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Davos Diplomatic Triumph

Historic Davos Spotlight: President Irro Positions Somaliland as Africa's Rising Star — From Israeli Recognition to Global Legitimacy in Five Years



My hope is that within five years, Somaliland will be officially recognized by much of the world — not just Israel, he says

Mohamoud Walaaleye
In a compelling fireside chat on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum, Republic of Somaliland President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi Irro captivated an international audience with a

forward-looking message of stability, investment readiness, and ambitious diplomatic goals. Speaking to veteran journalist John Deferios (former CNN Emerging Markets Editor), President Abdirahman Irro framed Somaliland

as the "world's newest country" — now recognized following Israel's historic recognition on December 26, 2025 — and outlined a clear path to broader global legitimacy and economic takeoff.

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Dr. Bayle: Eric Trump Express Significant Interest in Somaliland's Livestock and Agriculture Sectors



By M.A. Egge.
Dr. Abdirahman Ducaale Bayle, Senior Economic Advisor to Somaliland President Dr. Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi Irro, has strongly echoed the

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Could Swiss Neutrality Become Somaliland's Diplomatic Bridge?—



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At Davos dinner with Eric Trump and others, African president pitches business deals- Reuters



The President of Somaliland was at the World Economic Forum this week to win international recognition for and pitch investment opportunities in his nation.

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Turkey's Outrage Over Somaliland: When Propaganda Meets Its Own Mirror



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French Senator Olivier Cadic Calls for Recognition of Somaliland's Stability and Democracy



Senator Olivier Cadic, Vice-President of the French Senate's Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defense and Armed Forces and President of the France-Gulf Countries Interparliamentary Group, urged France and Europe to actively

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Somaliland Recognition: Easing Ethiopia's Djibouti Reliance, Enhancing Berbera Competition, Weakening Djibouti's Strategic Role



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Kenyan Somali MPs Should Fix their Own Backyards Before Meddling in Somaliland's Affairs



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Ministry of Finance Takes Over Key Revenue Streams from Interior Ministry and Hargeisa Municipality



The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development of the Republic of Somaliland has officially assumed control of several revenue sources previously collected by the Ministry of Interior and Security and the Hargeisa Local Government.

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Davos Diplomatic...



The President opened by thanking the room and highlighting the transformative impact of Israel's move, while saying, "A lot has changed after December 26, 2025. Somaliland is now a recognized state. We are peaceful, rule-of-law abiding, and ready for investment." He likened the opportunity to early bets on Dubai, Rwanda, and Vietnam, insisting Somaliland offers even stronger fundamentals: vast resources in agriculture, livestock (with millions of heads exported annually to Saudi Arabia during Hajj), 850 km of coastline for marine exports, minerals, oil, gas, tourism, banking, insurance, and a strategic Red Sea position through which nearly 10% of global trade passes.

Deferios, who first met Irro at the World Government Summit in Dubai the previous year, focused on investment appeal amid regional turbulence in the Horn of Africa and Red Sea disruptions. Irro emphasized Somaliland's standout peace record: "Our people traditionally resolve issues locally — we made peace under a tree, unlike others who needed endless international conferences." He credited this grassroots mechanism, combined with over 30

years of democratic elections (including his own November 2024 win with nearly 65% of the vote) and six peaceful presidential transitions, for creating a welcoming environment for investors. On key sectors, Irro declared every area open but spotlighted livestock as a potential "world meat reserve," fisheries, ports, and minerals. He repeatedly pointed to the Berbera Port success story with DP World (since 2016): 1,200 direct jobs, 61 companies in the free zone (66 more queued, 8 in talks), - \$300 million annual exports targeted to triple to \$1 billion by 2035, and massive youth employment potential in a population where 70% are young.

Addressing risks from lack of full recognition, Irro countered: "Before December 26, we proved we are stable, peaceful, and democratic. With more international partnerships, we can do even better — as shown to DP World and others." Geopolitically, Irro welcomed Israel's recognition as a major shift and expressed Somaliland's intent to join the Abraham Accords: "Our policy is stability and peace; this initiative is fundamentally peaceful, started by President Trump, and we

support it." He hopes for U.S. recognition, noting a May 2025 letter sent to world leaders including Trump.

He dismissed fears that recognition would spark chaos, arguing it would enhance stability: "We will become part of regional decision-making in the Red Sea and East Africa, with strong ties to Arab countries." President Abdirahman Irro highlighted excellent relations with landlocked Ethiopia (110 million people, fast-growing), offering Berbera and expanded logistics to meet its port needs and serve other African nations without sea access, "Ethiopia has the legitimate right to secure access to the sea."

On aid vs investment, he rejected dependency: "Our policy is based on partnerships, trade, and investment — not handouts — to become a developed country soon." Reflecting on Davos, Irro described it as a "great opportunity" yielding interest from businessmen, investors, billionaires, and millionaires previously unfamiliar with Somaliland.

In closing, Deferios asked for a five-year vision: "My hope is that within five years, Somaliland will be officially recognized by much of the world — not just Israel. At that time, we will have opportunities similar to other countries that now have pavilions here."

The session underscored Somaliland's push to convert de facto stability and recent diplomatic breakthroughs into de jure recognition and capital inflows, positioning the republic as a stabilizing, investment magnet in a volatile Horn of Africa region

At Davos dinner with Eric.....

At a closed-door dinner on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum, President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi outlined investment opportunities in Somaliland, notably its strategic deep-sea port of Berbera, which sits along one of the world's busiest shipping routes, according to two people present.

In attendance were Eric Trump, son of the U.S. president Donald Trump and a leading executive of the Trump family's sprawling business spanning from real estate to crypto, and Israel's president, Isaac Herzog, whose country recognized Somaliland last month—a first by any United Nations member.

A Reuters reporter saw Abdullahi go into the conference room where Eric Trump and Herzog were, and later saw photos of Trump shaking hands with the Somaliland president, and posing for pictures with him.

During the dinner, Abdullahi stood up and, holding a microphone, made an address, according to a video that Reuters reviewed.

"For 24 years, Somaliland has been stable, democratic, peaceful, ready for business," Abdullahi told participants seated at dining tables facing each other. "We expect that everyone (around) this table will support the recognition of Somaliland."

The Somaliland president and Eric Trump also had two brief conversations when they shook hands, at the beginning and the end of the event.

On Thursday, the Somaliland president confirmed that he had spoken with Trump and Herzog, telling Reuters: "The meeting went well, it went very well."

