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President Abdirahman Irro calls on traditional leaders to supportively blend in peaceful and conciliatory efforts to foster tranquility

The traditional leaders who spoke at the venue pledged to support the endeavors of the government towards entrenching and facilitating peaceful stability, cohesion, tranquility, unity and solidarity amongst the people and the nation of Somaliland.



By M.A. Egge

The President of the Republic of Somaliland H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro has called on the traditional leaders in the country to blend in and support the government's efforts in prioritizing peaceful and conciliatory means to resolve conflicts.

He also underpinned the fact that it

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UK MP Accuses Somalia of Funding Al-Shabaab



By Mohmoud Walaley

MP Gavin Williamson, a senior ranking member of the British Parliament, has accused the Somali government of funding Al-Shabaab and Yemen's

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Dahabshiil Group donates \$330,000 to businesses affected by the fire at the Radio Market

Employees of Somtel and Bluekom donated part of the money



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President meets ICRC/SRCS delegation



By M.A. Egge

The nation of the Republic of Somaliland and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Somaliland Red Crescent Society (SRCS) has pledged to further bolster their cooperation and partnership relations.

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Taiwan welcomes new Somaliland envoy



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Ministry of Finance awards best 2024 employees



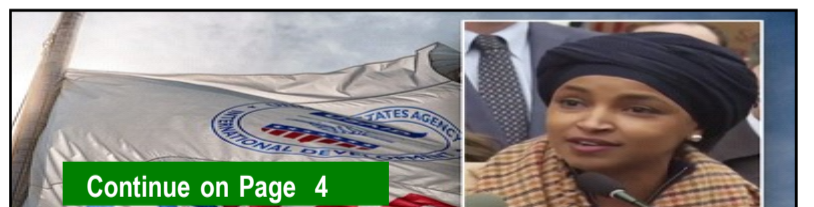
By M.A. Egge

A well-organized event attended by the top Treasury officials, employees and other dignitaries greatly praised the employees who were noted for the best annual employee awards.

The Finance minister Hon. Abdillahi Hassan Adan said at the event that

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Oh, So That's Why Ilhan Omar Is Upset About USAID's Funding Freeze



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President to visit Baligubadle to launch construction of highway connecting it to Hargeisa

By M.A. Egge

The President of the Republic of Somaliland H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro, will make his first visit to the regions of the country on Sunday, visiting the town of Baligubadle in the Hawd region. According to the Somaliland News



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President Abdirahman Irro calls on traditional leaders to supportively blend in peaceful and conciliatory efforts to foster tranquility



was incumbent upon the state to defend the people and the nation of Somaliland at all times.

The President expressed the sentiments as he addressed the nation's senior traditional leaders at the Presidency where hosted a luncheon in their honor

He was flanked by his deputy, the Vice President H.E. Mohamed Ali Aw Abdi.

The Head of State underscored the indispensable role that the traditional leaders have been playing, from time immemorial to-date, as anachronistic government to the crucial supplementary key players in the maintenance of peaceful and cohesive stability in our modern times in the country.

He hailed them for the roles they had been playing all along including the peace-meal pacification processes that they entrenched in the country; that made the nation a household name in the eyes of the global world in the successful traditional home-made reconciliatory prowess they exhibited.

The President reiterated the government's intention and resolve of addressing any, or all, conflicts that abound in peaceful and conciliatory means.

To underscore the resolve, the President revealed that he has decided to work towards peaceful stability, cohesion, tranquility, and solidarity in attaining progress for the rest of his life.

He pointed out that the traditional

leaders are direct representatives of the people who the administration reckon with and respect highly.

He called upon them to blend in, and support the government's efforts, in uniting the nation and foster peaceful tranquility amongst the people of the nation.

He welcomed the message of peace that was conveyed through emissaries last month in addressing skirmishes and conflicts in the eastern parts of the country.

The President also noted that the government will support the suggestion of senior Sultan Abdillahi Sultan Ali who proposed the formation of a "traditional leaders' guild" to better coordinate and consolidate the important roles and functions played by them.

The traditional leaders who spoke at the venue pledged to support the endeavors of the government towards entrenching and facilitating peaceful stability, cohesion, tranquility, unity and solidarity amongst the people and the nation of Somaliland.

It is worth noting that even before the President ascended to office, and immediately after, he has maintained the conviction that his administration would give peaceful reconciliatory means top priority in handling and addressing conflicts in the country.

To this end, the President embarked on the establishing of a crucial taskforce to spearhead the endeavor in the name of Somaliland Peace Council (SPC) which would

facilitate peaceful overtures and conciliatory dialogue whenever and wherever it may deem.

The officials of the council led by Somaliland's most eminent personality and statesman, and Senior Presidential Political Advisor, Abdiqadir Haji Ismael Jirde were present at the event.

The mandated duties and responsibilities of the SPC are to promote peace and unity in the Republic of Somaliland, facilitate peace talks and create forums and an environment for dialogue in order to strengthen peace and stability in society and prevent conflicts and conflicts in the regions of the Republic of Somaliland.

It will also spearhead the government's efforts in peacemaking, conflict resolution and reconciliation, holding and facilitating peacemaking meetings and negotiations between conflict-affected communities, hence determining measures to prevent, or resolve conflicts, and/or establish and maintain lasting peace and stability in the Republic of Somaliland.

It will also work to strengthen and support efforts to build social understanding and coexistence in order to encourage coexistence and build public awareness of cooperation and peace-building. It is expected that the SPC will work in tandem with the nation's traditional leaders in achieving the objectives of peaceful stability and unity.

Indeed, traditional leaders are the pride and dignity of the Somaliland nation and are mainly the key contributors to maintaining peace, stability and harmony within the societies across the nation, hence similarly, in resolving conflicts, preventing conflicts, and are the foundation of nation-building.

UK MP Accuses Somalia of Funding Al-Shabaab

Houthis.

He has also called on the United States to recognize Somaliland.

