

Puntland Post Monthly

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HAS SOMALIA ENTERED A POST-ISLAMISM STAGE YET?

By Shu'ayb A. Bile

Mogadishu (PPM) — For the first since 1969 Somalia may conduct one person, one vote elections. Political alliances are getting formed around issues such as secularism and political Islam. Somalia's brush with political Islam dates back to 1992, when Al Itihad Islami forces set up a base in Bosaso to control the city and port. As an armed group Al Itihad Islami did not share the goals of Somali Salvation Democratic Front (SSDF), the armed, clan-based group that controlled what was known as Northeast regions before Al Itihad had appeared on the scene.

Al Itihad showed discipline and relied on militias from diverse clan backgrounds in a country that was increasingly becoming defined by clan fiefdoms. The clashes between Al Itihad and SSDF Forces in 1992 foreshadowed what would engulf the rest of Southern Somalia as highly organised, armed, religious groups had begun to pounce at the opportunity to supplant warlordism. The attempt by warlords to shore up their waning influence through funds from the United States to form the Alliance for Counterterrorism faltered in 2006. The Union of Islamic Courts (UIC) decisively defeated the coterie of warlords and challenged the Transitional Federal Government (TNG) then based at Baidoa. UIC forces captured a large swathes of territories in Southern Somalia. Their rhetoric that the Transitional Federal Government was "a puppet of Ethiopia" galvanised many young men into joining UIC campaigns. The attempt on the life of the former TFG President Abdullahi Yusuf in Baidoa and the declaration of war against Ethiopia served to undermine the growing sympathy many people had had for UIC. A two-year war between TFG forces and Ethiopian Army on one side against UIC under the *muqawama* (resistance) rubric came to an end in 2009, when the Alliance for the Reliberation of Somalia and TFG signed an agreement in Djibouti. The agreement stipulated the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops, paved the way an enlarged parliament, the resignation of Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed and election of Sharif Sheikh Ahmed in Djibouti as the TFG President.

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HAS SOMALIA ENTERED POST-ISLAMISM....

From page 1

President Sharif Sheikh Ahmed was in power for three years and eight months, making the TFG the longest-serving post-1991 transitional administration (2004-2012). President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud (in power from September 2012 to February 2017) unseated him to lead a permanent government for the first time since 1991. During preparations for 2017 elections Sharif Sheikh Ahmed campaigned on anti-corruption platform and pledged to return to government coffers public properties that the politicians of the incumbent administration illegally sold or misappropriated. Both Sharif Sheikh Ahmed and Hassan Sheikh Mohamud are now united under the Forum for National Parties. Is this a sign that a segment of Somali Islamists have entered post-Islamism stage? According to Professor Asef Bayat Post-Islamism “refers to a political and social condition where, following a phase of experimentation, the appeal, energy, and sources of legitimacy of Islamism get exhausted even among its once-ardent supporters. Islamists become aware of their system’s anomalies and inadequacies as they attempt to normalize and institutionalize their rule.” Somali Islamists’ evolution fits Professor Bayat’s definition of Post-Islamism. Unlike Saudi Arabia, the exporter of Salafi school of thought to Somalia,

where a deal between monarchy and religious leaders leaves politics to the domain of the monarchy, Somalia is does not have a political arrangement that can prevent Islamists’ political programme falling into the hands of extremists. “Religion has become an aspect of the political marketplace in Somalia. It divides Somalis more than rival clan interests do” said a political analyst in Mogadishu.

Somali post-Islamists political programme comes across as incendiary. They have a tendency to simultaneously appeal to clan and religious sentiments to bolster their political capital.

The Somali post-Islamist politicians’ hope lies in reviving old alliances on which UIC was built. Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, the former UIC leader, banks on support of former colleagues active in politics of which Jubaland President Ahmed Madobe is prominent. Mukhtar Robow, though still inactive in politics following the disastrous attempt to contest South West elections, remains an ally of Sharif Sheikh Ahmed’s. The 2021 elections pose formidable challenges to the Somali transition from fragile status to democratic governance.

