

# The Horn Tribune

Vol V/ Issue 1609 Sunday 27 July 2025 (www.horntribune.com/info@horntribune.com)

Safar 02/1447 AH

An Independent Weekly Newspaper of Dawan Media Group, Tel: 0634108231/0634424590/0634615145

## Somaliland Minister of Information Calls for Unity and Clear Roles to Maintain Progress as opens 18th HIBF

*Traditional leaders should preserve our culture, religious leaders should guide our spiritual growth, and politicians must focus on governance, he says in perspective*



**Mohamed. A. Egge.**

In a passionate address, Somaliland's Minister of Information Hon. Ahmed Yasin Sheik Ali Ayanle called for unity and defined roles to safeguard the nation's progress, describing Somaliland as "a shining star emerging from the turbulent ocean of Africa."

Speaking as he opened the 18th  
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## Hargeisa International Book Fair 2025 Marks 18 Years of Cultural Resilience and Pan-African Solidarity



**Mohamoud Walaaleye**

The 18th Hargeisa International Book Fair (HIBF), Africa's longest-running literary festival, commenced on Saturday, July 26, 2025, celebrating Somaliland's dynamic cultural identity.

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## Taiwan and Somaliland Defy Authoritarian Pressure, Celebrate 5 Years of Robust Partnership with New Maritime Security Pact



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## Edna Adan Highlights Somaliland's Independence Legacy

**Mohamoud Walaaleye**

At the ongoing Hargeisa International Book Fair (HIBF) 2025, Edna Adan Ismail, founder of Somaliland's first maternity hospital, emphasized the nation's historical independence. Speaking on Saturday, she stated,

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## Louise Hancock Praises Resilience, Celebrates Culture Beyond Books

**Mohamoud Walaaleye**

"This week is more than books; it's about culture, history, arts, theatre, music, and poetry," says UK Hargeisa Office Head Louise Hancock at the launch of the 18th

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## Zambia Shines as Guest of Honor at Hargeisa International Book Fair 2025



**Mohamoud Walaaleye**

Zambia took center stage as the guest of honor at the 18th Hargeisa International Book Fair (HIBF), held from July 26 to 31, 2025, in Somaliland's capital. The annual literary festival, the largest in

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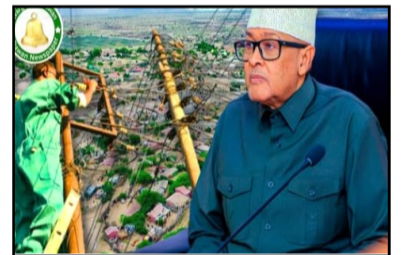
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NASIIB Real Estate & Construction has launched an ambitious project to renovate and modernize the iconic

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# Somaliland Minister of.....



HIBF on Saturday, he emphasized the need to align individual expertise with national goals to avoid setbacks in the Republic's development. Reflecting on 65 years since Somaliland's independence from British rule on June 26, 1960, Minister Yasin urged the nation to move beyond tribal divisions that once shaped its early governance before multi-partyism. "We built Somaliland on the unity of its people, not on tribalism," he said, stressing that clinging to outdated clan-based systems could hinder progress. He pointed out that, "Our goal was never to remain divided but to build a united nation."

Highlighting Africa's potential as a continent with the world's youngest population and abundant resources, Hon. Yasin expressed optimism about Somaliland's future. "The days of Africa are coming," he declared, emphasizing that Somaliland must seize its opportunities while remaining vigilant against the region's instability. The minister called for clear delineation of roles to strengthen nationhood. "Traditional leaders should preserve our culture, religious leaders should guide our spiritual growth, and politicians must focus on governance," he said, warning that overlapping roles could weaken Somaliland's unity. He also underscored the parliament's role in representing the members of the public and national interests, urging for constructive criticism to foster progress rather than division. Hon. Yasin concluded by rallying Somalilanders to place "everyone and everything in their rightful place" to overcome challenges and maintain the nation's trajectory as a beacon of stability in a turbulent region. "If we align our efforts, we will rise above regression," he stated affirmingly.

# Louise Hancock Praises.....

Hargeisa International Book Fair. The 18th Hargeisa International Book Fair (HIBF), the longest-running and largest literary festival in the Horn of Africa, was officially launched on Saturday, July 26, 2025, in Somaliland's capital. The event, which runs from July 26 to 31, welcomed a diverse gathering of authors, poets, artists, and cultural figures from across Africa and beyond, with Zambia as this year's guest of honor. The theme for 2025, "Africa," underscores the richness and diversity of the continent's contemporary and historical literature. Louise Hancock, Head of the UK Office in Hargeisa, attended the launch, expressing her delight in representing the British Office at the event. A literature graduate herself, Hancock highlighted the profound role books play in shaping perspectives and understanding the world. "Books have been a real part of my life," she remarked, emphasizing their significance in fostering cultural connections. In her speech, Hancock praised the HIBF for its resilience and its broader cultural impact. "This week is more than books; it's about culture, history, arts, theatre, music, and poetry," she said. "I want to thank the organizers for their commitment and resilience



in making this event a vibrant celebration of African creativity." Her words underscored the festival's role as a platform for not only literature but also a wide array of artistic expressions, including public readings, panel discussions, poetry workshops, and performances. The HIBF, organized by the Redsea Online Culture Foundation since its inception in 2008, has grown into a cornerstone of cultural exchange in the Horn of Africa region. This year's program features over 100 cultural figures and expects more than 10,000 visitors. Activities include book launches, poetry recitals, discussions on freedom of expression, and exhibitions by illustrators, alongside performances of traditional and contemporary Somali arts. Hancock's remarks highlighted the HIBF's enduring legacy as a beacon of cultural resilience, particularly in a region marked by historical challenges. The festival's ability to bring together global and local voices in a celebration of creativity continues to solidify Hargeisa's reputation as a cultural hub in the Horn of Africa.

