

5 Magazine

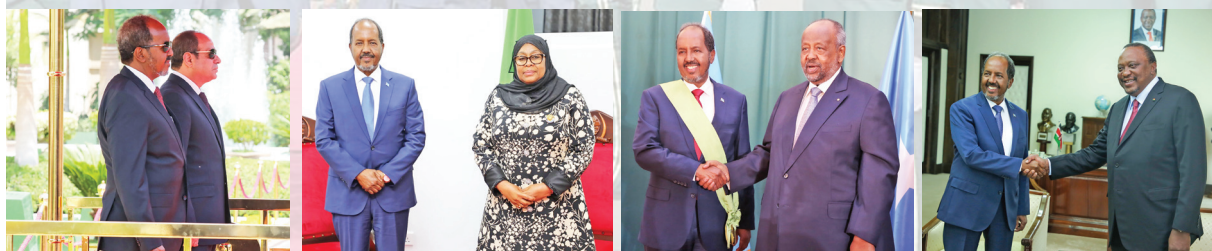
Aunthentic regional coverage

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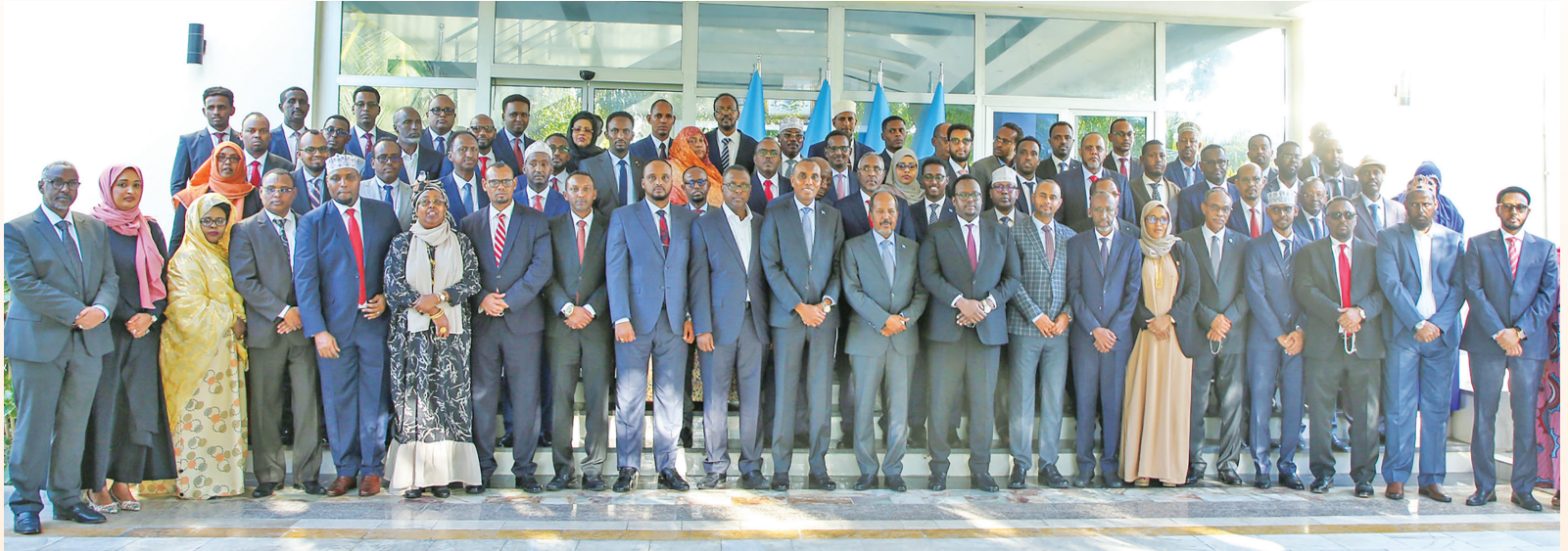
Dunida Heshiis La'ah: Rebuilding bridges on the global stage



P.24&25

SUMMARY: President Hassan visited the Somali military.

Realism, inclusiveness, and an audacious



A Cabinet of Inclusivity has been constituted under the leadership of Prime Minister Hamza. The cabinet list comprises prominent individuals, most of whom are members of the same political party, indicating that Somalia is moving toward the establishment of a political party system.

BY FU'AD HAJI ABDI WELI, 5 magazine

The long-awaited new cabinet of the Federal Republic of Somalia was appointed on August 2, putting an end to months of speculation and predictions from various factions.

The announcement was highly anticipated, and it comes more than a month after the Prime Minister assumed office. This now gives the new Prime Minister, Hamza Abdi Barre, the opportunity to focus on other matters, having completed the arduous and challenging process of forming a cabinet that requires a clan balance and filtering candidates for their various roles, as

thousands of Somalis have been applying for ministerial positions.

In a highly adorned occasion that was televised by the Somali media, the Prime Minister, through his communication director Farhan Jimale, announced the names of individuals picked for various posts. The number of ministers appointed is 26, the number of state ministers appointed is 24, and the number of deputy ministers appointed is 25 bringing to a total of 76.

According to the Prime Minister, he appointed the members in the cabinet while consulting President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, members of the parliaments, and various civil societies operating in the country. The Prime Minister has assured that the individuals he chose are up to the task.

He stated that the nominations were made to align with President Mohamud's objectives of combating drought, insecurity, economic development, and job creation for Somali youth. "After much deliberation with the president and the public, I have named cabinet ministers who have education and experience and they will fulfill their duties," said Barre.

The Prime Minister stated that the Council of Ministers he has established has been selected because of their expertise, skills,

experience, and dedication to address the concerns of drought, insecurity, development of the country's economy, and job creation for Somali youth, while working on the President Hassan's manifesto which calls for Somalia to be at peace with itself and with the rest of the world, which is a positive step.

The majority of appointees are members of the president's party, a significant positive step as the country transitions to a political system based on political parties. In the previous government, such issues were never considered and led to clashes and conflict; a cabinet with the same affiliation has a better chance of preventing misunderstanding.

In his remarks, the Prime Minister wished those appointed the best of luck and requested that the Somali public and other agencies, such as the Parliament, perform their constitutional duties and accept the new list. Mr. Hamza also alluded to the newly established government as a salvation unit, implying that they will be the ones to bring the desperately needed salvation.

President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, in a dinner invitation at the Villa Somalia, where nominated members of the cabinet met with the President, the President thanked them and wished them all the best in the position they were assigned.

move- hallmarks of the new Cabinet

With announcements of the Prime Minister come reactions from the public and politicians, some of whom were seeking the position. Big names and close associates of the President were included in the list, but in general, a large number of Somalis welcome the appointments, with some hailing it as the courage to do what no previous premier couldn't attempt to do by appointing such a unique cabinet.

Changes in the ministry includes, the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change was established as a new ministry, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of the Constitution were amalgamated, and the Ministry of Humanitarian Aid and Natural Disasters was abolished. Salah Ahmed Jama, who formerly served as the Minister for the Constitution but is now the Deputy Prime Minister, as well as Abdulkadir Mohamed and Khadija Diriye, who both had cabinet roles in the previous administration, are among the three ministers who have been reappointed.

Another significant shift occurred when PM Hamza appointed a former Al Shabaab leader to his cabinet, a move that could herald a shift in anti-terrorism policy. Pundits believe this move will play a significant role in weakening Shabab and opening the door for others who wish to leave the group. Robow denounced Alshabab in 2013 and has even fought with them on several occasions.

He will now be the Minister of Endowment, Religious Affairs, and Counterterrorism Ideology. He will mostly be responsible for discouraging young people from joining al-Shabaab based on their religious beliefs.

On the list are notable figures such as Salah Ahmed Jama, deputy prime minister Abshir Omar Huruse, foreign minister Abdulkadir Mohamed Nur, who retains his defense portfolio. Mohamed Sheikh Ali Dodishe, Internal Security, and Elmi Mohamud Nur, Finances. Ahmed Moalin Fiqi, Secretary of the Interior, Federal Reserve, and Reconciliation.

The majority of the cabinet has been appointed from the parliament; out of the 27 ministers appointed, 16 are members of the parliament, accounting for 59 percent; both the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime



Salah Ahmed Jama, Deputy Prime Minister



Ahmed Maalim Fiqi, Minister Interior



Abshir Omar Jama, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

Minister are also members of the Parliament; 13 of the 24 state ministers are members of the parliament, accounting for 54 percent; and 14 of the 25 deputy ministers are members of the parliament, accounting for 56 percent or 43 in total.

The total number appointed in the cabinets are 76, and most of those names are familiar except for few names, Salah Ahmed Jama is the most significant of all, he is the man to watch, having served in the previous administration, he is now the Somali deputy Prime minister, Salah held position that includes the minister of Labour and Social Affairs minister from April 2017- April 2019 where he spearheaded national public sector and civil service reform, including established the legal frameworks for the seriously dilated Somali Civil Service, he was asked to lead the Ministry of Constitutional Affairs from April 2019.

The designated deputy PM, hails from the northern city of Erigavo, He entered Somali politics as an idealistic technocrat having studied political science and international development at Canada's Carleton University. At university, he published academic articles and considered questions of democratization and development theories in post-conflict societies.

He is seen as a reformist-progressive, having pioneered a social safety net program as Labor minister. He helped carve out political space for youth, women and minorities in Somalia's constitutional and democratic processes.

He has overseen the inter-government committee for handling constitutionally contentious topics. Giving us a glimpse into his mediation skills, when the opposition, supported by the state-level administrations and the federal government came to logger heads over elections which nearly spiraled into violent conflict last spring.

"We need a policy solution, and not a bullet solution," he said of his philosophy.

He is generally seen as a trusted, sobering voice, by stakeholders, in a cacophony of divisive political voices which has strained

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the public's trust in politicians in Somalia.

Another key appointee is the minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the position was designated for Abshir Omar Jama. Mr. Jama hails from Garowe, is a 55-year-old well versed leader, politician, aid worker and entrepreneur with over 30 years' experience in negotiation, networking, and organizational technical know-how with hands on knowledge and expertise working in Somalia.

Through his three decades of experience in the humanitarian and business world, Abshir Omar has invested tremendous efforts in building his community, acting as a leader who is known to resolve clan, business, and social disputes fairly and equitably. He is a Co-founder of MIDEEYE Political Association, the leading political movement in Puntland and currently serves as its Secretary General.

From 1996 to 2002, Abshir Omar was a Senior Field Officer for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Puntland and Somaliland. Upon his return from pursuing his higher education in the United Kingdom, he rejoined the ICRC in 2004 for ten years serving as Regional Coordinator. During the peak years of the devastating Somali civil war, his leadership supported critical disaster readiness and response operations in humanitarian interventions and social support.

Abshir Mohamed Ahmed was selected as the state minister of Villa Somalia, a



Hassan Mo'alim, Minister of Justice and Constitution



Mohamed Abdirahman Beenabeene, Minister of the Ministry of Planning, Investment, and Economic Development

powerful position. Abshir was a prominent opposition leader and had previously served as the Deputy speaker of the upper house; he participated in President Hassan's reelection campaign.

Khadija Diriye was appointed minister of women and human rights. Khadija Diriye is a member of parliament and a long-serving cabinet member. She has previously served in many ministries and is a well-known political figure in Somalia. Mohamed Abdirahman Beenabeene, a native of Puntland, was appointed minister of the Ministry of Planning, Investment, and Economic Development; in recent years, this ministry has become a highly sought-after position.

Abdulkadir Mohamed Nur maintained his post as minister of defense; he was a close confidant of former prime minister Mohamed Hussein Roble. Another buddy of Roble who appears on the new list is Abdirahman Yussuf Aladala, who maintained his job as deputy minister of information.

Ahmed Maalim Fiqi is the new minister of interior, reconciliation, and federalism. Khadija Mohamed Al-Makhzoumi was assigned to the newly founded ministry of environment and climate change. Dr. Mahmoud Nuur Elmi has been appointed finance minister. Abdirizaq Omar Mahamed, a close friend of President Hassan Shiekh, has been appointed petroleum and mining minister.





ROBOW's entrance into Cabinet



BY LAILA MOHAMED

On August 2, Somalia's prime minister, Hamza Barre, made an extraordinary announcement: the nomination of Robow as a minister. Mukhtar Robow, a former deputy commander of the insurgent organization al-Shabaab, was named Minister for Endowment, Religious Affairs, and Counterterrorism Ideology. The public's response to his appointment

has been mixed.

