

# Puntland Post Monthly

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### Professor Mohamed S. Samantar: Debt Relief Could propel Somalia into a New Era of Prosperity

*Professor Mohamed Said Samantar teaches economics at the Puntland State University. Before the collapse of the state in Somalia in 1991 he taught economics at the Department of Economics of the Somali National University in addition to being a mathematician who was a member of the committee tasked with writing mathematics books in Somali language for schools. He holds DPhil in economics from the University of Sussex. He has written and co-written research papers published in peer-reviewed journals. Puntland Post Monthly interviewed him by email.*

**Puntland Post Monthly:** Somalia is seeking debt relief. Given the current political situation in Somalia, is debt-relief an agenda worthy of the Federal Government of Somalia's attention?

**Professor M.S. Samantar:** Yes, it is worth seeking debt relief. Total debt service refers to all costs related to servicing a country's debt. This often includes interest payments, principal payments, and other obligations. Somalia's government lacks the ability to collect domestic revenue. External debt – mostly in arrears – was estimated at about 77% of GDP in 2017.

**Puntland Post Monthly:** If successful what impact will debt relief have on the economy of Somalia?

**Professor M.S. Samantar:** If successful it could propel the country into a new era of prosperity. "Debt relief is also more or less a prerequisite for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)." Somalia may bank on its oil stock.

**Puntland Post Monthly:** How likely is that, in the absence of debt to service, the Federal Government of Somalia may borrow money from multilateral organisations?

**Professor M.S. Samantar:** It is highly unlikely to receive Multilateral Money from public or private financial institutions to foster development projects. Cancelling the debt would give Somalia access to long-term development finance, create the conditions for private investment, and open the door to a vital stream of humanitarian funding.

*Continued on page 2, column, 2*

**Puntland Post Monthly:** In 1987 you had your paper on debt servicing published in now-defunct *Industrial Management Review*. Roughly what percentage of the debt Somalia was servicing then had been borrowed before and after the military coup of 1969?



**Professor M. S. Samantar**

**Professor M.S. Samantar:** Somalia's external debt is about 5.3 billion U.S. dollars, but the Federal Government has not made a service or amortization payment since the onset of the civil war two decades ago, making it impossible to access loans from the IMF.

**Puntland Post Monthly:** The Somali Federal Government has developed a National Development Plan although Somaliland Administration has its own Development Plan through which it accesses development assistance. The former military regime abandoned centrally planned economy in 1986, when it had signed up to Structural

Adjustment Program under IMF. What are pitfalls into which planners can fall in a country recovering from state collapse?

**Professor M.S. Samantar:** The Somali Federal Government has developed a three-year Development Plan 2017-2019 and preparing a five-year Development plan 2020-2024 for Somalia as a whole. These are not different from the 1986 development plan of a central unitary government. So2maliland and Puntland have developed their own Development Plans. However, no harmonisation has ever taken place among the different plans.

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NECSOM is a Somali utility company founded in 2003. It supplies Garowe, the administrative capital of Puntland round-the-clock electricity. NECSOM has partnered with utility companies in Kismayo, Bosaso and other towns in Somalia.

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# AMAL BANK: A PIONEER IN LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Amal Bank** has distinguished itself as a premier financial services company by revitalizing corporate responsibility in Somalia.

Since 2015 Amal Bank has conducted business development training for female proprietors of small businesses in Puntland. Amal Bank organised one of those seminars with USAID and Somali Institute for Development Research and Analysis (SIDRA) last December. "Our role was the work with SIDRA to organise the training to link up female-owned businesses with Amal Bank" said Ahmed Said, the USAID official, who spoke at the training. The training was an opportunity for business women to present their business plans. Amal Bank representative at the venue said the bank would open business accounts for participants and urged them to meet the criteria for accessing a business grant from Amal Bank. Business plans presented by participants pertain to such different sectors as farming, convenience shops, beauty salons and groceries. Amal Bank extended interest-free business loans to more than 400 hundred businesses owned by Somali women.

At the 2018 Oxford Africa Conference Amina J. Mohammed, the Deputy Secretary-General and United Nations stated "African women produce 60% of food, earn 10% of income and own 1% of the assets."



## Amal Bank: Business Grants

In 2016 Amal Bank, ILO and Local Economic Development Forum ran a programme to distribute business grants to owners of small businesses in Qardho and Garowe. 220 business owners received business grants. Amal Bank and the Central Bank of Somalia conducted business plan competition for female business owners in Bosaso city. "The role of Amal Bank in local economic development in Puntland deserved to become a business case study" said Yusuf Ali, a journalist in Bosaso.

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## How Can Somalia-based Companies Sell Equity?

**A year** has elapsed since Somtel sold shares to the public at an event in Mogadishu. The telecommunications company of Dahabshiil Group went down in Somali business history as the first company to publicly sell shares. This will remain a competitive edge of Somtel's until other companies follow suit.

Raising an equity capital is one of the ways a company takes advantage of growth opportunities in a saturated market. The decision to sell shares reflects realisation that Somalia-based conglomerates can no longer practise cronyism when selling equity. For a company to sell shares it has to ensure interested investors in any part of the country can buy shares. The business ecosystem of Somalia makes such a goal difficult to attain. Somalia does not have a Stock Exchange.

For investors to buy shares in a given sector they will need to make informed decisions. Types of shares sold and for what price are as a useful decision-making tool as dividends companies pay and the number of shareholders.

Somali businesses have entered a new phase. Companies selling equity will have to make disclosures

*Continued on page 4, column 1*

ranging from how the company is run to the economic case for raising a capital from the public. Wealth creation cannot by itself be a sound reason for increasing the number of shareholders. If investors can buy shares they should be able to sell their shares if the need arises. The practice of holding a ceremony to publicise selling of shares to investors paves the way for the setting up of brokerages through which retail investors can buy or sell shares



**Chairman of Dahabshiil Group**

*Saamiga* ( meaning the share in Somali) is a *Puntland Post* initiative to promote the creation of Somalia-based brokerages. It will follow the trend of selling shares. *Saamiga* aims to eventually become a brokerage. It will collaborate with business economists, commercial lawyers, accountants to help investors make sense of the wealth creation opportunities that buying shares in Somalia-based companies may provide.