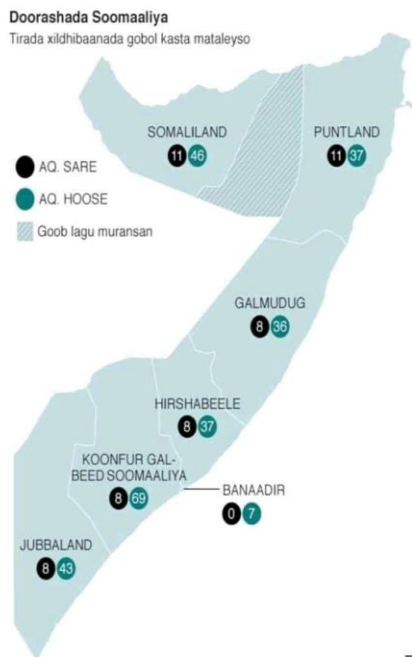
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PARLIAMENTARY SEATS FOR CONSTITUENCIES IN DISPUTED SOMALI TERRITORIES

By Liban Ahmad

Somalia is preparing for 2021 elections. The question of disputed territories looms large over electoral plans. Puntland and Somaliland claim to have jurisdiction over disputed territories. Divided loyalties of people in those territories have resulted in the situation.

Puntland State did not recognise Transitional National Government (2000-2004) whose Parliament had MPs selected along clan lines during 2000 Reconciliation Conference in Djibouti. During 2004 Kenya-sponsored Reconciliation Conference out of which the federal system emerged, Puntland State gained federal representation privileges of disputed territories. In the run up to the 2012 election to end the tenure of the Transitional Federal Government, five parliamentary seats of the eight seats for parts of Sool, Sanaag and Togdheer went to Khatumo Movement; Puntland received the remaining three seats, along with seats from disputed territories in Eastern Sanaag.



The electoral map for 2017 indirect elections in Somalia

The 2017 indirect elections for Somalia gave Puntland an opportunity to renegotiate parliamentary seats that were ceded to Khatumo Movement. Puntland insisted on the appointment of Senators and MPs from Disputed Territories on the basis of 1998 Charter on which Puntland was founded. President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud backed Puntland argument for two reasons: 1- the former Puntland President Dr Abdiweli Mohamed Ali was a member of the National Leadership Council made up of the Federal Government and Federal Member States. 2-To expedite the process to conduct indirect elections without which Puntland’s role in the 2017 election outcome and legitimacy of subsequent dispensation would be called into question.

Federal representation of constituencies in Disputed Territories has not lessened inaccessibility of territories to aid workers due to possibility of clashes between rival administrations. Several weeks ago the Federal Government of Somalia sent medical equipment and medicine to Badhan and Buhodle, two districts in the Disputed Territories. Puntland and Somaliland responses to a direct assistance to two contested districts differed sharply.

Somaliland Government welcomed any Federal Government assistance to Disputed Territories whereas Puntland State President Said Abdullahi Deni accused the Federal Government of Somalia of fomenting political instability in Somaliland by dealing directly with elders. Through Somaliland Development Fund Somaliland Government invests in human development programmes in districts in disputed territories such as Las Anod, Taleh, Huddun and Buhodle. What can explain President Deni’s objection to a direct federal assistance to territories his administration claims on grounds of shared clan affiliation?

In 2016 Puntland State signed the agreement to join the 2017 electoral process on the understanding that, after 2017, 4.5 power-sharing arrangement will not a basis for future elections. Puntland reiterated that stance in Puntland Consultative Conference Communique more forcefully: “

1- The [electoral] law conflates popular elections with clan-based power sharing 4.5 formula. This directly contradicts the provisional Federal constitution. 2- The law constitutionalizes the clan-based power-sharing 4.5 formula.”

The recommended addendum to the electoral law stipulates the selection of MPs from Northern Regions (aka ex-British Somaliland) in Mogadishu. Puntland State may challenge the electoral recommendation on grounds that the phrase “Northern regions” has not changed meaning since 2016 and that it applies only to parts of the ex-British Somaliland. The phrase “Northern regions” has always been used to emphasise the formation of the Republic of Somalia in 1960 after the Union of the North and the South.

President Deni seeks to have an input into Somalia-Somaliland talks on grounds that “Puntland has a territorial dispute with Somaliland.” Neither National Leadership Council nor Council of Interstate Cooperation through which Puntland exerted pressure on the Federal Government exists today. The Supreme Court of the Federal Republic of Somalia may be involved if Puntland State challenges applicability of articles in the electoral law signed into law by President Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo.