The MP, who strongly supported the US decision to suspend funding for the major US aid agency, the USAID, said the Somali government was using the agency's alms and aid to channel funds to Al-Shabaab. "USAID has been used by the Somali government to channel funds and support to Al-Shabaab. It is time to stop US taxpayers' money from supporting a government that supports terrorism," Gavin said on his X blog.

The MP also accused the Somali government of providing military and financial support to the Houthi group in Yemen.

He noted, "Somalia, through Al-Shabaab, is sending funds and military equipment to the Houthi



group. Trump was right to carry out airstrikes in Somalia," he said.

The MP called on US President Donald Trump to recognize Somaliland, which he described as one of the most democratic places in the region. "Recognize Somaliland, the most democratic

country in the region, and stop US funding of Mogadishu, which supports terrorism," he said.

Gavin Williamson is one of the MPs who strongly advocate for the recognition of Somaliland, having repeatedly presented arguments in the UK Parliament on the issue.

President meets ICRC/ SRCS delegation

This was reiterated and affirmed during a meeting the President of the Republic of Somaliland, H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro held on Tuesday at the Presidential Palace with a high-level delegation from both the ICRC/SRCS organizations.

The President was flanked at the meeting by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of the Presidency, the Presidential Foreign Policy Advisor, the Spokesperson and the Secretary to the President. The ICRC delegation was led by Mr. Antoine Grand, Head of ICRC Somaliland/Somalia, Mr. Jimaale Ali Nur, Head of ICRC Somaliland Office, and Mr. Ahmed Abdi Bakal, Executive Director of the Somaliland Red Crescent Society (SRCS).

The Head of State thanked the delegation for their visit and commended the excellent humanitarian work the organizations are doing in Somaliland.

The President of the Republic of Somaliland acknowledged the important role these organizations play in responding to humanitarian needs, especially in health, prisons, the disabled and in the restoration of family links.

He reaffirmed the state's commitment and the importance it attaches to peace and stability in the region, hence stating that efforts for peace, stability, reconciliation and welfare of the Somaliland community are the top priorities and priorities of the government.

Mr. Antoine Grand, Head of ICRC

Somaliland/Somalia congratulated the President on his victory in the presidential election, praising Somaliland for the mature democratic process that has been implemented in Somaliland.

The official gave the President a general briefing on the history and activities of the ICRC in Somaliland. He particularly highlighted the support that the organization provides to Somaliland, especially in the areas of prisons and health sectors and medicinal supplies.

Mr. Grand also highlighted the support that the ICRC provides to the Somaliland Red Crescent Society in key areas such as the disability unit (PRP), the health sector and on the restoration of family links and ties mainly separated by conflicts.

Mr. Antoine Grand thanked the Somaliland Government for its cooperation.

The Executive Director of SRCS Somaliland, Mr. Ahmed Abdi Bakal, on his part, gave the President an in-depth briefing on the extensive activities of the Red Crescent Society in all six regions of the country.

He also highlighted the strong partnership with the ICRC and the Red Crescent Societies, as well as the support received from the Red Cross Societies of the United Kingdom, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany and Norway.

The meeting concluded with an understanding to further strengthen cooperation and partnership between the ICRC, SRCS and the government of Somaliland to address the current humanitarian needs.

Ministry of Finance awards best 2024 employees



the ministry will develop the capacity skills of the staffers in the ministry such that they may be better equipped with advanced knowledge in the profession and serve the public impeccably.

The Chairman of the Public Service Commission Mr. Abdiaziz Hirsi Warsame, who addressed the event, noted that according to public employees' charter it was imperative for government employees to be evaluated every year.

"As permitted by the Public Service Act, every government employee must be evaluated once a year, and the Ministry of Finance has complied with this provision", he said. Mr. Mohamed Hassan Suleiman, Director General of the Ministry of Finance, congratulated the employees who received the

awards, and at the same time urged the employees to be more diligent in their duties and excel too.

Mr. Mohamed Ahmed Wayrah, who is Director of the Personnel Department said that the efforts of the employees have enabled the government to work smoothly and enable all other state institutions to operate duly.

He pointed out that it was good that the best were awarded, hence hailed all employees of the ministry who do their daily duties across the country.

"The employees being awarded tonight are those who make it possible to pay the salaries of Government Employees and the various National Forces every month".

President to visit Baligubadle to launch construction of highway connecting it to Hargeisa



to make his first visit to the region of the country on Sunday (9th February 2024) visiting the town of Baligubadle in the Hawd region. Some of the people living in Baligubadle town told SOLNA news agency that they are very grateful to President Abdirahman Irro for fulfilling his promise regarding the construction of the road. Similarly, intellectuals in the Hawd region said that the completion of the Baligubadle-Hargeisa Road would highly boost and propel the economy and growth of Baligubadle town, which happens to be the famous headquarters of the SNM organization during the long struggle. They also indicated that the move would boost even more the local support and fame from the area community who greatly aligned with him during the presidential election, after they were endeared by his appeals.

Agency, SOLNA, the Head of State will lay the foundation stone for the construction of the road connecting Hargeisa and Baligubadle, a development move that has been hailed highly by the residents of the region. During the presidential election

campaigns, he promised severally to see to it that the life-line road connecting Baligubadle and Hargeisa is to have its construct within the first 100 days of the new administrative term. The President will thus be expected

Dahabshiil Group donates \$330,000 to businesses affected by the fire at the Radio Market

Dahabshiil Company has announced a donation to help rebuild and assist those whose properties were destroyed in the radio market fire last week. The Dahabshiil CEO, Abdirashid Mohamed Duale, speaking at the company's employee awards ceremony, announced a donation of \$330,000. Abdirashid said that employees of Somtel and Bluekom donated part of the money. "Dahabshiil group, Somtel, Bluekom, and Dahabshiil bank are contributing \$330,000."



