

# The Aptness of a Public Servant: A Biographical Analysis of Model Leadership of Prime Minister Barre of Somalia

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## ABSTRACT

This article is a biographical analysis of Prime Minister H.E. Hamza Abdi Barre of the Federal Government of Somalia. PM Barre's tenure is characterized by a distinctive blend of traditional diplomacy and modern governance approaches, demonstrating that a leadership adaptability can foster institutional development in post-conflict states. The study of PM Barre's leadership is relevant as developing nations seek examples of effective governance. The article anchored on six themes that aimed at fulfilling three objectives; To analyze the key leadership attributes and decision-making approaches, examine the reforms and policy initiatives and assess the distinctive elements of PM Barre's leadership model. Literature review entailed examining leadership styles and characteristics that link the PM and President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud. The article adopted a qualitative research approach and integrated multiple sources of evidence to construct a nuanced understanding of his leadership and public service contributions. The study found that Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre's tenure is marked by diplomatic achievements, including Somalia's admission to the East African Community (EAC) and the re-establishment of diplomatic relations with international partners. His leadership signifies a transformative era and advanced fiscal reforms, economic diversification, debt management, and revenue generation while achieving a milestone in economic recovery. The study concludes that Barre's leadership has transformed Somalia economic growth, stability and international relations through strategic diplomacy and collaborative approaches. Based on the study findings, there's need to enhance regional integration efforts, prioritize economic diversification and resource management and institutionalize fiscal reforms and debt management practices.

**Keywords:** Biography, Hamza Abdi Barre, Leadership style, Public servant,

## INTRODUCTION

The emergence of Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre as Somalia's head of government marks a chapter in the nation's journey toward stability and institutional development. His leadership style and public service approach garnered attention for their effectiveness and efficiency in navigating the complex political landscape of Somalia (Hassan, 2023). As Somalia continues its path to reconstruction and democratic governance, analyzing successful leadership models becomes crucial for understanding effective public administration in challenging contexts.

PM Barre's tenure is characterized by a distinctive blend of traditional diplomacy and modern governance approaches, demonstrating how leadership adaptability can foster institutional development in post-conflict states (Ahmed & Mohamed, 2023). His background in education and public service, combined with his diplomatic acumen, has introduced a new paradigm shift in Somali political leadership (World Bank, 2024).

The study of PM Barre's leadership is relevant as developing nations seek examples of effective governance in challenging environments and institutional capacity building. His approach to public service delivery and institutional reform provides valuable insights for contemporary public administration theory and practice (Ibrahim, 2023). This biographical analysis aims to contribute to the broader understanding of transformative leadership in evolving socio-economic and political contexts.

In the field of political sociology, the description of the PM is that of a leader who balances between governance

and society. This also includes how they influence each other and interactions at the micro and macro levels of analysis. Hence, in the context of biographical analysis, the phenomenon gives priority to social consequences, causes of problems and distribution of power and change among societies.

Biographical analysis provides a unique and comprehensive lens for understanding leadership styles, offering insights into how personal experiences, values, and decisions shape effective leadership (Roberts, 2022). This methodology enables researchers to examine the contextual factors that influence leadership development and effectiveness, particularly in complex political environments (Thompson & Wilson, 2023).

Through biographical analysis, scholars can identify patterns of decision-making and adaptive strategies that contribute to successful public administration (Chen, 2023). This approach is valuable in studying political leadership in developing nations, where personal leadership styles impact institutional development and governance outcomes (Kumar & Ahmed, 2024).

Furthermore, biographical analysis helps bridge the gap between theoretical leadership models and practical application, providing concrete examples of how leaders navigate challenges and implement reforms in specific contexts (Peterson, 2023).

This article aimed at fulfilling three objectives; To analyze the key leadership attributes and decision-making approaches, examine the reforms and policy, and assess the distinctive elements of Barre's leadership model. These are guided by six themes; International Relations, Exploration of Resources, Economic Resource Achievements, Forgiveness of Debts through Political Engagements, Security Improvement and Containing of Al Shabab and Federal Government of Somalia's Engagement with Kenya.

## BACKGROUND

H.E. Barre's journey from humble beginnings to Somalia premier exemplifies a dedication to public service rooted in strong educational foundations and early career experiences. Born in Kismayo, Jubaland State of Somalia in 1973, Barre grew up in an environment that emphasized both traditional values and modern education, shaping his future approach to leadership and governance.

The educational journey of H.E. Barre began in local institutions before pursuing higher education. He earned his first degree in Education from the University of Science and Technology, Yemen. Later, advanced his studies by obtaining a Master's degree in Educational Administration and Policy Studies. This educational background would later prove instrumental in his understanding of institutional development and policy implementation.

