



A READING NATION IS A HAPPY NATION

PUBLIC LIBRARY PROJECT

BERBERA, SOMALILAND

LIBRARY SEMINAR – EXPORTING LIBRARIES
CULTURE CENTER "SOFIA", HELSINKI, 6-7.04.2017

Supportive speech

Library Director

Aart de Heer

Turku City Council member

Roda Hassan

BERBERA PUBLIC LIBRARY PROJECT 2015-



BERBERA LIBRARY PROJECT

PRIMARY STEPS

- ❖ 2008: Turku and Berbera signed a kinship town agreement on the initiative of Turku Council member Roda Hassan.
- ❖ 2013: Roda payed an official visit to Somaliland with Seppo Lehtinen, chair of Turku City Council. The inivition was arranged by the Foreign Ministry of Somaliland.
- ❖ 2014: Turku Council member Roda Hassan initiated negotiations with Somaliland's lord mayors of Hargeisa, Berbera, Boroma, Gabiley, Erigabo, and Burco. Seppo Lehtinen invited the mayors for an explorative introduction to the administrative system, services and infrastructure of Turku.

MEETING AT THE TOWN HALL 2014

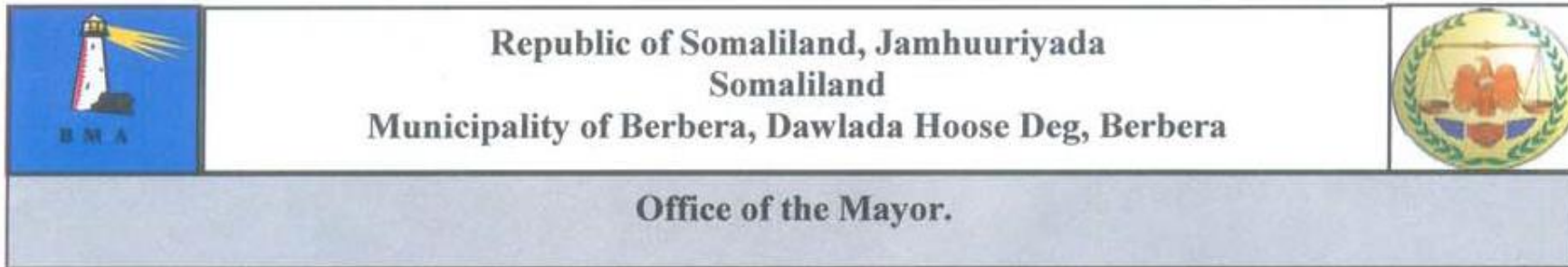


BERBERA LIBRARY PROJECT

HOW IT STARTED

- ❖ 2015: Berbera's mayor Abi Shakur, inspired by his visit to Turku City Library, took the initiative to build a public library in Berbera.
- ❖ 2015: Turku City submitted on the initiative of Turku Library an application for preparing a public library concept for Berbera. The focus was on education of women and children. Project aimed at setting up a training program for the staff, acquisitions of library content, networking and economy planning.
- ❖ 2016: Mayor Abdi Shakur invited Roda, Aart de Heer, lib. director of Turku City Library, and Dr. Mahmud, general advisor, for a visit to Berbera City

THE ENACTED ENVIRONMENT OF LIBRARIES SOMALILAND/BERBERA — A FOCUS ON LIBRARY AND LITERACY



Sum: XMDH/DB/XD/13/380/2016

Saturday, March 26, 2016

Aart De Heer
Head of the Turku Library
P1 335, 20101
Turku City
Finland



Dear Aart De Heer,

I would like to officially invite you and Roda Hassan to Berbera Library between 28th of April and 9th of May 2016. The Berbera City built a small building for the Library, Finnish government and Turku City supporting the library and its capacity to serve better the population

THE ENACTED ENVIRONMENT OF LIBRARIES

SOMALILAND/BERBERA — A FOCUS ON LIBRARY AND LITERACY



THE ENACTED ENVIRONMENT OF LIBRARIES

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BERBERA LIBRARY PROJECT

HOW IT CONTINUED

- ❖ 2016: Turku City application for preparing a public library concept for Berbera was not rewarded by the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (FMFA)
- ❖ 2016: The library building in Berbera got ready.
- ❖ 2016: Search for alternative financing: fundraising? applications to foundations? new application to FMFA?

BERBERA LIBRARY 2016



BERBERA LIBRARY PROJECT

FUTURE STEPS

- ❖ 2017: Turku City prepares an invitation to authorities, artists and CEO's in Somaliland, among them LM Abdi Shakur, two tribal chiefs and Telsom's director.
- ❖ 2017: Planning of Somaliland festival in Turku during the autumn of 2017: At the festival a fundraising campaign is released for supporting acquisitions of equipment and content matters to Berbera library. Also networking meetings are arranged for officials and business representatives (telecom, water management and energy) from both South-Western Finland and Somaliland.



WE HAVE A DREAM

**THANK YOU!
MAHADSANID!**