

# The Horn Tribune

Vol V/ Issue 1590 Sunday 09 March 2025 (www.horntribune.com/info@horntribune.com)

Ramadan 09 /1446 AH

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

## The women fraternity ought to be appreciated perpetually, not just in a mere occasion, says President Abdirahman Irro as he graces IWD 2025 event

He underscores fundamental rights granted to Somaliland Women by the Constitution of the Republic of Somaliland



By M.A. Egge

The nation of the Republic of Somaliland on Saturday joined the global fraternity in celebrating the International Women's Day 2025 in an elaborately organized event that saw the country's President himself, H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro grace the event.

THE President described the women fraternity as the backbone of the society and noted that they

Continue on Page 6



## President thanks constant Taiwanese support as he meets officers given scholarships

By M.A. Egge

The President of the Republic of Somaliland, H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro thanked the Taiwan government for constantly standing by the nation of Somaliland and always supporting it in a number of multi-prong ways.

Continue on Page 2



## President has been categorical that upcoming elections be held as scheduled, says NEC Chair



Continue on Page 3

## Somaliland will no longer tolerate Khatumo militia attacks on pastoralists, says government as residents repel ambushes successfully



By M.A. Egge

People in Buq-darkayn area dealt a heavy blow to insurgency groups who attacked a livestock camp on Friday

and the government warns of serious consequences would abound.

The government of the Republic of

Continue on Page 2

## The Importance of Nationalizing Somaliland's Civilian Forces



Continue on Page 3

## Ministry of Health Meets to Find a Solution to the Fever Outbreak in the Country



By M.A. Egge

The Ministry of health has scrambled the Medical Emergency Tem Committee to ponder over the imminent fever outbreak in the country. This was disclosed by the Director

Continue on Page 3

## Somaliland rebuffs Puntland whimsical allegations

The Republic of Somaliland is a beacon of hope and stability in the Horn of Africa



Continue on Page 4

## Religion and Endowments Minister graces close of Quran recitation competition for under 12



By M.A. Egge

The Minister of Religion and Endowments Hon. Sheikh Abdillahi Dahir Jama (Baashe) graced the occasion of the ending of the Quran recitation competition for children under 12 years of age, which was held in

Continue on Page 3

## Somaliland, Genel Energy, and Taiwan's OPIC Hold High-Level Meeting on Oil Exploration



Continue on Page 4

## Somaliland's Abaarso Network Should Be the New Model for USAID -Michael Rubin



Continue on Page 4

## Inside

President lauds pacification efforts going on as he briefs the cabinet

Continue on page 6

**The women fraternity ought to be appreciated perpetually, not just in a mere occasion, says President Abdirahman Irro as he graces IWD 2025 event**



ought to be appreciated every time and not through a day marked once a year.

The remarks by the Head of State were in his address during the occasion of the event. This year's IWD annual theme is **"Accelerate Action"**.

The President who delivered a very significant speech said that the "women of Somaliland do not deserve to be commemorated only once a year (March 8), but they deserve to be remembered always!" While speaking about the unforgettable role that Somaliland women have played, and still play, in building the nation and the success of our government, said, "Women are the backbone of building society, the economy and the overall existence of the nation. They played an unforgettable role in history in recovering from the difficult times the country has gone through, and in the work of building a state."

He underscored the fundamental rights granted to Somaliland Women by the Constitution of the

Republic of Somaliland. Said he, "The Constitution of the Republic of Somaliland has mandated that women in the nation have equal rights, freedoms and responsibilities to men, except for what is prohibited by Sharia law and our Islamic religion has commanded us".

He continued, "We do have a constitutional obligation to protect them, to build their knowledge and work skills, to provide them with opportunities that are beneficial to their lives and the fulfillment of their national duties, and to combat any violation that is against their dignity, and both their physical and mental safety and abilities."

The President stressed the important value of Somaliland women in the family and the nation as a whole stating, "I personally am proud to have been born with many sisters, six of whom are my sisters and my wife, all of whom have become my support and shield. I am satisfied with the value of a girl in the family and the nation".

He added, "My vision is for the Republic of Somaliland to become a nation where women play a prominent role in social affairs, economic development and political leadership, in accordance with the values of our religion and our good culture."

The well attended event saw the women fraternity thronged the hall where the meeting took place. Similar meetings were held across the nation, notably in Berbera.

Several members of the cabinet, the national police services chief, representatives of women organizations, MPs, senior civil servants etc were amongst the attendees.

Speakers who addressed the event mostly echoed the words of the President and supported his move of putting the welfare of the women fraternity at the forefront of his priority issues in his administration.

It is worth mentioning that the IWD was incorporated into the United Nation's calendar in 1975 with its first annual theme formulated in 1996 was **"Celebrating the Past, Planning for the Future"**.

Initially it was Russian strongman Vladimir Lenin who first declared in 1922 the 8<sup>th</sup> of March as being the International Women's Day in honour of the women's struggles in the Russian Revolution of 1917.

It is a day when the women fraternities promote issues of their gender in society, appreciations, excelling, aspirations etcetera and tend to wear or adorn with the colour purple.

**Somaliland will no longer tolerate Khatumo militia attacks on pastoralists, says government as residents repel ambushes successfully**



Somaliland has on Friday evening warned that it would no longer tolerate blind perpetrations of attacks against its people and degrading security.

At the same time the state reiterated its stance of solving issues of conflicts through peaceful and conciliatory means. The statement comes as once again a new spate of careless, blatant and reckless attack was meted against the pastoralists herding their livestock in the Buqdarkayn area of Saraar region hence ambushed on Friday by armed Khatumo militia bandits who wanted to, again, rob and harm the pastoralists.

