

The Horn Tribune

Vol V/ Issue 1621 Sunday 19 October 2025 (www.horntribune.com/info@horntribune.com) Rabi' T Al-Thani 27, 1447 AH

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

Somaliland Defense Minister Engages with U.S. Lawmaker on Strengthening Bilateral Ties

Amb Bashir Goth notes the immense value of Rep Smith's leadership and commitment to advancing the SL-US shared priorities



By M. A. Egge,
In a key diplomatic development, Somaliland's Defense Minister, Mohamed Yusuf Ali, held productive discussions today with U.S. Representative Chris Smith (R-NJ), a senior member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and longtime advocate for enhanced U.S.-Somaliland relations. The meeting, facilitated through Somaliland's diplomatic channels

Continue on Page 2



Somaliland Central Bank Secures IADI Membership, Marking a Historic Financial Milestone

Mohamoud Walaaleye

In a significant step toward global financial integration, the Central Bank of Somaliland, led by Governor Abdinasir Ahmed Hersi, has achieved associate membership in the International



Continue on Page 2

Somaliland and Ethiopia Deepen Border Security Ties Amid Regional Diplomacy Push



Page 2

Somaliland's Ex-UK Ambassador Honored at London Political Summit 2025



Mohamoud Walaaleye
In a moment of pride for Somaliland and its diaspora, Ambassador Abdi A. Hersi, former Somaliland Ambassador to the United Kingdom, received the LPSA Outstanding Diplomat of the Year Award 2025.

Continue on Page 2

Somali Week Festival 2025 Kicks Off with a Vibrant Celebration of Culture and Creativity



Page 3

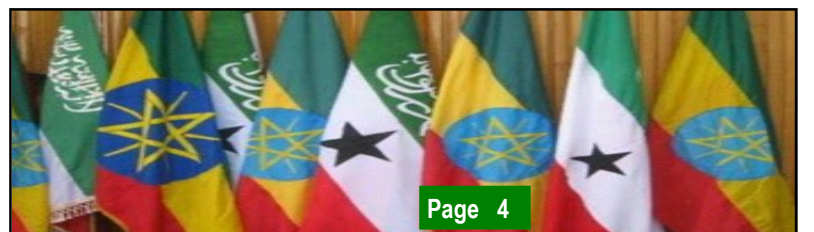
DP World launches new Jebel Ali – Berbera Shipping Route

DP World has launched a new strategic shipping route connecting Jebel Ali Port in the UAE with Berbera Port in Somaliland. The new service, operating every nine days,

Continue on Page 3



A New Chapter in Ethiopia-Somaliland Ties: Evaluating the Pivotal Addis Ababa Summit



Page 4

Tripartite Summit in Djibouti Bolsters Red Sea Security Cooperation



Page 3

Somaliland Parliamentary Delegation Strengthens Ties with Ghana in Landmark Meeting



A delegation from the House of Representatives of the Republic of Somaliland, accompanied by the Chairman of the National Commission for Good Governance and Public Accounts, held a productive meeting today with

Continue on Page 2

The President's Peace Mediation Committee Successfully Resolves a 7-Year-Old Unresolved Murder Case



Page 4

Inside

Safeguarding Somaliland's Symbolic Pillars: Peace, Democracy, and Resilience

Continue on page 4

Somaliland Defense Minister.....



in the U.S., focused on the steady progress in bilateral ties and outlined concrete next steps to deepen security and strategic partnerships. Somaliland’s Envoy to the United States, Bashir Goth, commended over the week the engagement in a statement released shortly after the talks. “Greatly appreciated Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) meeting with Somaliland Defence Minister Hon. Mohamed Yusuf Ali to discuss steady progress in U.S.–Somaliland relations and chart next steps to

strengthen our partnership,” Goth posted on social media. He added, “Deeply value his leadership and commitment to advancing our shared priorities.” The discussions reportedly covered critical areas such as regional security cooperation, counterterrorism efforts in the Horn of Africa, and Somaliland’s strategic role in safeguarding vital maritime routes along the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea. Minister Ali, who assumed office in December 2024, emphasized Somaliland’s ongoing military

modernization and capacity-building initiatives, which align closely with U.S. interests in promoting stability and countering threats from groups like Al-Shabaab and ISIS. Rep. Smith, known for his instrumental role in advancing the Somaliland Partnership Act—enacted into U.S. law in 2022—reiterated bipartisan support in Congress for closer collaboration. This includes potential expansions in intelligence sharing, joint training programs, and economic partnerships that leverage Somaliland’s stable governance and democratic credentials. The congressman has previously highlighted Somaliland’s cooperation with U.S. allies like Taiwan and Israel, positioning it as a reliable partner against expanding Chinese and Iranian influence in the region. The meeting comes amid heightened U.S. interest in Somaliland, following recent high-level engagements such as President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi Irro’s talks with U.S. Special Operations Command Africa officials in Hargeisa last month. It greatly underscores Somaliland’s growing diplomatic momentum in Washington, where pushes for formal recognition and security pacts continue to gain traction.

Somaliland Central Bank Secures IADI Membership.....

Association of Deposit Insurers (IADI). The approval was announced on September 13, 2025, following the IADI Executive Council’s decision on September 11, 2025, during a meeting in Taipei, Taiwan, held alongside the IADI Core Principles International Conference and the 40th anniversary of Taiwan’s Central Deposit Insurance Corporation. This landmark achievement places Somaliland among over 100 central banks and financial institutions worldwide within the IADI, an organization founded in 2002 and based in Basel, Switzerland, dedicated to promoting effective deposit insurance systems globally. Governor Hersi, as the head of the Central Bank, spearheaded the membership application and signed the necessary agreements, reinforcing Somaliland’s commitment to establishing its first deposit insurance system and aligning with international financial standards. Membership in IADI grants Somaliland access to global expertise, best practices, and technical support, enabling the modernization of its banking infrastructure. This development strengthens depositor protection, ensuring greater security for citizens’ savings, fostering trust in the financial system, and signaling



to international investors that Somaliland is a stable and attractive destination for responsible growth. Beyond its economic impact, this milestone enhances Somaliland’s international credibility, positioning it as a serious player in the global financial community. Despite its unrecognized status, this achievement underscores Somaliland’s determination to advance its financial sector and supports its broader journey toward stability and international recognition. The esteemed recognition was celebrated at the 10th Anniversary London Political Summit & Awards, which took place from October 15-17, 2025, in London. Ambassador Hersi was invited as a Special Guest of Honour for his remarkable contributions to advancing Somaliland’s cause on the global stage. His achievements included fostering strong ties between Somaliland and the UK, leading parliamentary delegations to Somaliland, elevating the nation’s diplomatic profile at events like the

UK Conservative Party Conference, and securing recognition motions, such as the landmark motion by Birmingham City Council. Additionally, his efforts in promoting educational opportunities through UK scholarship programs like Chevening empowered Somaliland’s future leaders. The award citation praised Hersi’s “visionary leadership, calm diplomacy, and steadfast pursuit of peaceful engagement,” which amplified Somaliland’s voice and strengthened diaspora unity.

