

The Horn Tribune

Vol IV/ Issue 1571 Sunday 27 October 2024

Rabi Al-Thani 24/ 1446 AH

An Independent Weekly Newspaper of Dawan Media Group, Tel: 0634414181/0634424590/0634615145

Somaliland: NEC steps up electioneering processes in readiness for its holding

Somaliland's NEC demonstrates its dedication to a well-organized, secure, and inclusive election process



On Tuesday, Somaliland's National Electoral Commission (NEC) marked significant progress in its preparations for the upcoming presidential and political party elections. In a coordinated display of commitment to a transparent and efficient election process, three

Continue on Page 2



The NEC vigorously disseminates educative awareness information across the country



Mohamoud Walaaleye
The National Electoral Commission (NEC) has sent an awareness message related to the presidential elections and the national parties to public. The messages are being conveyed

Continue on Page 2

KAAH flexes its muscles country-wide as it seeks to win political party officialdom



By M.A. Egge
Somaliland's election campaign took a frenzy turn over the week when challenging political organization KAAH flexed its muscles to depict its formidability as far as the political parties' general elections are

Continue on Page 2

Hilaac political organization comes out in style in Borama and Berbera, campaigning for votes



By M.A. Egge
Somaliland's election campaign has entered its 7th day the Hilaac (Lightning) political organization held its rallies on the first day across the country but mainly focuses in the

Continue on Page 2

Electoral Ethics Commission issues new guidelines



The Somaliland Ethics, Dispute Resolution, and Election Monitoring Committee has warned all national political parties and organizations to adhere strictly to the electoral code

Continue on Page 3

Inside
President graces maiden graduation of Media Training Institute for 23 pioneer students Continue on page 6

President Bihi Unveils Somaliland Airline and Initiates Major Aviation Development Projects



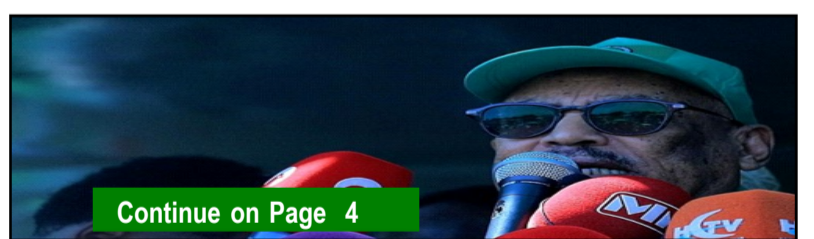
Continue on Page 3

The Central Bank has not flooded the market with surplus cash, Governor Ali dispels media allegations



Continue on Page 3

UCID Chair accuses the GUURTI of trampling upon the constitution, as he takes swipe at KULMIYE and WADDANI



Continue on Page 4

International Recognition: A Compelling Case for Somaliland



Continue on Page 4

Georgia Gilholy: The UK should look less to Somalia but more to Somaliland



Continue on Page 5

Somaliland: NEC steps up electioneering processes in readiness for its holding



major developments unfolded: the receipt of critical election materials, a productive meeting with the EU delegation, and the launch of a comprehensive training program for election agents. The final consignment of essential election equipment arrived at Egal International Airport on Monday, received by NEC officials along with representatives from political parties and election-focused organizations. This shipment, completing the series of deliveries, included inks, voting seals, and ballot boxes, complementing the previously

arrived ballot papers. NEC Commissioner Ahmed Hassan praised the organized preparations and emphasized the importance of peaceful conduct, urging supporters to uphold stability and unity throughout the election period. He reminded parties to adhere to regulations, avoid divisive rhetoric, and promote harmony as campaigning ramps up. Simultaneously, the NEC engaged in a collaborative dialogue with a visiting European Union delegation led by EU Ambassador Karin Johansson at the NEC

headquarters. The discussions highlighted key areas of focus, including voter registration, logistical arrangements, and election security measures. Both NEC and the EU delegation emphasized the importance of a seamless and credible electoral process. Ambassador Johansson expressed confidence in the NEC's progress, affirming the EU's commitment to supporting Somaliland's path toward transparent and accountable elections. In another crucial development, the NEC launched a training program for 170 trainers who will, in turn, prepare party and association agents for their roles at polling stations. The program, coordinated with NMID, reflects the NEC's proactive approach to ensuring that well-prepared agents can facilitate a smooth voting experience across the country on election day. Through these efforts, Somaliland's NEC demonstrates its dedication to a well-organized, secure, and inclusive election process, paving the way for an orderly presidential election on November 13, 2024.

The NEC vigorously disseminates educative awareness information across the country

through both digital and print media and also by louds speakers mounted atop vehicles driving through towns, residential areas and also in the villages. An awareness audio-video produced by the commission launched noted that the National Electoral Commission informs all citizens with voting cards of the date of the voting as being on Wednesday, November 13, 2024. It informed them of the hours the polling stations are opened as being 7.00am hence reminded them that the stations are written on the back of the cards. It reminded them of the need to



exercise their political rights urging them to come out in large numbers and vote.

All citizens were urged to take advantage of the opportunity to choose political organizations and president of their choice.

Hilaac political organization comes out in style in Borama and Berbera, campaigning for votes

towns of Borama and Berbera. The supporters expressed their happiness as the Hilaac political organization presented its plans for the future and the reasons behind its establishment. In several arenas and public meeting places supporters were seen converging in large numbers as the chanted their political slogans with shouts of 'may we win' ranting in the air as they listened to speakers after speakers selling their policies to voters. Of note was the party leader Ahmed

Ismael Samatar who addressed a large gathering of hundreds of supporters in Borama, urging them to vote as a block. He revealed that he has for long been sore and exasperated that his community was subjected to tyranny of the numbers hence urged them to vote as a block such that they may be reckoned with by voting in the such that it may be an official political party. He said that 'the time of begging and soliciting for alms is over' and that the people ought to stand up to be seen by being triumphant.

He said that despite the fact that the nation has made major strides for the past three decades, the hurdles of the political cross-roads that the country is presently at can be overcome by having Awdal being at the fore-front. He said, "Political groupings mean that you have a base from which you can take off from such that you may concretely be in the country's politics, and make sound decisions on the economy, education, health, and the power structure within the country." He said it was to this connection that

KAAH flexes its muscles country-wide as it seeks to win political party officialdom



concerned. The organization's political field day sounded a warning to existing political parties and associated aspiring ones when it depicted that it was a show of force to be reckoned with as it mobilized thousands of supporters across the country as thousands turned out to show their support. The main event happened at the city's Freedom Garden (Beerta Xorieda) where keynote speech was given by the founder and chair of KAAH Mohamoud Hashi Abdi. He thanked the political organization's members for the massive support they have shown KAAH.