KHAYRE: THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

Mogadishu (PPM) — The Prime Minister of the Federal Government of Somalia Hassan Ali Khayre has clarified the position of the Federal Government on free and fair elections in Somalia. The Prime Minister's remarks come in the wake of pressure from the EU for clarity on elections to take place in Somalia next year. Khayre urged Federal Government leaders to put their efforts into preparing Somalia for elections. "The cabinet members of the Federal Government of Somalia will devote their time and effort to prepare for elections in Somalia. Stakeholders will be involved" Khayre said.

"Khayre has not clarified what he meant by stakeholders" says a political commentator in Mogadishu. Last year the President of the Federal Government of Somalia Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo rejected the suggestion from Puntland State President Said A.

Deni to create a National Leadership Council to form a consensus on the electoral model for Somalia. Such a council would reduce the input of the Federal Parliament and Upper House into one person, one vote elections to be held in Somalia in 2021.

Some analysts have interpreted Khayre's comments as a sign that his relations with President Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo are strained.

In December 2019 the Federal Parliament of Somalia passed an electoral bill containing conditions under which the tenure of the incumbent Federal Government could be extended.

Unlike 2017 elections, the planned 2021 elections are based on an electoral law ratified by both the Federal Parliament and Upper House. The role demanded by Somali political parties to build a consensus on the electoral model further complicates the march towards universal suffrage milestone in Somalia.

The Federal Member States and the Federal Government of Somalia have prepared Somalia for 2017 enhanced elections. A similar consensus is hard to come by unless the role of

federal legislatures (the Parliament and Upper House) is relegated to that of a non-stakeholder.

Prime Minister Khayre emphasised the importance of periodic elections held in Somalia as a factor that will boost political stability in Somalia, oblivious to the administrative and political powers the Federal Government has appropriated through the pact between him and President Farmajo. By diluting or bypassing the federal electoral bill Somalia will enter a new phase of uncertainty that may downgrade the Federal Government of Somalia to the status of a transitional government.

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Survey By Somwim Indicates That Gender Inclusivity Is Not A Priority For Somali Media

A non-profit organization called Somwim (Somali Women In Media) recently carried out a survey focusing on women's role in the media landscape in Mogadishu and the various challenges faced by women journalists in their jobs. Over twenty media outlets participated in the sample study.

According to Somwim, there are 676 journalists in Mogadishu alone. Out of this number, 521 (78%) are men, whereas 155 (22%) are women. The overwhelming male majority indicates the lack of gender representation in the field of media in Mogadishu.

The organization found that women are significantly underrepresented in media and often times, their lack of representation isn't acknowledged due to their presence not being perceived to be of value.

The findings of the survey indicate that women feel a lack of support from their male counterparts and employers. The latter are found to still hold outdated cultural beliefs to justify the mistreatment of women in the workplace.

There were several male directors that took part in the survey who stated that there was no gender misrepresentation in their newsroom, despite not having any women journalists part of their teams. When asked why women were underrepresented in media in Somalia, one of the answers Somwim received from the male respondents was that "the inequality is caused by lack of hard work and determination by women".

The women respondents identified three main reasons as to why there is a significant gender imbalance in their respective workplaces. Firstly, women are deemed to be less effective in the workplace. Secondly, women are believed to be unable to work the same hours as men. And lastly, it is thought that women have reduced knowledge capacity as compared to their male counterparts.

According to [Amnesty International's 2020 report on media freedom in Somalia](#), women journalists have less access to career developments and trainings, face discrimination in the workplace and are not given enough employment benefits compared to their male counterparts.

Source: HAYBAD ONLINE



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WHY THE EU SHOULD TAKE THE GLOBAL LEAD IN CANCELLING AFRICA'S DEBT

By Loes Debuysere

If the EU wants to live up to its recent 'partnership of equals' commitment to Africa, it should take the lead and urge the international community to cancel a part of Africa's bilateral, multilateral and private debt as it faces the Covid-19 crisis. This will not only help Africa deal with the health and economic emergency caused by the pandemic, but also redress the historical power imbalance between the two continents.