The decision was made to show that those who have left al-Shabaab

Robow gave up violent extremism in 2013, joined politics in 2018, and was seen as a possible Southwest presidential contender.

and rejected its ideology are welcome. Robow is anticipated to play a significant role in the fight against terror ideas and would be in charge of preventing youth recruitment to extremism.

Security experts see his appointment as a strategy to fight the Al-Shabaab insurgency. "It is a declaration of war against Al-Shabaab because Robow has been appointed minister. a positive deed. We need to use regionalized tactics to prevail in the intellectual battle. The rest is noise." Security analyst Hodan Ali said:

Robow was about to take office as the president of the south west region in 2018, however the Somali government blocked him from running for the position in December 2018.

Robow gave up violent extremism in 2013, joined politics in 2018, and was seen as a possible Southwest presidential contender. Security troops from the federal governments of Somalia and Ethiopia detained him and put him under house arrest a few days before the polls, sparking unrest in Baidoa, the regional administrative hub of Southwest.

His appointment also heralds efforts to reintegrate former terrorists into society, something that has already taken place in other parts of the globe and is not unusual.

12 individuals were murdered in the rioting that broke out in Baidoa after Robow's arrests. A member of the local parliament was one among those who was slain. AMISOM Ethiopian troops and Somali Special Forces flown in from Mogadishu shot the victims.

At the time, Concerned about the behavior of AMISOM, Somali parliamentarians have penned a letter of complaint that they want to send to the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian government, and the United Nations.

Dunida Heshiis La'ah: **Rebuilding bridges on the global stage**



President Hassan took several trip to try to patch things up on an international level and rally support for his Government

BY FU'AD HAJI ABDI WELI, 5 Magazine

President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, eager to reform the previous regime's insular foreign policy, embarked on a series of worldwide tours soon following his election on May 15th. At the time of writing, he was on his seventh trip to Egypt, where he held bilateral talks with Mohamud and El-Sisi about boosting Somalia-Egyptian relations, economic links, and security and education collaboration between their two nations.

Other trips include a two-day visit to Tanzania, where the President was a special guest at the 22nd Ordinary Summit of the East African Community (EAC) Heads of State. Mr. Hassan has also visited Kenya, Eritrea, Djibouti, the United Arab Emirates, and Turkey.

In recent years, Somalia's poor ties with a number of nations are indicative of a foreign policy that worsened with time and was based on individual interests. As Somalia is weak, unable to withstand foreign incursions, and in need of allies, the President stated during his election campaign that from 2012 to 2017, he implemented a successful foreign policy based on the principle of having no external enemies, and it appears the President is eager to return to this policy.

In accordance with the president's slogan, "a Somalia at peace at home and abroad," Somalia's foreign policy will not be based on animosity toward neighboring nations, and Somali interests will take precedence, as demonstrated by the fact that the majority of the president's trips were intended to benefit Somalia.

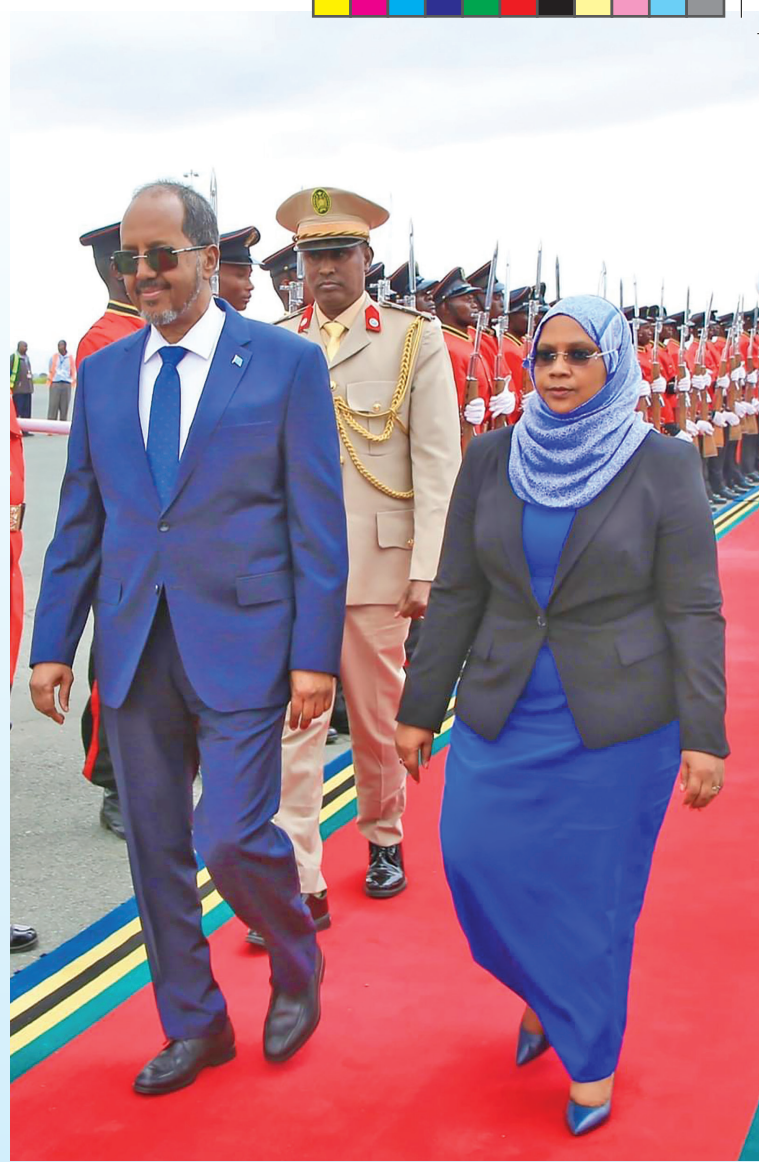
In a recent address, the President said that productive bilateral and multilateral international alliances are the key to realizing the goal of peaceful coexistence between Somalis and the rest of the world. "In the interconnected, rapidly changing world of

the twenty-first century, where there are both challenges and opportunities, it is essential for my government and all other governments to build, cultivate, and strengthen relationships with our valuable friends who support our growth and awakening." The president said.

East African Community (EAC)

The 22nd Ordinary Summit of the East African Community (EAC) was held in Arusha, Tanzania, and the President attended. This was one of the President's most important trips. He argued for the approval of the Somali government into the EAC, highlighting the economic and social opportunities that the Somali people can offer to the body, their vital role in the development of this umbrella, and its impact on the Somali people.

During the summit, the President of the Federal Republic of Somalia, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, emphasized the significance of Somalia being a full member of EAC, adding that the economic and social futures of the Horn of Africa countries are mutually exclusive. The president said that Somalia's



abundant natural resources, including minerals, cattle, and agriculture, make it one of the most promising nations in the area and on the whole African continent. "These nations' futures are intertwined, and Somalia does not want to be a burden on you. Instead, we want to be a beneficial nation that contributes to these vital nations. Therefore, I bring to you, on behalf of the Somali people, a formal request for our participation under this umbrella."

East African Community (EAC) re-established in 2000 by seven (7) nations who share a substantial commercial market that is vital to the regional economy. The yearly combined GDP of the umbrella is believed to be more than 300 billion US dollars, and the total number of people residing in these nations is estimated to be 312 million, making the issuance of a single passport for Somalia a crucial step.

European Union

In recent years, EU relations with Somalia were chilly, but this is now changing. The EU first halted budgetary support to Somalia and

has since resumed disbursing EUR 13.5 million in budget support to the Federal Government of Somalia.

Ms. Tiina Intelmann, EU Ambassador to Somalia, highlighted that President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud has indicated his intent to undertake political, security, and economic reforms. This paves the way for a productive relationship between Somalia and the EU. "I am thus pleased to inform that budget support activities have resumed as of today. This is part of our commitment to help Somalia's efforts toward inclusive development, reconciliation, and state-building." The EU Ambassador to Somalia said.

USAID

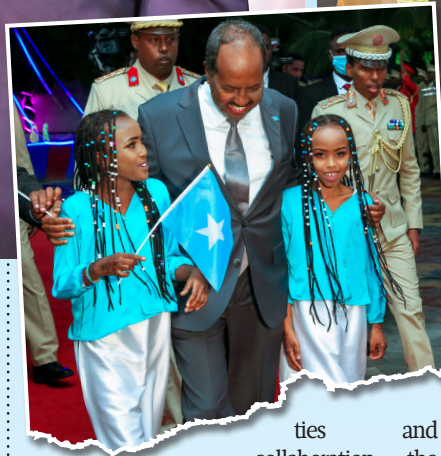
Somalia faces a crisis, the United States has increased its ties with Somalia. Samantha Power stated that the USAID Agency will pay a \$476 million grant, bringing the total amount committed to Somalia to \$707 million. This funding is intended to combat drought and provide vital services.

Kenya

Kenya is another country of significant importance to Somalia. Relations between the two countries have been at their lowest level in recent years. During his visit, the leaders of both countries held high-level bilateral talks on a wide range of bilateral, regional, and multilateral issues, with an emphasis on strengthening the existing bilateral ties between the two countries. After a long period of icy relations, the two countries announced their intention to reaffirm their commitment to work together on areas of mutual interest and to deepen bilateral relations, which are characterized by a shared desire for peace, stability, prosperity, and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of both Kenya and Somalia.

In their discussions, it was decided that Kenya Airways (KQ) would immediately restart regular flights to Mogadishu in accordance with the current Bilateral Air Service Agreement (BASA). Normalisation between Kenya and Somalia was welcomed by many Somalis who

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were eager to resume their daily activities in Kenya. Kenya hosts hundreds of thousands of Somali refugees and has played a role in Somali state building efforts.

Djibouti

Djibouti was another country with which Somalia had tense relations in recent years. During his visits to Djibouti, where he was hosted by the country's president, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud thanked the Government and the people of Republic of Djibouti for the warm welcome and the high-level invitation they extended to him and his delegation. He also indicated that this visit is a good beginning to improve relations between the two countries and to strengthen cooperation on many fronts.

The President has meet with President Ismail Omar Guelleh, and delivered a speech at the Djibouti Parliament, and briefed the parliament on the situation in our country and the surrounding circumstances, the significance of relations, the history of the two nations, and their joint role in the development and stability of the region.

UAE

During his journey, the President also visited UAE and had a productive discussion with Mr. Sheikh Mohamed Binu Said, President of the United Arab Emirates. The two presidents met to discuss the improvement of bilateral

ties and collaboration, the facilitation of commerce, the free movement of individuals, and the provision of immigration.

President Mohamed Bin Said thanked the President and his team for accepting the invitation and described the role of his government in the alleviation of the drought in our nation and the return of their assistance to the UAE government's security and public services. President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, for his part, praised the government and people of the UAE for their assistance of the Somali people

President Mohamed Bin Said thanked the President and his team for accepting the invitation and described the role of his government in the alleviation of the drought in our nation and the return of their assistance to the UAE government's security and public services.

suffering by the drought, stating that the Federal Government of Somalia places an importance on improving its connections with the international community.

Turkey

The president also made a successful journey to the friendly country of Turkey, where the Turkish government has guaranteed that the Somali embassy in Ankara would soon move into its own residence, as opposed to previously renting one. In addition, the two governments have signed trade agreements that will further boost their security collaboration.

President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud said that the Turkish government plays a significant role in bolstering security, training, enhancing the Somali army, and combating terrorism. "During our discussion with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, we decided to expand the partnership and cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the areas of security, economics, business growth, investment, and culture. Somalia considers Turkey to be an ally and a valued ally."

Egypt

Egypt was the seventh country that the president traveled to during his travels, and during this trip, a number of agreements were signed. These agreements include an agreement for Egypt to help in the education sector and improve the relations between the two countries. Egypt has also agreed to help



Somali Heshiis ah: The Daunting Path to Much-Needed Genuine Reconciliation

The first trip that President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud took was considered to be a “peace train” tour because it took place within the country. It was hoped that this would bring Somalis together and help the Somali people move toward reconciliation with one another. The President issued a statement in which he explained that the purpose of his tour was to promote integration, peaceful coexistence, and reconciliation.