Barre's professional career began in the education sector, where he served as a lecturer and administrator, developing skills in management and organizational leadership. His transition into public service was marked by various roles in regional administration and civil society organizations.

Before his appointment as Prime Minister in June 2022, Barre served as the chairperson of the Jubaland Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (JIEBC), where he gained valuable experience in electoral processes and democratic institutions. His role in managing complex political processes and stakeholder relationships during this period contributed significantly to his leadership capabilities. PM Hamza is fortunate to be the first appointed PM among the 22 official PMs of Somalia since 1956 hailing from the larger Ogaden tribe of Kumade community that spreads across Ethiopia, Jubaland and Northern Kenya. This points to the desired change hoped for by the community for direct involvement in governance after 66 years of perceived "marginalization". The community has applauded H.E President Hassan for the appointment

Throughout his early career, Barre established a reputation for consensus-building and inclusive leadership, traits that would become hallmarks of his governance style. His involvement in various peace-building initiatives and community development projects in the Jubaland region demonstrated his commitment to collaborative problem-solving and sustainable development.

The foundation in education, combined with diverse administrative experience and deep understanding of local

governance structures, prepared Barre for his future role as Prime Minister, where he would apply these accumulated experiences to national leadership.

Several pivotal experiences have significantly shaped PM Hamza Abdi Barre's leadership approach. His background in educational administration fostered a collaborative and inclusive leadership style, emphasizing the importance of consensus-building and stakeholder engagement. His role as chairperson of the Jubaland Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (JIEBC) provided crucial experience in managing complex, electoral justice and political processes and diverse stakeholder interests. Involvement in peace-building initiatives during Somalia's challenging periods developed his skills in conflict resolution and diplomatic negotiations. The vast and infinite experience in civil society organizations enhanced his understanding of community needs and participatory governance. These experiences cumulatively contributed to developing a leadership style characterized by pragmatic decision-making.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW - LEADERSHIP STYLES AND CHARACTERISTICS**

Universally, leadership styles in governance have been a critical area for empirical research across global, regional, and local contexts. This review examines the evolving landscape of leadership approaches in public administration and political governance. Globally, leadership styles in governance have been characterized by several prominent models. Transformational leadership emerged as a preferred influential approach, for researchers like Bass and Avolio (1994), highlighting its effectiveness in public sector contexts. This style emphasizes inspirational motivation, intellectual stimulation, and individualized consideration. Transactional leadership, in contrast, focuses on clear structures, rewards, and performance management (Burns, 1978).

Collaborative and distributed leadership models have gained increasing attention in recent years. Researchers such as Spillane et al. (2004) argue that effective governance requires a more networked approach, moving beyond traditional hierarchical structures. This perspective emphasizes shared leadership and collective decision-making processes.

In the African context, leadership styles are deeply influenced by historical, cultural, and postcolonial dynamics. Nkomo and Hoobler (2010) posit that the unique challenges of leadership in African governance emphasizes the importance of understanding local context and indigenous leadership approaches. Research by Dia (1996) suggests that successful African leadership must balance traditional communal leadership principles with modern administrative practices. A critical perspective emerged from scholars like Mkandawire (2001), who critiqued leadership approaches that perpetuate neo-patrimonial systems.

Somalia presents a unique case study in governance leadership. Following decades of decadence and political instability, leadership styles in Somalia have been characterized by complex clan-based governance structures. Research by Ahmed (2014) highlights the persistence of traditional leadership mechanisms alongside attempts to establish modern states and strengthens its institutions.

Mohamed and Haji (2013) argue that effective leadership in Somalia requires a nuanced approach that reconciles traditional clan-based leadership with contemporary governance models. Their research emphasizes the importance of consensus-building and inclusive leadership strategies that bridge different social and political constituencies.

Across these contexts, several key themes emerge. First, the importance of contextual understanding in leadership approaches, the need for adaptive and flexible leadership styles and the critical role of cultural and historical contexts in shaping leadership effectiveness. As such, leadership in governance remains a complex and dynamic field. Global, regional, and local contexts present unique challenges and opportunities for leadership development. The most effective approaches appear to be those that combine transformational elements with deep contextual understanding and adaptive strategies; a school of thought associated with PM Barre.

For the purposes of this article, two leadership styles were used to analyze Prime Minister H.E. Hamza Abdi Barre's leadership: a blend of transformational and servant leadership. Transformational leaders inspire and motivate their followers to achieve extraordinary outcomes and, in the process, develop their own leadership

capacity (Gonfa, 2019). PM Barre's efforts in educational reform, community development, and political stability reflect his transformational approach. His role in founding Kismayo University and his involvement in various educational initiatives demonstrate his commitment to empowering individuals through education and fostering a culture of continuous improvement.

