

SOMALI PREMIER URGES NORTHERN REGION NOT TO START OIL EXPLORATION

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SBC

The prime minister of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia [TFGS], Prof Ali Muhammad Gedi, has released a statement in Baydhabo [alternative spelling Baidoa, south-central Somalia and current seat of government] in which he clearly said the regional administration of Puntland [northern Somalia] cannot start oil exploration in its region at this time.

The statement, written in English and received by SBC [Somalia Broadcasting Corporation], said that previously there were relations between the Puntland regional administration and the TFGS on exploration of resources in Puntland, but said work on drilling oil should not start now.

Ali Muhammad Gedi said in the letter addressed to the president of Puntland that the agreement with Concert and Range [names as published] companies involved drilling of oil wells and was believed to be postponed until parliament debated laws on drilling oil wells in the country's oil reserves.

It is clear in Gedi's letter that parliamentary sessions on oil exploration will be held in coming months, and a national committee that will manage all oil exploration activities be established in the country.