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President Musa Bihi Addresses the Nation, Giving Words of Wisdom



President Musa describes the historic victory as a great honor and reputation that the recent elections brought to Somaliland

The November 13 elections with 90% of its expenses footed by the state was a victory for Somaliland and its people, he adds

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US Ambassador, AFRICOM chief meet President-elect Abdirahman Irro



By M.A. Egge

The President-elect of the Republic of Somaliland H.E. Dr. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdilaahi (Irro) met on Tuesday with a large delegation led by the

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Raila Odinga's Vision for Transformative Leadership as African Union Commission Chairperson



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U.S. Delegation's Somaliland Visit Marks Turning Point as Senator Risch Urges Shift from 'One Somalia' Policy



U.S. Senator Jim Risch, Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has expressed optimism that the Biden administration may finally be moving away from its longstanding "One Somalia" policy. His remarks

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The Dahabshiil network is dedicated to serving global communities and remains open for business worldwide



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Somaliland's Elections: The Role of International Observers



Debating Ideas reflects the values and editorial ethos of the African Arguments book series, publishing engaged, often radical, scholarship, original and activist writing from within the African continent and beyond. It offers

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The Heritage Institute Forum conference is opposed to Somaliland sovereignty, says DM Yasin M Yusuf



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Police Chief Inspects City Police Cells in Hargeisa Stations



By M.A. Egge

The National Police Chief, Major General Mohamed Adan Saqadi (Daba-gale), inspected some of the police stations in the capital Hargeisa, to check the general condition of the

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UK MPs to re-activate APPG on recognition of Somaliland



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President Musa Bihi Addresses the Nation, Giving Words of Wisdom



By M.A. Egge
 The President of the Republic of Somaliland H.E. Musa Bihi Abdi, sent a message of wisdom, advice and guidance to the people of the nation of Somaliland society, across the political board while calling upon them to focus on nation-building and the development of country. The outgoing Head of State thanked his cabinet and their tireless work they did for the nation during his tenure. His speech marked the last one of a cabinet session meeting, the 134th one, that he was presiding given the change of guard due to take place this week following the election of the WADDANI flag-bearer Dr. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro as the new President-elect. He noted that since the elections were over it was incumbent upon the nation to heal and that all should strive for developing the nation and work in togetherness. He pointed out that any administration upon taking over has to be given a grace period for it to establish itself and its policies before it may be held accountable in a tangible manner. The 134th session of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Somaliland, chaired by the President of the Republic of Somaliland, His Excellency Muse Bihi Abdi, discussed various issues regarding the general situation of the country, the success of the elections held by this government in the country, and the preparations for this transitional period that has been entered among other issues. The successor to the resident is to be sworn to office in an inauguration ceremony to be held later this week. After the session, the Minister of Information, Culture and National Guidance, Hon. Ali Hassan Mohamed (Ali Marreehan), spoke to the media and elaborated on the efforts that the outgoing administration had done in spirited efforts in seeing to it that the just ended successful presidential and political party elections. Apart from seeing a new president being elected, the mandated national official political parties to

operate for the next ten years has had challenger WADDANI, new comer KAAH and former ruling party ULMIYE become the winners of the certificates to be operational. Only

three parties are allowed to be operational in the country at any given moment as per the national constitution. Former official party UCID has been shoved off and lost its stature after losing the top three slots. The minister said that the Kulmiye party will exert its presence and cash in on its expertise and experience to operate as a formidable political institution. He noted that their opposition will not be destructive, but rather constructive, as it has always worked towards the national visions and goals. The Minister expressed his gratitude to the supporters who elected the Kulmiye back as a national official political party, trusting its entity as a political vessel and institution in nation building.

U.S. Delegation's Somaliland Visit Marks Turning Point as Senator Risch Urges Shift from 'One Somalia' Policy



followed a landmark visit by a high-profile U.S. delegation to Somaliland, an event seen as a potential turning point in U.S.-Somaliland relations. "The Biden administration may finally be moving past its flawed 'One Somalia' policy. With a lot of time and funding wasted on this failed approach, it is time to be more pragmatic in our Somalia policy," Senator Risch shared in a post on X, formerly Twitter, underscoring the need for a results-driven approach. Adding to this, Dr. J. Peter Pham, a prominent African affairs expert and former U.S. Special Envoy for the Sahel, weighed in on the visit's broader implications. He remarked, "The next Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Risch, sees the U.S. delegation visiting Somaliland as a hopeful sign of the Biden administration 'finally moving past its flawed One Somalia policy.' If not, a total Somalia policy review under former President Donald Trump will assure America's interests." Dr. Pham also shared his insights via X, formerly Twitter. Somaliland's Strategic and Democratic Value The U.S. delegation, led by Ambassador Richard H. Riley and Major General Brian Cashman, engaged with outgoing President Muse Bihi Abdi and President-elect Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro. This visit followed Somaliland's peaceful presidential election, a milestone that bolstered the region's reputation as a beacon of democratic governance in the Horn of Africa.

Since declaring independence in 1991, Somaliland has consistently demonstrated stability and democratic resilience, distinguishing itself from Somalia's persistent challenges. Its strategic location along the Gulf of Aden, a critical maritime route, further underscores its importance in regional geopolitics. A Pragmatic Shift in U.S. Policy? The Biden administration's engagement with Somaliland aligns with growing calls in Washington to rethink the "One Somalia" policy. Both Senator Risch and Dr. Pham have emphasized the need for a more pragmatic strategy, one that acknowledges Somaliland's stability and democratic progress. Dr. Pham's comments underscore the stakes: should the Biden administration fail to pivot; a future Trump administration may undertake a comprehensive review of Somalia policy to prioritize U.S. interests in the region. The Path Forward The U.S. delegation's visit has sparked hope for deeper collaboration between the U.S. and Somaliland, focusing on areas like security, trade, and development. While formal recognition of Somaliland's independence remains uncertain, this engagement reflects growing acknowledgment of its unique status and strategic importance. As the U.S. reexamines its approach to the Horn of Africa, Somaliland's democratic achievements and geostrategic relevance position it as a potential key partner in advancing regional stability and prosperity.

