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"No one can claim or negotiate over the territory of the Republic of Somaliland; Hassan Sheikh can't even govern Mogadishu" – President Abdirahman Irro

The leadership of the Republic of Somaliland, by the grace of Allah, rests with me and my people, and no one else can negotiate or claim it, said President I tell the international community and the world that Hassan Sheikh does not govern Somaliland, nor is he capable of managing Mogadishu



By: M. A. Egge
The President of the Republic of Somaliland H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro has categorically stated that no one can claim nor negotiate any iota of Somaliland territory.

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Minister Ahmed-yasin slams at Hassan Sheikh's confounding letter to Trump

He describes it as height of naivety that toddlers would even cringe upon



He observed that whenever Hassan Sheikh perceives the IC warming to Somaliland's essence, he always acted erratically by going berserk throwing tantrums

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Mohamoud Walaaleye
Somaliland's Foreign Minister Abdirahman Dahir Aden has strongly criticized Somalia's proposal to grant the U.S. exclusive

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US Diplomat Peter Pham bangs Somalia's Bid to Hand US Control of Somaliland and Puntland Ports



Peter Pham, a prominent Republican foreign policy expert and a longtime advocate for Somaliland, has strongly criticized Somalia's attempt to grant the United States operational control over key ports in Somaliland and Puntland—

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Ministry of Finance launches anti-smuggling campaign



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Dahabshiil Company CEO acknowledges the critical importance of water to the lives of all our people



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Financial institutions that flout our banking guidelines risk suspension, warns CB governor



The Governor of the Central Bank of the Republic of Somaliland, Mr. Abdinasir Ahmed Hirsi, has announced that banks that do not implement the stipulated and specified standard guidelines would be held culpable of flouting regulations.

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“No one can claim or negotiate over the territory of the Republic of Somaliland; Hassan Sheikh can’t even govern Mogadishu” – President Abdirahman Irro



He at the same time made it clear that the leadership of the nation of Somaliland rests with him and his people hence Hassan sheikh who cannot manage his own backyard has no say at all.

The Head of State made the remarks on the eve of Eid-ul-Fitr on Saturday evening as he sent his greetings to the nation and the Muslim world at large.

In a speech addressing the Eid al-Fitr occasion, President Irro sent salutations to the people of Somaliland, the National Armed Forces, their families, and all civil servants of the Republic of Somaliland.

He congratulated the delegation led by the Vice President, along with the ministers, who spent the past month and more working on the nationalization of civilian forces and pacification efforts in the eastern regions. He noted that they achieved significant success, saying that the processes were progressing well, and the remaining tasks would be completed soon.

President Irro expressed gratitude

to all the elders and religious leaders who facilitated the nationalization of the civilian forces and handed them over to the Vice President and his delegation. He also praised and prayed for the peace delegation in El-Afweyn, expressing confidence that they would soon conclude the longstanding conflict, with news of their success expected shortly.

President Irro described the actions taken by the Somali government to obstruct Somaliland’s progress as astonishing.

He stated, “It is surprising to hear statements from the President of Somalia, who cannot even manage Mogadishu, yet meddles in Berbera. I tell the international community, the President of the United States, and the world at large that Somaliland governs its own land, sea, and airspace”.

He continued, “Somaliland is an independent nation that will, God willing, become part of the community of sovereign states in the near future. Somaliland views the statements from a leader

incapable of ensuring security in Mogadishu alone, yet claiming Berbera, as remarks that could harm the peace and stability of the region”.

He further added, “The international community knows he does not fully control Mogadishu, let alone have a claim over Berbera or other areas.”

The Republic of Somaliland is an independent nation that gained its sovereignty from Britain on June 26, 1960, briefly united with Somalia, and re-asserted its independence on May 18, 1991.

This was further solidified by a national referendum in which 97.1% of the people voted to re-confirm they are not part of Somalia, a decision witnessed by the world.

President Irro reiterated that the Republic of Somaliland governs its own territory and makes its own decisions. It has a government elected by its people and represents them.

He stated, “I tell the international community and the world that Hassan Sheikh does not govern Somaliland, nor is he capable of managing Mogadishu—we are well aware of its situation. For anyone wishing to engage or establish relations with Somaliland, the decision lies with its people and government. The leadership of the Republic of Somaliland, by the grace of Allah, rests with me and my people, and no one else can negotiate or claim it.”

Minister Ahmed-yasin slams at Hassan Sheikh’s confounding letter to Trump

The Somaliland Minister of Information, Culture and National Guidance, Hon. Ahmed-yasin Sheikh Ali Ayaanle has strongly slammed the intention of Somalia’s Hassan Sh. Mohamoud assumes that he has the ability of dishing out Somaliland’s sovereign territory anyhow.

He at the same time took a swipe at the Puntland administration’s foreign secretary for repeatedly insinuating that Somaliland is al-Shabaab, whereas they have been working with them (Somalia) in cahoots all along.

