M.A. Egge  
The Hargeisa Municipal Council has revealed that the construction of the 13km Road 150 which cuts through four precincts in the city would cost 19 million US dollars. They made the revelations at a meeting that saw the civic officials meet with the local entrepreneurs, elders, members of the clergy and invited eminent personalities. Following the meeting, a press release from the Town Hall noted that:- "The local government of the capital

of Hargeisa has called together some of the scholars, businessmen and traditional elders of the capital, members of the local council to present to them the plan for the construction of the Road 150 which is 13-km long, which would cost a total of 19 million dollars. "This road crosses four districts of the capital namely Ma'alín Haroun, Ga'an Libah, 26june and Ibrahim Kodbuur. "It would be effected through the concerted cooperation of the central government, the local government, business fraternity, the residents, the members of the clergy of the country and the international community". Following the announcement by the local government the residents of the concerned areas that the road passes through were elated and enthusiastically expressed their happiness. There were a lot of hues and cries from the concerned residents on the state of the road which impeded their moves in recent days.

# Energy minister, officials meets Energy parliamentary committee



By M.A. Egge  
The Committee on Natural Resources, Environment, Production and Energy of the House of Representatives held a meeting on Wednesday with the Minister of Mines and Energy. The committee led by the chairman of the committee Hon. Suleiman Mohamed Faarah (Gooh), were present, MP Bashir Hussien Hirsi, MP Abdihakiin Hugur Abdi, MP Yahye Abdilahi Amin (Ararse), the adviser of the committee Mustafe Mohamed Hassan and the secretary of the committee Faarah Seed Arab. They met with Minister of Mines and Energy Hon. Abdilahi Farah Abdi who was accompanied by Director General Mohamed Osman Said and numerous departmental directors and advisers of the ministry. The meeting focused on how both sides would step up their interworking relations for the good of the accountability of the sector. The meeting ended in mutual agreement in all the factors under discussions.

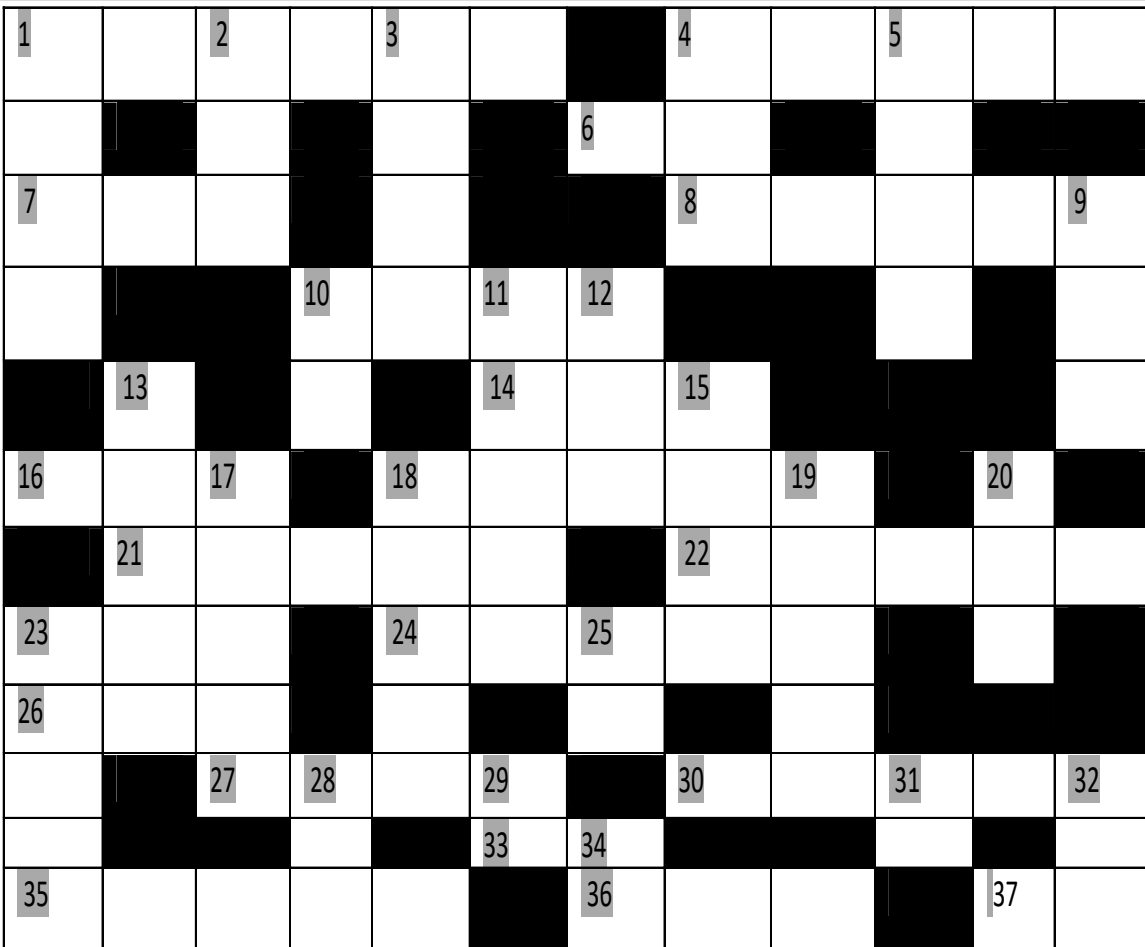
# President receives UNSG's special rep Ambassador James Swan



