



Magazine

Authentic regional coverage

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Anniversary



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The boy from the tree and his unique story: Brigadier General Farhan Mohamud Aden-Qaroole



HORMUUD @20

BY FU'AD HAJI ABDI WELI, 5 magazine

Hormuud, a Somali-owned telecommunications firm, has achieved significant success and is a source of national pride for Somalis. Throughout its existence for the last 20 years, the firm has been a dependable ally to Somalis. Founded on April 2, 2002, in Mogadishu, Somalia, at a time when Somalia lacked a stable government, the organization has grown enormously, defying all odds and refuting the notion that telecommunications firms cannot survive in such situations.

The organizations started off with a total of ten clients and around two hundred and fifty stockholders when Hormuud was first established; what seemed like a meager beginning turned out to be a blessing in disguise.

If the idea of forming Hormuud had not been hatched, then it would have simply meant that a foreign telecommunication would have been operating in Somalia. The founders, all of whom were Somalis, never had any donors or foreign assistances, and it

was established with Somali money.

This telecommunications company is Somalia's first private business to receive international ISO certification, ISO is a set of standards that provides assistance to organizations in ensuring that they meet the needs of customers and other stakeholders.

Hormuud presence

As of right now, Hormuud has millions of subscribers, thousands of stockholders, hundreds of customer service centers, a coverage rate of more than 80% of south and central Somalia, and it is a dominant mobile network provider in Somalia with roughly 52% of the entire Somali Telecom market share.

Hormuud telecom was awarded special recognition award by U-abaal-gud Forum and was recognized for their remarkable support for youth, women, and entrepreneurship. The philanthropic activities done by the foundation have changed lives for the better. It shows that the company takes its corporate social responsibility seriously. There is so



much that needs to be done but it is a good thing to see the willingness to make the world better.

The company provides a critical economic and transformative lifeline to the Somali population. Hormuud has been one of the few private companies that have greatly

influenced the economic growth of the country. After the war, the unemployment rate in Somalia was at an all-time high.

EVC

Through its services such as mobile banking, the giant network provider has helped in sustaining the dying



banking system.

The banking system has been getting some activities because of these mobile money services. Today, customers use EVC Plus for their daily activities, including various payments such as utility bills, school fees, and groceries. On the other hand, EVC Plus is the most preferred choice by businesses for their transactions and payments. The World Bank estimated, in 2016 that 69% of all payments are done via Mobile Money.

The most exciting part of the EVC Plus story is that it's free. This was a strategic decision by the Company as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility and to promote financial inclusion and make peoples' lives easy. The same World Bank survey suggested that over 70% of the Somali population is Mobile Money subscribers – a very high figure of financial inclusion compared to other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The nature of the EVC Plus business model didn't only promote financial inclusion, but also boosted the money circulation and

83%

Percentage in penetration rate that EVC Plus now has in metropolitan areas and is working to broaden financial inclusion, particularly among the most disadvantaged and marginalized members of society.

improved the economic development by eliminating all kinds of transaction costs related to physical cash. As a result, EVC Plus has created a robust ecosystem that attracted Hawala businesses to reach out to their customers in remote and difficult places.

EVC Plus now has a penetration rate of 83% in metropolitan areas and is working to broaden financial inclusion, particularly among the most disadvantaged and marginalized members of society.

Hormuud's Role Within the Country's Internet

Hormuud Telecom has also been instrumental in the development of information and communications technology (ICT) as well as the creation of new employment opportunities. For instance, those who operate technical equipment have been given the opportunity to get orientation and training, which has significantly increased their ability to implement and make use of information and communication technologies.

Hormuud has been instrumental in **continued on page 8>>**





continued from page 7>>

the Somali people's adoption of digital technology, as seen by the company's successful implementation of the country's first indigenous mobile money application.

One of the known services is WAAFI, which is a platform that, for the first time, provides Somalis with access to a variety of digital services across a single platform. Customers can access their bank accounts, carry out online transactions, send international remittances, and make domestic and international phone calls all from within the app itself.

Chairman Ahmed Mohammed Yuusuf said: "Somalia is a unique example of a country where digital adoption is widespread among all age ranges and demographics. We are continuing to see a move towards a position where Somalia can claim to be the world's first truly cashless economy, and the roll out of WAAFI is an important step on that journey. Providing businesses and customers with more efficient technology is going to be a driving force behind the development of the Somali economy and its integration with the wider international community."

Economic growth

There is an important and dependent relationship between telecommunication and economic growth. This shows the significance that Hormuud Telecom has to society in general. Investment in telecommunications infrastructure is one of the crucial factors in the



economic growth of a country. Hormuud has raked in a large sum of foreign investments in the past few years. These investments bring in a new supply of cash and opportunities.

Hormuud Telecom has participated in a variety of ventures inside the county, one of which being a partnership with Beco Investment, which is an organization that supplies electricity. Prior to these last three years, the cost of one kilowatt-hour of electrical power in Mogadishu was around \$1.20.

The ever-increasing price of power created obstacles for the growth of enterprises.

On the other hand, the cost of one unit of such energy is now close to \$0.25. Hormuud made an investment in Buruuj Construction, a business that offers reasonably priced delivery of essential infrastructure to its customers. This



was done because there is a critical shortage of low-cost housing and workplace alternatives.

In addition, the Buruuj Technical Secondary School contributes to the organization's goal of educating young Somalis, and as of right now, the firm employs a total of 600 individuals who have earned their certifications.

This has led to the emergence of job opportunities that foster stability and skills-driven entrepreneurship, both of which are essential to meet the needs of a population that is rapidly urbanizing.

With these and any other initiatives, Hormuud is not just a company that specializes in telecommunications, but it is also a Somali ally company that looks out for the people of Somalia.

NY trip: The Success Of President Hassan's Trip And His UN Speech

BY FU'AD HAJI ABDI WELI, 5 magazine

The President delivered a speech at the United Nations in which he talked about a wide range of topics, he also met with world leaders during his long two-week trip, which took him through Kenya, the United States of America, and the United Kingdom.

The president has recently been abroad, his journey began in Kenya, where he attended the inauguration of Kenya's President; he then embarked on another tour that saw him in London and New York; during his stay in New York, the president met with many leaders, including President Biden of the

United States and UN Secretary-General Mr. António Guterres, among others. He also visited with members of the Somali community in New York.

The most important part of his journey was his address to the United Nations General Assembly, where he emphasized his government's efforts to alleviate the effects of drought, reform the security forces, fight terrorism, seek peace, and build governance.

The President informed the world's leaders on the activities done by his Government since he took office, which included the liberation of some parts of the nation from Al-Shabaab terrorists with the assistance of the people and

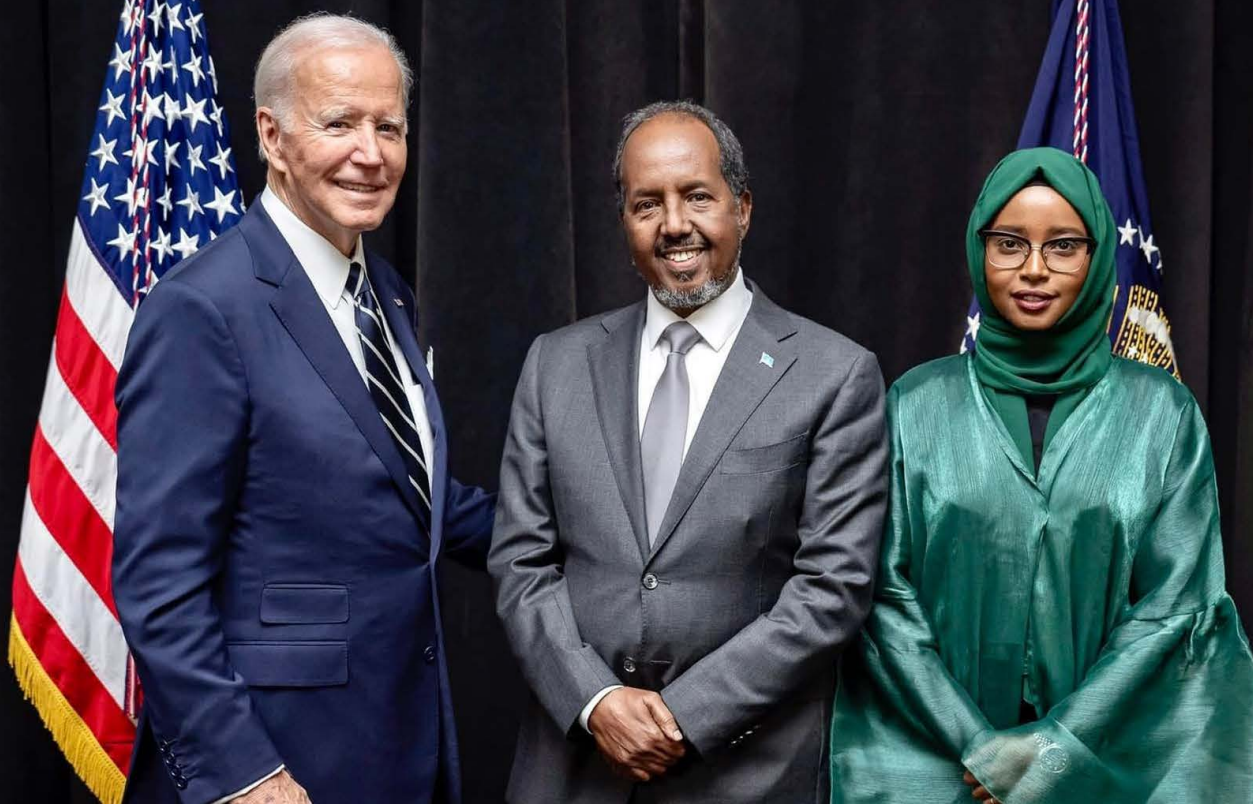
the Armed Forces. The President also shared with the world the pain and horrors caused by the terrorists, as well as how eliminating them should be an essential priority.

The president pointed out that Al-Shabab are fraudulently claiming to be loyal to Islamic principles while at the same time blowing up water wells that the nomads rely on and burning vehicles carrying food, which has resulted in the deaths of people living in those regions.

President Hassan Sheikh praised the Somali people's focus and alertness in dealing with an opponent that is used to shedding their blood. He also

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emphasized the need of assisting the Somali government in this struggle, ensuring peace and security in the region, and ensuring the Somali people's basic rights to government services and a better life.

The President also presented a comprehensive report on the strategy to reinforce the Armed Forces, the effect of climate change and COVID-19 on his country, the focus that the government places on job creation for the young, economic development, good neighborly relations, and the implementation of a Somali agreement.

Aside from his address United Nations General Assembly, the President met with international leaders and discussed the continuous challenges against terror groups and draughts that the Somali people are now facing. He told them of his administration's efforts to speed the rescue of Somalis suffering from drought and to communicate the country's difficult situation with the international community.

The president also had a fruitful meeting with financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The institutions promised to assist Somalia in developing projects in the

nation that would be based on the genuine needs of the Somali people, which they accepted and would have a positive impact on Somalia's progress.

Important meetings that the President had with a variety of world leaders included the following:

Al-Burhan

The President met with the head of the Sudanese Supreme Council, Mr. Abdifatah Abdirahman Al-Burhan, in New York as part of his meetings with world leaders. Mr. Hassan and Mr. Abdifatah exchanged information on the situation in the region and the current issues.

President Hassan Sheikh reminded

his Sudanese counterpart that the government and the Somali people are working with a shared vision of Somalia and the world, so they prioritize the reduction of conflicts and the maintenance of stability.

The president discussed with his Sudanese counterpart the efforts of the Federal Government of Somalia to stabilize and develop the country, particularly the battle of the Somali people and army to free the nation from terrorism. President Hassan praised the people and government of Sudan for their unwavering support of the Somali people, with whom they have had a long-standing relationship based on collaboration and fraternity.

António Guterres

President Hassan met with UN Secretary-General António Guterres, during which the two addressed emergency relief for the drought and development initiatives underway in the nation. The President discussed with the Secretary General of the United Nations the battle that the Somali people and the army are waging together to liberate the country from the grip of terrorism. He also reaffirmed his dedication to the war against terrorism and the maintenance of the nation's stability.

António Guterres, the Secretary

The President also presented a comprehensive report on the strategy to reinforce the Armed Forces, the effect of climate change and COVID-19 on the nation, the focus that the government places on job creation for the young, economic development, good neighborly relations, and the implementation of a Somali agreement.



General of the United Nations, expressed his gratitude to the President for sharing his thoughts on the reorganization of development projects that are being carried out in the country. President Hassan extended his gratitude to the United Nations for their assistance to the Federal Government of Somalia and urged the organization to keep providing assistance to the Somali people.

Joe Biden

President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud was among the foreign leaders who were honored by President Joe Biden at a reception. The two leaders exchanged a few words briefly. The President expressed his gratitude to the United States government for its efforts in the battle against the terrorist organization of Al-Shabaab, which poses a threat to the lives of the Somali people.

World Bank

President Hassan had a meeting with the President of the World Bank, Mr. David Malpass where the two leaders discussed the completion of the debt relief program and the development projects of international donors based on the needs of the country. Mr. Hassan presented the investment opportunities, and shared with the World Bank, the areas of interest of the Federal Government of Somalia to direct the projects implemented in the country, such areas as education, fishing, knowledge of agriculture and development of private business. owned, to increase the economy and income.

