

DOWLADDA PUNTLAND  
EE SOOMAALIYA

XAFIISKA  
MADAXWEYNAHA



PUNTLAND STATE OF SOMALIA  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

ولاية بونت لاند  
الصومالية

الرئاسة  
مكتب الرئيس

Date: April,16,2018

## Press release

There is a historical and a brotherly relationship between UAE and Somalia since time immemorial. UAE is the biggest trading partner of Somalia. The dhows and the ships from UAE in the backbone and the lifeline of the Somali economy. Moreover, thousands of Somalis reside and have a gainful employment in UAE unlike any other country in the region. We cherish and value this relationship.

UAE is a strategic partner in the fight against terrorism, piracy, illegal fishing, and illegal human trafficking in Somalia, particularly in Puntland. They trained and equipped more than 2000 Puntland Maritime Police Force (PMPF) and were here since 2010. These forces are based in all over Puntland from Gara'ad to Lasqoray. They are in Gara'ad, in Eyl, in Iskushuban, in Hafun, in Bosaso, in Elayo, in Bargal and in particularly Qandala fighting Isis. They are in Galgala Mountains fighting Alshabab. They are finest, the most disciplined, and the best trained force in Somalia. If UAE leaves, there will be a security challenge in Puntland which is in the first line of defense for Somalia. This will only help our enemy, particularly Alshabab and ISIS. We ask our UAE friends, not only to stay, but to redouble its efforts in helping Somalia stand on its feet. Their invaluable support goes a long way in our fight against terrorism.

UAE in investing hundreds of millions of dollars in expanding the Bosasso Port. This will be the biggest investment ever in Puntland. In addition, we are expecting more investment from UAE including roads, free Zones, and industrial Parks. UAE in an indispensable ally of Somalia. No any other country can replace in their support to Puntland.

Let me say few words about the irresponsible social Media. It became a venue for spreading lies, innuendos and often causing irreparable damage to the name of Somalia. I urge them to refrain from such behavior. They were lately spreading rumors that UAE is leaving Puntland; that their plane is denied departure from Bosasso. These are unadulterated nonsense. UAE is here to stay and they will not abandon Somalia in their hour of need.

Somalia is going through a difficult critical period and we are at the proverbial crossroads. We need the support of all our international partners, particularly UAE. I see the light at the end of the dark tunnel and we can only reach there with your help and support.

Finally, we apologize to our friends for any inconvenience they may have inadvertently faced in Somalia.

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