He condemned the arrest of officials from the Kaah political organization in Gabiley region, and noted that the arrests made by "the government and the KULMIYE party" targeting those officials is against the law. He angrily accused the state for arbitrarily arresting KAAH officials and supporters and warned that it was an intimidation in futility. He stated that there was a wave of cry for political change in the country and that whoever tried to impede it would be swept away by the currents. The politician who was a former powerful minister warned that protocols of electioneering processes should not be flouted and the National Electoral Commission should be left to do its duties unhindered. He thanked the thousands of

supporters who are seeking political change and asked them to vote for the KAAH political organization. He particularly thanked Gabiley residents terming them humble people and cautioned that people should not be polarized by the state pitting them against each other. Thousands of people, in every rural and urban center across the nation, carried placards and miniature flags and emblems of the political organization. Most adorned themselves with clothes bearing the colour and logo of KAAH hence deafeningly chanted slogans in support of it, dotted with ululations, music blaring and honking underpinning their support and the enthusiasm in wishing triumph for the organization. Speakers and supporters alike echoed support for the WADDANI presidential candidate Mr. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Iirro canvassing votes for him. The elections scheduled to be held on 13th November 2024 are for both the presidential and political party organizations. The Constitution requires that the top three political organizations become the official political parties in the nation for a period of three years. The currently existing three official political parties viz, KULMIYE, WADDANI and UCID are being challenged by seven other political organizations, with KAAH having shown that it is the most formidable. Both elections are to be held simultaneously on the same day.



he formed the organization in anticipation of making the region politically formidable. He pointed out that the elections should be able to turn a new page for the Awdal residents hence they ought to turn out in large numbers and control their own fate. The campaigns saw numerous similar meetings held in various districts and urban centers. The elections scheduled to be held on 13th November 2024 are for both the presidential and political party

organizations. The Constitution requires that the top three political organizations become the official political parties in the nation for a period of three years. The currently existing three official political parties viz, KULMIYE, WADDANI and UCID are being challenged by seven other political organizations, with Hilaac trying its hand in it. Both elections are to be held simultaneously on the same day.

Electoral Ethics Commission issues new guidelines

of conduct and the campaign schedule released by the National Electoral Commission.

This announcement, made by the Chairman of the Ethics Committee, Adan Hussein Muhumed, highlighted the critical importance of maintaining order, fairness, and legality during the election period. In a statement distributed to various political entities, Chairman Muhumed urged parties and organizations to respect the country's religious and legal framework, cautioning them against any actions that go against Islamic principles, the nation's laws, or established good practices.

"We inform all political parties, organizations, and the public to avoid anything that Islam, good practices, and the country's laws prohibit," Muhumed said in the statement.

The reminder comes at a crucial time, as the election campaign season intensifies.

Key Points in the Statement:

1. We inform all political parties/ organizations and the public to avoid anything Islam religion, good practices, and the country's laws prohibited.

2. To implement the decrees issued

by the President and the Minister of Internal Affairs

3. That political parties and organizations stick to the designated time of the election campaign calendar

4. To avoid tribalism and alienation of the community and the hatred that the parties/organizations and their supporters use.

5. People prohibited by the rules warned not to get involved in politics, such as government employees, and the military, or using government vehicles.

National Electoral Commission's Campaign Regulations

In addition to the code of conduct, the National Electoral Commission has outlined a strict campaign schedule to be observed by all political parties:

✓ Campaign Preparation: Parties may prepare for campaigns between 8:00 PM and 11:00 PM the night before the campaign begins. However, using loudspeakers outside the offices is not permitted during these hours.

✓ Campaign Hours: Campaigning is only allowed from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM each day. Any party violating this schedule will face penalties.

✓ Designated Campaign Days:

Parties are expected to observe the designated campaign days as specified by the Election Commission. Any deviation from this will result in disciplinary actions.

✓ Criminal Activity: Acts of vandalism, such as defacing party offices or tearing down campaign posters, will be met with strict legal consequences. The security forces have been authorized to handle any such incidents.

✓ Prohibition on Mixing Party Symbols: The use of mixed symbols, offices, or vehicles among different political parties is strictly forbidden to avoid confusion and maintain electoral integrity.

The Ethics Committee's call to action underscores the need for all political parties and their supporters to engage in peaceful, respectful campaigns that prioritize the well-being of the nation. Any failure to comply with these regulations could result in disciplinary actions, as the committee remains committed to ensuring a free and fair electoral process.

As the campaign period progresses, the Committee's directive serves as a timely reminder for political actors to uphold democratic principles, foster unity, and avoid actions that could undermine the credibility of the election.

President Bihi Unveils Somaliland Airline and Initiates Major Aviation Development Projects



The President of the Republic of Somaliland, His Excellency Muse Bihi Abdi, officially launched Somaliland Airline's new aircraft, which would be used to train pilots locally.

The President unveiled the planes, a project developed in collaboration with Serbian experts, and personally piloted the airline's first flight, which concluded successfully.

President Bihi also laid the foundation stone for the new Aviation Institute under the Somaliland Civil Aviation and Airport Authority, which would focus on aviation sciences.

Additionally, he launched the construction of a new terminal at Egal International Airport. Furthermore, the President inaugurated the newly modernized

VIP lounge for dignitaries at the airport.

During the event, key officials, including ministers and experts involved in training future pilots, commended the nation's progress and the significant role the project would play in the country's development.

In his remarks, President Muse Bihi Abdi praised the efforts of the aviation authorities in realizing his vision for Somaliland to own and operate its own aircraft.

The President concluded the event by awarding certificates of honor to young Somalilanders who studied aviation abroad, as well as to foreign experts who will train them to fly the new Somaliland Airline aircraft.

The Central Bank has not flooded the market with surplus cash, Governor Ali dispels media allegations



By M.A. Egge

The Governor of the Central Bank of Somaliland Dr. Ali Dahir has denied media reports that the government has injected unneeded extra and surplus local currency in circulation that the market cannot handle.

He categorically pointed out that the claims were mere baseless and flimsy allegations that had no any iota of truth in it.