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## Federalism-bashing Finance Minister of Somalia

A couple of years ago Dr Abdirahman Duale Beileh , the Finance Minister of the Federal Government of Somalia, wrote a popular called *Soomaaliya Waa Mashruuc* ( Somalia is a Project). When the Somali National Television played the song Dr Beyle had been the Foreign Minister of a Government unable to rein in run- away corruption.



**Dr Beileh at Brookings Institution**

Dr Beileh extolled the use of mobile money in Somalia despite the fact that the mobile money in circulation in Somalia is denominated in US Dollars. In 2014 the first post-transition government of President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud drew up a plan to print Somali Shillings in Sudan. The plan has not come to fruition.

State collapse meant that no authority has a powers to print Somali Shillings that can be viewed as a legal tender throughout Somalia. In such a monetary situation the national currency of Somalia cannot be fully fungible, [one of the criteria for money to be a unit of](#)

[account](#). At Africa Growth Initiative at Brookings Doha Center Brookings Growth Summit Dr Beileh pounced at the opportunity to differentiate the incumbent Federal Government from its predecessor and Federal Member States. He questions on what basis Somalia, a homogeneous country, has adopted federalism. He said that citizens were not keen on federalism. “Only regional leaders are” he added. A catalogue of achievements attained by the Federal Government predisposes Dr Beileh to get gung-ho about centralism. The Federal Government embarked on successful security reforms that save roughly US\$ 10 million previously pocketed by corrupt commanders and managers in the name of phantom soldiers and civil servants in Mogadishu and nearby regions. At an event for the Somali community in USA, Dr Beileh vowed to sue any organisation that describes the Federal Government as corrupt. “ Every year we meet the targets set for us in revenue generation. We follow strict and transparent procurement procedures” the Finance Minister added. There is a risk that progress in governance may unravel if the Federal Government uses its political platform to deride foundations upon which it is standing.

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# In Coup D'etat We Trusted

By Yamayska

The fiftieth anniversary of the military coup that cut short Somalia's experiment with parliamentary democracy stirs up passions in Twittersphere. Views exchanged by those still enamoured of the *kacaan* (revolution) day and those who find it abhorrent to this day realise that 280 letters cannot deliver a nuanced view of a regime that bit the dust nearly 29 years ago. The zeal with which each camp presented its view reminded this columnist of Chou En Lai's dictum on the French Revolution (some say it was about 1968 student revolt): It is too early to tell about the impact of the Revolution.

The impact of the Somali military coup runs deep in the Somali political discourse. Is the failure to reflect on that fateful day in a level-headed manner to do with the language Somalis use to discuss their politics? Language here does not refer to the mother tongue of Somalis upon which the military regime bestowed dignity of orthography in 1972. It alludes to terms used to describe a political phenomenon. One of those terms is *kelitalisnimo* (

Dictatorship) which was never allowed to feature on the government-run mass media. Fifty years is a long time in a country's history. The military regime inherited a system nurtured and run by civilian leaders. Armed opposition movements that toppled the military regime had not shared post-dictatorship goals. Unlike the military commanded by Major Mohamed Siad Barre before overthrowing the civilian government, the opposition did not have one leader able to steer Somalia towards a more prosperous and democratic path. Those facts might make *kacaan* enthusiasts look winners in tweet exchanges. The military regime was autocracy. Sam Hill defines "[autocrats as those who came to power and held on to it through undemocratic means. It turns out badly 99% of the time, measured both by the rights of people in those countries and their economies.](#)" According to Simon, 99 % of autocracies resulted in failed or failing states. State collapse followed the ouster of the military dictatorship.

To many Somalis it is difficult to be on the guard against the military regime's approach to history. The regime described its predecessor government as *dowladdii*



Major General M. S. Barre

*musuqmaasuqa* (the corrupt government) and yet corruption reached its zenith under the military regime. [In Monetary and Exchange Rate Policies 1960-2001](#), Mohamed Dalmar Abdurahman recounts how the junta abolished the Somali Central Bank Law that prevented civilian leaders from printing money or using Somalia's hard currency reserves. The military regime leaders reneged on their promise to return to barracks. To stay in power longer than desired in the national interest is an indefensible argument. That is partly why the 1991 political change was both violent and fruitless.

## Somaliland to be a party to the Revenue-sharing Agreement for Federal Member States

Somaliland claims to have seceded from Somalia in 1991 but the Federal Government of Somalia counts the Hargeysa-based administration as one of the Federal Member States. The Somali Minister for Petroleum and Mineral Resources, Abdirashid Mohamed Ahmed



**Abdirashid M. Ahmed**

attended 2019 India Energy Forum held between 13-15 October 2019 in New Delhi. [In an article for the \*Economic Times\*](#), Mr Ahmed argues the new petroleum law to be passed by the Federal Parliament “ sets out the financial and regulatory framework that enables our Government to finally explore whether reserves of oil and gas exist, as so long suspected, off

...Somalia’s coastline. The revenue sharing agreement embedded in the Law mandates how future revenues will be shared between the federal government, Somalia’s six constituent member states and their local communities.” There are five Federal Member States in Somalia ( Puntland, Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Southwest and Jubaland.” Mogadishu retains the status of a Federal Capital. Somaliland is the sixth Federal Member State that the Federal Government views as being a party to the revenue-sharing Agreement. Mohamud Abdikadir Hilaal, the Deputy Minister for Petroleum Ministry, tweeted that ExxonMobil paid the “first of \$ 1.7 Million Rental Service Fee for their and gas blocks in Somalia. The Management of this Money will be guided by the newly Resource-Sharing Model signed by FGS & FMS In Baidoa.” Earlier this year the *Financial Times* reported the “[the \[ Petroleum \] Ministry is also expected to honour legacy contracts including the one signed in 2014 by Soma Oil and Gas, which was chaired by former Conservative party leader Michael Howard up until June of last year.](#)”

## Somali Public Agenda

Somali Public Agenda is a non-profit public policy and administration research organization based in Mogadishu. Its aim is to advance understanding and improvement of public administration and public services in Somalia through evidence-based research and analysis.



