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## President orders cabinet ministers to submit ongoing projects within a fortnight in order to synchronize them with policy plans

"We have urged ministers to submit ongoing projects within fifteen days to align them with the pledges of the Waddani party policies made during the electioneering processes", stated the Head of State.



By M.A. Egge

The President H.E. Dr. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdirahman has instructed the members of his cabinet to submit ongoing projects in their ministries related to development issues, the implementers and their impact on the nation as far as positivity is concerned hence has to be synchronized with the WADDANI

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## Somaliland's Indigenous Democracy Highlighted in Nobel Economics Lecture



In his 2024 Nobel Prize in Economics lecture titled "Paths towards the Periphery," delivered in Stockholm on December 8, Professor James A. Robinson presented Somaliland as a compelling example of

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**SRCS/ICRC promptly heeds to the government's call for aid**

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## Op-ed: Time for Action: Recognizing Somaliland as an integral ally in countering China's growing influence in East Africa-Adam D. Ahmed



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## The time has come for the British government to directly recognize Somaliland- MP Gavin Williamson



By M.A. Egge

MP Gavin Williamson, a stalwart British politician and member of the UK Parliament who has held several cabinet positions in the past has once again called for the prompt international recognition for the nation of Somaliland.

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## Nationhood for Somaliland- Philip Hunt



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## It is essential for our fledgling statehood to concertedly be accountable and transparent, says the VP



By M.A. Egge

On the second day of the cabinet ministers' induction workshop, the VP H.E. Mohamed Ali Aw Abdi, passionately

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## President orders cabinet ministers to submit ongoing projects within a fortnight in order to synchronize them with policy plans



policy plans.

“We have urged ministers to submit ongoing projects within fifteen days to align them with the pledges of the Waddani party policies made during the electioneering processes”, stated the Head of State.

The directive was made at the fourth cabinet meeting the government had, chaired by the President himself while flanked by his deputy H.E. Mohamed Ali Abdi.

A press release issued by the Somaliland Presidential Palace on Thursday evening detailed reports from ministers and the President’s order.

We present in its entirety the press release issued by the Presidency as follows: -

“The 004th session of the cabinet meeting of the Unity and Action government administration chaired by the President of the Republic of Somaliland, His Excellency Abdirahman Mohamed Abdilaahi Iirro who was flanked by the Vice President of Somaliland, His Excellency Mohamed Ali Aw Abdi discussed important issues for the interests of the Somaliland nation. “The President listened to various reports from the cabinet ministers

that were important for the interests of the Somaliland nation, which were related to security, economy, social issues and the export of livestock, which is the backbone of our economy.

“Firstly, the Minister of Internal Security, Hon. Abdalle Mohamed Arab, briefed the council on the general situation in the country saying that the country’s security is stable.

“Similarly, the Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Hon. Abdillahi Hassan Adan, briefed the council on the general situation of the country’s economy and how to accelerate taxes and revenue collection. The minister said that as a government, we need to consult and step up our efforts.

“Meanwhile, the Minister of Finance said that a joint committee consisting of members of his ministry and that of the Bank of the Republic of Somaliland is being formed to consult on the general situation of the country’s economy and how to control inflation and exchange rate fluctuations.

“In turn, the Minister of Livestock and Rural Development, Dr. Omar

Shuayb Mohamed, briefed the council on livestock export activities and the challenges that need to be addressed, underlining that livestock is the backbone of the country’s economy.

“The Minister also shared with the council that last year, the number of livestock exported from the country was 3,718,966 including sheep, cattle and camels.

“On his part the Minister of Health, Dr. Hussein Bashir Hirsi, briefed the council on the general health situation in the country, noting that his ministry, in line with its national obligations, is engaged in providing health services and responding to emergencies, whether in terms of medicine, transportation and personnel.

“The Minister of the Presidency, Khadar Hussein Abdi, also briefed the council on the 100 days plan.

“The minister briefed the council on the Unity Government and planned actions that have to be in line with the national development plan and the six pillars of the party’s political program, and has got to be achieved. He reminded his colleagues that the populaces are expecting tangible implementations of the pledges made as far as developmental progress is realized for the good of the people.

“Finally, the President of the Republic of Somaliland, Dr. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdilaahi Iirro, instructed the cabinet to align the government’s commitments with the party’s political program, so that each minister has to prepare within 15 days a general report related to his ministry on any ongoing or planned projects, who is funding them, and the benefits of these projects to the needs of our society”.

## The time has come for the British government to directly recognize Somaliland- MP Gavin Williamson

Mr. Williamson who has been at the forefront of lobbying for rightful international recognition for quite a while, has just paid a courtesy call to Somaliland’s Head of State following a peaceful democratic change of guard which has just seen WADDANI presidential candidate in a historical landslide of two to one.

The perfection of democratic implementation in the country has this time round been hailed widely throughout the world as most fair and just, a feat unseen in the Horn of Africa region and most of the developing world.

The friend and supporter of Somaliland has lamented that it has taken the UK and world too long to take action hence it is now time to

follow the USA lead as far as Somaliland’s recognition is concerned.

He described Somaliland as a nation that deserves to be recognized and has become the most democratic country in the region and in Africa as a whole.

He noted that the time has come to recognize Somaliland as a country that has achieved success and has indeed borne fruit of its aspirations. MP Gavin Williamson expressed his sentiments in his Facebook page on Friday after meeting the President of Somaliland H.E. Dr. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Iirro and the Minister of the Presidency of Somaliland.

He pointed out that, “It was a great honour to meet the new President

of Somaliland, Abdirahman Mohamed Abdilaahi, the Minister of the Presidency of Somaliland and the commander of the Presidential Guards.

“After the free and fair elections and a peaceful transfer of power, unlike most of its neighbours, it is now time for the UK to recognize Somaliland as an independent nation. This has been going on for a long time but now is the time for them to act in line with other nations such as the US.”

MP Gavin Williamson is a prominent campaigner for Somaliland’s recognition and has frequently debated the issue in the UK Parliament.

