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## President hails the private sector for catalyzing development

The local entrepreneurs have established formidable international standard corporations with some being world leaders, especially in the cyber world



By M.A. Egge

The President of the Republic of Somaliland, Mr. Muse Bihi Abdi, praised the roles and duties of the private sector in the country whose corporations and companies services in the community has been without doubt outstanding.

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### Ethiopia has signed a memorandum of understanding with Somaliland based on mutual benefits- Pres Selassie



Ethiopia Intensifies Efforts to Secure Alternative Port, Access To Sea Through Principle of Give and Take

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### Dahabshiil Group co-sponsored Chevening Scholarships for the third-year in a row



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### Taiwan commits \$22 million to upgrade Hargeisa's main hospital into a modern facility



Mohamoud Walaaleye

The Somaliland health minister and Taiwan's representative signed the agreement this week. A meeting related to the signing of the project was attended by officials of the Ministry of Health and

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### Police serve the community with justice and equality, says Police Chief



The Chief Commander of the National Police Force Major General Mohamed Aden

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### The elections are on a scheduled, says NEC chair as he dispels rumours to the contrary

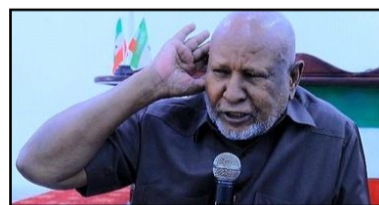


By M.A. Egge

The Chairman of the Somaliland Electoral Commission (NEC) Mr. Musa Hassan Yusuf has unequivocally stated that the upcoming presidential and political party elections would be held as

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### Uphold and safeguard peaceful stability, Speaker Suleiman urges as senate goes for recess



The Speaker of the Somaliland Senate, the GUURTI, Hon. Suleiman Mohamud Adan, has urged the nation to strengthen

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### The Third National Economic Forum is Underway



By M.A. Egge

The Third National Economic Forum has started and is underway, officially opened by the Minister of Finance Development Hon. Saad Ali Shire.

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### Egypt's Intervention in Somalia Threatening Regional Stability, Says EPDI President



Egypt's intervention in Somalia is posing unprecedented threat to regional stability in the Horn of Africa, Ethiopian Public Diplomacy Institute (EPDI) in

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### Dahabshiil: Global Somali Success Story Faces Unwarranted Local Backlash



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# President hails the private sector for catalyzing development



The Head of State was addressing an event at the Hargeisa Water Agency in which the water resource suppliers managed to acquire a mounted drill rig truck that costed a half a million USD. He said the operations and implementations of their plans have been quite exemplary. "As for implementation of their programmes, general performances of their duties, urgency or swiftness in

dispensations, and overall accountability development and associated progress the world over has been based on the fledgling of the private sector especially in the last seven decades", said the President. He said such gigantic steps taken towards the direction has been enabled by subsidizing and workers reaping remunerated dividends on top of their normal salaries hence their morale get boosted. This, he said, is what has propelled

the progress markedly witnessed and seen in China and other major nations as the US. Their people are mobilized towards a cause and subsidized, he said. He pointed out that they elect people of integrity to run such boards overseeing them in such a manner that achievements are realized with ample dividends through impeccable monitoring and oversight mechanisms. On the same note the Head of State noted that most nations globally has not been able to fully fund or avail basic needs and amenities for their subjects hence disappointing them. He however hailed the local private sector for the monumental achievements that they have done in a short period as the country was being reconstructed. He pointed out that with the absence of a tangible banking system, and a total lack of the insurance industry, the local entrepreneurs have been able to establish formidable international standard corporations with some of them being world leaders especially in the cyber world.

## Ethiopia has signed a memorandum of understanding with Somaliland based on mutual benefits- Pres Selassie

Ethiopia's newly appointed President Taye Atske Selassie has reaffirmed the country's unwavering commitment to securing alternative port and access to sea through the principle of give and take. The joint session of the 6th year and 4th tenure of the House of Peoples' Representatives and the House of Federation opened this afternoon. The joint session has appointed Ambassador Taye Atske Silassie as president of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. In his address to the joint session of the House of Peoples' Representatives and House of Federation, President Taye explained the plans of the government for this Ethiopian Fiscal Year in all aspects of the country. President Taye in his speech highlighted Ethiopia's efforts to secure alternative ports and access to the sea through a give-and-take approach. Ethiopia's efforts in this regard will continue unabated, employing a strategic approach that prioritizes mutual benefit and cooperation, he said. President Taye further outlined the government's ambitious plans to strengthen Ethiopia's position on the global stage. He highlighted the importance of forging strong alliances and partnerships, particularly with nations possessing maritime capabilities. The president explained that the efforts Ethiopia began in pursuit of port and sea access using this alternative approach have been

strengthened and will proceed in strong manner. He also mentioned that the work to strengthen and increase the number of Ethiopia's allies and partners is being conducted with great attention. In the diplomatic field, he emphasized the continued work to strengthen bilateral relations with neighboring countries to safeguard national interests. He also highlighted the importance of peace and security issues, regional integration, economic matters, and shared benefits achieved through ongoing cooperation. Ethiopia has signed MoU agreement with Somaliland, establishing a foundation for the effort to secure port and access to the sea through the principle of give and Take, the president pointed out. He also mentioned about the numerous activities underway to prevent unnecessary diplomatic friction occurred due to the MoU and counter the campaign being carried out to tarnish the image of the country. The President reaffirmed Ethiopia's commitment to maintaining and strengthening its cooperative relationships with neighboring countries to ensure shared development and prosperity. He also stressed Ethiopia's role in securing peace in the Horn of Africa, especially in addressing the conflict in Sudan. Ethiopia has been exerting

successful efforts to enhance its ties with countries in the Horn of Africa with a view to safeguard its interest, he noted. Furthermore, the president mentioned Ethiopia's clear and consistent diplomatic efforts to ensure peace and security in the region, and its active participation in creating lasting stability in the Horn of Africa. In terms of bilateral relations, Taye expressed confidence in Ethiopia's ability to build strong ties with nations that have political, military, and economic capabilities in the gulf nations. Ethiopia's full membership in BRICS is also seen as a significant development, giving the country balanced relations and access to various advantages. Ethiopia's diplomatic engagement within BRICS and other global platforms demonstrates its growing influence and commitment to regional and international cooperation. The newly appointed President highlighted Ethiopia's ongoing efforts to strengthen strategic alliances and create new partnerships. Ethiopia will continue its collaboration with the African Union and international organizations, maintaining a focus on deepening ties with its allies and partners. Lastly, he reaffirmed that Ethiopia's diplomatic and cooperative efforts to broaden its circle of friends and allies will continue to be a priority.