At Somali Public Agenda, we believe that all Somalis deserve better public services including access to affordable education, healthcare, housing, security and justice delivered via transparent and accountable authorities.

As sample of publications of Somali Public Agenda

[Review of Somalia’s draft national election bill](#)

[Division of powers and responsibilities in a federal Somalia](#)

[www.somalipublicagenda.org](http://www.somalipublicagenda.org)

## Human Rights Violations

Dear editor,  
Congratulations for launching *Puntland Post Monthly*. The webzine is well-designed; the content in the first issue is interesting. I have particularly enjoyed reading the interview with the Kenyan journalist, Rasna Warah. The issue of war crimes in Somalia has long been kept under the rug. The blame, in my opinion, lies with our political classes. If they banded together to overthrow a military dictatorship why have they adopted a more damaging attitude towards human rights? Human rights is at the bottom of Somalia's political priorities. That is why human rights violations continue in one form or another throughout Somalia.

Faysal A. Harbi,  
Yaaqshiid,  
Mogadishu.

## Investors and the Rule of Law

Dear editor,  
Your report on *Puntland Investment Forum* drew my attention to the link between the rule of law and economic development. The new Puntland Investment Law to be passed by the Parliament of Puntland is a commendable step to attract investors to Puntland. Is

Puntland ready for fierce competition associated with opening up its markets? Direct Foreign Investment can boost growth and create jobs, two worthy economic goals Somali businesses cannot achieve due to their limited scale. Somalia ranks 190 in the World Bank Ease of Doing Business Report. A lot of work is awaiting Somalia in general to improve its ranking.

182	Haiti	38.52
183	Central African Republic	36.90
184	Congo, Dem. Rep.	36.85
185	South Sudan	35.34
186	Libya	33.44
187	Yemen, Rep.	32.41
188	Venezuela, RB	30.61
189	Eritrea	23.07
190	Somalia	20.04

**Doing business in Somalia isn't easy**

Ahmed Hassan,  
Hulme, Manchester,  
The United Kingdom.

## Mobile Money

Dear editor,  
Mobile money wallets in Somalia shows the ingenuity of Somali entrepreneurs in a country with multiple and fractious authorities. The ease with which people buy or sell things by using mobile money

wallets with no transaction costs is laudable (Interview with Ali H. Warsame, October 2019). As a member of the diaspora my relatives prefer receiving remittances through their mobile phones. They do not need to go to the office of a money transfer agent. Of all the stories I heard about mobile money in Somalia, the encounter in Mogadishu between a passenger and a bus driver is most amusing. The passenger made overpayment and asked for a refund. The driver does not have the authority to make a refund. He said to the passenger: "*I soo raac raac*" (keep catching my bus). The driver thought by waiving bus fares on the local passenger's future commuting, he had would be making a refund by instalments. The phrase, *ii soo tuur* (send the money to me by mobile phone) is a common phrase heard to make a payment at a restaurant or to a service provider.

Suleyman Ali,  
Malmo, Sweden

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*Puntland Post Monthly* welcomes readers' comments. Send comments or feedback to to: [ppm@puntlandpost.net](mailto:ppm@puntlandpost.net). We reserve the right to edit letters to the editor.

# The Case for Accounting Standards in Somalia

By Ali Haji Warsame

**Shortly after** Somalia's Auditor General published the annual government audit and compliance report (Annual Performance Report 2018) followed by an interview with the Minister of Finance in response to the report, the Somali public started to discuss the merits of the report and the ministerial rebuttal. An Auditor General passes a judgement on how public finances are managed on the basis of auditing rules and principles. Those rules and principles are meant furnish the government, donors, investors and business-owners with information about the state of public finances.

In this essay, I am going to discuss the importance of putting in place a standardised financial system in Somalia, a country that has gained a lot from the entrepreneurial zest complemented by investment from members from Somali diaspora, who invested in in different sectors such as remittances, telecommunications, education (primary, secondary and tertiary) and health care.

If you do want to run a business of your own, for example, you will have to think about how to make a profit from products or the service you sell and pay

employees (if you are not a sole trader). It is equally important to pay off debts you owe and collect money you are owed. In short you have to know if the return on investment warrants further investment. In order to do that, a business should have an accountant.

Accountants record the company's accounts in line with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). In many cases, businesses hire the service of auditors and accountants in order to make sure that all record keeping practices are complied with. Doing so will provide investors with information about the financial position of the company reflected in the audited accounts.

Accounting standards allow for a government to levy taxes, and regulators to make sure that businesses comply with, among order obligations, safety standards and environment protection, what is now known Environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG).

In the extremely unregulated business environment of Somalia, there is a risk that entrepreneurial progress can be undone by the absence of national accounting standards aligned with the International Financial Reporting Standards. For the government to be able to levy income tax, it will oblige business owners to submit

company accounts once a year. The task of preparing company accounts falls to accountants, who will prepare a company's accounts in line with existing accounting and tax laws. Without trained and independent accountants, a government will not be able to introduce a reliable and sound taxation policy.

In 1986 the former military government created a Ministry of Revenues (Wasaaradda Lacagta) with a mandate to send existing business in Somalia back-dated tax bills (*macaashul-macaash*). An office of the Ministry of Revenue had been built at the main office of every district commissioner's office in Mogadishu.