US Ambassador, AFRICOM chief meet President-elect Abdirahman Irro



US Ambassador Richard H. Riley, accompanied by top AFRICOM commander Major General Brian Cashman and other military officials, namely Colonel Carl Benander, Andrew Kelly, political advisor, Colonel Brian Luti, Matthew Cassidy and Chadwick Forbes. The President-elect said that he had an in-depth discussion with the delegation on how to further strengthen the relationship between

the Republic of Somaliland and the US. President-elect Dr. Abdirahman Cirro noted that the delegation delivered a congratulatory message from the US government. He noted that the elections in the Republic of Somaliland held on November 13 were elections that have drawn the attention of the world even more, and would definitely attract international investment opportunities.

Police Chief Inspects City Police Cells in Hargeisa Stations

police work and the suspects held in the cells of the police stations. During his inspection tours, the commander listened to a report from the prisoners, and also directed the officers and detectives at the stations to provide efficient service and general welfare of the incarcerated. He ordered that they should be shown justice and handled humanely with care. He had a rapport with those in the police cells who were candid enough to speak with him freely on their plight and associated cases.

He directed that their general welfare should be taken into account and treated fairly. This inspection tour by the police chief comes at a time when a new administration is taking over in the country following the triumph of the WADDANI party and its flag-bearer Dr. Abdirahman Irro coming in as the next President of the Republic of Somaliland, succeeding his predecessor the incumbent President Musa Bihi. It is indeed a time where vigilance takes precedence and security is bolstered.

Somaliland Startup Brings Digital Book-keeping Platform to Ethiopia



The mobile app is specifically designed to simplify financial management for small businesses, allowing users to digitally record credits and debits for accurate financial tracking. Hafide, a digital book-keeping platform based in Somaliland, has expanded to Ethiopia. By launching in Ethiopia, the company aims to streamline financial management and empower SMEs with tools to drive economic growth, tapping into a market where traditional bookkeeping remains prevalent. Currently free to use, the platform's founders plan to implement a

subscription-based model after establishing a significant user base. Founded in June 2023 by three friends, Sulekha Yusuf (CEO), Jimale Abdi (CTO), and Muhiyadin Ismail (CFO), Hafide is designed to facilitate the digitization of business processes across Africa, enabling users to manage their finances digitally and transition away from traditional pen-and-paper accounting methods. "Businesses can use the platform to record their transactions, including income, expenses, and

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Somaliland's Elections: The Role of International Observers



debates and engagements, contexts and controversies, and reviews and responses flowing from the African Arguments books. It is edited and managed by the International African Institute, hosted at SOAS University of London, the owners of the book series of the same name.

The authors served as international election observers during Somaliland's 2024 presidential election. This piece reflects their firsthand experiences and insights gathered from observing the electoral process in various locations across the country. Their perspectives are informed by direct engagement with polling stations, political actors, and the broader democratic environment in Somaliland.

Somaliland held its fourth presidential election under a one-person, one-vote system on 13 November 2024. This reaffirmed its status as the Horn of Africa's most genuine democracy. As citizens of a de facto independent but internationally unrecognized state, Somalilanders turned out to vote in shaping their country's future, which has been politically divorced from Somalia since 1991. Polling stations we visited in cities like Berbera, Borama, Gabilay, and Hargeisa were orderly and well-staffed, with diligent National Electoral Commission (NEC) workers – many of them women – ensuring a smooth process.

While the day was largely peaceful and celebratory, minor issues such as underage voters and occasional long lines highlighted areas for improvement. The election was a turning point, with opposition leader Abdirahman Mohamed Abdilahi (Cirro) and his Waddani party claiming victory over incumbent President Muse Bihi and his Kulmiye party. Somaliland's unique three-party system offered voters clear choices about the nation's direction and underscored the maturity of its democratic processes. It showcased the robust

role an independent and legitimate NEC like Somaliland's can play. It also revealed the complexities and misconceptions surrounding the role of international election observers.

Political role of election observers International election observers are invited to observe elections precisely to exercise political agency in ensuring democratic integrity while remaining impartial in terms of who wins. This aligns with the *Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and Code of Conduct for International Election Observers* commemorated at the UN in 2005, and now endorsed by 54 intergovernmental and international organizations. For example, it conforms to the principle that genuine democratic elections are an expression of sovereignty belonging to the people, with free elections serving to resolve political competition peacefully and maintain stability (Declaration, no. 1).

In Somaliland's election, four teams of international observers from Africa, Europe, and North America were invited. By their very presence, observers serve as visible witnesses to the democratic process, and can help to deter ballot-stuffing, fraud, or other anti-democratic practices. Observers are impartial, but their impact is not neutral; their role is inherently political, as it can influence perceptions of legitimacy and help set expectations for the accountability of political actors. This responsibility underscores the impartial yet influential role of observers in assessing electoral processes, offering recommendations for improvement, and promoting public confidence and participation (Declaration, no. 4).

