

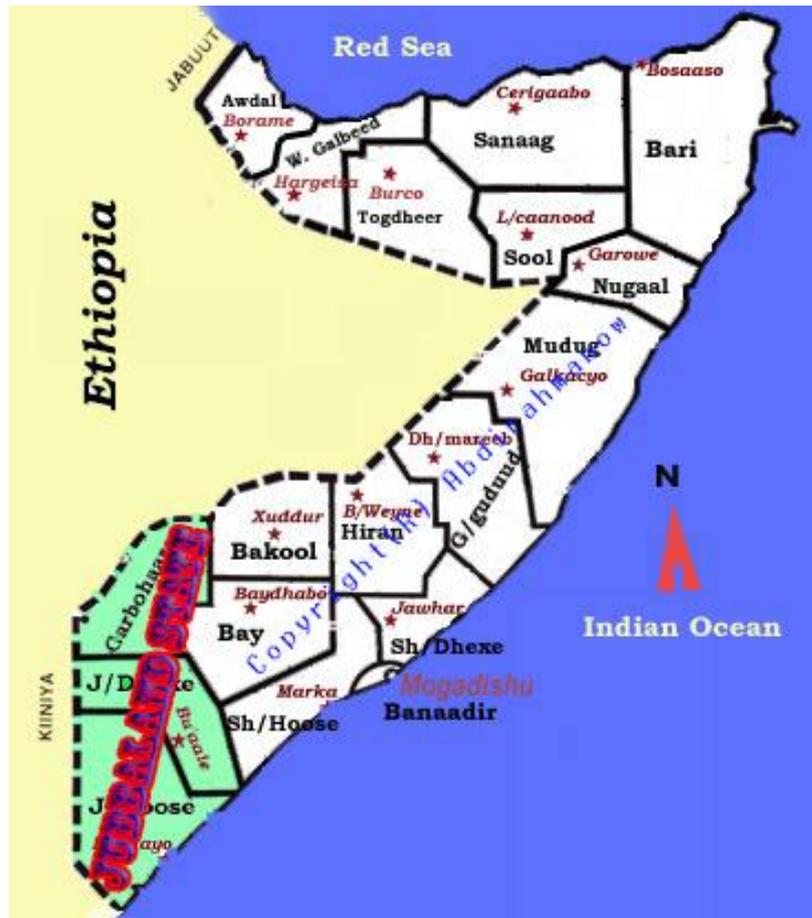
## ***A New Federal Somali State on its Feet***

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Jubbaland, a new federal Somali State, is born against the will of the federalism-  
prohibic sectarian government in Mogadishu. The new State comprises of three of the former  
eighteen regions of Somalia existing regions before the country slipped into chaos.  
Jubbaland brings together Upper Jubba, Lower Jubba and Gedo regions. The New  
State lies in the southern-most regions of Somalia.

Three-month  
deliberations by the local  
communities answering the  
call for reconstituting of  
Somalia on federal basis  
have ended with success.  
These local communities  
were encouraged by the  
ousting of Al-Shabab from  
the regions which had  
controlled the area.  
UNOSOM troops and local  
militias wrung control the  
area out of Al-Shabab  
militias.



Contrary to the expectations of the Somali public and in contravention to the federal  
principles adopted, the so-called Somali Federal government in Mogadishu has been  
hindering the process of the formation of this new state for sectarian reasons. This had  
undermined the legitimacy of the government in Mogadishu and paved the way for a yet  
another showdown in its federal institutions.

The Minister of the Interior in Mogadishu, Abdikareem Hussein Guled, in a flagrant  
violation of the adopted federal system, held a press conference on May 15<sup>th</sup>, disparaging  
the outcome of Jubbaland process in which a president was democratically elected by the  
five hundred delegates comprising the traditional community leaders in these regions. To  
hinder the process, the government sent warlords to abort the process and counterclaim  
the leadership of the region in an apparent attempt to derail the process. Government-  
sponsored strife is feared to ensue.

The bona fide federal states and the Diaspora communities welcomed the nascent federal state and wished it a success as it is another pillar of the Somali federal framework which is the only practical approach to Somali reconstitution following the two-decade strife and subsequent breakup.

The government's sectarian approach polarized the clan-charged Somali community which had earlier put high hopes on the federal system with which the new government was adopted. But undemocratic usurpation of power by President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, his Damul Jadid Party and his government's shift away from its federal mandate for sectarian reasons poisoned the Somali political atmosphere and reignited the sectarian sentiment of the civil-strife era of early 1990s. Jubbaland State poses for a government-sponsored armed conflict which will only lead to a wider disintegration that will deprive the government in Mogadishu the national trust unwisely accorded when it was first elected.