## Somaliland’s Indigenous Democracy Highlighted in Nobel Economics Lecture



successful indigenous state-building. While the world often focuses on state failures in the Horn of Africa, Professor Robinson, who holds dual appointments at the University of Chicago’s Harris School of Public Policy and Department of Political Science, and the University of Nigeria-Nsukka’s Institute of African Studies, highlighted how Somaliland’s innovative use of traditional institutions offers a powerful counter-narrative.

The Stockholm lecture elevated Somaliland’s governance system to the global academic discourse. Professor Robinson, co-author of “Why Nations Fail,” demonstrated how Somaliland’s blend of traditional and modern governance structures challenges conventional wisdom about democratic development, particularly in regions where Western models have struggled to take root.

Central to Professor Robinson’s analysis was the Guurti, Somaliland’s council of elders serving as the upper house of parliament. Since its formation during the 1993 Borama Conference, the Guurti has proven instrumental in stabilizing Somaliland during its formative years. Its effectiveness was particularly evident in 2003 when President Dahir Riyale Kahin’s razor-thin victory margin of 80 votes was peacefully accepted—a defining moment for Somaliland’s democracy.

The institution’s success in conflict mediation exemplifies how traditional mechanisms can effectively address contemporary challenges. In 2021, Somaliland held parliamentary and local elections praised by international observers for their transparency and inclusivity. This adaptability has been key to Somaliland’s stability in a region often characterized by political turbulence.

Professor Robinson explained that normative orders—the underlying societal norms and values—are critical to shaping governance systems. While many African states struggle with post-colonial systems that clash with local traditions, Somaliland avoided this pitfall by

weaving its clan-based norms into state institutions. The Guurti, representing 82 clans, institutionalizes community harmony and consensus-building, though this sometimes creates economic trade-offs between stability and reform.

Bashir Goth, Somaliland’s representative to the United States, contextualized the Guurti’s role for international audiences by drawing parallels with the U.S. Senate. “This analogy helps foreigners understand the Guurti’s function,” Goth explained, “but its unique origin in pastoral democracy and continued role in peace-building has become a subject of scholarly interest, now recognized in the annals of Nobel Prize history.”

Professor Robinson drew parallels between Somaliland and Botswana’s successful integration of the kgotla system, challenging the notion that poorer nations must mimic Western systems to succeed. Even more remarkable is Somaliland’s success in scaling traditional governance principles to the national level—a feat many African states have failed to achieve. The absence of international recognition, often seen as a handicap, may have been advantageous. Without foreign interference dictating its political systems, Somalilanders crafted governance structures tailored to their needs, resulting in a democracy that is participatory, resilient, and accountable.

For Somaliland’s ongoing quest for international recognition, Professor Robinson’s academic validation carries particular weight. It strengthens the argument that Somaliland’s unique path to statehood, while unconventional, has produced a stable, functioning democracy worthy of global acknowledgment. Highlighting how the west can help less developed people, Professor Robinson said: “we have to take seriously and study more intensively the nature of their societies.” Somaliland’s success demonstrates this principle, showing how indigenous institutions like the Guurti can be effectively adapted for modern democratic governance while maintaining cultural continuity.

# Swift emergency medical supplies aid received from SRCS/ICRC



By M.A. Egge

The Chairman of the Somaliland Red Crescent Society (SRCS), Mr. Ahmed Abdi Bakaal, handed over medical aid to the government, becoming the first organization to respond to the call sent by Somaliland to the world.

The Director General of the Ministry of Health, Dr. Mohamed Abdi Hergeeye, received the aid from the Red Crescent and Red Cross organizations at a ceremony held at the Hargeisa Group Hospital in the presence of officials from the Ministry of Health, the Red Crescent and Red Cross organizations, amongst other distinguished guests. The Hospital's director Dr. Abdirahman, said that the hospital was in great need of medicines, hence thanked the ICRC and the Somaliland Red Crescent Society. Mr. Ahmed Abdi Bakaal, who spoke on the occasion of the transfer of

medicines, said that its purpose is to contribute to the national dire needs.

"The medical aid that we are transferring to you came at the request of the President of the Republic of Somaliland, Mr. Dr. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdiahi Irro. When he shared the national need with us, it was necessary to deliver it urgently", he said.

Chairman Bakaal thanked the International Committee of the Red Cross for responding swiftly to the request of the Red Crescent and the request of the Somaliland nation. He was grateful to the Minister of Finance, Hon. Abdilaahi Hassan Adan, who played a major role in ensuring that the aid arrived in Hargeisa in a timely manner.

An ICRC spokesperson said that they quickly delivered the medicines when the government's request was

received, and had already played a role in caring for the wounded in Baligubadle and Hargeisa.

Dr. Edna, one of the officials who attended the reception of the medical aid, said she was grateful for the prompt response of the Somaliland Red Crescent Society and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to the government's call.

The Director General of the Ministry of Health, Dr. Mohamed Abdi Hergeeye said that the medical aid packages consisted of 92 cartons of emergency medical supplies which he noted that was indeed dire for casualty emergency services.

The supplies were immediately distributed and promptly dispatched to Hargeisa, Baligubadle and Erigavo hospitals.

The Somaliland Red Crescent Society is also said to be conducting a project in collaboration with other organizations to financially support 800 families displaced by the skirmishes in Sanaag Region.

The Somaliland community, who read the aid news on social media, also greatly welcomed the swift and prompt action of the International Red Crescent and Red Cross, and called on other organizations to follow suit and respond to the call made by the Somaliland government.

## Kenya International Election Observer Mission Preliminary Report

*The Kenya International Election Observer Mission has released its preliminary report on Somaliland's 2024 presidential and political party elections, praising the overall organization, peaceful conduct, and transparency of the process.*



The full report is as follows:

International (Kenya) Election Observer Mission Preliminary Report on the 2024 Somaliland Presidential and Political Parties Election

Condolence Message

The International (Kenya) Observation Mission has learnt of the untimely passing-on of His Excellency former President Ahmed M. M. Silanyo. The Mission conveys its heartfelt condolences to the President, the family and the people of Somaliland for such a devastating loss of a notable statesman, who served with passion and dedication.