The news agency was unable to independently confirm the specifics of Eric Trump's conversations with the Somaliland president.

A spokesperson for Eric Trump confirmed that Abdullahi attended the dinner reception and took a photo with the U.S. president's son.

Benza said Eric Trump did not acknowledge or comment on the Somaliland president's speech. Asked about the sideline conversations, she said: "Pleasantries were exchanged, that is it."

In a post on X that did not mention Eric Trump, Herzog said he had been pleased to meet with his Somaliland counterpart in the Swiss resort.

During President Donald Trump's first term, the family's self-imposed ethical guidelines prohibited them from seeking new business outside the U.S.

French Senator Olivier Cadic.....

support Somaliland during a recent Senate debate under Article 50-1 of the Constitution on France's role in preventing and resolving international political crises.

In his intervention on behalf of the Union Centriste group, Senator Cadic spotlighted Somaliland's achievements since restoring its independence from Somalia in 1991. He described the nation in the Horn of Africa as a model of stability, the rule of law, and consistent democratic elections.

Cadic highlighted the inconsistency in international responses to raising nations, pointing out that the peaceful dissolution of Czechoslovakia into the Czech Republic and Slovakia in 1993 was quickly recognized by European nations. He questioned why Somaliland, despite its peaceful, democratic record and effective governance, continues to be largely overlooked.

"France cannot remain a mere spectator," Cadic declared, stressing that diplomacy is as vital to international security as justice is to domestic order. He called on France and Europe to defend democracies globally, assist peoples escaping unworthy

regimes, uphold right over might, and protect sovereignty from coercion rather than settling for mere condemnation.

The senator connected Somaliland's case to parallel challenges in Taiwan and other nations at risk, framing them as part of a fundamental 21st-century question: whether borders and sovereignties will be shaped by force or by law.

Cadic has long advocated for Somaliland, including during a 2023 visit where he met local officials and emphasized its functioning institutions, free elections, and state-like attributes as grounds for international recognition.

The speech by Senator Cadic aligns with the efforts of Somaliland's ambassador to France, Abdirahman Yassin Mohamed, aimed at strengthening cooperation between Somaliland and France, as well as collaboration among key French political stakeholders, of which Senator Cadic is a part.

His remarks reflect growing parliamentary interest in France toward deeper engagement with Somaliland amid evolving dynamics in the Horn of Africa.

The conversations focused on attracting international investors to process and export livestock and agricultural products to global markets, as well as sharing details of the country's natural resources such as natural gas and minerals with other world leaders.

He reiterated the strategic importance of the Port of Berbera, describing it as a future regional hub for logistics, trade, and energy infrastructure that continues to draw

growing attention from international investors.

Dr. Bayle's comments underscore Somaliland's rising profile, political stability, and readiness for sustainable partnerships, reinforcing the message that the current government is firmly focused on economic cooperation, job creation, and long-term development through global investment rather than reliance on external aid.

Dr. Bayle: Eric Trump Express Significant.....



administration's proactive economic outreach following the President's high-profile engagements at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

In an exclusive interview with the BBC, Dr. Bayle emphasized that Somaliland is shifting from aid dependency to active participation in the global marketplace. He highlighted President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi Irro's strategic meetings—including discussions with Israeli President Isaac Herzog and Eric Trump, Executive Vice President of the Trump Organization—as key platforms to present Somaliland's vast investment potential.

Dr. Bayle confirmed that Eric Trump expressed significant interest in Somaliland, particularly in the livestock and agriculture sectors. "We explained Somaliland and its resources to him, and he showed great interest in the opportunities," Dr. Bayle stated.

Ministry of Finance Takes Over Key Revenue Streams.....



The revenues now transferred to the Ministry of Finance include:

- Fees collected from the issuance of National ID
- Revenue from licensing of light weapons
- Income generated from issuing licenses to private security companies

Officials described the move as a key step toward unifying government revenue collection under a single authority, in line with a presidential directive ordering all state institutions to channel revenues through the Ministry of Finance.

The reform is expected to strengthen financial accountability, improve transparency, and enhance overall efficiency in public revenue management across Somaliland.

The handover ceremony was held today at the Ministry of Interior headquarters and was attended by Finance Minister Hon. Abdilahi Hassan Aden, Minister of Interior and National Security, Hon. Abdalle Mohamed Arab, Auditor General, Director General of the Ministry of

Finance Mr. Mohamed Hassan, Hargeisa Mayor Abdikarim Ahmed Mooge, Maroodi Jeeh Regional Governor, members of the technical committee responsible for the transition, and senior officials from both ministries.

Turkey's Outrage Over.....

Mohamoud Walaaleye

The classic Somali proverb rings truer than ever in this moment: Someone rushes in shouting, "He insulted you!" only for the reply to come coolly, "We were already enemies anyway, bro!"

That's precisely the vibe surrounding the latest TRT Afrika video—a slick, dramatic piece recycling old conspiracies about covert Israeli military bases, cyber operations, resource plunder in the Red Sea, and even dredging up a long-forgotten 1940s proposal for Jewish resettlement in British Somaliland and Ethiopia's Harar region. It's presented as explosive proof of some shadowy colonial revival in 2026. But for Somalilanders, this isn't breaking news; it's the same tired Mogadishu lobby script, amplified by Turkish state media, that's been looping for two decades.

Israel's formal recognition of Somaliland as a sovereign state on December 26, 2025—announced by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and formalized in a joint declaration—marked a genuine diplomatic earthquake.

As the first UN member state to do so, Israel acknowledged Somaliland's de facto independence since 1991: a stable, democratic republic with regular elections, functioning institutions, and a track record of peace in a turbulent region. Somaliland's leaders hailed it as historic validation, with celebrations in Hargeisa and even the Israeli flag projected in public spaces. The move aligns with potential Abraham Accords expansion, strategic Red Sea access via ports like Berbera, and mutual security interests amid piracy, terrorism, and shipping threats.

Somaliland's Foreign Ministry swiftly shut down the wilder claims in the TRT piece. No Palestinian resettlement schemes from Gaza. The engagement is straightforward: sovereign-to-



sovereign cooperation respecting international law. Facts over fantasy. This fury reveals more about Turkey's own deep footprint in Somalia than anything else. Over the past decade, Ankara has turned Somalia into a key Turkish outpost hub: operating the largest overseas Turkish military base (Camp TURKSOM) in Mogadishu, training thousands of Somali soldiers, managing the Port of Mogadishu and Aden Adde Airport, securing massive infrastructure contracts, and signing defense pacts that grant naval access and joint operations.