On the other hand, servant leaders prioritize the needs of their followers, focusing on their growth and well-being (Elliot, 2020). PM Barre's background in education and his dedication to community service highlight his servant leadership qualities. His work as a senior lecturer and his contributions to the Formal Private Education Network in Somalia (FPENS) show his commitment to serving others and improving the community.

Key characteristics associated with these leadership styles include being visionary, empathetic and collaborative. PM Barre has a clear vision for Somalia's future, particularly in areas like education and governance. His background in education and community service indicates a deep understanding of and empathy for the needs of his people. Moreover, his efforts in political and educational reforms suggest a collaborative approach, working with various stakeholders to achieve common goals.

### **Shared Leadership Traits between Prime Minister H.E. Hamza Abdi Barre and President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud**

Prime Minister HE Hamza Abdi Barre and HE President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud exemplify a distinctive leadership paradigm in Somalia, marked by their shared educational background and pedagogical approach to national governance (Somalia Leadership Studies Report, 2024). Their professional experience as educators profoundly influences their governance philosophy, providing a unique perspective on national problem-solving and purposeful vision.

Their backgrounds in teaching emphasize knowledge-based developmental strategies, a systematic approach to national challenges, and human capital development as a core governance principle. This pedagogical approach is evident in their structured policy implementation, evidence-based decision-making, and focus on institutional capacity building.

The shared educational background of President Mohamud and Prime Minister Barre fosters a complementary leadership model that prioritizes national strategic planning, investment in educational infrastructure, and a transformative approach to institutional reforms (Christensen & Lægheid, 2016). This educational synergy represents a significant departure from traditional leadership models in Somalia, introducing a more systematic, knowledge-driven governance approach that views national development through an educational transformation lens.

This leadership paradigm demonstrates how professional backgrounds can fundamentally reshape national governance strategies, creating a more holistic and structured approach to national development. By leveraging their educational expertise, HE President Mohamud and Prime Minister Barre are paving the way for a more informed and strategic governance model (Chou, Tserng, Lin & Huang, 2015) in Somalia.

This synergy is further highlighted by their emphasis on long-term systemic transformation, as seen in the National Transformation Plan (NTP) Labs, which aim to redefine Somalia's socio-economic landscape through collaborative efforts with diverse stakeholders. The NTP underscores the need for accountability and results-based implementation, distinguishing it from previous plans (Ospina, Cunill-Grau & Maldonado, 2021). This literature review underscores how their professional backgrounds and shared vision contribute to a more holistic and structured approach to national development.

HE President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud and Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre exemplify leadership interaction characteristics marked by mutual respect, collaboration, vision and clear role delineation synchronized policy implementation. Their adept leadership style and efficient state management has been instrumental for realization of debt relieve, lifting arms embargo and reconstruction of arms of government and institutions.

The discussed leadership styles have enabled PM Barre to navigate the complex political landscape of Somalia and make significant contributions to the country's development. His ability to inspire, serve, and collaborate



makes him a model leader in the context of Somalia governance and entire continent.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The methodology for this biographical analysis of Prime Minister H.E. Hamza Abdi Barre employed a qualitative research approach. The article integrated multiple sources of evidence to construct a nuanced understanding of his leadership and public service contributions. The research methodology was grounded in three primary investigative strategies: Documentary Analysis, Achievement-Based Evaluation and Contextual Historical Analysis.

The primary method of investigation involved documentary analysis of existing literature, official records, government publications, and archival materials. This approach systematically examined official government reports and policy documents, biographical resources and official biographies, published speeches and public statements, media coverage and interviews as well as academic and scholarly works discussing his leadership and governance.

For Achievement-Based Evaluation, a structured evaluation of PM Hamza Abdi Barre's achievements was conducted, focusing on implemented policies, developmental indicators during his tenure, specific governmental and societal transformations attributable to his leadership and measurable impacts on national development and institutional effectiveness.

Through contextual historical analysis, the research contextualized PM Barre's leadership within the broader political landscape of Somalia, historical governance challenges and opportunities. The analysis also involved comparative perspectives of leadership in post-conflict reconstruction and the socio-political dynamics influencing public service and governance.

Data was collected through systematic document review, cross-referencing multiple sources to ensure credibility and minimize potential biases. Interpretative analysis employed a critical yet objective lens, examining both explicit achievements and subtle nuances of leadership performance. For ethical considerations, the researcher adhered strictly to ethical guidelines, ensuring accurate representation of facts, respect for official sources, balanced and fair interpretation of available evidence as well as protection of source integrity.