### 1. PREFACE

The Kenya International Election Observer Mission was deployed to Somaliland to observe the presidential and political parties' elections held on 13th November 2024. The delegation comprised 10 observers and operated at the invitation of the Somaliland National Electoral Commission (NEC), aligning with its commitment to support and strengthen democratic processes.

For six days of engagement, the observers conducted assessments across three regions: Hargeisa, Berbera, and Borama, evaluating prior, during, and post-election day procedures. These included; the NEC briefings, meetings with the presidential candidates, polling station operations, voting, closing, and tallying processes.

The mission's findings were guided by the AU Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections and Somaliland's electoral legal framework. In any progressive democracy, free and fair elections increase the likelihood of a peaceful transfer of power. They help to ensure that losing candidates will accept the validity of the election's results and cede power to the new government, as a demonstration of the will of the people.

### 2. INTRODUCTION

Somaliland conducted its fourth consecutive national democratic election for the presidency on 13th November 2024. The election was for 7 new political associations as well as the three existing political

parties to compete to be political parties.

The electoral environment, during the pre-election period, election day, and post-election phases, was observed to be peaceful, orderly, and well-organized, guided by the rule of law. The mission greatly commends the people of Somaliland, the Somaliland National Electoral Commission, presidential candidates, and political parties for demonstrating confidence in the democratic process and ensuring a credible election.

### 3. OBSERVATION OUTCOME

#### i. Election Preparedness

The mission noted that the NEC demonstrated adequate preparedness, which included:

- Develop and implement an election roadmap in consultation with political parties and presidential candidates.

- Establishment of mechanisms to foster transparency and inclusivity.

#### ii. Voting Process and Polling Staff

- Observers were present at polling stations before the official opening time of 7:00 AM and visited over 60 polling stations throughout election day.

- Priority voting arrangements were made for the elderly, expectant mothers, and nursing mothers.

- Polling stations were well-staffed, with an average of five officials per station, ensuring a seamless voting process and secrecy of the ballot.

- Polling staff displayed professionalism and responsiveness to observer queries.

- The NEC provided an opportunity for youth participation by recruiting and training them as polling clerks and presiding officers.

- Observers noted that some ballot boxes lacked fitting lids or proper seals, which requires attention for future elections.

#### iii. Good Election Practices

The mission observed several commendable practices, including:

- Special voting provisions that increased voter access.

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## It is essential for our fledgling statehood to concertededly be accountable and transparent, says the VP

gave a wonderfully valuable speech based on the essence of accountability and transparency in government, good governance essentials, and what entails justice, fairness for the Somaliland society, strengthening unity and common ownership of the nation.

Such a lecture to the top ministerial chiefs publicized is unprecedented in the country.

It further underscores the eagerness that the WADDANI administration government is keen and bent on in the dispensation of their public services duties.

The VP imploringly urged the new ministers "to fully understand the importance of their sworn duty to the nation".

He pointed out, "I hope that this two-day workshop will truly reflect the governance we aspire to achieve, especially the plan we have to implement in the first 100 days".

He addressed them, Ladies and Gentlemen, transparency in governance begins with elected officials and the officials they appoint hence reflect upon and translate to the provision of services to the people expected in accountable and transparent governance".

He said that it was necessary for government officials to bring accountability and transparency in



their work, and at the same time implement the changes they have campaigned for as a party.

"In our fledgling government, it is essential that we bring accountability and transparency in our work. It is a religious obligation for us to fulfill the work we have been sworn to do for the nation", he said. He continued, "It is up to us to build a good government that is free from corruption, bias and bureaucratic delays. The public expects us to bring about the changes we have been campaigning for."

The Vice President also told the ministers that they need to fulfill the people's expectations and swiftly expedite the tasks assigned to them. "The one who is expected to believe in the people's expectations is you, for you are expected to seriously carry out the pioneering tasks that lie ahead of you".

He further said, "We are faced with restoring the people's trust in their government, and it is our duty to come up with constructive ideas that will warm the hearts of our people. "Transparency in governance is based on making short, medium and long-term plans (Proper Strategic Plan), which is accountable and transparent.

"I urge you to implement the Political Program that the Waddani Party entered the election with, which truly reflects the needs of the people. "In the end, we must increasingly uphold Equality and Justice, and enhance the services provided to the people."

The speech would go down well in the journals of the country's history that the executive of a new administration publicly tells its ministers what is expected of them from the word go.

# Kenya International Election Observer Mission Preliminary Report

2. Regular communication by the NEC with stakeholders, enhancing process transparency.
  3. Establishment of a Women's Situation Room and Early Warning and Response Mechanisms, which effectively monitored election-related violence and human rights violations.
  4. Issuance of special NEC car registration plates to regulate vehicular movement on election day.
  5. Professionalism exhibited by stakeholders such as security agencies, party agents, civil society, and the media.
  6. Pre-election engagements with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), such as SONSAF, ensuring responsiveness to public interest.
  7. The absence of chaos, intimidation, or violence at polling stations.
  8. The media adhered to legal provisions, providing equitable coverage to all parties and candidates.
- iv. Transparency and Accountability  
The voting and counting processes

- were conducted in a transparent and accountable manner, with party agents, observers, and media present.
- v. Closing of Polling Stations and Counting of Votes  
The mission noted that closing and counting procedures were consistent across all polling stations visited. All voters in the queue at closing time were allowed to vote. Delays at some polling stations were attributed to long queues, yet the process was managed effectively.
- #### 4. NOTABLE AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS
1. Biometric Verification Systems: Address technical issues with (IRIS) Biometric Verification Systems to prevent malfunctions in future election processes.
  2. Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities: Ensure polling venues are accessible, avoiding locations with stairs unless provision of ramps is available.
  3. Lighting: Provide adequate

- lighting at all polling stations, especially for night operations.
4. Security of Ballot Boxes: Ensure all ballot boxes have fitting lids and proper seals.
  5. Infrastructure and Logistics: Address logistical and infrastructural gaps to improve overall efficiency.
- #### 5. CONCLUSION
- The Kenya International Election Observer Mission commends;
- The Somaliland citizenry for exhibiting their patriotism and peacefully exercising their constitutional and democratic rights,
  - The National Electoral Commission for professionally and seamlessly conducting its mandate and;
  - All Somaliland electoral and political stakeholders for conducting a free, fair, and democratic election that meets international standards.
- The mission extends its congratulations to Somaliland for this significant milestone in its democratic journey.