Most strikingly, a December 2025 fisheries agreement handed sweeping control of Somalia's rich exclusive economic zone—among the world's most abundant fishing grounds—to a company tied to Turkey's military pension fund (OYAK), centralizing licensing, monitoring, and regulation while promising Turkish fleets prime access. Add hydrocarbon exploration deals and port leases, and the pattern is clear: billions invested, but often with limited trickle-down stability for ordinary Somalis.

When Israel's recognition cracked the door open for Somaliland's legitimacy, it directly challenged this arrangement. Turkey's loud protests—from Erdoğan down to Foreign Ministry spokespeople—suddenly look less like principled defense of Somali unity and more

like alarm over a rival power eroding Ankara's influence in a strategically vital zone. The same state media ecosystem (TRT included) that amplifies anti-Somaliland narratives stays notably quieter about its own extensive resource and security entanglements.

The real irony? Turkey maintains robust trade and diplomatic ties with Israel itself, even amid public rhetoric. Lecturing Somaliland on sovereignty while embedding so deeply in Mogadishu's affairs highlights a glaring double standard.

For Somaliland, none of this is new. Decades of smears, AU threats, Arab League pressure, and paid disinformation campaigns have failed to erase the reality: a self-governing democracy that has built peace from scratch, held off extremism, and earned recognition through facts on the ground. Israel's step shatters the illusion that Somaliland can be perpetually sidelined.

The panic from detractors? Let them run with it. Somaliland isn't pleading for approval—it is defending its own hard-won peace, institutions, and right to self-determination. This recognition is the first real breach in the wall of denial. More will follow because sustainable progress and democratic reality always outlast propaganda.

Long live the Republic of Somaliland! No myths, no resettlement schemes—just unstoppable forward momentum.

Somaliland Recognition:.....



In a significant development reshaping dynamics in the Horn of Africa, Somaliland's long-standing push for international recognition has gained momentum following Israel's historic decision to formally recognize it as an independent sovereign state on December 26, 2025. As the first United Nations member country to do so, Israel's move has sent ripples across the region, prompting renewed focus on the strategic implications for neighboring states, particularly Djibouti.

Somaliland restored its independence from Somalia in 1991 after the collapse of the central Somali government. For over three decades, it has operated as a de facto state with its own government, currency, security forces, and relative stability in an otherwise turbulent region. Despite functioning independently, it has remained largely unrecognized internationally, limiting its access to global finance, trade systems, and formal partnerships.

Israel's recognition marks a turning point, granting Somaliland new legitimacy and opening doors for expanded cooperation. It has already spurred increased interest in Somaliland's Berbera port, trade corridors, and potential security arrangements, positioning the territory as an emerging gateway in the Horn of Africa.

This shift carries profound consequences for Djibouti, a small but geopolitically vital nation strategically located near the Bab el-Mandeb Strait—a critical maritime chokepoint connecting the Red Sea to the Indian Ocean and facilitating global trade between Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. Djibouti hosts military bases from major powers including the United States, China, France, and Japan, bolstering its role as a regional hub.

Djibouti's economy heavily relies on handling over 90% of Ethiopia's imports and exports through its ports, generating substantial revenue and influence as Ethiopia's primary maritime gateway. Ethiopia, landlocked since Eritrea's independence in 1993, has long sought alternatives to reduce dependence on Djibouti amid concerns over costs, reliability, and potential disruptions.

Full international recognition of Somaliland would elevate Berbera to a legitimate global trade hub. It would unlock easier access to international financing, shipping insurance, foreign investment, and large-scale development. Recognized ports attract more commercial traffic and partnerships, as global shipping lines and investors favor stable, officially acknowledged entities.

For Ethiopia, this creates a viable option to diversify sea access via Berbera, strengthening its negotiating position and reducing reliance on a single route. Berbera's rise would introduce direct competition to Djibouti's ports, eroding the latter's near-monopoly on Ethiopian trade and diminishing its economic leverage.

Beyond economics, recognition could dilute Djibouti's broader strategic exclusivity. Alternative access points in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden might emerge for military logistics, security partnerships, and diplomatic engagement. While Djibouti would retain importance due to its location and existing bases, losing its unchallenged position would reduce its regional influence.

Djibouti has aligned with the African Union's stance supporting Somalia's territorial integrity and favoring the status quo to preserve regional stability. Publicly endorsing Somaliland's recognition risks straining ties with Mogadishu, complicating AU diplomacy, and inviting backlash. Djibouti also weighs internal stability concerns.

The core concern remains strategic: Somaliland's recognition threatens Djibouti's economic dominance, leverage over Ethiopia, and unique role in Red Sea affairs. It could foster a more balanced Horn of Africa, with diversified trade routes, heightened port competition, and redistributed influence.

This is not merely about adding a new flag to the map. Somaliland's advancing recognition, catalyzed by Israel's bold step, could fundamentally redraw power dynamics across the Red Sea and the Horn, compelling Djibouti—and the wider region—to adapt to a future with fewer monopolies and greater uncertainty.

Could Swiss Neutrality Become Somaliland's.....

Somaliland's Diplomatic Moment

Why are there not more people talking about this? What if one quiet arrival in Switzerland could reshape 30 years of diplomatic deadlock in the Horn of Africa? While cameras focus on speeches in Davos, another story is unfolding in the corridors of neutrality. Is the world's most neutral country about to take its first step into Somaliland's recognition battle? As aired Horn Lens, where geopolitics is not just reported, it's decoded. They track global power shifts with clarity, precision, and strategic depth. Beyond the headlines, beyond the noise.

In January 2026, as the world's elite gathered for the World Economic Forum in Davos, Somaliland's President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi (Irro) quietly arrived in Switzerland, signaling a bold new phase in his nation's diplomatic campaign. This was no ordinary state visit. Instead, President Irro's presence in the Swiss Alps was a calculated move, operating in the shadows of global power, far from the spotlight of official recognition. For over three decades, Somaliland has functioned as a stable democratic state, yet remains unrecognized by any UN member, cut off from international institutions and investment. President Irro's administration is determined to break this isolation, shifting from loud demands to quiet, persistent engagement.

By timing his visit with Davos, he placed Somaliland in the orbit of leaders and investors whose support could change its future. In today's diplomacy, access and informal networks can be as powerful as formal recognition, especially for a nation systematically excluded from official forums. The Swiss Alps became a strategic battleground where quiet conversations could reshape Somaliland's legitimacy.