This recent attack against pastoralists in typically similar fashion happens for the umpteenth time in recent months, at a time that the government is focused on peaceful reconciliations and reformation of the security arms of the forces. As abhor-able as the timing of the attack may be, the local residents did their best and repulsed the attack in a battle whose fighting went on for much of the sacred day of the first Friday in the Holy Month of Ramadan.

They managed to contain the attacks and repelled the marauding attackers to further areas afield. They not only defended themselves from the attack but dealt a heavy blow to the group that carried out the attack, driving them back to where they had come from.

The Somaliland government, which issued a statement about the fighting that lasted for many hours, warned of the consequences of the insecurity and conflict being fueled by armed groups in the Sool region

in a press release issued by the Ministry of Interior and National Security, signed by the Ministry's Spokesperson Bashir Abdi Abdillahi.

The press release stated that the Somaliland government would no longer tolerate such ambushes carried out by the armed militias as per their whims.

"Armed militias that are allied to Khatumo insurgency have attacked civilians who are collecting water at their wells in the Buqdarkayn area; with the intent of rustling the livestock that were being watered.

"The residents have fiercely defended themselves against the ambushes that the armed groups launched against them, inflicting heavy losses.

"The Somaliland government informs the regional governments and the international community that the armed groups that dubbed Khatumo are a threat to the security of the region, and the Somaliland government will not tolerate the ambushes they are carrying out.

"Whereas we are dismayed and saddened that Firdiye uses the Holy month of Ramadan as a means for political mileage, shedding blood, and creating conflict among the brethren living together, the Somaliland government is ready to have peaceful coexistence fostered in the region". END.

Meanwhile, the latest news from the area where the fighting took place said that apart from the attackers being driven out, they suffered heavy casualties, with several prisoners and their military equipment and armoured vehicles captured.

**President thanks constant Taiwanese support as he meets officers given scholarships**

The Head of State expressed his sentiments as he held a meeting on Saturday with police and military officials who are proceeding on scholarship to advance study in Taiwan in various fields.

Present at the meeting was the Taiwanese ambassador to Somaliland, some members of the cabinet ministers, the police chief, deputy chief army commander and other senior government officials.

The meeting took place at the Presidential Palace.

The President thanked the Taiwanese government for the scholarships and development projects that Taiwan provides to Somaliland, adding that Taiwan will continue to expand its support.

According to a press release by the Presidential Spokesman Hussein Deyr, the meeting was a clear example of how the WADDANI administration government dubbed "togetherness and Action" is steadfastly committed to modernizing and enhancing the knowledge of the Somaliland National Army, by continuously



improving them through provision of higher education and modern training.

The President commended the officers for their efforts, perseverance, and level of knowledge that earned them the valuable opportunity.

He told the officers that the knowledge and experience they would gain from the valuable educational opportunity is a real goal for the future and a good omen for the leading youth in the new generation of the Somaliland National Army.

The President urged the officers to truly represent the values and beauty of the Somaliland nation, as well as

to excel in their education, in order to return to the country with new ideas to impart on, and the most appropriate, ways to modernize the Somaliland National Army.

The meeting was one in which the President reaffirmed his government's commitment to "investing in the national armed forces with high-quality knowledge, training, and modern equipment, as the general security forces are central to the national security and the development of our country".

The President presented certificates to officers who were going on the scholarship to study in Taiwan.

## Ministry of Health Meets to Find a Solution to the Fever Outbreak in the Country



General of the Ministry of Health Development, Dr. Ahmed Mahmoud Jama after he chaired a meeting of the emergency team to find a combative and preventive solution to the fever situation in the country, which has markedly been felt in the major cities of the country, especially Hargeisa, Burao and Erigavo. The meeting, which lasted for many hours, discussed the latest spread and cases of fever and the measures taken; as well as a survey

of the current state of the disease in all regions of the country to obtain official data that can be used. The DG listened to various reports on the emergency situation, the current state of the disease and any measures that need to be taken urgently. After the meeting, the Director General shared with the members of the outcomes of the meeting and the information produced by the

committee. He also conveyed to the community awareness on the methods to prevent fever and the appropriate steps to be taken by those affected by this bad situation. He said "As you are aware, there has been a widespread fever in the country recently, affecting a large number of people, who are staying at home, mostly in the three regions of Maroodi Jeeh, Togdeer and Sanaag". He continued, "Given this situation, the Ministry of Health, based on this situation, has urgently begun to collect official data from all regions of the Republic of Somaliland, on the information on new cases in order to inform the community. "We are telling the people of the nation that in case of any fever, they should immediately contact the relevant health facilities, especially those of the government".

## Religion and Endowments Minister graces close of Quran recitation competition for under 12

Hargeisa. The Quran recitation competition for children under 12 years of age, organized by Soltelco telecommunications company for the month of Ramadan, was also attended by the Minister of Education and Islamic scholars of the country. Prizes were awarded to the children who took first place. Hon. Sheikh Abdillahi Daahir Jama (Baashe), lauded Soltelco for holding the Quran competition for 12-year-olds. He said, "The Quran should guide our lives and I congratulate Soltelco for facilitating the competition. It is a new program and innovation. I'm also grateful to the scholars who were the judges for the under 12 competition". A representative from the Soltelco firm who spoke noted that by holding the Quran recitation competition for



12-year-olds, they have fulfilled their responsibility as an institution for their community, and that telecommunications companies should not only seek profit from the community, but return dues to them.