## Nationhood for Somaliland- Philip Hunt



This possibility of Somaliland being recognized as a new nation in Africa by the United States is intriguing for global politics but also because of the possibility of opening up the region to freedom of religion. Please read, and please pray for God's will and purpose for Somaliland.

British Somaliland made a decision in 1960 that they were soon to regret. After gaining independence, they joined forces with the newly freed Italian Somaliland in the south forming the Republic of Somalia. This history is important for the advance of the gospel in Africa!

"During the late 19th century, Somalia became a focal point of European colonial ambitions, leading to its partition among various powers. The British established control over the northern region, known as British Somaliland, while the Italians took control of southern Somalia, forming Italian Somaliland. To the northwest, the French colonized what is now Djibouti. The Ottoman Empire also maintained a presence along Somalia's coastal areas during this period. Despite the division, Somali resistance to colonial rule was fierce, exemplified by figures like Sayid Mohamed Abdullah Hassan, who led a protracted 20-year struggle against British and Italian forces.

The drive for independence gained momentum in the mid-20th century. In 1960, British Somaliland gained independence on June 26, followed shortly by Italian Somaliland on July 1. These two territories united to form the Somali Republic. The new nation embarked on a Pan-Somalism movement, aiming to unify all Somali-inhabited territories, including parts of neighboring Ethiopia, Kenya, and Djibouti. Somalia's descent into civil war and state collapse began in 1991 with the overthrow of the military regime led by Siad Barre, who had ruled since 1969. Following his ousting, the country plunged into chaos as clan-based militias and warlords vied for power, leading to the disintegration of central authority. The absence of a functioning government exacerbated violence, lawlessness, and humanitarian crises, including famine and mass displacement. Efforts by international forces, such as United Nations peacekeeping missions and U.S. military interventions, were largely unsuccessful and culminated in high-profile incidents like the 1993 "Black Hawk Down" event in Mogadishu. Amid the

turmoil, regions like Somaliland declared independence in 1991, while Puntland established autonomy in 1998, though both sought different paths to stability. Meanwhile, extremist groups like Al-Shabaab emerged, further destabilizing the country. The prolonged conflict devastated Somalia's infrastructure, economy, and social fabric, leaving a legacy of fragmentation and suffering that continues to shape the nation's recovery efforts today."

Against this backdrop, Semifor Africa, an online journal carried this headline in a December 10th article written by Yinka Adegoke: *A Trump White House looks set to recognize the world's newest country.* He writes,

"Somaliland, a self-governing region within Somalia, will be much closer to being recognized by the United States as the world's newest country when Donald Trump returns to the White House in January. "Last month the territory held its sixth successful election since reclaiming independence from Somalia in 1991, bringing opposition leader Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi to office as president. Republicans and other supporters have been encouraged by Somaliland's democratic strides with a one-person, one-vote system even as conflict-ridden Somalia struggles to organize any elections. "Peter Pham, a former Africa envoy in Trump's first term, said Somaliland's democratic process had "demonstrated its attractiveness as a partner for the United States and other countries."

"Somalilanders who spoke with Semafor Africa from the capital Hargeisa soon after the Nov.13 election said they were confident Trump's return to the White House will boost their aspirations for independence. "We have a golden opportunity to be closer if not for full recognition but much closer engagement with the US," said Bashir Goth, who heads the Somaliland mission in Washington DC."

This possibility is intriguing for global politics but also because of the possibility of opening up the region to freedom of religion. It remains to be seen if this area of the world, one of the least reached from a Christian perspective, would grant freedom of religion and allow churches to operate freely within the new country.

In 2007, I was privileged to travel with

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### Op-ed: Time for Action: Recognizing Somaliland as an integral ally in countering China's growing influence in East Africa-Adam D. Ahmed

The Horn of Africa is one of the most critical regions in global geopolitics, interlinking the most significant maritime routes, the Middle East, and the Indian Ocean. This has turned it, especially over the last period of time, into a hot spot for international competition, driven by China's rising economic and military presence. Within this dynamic geopolitical landscape, Somaliland is an underutilized asset, offering a set of strategic opportunities that the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the United States, and Ethiopia cannot afford to overlook.

In direct contrast to the general instability characterizing the region, Somaliland has maintained a stable and democratic governance model since declaring independence from Somalia in 1991. Notwithstanding a lack of formal international recognition, Somaliland has held peaceful elections, established functional institutions, and provided an environment of security and order. Somaliland recognition is a matter not of symbolism but one that is essentially geopolitical, with far-reaching ramifications for East Africa and the Red Sea corridor. Recognition of Somaliland could offer several strategic benefits.

#### Securing Strategic Sea Routes

Somaliland borders the Gulf of Aden, one of the busiest sea routes in the world, connecting the Indian Ocean to the Red Sea and the Suez Canal. Piracy and regional instability pose a threat to world trade. Somaliland offers a stable partner for improving maritime security. International recognition would pave the way for closer cooperation in anti-piracy missions, ensuring the free flow of

goods and improving trade facilitation.

#### Counterbalancing Chinese Influence

Chinese dominance in Africa under the leadership of the BRI features various endeavors, including a military outpost in Djibouti and serious investments in key infrastructure. It is to this that the recognition of Somaliland offers a key opportunity for counterbalancing Beijing's heft in the Horn. Moreover, Somaliland's strategic location may provide other military and logistical functions, serving as a counterbalance to growing Chinese authoritarianism in that region.

#### Improving Regional Stability

In a region torn apart by conflict and instability, Somaliland's stability is a rare and precious commodity. Recognition would give Ethiopia access to alternative trade routes via the Berbera Port, thereby reducing reliance on Djibouti and encouraging economic growth and diversification. For the UAE, with substantial investments in Berbera, it would mean a far stronger and more reliable partner to safeguard its interests in the Red Sea. This will also help to avert destabilizing forces exploiting the status of Somaliland being unrecognized.

