



SOMALILAND UK MISSION

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WELCOME TO **SOMALILAND** UK MISSION JOURNAL

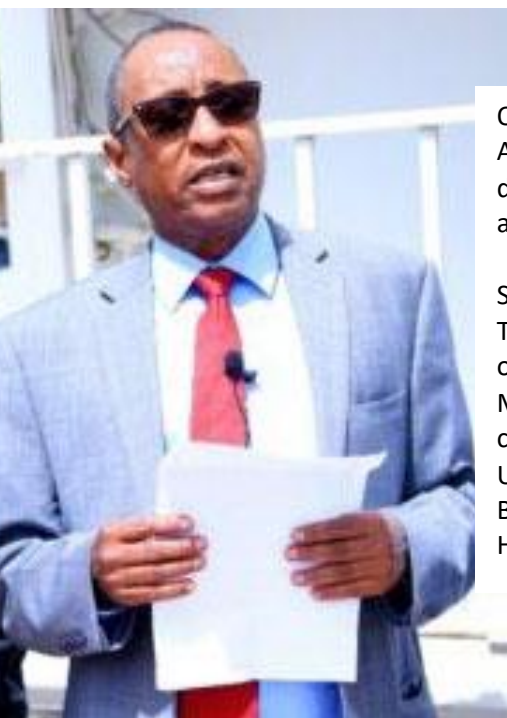
Somaliland UK Mission electronic journal is a periodical publication offering information about events and programs engaged by the UK Mission office, both here in the United Kingdom and the Motherland, as well as the contributions of Somaliland Diaspora Communities in the United Kingdom.

IN THIS ISSUE, YOU CAN FIND.

- The Head of Somaliland Mission to the United Kingdom Handed over a Mobile Laboratory to the Ministry of health
- Chevening scholarship students
- The 61st anniversary of Somaliland Independence
- A Profile of the Republic of Somaliland
- Somaliland marks the 30th anniversary of the re-proclamation of its independence on the 18th May 1991



THE HEAD OF SOMALILAND MISSION TO THE UNITED KINGDOM HANDED OVER A MOBILE LABORATORY TO THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH.



On June 21, 2021, the Somaliland representative to the UK, His Excellency Abdi Abdullahi Hersi handed over a modern Mobile Laboratory Unit donated by the country's dedicated diaspora communities in the UK, US, and Australia, to the Health Ministry.

Speaking at a ceremony held in the presidential Palace, The Hon. Mr. Hersi, The Head of Somaliland Mission to the UK. spoke of his delight to be joining others at the official handover of the mobile laboratory Unit to the Health Ministry. He also stressed that he would like to thank all those who contributed to the cost of this mobile lab including the Somaliland Mission UK staff, Australia Somaliland Youth Community, Alliance Network Birmingham, Bristol Somaliland Community, ISRAAC Community, and Hargeisa Neurology Hospital.

The Honorable Mr. Hersi also thanked Baroness Nicholson, the founder of AMAR International Charitable Foundation, Raggeh Omar, Mo Farah, and Somaliland representative to UAE H.E. Mounir A. Ibrahim for their role with the coordinating, shipment, and delivery of the unit. This mobile lab will enable Somaliland health staff quick access to the communities living in the remote areas.' He added 'Today's handover event takes place during a time when we are fighting the Covid-19.



The notable guests who attended this ceremony were, the Minister of Health, Dr. Omar Ali Abdilahi, the Director-General of Health, Dr. Mohamed Abdi Hergeye, Somaliland Representative to The United Kingdom, H.E. Abdi A. Hersi, Director of the Department of Diaspora at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Saad Mohamed Abdi Geddo, Director of the National Library, Mr. Ahmed Dahir and The Director-General of the Presidency, Mr. Mohamed Ali Bile. The Presidential Office also donated a pulling vehicle for the Laboratory Unit.

The event concluded with the handed over the keys to the officials of the Ministry of Health who officially took over both vehicles and the accompanying equipment.

CHEVENING SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS



The Somaliland representative to the UK, Abdi Abdullahi Hersi welcomed four students from Somaliland into his office. All four students who are currently studying for their second degree in the UK Universities were awarded scholarships through the British Government-funded Chevening Scholarship Program. The Somaliland representative to the UK, H.E. Hersi told the students that it is a great privilege to meet such remarkable and talented young people at the Mission's premises., adding that he hopes they will, in time, form a part of Somaliland's future leaders.

This year the program awarded seven postgraduate scholarship places for students and four of them are female students. The students are studying a range of subjects from International Politics and human rights, Banking and Finance, to International Planning and Urban Design at some of the best universities in the UK.