There were no accountants with a private practice although financial accounting was a subject taught at the former Technical and Commercial Teachers' College of the Somali National University and ex-Somali Institute of Development Administration and Management (SIDAM). SIDAM trained accountants for both public and private entities. Some SIDAM graduates found employment with joined parastatals including quasi-private entities such as the National Insurance Company and Somali Airlines. This story is relevant to avoid repeating the mistake of introducing income and corporate tax without the appropriate infrastructure.



It is common practice now among all small and medium-sized companies in Somalia to use automated accounting systems and, based on my observations, an accounting software such as SAGE and QuickBooks Accounting in a both multi-user format as well as point of sale module, making it necessary for them to have an in-house accountant. Bigger companies have their account externally audited to enable shareholders to keep abreast of the company's performance.

In order to cater the needs of these businesses, many universities in Somalia teach financial accounting as part of BBA programmes but there is a small number certified accountants practising in Somalia. It may become the norm for Somali companies to raise capital by selling equity. Investors will need to make informed decisions about shares to buy. This is hardly possible if potential investors cannot have access to company accounts (quarterly or annually). They will need to know the financial position of the company whose shares they want to buy.

To contribute to achieving this goal, a group of Somali certified accountants in the United Kingdom established the Somali Association of Certified Accountants (SACS) in April 2010. The main objective was to

contribute to professionalising services of accountants in Somalia and enhance professional capacity of Somalia by liaising with international accounting bodies. SACA ceased to exist due to lack of progress on its goals.

Not long after the establishment of SACS, another group of accountants formed the Somali Institute of Certified Public Accountants (SICPA), formerly known as Association of Somali Professional Accountants (ASPA), an umbrella body to bring together Somali certified accountants and students in Somalia and around the world. After attracting enough membership to its fold, it was officially registered with Somali federal government in early 2016. The institute has forged ties with ACCA and ICPAK (Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya) and is in dialogue with PAFA (Pan-African Federation of Accountants) and IFAC (International Federation of Accountants) for their guidance and support.

These developments have raised the profile of accountants in Somalia for an accountant's job is not merely to crunch numbers. The accountant plays a significant role in an entrepreneurial society like ours. Public sector accountants are equally important in ensuring that, among other tasks, a government's meagre

resources do not get squandered.

Unlike the pre-1991 government-appointed accountants (Xisaabiye Idman), public sector accountants will undergo a proper training to discharge their duties in line with financial reporting procedures. The practising accountant will be a member of an association to ensure quality assurance and opportunities for continued professional development. Investors will have more confidence to make investment decisions when accounting standards are in place.

Thirty years ago, Accountancy was a most sought-after subject in Somalia due to MBA courses taught at SIDAM/SOMTAD project under the State University of New York (SUNY) at Albany, a successor to a similar SIDAM-based MBA programme run by California State University at Fresno. It is the right time Somali accountants pooled their resources and expertise to provide necessary services which do require professional skills for the proper functioning of both private and public sectors.

***Ali Haji Warsame is a former Somalia Presidential Candidate and former Minister of Education in Puntland, and former CEO of Golis Telecommunications Company in Somalia. Warsame holds MBA and is CPA and CGMA.***

## Badhan, Buuhoodle, Gaalkacyo (and much in between)

By Mahad Wasuge

On a sunny October day in 2019, I landed at Garowe's Gen. Mohamed Abshir airport. I had visited Garowe several times in the past, however, this was the first time I had used the city's new airport. This was the beginning of a three-week trip. During this period, I visited Badhan, Buuhoodle, and Gaalkacyo (North).

### Badhan

We left Garowe early in the morning and headed to the east. The Garowe-Bosaso tarmac road, constructed by the Italians in the late 1980s, was damaged by the rain floods and needed urgent reconstruction.

We stopped over in Qardho, a quiet, beautiful old district for a coffee break before we had lunch at Alhamdulillah village. We went through Carmo and other townships. At Ceel Daahir (formerly Ceel Doofaar), which is 350 kilometres distant from Garowe and 90 kilometers to Badhan, we veered off from the main road and turned towards Badhan. The road to Badhan had been terrible in the past, but now the 90 kilometres road between Ceel Daahir and Badhan is a corrugated road. Parallel to the road was the beautiful Golis mountain range. Sanaag is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful regions in Somalia.

Badhan is an old city and the legacy of the British is still evident. Water tanks are built in front of houses, and almost every house has two doors (front and back). This was the house style used by the British who lived in and administered the town up until more than half a century ago.

Access to water is and has been a problem for the people that live in Badhan. Rain is the main source of water for the community in the town. Therefore, there are large water tanks dug in front of every house.

For Puntland, Badhan is the capital city of Sanaag region (Puntland divided Sanaag into two regions namely Sanaag and Haylaan in Eastern Sanaag with Dhahar being its capital). For Somaliland, Badhan is a region and is the capital of Badhan, Laasqoray and Dhahar districts. However, the city was administratively under Puntland state at the time of my visit. A new district council was formed by the Puntland state shortly after my trip to the town.

Badhan was once a centre for Sayid Mohamed Abdulle Hassan, the leader of Dervish movement. I visited the same borehole used by the Sayid and his forces. A friend who accompanied me on the visit told me that the borehole was the second place bombarded (in Somalia and the Africa continent) by the British Royal Air Force (RAF), targeting the Sayid in the early 1920 – Jiidali near Ceerigaabo being the first

and Taleex being the third target. *"Biyo la hubo waa Badhan"* is a well-known saying that Sayid Mohamed Abdulle used to describe the water and borehole in Badhan (though some say that the phrase itself was composed by Khalid Mohamed Naaleeye). My friend elucidated for me where the Sayid's horse used to be caged and where his forces used to stay to safeguard the town.