Every year during the month of Ramadan, such competitions are held in cities across the country, where Quranic competitions are held and prizes are awarded.

## President has been categorical that upcoming elections be held as scheduled, says NEC Chair



By M.A. Egge The National Electoral Commission has assured the nation that the upcoming parliamentary and civic elections are on course to be held on schedule, come May 2026. The NEC Chair Musa Hassan Yusuf, stated that they had a meeting with the President of the Republic of Somaliland, Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro over the

matter hence the Head of State was categorical that the slated schedules of the elections timelines ought to be adhered to and that no lapse or postponement was to happen. It is worth noting that during the presidential campaigns the President has been pledging and promising repeatedly that once he wins he would not allow any unnecessary set-backs undermine

and postpone the elections again in the country. The chair noted that they were given express instructions for the elections plans and implementations to go on. He said that the NEC is preparing plans for the registration of voters. He made it clear that the formats and associated pros and cons experienced last time would be put in check hence loopholes, if any, would be dealt with. On the other hand, Mr. Musa Hassan Yusuf, pointed out that the elections held in the country had 70% of its costs and bills basically funded by the government with the remainder footed through contributions by partner international donors.

## The Importance of Nationalizing Somaliland's Civilian Forces

**Introduction:** Somaliland has long been known for its peace and democratic system, which is the basis for the development and building of the country's nationhood. The most important issues that the entire community and the government of Somaliland must work together on are how to ensure lasting peace and prevent internal and external threats. Therefore, nationalizing the civilian army in Somaliland would be an important step towards maintaining and strengthening internal security, to ensure complete order and discipline in the country. **The Importance of Nationalizing the Civilian Army:** The nationalization of the civilian army in Somaliland would be key to ensuring that the country has a national army with a comprehensive system and plan, to participate in the defense of the country and the maintenance of security. These forces would enable the society and the government to jointly confront internal threats, and would also formally participate in strengthening the administration and state system of the country.

In particular, the nationalization of the civilian army would strengthen the public's trust in the government, and would also lead to formal support and encouragement of the democratic system and governance of the country. If they receive new training and equipment, the civilian army would become a participant in internal security, and would have the ability to confront armed groups that seek to destabilize the country. **Benefits of Nationalizing Civilian Forces:** By nationalizing the civil forces, they will become a true national army, with rights and laws directly linked to the national defense institution. They will be trained, fully prepared to participate in national defense, border protection, and the prevention of internal and external threats. This will build a strong military force, which is essential for the country to avoid problems that may arise from armed groups that do not have a clear system and plan. Nationalizing the civil forces will also make it possible for the community to participate in maintaining security, while also providing a complete army capable of preventing insecurity acts resulting from weapons and uncontrolled groups. It will

also facilitate the country to establish officially controlled forces, at the same time serving the people, with a clear system and experience and training. **Risks of Keeping Arms in the Hands of the People:** If the civilian forces are not nationalized, it is possible that arms and military power will fall into the hands of groups that lack discipline and responsibility. This can lead to the misuse of arms, which can cause insecurity and civil unrest. When the people have access to arms, it can create an uncontrolled situation, which can encourage various groups to carry out armed acts that can endanger the country and society. Similarly, if arms and forces are not controlled by the people, it can create conflicts arising from vested interests and tribalism. If arms and forces are directly controlled, it is possible that groups will misuse arms to fulfill clan or political interests. Such status could lead the country into political turmoil and civil strife. Respecting the Circumstances in Which Civilian Forces Are Deployed: The nationalization of the civilian forces will also depend on taking into account the specific circumstances of the area and the conditions of the people living there. It is important that the civilian forces in the eastern regions receive recognition and rights in accordance with the laws and state system, in order to avoid conflicts and insecurity situations arising from the culture and social conditions of that region. It is important that these forces receive full support from the government, so that they can be fully trained to confront security threats in the region. **Conclusion:** The nationalization of the civilian forces in Somaliland is an important step that can lead the country to have a powerful national army, which can participate in protecting the country's borders and internal security. Nationalizing the civilian forces leads to formal support for the people, while strengthening the country's state system. However, it is important to ensure that weapons and forces are managed carefully, avoiding the dangers that can arise if not managed properly. If managed well, the nationalization of civilian forces can be the key to peace, stability, and development in Somaliland.

Speaking on the matter, Chairman Musa said, "When the last election was held, seventy percent of the bills were paid from the national budget, and the rest was paid by donors". On hiccups in the processes, he noted that international donors always decried and lamented on delay in elections hence created distrust and worried whether they would be held at all. He clearly indicated that NEC had worked to prepare plans for the local and representative elections scheduled for May 31, 2026. He also pointed out that they had gone on a trip to Kenya last week to meet with donors and to prepare plans for the upcoming elections. He continued, "Since the holding of the elections is one of the highest constitutional responsibilities and priorities of the President of the

Nation, he has already been firm on the adherence to the schedule hence we were informing you that we have started preparing for the elections". He added, "We went on a trip to Nairobi, and we met with donor governments, especially those that helped us in the previous elections and other governments that are interested in adding more support to us now, such as the US embassy, the EU embassy, the Swedish embassy and the British government. We met with all of them and informed them or shared with them the challenges we faced, such as in the registration processes and preparing even better for what we can concertedly work on together". "We also met with the Kenyan IEBC as we want insight into the registration process hence make it a success", he said.