Mr. Abdirashid praised Somaliland Fire Brigade Chief Ahmed Sawahili, who he said had extensive knowledge and experience in fire prevention, and promised to work

with him to prevent recurring fires. Abdirashid presented a certificate to Somaliland Fire Brigade Chief Brigadier General Ahmed Mohamed Hassan Sawahili.

Transport Minister Acknowledges Services Provided by NPA



By M.A. Egge
The Minister of Transport and Road Development Hon. Osman Ibrahim Nour (Afgaab) and his deputy, Hon. Mohamed Abdimalik Ahmed, visited the National Printing Agency (NPA), a state institution, and observed its operations, procedures and the services it provides. They were welcomed at the NPA, the National Printing House by the Ag. Manager of the establishment Mr. Abdiaziz Jama Ali Asowe, the Director of Administration and Finance, Mohamed Abdi Adan Gabas, the Director of Sales and Marketing, Mohamed Abdi Adawe, the Director of Planning, Abdirizaq Aydeed Muhumed, and other officials. The Minister toured the various departments of the NPA appreciated the assorted services provided. The NPA not only prints all types of documents such as contemporary and receipt books, vehicle log books, driving licenses but also prints vehicle number plates on an industrial scale. While acknowledging and

appreciating the operation works going at the NPA, Minister Osman Af-gaab, said that the institution has fulfilled its obligations, and the work it has for the nation is exemplary. He noted that the equipment it has is the best in the country when compared to all others available. He said that the nation ought to be contentedly happy with its NPA establishment. He expressed his contentment with the high quality of the end products made by the NPA. He described the services and what they print as highly valuable. He noted that in the span of a very short period of several minutes, he witnessed the churning out of over two dozen vehicle number plates. The Ag Manager Abdiaziz Asowe on his part explained the diverse services they provide to the nation, and said that they have fulfilled and covered services that the country used to seek from abroad, such as in China and other places. He expressed his elation of the visit of the ministers as he conducted them through all the sectors of the establishment and explained the services provided.

Taiwan welcomes new Somaliland envoy



The Taiwanese government is said to have welcomed the appointment of Somaliland's newly appointed

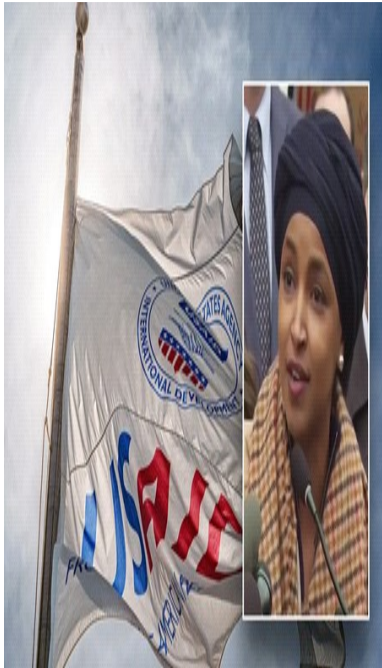
ambassador Mohamoud Adan Jama (Galaal), and sent a letter on the matter to the President of

Somaliland, H.E. Abdirahman Irro. A senior Taiwanese diplomat

welcomed over the week Somaliland's new representative Mahmoud Adam Jama Galaal, who recently took up his post in Taipei. Speaking at a weekly news briefing in Taipei, Chen Yung-po, deputy head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Department of West Asian and African Affairs, expressed hope that Galaal would continue to enhance bilateral relations. Galaal was appointed by new Somaliland President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi last month. In a Jan. 29 Facebook post by the Somaliland Representative Office in Taiwan, Galaal sent Lunar New Year's greetings from his government and people to Taiwan. "On the joyous occasion of the Lunar New Year, the Republic of Somaliland and its Representative Office in Taipei extends its warm greetings and best wishes to the Government and people of the Republic of China (Taiwan). May this New Year bring you prosperity, happiness, and continued success."

"We cherish the strong bonds and friendship between our two countries and look forward to many more years of fruitful cooperation and shared prosperity. Happy New Year!" the envoy wrote in the post. Before taking up the post in Taipei, Galaal served as Somaliland's representative to Ethiopia as well as its minister of planning and deputy health minister. Taiwan's office in Somaliland has had "smooth communications" with the new government after President Mohamed Abdullahi was sworn into office on Dec. 12, Chen said. Ties between Taiwan and Somaliland have warmed since the two sides set up representative offices in each other's capitals in 2020. Somaliland declared independence from Somalia in 1991 and has functioned as a de facto sovereign state ever since, but is not officially recognized by any other countries.

Oh, So That's Why Ilhan Omar Is Upset About USAID's Funding Freeze



Far-left Squad member Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN) is apoplectic over President Donald Trump freezing all foreign funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Speaking at a press conference outside USAID's headquarters in Washington, she said that the U.S. international aid agency's "essential" programming kept her family fed and safe when they lived in a Dabaab refugee camp for four years at the outbreak of the Somali civil war. (From there, the U.S. granted Omar refugee status and ultimately naturalized citizenship, a process which involved Omar taking an oath renouncing all allegiances.) Omar, the first Somali American congresswoman, has a record of advancing a Somalia First agenda while in office, seeming to view her job in Congress as representing the interests of her home country. "While I am in Congress, no one will take Somalia's sea," Omar once declared in Somali, according to an English translation. "The lady you sent to Congress is on this, and she is as cognizant of this interest as you are." Omar, who was addressing her Somali American constituents in response to a dispute over Somalia's waters, reportedly said, "The U.S. government will do what we ask it to do. We should have this confidence in ourselves as Somalis." So it's no wonder why she went ballistic about USAID's funding freezing. Through USAID, the United States is the single largest donor of humanitarian aid in Somalia. Since fiscal year 2022, USAID has sent Somalia massive sums of taxpayer money, nearly \$2.3 billion to date, including direct cash transfers to Somali families in need, who receive monthly payments and vouchers for a period of time. As recently as December, USAID dispensed another \$29 million to help feed 7 million Somalis facing food insecurity. The latest USAID funding came as part of two five-year programs aimed at assisting 880,000 households in south central Somalia.

