



Press Release

For immediate release: Somaliland's 33rd independence anniversary held in London's prestigious Queen Mary University*

18 May 2024

Queen Mary University of London was the venue for the auspicious **33rd commemoration event of Somaliland's independence** which brought together a distinguished panel with over 300 guests in attendance.

Speakers at the event included, Deputy Mayor of Tower Hamlets, Cllr Maium Talukdar; Ambassador Abdi Abdullahi Somaliland UK Mission; Ali Haamud Jibril 2nd Deputy Speaker of the Somaliland Parliament; Faysal Ali Chairman of Somaliland UCID Opposition Party; Dr Edna Adan Ismail former Foreign Minister of Somaliland and current Special Envoy for the President; Cllrs Abu Talha (who recently visited Somaliland) and Mushtak Ahmed, both representing Tower Hamlets Council; Ali Abdillahi Dahir Governor of the Central Bank SL; Khader Baruud Deputy Governor of Maroodi Jeex; Abdirashid. Aideed Director General of youth & sports; Aden Abdela Abdulle Former Director General of Ministry of Endowment & religious Affairs, Suliman Said Political Activities, along with members of civil society, business leaders.

The event, organised by the Somaliland UK Mission, served as a platform to honor the resilience, progress, and unity of the Somaliland people since declaring independence on May 18, 1991. It also highlighted the region's rich cultural heritage, democratic values, and commitment to peace and stability.

Ambassador Abdi Abdullahi delivered a powerful keynote in which he relayed, celebrating 18th May in the UK is a cheerful occasion for all of us Somalilanders by virtue of the fact that it was the day that we reasserted our independence from Somalia. And our objective is to build a Nation that stands for Peace, Democracy, and share the history and the culture of our country with the British society. "We cannot stress enough the importance of international recognition for Somaliland's sovereignty and self-determination. Our nation is a beacon of hope and security; and we welcome the international community to visit and celebrate our great achievements".

Deputy Mayor of Tower Hamlets Cllr Talukdar said, "Aa council, we are proud to have recognised Somaliland and I am happy to be representing Lutfu Rahman, the mayor of this great borough of Tower Hamlets to celebrate the Independence Day, to honor the sacrifices and contributions of the Somaliland people towards nation-building and development."

Faysal Ali, Somaliland Opposition Chairman, emphasised the need for unity and collaboration among all stakeholders to advance the interests and aspirations of the Somaliland people.



Dr Edna Ismail remarked, "We are proud to host the 33rd Independence Anniversary celebration of Somaliland [which is] a symbol of academic excellence and cultural diversity." She further asserted, "This event underscores the deep-rooted values of democracy, peace, and progress that define the identity of the Somaliland community."

The event also featured cultural performances, and exhibitions showcasing Somaliland's achievements and aspirations for the future.

The gathering of dignitaries, community leaders, and prominent figures underscored the significance of the occasion and the solidarity of the Somaliland diaspora in the UK.