#### Democratization of Values

Somaliland has emerged as one of the very few examples of functional democratic governance in a region where such practices are rare. International recognition would send a powerful message in support of democracy, self-determination, and the rule of law, reinforcing global principles of stability. For the United States, recognizing

Somaliland aligns with its broader foreign policy goals of supporting stable and democratic nations while strengthening its presence in the Horn of Africa.

#### The Cost of Inaction

Failure to recognize Somaliland will cede strategic ground to China and other rising powers that seek to exploit the region's vulnerabilities. Any delayed recognition could leave the Western powers and their allies out of the shifting geopolitical landscape of the Horn of Africa. The strategic salience of Somaliland is, therefore, calling for firm action in securing the long-term global interests within this critical region.

#### Call to Action

It is an issue of strategic necessity for countries like the UAE, the United States, and Ethiopia. By formalizing its status, these nations will have a partner in whom they can trust to promote maritime security, regional stability, and balance China's influence.

Recognizing Somaliland is not only a question of regional stability but also about opening up new platforms for partnership, security collaboration, and economic growth. Somaliland represents an important missing piece of the geopolitical puzzle in East Africa. The Horn of Africa is at a crossroads. Somaliland's recognition would alter its geopolitical course and position it as a beacon of stability and development in East Africa. Strategic foresight and resolute action are needed to safeguard global interests in one of the most pivotal regions of the world. **AS Adam Daud Ahmed is a political and security analyst in the Horn of Africa.**

## Nationhood for Somaliland- Philip Hunt

some brothers from South Africa to Somaliland. We traveled through the country from Hargeisa to the Gulf of Aden. It was an eye-opening trip. While in the country, we had the opportunity to meet the Vice-President of the self-declared

country and be present when the President returned from an international trip. There is much need, and I look forward to a growing opportunity for Christian participation in a free Somaliland.

We should pray for wisdom and God's will to be done in the issue of Somaliland. I, for one, pray that this region is accepted as the world's newest country. Pray for Somaliland.

## Justice Minister meets UNODC officials on prison reforms



By M.A. Egge  
The Minister of Justice of Somaliland, Hon. Yoonis Ahmed Yoonis, held a meeting with officials from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) focusing on prison reforms and inmates welfare. The meeting, which saw the attendance of the Director General

of the Ministry of Justice, Isma'il Suleiman Bowkah, and the departmental heads, was both orientate and exchanging of information about the projects the agency is working on with the ministry, especially the reform and development of prisons. The DG reported on the projects implemented by the UNODC

agency in the Ministry and their progress, indicating that good work is being done. On his part the minister thanked the UNODC officials and informed them that prison reform and the care of prisoners is the ministry's top priority and welcomed their cooperation, adding that there was a need to strengthen the work and cooperation between the ministry and the Agency for the Prevention of Crime and Combating Drugs. He underscored the fact that the Prison Reform and Prisoner Welfare is of great importance to the ministry hence there is a need to focus on how to implement it. For their part, officials from the UNODC welcomed the minister's sentiments, pledging to work closely with the ministry, as well as implement projects that are important to the ministry and the country.

## Betrayal of the Innocents: Garad Jama's Shocking Pact with a Somali War Criminal-By Prof. Nassir

In an appalling affront to morality and a brazen betrayal of justice, Garad Jamac has sparked outrage by openly consorting with one of the most reviled war criminals in Somali history—a man whose name is synonymous with bloodshed and terror. This chilling encounter, captured on video and shared on X (formerly Twitter), reveals an alliance that mocks the very principles of accountability and human dignity. The war criminal in question is a former Somali general Colonel Yusuf Abdi Ali 'Tuke' whose hands are stained with the blood of innocent Issaq civilians—victims of the barbarity unleashed during Siad Barre's brutal dictatorship. Recently deported from the United States after a decades-long legal battle, this man has become a symbol of the atrocities that tore through Somaliland in the 1980s. His heinous legacy includes commanding massacres, personally executing civilians, and orchestrating the burial of countless victims in unmarked mass graves—most notoriously in Gabiley. Yet, despite this horrifying history, Garad Jamac has chosen to embrace this criminal, casting aside the pain of survivors and the memory of those who perished. The disgraced general, once discovered working as a parking lot security guard in Toronto during the early 1990s, has now returned to the land he ravaged. Instead of facing the rejection and condemnation he deserves, he was



met with a warm welcome from Jama—a man who purports to be a leader of the people but has now revealed allegiances that defy comprehension. This is not merely a meeting; it is a grotesque statement of shared values and priorities. By standing shoulder-to-shoulder with a man convicted of crimes against humanity, Garad Jamac has sent a chilling message: that justice, accountability, and the sanctity of human life mean nothing. His actions are a slap in the face to survivors, grieving families, and communities still haunted by the horrors of Siad Barre's regime. The symbolism of this alliance is as clear as it is horrifying. It reduces the progress of Somaliland to ashes, tarnishing the struggle of a nation striving to emerge from the shadow of dictatorship and bloodshed. Garad Jamac, a figure who should embody hope and leadership for the people of Sool and Sanaag, has instead aligned himself with the very forces that sought to annihilate innocent Issaq civilians in Somaliland. This public fraternization raises urgent questions: What drives Jamac to embrace a man whose name is synonymous with

genocide? Is this an attempt to whitewash the crimes of the past and preserve the toxic legacies of a regime that inflicted untold suffering on Somaliland? For the survivors of Gabiley and the broader Somaliland community, this spectacle is nothing short of betrayal. Their pain, their resilience, and their quest for justice have been spat upon by a leader who should champion their cause, not consort with their oppressors. The implications of this alliance are dire. It undermines the hard-fought gains of Somaliland's pursuit of justice and reconciliation. It sets a dangerous precedent that war criminals can find refuge and camaraderie among the very leaders who should shun them. History will judge Garad Jamac harshly. His decision to stand with a war criminal is a stain on his character and a dark mark on Somaliland's path to healing. This shocking betrayal must serve as a rallying cry for all who believe in justice and accountability. The people of Somaliland deserve leaders who will honor their sacrifices, defend their dignity, and confront the sins of the past—not leaders who embrace those who sought to destroy them.