# Hargeisa International Book.....

Hosted by the Hargeisa Cultural Centre under the theme "Africa," the six-day event welcomed prominent figures, including Somaliland's Minister of Information, Culture and National Guidance, Hon. Ahmed-Yasin Sh. Ayanle, Hargeisa Mayor Abdikarin Ahmed Moge, and HIBF patron Edna Adan Ismail. The festival also drew diplomatic delegations, representatives from 13 nations, and Zambia as the 2025 guest country. In his opening speech, HIBF Director Jama Muse Jama reflected on the festival's 18-year journey as a leading platform for literary dialogue, intellectual discourse, and cultural expression. "We've grown alongside Somaliland, transforming its image from a nation in recovery to one with a thriving social, political, and economic identity that cherishes its artistic and cultural roots," he said. He emphasized the fair's role in cultural diplomacy, offering a "safe space" for Somaliland's youth to connect globally and highlight the nation's resilience despite its lack of international recognition. Zambia, this year's guest nation, was represented by the Lusaka Contemporary Art Centre, led by Victor Muteleksha, alongside Victoria Phiri and Simuli Kipenda. Their involvement reinforces HIBF's dedication to Pan-African unity through creative and cultural exchange, following the legacy of past guest countries like Nigeria, Ghana, and Kenya. The theme "Africa" sparked introspection on the continent's



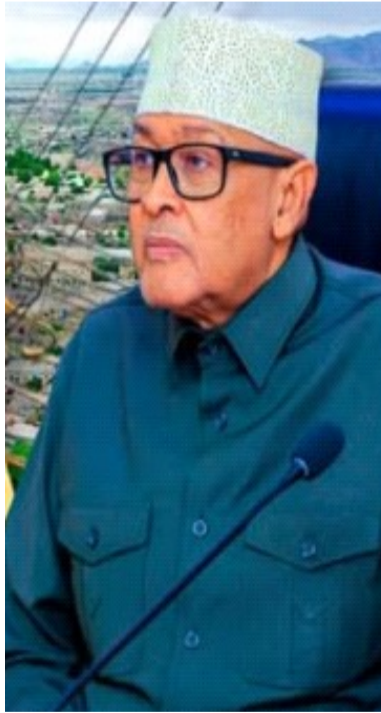
historical and modern narrative. Jama questioned the persistent colonial lens, stating, "Sixty-five years after most African nations gained independence in 1960, why do we still blame colonial legacies?" He pointed to external factors like the "Trump effect" and climate change as urgent calls to action, encouraging attendees to embrace positive slogans to redefine Africa's story, such as:

- Africa: A Tapestry of Cultures
- Africa: The Land of Endless Wonder
- Africa Told by Africans
- Embrace the Spirit of Africa
- Africa: A Journey of Colours and Cultures

The festival, running until July 31, will host over 100 cultural figures and anticipates more than 10,000 attendees. Events include book launches, poetry workshops, discussions on freedom of expression, and performances of Somali arts, with activities extending to Berbera and Gebiley. The 2025 HIBF underscores Somaliland's cultural vibrancy and its commitment to celebrating Africa's rich, diverse heritage.

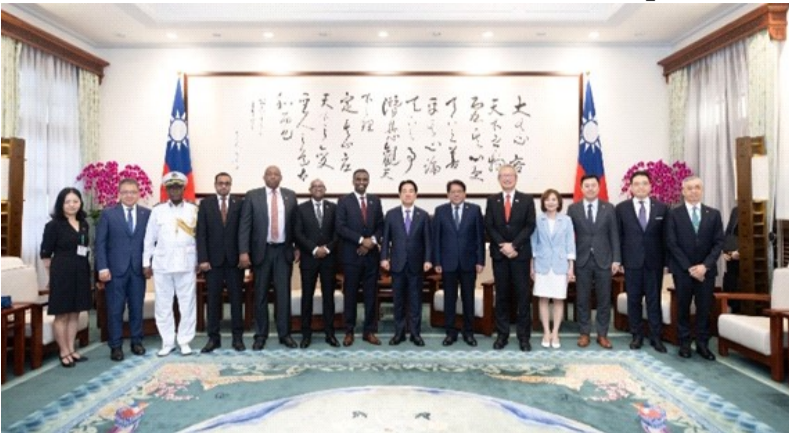
# Somaliland President Delivers on.....

has been officially implemented a significant reduction in electricity prices, effective this month. The cost per unit of electricity has been slashed from \$0.39 to \$0.20, fulfilling a key campaign promise and bringing relief to residents and businesses alike. The price reduction follows the launch of a \$20 million electricity expansion project, supported by the World Bank, which President Irro initiated earlier this year during a visit to Berbera. At the project's foundation ceremony, he pledged to lower electricity costs to \$0.20 per unit by July 2025—a target met on schedule. Berbera, long burdened by soaring summer temperatures and high electricity tariffs, is expected to experience a transformative boost from this initiative. The affordable and reliable electricity supply is anticipated to enhance living standards and stimulate local commerce, addressing long-standing challenges for the city's residents and entrepreneurs. "This is a game-changer for Berbera," said local business owner Amina Hassan. "Cheaper electricity



means we can operate more efficiently and improve our livelihoods." President Irro's administration has hailed the project as a cornerstone of its commitment to improving infrastructure and economic opportunities in Somaliland. With this achievement, the government is poised to make a lasting impact on Berbera's future, setting a precedent for sustainable development across the region.

Taiwan and Somaliland Defy Authoritarian.....



Mohamoyd Walaaleye

In a significant step toward deepening bilateral relations, President Lai Ching-te of Taiwan welcomed a high-level delegation from the Republic of Somaliland, led by Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Hon. Abdirahman Dahir Adam, to the Presidential Office this morning. The visit, marking the fifth anniversary of the mutual establishment of representative offices between Taiwan and Somaliland, underscored the growing partnership between the two nations and their shared commitment to democratic values. In his remarks, President Lai praised Somaliland as a “beacon of democracy in the Horn of Africa” and congratulated the nation on its successful presidential and political party elections held in November 2024. He highlighted the robust exchanges in various fields over the

past five years, which have yielded significant results, and expressed enthusiasm for further collaboration. A key highlight of the visit was the signing of a landmark coast guard cooperation agreement, set to enhance bilateral efforts in maritime security and support Somaliland’s focus on the blue economy. “Somaliland’s longstanding support for Taiwan-Somaliland relations is deeply appreciated,” President Lai said, “In the face of increasing coercion from authoritarian regimes, our partnership demonstrates the resilience of democratic alliances. We look forward to advancing our friendship and expanding cooperation, including through trilateral and multilateral platforms with like-minded partners such as the United States, to ensure a non-red Somaliland coastline. Minister Adam reciprocated the warm sentiments, thanking Taiwan for its hospitality and unwavering

support. “Taiwan and Somaliland share the values of peace and democracy, as well as the goal of international recognition,” he stated. He noted, “Despite external pressures, our strong ties will only grow stronger.” He emphasized Somaliland’s openness to Taiwanese investment and highlighted opportunities for collaboration in education, maritime security, and other sectors. The signing of the maritime security agreement marks a new chapter in Taiwan-Somaliland relations, aligning with Somaliland President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi’s policy priorities. The delegation, accompanied by Somaliland’s Representative to Taiwan, Mahmoud Adam Jama Galaal, also included Minister Khadir Hussein Abdi and Admiral Ahmed Hurre Hariye, marking their first visit to Taiwan. As both nations navigate challenges to their international participation, this visit reaffirms their commitment to deepening ties and fostering mutual prosperity. President Lai closed his remarks by expressing confidence that the delegation’s visit would not only advance bilateral cooperation but also allow them to experience Taiwan’s natural beauty and cultural diversity.

