



SOMALILAND UK MISSION

Vol 0001

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We are committed to the strengthening of our democratic institutions, protecting civil rights, ensuring stability, and creating prosperity to realize the full potential of our nation.

Our government has made great strides in strengthening our relationship with our neighboring countries in the region of horn of Africa, and the wider world, with the latest being a successful visit of top-ranking delegation led by our president HE Muse Beihi Abdi to the republic of Kenya.

On democracy, Somaliland continues to be a beacon of hope for democracy, and after the recent completion of the voter registration in all of the six regions in the country, we are readying ourselves for the upcoming Parliament and Local Government elections expected to take place on the 31st May 2021.

I wish to reiterate our government's commitment to the transparency, independence and impartiality of the elections to reaffirm our democratic credentials. I would also like to thank our friends and International partners including the EU, USA, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom with its leading role.

H.E. Abdi A. Hersi
The Representative of the Republic of Somaliland in the UK



The Somaliland UK Mission strongly advise the British Somaliland Community to follow the advice from World Health Organization (WHO) and the British Government. 'Save lives, Save the NHS'. Washing Hands, Safe distancing and Face covering.

In this Issue you can find.

- Message from the Somaliland Mission Representative
- Introduction
- The visit of the Africa Editor of the BBC Mary Harper to the Somaliland UK Mission
- The Somaliland to potential investment opportunities

INTRODUCTION

The Somaliland Mission to the UK is introducing a newsletter for the first time since the establishment of the office.

Through the line of the Ministry of foreign affairs, the newsletter is to provide a factual information and guidance to the British Somaliland Community in the UK and to ensure the readers and followers are well aware of the history of Somaliland, the potential investments available and the Socioeconomic development, the Political and diplomatic obstacle and the achievement made for the last months and so and to maintain the relationship with the embassies accredited here in UK. This newsletter will play a bridgeable role and ensure that the Somaliland political argument is internationally heard, and to gain recognition.



MARY HARPER VISIT TO THE OFFICE OF THE SOMALILAND UK MISSION

The prolific writer and News Editor, Mary Harper, visited the office of Somaliland UK Mission in London. The Representative HE Abdi A. Hersi and Mary Harper discussed numerous aspects of importance, including the conclusion of voter registration, the preparation of oncoming elections and the effects of Covid-19 pandemic on the socio-economic sphere of Somaliland population, both at home and in the UK.

Mary Harper is the Editor of the African Affairs at the BBC World Service News. Her experience and reporting on this area extends for over two decades with particular interest in Somaliland and Somalia. Her work related predominantly to violence, radicalization and piracy in the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea.

Somaliland UK Mission

Somaliland: international relations and recent achievements

The government of Somaliland has recently doubled its effort to strength the friendly relations between The Republic of Somaliland and the countries in the Horn of Africa, as well as accomplishing new ones in the wider continent and the rest of the world, and toward this, there have been fruitful trips to various countries, all of which have been successful.

Diplomatic Ties Between Kenya and Somaliland

As Somaliland and Kenya have a long history, and to strength this relationship a high-ranked delegation led by the President of Somaliland, His Excellency Muse Beihi Abdi visited Kenya last year and were received by His excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta at State House. During the meeting, the two leaders discussed on a number of issues of mutual interest between the two countries. As we seek allies across Africa in our push for international recognition and view Kenya as a critical partner in this ambition, this move is one of the Somaliland's drive to be recognized as an independent country. Furthermore, in 2019, Somaliland's president Muse Bihi Abdi visited to Conakry, Guinea a west African Country and he was welcomed by Guinean President Alpha Conde

Somaliland extends ties with Taiwan

The Republic of Somaliland and Taiwan have exchanged representative offices in Hargeisa and Taipei. The bilateral accord between Somaliland and Taiwan is based on common values of freedom and democracy. Taiwan and Somaliland have signed cooperation agreement, which is part of a development program aimed at boosting Somaliland's agricultural production.