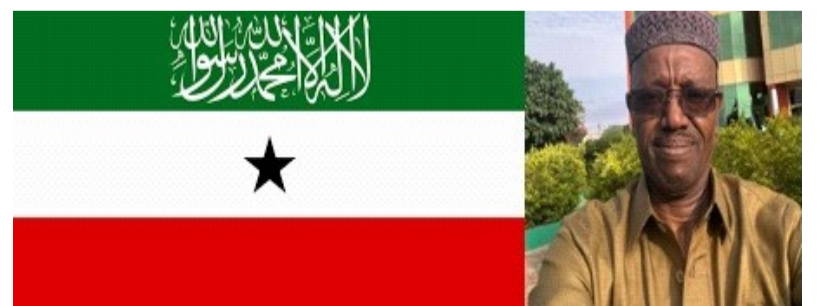
He reminded the nation that the bank had always been constantly steadfast in holding various meetings with stakeholders to keep

inflation in check.

He cautioned against the politicization of such matters saying that it can be detrimental to the markets and serious have negative impact hence warned politicians to cease and desist from such tendencies of making such allegations.

The governor similarly, warned money changers once again, against flouting banking regulations and directive by operating in underhand deals, reminding them that they would bear the full brunt of the law if they dare engage in such.

International Recognition: A Compelling Case for Somaliland



The current salient international debate for Somaliland's recognition regarding the recent Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between Somaliland and neighboring Ethiopia primarily touches on several significant areas of international law, including the

right to self-determination, recognition of states, and the legal implications of granting foreign military bases.

Somaliland's offer to grant Ethiopia a commercial and naval base access to the Red Sea in exchange

Continue on page 4



Komishanka Doorashooyinka Qaranka JSL National Electoral Commission



Guddida Anshaxa Iyo Xallinta Khilaafad Iyo Kormeerka doorashooyinka qaranka

Tix: C/A/XKH/K-06/2024

21 October 2024

Ku: Dhamaan Xisbiyada Qaranka Iyo Urrurada Siyaasada

Ujeedo: Ilaalinta Xeerka, Shuruuca Iyo Anshaxa Doorashooyinka ee Wakhtiga Ololaha Doorashooyinka

- 1. waxaan dhamaan Xisbiyada /Urrurada siyaasada Iyo dawaynahaba waxaanu ku wargalinaynaa in ay ka reeban tahay wax kastoo ay reebtay Diinteena Islaamka, Dhaqan keena suuban, Iyo Xeerarka ka dalku.
2. In la fuliyo wareegtooyinkii uu Madax waynaha Qaranku soo saaray Iyo tii uu Wasiirka A/Guduhu soo saaray
3. In xisbiyada /Urrurada ku ekaadaan waxkhtiga loo asteeyay ee ku Xusan Jadwalka doorashooyinka.
4. In laga fogaado hadalada qabyaalada Iyo kala fogaaynta Bulshada Iyo Nacaybka xanbaarsan ee ay Isticmaalayaan Xis/Ururada Iyo taageerashoodu
5. Waxaanu mar labaad Iyo Mariadexaad ba uga digaynaa in ay ku dhex milmaan ololaha doorashooyinka dadka aan loo ogolayn Sida shaqaalaha dawlada, Iyo Ciidamada kala duwan Iana Isticmaali Karin gaadidka dawlada.
6. KDQ waxay soo saareen:
- diyaar garawga ololaha Xisbi/urur waa 8:00pm habeenimo Ilaa 10:00pm habeenimo oo ah habeeke ka horeeya maallita uu u leeyahay xis/ururkaasi ololaha doorasha iyadoon la ogolayn Cod baahiye ka baxsan xafiisyada xis/ururada
- Wakhtiga ololaha: Saacadaha Ololuhu waa 6:00am subaxnimo Ilaa 6:00pm fiidnimo
7. In ay ka fogaadaan Xis/ururada siyaasadu soo bixitaanka maalin aanay lahayn (Cidii samaysaana ay mudan doonto waajibaadkeeda)
8. Waxii fal danbiyeeda waxaa shaqadooda ka qabsan doona Ciidan ka Nabad galyada (sida burburinta xafiisyada, jajibinta Boodhadhka Iwm)
9. Waxaanu ka digaynaa in astaamaha, Xafiifiyada, Baabuurta Xis/urur ay wadaagaan iskuna dhex milmaan.
10. Ugu danbayn waxaanu faraynaa dhamaan taageerayaasha Xis/ururada siyaasada inay u hogaan samaan awaamiirtaas kor ku xusan

ALLAH MAHAD LEH

Guddiga Anshaxa, Xallinta Khilaafad Iyo Kormeerka Doorashooyinka Aadam Xurayn Muhumed



International Recognition: *A Compelling Case for Somaliland*

for recognition, fits into a wider trend of breakaway regions leveraging strategic resources or locations to gain international recognition or support is neither something new nor cause for panic and jealousy. Somaliland's strong case is based on its right to self-determination and recognition because of its unique historical background, relevant legal principles, and current political circumstances.

First, the right to self-determination is enshrined in international instruments like the UN Charter (Article 1, paragraph 2) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Article 1). Although international law favors territorial integrity of states, it nevertheless appreciates exceptions for colonial contexts or severe oppression and ethnic-cleansing of peoples by their repressive dictatorial governments including significant human rights violations or denial of internal self-determination. For example, Kosovo declared independence

from Serbia (2008) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled in an advisory opinion in 2010 that Kosovo's declaration did not violate international law (Remedial Secession). Today, Kosovo is recognized by many countries with the exception of only Serbia and Russia. Similarly, after decades of brutal civil war in Sudan, the south, now South Sudan, seceded from Sudan following a referendum.

Recognition of breakaway states is merely a political act, not strictly governed by international law. For breakaway regions, recognition by powerful states can make a significant difference and in some cases, entities seek recognition by offering strategic advantages, such as military bases. For instance, in 1983, Northern Cyprus declared independence from Cyprus and today is only recognized by Turkiya. In exchange for recognition and support, Northern Cyprus allows Turkiya to run military bases there. Likewise, Abkhazia and South Ossetia

broke away from Georgia after the war with Russia (2008) and were given formal recognition by Russia in exchange to establish a military base there which bolstered their claims to independence. Transnistria, a region in Moldova also declared independence in 1990 for a similar deal and is recognized by Russia, though it remains unrecognized by most countries.

