

Somalia postal service back after 20 years

16th October, 2014



Somalia's government has restarted its postal system for the first time in over 20 years. Fighting and wars in Somalia over the past two decades stopped all mail deliveries. The postal service collapsed in 1991. Somalia is now enjoying a more peaceful time, so the postal service is returning. The new service also sees the introduction of nationwide postcodes. This will be a first

for Somalia. Mohamed Ibrahim, the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, told the BBC that he was very excited about the return of the postal system. He said that at first, Somalis would be able to receive letters from abroad. He said the next step would be for people post letters to other countries.

The return of the postal service is just one example of Somalia getting back to normal after its long period of trouble. Another recent example is the introduction of a cash machine (an ATM) at a luxury hotel in the capital city Mogadishu. It is the first time Somalia has ever had an ATM. The hotel's manager said he has seen a few people using the new machine. He said: "Most of the customers are not aware there is an ATM in Somalia." He explained that: "Most local residents don't have a debit credit or a credit card to use the ATM." Another example of Somalia returning to normal is the reopening of the Chinese embassy for the first time in 23 years. Somali's president said China was an important partner.

Sources: BBC / ChinaTopiz.com / CNN

Writing

Getting a letter is better than getting an e-mail or text message. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

postal system / fighting / two decades / peaceful time / postcodes / excited / abroad / example / back to normal / cash machine / manager / residents / embassy / partner

True / False

- A private company has re-started the postal system in Somalia. T / F
- Mail deliveries stopped over 20 years ago because of fighting. T / F
- There will be no postcodes with the new postal service. T / F
- People won't be able to post letters abroad just yet. T / F
- Somalia's only ATM is in the capital city's international airport. T / F
- A hotel manager said he has seen thousands of people use the ATM. T / F
- Most local residents in Mogadishu do not have a credit card. T / F
- China recently reopened its embassy in Somalia after 23 years. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. restarted | a. last |
| 2. past | b. resumed |
| 3. collapsed | c. usual |
| 4. abroad | d. stage |
| 5. step | e. time |
| 6. example | f. citizens |
| 7. period | g. broke down |
| 8. residents | h. valuable |
| 9. normal | i. overseas |
| 10. important | j. instance |

Discussion – Student A

- How important is the postal service to you?
- Would your life change much without a postal service?
- What do you know about the fighting in Somalia?
- What would it be like to deliver letters in Somalia?
- What's the best word, "zip code" (American English) or "postcode" (British English)?
- How excited are you when you get a letter from abroad?
- Is it better to post a letter or send an email?
- Which do you prefer, getting letters in the post or receiving text messages?

Breaking News English - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- for the first time
- The postal service collapsed
- the introduction of nationwide
- the next
- post letters to
- getting back
- luxury
- in the capital
- Most local residents
- the reopening of the Chinese
- to normal
- city Mogadishu
- other countries
- in over 20 years
- don't have a debit card
- hotel
- postcodes
- embassy
- step
- in 1991

Discussion – Student B

- How long will it take for Somalia to get back to normal?
- How important are cash machines to you?
- What do you think of there being just one ATM in Somalia?
- How would life be different without ATMs?
- What experiences do you have with embassies?
- What's more important, a post office or ATM?
- Which country is your country's most important partner?
- What questions would you like to ask Somalia's president?

Spelling

- restarted its postal syesmt
- over the past two ecadsed
- stopped all mail evriledse
- The postal service dpsloacl in 1991
- the introduction of nationwide ceopdsots
- receive letters from droaab
- one aplxem of Somalia getting back to normal
- long odpire of trouble
- at a uxyru hotel in the capital city
- people using the new ihnemca
- Most of the cousmtsre
- the reopening of the Chinese smayabes

Answers – Synonym Match

1. b	2. a	3. g	4. i	5. d
6. j	7. e	8. f	9. c	10. h

Role Play

Role A – E-Mail

You think e-mail is the best way to tell someone something. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so good with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a letter, SMS (text) or online chat.

Role B – A letter

You think a letter is the best way to tell someone something. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so good with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): e-mail, SMS (text) or online chat.

Role C – SMS (Text)

You think SMS (text) is the best way to tell someone something. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so good with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a letter, e-mail or online chat.

Role D – Online chat

You think online chat is the best way to tell someone something. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so good with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a letter, SMS (text) or e-mail.

Speaking – Mail

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things about mail at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- letter (mail) boxes
- getting letters
- writing letters
- sending e-mails
- getting an e-mail
- stamps
- SMS (texting)
- envelopes

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.