



Federal Republic of Somalia

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, CULTURE AND TOURISM



WEEKLY MINISTRY OF INFORMATION NEWSLETTER: THURSDAY 08 AUGUST 2019 VOL 11, NO 11

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PRESIDENT FARMAJO OFFERS CONDOLENCES ON THE DEMISE OF FORMER MOGADISHU MAYOR ENG. YARISOW



The president of Somalia Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo has sent condolences to the family and friend of the late mayor of Mogadishu and to the Somali public in general.

The body of the former mayor is expected to arrive in Mogadishu today on 3rd August 2019 accompanied by family members and the Somali ambassador to Qatar

“Innaa Lilaahi Wa Innaa Ilayhi Raajicuun (from God we came and to God we return). I offer my sincere condolence to the family, friends and the public for sudden death of Mogadishu Mayor.

The late Eng Yarisow took a great part in the rebuilding of Somalia, he served at various ranks and with different regimes inputting his expertise.

He was a devoted citizen serving selflessly the citizens of this country most of his time.

He will be remembered for his open patriotism and his firm position on good governance, he will also be remembered for the fight against terrorism which he fearlessly campaigned”

The president has declared 3 days of morning and the flag will be flown half-mast to honor the memory of the former Mogadishu mayor.

The president prays for all the victims of violent actions perpetrated by a group of individuals who wants us to lose faith and stop believing in ourselves, the president has advised the public and remain united and have faith in this trying moments.

Innaa Lilaahi Wa Innaa Ilayhi Raajicuun (from God we came and to God we return).

SOMALI PM HASSAN ALI KHAYRE MEETS WITH UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS DAVID HALE

Under Secretary for Political Affairs David Hale met today with Somali Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khayre in Mogadishu, Somalia.

The Under Secretary reaffirmed America's commitment to assist Somalia with political reform, economic development, and stabilization efforts.

The Prime Minister briefed the Under Secretary on recent political and security developments and Somalia's progress towards meeting the conditions for debt relief that would allow Somalia to resume borrowing from international financial institutions.



The Under Secretary expressed our expectation of a peaceful and credible election in the Somali federal member state of Jubaland later this month, and encouraged progress to allow one-person, one-vote Somali national elections beginning next year.

They agreed on the value of security operations to liberate areas from al-Shabaab and preparing Somali forces to take over from the African Union Mission to Somalia.

The government has declared 10th, 11th and 12th of August a national holiday to celebrate Eidul-Ad'haa which is celebrated after fulfillment of one of the pillars of Islam

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MINISTER OF LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS HON. SADIK WARFA PRESENTS HIS 100-DAY WORK ACHIEVEMENTS



The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs has unveiled its 100-day of work since the Minister Hon. Sadik Warfa took over.

Several awards were given to officials from the government agencies at the event that was attended by senior government officials, MPs, and Director Generals from other ministries.

Director General at the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs Mohamed Adde Mukhtar said the ceremony was important since it gives the ministry to evaluate what was achieved in the 100 days under which Hon. Sadik Warfa was in charge. The DG added that a lot has been achieved and it will be in the history for future reference at the ministry.

Other senior officials who attended the event including Director Generals of line ministries praised the minister on the visible accomplishments during the 100-day period.

In his speech, Hon. Sadik Warfa delivered a speech at the ceremony expressing his condolences on the attack at the ministry's headquarter that led to the loss of former deputy minister and other officials. "My appointment came at a time when the ministry was facing difficult moment after the heinous attack, we expressed our disappointment and refused to work elsewhere. Today we are here evaluating ourselves asking the big question on what we have achieved in 100 days," said Minister Warfa.

The Minister disclosed some of the accomplishments he made in the 100-days that includes;

Rebuilding the ministry and accelerating the voluntary program commonly known as Is-Xilqaan.

The launch of socio-development program for employees at the ministry.

After 33 years, the Somali government got its votes back at the International Labor Organization (ILO). The launch of the official market survey that will enable to produce a well-informed research on the number of unemployment in the country that will later be used as an official data. For the first time, the National Job Creation Forum was held in Garowe and was attended by ministers from Federal Member States (FMS) Parliament passed its first reading of the civil service reform.

The Cabinet approved the Social protection policy

The Minister said he is making a great effort to reduce the unemployment rate in the country adding that soon he will introduce a system of awarding employees who do well after every four months.

In conclusion, Hon. Sadik Warfa presented awards and certificates to some staff of government agencies and departmental directors.

Most of these awards were dedicated to staff in the field of HR-audits, Voluntary program among others.

FORMER MAYOR OF MOGADISHU ENG YARISOW LAID TO REST



The body of the late mayor of Mogadishu Abdirahman Omar Osman (Eng. Yarisow) was brought into the country from Doha where he succumbed to injuries he sustained from a suicide attack at his office in Mogadishu City hall a week ago.

Officials from the government of Somalia led by the president of Somalia Mohamed Abdullah Farmajo observed funeral prayers for the deceased at Aden Ade International airport. The Qatari air force plane torched down as family and friends waited, immediately the body was removed from the plane the casket was wrapped with the Somali flag as the late mayor was a national hero. He was given a full state sendoff, he died while on duty and he paid the ultimate price for his nation and his people.