Following a report revealed by Semafor that Hassan Sheikh wrote a letter to US President Donald Trump beseeching him not to recognize Somaliland hence in return he would “gift” the latter with Berbera port, that friends and foes found the Mogadishu brand of political diplomacy as not only wanting, but confounding.

It is in this connection that the



minister retorted to, describing the letter as “height of naivety that toddlers would even cringe upon”, as he held a presser to address the matter.

He pointed out that the notion of the idea floated was in itself an abuse to the integrity and intelligence of the US who have a working relation with Somaliland as depicted in the USA’s own constitution- The Somaliland Act- as regards its own foreign affairs.

The minister observed that whenever Hassan Sheikh perceives that the International Community warms up to Somaliland’s essence, he always goes berserk and throws tantrums hence acts erratically. He made it quite vivid that as

concerns the nation’s sovereignty, it was only incumbent upon to chart its destiny. He also underscored the fact that Somalia has no say whatsoever about Somaliland’s conviction as to have re-asserted its independence.

He reminded the Puntland’s foreign affairs official who has been constantly depicting Somaliland as a terrorist haven that it was his state in particular and Somalia at large who have all along been abetting and working in cahoots with the al-Shabaab, Daish, ISIS, pirates and terrorists.

He observed that Somaliland’s territorial waters have not had nor witnessed even one single case of piracy.

Minister Ahmed-yasin called upon all Somalilanders in the Diaspora to be their nation’s ambassadors hence impart Somaliland’s essence, entity, aspirations and dreams to the rest of the world at all times.

Somaliland Slams Somalia’s U.S. Base Offer, Says Washington Should Deal with Hargeisa



control over strategic air bases and ports.

“The USA is not stupid. They know who they need to deal with when it comes to Berbera port,” Aden told Reuters, adding that the U.S. is ready to work with Somaliland—a peaceful, stable, and democratic

nation.

His remarks come in response to a letter from Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud to President Donald Trump, offering control of assets including Balidogle and Berbera air bases and the ports of Berbera and Bosaso.

US Diplomat Peter Pham bangs Somalia’s Bid to Hand US Control of Somaliland and Puntland Ports

territories Mogadishu does not govern.

Pham, a former US special envoy and a close ally of former President Donald Trump, took to X (formerly Twitter) to denounce Somalia’s move, calling it an insult to US intelligence and taxpayers. He wrote:

“It’s not enough that his PM & FM insult POTUS & Mog is a \$1 billion yearly drain on USA taxpayers, but rump Somalia’s Hassan Sh Mohamud thinks Americans are so dumb that he can offer us key Somaliland & Puntland ports that he doesn’t even control.” he said Pham has been one of the most vocal US supporters of Somaliland’s recognition and maintains close ties with influential Republican lawmakers advocating for stronger engagement with the self-governing region. Under the Trump administration, Pham played a key role in shaping US policy in Africa, pushing for a more pragmatic approach focused on strategic partnerships rather than long-term state-building efforts.

Somalia’s Desperate Bid to Block Somaliland Recognition

The backlash follows a Semafor report revealing that Somalia’s President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud sent a letter to US President Donald Trump on March 16, offering the US “exclusive operational control” over the Berbera and Bosaso ports. The move was widely seen as an attempt to prevent Washington from formally recognizing Somaliland or engaging directly with Puntland. Despite these efforts, US lawmakers have increasingly warmed to the idea of engaging with Somaliland as a reliable partner in the Horn of Africa. Earlier this year, a



congressional subcommittee called for a US diplomatic office in Hargeisa, citing Somaliland’s stability and strategic value.

Trump’s Shift Away from Somalia Pham’s criticism highlights a growing shift within the Republican Party regarding US policy in Somalia. The Trump administration has shown less interest in supporting Mogadishu’s fragile government, with many Republicans arguing that US priorities should focus on counterterrorism and direct engagement with stable regional partners like Somaliland.

Cameron Hudson, a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, noted that Somalia’s letter was a desperate attempt to assert control over territories it does not govern. “They are offering this as a way of getting the US to recognize the legitimacy of the Somali state over these breakaway regions,” he told Semafor.

With tensions rising in the Red Sea and Somaliland positioning itself as a key strategic ally, Pham’s remarks reflect the Republican Party’s growing skepticism toward continued US support for Mogadishu. As Washington reassesses its Horn of Africa strategy, Somaliland’s recognition may be closer than ever.

SOURCE: HORNDIPLOMAT

Financial institutions that flout our banking guidelines risk suspension, warns CB governor



A statement issued by the bank's governor, Mr. Abdinasir, reminded operating banks that it is prohibited to send money in USD below 100. The Central Bank of Somaliland has ordered all financial institutions and operators to adhere to the rules and that they should not flout them

at all. "Licenses of all those who undermine, flout or violate the regulations would be suspended or heavy fines would be imposed upon them", he stressed. The central bank's rules which were already in place aims to mitigate

against inflation of the local currency by promoting its general use. During the period of the new leadership, the central bank has been working hard to strengthen the value of the Somaliland shilling, and has been working closely with all stakeholders.