In FY 2022 alone, the U.S. poured \$1.3 billion of assistance into Somalia, four times greater than the contributions of all other countries combined and accounting for more than 80 percent of the World Food Program's emergency operations in the Horn of Africa. That year, USAID and the U.S. State Department gave \$275 million in "other assistance," a majority of it military aid for Somali and African Union (AU) forces, according to the Congressional Research Service. Also in 2022, President Joe Biden approved the deployment of U.S. troops there to "reestablish a small, persistent U.S. military presence in Somalia," reversing Trump's decision to pull some U.S. special forces out. As of July 2023, roughly 450 U.S. military personnel were deployed in Somalia to advise and assist Somali and AU forces. As one of Somalia's top national security partners, the U.S. has donated weapons and ammunition to the Somalia National Army (SNA). According to the U.S. Embassy in Somalia, in February 2023, two U.S. Air Force C-17 cargo planes landed at Mogadishu's Aden Adde International Airport carrying 61 tons of AK-47s, heavy machine guns, and ammunition destined for the ground component of the Somali Armed Forces. However, one of USAID Somalia's main concerns is tackling the purported threat of climate change in the East African nation. In the spring of 2024, USAID officials met with Somalia's Minister of Environment and Climate Change to discuss how to "mitigate the impacts of climate change in Somalia," which climate alarmists say is the second-most vulnerable country to climate change in the world despite apparently contributing only 0.03 percent of the total global greenhouse gas emissions. Then that September, USAID hosted a summit in Mogadishu that assembled Somalia's top thinkers to pitch ways to address "climate challenges." Accordingly, USAID Somalia has heavily invested in "climate-resilient farming practices." In June, USAID announced the launch of TRANSFORM, a \$25 million USAID-funded project promoting "climate-smart" agriculture in Somalia and revitalizing the Jowhar Canal's irrigation infrastructure after it fell into disrepair during the country's civil war. The program, which teaches Somali farmers to use their land more productively and "sustainably," involves conflict mitigation, land tenure management, as well as brainstorming durable solutions for displaced populations. "Together, we will foster a brighter future for all Somalis," said USAID spokesperson Sheri-Nouane

Duncan-Jones, the mission's director. Some of USAID's similar initiatives include introducing "climate-tolerant" fodder seeds to Somalia's terrain, thereby bolstering their livestock-dependent populace against droughts; sponsoring farming schools that have, so far, trained more than 64,000 "climate-smart" Somali farmers on "climate-sensitive" techniques; installing a solar grid in the city of Baidoa; and supplying "clean" cookstoves to help refugees, who are displaced due to droughts or flooding, reduce their environmental impact. USAID claims that Somalia's natural disasters like droughts and floods are linked to climate change. To combat the "climate impact" and empower "climate resilience," USAID's "safety net" Long-Term Cash and Livelihood Assistance Programme provides immediate relief in impacted areas, focusing specifically on those who previously benefited from emergency cash aid. The primary goal of the program is to disrupt the cycle of Somalis returning to a state of food scarcity after emergency intervention by training them to save money and invest. Approximately 13,300 agro-pastoral households have participated in the USAID-financed program. USAID also funds "sexual and reproductive health" services for Somali women and girls at medical clinics across the city of Beletweyne. Since 2016, USAID has additionally focused on helping Somalia reestablish itself as an international exporter of sesame seeds. Once one of the world's leading exporters of sesame, Somalia lost its competitive edge, with Somali sesame farmers planting poor-quality seeds and lacking adequate training. USAID saw Somalia's "potential" to return to its former glory. Under the auspices of USAID, experts have trained over 5,740 Somali farmers and set up 75 demonstration plots to test new seeds. This effort was part of a five-year, \$74 million USAID program promoting "inclusive economic growth" in Somalia. In order to restabilize the region, USAID has worked to implement rule of law in Somalia, where Shari'ah law holds high legitimacy. Legislation, which has not been reviewed in decades, is rarely applied, and most court officials have not been trained in Somali law (standardized curriculum doesn't exist), possess a rudimentary understanding of Somalia's statutes, and follow customary procedures in practice, a five-year USAID study found. According to federal funding records, between 2007 and 2013, USAID spent \$10.8 million on strengthening Somalia's elections process and legislative systems

The African Union must resolve the Somaliland-Somalia dispute- Mohamed Abdisamad



The African Union (AU) can no longer afford to ignore the long-standing dispute between Somaliland and Somalia. This unresolved conflict is not just a bilateral issue; it threatens the stability of the entire Horn of Africa and, by extension, the peace and security of the continent. A decisive and binding resolution is long overdue. At the heart of this dispute is Somalia's claim over Somaliland's sovereignty—an assertion that directly contradicts the African Union Charter, particularly the 1964 Cairo Resolution, which upholds the sanctity of post-colonial borders. However, Somaliland's independence predates its ill-fated union with Somalia. On June 26, 1960, Somaliland gained independence from Britain, becoming the first independent state in the Horn of Africa and the 17th in Africa. Later, it voluntarily entered a union with Italian Somalia, but this merger was never legally ratified. In 1991, after decades of marginalization and violent oppression, Somaliland rightfully reclaimed its sovereignty. Its case is not one of secession but of restoring an independent status it had already attained. Somaliland's legal case is strong. It achieved full independence and never formally transferred its sovereignty to another state. The 1960 Act of Union, intended to formalize its merger with Somalia, was never ratified by both parties. Somalia unilaterally implemented a version of this act in 1961, violating international legal norms. That same year, a constitutional referendum in Somalia saw an overwhelming rejection from Somaliland's voters, with 60% opposed—clear evidence of widespread resistance to the union. In December 1961, Somaliland military officers attempted a coup to restore their nation's independence. When captured, they were acquitted by Somali courts, which ruled that no legal framework for the union existed. The African Union's own fact-finding mission in 2005 later concluded that Somaliland's merger with Somalia was never legally binding and that the union had failed between 1960 and 1991. Beyond legality, Somaliland's claim to statehood is rooted in painful history. Under the dictatorship of Mohamed Siad Barre, the Somali government waged a brutal campaign against Somaliland's people in the 1980s, culminating in genocide. Tens of thousands were killed, cities were bombed, and entire communities were destroyed. Survivors of these atrocities have yet to see justice. It was in the aftermath