# Taiwan commits \$22 million to upgrade Hargeisa's main hospital into a modern facility



diplomatic officials from the Taiwan Embassy in Hargeisa. At the meeting, the parties noted the importance of the project and the

benefits it would bring to the health service dispensed at the Hargeisa hospital and the country as a whole.

## The elections are on a scheduled, says NEC chair as he dispels rumours to the contrary



scheduled and as slated on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November 2024. He categorically dispelled the rumours in the media that claims the elections has been either delayed or postponed and at the same time cautioned those who are perpetrating the lies through the social media to cease and desist from it forthwith. He made the statement during an event over the week as the NEC administered oath to the electoral ethics committee. The two leading official parties, the ruling party KULMIYE and WADDANI and also the KAAH political organization were sternly cautioned from kicking off their political campaigns earlier than scheduled and instructed them to wait for the official time stipulated.

The Chairman of the Ethics Committee, Mohamed Hassan Mohamud, who spoke after the oath of office, warned the said Official National Parties and Political organization. He reminded the sworn officials of the gravity of the essence of oath taking and to underestimate it nor take it lightly hence urged them to be diligent on the tasks ahead for them. In conclusion, the NEC sent a message to the organizations, parties and the people of Somaliland urging them to avoid anything that would undermine or harm national security or Islamic tenets. Of note were strict instructions of not infringing upon regulations and rules of the Somaliland National Elections Act.

## Dahabshii Group co-sponsored Chevening Scholarships for the third-year in a row

Dahabshii Group has once again co-sponsored the Chevening Scholarships for the third year in a row, underscoring its commitment to education and leadership development. The collaboration between Dahabshii and the Chevening Scholarship program provides aspiring students from various backgrounds. Through this sponsorship, Dahabshii helps to support individuals who demonstrate outstanding academic potential, leadership qualities, and a desire to contribute positively to their communities. The initiative aligns with Dahabshii's broader focus on social responsibility, economic

empowerment, and investing in human capital. Statement Dahabshii Group published their Twitter (X) account, read as follows; "It's proud to have co-sponsored some scholars for the third year in a row, as they pursue their Master's programs in the UK—special thanks to our partner." The statement thanked the "UK Foreign Office for providing these prestigious scholarship opportunities to talented Somali students." Dahabshii group's support measures will contribute significantly to students acquiring a high level of education.

## The Third National Economic Forum is Underway



importance of state delivery services and suggesting that all the stakeholders should implement the issues as outlined and based on the National Development Plan. Attending participants urged that emphasis should be placed on agricultural production in order to avoid poverty. Hon. Saad said that the government should contribute to the realization of the five-year plans and as per the policies of projected budgets. "We pointed out that these policies are first to review the budget and its expenses, to expand the tax base, to reduce the dependence on customs taxes, and to move to income taxes, to modernize the payment of taxes and to increase take the payment of taxes so as to stabilize the market price and the cost of living", he said.

The official opening of the summit in Hargeisa was attended by members of the cabinet, central bank officials, economic experts, local and international organizations, community organizations and other dignitaries. The committee that organized the meeting gave details of the summit while noting the imperative

## Police serve the community with justice and equality, says Police Chief

Saqadi iDabagale has said that the Somaliland police force stands for justice and equality to serve the community.

He gave the expression as he presided over the graduation of traffic law enforcements officers and the induction of a further new fifth batch in a bid of upping the proficiency skills of the officers in the sector.

The training was in the form of Technology Science; he also opened a training for new members who will be taught the rules of road safety.

Commander Dabagale said, "I congratulate the police forces that graduated from this training, and those before them."

He noted that people who are educated and skilled were better than those who are not hence would be able to go about their jobs more professionally.

He urged the traffic law enforcement policemen to be as diligent as their chores demand and to be just in the dispensation of their duties as per



regulations. He noted that the police stations and the roads are where the forces constantly interact with the populace hence they ought to build public rapport appropriately.

The police chief pointed out that poor driving skills, un-serviced vehicles and bad road conditions

are the three major culprits that are agents of causative accidents. He directed the officers to play by the book and uphold equality as they go about their duties hence see to it that the rules and regulations are adhered to by vehicles plying the roads, "such that unnecessary accidents may be put in check".

## We are not insulting anyone, but we are defending the nation, says Information DG



Sweden President Yassin Ahmed warned.

The president told ENA that Egypt was unable to contribute to peace keeping peace in its neighboring countries like Sudan and Libya; and could not even protect its borders from threats.

Egypt's inexperience, rather history of failed peacekeeping missions, render its efforts in Somalia futile, he recalled.

Yasin cited the absence of Egypt from the African continent for more than three or four decades and its utter failure to keep peace in its neighboring countries.

The main reason behind Egypt's intervention in Somalia is its claim with regard to Ethiopia's Grand Renaissance Dam (GERD) and a vain attempt to create pressure on Ethiopia, he added.

With regard to peace keeping, Ethiopia has on the other hand demonstrated its long-standing commitment and experience in regional and global peacekeeping, according to Yasin.

He said Ethiopia's role is widely recognized and respected by the international community, including the United Nations and the African Union.

"Ethiopia, as a pivotal country and as an emerging country and a rising regional power, enjoys international and regional respect for its role in maintaining peace and regional and international security."

Instead of pursuing divisive policies, the president called on Egypt to cooperate with Ethiopia in promoting regional security.

"It would be more appropriate for Egypt to cooperate with Ethiopia in preserving regional security," he noted.

Moreover, Yassin expressed concern about Egypt's supply of weapons to Somalia, arguing that it could exacerbate existing security challenges and undermine ongoing efforts to stabilize Somalia.

"Sending weapons to Somalia, which is witnessing internal security challenges, can contribute to undermining security within Somalia; because if these weapons are acquired by some terrorist groups they could pose serious challenge to the region."

Yasin recalled that Ethiopia has been working in partnership with consecutive Somali governments and the international community to maintain peace and security in

Somalia. Furthermore, he underscored the importance of regional security cooperation among the countries of the Horn of Africa in order to deter external involvement and maintain stability in the region.

