

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**DOWLADDA PUNTLAND EE
SOOMAALIYA XAFIISKA
WASIIRKA**



**PUNTLAND STATE OF
SOMALIA
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER**

In Response to TFG Minister of Energy and Mining Press Release

In response to the ill-advised and inflammatory words of the Minister, the Puntland government, and the people it legally represents, would like to protest the libelous characterization of the legislative actions of the legal representatives of the people of Puntland as “ nepotism, looting of public property, corruption and all fraudulent activities” and to correct his erroneous assumptions regarding who has legal rights to natural resources, the formation of the Transitional Federal Government, who should direct the development and licensing of business enterprises. The government of Puntland demands that TFG stops certain individuals from sending treasonous and threatening letters to our partners in the development of our region.

The people have the right to natural resources, individually and/or through legal representation. The people of Puntland established a Regional Government and elected two legal and representative governments in the last ten years. All the people of Puntland are represented in this government.

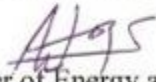
As to the formation of the Transitional Federal Government, it was not established by the UN like the minister said in his letter, but by a lengthy and contentious negotiation between the Government of Puntland, two factions of the former TNG, and the representatives of various strongmen: it was established by the people, even though with incomplete representation. But without doubt the intent was to create an institution to pave the way for real reconciliation and the creation of a more permanent document ratified by all the people of Somalia. This is why the TFG was given two and half years to work with the temporary charter to be replaced by a constitution that establishes the form of government, elections, etc. Unfortunately TFG has been derailed by forces inimical to the Somali State, to federalism, and by greedy politicians with nostalgia of the “good old Barre days“, when everything was decided in Mogadishu.

The Regional State of Puntland was formed with the full consent of its inhabitants and to safeguard and develop the lives and interest of its people, with no malice or hatred towards our brothers in the other regions of Somalia. On the contrary, instead of opting for separation from the rest of the Somali Republic, as some regions, the leaders of Puntland climbed the proverbial tall and short tree in order to realize the reunification of the Republic, but, with a better system of governance. Puntland believes that the reconciliation and reunification of the Somali people is beneficial to its inhabitants both in regards to security and development. This is why Puntland played a pivotal role in the formation of the TFG and provided sustenance to the TFG when it was isolated in Jowhar and Baidoa. Puntland was able to provide such support at the expense of its developmental goals, recognizing that security is a major requirement to development. Hence, the government of Puntland did not spare the proceeds it received from taxation, from the port services in Bosasso, and the revenues it received from the exploration

agreements in order to defend itself and the TFG from the onslaught of fanatic groups based in Mogadishu. Puntland reserves the right to manage its own development without sacrificing the "COMMON GOOD". Puntland reserves the right to manage its natural resources, Ports, airports (except Customs and Immigration), fisheries, commerce etc.... Puntland is willing to share its revenues in a just and equitable manner with the rest of Somalia.

The itinerant Minister is the latest of a long list of individuals, both private and governmental, engaged in harassing our partners to undermine the stability and development goals of Puntland. We have no control over private individuals, nor do we have much concern about them. However, the insults and threats of the Minister require governmental sanction both for incompetence and behavior unbecoming for a governmental official with such portfolio. We have been reassured by the TFG senior members that the views of the minister are his views only and not a Press Release authorized by the TFG.

Hassan Osman Mohamoud



Minister of Energy and Minerals

Tuesday March 25, 2008 | **Garowe, Puntland: Press Release**