Somaliland Bolsters Aviation Safety with Emergency Response Training at Egal International Airport



In a significant stride toward enhancing aviation safety, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Airports Development has successfully launched a comprehensive Emergency Response Management training program for staff at Egal International Airport in Hargeisa. The initiative, announced by Director General Mr. Rashid Jama, is a cornerstone of the Ministry’s ambitious airport development plan aimed at aligning Somaliland’s aviation sector with international

safety standards. The training, conducted by a team of seasoned experts specializing in crisis management, equipped airport personnel with critical skills to handle a wide range of emergency scenarios, from aircraft incidents to natural disasters. The program focused on rapid response protocols, effective coordination with emergency services, and advanced safety procedures, fostering a culture of preparedness among the airport’s workforce. “Egal International Airport is a vital gateway for Somaliland, and

ensuring the safety of passengers, staff, and aircraft is our top priority,” said Director General Rashid. “This training empowers our team to respond swiftly and effectively, reinforcing our commitment to building a resilient aviation infrastructure.” The new training program is expected to address critical gaps in emergency response capabilities, enhancing the airport’s ability to safeguard lives and property. Somaliland’s Civil Aviation and Airports Authority emphasized that the training aligns with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards, positioning Egal Airport as a regional leader in aviation safety. Airport staff expressed enthusiasm for the training, noting its practical approach and real-world applicability. “This has given us the tools to act confidently in high-pressure situations,” said training attendees. The launch of the training program has been hailed as a milestone in Somaliland’s aviation journey, reflecting the nation’s

Edna Adan Highlights.....

“Our borders were not found by Hassan Sheikh; these borders are the same as the British left them. Please let them know our country became the first Somali country to gain its independence.” Her remarks reflect Somaliland’s

unique status as the first Somali territory to gain independence from Britain on June 26, 1960, before voluntarily uniting with Somalia, a move that later fueled its reclaiming of sovereignty 1991 and declaration

of independence, though, still unrecognized internationally. “Somaliland is bigger than 18 African countries, we’re not returning and we’ll continue to running Somaliland as we did for the past

Somaliland Central Bank.....



giants Tether, Sorted Wallet, and Global Exchange and Money Transfer (GEAMT), marking a significant step toward modernizing Somaliland’s financial ecosystem. The discussions, held in Hargeisa over the week, focused on leveraging cutting-edge digital financial solutions to advance the nation’s National Financial Inclusion Framework (2023-2028), aimed at expanding access to financial services across Somaliland’s diverse communities. Led by Central Bank Chairman Abdinasir Hirsi, alongside Deputy Chairman Hamse Khaire and Director General Yasin Alas, the talks emphasized Somaliland’s commitment to fostering responsible financial innovation. The international delegation included prominent figures such as Abdikarim Abdi Adam, CEO of GEAMT and Western Union’s Somaliland representative; Stephen Browne, Co-founder of Sorted Wallet; and Arnoud Marie Dyve De Bavay, Tether’s Head of Africa Strategy. A key highlight of the meetings was Sorted Wallet’s innovative “non-custodial crypto wallet solution,” designed for both basic feature phones and low-spec smartphones. This technology has the potential to bring millions of unbanked Somalilanders into the financial system, particularly in rural areas where access to traditional banking is limited. “This solution could be a game-changer for financial inclusion,” said

Chairman Hirsi, emphasizing its alignment with Somaliland’s vision for equitable economic growth. Tether’s USD@ (USDT) stablecoin, pegged to the US dollar for price stability, was another focal point. The discussions explored how USDT could streamline cross-border trade for Somaliland businesses, particularly with major trading partners like China, India, the UAE, Ethiopia, and Saudi Arabia. Additionally, USDT’s potential to simplify diaspora remittances from the US, UK, and Europe was highlighted as a critical opportunity to enhance economic connectivity. The Central Bank reiterated its unwavering commitment to financial stability, consumer protection, and robust compliance with Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) regulations. Both parties expressed optimism about future collaboration, agreeing to continue negotiations toward a formal partnership agreement. These meetings signal Somaliland’s growing prominence as a hub for financial innovation in the Horn of Africa, building on its already advanced mobile money infrastructure, where services like WAAFI and Zaad have driven a near-cashless economy in urban areas. The Central Bank extended its gratitude to the delegation for their visit and the productive dialogue, setting the stage for a transformative partnership in Somaliland’s financial future.

broader aspirations for economic growth and global connectivity. As Egal International Airport continues to expand its role as a key hub in the Horn of Africa, initiatives like these are set to ensure it remains a safe

and reliable gateway for travelers and cargo alike. #Somaliland #Aviation #EmergencyResponse #EgalAirport #Mocaad



34 years”, stated Edna Adan. She continued highlighting the peaceful stability cherished, “Our country is terror-free and also free of arms smugglers and we are not a failed state. Please enjoy the book fair, enjoy the beauty of Somaliland and welcome.” Adan’s hospital, built in 2002, has reduced maternal mortality by 75%, according to a 2010 University of Hargeisa study. #HIBF2025 #Somaliland.

Somaliland Ministry of Finance Holds Key.....



A pivotal meeting took place at the University of Burao, organized by the Somaliland Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, to engage civil society in shaping the 2026 national budget. This annual gathering, mandated by the Financial Management Law No. 75/2016, underscores the government's commitment to inclusive and transparent budget planning.

The event brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including representatives from civil society organizations, the Regional Chamber of Commerce, and local authorities. Key attendees included Minister of Finance Hon. Abdillahi

Hassan Aden, State Minister Hon. Ismail Mawlid Abdillahi, Director General Mr. Mohamed Hassan Saleeban, and other senior ministry officials. The Governor of Togdheer Region, Mr. Mahmoud Ali Saleban (Ramah), and Burao District officials also participated, alongside the University of Burao's administration.

During the hours-long session, participants engaged in robust discussions, exchanging innovative ideas and practical suggestions to shape the upcoming 2026 budget. Civil society representatives praised the ministry for fostering an open platform for public input, emphasizing its importance in ensuring the budget reflects

community priorities.

Minister Aden and his team addressed a wide range of questions from attendees, pledging to incorporate their recommendations into the budget proposal before it is forwarded to other stakeholders for finalization. "This consultation is a cornerstone of our commitment to good governance and accountability," said Minister Aden. "The insights shared today will guide us in crafting a budget that serves the needs of Somaliland's people."