Secretary General of the United Nations, SR-SGUN Ambassador James Swan. They had a meeting that focused on the general situation in the Horn of Africa region, the upcoming elections in the country scheduled to be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November this year and the cooperation between the Republic of Somaliland and the international community. The President was flanked by the Minister of Interior Hon. Mohamed Kahin Ahmed, the Minister of Planning and National Development Hon. Ahmed Mohamed Diriye (Toorno) and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon. Rooda Jama Elmi. On the other hand, Ambassador Swan was accompanied by officials from his office that included Obinna Okamgba, Nikolai, Dana Palade, Ahmed Qalinle, Dahir Mohamed Dahir and Mustafa Khaire.



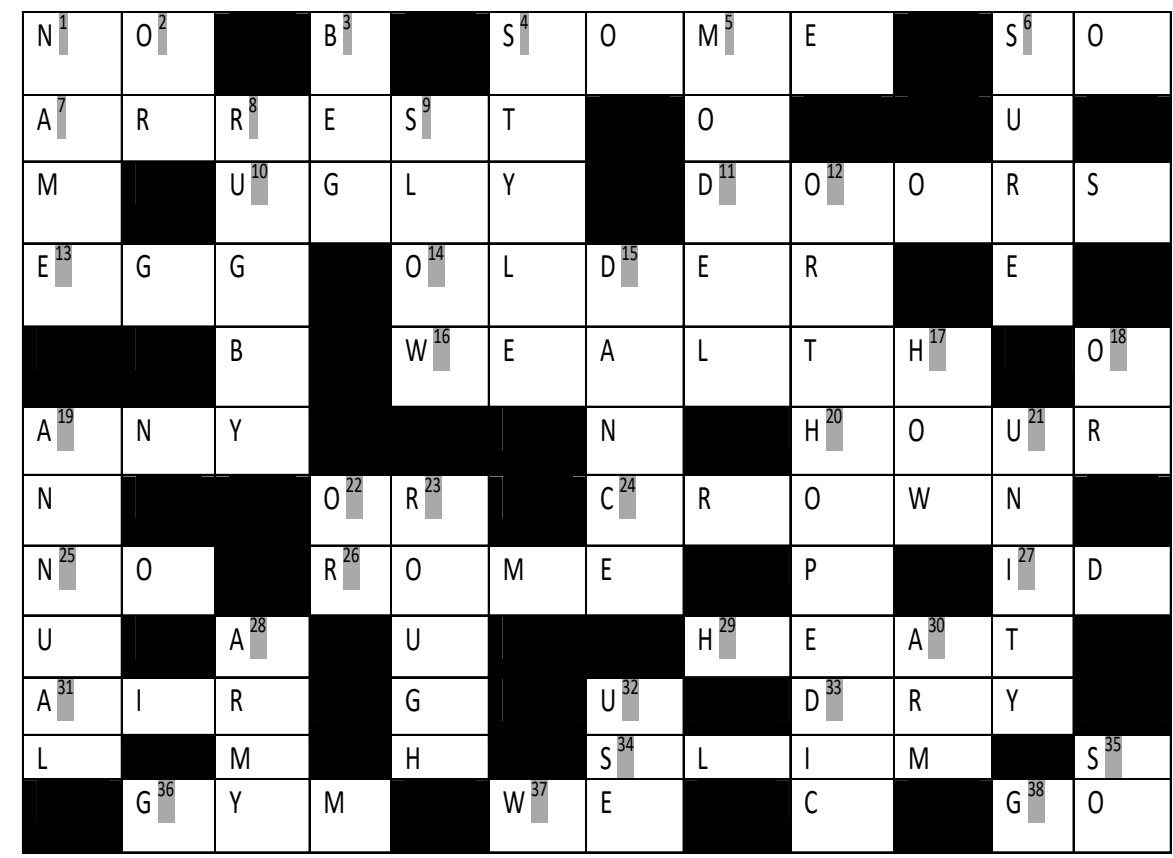
# THT Puzzle



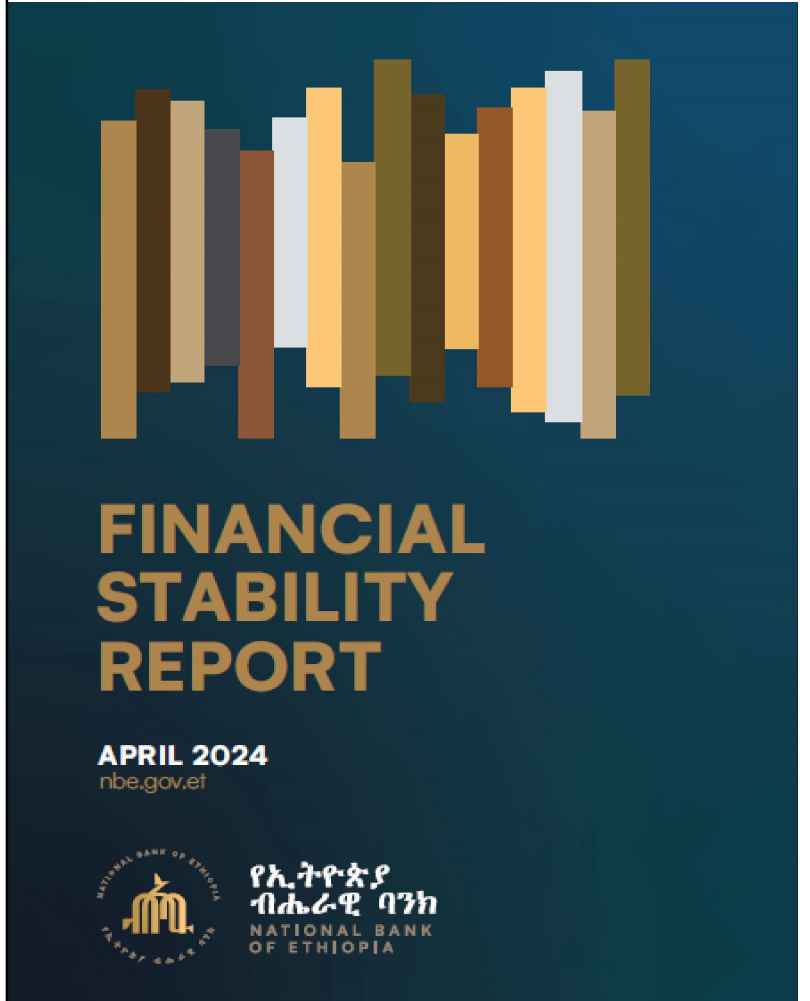
- Down**
- 1 Beginning
  - 2 Ending
  - 3 Phone call
  - 4 Have a row or strip
  - 5 Utilized
  - 9 Low down
  - 10 CUBIC CENTIMETER
  - 11 High
  - 12 an active insect
  - 13 Use
  - 15 Newscast
  - 17 Communicate
  - 18 Be asleep
  - 19 Clothing
  - 20 Several
  - 23 Property
  - 25 So
  - 28 Ending
  - 29 Toward
  - 32 Midair
  - 34 Nope

- Across**
- 1 Break
  - 4 Rounded
  - 6 Leave
  - 7 Depressed
  - 8 Swelling
  - 10 nightclub
  - 14 Fountain pen
  - 16 Donkey/ horse family
  - 18 Speediness
  - 21 fruits
  - 22 Wring
  - 23 Get older
  - 24 Remove
  - 26 Ocean
  - 27 Stored
  - 30 Problem
  - 35 Exchange
  - 36 Single
  - 37 identity

# Previous Answer



# Ethiopia Financial Stability Report



## 4.1.2 Interoperability

Interoperability is key to a stable, successful, and inclusive digital payment ecosystem. The vast majority of countries worldwide have recognized the importance of a local switch that covers three functions: enabling interoperability through ATMs, POS devices, P2P, electronic payments, and more; providing an optimal infrastructure for banks to connect to; and allowing real-time payments 24/7. The successful attainment of a local switch addressing these three items creates a strong foundation for the scaling-up of digital payments by promoting quick, safe, and efficient transactions. Eth-switch, since 2016, has enabled interoperability of ATMs and POS terminals operated by all banks. As a result, the number and value of transactions have grown exponentially (Table 15). Currently, it is also rolling out projects to achieve the interoperability of other digital payment platforms operated by all financial service providers in Ethiopia.