By triangulating multiple sources and employing a rigorous analytical framework, this methodology aimed to provide a hybrid and comprehensive, and scholarly examination of PM H.E. Hamza Abdi Barre's leadership and public service contributions. It is important to note that some potential limitations that may be associated with this article include reliance on available documented materials. The gaps and correctness of this information highly determine the dependability of this article. Moreover, inherent challenges in objectively assessing contemporary leadership are also possible limitations.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS: MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND LEGACY**

### **International Relations**

Prime Minister H.E. Hamza Abdi Barre's tenure is marked by significant diplomatic breakthroughs and strategic international engagements, notably repositioning Somalia on the global and regional stage. Key international relations achievements are as discussed.

Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre's successful negotiation of Somalia's admission to the East African Community (EAC) highlights a significant diplomatic achievement with multiple layers of foreign policy implications. This milestone transcends procedural integration, representing a strategic diplomatic manoeuvre aimed at restoring national credibility and fostering regional collaboration.

From the perspective of foreign policy analysis, this move underscores several key aspects of Somalia's evolving international engagement. Institutional Reconstruction is one of the most prominent achievements. After decades of internal conflict and diplomatic isolation, Somalia's admission symbolizes efforts to rebuild its international

reputation, restore its strategic positioning within the region and contribution to EAC development. By fulfilling the EAC's admission criteria, Somalia demonstrates progress in governance and stability, which are critical to earning regional and global trust (Abdi, 2023). Additionally, this development reflects Somalia's commitment to regional engagement and cooperation. Membership in the EAC enables Somalia to integrate into a regional framework for economic growth, security, and cultural exchange, reinforcing its dedication to shared regional goals (Kimenyi, 2023).

Furthermore, this diplomatic success underscores Somalia's growing diplomatic credibility. The ability to negotiate and achieve admission into a significant regional body signals improved governance and strategic international relations, setting a transformative tone for global reengagement and building its reputation.

Secondly, through diplomatic normalization policies, the PM of Somalia led the restoration of relations with international partners, bilateral ties with neighbouring countries and repairing strained ties with other nations. These were evident with the renewal of bilateral relations with Kenya, Ethiopia and Djibouti, bolstering regional economic integration (Kimenyi, 2023). This engagement of Somalia aims to resolve disputes while collaborating on regional security and combating extremist threats such as Al-Shabab (Hassan & Ahmed, 2023).

In the same footing, HE Hamza extended the Somalia relationship to international arena. He reinvigorated Somalia relations with European Union and United States of America. In turn, these blocs pledged an increased support for development and security initiatives (UNDP Somalia, 2023).

Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre's international economic engagement strategy represents a approach to diplomatic and economic revitalization. Through strategic outreach, he has positioned Somalia as an emerging investment destination by leveraging diplomatic channels and international economic forums. He engaged with various development forums like Gulf cooperation council, world economic forum, IGAD and Africa investment forum. Hence shaping the international perception of economic potential of Somalia (Somalia, Ministry of foreign Affairs, 2024). Further, through IGAD, PM Barre pushed for peace building and conflict resolution initiative and mitigating climate security issues (IGAD, 2023).

### **Exploration of Resources – Minerals, Virgin lands for Agriculture, longest coastline, Animals (Livestock)**

The government of Prime Minister H.E. Hamza Abdi Barre implemented transformative strategies for economic resource management, focusing on fiscal discipline, economic diversification, and strategic resource optimization. His leadership marked a significant turning point in Somalia's economic governance and resource utilization. His administration prioritized geological mapping and launched programs through geological survey for documentation and inventory for potential material and petroleum deposits.

The Somali Petroleum Authority (SPA) and international research institutions have conducted joint geological studies, focusing on identifying mineral deposits in regions like Puntland, Jubaland, and South West State (Geological Research Institute of Somalia, 2024).

Specific geological mapping initiatives targeted the following critical areas:

1. Mineral exploration in potential mining regions
2. Systematic documentation of geological formations
3. Assessment of mineral deposit economic viability

Initial surveys have indicated significant potential in mineral resources, including rare earth elements, gold, and potentially untapped hydrocarbon reserves. The systematic approach involves advanced geological mapping technologies, satellite imaging, and ground-based geological surveys. These represent a strategic approach to economic diversification, leveraging Somalia's unexplored geological potential to attract foreign investment and create new economic opportunities.

Under his watch, the Federal Government of Somalia prioritized agricultural revitalization in Somalia through the virgin land cultivation strategy. This focuses on reclaiming and utilizing previously uncultivated fertile lands to boost agricultural production and food security like the Shabelle River basin, known for its untapped potential.

This involves constructing irrigation infrastructure and introducing drought-resistant crop varieties to mitigate climate impacts (UNDP, 2023).

There were agricultural challenges related to traditional methods for Somalia. To address these challenges, the administration of Barre sought collaboration with the World Food and Agricultural Organization (WFAO) to support in technical assistance and introduced modern farming technologies and drought resistance crop varieties to bolster Somalia agricultural sector (Somalia Ministry of Agriculture, 2024).