Somaliland Parliamentary.....

Mr. Ebenezer Ahumah Djietror, the Clerk of the Parliament of Ghana, at the Parliament premises in Accra. The Somaliland delegation was warmly welcomed by Mr. Djietror, who extended Ghana’s hospitality and reaffirmed the commitment to fostering parliamentary cooperation. The delegation expressed deep gratitude for the warm reception and the opportunity to participate in specialized training at the prestigious Parliamentary Training Institute of Ghana. The meeting highlighted the growing ties between Somaliland

and Ghana, with both sides emphasizing the importance of knowledge-sharing and capacity-building in parliamentary practices. In a gesture of appreciation, the Somaliland delegation presented a certificate of honor to the Parliament of Ghana and its Training Institute, recognizing their pivotal role in strengthening bilateral relations and advancing parliamentary expertise. This visit marks a significant step in deepening diplomatic and institutional connections between the two nations, paving the way for future collaboration in governance and parliamentary development.

Somaliland and Ethiopia.....



In a significant step toward strengthening the strategic partnership between Somaliland and Ethiopia, Brigadier General Nim'an Yusuf Gaahnuug, Chief of Staff of the Somaliland National Armed Forces, held high-level talks with Field Marshal Birhanu Julia, his Ethiopian counterpart, in Addis Ababa. The discussions, attended by Jama Mohamoud Egal, Director of the Somaliland Intelligence Agency, and Somaliland’s Ethiopia envoy, Ambassador Adan Gedi Qayaad, focused on bolstering bilateral security cooperation along the two nations’ extensive shared border. The meeting emphasized joint strategies to combat transnational threats, enhance intelligence sharing, and safeguard peace in the volatile Horn of Africa region. “This collaboration is vital for our mutual stability,” Brigadier General

Gahnuug told Horn Tribune following the talks, highlighting the importance of unified efforts to address challenges such as illicit trade and arms smuggling. Field Marshal Julia echoed these sentiments, praising Somaliland’s role as a reliable partner in regional security and committing to expanded joint patrols and training exercises. The talks are part of a broader diplomatic offensive led by Somaliland President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi Irro, who is currently on a two-day working visit to Ethiopia. President Irro’s itinerary includes meetings with Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed to discuss critical bilateral issues, including the 2024 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on maritime access, with key details yet to be finalized.

Somaliland’s Ex-UK Ambassador Honored at.....

The three-day summit featured Ambassador Hersi’s participation in a Parliamentary Opening Session at the House of Commons, a Mayoral Session & Diplomatic Roundtable at Islington Town Hall, and the grand Awards Dinner Gala Night at the Copthorne Tara Hotel in Kensington. This prestigious honor celebrated Ambassador Hersi’s enduring legacy as a champion for Somaliland’s self-determination and a beacon of hope for its people. Congratulations to Ambassador



Hersi for this well-deserved recognition, which inspires a brighter future for Somaliland and beyond!

DP World launches new Jebel.....



enhances DP World’s global network and reinforces Berbera’s position as a key maritime gateway and logistics hub in East Africa. The Jebel Ali – Berbera service strengthens trade links between the Gulf and East Africa, offering a faster maritime route into Somaliland. With scheduled stops at Aden and Djibouti, the service provides additional connectivity to key port cities, supporting greater access to markets across the Horn of Africa. From Berbera, cargo can connect onwards to inland destinations such as Ethiopia, providing an alternative to traditional logistics chains that rely on Djibouti Port and long-haul overland trucking. The new route also supports more predictable transit times and reduces exposure to regional bottlenecks. The Berbera port’s 1,050-metre quay enhanced infrastructure includes a 400-metre quay capable of handling Triple E vessels, extensive bulk and breakbulk handling facilities, and an annual livestock handling capacity of around 4 million heads. Berbera is also home to the Horn of Africa region’s most modern container terminal and the Berbera Special Economic Zone (BSEZ), designed to attract foreign investment and support long-term industrial growth. Ganesh Raj, Group Chief Operating Officer, Marine Services at DP World, said: “The Jebel Ali to Berbera service further complements DP World’s investment drive into Africa. Building on the significant infrastructure we have developed across the continent, the service enhances connectivity for our customers as we continue to boost trade links between the Middle East and East Africa. In doing so, we are supporting the growth of resilient, sustainable corridors that unlock prosperity for our partners, customers and the communities we serve.” DP World’s commitment in the Horn of Africa goes far beyond Berbera Port. The company holds a 58.5% stake in the container and general cargo terminal, providing deep-water access to major East–West shipping lanes, and has developed the nearby Berbera Economic Zone to accelerate local industrialisation. Already, more than 4.1 million heads of livestock are moved annually through Berbera to global markets,

a trade worth over US \$1 billion. Community initiatives, such as training the region’s first “Solar Mamas” as solar-energy technicians, underline how trade infrastructure can deliver both economic and social impact. Supachai Wattanaveerachai, CEO, DP World Horn of Africa, added: “The launch of this new corridor is a milestone in our ambition to build faster, safer, and more reliable trade routes. It reflects our commitment to creating meaningful economic benefits for businesses and communities in the Horn of Africa region. Our work in Somaliland’s Berbera is already stimulating trade and industry, while supporting wider community development. Looking ahead, this service will strengthen Berbera’s role as a gateway for East Africa’s future growth and prosperity.” DP World’s growing presence in East Africa is helping reshape regional trade dynamics by offering alternatives to traditional routes through Djibouti and improving market access for landlocked and underserved areas. The company’s strategy aligns with regional goals for economic diversification, infrastructure

resilience and trade independence. Berbera’s growing importance is reinforced by investments in inland connectivity, most notably the corridor linking to Addis Ababa in Ethiopia. Backed by the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development and the UK’s Department for International Development, recent upgrades such as a 250 km road and the 22.5 km Hargeisa Bypass are improving transit capacity and expanding the port’s reach into regional markets. The commitment to African infrastructure extends across the continent, with close to \$3 billion invested to date and another \$3 billion committed to be invested in ports and logistics infrastructure on the continent in the next three to five years. Investments range from Rwanda’s Kigali Logistics Platform to the Maputo Corridor in Mozambique, all aimed at building efficient, future-ready trade networks and reinforcing the Horn of Africa’s role in global commerce. Since DP World began operations in Berbera in 2017, the port has undergone a significant transformation. Vessel productivity increased by 450%, with container volumes rising by 30% and general cargo throughput growing by 90%. Today, Berbera handles over 14 container vessels per month and has an annual container capacity of 500,000 TEUs, with expansion plans to quadruple this capacity to 2 million TEUs. DP World continues to invest in its global network through new routes, advanced vessel technologies and sustainable operations. The launch of the Jebel Ali-Berbera service represents a significant step in the company’s mission to deliver seamless and resilient maritime logistics solutions worldwide.