The EU adopted a new EU-Africa Strategy in mid-March, which outlined a “stronger, more ambitious” partnership with Africa. In the build-up to this strategy, European Council President Charles Michel and Commission President von der Leyen called for a “partnership of equals” that would move away from the donor-recipient relationship that has long characterised EU-Africa relations. Rather, the EU-Africa Strategy aimed to pave the way for genuine peer-to-peer cooperation, beyond outdated views of the African continent

and moving on from the legacies of a colonial past.

Less than two weeks after the adoption of this new strategy, Africa was facing a major economic crisis caused by the pandemic, one that is already outweighing the health emergency on the continent. Indeed, the Covid-19 crisis led to a fall in commodity prices and increasing costs of imports, while income from tourism, remittances and raw materials dropped. Developing countries are also experiencing the largest ever capital flight and a brisk withdrawal of international investment. According to the World Bank, the pandemic has already triggered the first recession in Sub-Saharan Africa in 25 years.

The EU's global corona response: stronger, more ambitious?

In line with commitments under the new EU-Africa Strategy, High Representative Josep Borrell announced in late March that the EU would assist partners around the world in combating the virus, in particular Africa “because we want to underline that we will not forget about our sister continent when addressing this global pandemic.” This pledge became more concrete when the EU launched its 'Team Europe' package to support partner countries in their fight against Covid-19.

Team Europe channels €3.25 billion of existing foreign

external action resources to Africa – the largest geographical portfolio under the €20 billion package. Debt relief for African countries was not addressed in this Team Europe approach, although the EU – like other G20 nations – has agreed to offer a debt moratorium for the poorest countries. This means that bilateral government creditors will suspend debt repayments for, among others, 38 African countries that request forbearance, while urging private investors to do the same. In the meantime the IMF has also announced a debt relief of six months for IMF debt obligations to 25 of the most vulnerable countries worldwide, 14 of which are in Africa.

All of this is not enough, however. In late March, African finance ministers called for \$100 billion immediate emergency financing to tackle Covid-19. Some \$44 billion of this would go to debt relief from multilateral, bilateral and commercial creditors alike. Africa's total foreign debt is estimated at \$417 billion and in 2018, 36% of African government external debt was owed to multilateral organisations such as the World Bank and IMF, 32% to bilateral creditors (including 20% to China) and another 32% to private lenders. Given that global economic recovery is only expected to occur within two to three years, the finance ministers urged development partners for a

substantial period of debt relief. Support from the IMF, World Bank Group and the EU is needed to achieve this, they argued, to ensure that African governments have enough fiscal space to deal with the crisis.

Historical responsibility to cancel debt

This focus on debt relief on the part of African finance ministers is no surprise. Even before the corona outbreak, Africa faced a looming debt crisis, with about one in three Sub-Saharan countries classified as being in or at high risk of debt distress. While debt cancellation in itself is not a silver bullet as it does not immediately tackle internal (i.e. corruption, poor governance) or external (i.e. inequitable world order) root causes of debt accumulation, it does free developing countries to spend more on healthcare, education and tackling poverty. This is particularly relevant today, as the coronavirus means that many African governments need to decide whether they channel their diminishing government resources to their lenders to avoid default or to meeting the vital health and economic needs of their population.

Debt payments are in fact one of the reasons that Africa's public health needs are so high in the first place: more than 30 African countries spent more on debt payment in 2019 than they did on public healthcare. The

much criticised structural reforms that condition IMF and World Bank loans – some of which African governments still need to repay – have also hollowed out African healthcare institutions. Take, for example, these institutions' structural adjustment programmes (SAPs) of the 80s and 90s. It is widely understood that the conditions that underpinned these loans led to a 'lost decade' for Africa, as national public services (such as healthcare) deteriorated and prevented countries from building up the necessary human and social capital to develop and to repay debts. Even though poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSP) have replaced these SAPs since 1999, the same criticism comes up regularly.

Given that European countries, together with the US and Japan, dominate the governance and agenda-setting of the IMF and the World Bank, and thus bear responsibility for its failing policies, there is surely an argument for the EU and its member states to take the lead in cancelling Africa's debt during the Covid-19 crisis. But Europe's historical responsibility goes back even further. In fact, Africa's debt crisis can be traced to the colonial period when major foreign trade defects, such as high export dependence and high concentration on a few commodities, became characteristic of Africa's economy. These defects, a

legacy of European colonialism, have laid the foundations of Africa's debt crisis. If the EU, whose initial integration was deeply intertwined with the colonial project, and EU member states are genuine about fostering a more ambitious and equal partnership with Africa, they should use this momentum to pay back some of their own direct and indirect colonial debt through a debt jubilee for Africa.