Historically, when regions declare self-independence, they often enter into military agreements with powerful nations. This is a strategic move on their part to gain legitimacy and defence capabilities, even without international recognition. A case in point, the United States has a military base in Kosovo (Camp Bondsteel), which serves both strategic and protective functions. The U.S. also provides arms sales and conducts military training with Taiwan, ensuring its self defense capabilities. This U.S. -Taiwan Defence Cooperation agreement doesn't amount to a military base,

but it is well understood that the huge U.S. military forces in the region play a critical role in Taiwan's security to safeguard its de facto international recognition.

Taiwan has both economic and diplomatic de facto recognition and engages with many countries economically and diplomatically through mutually signed and binding strategic partnerships and arms sales agreements despite the lack of official state recognition.

Similarly, Somaliland's case to use its geographic advantage to obtain formal recognition is therefore a "no brainer" concept, so to speak! For starters, Somaliland has already leased parts of the strategic port of Berbera to the United Arab Emirates which is using it as a military and commercial hub to project power in the Horn of Africa. Adding Ethiopia to the list of strategic partners would further increase Somaliland's importance in the Red Sea region which is one of the most important trade routes in the world where several other actors including Saudi Arabia, China, the U.S., Egypt, Iran and Turkiya are vying for influence. Of note is the fact that Djibouti currently hosts a horde of military bases within its territories.

Foremost amongst them are the main ones such as the French with 1000 soldiers at Tadjoura, US with 4000 soldiers at Camp Lemonnier, China at Golf Camp with 3000 servicemen, Japan with strength of 1000 at Port Djibouti and Italy with 500 soldiers at Camp Doria.

In essence, there are a total of 16 military bases presence in the country with the likes of Spain, Saudi and UAE amongst the rest 11 to a lesser extent. They both fall under the categories of foreign operated military bases and transit and logistical ones.

For that matter, base in Somaliland would give landlocked Ethiopia greater autonomy over its maritime security and trade routes, reducing its dependence on Djibouti and could also shift Ethiopia's position in its broader rivalry with Eritrea thus enhancing its role in the regional security architecture. Somaliland and Ethiopia could help its allies and contribute to the security in the region in countering terrorism and piracy to protect global shipping lanes. Somaliland's current situation clearly highlights how so-called "breakaway" regions are increasingly using strategic resources as bargaining chips in the quest for recognition, similar to other unrecognized or partially recognized entities globally.

Additionally, Somaliland has a very strong case for recognition based on its historical status as a sovereign state (June 26-July 1st 1960), its de facto recognition for the past 33 years, and its fulfillment of the criteria for statehood under international law. Its stability, democratic

governance, and strategic importance make it an ideal candidate for recognition by countries like Ethiopia, UAE, Britain, and the United States and others to follow in due course.

Somaliland's compelling case for recognition is additionally based on its historical independence and initial recognition. Somaliland was a British Protectorate until it gained independence on June 26, 1996, and was recognized as an independent state. It became a member of the United Nations, and within four days, it voluntarily united with the former Italian administered Trust Territory of Somalia to form the Somali Republic. This union, however, was never ratified or institutionalized through a proper legal framework, and the partnership quickly became unequal, problematic and dysfunctional. Somaliland declared independence after the collapse of the Somali State in 1991. Since then, it has functioned as a de facto state, with stable government, democratic elections, a functioning judiciary, and a separate military. Somaliland, therefore, has the right to revert back to its original independent status and restore its sovereignty (1960), and this justifies its relentless quest for international recognition.

By the same token, it meets the legal basis for self-determination in international law in the context of colonialism and peoples seeking independence from brutal oppressive failing states like Somalia, which is a classic textbook case. The UN Charter (Article 1, paragraph 2), gives Somaliland the right to legally restore its independence, however, its efforts to gain international recognition have been frustrated and blocked by the African Union's commitment to maintaining colonial borders and Somalia's claims of sovereignty. The African Union's position on respecting so-called colonial borders, while well-intentioned, cannot be applied to this exceptional case where two independent states (Somaliland and Somalia) entered into a union that was never legally ratified and which subsequently became dysfunctional and collapsed.

Article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) further guarantees the right to self-determination, especially when people are oppressed or denied a meaningful role in governance. In the case of Somaliland, it was worse following the brutal civil war (1988-1991) in which over 50,000 Somalilanders were killed, more than a million forced to flee and the region's major cities bombarded and leveled to the ground. In 2001, the people of Somaliland overwhelmingly

UCID Chair accuses the GUURTI of trampling upon the constitution, as he takes swipe at KULMIYE and WADDANI



By M.A Egge

The Chairman of the UCID political party Mr. Feisal Ali Hussein has accused Somaliland Senate, the GUURTI, of excessively trampling upon the constitution of the country and operating in illegal manner by flouting basic regulations.

He at the same time charged that the ruling party KULMIYE administration has flagrantly mal-administered the nation during its stint at the helm by destroying the national stature of the country and polarizing the populaces in collusion with WADDANI party.

The Justice and Welfare (UCID) chairman who is trying his hand in winning the presidential elections and vying for the fourth time made the sentiments in a large gathering at the city's Freedom Gardens on Wednesday as his party was campaigning.

Using strong terms to chide the Senate, and both political parties, Feisal promised the audience that

he would turn things around for the people if he is elected.

He charged that the GUURTI always extended their terms, made the seats hierarchy instead of being subjected to elections, had members younger than the mandated age and claimed that even some mentally handicapped are in the senate.

The ongoing campaigns are for the elections scheduled to be held on the 13th of November 2024 hence are for both the presidency and the political parties to be held simultaneously on the same day. Regulations demand that there should always be three political parties with tenure of ten years hence the top three are thus the winners.

Seven political organizations are in the fray focused on unseating the present official political parties of KULMIYE, WADDANI and UCID. Elections regulations provide that each and every political party or

organization solely hold their campaigns country-wide every single day in adherence to a scheduled timetable.

Somaliland's election campaign entered its fifth day yesterday, and the UCID party showed its support. He pledged to provide better living standards, free education and health system, better infrastructure and create abundant jobs.

Speakers in all arenas and venues that saw the party supporters converge echoed similar sentiments of profound and elaborate promises and pledges of good tidings if they become triumphant in the elections.

The UCID party had its field day soliciting for votes in the city of Hargeisa, Marodi-jeeh, Gebiley and Togdeer regions with thousands of supporters carrying their party flags, singing its songs and chanting slogans in support for both its presidential candidate and the party it-self.