Tripartite Summit in Djibouti.....



A landmark tripartite meeting convened at the Djibouti Coast Guard headquarters, uniting the Coast Guard Commanders of Somaliland, Yemen, and Djibouti to strengthen maritime security in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. The high-level discussions centered on enhancing cooperation to safeguard shared waters, addressing regional threats, and promoting mutual interests among the three nations. The commanders—Admiral Ahmed Hure Hariye of Somaliland, Khalid Ali Mohamed Salah of Yemen, and Wa’ays Omar Boqore of Djibouti—underscored the critical need for collaborative efforts to ensure the safety of vital maritime routes. Key topics included countering external interference, combating maritime threats, and maintaining secure and clean waters in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. Admiral Hariye emphasized Somaliland’s pivotal role in securing the southern Red Sea and its shared maritime borders with Djibouti and Yemen. “Our government and coast guard are committed to protecting these waters through robust cooperation, ensuring a maritime environment

free from disruption and insecurity,” he stated. Yemen’s Commander Salah reaffirmed Yemen’s readiness to defend the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden against foreign interference and potential threats, highlighting the importance of vigilance to maintain regional stability. Djibouti’s Commander Boqore stressed the shared responsibility of the three nations to protect their extensive maritime borders. “Close collaboration is essential to make the Red Sea a safe and reliable zone for all,” he said, advocating for stronger ties to address evolving challenges. The meeting builds on existing cooperation among the three nations, including ongoing information-sharing initiatives to address maritime security concerns. This summit follows previous engagements, such as a French-organized conference in Djibouti attended by Admiral Hariye, which also focused on Red Sea security. The tripartite commitment signals a unified approach to safeguarding one of the world’s most strategic maritime regions, reinforcing the resolve of Somaliland, Yemen, and Djibouti to protect their shared waters and promote regional stability.

Somali Week Festival 2025 Kicks Off with a Vibrant Celebration.....

The 17th Somali Week Festival launched with an electrifying evening at the Pigott Theatre in the British Library, embracing the theme ‘Resonate! Sounds of the Past, Voices of the Future.’ This opening event set the tone for a week of cultural celebration, bringing together the Somali diaspora and beyond for an unforgettable night of conversation, poetry, and traditional dance. The event, led by the dynamic Hashi Mohamed—barrister, broadcaster, and author of ‘People Like Us’—featured a lively discussion on the transformative power of Somali music, poetry, and oral storytelling. The stellar lineup included British-Somali filmmaker Warda Mohamed, whose award-winning short film Muna has captivated audiences with its fresh take on diaspora and belonging. Joining her was Abdirahman Nasri, a singer and composer blending



Somali musical heritage with global influences, and Aar Maanta, a Somali-British singer-songwriter celebrated for his unique Afro-hop sound and role as a UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador. Dr. Christina Woolner, Artistic Director of Kayd and a renowned social anthropologist, added depth with her insights into the socio-political impact of Somali arts.

The evening culminated in a mesmerizing poetry reading and vibrant Somali traditional dance, leaving attendees inspired by the living archive of Somali artistry. This launch was not just a conversation but a powerful intersection of performance and reflection, celebrating how Somali culture continues to shape the present and inspire the future.

The Somali Week Festival, organized by Kayd Somali Arts and Culture, invites everyone to join in celebrating the richness of Somali heritage. Hosted at the British Library, a charity dedicated to opening up knowledge and inspiration, the festival encourages donations to support its mission.

A New Chapter in Ethiopia-Somaliland.....



The two-day official visit by Somaliland’s President H.E. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro to Addis Ababa wrapped up on a constructive and optimistic tone, as reflected in the succinct statements from the presidential entourage and Ethiopian counterparts. Initial assessments indicate the engagement wrapped in an encouraging environment, with conversations revolving around vital mutual priorities in socioeconomic development, security, political alignment, and collaborative initiatives. More than just the formal topics, the evident camaraderie at the summit’s opening and the measured yet upbeat phrasing of its wrap-up highlight its broader importance. This encounter achieved several groundbreaking milestones and unfolded against a backdrop of volatile regional geopolitics:

Key Contextual Highlights:

1. Historic In-Person Dialogue

This represented the debut formal, head-of-state encounter between Somaliland President Abdirahman M. Abdillahi Irro and Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali. It marked President Irro’s first meeting with the Ethiopian leader in his capacity as Somaliland’s head of state, joined by a h i g h - r a n k i n g governmental team, in response to a direct invitation from the Prime Minister.

2. Navigating Regional Turbulence

The talks occurred amid profound geopolitical and diplomatic upheavals in the Horn of Africa and beyond. Ethiopia grapples with domestic political intricacies, while the region witnesses fluid alliances—some forging partnerships, others entangled in heated rhetoric or outright hostilities. Notable examples include the recent easing of the acrimonious two-year

divide between Ethiopia and the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS); enduring frictions with Egypt; fraught ties with Eritrea; and a simmering, though subdued, diplomatic discord with Djibouti under President Ismail Omar Guelleh.

3. The Stalled MoU in the Spotlight

Timing was everything, as the summit addressed the practical impasse—or contentious legacy—of the Somaliland-Ethiopia Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The pact has encountered widespread regional and global pushback from influential players, encompassing most Horn of Africa states, the African Union (AU), the European Union (EU), IGAD, the Arab League, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and the fiercest critics: Turkey, Egypt, Djibouti, and the FGS. Observers view this visit as a potential turning point to revive or renegotiate the deal’s stalled elements, like port access and infrastructure pledges.- 4. Shadows of Global Rivalries

The discussions played out against intense, simmering contests among major powers—the United States, United Kingdom, China, Russia, and the EU. These actors lack a cohesive playbook for interacting with or capitalizing on the Horn of Africa’s geostrategic weight, particularly the Red Sea corridor and Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, both profoundly affected by any enduring Somaliland-Ethiopia pact.