Mahad Wasuge

The self-reliance of Badhan community to provide basic social services was very interesting to me. I visited a community school – Al Furqan Primary and Secondary School – that has been functioning since 1997. I spoke to the senior class, shared my educational journey and encouraged them to study hard. In addition to the schools, Badhan public hospital is another success story for the Badhan community. The hospital land has not been claimed by anyone (as happened in many other towns) after the fall of the military government, and the community managed to construct sections of the hospital gradually over the years. The city has also a beautifully constructed university, Maakhir University, financed by the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED).

One of the things that I found in Buuhoodle is that people eat lunch before the Dhuhr prayer. In many restaurants, lunch is finished at around 1:00 PM. A nice and green restaurant was recently opened in the town; I enjoyed much its food and fruits.

### **Galkacyo (North)**

Galkacyo is located 230 kilometres from Garowe. The road was rough, and unfortunately, due to alleged corruption, the German-government's development agency (GIZ) recently terminated the EU funded road maintenance project to rehabilitate parts of Garowe-Gaalkacyo corridor. The overland trip usually takes around 5 to 6 hours as a result of the low quality of the road.

I had been to Galkacyo several times in the past, but I almost always used to stay in the southern side of the city. 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016 was the last time I was in Galkacyo (south), researching the drivers of conflict in and around the city. That day, fierce fighting broke out between Puntland and Galmudug fighters in the town. Over 50 people were killed. I witnessed the hate and negative views between the brothers in the northern and southern sides of the city that morning. It was a dark and painful day on which many Somali lives were lost.

I managed to escape from the city and safely arrived that evening in Adado, the interim capital of Galmudug at that time. Ahmed Duale Gelle, who later became Galmudug President, was among those I met and

interviewed in Adado on the Gaalkacyo conflict. He was competing for a parliamentary seat and was later defeated by Ahmed Moalin Fiqi. From what I had seen in Gaalkacyo, I could not imagine that Haaf would replace Abdikarin Guled and play a leading role in bringing peace and stability back in Gaalkacyo.



### **“Read or buy books at the library”**

The town is now peaceful, and some of the people I met in the north appreciated the leadership role of Ahmed Duale Haaf and Maj. Gen. Abdiweli Jama (Gorod), the former Chief of Defence Forces. The latter, who is also from Gaalkacyo, made efforts to bring and maintain peace in the city.

It was great to witness a peaceful Gaalkacyo, with people acknowledging and appreciating the efforts of each other. Maintaining that hard-won peace should be the least that successors in Puntland and Galmudug leadership could do for the city.

Gaalkacyo business is thriving and is well organized. There are separate markets for different

products: clothes, meat, fruits, and vegetables.

Books are replacing bullets. I visited Gaalkacyo Library, a library and also a bookshop. The slogan at the front door of the library reads: “*akhris bilaash ah & buug iib ah*”. I bought two books from it at a price cheaper than some bookshops in Mogadishu, I’m not joking!

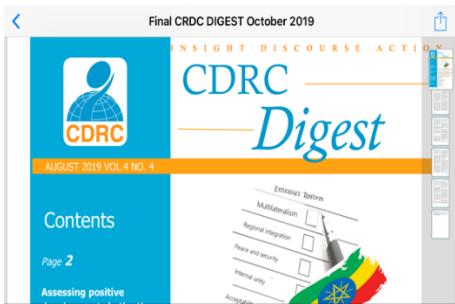
*Mahad Wasuge is the executive director of Somali Public Agenda. He has more than 5 years of research and teaching experience in Somalia. Mahad holds Master of Public Administration (MPA) from the University of Roehampton in London. Prior to that, he earned a bachelor's degree in public administration from Mogadishu University and diplomas in law and English. Mahad's research interests focus broadly on governance, democratization, civil service reform, public finance, constitutional development, post-conflict justice, and migration.*

### **Publisher's Note**

*We are grateful to Mahad Wasuge for granting us the permission to publish his travel essay in our webzine.*

# CDRC: A THORN IN THE SIDE OF DR ABIY AHMED

By Puntland Post Monthly political editor



The political transformation Ethiopia is undergoing since Dr Abiy Ahmed became the prime of Ethiopia one year ago does not sit well with the Centre for Dialogue, Research and Cooperation (CDRC).

The mission of CDRC is “to provide a forum for dialogue and action based on objective, relevant policy analysis which takes into account all the new developments taking place regionally and internationally and has a bearing on political and social conditions, thus enabling exploration of novel ideas leading to comprehension and their successful implementation.”

As mouthful as the mission statement sound one can test if CDRC lives up to the expectation of its founders.

Its latest Digest has taken a tack different from the one it the CDRC took in its January 2017 Digest in which it called for continuity at Villa Somalia

instead of a change of administration. The sole justification for the uncalled for prescription was that the incumbent President belonged to Mogadishu clan-wise.

[When CDRC published the controversial 2017 report](#)

Ethiopia was under emergency law introduced following demonstration in Oromia and Amhara region. Demonstrations culminated in the ascendancy of Dr Abiy Ahmed.

[CDRC Digest published in October 2019](#)

subtly criticises the Horn of Africa economic integration agenda unveiled by the Ethiopian Prime Minister. CDRC posits that the Somali government that does not have monopoly on coercion, a reason that disqualifies it from the economic integration agenda.

“As indicated earlier, the changes in Ethiopia and the rapprochement that followed with Eritrea created an opportunity to bring the Somalia Federal Government onboard for regional integration. But this goodwill might have complicated the situation in Somalia as the SFG misused the effort to undermine the... Federal Member States” CDRC Digest writes.

CDRC argues that the Federal Government of Somalia is undermining federalism. “ It appears that the ... [Federal Government of Somalia ] has been advised to reverse federalism in Somalia. But this is not an easy feat. In actual fact, rather than contributing to

regional integration by mobilizing the regional administrations to consolidate peace and security, the SFG is using the tripartite framework as a source of power and external legitimacy to intimidate the FMS. Eritrea’s leaders consider federal structures as balkanization of Somalia and do not support federal arrangements” writes CDRC Digest.