The end of debt colonialism

This would first require the EU and core member states such as France, Germany and Italy – all G20 countries – to agree among themselves on such a step. Given the faltering internal solidarity, again illustrated by the heated debates over coronabonds, this would be quite a hurdle. Yet the EU and its member states should realise the self-interest in supporting their neighbouring continent today: it is the only way to tackle the root causes of (future) migration flows and conflicts. If Africa defaults on its foreign debts due to the corona crisis and no longer manages to acquire international funding, the human, socio-economic and security consequences will undoubtedly spill over into Europe and be dire for a continent that already makes up 70% of the world's poor people.

The next hurdle for the EU is to coordinate an international response, in line with its commitment to multilateral solutions. The upcoming IMF-

World Bank spring meetings on 17-19 April are a good starting point for a new debt cancellation mechanism that should draw lessons from and improve former initiatives like the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative. The latter was launched in 1996 to cancel some of the debts of the most impoverished countries, but its stringent conditions have so far not helped African countries achieve debt sustainability over time. Neither did all creditors, such as the commercial ones, participate in this initiative.

By taking ambitious action and coordinating debt cancellation for Africa, while respecting Africa's voice and economic sovereignty in the process, the EU can assert itself on the world stage, especially vis-à-vis China, which has itself been accused of debt colonialism towards Africa in recent years. This is the moment for the EU to reset and strengthen its relations with African countries and counter China's growing influence there. In short, if the EU wishes to live up to its geopolitical ambitions with an EU-Africa Strategy that is both ambitious and credible, it should take the global lead and push for debt cancellation for Africa.

Source: Centre for European Policy Studies



The COVID-19 OUTBREAK IN SOMALILAND EXPOSES A BROKEN HEALTH SYSTEM

By Khadar Mariano

Somaliland, like many other countries in the world, was affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. As of May 28, the Ministry of Health Development has confirmed a total of 257 persons have tested positive for COVID-19, with 17 deaths. The actual number of affected could be much higher given that there are people who have recovered without seeking medical attention.



SOMALILAND MINISTRY OF HEALTH DEVELOPMENT

The Somali Government has decided against imposing a complete lockdown due to economic considerations. The decision by Somaliland Government to lift the temporary of Khat trade four days before the ban was to end is being called into question. as it



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deemed the decision impossible both economically and socially. Khat trade is now brisk particularly Somaliland capital, Hargeisa, a major city with the largest number of people who have fallen ill a result of Covid-19.

Since the outbreak of the pandemic in Somaliland major controversies have been making rounds on Social Media. Some people have taken on Social Media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter to share stories about the state of the country's health system. Many shared stories about their loved ones who have passed away due to lack of oxygen. Others have reported the blatant disregard and carelessness on the part some health administrators to human life. Citizens have been forced COVID-19 protection suits when carrying out burial procedures for their family members who succumbed to Covid-19.

The crisis in Somaliland health system came to the fore in January, when a father whose son was died due to lack of oxygen in Hargeisa General Hospital, had written about the poor health service delivery. His account, shared on Facebook, generated heated discussions. incident on Facebook. A public outcry has quickly followed, and the media has put the question to the President of Somaliland, Muse Bihi Abdi.

President Bihi promised to improve health service delivery and order oxygen concentrators

for all national hospitals. This promise seems unfulfilled, as Covid-19 patients still die of lack of oxygen.

The glimmer of hope about the ability of Somaliland to cope with the health emergency comes from donors who reached into their deep pockets to contribute US\$ six million to National COVID-19 Fund. A major review of Somaliland health service delivery is long overdue. The extent to which the budget for health care covers health needs of citizens has yet to be shared with the public. Covid-19 is a wake-up call for Somaliland Government. The impact of unequal health service delivery coupled with a high number of privately-owned hospitals can no longer be brushed aside.



COVID-19 AND POTENTIAL FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SOMALIA

By Abdullahi M. Yahie

The novel coronavirus COVID-19 has undoubtedly caused havoc in the world in an unprecedented manner. There are, many, however, who may nonchalantly show a feeling of déjà vu. It seems like we've been down this road before with SARS, EBOLA, MERS and the swine flu. Based on exiting literature, SARS, MERS and COVID-19 are all respiratory illnesses that are caused by the same large family of viruses called coronavirus. Coronaviruses are actually quite common. They are the source of many of the common colds that people get and recover from every day.