Charting the Path Ahead: The Need for Measured Resolve

The dialogue’s real impact will crystallize over the ensuing months. Both parties acknowledge their indispensable interdependence,

with joint efforts anchoring broader regional equilibrium. Yet, forging a definitive, equitable pact on enduring collaboration and reciprocal benefits demands meticulous deliberation. It is imperative that leaders stay sharply attuned to the intrinsic leverage each side brings to the table. Their partnership ought to be steered by core national imperatives, unshackled from the whims of allies or foes. Striking harmony between immediate political pressures and visionary long-term objectives is non-negotiable. Impetuous moves, flawed strategies, or shortsightedness could erode the budding trust between these administrations. Vigilance against existential risks to their harmony and neighborly bonds remains essential. In this age of slippery diplomacy, exploitation, and outright duplicity, unwavering integrity is non-negotiable. Recent events illustrate this starkly: The FGS leadership has oscillated wildly in allegiances—cozying up to Ethiopia’s rivals (Eritrea and Egypt) one moment, then abruptly courting Addis Ababa the next. This pattern exposes a troubling deficit in prudence, authenticity, and foresight, favoring erratic impulses over principled, interest-driven governance.

A Vital Advisory for Addis Ababa

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali must heed hard-won wisdom from recent missteps: the peril and expense of letting transient figures, such as FGS principals, sabotage Ethiopia’s vital strategic bonds—especially with Somaliland. FGS’s ex-leader Farmajo, alongside Eritrea’s Afwerki, once derailed Abiy’s focus on his dependable ally, Somaliland. Swiftly, Farmajo exited power, and his replacement shattered the Ethiopian pact, swerving toward Egypt and the Arab League. Meanwhile, Afwerki deserted Abiy, aligning with anti-government Tigray elements.

As history shows, Ethiopia and Abiy rediscovered solace solely in their loyal partner, Somaliland. Abiy is earnestly advised against revisiting such pitfalls. He should steadfastly prioritize Somaliland’s role and avoid any endorsement—overt or veiled—that imperils the Republic’s domestic stability or its pursuit of international legitimacy. Overlooking this, or extending indirect backing that endangers Somaliland’s cohesion or sovereignty, would provoke an inevitable, self-preserving response from Hargeisa. Somaliland’s latent strengths are formidable, and past challengers have reaped only backlash, repercussions, and remorse.

Short Commentary:

By: Saeed Mohamed Ahmed

The President’s Peace Mediation.....

The President’s Mediation Committee successfully resolves a contentious 7-Year-old unresolved case concerning the late Hussein Mohamed Salah (Binaate) who was killed in the ‘Armal area nearly seven years ago. The deceased was an officer attached to the Somaliland National Army stationed there. After lengthy efforts, it was finally successfully resolved on the 8th October 2025 through the traditional customary means that

By: Eng Moussa Abdillahi Nour International Relations and Diplomacy

Above all, the Government of Somaliland must adhere to law and order, ensuring that disputes are managed through legal frameworks, fair enforcement, and peaceful resolution mechanisms. Without law and order, peace cannot be sustained, democracy cannot thrive, and resilience cannot take root. Somaliland’s stability and political identity are symbolized by three pillars: peace and stability, democracy through elections, and resilience through peacebuilding and development. These achievements distinguish Somaliland in the Horn of Africa and form the foundation of its quest for international recognition. However, recent unrest in Awdal and Selel Regions threatens these gains. Clashes in Borama and Zeila stem from tribal land disputes and tensions surrounding the UNESCO-approved Essa Traditional Law anniversary planned for 1 November 2025 in Zaylac, which the Garabuursi community opposes. If left unaddressed, these disputes could undermine Somaliland’s unity, damage its democratic reputation, and weaken resilience. The new government of President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro has a critical opportunity to act decisively to safeguard the nation’s symbolic pillars.

Key Issues

- Peace and Stability at Risk: Tribal disputes in Awdal and Selel have triggered violent clashes. Rising mistrust between communities threatens to destabilize the western frontier. Escalation risks regional fragmentation and undermines Somaliland’s long-standing reputation for stability.
- Democracy and Inclusivity: Somaliland’s democratic elections are a regional model, but democracy must extend to cultural and communal inclusivity. The UNESCO heritage event is seen as a victory for cultural recognition but

entails amicability in comprehensive resolution for the killing of the deceased. The Mediation and Peace Preparation Committee and the National Peace Committee played a significant role in bringing the two sides together. The matter, which had been protracted for a long time, was finally formally settled, marking an important step in strengthening peace and the coexistence of the communities in the Erigavo district.

has fueled perceptions of exclusion by some groups. Marginalized communities risk disengagement from the democratic system.

- Resilience and Peacebuilding: The Erigavo peacebuilding process showed the effectiveness of dialogue-driven solutions. Western regions lack sustainable conflict-resolution mechanisms. Without institutionalized peacebuilding, local disputes risk recurring cycles of violence.

Policy Recommendations

- Protect Peace and Stability: Adherence to law and order; preventive mediation by elders and religious leaders; establish a rapid response mechanism; impartial security deployment.
- Strengthen Democracy and Inclusivity: Ensure inclusive cultural representation in national events; guarantee equitable regional representation; institutionalize dialogue platforms.
- Build Resilience Through Peacebuilding and Development: Establish permanent regional peace committees; launch inclusive development projects in western regions; encourage private-sector engagement in cross-community initiatives.

Conclusion and Call to Action

Somaliland’s three symbolic pillars—peace and stability, democracy, and resilience—remain its strongest assets in an uncertain regional context. Yet the current tensions in Awdal and Selel remind us that these pillars are fragile if not actively protected. The government of President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro must act swiftly to contain and resolve the emerging tribal disputes, promote inclusive cultural and political representation, and strengthen resilience through institutionalized peacebuilding and equitable development. By safeguarding these pillars under the principle of law and order, Somaliland will preserve its domestic harmony and strengthen its case for international recognition as a stable, democratic, and resilient state in the Horn of Africa.