Nothing of substance can be accomplished in Somalia at this time without a reconciliation. One of the things that needs to be taken care of is a comprehensive look at the constitution and any necessary amendments. A provisional constitution is now in place as the basis for Somalia’s governance. In spite of the fact that the constitution has been drafted, its implementation continues to be the most significant barrier, along with the lack of consensus on a number of critical topics.

The Provisional Constitution has a number of crises that have not been resolved, and the only way to build understanding and provide a solution is to adopt a permanent constitution. This permanent constitution

will be used to fix a number of constitutional issues that the country has experienced in recent years.

Abdikani Ali Adan, an official at the ministry of the constitution remarked before, “The Constitution represents our common identity. Mr. Adan continued, “Governance is contingent upon a Constitution that governs its people, since it is a social compact and our beliefs and ideals lead us.”

The fact of the matter is Somalia needs a constitution that come as results as results of an inclusive efforts and this will reduce tensions and usher in good administration. To bring Somalis together, the president must overcome the question of the constitution; if he is successful, this will also be a huge triumph for him.

This is an area that has caused so much rift in the past, and needs to be resolved as part of the reconciliation, previously the Somali federal government and its regional member states have reached an agreement on the equitable distribution of Somalia’s natural resources, including the issuance of licenses for natural resources within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), for which the federal government is responsible through the federal ministry of fishery and marine

resources. while those agreement exist, it has not been widely accepted.

All remaining duties and resources should be discussed between the FGS and FMS in a relationship of mutual respect and cooperation. For clear understanding this issues needs to be implemented on all the fronts, we need to abide by the provisional constitution that states that Every person has the right to have a share of the natural resources of the country, whilst being protected from excessive and damaging exploitation of these natural resources.

The Constitution also says that allocation of the natural resources of the Federal Republic of Somalia shall be negotiated by, and agreed upon, by the Federal Government and the Federal Member States in accordance with this Constitution.

The constitution also talks about how even Somali shall enjoy similar levels of services and a similar level of support from the Federal Government, and for the country to have a fair distribution of resources; The president needs to achieve all this three to ensure that Somalis are understating of each other.

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The president has previously given the Somali people the assurance that he will make the country move forward together and that we no longer want political grievances after elections. He has also given the assurance that he intends to solve all of the outstanding issues through dialogue and in a peaceful manner. The President needs to concentrate on beginning the process of national healing by establishing a framework for justice, peace, and reconciliation in order to resolve all of the past injustices. In light of the fact that this will signify a shift from the politics of hate and enmity that have afflicted Somalia for decades, the Somali people do not expect anything less.

Abdi Mohamed Sabriye the For minister of Federal Affairs and Reconciliation in a past function noted that “For genuine reconciliation to take place, Somali people have to firstly recognise the eminence and significance of their unity, togetherness and interdependence – no one can survive without the other.”

An issuesuchassecuritycannotberesolved without proper reconciliation; therefore, the administration, which is led by President Hassan Sheikh, must design a strategy to integrate the various security sectors so that they can have productive working relationships with one another. Integration along these lines would be an essential step: it would aid in the development of more



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representative and effective security forces, while addressing concerns that they are under the influence of particular clans. Integration along these lines would be an essential step. Despite this, very little progress has been made since our last meeting.

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Turkey and Somali long term relations

- Preview of President Hassan sheikh Mohamud speech in Turkey

BY ABDI MOHAMED, 5 Magazine

Somalia and Turkey have enjoyed a historic relationship based on mutual respect and cooperation since Somalia gained its independence in 1960. However, this relationship was further strengthened when Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who was Prime Minister at the time, made a historic visit to Somalia in August 2011, when Somalia was in a dire humanitarian situation.

Because of that action, it is clear why the relationship between Somalia and Turkey is strong today, it is because of the commitment of its people and its leadership, which has strengthened the relationship. In all the meetings I have had with President Erdogan, members of the Turkish government, civil society and businessmen, Somalia is seen as a place of great opportunity. It is a place

where the Turkish government and its people feel that they can cooperate with the people of Somalia to change the difficult situation, which can change the lives of the Somali people, and create opportunities for mutual benefit.

Security is the first priority of my government, because without it nothing is possible. In Somalia, the main thing we are fighting is international terrorism in our army because Al-Shabaab is an organization related to Al-Qaeda, which has an international mission and has carried out attacks in neighbouring countries. Al-Shabaab is not an Islamic organization: It is a radical group that misuses the religion of Islam in order to find justification for its deviant actions and to harm innocent people.

The actions of these groups have a negative impact on the Somali community

and the rest of the world, we must redouble our efforts to end terrorism. Long-term policies to control and reduce the power of terrorist groups have been short-lived and unsuccessful. Now, as a government, we are committed to using other means to deal with Al-Shabaab, those who are willing to negotiate, give up their views on war, and return to their communities in peace. will be given a chance, those extremists who want to continue their deviant actions will be crushed militarily. We are ready to defend our religion and our people of Islam, from the wrongful hijackers of terrorists, who are fuelling the growing Islamophobia in the world.

Turkey's cooperation in the field of security has really been a great benefit in supporting the efforts of the Somali government to defeat Al-Shabaab in order to bring stability to the country. The training of the Somali





Police, Officers and Military in the country and Turkey, and the TURKSOM training center in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia, is amazing. The production of troops, the development of the skills of the current forces are important for the national security of Somalia as we want to take over the responsibility of security from the African Union Transitional Mission in 2024. Somalia and Turkey also have a strong relationship in terms of knowledge and information sharing about terrorist activities and, moving forward, these issues are something we are committed to strengthening.

Turkey has played an important role in the economic transformation of Somalia in the past, and has been providing generous support to the Somali government since my previous administration in 2012. This budget support is important for the support of the Somali government in the implementation and success of the implementation of the economic transformation pipeline established by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

We are hopeful that the Turkish government will continue this beneficial support as Somalia works to move forward on its path to economic self-sufficiency. In addition, the cooperation between Somalia and Turkish investment institutions in important areas of income generation such as the Port of Mogadishu and the Airport, which help to increase the domestic income through

their investment in the construction of infrastructure. Economically, this helps economic transformation programs and making a profit. In the long term, the economic relations between Somalia and Turkey will make great progress if we are able to increase investment and trade between the two countries, especially in the competitive sectors of Somalia and opportunities in the Maritime Economy (The Blue Economy). If we are Somalis, we see this as a useful economic policy, and we will continue to work with the Turkish government on this agenda, looking at the benefit it has for both our society and demand.

In addition to the beneficial cooperation in the field of security and economy, Turkey and Somalia have a growing social relationship which is based on a policy of visits

Turkey has played an important role in the economic transformation of Somalia in the past, and has been providing generous support to the Somali government since my previous administration in 2012.

between the two countries made possible by the direct flight of Turksih Airlines. This has encouraged the Somali diaspora to come for holidays, invest and settle in Turkey. The annual scholarship program, both domestically and here in Turkey, is helping to produce a new generation of highly educated and young professionals who will benefit themselves, their communities and both countries.

In terms of humanitarian aid, the Turkish government is still playing a role in the current painful situation through the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA). However, moving forward, my government is committed to finding a lasting solution to these recurring climate change-related disasters that affect the Horn of Africa as a whole, severely affecting countries like mine (Somalia), which is due to our lack of ability to invest in climate change infrastructure, due to our small but growing economy.

Somalia's experience of the benefit of the relationship between Somalia and Turkey is very positive. Turkey is still standing by Somalia and our people while we are in the process of searching for stability and development. The relationship between Somalia and Turkey is based on improving the lives of our people and working together to take our relationship to a higher level than it is now. that we will move towards a future that leads to opportunities that are fundamental to success together.



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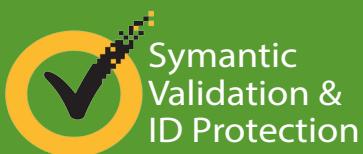
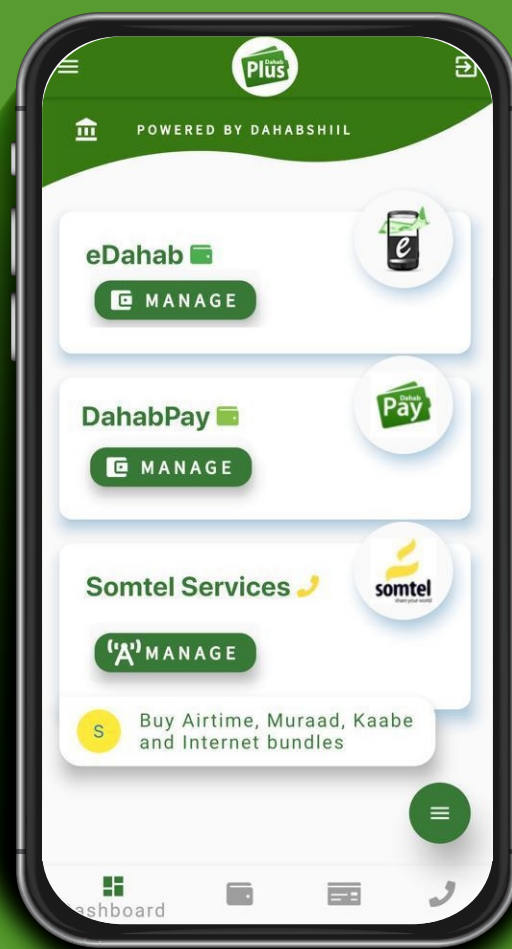
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An unexpected ally: Eritrea's path and the new exceptional friendship between Somalia and Eritrea



Eritrea is a long-isolated nation, and it was originally considered that it had nothing to offer to Somalia, a nation rebuilding from a 30-year civil war. Recent trips by President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud and the immediate president of Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo, who previously visited Eritrea and initiated a relationship with Eritrea on many fronts, appear to have altered the situation and made Eritrea a reliable ally. Both Hassan and Farmajo signed a comprehensive memorandum of understanding with Eritrea.

President Mohamed Abdullahi visited Eritrea for the first time in 2017. This was the first visit by a Somali president since Eritrea gained independence in 1993. It was at this time that a bilateral diplomatic relationship was established between the two countries, as well as an agreement for thousands of Somali troops to be trained in Eritrea.

There have been a lot of disputes that have arisen from the formal formation of ties between Somalia and Eritrea, which were mostly surrounding the ambitious program

of training Somali army and other secrets contract that was signed by president Farmajo regime. While it is known that Somalia helped Eritrea throughout its battle for independence, which is the backbone of the two nations' long-term relations, there have also been a lot of controversies that have arisen from the official establishment of relations between Somalia and Eritrea.

Eritrea, on the other hand, has supported Somalia and has lost its membership in IGAD as a result of its support for Somalia, which was at the time being invaded by Ethiopia.

Four months after the signing of a historic peace agreement, Somalia was believed to

The president's travel was necessitated by what was first believed to be missing Somali soldiers, but resulted in president Sheikh Hassan negotiating an agreement with Eritrea that is most advantageous to Somalia.

have played a significant role in the push to release the sanctions on Eritrea which resulted in Security Council unanimously withdrew a range of international sanctions placed against Eritrea over a decade ago.

During the presidency of Farmajo, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Somalia issued a joint proclamation honoring the strong links of friendship between the people of Eritrea and Somalia and noted that the two nations will establish diplomatic ties and exchange ambassadors, fostering bilateral commerce and investment, as well as educational and cultural interactions. Although the exchange of ambassadors has not yet occurred, it is possible that it may occur in the near future.

And recently, President Hassan Sheikh made a trip to Eritrea just a few months after assuming office. The president's travel was necessitated by what was first believed to be missing Somali soldiers, but resulted in president Sheikh Hassan negotiating an agreement with Eritrea that is most advantageous to Somalia. They also pledged to increase diplomatic and political

continued on page 21>>

cooperation, preserve and develop their national interests, and foster bonds between their two peoples.

The agreement, signed by Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki and Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, suggests that the two countries will strengthen the relationship between their peoples, including their expatriates, as well as their political and diplomatic cooperation in order to protect and advance the interests of both nations.

Eritrea and Somalia also committed to cooperate on economic and social concerns, with specific emphasis on commerce, investment, water, agriculture, fishing, health, and education, as well as encouraging collaboration in culture, literature, sports, and science. Enhancing collaboration in environmental protection and development, and mitigating the consequences of natural catastrophes and infectious illnesses.