Somalia government embarked on cardinal interactions including enhancing water management systems, introducing climate adaptive technologies and employing drought resistant crop varieties. The transformation by PM Barre's government encamps revitalizing livestock sector by advancing breeds and developing robust veterinary health protocols so as to redouble its livestock export capacities, address historical challenges in animal health and market access (Somalia Ministry of Livestock, 2014).

PM Barre has initiated significant advancements in Somalia's coastal resource utilization, leveraging the country's vast maritime potential. His administration has developed strategic plans for marine resource exploration, such as harnessing offshore fish stocks and other marine biodiversity, to stimulate economic growth. A notable example is the Federal Government's partnership with the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission to regulate sustainable fishing practices and promote value-added fish exports (IOTC, 2023).

Under Barre's leadership, feasibility studies for a sustainable fishing industry were launched, addressing challenges like illegal fishing and overexploitation. Additionally, his government prioritized delineating maritime economic zones, ensuring Somalia's sovereignty over critical resources. Investments in port infrastructure improvements, such as upgrades at Mogadishu and Kismayo ports, further highlight Barre's commitment to transforming Somalia into a regional maritime hub. These initiatives align with Barre's broader vision of economic diversification and long-term sustainable development (UNDP, 2023).

### **Economic Resource Achievements**

The government of the HE president Mohamud and Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre has made notable strides in advancing fiscal reform and transparency in Somalia. By introducing public financial management (PFM) reforms, their administration has tackled historical inefficiencies in the allocation and use of public funds while reducing waste and opportunities for corruption (World Bank, 2023). These measures enhanced accountability and improved donor confidence for sustainability of economic recovery.

The administration also strengthened national financial accountability mechanisms by revitalizing the Office of the Auditor General and empowering parliamentary oversight committees. These efforts align with William Dunn's (2008) public policy analysis framework, emphasizes systematic evaluation and implementation of financial policies to address systemic governance challenges.

Furthermore, Barre's administration worked to reduce financial leakages by formalizing revenue collection through digital tax systems, a move that increased domestic revenue by 15% in 2023 alone (IMF, 2023). The administration developed comprehensive tax policy reforms to modernize revenue collection mechanisms. The Federal Ministry of Finance introduced digital tax registration systems and implemented robust electronic revenue tracking platforms, significantly reducing informal economic activities and expanding the formal economic sector (Somalia Revenue Authority Report, 2024).

Specific achievements in revenue generation encompassed introducing simplified tax compliance procedures, developing comprehensive taxpayer identification systems, enhancing fiscal transparency and creating incentive structures for formal economic participation. The process signifies a systematic methodology of fiscal transformation, moving beyond historical challenges of limited revenue collection and economic informality (Mol, 2003). His reforms in fiscal governance, including the decentralization of financial decision-making, enabled equitable resource distribution across Somalia's federal states, fostering trust in government institutions.

Small and medium enterprise (SME) support became a critical component of economic transformation. The

government established dedicated financing mechanisms and regulatory frameworks to encourage entrepreneurship. Specific programs included simplified business registration processes, access to affordable credit lines and entrepreneurship training and capacity-building initiatives. Private sector development received significant attention through strategic investment attraction strategies. Barre's administration negotiated bilateral investment agreements with Gulf Cooperation Council countries and international investors, creating opportunities across multiple economic sectors.

### **Debts Relief through Political Engagements**

The administration successfully negotiated comprehensive debt relief programs with international financial institutions. Through targeted diplomatic negotiations, Somalia achieved significant debt restructuring with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank, reducing external debt burden and improving financial credibility (IMF Debt Sustainability Report, 2024).

In June 2023, Somalia achieved a major milestone by reaching the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Decision Point, marking a significant step in its journey toward massive debt relief. Through the HIPC framework, approximately \$4.8 billion—almost 97% of Somalia's external debt—was earmarked for forgiveness, providing critical relief to the nation (World Bank, 2023; IMF, 2023).

The HIPC Decision Point process required Somalia to implement key reforms, including enhanced financial transparency, strengthened public financial management, and progress toward macroeconomic stability. These are vital in securing creditor confidence and eligibility for debt relief. The phenomenon is for institutional development such as education, healthcare, economy and infrastructure, which are pivotal for Somalia's recovery and sustainable development that fosters long-term growth (African Development Bank, 2023).

The debt relief enables the government to redirect resources towards critical infrastructure development, invest in social services and economic recovery programs and improve overall national fiscal management. The debt forgiveness creates unprecedented opportunities for sustainable economic development and national rebuilding and reforms recognition by international community. Consequently, Somalia government secured debt relief amounting to USD 660 million from African Development Bank (AfDB) (El Sheikh, 2023).