Transforming Hargeisa: A Strategic Review of Urban Infrastructure Development After 34 Years of Independence

Introduction

Hargeisa, the capital city of Somaliland, is the political, economic, and cultural center of the nation. It covers an area of 180 km², divided into nine districts, and lies at an elevation of 1,334 meters above sea level. Today, the city's population is estimated at around 1.8 million people, making it one of the fastest-growing urban centers in the Horn of Africa. Rapid urbanization has brought growth opportunities but has also placed significant pressure on infrastructure, public services, and governance.

The city's infrastructure remains critically underdeveloped relative to its size and importance. According to Eng. Mouktar Ali (2025), Hargeisa has a road network of 118 roads totaling 253 kilometers, combining paved and unpaved surfaces. However, many of these roads are poorly designed, lack drainage systems, and fail to meet international standards. Beyond transport, the city faces deep deficits in healthcare and public services, with a shortage of at least 30 maternal and healthcare facilities and around 15 police stations. These gaps weaken both social services and community resilience.

Youth, who represent the majority of Hargeisa's population, face particular challenges due to limited infrastructure. With a shortage of public playgrounds and recreational spaces, many children and young people are forced to play football on roads or on rented private playgrounds, often at risk of accidents. Education infrastructure is similarly strained: in several parts of the city, one cannot find a sequence of 8 kilometers containing any government-run primary or secondary schools. This reflects the absence of a systematic approach to educational infrastructure development in line with the city's rapid population growth. Urban planning challenges compound these problems. Poor electrical infrastructure, with widespread overhead power cables, has contributed to frequent market and residential fires, causing loss of life and destruction of property. In addition, inadequate zoning, unregulated settlements, and weak enforcement of construction standards have produced urban sprawl, traffic congestion, and unsafe living conditions. These realities underscore the urgent need for Hargeisa to adopt a coordinated infrastructure development strategy that addresses not only roads, but also healthcare, education, electricity, safety, and recreation.

Over the past 34 years of independence, Hargeisa has been led by 12 mayors, each contributing to the city's infrastructure in varying degrees. While recent years have seen improvements in road expansion, the overall condition of infrastructure across sectors including roads, healthcare, education, and recreation remains below the standards expected of a modern capital city. This report explores the progress made, the leadership transitions, the current infrastructure situation, and the reforms necessary to transform Hargeisa into a resilient and sustainable city.

2–Historical Overview of Leadership and Infrastructure

Hargeisa's mayoral history illustrates both the challenges and opportunities of municipal governance. Between 1991 and 2003, the city had eight mayors, most serving for only one to two years. These were: Barre Nuux Xaaji C/laahi (1991–1992), Cumar Boobe (1992–1993), Maxamed Xaashi Cilmi (1994–1996), Muuse Maxamed Yuusuf (1996–1997), Cali Xasan Maxamuud 'Cali Asad' (1997–1999), C/raxmaan Ismaaciil Cadami (1999–2000), Cawl Cilmi Cabdalle (2000–2002), and Axmed Maxamed Maxamuud 'Axmed Dheere' (2002–2003). The brevity of their mandates meant that long-term infrastructure



planning was virtually impossible, and projects were often fragmented or abandoned.

From 2003 to 2012, Xuseen Maxamuud Jiciir served nearly a decade, providing relative stability. His leadership marked the first attempt at structured road expansion, although financing and technical standards remained weak. His administration built several key roads but struggled to keep up with the city's rapid urban growth.

In January 2013, Yuusuf Warsame Siciid was elected mayor but unfortunately passed away after only four months in office. He was succeeded by C/raxmaan Caydiid Soltelco, who served from 2013 until July 2021. Soltelco's period marked the most consistent road expansion in Hargeisa's history, though issues of design quality, sustainability, and limited resources persisted.

The current mayor, Cabdikariin Axmed Mooge, elected in May 2021, has overseen significant achievements in road development, introducing 104 kilometers of new or rehabilitated roads within four and a half years. This equates to approximately 26 kilometers per year, or three kilometers per district annually. While this represents an unprecedented improvement in municipal delivery capacity, it remains insufficient compared to international standards for capital cities of similar size and importance.

3 – Current State of Infrastructure

Today, Hargeisa's road network reflects both progress and systemic limitations. Out of the 253 kilometers of roadways, only a fraction meet basic engineering standards. Many paved roads lack proper base and sub-base layers, leading to early deterioration under traffic loads. Unpaved roads dominate large sections of the network, exposing residents to dust during dry seasons and mud during rains, while drainage deficiencies frequently cause flooding and road damage.

The City Council's achievement of implementing 104 kilometers of roads in four and a half years is commendable. However, these projects have often been undertaken with limited feasibility studies, geotechnical investigations, or compliance with internationally recognized design standards. The result is that many roads, although newly constructed, do not achieve long service life. Internationally, well-engineered roads are expected to last 15–20 years, while in Hargeisa, premature road failures are common within 2–3 years.

At the district level, the pace of infrastructure expansion is particularly low. With three kilometers added per district per year, large parts of the city remain underserved. Road connectivity between districts is inconsistent, and major commercial hubs face persistent congestion. The lack of pedestrian walkways, traffic management systems, and road safety measures further undermines the usability and inclusiveness of Hargeisa's infrastructure.

The city's geographical location and elevation also create challenges. At 1,334 meters above sea level, Hargeisa experiences unique hydrological conditions requiring effective storm water management systems. Unfortunately, drainage infrastructure has not kept pace with road construction, leaving many roads vulnerable to erosion and flood damage during the rainy season.

4 – Lack of Proper Planning and Prioritization in the Last 13 Years

Over the last 13 years, Hargeisa has made visible progress in expanding its road network and urban services, but the city has consistently struggled with poor planning and weak prioritization of infrastructure projects. Many developments have been carried out reactively, responding to immediate pressures rather than being guided by a comprehensive long-term urban development plan. As a result, projects are often fragmented, poorly located, and unable to serve the broader needs of the city.

One major issue has been the absence of a city-wide masterplan that aligns infrastructure investment with population growth, land use, and economic activities. Roads have been constructed without proper integration into a transport system that connects residential areas with markets, industrial zones, and social services. Some projects have even been implemented in locations that do not correspond to the city's most urgent needs, leaving heavily populated districts underserved while less critical areas receive investments.

The lack of prioritization criteria has further weakened efficiency. Instead of systematically addressing healthcare facilities, schools, drainage, and electricity alongside roads, Hargeisa has often allocated limited funds to projects with high political visibility but little long-term impact. For example, while road paving has increased in certain districts, many neighborhoods still lack maternal health centers, adequate policing facilities, and fire protection infrastructure. This imbalance has left communities vulnerable despite heavy investment in certain sectors.