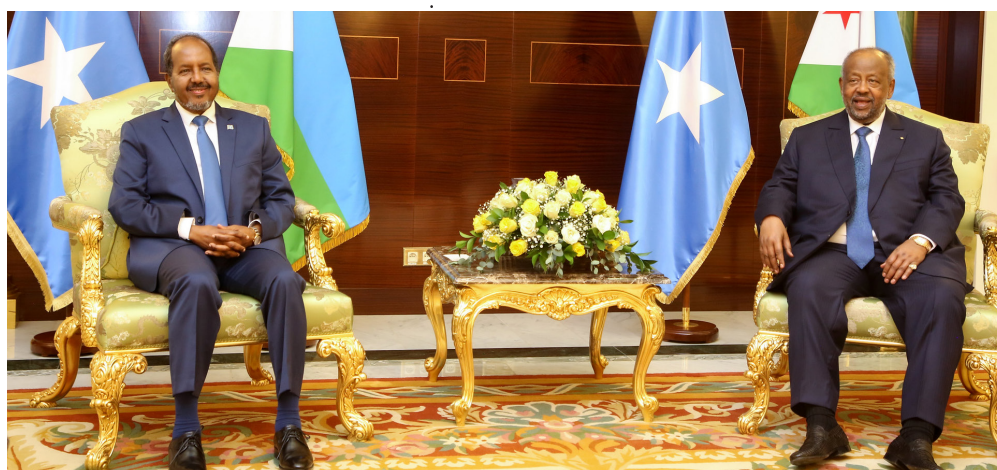
Cooperation on topics of defense and security to maintain peace, stability, and security, and to work together for the growth of cooperation, economic integration, and good relations with the nations of the Horn of Africa, was another crucial aspect.

Somali trained troops in Eritrea

President Farmaajo revealed that his administration sent 5,000 recruits – Somalia's largest cohort – to Eritrea for military training during the transfer of power, despite the fact that the issue had previously been a closely guarded secret. In addition, he acknowledged that troops who completed their training in Eritrea last year were supposed to return home, but their departure was delayed to avoid affecting the political climate and elections.

Eritrea has been training thousands of Somali soldiers for over three years, according to the president, and the bulk of the military, including the navy and mechanized divisions, has received regular and specialized training.

The president thanked the Eritrean government when visiting the troops, saying, "The Somali people will be inspired by your presence, and the enemy will be disheartened by your power." According to Ali Said Faqi, the Somali ambassador to the European Union, as reported by VOA, the troops had rigorous



training, with the majority of them receiving special forces training.

According to Ali Said Faqi, the initial idea was for Eritrea to train and arm them, and the agreement stipulated that they may take part in the war against terrorism and the opening of the route between Afgoye and Baidoa. Ali Said Faqi stated in an interview with VOA that the troops may also be utilized to facilitate the opening between Mogadishu and Kismayo and that they are young individuals with the

greatest military training.

"They are welcome to join in the inauguration of the roadway between Mogadishu and Kismayo," he stated. These young adults have received the greatest military training.

If these plans succeed and the army makes appropriate use of them, it will be one of the most significant contributions a regional country has made to Somalia's state-rebuilding efforts.

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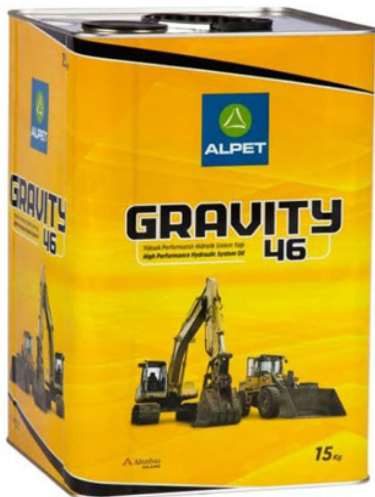


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SUMMARY: President Hassan visited the Somali military.

Two decades ago, the US and the UN claimed that Al Barakat was a terror sponsoring organization; this has now been proven false; the question now is whether the US will refund the money confiscated.

BY ABDI MOHAMED, 5 Magazine

It is admirable that President Hassan Sheikh visited the soldiers. While in Eritrea, the President, on the other hand, inspected the training facilities of the country's armed forces before making a last stop at Massawa, which is home to the Naval Forces of the Federal Republic of Somalia.

The president commended each of the army's divisions for the rigorous training they underwent and informed the audience of the importance and priority that the government places on the liberation of terrorist-held territory as well as the expected contribution of these forces to the nation's overall security.

Together with the president of Eritrea, Mr. Isaias Afwerki, the president of the Federal Republic of Somalia, Mr. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, visited the Somali Navy training facilities there.

The president looked at the state of the navy that is being trained in Eritrea during this visit in the hopes that it would play a vital part in the nation's security operations.

After hearing reports from some of the army officers, the president of JFS was saluted by the army during a parade held

to greet him.

While outlining the government's strategy to rebuild the Armed Soldiers and secure overall national security, the President of the Republic addressed these forces and commended them for their perseverance in training and resolve to protect their homeland.

In order to achieve the freedom of the nation and to safeguard the populace and the area from the threat of terrorism that impedes life and progress, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud underlined the necessity of the Somali army's qualitative restoration and reconstruction on a national level.

The troops of the Somali National Army that are receiving training in Eritrea were inspected by the presidents of the Federal Republic of Somalia and Eritrea, Mr. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud and Mr. Isaias



Afwerki.

In addition to greeting these carefully trained troops, the President looked over their living quarters and listened to comments from some of the commanders and soldiers who expressed gratitude to President Hassan Sheikh for his visit.

The government's strategy to ensure general security in the nation and free places

where terrorists from Al-Shabaab, who are opposed to the Somali people's progress and government, are hiding was discussed with the army by the president of the republic.

The return of the Somali army to Eritrea has been verified by President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, who noted that the Somali people are pleased with their appearance while their terrorist adversaries are alarmed

by their troops.

The Eritrean government was also congratulated by President Hassan Sheikh for providing these soldiers with the training they need to help stabilize Somalia. On the other hand, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud toured areas of the nation where development initiatives are taking place along with his Eritrean colleague, Mr. Isaias

The Jubaland and South West State quagmire: The Next Crisis and the Way Forward

Regional leaders and states that are members of the Federal government have been at odds for a long time, and one of the factors that contributes to this conflict is elections held at the regional level; historically, this has ignited a tremendous crisis and led to the spilling of blood. There will be a lot of elections in the years or months to come, notably in Puntland and Jubaland, which are known for having elections that are notoriously complex and convoluted.

Abdiaziz Hassan Mohamed, a close associate of the President, is a leader who is subject to a great deal of criticism and against whom many people are working to remove him from office; his appointment as the immediate President was initially surrounded by a great deal of dispute. For South west, Abdiaziz Hassan Mohamed is a leader who faces a great deal of criticism and against whom many are working to remove him from office.

Now the situation is precarious, and there is yet another controversy surrounding when his term will expire. Politicians and elite from the region are advocating that it will expire in December, while his administration is claiming an additional year because the constitution was amended, and his term is five years long.

Mogadishu has lately seen the establishment of a new political alliance that goes by the name South West Rescue Council. It is made up of previous heads of state, former parliamentarians, current politicians, and younger politicians. This council has a deep antipathy for South West Administration President Abdasis Lafta Gareen, the legitimacy of whose current tenure in office is in question. This situation has the potential to



In the most recent elections, for example, the FGS proclaimed that Ahmed Madobe has self-appointed said he is ready for a negotiation and to fix all the concerns.

escalate, and the only way to settle it is via communication; during the elections held in the state of South West in the past, violence claimed the lives of many people, and it is imperative that this situation not be allowed to grow.

It has been claimed that a number of people have been slain in southern Somalia as a result of the violence that broke out after the arrest of a former al-Shabab leader who was planning to run for regional elections. According to information cited by the BBC, at least eleven persons, including both military personnel and civilians, were killed in

fighting involving supporters of Mukhtar Robow in Baidoa. According to Baidoa elder Saleh Isak, who spoke to the Reuters news agency, one of those slain in the demonstrations was a member of the provincial parliament.

It is important to consider inclusion by involving negotiations with all of the people. The federal government, rather than rejecting the elections, should set a discussion table for Jubaland leaders. Another impending crisis is the elections in Jubaland. The Jubaland dynamic is needs to be taken care of one issue that caused civil war in Somalia. The Jubaland dynamic is needs to be taken care of one issue that caused civil war in Somalia. Few Somalis have ever taken part in a direct election during their lives, despite the fact that the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) is making concerted efforts to build political institutions and mechanisms that are more welcoming to all Somalis.

In the most recent elections, for example, the FGS proclaimed that Ahmed Madobe has self-appointed said he is ready for a negotiation and to fix all the concerns. Other self-declared presidents are also open for resolutions. However, the dialogue offer may not be open constantly, and it may soon be conflicts, which is the last thing that Somalia needs.

It should be noted that this is individuals interests at play, and therefore turning the various Somali clans living in Jubaland or in south west will have a drastic effect on the peace-loving people of Somalia. One of the issues that the Somalis should be worried about is the addition of foreign entities into the affairs of Somalia. There was talk that regional proxies had different preferred candidates. This factor should also never be turned into clan and section dominance against the other.



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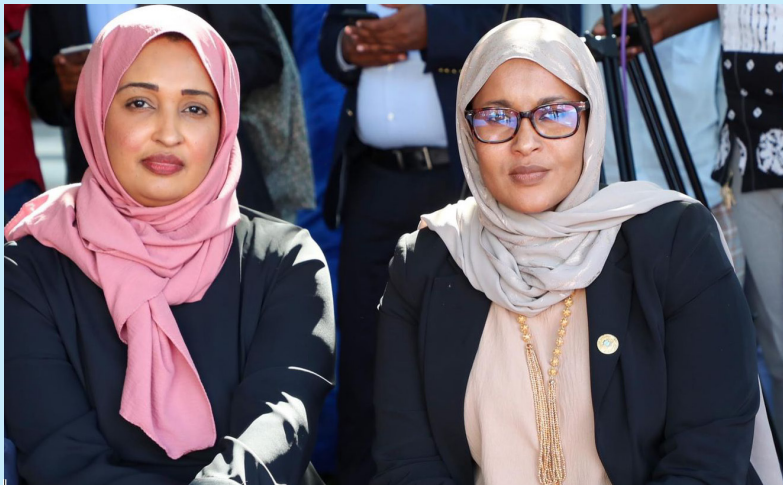
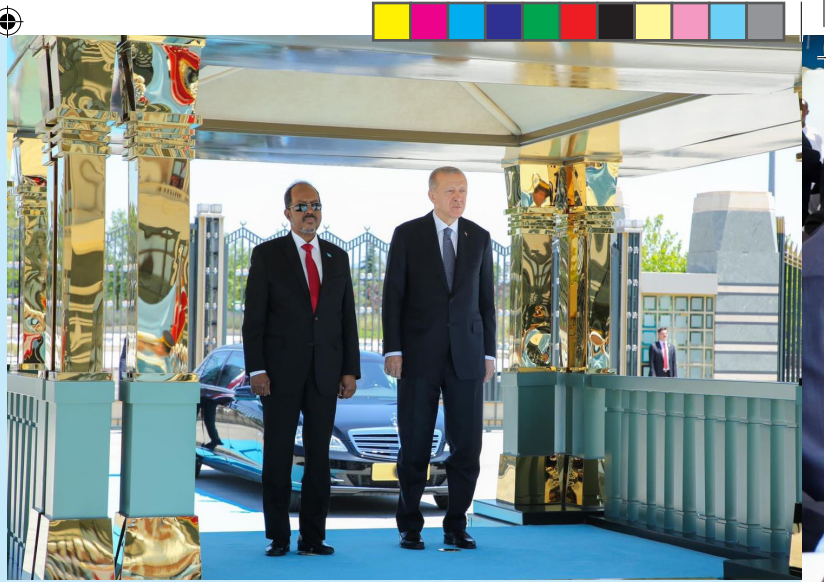
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Somali real estate boom gives Mogadishu residents money headaches

BY HAMZA MOHAMED, 5 Magazine

Mogadishu, Somalia – Mumtaz Ahmed looks and sounds overwhelmed. For three weeks, she has been searching for an apartment to rent in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, for her young family of three. The few properties on the market are either too expensive or owners ask for a large deposit upfront.