Ministry of Finance launches anti-smuggling campaign



Mohamoud Walaaleye The Ministry of Finance has launched a campaign to completely deter perpetual hard-core smugglers from the illicit crime, a practice that undermines the economic development of the country.

The anti-smuggling campaign, witnessed various officials of line agencies and institutions cautioning the culprits while giving stern warnings as they addressed the gathering.

"We are sending a warning to those involved in smuggling activities, and anyone caught violating the law will have to bear heavy burden commensurate to the crime brought down upon them and their assets", warned the Finance ministry DG Mr. Mohamed Hassan Saleban.

The police force has urged the members of the public to be vigilant about smuggling issues, cautioning that full armes of the law would be

meted upon them. Customs officials called on the public to follow the legal procedures for commercial goods, and anyone who violates the law will be referred to the relevant courts.

The Commander of the Anti-Contraband Force, Colonel Ahmed Hassan (Ilka'ase), called on the public to carry out a campaign to combat smuggling, and to respect the laws and regulations of the country.

"Any smuggler caught by the police force will be brought to justice," he said.

The Director of Customs, Abdurahman, who spoke at the meeting, said that they have made good efforts in the campaign to combat smuggling so far.

The Ministry of Finance's efforts to combat smuggling, which come at a time when national income is gradually picking, aim to reach greater heights.

First army commander begins census and registration of the National Army



The census and reorganization of the country's armed forces have commenced at the General Command of the National Army in Hargeisa. The 1st Commander of the National

Armed Forces Brig General Abdirisac Saeed Bulaale led the start of the exercise over the week, along with the technical committee responsible for registering the various Somaliland armed forces. They started the rigorous registration involving 500 hundred

servicemen. The registration system, utilizing Iris Recognition Biometrics technology to document the identification particulars of the soldiers, which would apply to all arms of the security services.

It is high time for IC to fully engage with Somaliland, says Foreign Affairs DG

Mohamoud Walaaleye The Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Mohamed Abdurahman Hassan, has noted that it was high time for the International Community to engage with Somaliland in a fully-fledged manner.

He stated the fact as he responded to a letter sent by the President of Somalia, a country which cannot govern itself, to the United States, proposing to hand over control of the Red Sea coastlines and seaports that it does not govern.

The DG noted through a statement he published on his X (Twitter) account clarifying that the international community's interest in establishing relations with the Republic of Somaliland is based on their own will and their acknowledgement that Somaliland is a reliable and credible partner.



something Somalia cannot compete with. He emphasized Somaliland's historical record demonstrates solid stability, democratic progress, and effective governance, making it a nation worthy of engagement and cooperation with the international community.

He described Somalia as a "failed state" overshadowed by instability, terrorism, and decades of misused international aid, emphasizing that it is time for accountability. The DG stated that "it is the high time for the international community to fully acknowledge and engage with Somaliland".

Women in Somaliland politics: a new chapter of inclusion-Hibo Said

Leading the charge for political change in a developing democracy



Women in Somaliland have long been recognized as the backbone of society, tirelessly contributing to the nation's development. Whether through supporting their families, driving economic activity, or building communities, their efforts are undeniable. However, a pressing question arises: how involved are women in Somaliland's political field?

The unfortunate reality is that their representation in politics has never matched their contributions to society. For many years, women in Somaliland have been excluded from positions of power and decision-making. In previous governments, including the most recent administration led by former President Muse Bihi Abdi, women's

political inclusion was minimal at best. Few, if any, women held ministerial positions or seats in parliament. While there were isolated instances of women assuming public roles, these were exceptions rather than the norm.

This lack of representation reflects a deeper societal challenge. Somaliland's culture, rooted in tribal systems, remains a significant barrier to women's political participation. Traditional norms have historically placed men in dominant roles, particularly in leadership and governance, leaving women with limited opportunities to step into positions of authority. Despite the strides Somaliland has

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Dahabshiil Company CEO acknowledges the critical importance of water to the lives of all our people



As part of the community it serves, Dahabshiil Company is deeply aware of every aspect concerning the people it serves and all those facing water-related challenges. Today, the CEO of Dahabshiil Company showed us the critical importance of water to the lives of all our people.

The General Manager, Abdirashid Duale, visited areas where access to clean water is greatly needed but difficult to achieve. Dahabshiil Company provides significant support for water-related issues, including during times of drought and in general humanitarian efforts. World Water Day, celebrated

globally every year in March since 1993, is a United Nations initiative that highlights the importance of freshwater. This day celebrates the need for water and raises awareness about the 2.2 billion people who lack access to clean water. This issue serves as a call to action for every individual and the world at large to address the water crisis.

As part of its corporate social responsibility, Dahabshiil emphasizes the vital importance of water. CEO Abdirashid Duale has visited regions where access to clean water is both essential and challenging. World Water Day, observed annually since 1993, is a United Nations initiative that highlights the value of freshwater. It celebrates water and raises awareness of the 2.2 billion people living without safe water — a global call to action to address the ongoing water crisis.