Why Switzerland Matters

Switzerland's active neutrality has made it the world's premier venue for sensitive negotiations and back-channel diplomacy. Unlike EU states, Switzerland's independence allows it to host parties who can't engage elsewhere, making Geneva and Davos synonymous with candid, off-the-record dialogue. For Somaliland, this environment is invaluable. President Irro's goal wasn't to address a formal assembly, but to secure discrete meetings with business leaders and policymakers open to Somaliland's case. Swiss neutrality lets it facilitate discussions without endorsing any side, providing a protected space for unrecognized states to build support.

Engaging with Somaliland doesn't signal recognition, but it opens doors for economic partnerships



and responsible governance. For Somaliland, Switzerland is a gateway, not just another country to lobby. The objective: use Swiss neutrality to build a compelling case for statehood, making it harder for the world to ignore. The Davos visit was a masterclass in seeking influence and access, not immediate validation.

Neutrality and Strategic Access

Just weeks before Irro's Swiss visit, the Horn of Africa was rocked by a historic announcement. On December 26, 2025, Israel became the first UN member to recognize Somaliland's independence. Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu confirmed the move in a call with President Irro, inviting him to Israel and sparking jubilation in Hargeisa. For Israel, the partnership offered strategic advantages in the Red Sea corridor, countering Iranian influence and securing maritime routes. For Somaliland, Israel's recognition shattered decades of diplomatic deadlock, forcing the world to reconsider its status. The move instantly elevated Somaliland's profile, but also tied its fate to the turbulent politics of the Middle East. While it broke the wall of non-recognition, it also brought new geopolitical challenges and scrutiny. Somaliland's next steps, like its quiet diplomacy in Switzerland, would now be watched by a wary international community. The earthquake had happened. The aftershocks were just beginning.

Somaliland's Calculated Pivot

Facing fierce opposition, Somaliland's leadership pivoted from seeking formal recognition to pursuing international normalization. President Irro's administration now focuses on de facto legitimacy, integrating Somaliland into the global system through economic, security, and diplomatic partnerships. The strategy: act like a state, trade like a state, and make independence an irreversible fact on the ground. The Davos visit exemplified this approach, engaging the global business community, not petitioning for recognition.

By attracting investment and forging partnerships, Somaliland aims to

build economic legitimacy as a precursor to political acceptance. This approach bypasses political vetoes, making Somaliland's existence harder to ignore. It's a long game, but one designed to make recognition a matter of when, not if.

Economic Engagement Before Recognition

Somaliland's normalization strategy is built on economic foundations, not diplomatic declarations. The port of Berbera, developed with UAE's DP World, is transforming Somaliland into a regional logistics hub serving Ethiopia and beyond. Each ship docking at Berbera reinforces Somaliland's de facto sovereignty and creates global economic interdependencies. The government is courting investment in energy and technology, positioning itself as a future exporter and tech hub. Security partnerships are equally vital. Somaliland's stability and effective coast guard make it a valuable regional partner. The 2025 deal with Ethiopia, trading port access for an Ethiopian naval base, showcased Somaliland's willingness to act independently. These economic and security deals deliver tangible benefits and serve as strategic tools for foreign policy. Each project and partnership builds a case for statehood based on performance, not grievance. Somaliland's incremental economic legitimacy is designed to make political recognition inevitable.

Quiet Diplomacy and Side Doors

For Switzerland, recognizing Somaliland outright is off the table. It would contradict its foreign policy and risk key relationships. But Swiss diplomacy isn't binary. Instead, Switzerland can open side doors for Somaliland, using its status as a global hub to facilitate practical integration. This could mean helping Somaliland meet international financial standards or supporting its governance reforms. Switzerland's active neutrality allows it to host talks, offer mediation, and let its private sector engage with Somaliland—all without formal recognition.

Swiss-based companies and NGOs can operate in Hargeisa, and

officials can meet informally in Geneva or Bern. This pragmatic engagement supports stability in the Horn of Africa while preserving Swiss neutrality. Switzerland is unlikely to be the next to recognize Somaliland, but it can provide the venue, expertise, and discrete access Somaliland needs. Quiet, incremental engagement may prove more decisive than bold declarations.

Neutrality as a Bridge?

Somaliland's journey from isolate nation to a player on the fringes of Davos is a testament to its persistence. Fierce opposition to Israel's recognition has closed the direct route to the UN, forcing Somaliland to pursue de facto legitimacy. Switzerland's neutrality,

once a barrier, now offers a potential bridge: engaging without triggering diplomatic crisis.

Switzerland provides a platform for dialogue, access to global finance, and a space to build Somaliland's credibility. The Swiss model is about quiet, incremental progress, not headlines. President Irro's visit to the Alps prioritized substance over ceremony, betting that economic integration and stability are the best arguments for statehood. The question remains: can Swiss neutrality be the bridge to full sovereignty? While Switzerland may not be the first to recognize Somaliland, its role as facilitator could be decisive. Quiet diplomacy in the Alps may echo louder than public proclamations.

Kenyan Somali MPs Should.....



Mohamoud Walaaleye

In the vast, arid expanses of northeastern Kenya, where drought has turned once-thriving pastures into graveyards for livestock and left families on the brink of survival, a growing chorus of frustration is echoing across communities. While severe water shortages, crumbling infrastructure, and relentless insecurity plague regions like Dadaab and Mandera, some prominent Kenyan Somali politicians appear more focused on distant conflicts in Las Anod — a hotspot in the disputed Sool region of Somaliland — than on the urgent crises at home.

Three figures in particular have drawn sharp criticism: Yusuf Hassan (MP for Kamukunji), Farah Maalim (MP for Dadaab), and former Mandera Senator Billow Kerow. Their recent engagements with Las Anod — a town at the heart of clan tensions, territorial disputes between Somaliland and Somalia-linked forces, and ongoing instability — have sparked accusations that they are seeking "political relief" abroad to revive fading relevance at home.

Farah Maalim represents Dadaab, one of Kenya's largest and most challenging constituencies spanning roughly 7,000 square kilometers. Residents here endure:

- No paved roads
 - Scarce clean drinking water
 - Unreliable electricity
 - No proper maternal hospitals
 - Limited access to quality secondary schools or universities
 - Persistent insecurity, with regular attacks claiming civilian and security lives.
- Yet, instead of channeling energy into these long-standing issues, critics argue Maalim and others have turned to Las Anod as a stage for grandstanding.