In Somaliland, observers also had the unique opportunity to meet with the country's most influential political figures, including leaders of the three political parties and President Muse Bihi. These private,

question-and-answer sessions further underscored our role as more than passive observers: we were active participants in shaping how the election would be perceived, both domestically and internationally. Such activities are supported by the principle that observers should engage with political competitors to evaluate electoral integrity and make recommendations to safeguard the process (Declaration, no. 15).

Somaliland's politicians understood this dynamic well. All parties recognized that a successful, credible election was essential for advancing their broader goal of achieving international recognition as an independent state. This heightened the stakes of Somaliland's election, and our mission, reinforcing the critical role observers play – not only in documenting elections but in potentially influencing political behaviour.

A balancing act: impartiality and influence

While observers aim to remain impartial, neutrality does not erase the political dimensions of their role. Governments, like Somaliland's, often invite observers to bolster their international credibility and affirm their commitment to democracy. Observers, in turn, act as guarantors of legitimacy, but this responsibility carries the risk of misinterpretation that may lead to inaction and malaise. The Code of Conduct states international election observers "must not express or exhibit any bias or preference in relation to national authorities, political parties, candidates, referenda issues or in relation to any contentious issues in the election process. Observers also must not conduct any activity that could be reasonably perceived as favoring or providing partisan gain for any political competitor in the host country, such as wearing or displaying any partisan symbols, colors, banners or accepting anything of value from political competitors" (Code of Conduct, no.

4). Kenyan observer team at Hargeisa Cultural Centre, 12 November 2024. Photo by Elections Observation team

As election day approached, some of us grew concerned that political tensions could escalate if the results were disputed. Two observer teams proposed a joint statement urging the three main parties to publicly reaffirm their commitment to the NEC's Code of Conduct, call on their supporters to remain calm, and respect the official results. This proactive step aimed to pre-empt unrest and reinforce public trust in the democratic process. This action would have been congruent with the Declaration's mandate for impartial recommendations to improve processes and support non-violence and stability. Specifically, "International election observation missions are expected to issue timely, accurate and impartial statements to the public ... presenting their findings, conclusions and any appropriate recommendations they determine could help improve election related processes" (Declaration, para. 7). However, not all observer teams agreed. Some argued that the political environment appeared stable and that such a statement might imply instability or raise doubts about the parties' intentions. Others worried it could blur the line between observation and intervention, putting observers at the centre of the process. But this contradicted our mandate whereby observers are empowered to engage with all stakeholders, evaluate challenges, and promote the peaceful resolution of disputes, consistent with international principles (Declaration, para. 5).

The reluctance of two of the four teams revealed a fundamental misunderstanding of our role. International election observers are not apolitical bystanders. As impartial actors, we are tasked with ensuring that the election reflects the will of the people and that all parties adhere to democratic norms. Encouraging parties to uphold commitments to non-violence and peaceful transitions is central to our mission and underscores the inherently political nature of our work. Receiving those assurances in private is one thing, publicly proclaiming the parties' adherence to Somaliland's Code of Conduct, in this case, and commitment to non-violence and peaceful transition of power is quite another. Dual roles of international election observers

Our mission in Somaliland highlighted the dual nature of international election observers. While impartial in terms of political outcomes, we are political actors in shaping perceptions and promoting democratic integrity. Our presence can influence the behaviour of

political parties, voters, and institutions, particularly in countries with young or fragile democracies like Somaliland. This balance is explicitly acknowledged in the Declaration, which positions international observers as impartial evaluators working to protect and promote democratic principles (Declaration, para. 6).

This balance between observing and intervening is delicate but necessary and is supported by mandating cooperation with electoral authorities and encouraging public reporting to bolster trust and transparency (Declaration, para. 7). Observers must be willing to navigate these tensions to strengthen the foundations of democracy. Somaliland's election demonstrated that this path requires accountability, transparency, and a steadfast commitment to peace.

Impartiality does not mean avoiding influence; it means using influence shaped by a constructive and appropriate set of political ideas to protect and promote democratic principles. The African Union (AU) has a mandate that aligns closely with this ethos, that emphasizes the promotion of democratic governance and conflict resolution as part of its pan-African stride toward stability and prosperity. Its principles of solidarity, unity, and collective responsibility – echoed in the philosophy of *Ubuntu*, which values shared humanity and mutual respect – can serve as a constructive framework for the work of election observers. These ideals encourage proactive engagement where necessary, ensuring that influence is wielded to promote peace and democratic integrity.

As authors, we believe such visions and their underlying principles would contribute meaningfully to the debate over the role of international election observers and build on the foundation of the *Declaration of Principles*. This could possibly shape future election observations and shape their role to better promote positive and inclusive electoral outcomes.

Kenyan observer team, Gabilay, 13 November 2024. Photo by Elections Observation team

The balance between observing and intervening is delicate but essential. International election observers must navigate these tensions to strengthen democratic practices and institutions. Somaliland's election demonstrated that this approach demands accountability, transparency, and a steadfast commitment to peace. By walking this tightrope, international election observers play a pivotal role in supporting democracy, helping to ensure elections are free and fair, and ultimately helping nations like Somaliland build a more stable and legitimate political future.

Raila Odinga's Vision for Transformative Leadership as African Union Commission Chairperson



In a bid to lead the African Union Commission (AUC), Rt. Raila Amolo Odinga, Kenya's former Prime Minister and a lifelong Pan-Africanist, has outlined his transformative vision for Africa's future. His comprehensive agenda, built on decades of experience as a leader and advocate for Pan-African ideals, focuses on eight key priorities aimed at tackling Africa's most pressing challenges.