Women in Somaliland politics: a new chapter of inclusion-Hibo Said

made as a developing democracy, societal attitudes continue to reinforce the notion that leadership is a man's domain.

Moreover, the issue has not received the level of attention it deserves. Conversations about women's political participation are often sidelined, treated as secondary to other national priorities. This lack of visibility has limited meaningful change and has left many women feeling excluded from the political process.

Over the past few years, however, there has been a growing movement for change. Women's rights activists and civil society organisations have tirelessly campaigned for the introduction of gender quotas in government. A gender quota would reserve a specific percentage of seats for women, ensuring their participation in governance. Activists argued that such a system would be a transformative step toward equality, offering women a fair chance to contribute to Somaliland's political development. Unfortunately, these efforts have so far been met with resistance and rejection.

With the election of President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro, widely known as Ciro, there is a sense of renewed hope and cautious optimism. The Ciro administration has assumed office with pledges of reform, inclusivity, and progress. The people of Somaliland have embraced the new government with great expectations, aspiring for a more promising future. Among these hopes is the pressing question of whether the new leadership will tackle the persistent exclusion of women from political

participation.

Promisingly, the new administration has already shown promising signs of change. President Ciro has made a historic move by appointing three women to key leadership positions within his cabinet:

✓ Hon. Milgo Mohamed Elmi Sanbalooshe – Minister of Labor and Social Affairs.

✓ Hon. Kaltuun Sheikh Hassan Madar – Minister of National Planning.

✓ Hon. Samsam Mohamed Salah – Deputy Minister of Health Development.

This marks a significant and inspiring moment for Somaliland. For the first time in years, women are being visibly recognised and appointed to influential positions in government. These appointments are not just symbolic—they represent a concrete step toward greater inclusion and equality. By placing capable women in leadership roles, the government is sending a powerful message: women have a place in shaping Somaliland's future.

For Somaliland's women, this progress is both a victory and a source of inspiration. The inclusion of women in leadership positions provides much-needed role models for the younger generation. Young girls and women across Somaliland can now look up to these leaders and believe that they, too, can aspire to become ministers, policymakers, and political leaders. Representation matters, and seeing women in positions of authority helps break down cultural and societal barriers that have long held them back. However, this milestone

also raises important questions. Will this progress continue, or is it a one-time gesture? Will the new administration implement policies that promote women's participation in politics at all levels? Will there be a renewed push for a gender quota to secure women's representation in parliament and other government bodies? These questions remain unanswered, but they are important for Somaliland's future.

The Irro administration has an opportunity to set a new precedent. By advocating policies that promote gender equality, creating platforms for women's leadership, and challenging cultural barriers, the new government can pave the way for a more inclusive and progressive Somaliland.

In conclusion, while challenges remain, the appointment of three women to ministerial roles is a significant step forward. It signals that change is possible and that Somaliland's leaders are beginning to recognise the value and contributions of women. This moment is one to celebrate, but it is also a call to action. Activists, policymakers, and citizens must continue to push for greater representation and ensure that women are given the space and opportunities they deserve.

The future of Somaliland depends on the inclusion of all its citizens, and women, as the backbone of society, must play a central role in shaping that future. Whether the new government delivers on its promises remains to be seen, but for now, Somaliland's women can look to the future with renewed hope and determination.

US-China Rivalry in the Horn: Is Somaliland The Next Taiwan?



By Jalene Tesfaye

For decades, Somalia has dominated discussions about the Horn of Africa's political and security issues. Nonetheless, Somaliland, the self-proclaimed but unrecognized country in the north, has become the focus of global interest. The change is not coincidental. Somaliland's relative stability, geostrategic location on one of the world's busiest maritime routes, and potential as a regional economic and security partner have made it an appealing option for the United States. As conversations about its recognition gather momentum, the question becomes what recognition, or prolonged struggle for recognition, implies for the region's future.

Somaliland's international prominence has increased particularly in Washington. The Trump administration showed early signs of a desire to engage more directly with Somaliland. This was part of a larger reevaluation of US regional aims. Due to the ongoing instability in Somalia and the global competition for influence in the Red Sea region, the United States is searching for new allies that can provide stability and strategic value. Despite flaws, Somaliland is a valuable ally because of its democratic administration, independent security system, and operational government.

Ethiopia's stakes are similarly substantial. As a landlocked country, ensuring dependable access to the sea is an essential concern. The January 2024 deal between Ethiopia and Somaliland, which grants Ethiopia economic and naval access to the Berbera port, represents a major change in regional alliances. This decision decreases Ethiopia's dependency on Djibouti and establishes Somaliland as an important commercial gateway. Ethiopia's relation to Somaliland, however, involves more than just economics. It is a determined foreign policy decision aimed at creating a stable regional environment in which Ethiopia can safeguard its interests without being vulnerable to unexpected regional dynamics, notably those involving Somalia's fragile federal government.