Africa remains the region least affected in terms of infection and loss of lives – so far. Old age people with existing health conditions such as heart diseases, diabetic, respiratory infection, etc. were the most affected people in high infection countries such USA, Italy, UK, and Spain. It is believed by many that the lower incidence in Africa could be attributed to its young population in which 80% are below the age of 35.

Statistics on deaths due to COVID 19 in Africa is scanty and not that reliable. Recently a Government official stated that Mogadishu health authorities recorded over 500 deaths across the city in just the past two weeks. Using Somalia demographic data from the web, I made an attempt to calculate the crude death rate for Mogadishu or the average annual number of deaths during a year per 1,000 population.

In 2019, death rate for Somalia was estimated at 10.7 per 1,000 people. The rate fell gradually from 23.1 per 1,000 people in 1970 to 10.7 per 1,000 people in 2019. If we take Mogadishu with an estimated population of 4 million, the number of natural deaths in Mogadishu in a given day should be approximately 89 persons or approximately 1,700 persons in two weeks. It is logical, therefore, the excess over these number is used as a measure of death that could be attributed to COVID 19. Cemetery workers could also be a useful source of information on daily burials.

What is in stake for Somalia

The economic and financial impact of COVID 19 would be colossal due to the country's high dependence on donors and foreign aid. This crises comes, however, at a time when the source countries were hit hard and are adopting inward looking policies. More importantly, the endemic created a glut in the Money Transfer system commonly known as "Hawala."

The World Bank projects that the global remittance would decline by 25% due to COVID 19 which caused havoc in the developed world. The New Humanitarian of 23 April 2020, estimates that "in Somalia the values of remittances is believed to be two to three times greater than the humanitarian aid funds." Where do we go from here – four critical areas of intervention are proposed:

(i) The Hawala glitch- a wakeup call

Following restriction on money transfer through international banks, the Hawala system relied on manual moving of the greenbags between its main hubs which are scattered in all regions of the world. With the closer of international borders and airports, the Hawala system is hit at the core. It is estimated that approximately more than \$150 million is holdup in their regional hubs. Prolonged closer of borders would exacerbate the situation and could result the meltdown of this unique financial system with incalculable consequences.

Now, it has emerged that many countries are repatriate their citizens who are stranded overseas. What about the Somali Government using its good diplomatic offices to "repatriate" the monies owed to Somalis as long as Hawala agencies are willing to meet the cost. In the short run, however, it is highly advisable that the Hawala system is revisited to safeguard peoples deposits.

(ii) Likely Affected Population

The plague appears to be more of an urban phenomenon, particularly density populated neighborhoods. In comparison, its impact in rural areas has been relatively negligible. It also disproportionately infect the elderly compared to the majority of the population which is below the age of 35. Vulnerable communities is urban centers such as Returnees and IDPs will be mostly hard hit due to their dependence on donor support. Business has been as usual since advent of the crises.

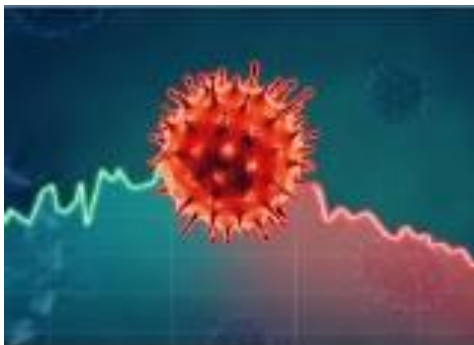
The Mogadishu sea port and other ports are operating, facilitating import of goods. In the short run, it is plausible that some in the informal sector, mainly youth, may become redundant due to slowdown in economic activities. Prolonged closure of borders, would however, worsen the lot of the youth as unemployment increases with serious negative impact on the household. Public work programs on cash for work basis could be a viable avenue at least in the short run.

(iii) Public Health/Hospitals

An important lessons that emerged from current crises is the overriding importance of the public health system at time of endemics. In both the UK and US, the underfunding of the health sector and long neglect of the public hospitals resulted in horrendous lost of life. The Mayor of New York said in a recent briefing, "in recent years there has been a debate to close

a number of public hospitals and lay off many doctors and nurse. Now we can see, the vital importance of such institution.”

