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President Musa hosts his successor in a meeting at the Presidency



President-elect Abdirahman expresses his gratitude to the outgoing President for his service to the nation

By M.A. Egge

The outgoing president H. E. Musa Bihi Abdi on Saturday met his successor President-elect Dr. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro at the presidency as the nation undergoes the change of guard at the helm of the country's

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President Musa Bihi congratulates his successor on his triumph in the just concluded general elections

By M.A. Egge

The President of the Republic of Somaliland H.E. Musa Bihi Abdi has congratulated his WADDANI flag-bearing challenger Dr. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro, who have just been declared

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It is time for tranquility and nation building, President-elect Dr. Abdirahman Irro says as addresses the nation



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Final Salute: Somaliland Mourns Silanyo, Architect of Its Modern Statehood, Pioneer of Peace and Democracy



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NEC Announces Interim Results for the Presidential, National Party Elections



The National Electoral Commission of Somaliland today announced the interim results of the double elections it held on the 13th of November pending final certification of the Constitutional

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U.S. Congressman Chris Smith congratulates Somaliland on its successful presidential election

U.S. Congressman Chris Smith (R-NJ), senior member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and Chair of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China,



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Ethiopia congratulates Somaliland for conducting peaceful, democratic elections



Ethiopian Ambassador to Somaliland, Teshome Shunde conferred with President-elect of Somaliland H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi. Ethiopia's ambassador to Somaliland his deputy ambassador, and the military attaché held a special meeting on Thursday.

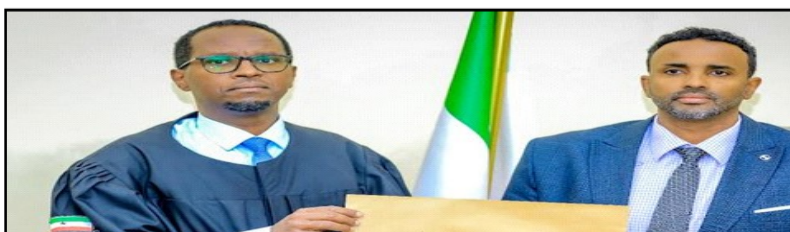
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Former President Rayaale congratulates President –elect Abdirahman Irro upon his triumph



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NEC Submits Provisional Results of the November 13 Double Elections to Constitutional Court



The National Electoral Commission (NEC) of Somaliland h officially submitted the provisional results of the Presidential and Party elections

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Somaliland's Elections Gain International Approval, Bolstering Case for Recognition



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President Musa hosts his successor in a meeting at the Presidency



Presidential Palace in Hargeisa. The meeting underscored the commitment of both presidents to ensuring a peaceful transfer of power and fostering national unity. During their discussions, President Musa Bihi Abdi reaffirmed his dedication to upholding the nation's constitutional processes and wished the President-elect success in his upcoming term.

On his part, President-elect Abdirahman expressed his gratitude to the outgoing President for his service to the nation and emphasized his administration's commitment to building on the achievements of past governments. Both presidents highlighted the need for continued collaboration to address pressing national priorities. The meeting concluded with a shared message of unity and hope for the future of Somaliland.

They called upon all citizens to remain concertedly engaged and supportive of efforts to promote peace, democracy, and progress. The president was flanked at the meeting with both Speakers of the Lower and Upper Houses of the Parliament, the Honourables Mohamoud Hiir and Suleiman Adan respectively and Supreme Court Chairman Hon Adan H. Ali.

only a quarter of a century. Following their meeting yesterday, the Presidency circulated the following press release: -
PRESS RELEASE
 Meeting Between President-elect Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi and President Muse Bihi Abdi. Hargeisa, Somaliland – Today, Saturday 23rd November 2024, marks a historic moment in the Republic of Somaliland's democratic journey. His Excellency Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi, the President-elect of the Republic of Somaliland met with His Excellency Musa Bihi Abdi, the incumbent President of the Republic of Somaliland at the executive. Following an election held highly and hailed both locally and internationally, the WADDANI flagbearer and his running mate VP-elect Mohamed Ali Abdi were given the mandate by the electorate to steer the country further. The incumbent President H.E. Musa Bihi Abdi immediately after the elections congratulated his challenger for winning the elections in a fashion unseen in the developing world, further depicting the maturity in Somaliland's democratic system which happens to be the 8th national elections to be held in the short space of time of

only a quarter of a century. Following their meeting yesterday, the Presidency circulated the following press release: -
PRESS RELEASE
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President Musa Bihi congratulates his successor on his triumph in the just concluded general elections



by the NEC as the newly elected as the president of the Republic of Somaliland, to succeed him for the next five years following the concluded 13th November 2024 elections. The Head of State addressed the nation from the state house. According to a press release from the Presidency on Wednesday afternoon, President Muse Bihi Abdi thanked everyone who participated in the presidential and political party elections in the country who cast their votes maturely, peacefully and without incidents at all. He also praised and thanked the security forces for a job well done and also hailed competing political

parties and organizations. President Musa Bihi Abdi has made it vividly clear by publicly stating that he has accepted the victory of WADANI party and its flag-bearer for their triumph. He noted that as per the democratic etiquettes and norms, he congratulates his successor for the win and urged his supporters and the people of the nation at large to accord the newly elected president the support he deserves. He pointed out that it is the nation and democracy that has won the day and that as per the constitution the administrative procedures of governance ought to continue in peaceful solidarity such that the

nation may reach newer and greater heights as far as progress and development is concerned. The President added, "It is not a day for us to argue and fight with each other, but it is a day for us to win together and build our nation," said President Muse Bihi Abdi. President Musa Bihi Abdi called on the supporters of the KULMIYE party to abide by the results, and he asked the people of Somaliland to cooperate with the elected President and support him in concerted efforts to advancing the aspirations of the nationhood of Somaliland hence the realization and achieving of tangible progress.