Table 15: Interoperability performance through ATM, POS and P2P, 2020-2023

	June 2020	June 2021	June 2022	June 2023
<b>ATM transactions</b>				
Number	15,044,699	24,166,034	39,894,113	71,433,041
Value (billion Birr)	12.78	26.56	44.9	89.7
<b>POS transactions</b>				
Number	1,107	109,506	361,317	970,434
Value (billion Birr)	1.02	0.2	0.3	2.6
<b>P2P transactions</b>				
Number	0	29,881	2,067,710	14,140,881
Value (billion Birr)	0	0.2	19.9	113.3

Source: NBE Database

## 4.1.3 Payment System Risk Assessment and Outlook

Payment systems risk includes potential losses to entities or individuals such as a bank's customers or third parties that send or receive payments. Accordingly, it is important for a bank's risk management practices and internal controls to evolve and keep up with changes in the bank's payment systems, products, and services. Like any other system globally, developments in the country's payment system are exposed to several risks, including operational, liquidity, compliance, reputation, settlement, and cybersecurity risks.

**Operational risks** refer to potential disruptions in the functioning of payment systems due to factors such as system failures, human errors, and operational deficiencies.

**SOMALILAND**

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**WESTERN UNION**

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crowdfunding; debt collection agency services; electronic wallet payment services, namely, processing of electronic wallet payments, bill payment services provided via an electronic wallet; electronic transfer of virtual currencies; exchanging money; financial analysis; financial consultancy; financial customs brokerage services; financial evaluations; financial exchange of virtual currency; financial management; financial management of reimbursement payments for others; financial research; providing financial information; providing financial information via a web site; financing services; fiscal valuation; investment of funds; organization of monetary collections, namely, accepting and administering monetary charitable contributions; online banking; processing of credit card payments; processing of debit card payments; providing rebates at participating establishments of others through use of a membership card; Gift card transaction processing services; Financial transaction services, namely, providing secure commercial transactions and payment options using a mobile device at a point of sale; e-commerce services, namely, credit card and payment card services and payment transaction processing services; payment processing services, namely, managing and tracking credit card, debit card, gift card, pre-paid card, deferred payment card, and other forms of payment transactions for business purposes; payment processing services, namely, issuing and providing receipts for electronic payments and payment transactions; financial services, namely, enabling transfer of funds for others via electronic communications networks; clearing and reconciling financial transactions via electronic communications networks; financial transactions authorization, authentication and settlement services, cash management services, namely, cash disbursement services and transaction authorization, authentication and settlement services; remote payment services; electronic payment and information management services; Electronic payment services, namely, enabling electronic processing and transmission of electronic funds transfer and payments via ACH, credit card, debit card, prepaid cards, wireless wallets, mobile wallets, electronic wallets, electronic check and electronic, mobile and online payments; Financial transaction services, namely, providing secure commercial transactions and payment options; Credit card and transaction processing terminal services using near field communication (NFC) technology; electronic financial trading services for others via a global computer network; electronic commodities, cryptocurrencies, and digital assets exchange services; providing financial services in the nature of providing an exchange for commodities and commodities derivatives, crypto currencies, and digital assets; providing online exchange of commodities and commodities derivatives, crypto currencies, and digital assets; providing information via a website in the field of commodities and commodity derivatives, crypto currencies, and digital assets pricing and related financial information; financial services in the nature of assisting others with the completion of financial transactions for commodities and commodity derivatives, crypto currencies, and digital assets; services relating to financial transactions, namely, trading of commodities and commodity derivatives, crypto currencies, and digital assets for others; providing financial brokerage services in the nature of offering, sponsoring, managing and administering commodities, commodity derivatives, crypto currencies, and digital assets and related financial instruments; surety services; issuance of tokens of value; providing rebates at participating establishments of others through use of a membership card; retirement payment services, namely, financial administration of employee retirement plans; providing information in the fields of investment and finance over computer networks and global communication networks.