Somaliland as a U.S.-China Battleground.

Somaliland's geopolitical prominence has prompted comparisons to Taiwan, with both the United States and China seeing it as a strategic tool in their rivalry. Just as Beijing is pressuring governments to cut ties with Taiwan, China has allegedly cautioned Somaliland against retaining connections with Taiwan—a warning denied by Somaliland's Foreign Minister. Over the last year, Beijing has increased pressure on Hargeisa by backing dissidents, strengthening links with Mogadishu, and reaffirming its "One Somalia" policy.

China has two primary concerns. First, its only foreign military station is in Djibouti, and a possible US or Taiwanese presence in Somaliland—just across the Red Sea—would directly challenge its regional military footprint. Second, Western countries' recognition of Somaliland may open the path for additional breakaway territories, weakening China's territorial claims. In response, the United States sees an opportunity to counterbalance Beijing by strengthening ties with Somaliland, possibly offering security alliances or even recognition to establish a strategic footing.

For Somaliland, the great-power competition poses challenges and opportunities. While cooperation with the United States may have economic and diplomatic benefits, it also entails triggering Chinese retaliation whether through proxy destabilization or economic pressure. Meanwhile, Mogadishu's alliance with Beijing hinders Somaliland's path to recognition, since China may encourage Somalia to exacerbate hostilities. The long-term relations between Somaliland and Somalia might change profoundly if Washington or Beijing formally recognizes Hargeisa, perhaps sparking a chain reaction of diplomatic realignments across the Horn.

Ethiopia's interest is tied to the competition. While Addis Ababa benefits from access to Berbera and Somaliland's stability, it must also

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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, CC 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 CC to: hassan@somalilandpfm.org

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

Hargeisa, Somaliland

US-China Rivalry in the Horn: Is Somaliland The Next Taiwan?

handle China's expanding influence in Somalia and Djibouti. If the United States recognizes Somaliland, Beijing may put pressure on Ethiopia to rethink its partnership or suffer economic consequences. The entire region, which is already an arena for Gulf rivalries, may become much more fragmented if global forces choose sides.

Recognition of Somaliland: Implications for the Horn of Africa

The formal recognition of Somaliland will greatly impact the region's economic and security situation. Somaliland currently struggles to attract substantial international investment and gain access to global financial institutions due to its unrecognized status. Recognition would unlock economic potential by promoting infrastructure development, commerce, and regional integration. A peaceful and prosperous Somaliland might also balance Somalia's chronic instability, providing an example of government and security for the entire Horn of Africa.

Somaliland's strategic location in the Gulf of Aden makes it an important partner in maritime security and counter-terrorism operations. With piracy, smuggling, and extremist organizations like al-Shabaab taking advantage of regional instability, a recognized Somaliland, backed by the United States and its allies, could serve as a critical security center. The U.S. military's desire to build a presence there demonstrates its importance in protecting shipping channels and conflict threats. A partnership like this would strengthen Western attempts to stabilize the Red Sea, which is becoming increasingly crucial for the world.

Ethiopia and the United States have a strong strategic interest in Somaliland's prosperity. Access to Berbera Port decreases Ethiopia's reliance on Djibouti while strengthening its economic security. Somaliland is an essential ally for Washington in a region where China, Russia, and Gulf nations compete for influence. The UAE's investments in Berbera, as well as competing Gulf governments' assistance for Mogadishu, emphasize the geopolitical implications.

The recognition of Somaliland, or the continued dispute over it, will have a major impact on the Horn of Africa, especially as internal crises, conflicts, and the potential of spillover escalate. The engagement of global rivals risks exacerbating regional differences, particularly since Somalia remains politically weak and tensions exist among neighboring governments. External interests might complicate an already unstable security situation, making stability difficult to accomplish.

Ethiopia has an important part in this dynamic since its demand for safe sea access has led to tighter ties with Somaliland. However, this approach may strain relations with China, which has a large economic presence in Ethiopia and supports Somalia's territorial ambitions. If mismanaged, the situation might exacerbate regional instability, but an organized diplomatic strategy that involves regional collaboration and economic integration could reduce threats. If managed effectively, Somaliland's rise as a regional actor has the potential to boost economic and security possibilities rather than exacerbate tensions.

President inaugurates Berbera Water Supply and Expansion Project



By M.A. Egge

The Republic of Somaliland, H.E. Dr. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro, on Sunday inaugurated the Berbera Water Supply and Expansion Project.