Yusuf Hassan, meanwhile, faces scrutiny over his Las Anod visit, with some alleging he has framed it politically by tying it to anti-Israel narratives — especially given his marriage to Susanna Price, an Israeli national working with UNICEF. Detractors claim this approach stirs controversy to rally support among certain groups, using foreign issues as a tool for local political gain.

Billow Kerow, having lost his Mandera Senate seat in consecutive elections, is seen by many as a politician rejected by his own voters. His continued visibility in external arenas like Las Anod has fueled perceptions that he is desperately chasing relevance after being sidelined at home.

The irony is stark. Northeastern Kenya battles a humanitarian crisis: massive livestock losses, shattered livelihoods, and threats to human life from drought. These are the very heartlands these leaders claim to represent, yet locals report little meaningful progress in improving daily life.

The message from ordinary citizens is clear and increasingly vocal: Leaders should fix their own yards first — tackle the drought, build roads, secure water, and restore safety in Dadaab, Mandera, and beyond — before diving into Somaliland's complex affairs. True leadership begins at home.

This growing debate underscores a deeper call for accountability. Kenyan Somali communities deserve representatives who prioritize their immediate needs over distant distractions. Until that happens, the question will linger: Why seek relief in Las Anod when so much suffering remains unresolved in your own backyard?

10 Irrefutable Proofs That Somaliland Is Already a



Mohamoud Walaaleye
The map on your wall is lying to you. There is a country in the Horn of Africa with its own clearly defined borders, its own professional army, and its own world-leading biometric democracy. Yet on every official world map, it remains swallowed by a neighboring state that struggles to secure even its own capital. You've likely been told Somaliland is merely a breakaway region or a separatist project. But by the end of this powerful analysis from True Frame, you will encounter 10 hard, irrefutable proofs that the international community has spent 34 years upholding a legal fiction—one that is finally beginning to collapse.

From the planet's first iris-scan voting system to a staggering \$250 million aid scandal that lays bare the corruption in Mogadishu, here is the unfiltered truth.

We put Somaliland to the exact same legal tests applied to Germany, Japan, or the United States. If it meets those standards, then the country truly being erased is not Somaliland—it's Somalia's increasingly hollow claim over it.

The evidence from True Frame YouTube begins long before most modern African borders were even drawn, at a time when Somaliland enjoyed more international recognition than the state now asserting ownership over it.

Proof 1: The 1960 Independence

On June 26, 1960, the State of Somaliland was born—not as a province, but as a fully sovereign nation recognized by 35 United Nations member states, including Israel and the United States. The real mystery is not how it became independent, but why it gave up that sovereignty. Driven by the dream of a greater Somalia, Somaliland voluntarily united with the Italian-administered south just five days later. That union was never formalized by treaty. When Somaliland dissolved the union in 1991, it was not seceding—it was simply restoring the independent status it held in 1960. Legal logic should have sufficed for the divorce, yet the world demanded a precedent, conveniently ignoring that Africa is already filled with them.

Proof 2: The Divorce Precedents

The African Union insists that recognizing Somaliland would shatter the continent. Yet history tells

a different story. Egypt and Syria formed a single country for three years, then peacefully separated into two sovereign states. Senegal and Gambia united, then separated. Mali and Senegal attempted a federation that lasted only two months. In every instance, the international community recognized the dissolutions without hesitation. Framing Somaliland as a rebel territory while accepting the Senegal-Gambia split represents the ultimate double standard. It leaves Mogadishu behaving like a toxic ex refusing to sign the divorce papers—turning what began as a disagreement into a bloodbath.

Proof 3: The Isaaq Genocide

Somaliland can never return to Mogadishu—not merely for political reasons, but for sheer survival. In the 1980s, the Siad Barre regime unleashed a deliberate campaign to erase the northern population. Tens of thousands were slaughtered, and Hargeisa—Somaliland's capital—was 90% destroyed, bombed by its own national air force. This was not civil war; it was genocide. Recognition serves as an insurance policy against any repeat of that horror. Yet even after losing everything, Somalilanders did not beg for handouts. Instead, they built what many recognized nations still struggle to achieve.

Proof 4: The Iris-Scan Democracy

While much of the world still debates basic voter ID laws, Somaliland quietly became the first country on Earth to deploy advanced biometric iris scanning for national elections. Compare that to Somalia, where dubbed direct one-person-one-vote elections only began in 2026. Until recently, Somalia relied on an indirect, clan-based system in which ordinary citizens had no direct vote. Power-sharing formulas allocate parliamentary seats equally among the four largest clans, with smaller clans receiving half that share. Voting occurs in protected hangars under African Union guard. In stark contrast, Somaliland has held six peaceful, one-person-one-vote elections over more than three decades—a democratic outlier in a Horn of Africa region plagued by dictators. This level of organization demands

sophisticated state machinery that Mogadishu simply does not possess. Yet it is the recognized government that remains mired in stolen aid.

Proof 5: Aid-Reliant vs. Self-Sufficient

For three decades, billions in international aid have flooded Somalia. Where has it gone? In 2024, the FBI exposed the Feeding Our Future scandal in Minnesota—a \$250 million fraud, the largest in U.S. history, tied to Somali community leaders who allegedly laundered funds intended for hungry children into luxury real estate in East Africa. UN agencies have repeatedly highlighted embezzlement scandals. While corrupt elites in Mogadishu skim tax and aid dollars, Somaliland—excluded from World Bank and IMF loans—has constructed its own roads, schools, and even a navy with zero international debt. Self-sufficiency was born of necessity, and it has forged an unbreakable security barrier.

Proof 6: The Security Oasis

Even the world's most powerful militaries marvel at it. Somalia remains a stronghold for al-Shabaab despite 30,000 foreign troops on its soil. Cross the border into Somaliland, however, and the terror threat disappears. Without foreign military aid or AMISOM forces, Somaliland has maintained 100% clearance of terrorist cells across its territory. The government does not merely claim a monopoly on force—it delivers it to every citizen. By the classic definition of statehood, Somaliland qualifies as a state, while Somalia resembles a fortified green zone around a single airport. The notion of a unified Somalia feels less like policy and more like a hallucination.

