

TRADE FOR PEACE WEEK

30 November – 4 December 2020

H.E. MAHDI MOHAMMED GULAIID "KHADAR"

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA



His Excellency Mahdi Mohammed Gulaid "Khadar" was appointed Deputy Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Somalia in March 2017. Since holding this office, the Deputy Prime Minister has helped set Somalia's national and developmental agendas, and manages a wide portfolio of governmental priorities. On a weekly basis, the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister oversees the cabinet and chairs a range of committees at the ministerial level, particularly in the economic and social sectors. He also chairs sessions of the Somalia Development and Reconstruction Facility (SDRF), a vital platform that enables government and development partners to provide strategic guidance and oversight for development activities in Somalia.

The Deputy Prime Minister also chairs the Somalia National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC), a high-level public-private body that is tasked with overseeing reforms aimed at facilitating trade as well as Somalia's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Having worked in both the public and private sector in Somalia, the Deputy Prime Minister is an experienced lawyer with diverse experience. Prior to taking office, His Excellency practiced law and worked closely with the Electoral Commission (2009 – 2012). He also worked with the Law Reform Commission and was elected its Vice-Chairperson. As a private lawyer, he advised both businesses and governmental offices.

His Excellency is well-versed in the field of academia as well, serving as Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Hargeisa and played a key role in the establishment of the Civil Service Institute of Somaliland.

During his tenure at the United Nations, the Deputy Prime Minister worked with UNDP on Rule of Law, Security and Governance programs in Somalia. Immediately prior to taking office as the Deputy Prime Minister of Somalia, His Excellency served as a Program Adviser with Interpeace, an international organization mandated to harness peace and manage conflict through non-violent, locally-driven means.

By way of educational background, His Excellency earned his Master's degree (LLM) at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland, U.K. with a specialization in International Commercial Law. Prior to this, he completed his Bachelor degree (LLB) in Ethiopia, graduating from the Faculty of Law at the Ethiopian Civil Service University with a distinction and was awarded the university's honourable Gold Medal.