

# THE STATISTICAL ABSTRACT OF BORAMA MUNICIPALITY

*Borama, Regional  
Capital of Awdal*



Borama Local Council,

December 2003

Compiled by:  
Economic and Project Management  
Committee  
Borama Local Council, December 2003

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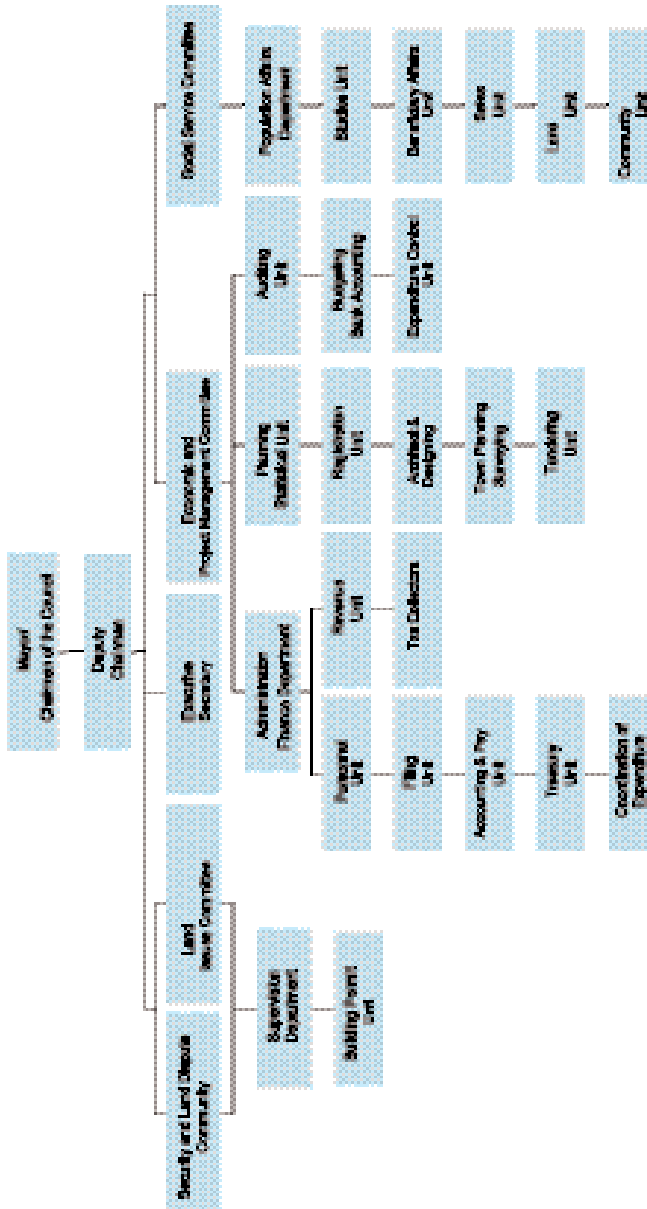
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**Abdirahman Omer Dahir**  
**Mayor/Chairman of Borama Local Council**

## 2. ORGANOGRAMME OF BORAMA LOCAL COUNCIL



### 3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Borama Municipality is an autonomous agency. The role of the Municipality is to develop and manage urban and rural sectors that are unable to be self-sufficient. However, development of Borama Municipality has been significantly hampered by its history of civil unrest. As a result, social services are very weak in most of the main villages within the district and the Municipality services have experienced great difficulties in responding to the needs of the population concentrated in both rural and urban areas. These services were formerly run by the Central Government. However, this system has not been operational for over 12 years and it has now been replaced by public entities.

At present, a public service department has begun to provide basic services with the help of international agencies.

This report presents the findings of the data collection for Borama District. The compilation of this booklet was assisted by the World bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), through Somalia Watching Brief Project (SWB). The main aim is to update statistical records for Borama Municipality in order to aid planning for financial and land development and to plan for the future provision of public services.

The data collection includes assessments of the nine revenue collection areas and statistical records of other public services. The findings presented in this report are based on market visits and street vendors, as well as public and private managers/operators interviews in Borama town on 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> June 2003.

## 4. INTRODUCTION

### 4.1 *Geography*

Borama is the regional capital of Awdal and is located 120km west of Hargeisa. It is positioned 3km north of the Ethiopian Boundary and lies on latitude 9° and longitude 23°.

Earthquakes are relatively frequent in Borama and its surrounding areas, although these earthquakes have never been beyond 5° in strength. The people of Borama reportedly experience at least two tremors every month.

### 4.2. *Infrastructure*

Central Borama town is well laid out, but recent developments on the periphery appear unplanned. The District itself is slowly recovering from civil unrest and subsequently the provision of public utilities has suffered.

Borama has good road links with other districts in the region. The two major links are to Hargeisa and to Djibouti through Zeila. There is a constant flow of traffic on these two roads. Another road runs between Borama, Baki and Lughaya. Other economically important roads include those through Borama to Ethiopia.

