

Somali Translation

The Department of Human Services' Facebook post also included a Somali translation, which the department said also prompted feedback from community members.

While the translation is not perfect Somali, Mohamed Duale, director of the Somali Library at Waalid MN, said he was able to understand most of the post. However, the phrase that DHS emphasized in a larger font size than other text in the post did not make sense, he said.

The sentence included in the image and a linked web page reads, "Don't risk a gap in your health insurance," in English, but is translated literally into Somali, making the sentence incoherent, according to Somali speakers who reviewed the message.

A native speaker who reviewed the post for Sahan Journal said the phrase was translated in Somali to, "Do not endanger your medical insurance with holes."

"It's very different from English," Duale said of the phrase's translation. "I don't think anyone would understand that one."

Other linguistic and grammatical errors were also identified.

The department said it has not corrected the webpage with the Somali translation because it has been unable to find a Somali speaker internally to update the Somali translation. The agency said it prioritized revising the Hmong translation due to the volume of complaints it received regarding that post.

Freelance journalist Abdirizak Diis contributed to this report.

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