of this devastation that Somaliland reclaimed its sovereignty, restoring its original independence rather than forming a new breakaway state. Since then, Somaliland has built a functioning democracy with multiple peaceful transitions of power. In 2001, it held a constitutional referendum in which over 97% of voters supported independence, further solidifying its legitimacy. Unlike Somalia, which continues to struggle with political instability, terrorism, and weak governance, Somaliland has maintained peace, order, and a one-person, one-vote electoral system—an achievement unmatched in much of the region. Yet, despite its stability and democratic progress, Somaliland's lack of international recognition has imposed severe hardships. It remains excluded from institutions such as the World Bank, the IMF, and the African Development Bank. Foreign investment is limited, hindering economic growth and diplomatic engagement. More importantly, without formal recognition, Somalilanders are denied the full rights and protections that citizens of recognized nations enjoy. The argument that recognizing Somaliland would set a dangerous precedent is misguided. Somaliland is not a separatist movement; it is a nation that had already gained independence before voluntarily entering an unratified and dysfunctional union. Its case is entirely distinct from those of South Sudan or Eritrea. If any territory in the world has the legal and historical foundation for statehood, it is Somaliland. The African Union must act. This dispute will not resolve itself, and continued inaction only increases the risk of conflict. Somalia's persistent claims over Somaliland's territory, in violation of international agreements, could ignite further instability in the region. A final and binding resolution is necessary—not only to bring justice to Somaliland but to ensure long-term peace in the Horn of Africa. Recognizing Somaliland is not just a legal necessity—it is a moral imperative. *Mohamed Abdisamad is the president of the Laasgeel Institute for Policy Studies, based in Hargeisa, Somaliland. He is a seasoned political analyst specializing in Horn of Africa affairs, with a particular focus on Somaliland's international recognition. He is currently pursuing a master's degree in international relations and diplomacy.* Contributed by Mohamed Abdisamad

Somaliland Clarifies USA Africa Command Strikes, Reaffirms Sovereignty



Puntland, a region within Somalia. The Republic of Somaliland reiterates its status as a sovereign and independent nation, with its own democratically elected government, institutions, and clearly defined borders. The U.S. administration is fully aware that Somaliland is not part of Somalia or any of its regional states. Any misrepresentation of Somaliland's territorial integrity is inconsistent with the longstanding recognition of our distinct political and geographical identity.

We take this opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to regional peace and security. Somaliland remains a steadfast partner in the fight against terrorism and extremism, and we continue to collaborate with the international community, including the United States, to promote stability in the Horn of Africa. We value the strong partnership between the Republic of Somaliland and the United States, as well as our relationships with other members of the international community. We look forward to further strengthening these ties in pursuit of shared goals, including counterterrorism, economic development, and the promotion of democratic values.

The Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Somaliland has issued an official statement addressing recent reports regarding airstrikes conducted by U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) against ISIS. The statement aims to correct the misconception that these airstrikes took place in the Golis Mountains, which are located within Somaliland's borders. According to the Ministry, the airstrikes were actually carried out in the Galgala Mountains, situated in Puntland, a region within Somalia. see below full excerpts of the

Somaliland's Ministry of Defense statements; The Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Somaliland wishes to address and clarify recent reports regarding airstrikes conducted by U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) against ISIS. Contrary to statements attributed to U.S. Secretary of Defense Peter Hegseth, the airstrikes in question did not target or impact the Golis Mountains within the territory of the Republic of Somaliland. Instead, these operations were carried out in the Galgala Mountains, located in

I'll closely monitor your work, President tells DGs as he calls for diligence in their duties

By M.A. Egge
The President of the Republic of Somaliland H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro has cautioned the ministerial CEOs that he would closely monitor their work as he urged them to be more diligent in their duties. The President the remarks as he held a crucial meeting at the Presidential Palace with the directors general of government institutions, whom the President recently appointed to positions. The purpose of the meeting, which the President held with the Directors General was to impress upon them the focusing on and underlining the priority tasks of the Government of the Republic of Somaliland since the directors general are the central pillar in implementing the government's policy related to providing efficient services to the nation. The Chairman of the Civil Service Commission and both the Ministers of the Presidency and Religion and Endowments graced the meeting. The Head of State explained the responsibilities and duties of the DGs and the essential role they play in implementing the priority tasks for the development of the Somaliland nation, saying: "The DG is responsible for implementing the policies and plans of the government. This shows the weight of your responsibility is either the key to the success or failure of the



government as concerns the fulfillment of its commitments and the achievement of the goals set for it." He instructed them to be diligent in their duties hence ensure that they are in line with the plans, policies and commitments made by the current government during the electoral campaign, and said: "The DG must responsibly and fully assume the responsibilities of his/her job. The responsibility entrusted to you is not only the daily work of the ministry; but it also includes ensuring that the performance and services provided are in line with the policies and plans of the government." He urged them to keep up with the rapid changes in the world and develop their understanding, and said: "In order to make work easier,

we must keep up with this rapidly changing world, and you must be an innovative individual who constantly develops modern work methods." The President stated that he would closely monitor the work of the various ministries for which the DGs are responsible hence have them accountable. He said: "As President, I will closely monitor the progress of the work of each ministry, and you will be held accountable for that." Other words of wisdom expressed at the meeting were by the Chairman of the Civil Service Commission, the Director General of the Ministry of the Presidency, and the Director General of the Ministry of Water Resources Development, who is the Chairman of the Directors General.