After the prayers, President Farmajo personally condoled with family and assured them the entire nation mourns with them and everyone feels the pain of losing the good man he was. The funeral was attended by the prime minister Hassan Ali Khyre, his deputy Hon. Mahdi Mohamed Gulle, speakers of both houses, members of parliament, senators, ministers, security officers, family and close friends. Finally, different units of the armed forces paid their last respect as the late Mogadishu mayor Eng. Yarisow was laid to rest. The people of Somalia will remember him for his unshaken patriotism, his constant efforts to improve the lives of many and his campaign to improve the security of the capital. The former mayor had a vision for the city which he saw a safer Mogadishu and one that is prosperous. He strived hard to bring justice to the most vulnerable in the society.



IMF 2019 ARTICLE IV REPORT ON SOMALIA



On July 22, 2019, the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) concluded the 2019 Article IV consultation with Somalia. Improved confidence, on the back of the continued implementation of reforms, and strong donor support continue

to support economic activity, especially in the telecom, trade, construction, and financial sectors. However, poor rainfall in Spring weighs on the outlook and threatens food security. GDP growth is estimated at 2.8 percent in 2018 after 1.4 percent in 2017. If normal rains resume later this year, GDP growth could remain broadly unchanged at around 2.9 percent in 2019. Inflation is expected at 3.0 percent in 2019, following 3.2 percent in 2018.

The Federal Government of Somalia's (FGS) continued efforts to broaden the tax base and strengthen tax administration has been reflected in increased domestic revenue (almost 30 percent higher than in 2017). This has supported a small expansion in spending on health and education. However, expenditures continue to be dominated by spending on salaries and other operating costs, especially on security-related expenditures, with little space for critical social and development programs. Despite stronger growth and the improving fiscal position, per capita incomes remain very low and more resources are needed to achieve greater economic resilience and reduce poverty. With debt at unsustainable levels (at about \$4.7 billion or 100 percent of GDP in 2018, of which 96 percent is in arrears), Somalia will need the continued support of the international community to help meet much-needed humanitarian and development needs.

Somalia's fourth SMP (May 2019–July 2020) will support the authorities' continued reform efforts, laying the foundation for greater self-sufficiency and higher and more inclusive growth. The program will expand and deepen measures to build fiscal sustainability, across the FGS and the Federal Member States, further improve financial stability, address residual anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) gaps, and strengthen governance and the fight against corruption.

Executive Board Assessment

Executive Directors agreed with the thrust of the staff appraisal. They commended the authorities' strong commitment to implementing three consecutive staff-monitored programs (SMP) in a challenging environment, noting that Somalia's gradual economic recovery reflected the authorities' sustained policy and reform efforts, coupled with strong donor support.

Directors recognized the challenging security and political situation, and welcomed the authorities' ongoing efforts to improve economic resilience and inclusive growth. Directors indicated that the forthcoming National Development Plan should provide a blueprint to support these goals, and encouraged consultation with a wide set of stakeholders. Directors welcomed the continued improvement in fiscal performance. Efforts to broaden the tax base and strengthen tax administration have increased domestic revenues, supporting a small expansion in health and education spending. However, substantially boosting development spending and achieving fiscal self-sufficiency will require more effort in terms of revenue mobilization. Directors encouraged continued public financial management (PFM) reforms, highlighting the need to strengthen commitment controls and embed improvements in procurement. They welcomed the cabinet approval of the airport fee contract and further progress on the renegotiation of the Mogadishu port contract. Directors stressed that implementing a strong fiscal framework, supported by effective natural resource management and revenue sharing frameworks with the Federal Member States, will be critical to realizing Somalia's longer term potential.

Directors welcomed the authorities' efforts to enhance financial sector stability and strengthen supervision, and agreed that bringing mobile money service providers under the regulatory umbrella is a key near-term priority. Directors were encouraged by the progress in strengthening the anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism regime, and stressed the need to address the remaining legal and operational gaps. Directors encouraged continued progress on addressing governance weaknesses and the risk of corruption. They emphasized that passage of key legislation—including on revenue, PFM, audit, petroleum, statistics, and anti-corruption—would promote better governance and transparency. Directors encouraged further efforts to strengthen statistical institutions and address data gaps. They noted that intensive capacity development support will need to be sustained to bolster ongoing reforms.

Directors concurred that Somalia's external debt is unsustainable, and supported the authorities' continued efforts to make progress toward the Heavily Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) initiative Decision Point. In this context, Directors agreed that the macroeconomic and structural policies outlined under the fourth SMP meet the policy standards associated with upper credit tranche arrangements. Directors also welcomed the authorities' intention to begin making token payments to the IMF in 2020, and stressed that these should be very small given Somalia's limited resources and challenging circumstances. Directors considered that satisfactory implementation of the SMP will help establish a track record and pave the way toward arrears clearance and eventual debt relief under the HIPC initiative. They recognized that this will also require the concerted effort of the membership to mobilize the necessary financing for debt relief, including to meet the costs for the Fund. To this end, they looked forward to discussing possible financing options in the period ahead.