Ethiopia congratulates Somaliland for conducting peaceful, democratic elections



The two sides have discussed various issues related to the relations between the two nations.

NEC Submits Provisional Results of the November 13 Double Elections to Constitutional Court



to the Constitutional Supreme Court, today, Wednesday, for final certification. Commissioner Musa Hassan Haji Yussuf asked the Chief Justice to receive the provisional results the Commission released on Tuesday, October 19.

In accepting the documents, the Honorable Chief Justice expressed his appreciation of the toils, the organization, and the impeccable organizational skills of the electoral body throughout the process leading to the final polling day and the results he was being handed.

This submission represents the culmination of a meticulous electoral process and upholds the principles of transparency, integrity, and constitutional governance in Somaliland.

The path to this significant milestone began with the November 13, 2023, combined presidential and political parties' registration elections, a crucial democratic exercise in the Horn of Africa. The road to these elections was not without its challenges, as the process faced several delays from its original 2022 schedule. These postponements stemmed from political disagreements, technical preparation requirements, and the necessity to complete comprehensive voter registration, ultimately leading to extensions of President Muse Bihi Abdi's term beyond its initial December 2022 conclusion.

The NEC, functioning as Somaliland's independent electoral body, managed the intricate dual

election process, overseeing both the presidential election to determine the nation's next leader and the political parties' registration election to establish which three political organizations would achieve official party status. The electoral process incorporated several modern elements, including a biometric voting system to enhance transparency and reliability. International election observers were present throughout the process, while voter participation remained robust across Somaliland's six regions. This electoral process carries exceptional significance in Somaliland's political landscape. It serves as a testament to the nation's unwavering commitment to democratic principles and the strengthening of its institutional frameworks. The successful execution of these elections not only demonstrates the possibility of peaceful political transitions in the Horn of Africa but also reinforces Somaliland's ongoing quest for international recognition. As the Constitutional Supreme Court reviews the provisional results, this penultimate step in the electoral process stands as a powerful affirmation of Somaliland's dedication to constitutional democracy. The careful adherence to legal procedures and institutional protocols throughout this process underscores the maturity of Somaliland's democratic system and its commitment to the rule of law in managing political transitions.ST.

NEC Announces Interim Results for the Presidential, National Party Elections



Court. Quoting relevant articles of the Constitution and the Consolidated National Parties and Voter Registration Act No 91/2003, the Honorable Chairman of the National Commission Musa Hassan Yussuf, revealed the results.

He stated that the voter turnout for the national party status election was 646,188 voters which translated to 53% of the nationally registered voters. Out of this 630,812 (98%) were validated correct where 16,032 (2%) ballot papers were faulted one way or the other.

The commissioner, then, first announced what each of the three old national parties and the 7 political associations running won of the approved votes cast, as below:

1. Barwaaqo 16,852 votes
2. Rejo 2,083 votes
3. Horseed 87,218 votes
4. Talowadaag 6,080 votes
5. UCID 10,105 votes
6. KAAH 131,507 votes
7. Hillaac 59,569 votes
8. Shacabka 2,014 votes
9. WADDANI 216,284 votes
10. KULMIYE 108,100 votes

This meant that WADDANI, KAAH, and KULMIYE – in this order – won their places as national parties for the next 10 years as the law stipulated.

Then the Commissioner proceeded to announce for the results of the race for the presidency in which the incumbent President Musa Bihi Abdi ran on a KULMIYE ticket, Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi 'Irro', for WADDANI, and Faisal Ali Hussein for UCID – each with his running mate as Vice President.

Commissioner Musa announced that voters who turned out for the presidential election were 674,863 of which 638,126 were approved with 9,528 votes found wanting, spoiled.

Here is how each presidential candidate and VP fared by party name in the run:

- WADDANI 407,908 votes 63.92%
- KULMIYE 225,519 votes 34.81%
- UCID 4,699 votes 0.74%

Thus, Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi and his Vice-president-elect, Mohamed Ahmed Ali, were declared the winners of the race for

the presidential Palace.

The Chairman hoped that each of the runners, as well as, the political parties and political associations would gracefully accept the results announced and concede wins for the successful emergers.

The Commission Chairman sincerely thanked the incumbent President, His Excellency Musa Bihi Abdi, who, he said, never interfered in the election process although he was holding the purse strings that bankrolled it.

"My most sincere appreciation and gratitude goes to the President of the Republic of Somaliland who never demurred of a commission request submitted to him however seemingly difficult or impossible looking it was," Commissioner Musa Hassan stated. "Nearly seventy-five per cent of the double election cost was paid from the government coffer," he revealed.

"The United Kingdom, the European Commission, Taiwan, and NIMD – the Norwegian Institute for Multiparty Democracy – have earned our deepest gratitude for their support. Similarly, we are not forgetful of the international observers and the international media and everybody who has in one or another stood by us and the desire to see an impeccable, free and fair election staged," Commissioner Musa said.

He also profusely thanked the varied branches of Somaliland's security forces for the 'unforgettable' role they have undertaken in ensuring the safe conduct of the elections.

The commissioner went on to acknowledge the 'indefatigable' corps of university students and commission personnel who faultlessly manned election activities and polling stations across the nation.

Somaliland has established a remarkable tradition of peaceful power transfers since it reclaimed its independence in 1991. The 2023 election marks the sixth presidential election in the nation's history, following previous contests in 2003, 2010, and 2017.

The 2003 election was particularly significant as it saw Dahir Riyale Kahin win by a mere 80 votes,

making it one of the closest presidential races in African history. The peaceful acceptance of these results helped establish Somaliland's democratic credentials. The 2010 election witnessed the late Ahmed Mohamed Mohamoud "Silanyo" defeating the incumbent, while in 2017, Muse Bihi Abdi secured victory.