Economic Transformation
Raila Odinga emphasizes the need for sustainable and equitable economic growth to drive Africa's development. His strategy includes creating an enabling environment for businesses, attracting investments, and fostering innovation and entrepreneurship. By advancing industrialization, supporting manufacturing, and enhancing trade, Odinga envisions an Africa where jobs are abundant, poverty is reduced, and living standards are significantly improved.

Enhancing Intra-African Trade
Highlighting the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) as a transformative opportunity, Odinga plans to advocate for open skies, harmonized policies, and infrastructure development to facilitate the seamless movement of goods and people. By breaking down barriers to trade, he aims to position Africa as a dominant player

in the global economy.

Financial Independence
To reduce reliance on external funding, Odinga stresses the importance of mobilizing domestic resources. He intends to rally African Union Member States and engage the private sector to finance sustainable development. Additionally, he advocates for reforming the global financial architecture to ensure Africa's equitable participation in economic decision-making.

Gender Equity and Equality
Odinga identifies women and girls as the demographic most vulnerable to Africa's challenges. He pledges to champion initiatives that address gender-based violence, discrimination, and marginalization. By prioritizing education, health, food security, and economic empowerment for women, he asserts that Africa's Agenda 2063 cannot be realized without achieving gender equality.

Agricultural Transformation
Recognizing the importance of food security, Odinga advocates for a transformative shift in Africa's agricultural practices. His focus includes modernizing agriculture, promoting sustainable food production, and fostering rural livelihoods. He also commits to ensuring Africa's food systems remain independent and protected

from predatory practices while enhancing market access and value addition.

Climate Action
Odinga is committed to mobilizing support for climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, ensuring African nations are equipped to address climate-induced shocks. He plans to promote renewable energy, climate-smart economic strategies, and investments in sustainable practices, while positioning Africa as a global leader in climate action and justice.

Continental Integration
Unity is central to Odinga's vision for Africa. He pledges to strengthen regional integration and cooperation by supporting Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and advancing initiatives for infrastructure development, trade, and innovation. His goal is to foster a united and prosperous Africa.

Peace and Security
Stability is a cornerstone of development, and Odinga places conflict resolution and institutional strengthening at the forefront of his agenda. He plans to work closely with African leaders to address the root causes of instability, create functional governance systems, and ensure a conducive environment for progress.

A Vision for Africa's Future
Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga's candidacy for the AUC Chairperson position reflects his unwavering commitment to Pan-Africanism and his desire to usher in an African century marked by prosperity, unity, and global influence. His vision combines Africa's natural resources, human capital, and youth energy with transformative leadership to secure a brighter future for the continent.

This vision promises to address Africa's challenges while positioning the continent as a global economic and political leader. As the race for the AUC Chairperson continues, Odinga's robust and inclusive agenda sets a high standard for transformative leadership in Africa.

The Dahabshiil network is dedicated to serving global communities and remains open for business worldwide



Kenyan entrepreneurs and technicians have found great opportunities in Somaliland's trade and economy, according to a report by KTN television station Sophia Ali. What should we focus on in terms of employment opportunities for Kenyans in Somaliland? Employment opportunities in Somaliland have surged, offering a New Horizon for those seeking work abroad. Now, around 3,000 Kenyans have ventured to Somaliland this year alone, joining over 10,000 others who have already found livelihoods across various sectors.

A report by the World Bank shows that the employment rate in Kenya has remained stable at 5.7% in 2024 slightly higher than the 5.6% reported in 2023.

According to Abdirashid Duale CEO of the Dahabshiil Group, Kenyans in Somaliland are finding rewarding work experience in diverse sectors from banking, telecommunication,

hospitality and even manufacturing he explained his positive experience working with Kenyans. A lot of our colleagues are from Kenya very professional people very hardworking, and highly educated and we want more of them to come" stated Duale.

As the job market in Kenya faces challenges in these opportunities are providing an alternative path to financial Independence and Career Development with an increasing number of Kenyans thriving in Somaliland the relationship between the two countries continue to strengthen offering hope for many looking for better Futures beyond their borders.

"One of those building tallest buildings in Hargeisa where all of our all our colleagues who building there are from Kenya as well as local people are also working with them but the majority are Kenyan colleagues building there our consultant who's overseas and also from Kenya." Added Daule.

UK MPs to re-activate APPG on recognition of Somaliland

By M.A. Egge
MP Gavin Williamson of the British Parliament said that they are reactivating the party committees, APPG, in parliament that used to support the cause of the Republic of Somaliland.

According to the SOLNA News Agency, which quoted a post shared on social media by MP Gavin Williamson, he said that they are taking this step after free and fair elections were held in the Republic of Somaliland on November 13,

2024.

MP Gavin Williamson confirmed that the first issue they will work on at this time will be the recognition of the Republic of Somaliland.

Mr. Gavin Williamson, a former British Defense Secretary, has twice presented motions to the UK Parliament urging parliament to urge their government to recognize the Republic of Somaliland as a democratic country worthy of the UK taking the lead in recognizing Somaliland.



The Heritage Institute Forum conference is opposed to Somaliland sovereignty, says DM Yasin M Yusuf

He calls for a clear policy on the conference and similar forums

By M.A. Egge
The Deputy Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Somaliland, Yasin Mohamed Yusuf, has said that the main objectives of the Heritage Institute Forum Conference held in Djibouti are clearly against the essence, issues and independence of Somaliland, and a clear-cut policy needs to be specified and established as

concerns the forum and similar ones in future.

The Deputy Minister of Education and Science took a swipe at the forum which featured sessions on research and history of the Horn of Africa, as well as the economy and politics of Somaliland, Ethiopia and Somalia.