On his part, Mr. David Malpass welcomed the President's views on the restructuring of the development projects carried out in the country, and pointed out that the President's recommendations and suggestions are



based on their plans, and they are also reforming the areas they focus on the projects.

Mr. David Malpass praised the people and the government of Somalia for their commitment to the development of the economy, debt relief, building infrastructure and finding a solution to the current situation, including drought and floods.

International Monetary Fund

During his visit to the United States, the President met with the head of the International Monetary Fund, Mrs. Kristalina Georgieva. Ms. Kristalina, the chief of the International Monetary Fund, underlined her commitment to working with the Somali government on key goals, including the advancement of the economic reform process, debt reduction, and the involvement of the IMF in drought assistance in the country.

The President commended the IMF for its assistance to the Federal Government of Somalia, emphasizing their commitment to the Somali people.

Lloyd James

During his tour, the President also met with Mr. Lloyd James Austin, who is the Department of Defense for the United States. The discussion centered on ways to strengthen cooperation between the two countries in the areas

of security and regional stability, as well as increasing the support of the United States in Somalia and the fight against terrorist groups.

Mr. Lloyd, remarked that the peace and stability of Somalia is the basis for the peace of the region and the globe, and as a result, his nation is dedicated to providing assistance.

Antony Blinken

Mr. Hassan met with Secretary of State Antony Blinken of the United States Department of State in Washington. The President and the Secretary of State of the United States addressed the improvement of diplomatic ties and collaboration between the two nations, as well as the crucial assistance provided by the United States to Somalia.

President Hassan stressed the significance of avoiding environmental degradation, the efforts of the Somali government to prevent hunger, and the selfless efforts of the Somali people and the Armed Forces to free places where terrorists have occupied territory inside the nation. Mr. Antony Blinken, for his part, emphasized the continuing of US government assistance for Somalia, particularly in the areas of drought relief, government rebuilding, social service development, economic infrastructure, and the fight against terrorism.

Prime Minister Hamza's Pledge: Security Enhancement In The Country

BY FU'AD HAJI ABDI WELI, 5 magazine

Somalia is now engaged in the process of eradicating Alshabab from several locations. There have been many campaigns against Alshabab in which members of the government military as well as civilians have engaged in combat. This war is now officially being fought between the Somali people and Alshabab, and the combatants include not only the national army but also the locals who have organized themselves and are working to free themselves from Alshabab's control.

The Somali National Army (SNA) and clan-based militias known as the Macawisley have begun an offensive against Shabaab in the central Hiraan region of Somalia. This assault began at the beginning of the last month, these operations spread into the adjacent lands of Galguduud, which is situated farther to the northeast of Hiraan, as well as Bay, which is located to the southwest of Hiraan.

The current conflict has seen significant success for the SNA and Macawisley, liberating many towns. The recent advances in a big-scale attack have forced al-Shabab

millicants out of huge areas of the country's center territory. The United States of America and the African Union's Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) have both indicated that they are participating in some capacity in the effort to assist the offensives.

ATMIS said that it was providing air support and medical evacuation to SNA and Macawisley forces. At the same time, the

United States Military's Africa Command announced that it had conducted an airstrike in support of SNA soldiers.

PM Hamza Abdi Barre has made it a priority to rid the country of the Alshabba threat; during his visit to Beledweyne last month, he indicated that his administration would prioritize the liberation of Al Shabaab-controlled territories. He also said that





PM Hamza has proposed, in order to enhance the political role of national security, that the National Security Council convene special meetings in order to direct the operations that are being carried out in order to liberate the country from the grip of terrorism.

role of national security, that the National Security Council convene special meetings in order to direct the operations that are being carried out in order to liberate the country from the grip of terrorism. These meetings would be held in order for the National Security Council to strengthen the political role of national security.

The PM also ordered the formations of a committee for the organization and coordination of activities in the fight against terrorism. The committee will consist of the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister of Defense, the Minister of Security, the Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs, The Minister of Interior, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Youth, the Minister of Communications, the Commanders of the Armed Forces.

PM Hamza led Government has also announced that there will be a national conference to encouragement, and nationalization of the popular uprising against terrorism, which will be arbitrated by the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs, and Reconciliation. Additionally, the government will establish a program to fight violent extremist ideology, which will be renamed the National Agency for Combating Violent Extremist Ideology.

Furthermore, the government, via Prime Minister Hamza, plans to adopt and execute the legislation to prevent money laundering and fight terrorism financing (AML/CFT), as well as to target and dismantle the networks of terrorist groups responsible for funding; at the same time, a list of prohibitions and penalties will be drawn up and implemented, allowing for the total eradication of all financial sources utilized by al-Shabab.

his visit to Beledweyne was intended to encourage and assist the people of the region who had heroically resisted the Al-Shabaab insurgency.

PM Hamza Abdi referred to Alshabab as a cruel outfit when he was reacting to the group's decision to blow up water wells. He stated that this is unacceptable and that he would make it a priority to liberate every inch from Alshabab. Earlier, the President made similar commitments, claiming that "an all-out battle" against Alshabab will begin.

The interior minister of Somalia, Ahmed Moallim Fiqi, said that the government is winning the fight. "Our forces seized territory

from militants which stretches over 40 settlements including villages, places where fewer people live and others where more people live," he said. "These 40 settlements are located only in the Hiran region and a new operation has been launched in the Galgaduud region to liberate more territories, and you can imagine what happened yesterday and today when militants fled their dead comrades and ammunition, and so far, six villages have been liberated, and this only started yesterday."

While this battle is still going on, the government that is headed by PM Hamza has proposed, in order to enhance the political



PM Hamza is keen to get debt relief as rapidly as possible

BY ABDI MOHAMED 5 magazine

The Prime Minister of the Federal Government of Somalia, Honorable Hamza Abdi Barre, expounded on the relevance of the debt relief process for the country's economic development and self-sufficiency during an economic reform conference in Mogadishu. The Prime Minister instructed the ministers to focus on finishing all the laws prior to the debt relief and presenting them to the parliament by the end of the year in order for Somalia to meet the requirements of this period and move on to the next.

Mr. Hamza Abdi Barre has indicated that accountability and openness play a significant part in the government's development agenda, and that all ministries and organizations involved with the debt relief program will work closely with him to ensure the success of continuing initiatives.

In addition, Mr. Hamza Abdi Barre has stated that all ministries and organizations involved with the debt relief program will work together to ensure the success of continuing initiatives. Additionally, the Prime Minister issued an order to all of the ministries instructing them to vigorously fight corruption in order to foster openness

and transparency, which would ultimately lead to an improvement in both community and stakeholder trust in Somalia.

Mr. Hamza remarked that the failure of the government's debt relief program would result in the world's financial institutions losing trust in Somalia, stopping us from obtaining international assistance and blocking the development of new employment that create chances for young people. The Prime Minister noted that if we are successful at this level, the gross domestic product will rise and the economy of the country will expand.

Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, for his part, met with David Malpass, the president of the World Bank, to discuss the end of the debt relief program and the development efforts of international donors based on the needs of

Mr. Hamza remarked that the failure of the government's debt relief program would result in the world's financial institutions losing trust in Somalia

the country. Mr. David Malpass expressed his gratitude to the people of Somalia as well as their government for their commitment to achieving economic development, the reduction of debt, the creation of infrastructure, and the discovery of a solution to the current problem, which includes drought and floods.

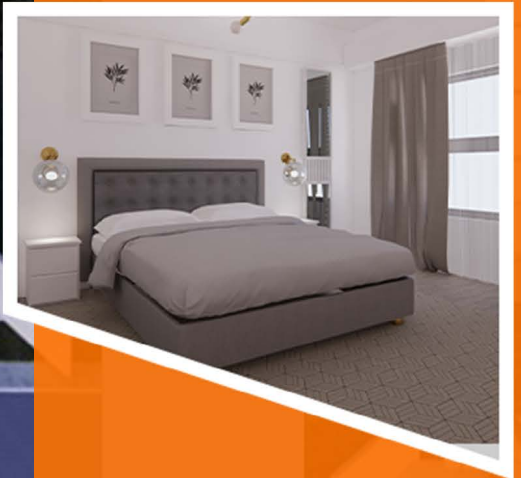
The President, in the same respect, met with Kristalina Georgieva, the head of the International Monetary Fund, and reviewed the successful efforts made to modernize the country's financial system and boosts the efforts of debt relief. In addition, the President met with Ms. Georgieva to explore how the IMF may better assist the country in reducing its debt.

The managing director of the International Monetary Fund, Mrs. Kristalina Georgieva, has indicated that she is willing to speed up the execution of the plan to complete the debt relief procedure. Ms. Kristalina Georgieva, the head of the International Monetary Fund, stressed her commitment to collaborate with the Somali government on critical goals. In particular, she emphasized her commitment to the development of the economic reform process, debt reduction, and their engagement in the country's participation in drought relief.

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The Successful Outcomes Of FMS And The FGS Summit

BY LEILA MOHAMED, 5 magazine

The meeting of the National Consultative Council, which took place in Mogadishu the month before last, was presided over by President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud. During the meeting, the Heads of State of the Federal Government of Somalia and those of the Regional Governments of the country discussed the challenges that are currently being faced by the people and the government, particularly in regards to ensuring the safety of the country, coping with the impacts of drought in the country, and combating terrorist activities.

The Prime Minister of the Federal Government of Somalia, Mr. Hamse Abdi Barre, as well as the Presidents of the States of Jubbaland, Mr. Ahmed Mohamed Islam, South West, Mr. Abdizais Hassan Mohamed (Lafta-garen), Galmudug, Mr. Ahmed Abdi Kariye, and Mr. Hirshabelle were present at the meeting of the National Consultative

Council.

The President and other members of the Council had discussions during the course of the meeting's two days agreed on a number of issues that touched on many issues. The national consultation centered on accelerating efforts to rescue the Somali people, who have been severely affected by the drought. Additionally, the consultation discussed the security issues of the country, reflecting on the points that emerged from the meeting that took place on June 12, 2022.

After a period of prolonged drought, certain regions of our country are in a difficult situation. As a result, the National Consultative Council came to the conclusion that the government should expedite the work to aid the poor people, and it instructed all of the agencies that are participating in the rescue to consolidate their efforts toward mitigating the effects of the drought. The Council has issued an appeal to the people of Somalia to be totally

unified in this time of need.

The Council issues an appeal to all Somalis and various segments of society including elders, intellectuals, businesspeople, young, and women to take a serious stance in the battle against terrorism that is being led by the Army. The Somali National Army in addition to any and all other military organizations. The council reached a consensus to move the Somaliland discussions forward more quickly and produce fruit.

The council works to improve the connection between the two levels of government as well as the degree of collaboration between them in order to guarantee that the government will get both complete confidence and successful outcomes. The council reached an agreement to work toward the goal of ensuring political stability in the nation on the basis of trust, unity, and the supremacy of the country's constitution and laws.





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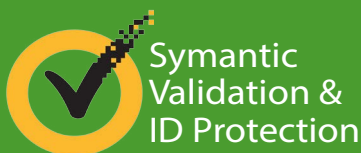
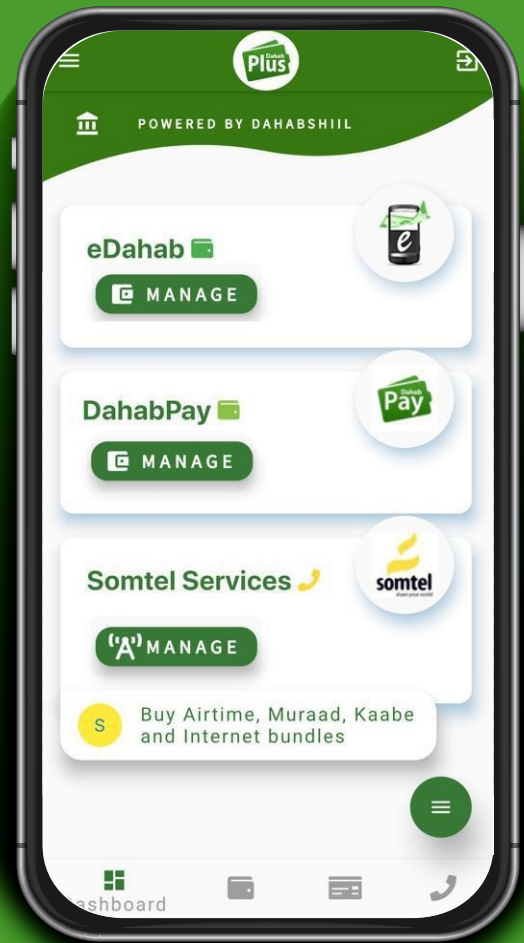
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Corporate Social Responsibility: Hormuud's Contribution To Somalis

commitments and participate in Somalia's development. The program is composed of three core pillars and one pillar that is dependent on the country's condition; these pillars are as follows:

1. Health,
2. Education,
3. Employment opportunities and
4. Emergency response

BY ABDI MOHAMED 5 magazine

The cornerstone objectives of Hormuud Telecom extended beyond the establishment of lucrative commercial enterprises; rather, it included philanthropic and development initiatives which the company intended for the Somali people, particularly those who needed direct assistance (direct aid) and those who are vulnerable in the community.