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**Somaliland: President Meets with Kenyan and Ethiopian Delegation**

President Muse Bihi Abdi of the Republic of Somaliland welcomed a high-level delegation to the Presidential Palace on Tuesday. The delegation, comprised of parliamentarians and officials from Kenya and Ethiopia, is visiting Somaliland to participate in an international conference organized by the Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs, and Family of Somaliland. The conference aims to promote women’s empowerment and share best practices on women’s issues.

In his welcoming remarks, President Muse Bihi Abdi briefed the delegation on Somaliland’s journey through various historical stages and its current achievements. He emphasized that the nation’s progress is the result of collective efforts by successive governments and the citizens of Somaliland, who remain steadfast in supporting their government and protecting their national sovereignty.

The delegation expressed their appreciation to the president and the people of Somaliland for the warm and respectful reception. They also praised the country’s remarkable progress in various sectors.

The President during the meeting was flanked by senior officials from the Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs, and Family, including Minister Ali Omar Mohamed (Ali Hoorhoo), Deputy Minister Hon. Yurub Abiib Abdi, Director General Mr. Ahmed Hassan Aw Aden, MP Fu’aad Ahmed Dirie, and Muna Isse Mahad.

The delegation members included Senator Hamida Ali Kibwana, Chairperson of the Kenya Women’s Organization, Kenyan MPs Fatuma Ali, Ummulkheir Kassim, and Ngelechei Caroline Jeptoo, and Mrs. Ubox Abdirahman, Deputy Minister of Gender and Child Development from the Somali Regional State of Ethiopia.

**PSI Partners with Somaliland Ministry of Health Development for First-Ever Digital Health**

In an exciting leap toward modernizing Somaliland’s health system, the Ministry of Health Development (MOHD) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Population Services International (PSI) to craft its **first-ever Digital Health Strategy**. This partnership signals a significant shift in the Ministry’s approach to healthcare, leveraging digital tools and innovative solutions to improve access, delivery, and quality.

As healthcare demands rise and the need for accessible, high-quality services becomes increasingly urgent, the MOHD sees digital health as a transformative solution. The Digital Health Strategy, which PSI will support in developing, aims to create a resilient, data-driven health system capable of addressing current challenges while also preparing for future crises such as pandemics or natural disasters. The strategy is centered on several key pillars including:

✓ **Demand Generation for Digital Health Services:** A major focus will be raising awareness of digital tools like telemedicine, health apps, and e-health platforms, ensuring that both communities and healthcare providers embrace the benefits of these innovations.

✓ **Health Data Integration:** The introduction of interoperable digital health records will allow for seamless patient data sharing across healthcare facilities, enhancing diagnosis, treatment, and continuity of care.

✓ **Strengthening the Healthcare Workforce:** Health workers will be trained to use digital platforms effectively, boosting the quality of service delivery and patient outcomes.

✓ **Real-time Disease Surveillance:** Systems will be put in place to track disease outbreaks in real-time, allowing the Ministry to respond swiftly to public health threats.

During the technical agreement partnership signing ceremony,

which took place in June 2024, **Hon. Hassan Mohamed Ali, Minister of Health Development** said, “The Strategic Technical Partnership Agreement between the Somaliland Ministry of Health Development and PSI will provide a robust framework for all our strategic collaborations. This partnership is pivotal in advancing healthcare delivery, strengthening health systems, and contributing to the attainment of universal health coverage. Through this agreement, we will elevate healthcare service delivery initiatives, enhance our Health Information System for informed decision-making, advance key health management components, increase health awareness and improve our capacity to prevent and manage health emergencies.”

Building a Stronger Digital Health Ecosystem

PSI will work hand in hand with the MOHD to ensure that **the digital ecosystem is aligned with national priorities**. As part of the Health Information Systems (HIS) Technical Working Group, PSI is already a trusted digital health partner in Somaliland. This strategic collaboration positions PSI to contribute significantly to the development of digital health solutions, while also fostering stronger ties with the Ministry.

Through this partnership, PSI also expects to manage funding from several donor institutions and channel it into implementing the Digital Health Strategy and strengthening the overall health system.

As work begins on the Digital Health Strategy, both organizations will **engage with local communities**, health professionals, and the private sector to ensure widespread participation and support. This collaboration will lay the foundation for a robust digital health ecosystem that is equipped to meet the challenges of the future, improving health outcomes in Somaliland.