Finally, weak institutional capacity and political pressures have limited the effectiveness of urban planning. Without technical bodies to evaluate project locations, environmental impacts, and social needs, decision-making has frequently been influenced by short-term goals or donor-driven agendas. This has prevented Hargeisa from fully leveraging its resources to achieve balanced, equitable, and resilient infrastructure growth. If not corrected, these challenges will continue to undermine the city's ability to serve its population of 1.8 million and prepare for the next decades of expansion.

5– Hargeisa's Drainage and Flood Management Challenges

Hargeisa, the capital of Somaliland, faces persistent infrastructure problems during the rainy season, primarily due to inadequate drainage systems and weak flood control mechanisms. Despite the city's favorable slope of 54 meters, ranging from an elevation of 1,334 meters at the highest point to 1,280 meters at the lowest, storm water does not drain efficiently across the urban landscape. This is largely because of human-induced and planning-related challenges that obstruct natural water flows. The following are the primary challenges hindering the city's progress toward achieving resilient flood control and sustainable drainage management.

1. Absence of a Comprehensive Stormwater Drainage Master Plan

A major obstacle to effective flood management in Hargeisa is the lack of an integrated master plan for stormwater drainage. Without a city-wide framework mapping natural water flows, flood-prone areas, and suitable infrastructure (such as culverts, retention basins, and storm channels), rainfall is left to follow uncontrolled paths. This causes flooding in urban roads, schools, markets, and community spaces. Current drainage efforts are fragmented and reactive; each neighborhood improvises temporary fixes

that fail to solve the systemic issue. The absence of long-term planning leads to recurring damage, high maintenance costs, and disruption of economic and social activities.

Rapid Urbanization without Supporting Infrastructure

Hargeisa's fast urban growth has far exceeded its infrastructure development. As new buildings and roads emerge, many are constructed on or across natural water paths, creating physical barriers that prevent normal drainage. This unregulated expansion traps rainwater in low-lying areas, resulting in recurrent flash floods. The situation is worsened by the lack of zoning laws and enforcement, causing new developments to repeat old mistakes. The cost of infrastructure repair, property loss, and business interruption continues to grow, underlining the urgent need for urban growth management and flood-sensitive planning.

3. Poor Solid Waste Management

Inadequate solid waste collection and disposal systems are aggravating Hargeisa's flooding problem. Many residents dispose of garbage in open drains and riverbeds, which clogs natural water channels. When it rains, the blocked drains cause stagnant water, road erosion, and overflows that destroy property. Beyond the structural damage, this also creates major public health risks: stagnant water fosters mosquito breeding and waterborne diseases such as cholera and malaria. Effective waste management must therefore be central to any drainage improvement plan, ensuring clean waterways and functional stormwater systems.

4. Limited Technical and Institutional Capacity

The city's ability to design and manage sustainable drainage infrastructure is severely constrained by limited technical expertise and institutional coordination. There are few trained engineers, hydrologists, or urban planners capable of designing resilient flood management systems. As a result, most interventions are temporary, such as shallow trenches or makeshift barriers, which fail under heavy rain. Moreover, weak coordination among government agencies and poor data collection on rainfall and hydrology hinder evidence-based planning. Strengthening technical and institutional capacity is vital to ensure long-term, science-driven flood management.

5. Inadequate Funding and Dependence on Donors

Hargeisa's stormwater management is severely underfunded. Most infrastructure budgets prioritize roads, schools, and electricity, leaving drainage as an afterthought. This financial neglect results in small, disjointed projects that fail to cover the entire city. Moreover, the heavy reliance on donor funding creates short-term and fragmented interventions often focused on isolated neighborhoods with little long-term maintenance. When donor support ends, many drainage systems deteriorate due to a lack of resources. Establishing a dedicated municipal budget and sustainable financing mechanisms is essential for lasting flood resilience.

6. Climate Change and Increasing Rainfall Variability

Climate change is amplifying Hargeisa's flood risks. The city now experiences erratic rainfall: long dry periods followed by sudden, intense storms. These extreme events easily overwhelm existing drainage systems, causing destructive flash floods that wash away roads, vehicles, and homes. The unpredictability of rainfall complicates planning and stretches already limited budgets. To adapt, Hargeisa must invest in climate-resilient infrastructure, improve forecasting, and integrate adaptive urban

design principles that account for shifting weather patterns.

7. Encroachment on Natural Drainage Paths

Encroachment on natural waterways is among the most direct causes of flooding. Many residents and developers have built homes, shops, and other structures on dry riverbeds (togs) and valleys, blocking stormwater flow. This results in severe flooding of surrounding neighborhoods during rainstorms. Weak land-use regulations and poor enforcement by municipal authorities allow these risky developments to continue unchecked. Over time, such encroachments erode the city's natural drainage capacity, transforming moderate rainfall into devastating flood events. Strict enforcement of urban zoning and relocation from flood-prone areas are crucial to restoring Hargeisa's natural flood resilience.

6–Key Challenges Facing Hargeisa Infrastructure

The first and most pressing challenge is governance and continuity. With 12 mayors over 34 years, the city has lacked a permanent institutional framework dedicated solely to infrastructure planning and delivery. Political changes often disrupt project continuity, weaken institutional memory, and shift priorities away from long-term development.

Second, financing constraints severely limit road expansion and quality improvement. The Hargeisa City Council relies primarily on limited local taxes and irregular donor contributions. Without sustainable financing models, infrastructure projects often face cost-cutting measures that compromise durability and performance.

Third, technical standards and capacity remain insufficient. Road projects are frequently executed without detailed engineering designs, soil tests, or adherence to international best practices. Contractors and municipal engineers often work without updated guidelines, leading to weak pavements, poor drainage, and short road lifespans. The absence of independent quality control mechanisms exacerbates this challenge.

Fourth, urbanization pressures intensify the infrastructure gap. With rapid population growth and unplanned settlements, demand for roads, drainage, and public services far exceeds supply. Congestion, dust pollution, and flooding have become daily realities for many residents. Climate change further compounds these issues, exposing Hargeisa's vulnerable infrastructure to greater risks of damage from extreme weather events.

Conclusion

After 34 years of independence, Hargeisa stands at a critical crossroads. The city's impressive growth and emerging infrastructure improvements demonstrate resilience, ambition, and civic commitment but these gains remain fragile without coordinated, long-term planning. The recurring challenges of poor drainage, weak technical standards, unregulated urbanization, and underfunded public services reveal a city striving to modernize without the institutional tools required for sustainability. To secure its future, Hargeisa must shift from reactive governance to strategic investment, from short-term projects to enduring citywide systems, and from political fragmentation to professional, accountable management.