“I’m looking for two to three-bedroom apartment in this area and it is proving impossible,” the mother-of-one told Al Jazeera as she sat in the waiting area of an estate agency in the Waberi district of the city.

“Sometimes even paying a deposit does not secure you the property you want. Mogadishu of today is not Mogadishu of

[a] few years ago,” Mumtaz adds as more would-be tenants trickle in the small waiting area.

With a budget of \$350 a month, Mumtaz is not too hopeful. “Three or four years ago, I will have found a four-bedroom villa in the nicest area of the city with that money,” she said.

Since August 2011, when the al-Qaeda-linked armed group al-Shabab was pushed out of the seaside city, the Somali capital has been enjoying the relative calm. The city’s skyline is changing fast with brand new multistorey apartment buildings replacing the bullet-scarred houses.

Sounds of hammers and cement mixers are a common feature for residents of the city. “If you look anywhere in Mogadishu, you will see they are building

new apartments. But that has not made it cheaper or affordable,” Mumtaz said. With the armed group out of sight and a shaky political truce holding between the warring elites, people are flocking back into the city.

Properties are snapped up even before they come onto the open market. Some residents are even inking multi-year agreements to secure properties in their favoured part of the city.

Ibaar Osman Ibrahim woke up early to make the rounds at the different estate agencies in downtown Mogadishu. The 27-year-old electrical engineer is hoping to find a suitable villa to rent.

“I’m looking for a four-bedroom villa ideally in Waberi district,” Ibaar told Al Jazeera. “This area is even more expensive

than other areas because it is favoured by government employees. It is safer for them than many other parts of the city."

"I will be very lucky if I find something for \$400 a month. Every month, the asking price is going up. Our salaries have hardly gone up which makes it difficult," he added.

The rent excludes utility bills with the East African country having one of the most expensive electricity tariffs in the world.

"Those of us who are lucky to have a good paying job, we spend 60 percent of our salary on rent and another 20 percent on bills," he said.

Real estate developers are especially happy with the booming market.

Ismail Ali Toohow saw an opportunity in the market two years ago. He now owns and manages Kiro Sheeg real estate agency, with multiple offices in the city.

"In this office, we see a minimum of 50 people seeking properties to rent," the father-of-three told Al Jazeera. "There is huge demand. Asking price has gone up by more than a third in the last two years even with the pandemic."

For every tenant he finds a property, he charges them a \$100 fee.

"Sometimes people are willing to pay you money just so that you call them if and when a property comes onto the market. They want to beat the competition. Going into this business is the best decision I have made," the 30-year-old said smiling.

Investment by the country's sizeable diaspora has been flowing back pushing prices even higher. They prefer to buy land and build apartments.

Off Maka al-Mukarama road, the city's main thoroughfare, a group of young men are busy typing away and taking orders on the phone in a two-room office equipped with sleek computers. They work for Bile Home Repairs and Construction Services, one of the leading construction companies in the city.

"Most of our clients are diaspora and business people," Bile Mohamud Dhoore, its CEO, told Al Jazeera.

"Every month we break ground on at least seven properties. In 2019, we used to do one, if we were very lucky may be two properties. For most of our clients, it is purely for investment purpose. There is



"I work as a labourer on building sites. I used to earn \$14 a day but now I take home \$16. I can't afford to pay rent, education and food for my family if I was to live in Mogadishu,"
Anas Jeylani

confidence in the market at the moment," Bile, 42, added.

But the demand cannot keep up with the supply, he said.

"Two years ago, 100kg of reinforcement bars used to cost us \$52. Now it is \$92. A 50kg cement bag used to cost \$6, now it is \$9.5. Everything is more expensive now. This cost is passed on down the chain," Bile added.

With the prices going sky-high, many are choosing to either move to the outskirts of the city or even to nearby towns, coming to Mogadishu in the morning and heading home at night.

Anas Jeylani used to live in Mogadishu but says the city has become unaffordable for him and his family. He moved to Afgoye, a town 30km (18.5 miles) away from the city.

"I work as a labourer on building sites. I used to earn \$14 a day but now I take home \$16. I can't afford to pay rent, education and food for my family if I was to live in Mogadishu," the husband of two wives and father-of-five told Al Jazeera. "Only the rich can afford to live in this city. Everyone else is either struggling or has moved somewhere else."

For Mumtaz, the solution is for less people to move to the city.

"Every Somali wants to live in Mogadishu. Until that changes, I don't see anything changing. Prices will keep going up," she said.

Follow Hamza Mohamed on Twitter: @Hamza_Africa

Oil and Gas Opportunities In Somalia

BY ARABEY HASHI ABDI.

Background.

Somalia is a coastal nation in East Africa. The official language is Somali language and the second language is Arabic. The country was formerly known as the "Somali Democratic Republic" before the country collapse in 1991.

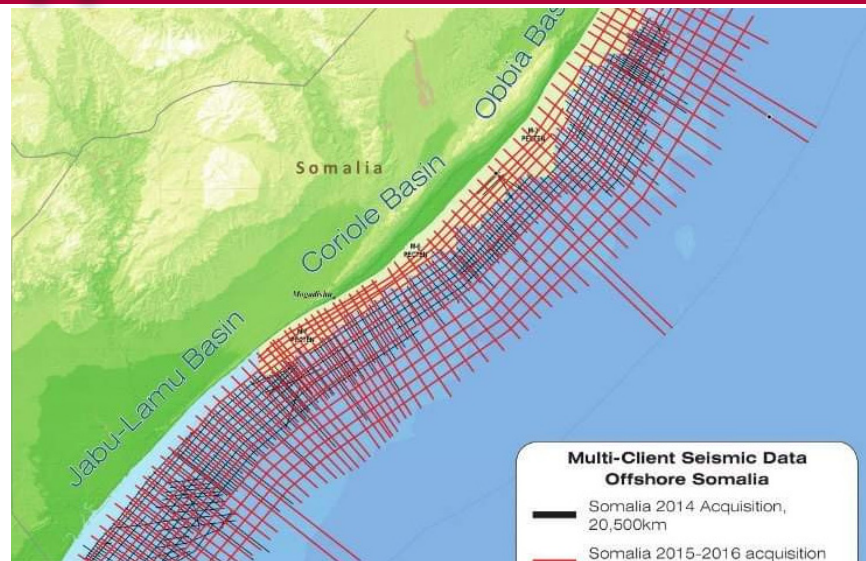
Somalia occupies a strategic location on Horn of Africa along southern approaches to Bab el Mandeb and sea route through the Red Sea and the Suez Canal. Somalia's long (which is the longest of any country in Africa) coastline has been of strategic and tactical importance chiefly in permitting trade with the Middle East and the rest of East Africa. The exploitation of the shore and the continental shelf for fishing and other purposes had barely begun by the long time. Control of maritime economic activity (EEZ) is claimed over territorial waters up to 200 nautical miles, which is in accordance with international convention

Somalia is ready and has opportunity to extract its resources especially huge potential deposits of Oil and Gas. Considerable investment has already been made towards identifying the offshore location and the country is equipped with almost all administrative processes, conditions & regulations for development and investment.

Somalia has potentially considerable Oil and Gas deposits (both onshore and offshore) and opportunities that needs to be taken advantage. Despite the world's consumption of oil and gas is trending currently reduced due to climate change mitigations, pandemics and the move from fuel consuming automobile, industries to use of electrical and alternative energies, the government of Somalia is determined to move with this trend and extract and commercialize its vast deposits of oil and gas. In this document, the author wishes to expound here this opportunity in Somalia and why it is for the right time for all to develop and invest this sector.

Exploration and extraction of Petroleum.

International Oil companies (IOCs) have



shown interest in Somalia oil and gas since the 1950s and exploration properly started from 1950s, culminating in a serious rush to explore in the 1980s.

Extensive surveys had been done especially on onshore gas and oil prospects, and plans for exploration were drafted. However, no economic extraction of such deposits found was done due to major concerns about onshore security situation at the time.

Past on-shore concessions to Oil Companies.

The government made drilling Concessions and licenses of several onshore wells along the entire length of the eastern basin (a very large area, almost half of Somalia land area) to international companies in 1980s. Exploration was halted due the civil strife that lasted for over two decades. The IOCs with these previous heritage concessions continue to be in a state of "force majeure" that was declared prior to the onset of the civil war whilst still paying surface rentals to resume work soon and as the situations in the respective localities allows. There is probably no realistic prospect of conceding or auctioning additional onshore wells in the immediate future unless the security situation improves.

Offshore Potential.

When in 2012 the transitional institutions and government transitioned into the modern-day recognized Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) The GDS then started to renew again oil exploration and processes for legislation and regulation of petroleum and mineral resources.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources signed a contract with a seismic brokerage to gather and evaluate geology of 20,500 km offshore of two-dimensional (2D) Data in 2013 that was then successfully delivered in 2014. A similar 2D seismic evaluation agreement in major offshore areas was agreed with other companies in 2015 and 2016, and delivered the data in 2018. The new data and related modelling work have also improved the understanding of the gas and petroleum potential offshore Somalia, increasing the appetite for investment.

This has culminated in seven (7) offshore blocks being offered for the inaugural Oil and Gas Licensing round which is currently open for receiving bids.

Operators interested in this opportunity have already licensed or are licensing the multi-client data from TGS.

Regulatory Regimes.

Prior to civil strife and collapse of the central government in 1991, Somalia used to have a functioning Ministry of Mineral

resources (and Mining Act/Law) but did not have a separate petroleum Ministry nor Laws specific for Petroleum.

The current Ministry of Petroleum & Mineral Resource (MOMPR) was established during the transitional/interim government in 2005, and is tasked with developing processes and Legislative policies, regulations. A modern Petroleum Law for the oil and gas sector was developed during that period which was enacted in 2008 and controlled by the centralized.

Since the initial Petroleum Act of 2008 has been superseded and modernized to the current the Petroleum Law of 2020. Another major achievement in recent times is that a legal petroleum sharing framework agreement between Federal and regional (states) authorities that constitute the Federal Republic of Somalia had been agreed with respect of ownership and regulations natural and environmental resource as well as regulatory institutions including independent licensing bodies. The purpose of this is to define wealth derived from all oil and gas activities gets distributed equitably across all stakeholders at district and state level as well as Federal.

All these regulatory processes of petroleum sector as well as mineral sector was achieved with the expertise and assistance of international development bodies such as The Africa Development Bank, Oil for Development, The World Bank, and Africa Natural Resource Development.

Summary of Achievements

- Petroleum Law 2020, has a passed through the Parliament of the Federal Government of Somalia both Upper and Lower house and signed by the president of Federal Republic of Somalia.
- Petroleum Policy established.
- The petroleum management and revenue sharing agreements are signed the Somali Prime Minister, all the Federal Member State President, signed in Baydhabo South West State, Somalia June 2018, also by passed through the Somalia Federal Parliaments Upper and Lower house and Signed by Somali Federal President.
- Draft petroleum regulations have been completed.
- Somalia Petroleum Authority (SPA); an

independent regulatory body of which all constituent member states (regions) are represented, was established in 2020.

- Production sharing agreement (PSA) and Tender protocol formulated in line with the Somali Procurement act, and also the draft Extractives Industries Income Tax Act (EIIT), Currently awaiting parliament to pass the EIIT act.
- First Somalia offshore Licensing Round was being currently open over seven highly prospective blocks.

The purpose of the Legislation.

The defined purpose of the Government of Somalia in passing all the above time & costly processes and regulations over the past few years protect the current and future wellbeing of the citizens, social amenities and build necessary infrastructure. Somalia is per capita one of the poorest nations in the world and that fact the nation is attempting to recover from 3 decades of civil strife which has destroyed or regressed the human and national capital, assets and infrastructure. The nation needs to catch up this globalized world and to fulfil citizen's aspiration and globally set goals to eradicate poverty and human development. This obviously necessitates the realization of the capital wealth contained of its natural resources, of which chiefly refers to petroleum.

The Somali people have been hoping for the development of the potential wealth of petroleum and gas since 1950s. The nation is more needful for the contribution of its petro-gas than any time in the past or perhaps in the future.

The Government's Role.