Hormuud Telecom and Salaam Somali Bank created Hormuud Salaam Foundation, a Waqf institution, in order to assure and execute charitable and support initiatives. The foundation became the first charitable organization in Somalia owned by Somali business entity, whose responsibility it is to enable the fulfilment of the philanthropic obligations of the Hormuud Telecom Company to the nation and the Somali people.

Hormuud Salaam Foundation has established a program to accomplish and ensure that Hormuud Telecom and Salaam Somali Bank satisfy their social welfare

HEALTH

Beginning in 2019, there was a global epidemic of the Covid-19 illness, which caused a great deal of trouble, particularly in developing nations with inadequate medical infrastructure. Using the organization's health promotion pillar, the Hormuud Salaam Foundation played a significant role in the Somali Government's efforts to prevent and increase awareness of the illness and limit its losses, since our nation was unable to react to the disease's challenging consequences, HSF made constant efforts and donations expressly

Despite failures and setbacks Somalia has come a long way and has made some incredible progress both in political and security sectors since the collapse of the Somali government in 1991

focused at aiding efforts to combat the illness.

The organization has demonstrated the following successful measures:

1. Constructing of four sections at the Banadir Hospital which can accommodate 212 beds for Covid-19 patients.
2. The establishment of an oxygen factory capable of producing 144 tons of oxygen per day. The plant's implementation cost more than \$600,000 US dollars, with HSF paying the plant's operating and maintenance expenses on a regular basis (maintenance costs).
3. The HSF has created the short code 449, which patients with covid-19 may use to receive free medical help and advice.
4. HSF has initiated an awareness campaign for all mobile phone users about Covid19 (ringtone).
5. Regionally, HSF has provided an ambulance to Kismayo Hospital

in order to serve Covid-19-infected patients with emergency care.

6. Hormuud Salaam Foundation Hospital donated 5 kidney machines to the Renal Surgery Unit of Darussalam, which offers free support to patients who need dialysis.
7. During outbreaks of infectious illnesses such as waterborne diarrhea, the organization has provided several hospitals in the nation with equipment such as laboratory equipment, generators, beds, fuel, and some medications.
8. In 2022, the Hormuud Salaam Foundation provided ten items to Banadir Hospital, including a bed used to care for preterm infants and a fire engine, as well as working on an efficient project to prepare the hospital's Central Oxygen Supply System.
9. In terms of the development of maternity and child care, the Hormuud Salaam Foundation has established two facilities for mother and child care (MCH) in Mogadishu, which it has executed primarily in the camps of displaced persons, which the organization assists in terms of Fuel, Medicine, and Wages economy.

EDUCATION

In the field of Educational Development, the Hormuud Salaam Foundation has completed a number of initiatives to support the education of the poor, such as establishing and maintaining the School for the Blind in Al-Nur!

The Buruj School of Technology is a Polytechnic Institution with the aims to create graduates of the highest caliber in the sectors of construction, metal welding, electronics, electricity, and home renovation. Sixty percent of Buruj Technical School graduates are employed by the Buruj construction firm, while forty percent work for other construction enterprises in the country.

Annually, 120 students are awarded Hormuud Telecom Scholarships.

The Hormuud Salaam Foundation provides education grants to students at Hormuud University, paying the entire educational charge for 40 students and partly



paying the educational fee for 300 others. Regarding decreasing discrimination and financing the community, HSF covers the expenses of 100 underprivileged students and 20% of the Logistics and Procurement course fees at Hormuud University.

The good news is that in 2021, the Hormuud Salaam Foundation became a member of the UK Chevening Scholarship Program, also, HSF, gives unwavering support to educational institutions throughout the country by assisting in the sales of instructional materials, engines, computers, and educational programs, in addition to the organization's role to assisting students in attaining job experience.

It organizes the STEM (Science Technology Engineer and Medicine) conference yearly and performs an

educational promotion overseas to promote university graduates, such as in the United Kingdom, where the British Somalia graduates' ceremony is held annually.

The group fosters the return of educated Somali diaspora in order to build and promote educational opportunities.

Employment opportunities

Hormuud Salaam Foundation administers throughout the country's regions and cities the "Free Microfinance" financing program, which is offered to impoverished entrepreneurs, particularly women, with the goal of promoting business and fostering innovation done by women, while entrepreneurs make investments of more than \$1 million.

The firm Rikaab, which works in logistics, has initiated a job development initiative in 2022 that will employ around one thousand individuals in an effort to enhance and expand employment prospects. The initiative will continue for two years and is particularly useful to the nation's young.

The Hormuud Salaam Foundation is establishing an Academy for the study of contemporary computer sciences, such as Programming and Creative Designing.

Humanitarian and emergency response

The Hormuud Salaam Foundation's role in disaster response, which includes reacting to droughts and floods, is enormous; from 2005 to 2022, the HSF will have spent \$5 million on such activities.

All of the programs carried out by the Hormuud Salaam Foundation are charitable and provided without charge; the organization does not intend to generate a profit from it.



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Hormuud Salaam Foundation: Compassionately Advancing Society

BY LEILA MOHAMED, 5 magazine

Hormuud is undoubtedly one of the most active firms in the region when it comes to corporate social responsibility (CSR). The foundation that plays the most crucial role is the Hormuud Salaam Foundation, which was established in 2013. The foundation has done tremendous work and has impacted every Somali life in some manner, and has executed initiatives in a variety of sectors such as Economic Empowerment, Education, Health, and Water, among others.

The Hormuud Salaam Foundation prides itself on being Somalia's largest private philanthropic organization and has played a significant role in the country's overall development. The foundation receives funding from a variety of partners, including Salaam Somali Bank, Taaj Money Transfer, and Buruuj Constructions Company.

Among the sectors to which Hormuud Salaam Foundation has contributed actively is the health sector in Somalia, which has been in a deplorable situation for a long time; Through the foundation,

Somalia has obtained the country's first dialysis wing. The organization has contributed to the reconstruction of major public hospitals, purchased equipment for hospitals, and contributed medical supplies.

Hormuud Salaam Foundation is an organization that lives inside the Somali community and is always prepared to take part in and lead initiatives aimed at resolving the challenges and crises encountered by Somalis, as was mentioned at one time by Dr. Maryan Mohamed Hussein, who served as the minister for health in the administration that came before this one. Dr. Maryan Mohamed Hussein was the minister for health in the administration that came before this one.

When it comes to enhancing the education sector, the foundation

operates Al-Nur School for the Blind. Somalia, a nation facing several crises, does not pay emphasis to its disabled population, but Hormuud stepped in. In addition, the organization operates Buruuj Technical School, which offers instruction in carpentry, electrical work, plumbing, welding, and other manual skills.

The list of things that the Hormuud foundation has contributed to the Somali people over the past few years is virtually endless. Abdi Aynte who served as a minister in Somalia previously noted that Hormuud-Salaam Foundation continues to lead by example in the field of corporate social responsibility in Somalia and the foundation philanthropic interventions are diverse, urgent and highly impactful.

One of the more well-known services that the foundation has provided is the establishment and management of a fire fighting service in Mogadishu, which has been responsible for a variety of different accomplishments. Additionally, the foundation has made contributions toward the creation and rebuilding of important infrastructure all around the country of Somalia. This involves the construction of brand-new roads and

The organization has contributed to the reconstruction of major public hospitals, purchased equipment for hospitals, and contributed medical supplies



bridges, as well as new hospital wings and educational facilities.

When it comes to natural calamities such as floods, droughts, famines, or epidemics, the Hormuud Salaam Foundation always step in and provide assistance to the Somali people. The foundation has been in the forefront of providing assistance to the Somali people. It has been a significant contributor to the relief effort in Somalia, which has helped save the lives of hundreds

of thousands of people.

In light of the fact that Somalia is currently experiencing a catastrophic drought that has the potential to develop into famine, the foundation took part in the formation of a "Famine Relief Taskforce." This taskforce will provide a centralized body to collect and distribute donations gathered from the domestic private sector and the Somali diaspora internationally. The foundation's contribution to humanitarian issues is unparalleled.

The foundation also donates to emergencies such as drought and floods. In 2017, the Foundation delivered emergency responses worth of US\$1.2 million. In 2019, the foundation donated US\$ 200,00 to the families of the victims who lost their lives, homes, livelihoods in Beledweyne, Bardaale and Gedo floods. It has worked on ensuring that Somalis would survive the hard droughts by distributing water and other essential commodities around the nation after spending millions of dollars to do so.

One of the most well-known contributions made by the foundation is in the area of education. In addition to operating schools, the Salaam Foundation also awards a scholarship to a certain number of Somali students each year. These students come from low-income families and are either orphans, students whose mothers are the sole breadwinners in their families, students who rely on siblings, or students who are dependent on their relatives.

Hormuud is of the view that education is critical to the growth of Somalia and is the key to a more promising future for the country of Somalia. Education opens up a wide variety of doors and presents new possibilities. Hormuud places a high value on education because it understands that it improves society, fosters communal collaboration, and leads to higher family incomes and overall wellbeing.

The Hormuud Salaam Foundation provides training to young people in an effort to provide them with skills that will allow them to better their life. One of the initiatives of empowerment involves a partnership with the Buruuj technical

school and the Rikaab business to generate employment for up to one thousand young people. These young people will be taught to drive motorbikes and repair them before being engaged by the Rikaab company, which is a logistics, transportation, and delivery firm.

There is an alarmingly high rate of youth unemployment in Africa as a whole, and in Somalia in particular, which continues to have a severe effect on the young people's prospects for the future. The mission of the Hormuud Salaam Foundation is to improve the quality of life of young people who are currently without jobs and to aid these persons in becoming more contributing members of society.

The telecommunication company has also helped hundreds of women by giving them much needed cash-outs. Women are one of the under-privileged members of the society. It is a great initiative to empower them because they are the backbone of the society. Some of the beneficiaries of the handouts were too old and weak to earn a living or earn too little to sustain themselves. "I am too old to make a living and I am disabled and currently living with six orphans. I would like to thank the Hormuud foundation for being generous to us," said one of the elated beneficiaries. The cash handouts have enabled the women to provide food for their families.

The giant network provider in Somalia has also shown that it is thinking about the future. In 2019, it announced the release of US \$ 5million in the next three years to boost business growth by creating opportunities and jobs for the Somali youths. Late last year during a tech summit in Somali, Hormuud CEO Ahmed Yusuf, said "Hormuud in partnership with Salaam Bank, will stand with the Somali entrepreneurs and will dedicate \$5 million to support the Somali innovators and entrepreneurs in the next 3 years, to enable more opportunities and jobs for the Somali people." The CEO encouraged the youth to nurture the culture of entrepreneurship in order to contribute to Somali's economic growth and build a prosperous nation.

The special and vital roles that Hormuud played for the Somalis

BY ABDI MOHAMED 5 magazine

The majority of public services were rendered obsolete as a direct result of the collapse of governmental institutions. As a result, providing essential services to the public became an absolute need. A commercial diversification plan was implemented by Hormuud telecom, and it includes banking, utility services, digital solutions, and hawala money transfer.

The Somali people

Somalis are the primary beneficiaries of the activities of Hormuud Telecom in a number of different ways, including:

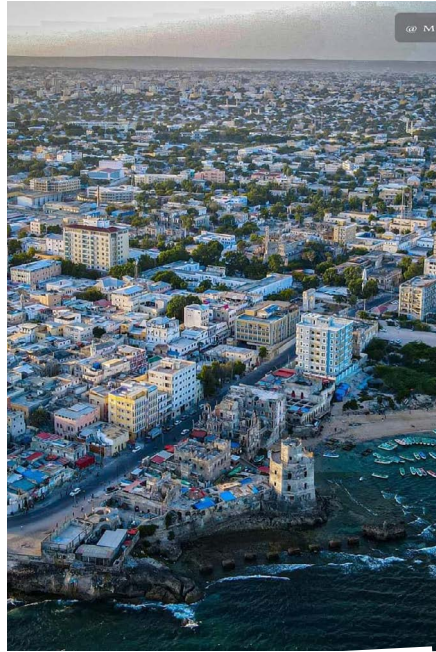
- >> Job creation: Hormuud Telecom is the largest employer in Somalia. Worldwide, studies suggest that for every permanent job, there are 5 dependent jobs.
- >> Jobs created roughly support a much larger population of up to several hundred thousand people.
- >> Facilitates communication between Somali people in the country and their family/friends abroad.
- >> Hormuud pays back to the society through its Social Responsibility wing.

Government

According to statistics from the World Bank and the United Nations, Hormuud Telecom is the most major taxpayer in Somalia. Additionally, the company offers essential communication services to a variety of governmental organizations.

Business

Hormuud Telecom not only generates new employment prospects but also makes a direct contribution to the enhancement of existing commercial possibilities in Somalia. To provide one example, Hormuud gives back to the community by patronizing local



companies and suppliers by purchasing all of the necessary goods from them. Among the many types of significant purchases that fall under this category are rents and leases, as well as payments for utilities and supplies for construction. On the other hand, workers and shareholders provide a portion of their profits back to the companies in which they are invested. Hormuud Telecom also provides chances for small and medium-sized businesses to invest via Salaam Somali Bank.

Environment

Hormuud Telecom made an investment in green energy in order to fulfill its Green Economy purpose, which is at the core of the company's strategy. For instance, 70 percent of the masts are powered by environmentally friendly sources of electricity.