The Deputy Minister said that the conference was conveying two

different messages, which he said were to launch a direct attack on the MoU agreement between Somaliland and Ethiopia and also to establish rules to tether some countries in the Horn of Africa, including Somaliland.

The Deputy Minister added that the history presented at the conference was one against Ethiopia, which they accuse of having perpetrated

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Somaliland Startup Brings Digital Book-keeping Platform to Ethiopia

debts,” says Jimale Abdi, cofounder and CTO of the platform.

The journey of Hafide began with two friends’ mutual interest. Jimale and Muhiyadin first met at Abaarso Tech University in 2016. After graduating in 2019, their shared curiosity for technology led them to co-found Tiriig Technology, a software development company. That entrepreneurial spirit grew even more elastic when they later met Sulekha during a vacation in Hargeisa. “Our paths crossed with Ayan while she was on vacation in Hargeisa, and together we launched Silicon Nomads, an initiative designed to help youth enter the tech industry,” Jimale told Shega.

In 2022, following the Waheen Market fire in Hargeisa, which destroyed countless small businesses, resulting in \$2 billion in damages, the trio decided to co-found Hafide. “Many entrepreneurs lost not only their livelihoods but also their financial records, as they relied heavily on traditional pen-and-paper

bookkeeping methods,” says the co-founder.

“Hafide,” meaning “Safeguard,” in their native language captures the platform’s core purpose, according to Jimale, which is to protect business data from unforeseen disasters. “Waheen’s harrowing tragedy inspired us to create a digital solution that allows businesses to safeguard their financial information and thrive in an increasingly digital world,” he stressed.

The development of Hafide took around eight months, with initial funding sourced from the founders themselves. Currently, the platform boasts over 2,400 users and is accessible in four languages: English, Amharic, Somali, and Swahili.

The mobile app is specifically designed to simplify financial management for small businesses, allowing users to digitally record credits and debits for accurate financial tracking. With just a few clicks, they can generate detailed

reports on cash flow, showcasing income and expenses daily or monthly. The platform also provides support resources and customer service to assist users with any query or issues they may encounter.

By replacing outdated bookkeeping methods with modern technology, Hafide aims to become a leading bookkeeping solution for SMEs across Africa.

This digital bookkeeping company is also one of the 42 FinTech startups selected and currently participating in the UNDP Timbuktoo Fintech Accelerator Program, a pan-African initiative launched by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). After intensive training, including a week-long bootcamp in Lagos, Nigeria, and a month-long virtual program, Hafide is gearing up for the final pitch next week. A successful pitch could secure \$25,000 in equity-free funding, and perhaps the team will have a chance to finally pin down the biggest challenge in their startup journey, fundraising.

President holds a farewell meeting with top clergy members



By M.A. Egge

The President of the Republic of Somaliland H.E. Musa Bihi Abdi held an important meeting with the country’s leading scholars on Thursday.

According to a press release by the Presidency, the meeting included prayers and farewells for the outgoing President of the Nation by the scholars who worked with him during his term in office.

The President thanked the scholars

for the transparent cooperation they had with him during his term in office, while the scholars, in turn, thanked the President for the mutual working relationship and for the way he valued their role as scholars during his term in office.

The new President-elect Dr. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi, popularly known as Irro, is expected to be inaugurated at the end of the week when the button of the change-of-guard would be passed on to him by his predecessor.

The Heritage Institute Forum conference is opposed to Somaliland sovereignty, says DM Yasin M Yusuf

wars from time immemorial along the coast of Somaliland with the intent of disseminating lies about the real happenings in the past.

Speaking on the matter, Minister Yasin said, “The objectives and contents of the Heritage Conference were to attack the MoU between Somaliland and Ethiopia and to deny the existence of the Somaliland Cause and Independence, hence obliterate the essence of Somaliland-hood. In addition, the conference aim was creating and formulating laws of special interest that were intended to tether some countries by putting Somaliland out of the picture”.

The Deputy Minister clarified that

the research presented there was false and biased, and aimed at a specific intention, and he also noted that they deliberately left out parts of real history by hiding it.

He said that they intended to openly attack the MoU and mislead the public with this historical information. He also noted that their sessions discussed international laws and they attacked the Somaliland-Ethiopia maritime agreement, which made wrongly Somalia inviolable and inalienable giving it territories that do not belong to it.

The Deputy Minister also pointed out that during these sessions, the existence and independence of

Somaliland were denied, as well as the existential facts of two separate countries that once united was obliterated.

Same is the fact that out of the picture was the fact that Somaliland indeed re-asserted her independence and sovereignty. In conclusion, the Deputy Minister suggested that the Somaliland community at home and abroad be vigilant against false histories being presented at such forums with the intentions denying the existence and sovereignty of Somaliland.

He also called on the government to have a clear policy on meetings and conferences that undermine the independence and factual history of Somaliland.

President Receives US Ambassador and Commander of US African Command (AFRICOM)

By M.A. Egge

The President of the Republic of Somaliland, His Excellency Musa Bihi Abdi, on Tuesday received at the Presidential Palace the US Ambassador, Amb. Richard H. Riley, accompanied by the Commander of the US Africa Command (AFRICOM), Major General Brian Cashman, amongst other officials and military officers from the US government.

The President thanked the members of the US government delegation for the cooperation and bilateral relationship in the Horn of Africa and the military aspects of the two countries of Somaliland and the United States. The President also noted that the US delegation’s visit will strengthen future relations

between the two sides.

On their part, the US Ambassador Richard H. Riley and Major General Brian Cashman, stated that their country is ready to cooperate in the areas of security in the Horn of Africa. They commended the President of the Republic of Somaliland for his role in the development of the country, democratic issues, the holding of these elections, and the strengthening of relations between the two countries and the political maturity and progress that has led such monumental states for a country which is still not officially recognized at the global stage.