The Constitution of Somalia and the Petroleum Law mandates the federal government to negotiate directly and indirectly with willing investors and those who wish to develop the Somali Petroleum Sectors Without such ventures the country can't achieve self-sufficiency and quick recovery and development of oil and gas can underpin and fund other economic sectors such as agriculture, livestock, fisheries, processing industries & other industries, and support infrastructure development

Investment opportunity for All

Somalia offshore high hydrocarbon offshore prospectively has been well documented with the interpretation work and petroleum modelling carried on the extensive geoscience datasets available for the region. Offshore Somalia is characterized by three major basins: Obbia, Coriole and Juba-Lamu. Each basin has unique structural features and a different petroleum system, with source rocks spanning in age from Paleozoic to Tertiary. The diversity of source rocks is matched by a high diversity of reservoirs ranging between pure carbonate deposits (e.g. carbonate build ups in the Jurassic of the Obbia Basin) to pure siliciclastic bodies (e.g. Tertiary siliciclastic mass transport fold and thrust belt in the Coriole Basin). This diverse petroleum system guarantees a unique heterogeneity and variety of prospects.

And the high prospectively of this frontier region, together with Somalia's strategic global location, is an ideal place for international oil companies' investment and ever-improving technology. The ongoing licensing round represents an opportunity both for the Government and the IOCs to capitalize on the current market environment.

The extraction and trade of petroleum is conducted with transparency and accountability and emphasis of sustainable development and safe environment whereby fair-share and ownership is monitored and regulated as per the existing laws and agreements. The process of exploration and development to reach the point of commercial extraction and sale of oil and gas , will be lengthy, taking years , beyond current party & governmental terms and the Federal government and legislative bodies with help of international development community, will set the bar all necessary mechanism including production sharing agreements with clearly defined benefits to the Somali nation Somalia included in the process such as Royalty levels, Signature Bonuses, surface rent fees Corporate taxation and Profit Sharing levels that will cover our current and future needs. Such aims and goals are needed and are achievable for the offshore license round blocks and maybe so in the future for onshore blocks as well.

By Arabey Hashi Abdi.
MA International Relations and is currently studying an MBA in Oil and Gas at Aberdeen

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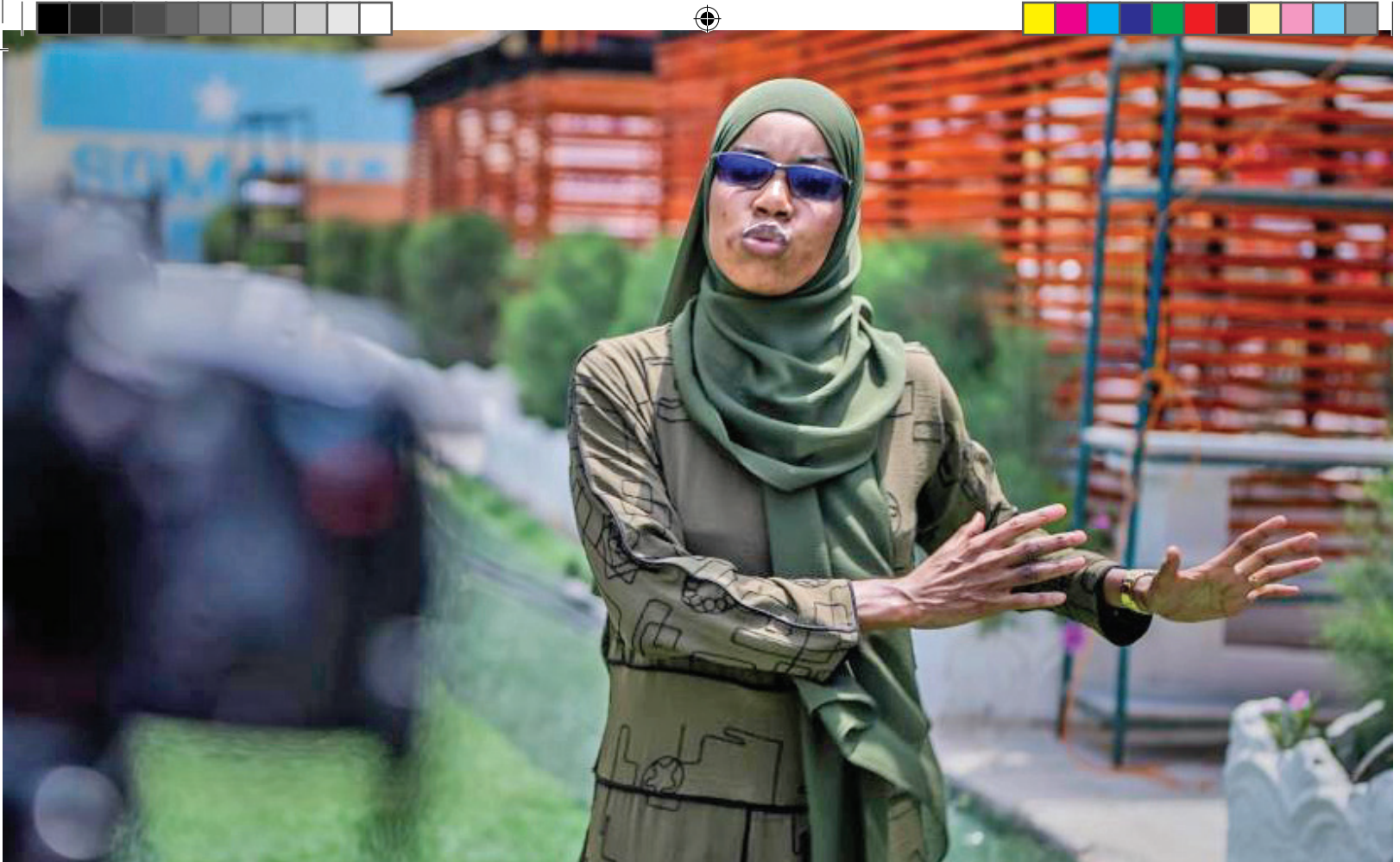
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Somalia's first all-women media team puts women journalists in control of the news agenda

Called Bilan, which means "bright and clear" in Somali, the unit is funded by the UN Development Programme. The unit is staffed and managed entirely by women with full editorial independence and will produce stories for TV, radio and online media. Nasrin Mohamed Ibrahim is Bilan's Chief Editor.

Somalia's first-ever all-women media unit launches today, providing a space where women media professionals can work with real decision-making authority and fully free from harassment.

The unit is staffed and managed entirely by women with full editorial independence and will produce stories for TV, radio and online media. One editor and five journalists will decide what issues to cover and how, with a mix of hard news and in-depth features that focus on the stories they think need telling.

Called Bilan, which means "bright and clear" in Somali, the unit is funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and will be hosted inside the Dalsan Media Group's offices in Mogadishu, with content distributed

through Dalsan's existing platforms and also pitched to international outlets worldwide.

"For too long, Somali women journalists have been treated as second class citizens and Somali news has ignored the stories and voices of half the population; now we are in charge of the boardroom and the narrative," said Nasrin Mohamed Ibrahim, who is taking up the post of Bilan's Chief Editor. "Some people might not like the fact that I play football and lead a media team. But nobody will ever change my mind."

"As a women-only media house we are going to be able to bring taboo subjects into the open. Our sisters, mothers and grandmothers will talk to us about issues they never dare speak about with men," said Fathi Mohamed Ahmed, Bilan's Deputy Editor.

In interviews conducted by UNDP over the last six months, women journalists have reported being harassed not just on the streets but even inside their own offices. They are often denied training opportunities and promotions, and when a woman does reach a position of authority, she is often ignored while more junior figures get to call the shots. News coverage reflects this, with a lack of programming on issues that are seen as primarily affecting women, including childcare, domestic abuse and equal political representation.

“We hope this will be a game changer for the Somali media scene, opening up new opportunities for women journalists and shining a light on new subjects that have been ignored, particularly those that are important for women,” said Jocelyn Mason, UNDP’s Resident Representative in Mogadishu.

UNDP will also provide a long-term programme of training and mentoring, bringing in some of the biggest names in Somali and international journalism, including the BBC’s Lyse Doucet and Razia Iqbal, Channel 4’s Lyndsey Hilsum and Al Jazeera’s Mohammed Adow, as well as creating opportunities to engage with women journalists working in similarly challenging environments around the world to exchange ideas and offer mutual support.

“I believe Bilan will be a game-changer for me and for women in Somalia. I hope it will give us the freedom and safety to do a different kind of journalism beyond the usual diet of politics and conflict,” said Bilan’s journalist Naciima Saed Salah.

“Even though I am young, I am ready to leave my family in Baidoa and move to Mogadishu to work for Bilan. I want to highlight the problems women face in my region, especially in terms of political representation,” said journalist Shukri Mohamed Abdi.

To develop the next generation of Somali women journalists, the unit will offer six-month internship opportunities for the best final-year women journalism students at two universities in Mogadishu.





A wildfire and a plea to tackle climate changes in Somalia

BY KHADRA YASIEH AHMED

The wildfire in the state of Sanaag this week highlights a multidimensional environmental crisis that Somalia is in the forefront of. The immense impact of global climate changes affects the poorest parts of the world, and Somalia is no exception.

A spike in deforestation, desertification and production of charcoal are the leading reasons for Somalia's crippling climate changes. This is currently driving millions of people in search for water and shade and resulting in the worst drought in 40 years. High temperatures, floods and droughts in cycles is a testimony that climate change has made its permanent mark on Somali soil. Increase in average temperature is not only literally killing the soil, but it is also wreaking havoc on human health-making access to food, water, and arable land a scarcity.

The Lancet countdown on health and

climate change (2020) underscores that "climate change is the greatest global health threat facing the world in the 21st century." The disruption of food production and increase in food, water and vector-borne diseases will pose the greatest health challenge for the people of Somalia and will threaten future

In the aftermath of the fire officials have acknowledged the lack of support and aid to the state of Sanaag. However, it is legitimate to question whether political turmoil and political sensitivity is putting life and health at risk in Sanaag.

generations directly and indirectly. Climate refugees will within few years be on the rise in addition to the former IDPs- displaced by former crisis.

In the aftermath of the fire officials have acknowledged the lack of support and aid to the state of Sanaag. However, it is legitimate to question whether political turmoil and political sensitivity is putting life and health at risk in Sanaag. Matters will get worse before they get better. Hence, it's time for Somali politicians to act because the future consequences are enormous- both for the environment and the health of the people.

Parts of Somalia is about to become unlivable. Will the government do more to assist the places and people that are worst affected by climate changes?

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UK's contaminated blood scandal inquiry: All you need to know

A blood treatment that infected 30,000 people with HIV and hepatitis C decades ago in the UK returns to the spotlight.

BY BASHIR MOHAMED CAATO

A public inquiry into the infection of nearly 30,000 people through tainted blood treatment in the United Kingdom between the 1970s and 1980s has returned to the spotlight this week after former British Prime Minister Sir John Major appeared and gave evidence under oath.

The former prime minister, who was answering questions on what his government knew about the contaminated blood treatment that killed thousands of people, has said the victims had “incredibly bad luck”, a description that angered the survivors and bereaved families who were watching.

Though he later apologised, saying his remark was not intended to be offensive, the victims demanded an apology.

What is the scandal about?

During the 1970s and 1980s, the UK's national health services provider (NHS) gave patients with haemophilia and other blood disorders contaminated blood infected with HIV or hepatitis C.

The contaminated blood was provided as blood-clotting treatments while the UK was experiencing a shortage of donated blood.

To address a huge demand for factor VIII – the blood clotting treatment, the NHS imported blood products from the United States. The blood was distilled from thousands of people, including prisoners who were paid to donate, but it was never screened before transfusions

and thus infected nearly 30,000 people with diseases.

The victims and the bereaved families claim they were never warned of the infected blood risk and accuse the government of negligence.

How did the story come to light?

The scandal came to public attention only in 2016, when organisations advocating for the victims and their families pressured the government to investigate the matter and reveal the truth.

Jason Evans, the founder of Factor 8, an organisation which lobbied for a public inquiry into the scandal, told Al Jazeera the group has never given up on holding the government to account.

“I think those in power felt that they can get away with it and it has been forgotten and that they had successfully peddled a narrative that this was an unavoidable accident which isn't the truth,” he said.

The health scandal is believed to be the biggest treatment disaster in the UK's modern history.

What is the investigation looking at?