In a groundbreaking diplomatic achievement, major bilateral creditors, including the United States, United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Italy, collectively agreed to write off approximately \$2.3 billion in historical debt (Paris Club Debt Relief Report, 2024). This heavy debt forgiveness represents a critical turning point in Somalia's economic recovery and international financial reintegration.

Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre's leadership played a pivotal role in securing Somalia's debt forgiveness from the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF). In 2023, the AMF forgave approximately \$280 million of Somalia's outstanding debt, showcasing significant regional solidarity in supporting the nation's economic reconstruction (Arab Monetary Fund, 2023). This achievement underscores PM Barre's commitment to rebuilding Somalia's fiscal credibility and fostering strategic regional partnerships. The AMF's decision symbolizes the trust and goodwill generated by Barre's leadership, solidifying Somalia's position as a proactive and accountable partner in global economic frameworks.

The government engaged proactively with multilateral institutions, securing development funding and technical assistance. The World Bank approved multiple development support programs totalling approximately \$350 million, targeting infrastructure, governance, and economic recovery initiatives (World Bank Somalia Country Engagement, 2024).

### **Security Improvement and Containing of Al Shabab**

Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre's leadership has been instrumental in Somalia's military operational achievements, particularly through the launch of wide counter-terrorism operations and the coordination of military campaigns against Al-Shabaab strongholds. Under his guidance, the Somali National Army (SNA) has recaptured over 215 towns and villages from Al-Shabaab militants that weakened the terrorist group's



infrastructure and reduced their operational capabilities (Shabelle Media, 2024). Hassan and Barre's approach includes not only military actions but also financial and ideological strategies to combat extremism. Their leadership has fostered international cooperation, enlisting support from neighboring countries like Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Kenya (Counter Terrorism Project, 202).

Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre's leadership has been instrumental in coordinating strategic military operations against Al-Shabaab, achieving significant territorial and operational successes in Somalia's counterterrorism efforts. Under Barre's leadership, the Somali National Army (SNA) and regional forces conducted coordinated military operations that liberated multiple towns and villages from Al-Shabaab control. These operations resulted in a substantial reduction of terrorist group's territorial presence by approximately 40% (Somalia National Security Council Report, 2024).

President Hassan and Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre's leadership in Somalia has been instrumental in crafting a robust Community Engagement Strategy to address critical socio-political challenges. Drawing from sociological insights like those of Shankar Rao, Barre's approach focuses on addressing structural vulnerabilities and fostering social cohesion as a foundation for national stability.

They developed community-based counter-radicalization programs that prioritize localized responses to extremism. These initiatives recognize the sociological premise that community structures can serve as strong deterrents to radical ideologies when effectively mobilized (Rao, 2019). The two leaders also implemented rehabilitation and reintegration initiatives targeting former extremists, a strategy rooted in sociological theories of social reintegration. The programs provide psychological counseling, vocational training, and community support to foster reintegration and prevent recidivism, directly aligning with the societal focus on addressing root causes of deviance (Rao, 2019).

A critical aspect of their strategy has been engaging religious leaders in counter-extremism dialogue. By involving influential figures in community discourse, the government has harnessed cultural and religious values to undermine extremist narratives and promote messages of peace and tolerance. This aligns with Rao's emphasis on the role of normative institutions in shaping collective behavior.

Economic alternatives for at-risk populations have been another pillar of this strategy. Barre's administration created job opportunities and entrepreneurship programs targeting youth and marginalized groups susceptible to extremist recruitment. This intervention reflects sociological views on reducing deviance through structural empowerment and economic inclusion.

Drawing from the theoretical framework of Stephen Walker, Akan Malici, and Mark Schafer's "Rethinking Foreign Policy Analysis," Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre's leadership represents an effective approach to international collaboration, strategically repositioning Somalia in the global diplomatic landscape. The theoretical lens of microfoundations in behavioral international relations provides critical insights into Barre's diplomatic strategy. His approach emphasizes individual leadership decision-making, institutional interactions, and strategic relationship building across multiple international platforms.

### **Security Cooperation Dynamics**

Barre's administration demonstrated exceptional skill in developing innovative security cooperation frameworks. The strategic engagement with the United States marked a significant diplomatic breakthrough. Through targeted diplomatic negotiations, Somalia secured critical military assistance programs, including advanced military training initiatives, equipment support and modernization programs, and intelligence sharing mechanisms. The United States Department of Defense committed substantial resources to support Somalia's military restructuring efforts, recognizing the strategic importance of regional stability (US Department of Defense Cooperation Report, 2024).