"It is necessary to think and create regional security cooperation for the countries of the Horn of Africa and/or East Africa. These countries have common security challenges. So, regional security cooperation is the solution to any external interventions."

He noted that the countries in the region can better resist external interference and promote stability by strengthening economic ties and addressing common security challenges.

For the president, Ethiopia is also crucial for maintaining the security of the Red Sea as it is the largest country in the region and possesses the necessary capabilities to contribute to its protection.

"Peace, security and stability come through strengthening common economic interests. The economy is what creates peace, and creates economic cooperation. All of these countries, especially those on the Red Sea, cannot dispense with Ethiopia's role in preserving and protecting regional security, even protecting the Red Sea."

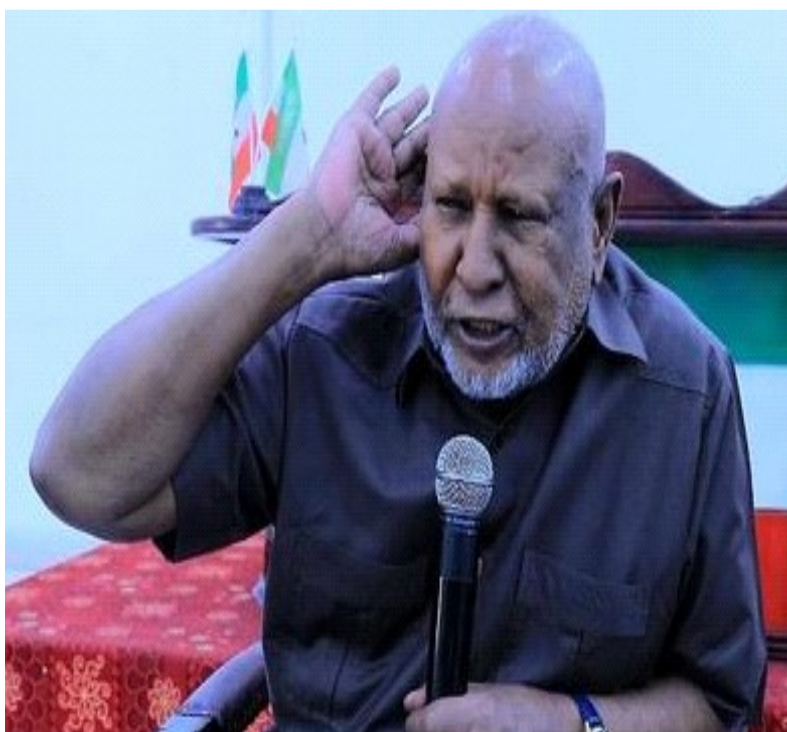
He observed that Ethiopia's potential sea access through the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Somaliland could significantly enhance regional security in the region and the Red Sea.

"The MoU between Ethiopia and Somaliland comes within the framework of creating a new reality. Research indicates that if Ethiopia obtains a sea outlet through the MoU, after it is developed into an agreement between the parties, then Ethiopia will have the natural role of protecting the security of the Red Sea."

As a coastal state, Ethiopia would be able to play a pivotal role in protecting the region's security and promoting economic interests, Yasin underlined, adding that this aligns with the international law which grants landlocked countries access to the sea,

To ensure lasting peace and security, the president noted that military and security cooperation should be fostered through strengthened economic ties.

## Uphold and safeguard peaceful stability, Speaker Suleiman urges as senate goes for recess



the country's safety and security as the nation is about to go to polls in early November.

The Speaker also announced the GUURTI will take recess for a couple of months and reopen on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December.

He said, "The country is entering the election process, and I urge the honorable members work towards the safeguarding and maintaining of the national peaceful stability and solidarity".

On the other hand, Speaker Suleiman asked the chairpersons of the sub-committees of the council to submit the reports in their hands, and hand them over to the general secretary of the council Abdinasir Adan Beegsi.

# Dahabshii: Global Somali Success Story Faces Unwarranted Local Backlash



In the intricate tapestry of international finance, few stories are as compelling and complex as that of Dahabshii. Born in the bustling town of Burao, Somaliland, this homegrown enterprise has not only blossomed into a global powerhouse serving millions across 120 countries but has also become a beacon of Somali entrepreneurial spirit on the world stage. Yet, recent events have cast a shadow over this inspiring narrative, as Dahabshii finds itself at the center of a heated local controversy. As a long-time observer of the financial sector in the Horn of Africa, I feel compelled to delve deeper into this issue, exploring how Dahabshii has positively projected the Somali name internationally while navigating complex local dynamics.

## The Roots of a Financial Giant

To understand the current situation, we need to step back and appreciate Dahabshii's remarkable journey. Founded in 1970 by Mohamed Said Duale, the company started as a small remittance enterprise catering to Somali migrants in the Gulf states. Over the decades, it has evolved into a diversified financial services provider, offering everything from basic money transfers to cutting-edge mobile banking solutions.

What sets Dahabshii apart is not just its impressive growth but its resilience and its role as an ambassador for Somali business acumen. The company has weathered political upheavals, economic crises, and even the collapse of the Somali state in 1991. Through it all, Dahabshii remained a lifeline for millions of Somalis, facilitating crucial remittances that often meant the difference between subsistence and destitution for many families.

## Responsible Commitment

One aspect of Dahabshii's operations that often goes underappreciated in the heat of politically or economically driven offensives is its extensive and impactful corporate social responsibility (CSR) program. Across all Somali territories,

Dahabshii has consistently demonstrated a level of social commitment that goes far beyond what might be expected of a profit-driven enterprise.

In times of crisis, when many other organizations hesitate, Dahabshii has invariably been at the forefront of humanitarian efforts. Whether responding to natural disasters, health emergencies, or economic downturns, the company has shown a remarkable ability to mobilize resources quickly and effectively. During severe droughts that have periodically afflicted the Horn of Africa, Dahabshii has been instrumental in providing emergency relief, often being the first to respond with water, food, and medical supplies to remote communities.

The company's educational initiatives have been particularly noteworthy. Dahabshii has funded the construction of schools, provided scholarships to promising students, and supported vocational training programs. These efforts have not been limited to any one region but have benefited communities across Somaliland, Somalia, and even refugee populations in neighboring countries.

In the healthcare sector, Dahabshii's contributions have been equally significant. The company has financed the construction and equipping of hospitals and clinics, sponsored medical camps in underserved areas, and funded specialized treatment for patients who would otherwise have no access to such care. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dahabshii stepped up its efforts, providing protective equipment to healthcare workers and supporting public health campaigns.