## President Abdirahman Irro visits the injured Da'awalay casualties hospitalized in Hargeisa

*The Government of Somaliland and the Federal Government of Ethiopia Discussed Peaceful Resolving of Da'awalay issues, he says*

By M.A. Egge  
The President of the Republic of Somaliland, H.E. Dr. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro, said that Somaliland and Ethiopia are working together to end the conflict in the Da'awalay area of the Somali Regional State of Ethiopia. The President added that the Government of Somaliland and the Federal Government of Ethiopia have discussed ways and means of peaceful conciliation of the matter following the fatal conflicts that afflicted the area. The President expressed hope that the conflict will be peacefully resolved, noting that the parties are engaged in talks to end the conflict. "The efforts to end the issue and the talks between the Republic of Somaliland, the Federal

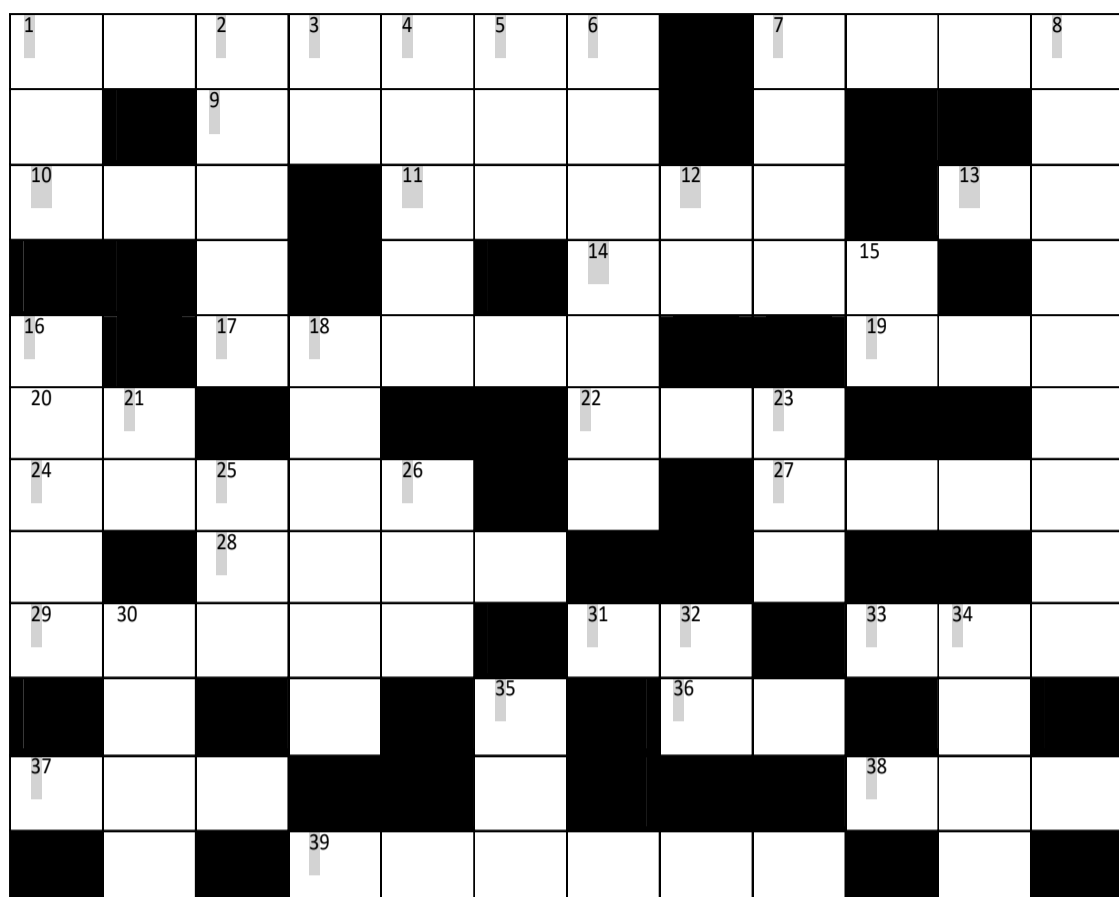
Government of Ethiopia and the Somali Regional Government are progressing well, and I am hopeful that this problem will be put to an end". He continued, "I am saddened that the tragedy occurred and its incumbent upon us to forestall further incidents and address the situation peacefully". On the other hand the President once again sent his heartfelt condolences to those who lost their lives in the skirmishes that pitted the local residents against the regional Liyuu police forces. He also wished the injured a speedy recovery. The Head of State visited the general hospital in Hargeisa where the casualties from the Da'awalay atrocities are hospitalized. He visited the injured individually and prayed for their quick recovery.

## The Return of 'Tuke': A War Criminals Homecoming Threatens Derail Reconciliation Process in the Eastern Region's of Somaliland. By Prof. Nassir

On December 20, 2024, Colonel Yusuf Abdi Ali 'Tuke' was deported from the United States to Somalia after being confirmed by the U.S. courts to be a war criminal. Upon his arrival, he was welcomed by Garad Jama Garad Ali, a traditional leader in the Eastern region of Somaliland. This reception has raised concerns about its potential impact on ongoing reconciliation efforts aimed at resolving inter-clan conflicts in the area where violence remains prevalent. The situation underscores the complexities involved in addressing historical injustices and the challenges faced in reconciliation processes within regions affected by prolonged conflicts. After decades evading accountability, Tuke was finally deported from the United States, only to receive a controversial welcome in these regions. This reception has

ignited deep-seated tensions where efforts towards an end to the conflict and to find a lasting peace and unity is ongoing. To navigate this delicate situation, the Somaliland people and all of its citizens must pursue justice through transparent legal proceedings against Tuke, ensuring that the process is inclusive, fair and sensitive to the grievances of all affected communities. Engaging traditional peacemaking mechanisms, such as the Guurti ( Council of Elders), alongside formal judicial processes, can help address past injustices without rekindling old animosities. By balancing the scales of justice with the pursuit of national unity, Somaliland can strengthen its commitment to human rights and pave the way for lasting peace, stability and economic prosperity in its eastern regions of Sool and Sanaag.