Proof 7: The Political Hallucination

Mogadishu's claim over Somaliland is what analysts describe as a political hallucination. The federal government can barely assert control over nearby regions such as Puntland or Jubaland, which routinely suspend relations with the capital. If Mogadishu cannot govern a province 50 miles away, claiming authority over a fully functioning country 500 miles distant is not sovereignty—it is daydreaming. Even African Union experts reached this conclusion years ago, though their findings remain buried.

Proof 8: The Shelved Verdict

In 2005, an African Union fact-finding mission visited Hargeisa and produced a report that should have settled the matter once and for all. It concluded that Somaliland's quest for recognition was unique and self-justified, and that it would not unleash a Pandora's box of secession across Africa—because its borders were already colonial. The AU disregarded its own experts to appease third-party interests,

including those of Egypt and Djibouti. Political convenience trumped legal truth. But as the geopolitical landscape shifts, a new group of nations is refusing to perpetuate the silence.

Proof 9: Taiwan and Israel's Move

The long silence was shattered first by Taiwan in 2020 and then by Israel in late 2025. These are not random partnerships—they form a strategic axis of middle powers that prioritize functional democracy over bureaucratic fiction. By extending recognition, these nations signal that in the 2026 Red Sea era, paper sovereignty holds little value. What matters is who controls the ports, secures the coastline, and can be trusted as an intelligence partner. This brings us to the final, indisputable test of statehood—one that even the United Nations cannot rewrite.

Proof 10: The Montevideo Checklist

Israel Recognizes Somaliland: Former FM Essa Delivers Powerful Call for Unity and Global Acceptance

In a heartfelt and widely shared message released on January 18, 2026, Dr. Essa Abdirahman Mohamoud Kayd—former Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Somaliland—addressed his fellow Somalilanders not as a government official, but as "a son of this land," celebrating Israel's historic recognition of Somaliland and reaffirming the nation's unbreakable commitment to its sovereignty.

In the interview he gave to Galaydh Media, Kayd traced Somaliland's history of self-governance back centuries, before British colonial rule and the brief independence of June 26, 1960. He described the 1960 union with Somalia as legally invalid and fundamentally flawed due to irreconcilable differences in values, despite shared language and religion.

He recounted the violent collapse of that union, the 1980s–1991 genocide against Somaliland's people, the bombing of its cities, and the heroic rebuilding that followed in 1991—achieved entirely by Somalilanders themselves through traditional conflict resolution, community resolve, and determination, with virtually no international support.

Kayd highlighted Israel's longstanding support: recognizing Somaliland first in 1960, reporting the 1991 atrocities to the United Nations, and now, on December 26, 2025, becoming the first UN member state to formally recognize Somaliland's reasserted independence in the modern era. He condemned recent Somali government actions in Las Anod, accusing Mogadishu of violating Somaliland's sovereignty, inciting

According to the 1933 Montevideo Convention, a state requires only four elements: a permanent population, a defined territory, a functioning government, and the capacity to enter into relations with other states. Somaliland has satisfied all four for 34 years. For much of that period, Somalia could barely meet two. Under international law, Somaliland is not asking to become a country—it is simply waiting for the world to acknowledge that it already is one. The map on your wall may still depict a single Somalia, but on the ground the union is a ghost. The era of the invisible nation is ending. The only remaining question is: who will be next to end the hallucination?

Are these 10 proofs convincing enough? Or do you still view Somaliland as part of Somalia? Is the African Union's condemnation of Somaliland's recognition rooted in principle—or profit?



violence, and funding proxy militias in a final attempt to destabilize the republic. Kayd criticized the international community's continued silence on these aggressions.

Rejecting any future negotiations over Somaliland's existence, he declared the dream of Somali unity dead due to betrayal, mass killings, and denial of Somaliland's identity. He urged Somalilanders—especially in the diaspora—to act as ambassadors, proudly carrying the flag in every sphere: universities, media, parliaments, businesses, and diplomatic channels.

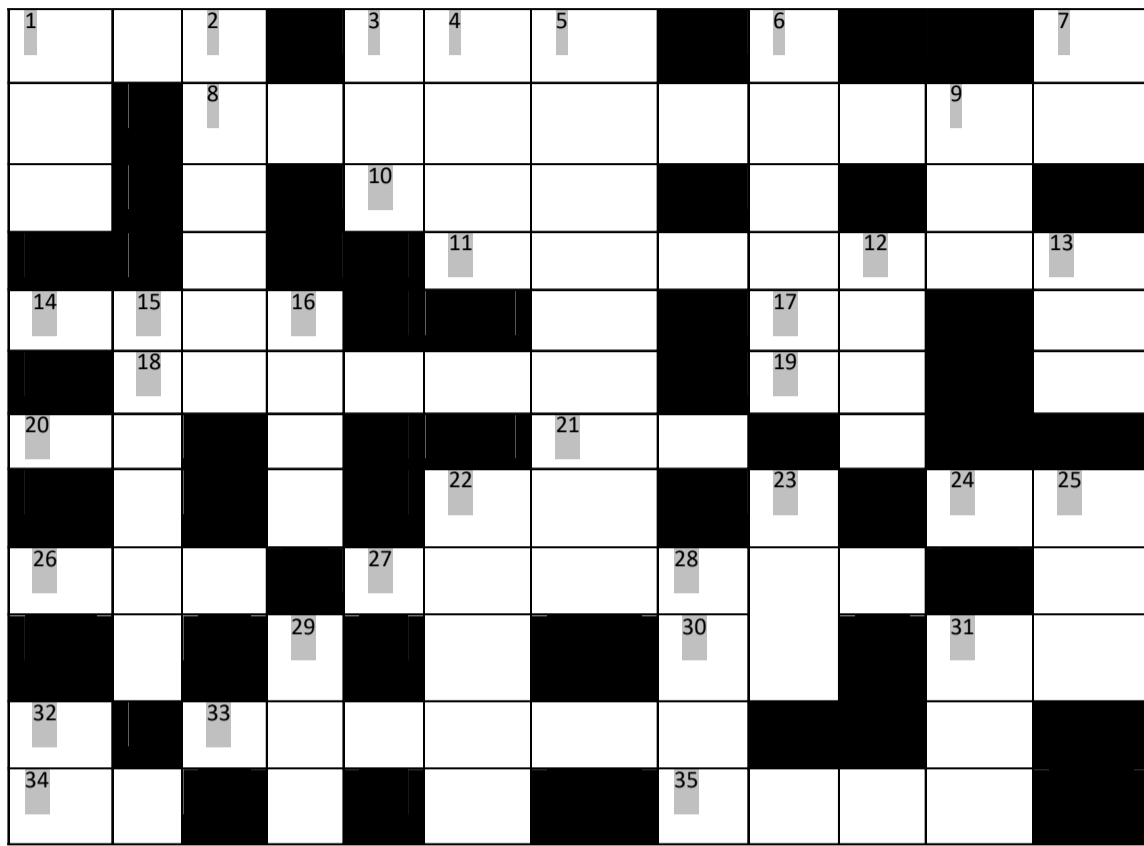
Kayd called on regional neighbors and long-time partners, particularly the United Arab Emirates, to honor past commitments and formally recognize Somaliland, warning that neutrality in this defining moment would be remembered. He addressed Somalia directly, stating that its failures are self-inflicted and that its current actions threaten regional stability.