Although CDRC seems to be reluctant to disclose who advises the Somali government to dismantle federalism adopted in 2004, it lets on whom it thinks is advising the Mogadishu-based Federal Government: “The Eritrean leaders have encouraged the SFG leadership to destroy the federal structures in Somalia. Since the leaders of Eritrea have a very hostile attitude towards federalism in general, including in their own country, it would not be too surprising if these suspicions were found to be well-grounded based on Somalia’s experience and ... [ the Federal Government’s ] actions.”

A visit to CDRC websites reveals a lot. Three sections of the website menu – Goals, Our people and Partners – are not accessible. Clicking each of these three sections leads to a page with no content. [The Centre for Dialogue, Research and Cooperation](#) remains a in the side of Dr Abiy Ahmed.

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## Mogadishu Mayor Pays a Visit to IDPs Camps

The Governor of Banadir, Omar Mohamud Mohamed, who is also the Mayor of Mogadishu paid a visit to IDPs camps in Mogadishu. Mogadishu has the largest number of IDPs camps in Somalia. The late Mayor of Mogadishu, Abdirahman Omar, put IDPs agenda at the heart of the region's security and economic development policies. This approach to addressing the needs of the most vulnerable segment of the Somali society earned Abdirahman plaudits.



### Mogadishu Mayor At Kaxda

Mayor Omar is as knowledgeable about the plight of IDPs as his predecessor was. At Kaxda district, which hosts the largest number of IDPs in Mogadishu, the [Mayor distributed plastic sheeting, mosquito nets, tents and blankets to families in the camp.](#) Banadir one of the regions involved in Durable Solutions initiative of the Danish Refugee Council. Children in IDPs camps are less likely to be sent to

school if there are no government-funded schools. Some children supplement their parents' income by selling food in the market. IDPs lack health care facilities. Poor shelter and extreme deprivation make IDPs susceptible to seasonal health hazards. As people who have been uprooted from the part of the country they considered home, an IDP status reminds the person of the trauma of flight and psychological pain the label internally displaced person inflicts on the citizen. War and dispossession are the major causes of internal displacement in Somalia, the latter being the more persistent and recurring cause.

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## A Somali Deputy Minister Embroiled in Property Dispute

The mother of Mahad Abdirahman Rajis appealed to Fahmo Ahmed Nur, the Deputy Minister of Planning, Investment and Economic Development of the Federal Government of Somalia, to facilitate the release of Mahdi who has been in jail in Mogadishu. Mahdi, who belongs to the family of the late lawyer and Banadiri political activist, Mohamed Rajis, sought to claim his entitlement to inherit a property of Mohamed Rajis. [Mahdi's mother recorded a video message shared on Facebook platform.](#) "I ask for you to secure the freedom of my son. He has hypertension" the mother said.



Fahmo A. Nur was married to Rajis

[Fahmo was married to the Mohamed Rajis before he passed away.](#) Property disputes get resolved at courts. The use of the social media to publicise the property dispute of a family and the alleged role of a Deputy Minister have yet to be addressed by the authorities of Banadir region. Fahmo has not commented on the allegation that she arrested Mahdi. "The Federal Government should investigate the allegation that Fahmo has misused her authority" said a relative of Mahdi.

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## Adeegga Kayd ee shirkadda Golis

Macmiil,

Haddii aad iska diiwaangalisey adeegga Kayd, Numbarradaadii ma kaydsatay?

Fadlan si laguugu kaydiyo nambarradaada aadna hadhow, haddii moobaylku kaa lumo, dib ugu heli kartid nambarradaadii, fadlan marka hore ku wareeji SIM card aad leedah kaaga numberada kuugu jira qolofkaaga(mobaylkaaga) ku wareeji SIM card-ka aad leedahay oo raac tallaabooyinkan:

1. Tag calaamadda contacts ee saaran shaashadda
2. Kaddib soo fur dhibcaha saddexda ah ee is kor saaran kana muuqda dhanka ku beegan midigtaada ama saddexda xariijimmo ee ku beegan bidixdaada, oo dusha sare saaran.
3. Kaddibna dooro **Manage contacts**
4. kaddib dooro **Import/export contacts**
5. kaddib dooro **Export**.
6. Kaddib dooro kaarka **SIM 1** ama **SIM 2**.
7. Kaddib gal **Adeegga Kayd** oo dheh Kaydi kaddibna OK dooro si nambarradu u kaydsamaan.



## Shirkadda Korontada NECSOM ee Garoowe

A Garowe-based Electricity Company

Shirkadda tamarta Soomaaliyeed ee NECSOM waxaa la asaasay 2003dii, waxayna koronto 24-ka saac ah siisaa magaalada Garoowe, caasimadda Puntland. Waa shirkadda kaliya ee Soomaaliya oo bixisa adeeg koronto isku si u shaqaysa habeen iyo maalin.

NECSOM oo bahwadaag la ah shirkadaha korontada Kismaayo, Boosaaso iyo magaalooyin kale, waxay sanadihii u dambeeyay billowday isticmaalka cadceedda iyo dabaysha.

Shirkadda NECSOM waxay kaalin mug leh ka qaadataa kaabayaasha dhaqaalaha dalka, sugidda amniga iyo kor u qaadista bilicda magaalada caasimada u ah Puntland, Garowe.

NECSOM waxay macaamiisheeda u sameysay qiime-dhimis si bulshadu uga faa'iideysto.

NECSOM waxaa kuugu diyaar ah maamul iyo shaqaale loo carbiyay shaqadooda.

Wixii macluumaad ah oo intaas dheer kala xiriir .