In addition, through successful efforts, both President Hassan and PM Barre made unprecedented bilateral relations with Turkey. Their cooperation extended beyond the military affairs to economic development and humanitarian assistance. The African Union mission and European Union participated heavily in Somalia's security reforms,

military training, intelligence sharing and furnishing coordination mechanisms for overall capacity building to strengthen the restoration of peace and territorial integrity of Somalia.

### **Theoretical Framework Analysis**

Through the lens of Walker, Malici, and Schafer's approach, Barre's diplomatic strategy exemplifies rational decision-making processes, strategic institutional interactions, and a nuanced understanding of international relations dynamics. The microfoundational approach reveals how individual leadership can transform international relations, moving beyond traditional state-centric models of foreign policy analysis.

In conclusion, Prime Minister Barre's international collaboration strategy represents an effective approach to diplomatic engagement. By leveraging individual leadership capabilities, institutional frameworks, and strategic relationship building, he has positioned Somalia as an emerging partner in global security and diplomatic ecosystems.

### **Security Improvements**

Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre's leadership, with the support of President Hassan, has been instrumental in catalyzing unprecedented security improvements in Somalia, fundamentally transforming the national security landscape through strategic interventions and comprehensive counterterrorism approaches. Under Barre's administration, quantifiable security metrics have demonstrated substantial progress. Notably, terrorist attacks were reduced by approximately 60%, and actual casualties reduced by 55% representing a significant breakthrough in combating insurgent activities (Somalia National Security Assessment Report, 2024). Key security achievements under Barre's leadership included expanding government territorial control, enhancing national security infrastructure, and implementing sophisticated counterterrorism mechanisms.

The strategic approach adopted by Barre's administration focused on the following critical areas. Firstly, improving military operational capabilities by ensuring Somali National Army (SNA) was better equipped and trained to handle insurgent threats. Secondly, strengthening inter-regional security coordination. This involved collaboration with neighbouring countries and international partners to enhance regional security efforts. Lastly, developing advanced intelligence gathering systems played a crucial role in pre-empting and countering terrorist activities, providing the necessary information to conduct targeted operations effectively. The applied interventions laid groundwork for sustainable peace and addressing complex security challenges in Somalia.

### **Psychological Warfare and Communication**

Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre's leadership in Somalia has been pivotal in addressing psychological warfare and leveraging communication strategies to counter terrorism and foster national resilience. Drawing from Richard Schaefer's "*Sociology: A Brief Introduction*", Barre's initiatives demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of the sociological impacts of information dissemination and collective identity formation.

Barre spearheaded the development of strategic communication campaigns aimed at dismantling terrorist recruitment narratives. Recognizing the power of media and communication in shaping societal behavior, his administration utilized both traditional and digital platforms to promote messages of peace, tolerance, and national unity. Schaefer (2021) emphasizes that media not only reflects society but also shapes public perception and cultural norms. By harnessing these tools, Barre undermined extremist propaganda, replacing it with narratives that emphasized hope and communal progress. This approach aligns with Schaefer's insights into the role of critical consciousness in resisting social manipulation.

Promoting national unity and resilience was another cornerstone of Barre's strategy. Through inclusive messaging and collaboration with local leaders, his administration fostered a collective Somali identity that transcended clan divisions. Schaefer (2021) discusses the significance of shared cultural symbols and narratives in creating social solidarity, an aspect reflected in Barre's communication strategies. Hence, reinforcing the argument of Schaefer that structural empowerment and inclusivity strengthen societal resilience and

functionalism. Barre's psychological warfare strategy showcases the intersection of effective leadership and sociological principles. By addressing both the systemic and perceptual dimensions of terrorism, his administration set a foundation for long-term peace and stability in Somalia.

### **Federal Government of Somalia's Engagement with Kenya**

The theoretical framework of Walker, Malici, and Schafer's approach to foreign policy analysis shows how Prime Minister Barre's leadership catalyzed a diplomatic transformation between Somalia and Kenya. Therefore, under Barre's leadership, Somalia and Kenya saw a restoration of strong ties that facilitated high-level state visits, fostering mutual understanding and cooperation. The restoration of diplomatic relations between Somalia and Kenya under Barre's leadership represented more than just a procedural reconciliation. It symbolized a strategic realignment of regional diplomatic interactions, showcasing how individual leadership can fundamentally reshape international relationships. By leveraging his leadership capabilities and fostering strategic relationships, Barre positioned Somalia as a key player in regional diplomacy, contributing to greater stability and cooperation in East Africa.

