



Press Release

11th April 2018

EU, VNG International and Association of Local Government Authorities of Somaliland (ALGASL) Launch Inclusive Resilient Economic Development in Somaliland

Berbera, 11th April 2018: Today the “Advancing Strong Partnerships for Inclusive and Resilient Economic Development (ASPIRE)” project has been launched. The project is funded by European Union and co-financed by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The project is implemented by the International Cooperation Agency of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG International) and the Association of Local Government Authorities of Somaliland (ALGASL), in partnership with Berbera Municipal Authority and Berbera Economic Forum. The two year programme is funded to a tune of **Euro 665,301 with EU financing 75% of the budget.**

The event was hosted by the Berbera Municipal Authority and attended by representatives from government, private sector, civil society and the international community. In his opening remarks, the Major of Berbera said that the project will go a long way in strengthening the capacity of local government that will ultimately enable communities to increasingly take control of their lives."

The project will enhance capacities of Berbera Municipal District and Berbera Economic Forum to promote Inclusive Local Economic Development (ILED) as well as strengthen the capacity of Association of Local Government Authorities of Somaliland (ALGASL) to publicize and replicate lessons learnt in Berbera to its membership. Most districts in Somaliland are members of ALGASL and thus ALGASL is the voice of the local authorities' on policy issues. Furthermore, with many investments projects coming up in Berbera, the business community and the general public at large will need to harness the benefits and opportunities that come with it and this project will help them in this effort.

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