Concluding with a message of resilience and pride, Kayd affirmed: "Somaliland is not an emerging breakaway. Somaliland was here before any other nation in the heart of Africa and will continue to exist. We are standing unshaken, united, undeniable—for as long as it takes. God bless Somalilanders."

The statement has galvanized support among Somalilanders and amplified global discussion following Israel's groundbreaking recognition, which continues to reshape diplomatic dynamics in the Horn of Africa.

THT Puzzle

Prepared by: Abdillahi Said Muhummed



ACROSS

DOWN

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 question. | 1be present. |
| 2 confirm. | 3 crowns head wear |
| 3 shed tears | 8 storylines. |
| 4 vicinity | 10 Yeah |
| 5 travelers | 11 Support |
| 6 increasing | 14 Concern assist |
| 7 U'S | 17 Negative |
| 9 Have a meal | 18 Cause |
| 12 Almost immediately | 19 Travel |
| 13 Sun shine | 22 be present |
| 15 Nearby | 24 Remains |
| 16 Simple | 26 Furthermore |
| 22 brain power | 27 Symbols |
| 23 individual | 30 United Nations in short forms |
| 25 Perceive or look | 31 Be there |
| 28 possessive pronoun | 34 Atop |
| 29 Carpet | 35 Stated |
| 31 double or single bed | |
| 32 Negative or nope | |

Previous Answer

B 1	R	E 2	A	C 3	H		R 4	O	U 5	N	D
A		N		A		G 6	O		S		
S 7	A	D		L			W 8	H	E	A	L 9
E			C	L	U 11	B 12			D		O
	U 13		C		P 14	E	N 15				W
A 16	S	S 17		S 18	P	E	E	D 19		A	
	A 21	P	P	L	E		W 22	R	I	N	G
A 23	G	E		E 24	R	A 25	S	E		Y	
S 26	E	A		E		S		S			
S		K 27	E	P	T 29		I 30	S	S 31	U	E 32
E			N		O 33	N 34		O		N	
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Historic Davos Dinner: Somaliland's President Meets Israel's Herzog and Eric Trump to Bolster Ties



In a significant diplomatic encounter on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Somaliland President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi Irro held a high-profile dinner meeting with Israeli President Isaac Herzog. The gathering, also attended by Eric Trump, son of the U.S. President, underscored the rapidly advancing relations between Somaliland and Israel following Israel's groundbreaking recognition of Somaliland as an independent state on December 26, 2025—the first such move by any UN member nation.

The meeting unfolded in an atmosphere of mutual respect and shared strategic goals. Discussions centered on deepening state-to-state cooperation across key sectors, including security and defense, technology, agriculture, water management, health, energy and minerals, and community development. Both leaders emphasized joint efforts to promote peace and stability in the Horn of Africa.

President Irro expressed profound gratitude for Israel's "historic, courageous, and bold" recognition, which came after 34 years of Somaliland's de facto independence. He reaffirmed Somaliland's commitment as a reliable partner, highlighting its track record of stability, democracy, good governance, and adherence to the rule of law. President Herzog echoed the positive sentiment in his public statement: "I was delighted to meet here in Davos with the

President of Somaliland H.E. Abdirahman Abdilahi. I welcome the establishment of diplomatic relations between us and look forward to deepening cooperation for the benefit of both our peoples."

President Irro similarly shared on social media: "Last night, at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, I had the honor of sharing a dinner meeting with the President of the State of Israel, His Excellency Isaac Herzog. Our discussions focused on strengthening and advancing the relations between the two governments of the Republic of Somaliland and the State of Israel. The meeting was also attended by prominent politicians and global leaders from all corners of the world, as well as influential figures on the international stage, including Eric Trump, the son of the President of the United States."

The presence of Eric Trump added a notable international dimension, signaling potential broader alignment involving the United States amid Somaliland's push for wider recognition. This encounter marks a pivotal moment for Somaliland, transitioning from decades of diplomatic isolation to active engagement on the global stage. It highlights Somaliland's emergence as a stable, democratic partner in a volatile region, poised to contribute to international peace and security through expanding friendships and strategic partnerships.

Somaliland: Africa's Next Strategic Investment Frontier



Somaliland is emerging as one of the most promising and under-explored investment destinations in Africa at a time when global companies are actively restructuring their supply chains and searching for new production geographies. In an era defined by geopolitical fragmentation, rising logistics costs, and the need to diversify beyond traditional hubs, transnational corporations are increasingly prioritizing locations that combine political stability, strategic geography, cost efficiency, and access to large integrated markets. Somaliland offers precisely this combination, and at the heart of this opportunity lies the Berbera Economic Zone.

For more than three decades, Somaliland has maintained a proven record of political stability and internal security, making it one of the most stable operating environments in the Horn of Africa. While much of the region has experienced prolonged conflict, Somaliland has built functioning institutions, maintained social cohesion, and established a predictable business environment. This stability is not merely a political achievement; it is an economic asset. For investors, stability translates into lower risk, lower transaction costs, and greater confidence in long-term planning. In global investment terms, Somaliland offers what many frontier markets cannot: continuity.

The Berbera Economic Zone represents Somaliland's most important strategic economic platform. It is designed as a dedicated industrial and logistics ecosystem that integrates port infrastructure, manufacturing space, trade facilitation, and investment services into a single operational framework. The BEZ is not conceived as a domestic industrial park serving a small local market. It is designed as a regional and continental gateway, enabling transnational companies to assemble, manufacture, process, and re-export goods across Africa, the Middle East, and beyond.