The independent public inquiry was established to examine the circumstances under which thousands of people with haemophilia have been given infected blood products since 1970.

The investigation announced by the UK's ex-Prime Minister Theresa May on July 11, 2017, started taking evidence in early 2019.

It is led by a former British judge, Sir Brian Langstaff, who is supported by a team of legal professionals, investigators and civil servants.

They have conducted several hearings in London, Edinburgh, Leeds, Cardiff and Belfast and have spoken to the victims, bereaved families and former senior government officials.

They are expected to question more senior government officials to give evidence.

The investigation looks into how much was known about the infected blood products and whether patients were warned of the risks.

They are also looking at whether the scandal was deliberately covered up over the years.

What could be the inquiry's outcome?

Matt Hancock, who served as the UK health secretary when he appeared before the inquiry in 2021, said the government would abide by whatever the final report recommended.

“Should the outcome of this inquiry be substantial compensation for the victims, the government will provide that,” he told the inquiry.

Thousands of people in several other countries, including Japan, Canada and the US, were also infected in the 1970s.

Some of them sued the companies that supplied the infected products and were paid millions of dollars. Several countries have convicted government officials and suppliers.

But in the UK, even though that did not happen, the inquiry announced that criminal trials could also be recommended when the final report is published in 2023.



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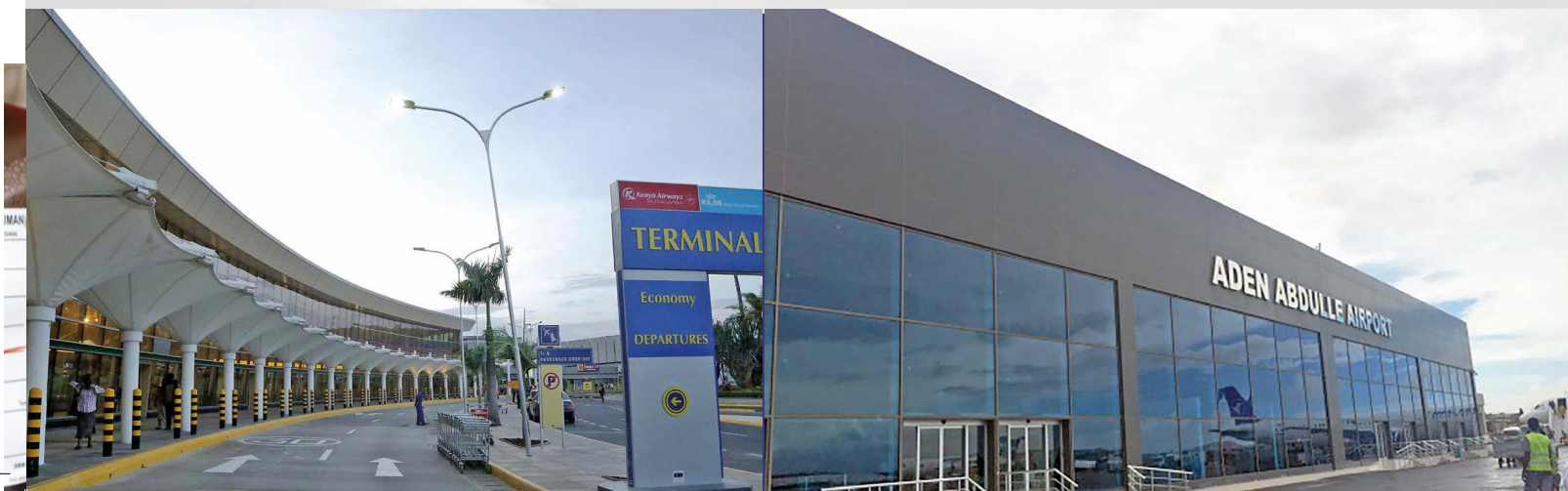
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Somali's missing power

BY ABDIRAHMAN YUSUF ALI

Somalia is continually facing a host of challenges as it struggles to emerge from years of internal turmoil and misrule. Despite concerted efforts by local and international actors, the country still finds itself in a rut unable to shake off the shackles of its accumulated crises.

Our efforts toward a peaceful and economically have largely remained unrewarded given the country's fragility level.

In this article anchored on the concept of Uistaag Dadka iyo Dalka (Stand up for the people and the country), a social movement through community building platform for nation-building, I argue that Somalia's inability to leap from its state of underdevelopment and stagnation is the absence of social trust in Somali governance system. This article also proposes some measured necessary to rebuild social trust in Somali governance system and engage all citizens in active and genuine state-building.

Social trust and acceptance

Social trust and acceptance are what make the governance systems legitimate, allowing social cohesion and the functioning of democracy. Social trust and acceptance also create the necessary environment for investments and economic development.

Over two decades since the advent of the Transitional National Government (TNG), Somalis are gradually warming up to the government and acceptance of life within a framework of law but a sense of incredulity still prevails.

Somali's social trust in public institutions is vital for the government to respond to insecurity and earn community confidence to participate in tackling the social, economic and political instability - allocating well-streamlined resources to build social trust at the Federal and state levels is the bottom line to build an effective governance system. Trust in government dissuades the citizen from

clannism as it rallies them around a common interest and belief in the supremacy of the state and not the clan.

The election of a new President in Somalia on May 15 presented the country with yet another opportunity to assess the social contract between the citizen and the state, and recalibrate missed milestones toward rebuilding a productive and mutual relationship between the two entities.

Accountability and Transparency

Theft of public resources remains pervasive in Somalia and kept the country in the 'most corrupt' club longer. By failing to tackle graft, citizens cannot entrust the government with the management of their affairs and that can be demonstrated by public aversion to tax payment, reliance on Al-Shabaab for justice, use of violence to address disputes and lack of commitment towards the protection of public resources.

On account of group and personal interests, Somalia is stuck in a lack of accountability and transparency: The incessant fights between the President and Prime Minister due to personal interests, lack of constitutional clarity on the powers and responsibilities of the two officers and commercialization of the vote of confidence by parliament have adversely eroded public confidence in government.

In the aftermath of the fire officials have acknowledged the lack of support and aid to the state of Sanaag. However, it is legitimate to question whether political turmoil and political sensitivity is putting life and health at risk in Sanaag.

This constitutional ambiguity and opaqueness have also set a breeding ground for corruption since it is not clear which institution ought to hold the other accountable. The two chambers of parliament have for example feuded severally and failed to hold the executive to account but instead, have pegged their vote on the dollar.

To address these issues and restore Somali's missing power of Social trust and confidence in government the new President should consider the following remedies:

Fast-track the establishment of government institutions with clear-cut mandates. This could include the definite relations and powers of the two houses of parliament and the role of the judiciary in arbitrating constitutional matters when parliament fails to resolve certain matters.

Creating a government accountability office that fights against corruption, and group and personal interests

Opening up the government for public assessment, public participation in decision making, public resources allocations and utilization.

Ensure public safety and protection of lives and livelihoods and fast and equal access to social justice

Promote open governance. Somal people are strongly need to fully aware of and participate in planning of how every dollar of the recently approved \$917 million national budget is utilized.

Fix the elections-One-man-one-vote

One of the overriding factors for lack of citizen trust in government is the inability to directly choose the leaders who can adequately represent the interests of the people. Although the 4.5 clan-based system has addressed a challenge during the country's most trying moments, its usefulness has been overtaken by time. By placing the responsibility to elect in the hands of the individual electorate, Somalis will be motivated to associate more with and establish trust with the government because they have taken a direct part in its constitution. They will no longer see it as a government forced down their throats by a few individuals. To attain a functioning democracy in Somalia, the government should consider:

Set priorities right. There is no need of



putting up huge shining buildings with skeleton staff or idling officials. Therefore, human capital must be maximized vis-à-vis infrastructural spending.

Accessibility, public safety and protection of lives and livelihoods are most critical and should be given priority.

Expedite the process toward one-person-one-vote elections. There should not be any further excuses on this matter. We are used to the government sitting on its laurels until the last year of elections when it announces that a universal vote is not possible because of inadequate preparation.

District administration empowerment: Federalism is new to Somalia and yet has to be implemented to realise a functional democracy. Adequate resources must be allocated to the regional governments to bolster economic inclusivity and hence citizen participation in governance.

An effective governance system is to be initiated by the district administration and well-implemented at district administration. This is the closest government unit to the citizens and they have a direct say over it. If well resourced

and capacitated to meet citizen expectations, the journey towards robust democracy and citizen social trust in government can earnestly commence.

Social Activism

Robust social activism that unites people's thoughts, and voices and jolts them into action is sorely needed in Somalia; the kind of activism that no anything other than the common good, filters group and self-interest and champions for prudent leadership.

We should highly consider peace and development activism that offers:

Continually holds the government accountable demanding protection of lives and livelihoods, inclusive public participation in public reforms and building relationships between state and citizens

Co-shaping common good mindsets to benefit every Somali citizen and filters out negative ethnicity and wrong group ideology that hates destroys and kills among us.

Abdirahman Yusuf Ali
Social and Peace activist
continued on page 43>>



Somalia's Ali Jimale Mosque: Magnificent architecture and one of a kind.

BY FU'AD HAJI ABDI WELI, 5 Magazine

Ali Jimale Mosque is a new mosque erected in Mogadishu. It is within walking distance of Aden Adde Stadium. Sheikh Ahmed Nur Ali Jimale, a wealthy businessman, provided the funding for its construction and named it after his late father with the intention of Sadaqa for his father.

A two-story parking structure is also a component of the mosque, in addition to a study section that features housing and dining facilities. In 2017, work on the Ali Jimale Mosque, with a total cost of \$12 million. The mosque can accommodate 5,550 people, including both men and women.

The President of the Federal Republic of Somalia, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, joined the Somali people in prayer on the first

day that the newly constructed Ali Jimale Mosque in Mogadishu, the country's capital, was accessible to the public.

"This mosque was built on the ground

"This mosque was built on the ground provided by the government; I want to thank the Somali people who invested their money and built it with their donations, and this is a good symbol that shows how the government and the people are taking responsibility for our good religion."

provided by the government; I want to thank the Somali people who invested their money and built it with their donations, and this is a good symbol that shows how the government and the people are taking responsibility for our good religion. We are protecting it, We are protecting it; we are doing what promotes the religion."

This mosque's construction, which began in 2017 and lasted many years, was overseen by the Buruj construction business. This new mosque was constructed in a far more elaborate fashion than mosques in Somalia, and its structure is comparable to mosques in Turkey.

The Ali Jamaale Mosque also features an education department, a parking lot that can accommodate around 150 vehicles, a grocery for Friday prayers and neighborhood residents, and a café where people may dine.



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Rwanda impressive story of recovery- lesson for Somalia

ON their recovery from civil war

War has a cost; it divides and splits families, strains relationships, destroys property, and the people who suffer the most are not the leaders, but the population. The aftermath of the air missiles that smashed into an aircraft carrying then Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana and Burundian President Cyprien Ntaryamira and killed them.

The reaction by Hutu militias to conduct a horrific genocide against minority Rwanda's Tutsi and transformed the country into a butcher. While the United Nations and the United States have received their fair share of criticism for their responses, what can we learn for the future?

Joyce Leader, the US Chief of Mission in Rwanda, revealed immediately after the accident that killed both presidents that they were aware of a systematic massacre of Tutsi. According to a memo, she classified the killings as war casualties, politically motivated murder, and genocide. That such information reached the highest levels of the CIA and nothing was done to prevent it plainly demonstrates that warnings are ineffective and that those affected must always take early action to prevent or lessen such disasters.

Another lesson is that such mass crimes do not need cutting-edge technology to carry out. In Rwanda, there were no chemical weapons or gas chambers, just small guns and machetes used by neighbors against neighbors in broad daylight, with little concern for human life.

The post-conflict rebuilding of Rwanda must be highlighted that the social reconciliation is a crucial component.



The Rwandan administration has maintained a denial of the social and political importance of ethnic identity or diversity. Some experts believe that despite living together as one people, the Belgians utilized ethnic distinctions to segregate the Hutu and Tutsi.

While ethnic identity cannot be erased, it is critical that the political space allows for free expression among people, as this encourages them to appreciate their distinctions even more. Sri Lanka is a fantastic example of this, having embraced its diverse ethnicity as a method of healing scars.