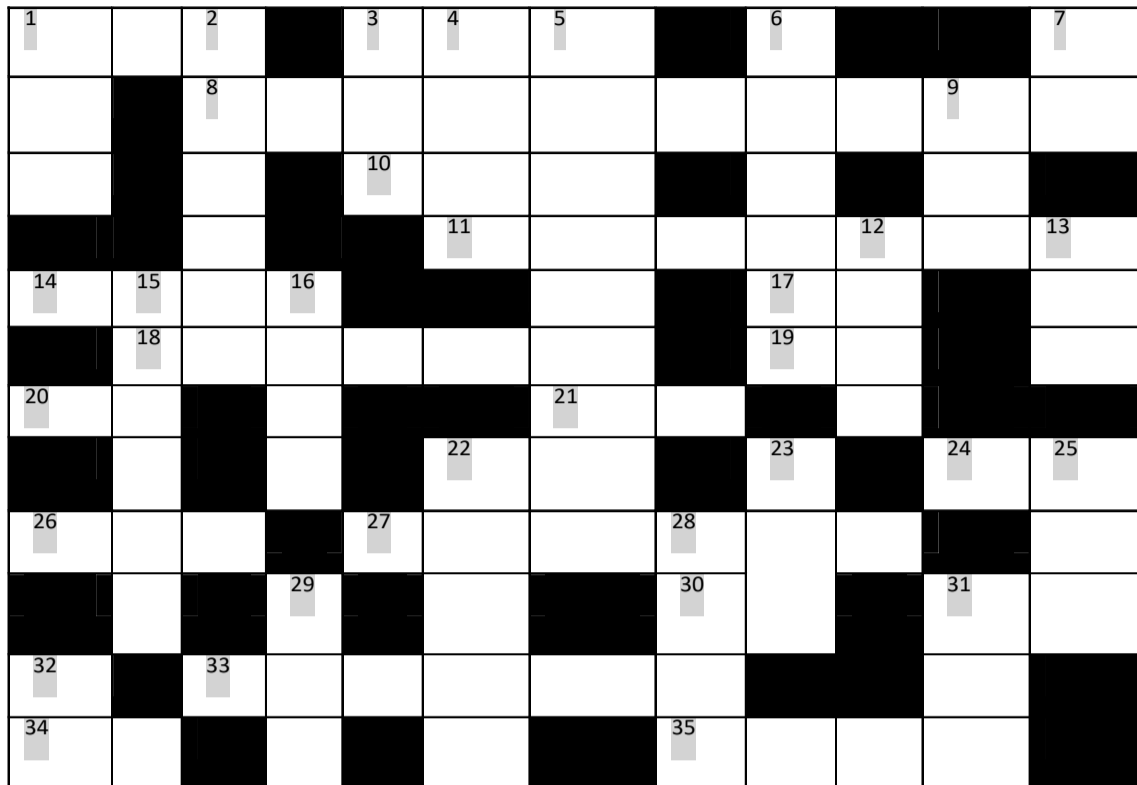
The President of the Republic of Somaliland and a large delegation he is leading on a working trip to the Sahil region, especially the city of Berbera, laid the foundation stone for the Berbera Water Expansion Project.

The event, which was also attended by some members of the cabinet, the leaders of Berbera municipality, the Sahil regional and district administrations and the Director of the Berbera Water Agency, highlighted the importance of the Berbera Water Expansion Project. The Director of the Berbera Water Agency, Khadar Said Ahmed (Firiko), spoke at the venue and said that this project will greatly contribute