They particularly commended the President for accepting the results announced by the National

Electoral Commission.

The President was accompanied at the meeting by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Dr. Isse Keyd Mohamud, Interior Minister Mohamed Kahin Ahmed, the Commanders of the Military and Intelligence Forces, Lieutenant General Nuuh Ismail Taani and Mustafa Mohamed Hassan (Bacaluul) and the Legal Advisor to the President, Amaal Abdilaahi Cawil.

The delegation was accompanied by the ambassador and the commander of senior officials and officers from the US government and US military forces in Africa, namely; Colonel Carl Benander, Andrew Kelly, political advisor, Colonel Brian



Luti, Matthew Cassidy and Sergeant Major Chadwick Forbes.

It is worth noting that the meeting is in line with the US-Somaliland National Defense Authorization Act

(NDAA) law that has US interests in Berbera as a port crucial to putting in check the Houthis, Iranians, Chinese and Russian influences in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden region, as hitherto noted by the US defense department.

An Open Letter to the President-elect H.E. Abdirahman by Somaliland’s Disabled People

Academician Jama Ibrahim Awad, who was the former chairman of Somaliland National Disability Federation (SNDF) and at the moment is disability rights activist and a member of Waddani Political Party, has called on the new President of Somaliland, Dr. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdilahi (Abdirahman-Iirro) to implement the articles that caused people with disabilities to vote for the WADANI Party, which were part of the campaign program of the WADANI Party that we also conducted on our side as a disabled persons, and you, as a candidate, promised in many public places.

In open letter issued by Jama Ibrahim Awad over the week, and

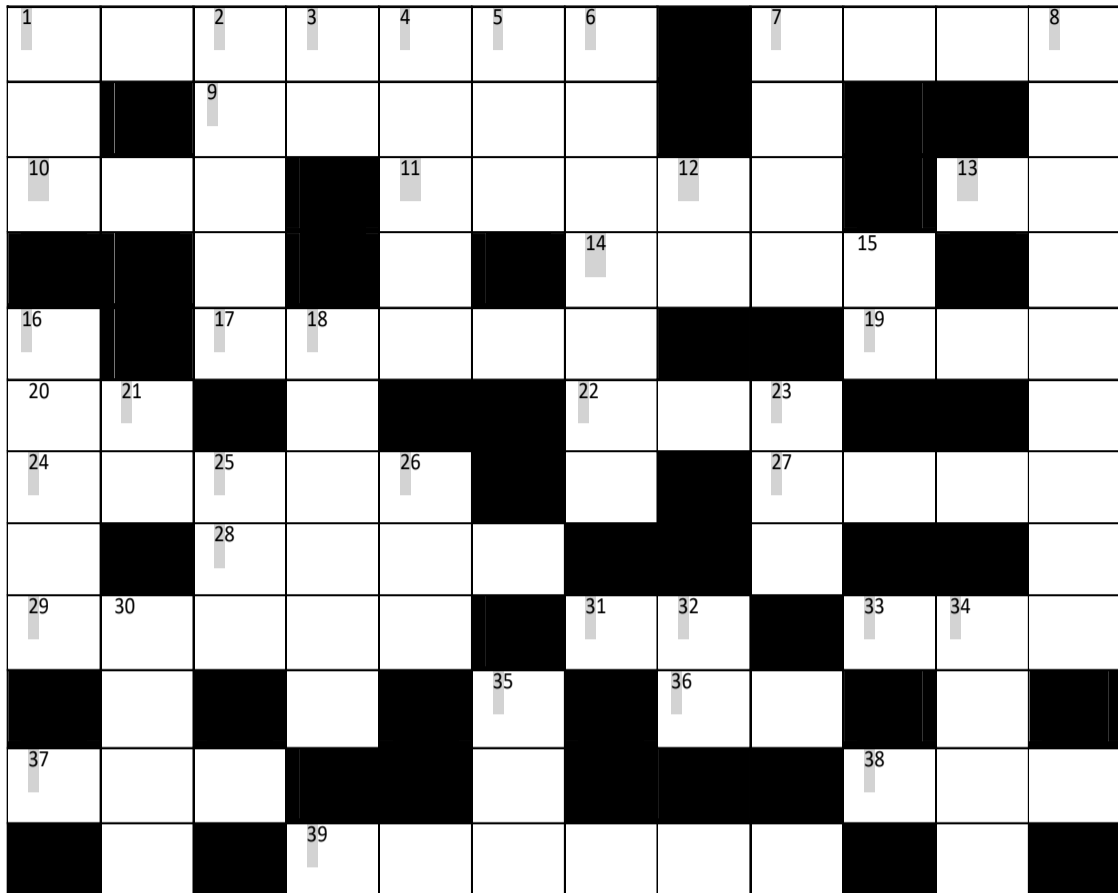


circulated to the media, sent a message to the sixth president of Somaliland, H.E Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro, calling on him to consider pertinent issues when dealing with the issue of people living with disabilities.