Each transition has been marked by peaceful handovers of power, a rarity in the Horn of Africa region. The 2023 election continues this tradition, with incumbent President Muse Bihi Abdi accepting the electoral outcome, further cementing Somaliland's reputation for democratic stability.

The electoral system employs a first-past-the-post model, where the candidate with the highest number of votes wins. This system, combined with the limitation of three national parties, has helped maintain political stability while allowing for genuine democratic competition.

Somaliland's track record of peaceful transitions stands in stark contrast to the situation in neighboring regions, making it a notable example of democratic practice in East Africa, despite lacking international recognition as a sovereign state.

The success of these elections and the peaceful transfers of power can be attributed to several key factors. Strong traditional conflict resolution mechanisms and the role of clan elders have been instrumental in maintaining political stability. Additionally, a robust civil society and independent electoral institutions have played crucial roles. The growing democratic culture among the population has also significantly contributed to the overall success of the electoral process.

This latest election reinforces Somaliland's commitment to democratic principles and peaceful political transitions, demonstrating the territory's political maturity despite challenging regional circumstances.

It is time for tranquility and nation building, President-elect Dr. Abdirahman Irro says as addresses the nation



By M.A. Egge

The President-elect Dr. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi, popularly known as Irro, who has just emerged the victor in a triumphant unprecedented landslide win in the just declared elections results has paid a special tribute to the family of the departed former Head of State the late Ahmed Mohamed Mohamoud Silanyo by asking his supporters to desist from frenzy and wild celebrations as the country is in mourning.

He described the elections as one that was a win for both the people and the nation of Somaliland that that ran on the platform of unity and solidarity for prosperity in what has been perceived as a political wind of change that had gripped the nation.

The presidential elections and political party results that were preliminarily announced by the National Electoral Commission came 22 barely hours after the late 4th president of the nation was laid to rest.

The President-elect once again consoled the members of the family and relatives and Somalilanders at large on the demise of the late president, as he held his first maiden address to the nation, following the triumph of both his candidature and that of his political party.

He described the just concluded elections as a win and triumph for the people and the nation of Somaliland and at the same time a plus for the democratization processes that have matured in the country.

He hailed his predecessor, H.E.

President Musa Bihi Abdi for presiding over the facilitation and the holding of a very free and fair election that has been completely incident free.

The incoming head of state noted that there will be no intimidation anymore as far as freedom of speech is concerned hence there would be no polarization of the citizenry as "we" and "them", hence attributed the triumph of the elections to both the people and nation of Somaliland.

He thanked and paid tribute to the NEC and the members of the traditional leaders for always resolving issues in a conciliatory manner and traditions that has made Somaliland a household name in the global map as home-made traditional pacifiers.

Similarly he thanked the international observers, coalition alliances of WADDANI, KAAH and BARWAQO; he also praised and congratulated the emerging three new official political parties who shall have operational mandate for the next ten years, viz. WADDANI, KAAH and KULMIYE.

He urged the populaces to foster tranquility and bond of brethren-ship hence turn towards building the nation to newer and further great heights.

As the challenger, the president-elect garnered 63.92% of the votes cast, defeating the incumbent ruling Kulmiye Party President Musa Bihi Abdi who received 34.81%.

The UCID party, with a dismal 0.74%, lost its status as an official political party, and was replaced by the Kaah organization, according to Somaliland's election laws.

Final Salute: Somaliland Mourns Siilaanyo, Architect of Its Modern Statehood, Pioneer of Peace and Democracy



We gather to bid farewell to one of Somaliland's greatest statesmen and visionaries, President Ahmed Mohamed Mohamoud 'Siilaanyo', whose lifelong dedication to public service and unwavering commitment to his people's freedom and prosperity has left an indelible mark on our nation's history.

Born in 1936 in the British Somaliland Protectorate, Siilaanyo's journey from a young scholar to the presidency of Somaliland mirrors the struggle, resilience, and triumph of the Somaliland people. His exceptional intellectual capabilities were evident early on, leading him to pursue higher education at the prestigious Manchester University in the United Kingdom, where he earned degrees in Economics and Political Science.

Siilaanyo's public service career began immediately after Somaliland gained independence from British rule in 1960. As a young economist, he served in various capacities in the civil service of the Somali Republic following the ill-fated union with Italian Somalia. His competence and dedication saw him rise through the ranks to become one of the youngest ministers in the civilian government before the military coup of 1969.

During the harsh years of Siad Barre's military dictatorship, Siilaanyo demonstrated remarkable courage and principle. Rather than acquiesce to the regime's brutality, he chose the path of resistance, becoming one of the founding members of the Somali National Movement (SNM) in 1981. As Chairman of the SNM from 1984 to 1990, he played a pivotal role in organizing the armed struggle against the military dictatorship, which had unleashed unprecedented brutality against the people of Somaliland.

Under his leadership, the SNM evolved from a guerrilla movement into a formidable force that would eventually liberate Somaliland. His strategic acumen and diplomatic skills were instrumental in garnering support for the movement, both domestically and internationally. More importantly, his leadership style emphasized unity, reconciliation, and the preservation of Somaliland's traditional conflict resolution mechanisms – elements that would prove crucial in Somaliland's post-war reconstruction.

The systematic persecution of Somalilanders by Siad Barre's regime culminated in the 1988 bombardment of Hargeisa and other major cities, resulting in the deaths of tens of thousands of civilians and the displacement of hundreds of thousands more. Throughout this dark period,

Siilaanyo's leadership provided hope and direction to a people facing extinction. His unwavering commitment to justice and freedom inspired many to persist in the struggle despite overwhelming odds.