The Public Relations and Diaspora Counsellor, Yurub Farah, who organized the event, also addressed scholars and said: 'There are positive social transformations taking place in our country and you have a responsibility to contribute to that, with your involvement, we will be able to take bigger leaps forward.'

She concluded by thanking the UK government and the people of the UK for providing this opportunity to talented Somalilanders.

Dahir Tukale, Deputy/Consul also Congratulated the students on their achievement, adding that we have seven young brilliant minds who will be off to different prestigious UK universities to study for their Master's Degree.' Chevening scholarships are the UK government's global scholarship program which has been running for over 30 years. Finally, the students highly appreciated the warm welcome and hospitality from The Somaliland Mission UK.

THE 61ST ANNIVERSARY OF SOMALILAND INDEPENDENCE



Amid the recent surge in covid-19 cases, and in line with government advice and guidance to help reduce the risk of spreading coronavirus, the Somaliland UK Mission decided to hold a downsized event at Degmo, to commemorate the 61st anniversary of the Somaliland Independence. The representative of the Somaliland UK Mission H.E Abdi A. Hersi spoke of the history of Somaliland and the struggle for independence from Britain, while other officials led by the deputy H.E Dahir Tukale reiterated Somaliland's commitment to democracy and social equality, as well as the willingness to work with its friends in the international community in promoting peace and development in the region.



Somaliland was a British protectorate. The British implemented an indirect rule that incorporated local traditional laws, and after gaining independence on 26th June 1960, Somaliland was recognized by 35 countries that included China, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, Israel, Libya, and the Soviet Union. While southern Somalia was still being governed by Italy. The Italians introduced a more direct administration that undermined local traditions and weakened elders and gained independence from Italy five days later, on 1 July. The same day, the two territories united to form the Somali Republic.





After ousting the regime in Mogadishu, the people of Somaliland opted for ending the unsuccessful union with Somalia and the reinstatement of their independence on the 18th of May 1991, from thereon, people in Somaliland worked hard to develop a unique way to resolve their differences, a process that has resulted in Somaliland being considered to be the most successful and stable democracy in the Horn of Africa.

With demarcated territory, a permanent population, elected government, multi-party system, fair and transparent presidential and parliamentary elections leading to peaceful transfers of power, Somaliland presents a strong case for full international recognition.



A PROFILE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOMALILAND



- **Official name:** Republic of Somaliland
- **Capital and largest city:** Hargeisa
- **Main port:** Berbera
- **President:** HE Muse Bihi Abdi
- **Vice-President:** HE Abdirahman Seylici
- **Geographic Location:** Horn of Africa
- **Has internationally recognized borders with Djibouti to the west, Ethiopia to the south, and Somalia to the east**
- **Surface Area:** 136.000 square km
- **Destinations:** Hargeisa, Berbera, Bulahaar, Borama, Gabiley, Zeila, Burao, Erigavo, Lasanod, and many more
- **Points of interest:** Mount Shimbibiris, Laas Geel, Golis mountains, Daalo, and Fort of Taleh
- **Currency:** Somaliland Shilling
- **Language:** Somali
- **Second Languages:** English-Arabic
- **Driving side:** right
- **Date format:** dd/mm/yyyy (AD)
- **Time Zone (Current Offset):** UTC/GMT +3
- **Somaliland cuisine:** consists of a mixture of native Somali, Yemeni, Indian and Ethiopian, and despite varieties, all foods are served Halaal
- **Religious festivities and holidays:** Eid ul-Adha and Eid Ul-Fitr
- **Other Holidays:** 18 May and 26 June (Independence day).
- **Was a British protectorate from 1887 to 1960**
- **Declared re-assertion of independence on 18 May 1991**
- **Calling code:** +252
- **Population:** 2017 estimate ~ 4 million
- **GDP (PPP):** Total ~ \$2.00 billion
- **Per capita:** ~ \$547
- **Currency:** Somalilandshilling

PRESIDENTIAL CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM



Somaliland has a multi-party system, with three official parties. Somaliland's constitution limits the political parties to three; the president and the Vice-president are directly elected by the people.

Somaliland's constitution was drafted in 1997 and ratified by the parliament in 2002. The president of the Republic of Somaliland is an executive head of state, also functioning as the head of government whose term length is two consecutive 5-year terms. There is no Prime Minister. Five presidents were elected since Somaliland declared re-assertion on 18 May 1991.