Infrastructure

Hormuud Telecom contributed to the construction of essential infrastructure in both the nation's capital and the surrounding areas. This included the development of real estate, as well as roads and bridges. Roads in Mogadishu, the Baydhaba Bridges, the KM4 roundabout, and the high-rise structures in Hormuud (MOGADISHU, GALKAYO, BAIDOA, KISMAYO, BALADWEYN, BALADHAWO, DUSAMAREB, ADADO, GURIEL, JOWHAR, and BUR-HAKABO)

The Overall Economy

Both directly (via employment and ownership) and indirectly (by maintaining close relationships with local business people), Hormuud made substantial contributions to the national economy. Because of this, a robust economic environment has been formed. Through more innovation, better service delivery, and more opportunities for upward mobility, the lives of Somali people are eventually improved as a result of a chain reaction.



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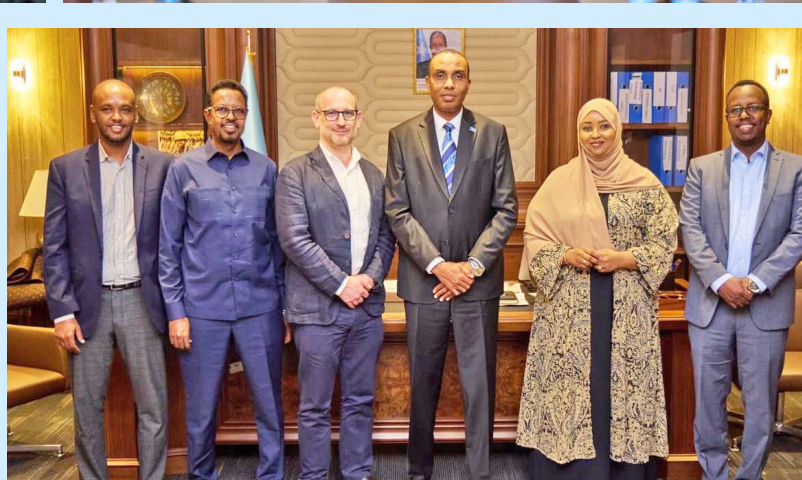
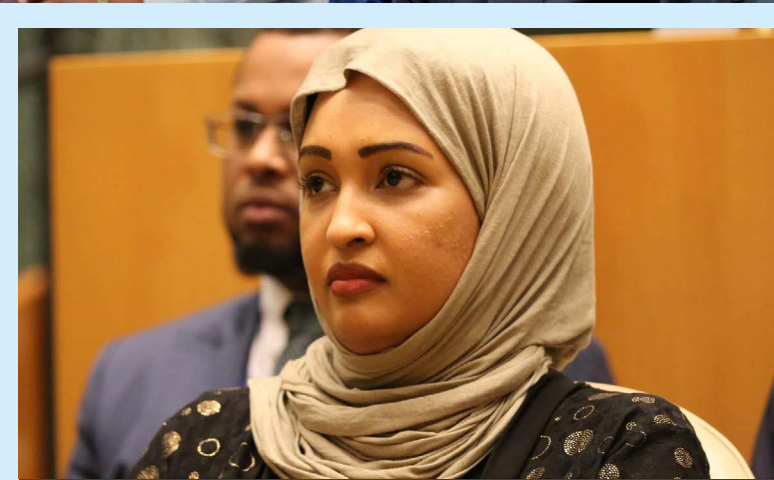
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Internet service at an affordable price from Hormuud

BY LEILA MOHAMED, 5 magazine

Hormuud is the primary internet service provider for Somalis. Given that Somalia is a developing nation with a deficient infrastructure, one might anticipate that the cost of using the internet in Somalia would be quite high. However, Somalia actually has some of the most affordable data costs in all of Africa. In fact, Somalia is one of the top ten countries in the world with the lowest rates overall.

According to the findings of a study that was carried out in 2020 by Cable.co.uk, Somalia was ranked as the seventh cheapest country in the world for the cost of one gigabyte of

data, which averaged just fifty cents. This was based on the country's position in the rankings for the price of one gigabyte of data. Hormuud is the company that offers internet service at such a low cost to its customers.

The noteworthy thing is the massive jump that Somalia made from the 2019 report, in which it ranked 133rd with an average cost of \$6.19 for 1GB of data. This places Somalia at the top of the list for being one of the most improved countries. Hormuud Telecom has been responsible for a major increase in the breadth and depth of Somalia's telecommunications infrastructure over the course of the last decade.

The prices in Somalia are much lower

compared to those in its neighbors Kenya (\$1.05), which came in at number 41; Djibouti (\$1.12), which was in the 48th position; or Ethiopia (\$2.44), which was in the 94th place and where there is still a monopoly on telecom services.

However, other countries in Africa, such as Sudan (\$0.63) and Algeria (\$0.65), ranked on the more cheap end of the range than the countries in question. After that, Sudan was in the 13th position, and Algeria was in the 15th position. In point of fact, eight of the top fifty countries in the world with the cheapest costs for mobile data are situated in Sub-Saharan Africa. This is a globally significant finding.

Hormuud 4G: Internet connectivity in Somalia and Hormuud role

BY ABDI MOHAMED 5 magazine

Hormuud Telecom, which is the primary provider of telecommunications services in Somalia, has made public its intentions to expand its 4G phone network throughout the country, with the goal of achieving countrywide coverage by the year 2023. Hormuud Telecom intends to achieve this goal by expanding its 4G phone network throughout the country.

In 2015, Hormuud began working with the Ministry of Telecommunications in Somalia to expand the capacity of its 4G network. According to the Ministry of Telecommunications, over 11.25 million Somalis now have access to 4G internet throughout the country. This number represents nearly 70% of Somalia's total population of 15 million people. According to Hormuud's calculations, there are about this many individuals.

Hormuud's objective of getting full 4G coverage is in line with the plans that the government already has in place, since the National ICT Policy of the Somali government wants to acquire complete 4G coverage between the years 2024 and 2025. Hormuud's goal is in line with these plans. It is Hormuud's intention to have complete 4G coverage by the year 2025.

According to the firm, having access to 4G is essential to Hormuud's plans to offer "sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic development" for Somalis in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out by the United Nations.

"Improve access to high-speed networks is crucial to improving the lives of millions of Somalis," emphasized Abdi Sheikh Ahmed, the Somali Minister for Post, Telecom, and Technology. We are putting in a lot of effort with Hormuud to make sure that access to 4G

"Improve access to high-speed networks is crucial to improving the lives of millions of Somalis," Abdi Sheikh Ahmed,

is not something that is just available to those living in major cities, but that it is something that all Somalis can take advantage of.

It is heartening to see that providers of telecommunications services in Somalia are taking the initiative to fulfill the requirements of the National ICT Policy. The continuous spread of 4G demonstrates that the nation is on course to reach its ambitions for network expansion, which will ensure that our residents have access to the key services they need.

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Somali Police Force in Need of Forward-Thinking Leadership

By Waheid Siraach

A police officer's role in society is to maintain public order and safety by protecting members of the public and their property, enforcing laws, preventing, reducing, and investigating crimes, and improving citizens' quality of life.

Unfortunately, this is not the case with the Somali Police Force (SPF), and the threat to social order hangs perilously in the balance while the country pays the ultimate price.

One must submit that there have been efforts to repair and rebuild the police department by new Somali governments with the support of international donors. Yet, the SPF remains disorganized, disjointed, archaic, and ineffective. This is partly due to an overarching lack of leadership within the police force. And while the SPF has undergone several leadership changes in the past decade, they were primarily inexperienced and

underprepared to effect meaningful changes on vital critical issues on safety, security, and reform.

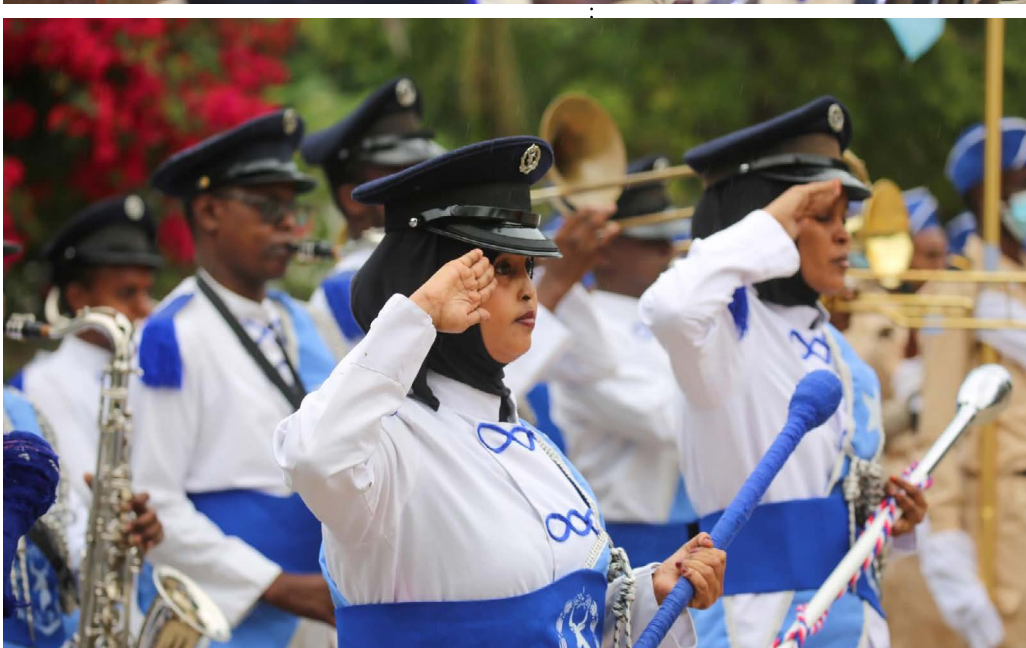
Challenges indeed plague the SPF; among them, the vast majority of the approximately ten thousand personnel are heavily concentrated in the nation's capital, and the presence of the SPF (a federal entity) is virtually nonexistent outside the nation's capital city. And even in Mogadishu, the department often engages in non-police work while providing minimal police services to the citizens who require them, which begs the question if the agency understands its legal mandate.

As a result of this ambiguity, Mogadishu often falls victim to violent crimes and terrorist attacks, including the most recent assault at Hayat Hotel on August 20, killing 20 people and injuring a dozen others, another indication that the department lacks a sound

policing strategy necessary to combat the terrorism.

It's important to note that the department operates under the outdated Somali Police Act of 1972, an Act that went into effect when the country had one central government and operated under military rule. With the nation embracing federalism, the Act is no longer practical and requires revision. And while the New Policing Model Agreement signed by Federal Government and the Member States does define two distinct policing levels (state and federal), it fails to identify these departments' roles and responsibilities, a clear and present oversight.

The SPF also struggles with insufficient policies and procedures. As such, police forces are operating without procedural direction or guidance. Officers' daily responsibilities are ambiguous, and even the highest-ranking officers are forced to navigate within a vague



and, at times, nonexistent work structure.

This type of ambiguousness allows department superiors to operate as they please, with little oversight and almost no accountability. And department officers follow their lead. Approximately one-third of the department's personnel engage in outside 24/7 private security details for current and former government workers and other individuals with government ties to supplement their income.

Other members of the force work full-time in units with no policing requirements at all (for instance, *Qaybta Dhimaha* or *Gaadiidka*). Some sworn federal police officers work as performers (*Fanaaniinta Qooxda Heegan*) while being paid by the SPF. The primary duties of others include preparing tea for their superior officers rather than performing actual and necessary police work. And in the instance that an SPF officer might be assigned to a

station, duties are typically limited to manning checkpoints in hopes of locating Al-Shabaab.

The Criminal Investigation Division (the nation's highest investigative body) is primarily tasked with issuing police clearance letters and performs little or no actual police investigations.

Police maintenance department

These are just a few issues that have hampered the SPF's operational capacity and capability and destroyed the institution's public trust. And with legal and leadership problems constraining the force, the department struggles to provide essential police services to the citizens.

Though perhaps time-consuming, the solutions are certainly not beyond the realm of possibilities. To become an effective and efficient federal law enforcement agency, the SPF requires bold and innovative

leadership with deep policing knowledge and a clear vision. The department requires a new Police Act that clearly defines its legal authority, jurisdiction, and code of conduct. Knowledgeable police leadership can work with appropriate governmental ministries and parliamentary leaders to establish a forward-thinking direction and a structural purpose.

Agents of the police force must prioritize their policing duties over any personal security details or other unnecessary and unessential assignments. In addition, the SPF must create a reliable training and professional development system, and police officers must be fully dedicated to the roles and responsibilities of the position.

The SPF must clearly define its officers' job descriptions, including the expectations of each employee on a daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, and yearly basis. Perhaps most importantly, officers must work directly in the communities where they can make the most impact. Foot patrols, community safety meetings, and awareness programs will be integral to regaining the level of community trust that has been missing for far too long, as well as improving the overall welfare of the citizens.

Political favoritism, illegal use of force, and other unethical practices can damage relationships between police and their communities. The department should avoid such behaviors and establish policies to ensure impartiality and good judgment. And when incidents occur, the agency must be transparent with the public and provide any relevant information that the public needs to know.