When Somaliland reclaimed its sovereignty in 1991, Siilaanyo played a crucial role in the series of grand conferences that established the foundations of peace and state-building. His emphasis on inclusive dialogue and consensus-building helped forge the unique hybrid system of governance that combines traditional Somali institutions with modern democratic principles – a system that has made Somaliland a beacon of stability in the Horn of Africa.

As Minister of Planning and Coordination in the first Somaliland government, Siilaanyo contributed significantly to laying the groundwork for Somaliland's reconstruction. His economic expertise proved invaluable in mobilizing resources and coordinating international aid during those crucial early years when Somaliland was rising from the ashes of war.

The culmination of Siilaanyo's public service came with his election as the fourth President of Somaliland in 2010. His presidency (2010-2017) was marked by significant achievements in infrastructure development, education, and economic growth. Under his leadership, Somaliland saw the expansion of its port facilities in Berbera, the construction of new roads linking major cities, and substantial investments in education and healthcare.

Perhaps most significantly, President Siilaanyo's administration strengthened Somaliland's democratic institutions. His commitment to peaceful transfer of power was demonstrated when he voluntarily stepped down at the end of his term, setting a powerful example for democratic leadership in Africa.

But beyond these visible achievements, Siilaanyo's greatest legacy lies in his character and leadership style. He was known for his humility, wisdom, and ability to build consensus across clan lines. His quiet diplomacy and patient approach to problem-solving earned him the respect of both allies and opponents. He consistently chose national unity over partisan interests, demonstrating that leadership is about service rather than power.

As an economist by training, President Siilaanyo understood the importance of economic development for sustainable peace and stability. His administration pursued policies that encouraged private sector growth, international

investment, and infrastructure development. The Berbera Corridor agreement with Ethiopia and the modernization of Berbera Port are testimonies to his vision of positioning Somaliland as a key player in regional trade and commerce.

In education, his presidency saw the establishment of new universities and technical schools, significantly expanding access to higher education for Somaliland's youth. He understood that investing in human capital was crucial for Somaliland's future development and competitiveness.

President Siilaanyo's diplomatic efforts also helped strengthen Somaliland's international position. While formal recognition remained elusive, his administration successfully built strong partnerships with neighboring countries and expanded Somaliland's diplomatic presence globally. His pragmatic approach to international relations helped secure crucial development partnerships and investments.

As we bid farewell to this great son of Somaliland, we remember not just a former president, but a freedom fighter, a nation-builder, and a visionary who dedicated his life to the service of his people. His journey from the corridors of Manchester University to the battlefields of the liberation struggle, and ultimately to the presidency, embodies the resilience and determination of the Somaliland people.

Today, as thousands gather to pay their last respects, including delegations from Ethiopia and Djibouti, we are reminded of the respect and admiration he commanded across the region. The presence of these high-level delegations is a testament to his role in fostering regional cooperation and stability.

President Siilaanyo leaves behind a legacy of service, integrity, and dedication to democratic principles. His life teaches us that leadership is about sacrifice, vision, and the courage to stand for one's principles even in the face of adversity. He showed us that it is possible to fight for justice without losing one's humanity, to exercise power without corruption, and to lead with both strength and compassion.

As he is laid to rest in the Baqii' cemetery of Hargeisa, a city he helped liberate and rebuild, we commit ourselves to preserving and building upon his legacy. The best way to honor his memory is to continue working towards his vision of a peaceful, prosperous, and democratic Somaliland.

To his family, we offer our deepest condolences. To the nation, we say: we have lost a father figure, a statesman, and a guide. But in losing him, we are reminded of the values and principles he stood for – values that must continue to guide us as we build the nation he spent his life fighting for.

May Allah grant him the highest place in Jannah, and may his soul rest in eternal peace. His name will forever be etched in the annals of Somaliland's history, and his legacy will continue to inspire generations to come.

Inna Lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un – Indeed, to Allah we belong and to Him we shall return.

U.S. Congressman Chris Smith congratulates Somaliland on its successful presidential election

issued the following statement on Somaliland's successful presidential election:

"Congratulations to the people of Somaliland for once again conducting 'free, fair and credible' elections and to President-elect Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi and the Waddani Party on their victory.

President Muse Bihi Abdi's commitment to a peaceful transition of power helps demonstrate to the world that Somaliland remains an oasis of stability in a troubled region.

In addition to greater American engagement with Somaliland, it is my hope to see the new government maintain and expand its ties with Taiwan.

Taiwan's engagement with Somaliland presents a good governance model for all of Africa—unlike so-called engagement by Communist China, which only leaves corruption and debt bondage in its wake. Both Somaliland and Taiwan are democracies which deserve greater recognition from the global community."

Former President Rayaale congratulates congratulate President –elect Abdirahman Irro upon his triumph



By M.A. Egge

The 3rd president of the Republic of Somaliland Dahir Rayaale Kahin has congratulated the new President-elect Dr. Abdirahman Abdillahi Mohamed Irro who came out triumphant following the win in the just concluded presidential and political party elections held a week ago.

His running mate and new Vice President-elect is Mohamed Ali Aw Abdi.

More messages of congratulations are continuing to pour and flow from all corners of the nation and abroad with all and sundry, from both reputed and eminent personalities to the common folks in the streets and the pastoralists.

The former Head of State, who is indeed credited as being the father of Somaliland's democratization process for initiating and establishing multi-party elections and universal suffrage in the country, happily noted the taking root of the electioneering processes in a part of the world that democracy is unknown.

He pointed out his elation that the seating president has just conceded defeat and congratulated his successor, a

scenario he depicted as first done by himself when he handed over to the 4th president the late Ahmed Mohamed Mohamoud who passed on and was also laid to rest this same week.