Of note were two main points, viz.: - A). The President is advised to

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THT Puzzle



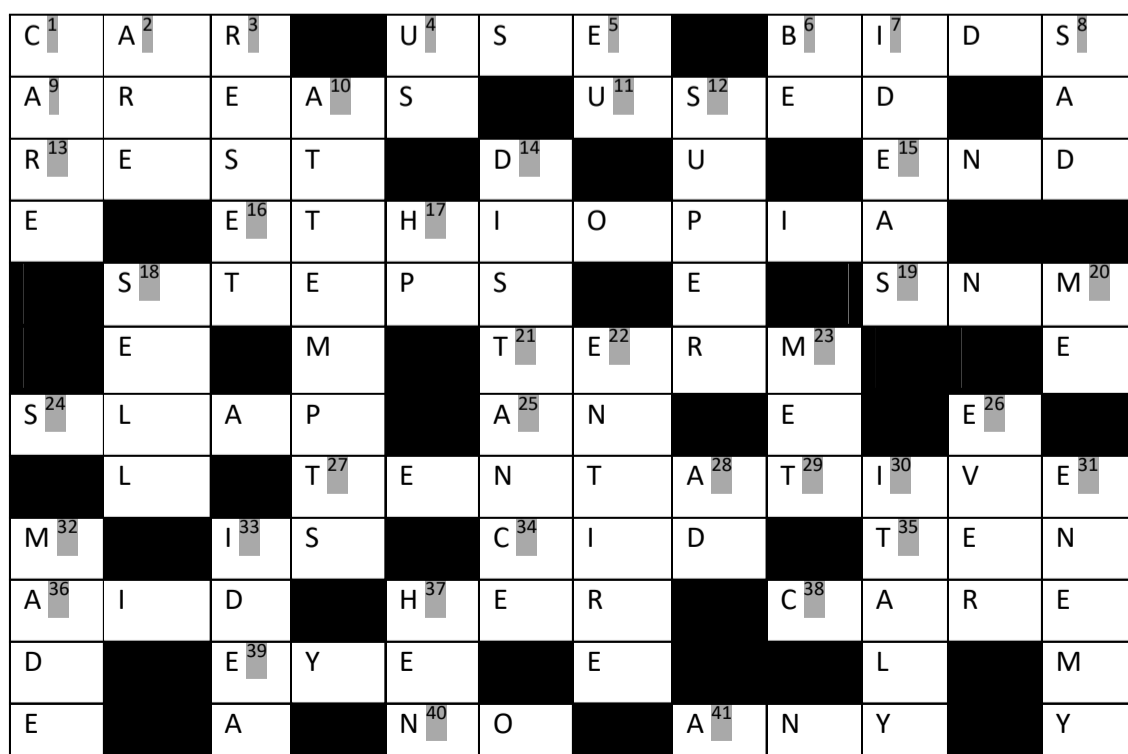
ACROSS

- 1 Migrant
- 7 simple
- 9 regular
- 10 nothing
- 11 wipe away
- 13 Be present
- 14 mail
- 17 locations
- 19 An active insect
- 20 model of Lory
- 22 Ending
- 24 Degree
- 27 Read out
- 28 Deceased
- 29 Change
- 31 Perform
- 33 Somewhat
- 36 Negative answer
- 37 Usage
- 38 Single
- 39 Yearly

DOWN

- 1 Go fast
- 2 Finances
- 3 U'S
- 4 Visitor
- 5 Hearing
- 6 Passed
- 7 Eyeballs
- 8 Days gone by
- 12 Hence
- 15 short forms of tuberculosis
- 16 Sweeten
- 18 Actually
- 21 doctor
- 23 Make dry
- 25 Advertisements
- 26 Consume
- 30 Simple
- 32 Atop
- 34 numbers below ten
- 35 nothing

Previous Answer



An Open Letter to the President-elect H.E. Abdirahman by Somaliland's Disabled People

appoint Either the Minister or Director General of the Ministry of Employment, Social and Women (MESAF) an educated and experienced person with disability who can implement the "draft law for the protection of the rights of people with disabilities. The law stipulates that there has "to be established a special body called the National Disability Commission".

The organization would be responsible for all issues related to disabled people. The committee to consist of representatives of all the different

types of people with disabilities as defined by the draft law for the protection of the rights of people with disabilities.

B). That the President appoints someone with great knowledge and experience to be the President's Adviser on Disability Affairs. This position is currently vacant; there had been no re-appointment since the recent death of the person with disabilities who held that position. Lastly, Mr. Jama congratulated the president for winning the just concluded presidential elections and prayed for him to have the heavy burdens of the office be eased.

Coast Guard Mobile Unit Receives Training



By M.A. Egge
The Commander of the Somaliland Coast Guard has concluded training for the mobile unit of the Coast Guard, which has been undergoing training in recent times. The closing of this training was attended by the Commander of the Somaliland Coast Guard and officials from the EUCAP organization, one of the organizations that provide training to the Coast Guard. The Commander of the Somaliland Coast Guard, Brig General Ahmed Hurre Haariye said that the unit that

was being trained is a mobile one that always reaches the local bases along the coast in a constant manner. He thanked the trainers and the EUCAP organization for both availing the course and facilitating it. Officials from the EU agency that works with Somaliland on coastal security noted that the training projects, which were on for the past four years, would indeed continue and that their organization would facilitate imperative equipment appliances needs if necessary.

Mysterious disease in Congo, Italy raises alert level: checks on flights



Alert rises, the directive from the Ministry of Health: "Be careful at all entry points, especially for direct flights from the country"
Italy raises the level of attention on the mysterious disease that has caused dozens of victims in Congo
A letter sent by the Ministry of Health asks the Usmaf, the Maritime, Air and Border Health Offices of the Ministry of Health, "to pay attention to all entry points, especially for

direct flights from the country ." Local authorities in close collaboration with international ones "are working to verify the situation and provide a rapid and effective response to this new epidemic outbreak that is affecting the country, already recently hit by the Monkeypox epidemic".
The disease has affected thousands of people, causing the death of several young people, including children . It causes fever, headache, cough, runny nose and anemia. The authorities are calling on the population of the affected area to limit their movements: " **Entry and exit from this health zone must be limited, we must avoid greeting each other by shaking hands, wash our hands regularly** ." The WHO has sent a team of experts to collect samples for laboratory analysis.