What sets Dahabshii's CSR activities apart is not just their scale, but their consistency and long-term vision. While many corporations engage in occasional philanthropic gestures, Dahabshii has woven social responsibility into the fabric of its business model. This

approach has allowed the company to build sustainable programs that continue to benefit communities long after the initial investment.

Moreover, Dahabshii's social initiatives have often ventured into areas that would daunt less committed benefactors. The company has supported peace-building efforts in conflict-affected areas, funded environmental conservation projects in ecologically sensitive regions, and invested in infrastructure development in some of the most challenging terrains.

This unwavering commitment to social responsibility has not only improved lives across Somali territories but has also set a high standard for corporate citizenship in the region. It demonstrates that profitable business operations and meaningful social impact are not mutually exclusive. In many ways, Dahabshii's social portfolio is as much a part of its legacy as its financial services, contributing significantly to the positive projection of Somali business ethos on the global stage.

As we consider the current controversy, it's crucial to weigh these substantial and ongoing social contributions against perceived missteps. Dahabshii's role as a steadfast benefactor in times of crisis and its consistent investment in the social fabric of Somali communities are testament to its deep-rooted commitment to the region's wellbeing. This track record of social responsibility provides important context for understanding the company's overall impact and intentions.

## Projecting Somali Success on the Global Stage

Dahabshii's rise to prominence has done more than just provide essential financial services; it has positively shaped perceptions of Somali business capabilities worldwide. In an era where news from the Somali regions often focused on conflict and instability, Dahabshii stood as a testament to the ingenuity, resilience, and entrepreneurial spirit of the Somali people.

The company's expansion into over 120 countries has brought it into partnerships with major international banks and financial institutions. These relationships have not only facilitated smoother transactions for Dahabshii's customers but have also served as a bridge, introducing the wider world to the potential of Somali-led businesses.

Dahabshii's success has challenged stereotypes and opened doors for other Somali entrepreneurs. It has shown that companies from the region can compete on a global scale, adhering to international standards while maintaining strong ties to their roots.

## A Storm in a Teacup?

Despite its role in elevating the Somali brand globally, Dahabshii now finds itself at the center of a local controversy. The backlash stems from what appears to be a relatively innocuous statement. Responding to pressure from Somali federal authorities regarding the listing of "Somaliland" in its app menus, the company stated:

"Dahabshii is a global company operating in more than 120 countries. We're international like @flydubai, @flyethiopian & @TurkishAirlines. We all operate under international rules. Dahabshii started in Burao, Somaliland & went global from there. We'll continue to serve all."

This statement, intended to navigate the complex political landscape of the region, has unfortunately been interpreted by some as a betrayal of Somaliland's interests. But is this a fair assessment, especially when considering the company's long-standing positive impact on Somali representation globally?

The reactions to Dahabshii's statement have been swift and, in some cases, severe. Accusations range from "aiding and abetting Somalia to erase Somaliland" to "facilitating economic genocide." These are serious allegations that deserve careful examination, especially in light of Dahabshii's historical role in promoting Somali interests on the world stage.

First, it's crucial to understand the regulatory environment in which international financial companies operate. Anti-money laundering (AML) and countering the financing of terrorism (CFT) regulations are stringent and non-negotiable. Companies like Dahabshii must comply with these rules to maintain their global operations, which ultimately benefit their customers in Somaliland, Somalia, and beyond. Second, the comparison to international airlines is apt. These companies also navigate complex political situations daily, often using

internationally recognized designations that may not align perfectly with local sentiments. This doesn't necessarily reflect their stance on political issues but rather their need to operate within global norms.

Before rushing to judgment, it's worth considering Dahabshii's track record in Somaliland and its positive impact on the broader Somali diaspora:

1. **Employment:** Dahabshii is one of the largest private employers in the region, providing jobs to thousands of locals.

2. **Financial Inclusion:** Through its extensive network, Dahabshii has brought financial services to remote areas, promoting economic development.

3. **Diaspora Remittances:** The company has been instrumental in facilitating the flow of remittances, which constitute a significant portion of the GDP in Somali regions.

4. **Corporate Social Responsibility:** Dahabshii has invested heavily in education, healthcare, and infrastructure projects across Somali territories.

5. **Innovation:** The company has been at the forefront of introducing new financial technologies to the region, including mobile money services.

6. **Global Representation:** By succeeding on the international stage, Dahabshii has become a de facto ambassador for Somali business potential.

**Politicizing Private Enterprises**  
It's crucial to address the elephant in the room: the federal government of Somalia's misguided approach to the Somaliland issue by targeting private companies. This strategy not only undermines the economic stability of the region but also sets a dangerous precedent for business operations in an already challenging environment.

As someone who has observed the intricate dance of politics and commerce in the Horn of Africa for years, I can't help but shake my head at this short-sighted tactic. Private companies like Dahabshii are not political entities; they're economic lifelines that serve people across borders, regardless of political affiliations. By pressuring these companies to take sides in a complex political dispute, the federal government is essentially asking them to choose between their legal obligations and their customer base – an impossible and unfair position. Let's be real here: businesses aren't equipped to solve long-standing political issues, nor should they be expected to. Their primary role is to provide services, create jobs, and contribute to economic growth.

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## Dahabshiil: Global Somali Success Story Faces Unwarranted Local Backlash

When governments drag them into political fights, it creates a chilling effect on investment and entrepreneurship. Who would want to start or expand a business in a region where they might be forced to become political pawns at any moment?

Moreover, this approach by the federal government smacks of desperation. Instead of addressing the root causes of the Somaliland issue through diplomacy and dialogue, they're resorting to economic strong-arming. It's a tactic that's likely to backfire, breeding resentment and potentially deepening the divide they claim to want to bridge.

The irony here is palpable. In their zeal to assert control, the federal authorities risk damaging the very economic fabric that could potentially unite the region. Companies like Dahabshiil have been doing more to connect Somalis – through remittances, jobs, and economic opportunities – than any political mandate ever could.

In my view, it's high time for a reality check. The federal government needs to step back and recognize that bullying private companies is not only unethical but also counterproductive to their stated goals. They should be fostering an environment where businesses can thrive and serve all communities, not creating artificial barriers based on political grudges.