The corrective actions outlined above are attainable once a leadership hierarchy is established and a legal framework is defined. These steps will go a long way towards regaining community trust and offering hope for the future of policing in Somalia. There is no better time to act than now as the military continues to liberate more regions that will require policing services. We are at a pivotal time in Somali law enforcement history, and our next police leaders have an opportunity to course-correct and set a new path.

Waheid Siraach is a former Police Sergeant in Minnesota. He traveled to Somalia and assisted the Somali Police Force (SPF) for a year while on sabbatical leave. He currently maintains a residence in Mogadishu and closely follows the development of the Somali police.

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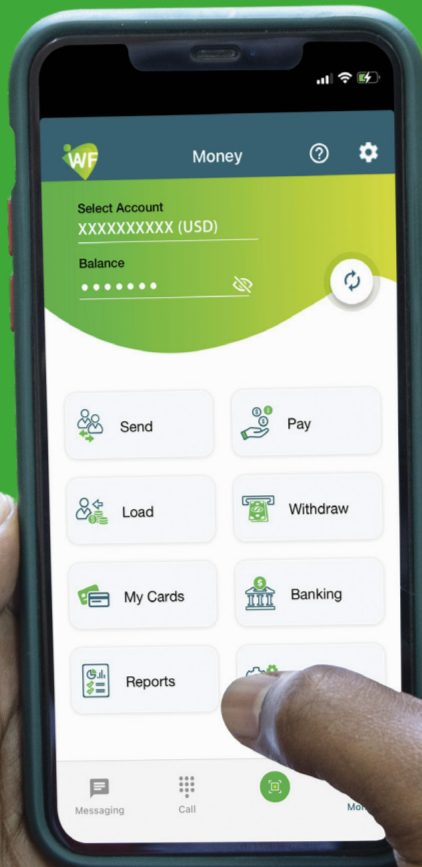
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How I survived one of the longest terrorist's hotel sieges in Mogadishu

by Feysal Osman

It was around 7:00 pm on a Friday evening on the 19th of August 2022; we had just finished our evening (Maghrib) prayers. The open-air veranda at Hayat Hotel in Mogadishu is crowded; guests/hotel customers are seated with their friends, family members, or coworkers are drinking tea, coffee, or eating dinner. The restaurant inside the ground floor of the hotel is also packed and bustling with activities. The atmosphere is happy, friendly and lively.

It was our second day in Mogadishu, we were on a week-long official visit from Hargeisa. Some friends visited my colleague Ismail at the hotel, but they couldn't find seats at the Hayat restaurants, so they opted to go for a meal at a nearby restaurant. I, on the other hand, was getting ready to order my dinner at the restaurant on the ground floor near the reception, but the waiters were too preoccupied taking and delivering orders. I decided to go upstairs to my room on the second floor to retrieve my phone

from the charger.

How it all started

While I was still at the stairs of the first floor, I heard one of the loudest explosions I have ever heard, and saw a huge flash of light, followed by debris falling from above. I said to myself, "This must be an explosion from a very close distance"; it never occurred to me that a complex terrorist attack was underway at the hotel I am staying in. I dashed down to the reception to find out what just happened, but I couldn't get to the ground floor. There was what I could only describe as a stampede of people trying to get upstairs, and everyone had this palpable panic in their face, including one of the hotel guards who was bleeding from his face. Then reality sunk in when I heard people yelling, praying, and pleading for help. That was when I realized the hotel is under attack.

Another loud explosion followed, and the shooting spree began thereafter. Immediately, everything became urgent; I

dashed into my room and collapsed on the floor and lay there, gripped by terror. A third and even louder explosion followed and the gunfire intensified almost from every direction within the hotel. I am not sure how many more loud explosions I heard after that, but an overwhelming feeling of helplessness took over. My heart was beating so fast that I was afraid of heart failure. I started shaking and developed shortness of breath, but I began to take deep breaths, inhaling and exhaling, trying to kick-start my survival instincts into gear. I stood up when I saw the closet. I decided to squeeze myself inside and cover myself with the prayer mat. I had been inside for less than a minute when I heard gunfire in close proximity and remembered that terrorists target rooms on upper floor because they suspect that senior government officials stay in the VIP rooms usually located on the upper floors to provide a view of the city. I raised my hands in prayer to God and begged Allah for help. Right then, it felt that God had answered my

prayers. My instinct went into high gear and an inner voice said 'take action'.

The difficult decision: Jumping out of the window

There is what feels like a few seconds of silence after each intense period of gunshots and explosions. My phone rang; I'm not sure who called, but I rushed to turn it off. My family members, as well as my colleague Ismail, who reported to our Headquarters, are all gravely concerned that I am trapped inside the hotel. I said to myself that because of the phone ringing, the terrorists might have noticed someone in the room and could break into the door at any time to kill me. Now is the time to act. I quickly turned off the lights in my room, tucked my American passport into the pocket of my jacket on a clothes hanger, and dashed to the window.

Because of the explosions that rocked the hotel, the windows were completely shattered and the metal frame had fallen off. I was extremely fortunate that my room window overlooked the tarmac road to the airport and the iron sheet rooftops of the businesses adjacent to the hotel. I stepped on top of the unit of the air conditioner installed outside the window to my room, grabbed the wires – not once did I consider the risk of electric shock – suspended myself downward and let go off the cables I was holding onto. My descension came with a loud bang, and I fell on the roof of the spare parts shops, facing the tarmac road; I was still fearful that terrorists would shoot me from their position at the hotel, so I jumped to ground. Unfortunately, I landed in the extremely tight space between the hotel and the adjacent businesses. The first thing I noticed was blood on my left leg (just below the ankle) and a sharp pain in my right shoulder. I laid there for a while trying to stay as silent as possible. I began to look at my surroundings and uncertainty took over me; in one instance I am thinking that I am better off but in the next moment, I think that I may be in a more perilous circumstance, because there is no way out from where I have fallen in. The ear deafening gunshots and bombings continued, and the debris falling from the hotel has almost covered the right side of my face.

I heard people whispering and talking about someone being under the rubble. I froze in panic when they said that they will pull her or him out; I couldn't tell if it was the terrorists looking for people to kill or government forces coming to our rescue. The series of explosions had loosened a small door in the back of the reception area; from the gap at the bottom of the door, I saw people rising up from the rubble and police officers barking orders at the people to raise their hands and walk towards them (the police). From where I was lying, I understood that to begin moving, everyone must speak up, remove their shirts, raise their hands, and wait for direction/order on when to move. My ears were keen on the police officer's directive. I made my way out of the rubble: I yelled 'please help me'; I was comforting myself that the ordeal is almost over. Nearly ten guns were pointed at me from a short distance, and once the officers realized I wasn't a threat they took my hand to assist me. Meanwhile, the terrorists were still firing down the stairwell, and the officers warned us to move quickly as they shoot at the terrorists. I am not sure which unit they (police) were from, but they were highly professional and exuded a deep sense of care; I could see the fearless intensity in their faces; they were determined to save lives. I was later told they were from the Haramacad Unit. We exited the main hotel gate in the west, taking cover behind the wall and gradually heading towards the Sahafi hotel and the CID headquarters. The police escorted me to a nearby hotel, where my family and friends met me. I will never forget the pure joy of seeing them again. Almost everyone was overcome with emotion because no one expected that I would make it out alive. It was, in all honesty, a miracle that I made it out intact.

Analysis and recommendations

The aftermath

As the siege continued, the next day, I was taken to the hospital to be treated for the injuries on my ankle; various scans were done to detect if I had suffered any internal damages or bones fractures caused by my leap; I was in excruciating pain on both my legs and right shoulder. Luckily, the scans

showed that I did not break any bone; the unbearable muscle/bone pain nevertheless persisted. To make matters worse, I was unable to sleep the following nights because every time I fell into a brief deep sleep, I would wake up drenched in sweat and hearing explosions and gunfire inside the hotel.

I did not want to be gripped with fear any longer; just as I decided to do something to save my life at Hayat Hotel, I now feel compelled to actively do something. I want to share my story in the hopes of raising awareness about extremism and terrorism, as well as shedding a light on the work we can all do in our communities to keep an eye out on warning signs that someone may be on the path to radicalization and violence.

The casualties

According to the Ministry of Health, 21 people were killed in this tragic incident and over 117 were injured, with 15 of them in critical condition. Health Minister Ali Haji warned that the death toll could rise because family members may have collected the bodies of relatives before an official count was made. The nearly 30-hour siege has left the hotel largely destroyed.

Beside the physical, emotional, and psychological harm caused by the traumatic experience, often overlooked is the financial loss. This heinous act destroyed several businesses and livelihoods of people operating and employed in these businesses; breadwinners of families lost their lives, throwing families into unknown circumstances.

While seemingly minor but nonetheless important to highlight, my colleague and I were also financially hurt as we lost our laptops, passports, phones, and other personal belongings. My new and old laptops, as well as seven years of data stored on two hard drives, were all lost. The victims of Hayat Hotel lost old and new memories ones that would happen in-person and ones that were in safekeeping forever.

May the Almighty keep the souls of those who were killed in eternal peace and heal the injured.

continued on page 38>>

continued from page 37>>

To my fellow Somalis

Even in uncertain times throughout the past seven years, I had visited Mogadishu countless times; I never imagined that something so brutal and unexpected like the attack at Hayat Hotel would occur to me in one of the most highly fortified areas of the city. Those of us who have firsthand experience with such attacks, whether by losing a loved one, running into the fray to save others, or surviving physical and mental injuries, are all too familiar with the realities of terrorism. However, I am worried that the rest of the Somali people still view these issues as “affecting others,” with the belief that it is unlikely that it will happen to us. I was certainly guilty of this prior to this terrorist attack.

If Shabaab's recent barbaric killing of innocent civilians, burning of trucks carrying food aid, destroying water sources and imposing blockades on already struggling cities, at a time of record-breaking drought, does not constitute gross violations of the religion, Somali culture and human moral values and rights, I don't know what else would. It is high time that we collectively stand-up to stop the cancerous cult's never-ending cruelty, which has normalized killing, maiming, extortion and fear mongering. Unless we recognize that it is everyone's responsibility to stand-up and save our future and the future of the next generation from these Khawarijs, we will continue suffering and the bloodshed of innocent lives will sadly persist.

The recent sporadic emergence of self-organized local anti-Shabaab militias known as Ma'awisley in many parts of Hiraan, Galgudud and Mudug regions is commendable and should be supported. For far too long, these communities bore the brunt of the terrorists' atrocities; they have reached a tipping point where they have rightly declared enough is enough. We, as Somalis, must drive these changes and raise awareness, particularly those of us who have been victims or survivors of extremism, because no one understands the dangers of extremism better than those who have faced them, and no one is more

credible than those who have survived it.

To the Somali government

The attack on Hayat Hotel, which is located at one of the highly fortified areas of the capital along the road leading to Mogadishu's international airport, is not just a stark reminder of the lethal capabilities of Shabab but also conspicuous security failures. How did the assailants manage to pass through the security checkpoints outside the hotel and carryout an attack of this scale and magnitude? Why did the security forces all over the area not apprehend the assailants and neutralize them before they could perpetrate this heinous act?

While I have to acknowledge and appreciate the bravery of the first police responders who rushed towards the deadly scene to save innocent lives trapped in the hotel, I have to also point out the fact that immediate and sufficient response to the attack was lacking; it took almost an hour for the government forces to arrive at the crime scene and engage the terrorists.

Some of the lessons that can be drawn from this tragic incident is to review police response plans, including the timeliness and engagement techniques of the initial responders. Media reported that the police engaging with terrorists were removed and the decision did not only delay the immediate conclusion of the assault, but disoriented and distracted the forces who were engaged with the terrorists, and ultimately delayed rescue efforts. In future, it is critical to improve the readiness of the elite anti-terrorisms' units within the police with a clear chain of command to respond to complex attacks such as the Hayat Hotel siege. This can reduce casualties, and can minimize the consequences of the attack. It is equally important for the government to update the public about the situation, detect misinformation and not just let terrorists' propaganda and their sympathizers dominate the social media.

I appeal to President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, a former teacher, and Prime Minister Hamze Abdi Barre, a former coworker, to lead the way as promised and

capitalize on the anti-Shabaab movement momentum that has recently begun. Empower the local self-defense militias (Ma'awisley) raised by local communities and pastoralists to defend themselves against Shabaab extortion and violence. They need to complement these grassroots initiatives with a long-awaited military offensive. They need to mobilize, empower and defend the clans, to help them liberate themselves from this ruthless enemy. While some may raise concerns about the long-term effects of arming clan militias on stability, I believe that dealing with clan militias is less difficult than reasoning with an irrational actor.

Owners of the Mogadishu hotels

Given that the terrorists have attacked several high-profile hotels, restaurants and businesses, it is high time that hotel owners also take their share of responsibility for the safety of your customers. It is thus imperative that you adopt to the context by stationing armed guards on the stairs and upper rooms. I believe that if there had been a few armed guards on the upper floor, the terrorists would have never entered the hotel and caused such damage, and they would have been neutralized, but because there was no one to stand in their way, they had a free pass to cause havoc and slaughter innocent people. Prioritize security, invest in it and create additional fortified exits in case of emergency for evacuations.