Geography is the first and most fundamental advantage of Berbera. The city sits directly on the Gulf of Aden, adjacent to the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, one of the world's most critical maritime corridors. A significant share of global trade passes through this narrow channel connecting Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and Africa. This places Berbera in the same strategic class as global ports such as Jebel Ali in Dubai, Salalah in Oman, Djibouti, and Port Said in Egypt. Yet unlike these congested hubs, Berbera offers low traffic density, faster turnaround times, and a substantially lower cost structure. In a global environment where shipping delays and port congestion are increasingly costly, this operational efficiency represents a powerful competitive advantage.

The true multiplier effect of Berbera lies in its direct access to Ethiopia, Africa's second most populous country and one of its fastest-growing economies. Ethiopia's market of more than 120 million people generates enormous import demand and remains structurally dependent on external ports for trade. Berbera provides the most direct sovereign maritime corridor to this market. For transnational companies, this creates a rare opportunity to establish manufacturing and distribution operations that can serve Ethiopia efficiently while avoiding the congestion and rising costs associated with existing gateways.

Beyond Ethiopia, the Berbera Economic Zone offers access to two of the largest integrated markets in the world through COMESA and the African Continental Free Trade Area. COMESA alone represents more than 560 million consumers across Eastern and Southern Africa, while AfCFTA connects a continental market of over 1.4 billion people with a combined GDP exceeding three trillion dollars. For multinational companies, this means that production in Berbera is not limited to a small national market. Instead, it provides a platform for continental scale. Goods assembled or processed in the BEZ can be re-export across Africa under preferential trade regimes, positioning Somaliland as a manufacturing and logistics node within Africa's emerging single market.

This model is not theoretical. It mirrors the pathways followed by the world's most successful free zones. Shenzhen transformed

China into a global manufacturing powerhouse. Jebel Ali turned Dubai into the logistics capital of the Middle East. Tangier Med repositioned Morocco as a European-African industrial bridge. Singapore built its entire development strategy around becoming a trade and production hub despite a small domestic market. In each case, zones acted as catalysts for foreign direct investment, technology transfer, industrialization, and global integration. The Berbera Economic Zone is structurally designed to follow this same trajectory.

Transnational companies already understand the strategic logic of zones. Firms such as Amazon, UPS, FedEx, DHL, Maersk, Microsoft, Google, IBM, Oracle, ExxonMobil, Chevron, Halliburton, Baker Hughes, Coca-Cola, Procter & Gamble, General Electric, Ford, and Tesla all operate extensively through special economic zones across Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. They use these environments to minimize regulatory friction, reduce tax burdens, secure foreign ownership rights, protect intellectual property, and facilitate rapid movement of goods and capital.

Among the first industrial tenants in Berbera is IFFCO, a major UAE-based food company, which has developed an edible oil processing and packaging facility within the Berbera Economic Zone and has already begun exporting to African markets. In addition, several international and regional logistics, trading, and manufacturing companies are already using Berbera Port and the BEZ framework for warehousing, re-export, and corridor-based trade. The World Food Program (WFP) also utilizes Berbera as a key humanitarian logistics hub for regional operations, with more firms currently in advanced stages of registration and onboarding.

The Berbera Economic Zone offers precisely this type of environment, but within a geography that remains largely untapped and competitively priced.

What makes Berbera particularly attractive is not only its location, but its institutional and operational foundations. The presence of DP World as the anchor operator of Berbera Port provides international credibility, operational expertise, and integration into global shipping networks. DP World's involvement significantly reduces

investor uncertainty and aligns Berbera with global best practices in port management and logistics. This is a critical factor, as many African SEZs struggle to attract serious investors due to weak operators, poor connectivity, and limited global integration. Berbera already possesses what most zones aspire to build.

In addition to its strategic location and infrastructure, the Berbera Economic Zone offers a competitive investment framework aligned with global best practices. Companies operating within BEZ benefit from simplified customs procedures, duty-free import of inputs and capital equipment, full foreign ownership, streamlined licensing through a one-stop investment authority under the Somaliland Special Economic Zones Authority, and flexible capital repatriation mechanisms. The zone is designed to provide a predictable regulatory environment, transparent commercial rules, and investor protections consistent with international investment standards, making BEZ a commercially efficient and institutionally reliable platform for long-term operations.

From an operational perspective, the BEZ offers lower congestion, faster clearance times, and reduced logistics costs compared to regional competitors. Labor costs remain highly competitive, land is available at scale, and security conditions are among the strongest in the Horn of Africa. For manufacturing and assembly operations, these conditions translate directly into higher margins and lower operational risk. For logistics and distribution companies, they translate into faster turnaround, greater reliability, and improved service delivery to regional markets.

The industrial potential of the Berbera Economic Zone is broad and highly diversified. Light manufacturing and assembly offer immediate opportunities in electronics, consumer appliances, automotive components, renewable energy equipment, and modular construction materials. Agro-processing presents strong prospects in livestock processing, meat packaging, cold chain logistics, fish export and food manufacturing, building on Somaliland's existing comparative advantages. Pharmaceutical and medical distribution hubs can serve East

African markets through packaging, labeling, and regional warehousing. Digital infrastructure, including data centers and cloud edge facilities, can position Berbera as a technological gateway connecting African markets with Middle Eastern and Asian digital ecosystems.

Israel's official re-recognition of the Republic of Somaliland on 26 December 2026 has sent a strong market signal, enhancing international confidence and accelerating global engagement, while reinforcing Berbera's position and the Berbera Economic Zone's role as a trusted, globally aligned investment platform for transnational companies.

For transnational companies, the economic logic is compelling. The BEZ reduces entry risk into African markets, lowers logistics costs, enables regulatory efficiency, and provides access to large integrated markets. It allows firms to diversify production locations, build resilient supply chains, and establish an early presence in a strategically located growth corridor.

For transnational companies seeking the next frontier of growth, the Berbera Economic Zone offers a proposition that is both rare and timely: a stable political environment, world-class port infrastructure, access to one of Africa's largest markets, integration into continental trade regimes, and a cost structure that remains globally competitive. Few locations in Africa combine these elements within a single investment platform.

Berbera is not waiting to be discovered. It is positioning itself to become the Horn of Africa's next major trade and manufacturing hub. For investors and global companies, the question is no longer whether Somaliland will matter economically, but whether they will enter early enough to shape the next chapter of Africa's industrial geography.

About the Author

Former Director-General of the Ministries of Planning & National Development, Social Affairs & Labour, and Trade & Tourism of the Republic of Somaliland, with a decade of experience in academia and as an entrepreneur, focused on public policy leadership, education, technology, and innovation.