Mr. Dahir Rayaale hailed the nation and the people of Somaliland for holding a very transparent, free, fair, just and, incident-free elections in a quite mature and peaceful manner that has been similarly held in high esteem by both international and local observers.

He similarly praised the National Electoral Commission for a job well done, managed and coordinated. He termed and characterized it as the coming of age of democracy in the nation.

He urged the incoming president to steer the nation to greater heights and wished him well at the helm, 'a seat position that he observed would not please everyone as hard as the occupier may try'.

He wished him well and prayed for him hoping that he would uphold righteousness as much as he could in steering the nation further.

The former president was monitored speaking on Wednesday night from France to the local SAHAN TV station's Abdirahman Hirsi Heelo.

Somaliland's Elections Gain International Approval, Bolstering Case for Recognition



Somaliland's November 13, 2024, presidential elections have drawn widespread acclaim from international observers, further strengthening its case for recognition as an independent state. Over 100 observers from more than 25 countries, including ambassadors from the UK, Denmark, and Norway, monitored the elections, describing the process as free, fair, and peaceful. Their findings underline Somaliland's commitment to democratic values, setting it apart in the Horn of Africa and beyond. International Observers Validate Somaliland's Democracy

Election observers hailed Somaliland's robust voter turnout and effective biometric voting system, which ensured transparency and mitigated fraud. High-ranking diplomats, including British and Nordic officials, commended the National Election Commission (NEC) for its meticulous organization and swift handling of grievances. The delegation noted that minor infractions, such as isolated altercations and procedural errors, were promptly addressed under NEC protocols. These reports affirm Somaliland's capacity to manage elections independently, reflecting its democratic maturity. Such endorsements have practical implications. As Gavin Williamson, a UK Parliament member, stated during his campaign for Somaliland's recognition, "Somaliland demonstrates stability, democracy, and rule of law—values we must encourage internationally."

Williamson emphasized that Somaliland's elections contrast sharply with the chaos in Somalia, strengthening its claim for international recognition. Geopolitical Importance: The Red Sea and Beyond

Somaliland's elections coincide with growing geopolitical interest in the Horn of Africa. The strategic Berbera Port, developed with UAE investment, positions Somaliland as a key player in securing Red Sea trade routes. Its stability and democratic governance make it an attractive partner for Western nations, particularly the United States and the United Kingdom. The U.S. has shown cautious interest, with experts predicting that President Donald Trump could use Somaliland as a regional counterbalance to instability and extremism. Trump's transactional diplomacy aligns well with Somaliland's strategic offerings, including its support for counter-terrorism and maritime security. Ethiopia has also welcomed Somaliland's stability, seeing it as critical for regional economic integration and security. In contrast, Somalia's sovereignty claims appear increasingly tenuous, weakened by Somaliland's consistent democratic successes. Challenges from Regional Opponents

Despite international support, countries like Egypt and Turkey remain opposed to Somaliland's recognition. These nations prioritize Somalia's territorial integrity, fearing that recognizing Somaliland could set a precedent for secessionist movements elsewhere. Egypt and

Eritrea, in particular, view Somaliland's emergence as a potential shift in the Red Sea's power dynamics, which could favor the UAE and Ethiopia.

The Path to Recognition

Somaliland's 2024 elections reinforce its argument for statehood, proving its democratic credentials and governance capabilities. International observers' validation provides Somaliland with diplomatic leverage, particularly with allies in the UK and the U.S. Gavin Williamson's advocacy in the UK Parliament has already reignited debates on recognizing Somaliland, citing its strategic importance and democratic track record.

For Somaliland, recognition would mean greater access to global institutions, economic aid, and security partnerships. For the international community, acknowledging Somaliland would promote stability in a volatile region and safeguard critical maritime trade routes.

A Democratic Beacon in the Horn of Africa

Somaliland's peaceful elections and smooth transition of power mark it as a beacon of hope in the Horn of Africa. As its leaders advocate for recognition, the world must acknowledge Somaliland's role in fostering peace, democracy, and prosperity.

With international backing and a commitment to governance, Somaliland is poised to solidify its position as a key player in regional and global affairs.

Author: Professor Nassir Hussein Kahin, Gollis University, Hargeisa

Former VP Hassan Issa congratulates President-elect Abdirahman Irro, praises outgoing President Bihi

By M.A. Egge

The former Somaliland 1st Vice President Mr. Hassan Issa Jama has sent a message of congratulations to the President-elect Dr. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro and his running mate Vice President-elect Mr. Mohamed Ali Abdi on the occasion of their triumph following the just concluded elections. He wished them well in the responsibilities the populaces



bestowed upon them and also prayed for them for good tidings. He also hailed the members of the public for exercising their political rights in an impeccable and mature

manner. The former VP especially praised and congratulated the outgoing head of state H.E. Musa Bihi Abdi for presiding over the nation in an election well done

Who is the newly elected president of Somaliland?



By M.A. Egge

The former long service Speaker of Somaliland parliament Dr. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi is the founder and flag-bearer for the position of Presidency. He has just been elected as the Sixth president of the Republic of Somaliland.