Lastly, I traveled to Mogadishu to assist civil society organizations in advocating for improved governance and human rights in Somalia, including the promotion of relevant policies, but following the horrific ordeal at Hayat hotel, I realized there is more important advocacy that should take precedence over all other advocacy items; peace and security.

Feysal Osman is a graduate of the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution in Virginia. He worked as a researcher in Washington, DC before moving back to Somalia to promote better governance, human rights, and civil society empowerment. He can be reached at Email: feysal.osman@fcgsweden.se



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Transforming Education Summit – the global moment of truth



By Amina J. Mohammed

As parents, teachers and students got ready for a return to school this autumn, few were thinking of the fact that across the world, education is in deep crisis. This is a slow and often unseen crisis, but its impacts affect us all. At the upcoming UN Summit on Transforming Education, world leaders have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to take decisive action. The United Nations and the European Union now call on all member states to deliver much-needed commitments to ensure that all girls and boys can access, enjoy and benefit from a meaningful, modern, high-quality education. Their rights and our collective futures depend on it.

Education is the most powerful and transformative tool we have to empower girls and boys with hope, skills and opportunity for their future. It also paves the way for solving

many of today's global challenges. However, in many parts, poverty and inequality still have a major influence over school attendance and learning achievement. And right across the world, education systems are struggling to equip learners with the values, skills and knowledge needed to thrive in our rapidly changing world.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated a pre-existing crisis and the global funding gap for education has increased significantly. Even before the pandemic, governments were spending less than half of the needed sum on education. Since then, two in three governments have cut their education budgets while some international donors have announced their intention to reduce aid to education.

Collective action on future-oriented learning and education financing is urgent, if we want to recover pandemic-related learning losses and ensure that children and young people everywhere are able to access their right to

education as enshrined in Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Investing in education has a transformative impact across the Sustainable Development Goals. It advances gender equality: educated girls are more likely to participate in the decisions that most affect them, to live longer, healthier lives, and to earn higher incomes. It makes a major contribution to national development: every euro spent on education can generate 10–15 euros in economic growth. And by nurturing informed, empowered citizens, it can help countries to tackle major challenges such as climate change, social breakdown, conflict, gender-based violence and more.

The European Union is significantly increasing its investment in education in partner countries. The EU will dedicate more than 10% of its international partnerships budget, representing over 6 billion euros, towards global education.

Now we need others to do likewise. The UN Secretary-General is calling on all government leaders and all actors, including private sector and civil society, as part of a global mobilisation, to make concrete commitments to increase funding for education, from all sources.

At the Transforming Education Summit, the representatives of all countries and partners face a moment of truth: now is the time to collectively fill the investment gap to tackle the global education crisis. Now is the time to invest in learning recovering and help put the SDGs back on track, thereby sowing the seeds for transformation of our education systems, so that education better prepares learners to contribute to a more inclusive, peaceful, sustainable and just future, leaving no one behind.

we belong to Allah and to Him shall we return"

Amina J. Mohammed, UN Deputy Secretary-General and Jutta Urpilainen, EU Commissioner for International Partnerships

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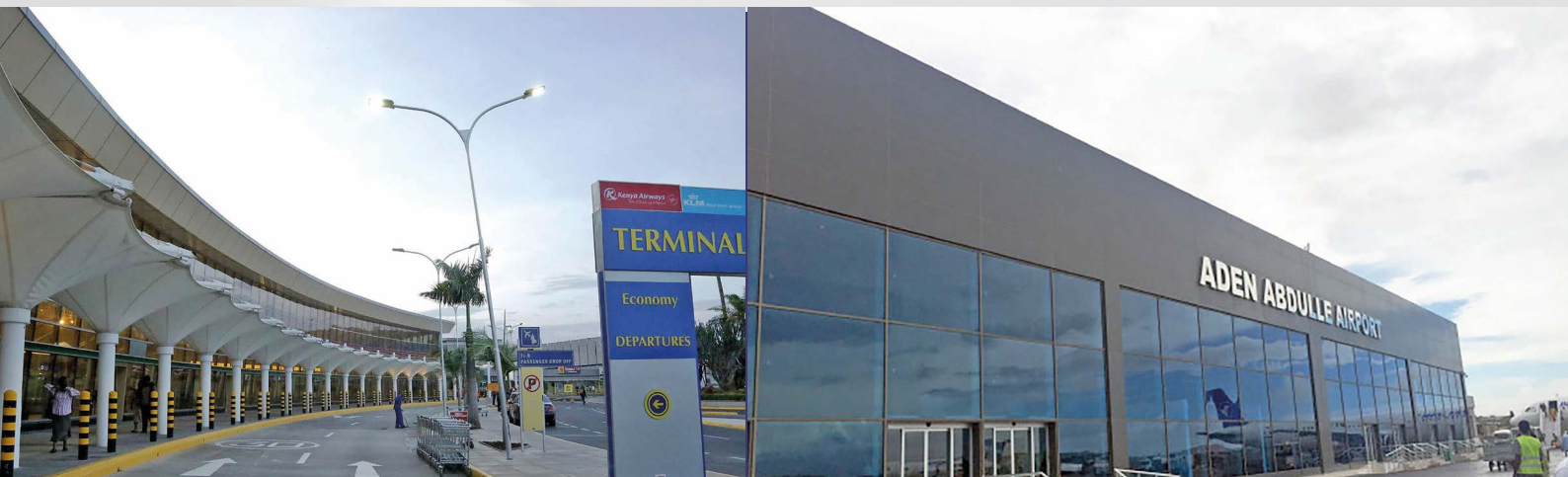


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The boy from the tree and his unique story: Brigadier General Farhan Mohamud Aden-Qaroole



BY KOFI ADAM
Translated by
5Magazine

Towards the end of 2013, I visited a security operation zone in one of Mogadishu's districts, which was where the security agencies were directing special operations. I had a meeting and chit chat with the commanders and other personal during my stay at the facility and I initiated talks with them.

When I began the conversation, I observed a tiny child stationed in the shade of a tree. He appeared on guard, he was far from us and was not hearing our conversation. The youngster seemed little, he was short and dark-skinned, and when I saw him, I asked the commander who he was, the commander told me that he is a "young lad from the neighborhood who works with us and performs an excellent job for us."

I recall staring at him and seeing his large grin, which startled me since the smile he

had was unique, in that the lips were not spread wide, but it was out there, this is the smile you see on actors and spies and is seldom seen on anyone save a few, he was among the few whose real smile can be impressive, I was also amazed by the confidence he exuded.

I was fascinated by the boy and approached him for a talk. When I questioned him why he was sitting alone and not with the others, he said that he was not a member of the army but a volunteer. He also told me that he was informed that a high-ranking commander would be visiting the facility and for that he didn't wanted to disrupt the meeting of the others.

While I was posing the questions to the boy, my instincts as a teacher kicked in and I saw a young man with a bright future, as well as a courageous and inspired young man.

As was customary in such visits, when unpaid army volunteers with no rights see a leaders, they begin protesting, demanding rights, and being put to the payroll. This boy was different; he never displayed a need or a different emotion than the individuals he

was with today, who segregated him and kept him hidden from me.

When I was leaving the center, I instructed the officer in charge that he should bring the small boy to my office on Saturday, which was four days later. I called him "the boy from the tree," and that was the name I wrote in my diary book that day.

When the youngster was brought to me, I first met with one of his commanders. The commander I talked with that day is still in service and is one of the finest members of our police force. I then questioned the officer on further information about the boy. The youngster was brought to my office, where we spoke for 30 minutes. During that time, I inquired about his personal information, his other general circumstances, and what more he can accomplish.

During the time I sat with the boy, I gleaned from his face and words that he is a gifted and fearless person with an understanding for those who pose a danger to our national security.

While I was seated with the boy, I came to the conclusion that he was necessary for the

work and that he should be officially part of the same station, I came to this conclusion without first discussing the other officers at the station. When we were done with the meeting, I give the boy some words of encouragement, instructions, directions, as well as the guidelines and procedures for the job, I asked him if there was anything more he wanted from me, but he refrained from asking for anything that was not related to the task.

On such occasions, it was customary for the senior officer to provide something to his visitor. I gave the young boy a small sum of money to encourage him, but he sprang up and exclaimed, “No, Commander, I simply want to join the army. I want to serve my country.”

I cannot recall whether I suggested that his supervisor give him the money or if returned the money to my pocket. According to what I have read or been informed about the young guy later, he is not a materialistic or self-centered person. The little youngster, official joined member of the security forces and has begun working at the location where he previously volunteered.

I constantly saw the name of the young lad who had been a part of many successful operations, some of which he even led himself in the daily reports that were sent to me. This was good news for me, since it aligned with the indications that prompted me to quickly hire him.

Due of his skills, diligence, and sense of responsibility, the boy was included in the Capital Security Special Forces, where he quickly rose through the ranks to become the most brave and active member. He evolved into an openly heroic figure who relentlessly pursued individuals who posed a danger to the safety of our population.

In a short amount of time, he rose through the ranks to become the capital's Special Forces commander, and I wrote his letter of appointment using his full name for the first time: Farhan Mohamud Adan. He became hero, the very mention of his name stroked fear in the hearts of those who oppose peace.

As his commander, I gave him hundreds of challenging and sometimes dangerous missions over the course of nearly four years, and I cannot think of a single one in which I was dissatisfied with the way he carried



them out or the results they produced. The more missions I assigned to him, the more he assigned to himself, and the more successful those missions were.

When it came time for me to send him on a mission and give him my last orders, he would often remark to me with a quotation that I was familiar with, which was, “Commander, I am going to pursue them forever, take a rest .”

During the time he worked with me, Farhan was renowned for his good manners, shyness, honesty, perseverance, willingness to take orders in both tough and simple circumstances, confidence, bravery, and vigilance. He was neither one of the officials whose private interests interfered with his duties, I did not hear or see Farhaan ask me about any specific interests, nor did I hear or see him being required at work but unavailable.

It will make you give Farhan ranks and awards if you participate in a mission with him and you see how well he performs, and for that reason, within a year, he became a Brigadier General. This meant that

Due of his skills, diligence, and sense of responsibility, the boy was included in the Capital Security Special Forces, where he quickly rose through the ranks to become the most brave and active member.

he became a higher in ranks than me, and I had to salute him and take orders from him. It was really exciting to see Farhaan with a higher rank and many awards.

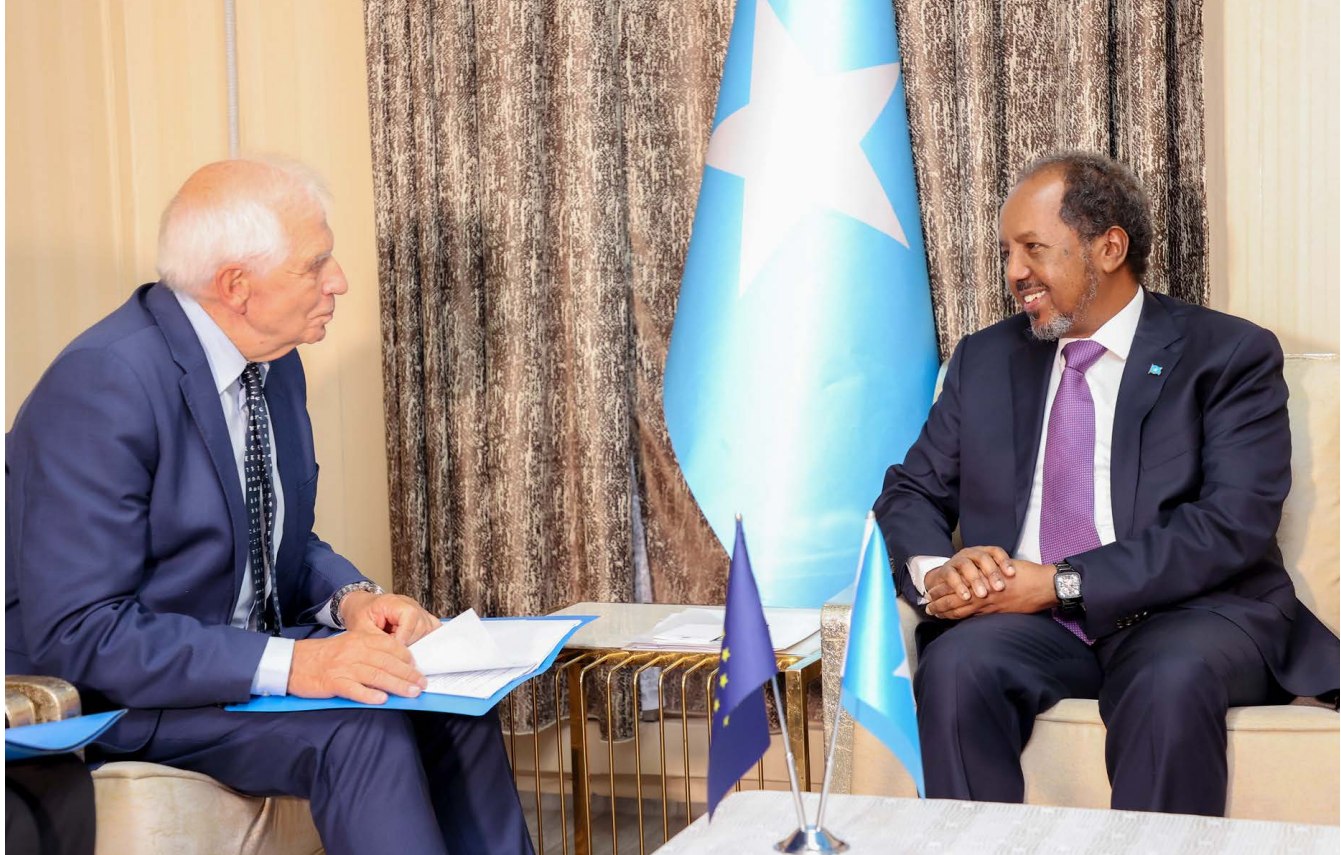
Gen. Farhan Mohamud Adan took part in or commanded a number of rescue operations to free hostages held by the enemy in various locations, including hotels, restaurants, government buildings, and other establishments.