Parliamentary National Asset Protection and Monitoring Committee Inspects the Hargeisa Local Government

By M.A. Egge

A several hours long procedural meeting was held on Tuesday morning between the Mayor of Hargeisa, Cllr. Abdikarim Ahmed Mooge, and the National Asset Protection and Monitoring Committee of the Somaliland House of Representatives. The Mayor of Hargeisa along with some members of the Hargeisa Local Council and the Directors of the Departments of Administration and Finance, Public Works, Real Estate and the Head of the Industrial Office, welcomed them at the Town Hall and held a meeting with the

National Asset Protection and Monitoring Committee of the House of Representatives, which has been conducting work within the Hargeisa local government for the past month.

Issues regarding the various works underway in the capital city of Hargeisa, especially the works to improve the living infrastructure of the people such as roads, health and education, were dealt with hence outstanding queries were given satisfactory answers.

On the other hand, they appreciated the inside the central government headquarters of Hargeisa, which

was recently implemented in a modern multi-storey building that houses the Town Hall.

The National Assets Protection and Monitoring Committee of the Somaliland House of Representatives, which is in charge of the 2022 budget, was monitoring the projects implemented from the national budget.

They are also monitoring all government institutions, observing the protection of national assets during the transition in the government is undergoing the ushering in of the new WADDANI administration.

Elders decry influx of refugees from Somalia, Somaliland



Elders from North Eastern region have raised fears over an influx of refugees in the country caused by rising tensions in the Horn of Africa over the independence of Somaliland.

Over the past years, the contention on the independence of Somaliland has caused diplomatic incidents, especially between Somalia, Kenya, Egypt and Ethiopia.

Somaliland, which has not received any international recognition, declared its independence from the rest of Somalia in 1991, following the collapse of the then military government led by the late dictator Mohamed Siad Barre.

Currently, Somalia and Ethiopia are engaged in a diplomatic row over a deal signed in January this year, between Ethiopia and Somaliland for a 50-year lease of a Red Sea port to set up a naval base from Somaliland, in exchange for possible recognition of

Somaliland's independence. Somalia views this deal as an assault on her sovereignty and territorial independence.

In Kenya, the elders from the North Eastern counties which border Somalia, have alleged that the Somalia's military are already moving closer to the borders and worry that if the situation is not arrested, more refugees will flood into the country which is currently grappling with a high number of refugees.

The elders, who were speaking in Garissa, noted that the region cannot sustain more refugees especially with insecurity and resource-based conflicts caused by the presence of refugees.

Osman Ibrahim Abdi, an elder and the Dadaab sub county Peace Chairperson, said that as elders, they have witnessed insecurity over the past especially the Shifta wars and how the 1991 rebellion in Somalia

affected those in the north eastern region.

"There is a saying in our community that, before something gets to you, report. We want to ask the President to intervene and bring the leaders together so that they resolve the issues before they escalate further to our country," Abdi said.

"We do not have to see more people being displaced and become refugees due to issues that can be amicably resolved. The leaders of Somalia and Somaliland should prioritize peace and solve their issues," he added.

Dekow Mohamed Duale, said that as the border communities, they are worried that if the tensions continue to rise, there can be a spillover to the Kenyan side where they will also be affected.

They now want the government of Kenya to negotiate peace deals between the countries and find an amicable solution for all the parties.

The environment must be protected, says environmental minister

By M.A. Egge

The Minister of Environment and Climate Change of Somaliland, Shukri Haji Ismail Bandare, has highlighted the importance of caring for the environment, and has called on the community to protect their environment.

Minister Shukri Bandare added that "our entire life depends on protecting and appreciating our environment hence huge losses would be

incurred if the environment is not protected".

She recalled the many recurring droughts that have had a severe impact on our environment due to degradation cautioning that it has to be mitigated at any cost.

She underscored the fact that all life depended on the environment and once it is degraded, all forms of life perish thereafter.

Ministry of Religious Affairs Presents Its Next Five-Year Plan

By M.A. Egge

The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Endowments of Somaliland has presented its development plan for the next five years, which is based on the priority needs of the ministry. The presentation of the plan, which the ministry will work on for the next five years, was presided over by the minister who was accompanied by the director general of the ministry, Khalid Ibrahim Hassan (Oday), directors of the ministry's departments, and other officials.

The plan was based on ensuring that religious and endowment services reflect the needs of the community and the future of the country.

The Minister Sh. Mohamed Haji Aden Elmi, officially launched the unveiling of the action plan in which he played a leading role in the efforts to realize it. Regular consultations were held with various stakeholders in religious and endowment matters over time.

It focused on, among other things, the development of Islamic religious institutions: improving mosques, madrasas and other places of worship to facilitate the community

in learning about Islam.

The plan also includes the administration of endowments, which aims to reform the administration of endowment assets, to ensure that they are used for the general interests of the community.

It was also stated that the plan includes raising awareness of the Islamic religion, creating campaigns and educational programs to educate the community, especially the youth.

Strengthening International Relations: Somaliland should participate in international conferences and forums on religious and endowment issues, and monitoring and evaluating, establishing a mechanism to ensure the implementation and success of the plan.

On the other hand, Minister Mohamed Haji Aden Elmi was highly praised for the leadership and transparency he brought to the ministry, serving to set a vision that can guide the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Endowments for years.

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