Continue on page 5

International Recognition: A Compelling Case for Somaliland

expressed their desire for independence in a referendum under Article 1 of CCPR, where over 97% of voters supported independence refusing to be part of a failed, sort of a political marriage of convenience union with Somalia. Moreover, the concept of Remedial Secession under international law argues that a region can secede when the central government fails to function or when a union as with Somalia became dysfunctional culminating in 1991.

In addition, a key element in gaining international recognition under international law is proving that an entity meets the criteria for statehood as outlined in the Montevideo Convention (1933) which defines statehood based on a) a permanent population which is about 4 million in Somaliland; b) a defined territory which is clearly defined for Somaliland with internationally recognized borders, largely coinciding with those of the former British Somaliland Protectorate, c) a functioning government which Somaliland has and finally, the capacity to enter into relations with other states. Somaliland has been actively engaged in diplomatic and economic relations with international organizations as well as with several countries, even though it is not formally recognized. It is no secret that it has officially signed many agreements with other countries including Ethiopia, UAE, Taiwan and EU.

Given all of the above factors, Somaliland meets all the criteria for statehood, but lacks formal recognition merely due to political considerations rather than legal shortcomings. However, recent developments and international perspectives seem to be inching towards final formal recognition for Somaliland, which has already gained informal recognition. The UAE's military base and port agreements in Berbera have given Somaliland a higher geopolitical profile in the Horn of Africa region and it has also signed the MOU with Ethiopia for a sea access and potential naval base in exchange for formal recognition.

In short, recent reports of the U.S. Engagement suggests that the United States is increasingly engaging with Somaliland, recognizing its stability in sharp contrast to continued instability despite the military support it has been getting from thousands of African troops for the past 17 years. And while the U.S. has not formally recognized Somaliland, growing security and economic ties could pave the way for future diplomatic support. For instance, in 2001,

members of the U.S. Congress introduced resolutions calling for an immediate U.S. engagement with Somaliland.

Similarly, there has been growing momentum within the UK political establishment to formally recognize Somaliland as an independent state, driven mainly by multiple factors, including UK's historical responsibility, Somaliland's track record and its importance in regional security. There are ongoing Parliamentary Debates calling for the UK government to formally recognize Somaliland. They argue that Somaliland meets all the criteria for statehood and that Britain, as a former colonial power, has special responsibility to lead the way emphasizing its stability compared to Somalia.

The UK media has also begun covering the debates around Somaliland's recognition more actively with several prominent outlets like The Guardian and the Telegraph publishing several editorials, opinion pieces and analysis arguing for Somaliland's recognition and advocating for a shift in UK policy towards formal recognition of Somaliland, framing it as a moral and strategic necessity given the fact that Somaliland as an independent state voluntarily entered into union with Somalia. As a former colonial power, Britain has a historical connection to Somaliland that makes its potential recognition particularly significant. Although there still remain some challenges, it is only a matter of time before powerful countries like the UK, U.S., and UAE. get onboard. For now, they don't want to be seen meddling in the internal affairs of African countries, and are naturally waiting on the sidelines for formal recognition to first come from an African country, namely Ethiopia.

It remains to be seen whether or not the current dynamic geopolitical chess game competition for influence and hegemony on the volatile but strategic Horn of Africa's Red Sea region will play a significant role in expediting Somaliland's long-overdue de jure recognition in light of the compelling arguments I had articulated in this article.

**By Prof. Nassir Hussein Kahin
Former Political Science Major in
International Relations and
International Law,
University of Tennessee,
Knoxville, Tn. U.S.A., and
Former Editor and Freelance
Journalist
Now a professor at Gollis
University based in Hargeisa,
Somaliland.**

Georgia Gilholy: The UK should look less to Somalia but more to Somaliland



It was scorching hot inside the Hargeysa Cultural Centre.

There was a printed photo of a BBC journalist given pride of place on one of the whitewashed walls, presumably to signal respect.

In a nearby glass cabinet a pamphlet slamming the corporation's bias was presented surrounded by old passports and coinage. I'm sure the museum's proprietor's young granddaughter running around the room was more baffled at the presence of a handful of sweaty European visitors than this confusing arrangement of artefacts.

Bafflement indeed is the expression that passed over the face of most people when I told them I was about to visit Somaliland. No doubt visions of famine, terrorism and Black Hawk Down were their reference points. But Somaliland is not what its southern neighbour has become synonymous with, and the territory has shifted immensely since the chaos of the late 20th century.

Somaliland is a self-declared republic in the Horn of Africa that has sought international recognition since its break from Somalia in the midst of a bloody civil war in 1991, in which 90 percent of its now capital city was carpet bombed on Mogadishu's orders.

Despite its lack of formal recognition, Somaliland has built a functioning government, held democratic elections, and maintained peace, all while sitting next to one of the most fragile states in the world, with minimal international aid or support. While foreigners on cushy press tours must always take what they see with a grain of salt, the reality is that such a tour in Somalia would be much more hazardous if allowed to take place at all—especially with a woman on board.

Naturally, Somaliland continues to have its fair share of disputes and shortcomings. In 2017 the state's only Catholic church—built under British rule—was shut by the government due to "public pressures", a mere eight days after it was officially reopened. There are few native Christians, and migrant workers from the Philippines and other parts of Africa must worship in private. Areas that border Somalia continue to experience sporadic clashes, with various parties blaming one another for the

violence.

But this is worlds apart from Somalia proper, to which we funnel millions in foreign aid, is a failed state. By 2020, the UK was sending £232 million in aid, though this was cut to £100 million by 2022.

We continue to see little return on investment—political instability, terrorism, and corruption reign, with Somalia consistently ranking near the bottom of global freedom indexes, just ahead of North Korea. While much of this aid is intended to help those in need, there are no available estimates on its success rates, due to the expectation of corruption and interference by terror groups and shady officials. The UK is home to thousands of Somali and Somaliland refugees from its civil war and famine, and their descendants.

Somaliland, on the other hand, has proven itself to be, while far from perfect, a freer, fairer, and more stable arrangement. Despite its clan-based system and adherence to strict Islamic values, it has held a form of democratic elections, with another presidential election scheduled for November 14th. It is not a Western-style democracy, but it is leagues ahead of Somalia, where a semblance of law and order is far out of reach, nevermind meaningful elections.

For the UK, ties to Somaliland run deeper than contemporary geopolitics.

As I walked through Hargeisa's Commonwealth graves, it struck me that many in the UK might not realise how many Somalilanders fought alongside British forces during the World Wars.