# Somaliland rebuffs Puntland whimsical allegations



Its peaceful environment has made it a model for governance and stability, drawing admiration even from neighboring nations. Somaliland has a long and effective history of combating terrorism and piracy, ensuring that these threats do not take root within its borders. Its proactive efforts in counterterrorism have contributed to the overall security of the region, serving as a protective shield for the entire area.

Article 10, Clause 7 of the Somaliland Constitution explicitly states: "The Government of the Republic of Somaliland opposes all forms of terrorism, regardless of its purpose." This makes Somaliland the only country in the region with a constitutional obligation to fight terrorism.

Therefore, the Government of the Republic of Somaliland has always been committed to fighting terrorism, and has effective cooperation with neighboring countries in this regard.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, CULTURE AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE  
PRESS STATEMENT

The Republic of Somaliland is internationally recognized for its remarkable stability and

commitment to peace. Unlike many of its neighboring states, Somaliland has successfully maintained security and order, earning a reputation as the most stable region in the Horn of Africa.

## Somaliland, Genel Energy, and Taiwan's OPIC Hold High-Level Meeting on Oil Exploration



Somaliland Minister of Energy and Minerals, Eng. Ahmed Jama Barre, accompanied by senior officials, held a significant trilateral meeting with representatives from oil exploration companies Genel Energy and OPIC Somaliland. According to the ministry's Facebook post, the minister was joined by the Director General of the Ministry, Shu'ayb Osman Mahmoud, Somaliland's Ambassador to Taiwan, Mahamoud Adan Jama (Galaal), and several ministry senior advisors.

Representing Genel Energy were Technical Director Mike Adams, Exploration Manager Mike Hohbein, and the Head of the SL10B/14 Block Office, Ibrahim Hassan. OPIC Somaliland, a Taiwan-based

company, was represented by Hsing-Chen Lin and another senior official.

The primary objective of the meeting was to accelerate the ongoing oil exploration activities undertaken by Genel Energy and OPIC Somaliland in Block SL10B/13. The discussions focused on reviewing progress, addressing operational challenges, and ensuring smooth collaboration between all stakeholders involved in Somaliland's oil exploration efforts.

The Somaliland Ministry of Energy and Minerals reaffirmed its commitment to facilitating the work of exploration companies while ensuring that operations align with the country's regulatory framework

and development goals. The ministry emphasized the importance of advancing exploration efforts to maximize the potential benefits of Somaliland's natural resources.

This meeting marks another step in Somaliland's strategic efforts to develop its energy sector, attract foreign investment, and establish itself as a key player in the regional oil and gas industry. Genel Energy has been actively engaged in oil exploration in Somaliland, and Taiwan's OPIC Somaliland continues to strengthen its role in the sector, further solidifying Taiwan-Somaliland cooperation. Further updates on exploration activities and agreements between the parties are expected in the coming months.

## Somaliland's Abaarso Network Should Be the New Model for USAID -Michael Rubin



There is no doubt that waste, fraud, and abuse permeate the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Some of this, including USAID's disbursement of more than \$100 million to terrorists, raises issues of criminal negligence, if not deliberate terror finance on the part of some staff members who evaded oversight after concerns first emerged.

Former USAID Administrator Samantha Power began her career writing about the unwillingness of U.S. officials to tackle genocide. During the Obama administration, she provided moral cover for a White House refusing to address it. She has now capped her career by funding those terrorist charities most dedicated to perpetrating genocide.

While many countries, non-governmental organizations, and activists castigate the foreign aid cutoff, they exaggerate the contributions of USAID. First, while true that U.S. foreign aid amounts to less than 1 percent of gross domestic product, this figure ignores that Americans do not rely on their government to substitute for their own generosity; Americans give more to charities than do Europeans, Russians, or Chinese. Second, the failure of USAID to brand often reduces its impact. Third, moral hazard can be high. Substituting assistance for foreign government responsibility also undermines democracy.

At best, the United States gets some credit. There is a joke in sub-Saharan Africa about three businessmen discussing international assistance. "The Chinese built our stadium, so whenever I go to a football match, I think about China," one man says. "The Japanese built our airport, so whenever I fly on business, I thank Japan," another said. The third chimed in, "The Americans funded our sewer system, and so whenever I take a ... I think about the United States."

Too often, however, the tendency of USAID to supplement or even substitute for incompetent or malign government elsewhere can undermine security and stability. Why should the Palestinian Authority or Félix Tshisekedi's regime in the Democratic Republic of Congo adhere to their commitment to cease terror when they know that international donors will simply rebuild everything or shield them from the consequences of their choices?

As Daniel Pipes and I wrote here recently, foreign assistance is a relatively recent phenomenon. While it can serve a real purpose—for example, providing emergency aid following a natural disaster—too often it achieves little, at least relative to the money invested. The American University of Cairo, for example, receives millions of U.S. dollars but has become a hotbed of anti-Americanism. Its president, Ahmad Dallal, formerly dean of Georgetown University Qatar, once spoke in support of both Hamas and Hezbollah.

The question, however, is not whether foreign assistance is always good or always bad, but rather, what works? It is easy to talk about "soft power," but this is often wishful thinking. Even if there is some benefit, it is doubtful the cost equals the benefit. Dumping billions of dollars absent metrics to prove their worth is a poor use of limited resources.

The next question is whether there are exceptions that prove the rule. Is it possible for USAID to give grants where benefits to peace, security, and U.S. national interest are clear and quantifiable?