If the recommended actions are implemented: establishing a planning authority, adopting a master plan, enforcing zoning, improving financing, strengthening technical capacity, and embedding climate resilience Hargeisa

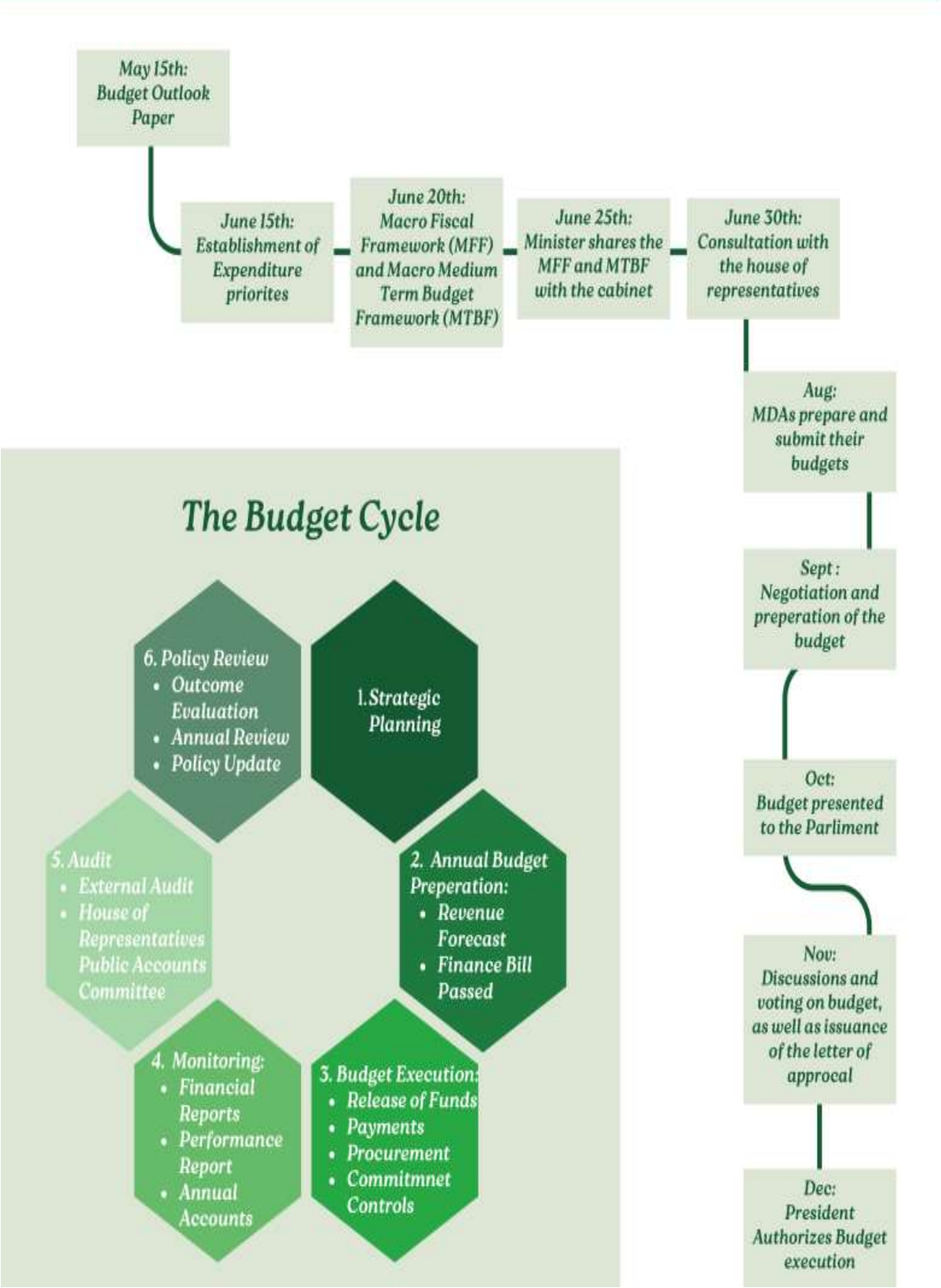
To be continue next week

BUDGET DEPARTMENT

2025 Citizen’s Budget Book

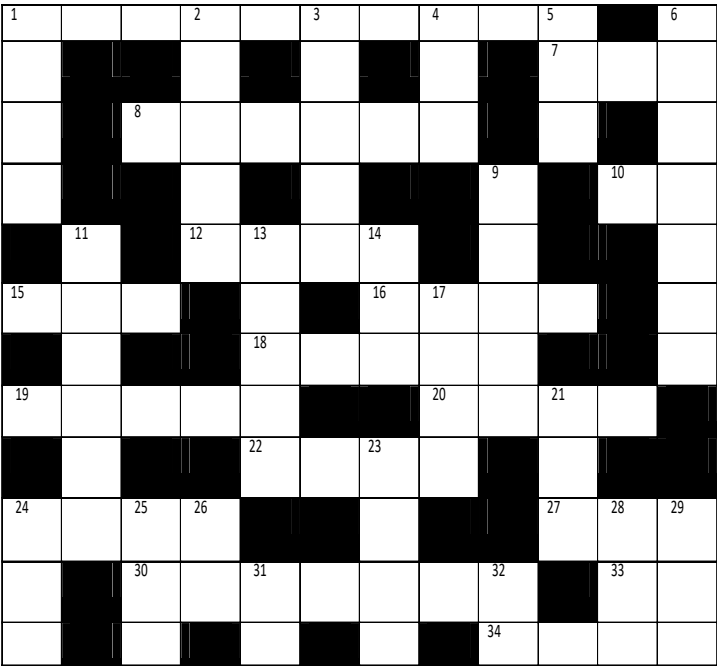
Budget Preperation

During the year the Government of Somaliland works on its strategic positioning. For this we analyse the **GLOBAL AND LOCAL TRENDS** to forecast future directions of our **GDP** and **REVENUE**. This is then used to inform, the available **BUDGET** to fulfill the countries **STRATEGIC NDPIII** goals.