There's an emotional and historic connection here—one that the UK has largely ignored. Somaliland was once a British protectorate yet we've turned our backs on its quest for recognition, while its fellow African states such as South Sudan and Eritrea have achieved international status despite having weaker democratic credentials. The UK is, of course, not obliged to advocate for, or intervene on behalf of, any place it has ever ruled. To do so would be to impede Britain's own interests – which the Foreign Office seems bent on doing anyhow – and succumb to a range of crackpot rules.

Still, the UK is more than happy to

essentially surrender the Chagos Islands as we did Hong Kong, and entertain the fantastical reparations theories put out by the Commonwealth – fast becoming an outlet not for allegiance but anti-British grievance mongering.

We should take all the friends we can, with some exceptions.

Beyond this shared history, which naturally included clashes between British authorities and local ones, Somaliland offers strategic advantages that the UK cannot afford to ignore. As global powers like China and Iran seek influence in the Horn of Africa, Somaliland's strategic location on the Red Sea makes it a crucial ally. Beijing, which is the biggest foreign investor in Ethiopia, has already set its sights on operating Berbera Port, a vital maritime hub, and we must act before they establish a foothold.

The US has already begun taking positive steps by involving Somaliland in the National Defence Authorization Act. There is now even talk of relocating the Camp Lemonnier base in Djibouti to Berbera. These moves signal a growing recognition of Somaliland's importance in the global alliance against authoritarian powers. If we don't move swiftly, we risk ceding influence to China or other malign actors.

The UK's current position, supporting talks between Somalia and Somaliland, has proven fruitless.

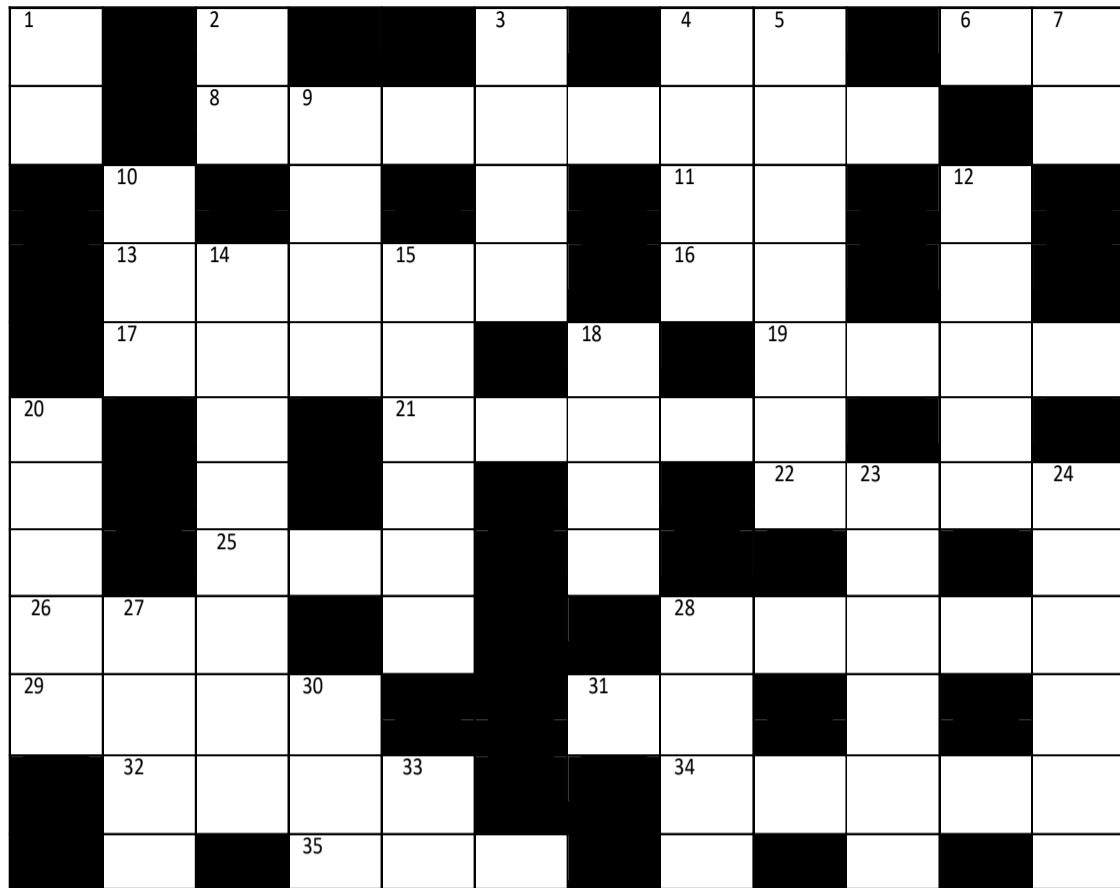
After 11 rounds of negotiations, mostly stymied by the inability of its neighbouring basket case to engage meaningfully, it's time to rethink our strategy. Somaliland could be a credible ally, and our continued refusal to recognize its independence is alienating a partner that we could rely on in the volatile region.

The case for recognising Somaliland is clear.

It is a beacon of stability among chaos, an ally in the fight against China and Russia, and it shares a historical bond with Britain which ought to be harnessed to our strategic advantage, not tossed aside. By continuing to ignore its quest for independence, we risk not only losing a potential ally and trade partner but also allowing hostile powers to extend their grip over a strategically crucial region.

Georgia L Gilholy is a journalist.