Here, Somaliland's Abaarso Network may be a marquee example. Founded in 2009 by former hedge fund manager Jonathan Starr with his own seed money, Abaarso was Somaliland's first Western-style school. It chose applicants upon aptitude and merit, rather than

Continue on page 5



## Specific Procurement Notice

### Invitation for Bids [IFB]

#### Goods

#### (One-Envelope Bidding Process)

**IFB Number: RFB002/2025**

**Purchaser: Ministry of Finance, Somaliland Government**

**Project: Institutional Support for Economic Governance Project (ISEGP)**

**Contract title: Supply and Installation of Furniture and IT Equipment of ICPAS New Building**

**Country: Government of Somaliland**

**Loan No. / Grant No.: 5900155018607**

**Procurement Method: Open Competitive Bidding (International) (OCBI)**

**OCBI No: N/A**

**Issued on: 5th March, 2025**

1. The Government of Somaliland has received financing from the African Development Fund hereinafter called the Bank toward the cost of the Institutional Support for Economic Governance Project (ISEGP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the Procurement of Furniture and IT Equipment for ICPAS New Building.
2. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for Furniture and IT Equipment for ICPAS New Building, at Hargeisa, Somaliland.
3. Bidding will be conducted through the Open Competitive Bidding (International), (OCBI) method as specified in the Bank's "Procurement Policy for Bank Group Funded Operations" dated October 2015 and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Framework.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Ministry of Finance, PFM Department, and email: [procurement@somalilandpfm.org](mailto:procurement@somalilandpfm.org), CC [hassan@somalilandpfm.org](mailto:hassan@somalilandpfm.org) and inspect the bidding document during office hours from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm at the address given below PFM Department, Opposite of Ministry of Education and Science.
5. Bids must be delivered to the address below clearly marked "Supply and Installation of ICT and Furniture Equipment for ICPAS New Building" on or before 10th April 2025 at 2:00pm local time. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected.
6. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend, at the address below PFM Department, Ministry of Finance on 10th April 2025 at 2:15 pm local time.
7. All Bids must be accompanied by a "Bid-Securing Declaration".
8. Attention is drawn to the Procurement Framework requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful bidder's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document.
9. The address (es) referred to above is (are):

**Ministry of Finance and Economic Development**

**PFM Office, (Opposite of Ministry of Education and Science)**

**Attn: Procurement Officer, Ms. Ubah Hussein,**

**Email: [Procurement@somalilandpfm.org](mailto:Procurement@somalilandpfm.org) CC to: [hassan@somalilandpfm.org](mailto:hassan@somalilandpfm.org)**

**Tel: 00-252-63-4194081, or 00-252-63-4475005,**

**Hargeisa, Somaliland**

## Somaliland's Abaarso Network Should Be the New Model for USAID -Michael Rubin

political or clan connections. Shepherds, orphans, and those from more elite families mixed and matriculated. The school allowed Somalis in addition to citizens of Somaliland to apply. The education in English and emphasis on critical thinking was a game-changer. Today, it is the only U.S.-accredited high school in either Somaliland or Somalia. What began as a single coeducational school for grades 7-12 has expanded into a number of K-12 schools. Within a few years, universities such as Yale, Harvard, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology were competing over Abaarso grade-school graduates, the first students from Somaliland in more than 30 years to matriculate at U.S. universities. More than 300 alumni have earned over \$50 million in private scholarships.

Many Abaarso students have worked in the United States. One is the chief engineer of an Indiana steel plant; another is a consultant for Bain & Company. Several others are doctors. What makes Abaarso and its network special, however, is that it did not become an exit ramp from Somaliland, but rather, a revolving door. Many graduates returned after their stint at U.S. universities to catalyze Somaliland's development. Its graduates have returned as teachers and university professors. Some have opened their own school or replicated the Abaarso model.

The project now enables Somalilanders to remain in Somaliland for advanced education. In 2017, the Abaarso network opened Barwaaqo University as the country's first all-women university. In a country where female unemployment hovers around 95 percent, Barwaaqo graduates enjoy greater than 85 percent employment.

What works in Somaliland does not need to stay in Somaliland. As Zimbabwe recovers from decades of Robert Mugabe's ruinous dictatorship, it has turned to Abaarso alumni to replicate Somaliland's success in Zimbabwe. While a humanitarian good news story, what makes Abaarso an example of clear USAID benefit?

First, while Abaarso took seed money from USAID, it never became dependent. It was a perfect example of teaching a man to fish, rather than giving a man fish. USAID helped fund Abaarso's expansion, but it did not provide regular budgetary