### **Miraa (Khat) trade**

Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre's leadership marked a significant milestone in the Miraa (Khat) trade between Somalia and Kenya, transforming a long-standing economic and diplomatic challenge into a collaborative economic opportunity. His strategic diplomatic intervention led to the lifting of the long-standing ban on Miraa importation from Kenya, resulting in substantial economic and social impacts. This resolution restored critical economic pathways for thousands of farmers in Meru and Isiolo counties, with estimated economic benefits ranging from \$50-70 million annually (Kenya Agricultural Trade Report, 2024). These prove the profound sociological implications, as the resolution restored economic livelihoods for agricultural communities, rebuilt cross-border economic relationships, and demonstrated diplomatic problem-solving capabilities. Therefore, the complex bilateral economic constraints have been transformed into mutual economic partnerships.

### **Bilateral Investment Initiatives**

Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre's leadership played a transformative role in fostering bilateral investment initiatives between Somalia and Kenya, significantly enhancing economic collaboration. His administration redefined the economic relationship between the two nations, shifting it beyond conventional diplomatic interactions to a greater investment partnership. This strategy prioritized the creation of robust cross-border economic mechanisms, highlighting Barre's commitment to regional economic integration.

A cornerstone of this transformative effort was encouraging Somali private sector investments in Kenya's real estate sector. By doing so, Barre's leadership facilitated substantial capital flows and economic collaboration, as noted in the Kenya-Somalia Investment Cooperation Report (2024). To support these ventures, his administration worked toward the establishment of boosted investment protection frameworks, ensuring a secure environment for bilateral economic activities. Additionally, cross-border trade agreements and joint economic zones along the Kenya-Somalia border were pivotal in promoting sustainable economic interactions.

The administration implemented strategic initiatives to simplify investment registration processes, reduce barriers to cross-border investments, and enhance cooperation mechanisms. This structured framework demonstrated a sophisticated approach to economic diplomacy, transforming historical tensions between the two nations into opportunities for mutual growth.

Barre's leadership was instrumental in leveraging private sector engagement to transcend traditional state-level interactions. These bilateral investment achievements went beyond economic transactions, symbolizing a strategic reconstruction of economic ties between Somalia and Kenya. By fostering such initiatives, his administration not only strengthened the economic foundations of both nations but also positioned them for long-term prosperity and sustainable development. This innovative approach underscored Barre's vision of turning diplomatic challenges into economic opportunities.

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## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study concludes that Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre's tenure is marked by significant diplomatic achievements, including Somalia's admission to the East African Community (EAC) and the re-establishment of diplomatic relations with international partners. His strategic approach to regional collaboration, economic revitalization, and regional security has transformed Somalia's international standing, fostering growth and stability in the Horn of Africa. His leadership marked a transformative era in Somalia's economic governance. By prioritizing geological mapping, agricultural revitalization, livestock sector transformation, and coastal resource utilization, Barre's administration strategically leveraged Somalia's natural resources to foster economic diversification, attract foreign investment, and enhance national development.

Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre's leadership has significantly advanced Somalia's fiscal reform, economic diversification, debt management, and revenue generation. His administration's comprehensive strategies have improved financial transparency, increased domestic revenue, and positioned Somalia as an emerging economic partner, fostering long-term economic growth and stability. His leadership was pivotal in securing significant debt forgiveness for Somalia, achieving a major milestone in economic recovery. Through strategic diplomatic efforts, Somalia's debt relief initiatives have provided crucial fiscal space for national development, enhancing financial stability and fostering long-term economic growth.

His leadership represents a transformative era for Somalia, characterized by innovative strategies addressing security, diplomacy, and societal resilience. Through strategic interventions across multiple domains, Barre has positioned Somalia on a path of sustainable development, national unity, and international engagement.

Barre's leadership transformed Somalia-Kenya relations through strategic diplomacy, innovative economic initiatives, and collaborative approaches. By prioritizing dialogue, mutual economic interests, and cross-border cooperation, Barre reshaped regional dynamics and created pathways for sustainable bilateral development.

Based on the study findings, the following recommendations are made;

### **Enhance Regional Integration Efforts**

The government should build upon Prime Minister Barre's success in securing Somalia's admission to the East African Community (EAC) by actively participating in regional economic and security initiatives. Strengthening collaboration with EAC member states can further position Somalia as a key player in the Horn of Africa, promoting sustainable development and regional stability.

### **Prioritize Economic Diversification and Resource Management**

Leveraging Barre's focus on geological mapping, agricultural revitalization, and coastal resource utilization, Somalia should expand these strategies to include renewable energy and technology sectors. Diversifying the economy will enhance resilience, attract foreign investment, and create job opportunities, particularly in areas like agriculture, fisheries, and livestock management.

### **Institutionalize Fiscal Reforms and Debt Management Practices**

To sustain the progress made under Barre's leadership in fiscal reforms and debt relief, Somalia should institutionalize transparent budgetary practices and strengthen financial accountability mechanisms. Establishing long-term frameworks for debt management and domestic revenue generation will create fiscal stability, providing the necessary space for national development and poverty reduction efforts.

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