The newly elected President of Somaliland Dr. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi was born in Hargeisa in 1955. He completed his primary and secondary education in Burao, Berbera and Hargeisa and transferred to the famous high school in Sheikh School. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi, between 1978 and 1981, worked in an organization called Social Development in Mogadishu. From 1981 to 1988, he was a diplomat at the center of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the former Somalia regime in charge of the economic financial cooperation department. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi from May 1988 to 1996 was the deputy ambassador and later ambassador to Russia. He then Abdirahman Irro moved back to Finland where he stayed until

1999 when he returned to Somaliland. In the year 2000, Abdirahman Irro became one of the founders of the UCID party as the deputy secretary general. In the Somaliland parliamentary elections in September 2005, he became one of the elected members from the Sahel region of Berbera. Then the parliament elected Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi as the speaker of the parliament and he held it for 12 years until August 2, 2017 when he voluntarily resigned to vie for presidency. In 2011, Abdirahman Irro founded his own political vessel, WADDANI after a dispute with the chairman of the UCID party. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi speaks English, Arabic, Russian and Finnish. He holds a master's degree in MBA in management from the SIDAM College and in conflict resolution diplomacy from the University of Hargeisa. The elected president of Somaliland is a veteran politician who has been working for a long time in diplomatic matters and is described by people who have a lot of knowledge as a brilliant, calm, attentive and kind person.

The President-elect receives top brass of various security arms who paid him courtesies tribute calls

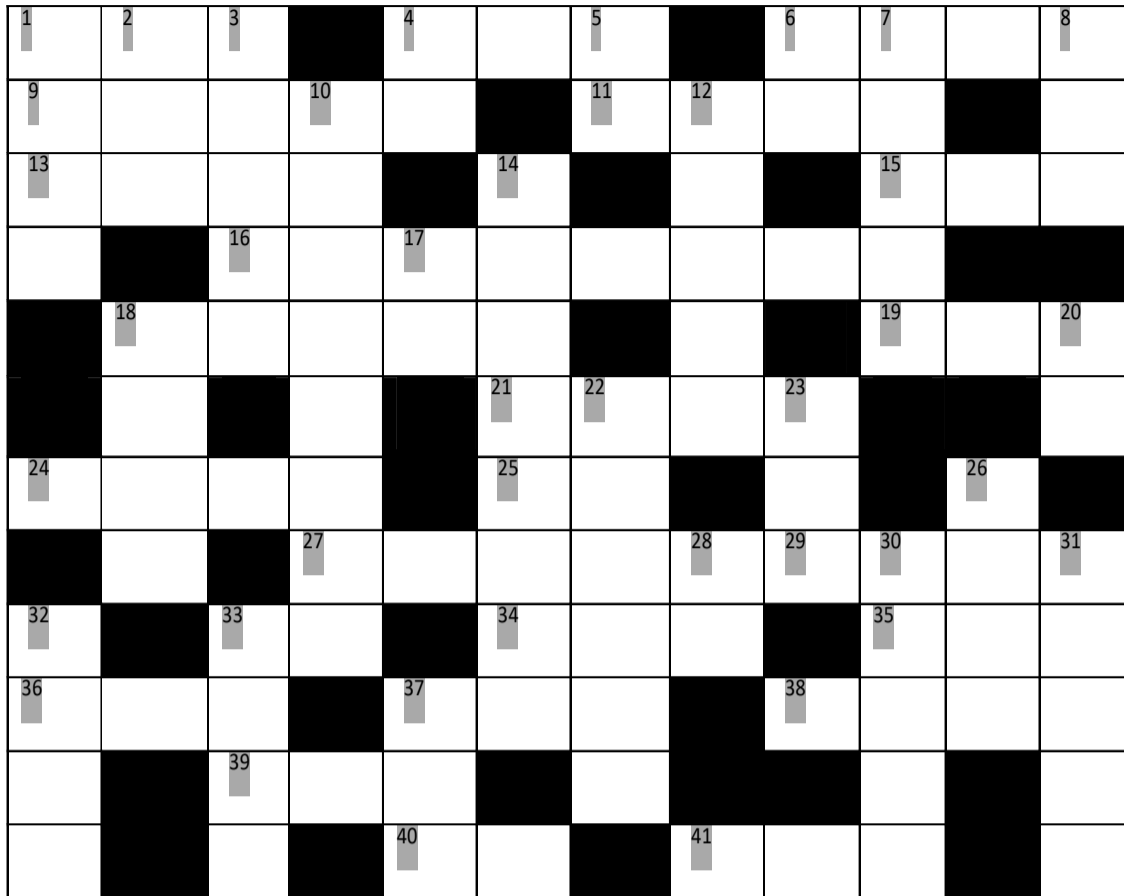


By M.A. Egge

The President-elect of Somaliland Dr. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro yesterday met with the commanders of the armed forces, national fire department, national police and the immigration department. The Chief of the Defense Forces Major General Nuh Ismail Tani led various divisional army commanders as they visited the president elect at his residence. They paid tribute to him as they also wished him well in his new responsibilities. So too, did the fire department Chief Brigadier General Ahmed Mohamed Hassan Sawahili who was flanked by the finance and

administration head Amran Ahmed Baashe paid the tribute courtesy call. Others were the Commander of the Somaliland Correctional Services Major General Ahmed Yusuf Awale Libaah and the members of the Supreme Military Court led by their chair (Magistrate-Advocate General) Colonel Abdi Ali Haid. All the visits were made on Wednesday, coming a day after the National Police Force Commander Major General Mohamed Adan Saqadi made a similar visit. The aim and purpose of the visits are all paying tribute to the president-elect and wishing him well both in morale and prayer support.