Let's call this what it is: a misguided attempt at control that risks harming the very people it claims to represent. It's my hope that cooler heads will prevail, and that businesses will be allowed to do what they do best – serve their customers and contribute to economic growth – without being drawn into political squabbles not of their making. The path to resolving the complex issues between Somalia and Somaliland lies through diplomatic channels, not through the boardrooms of private companies.

### The Broader Context

The controversy surrounding Dahabshiil is not occurring in a vacuum. It's part of a larger, complex political landscape involving Somaliland, Somalia, and the international community. Somaliland's quest for international recognition adds another layer of complexity to how businesses operate in the region.

International companies often find themselves walking a tightrope, balancing local sensitivities with global realities. Dahabshiil's situation is not unique in this regard, but its prominence makes it a lightning rod for broader frustrations. Rather than resorting to boycotts or harsh condemnation, a more

constructive approach would be to engage in dialogue. Here are some steps that could help resolve the current impasse:

1. **Transparency:** Dahabshiil could provide more detailed explanations of its regulatory obligations and how these impact its operations.

2. **Stakeholder Engagement:** The company could engage more actively with government officials and civil society across Somali regions to address concerns.

3. **Public Education:** There's a need for broader public understanding of how international financial regulations work and their impact on local businesses.

4. **Policy Discussions:** This controversy could spark a broader discussion about how Somali businesses can protect local interests while still benefiting from international financial integration.

5. **Celebrating Successes:** There should be more focus on how companies like Dahabshiil have positively represented Somali business acumen globally.

The situation with Dahabshiil underscores the complex interplay between business, politics, and identity in a globalized world. While the concerns raised by some Somalilanders are understandable, it's crucial to view this situation in its full context, including Dahabshiil's role in enhancing the reputation of Somali businesses worldwide.

Dahabshiil's success story is, in many ways, a success story for all Somalis. It's a testament to the entrepreneurial spirit and resilience of the Somali people. The company's global reach has put Somali business capabilities on the map in ways that political efforts alone have struggled to achieve.

As this situation unfolds, it's my hope that cooler heads will prevail. Dahabshiil's role in supporting local economies, facilitating crucial financial services, and positively projecting the Somali name internationally is too significant to be overlooked. Finding a path forward that addresses legitimate concerns while recognizing the company's positive contributions would be in everyone's best interest.

In the end, this controversy might serve as a catalyst for important discussions about the place of Somali businesses in the global economy and how they can thrive on the international stage while staying true to their roots. It's a conversation worth having, and one that could shape the future of not just Dahabshiil, but of Somali entrepreneurship as a whole on the global stage.

Abdishakur Essa  
Business Consultant

# The strong Taiwan and Somaliland partnership



Somaliland is a de facto sovereign state that is not recognized by the international community. Somaliland President Muse Bihi has established a foreign policy strategy based on the development of Hargeisa's relations with Taipei, meeting Taiwan's willingness to become strong allies in a "complicated environment."

Bihi's stance became crystal clear in 2020, when he rejected an offer from then-Chinese ambassador to Somalia Qin Jian (f%o Q) to establish a Chinese liaison office in Somaliland on the condition it halted its diplomatic relationship with Taiwan. He stressed the need to strengthen bilateral ties with Taipei instead of becoming part of China's Belt and Road Initiative, which aimed to develop infrastructure in return for a country's unfavorable stance regarding Taiwan's sovereignty and efforts to have a primary role in the international arena.

This position was followed-up by the establishment of the "Republic of Somaliland Representative Office in Taiwan," the largest diplomatic mission of Hargeisa in East Asia. Its name speaks volumes of the two nations' intention to use "official" and "formal" terms avoided by countries that are worried about possible retaliation from China.

"Both sides are motivated by a spirit of mutual assistance that will never expose any harm whatsoever to the interests of other countries, but rather contributes to international peace and regional economic activities," Bihi has said.

Since then, the relationship between Hargeisa and Taipei has improved and the two are discussing several areas of common interest. It signals the parties' willingness to engage in economic, commercial,

diplomatic and political matters.

One important sector of common interest is fisheries and coastal zones. Somaliland Minister of Fisheries and Coastal Development Rabi Mohamed in February visited Taiwan to strengthen links on marine and ocean issues. In particular, they are to explore the potential for support, knowledge sharing and collaborative initiatives aimed at maximizing the socioeconomic benefits of marine resources while maintaining long-term viability.

Another strategic area is energy, given Taiwan's desire to become increasingly independent from China and Somaliland's compromise in terms of oil exploitation. The first meeting, which took place last year, laid the foundations for cooperation in exploration, exploitation, training and technical expertise, as Somaliland identifies Taiwan as "a partner to cooperate with in oil development." Somaliland Minister of Energy and Minerals Abdi Abdillahi Farar this year also visited Taiwan to boost cooperation and discuss potential Taiwanese investments in the field.

Taiwan is increasingly contributing to Somaliland's efforts in protecting

and fostering a "safe and democratic environment." For example, Taiwan donated about US\$2 million to Somaliland in support of its presidential and political party elections next month. There is also a line of continuity, considering the financial support Taiwan provided in the previous parliamentary and civic elections in 2021.

The relationship between the two nations continues to show a high level of mutual trust and readiness for further development to secure a future that safeguards the countries' established democratic institutional structure and strengthens its foundations.

Taiwan's role could be extremely beneficial to achieving this purpose, given its efforts toward reaching high standards of democracy and rule of law. Somaliland, which is ranked as the only "partly free" state in the Horn of Africa on Freedom House's "political rights and civil liberty rankings," wants to follow in the footsteps of its Asian ally. That proves how Taiwan can help in economic and political issues.

*Michele Maresca is an analyst at the online international law journal Il Caffe Geopolitico.*

## President pardons 413 prisoners convicted of minor crimes

By M.A. Egge

The President H.E. Musa Bihi Abdi has pardoned 413 prisoners convicted of minor crimes through an executive amnesty grant order. The Head of State made the decree in a circular released on Thursday by the Presidency. Those released

covered in the decree are convicts of minor crimes only. Those convicted of minor crimes or associated civil ones do not apply. The order read; "From today's date, I am going to grant a general amnesty to the prisoners convicted of minor crimes in the country's

prisons, totaling 413 prisoners. This pardon does not affect the civil rights and criminal consequences of the crime they were convicted of. This amnesty is implemented by the Office of the Attorney General, according to the list of prisoners".