President names a national committee to address Ida'ada fire disaster



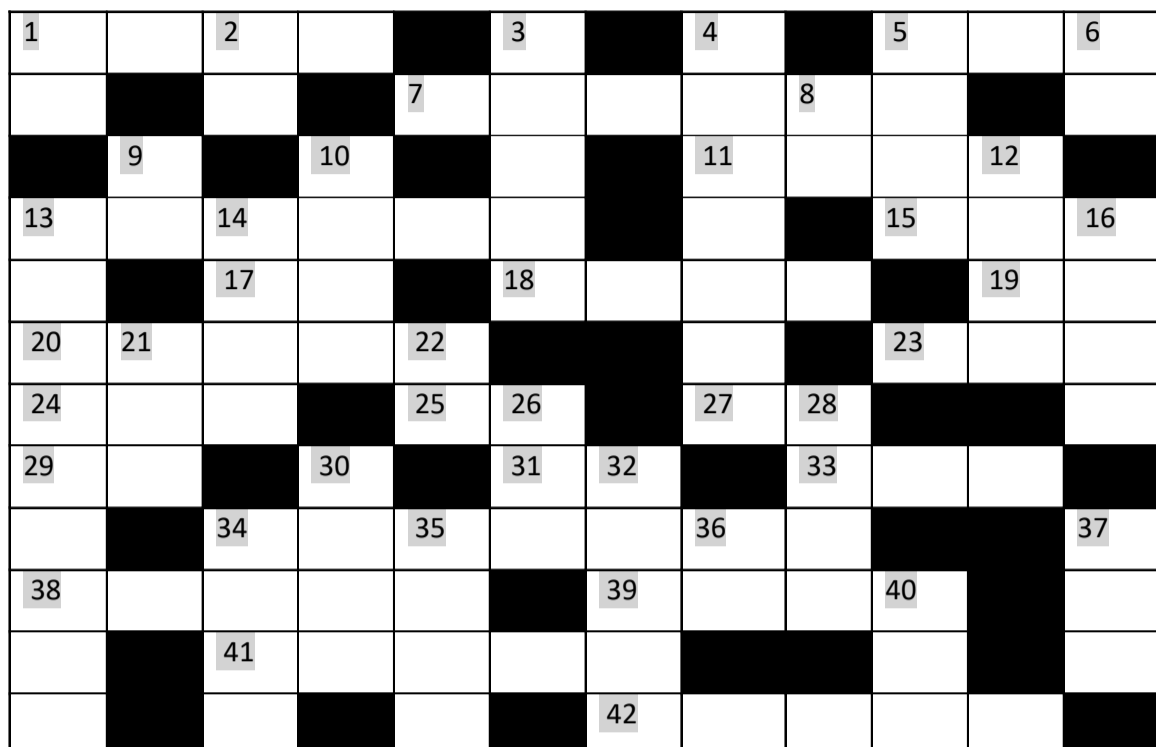
By M.A. Egge
The President H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro has named a national task-force committee to assess the damage caused by the fire that engulfed the Ida'ada open air market that caused untold damage to the properties of the merchants operating at the area. This happens to be the umpteenth time that fires have razed down several markets in the country in the past few years, the worst of all so far being the Waheen market that saw multi-million dollars worth of properties vanish through fires that dented the national economy severely. Following this latest one last week, the Head of State who personally went to the location and witnessed the extent of the damage pledged government support. He has now named the 11-man committee that consists of seven cabinet ministers and four other top officials that include the city mayor, and the attorney general. According to a press release signed by the President, the appointed officials have been specially advised on their imminent tasks hence other institutions of the government, entrepreneurs and the members of the public asked to lend hand whenever and wherever necessary. The press release of the appointment and instructions read as follows: –

"As you know, there have been recurring fire disasters in our country lately, which usually occurs in commercial areas, whose disaster causes extensive damage to the property of the public, human lives and the economy of the country in general. "Fire disasters also occur in residential areas where the poor live, causing many houses where the poor lived to burn down, and also causing civilian casualties. "Therefore, bearing in mind the government's responsibility to provide care and assistance to the business people who lost their livelihoods in the fire that broke out at the Ida'ada Market in Hargeisa, and also aware of the government's responsibility to find a solution to the fire disaster that has been recurring in recent times, I have appointed you to be the National Committee for Damage Assessment and Assistance for the Ida'ada Market Fires, which would be responsible for the following tasks:

1. Assessment of the extent of damage caused by the fire that broke out at the said market in Hargeisa;
 2. Managing and coordinating emergency activities to support those who have been affected by the fire;
 3. Advising on the causes and finding solutions to the fire disaster, in order to prevent recurrent of similar disaster from causing further damage to the lives and property of the people of Somaliland;
- The following are the members of the committee:
1. Minister of Public Works, Land and Housing -(Chairman).
 2. Minister of State for Home Affairs and Urban Development-(Deputy Chairman)
 3. Minister of Commerce and Tourism -(Secretary)
 4. Minister of Information, Culture and National Guidance-Member
 5. Minister of Interior and Security- Member
 6. Minister of Religion and Endowments -Member
 7. Minister of Mines and Energy- Member
 8. Mayor of Hargeisa - Member
 9. Attorney General of the Government -Member
 10. Commander of the Fire Department- Member
 11. Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce- Member
- "I thus order you to carry out this task with great seriousness and diligence. I also order other government agencies, businesses and other sectors of society to cooperate with this national committee and provide assistance in the tasks they require". END.