# THT Puzzle



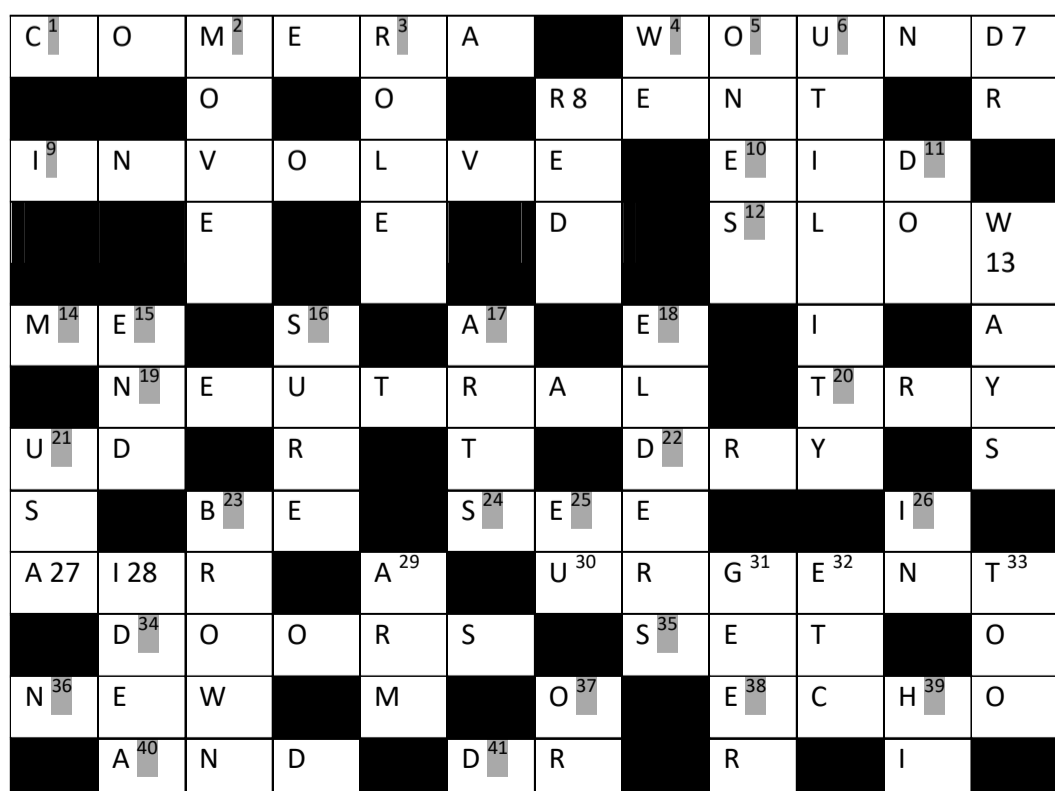
**ACROSS**

- 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



## “Betrayal at Da’awalley: Somaliland Draws the Line with Ethiopia” By Nassir Hussein Kahin

In a shocking turn of events, the massacre in Da’awalley, Somali Region State, Ethiopia, has unleashed a storm of fury and indignation in Somaliland. The brutal killing of ethnic Isaaq civilians by Ethiopia’s Liyuu Police has shattered the fragile trust between the two nations, forcing Somaliland to reconsider its historic alliance with its neighbor.

For decades, Somaliland and Ethiopia maintained a pragmatic relationship—bound by mutual strategic interests and cemented by Somaliland’s provision of access to the coveted port of Berbera. But that partnership now hangs by a thread, tarnished by Ethiopia’s apparent indifference to the suffering of Somaliland’s ethnic kinsmen and its unabashed pursuit of self-serving regional ambitions.

A Legacy of Blood and Betrayal The Da’awalley massacre is not an isolated incident. It follows years of unchecked violence and systemic oppression targeting the Isaaq communities in Ethiopia. Somalilanders still bear the scars of the 2016 Gaashamo massacre, a grim reminder of Ethiopia’s repeated failure to protect ethnic minorities within its borders.

Ethiopia’s federal government has turned a blind eye, allowing its paramilitary Liyuu Police to act with impunity. The killings, displacement, and terror inflicted on the Isaaq people reveal a glaring disregard for basic human rights, laying bare Ethiopia’s inability—or unwillingness—to uphold justice. The Strain of Strategic Overreach Adding insult to injury, Ethiopia’s recent maneuvers on the geopolitical chessboard have raised eyebrows in Hargeisa. Its overtures to Turkiya and Somalia under the Ankara Agreement, coupled with its historical claims over Red Sea access, have stoked fears that Ethiopia is prioritizing its own interests at Somaliland’s expense.

In a move that many Somalilanders view as a betrayal, Ethiopia’s flirtation with Somali interests threatens to undermine Somaliland’s decades-long quest for international recognition. Despite signing a memorandum of understanding earlier this year, which granted Ethiopia critical access to Somaliland’s coastline, Ethiopia’s actions suggest it remains unwilling to treat Somaliland as an equal partner.

A Reckoning for Somaliland The massacre at Da’awalley has sparked an urgent call for action

in Somaliland. Leaders and citizens alike are demanding a recalibration of relations with Ethiopia—one that prioritizes respect, accountability, and equality.

“The days of unchecked violence and impunity are over,” declared a government spokesperson in Hargeisa. “Ethiopia must choose: Will it honor its commitments and respect our sovereignty, or will it risk losing a vital ally in the region?”

To that end, Somaliland has announced several decisive measures:

1. **Withholding Strategic Access:** Ethiopia’s access to Berbera and other facilities will be suspended until it demonstrates concrete efforts to address the ethnic Isaaq human rights crisis and support Somaliland’s sovereign aspirations.

2. **Community Defense Initiatives:** Somaliland will back the formation of community-led defense forces in Ethiopia’s Somali Region to protect vulnerable populations from further aggression.