## 360 tons of rice distributed to the needy in parts of the country

the country

By M.A. Egge

The Agency for Disaster Preparedness and National Food Reserves and the Government of Taiwan has concluded their distribution of food aid to the needy and less fortunate members of the community in various parts of the

country.

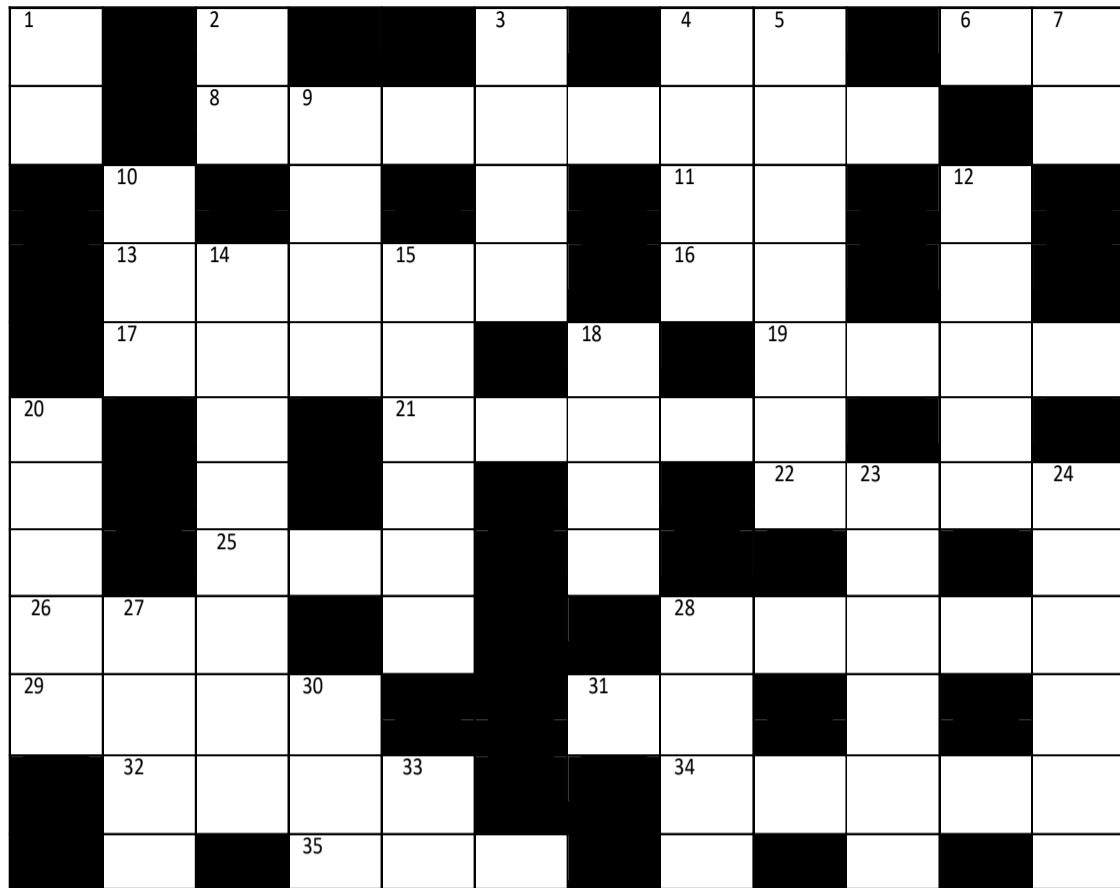
The Chairman of the Disaster Preparedness and National Food Reserve, Faisal Ali Sheikh, highlighted the good relationship between the two countries of Somaliland and Taiwan while noting the monumental development projects in the nation that Taiwan has supported,

including the humanitarian relief supplies.

He revealed that they received 360 tonnes of relief rice from Taiwan on 19<sup>th</sup> July this year.

The facilitation of the distribution was in concerted efforts with Nedford who have been disbursing the rice in Maroodi-jeeh, Gabiley and Haut regions in the last few mo