THT Puzzle

By: Abdilahi Said



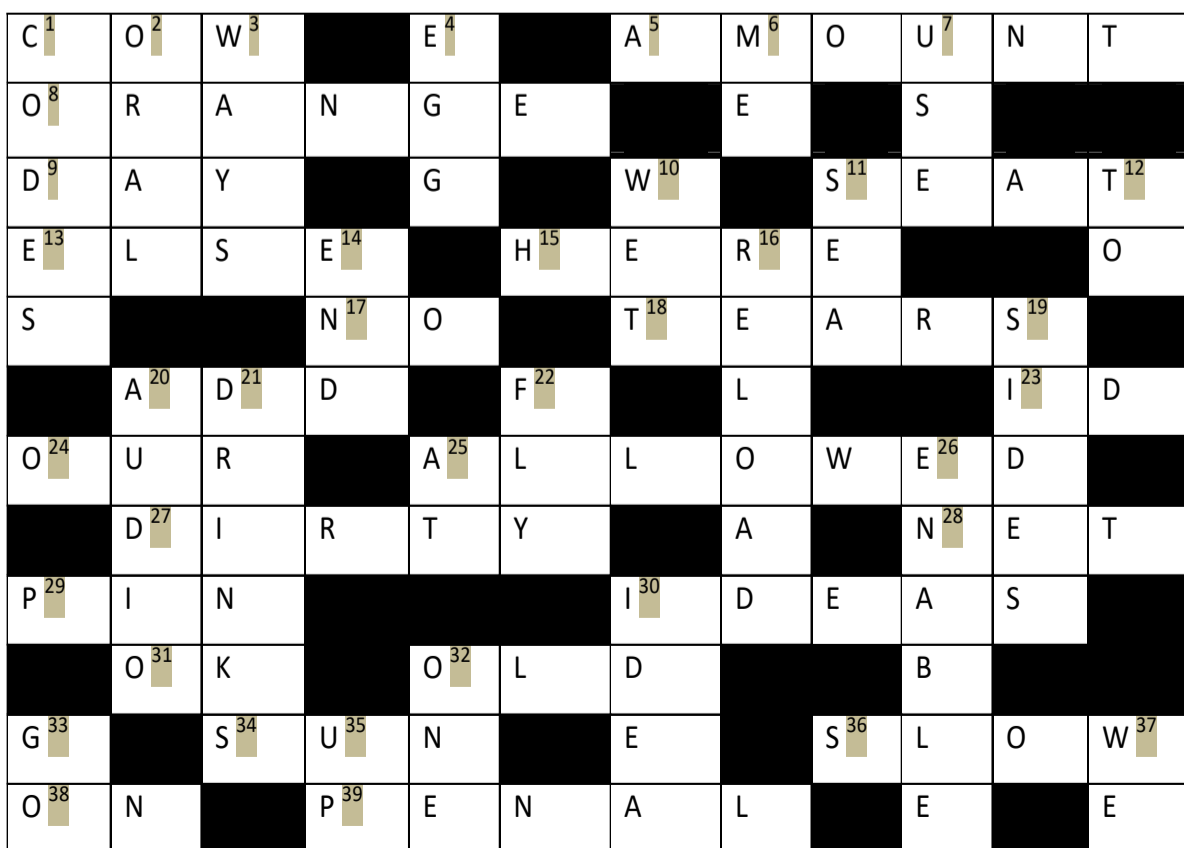
DOWN

- 1 Go away
- 2 Okay
- 3 daily bread
- 4 Deleted
- 5 breaks
- 6 No way
- 9 of
- 10 brain
- 12 names
- 13 fascinated
- 14 highway
- 16 newscast
- 21 Reddish
- 22 European Union
- 26 Deposit
- 28 Carpets
- 30 Reality
- 32 Stupid
- 34 Speedy
- 35 Plant seeds
- 36 Negative
- 37 Off
- 40 Load

ACROSS

- 1 Excellent
- 5 Sun shine
- 7 detention
- 11 lunar month
- 13 Africa continent
- 15 Slate
- 18 Diving the ocean/ pool
- 19 Myself
- 20 Exchange
- 23 Not many
- 24 Reddish
- 25 upward
- 27 doctor
- 29 Want ad
- 31 U'S
- 33 Usage
- 34 Not eat
- 38 Locate
- 39 Missed
- 41 Harden
- 42 Juvenile

Previous Answer



State will support SPC obligations to the hilt, assures the President



By M.A. Egge

The President of the Republic of Somaliland H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro has reminded the members of the newly established Somaliland Peace Council (SPC) that they have been charged with an onerous task of heavy obligations in seeing to it that a harmonious and tranquil scenario is initiated, achieved and realized through peaceful means of conciliatory dialogue in the country; and that they should rest assured of full government support in their endeavors. He also informed them that the formation of the peace council has been received warmly abroad by the international community. According to a press release by the Presidential Spokesman Hussein Adam Ige Deyr, the Head of State made the reminder as he met the officials of the SPC at the Presidency on Tuesday in which the Minister of the Presidency, the Presidential Spokesperson and the Secretary to the President were present. The highly respected and renowned statesman, who happens to be the Senior Presidential Political Advisor, was named to lead the recently established national 'Somaliland Peace Council' of seven-man team who will work to promote peace and national unity. The President told the SPC that the purpose of their establishment is to create a peacemaking environment based on dialogue, understanding, and community participation so that the Nation of the Republic of Somaliland in all regions of the country can enjoy lasting peace and stability. The President told the SPC officials that they have a legal mandate that is responsible for

promoting peace, stability and protecting the unity of the Republic of Somaliland. He informed them that the establishment of the Peace Committee has had a great impact on the international level, especially given the fact that the composition of the officials are eminent personalities who are highly respected. He pointed out to them that they are expected to spearhead the efforts of the government to establish peace, resolve conflicts and reconcile the members of the society, especially in areas where there are conflicts. The President assured them that the government will support the SPC to the hilt, both morally and materially, in facilitating the concerted efforts of the peace overtures for talks and create forums, and environment for dialogue in order to strengthen peace and stability in society and prevent unnecessary conflicts. The SPC officials on their part briefed the President on the latest efforts and steps they have taken as a committee to begin laying the groundwork for peace talks with the parties concerned, especially traditional leaders from the conflict-affected areas. They assured the President that they will redouble their efforts in order to fulfill the important mandate entrusted to them by the President, especially in holding, facilitating and delivering peace conferences and dialogues with communities affected by the conflict. Apart from Chairman Abdilqadir Haji Ismail Jirde, the other members are Jama Ahmed Mohamed Odey as Deputy Chairman and Hassan Ahmed Ibrahim (Embassy), Ali Said Raygal, Mohamed Jama Abgaal, Shu'ayb Mohamed Musa and Mohamed lid Dimbiil as member.