Held annually in July, this meeting exemplifies Somaliland's dedication to participatory governance, transparency, and effective financial management. The Ministry of Finance, tasked with revenue generation and expenditure oversight, continues to set a standard for inclusive policymaking in the region.

As Somaliland prepares its 2026 budget, consultation marks a significant step toward ensuring that public voices are heard and reflected in national priorities, pending final approval from relevant authorities.

Zambia Shines as Guest.....



the Horn of Africa, celebrated the theme "Africa," spotlighting the continent's rich literary and cultural heritage. Zambia's delegation, featuring prominent artists and intellectuals Victor Mutelekesh, Victoria Phiri, Hannah Mwenzi, and Simuli Kipenda, captivated audiences with their powerful representation of the nation's diversity and resilience.

In his keynote address, Victor Mutelekesh passionately spoke of Zambia's unique identity, emphasizing the nation's embrace of over 70 ethnic groups and nearly 75 languages under the unifying motto, "One Zambia, One Nation." He highlighted Zambia's historical role as a beacon of African unity, noting its early recognition of Somaliland's independence and its support for liberation movements like the African National Congress (ANC). "Zambia's independence in 1964 meant nothing if all Africans were not free," Mutelekesh declared, underscoring the nation's commitment to pan-African solidarity, a legacy shaped by founding president Kenneth Kaunda.

The Zambian delegation's participation included vibrant panel discussions, poetry readings, and artistic performances that showcased the country's rich cultural tapestry. Victoria Phiri, a celebrated author, explored themes of unity and identity in Zambian literature, while Hannah Mwenzi and Simuli Kipenda presented works that

blended traditional and contemporary art forms, dispelling outdated notions that Zambia lacked a robust artistic heritage. Their contributions resonated with the festival's goal of fostering literary exchange between Southern and Eastern Africa.

Zambia's presence at HIBF also marked the nation's 60th independence anniversary, celebrated in 2024, reflecting on its journey since breaking free from British colonial rule. The delegation highlighted Zambia's artistic milestones, from Gabriel Ellison's iconic national flag design to the intricate rock art of the Nyau secret society, showcasing a cultural legacy that continues to thrive.

The Hargeysa International Book Fair, organized by the Redsea Cultural Foundation, drew over 10,000 visitors and featured 100 cultural figures from across Africa. Zambia's role as guest of honor reinforced its position as a cornerstone of African history and identity, fostering connections through shared stories and aspirations. As Mutelekesh noted, "Zambia is a nation built on multiplicity, seeing in others what we are made of—a fabric of diversity and resilience."

The event not only celebrated Zambia's contributions but also strengthened literary and cultural ties across the continent, with workshops and performances emphasizing the power of African voices in shaping a shared future.

measures should include third-party monitoring mechanisms for all weapon imports, verification of end-user certificates coupled with physical storage inspections, real-time reporting on the movement of weapons within Somalia, and stringent sanctions and penalties for any diversion or misuse. These measures are the minimum required to ensure weapons intended for national defense do not end up fueling civil conflict or cross-border destabilization. Without them, the region risks reliving the same avoidable tragedies witnessed in Libya, South Sudan, and elsewhere—where premature international confidence translated into long-term humanitarian crises. Conclusion

I call on the international community to re-examine its approach, not just for Somalia's sake, but for the stability of the entire Horn of Africa. True peacebuilding requires more than symbolism. It requires foresight, restraint, and responsibility. The people of the region have endured enough violence. The cost of complacency will not be measured in policy errors; it will be counted in displacement, division, and lives lost. Let us not wait for another crisis to remind us of what could have been prevented.

**Editor's Note:** Abdi Halim M. Musa is a political analyst and a former Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Commerce in Somaliland. He can be reached at halimusa4@gmail.com

Weapons without Oversight: How lifting Somalia's arms embargo destabilizes Horn of Africa

When the United Nations Security Council voted in December 2023 to lift Somalia's long-standing arms embargo, many framed it as a vote of confidence, a sign that the world was ready to support Somalia's recovery and sovereignty after decades of internal conflict. But one year on, the consequences of that decision are not encouraging. Far from stabilizing the country, the removal of the embargo has accelerated the spread of weapons across Somalia, heightened regional tensions, and placed civilian lives—in Somalia, Somaliland, and the broader Horn of Africa—at growing risk.

The intent may have been to empower Somalia. The result, however, has been far more volatile. Somalia remains deeply fractured. It has no unified national security architecture, minimal control over its borders, and fragmented political authority. According to the 2023 Global Organized Crime Index, Somalia scored 9 out of 10 for arms trafficking risk and only 1.5 out of 10 for territorial integrity, indicators that should have raised red flags before any arms embargo was lifted.

Despite these concerns, the weapons have started to flow. Last week, authorities in Somalia's semi-autonomous Puntland region intercepted a foreign-flagged cargo ship suspected of carrying a substantial cache of weapons and military vehicles. The vessel, reportedly destined for Mogadishu, was seized near the coastal town of Bareda in the Gardafuu

region. The incident has heightened long-standing concerns that arms intended for state use may be diverted to militias, political factions, and extremist groups such as Al-Shabaab and ISIS-HoA.

With few mechanisms in place to regulate, trace, or secure these arms, the current policy appears dangerously premature. In Somaliland's eastern Sool region, we are already witnessing increased militarization and growing tension. Somali federal actors, emboldened by new weapons access and shifting regional alliances, are escalating political provocations and applying pressure on historically peaceful areas. This isn't just a security risk—it's an unraveling of stability that took decades to build.

This is not the first time the international community has moved too fast with arms policy in fragile states. In Libya, poorly monitored weapons deliveries after 2011 flooded the black market, strengthened militias, and helped ignite years of civil war. In South Sudan, arms imported under the pretext of nation-building were later used in ethnically charged violence, turning political rivalry into national catastrophe. Both cases demonstrate a painful truth: rearming a fractured state without robust oversight can do more harm than good.

Somalia, while showing progress in some areas, is not yet ready to manage arms flows at scale. It lacks



consistent end-use verification, weapons storage protocols, or neutral institutions capable of ensuring weapons remain in the right hands. The consequences of these gaps are not hypothetical; they are visible, unfolding, and deeply alarming.

Somaliland: Case of collateral harm Somaliland, which has for over three decades maintained an independent, peaceful trajectory with functional governance and regular democratic transitions, now finds itself facing external threats that are not of its own making. The region's stability, long seen as an outlier in the Horn, is increasingly exposed to the spillover effects of international miscalculations.