In the UK, private citizens and mobilizing funding for the National Health Services (NHS). In these and other western countries (donors), there is a strong recognition on the importance of public hospitals. Given the deplorable status of the health sector in Somalia, establishing model hospitals on public private partnership (PPP) premises could attract funding from traditional donors.



Covid -19 impact on global economy

(iv) Food security

In the short run, Somalia could not be in a better position. Movement of goods has not been affected. It is also common that businesses stock food and other goods before Ramadan and the *Hagaa* season when maritime transport halts during June-September. The skies have been also generous of late and there is potential for a good harvest during June - September. In the short run, therefore, Somalia may not

phase food crises. There will be, however, urgent need for advance planning in the long run. For instance, Government to buy the excess in the market and establish grain storage facilities.

Finally, an Irish economist recently suggested that the most feasible way to tackle the economic crises caused by COVI 19 is to drop money from the sky or what is now known the “Helicopter Money.” There is also an emerging global attitude of saving one’s own nation and focusing on individual states. That is why there is talk of the “New World Order” after COVID 19.

In light of the above, it is about time to be realistic, longsighted and think strategic.

Abdullahi M. Yahie

Yahie is an Economist and a retiree from the African Development Bank (AfDB). He lives in Zanzibar, Tanzania.

Source: Wardheernews

TRADITIONAL LEADERS RESOLVE CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS IN PUNTLAND

Garowe (PP News Desk) — Puntland traditional leaders have ended the constitutional crisis caused by conflicting interpretations of the role of the Vice President in ministerial appointments. Influential

traditional leaders of Puntland today met Puntland President Said A. Deni and Vice President Ahmed Elmi Karaash separately to bring to an end a political rift that had brought the government of the Federal Member State to standstill. Traditional leaders held a meeting today with President Deni and Vice President Ahmed Karaash to publicise the outcome of elders’ mediation effort. Puntland Parliamentary Speaker Abdirashid Jibril and the First and Second Deputy Speakers attended the meeting.

In a press release traditional leaders noted the successful reconciliation between Puntland President and Vice President. “We have resolved political differences between the Puntland President and Vice President. We urge people in Puntland to support unity and governance and refrain from any actions that jeopardise cohesion and security” reads the press release.

It is not clear if the agreement will rescind the cabinet reshuffle made recently by Puntland President without proper consultations with the Vice President.

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A FORMER SOMALI PRESIDENT QUESTIONS LEGITIMACY OF ETHIOPIAN TROOPS IN SOMALIA

Mogadishu (PPM) — The downing of Kenya aid plane in Somalia by Ethiopian Defence Forces has drawn criticisms from leading Somali politicians. The Former President of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, who leads the Forum for National Parties, has raised questions on the legality of Ethiopian troops in Somalia.

“AMISOM has confirmed that a civilian plane carrying medical aid to Berdale, Southwest State of Somalia, was downed by Ethiopian forces who ... [are] not [a] part of AMISOM. So, the question arises here is: How these forces entered our country without a legal mandate from the Parliament?” tweeted Sharif Sheikh Ahmed.

Ethiopia withdrew its forces from Somalia in 2009 after an agreement between TFG and the Alliance for the Reliberation of Somalia then led by Sharif Sheikh Ahmed. The Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) under President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud signed a bilateral agreement with the Ethiopian Government to deploy its troops in Somalia. The agreement gives Ethiopia a peacekeeping mandate within AMISOM.



“President Sharif Sheikh Ahmed knows of the agreement but criticises the incumbent FGS for decisions taken by his political ally, Former President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud” says Dahir Ali, a reporter in Mogadishu. “The permanent Federal Government has powers to sign bilateral agreements.”

The United States, Somali Government’s main backer, views Ethiopia as an ally against the war against religious extremism in Somalia.

“Back in the mid-2000s, Ethiopia launched its operations against the Islamic Courts Union, and the United States was closely aligned with Ethiopia as an important economic and security partner. Many assessed that this unleashed an even more powerful and more violent group, the al-Shabaab elements, the threat of which we’re still trying to address in Somalia today” US Ambassador to Somalia Donald Yamamoto said in an interview CTC Sentinel had had with the Ambassador in February.

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