3. **Advocacy for Accountability:** Somaliland is calling on Ethiopia to dismantle the tribal militias masquerading as Liyuu Police, bring the perpetrators of violence to justice, and implement meaningful security reforms.

A New Chapter for Somaliland The events of Da’awalley have set Somaliland on a bold new path. No longer content to be seen as a junior partner in its relationship with Ethiopia, Somaliland is leveraging its strategic importance to demand respect and recognition.

For the international community, the message is clear: Somaliland’s patience has limits. Its commitment to peace and stability remains unshaken, but it will not hesitate to assert its strength when its sovereignty and people are under threat.

As Somaliland recalibrates its relations with Ethiopia, the world watches with bated breath. Will Ethiopia rise to the occasion and address the grievances of its ethnic minorities? Or will its strategic overreach drive a permanent wedge between these two historical allies?

For Somaliland, the stakes could not be higher. The massacre at Da’awalley has ignited a flame of resolve that will not be extinguished until justice, dignity, and equality are secured for its people.

# Health ministry receives ambulances from Taiwan



By M.A. Egge  
The Minister of Health Hon. Dr. Hussein Bashir Hirsi, received two ambulances courtesy of the Taiwan republic through its Ambassador in the country. The Minister was accompanied at the handover ceremony by the Deputy Minister of Health

Development Hon. Samsam Mohamed Salah, the Director General of the Ministry, Dr. Mohamed Abdi Hergeeye, and senior ministerial staff. The Director General and the Ambassador of Taiwan, who spoke at the event, noted the importance of the vehicles in the emergency sector that would help ease the

tasks. On his part the minister expressed his gratitude to the Government of Taiwan, which has immensely worked closely with the Ministry of Health Development on health issues over time. He praised them for constantly being readily helpful to the people and the nation of Somaliland.

## Hargeisa Local Government Transfers Complete Equipment to the Road Safety Force

By M.A. Egge  
The Hargeisa Local Government on Wednesday equipped the Road Traffic Enforcement Police unit with facilities and appliances necessary for their daily duties hence easing their chores in ensuring safety. The equipment would help them direct both motorists and commuters along the roads and

streets, given their work as indispensable and imperatively needed. The forces stand guard on the streets of Hargeisa (and other cities) day and night to direct traffic and ensure road safety, as they brave the hot sun and the cold weather constantly. The deputy directors of the public

works and the security departments at Hargeisa Local Government, who always work in close collaboration with the Traffic Patrol unit, handed over the assorted equipment and facilities that also included reflector jackets.

## Vice President, Ministers Attend Stately Funeral Accorded the Late Sultan Suleiman

By M.A. Egge  
The Vice President of the Republic of Somaliland, Amb Mohamed Ali Aw Abdi, attended a stately funeral in Borama that was accorded to the late Sultan Suleiman Ali Ismail, may Allah have mercy on him, who passed on a day earlier. He was one of the senior most, and the longest-serving traditional leader, of Somaliland who held the post for 60 years, with a legacy of a peace-oriented elder who worked to rebuild the country and bring peace to the Somaliland tribes. The National Funeral of Sultan Suleiman Ali Ismail, may Allah have mercy on him, was attended by members of the Somaliland cabinet, most of the traditional leaders, MPs from both houses, the Awdal

regional administration and the Borama district, traditional leaders from neighboring countries such as Ethiopia and most of dignitaries of the people of Somaliland in general. The Sultan's body, which was taken from his former residence, was taken to his real home and buried in the Goraya'awl Cemetery in suburbs of Borama city, where thousands of mourners engaged in the prayers for the dead. After the deceased was buried, his son, Sultan Mohamed Sultan Suleiman, was inaugurated tentatively at the spot to carry on the mantles of traditional leadership. In his eulogy, he Vice President H.E. Mohamed Ali Aw- Abdi, spoke about

the history of the late Sultan Suleiman and described him as a righteous servant who was quite religious, mainly known for peacemaking in the community, and who played a similar major role for the nation. Similar leaders among the members of the Somaliland cabinet, including the ministers of internal security, information, foreign affairs, water resources and eminent personalities gave similar sentiments at the funeral. The elderly traditional leader was believed to be a centurion, with 60 years of his life being a sultan. Somaliland Government Strongly Condemns Civilian Massacre by Liyu Police in Da'awalay

## Government condemns the massacre committed by the Liyuu Police in the Da'awaley area of the Somali State Administration of Ethiopia

By M.A. Egge  
The Somaliland government has strongly condemned the massacre committed by Liyu police forces in the Da'awalay area of the Somali regional state of Ethiopia. The Somaliland government on Wednesday said that it had discussed the matter with the Ethiopian Federal Government and that the governments of Somaliland and Ethiopia will meet on Thursday. A press release issued by the Somaliland Ministry of Internal Security, notably condemned the fighting that claimed the lives of civilians in Da'awalay area on consecutive days and at the same time the kidnapped and took hostage traditional leaders hailing from Somaliland who went to the hotspot as peaceful emissaries with the knowledge of the concerned area's local and regional administration. "The Minister of Internal Security of the Republic of Somaliland, Hon. Abdalle Mohamed Arab, who is responsible for national security of the Republic of Somaliland, speaking on behalf of the Government, condemns the massacre committed by the Liyuu Police in the Da'awalay area of the Somali State

Administration of Ethiopia, who committed a massacre of pastoralist civilians, which is against basic human rights and the rule of law. "On the other hand, the Liyuu Police kidnapped traditional leaders from Somaliland in the Da'awalay area, who went there peace emissaries out to curtail and end the conflict that occurred there in recent days; all these (mass murder of civilians and taking of hostages) are tantamount to clear violation of both basic human rights and governance procedures. "The Minister of Internal Security of the Republic of Somaliland strongly condemns the heinous acts committed by the Liyuu Police in the Somali Administration of Ethiopia in the Da'awalay area, who committed widespread massacres, and they will bear the responsibility for it". Meanwhile, the government of the Republic of Somaliland has contacted the Federal Government of Ethiopia, which both peace, political and bilateral relations, had shared with them the atrocities perpetrated by the Liyuu police hence are scheduled to meet at the frontier border town of Togwajale and delve into the matter.

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