LEGISLATURE

Upper house: House of Elders and are a five-year term (82 members)

Lower house: House of Representatives and are five-year term (82 members)

1. The names of the currently elected parties are: Peace, Unity, and Development Party (Kulmiye), and party Chairman is HE Muse Biihi Abdi and president of the country
- 2.
3. The justice and Welfare Party (UCID), and party Chairman is Faysal Ali Waraabe
- 4.
5. (Wadani) Party and the party chairman is Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi

ECONOMY

Somaliland has maintained a healthy informal economy, based mainly on livestock, remittances/money transfer companies, and telecommunications. According to the British chamber of commerce report in 2017, the private sector grew, particularly in the service sector. There has been substantial unmeasured private investment in commercial activities largely financed by the Somalilander diaspora mainly trade and marketing, money transfers services, transportation, communications, fishery equipment, airlines, telecommunication, education, health, construction, and hotels. The GDP is estimated at \$1.5 billion.

NOTABLE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

- **The Central Bank of Somaliland**
- **The Somaliland Commercial Bank**

Dahabshiil Bank, Dara Salam Bank, Premier Bank, and World Remit.

SOMALILAND STANDS FOR:

- Peace and democracy
- Opposition to terrorism and piracy
- Sustainable development and lasting prosperity

A BRIEF HISTORY

In 1884, after establishing a presence in the coastal towns of Berbera and Zeila, Britain declared the formation of the protectorate of British Somaliland. On 26 June 1960, Britain recognized Somaliland as an independent, sovereign state, making it the 12th country in Africa to receive its independence. Upon independence, congratulatory telegrams were sent from 35 countries, including all five permanent UN Security Council members. However, six days later, Somaliland entered into an ultimately doomed union with former Italian Somalia to form the Somali Republic on a deeply compromised legal basis.

During the 31 years, Somaliland's population suffered systematic discrimination and injustice. This culminated in the killing of tens of thousands of Somalilanders in particular during the period of Siyad Barre's dictatorial rule and displacement of the majority of the population as part of a genocidal crackdown of their popular resistance. In 1991, the people of Somaliland decided to dissolve the failed union with Somalia, reclaiming their independence and affirming their right to self-determination.

A COMPLETE LIST OF ELECTIONS HELD THROUGH THE BALLOT BOX BY THE PEOPLE OF SOMALILAND:

- 1959 British Somaliland parliamentary election
- 1960 British Somaliland parliamentary election
- 2001 Somaliland constitutional referendum
- 2002 Somaliland municipal elections
- 2003 Somaliland presidential election
- 2005 Somaliland parliamentary election
- 2010 Somaliland presidential election
- 2012 Somaliland municipal elections
- 2017 Somaliland presidential election
- 2021 combined Somaliland municipal and

ART AND CULTURE

The culture of the Somalilanders encompasses a wide range of activities and Islamic structures with rich historical heritage. All Somalilanders are Sunni Muslims and Islam is vitally important to the nation of national identity. Islam and poetry play as the twin pillars of Somaliland culture. Arabian Oud is commonly played when composing music.

Ciyaar-Somali is the most popular dance. Somaliland is also known for its Collapsible Mobile Aqal-Somali (Hut) carried by he-camels traditionally used by nomads, and its decorative handcrafted items i.e jugs, koor, dhiil, and heedho. Henne paintings are used by girls and women to decorate their hands and feet for joyous celebrations like Eid and weddings.

A SMALL NOTE OF BIG CONSEQUENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Somaliland constitution was drafted in 1997 by his Excellency Mohamed Ibrahim Egal's government and then put to a referendum in 2001 to be later ratified by the Somaliland parliament.

Somaliland UK Mission

SOMALILAND MARKS THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RE-PROCLAMATION OF ITS INDEPENDENCE ON 18TH MAY 1991

Somalilanders and friends around the globe celebrated 30 years of independence by commemorating the day we reinstated our sovereignty, the 18th May 1991, with festive events and meetings. Somaliland UK Mission marked this important day by hosting an online event participated by many prominent politicians, academics, and community leaders from both back home and here in the UK.

Somaliland continues to enjoy peace, political stability, and vibrant democracy for 30 years in an area known for political instability and civil unrest.



Recently, Somaliland held successful parliamentary and local elections on the 31st May 2021, receiving congratulations and acknowledgments for such significant achievement from around the world, including The United Kingdom, European Union, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland.

The state of Somaliland fulfilled all conditions of statehood, and with 97% of its population voting for full independence, and having its flag, currency, democratically elected government, a national army, and demarcated borders based on colonial lines, Somaliland has a strong case for international recognition.

Despite the hesitancy of the outside world to award Somaliland a full recognition and absence of African initiative on the case, the people of Somaliland are united and will not be deterred from their quest to see their country being a part of the international community, with the capacity to contribute to the peace and prosperity for all humanity.

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