Somaliland and Democracy

The political system in Somaliland allows democratic transfers of local council elections to the presidential level, and in the preparation for the coming elections on both local council and parliamentary elections, Somaliland successfully completed a transparent and inclusive voter registration between December 2020 and January 2021. The process of voter registration took place in all Somaliland regions, whereby a large number of men and women across Somaliland participated for the first time.

Finally, Somaliland is ready to further strengthen its economic, security and democratic development ties with African, European and international institutions and countries, and particularly our main partner, The United Kingdom.



SOMALILAND'S ECONOMIC AND INVESTMENT POTENTIAL

Country's profile

Official name:
Republic of Somaliland

Capital and largest city:
Hargeisa

Main Port:
Berbera

President:
HE Muse Biihi Abdi

Vice president:
HE Abdirahman Seylici

Geographic location:
Horn of Africa

Surface Area: 136,000 Square Km

Currency: Somaliland Shilling

Second languages:
English and Arabic

Driving side: Right

Date format: D/M/YY/AD

Time zone: UTC/GMT+3

A BRIEF HISTORICAL AND PRESENT BACKGROUND

The Republic of Somaliland is a sovereign state that dissolved its union with Somalia in **18 May 1991** reclaiming its re-independence and thereby its right to self-determination. Somaliland is located atop of the horn of Africa with Djibouti to the West, Ethiopia to the South West, and Somalia to the South. The country encompasses the territory of the former British protectorate of Somaliland whose border was established by **international treaties** by the colonial powers in 1897.

GOVERNMENT

Somaliland has a Presidential multiparty system, with three official parties, where executive, judiciary and the parliament function independently. Somaliland's constitution limits the political parties to three; the president and the vice president are directly elected by the people.

ECONOMY

Somaliland has a healthy informal economy, based mainly on livestock, remittances/money transfer companies and telecommunications. According to the British Chamber of Commerce report in 2017, the private sector grew particularly in the service sector. There has been substantial unmeasured private investment in commercial activities largely financed by the Somalilander Diaspora mainly trade and marketing, money transfers, transportation, telecommunications, fishery equipment, airlines, education, health, construction and hotels, and the GDP is estimated to be \$1.5 Billion.

NOTABLE COMPANIES

Banks: Dahabshiil, the largest in the market, the central Bank and world Remit.

Telecommunications: Telesom is the biggest player in the market with more than 85 percent of the mobile subscriber market and the only firm with significant market power.

Somtel is the second largest operator with rapidly growing number of internet users.

Transportation: Egal International Airport, Daallo Airlines, Hargeisa Taxi, Sagal travel Agency, Ethiopian Airlines.

THE MAIN AREAS TO INVEST IN SOMALILAND

Livestock

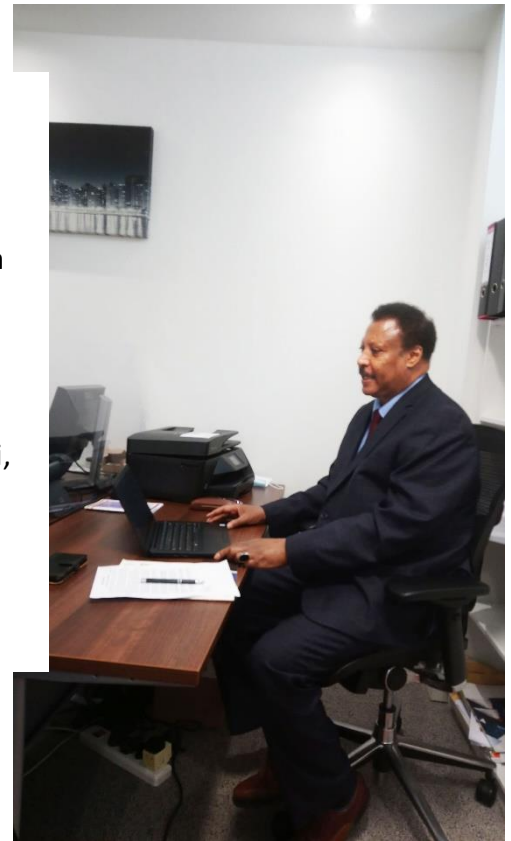
Livestock rearing remains the backbone of Somaliland's domestic production, serving livelihood strategies and commercial enterprise through export of goats, sheep and camels primarily to the Gulf states.