Let us be clear: this is not a call to isolate Somalia. It is a call for accountability, realism, and responsible diplomacy. Rebuilding Somalia's military capacity should not come at the expense of regional peace. Weapons, when introduced into fragile and politically fragmented systems without proper safeguards, become catalysts for instability, not tools for recovery.

If a complete reinstatement of the arms embargo is no longer politically feasible, the United Nations Security Council must promptly implement robust and enforceable safeguards. These

# Legal Challenges Facing the Somaliland Judiciary: A Call for Reform

By **Lawyer Mohamed Ahmed Abdi Bacaluul**

The judiciary in the Republic of Somaliland stands as a cornerstone of justice and societal stability, yet it grapples with systemic legal and structural challenges that undermine its independence and effectiveness. As the supreme authority tasked with shaping national judicial policy, the Supreme Court, along with lower courts, operates within a framework defined by the Constitution and supporting legislation. However, deficiencies in these legal structures, coupled with financial and operational constraints, have hindered the judiciary's ability to deliver justice effectively. This article explores these challenges and proposes actionable reforms to strengthen Somaliland's judicial system.

**The Supreme Court: A Question of Independence**

The Supreme Court is the highest judicial body in the Republic of Somaliland, responsible for overseeing national judicial services and reviewing lower court decisions. Its constitutional mandate (Article 105) positions it as a critical institution for upholding the rule of law. However, the independence of its judges is compromised by a lack of job security. Apart from the Chief Justice, whose appointment requires parliamentary approval, other Supreme Court judges serve at the President's discretion, leaving them vulnerable to political influence. The court's collective decision-making process, requiring at least three judges, further dilutes individual authority, including that of the Chief Justice. This structure renders the court susceptible to external pressures, with lobbying by political figures, traditional elders, and other influencers becoming commonplace. As a result, the Supreme Court struggles to maintain impartiality, particularly in reviewing lower court decisions. The influx of appeals from regional courts overwhelms the Supreme Court, driven by lenient procedural laws that allow even minor cases—such as disputes over a meter of land or petty assaults—to reach the highest court. This backlog distracts from addressing significant economic, social, and security-related cases. Stricter appeal criteria and empowering regional appellate courts to finalize minor cases could alleviate this burden. The Constitutional Court, a branch of the Supreme Court, has also failed to fulfill its role in protecting citizens' constitutional rights, focusing instead on political disputes between government branches and parties. This stems from both the lack of judicial tenure security and undefined procedural rules for handling constitutional complaints.

Similarly, the absence of a dedicated mechanism for judicial review of administrative decisions leaves citizens without recourse against unfair executive actions.

**Lower Courts: Structural and Administrative Weaknesses**

Lower courts, including district and appellate courts, face similar challenges. The National Justice Committee (Article 107) oversees judicial administration but includes members from other government branches, undermining judicial autonomy. With only three judicial representatives—two of whom lack permanent tenure—the committee's decisions are swayed by external influences, affecting judicial appointments, dismissals, and promotions.

**The Judicial Administration Law** (Law No. 24/2003 and 24/04/06) is outdated and ambiguous, failing to regulate internal court operations, case assignments, or record-keeping. The existence of two conflicting versions of this law creates legal confusion, further hampering effective administration. A comprehensive overhaul is needed to clarify roles, streamline case management, and ensure transparency in court processes.

**Legislative Gaps: Outdated Laws and Procedural Deficiencies**

The judiciary relies on outdated substantive and procedural laws, including the Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code, Civil Code, and Civil Procedure Code. These laws do not reflect modern societal changes, technological advancements, or alignment with Islamic Sharia and the Constitution. For instance, the Penal Code lacks provisions for contemporary crimes like human trafficking, cybercrimes, and money laundering, while the Civil Code fails to protect intellectual property rights, leaving creative works vulnerable.

The Criminal Procedure Code, though well-structured, requires updates to address technology-related investigations, such as data protection protocols. A regulatory manual for investigations—covering crime scene preservation and evidence handling—would enhance accountability and improve case quality for prosecution and adjudication.

The Code of Conduct for judges and prosecutors is limited in scope, excluding Supreme Court judges and lacking clear enforcement mechanisms. Disciplinary actions are often politically influenced, and publicizing warnings undermines judicial dignity. A transparent, individualized disciplinary process, coupled with a performance evaluation system, would promote accountability while recognizing judicial contributions.

**Financial Constraints: A Barrier to**

**Justice**

The judiciary's budget, a mere 2.2% of the national budget in 2016, is grossly inadequate compared to other government branches. For example, the Ministry of Parliamentary Relations, with minimal public service impact, received more funding than all district, regional, and appellate courts combined. Similarly, obscure entities like the Degmo Heritage and Rural Life NGO were allocated more resources than court supplies nationwide.

Inadequate funding results in cramped courtrooms—often as small as two square meters—posing safety risks and limiting public access to hearings. Judges' salaries, paid quarterly in some regions, are insufficient, forcing relocated judges to cover housing costs themselves. Despite attempts to increase salaries, inflation has eroded these gains, and no additional allowances or accommodations support judicial staff.

**Recommendations for Reform**

To address these challenges, the following reforms are proposed:

- Constitutional Reforms:** Amend provisions on Supreme Court judge appointments (Article 105) and restructure the National Justice Committee (Article 107) to exclude non-judicial members, ensuring independent legal expertise.
- Legislative Cooperation:** Enact a law formalizing collaboration between the Ministry of Justice and the judiciary (Article 106).
- Prosecution Framework:** Implement a General Prosecution Law (Article 103) to define the prosecution office's structure and role in crime prevention.
- Independent Research Unit:** Establish a body to study judicial service delivery and institutional challenges.
- Budget Autonomy:** Empower the judiciary to control its budget, involving regional judges and prosecutors to reflect operational needs.
- Salary and Benefits:** Increase salaries and benefits for judges and prosecutors, aligning them with parliamentarians' compensation.
- Transparent Funding:** Allocate timely, transparent budgets to regional and appellate courts for essential operations.
- Court Infrastructure:** Expand and equip hearing rooms to ensure public access and transparency, as mandated by the Constitution and international standards (ICCPR Articles 14, 16).
- Retirement Law:** Enact a Judicial Retirement Law with stakeholder input to protect judges' and prosecutors' rights.
- Disciplinary Reforms:** Formalize transparent disciplinary and performance evaluation processes,



ending public warnings and incorporating merit-based recognition.

**11. Appellate Court Role:** Enhance appellate courts' review processes to identify legal gaps and assess judicial performance systematically.