May God have mercy on him, General Farhan Mohamud Adan (Qaroole) has not only survived a number of efforts to have him killed, but he has also managed to keep his reputation intact in spite of multiple attempts to have it tarnished.

General Farhan Mohamud Adan (Qaroole) was killed while chasing the insurgents, and he was buried in Mogadishu after he gave his life for his country. Being a hero often requires you to give your life for your cause. In my head, I knew that Farhaan would not be slain by his adversary when he was asleep in a hotel room or in his own bed; rather, he would go after his adversary and be killed while fighting them on the battlefield.

Finally, I am certain Farhaan died while he is pleased with himself for not harboring resentment, fulfilling the promises he made to the people. We pray that God will have compassion on General Farhan Mohamud Adan and the other troops who were slain, and we express our condolences to his family, particularly to Father Mohamud Adan, and to his colleagues who were left behind.

May Allah have mercy on his soul.



Building Somalia's state and security and stabilising the Horn of Africa

BY JOSEP BORRELL

For decades, Somalia has suffered from being a “failed state” and the current drought is making things worse. The EU is providing economic and humanitarian support to the country while our crisis management missions are helping to stabilise the security situation in a region that is of critical importance for Europe's security. During my recent visit, I could see first-hand how our operations make a key contribution to maritime and wider security.

Somalia is located in the Horn of Africa and has the longest coastline on Africa's mainland. For more than 30 years, it has been suffering from an ongoing humanitarian crisis and enduring political and social instability. The poverty rate of the 17 million population is around 70%; more than 50% are illiterate; and the average life expectancy is just 48 years. In recent years, the humanitarian situation has worsened further, due to a severe drought and the risk of famine (the UN just said this week that hunger levels leave more than 500,000 children at risk of dying) and climate change affecting above all the lives of the most

vulnerable, plus the lingering impact of COVID-19 and enduring conflicts. Finally, Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has further increased food insecurity with soaring food and fuel prices.

Why does this matter for Europe, given that Somalia seems so far away? To start, because around 40% of world shipping lanes and 25% of the EU maritime supply transit through the Gulf of Aden. Although piracy has been largely suppressed through international efforts, and above all the EU Operation Atalanta, it remains an underlying threat to maritime security including illegal trafficking and illicit trade. And because international terrorism threatens us all if we don't tackle it. The security situation remains highly volatile, with the terrorist groups Al-Shabaab and Da'esh remaining active, as illustrated by the attack against the Hayat hotel in Mogadishu last August, with 20 persons killed and 120 injured.

That is why. The European Union needs to sustain its efforts in this part of the world, as elsewhere, to promote stability and security. And this is what we have been doing. From 2014 to 2022, the EU has invested more than €3.5 billion to support Somalia's political,

security and economic reform efforts and to address the humanitarian situation. We do so through humanitarian aid and cooperation programs on governance and the rule of law, peace-building, social inclusion and education, and on resilience and adaptation to climate change.

Crucially, we support Somali through three Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions to support peace and stability in the country and to help it to be able to take full ownership again for its own security:

Operation Atalanta to support the fight against maritime crime;

EUTM Somalia to train the Somali military and more generally to build its autonomy (including its capacity to train its personnel by itself);

EUCAP Somalia to advise coast guards and police.

Last Sunday I met Somalia's President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, who has been elected by members of Parliament in May 2022 (the new Cabinet was only appointed in August 2022). I also visited our two land-based CSDP missions and the Naval Force Operation Atalanta flagship, the Spanish

frigate Numancia, which is patrolling the Somali coast.

Atalanta was the first EU naval operation ever, launched in 2008 and it has made a big difference in the fight against piracy. Indeed, it is one of the most remarkable success stories of the CSDP. Beyond piracy, it is now also engaged in other maritime security challenges, like the fight against narco- and arms-trafficking and illegal fishing.

Atalanta has turned into a maritime security actor of reference, offering a platform to develop our partnerships and for joint exercises with India, Indonesia, Oman and Japan. The operation is our main asset in the Indian Ocean, protecting freedom of navigation and demonstrating the EU's ability and commitment to enforce a rules-based order. It has been a pioneer shaping the maritime dimension of the CSDP and that continues to do this.

However, while Atalanta is a success, it is fair to recognise that our operations EUTM and EUCAP Somalia on shore have achieved only limited results. The Somali National Army (SNA), coast guards and police continue to face considerable force generation and efficiency challenges and we did not progress to the extent we had wished for, in terms of providing capacity building

through advice and training to Somali authorities. However, having trained 8,000 Somali military so far, we will continue to do so and the SNA has already increased its capacity to train its personnel by itself.

We do this as part of wider efforts of the international community. The African Union Transition Mission (ATMIS) has an UN mandate that authorises AU states to deploy some 19,000 uniformed personnel in the country and the EU is the mission's main financial supporter. Other countries are also active, with for instance Turkey running a big training mission and controlling the port of Mogadishu.

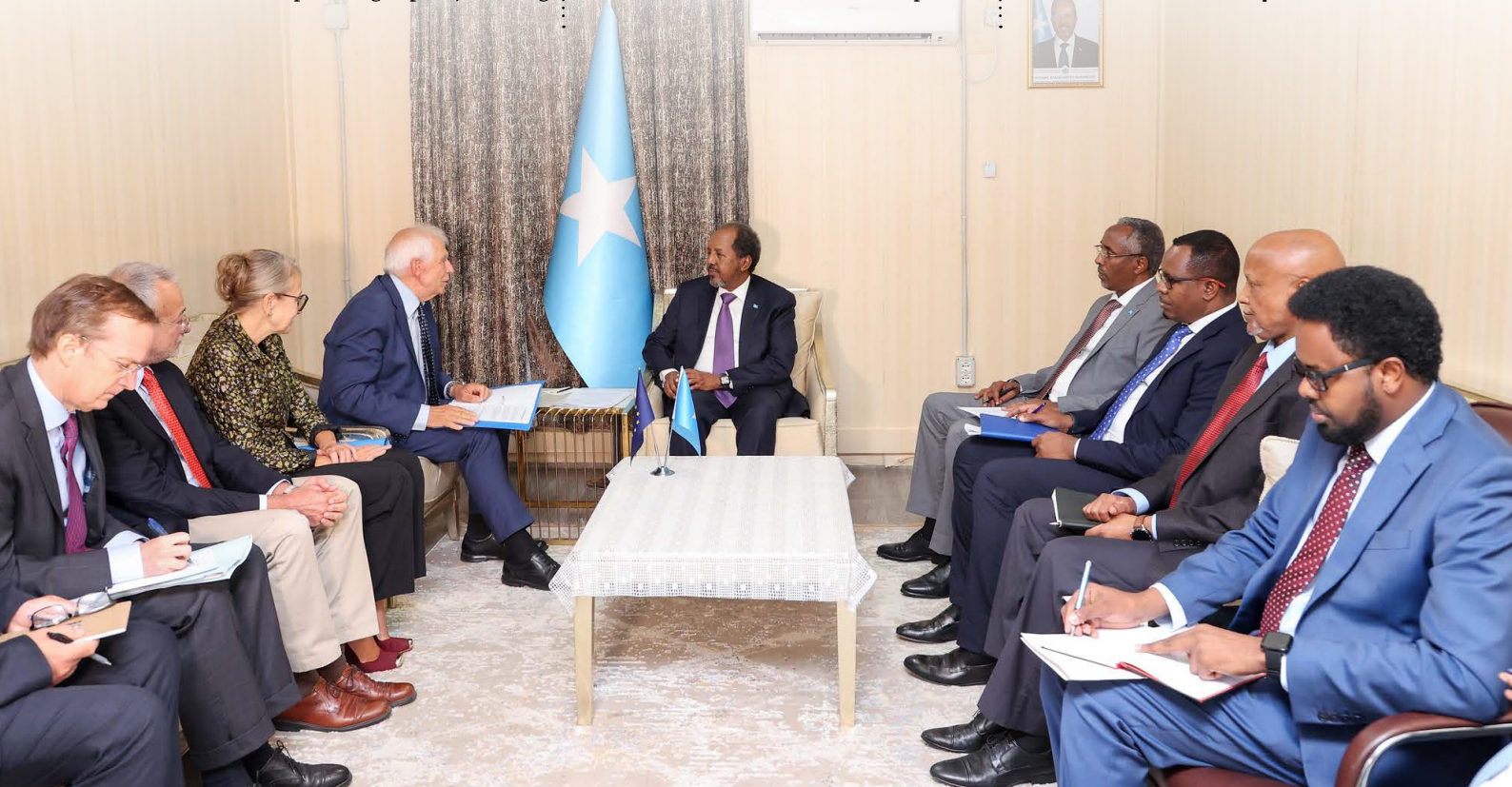
Visiting the missions and speaking to our soldiers and trainers, gave me first-hand insight on how our staff work on the ground, how they bring our security and defence policy to life. I praised our staff for their hard work and commitment in Mogadishu, as well as in Hargeisa, Garowe and Berbera. This work, far from home and in often very tough and difficult living conditions, takes courage and resilience and the dedication of our people in the field is a key element to promote and protect the EU's values and interests. It is a fundamental work, to preserve regional security and to demonstrate that the EU is Africa's most reliable partner,

supporting African peace efforts with in eleven missions across the continent.

We intend to continue to strengthen the Somali security institutions while diminishing gradually our support. The aim is that Somalia takes full ownership for its own security by the end of 2024. I assured President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud that our missions would stand by the army, the police and the coast guards to help them fulfil this objective. I also acknowledged the new leadership's efforts to promote economic and social reform and advance state-building in cooperation with federal member states –underlining that indeed cooperation between the federal government and the federal member states is crucial.

However, I also stressed that we are moving towards a more transactional partnership with the Somali authorities. EU support cannot be taken for granted and European citizens need to see that our engagement in Somalia bears fruit. For that, Somalia's leaders have to deliver a more secure, stable and democratic Somalia, delivering basic services and security to its people.

Josep Borrell, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the European Commission



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THE ETHIOPIA PROBLEM

By Mohamed Garad

About one hundred and sixteen years after the Tripartite Treaty of 1906 in which the imperialists of Great Britain and France formally recognized “the independent African empire of Ethiopia,” Ethiopia proves to be an unresolved colonial empire that is burning in all its corners.

The world’s deadliest war is happening in the Tigray region, core region of Ethiopia’s State. Ethiopia’s National Defense Forces (E.N.D.F) and neighboring Eritrean military with the help of the Amhara regional militia called Fano are waging a full-scale war against the Tigray Defense Forces (T.D.F), a coalition forces led by Tigray Liberation Front (T.P.L.F), a former leading member of the ruling coalition of Ethiopia between 1991 to 2018.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed

The atrocities of the war in Tigray are catastrophic and devastating. So far, the death toll of the war is more than half a million according to independent academic works, most of them civilians. The United Nations report warns about the likes of the Rwanda genocide could happen in Ethiopia. An investigative report of the United Nations International Commission of Human Rights Experts released on Thursday, September 22, 2022, concludes that atrocities that mount war crimes & crimes against humanity have been happening in Tigray since the start of the war in November 2020. Now, Tigray region is under a full-scale siege in which the entire region is blocked off from the necessities of life putting hundreds of thousands at risk of dying because of starvation. Such an act is by definition a collective punishment, and the UN report finds widespread use of extrajudicial killings, rape, sexual violence, and starvation of the civilian population as a method of warfare committed in the region.

The UN report categorically accuses Ethiopia’s government of committing crimes against humanity in Tigray while “the Tigrayan forces have committed serious human rights abuses, some amounting to war crimes.” As this essay is to be published, such



a brutal war is at its height and no reliable signs are showing it will end soon.

Ethiopia’s deadly war in the north isn’t the only shocking reality in the country at the present. An equally brutal but less covered war has been going on in the Oromia region even before the war in the North started. Independent human rights organizations reported grave human rights violations committed by Abiy Ahmed’s soldiers in Oromia under the government’s pretext of fighting against insurgency, the Oromo Liberation Army, OLA since early 2019. A single phone rung of a participant in a public gathering organized by the government caused him to be shot in front of the mass gathering in the Oromia region according to Amnesty International. In such a situation, one can imagine what might have been happening in the darkness and out of the public eyes. A complete state of terror and manslaughter in most parts of Oromia is at the present more or less a reality. A similar report finds human rights violations in the Amhara region as well.