THT Puzzle



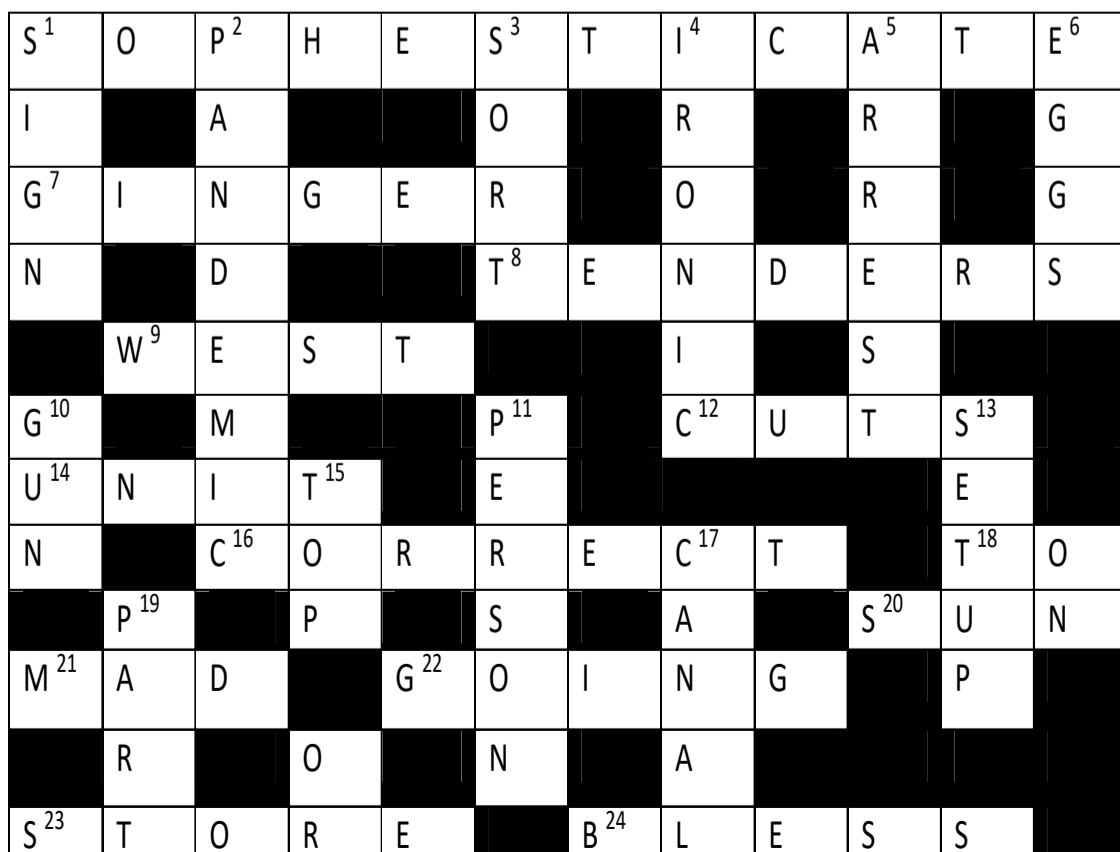
ACROSS

- 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



President graces maiden graduation of Media Training Institute for 23 pioneer students



By M.A. Egge

The President of the Republic of Somaliland H.E. Musa Bihi Abdi graced the occasion of the maiden graduation of the Ministry of Information's Media Training Institute which was recently established that saw the first batch of 23 pioneer students earn certificates after completing four months course in basic journalism techniques.

He personally presented the certificates to the graduates.

The Head of State similarly unveiled and launched various projects that have been implemented by the Ministry of Information for the past 11 months.

In his passionate speech to the scribes, the President urged them to be responsible in their duties and adhere to the tenets and ethics of the profession as per cue.

He reminded them of the venerable and onerous tasks the profession entailed and likened it to demands of etiquettes similar to those of clerical sermons from the pulpit.

He stated that the media fraternity should always be at the forefront in their obligations of fostering positive ideals that are paramount in upholding and safeguarding unity, cohesion, progress and stability within the nation as they go about their duties in disseminating information and associated news.

It is worth noting that the tutorial

staff of the institution are well established and veteran journalists led by journalism don Professor Dahir Mohamud Haddi, Faysal Fadfadle, Abdillahi Wayab, Hussein Jama (Hagar) and Ahmed Fas, amongst others. The 23 students were drawn from both the public and the private media.

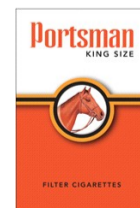
On his part the Information, Culture and National Guidance Minister Hon. Ali Mohamed Hassan who is popularly known as Ali Mareehaan, informed the audience of the tasks he had achieved by being at the helm of the ministry during the short stint of time of slightly a year.

The Director General of the ministry Mr. Mustafa Abdi Isse (Shiine), who is himself a veteran journalist, briefed the President on the genesis of the implementation of the Media Training Institute.

He said that as a ministry they made consultations with the present tutorial board and pondered on the inception of the academy, and at last, put the concepts into gear and finally it was established.

Immediately the foundation stone was then for the academy, laid by none other than the president himself five months ago, and now the fruits of the efforts is the maiden pioneer lot that have just been churned out armed with better expertise in the professional strings.

**CAUTIONARY NOTICE
TRADE MARK – SOMALILAND**



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above trade mark is the trade mark of: British American Tobacco (Brands) Limited, a British company of Globe House, 4 Temple Place, London WC2R 2PG, United Kingdom and is used in connection with: Cigarettes; tobacco; tobacco products; lighters; matches; smokers' articles.

The mark is in use in the colours red, orange, black and white.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that legal proceedings will be taken against any person or company who uses the said trade mark or any imitations thereof or who otherwise infringes the rights of the said company.

Information minister hails President for gracing maiden graduation ceremony of Media Training Institute



By M.A. Egge
The Minister of Information, Culture and National Guidance Hon. Ali Mohamed Hassan hailed the President for gracing the occasion of the maiden graduation of the first batch of 23 pioneer students at the

Media Training Institute at the ministry's headquarters. He said, "Mr. President, it is our pleasure to welcome you to the Media Training Institute which is part and parcel of the Ministry of Information established five months

ago and here we are today seeing the pioneer batch graduating in this grand ceremony". He added, "I humbly thank you today for gracing this occasion which is a great honour for both the graduates and the entire ministry at large". The minister gave a brief on his stay at the ministry highlighting the truly monumental progress that he has been able to achieve in his short stint of roughly a year at the docket. He informed the audience present of the high caliber of the tutorial staff at the institute. He hailed both his deputy and the ministry's DG for being a gem in the ministry hence pointed out the valuable selfless inputs that they have injected into the progressive fledgling of the ministry.

Somaliland Government Grants Official Recognition to the Somaliland Teachers' Association (SOLTA)

The Somaliland government has officially recognized the **Somaliland Teachers' Association (SOLTA)**, a significant milestone for an organization that has long sought recognition to advocate for teachers and the advancement of education in the region.

In a formal ceremony, the Minister of Education and Science, **Dr. Ahmed Aden Buhane**, confirmed that **Somaliland Teachers' Association (SOLTA)** has now met the necessary criteria to operate as a legal entity representing the nation's teachers.

This recognition marks a pivotal step for **SOLTA** in its mission to unite teachers across **Somaliland** and to contribute to the broader development of the educational sector.