# THT Puzzle



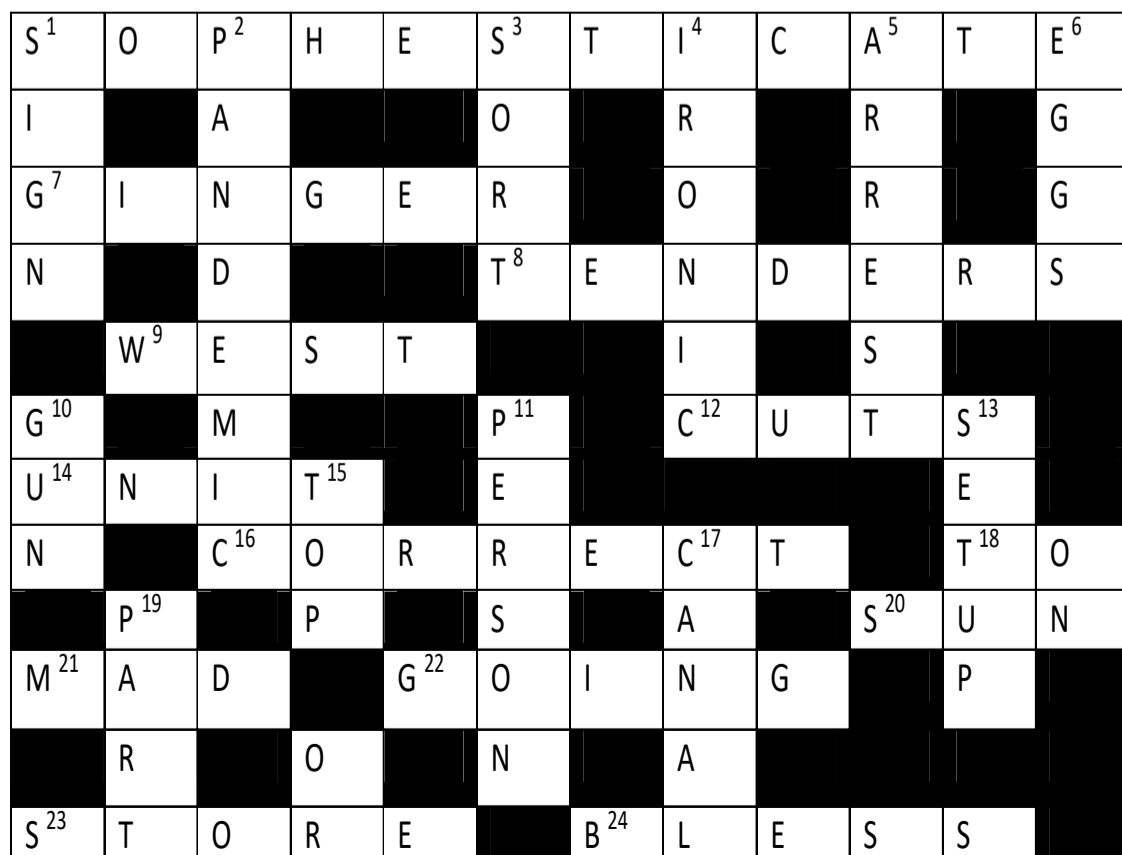
**ACROSS**

- 4 computer accessories
- 6. Drive/ moving one place to another
- 8 specifications
- 11 hence
- 13 accept
- 16 European short forms
- 17 something makes test in food
- 19 happy.
- 21 tutor.
- 22 but then
- 25 existed.
- 26 domestic animal
- 28 use again
- 29 joints/ leg
- 31 negative answer
- 32 Father of Human name
- 34 blade
- 35 color

**DOWN**

- 1 pronoun of more than one person
- 2 exists/ auxiliary verb
- 3 have knowledge of.
- 4 court case/ travel case
- 5 famines
- 7 atop/upon
- 9 reveal
- 10 smokes/ airs
- 12 hand brake/ usually known as cars
- 13 express grief
- 15 The capital city of Canada
- 18 sheet of paper
- 20 blackened
- 23 residences
- 24 pine needle
- 27 an important body part
- 28 flower/ used in festivals
- 30 Body parts
- 33 Personal prepositions

## Previous Answer



### Local government chiefs confer on disaster management in Borama

By M.A. Egge

The mayors of Boorama, Hargeisa, Berbera, Gabilay, Zeyla, Salahlay, Balligubadle, Baki and Lug-haya held a meeting to discuss issues pertaining to natural disasters and ways of combating them.

The two day meeting is being held in Borama, Awdal region.

The conference is an annual one usually organized by the local government authorities association, HAL-KASAL in association with the help of the international organization VNG as a partner which also ponders on the issues of local government development in the country.

The mayor of Boorama, and the governor of Awdal region, expounded in their speeches the importance of the meeting as they welcomed the mayors to the town.

“It is a great joy for us as a region that today the disaster management conference is held in the capital of

Awdal region. I very much welcome you to discuss issues related to natural disasters”, said the mayor.

The director of Hal-Kasal Khalid Abdurahman explained the purpose of the meeting and said, “We have held a disaster management meeting for the project that we are in charge of Dan-Hadaag, which works in five districts, and we are supported by the VNG Organization and the local government association of Holland, whose representative is here with us, we will continue this meeting for two days”.

The representative of the VNG organization, on his part said, “Disasters are something that always exists and need to be managed, raise awareness in the community and inform the districts where we have worked. I hope that a lot has changed with the impact of these efforts. We are always ready to work closely with the districts of the country”.

### Somaliland: Las Anod’s Tragic Descent from Prosperity to a State of Delusional Non-Existence



In 2007, Somaliland’s forces triumphantly entered Las Anod, a town in the disputed Sool region, marking the beginning of a new chapter to the city and its residents. Over the next sixteen years, Somaliland poured resources into transforming this once-neglected town into a thriving urban center. Potable piped water, modern infrastructure, fully-equipped hospitals, boarding schools, and universities helped shape Las Anod into a place of opportunity and progress. The investments were a lifeline for a town that had long languished in neglect, enabling its residents to aspire to a brighter future.

Las Anod became a symbol of Somaliland’s ambition for regional growth and stability, a beacon of progress in the contested territory’s heart. However, behind the facade of development, deep-rooted tensions simmered, and by late 2022, those tensions exploded into violence, leading to a full-blown rebellion that culminated in Somaliland’s humiliating withdrawal from the town in August

2023.

#### Somaliland’s Investment in Development

For over a decade, Somaliland’s administration worked to build a modern Las Anod, a town that had long been viewed as peripheral to the core regions of the breakaway state. What was once a dilapidated collection of buildings became a city with paved roads, street lighting, and a public water system that many other towns in the Horn of Africa could only dream of. Education flourished as boarding schools and primary and secondary schools sprouted, and universities opened their doors to future generations. Healthcare services also blossomed; new hospitals offered modern medical care, reducing the region’s dependency on far-flung cities for treatment.

The town’s development was an unmistakable sign of Somaliland’s commitment to strengthening its hold over the Sool region. By investing in infrastructure and services, Somaliland hoped to win

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# Somaliland: Las Anod's Tragic Descent from Prosperity to a State of Delusional Non-Existence

the loyalty of Las Anod's residents, who had historically been sceptical of the government's authority. Yet, despite the tangible improvements, the seeds of discontent were being sown.

## Extremist Influence and Political Opportunism

While Somaliland was building the city's infrastructure, forces working against the government were infiltrating the population, laying the groundwork for future rebellion. Extremist elements, including Al-Shabaab sleeper cells, quietly made their way into Las Anod. These groups began a slow but deliberate campaign of manipulation, targeting the town's most vulnerable residents to dupe a hapless population to believe that Somaliland security elements were picking off the cream of their society despite the preposterousness of the idea. Over time, these extremists planted the idea that Somaliland's government was not a force for good but an oppressive regime that had overstayed its welcome. The narrative began to shift, and skepticism of the government grew. Compounding this, local political factions within Somaliland saw an opportunity to turn the growing unrest to their advantage. One opposition party in particular began stoking anti-government sentiment, amplifying grievances and fanning the flames of rebellion. These political actors saw an opportunity to undermine Somaliland's ruling party by aligning themselves with elements pushing for autonomy or a break from Somaliland altogether. The situation became untenable as a series of high-profile assassinations rocked the town. Key figures in Las Anod's society—business leaders, intellectuals, and elders—were systematically eliminated, with the blame squarely placed on Somaliland's security forces. As the killings continued, anger toward the government reached a fever pitch, and extremist elements capitalized on the chaos, deepening the divide between Las Anod's residents and the government.

## From Protest to War

By December 2022, tensions had reached a boiling point. The assassination of a local politician sparked violent protests, with demonstrators clashing with Somaliland security forces. The town was in turmoil, and the unrest quickly spiraled out of control. Dhulbahante clan leaders, who had long harbored suspicions about Somaliland's intentions, declared that the town would no longer recognize Somaliland's authority. In early 2023, they proclaimed the creation of the SSC-Khatumo state, aligning themselves with Somalia and rejecting Somaliland's



sovereignty.