The above are just a few descriptions of Ethiopia’s present gloomy situation. Mass upheaval, grievances, and denial of basic human and democratic rights are the norms across Ethiopia. A prime example is the Somali region, the historically war-ruined region and most contested region in Ethiopia which is relatively the most stable place in Ethiopia at the present simply because people have forgone their most fundamental rights to give peace every chance at least temporarily. Naturally, peace doesn’t last long in such a situation. The essay of Faisal Roble gives a great perspective on the present situation in the Somali region.

Ethiopia is on a such deadly path while it’s being led by the 2019th Nobel Peace Laureate, an extraordinary paradox and a major contradiction to the solemn meaning and the spirit of the world’s highest peace award. The laurels of the 2019 Nobel Peace Award have been strained by the blood of the people Ethiopia calls its citizens as the recipient of the Nobel is leading the war that caused war crimes and crimes against humanity in his own country.

Factors that have ripped off Abiy Ahmed from the standard Nobel Peace manners and ideals and putting the masses of Ethiopia into what can be described as a violent blackhole that sucks and brutalizes everything in and around it are generic. They emanate from the formation, nature and character of Ethiopia and its State. Ethiopia is founded on the basis of colonialism and its State is a lethal pure colonial product in which even the world’s highest peace award didn’t only fail to save it from self-afflictions but became one of its latest victims.

The entirety of the African States suffer generic foundational flaws as they are all birthed by a colonial womb. But Ethiopia is an exception. The womb of the colonial expedition that formed Ethiopia is resisting to deliver a non-colonial State(s). The long overdue labor became devastating perennial wars with human miseries. The ongoing brutal war is just one of them and will not be the last if a real resolution is not injected into the colonial mother. However, Ethiopia’s refusal to take a dose of effective resolution

became its conundrum which deprives Ethiopia peace and has caused liberty and basic human dignity to have eluded the masses. Observers of the horn and students of Ethiopian politics call that conundrum “the question of nations.”

The formation of Ethiopia through colonial expeditions started at the partition of Africa. An ambitious, cruel but tactically successful king of a small kingdom located in the north-central plateau of present day Ethiopia, known to be Menelik II, informed the invading European imperialists that he will not sit idle but will be a part of the colonial crusade. He wrote a letter to the European powers in 1891 and famously stated, “if powers at distance came forward to partition Africa, I don’t intend to be an indifferent spectator,” claiming the lands of his neighboring African nations and referring their people “sea of pagans”, a pure colonist’s slander. Securing weapons from the colonizers through conspiring, he conquered neighboring medieval African nations one after the other. “European imperialism met its match in this corner of Africa,” John Markakis writes in his book “Ethiopia: the last two frontiers.” Markakis is a leading political historian and retired professor of African Studies at the University of Crete who devoted a large part of his career studying Ethiopia’s politics and history.

Though the British empire ceded part of Somalia, the present-day Somali region, to Ethiopia in the treaty of November 29, 1954, the rest of Ethiopia was formed through such a colonial mechanism. The highly promoted myth that Ethiopia is the only African country that resisted colonialism is unreal as Ethiopia never had its present shape before colonialism but was formed out of the exact act of colonialism. In that sense, Ethiopia is the only African country that colonized and still occupies its fellow Africans to this day. Colonialism isn’t a race but an act and an African who conquered and occupied others is a colonizer in all senses.

One with a rational sense might argue Menelik’s brutal expansion wars were simply an act of State formation seeking validation from Charles Tilly’s famous remark of “War made the State, and the State made war,” However, Tilly’s remarks can nowhere be applied to the case of Ethiopia. In plain

language, while Tilly was referring to the rise of National States in Western Europe, Ethiopia’s rise in the 20th century was more than 80 distinct nations of which two—Ahmara-Tigray—forcefully conquered and occupied the rest. In that regard, the wars that made Ethiopia defy Tilly’s observation in western Europe as Ethiopia’s case involved the forceful incorporations and occupation of vast distinct nations, a prime example of empire building. Europe is full of empire-building literature and that’s where Ethiopia perfectly finds its place.

Successive Ethiopian rulers have all tried to resolve the fault lines of the empire they inherited, the question of nations—nations that were forcefully conquered and incorporated. All have failed to resolve. Abiy Ahmed is the worst of all in that regard. Their common failure denominator is blind disregard of the reality and the use of violence to resolve big political problems.

The imperial regime (1889–1974) reacted with an assimilationist State architect which tried to forcefully assimilate the entire population of the conquered nations into the Amhara national identity and culture to preserve the empire, but that only fueled wars and the regime finally failed. The successive Derg regime (1974–1991) established a tyrannical socialist state to subdue the resistance and preserve Ethiopia but suffered a violent and un-ceremonial downfall. The EPRDF regime (1991–2018) implemented a tyrannical regime that contravenes its constitution and rule of law to suppress the struggle for justice and freedoms but suffered the same fate as its predecessors. Even the current leader who is a Nobel Peace Prize recipient failed to break the vicious cycle of wars & violence but ultimately became a

Successive Ethiopian rulers have all tried to resolve the fault lines of the empire they inherited, the question of nations—nations that were forcefully conquered and incorporated.

victim of the violent cycle. All presided over murderous campaigns but failed to achieve peace, justice and freedom.

When Abiy Ahmed came to power, many hoped for a departure from the past and a genuine resolution of the conundrum. But Abiy Ahmed took the worst turn. He adopted “medemer”, an Ahmaric term for “synarchy” as his guiding philosophy to govern Ethiopia, but “medemer” has neither historical nor scientific roots to prove any rightness or relevance but proved to be a terrible fiction that widely opened the Pandora’s box. Abiy’s “medemer” fully ignored Ethiopia’s historic mistakes of oppression, downplayed major differences of history, culture, ethnicity and called for the ones of Ethiopia that all should conform to the views and the culture of one nation, the Amhara nation. Such a view resonated anger in the minds and hearts of the masses and ignited violence across the board. The brutal war of attrition in Tigray is fundamentally a result of a clash of views and identity. The same is true elsewhere in the empire.

As the result of “medemer”, the entirety of Ethiopia convulsed into a brutal war of annihilation.

At the present, “medemer” ignited Ethiopia’s State into a suicidal club. There are major waves of brutal wars that led war crimes and crimes against humanity, civil unrest, economic bankruptcy and political turmoil which are threatening Ethiopia’s sole existence once again. While the prime minister’s views ignite violence, his unwavering lust for power and tyrannical approach are crimping the last vestiges of Ethiopia’s tyrannical State into its final death spiral. Thus, fear of the worst will be real and if Ethiopia continues this path, it will either perish in its fight to preserve its colonial empire and tyrannical State order or will commit the worst genocide of all. Either way, the continuity of the historic oppressive Ethiopia is unlikely and post-war Ethiopia will unlikely be the same again in shape and character. So why not spare the human lives now and force this aimless war to stop now?

Mohamed is an independent Researcher, entrepreneur, co-founder & president of Ifiti Institute of History and the co-founder & CEO of N & H Trucking.

Camels deliver free education to nomadic pastoralists in Ethiopia's Somali Region

(E)RGO) – When Khadra Good Sulub migrated in August to Adadle village from Dabalweyne in Fafan zone, in Ethiopia's Somali Region, her children were able to keep up with their schooling thanks to an alternative education programme where delivery is literally made by camels.

Her family of pastoralists have migrated three times since last year and her four children in grade two and four remained in school, with camels organised by the local education authority and Save the Children carrying the books and learning materials to a location near their temporary home.

"We are happy that our children stay with us and attend to our livestock while also getting an education. We didn't believe until the local education council reached out to us with this new education system," said Khadra.

They are among 3,501 children from nomadic families being supported through the free mobile education service operating in the six districts of Fafan (previously Jigjiga).

Khadra says families living their lifestyle in rural areas have a lot of work and they need their children to help.

"I take care of the livestock in the morning, while they attend their classes. They come back in the afternoon and herd the livestock. When I come back I cook for them while they are with the livestock," she explained.

Khadra, a mother of nine, has 60 goats left after losing 35 to the drought and is focused on getting enough grazing to keep the remaining herd alive. She wants her children to learn although would not be able to afford the fees, food and rent if they had to attend schools in the city.

Ethiopia's Somali Region education board gives free books and pens to the children. The teachers move with the community, herding their own livestock as



well.

The head of education affairs in Harshin district, Sahardiid Abdi Jama, said the programme aimed to ensure that children from pastoralist families are not excluded from education.

"We hope to get people to be able to read and do their maths. Just like in urban areas the people in the rural areas need to get education through this programme called Alternative Basic Education targeting the pastoralist families," said Sahardiid.

"The pastoralist communities live in areas that cannot be reached by vehicles, and that is why we decided to use the camels. They carry boxes of books and our offices take care of the camels' health, their fodder and water," Sahardiid

added.

Six men take care of the camels and the government pays each of them \$35 a month, providing a job opportunity for the drought-hit families.

Ahmed Yasin Abdullahi is one of camel keepers. He has three children and keeps 50 goats in Tagan-duur village in Harshin. He has enrolled his son in the education programme too.

"I am an employee of the government. When I got this opportunity I was happy since my children also get to study," said Ahmed.

"I take care of two camels and they carry 125 books as well the blackboards and chalk. Whenever the nomadic families migrate, we migrate with them. The ministry of education provides medicine and other things needed by the camels," he added.

Bashir Deq Abdi is one of the 120 teachers employed. He is a father of five and his family owns 20 goats in a rural part of Harshin. He said students learn in the morning until midday. He teaches mathematics, science and language classes and worked in public schools for 12 years in Harshin before being transferred to this programme.

"The pastoralist communities live in areas that cannot be reached by vehicles, and that is why we decided to use the camels."
Sahardiid

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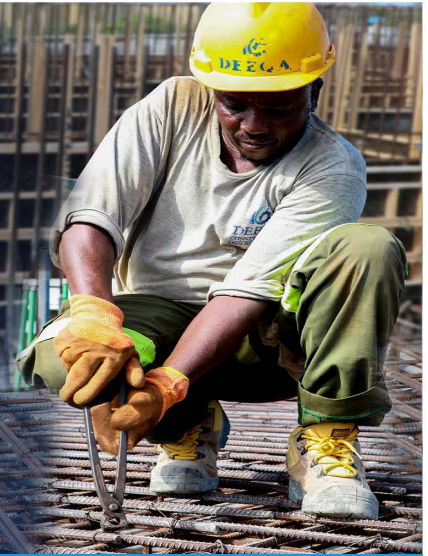
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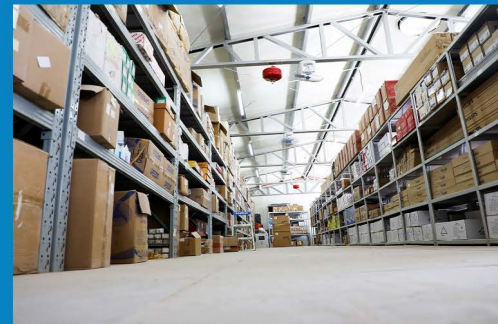
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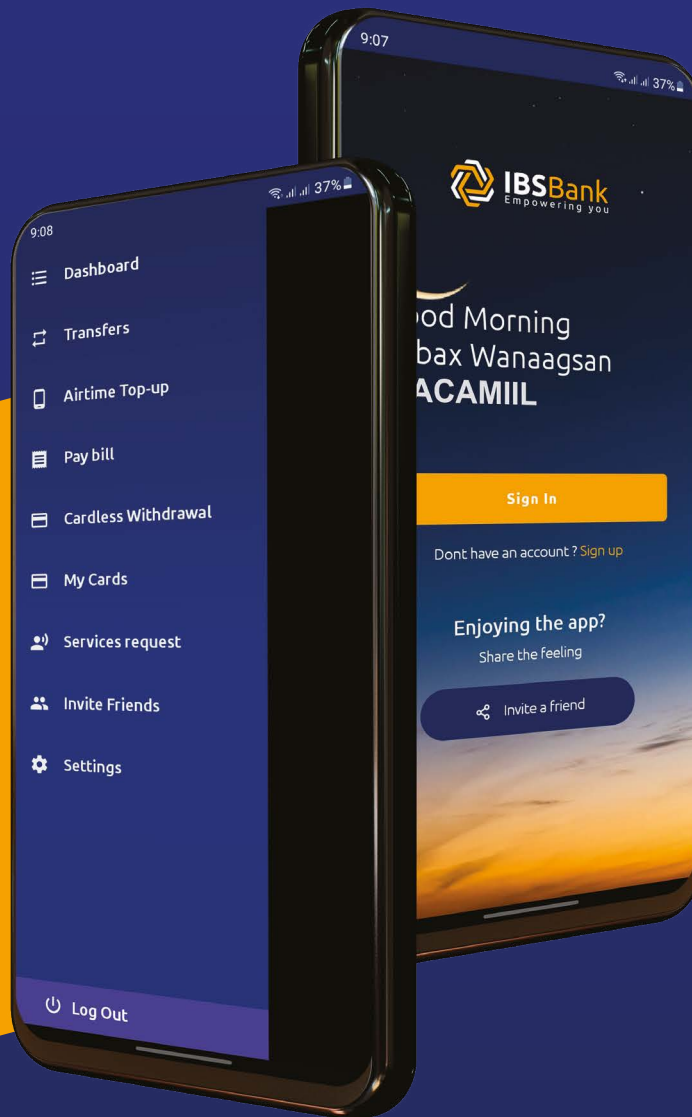


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