Tell:

+252907794117/+2529077941959/+252907790495/+2525843333

Email: [info@necsom.com](mailto:info@necsom.com)

Website:

<http://www.necsom.com/>

## Puntland President Calls for Humanitarian Assistance for Floods Victims in Hiiraan

**Puntland President, Saeed Abdullahi Deni** has called for a [swift response to people of Beledweyn effected by floods](#). Floods displaced hundreds of families. The enormity of displacement caused by floods was made more starker by the death of Hirshabelle officials in a boat that capsized while they were assessing floods. In response to the call Puntland civil society held a press conference in Garowe. "[We call for people in Puntland to come to the rescue of their compatriots affected by floods in Beledweyn](#). We have to be as generous and compassionate as we were when we organised ourselves to help victims of Zoppe Junction attack and droughts" said a woman. "Some people who came to help their relatives got drowned in flood waters."




**Deni called for floods-preparedness**

A fundraising campaign is going on throughout Puntland to send food, clothes and money to people of Beledweyn.

## Has Kenya Annexed Somali Maritime Territory?

When the International Court of Justice postponed the decision day on the maritime dispute between Somalia and Kenya, the former President of the Federal Government, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, expressed his view in a tweet.



**H.E. Hassan Sheikh**  
[\(@HEhassansheikh\)](#)

[20/10/2019, 18:23](#)

What happened to our maritime case in the ICJ? Our people has the right to know why and how the case was postponed? Or is this the begin[n]ing of the road to ou[t]side court settlement? Our government has to come forward and give proper answers to the Somali people yearning for answer[r]s.

President Mohamud seeks assurances from the Federal Government of Somalia to avoid repeating the mistake made by the Transitional Federal

Government under President Sharif Sheikh Ahmed.

[In a statement for the public, the former president explained](#) what his government had done to legally challenge Kenya's maritime claims. President Mohamud used the Somalia word *heshiis* ( an agreement) in reference to the Memorandum of Understanding signed by Kenyan Government and the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia.

“ Kenya registered the MOA as an agreement between Somalia and Kenya” he said. “ My government redrew the maritime map to reclaim [ maritime] territory annexed by Kenya.”

TFG President Sharif Sheikh Ahmed defended the MoU his government signed with Kenya without proper consultations . The gneeement was signed by the a Former TFG Minister, Abdirahman Abdishakur, who ha ben a negotiator for the Alliance for Reliberation of Somalia, then based in Eritrea. Mr Abdirahman s wonders why he gets singled out as the only person behind the MoU when he was a e member of a government with a President, Prime Minister and a Parliamentary Speaker.



**POSITION:** Accountant

**INTRODUCTION:** The Martisoor Hotel is a newly established hotel in Garowe, capital city of the Puntland State of Somalia. The hotel provides top international quality standards with 75 exquisite and newly furnished rooms and suits. The hotel also offers space for conferences, outdoor patios and terraced gardens for meetings and relaxation. Martisoor Hotel is currently recruiting for experienced, dedicated and dynamic individuals for providing and maintaining high quality service in this hotel in the heart of this growing and vibrant city.

**REPORTING TO:** General Manager

**DURATION:** One Year

**STARTING DATE:** December 01, 2019

**LANGUAGE (S):** English, Arabic, Swahili and Somali

**EDUCATION:** Degree in Accounting and minimum 3 year of experience.

**SPECIFIC SKILLS:**  
 Documenting financial

transactions by entering account information; Summarizing current financial status by collecting information; preparing balance sheet, profit and loss statement, and other reports; Maintaining accounting controls by preparing and recommending policies and procedures; reconciling financial discrepancies by collecting and analyzing account information; Securing financial information by completing data base backups; Maintaining financial security by following internal controls; Preparing payments by verifying documentation and requesting disbursements; Preparing special financial reports by collecting, analyzing, and summarizing account information and trends; contributing to team effort by accomplishing related results as needed.

**ADDITIONAL SKILLS:** Accounting, Corporate Finance, Reporting Skills, Attention to Detail, Deadline-Oriented, Reporting Research Results, Confidentiality, Time Management, Data Entry Management, Math and accounting software skills.

**HOW TO APPLY:**

**By** [martisoorhotel@gmail.com](mailto:martisoorhotel@gmail.com) **Email:**

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**Deadline:** November 05, 2019

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**POSITION:** Hotel General Manager

**INTRODUCTION:** The Martisoor Hotel is a newly established hotel in Garowe, capital city of the Puntland State of Somalia. The hotel provides top international quality standards with 75 exquisite and newly furnished rooms and suits. The hotel also offers space for conferences, outdoor patios and terraced gardens for meetings and relaxation. Martisoor Hotel is currently recruiting for experienced, dedicated and dynamic individuals for providing and maintaining high quality service in this hotel in the heart of this growing and vibrant city.

**REPORTING TO:** Board of Directors

**DURATION:** One Year

**STARTING DATE:** December 1, 2019

**LANGUAGE (S):** English, Arabic, Swahili and Somali

**EDUCATION:** University Degree or high Diploma in Hospitality or Hotel Management and minimum 5 years of experience

**SPECIFIC SKILLS:** Address customers' complaints or

concerns; Prepare marketing plans; Prepare budgets and monitor revenues and expenses; Negotiate with clients for the use of facilities; Negotiate with suppliers for the provision of materials and supplies; Implement marketing activities; Establish work schedules; Enforce policies and procedures; Develop and implement business plans; Develop and implement policies and procedures for daily operations; Assist clients/guests with special needs; Oversee overall hotel security and customer safety.

