

Somalia: New region established in disputed region

Radio Shabeelle

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Mogadishu

According to our reporter Mohamud Igal, an independent autonomous region from Puntland and Somaliland has been established in Badan District in Sanaag Region.

[Mohamud]An independent autonomous region from Puntland and Somaliland called Maahir Autonomous Region has been established after meetings and consultations that have been taking place these days.

The chairman of the new administration, [first name indistinct] Ali Salad, told Shabeelle that Maahir Region has already established the districts and parliament members and it is in the process of naming cabinet ministers.

The majority of Sanaag region people have welcomed the new regional administration that will come under the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia and which they do not expect to secede.

Dispute between Puntland and Somaliland over the area caused a great deal of damage in the last 10 years, causing the area to miss out on the international aid that was meant for it.[Passage omitted]