



Burao City, Somaliland: City of Peace

Community Information

Burao is a historic city and a significant cultural and economic hub in Somaliland. Often referred to as the "Heart of Africa," Burao has been a center of civilization for centuries, witnessing diverse cultural and political transformations. It was once the capital of British Somaliland Protectorate before Somaliland's unification with Italian Somaliland in 1960.

Burao is home to a highly educated and dynamic population that has actively contributed to peacebuilding, governance, and socio-economic development in Somaliland. The city played a pivotal role in the restoration of Somaliland's independence, as it was in Burao where the 1991 declaration of Somaliland's reclamation of sovereignty was announced.

Today, Burao is the second-largest city in Somaliland and serves as the economic and trade hub of the Togdheer region. The city is known for its thriving livestock industry, modern infrastructure, and commitment to maintaining peace and stability.

Historically, Burao has produced some of the most influential figures in Somaliland and Africa, including **Farah Omar**, a renowned nationalist and educator, and **Sheikh Bashir**, a respected religious and political leader who played a crucial role in anti-colonial resistance.

One of the most significant figures in Burao's history in terms of peacebuilding is the famous Somali poet **Salaan Carabay**. He is known as the only poet in the world who, through his poetry, successfully brokered peace between two rival clans in the 18th century. His famous poem, titled "**Toliimo Waa Dugsiye Dunida Jeedaasha**", which can be translated as "Relatives are the protection against cold for the world's peacekeepers," speaks to the importance of kinship and reconciliation. In Somali, "Toliimo" refers to relatives, while "Dugsiye" signifies protection from cold, implying that peace within one's own people (the clan) serves as a form of protection, much like how kinship provides warmth and shelter during tough times. This poem has become a timeless symbol of Burao's long-standing tradition of resolving conflicts through dialogue and cultural leadership.

With a rich history, a commitment to progress, and a vision for a peaceful and prosperous future, Burao stands as a symbol of resilience, unity, and self-determination.



Vision and Mission

Vision

To transform **Burao** into a leading center of peace, prosperity, and sustainable development, with a commitment to fostering a united, educated, and resilient community. We aim to set an example for the region and the world in achieving peace through dialogue, cultural leadership, and collaboration.

Mission

- To promote a culture of peace and unity among diverse communities within Burao.
- To empower citizens through education, economic opportunities, and active participation in local governance.
- To foster a transparent, democratic, and inclusive governance model that ensures accountability and fairness for all.
- To preserve and promote the rich cultural heritage of Burao while advancing sustainable development and environmental stewardship.
- To ensure equal opportunities for all, especially for youth, women, and marginalized groups, through empowerment initiatives.

Practical Goals and Objectives

1. Promote Peace and Unity

- **Goal:** Strengthen community cohesion and foster peaceful coexistence among diverse groups within Burao.
- **Objective:** Organize peacebuilding initiatives, community dialogues, and conflict resolution workshops to address local tensions and promote harmony.

2. Enhance Local Governance and Civic Engagement

- **Goal:** Strengthen the democratic processes within Burao and ensure that local governance is transparent, accountable, and inclusive.
- **Objective:** Empower citizens through voter education programs and ensure active participation in local governance and elections. Enhance the effectiveness of the local council in decision-making processes.

3. Foster Economic Growth and Job Creation



- **Goal:** Promote sustainable economic development through the diversification of industries and the creation of employment opportunities.
- **Objective:** Support local businesses, particularly in agriculture and livestock, by providing access to training, finance, and technology. Encourage the growth of new industries, including manufacturing, trade, and services.

4. Improve Infrastructure and Public Services

- **Goal:** Upgrade the infrastructure in Burao, focusing on roads, energy, water supply, and sanitation.
- **Objective:** Develop and implement a comprehensive urban development plan that includes improved transportation networks, sustainable energy solutions, and enhanced access to clean water and sanitation.

5. Promote Education and Skills Development

- **Goal:** Ensure access to quality education for all and develop a skilled workforce.
- **Objective:** Expand educational opportunities at all levels, including technical and vocational training programs, to equip the youth with skills relevant to the labor market.

6. Support Environmental Protection and Sustainability

- **Goal:** Promote environmental sustainability to protect Burao's natural resources for future generations.
- **Objective:** Implement green initiatives such as tree planting, waste management, and water conservation. Promote renewable energy sources and advocate for climate change mitigation strategies.

7. Strengthen Healthcare Systems and Access to Services

- **Goal:** Improve healthcare access and quality for all residents of Burao.
- **Objective:** Build and upgrade healthcare facilities, provide essential medical training for healthcare workers, and ensure that health services are accessible to marginalized and underserved populations.

8. Encourage Cultural Heritage Preservation

- **Goal:** Protect and promote Burao's rich cultural and historical heritage.
- **Objective:** Develop cultural programs and festivals to celebrate Burao's history and identity while ensuring the preservation of its traditions, arts, and historical sites.