Many analysts continue to herald it as a rising nation, and they are correct. Kigali is still a gleaming metropolis on the hills, pristine and unlike many other African cities. It has well-kept landscaping, calm roads, and clean pathways. Houses may be seen on the hills, and valleys have been designated as picturesque parks to attract visitors. It's no surprise that they were able to

secure a collaboration with Arsenal Football Club of England, one of the most powerful soccer teams in the world, as a tourist ambassador. On the criteria of ease of living, the United Nations places both Kigali and New York at par for human resource purposes.

All residents have embraced the Umuganda, a monthly community service day. The country is also luring and promoting itself as the region's commercial centre. Many foreigners are drawn to the nation by the government's zero tolerance for corruption and simplicity of conducting business, particularly establishing a corporation.

Finally, the Rwandese realize where they have been; the anguish and scars remain with them. Efforts to move away from that anguish are commendable, as is the economic progress achieved. While we must be aware of the repressed voices, we must proceed with caution since Rwanda is on the right course and is peaceful.



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Meet Mo Fit: The Somali trainer fighting obesity in Mogadishu



Mohamed Abdi, popularly known as Mo Fit, says he wants to change what Somalis see as the ideal body image.

BY HAMZA MOHAMED , Mogadishu, Somalia

Mohamed Abdi is a man on a mission taking on a task many in Somalia dare not attempt.

Mohamed, popularly known as Mo Fit, is a 29-year-old fitness consultant and nutritionist in a country where having a “full figure” is seen as the ideal body image.

Four years ago when he began his business as an online fitness consultancy, many in the Horn of African country advised him to find another battle because they saw his chosen line of work as unwinnable.

“What our people see as beautiful, the rest of the world has moved on from that. Our people when they are overweight, they are proud of it,” the father-of-one told Al Jazeera.

“If a lady does not have big legs or meat

on her face, people say she is not VIP. If men don’t have big bellies, they are seen as poor. That is not the case [in] the rest of the world,” he added.

Since moving back from Rotterdam, the Netherlands where he grew up, Mohamed has encountered numerous business challenges but says he now sees light at the end of the tunnel.

“Slowly, our people are waking up to the reality, that having a big belly is not healthy and absolutely not unattractive,” Mo Fit, a former bodybuilder, said.

At first, it was a struggle to get the city’s



residents to buy into his message. But after campaigning relentlessly on local radio, television stations and social media, he has become a celebrity and his message is finding more keen ears.

He now employs half a dozen staff to help him get Mogadishu fit. And on the day Al Jazeera went to his third-floor office in Mogadishu Mall in the city's Hamar Weyne district, visits were strictly by appointment to accommodate the deluge of potential clients.

Mohamed's biggest struggle, an ongoing battle, was to change the eating habits of his fellow countrymen.

"Every country has a culture and unique food. The way our people consume food is not right. Most of our food is carbs. And many of our people don't live beyond 40 years," he said. "Every household it is either pasta, rice or anjeero (Somali pancake) that they consume. Those foods are not necessarily bad but the way we cook, what we add to it and our portions are just wrong."

Mohamed also noticed that for many people there was no set time for eating meals.

"Our people eat what they want to eat when they want to eat. We don't pay attention to what we are putting in our bodies," he said, his muscular body slumping back into the seat.

"Slowly, our people are waking up to the reality, that having a big belly is not healthy and absolutely not unattractive," Mo Fit, a former bodybuilder, said.



And now he is winning the trust of an increasing number of the city's residents. One is Ahmed Aden Ahmed who never imagined he would be able to shed the pounds before he met Mo Fit almost a year ago.

"I used to be fat. I was used to wear large clothes when going out. Now, I'm able to do a lot of things that I was not able to do before," the 25-year-old engineer told Al Jazeera after finishing an early morning workout session under the watchful eye of Mo Fit.

"Before, I was 158kilograms (348 pounds) and now I'm 95kg (209 pounds). I have shed 63kg (139 pounds) in a period of ten months. When people see me they ask 'Ahmed have you been sick? I tell them that I have signed up for gym and transformed myself. But many still don't believe you can lose weight by going to the gym," he said, smiling while wiping sweat from his brow.

Seeing that most of his clients were struggling to eat healthily and not consuming the right portions, Mohammed saw a business opportunity and started a meal plan and supplement line.

Clients order the food via an online app and it is then delivered by motorbike anywhere in the city.

Farah Omar Suleiman, an office worker, says he leads an active lifestyle but has always struggled to eat healthily.

"I chose Mo Fit meals because the food is balanced. The food tastes good and is clean," Farah, 25, told Al Jazeera. "Before, my weight was going up. But now I'm maintaining my weight at the target that I wanted."

What started as a hobby is now such a big deal that Mohammed is now in the process of opening up gyms in the city next.

In the interim, he says his one-man fight against obesity in Somalia will continue.

"You will see a lot of people going to hospitals, they are all feeling unwell. But they don't need to go to hospital. They need to control their diet, exercise and have good sleep. That is all they need," he said.

Follow Hamza Mohamed on Twitter: @Hamza_Africa



Somalia should create Education as the cornerstone of the society

“When books are opened, we learn we have wings to assist us fly.”

Anonymous. This phrase underlines the value of education not only to a person but a country. South Korea, Singapore, Japan are examples of countries that undertook to invest in education and are reaping the results. Over time, these countries have created strong institutions and ended up producing technology, the world depends on, like Samsung.

Contrastingly, the same cannot be stated that much for Somalia, war-torn and split with clannism; we have denied our populace the possibility of an education. Even the one that exists, the quality is doubtful and there is no standardization or a fully thought-out curriculum to be applied and adhered to. Individual schools follow diverse curricula and transferring of pupils from one institution to the other is nearly difficult.

This is a challenge to education policy makers from elementary school, intermediate and even higher level of college also, to come up with a comparable policy. Uniformity is crucial in charting a cohesive educational orientation and ensuring that graduates are equipped with skills current and updated. The policy will also analyze the courses and topic provided and assess their relevance to the demands of both Somalia and the 21st century.

In Somalia, 70 percent of the population is under 30 years of age, however the percentage of unemployment is at roughly 67 percent according to a UNICEF assessment. The survey also adds that most pupils enter school in Somalia at a later age of between (14-17) years as compared to the universal age of 6 years. This has prompted UNICEF to equip youth with technical education and vocational training to

relieve unemployment. Also emphasizing that a strong education curriculum may be utilized to educate the public against violent extremist activities, thus aiding limit terrorism.

A well-educated population improves the civic obligation of individuals, emboldens democratic space and strengthens the country economically. Thus, education too must not discriminate against gender. Both boys and girls must be permitted by their parents and the government and its leadership should act if a youngster is denied such an opportunity. Easy access to instructional material must also be facilitated, including establishing and equipping libraries and labs with books and computers.

Another fantastic feature that should be of attention is the quality of teacher preparation in Somalia. A large number of inexperienced instructors and especially unqualified ones compromises on the quality of instruction. The potential to provide to the pupils and satisfy the goals of learning is therefore great with such.

In Somalia, a new simplified education system, the 4-4-4 system is in effect. Under this system, kids will spend four years in lower primary, four years in upper primary and another four in upper primary then enrol to higher schools of study.

The language of teaching too has been determined on.

Seven key subjects will be taught. They will cover mathematics, physics, social studies, Islamic studies, Arabic, English and Somali.

Unlike in the past when there was mayhem. The language of teaching will be Somali, while Arabic and English will be utilized in Secondary school and higher. Similarly, the books in the curriculum have been written to reflect on this curricular reform.

Seven key subjects will be taught. They will cover mathematics, physics, social studies, Islamic studies, Arabic, English and Somali. A emphasis on the Koran will be done in the Islamic studies and so will the kids be educated on the value of healthy lives and peace.

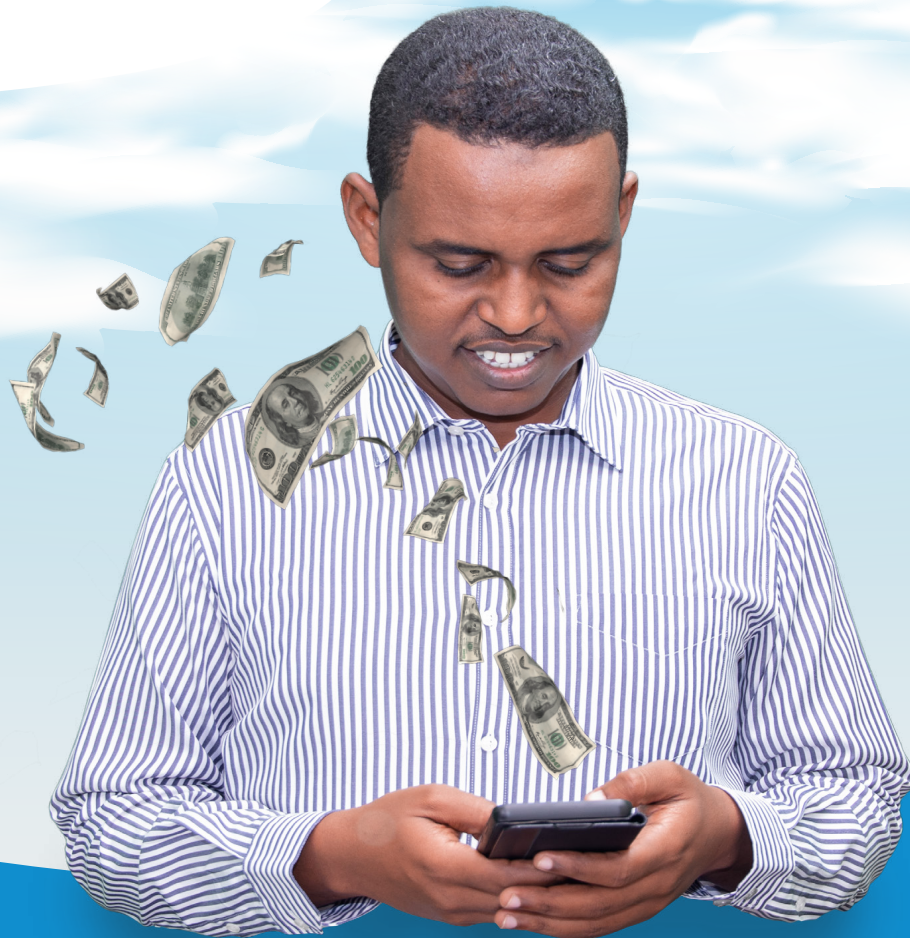
Information Communications and Technology will also be taught. Students with skills in sports or the arts will also have a clear route that acknowledges their abilities.

To improve education quality, Somalia must also adopt international best practices. A excellent method is to cut the cost of schooling or perhaps remove it like Kenya achieved it with their Free Primary Education.

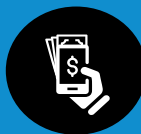
It is indisputable that enrollment soared, and that the government, via its local leadership, enforced this by making school attendance obligatory for all school-age children. In Malawi, enrollment increased to 51 percent as a result of this action.

The school lunch program is another factor that has helped keep students in school. Providing meals during school hours alleviates hunger and promotes everyday attendance. Increases in subject scores and attentiveness have also been ascribed to lunch programs, as children who are satisfied are attentive and focused.

Education of parents is crucial to ensure that children attend school. When a parent sees and realizes the necessity of an education, they will want it to be given to their children. The importance of education must be widely understood to parents and in turn they will pass it on to the children.



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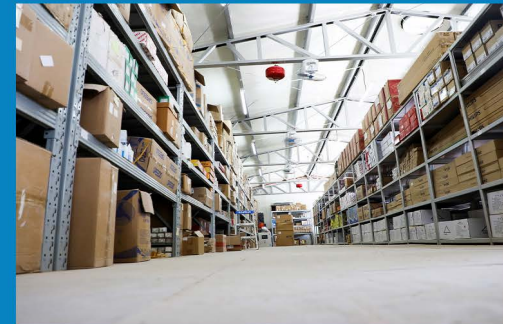
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Deeqa offers integrated and comprehensive construction solutions in Somalia. For four decades the company has offered satisfactory results to its customers. Deeqa's approach begins with pre-construction.



SUPPLY SERVICES

DEEQA offers a wide array of supply services and solutions that are keenly tailored to meet our clients specific needs and demands. We pride ourselves in providing superior customer service to our costumer .





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