Many of the roads have however been eroded by run off from the surrounding mountains, and the roads are generally in poor condition. Thus, transportation costs are high and these costs have impacted significantly on the economic growth of Borama town.

### 4.3. *Agriculture*

Farming is the predominant occupation in the areas southwest and west of Borama. Irrigation takes place to the north and east of Borama town. Livestock rearing is also common practice. Commerce and petty trading takes place in the towns.

### 4.4. *Education and Community*

Borama district has good education facilities. Currently, the former secondary school known as Amoud has been established as Amoud University. The University offers both international and national professors.

Borama has been a leading example in several community schemes. It

was the first place in Somaliland to adopt a self-help scheme. These schemes now form a successful and integral part of community life. Practical activities of self-help schemes were first developed in Bon, a town in Borama. A leading example of the work and construction achieved by a self-help scheme is the Sheikh Alijowhar Secondary School. The school is well built and consists of 12 classrooms, 3 offices, 3 labs, 2 meeting halls, and 2 roofed gyms for basketball and indoor games. The community has constructed these buildings through the self-help scheme with no assistance from the government. The People of Borama were also the first amongst the Somaliland community to adopt the concept of co-education.

### **4.5. *International Relations***

In the past, relations between Somalia and Ethiopia have been strained. Political tension between the two countries was at its worst during the reign of Siyad Barre and Mengistu when Borama experienced attacks from the Ethiopian Airforce. The last air raid occurred on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1984. 76 primary school children and 95 adults died; 210 houses collapsed during this raid.

Borama enjoys friendly links with Henley on the Thames in the UK, and has received various forms of assistance from Henley, the most notable being power generators for the town which were donated in 1987. These are still working to-date. There have also been exchange visits from both sides. For instance, the Mayor of Henley visited Borama town in a delegation in 1982. This was reciprocated the following year when the Mayor of Borama town visited Henley accompanied by a delegation from the town. Since then, such visits have been common.

## **5. DATA COLLECTION**

**5.1. Objectives**

1. Assess potential areas of daily revenue collection;
2. Evaluate level of revenue collection areas;
3. Analyse and study constraints of revenue collection.

**5.2. Methodology**

Data collection covered revenue collection areas and public services including petty trade of street vendors.

Data collectors focused on:

1. Provision of statistical records of each revenue area;
2. Interviews with public and private managers/operators;
3. Provision of financial records of Borama Municipality/Municipal Authority;
4. Evaluation of financial capability of petty traders (street vendors);
5. Evaluation of planning and economic viability of Borama Municipality.

**6. EVALUATION**

### **6.1. Revenue Collection**

Revenue collection is weak and recovery figures are very low. Several revenue areas are not measured, collections are not executed correctly and it was found that many street vendors do not pay. There is no effective registration of street vendors for daily collection or of their licenses and property for planning purposes. Financial systems are not correctly recorded. There are no internal audits. In the annual accounts, income and expenditure do not match deficit or savings.

### **6.2 Overstaffing**

Overstaffing is a major obstacle for municipal agencies. As a result, overstaffing has reduced the mean salaries from between US \$30 to \$15 per month, per staff member. Employment is not allocated on merit but on a tribal basis. This has consequences for work productivity.

### **6.3 Statistical, Planning and Economic Unit**

The Statistical and Planning unit is not functioning at present. Consequently, no baselines have been established and no needs assessments have taken place which would advise on how to advance the development process. Improvement in social services in urban and rural sectors is consequently lacking.

It is clear that there is an urgent need for the establishment of a statistical planning and economic unit in order to assist the Municipality in appraising community needs. The unit should work in partnership with International Agencies to implement specific projects and to develop activities reflecting investment objectives. A statistical and planning unit will harmonise and coordinate planned interventions.

### **6.4 Social and Economic Factors**

Borama is considered to be one of the poorest urban settlement areas in Somaliland. The urban poor are the predominant socio-economic group in the town. Business settlers are mainly involved in petty trade and casual work. Recent surveys indicate that women engaged in petty trading on a daily basis earn household incomes. This has affected urban tax collection.

### **6.5 The Local Council**

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## The Statistical Abstract of Borama Municipality

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Following the presidential decree in 2001/02, 23 local district authorities were established to re-examine the administrative functions and structures of Somaliland.

The Borama Community elected 21 councillors to administer the function and structures of Borama Municipality (which consists of four departments). The main goal is to review and revise local capacities in terms of employees and management structures, which are, at present, unbalanced. The Councillors established four sub-committees to manage four departments of the municipality. These will aim to improve the social service programmes that are currently hampered by lack of integrated development infrastructure and rehabilitation tools. The Councillors' objective is to plan activities to undertake the daily work in the Municipality.

The lack of a Statistical and Planning Unit has contributed to misadministration of the working mechanism of the Municipality. The establishment of this unit will improve and support the efficiency of the Municipality.

The UN, EC and International Agencies are required to present a clear institutional framework to cope with the type of support that could be assisted and implemented for the coming years in Borama district. This will help to streamline the various interventions of the International Agencies operating in the district and will help establish a coordinated work plan.