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THT Puzzle

By: Abdilahi Said



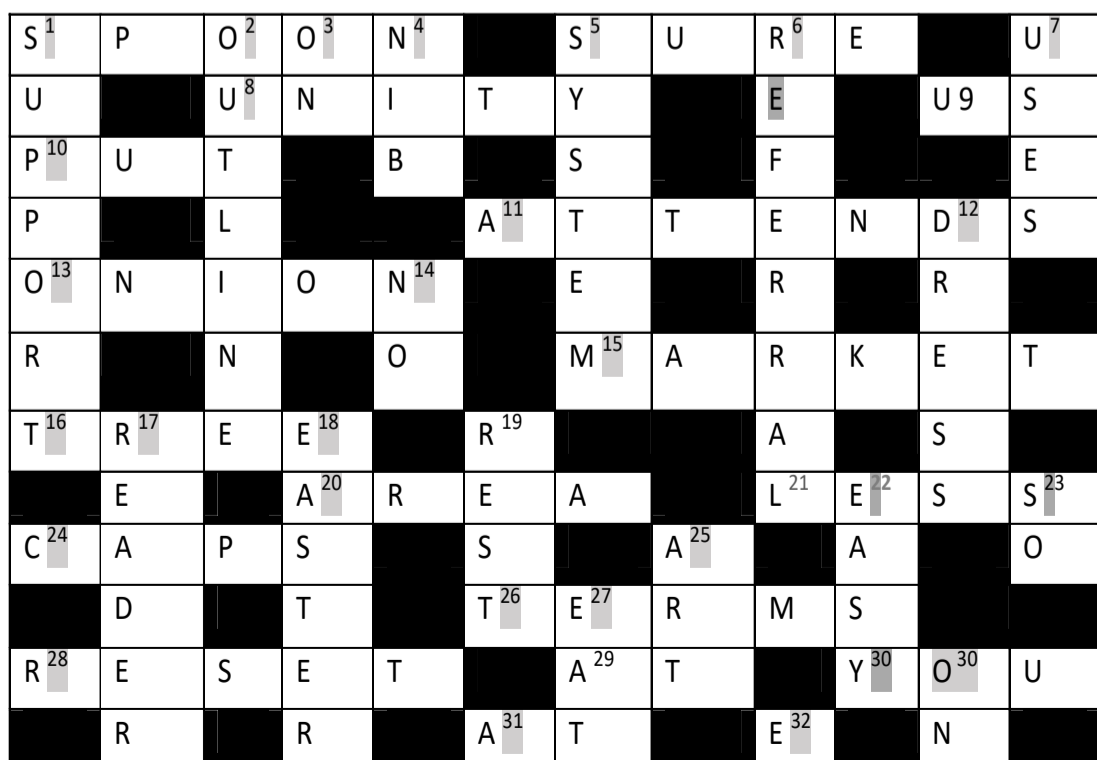
DOWN

- 1 question.
- 2 confirm.
- 3 shed tears
- 4 vicinity
- 5 travelers
- 6 increasing
- 7 U'S
- 9 Have a meal
- 12 Almost immediately
- 13 Sun shine
- 15 Nearby
- 16 Simple
- 22 brain power
- 23 individual
- 25 Perceive or look
- 28 possessive pronoun
- 29 Carpet
- 31 double or single bed
- 32 Negative or nope

ACROSS

- 1be present.
- 3 crowns head wear
- 8 storylines.
- 10 Yeah
- 11 Support
- 14 Concern assist
- 17 Negative
- 18 Cause
- 19 Travel
- 22 be present
- 24 Remains
- 26 Furthermore
- 27 Symbols
- 30 United Nations in short forms
- 31 Be there
- 34 Atop
- 35 Stated

Previous Answer



President inaugurates Berbera Water Supply and Expansion Project

to the water supply of the city of Berbera, since Berbera is a coastal city that needs a lot of water, and livestock exported likewise demand much of it.

The Minister of Water Development, Hon. Abubakar Abdirahman Good, explained the Berbera Water Expansion Project, and said that

was solely being implemented by the government.

The Head of State praised the Ministry of Water and the Berbera Water Agency as he laid the foundation stone for the groundbreaking of the project, and called for its implementation to be swiftly expedited.

President Abdirahman Irro lays foundation stone for Berbera Electricity Supply and Expansion Project



By M.A. Egge

The President of the Republic of Somaliland, H.E. Dr. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro, on Sunday laid the foundation stone for the Berbera Electricity Supply and Expansion Project, greatly needed by people of Berbera, a coastal city with a hot climate that has often complained about the lack of enough electricity.

The President and a large delegation he leads were on their second day in the region on a working trip to the city of Berbera that is focusing on infrastructural development.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the electricity project for the community was attended by various top government officials and the Sahil region's administration, respected traditional leaders and many other distinguished guests.

The Berbera City Electricity Supply and Expansion Project is a support to Somaliland by the World Bank, and will cost twenty million dollars (\$20 million).

The project will be a significant contribution to the development of electricity in the city of Berbera and its environs.

The Mayor of Berbera and the Governor of Sahil Region who first spoke at the venue noted that the project would greatly contribute to the city's electricity needs, as the residents will soon receive cheaper and quality electricity.

They said that the government is

giving special priority to the economic development of the city of Berbera, and they congratulated the President on the implementation of the milestone project, fulfilling one of his major campaign promises on precisely cheaper electricity for the port city.

The Minister of Mines and Energy gave details about the project and said that it was to expand and improve the electricity supply in Berbera.

He said that the project included 12MW solar energy and 36MW storage, hence pointing out one of the pledges of the Head Of State was being fulfilled.

The President, while officially launching the project said that, "We do not want our campaign promises to be falsehoods but we are being true to our words".

"We campaigned on the platform that we would focus on reducing the electricity bills of this port city to 2000 SI.Shs or so, per watt, and today we are herein convictional that the government will live up to its expectation, come July".

Thus, the WADDANI administration government dubbed "Togetherness and Action", with its core focused on development and progress, has once again lived up to its expectations, given its words of pledges, with its actions towards tangible economic development palpitated and cherished by the populaces.



REPUBLIC OF SOMALILAND

request for expressions of interest (REOI)

country: Republic of Somaliland
 project name: Somali name d enhancing public resource management project
 project id: P177298 IDA-E1360
 assignment title: Support to Domestic Revenue Mobilization in Somaliland
 reference no: SO-MOF-SL-478423-CS-QCBS
 place of assignment: Hargeisa, Somaliland

The Republic of Somaliland has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of Enhancing Public Resource Management Project (SERP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The Consulting Services (the Services) include four key areas: 1) Strengthening the Tax Policy Unit (TPU) by building on the existing policy work supported by the Fiscal Policy Section, 2) Support to the Modernization and Automation of Tax Administration leading to the design of bidding documents for an Integrated Tax Administration System (ITAS), 3) Strengthening institutional capacity, and 4) Improving taxpayer services and communication.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the following website: www.slmof.org or it can be provided upon submission of application in person or by e-mail. The e-mail address is provided below.