**Consulting Services:
Sustainable Land, Water
and Soil Management
in Somaliland**

**Deadline: Monday, March 10, 2025 at
12.00 pm (noon) UCT**

Country: Somaliland
Ref-No: BMZ No.: 2020.6724.7

Prequalification

Ref.: International, open Tender for the project: "Sustainable Land, Water and Soil Management in Somaliland"

Project Executing Agency: Ministry of Agricultural Development of Somaliland (MoAD), Hargeisa, Republic of Somaliland

Project measures: The project objective is to reduce soil degradation and erosion, stabilize the water balance and contribute to the stabilization and enhancement of agricultural and pastoral productivity. This contributes to the Somaliland National Development Plan III strategic objective PROSO-1 to improve resilience and livelihoods of rural communities by promoting sustainable production in livestock and agriculture with sound natural resource management.

To pursue these objectives, the project takes a catchment-based approach, combining measures in the area of soil and water conservation, water harvesting and accompanying measures. The project is also intended to contribute to conflict prevention by promoting sustainable land management and by increasing water availability.

The project shall be designed to adhere to the do no harm principle and address conflict- and context-specific risks with respective mitigation measures and conflict resolution mechanisms. The role of women in management and decision making processes at community and institutional level is to be strengthened, e.g. by making sure that women have equal access to training activities in the context of the Project.

Requested Consultant services: The IC shall support and closely work together with the Project Executing Agency (PEA), the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD), in:

A) Project Management

Financial management of the programme including management of the disposition fund;

Technical coordination of Project measures;

Stakeholder engagement and coordination (incl. i.a., establishment of Steering Committee, support to inter-sectoral coordination);

Management of required Environmental, Social, Health and Safety (ESHS)-related tasks in line with the World Bank's Environmental and Social Standards (ESS), KfW Sustainability Standards and national Environmental and Social laws, and ensuring application of Do-no-harm-approach;

Establishing a Digital Dashboard Monitoring System;

Commissioning of studies for M&E purposes (baseline/endpoint, midterm evaluation).

Project monitoring and reporting

B) Project Implementation: The focus of the IC services will evolve according to the respective project phases and will include but not be limited to:

Phase 1: Preparatory Project Phase

Support the PEA in inception, beneficiary engagement and planning of the Project

Support the PEA in preparing the final selection of project measures

Support the PEA in the design, procurement (including compliance checks) and supervision of investigations (geotechnical, hydrological, topographical and other studies), and other services, including the preparation of a procurement plan.

Phase 2: Design and Implementation Phase

Support the PEA in the implementation of Cash for Work measures for Soil and Water Conservation in target communities (in line with compliance requirements of KfW)

Support the PEA in the preparation of the detailed design and tender documents

Support the PEA in the procurement of works, goods and services for Water Harvesting structures (including compliance checks)

Phase 3: Defects Liability Period and Training Activities

Support the PEA with training activities and during the Defects Liability Period (DLP) and closure of Project

The underlying duration for the preparation and implementation of the assignment is estimated at 60 months (five years) and is subdivided into three partly overlapping phases: Phase 1 (estimated duration 12 months) aims to establish the necessary information and knowledge base for the selection of infrastructure to be constructed, equipment to be procured, and accompanying measures to be carried out. Phase 2 (estimated duration 36 months) will see mainly preparation of detailed designs, procurement and construction activities of water harvesting structures, but also the implementation of accompanying measures as defined in Phase 1. Phase 3 (24 months, overlapping with Phase 2) will seek to scale up training activities and support the target group in management and O&M issues. It further comprises services during Defects Liability Period of construction contracts and closure of the project.

The Expression of Interest (pre-qualification) is subject to the regulations contained in the Guidelines for the Procurement of Consulting Services, Works, Goods, Plant and Non- Consulting Services in Financial Cooperation with Partners (as of July 2024) available at www.kfw-entwicklungsbank.de.

The contract will be awarded to an independent Consultant firm with proven experience in the sector and the region and a minimum average annual turnover of EUR 4 million in the last three years (2021-2023).

For further information, please go to www.exfitender.de and log on (or create a user profile). The integrated search function of exfitender will allow you to find the tender and to register your interest, access the PQ Document and additional materials (if applicable). Should you require any technical assistance, please check <https://exficon.de/tad/e-procurement/> for user guides and help videos. Alternatively, please contact the Tender Agent at tender@exficon.de.

President visits site of blaze, pledges government support for victims



By M.A. Egge

The President of the Republic of Somaliland, H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro on Monday morning visited and inspected the damage caused by the midnight blazing fire that broke out on the night Sunday/Monday at the commercial open air market of Idaa'da , along the perimeter fence of the information ministry.

The President, who was accompanied by members of the cabinet, some of the service commanders of the various forces, the deputy Hargeisa mayor, the governor of Maroodi-jeeh region and scores of government officials, witnessed the extent of the damage caused by the fire to the properties of the merchants who operated at the area.

The President stated that the government would supportively stand by the victims of the blaze.

President Abdirahman Irro expressed his painful sorrow for the losses suffered by the people who were trading at the site.

He said, "I share the sorrow and pain of the traders of the Gobonnimo market, and the nation shares the losses and hardships they have suffered which is quite sad and I ask God to replace the losses with something better."

The President called on the members of the public to help those who have suffered losses, and to participate in the collection of funds that would be raised for them, mentioning a national plan to prevent the recurring fires that are causing damage to society and the economy of the country.

He declared that the matter has been referred to a technical committee, which would study and provide advice on how to recover from the losses.

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TRADE MARK – SOMALILAND**



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