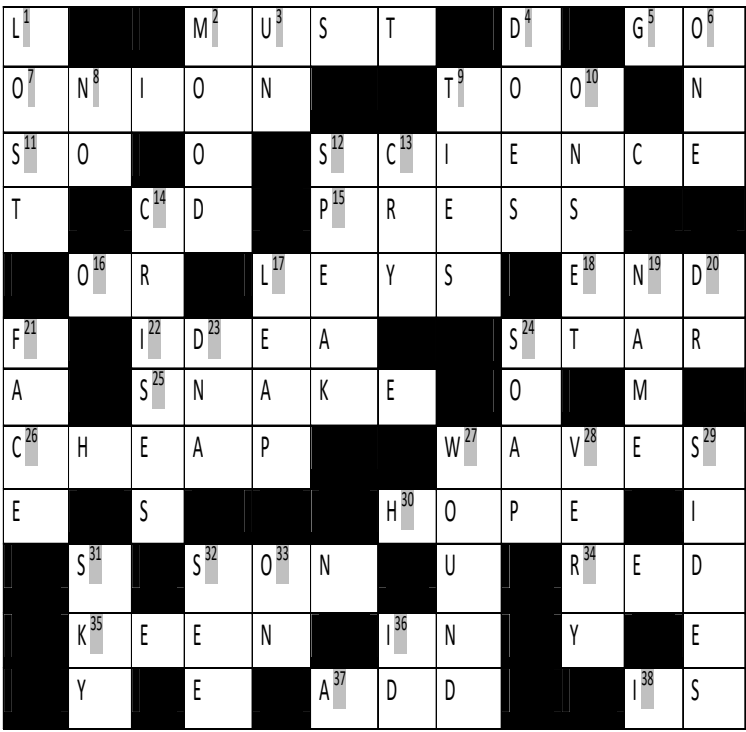
THT Puzzle

Prepared by: Abdillahi Said Muhummed



- ACROSS
- 1 One of the government constitution in UK
- 7 finishes
- 8 8
- 10 or else
- 12 memo or letter
- 15 blood test format in relationship connection
- 16 the name of the twelve months
- 18 countless/ huge
- 19 a military powerful country in Asia
- 20 break
- 22 newscast
- 24 similarly
- 27 affirmative
- 30 undeviating or a dress etc
- 33 negative response
- 34 edge of something
- DOWN
- 1 actual
- 2 confederation/ coalition
- 3 colored lights
- 4 shed tears/ opposite of laugh
- 5 fish facilities or football
- 6 locations
- 9 license plate
- 11 year book or 12 months
- 13 body part
- 14 eyeball
- 17 ear lobe
- 21 atmospheres
- 23 forest or construction material
- 24 everything
- 25 Boy
- 26 Upon
- 28 finish
- 29 save ourselves
- 31 into
- 32 myself

Previous Answer



REPUBLIC OF SOMALILAND
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS
LAND AND HOUSING



JAMHUURIYADA SOMALILAND
WASAARADA HAWLAHA GUUD
DHULKA IYO GURIYAYNTA

XAFIISKA WAAXDA DHISMAHA

Ujeeddo: Liiska Shirkadaha aan cusbooneysiin muddada dheer

No	Magaca Shirkadaha
1.	Heegan construction company
2.	Brothers trading construction company
3.	SL general contractors
4.	Hargeysa trading construction company
5.	Al cise ceel-sheekh construction company
6.	Guul alla construction company
7.	Sheikh madar construction company
8.	Galool construction company
9.	Kaah construction company
10	Taabuk construction company
11	Sheybe construction & design company
12	Idil estab for construction company
13	Farah construction company
14	Fatah contracting & construction
15	Al sacaada construction company
16	Riyaq trading & construction company
17	Red sea construction company
18	Nageeye construction company
	Punt engineering corporation
	Range construction company
	Taani construction company
	Somaali construction company (scc)
	Gargaar construction company
	Saaxil construction company
	Raage trader & construction company
	Guul construction and general service co.
	Waaheen construction company
	Dubar construction company
	Al fuadi construction company
	Al fawsi construction company

CAUTIONARY NOTICE
TRADE MARK – SOMALILAND

SIMILAC

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above trade mark is the trade mark of: Abbott Laboratories, a corporation organised and existing under the laws of the State of Illinois of 100 Abbott Park Road, Abbott Park, Illinois 60064, United States of America and is used in connection with: Dietetic substances adapted for medical use; pediatric nutritive preparations; dietary and nutritional supplements for children; liquid nutritional supplements; nutritional and dietary supplement bars; infant formula; food for babies; prenatal vitamins; lactation vitamins.

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

CAUTIONARY NOTICE
TRADE MARK – SOMALILAND

KENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above trade mark is the trade mark of: British American Tobacco (Brands) Inc. , a corporation organised and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware of 251 Little Falls Drive, Suite 100, Wilmington, 19808-1674, Delaware, United States of America and is used in connection with: Cigarettes, tobacco, tobacco products, smokers’ articles, lighters, matches.

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

CAUTIONARY NOTICE
TRADE MARK – SOMALILAND



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above trade mark is the trade mark of: Rothmans of Pall Mall Limited, a Swiss company of Route de France 17, Boncourt 2926, Switzerland and is used in connection with: Cigarettes; tobacco, raw or manufactured; roll your own tobacco; pipe tobacco; tobacco products; tobacco substitutes (not for medical purposes); cigars; cigarillos; cigarette lighters for smokers; cigar lighters for smokers; matches; smokers’ articles; cigarette paper; cigarette tubes; cigarette filters; pocket apparatus for rolling cigarettes; hand held machines for injecting tobacco into paper tubes; electronic cigarettes; liquids for electronic cigarettes; tobacco products for the purpose of being heated; electronic devices and their parts for the purpose of heating tobacco. The colours Blue and Silver are claimed as distinctive features of this mark.

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

CAUTIONARY NOTICE
TRADE MARK – SOMALILAND

CAMRY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above trade mark is the trade mark of: TOYOTA JIDOSHA KABUSHIKI KAISHA (also trading as TOYOTA MOTOR CORPORATION), a corporation organized under the laws of Japan of 1, Toyota-cho, Toyota-shi, Aichi-ken, Japan and is used in connection with: Automobiles and structural parts thereof.

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

CAUTIONARY NOTICE
TRADE MARK – SOMALILAND



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above trade mark is the trade mark of: British American Tobacco (Brands) Limited, a British company of Globe House, 4 Temple Place, London, WC2R 2PG, United Kingdom and is used in connection with: Cigarettes; tobacco; tobacco products; lighters; matches; smokers’ articles; cigarette filters.

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