The Somaliland Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoF&ED) now invites the eligible consulting firm ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. (Brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). The short-listing criteria are as follows:

- Core business of the firm and at least 10 years in business (experience in tax administration, revenue mobilization, or public finance management).
- Experience of conducting similar assignments (At least 10 years of specific experience in developing tax policy and legislation and advice on tax administration, Proven track record of successfully building capacities of a function-based revenue authority in developing countries, Expertise in advising on and implementing taxpayer services and communication strategies. At least 5 years' experience in developing and implementing ICT systems of tax administration operations. The Consultant shall provide the name and contact address of the Client (office and e-mail address and telephone number), date(s) of execution, name (s) of lead and associate firms, contract amount and financing sources.
- Experience of relevant services in an environment similar to that of Somaliland; and
- The technical and managerial organization of the firm. (Provide only the structure of the organization. Do not provide CVs of staff). Key experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraphs 3.14, 3.16 and 3.17 of the World Bank's *Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers: Procurement in Investment Financing - Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services* dated July 2016 and revised in November 2017 August 2018, November 2020, September 2023 and February 2025, ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualification but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub consultancy. In case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the **Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)** method set out in the World Bank's Procurement Regulations.

Interested Consultant may obtain further information at the address below during office hours from 8:30am to 3.30pm Hargeisa time (Excluding public holidays).

Expressions of interest (EOI) should be delivered (by e-mail or in person) in a written form in three (3) hard copies (if not by e-mail) to the address below by **21st April 2025 at 2:00 pm Hours (Hargeisa Time)**.

SERP Project Implementation Unit, Ministry of Finance & Economic Development
 2nd Floor, PFM Building, Opp. of the Ministry of Education and Science
 Hargeisa, Republic of Somaliland
 Email: procurementserp@gmail.com or serpmofd@gmail.com.

Somaliland: A Key to a More Balanced Africa Policy Beyond China's Control- Amb Bashe Omer



In a world where power and access are key, Somaliland offers an opportunity that many have yet to recognise. Somaliland, in the Horn of Africa, has operated independently for over 30 years without official recognition from other nations. It has held credible elections, built functioning institutions, and maintained peace in a challenging region.

What it now requires is greater international engagement, and two countries—India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)—could play a significant role in this. Somaliland declared its independence in 1991 following the collapse of the Somali Republic, which came after years of poor governance and repression. Rather than descending into chaos, it rebuilt itself. Local communities restored governance through their efforts and established a multiparty political system.

Elections are held regularly. Leaders change without disruption, even in closely contested races. For example, in 2003, the presidential election was decided by just 80 votes. Opposition victories in 2010 and again in 2024 led to peaceful transitions. In a region often troubled by conflict and political instability, Somaliland demonstrates that peace and democracy can work—even without international recognition or external aid.

India has global ambitions and growing ties across Africa. It now has a timely opportunity to take a principled and strategic step. In 1971, India was the first country to recognise Bangladesh's independence—an act that changed the course of South Asian history. Somaliland presents a similar opportunity for clarity and leadership.

India already trades extensively with Somaliland, exporting oil, pharmaceuticals, machinery, and clothing. Many Somalilanders travel to India for healthcare and education. Establishing a trade office in Hargeisa and launching direct flights to Berbera would strengthen both economic co-operation and people-to-people links.

Somaliland is more than just a trade partner. Its location—adjacent to the

vital maritime routes of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden—is of significant strategic value. Its Berbera Port is rapidly developing into a key regional hub, following major investment by the UAE's DP World. As India seeks alternatives to infrastructure controlled by China, Berbera presents a secure, open, and reliable option. Unlike Djibouti, where China maintains a military base, Somaliland offers India and its Western partners an opportunity to expand their presence without entanglements.

The UAE recognised Somaliland's potential early on. It has invested substantially in Berbera's infrastructure and collaborated on trade and defence initiatives. This partnership illustrates what is possible when Somaliland is treated as a serious and capable actor.

Some fear that recognising Somaliland might encourage other separatist movements. However, Somaliland was an independent state in 1960, recognised by over 30 countries before entering a union with Italian Somalia—a union that was never legally ratified. Somaliland's reassertion of independence is based on sound legal and historical grounds, as well as the clear will of its people.

While Somalia continues to struggle despite decades of foreign aid, Somaliland has achieved peace and democratic governance largely on its own. It is not seeking charity—it is seeking recognition, dignity, and a rightful place in the international community.

Recognising Somaliland is not merely a moral decision—it is a strategic one. It offers India and the UAE a trusted partner in East Africa, counters China's expanding influence, and contributes to greater regional stability through partnership and shared interests. To see the value in Somaliland and engage now would be a timely and meaningful move—not when it becomes politically convenient, but precisely when it is needed.

Bashe Awil Omar is a diplomat and politician. He served as the Somaliland Representative to the UAE (from 2015-2018) and Kenya (from 2018-2021).