THT Puzzle



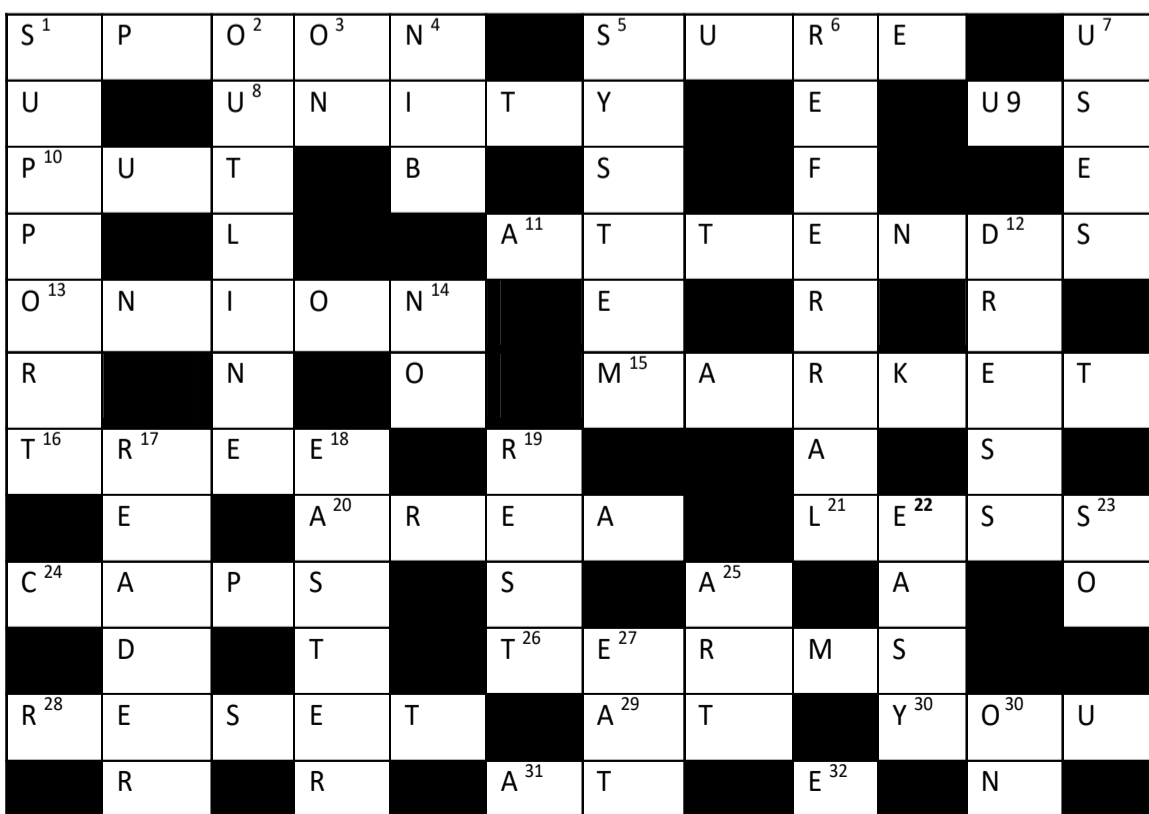
DOWN

- 1 nursing
- 2 Exist
- 3 Changed
- 4 U'S
- 5 European Union
- 6 Be present
- 7 Concepts
- 8 Unhappy
- 10 Tries
- 12 Enhanced
- 14 Detachment
- 17 Computer model
- 18 Trade
- 20 Myself
- 22 Whole
- 26 Forever
- 28 Want ad
- 30 Italia
- 31 Opponent
- 32 Produced
- 33 Proposal
- 37 Hen

ACROSS

- 1 vehicle
- 4 Usage/ utilize
- 6 Tenders
- 9 Districts
- 11 Utilized
- 13 Have a rest
- 15 Ending
- 16 Name of a Neighboring country to Somaliland
- 18 Footsteps
- 19 Somalia opposition short form (Somali National Movement)
- 21 Tenure
- 24 Smack for construction
- 25 the form of an indefinite article
- 27 Uncertain
- 33 Remains
- 34 security intelligent short form
- 35 Decade
- 36 Relief
- 37 Herself
- 38 Nursing
- 39 Eyeball
- 40 Negative
- 41 Somewhat

Previous Answer



Somaliland's new government is ready to drive change: these are its 3 big goals



The fierce electoral competition in Somaliland – coupled with clan politics and governance challenges – makes it important to understand the implications of the de facto independent state's recent presidential election outcome. The opposition coalition Waddani won the November election over the ruling party, Kulmiye. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi (also known as Cirro/Iirro) secured a five-year mandate.

This election represents a pivotal moment for Somaliland, the Horn of Africa and international politics. Waddani's victory shows Somaliland's democratic resilience and potential for inclusive governance.

The election was held after a two-year delay brought on by financial and technical challenges, according to outgoing president Muse Bihi. Waddani has promised to include political voices from marginalised regions. Bihi's administration had been accused of sidelining some clans.

Somaliland has been de facto independent from Somalia for 33 years, but remains unrecognised internationally. It occupies an 800km coastline on the Gulf of Aden. It has become a beacon of relative peace in the Horn of Africa, a region battling political instability, piracy and transnational conflicts. The region includes Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia.

I have researched Somaliland's politics for over 10 years. Ahead of the November election, I held interviews with Abdihakim Saeed, a founding member of Waddani. I also spoke in person with Saeed and Mohammad Abdullahi Omar, a former foreign minister and high-ranking leader in Waddani, in the Somaliland capital of Hargeisa. These interviews covered what a Waddani victory would mean for Somaliland, its independence from Somalia, and peace and security in the Horn of Africa.

From these conversations, and my research into Somaliland's challenges, it's clear that Waddani has three major priorities:

√ equitable governance across Somaliland's six regions to address clan-based tensions

√ international recognition for Somaliland's independence from Somalia

√ upholding Somaliland's reputation for peaceful democratic transitions of power from one party to the other and solving domestic problems on its own without outside help for over 30 years – a marked contrast to its neighbour, Somalia. Waddani's victory could herald a new era for Somaliland as a stable, independent and democratic state in a volatile region.

Equitable governance
The election was Somaliland's fourth successful one-person, one-vote presidential election. Despite a shaky few years, the poll demonstrates a commitment to democracy, rule of law and peaceful power transitions.