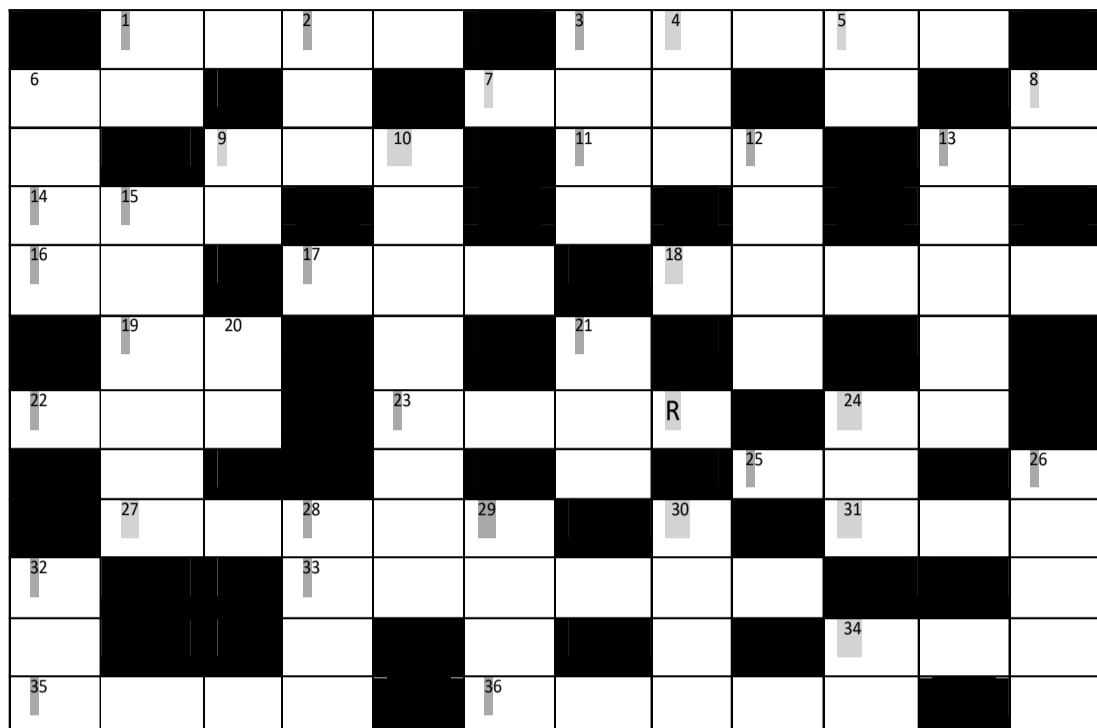
support. Abaarso's leadership recruited and raised funds locally and from the Somaliland diaspora in the United States, as well as from private foundations. Seed money works; welfare does not. More broadly, Somaliland's pro-Western orientation and internal security reflect Abaarso's success. As Abaarso graduates change a generational mindset, not only do the conspiracy theories that surrounded the project in its early years fall by the wayside, but its graduates are able to lift entire extended families out of poverty and enable them to invest in local businesses. Today, Somalia remains a failed state beset by corruption; Somaliland has become an economic engine with the beginnings of a 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. While Somalia embraces dictatorships like Turkey and China and rationalizes terror, Somaliland is unapologetically pro-Western and pro-American. The kicker is that tax revenue from Abaarso graduates in the United States more than offsets any USAID grants into Abaarso. Put another way, on the USAID balance sheet, Abaarso runs in the black, not red.

The national security successes are profound. Whereas terrorists strike across Somalia and Ethiopia, the last major terror attack in Somaliland was in 2008. Somaliland secures its territory and denies Al Qaeda, the Islamic State, Al Shabaab pirates, and Yemeni weapons smugglers safe haven. Every dollar USAID spent in Somaliland obviated the need for security assistance, let alone intervention.

The DOGE cuts to USAID cost Abaarso the ability to expand its physical plant to more than double its women's university capacity from 140 to 300, though the State Department still could reverse it given Abaarso's clear record of delivery on investment. Decades of poor management and oversight led USAID not only to hemorrhage money, but also to undercut U.S. security. As DOGE chief Elon Musk and Secretary of State Marco Rubio reformulate U.S. foreign assistance, it is essential to study and replicate the rare successes. If they define U.S. interests as peace, deradicalization, and development in the Horn of Africa, the Sahel, the Middle East or stabilizing post-conflict societies like South Yemen or Syrian Kurdistan more generally, they will find no better model than the little school that could in Somaliland.