SPEAKER OF THE PARLIAMENT TRAVELS TO SOUTH AFRICA



Speaker of the federal government of Somalia Hon Mohamed Mursal Shiekh Abdirahman led a team of parliamentarians to south Africa on an official visit. They were colorfully received by their south African counterparts in Johannesburg.

South Africa is hosting the annual retreat of speakers of parliaments from Africa that is set to take place this week in Johannesburg. Somalia being a member of Africa was invited to the retreat and it is being represented by high level delegation led by the speaker of the Somali parliament.

The speaker was received by the Somali ambassador to south Africa His excellency Jamal Mohamed Barrow who informed the hearables that south Africa is a strategic important country for Somalia and they need to strengthen the ties between the two nations.

The speaker thanked the ambassador and the embassy staff for the warm reception. He informed them that he will be in the country for the coming to take part in all Africa speakers meeting that is to take place in Johannesburg this year. The meeting will be held on 6th and 7th this month.

The main agenda for this year's annual parliament speakers retreat is Immigration. The retreat will serve as an opportunity to discuss current crises on immigration and ways of solving the problem

TURKISH TRAINED SOLDIERS TOUCH DOWN IN MOGADISHU



The Somali defense minister Hassan Mohamed Ali welcomed newly Turkish trained Somali soldiers at Adan Ade International airport. The unit has spent some time in Turkey receiving expert training from Turkish brothers. The minister was accompanied by acting army general who is currently the deputy army general and the commander of Somali army inventory unit General Odhawaa. They advised the new trainees to remain patriotic and use their skills to the benefit of the nation. General Odhawaa Yusuf Rage thanked the new trainees for the devotion to the nation and for persevering the hard

conditions they were made to undergo during their training which was a vital preparation for the work ahead.

The acting army general Maj gen Abdi Hassan Mohamed Hijaar thanked the Turkish government and its people for the constant support they give to the Somali people. The soldiers have spent one year undergoing vigorous training receiving skills from NATO standard trainers. They are others being trained by Turkish government in Somalia at Turk-Som barracks in Somalia. Turkey is one of the countries that greatly support Somalia national army in terms of skill and equipment.

SOMALI AGRICULTURAL MINISTER ATTENDS AFRICAN FOOD SECURITY LEADERSHIP FORUM IN KIGALI



Rwanda hosted African food security leadership forum which was organized by African development bank, FAO, International fund for agricultural development (IFAD) and the World Bank. The forum was well attended with agricultural ministers from Africa, financial and investment institutions gracing the occasion.

The forum discussed the increasing food scarcity in Africa and how best to increase food production in Africa. Leaders brainstormed how to cope with climate change and how to maintain food security despite the change in weather.

The leaders pointed out the need to create better cooperation between financial institutions and the farmers in order to boost productivity. There is great need to invest in research intuitions and implement the outcome of those research works. The leaders agreed previous plans such as CAADP has not been implanted and it's long overdue.

The Somali minister of agriculture held separate discussions with the organizers of the event and some of the ministers who were attending the forum.

The minister said Somalia is taking measures to revive Somalia's agricultural sector which faced setbacks in the recent years. He urged take holders to work with Somali institutions working on reviving the sector in order to fast track the process.

SOMALI MILITARY COURT EXECUTES TWO CONVICTED TERRORISTS IN MOGADISHU.



Somali military court has on Monday executed two al-Shabaab members for terrorism,

The court executed Anshour Osman Abukar (23), Mohamed Ali Borow (25) in the field of General Kahi's Police Academy Who has been convicted of involvement in terrorist attacks

in Mogadishu, including attacks which resulted death of journalist Awil Dahir Salad and General Secretary of Somali women Anab A Hashi on December last year.

The two suspects were sentenced to death by the military court after they pleaded guilty to being members of a terror group. The also pleaded guilty to masterminding and orchestrating several cold blooded assassinations in the city. they were also part of a team that carried out suicide bomb attacks on government and civilian targets

The Somali federal government is making efforts to arrest groups of al-Shabab terrorist and has succeeded in arresting a large number of terrorists.

SOMALI AIRLINE IS COMING BACK



SOMALI COMMANDOS SEIZE OWDEEGLE DISTRICT FROM ALSHABBAB

BREAKING NEWS

SOMALI NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY

The district of Owdheegle in Lower Shabeele has been liberated from Al shabaab after Somali military conduct a well-planned raid on the terror group's territory.

The Somalia national television crew accompanying the military in the operation confirmed that the military are in full control; of the district and they are currently combing through the town to make sure there are no terror cells hiding in the liberated area.

The commander of the Somali inventory unit Gen. Odowaa Yussuf Raage in a phone interview with SONNA said the highly trained Somali commandos have conducted the operation and with minimal casualties they were able to free the city from Al shabaab Hold.

The Commander added that this is part of wider plan that they seek to get rid of the Al-Shabaab menace which has crippled the society for many years.



The Return of Somali Airlines would be celebrated by all Somalis.

Somali - Airline

Department of Tourism