**Conclusion**  
The Somaliland judiciary's independence and effectiveness are undermined by constitutional gaps, outdated laws, political interference, and financial constraints. Thirty years after its

establishment, the judiciary struggles to deliver the quality of service expected in a maturing state. Comprehensive reforms, rooted in constitutional and legislative updates, enhanced funding, and structural improvements, are essential to ensure a judiciary that upholds justice, strengthens the rule of law, and fosters public trust in Somaliland's governance. Originally published by the writer in Somali language on September 19, 2017.

## Somaliland Foreign Minister Hails Taiwan as Key Partner in High-Level Visit

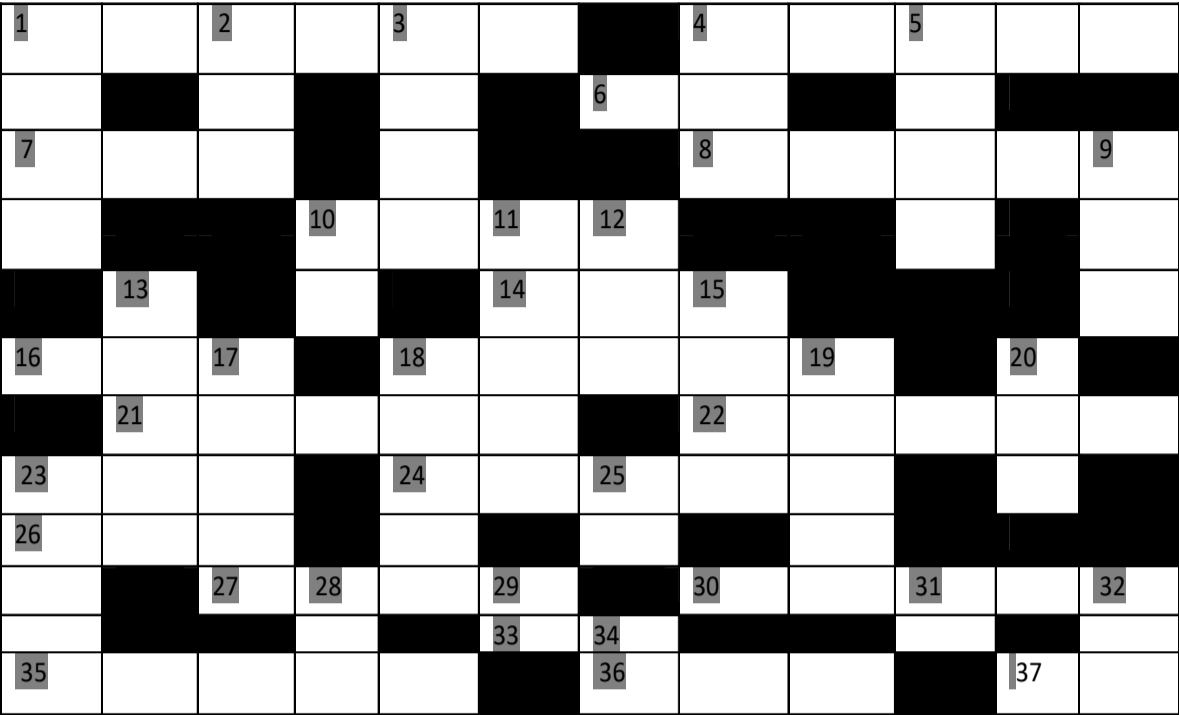


**S**omaliland's Foreign Minister Hon. Abdirahman Dahir Adam has declared Taiwan a "crucial partner" during a landmark visit, emphasizing deepened cooperation for mutual prosperity. Speaking at a meeting with Taiwan's Foreign Minister Lin Chia-lung on Thursday, Adam expressed gratitude for Taiwan's support in healthcare, education, and infrastructure, pledging to expand bilateral ties. Leading the first ministerial delegation from Somaliland's new government, Adam arrived in Taipei on last Monday for a five-day visit. The delegation, including Coast Guard Commander Ahmed Hurre Hariye and Minister of the Presidency Hon. Khadar Hussein Abdi, signed a maritime security agreement with Taiwan's Coast Guard Administration. The pact will grant Somaliland access to Taiwan's advanced small-vessel radar network, encrypted coastal surveillance tools, and joint training, bolstering security along its 850-kilometer coastline

near the strategic Bab el-Mandeb chokepoint. Adam also visited Taiwan's International Cooperation and Development Fund (ICDF) to discuss ongoing and future collaborative projects. Taiwan has previously funded significant initiatives in Somaliland, including a \$1.85 million road expansion connecting Egal International Airport to Hargeisa and a \$22 million medical center at Hargeisa Group Hospital. The visit underscores the strengthening relationship between Taiwan and Somaliland, which established representative offices in each other's capitals in 2020. The delegation's engagements also include talks with National Security Council Secretary-General Joseph Wu, reflecting the strategic importance of the partnership. As Somaliland seeks international recognition and Taiwan counters regional geopolitical pressures, this visit signals a deepening alliance with potential to reshape dynamics in the Horn of Africa.