# THT Puzzle

By: Abdilahi Said



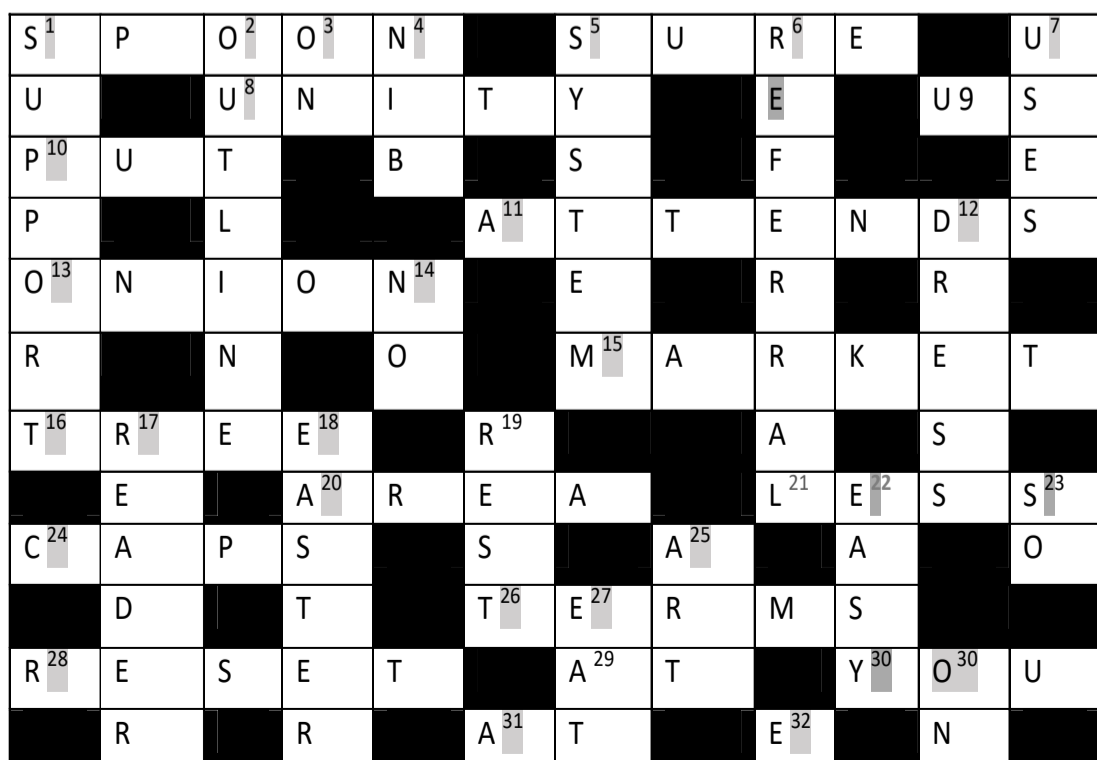
**DOWN**

- 1 Match
- 2 On the way to
- 3 Teenage
- 4 Engineer in short form
- 5 Towards
- 8 Inside
- 9 Being as
- 10 schooling
- 12 Match
- 13 Cyber
- 15 Audial
- 20 Operation director in short form
- 21 full of mud
- 24 Achieved
- 26 pig
- 29 Plant seeds
- 30 Examine/ct scan
- 32 Queue
- 34 Be present

**ACROSS**

- 1 Pipe
- 3 par of mouth
- 6 Leave
- 7 Fountain pen
- 9 Painting
- 11 Egg cell
- 13 Atop
- 14 Mams
- 16 Continent
- 17 Terrible
- 18 Minor
- 19 Make
- 22 Offer
- 23 60 minutes
- 24 Pronoun
- 25 Make
- 27 emblem
- 31 Brand new
- 33 Organization
- 34 Prohibit
- 35 Caution
- 36 rhythm music pattern

## Previous Answer



## President lauds pacification efforts going on as he briefs the cabinet

By M.A. Egge

The President of the Republic of Somaliland, His Excellency Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro has lauded the on-going efforts of pacification in the eastern region of Sanaag following the move to absorb the local militia forces into mainstream national armed forces.

He praised the concerted efforts taking place under the leadership of his deputy H.E. VP Mohamed Abdi Ali and the high ranking state and military officials in his entourage who have been in Erigavo for the past fortnight. The Head of State expressed his praises during the 11th session of the Council of Ministers of the WADDANI administration that he personally chaired on Wednesday evening.

The session saw in-depth discussions concerning the plight of displaced persons and humanitarian efforts, ways and means of mitigating suspected impending drought, etc.

According to a press release on the meeting by Presidential Spokesman Hussein Deyr, the agenda of the week was generally as follows: –

\* A report on the general security situation in the country, which was reported by the Minister of the Ministry of Interior, who said that overall security in the country is secure.

\* A general report on the country's financial situation, which was reported by the Minister of Finance and Economic Development, who reported that the acceleration of the collection of GST and excise taxes is progressing well.

\* A detailed report on the general health situation within the country, reported by the Minister of Health Development.

\* A detailed report on the situation of the displaced and humanitarian assistance, presented by the Minister of Resettlement and

Humanitarian Affairs.

\* A report on the latest situation of livestock exports, preparedness and relief for drought, finding a solution to the still closed Sheikh Animal Husbandry School: presented by the Minister of Animal Husbandry.

\* The process of collecting and coordinating data on the activities of the Ministries in the 100 days of the government: presented by the Ministers of Information and the Presidency.

\* Presentation of the Agricultural Policy and the Agricultural Seed Policy and the communiqué from the National Conference of Somaliland Farmers: presented by the Minister of Agriculture Development.

\* Approval of the recommendation of the Committee assigned to manage temporary workers: The Council of Ministers approved the recommendation by a majority vote.

\* Distribution of the National Mineral Exploration Policy (1st Reading): The Minister of Minerals and Energy of the Somaliland Republic briefed the House.

\* Distribution of the Legal Aid Act (1st Reading): The Minister of Justice of the Somaliland Republic briefed the House.

\* Progress in the registration of the various National Forces of the Somaliland Republic: The Minister of the Presidency gave the House a general report.

\* Finally, the President of the Republic of Somaliland, His Excellency Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro gave cabinet a general report on the latest efforts to pacify the Erigavo District and the Nationalization of the Civilian Forces, which are progressing well.

The President expressed his gratitude to the Members of the Somaliland government delegation led by the Deputy President, praising the peacekeeping activities they are carrying out in Erigavo.

# NEC extends technical support to security services reforms registration exercises

By M.A. Egge  
The national reforms committee of all arms of the security services is to receive technical support and expertise from the National Electoral Commission (NEC) in registering all services personnel. This was disclosed after the

NEC received in its office the National Armed Forces Registration and Reform Committee recently formed by the President of Somaliland, His Excellency Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro, led by its chair the Minister of Interior and Security, Hon. Abdalle Mohamed Arab, accompanied

by the Minister of the Presidency, Hon. Khadar Hussein and the Presidential Advisor on Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Mohamed Haji, who is one of the committee members. The meeting focused on issues related to military registration s

part of the general initiatives of the reforms.

The two parties agreed that the support of the technical needs and expertise would be eked out by the NEC.

A brief statement coming out of the meeting went as follows: – The Committee explained its preparations, stating that the work plan has been completed, and the software and servers for the registration system have been prepared for the special exercise.

Registration Equipment Support (IRIS Biometric):

The President of the Republic of Somaliland had previously requested the NEC to provide the Military Reforms Committee with complete 50 (Kit) of IRIS Biometric registration equipment, to be used in the important task.