Somaliland's forces, confident they could quash the rebellion, launched a military campaign to regain control of Las Anod. What followed was a brutal and protracted conflict, as Dhulbahante militias, bolstered by support from Puntland and Somalia, put up fierce resistance. For nearly 20 days, Las Anod became a war zone, with house-to-house combat devastating the town. Somaliland's military strategy, initially focused on quickly reclaiming the city, devolved into indiscriminate shelling as militias outgunned their forces. The fighting displaced over 185,000 of an estimated total town population of around 200 000 to 250000 people, most of whom fled to seek refuge in neighbouring areas.

## Las Anod Falls to Chaos

In August 2023, after months of intense fighting and mounting casualties, Somaliland's forces were forced to retreat from Las Anod, marking the end of the government's 16-year control over the town. The withdrawal was a moment of reckoning for Somaliland, whose investments in Las Anod had been undone by the very forces it had sought to protect the town from. As Somaliland troops withdrew, the town was left in the hands of militias, war profiteers, and extremists who quickly moved to fill the power vacuum. The artificially germinated, fictionally conceived, 'politically encouraged (at certain quarter) soon turned into a revolution of a kind and ethnic hatred the likes of which were last seen in the late '80s in Somaliland, leaving the town a desolate image of its former self. The emerged groups began exploiting the ensuing chaos, making millions of dollars off the misery of the displaced population. Hospitals, schools, and businesses that had been symbols of the town's progress were left in ruins. Las Anod, once a beacon of Somaliland's regional ambitions, was now a battleground for competing interests.

Extremists, to make matters worse, turned the area into a no-man's land

that opened up to extremists as training grounds in the guise of building clan militias. Known Shabab leaders such as one Abdi-Madoobe openly preach invasions into other Somaliland regions to spread the chaos and lawlessness further calling himself the Chief of Staff of the SSC Dervishes.

The dispute between Garad Jama Garad Ismail and Garad Jama Garad Ali, two influential leaders in the Las Anod rebellion, underscores the evolving political landscape in the Sool region, where clan allegiances and aspirations for autonomy have come into sharp focus. Garad Jama Garad Ismail advocates for Sool's alignment with the Federal Government of Somalia, envisioning the region as an autonomous federal state under Mogadishu's jurisdiction. This move would allow for self-governance within the larger framework of a unified Somalia, rather than being part of Somaliland, which has long sought independence. Ismail's position, however, is as unworkable as that of his opponent since the SSC jurisdiction of territories does not comply with federal constitutional parameters. SSC does not control even one full region let alone the two and half the Somalia constitutes stipulates. On the other hand, Garad Jama Garad Ali argues for a different strategy, one rooted in pragmatism and regional alliances. He contends that SSC (Sool, Sanaag, and Cayn) cannot stand alone as an independent entity and should instead join forces with Puntland, a region largely controlled by the Harti-Darod clan, to which the Dhulbahante belong. Ali's argument leans on the shared cultural and clan ties between SSC and Puntland, advocating for greater cooperation and integration with Puntland's governance structure as a way to bolster regional strength against external threats, particularly from Somaliland forces.

This difference in strategic visions has led to a significant rift, with Ismail's vision seen as a path toward

federalism within Somalia, while Ali's approach is more about consolidating power within a broader clan-based alliance. The discourse reflects deeper clan dynamics, where allegiances are shaped by both historical grievances and the current political realities on the ground. As both leaders push their respective agendas, the situation risks escalating into a broader clan-driven conflict, especially as external actors such as Puntland play a role in influencing the outcome. The ongoing war of words between these two leaders is reflective of the broader complexities in Somali politics, where clan affiliations, territorial control, and the struggle for autonomy intersect. Moreover, most of the Dhulbahante now believe that Garad Jama Ali (dubbed by many as the 'illegitimate Garad') got unbelievably rich by projecting himself as the ultimate leader of the SSC rising from a one-suit village chief to a jet-hopping millionaire living off the contributions that poured into his accounts to finance a SSC state.

## The Role of International Actors

The international community, particularly Western countries and development partners inadvertently exacerbated the situation. While well-meaning, their calls for peace and human rights often appeared to side with the insurgents, providing tacit support for the rebellion. International aid that was meant to alleviate suffering sometimes ended up reinforcing the insurgents' control over the region. The perception of foreign involvement, particularly by Somaliland, added another layer of complexity to the conflict, further complicating efforts for reconciliation.

## A Region Wound Back in Time

Today, the Las Anod and Sool region that Somaliland once knew is no more. The town's development clock has been wound back by decades. The schools, hospitals, and infrastructure that once made the town a regional success story have been destroyed or abandoned. Somaliland, having poured so much

into the town's development, sees the rebellion as a deep betrayal, and reconciliation seems far off. The people of Las Anod, now under the rule of militias and insurgents, face a precarious future as they navigate a new reality defined by instability and violence.

The involvement of Puntland and Somalia, both of whom played significant roles in the rebellion, has further complicated the situation. The town, once a part of Somaliland's fold, is now a pawn in a larger geopolitical struggle between Somaliland, Puntland, and Somalia. False accusations, regional alliances, and the desire for territorial control have turned Las Anod into a symbol of the fragility of progress in the Horn of Africa.

## Can Las Anod Be Saved?

Despite the devastation, there remains a glimmer of hope for reconciliation. A mutually acceptable path forward will require both sides—Somaliland and the people of Las Anod—to come to the table with a willingness to address their grievances. Somaliland could look to traditional conflict resolution mechanisms, rooted in the region's history, as a way to rebuild trust. Offering a pathway to reintegration, with guarantees of local governance and representation, might help ease tensions.

For the people of Las Anod, the rejection of extremist influence and the embrace of dialogue with Somaliland may be the only way to restore peace and stability to their town. The international community, for its part, must ensure that its interventions are balanced and do not inadvertently support militancy or further inflame the conflict.

In the end, the tragedy of Las Anod serves as a reminder of how fragile development and stability can be. In the blink of an eye, years of progress were undone, and a once-thriving town was plunged into chaos. If Somaliland and the people of Sool can find a way to bridge their differences, perhaps Las Anod can rise from the ashes and once again become a beacon of hope in a region too often defined by conflict.