# THT Puzzle

Prepaired by: Abdillahi Said Muhummed



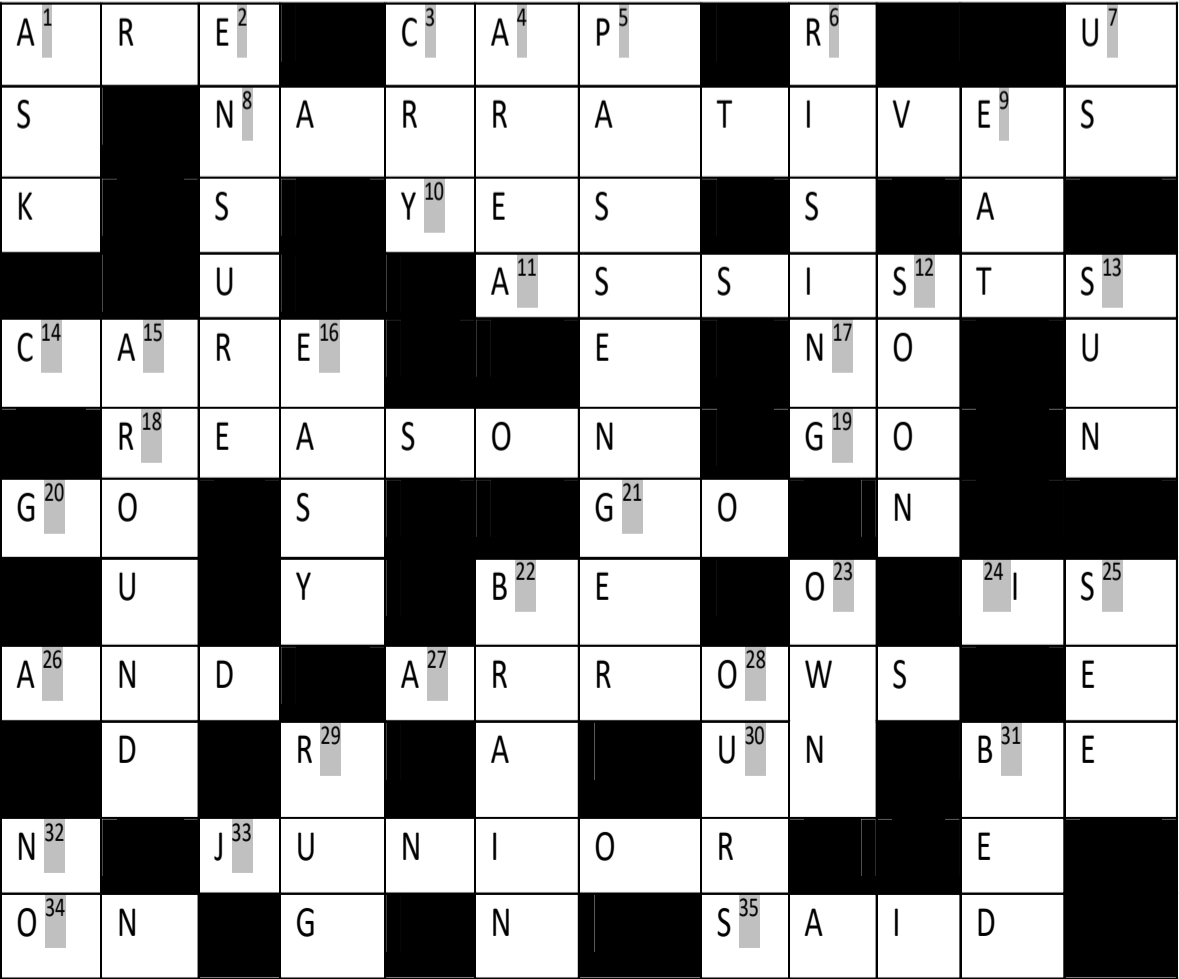
## Down

- 1 Beginning
- 2 Ending
- 3 Phone call
- 4 Have a row or strip
- 5 Utilized
- 9 Low down
- 10 CUBIC CENTIMETER
- 11 High
- 12 an active insect
- 13 Use
- 15 Newscast
- 17 Communicate
- 18 Be asleep
- 19 Clothing
- 20 Several
- 23 Property
- 25 So
- 28 Ending
- 29 Toward
- 32 Midair
- 34 Nope

## Across

- 1 Break
- 4 Rounded
- 6 Leave
- 7 Depressed
- 8 Swelling
- 10 nightclub
- 14 Fountain pen
- 16 Donkey/ horse family
- 18 Speediness
- 21 fruits
- 22 Wring
- 23 Get older
- 24 Remove
- 26 Ocean
- 27 Stored
- 30 Problem
- 35 Exchange
- 36 Single
- 37 identity

# Previous Answer



## NASIIB Real Estate.....



Tima-Cade basketball court in Hargeysa, marking a significant step in its commitment to community development. This initiative, led by the private sector, has been hailed as a commendable effort to enhance public infrastructure and promote sports in Somaliland.

Founded in 2017 by Mohamed Dheere, NASIIB Real Estate & Construction is a Somaliland-based company headquartered in Jigjiga Yar. Known for its innovative real estate ventures, the company specializes in land acquisition, development, and the construction of diverse housing options, including Smart Houses, Luxury Houses, and Super Houses. These ready-to-move-in properties cater to a wide range of community needs, blending affordability with quality. The Tima-Cade basketball court renovation is part of NASIIB's broader mission to contribute to Somaliland's development. The company has a strong track record of supporting community initiatives, including school renovations, road construction, and participation in national events like the 18th May celebrations. By investing in sports

infrastructure, NASIIB aims to foster youth engagement and promote healthy lifestyles in Hargeysa and beyond.

Currently operating in Hargeysa and Berbera, NASIIB has ambitious plans to expand its footprint to Jigjiga (Ethiopia), Somalia, Puntland, and Djibouti. The company is conducting feasibility studies to ensure sustainable growth and impactful investments in these regions.

"This project is more than just a renovation; it's about giving back to the community and creating spaces where our youth can thrive," said Mohamed Dheere, founder of NASIIB. "We are proud to play a role in Somaliland's progress and look forward to expanding our efforts across the region."

The modernization of Tima-Cade is expected to revitalize the historic court, providing a state-of-the-art facility for sports enthusiasts and strengthening community ties. NASIIB's dedication to development continues to set a high standard for private-sector contributions in Somaliland.

## Somaliland Education Minister Hosts UK Delegation to Tackle Drought's Impact on Schools

Minister of Education and Science, Prof. Ismail Ducale Yusuf, welcomed a high-level delegation from the UK government, led by Chris Pycroft, Head of UK Development Projects, at his office over the week. The delegation, representing the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), included key figures such as Nicola Murray, Head of Humanitarian Aid, Tatiana Fernandez, Deputy Head of the British Office in Hargeisa, and Abdirisak, a senior FCDO official. The meeting centered on addressing the severe impact of the ongoing drought on Somaliland's education system and exploring urgent solutions to ensure learning continuity. Discussions highlighted the need for immediate interventions to

mitigate the drought's effects, including strengthening educational infrastructure, protecting vulnerable students, and enhancing the quality of education. Minister Yusuf expressed gratitude for the UK's steadfast support, noting that this partnership is crucial for sustaining Somaliland's educational progress. The UK delegation reaffirmed their commitment to deepening support, pledging to prioritize initiatives that safeguard education during the drought crisis. This collaboration underscores the strong ties between Somaliland and the UK, with both sides optimistic about building a more resilient education system to weather the region's environmental and humanitarian challenges.

## Somaliland Ministry of Investment Strengthens Ties with DP World to Boost Economic Growth



In a significant step toward advancing Somaliland's economic development, senior officials from the Ministry of Investment and Industry held a productive meeting with a delegation from DP World, led by Mr. Supachai Wattanaveerachai, the company's East Africa Manager. The meeting, attended by Deputy Minister Hon. Eng. Mohamed Elmi Huno, Director General Mr. Abdifatah Ismail Duale, and the Director of Investment, Industry, and Research, focused on accelerating collaboration to unlock Somaliland's investment potential. The discussions centered on identifying and capitalizing on investment opportunities to drive economic growth, with a particular emphasis on projects that enhance Somaliland's role as a regional trade

hub.

Both parties exchanged detailed reports on investment prospects and explored strategies to leverage DP World's expertise in logistics and port management, particularly at Berbera Port, a cornerstone of Somaliland's economy.