Technical and Personnel Support:

The Committee requested the NEC to select 50 of its senior

trainers (TOTs) who are experienced in the IRIS Biometric system, to become operators who will work on the tasks of military registration.

Technical Recommendations: The NEC shared with the committee important recommendations related to the registration process, potential challenges, and ensuring that the system is implemented efficiently, drawing on NEC's expertise and experience in implementing the IRIS Biometric system registering the security service personnel.

Technical Agreement: Both parties agreed to prepare a Technical Support Agreement on the attachment which officially detailed all the information on the equipment that the NEC will transfer to the Registration and Reformation Committee of the National Forces of the Republic of Somaliland.

## Invitation for Bids [IFB]

### Goods

### (One-Envelope Bidding Process)

**IFB Number:** RFB001/2025  
**Purchaser:** Ministry of Finance, Somaliland Government  
**Project:** Institutional Support for Economic Governance Project  
**Contract title:** Purchase of Heavy-duty Cargo Scanner  
**Country:** Government of Somaliland  
**Loan No. / Grant No.:** 5900155018607  
**Procurement Method:** Open Competitive Bidding (International) (OCBI)/(LCB)  
**OCBI No:** N/A  
**Issued on:** 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2025

- The Government of Somaliland has received financing from the African Development Fund hereinafter called the Bank toward the cost of the Institutional Support for Economic Governance Project (ISEGP), and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the Supply and Installation of Heavy-Duty Scanners (Cargo Scanners, Mobile Hand Held Scanners and Barcode Scanners).
- The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for one heavy duty scanner, and 10 mobile hand-held scanners, at Hargeisa, Somaliland.
- Bidding will be conducted through the Open Competitive Bidding (International), (OCBI) method as specified in the Bank's Procurement Framework dated 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2016, and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Framework.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Ministry of Finance, PFM Department, email: [procurement@somalilandpfm.org](mailto:procurement@somalilandpfm.org), CC to [hassan@somalilandpfm.org](mailto:hassan@somalilandpfm.org), and inspect the bidding document during office hours from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm at the address given below PFM Department, Opposite of Ministry of Education and Science.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below PFM Department, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Hargeisa, and Somaliland on or before 29<sup>th</sup> March 2025. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. The outer Bid envelopes marked "ORIGINAL BID", and the inner envelopes marked "TECHNICAL PART" will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend, at the address below PFM Department, Ministry of Finance on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 2:00 pm. All envelopes marked "SECOND ENVELOPE: FINANCIAL PART" shall remain unopened and will be held in safe custody of the Purchaser until the second public opening.
  - The Purchaser shall publish a notice of the public opening of the Financial Parts on its website number <https://slmof.org/>
  - Any interested party who wishes to attend the public opening of the Financial Parts may contact the officer named under paragraph 4 above and at the address given under paragraph 9 below and may request to be notified of the location, date and time of the public opening of Financial Parts. The interested party(ies) will be notified by the Purchaser of the date, time and place of opening of Financial Parts provided the request is received within 10 Business days before the deadline for submission of Bids containing Technical and Financial Parts, as stated in paragraph 6 above or any extension thereto.
- All Bids must be accompanied by a "Bid-Securing Declaration".
- Attention is drawn to the Procurement Framework requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful bidder's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document.
- The address (es) referred to above is (are):

PFM Office, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development

Ubah Hussein, Procurement Officer

Email: [Procurement@somalilandpfm.org](mailto:Procurement@somalilandpfm.org), CC to: [hassan@somalilandpfm.org](mailto:hassan@somalilandpfm.org)

Tel: 00-252-63-4194081, or 00-252-63-4475005, Hargeisa, Somaliland

#### CAUTIONARY NOTICE TRADE MARK – SOMALILAND

### GUCCI

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above trade mark is the trade mark of: GUCCIO GUCCI S.P.A., a company organised under the laws of Italy of Via Tornabuoni 73/R, 50123 Firenze, Italy and is used in connection with: Non-medicated cosmetics and toiletry preparations and soaps; perfumery; make-up preparations; nail polish; eyewear, including glasses, sunglasses, frames, cases and lenses; accessories for communication apparatus including tablets, mobile phones, smartphones, MP3 players and computers namely cases; smartwatches; 3D spectacles; spectacle cords; spectacle chains; connected bracelets [measuring instruments]; downloadable emoticons for mobile phones; goggles for sports; protective gloves; protective masks; mobile application software; jewellery, including chains, necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings or pendants, brooches, jewellery charms; horological and chronometric instruments; key rings and chains [split rings with trinket or decorative fob]; leather and imitations of leather; luggage and carrying bags; umbrellas, parasols; bags; handbags; wallets; purses; briefcases; school bags; backpacks; trunks [luggage]; travelling bags; clothing; footwear; headwear; belts; on-line retail services and retail services relating to: perfumery goods, make-up preparations, jewellery, horological apparatus, optical goods, eyewear, sunglasses, smartwatches, leather and imitations of leather, trunks and travelling bags, bags, handbags, wallets, purses, briefcases, backpacks, clothing, footwear, headwear, belts.

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

#### CAUTIONARY NOTICE TRADE MARK – SOMALILAND

### ACCUTRON

### BULOVA



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above trade mark is the trade mark of: Citizen Watch Company of America, Inc. d/b/a Bulova, A California corporation doing business in New York under the name Bulova of Empire State Building, 350 Fifth Avenue, 29th Floor, New York, 10118, New York, United States of America and are used in connection with: Watches.

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