In a press release issued by **Somaliland Teachers' Association (SOLTA)**, the organization expressed its gratitude and outlined the significance of this recognition: "We are excited to announce that the **Somaliland Teachers' Association (SOLTA)** has officially been recognized by the Somaliland Ministry of Education and Science. This historic approval, formalized through letter ref: **WWS/W/01/229/2004** dated **30/09/2024**, signals a new era for teachers and education in Somaliland."

SOLTA was initially granted a **Trade Union Registration Certificate** by the Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs & Family on **25th-March-2021**. With this recent recognition, **SOLTA** is now authorized to represent teachers at the primary, intermediate, and secondary levels across Somaliland. This formal approval strengthens the



association's ability to champion the professional interests of teachers and contribute to educational progress throughout the nation.

Reflecting on the organization's growth, **Somaliland Teachers' Association (SOLTA)** noted that its first General Assembly Meeting was held on **20th-December-2021** at Mansoor Hotel in Hargeisa, Somaliland. During this landmark gathering, delegates representing teachers from all regions of Somaliland elected twenty-three members to the Board of Directors, as well as regional governors and five executive committee members. This event marked the start of **SOLTA's** unified efforts to advocate for teachers' welfare and enhance educational outcomes.

SOLTA also expressed deep appreciation for the support received from key government figures:

"We extend our deepest gratitude to the Minister of Education and Science, Dr. Ahmed Aden Buhane, for his support and approval of this important recognition. We also thank the Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs & Family for their continued backing since our inception."

Moving forward, **SOLTA** is

committed to collaborating closely with the Somaliland Ministry of Education and Science, as well as international partners, donors, and educational stakeholders. The association aims to contribute meaningfully to educational growth, promote teachers' professional development, and enhance the quality of education across the region.

"By forging strong partnerships, we are dedicated to advancing the teaching profession, encouraging continuous professional growth, and building a robust educational system that benefits educators and students alike," the press release continued.

Somaliland Teachers' Association (SOLTA) acknowledged the hard work and contributions of all individuals who have helped make this vision a reality, reaffirming its dedication to the future of education in Somaliland. Ahmed Mohamed Ahmed (Ahmed Omaar) Director of Training and Organizational Development | Member of the Board of Directors Somaliland Teachers' Association (SOLTA) Email: soltateachers@gmail.com Hargeisa, Somaliland

CAUTIONARY NOTICE TRADE MARK – SOMALILAND



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above trade mark is the trade mark of: British American Tobacco (Brands) Limited, a British company of Globe House, 4 Temple Place, London WC2R 2PG United Kingdom and is used in connection with: Cigarettes; tobacco, raw or manufactured; roll your own tobacco; pipe tobacco; tobacco products; tobacco substitutes (not for medical purposes); cigars; cigarillos; cigarette lighters for smokers; cigar lighters for smokers; matches; smokers' articles; cigarette paper; cigarette tubes; cigarette filters; pocket apparatus for rolling cigarettes; hand held machines for injecting tobacco into paper tubes; electronic cigarettes; liquids for electronic cigarettes; tobacco products for the purpose of being heated.

The mark is used in the colours orange, yellow, red, brown, grey, black and white.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that legal proceedings will be taken against any person or company who uses the said trade mark or any imitations thereof or who otherwise infringes the rights of the said company.

CAUTIONARY NOTICE TRADE MARK – SOMALILAND



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above trade mark is the trade mark of: British American Tobacco (Brands) Limited, a British company of Globe House, 4 Temple Place, London WC2R 2PG United Kingdom and is used in connection with: Cigarettes; tobacco, raw or manufactured; roll your own tobacco; pipe tobacco; tobacco products; tobacco substitutes (not for medical purposes); cigars; cigarillos; cigarette lighters for smokers; cigar lighters for smokers; matches; smokers' articles; cigarette paper; cigarette tubes; cigarette filters; pocket apparatus for rolling cigarettes; hand held machines for injecting tobacco into paper tubes; electronic cigarettes; liquids for electronic cigarettes; tobacco products for the purpose of being heated.

The mark is used in the colours orange, red, brown, grey, black and white.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that legal proceedings will be taken against any person or company who uses the said trade mark or any imitations thereof or who otherwise infringes the rights of the said company.

CAUTIONARY NOTICE TRADE MARK – SOMALILAND



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above trade mark is the trade mark of: FUJITSU LIMITED, of 1-1, Kamikodanaka 4-chome, Nakahara-ku, Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa, 211-8588, Japan and is used in connection with: Computers; computer servers; computer hardware for data storage; computer peripheral devices; computer software; computer programming services; computer rental services; server hosting; rental of web servers; optimization services for computers, namely, computer networks and computer software configuration, installation of computer software, maintenance and upgrading of computer software, namely, enhancing functions of computer software, changing or adding of functions for computer software, and providing information thereon; software as a service (SAAS) services; computer system consulting and advisory services.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that legal proceedings will be taken against any person or company who uses the said trade mark or any imitations thereof or who otherwise infringes the rights of the said company.

CAUTIONARY NOTICE TRADE MARK – SOMALILAND



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above trade mark is the trade mark of: British American Tobacco (Brands) Limited, a British company of Globe House, 4 Temple Place, London WC2R 2PG United Kingdom and is used in connection with: Cigarettes; tobacco, raw or manufactured; roll your own tobacco; pipe tobacco; tobacco products; tobacco substitutes (not for medical purposes); cigars; cigarillos; cigarette lighters for smokers; cigar lighters for smokers; matches; smokers' articles; cigarette paper; cigarette tubes; cigarette filters; pocket apparatus for rolling cigarettes; hand held machines for injecting tobacco into paper tubes; electronic cigarettes; liquids for electronic cigarettes; tobacco products for the purpose of being heated.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that legal proceedings will be taken against any person or company who uses the said trade mark or any imitations thereof or who otherwise infringes the rights of the said company.

CAUTIONARY NOTICE TRADE MARK – SOMALILAND



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above trade mark is the trade mark of: FUJITSU LIMITED, of 1-1, Kamikodanaka 4-chome, Nakahara-ku, Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa, 211-8588, Japan and is used in connection with: Computers; computer servers; computer hardware for data storage; computer peripheral devices; computer software; computer programming services; computer rental services; server hosting; rental of web servers; optimization services for computers, namely, computer networks and computer software configuration, installation of computer software, maintenance and upgrading of computer software, namely, enhancing functions of computer software, changing or adding of functions for computer software, and providing information thereon; software as a service (SAAS) services; computer system consulting and advisory services.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that legal proceedings will be taken against any person or company who uses the said trade mark or any imitations thereof or who otherwise infringes the rights of the said company.