The meeting builds on DP World's ongoing \$442 million investment in Berbera Port, which has already transformed it into a vital trade gateway for the Horn of Africa, supporting Ethiopia's growing trade needs and fostering regional connectivity.

Deputy Minister Huno emphasized Somaliland's commitment to creating a business-friendly environment, citing the Berbera Economic Zone (BEZ) as a model

for attracting foreign investment. "This partnership with DP World is pivotal for our vision to position Somaliland as a leading logistics and trade hub," he stated.

Mr. Wattanaveerachai echoed this sentiment, highlighting DP World's dedication to sustainable development and job creation in Somaliland, as demonstrated by their recent Sustainable Development Impact Disclosure, which includes Somaliland among key emerging markets.

This collaboration is expected to enhance trade flows, create jobs, and strengthen Somaliland's economic ties with global markets, aligning with the government's broader vision for sustainable growth.

## President Abdirahman Irro calls on cabinet ministers to submit reports timely

By M.A. Egge

The President of the Republic of Somaliland, H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro has called on the cabinet ministers to timely submit their first biannual performance report.

He at the same time commended the Ministry of Investment and Industrial Development for submitting its report on time.

Similarly the just appointed National Drought Emergency Relief committee has just had its first meeting immediately after it was formed to mobilize the relief efforts under the leadership of the VP H.E. Mohamed Ali Aw Abdi, was held today at the Somaliland Presidential Palace.

The facts were made clear during the 28th session of the weekly cabinet meeting on Wednesday that was chaired by the Head of State while flanked by his deputy.

According to a press release from the Presidency by the Spokesman Hussein Adam Igeh, Hussein-deyr, the main agenda of the week pondered on were as follows: –

5ØØ. National security and stability: The Minister of Interior and Security, Hon. Abdalle Mohamed Arab,

briefed the Council of cabinet ministers that the overall security in the six regions of the country was generally quite calm and stable, except for the daily criminal acts that usually occur in society.

5ØØ. National economy:

The Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Hon. Abdillahi Hassan Aden, reported. The Minister said that after much effort by the Ministry, the national income generation activities are progressing as per expectations.

The Minister told the Council that in terms of diligences in the Management and Administration of the External Assistance Fiduciary Section, the Ministry, based on improving the trust relationship with the donors, has strengthened the proficiency of the staff of the sector. The Minister said that the treasury has succeeded in strengthening the relationship and cooperation with the World Bank.

He also noted that the Ministry has prepared the 2026 Budget Preparation Schedule and all the reports that are the basis for its preparation.

3. National drought emergency relief:

The briefs were given on the issue by the VP who happens to chair the committee, H.E. Mohamed Ali Aw Abdi, hence said that the committee held its 1st meeting early on Wednesday whereupon they discussed the modus operandi, thus the coordination and delivery of emergency aid such as water, food, and medicines to the Somaliland community affected by the drought.

The VP pointed out that in that meeting, the Committee Members discussed the completion of the structure of the National Level Drought Emergency Committee, the establishment of Regional and District Level Drought Emergency Committees in the regions across the country, and the collation and monitoring of the daily data on drought conditions across the country.

The Committee called on the International Community, the UN and friendly countries of Somaliland to eke in their support.

5ØØ. Legal Aid Act:

Briefs were given jointly by both the Minister of Justice, Hon. Yoonis Ahmed Yoonis, and the Attorney

## Government Launches Crime Prevention Coordination Committee to Strengthen Justice and Security

The government of the Republic of Somaliland has taken a significant step towards enhancing its justice and security framework by inaugurating a new Crime Prevention Coordination Committee. This initiative was formally launched during a foundational meeting presided over by the Minister of Justice, Hon. Yonis Ahmed Yonis, and the Director General of the Ministry of Justice, Mr. Mohamed Abdi Xashi.

The committee aims to foster a collaborative environment among various government agencies and civil society organizations to develop a proactive, integrated, and effective crime prevention system. It will include representatives from the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Police Force, Correctional Services, Office of the Attorney General, and SONSAF, which represents civil society organizations.

The launch event was attended by international organizations supporting justice and security in Somaliland, including UNDP, UNTMIS, and EUCAP, underscoring the global community's confidence in Somaliland's efforts to build a robust justice and security infrastructure.

**Objectives and Focus**

The primary goal of the committee is to establish a national unity based on crime prevention, emphasizing information sharing, collaboration, and community involvement. The committee's strategy includes preventing crimes before they occur, rather than merely reacting after they happen, and ensuring full interaction among justice and security agencies. Additionally, it seeks to enhance community awareness and participation in crime prevention efforts.

During the foundational meeting, the committee's initial three-month plan was outlined, focusing on setting up a data collection and crime monitoring system. This plan includes critical recommendations on agency interactions, combating



organized crime, and protecting the rights of suspects.

**Ministerial Insights**

Minister Yonis emphasized the strategic importance of this initiative in enhancing stability and community safety. He highlighted that the committee's establishment is a pivotal move towards building a sustainable justice system that reflects contemporary political, economic, and social realities. The Minister called for all member agencies to commit to implementing effective plans within the next three months, advocating for consensus, information sharing, and transparency based on good governance.

**A Step Towards Sustainable Change**

The formation of the Crime Prevention Coordination Committee marks a significant milestone in Somaliland's journey towards a modern justice and security system. It represents a committed political leadership and a genuine national readiness to address crime proactively. This initiative not only strengthens the institutional framework but also fosters a collective responsibility among civil society and government agencies for maintaining security and justice. "Crime prevention is not just the police's job; it is a national responsibility," stated Minister Yoonis, encapsulating the inclusive approach of the new committee.

This development is seen as a crucial pillar in building a functional and accountable state, with the potential to drive sustainable change in Somaliland's security landscape.

General Hon. Ali Baashe Mohamed.

Minister Yoonis told the Council that the Ministry has put a lot of effort into the Draft of the Legal Aid Bill, as it enhances access to justice for citizens. On the other hand, the Minister underpinned the fact that the Legal Aid Service is one of the commitments made by the 'Togetherness and Action' administration to the people of the nation during the campaigns.

The Minister of Justice stated that this Law is based on the following five principles:

1. Islamic Sharia,
2. Article 28, paragraph 3 of the

Constitution of the Republic of Somaliland,

3. International Conventions on the Legal Care of Vulnerable People,
4. Protection and Respect for Human Rights,
5. Respect and Application of the Law.

Finally, the President His Excellency Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro instructed the Members of the Council of Ministers to submit their performance reports of the first half of the year.

He commended the Ministry of Investment and Industrial Development for submitting its report timely.

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