



## From Road of Death to Road of Life

### Lafaruk—Berbera- Sheikh Road Rehabilitation Project

Hargeisa – Berbera – Sheikh road connects Somaliland’s capital of Hargeisa to the strategic Berbera port city on the coast of Gulf of Aden. Constructed in early 1970s by the former Somalia government, the Hargeisa -Berbera-Sheikh road connects not only the two cities but also the hinterland of the country to the East and West all the way to the Ethiopian border. This road, like many other in Somaliland had deteriorated badly mainly due to limited investment and lack of required maintenance. This road has recently been “the death road or the grave yard” by several local newspapers due to its ill condition that saw continuous accidents resulting loss of lives and property. A BBC report in April 2014, estimated that 2,374 road accident cases occurred in Somaliland in 2013, which resulted in 130 deaths and 1,433 serious injuries. In addition, these accidents resulted in 1,596 damaged motor vehicles and loss of property and goods in transit.

impacts in the country’s economy. It is against this background that Somaliland Development Fund (SDF) allocated funds to Roads Development Agency (RDA), a public agency whose mandate is the development of Road Networks in Somaliland, to rehabilitate Lafaruk-Berbera-Sheikh road.

#### Project Objective

The aim of the project is to improve connectivity and faster movement of goods and services through reduced travel times to the major towns connected by the project roads. In addition to reducing accidents and associated deaths, the project is expected to spur economic growth/ activities in the areas traversed by the roads project.

**Project Activities**

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The project was launched by the president of Somaliland, H.E Ahmed Mohamed Mohamoud (Silanyo) in November 2014 in a ceremony attended by cabinet ministers, donor representative and senior government officials. While presiding over the launch of the project, President Silanyo noted that “Roads are an integral part of the Somaliland transport system; our road network should be efficient in order to maximize economic and social benefits but most of all they play a significant role in achieving national development and contributing to the overall performance and social functioning of communities in the country”, President Silanyo said.

**Early Signs of Benefits**

The first 38kms of road rehabilitation work between Lafaruk and Berbera has been completed. The president of Somaliland H.E Mr. Silanyo has cut the ribbon at grand opening ceremony for the completion of this section of the road, on July 26, 2015. Similarly, the road retaliation of Berbera – Sheikh is in progress with 20kms completed.

Mr. Ali Ahmed Abdi, a truck driver and a regular user of the road said during an interview : “It used to takes longer hours to transport goods to and from Berbera port, due to the Potholes which I have to navigate on the way, now my truck and I enjoy with the newly rehabilitated part of the road – I would like to see the remaining parts of the road completed” Ali continued to say “This road causes more deadly motor accidents than any road in Somaliland, I hope the on -going rehabilitation and maintenance will reduce deaths happening every week and travel time to and from Berbera, when completed”

**About Somaliland Development Fund**

The Somaliland Development Fund (SDF) is a 4 - year fund designed to support the Government of Somaliland (GoSL) filling a critical gap supporting projects that are fully aligned to the National Development Plan (NDP). The fund finances implementation of projects proposed and designed by Government of Somaliland line ministries which are aligned to the National Development Plan (NDP) and the specific ministries strategies.



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