Agriculture

A recent resurgence in investing commercial farming has taken place, especially in the areas of fruit and horticulture primarily for local consumption.

Fisheries

Somaliland's coastline and untapped diverse maritime ecosystem have attracted both foreign and local investors in recent years, engaged in everything from small scale fishing operations to the development of cold-chain distribution systems to Tuna canning facilities



Energy

Somaliland's largely privatized energy sector is underdeveloped and undeserved, but movement away from biomass and diesel energy towards alternative sources of energy such as solar and wind provides much more promise to the future where Somaliland works with USAID, and development partners on trial projects in these areas.

Oil and Gas

Exploration in Somaliland's potential oil and Gas deposits have begun in recent years, and built explorative agreements with companies such as Genel and DNO International ASA. Seismic of Energy surveys show highly encouraging indications of large-scale hydrocarbon and coal deposits. The Ministry of Energy and Minerals welcomes and encourages upstream Oil-Gas companies that have adequate financial and technical capacity and a proven record to consider investing in Somaliland's hydrocarbon sector.

Mining

There are plenty of minerals in Somaliland like Iron Ore, Titanium, Tin, Aluminium, and Copper. There are also rare earth metals such as Columbite-Tantalite and Gypsum. Feasibility studies have also shown vast deposits of raw materials needed to Cement, and with that rapid demand for Cement is increasing.

Tourism

Somaliland is a country of historic interest, with coastal links to ancient Egypt and other classical civilisations; an interior scattered with intriguing rock sites, mysterious cairns, and other monuments of a complex pastoral society. The long Somaliland coast could attract millions of tourists. The mountainous forests of daallo, the magnificent fort of Taleh, the idyllic town of Shiekh and Sa'adadin islands, the historic painted caves of Laas-Geel also provide ecotourism unlike any other place.

DP World

Dubai Company DP World is committed to building and near completion the Somaliland port of **Berbera** and 12km Economic Zone along its coastline to a world class business hub. This gigantic project is part of infrastructural developments DP World is involved in as a part of its mission to turn around the horn of Africa country. Mr. Federico Banos-Linder, vice president of the DP World external operations recently said, "the company has invested 442 million US Dollars to rebuild the Berbera Port, and once it is done, Somaliland will be one of the biggest maritime industry in the world in the horn of Africa".

The main reasons to invest in the Republic of Somaliland

It is of great importance to the Somaliland government to attract both foreign and Somaliland Diaspora investors with regards to investment focused on manufacturing as well as other export facing industries. This aligns with the current redevelopment of Berbera Port by DP World and the proposed

Free-Zone.

It is of vital importance to the government too to create the right economic environment in which business could thrive, employment improve and overall drive the economy from strength to strength. It is also of great importance to the Somaliland government that such investments have the right protection in place to allow them the peace of mind to thrive.

In snapshot, some of the favorite incentives include an exemption (**tax holiday**) on paying tax on profits reinvested for three years from the date of commencement of operations, given that the investment has the proper registrations with the **Foreign Investment Board**. Similarly, once the three-year period has lapsed there is also a further 50% reduction in taxation for profits reinvested in the country. With a **corporate Tax Rate** of 16.3% and with said incentives, Somaliland has a great climate for investors. There are also many legal protections for foreign investment in Somaliland, under both the **Companies Act** and direct **Investment Law** given the same preferential treatment as domestic entities. Land

WELCOME TO **SOMALILAND** UK MISSION

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(Tuesday Only) until further notice

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WE WILL NOT ACCEPT DROP-IN VISITORS

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