**ADDITIONAL SKILLS:** Supervise staff; Recruit and hire staff; Conduct training sessions; Conduct performance reviews; Arrange for and oversee maintenance activities

**ABILITY TO SUPERVISE:** More than 70 people

**HOW TO APPLY:**

**By** [martisoorhotel@gmail.com](mailto:martisoorhotel@gmail.com) **Email:**

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**Deadline:** December 15, 2019

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**POSITION:** Cook

**INTRODUCTION:** The Martisoor Hotel is a newly established hotel in Garowe, capital city of the Puntland State of Somalia. The hotel



provides top international quality standards with 75 exquisite and newly furnished rooms and suits. The hotel also offers space for conferences, outdoor patios and terraced gardens for meetings and relaxation. Martisoor Hotel is currently recruiting for experienced, dedicated and dynamic individuals for providing and maintaining high quality service in this hotel in the heart of this growing and vibrant city.

**REPORTING TO:** Chef

**DURATION:** One Year

**STARTING DATE:** December 1, 2019

**LANGUAGE (S):** English, Arabic, Swahili and Somali

**EDUCATION:** Cuisine Diploma and minimum 5 years of experience.

**SPECIFIC SKILLS:** Prepare dishes for customers; cooking and handling of food; inspect kitchens and food service areas; Clean kitchen and work areas; Maintain inventory and records of food, supplies and equipment; Prepare and cook complete meals or individual dishes and foods.

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**ADDITIONAL SKILLS:**  
Experience in cooking

Indian, Somali, Mediterranean cuisines.

**ABILITY TO SUPERVISE:** 3 people

**HOW TO APPLY:**

**By** **Email:**  
[martisoorhotel@gmail.com](mailto:martisoorhotel@gmail.com)

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**Deadline:** November 05, 2019

**POSITION:** Front Desk Manager

**INTRODUCTION:** The Martisoor Hotel is a newly established hotel in Garowe, capital city of the Puntland State of Somalia. The hotel provides top international quality standards with 75 exquisite and newly furnished rooms and suits. The hotel also offers space for conferences, outdoor patios and terraced gardens for meetings and relaxation. Martisoor Hotel is currently recruiting for experienced, dedicated and dynamic individuals for providing and maintaining high quality service in this hotel in the heart of this growing and vibrant city.

**REPORTING TO:** General Manager

**DURATION:** One Year

**STARTING DATE:**  
December 1, 2019

**LANGUAGE (S):** English, Arabic, Swahili and Somali

**EDUCATION:** Degree or higher diploma in hospitality or relevant experience

**SPECIFIC SKILLS:**  
Supervise staff; Perform front desk duties; Arrange for and oversee maintenance activities

**ADDITIONAL SKILLS:**  
Supervise staff; Recruit and hire staff; Conduct training sessions; Conduct performance reviews; Arrange for and oversee maintenance activities

**ABILITY TO SUPERVISE:**  
50 people

**HOW TO APPLY:**

**By Email:**  
[martisoorhotel@gmail.com](mailto:martisoorhotel@gmail.com)

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**Deadline:** November 05, 2019

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**POSITION:** Front Desk Clerk

**INTRODUCTION:** The Martisoor Hotel is a newly established hotel in Garowe, capital city of the Puntland State of Somalia. The hotel provides top international quality standards with 75 exquisite and newly furnished rooms and suits. The hotel also offers space for conferences, outdoor patios and terraced gardens for meetings and relaxation. Martisoor Hotel is currently recruiting for experienced, dedicated and dynamic

individuals for providing and maintaining high quality service in this hotel in the heart of this growing and vibrant city.

**REPORTING TO:** Front Desk Manager

**DURATION:** One Year

**STARTING DATE:** December 1, 2019

**LANGUAGE (S):** English, Arabic, Swahili and Somali

**EDUCATION:** Degree or higher diploma and minimum 5 years of experience.

**SPECIFIC SKILLS:** Take, cancel and change room reservations; Register arriving guests and assign rooms; Provide information on hotel facilities and services; Process group arrivals and departures; Process guests' departures, calculate charges and receive payments; Investigate and resolve complaints and claims; Exchange foreign currency; Balance cash and complete balance sheets, cash reports and related forms; Answer telephone and relay telephone calls and messages; Clerical duties (i.e. faxing, filing, photocopying); Provide general information about points of interest in the area; Follow emergency and safety procedures; Handle wake-up calls; Provide customer service; Assist

clients/guests with special needs; Maintain an inventory of vacancies, reservations and room assignments

**ADDITIONAL SKILLS:** Word processing software; Internet; Database software; Central reservation system (CRS)

**HOW TO APPLY:**

**By** [martisoorhotel@gmail.com](mailto:martisoorhotel@gmail.com) **Email:**

**Deadline:** November 05, 2019

**POSITION:** Host Waiter or Customer Care

**INTRODUCTION:** The Martisoor Hotel is a newly established hotel in Garowe, capital city of the Puntland State of Somalia. The hotel provides top international quality standards with 75 exquisite and newly furnished rooms and suits. The hotel also offers space for conferences, outdoor patios and terraced gardens for meetings and relaxation. Martisoor Hotel is currently recruiting for experienced, dedicated and dynamic individuals for providing and maintaining high quality service in this hotel in the heart of this growing and vibrant city.

**REPORTING TO:** Food and Beverage Supervisor

**DURATION:** One Year

**STARTING DATE:** December 1, 2019

**LANGUAGE (S):** English, Arabic, Swahili and Somali

**EDUCATION:** High School Diploma.

**SPECIFIC SKILLS:** Seating and greeting patrons, present menus, make recommendations and answer questions regarding food and beverages; Describe menu items including daily specials for customers; Take orders and relay to kitchen and bar staff; Greet patrons, present menus, make recommendations and answer questions regarding food and beverages; Present bills to customers and accept payment in cash, or room billings;

**ADDITIONAL SKILLS:** Able to read and write and can speak Somali. English or Arabic languages; working knowledge in Point of sale system and use of computers and tablets.

**HOW TO APPLY:**

**By** [martisoorhotel@gmail.com](mailto:martisoorhotel@gmail.com) **Email:**

**Deadline:** November 05, 2019