



Saleiman S. Umar
Director General Ministry of Finance

In the name of the Most Gracious and Merciful Allah.

Congratulations to the entire Somali population, the government, and its dignified citizens. For Somalia, today is a historic day since it represents the successful attainment of a long-term objective: the discharge of its heavy debt. This momentous announcement is the outcome of steadfast commitment and teamwork.

I would want to express my sincere appreciation to the Somalia government, its officials, hardworking staff, and the strong citizens who have worked so hard to support the many initiatives that have resulted in the significant debt of Somalia being forgiven.

It begs the question: What does the Somali population stand to gain from this debt forgiveness? Essentially, it signals the return of our country to its former independence and the reintegration of Somalia into the international community fiscal structure.

Today marks the end of the difficult path and a victory for the business community, government authorities, and citizens as a whole. We especially thank the government personnel and politicians who have played important roles in government councils.

The effective completion of His Excellency Dr. Hasan Sheikh Mohamoud's second term of presidency marks the end of this voyage, which began during his first term.

We are now on an equal footing with the rest of the world, a country able to participate in free trade and overcome the obstacles that have beset Somalia. From a debt-ridden country unable to engage in international trade, we have transformed into a fully operational, normal nation that can interact with the world community.

Sincere gratitude is offered to everyone who made a direct contribution to the debt forgiveness program—the program's backbone and foundation. I hereby proclaim that the people's efforts have paid off, and you and the Somali people can both feel proud of their accomplishment.

Many congratulations on this historic win.

I hope you have serenity.