Waddani's victory signifies a strong public endorsement for change – 64% of Somalilanders voted for the opposition party. This ended 14 years of rule under the Kulmiye party. In the lead-up to the election, Waddani said it would prioritise equitable governance. This would move away from what many Somalilanders saw as Kulmiye's approach of centralising power and growth in the capital city. Kulmiye was also perceived as favouring the Isaaq majority clan, which outgoing president Bihi belonged to. In shifting the approach, Waddani hopes to ease clan-based tensions. These efforts, if successful, would foster the political integration of clans in Somaliland. They would also help direct economic and social support to regions far from the capital and the major trade corridor centred around the Berbera port.

Independence quest
Waddani will remain committed – like the majority of Somalilanders – to gaining international recognition as an independent state. Somaliland joined the Somali Republic in 1960 but departed in 1991.

In doing this, Waddani will build on the Kulmiye party's achievements. These include diplomatic representation in some western countries. In 2022, Bihi made an unofficial visit to Washington, DC, and a UK parliamentary delegation visited Hargeisa.

Continue on page 6

Somaliland Senate congratulates incoming President-elect Abirahman Irro

By M.A. Egge

The Senate of the Republic of Somaliland has sent a congratulatory message to the newly elected President of Somaliland Dr. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdirahman Irro, wishing him well in his endeavours to lead the nation and prayed for him.

The secretary general of the Senate, locally known as GUURTI, Mr. Abdinasir Adan Beegsi who spoke on behalf of the council and the members of parliament, congratulated the president who was elected by the people of Somaliland, and asked God to ease the heavy burdens of the office as



he shoulders the responsibilities that abounds hence heed to advisories while at the helm.

On the other hand, the secretary of the Senate praised the National

Elections Committee for its hard work in holding the elections in a transparent and fair manner and also the people of the nation for the mature conduct in exercising their political rights.

Veteran Somaliland Sovereignty Campaigner Congratulates Newly Elected President and Commends Outgoing President

Veteran international campaigner for Somaliland sovereignty, Abdikarim Abdi Adan, has joined the President of Somaliland in extending congratulations to the newly elected President, His Excellency Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi (Cirro).

Mr. Adan began by expressing his profound appreciation for the outgoing President, His Excellency Muse Bihi Abdi, acknowledging his significant contributions to the nation. He highlighted President Bihi's leadership in successfully organizing dual elections for the first time—elections for the House of Representatives and Local Government Councils—and later

overseeing the 2024 dual elections for the presidency and political parties. Mr. Adan praised these accomplishments as critical milestones in Somaliland's democratic progress.

Equally, Mr. Adan extended his congratulations to the newly elected President, His Excellency Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi (Cirro), stating:

"I had the privilege of working closely with our newly elected President, His Excellency Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi, since 2006 during his tenure as Speaker of the Somaliland House of Representatives. I can confidently assure the people of Somaliland of his unwavering

passion and dedication to championing our nation's cause. Under his leadership, I am optimistic that Somaliland will achieve international recognition during his tenure."

Mr. Adan emphasized his confidence in President Cirro's commitment to advancing Somaliland's sovereignty and prosperity, while also recognizing the strong foundation laid by President Bihi.

He expressed hope for continued unity and progress for Somaliland under the new leadership.

Abdikarim Abdi Adan

Somaliland's new government is ready to drive change: these are its 3 big goals

Waddani party leaders, however, intend to shift away from Kulmiye's complete reliance on the west. They hope to get independence recognition faster from African and global south states.

The pace of recognition from the US and UK has been slow. And the west condemned Somaliland's deal with Ethiopia. This deal gives Ethiopia access to a strip of Somaliland's coastline in return for acknowledgement of Somaliland's independence.

But Waddani must carefully navigate that deal, signed by the previous administration. The leaders I spoke to said:

We don't know the details of the MOU (memorandum of understanding). How can we implement it before we evaluate it in light of the interests of our country and its people?

Washington's rejection of the agreement surprised Bihi and his administration. Disappointment with the US for its on-again, off-again approach to Somaliland's independence was palpable. However, the election of Donald

Trump as US president has rekindled reports of potential US cooperation with Somaliland that may lead to recognition.

Waddani officials implied that if Somaliland continues to be ignored by the US on account of Washington's "one Somalia" policy, Hargeisa may have to engage with other actors.

Beacon of democracy

Waddani's victory comes at a critical time for the Horn of Africa. Tensions between Ethiopia, Somalia and Egypt over the use of Nile waters and the Somaliland-Ethiopia deal are rising.

However, Somaliland's stable and democratic governance contrasts sharply with Somalia's instability and the authoritarian regimes throughout the rest of the Horn. This is a chance to appear as a beacon of democracy in a sea of autocracies in the region.

Somaliland could come to be seen as a potential regional stabiliser.

Somaliland's case will be strengthened if Waddani's time in power brings greater economic and political inclusion with the

marginalised eastern regions. However, internal divisions could hinder the coalition's ability to carry out reforms. Security challenges, particularly in the eastern regions, are likely to demand immediate attention.

Economic revitalisation is another pressing concern. Youth unemployment stands at 70% and skilled Somalilanders are being lost to other nations via a brain drain.

Waddani's governance model will be tested by tensions like the deteriorating relationship between Ethiopia and Somalia and Somaliland-Somalia dynamics.

What next

Waddani has the potential to transform Somaliland's domestic scene and burnish its international standing. It will have to put inclusivity first within Somaliland, and address economic and security challenges. The new leadership will also need to broaden Hargeisa's diplomatic outreach, while courting the US. Success will depend on the party's ability to navigate the complex political dynamics and rifts in Somaliland's society, and the Horn of Africa.

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