

## 7) Explaining the Controversial El Ali Rock:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1453292584842644>

**Reporter:** El Ali district is located 75 kilometers west of Baladweyne, the capital of the Hiiraan region. It serves as a crucial link between Hiiraan and the border regions between Somalia and Ethiopia. Recently, a group of businessmen from El Ali removed a rock from the area, an act that resulted in the deaths of two people. The rock was later confiscated by security forces at a checkpoint on the outskirts of Mogadishu.

According to those who transported it from El Ali, the rock is highly valuable. To learn more about its origins and significance, I spoke with Hussein Husni, the former Minister of Livestock, Forestry, and Pasture of Hirshabelle State.

**Hussein Husni:** This rock has been at the site for centuries, but it's no ordinary rock—it grows in size over time. Every twenty years, it was observed to increase in mass. Recognizing its uniqueness, the former district administration, including the previous mayor, visited the site and confirmed that it was unlike other rocks. Tests were conducted, and samples were sent to experts. The rock was even taken to Uganda for further analysis, where it was determined to be a valuable resource that should benefit the local community.

Once word spread, companies specializing in this field began taking an interest in it. However, they were informed that any extraction would require a formal agreement, as this rock is an important national asset. They were advised not to remove it hastily.

**Reporter:** Professor Abdulkadir Abikar Hussein, the Rector of Almaas University and an expert in geological sciences, provided further insight into the rock's potential significance. He also called for comprehensive testing to confirm its composition.

**Professor Abdulkadir Abikar Hussein:** Let me preface my remarks by saying that I have not yet physically examined or tested the rock. That being said, if it is what I suspect—a meteorite—it would primarily be composed of iron and nickel, as most meteorites are. If it indeed originated from space, it could be quite valuable. The worth of meteorites varies significantly, with some fetching as little as \$5 per gram, while others can be valued at \$50 or even \$1,000 per gram, depending on their chemical composition. The real question is whether this rock contains additional rare elements. If it consists of more than just iron and nickel, its value could increase dramatically.

**Reporter:** Currently, the controversial rock is in the custody of the National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA), and the individuals involved in its transportation have been detained, according to Hussein Husni.

**Hussein Husni:** The rock is now in the hands of the federal government, specifically with the intelligence agency, which is conducting an investigation. We don't want to jump to conclusions before the investigation is complete. However, there are concerns that those who took the rock

from the local community may try to reclaim it through corruption, bribery, or other means to sell it for personal profit. I hope the government does not allow this to happen.

**Reporter:** Professor Abdulkadir Abikar Hussein urges the government to handle the El Ali rock case responsibly and find the best way to resolve the ongoing controversy.

**Professor Abdulkadir Abikar Hussein:** If this turns out to be a meteorite weighing over 8 tons (8,000 kilograms), it would be an incredibly valuable asset. Moreover, if it contains rare minerals like silver or platinum, its worth could reach several million dollars. However, if the meteorite itself does not have substantial monetary value, it could still serve as an important cultural and scientific artifact. One option would be to place it in the Somali National Museum, where visitors could pay a small fee—perhaps \$2—to view what a meteorite looks like. The revenue generated could then be allocated by the government as needed. The El Ali rock has sparked widespread debate, with people expressing strong opinions on the matter. As the first discovery of its kind in Somalia, it has captivated national attention.

Mohamed Issa Kona, Shabelle TV, Mogadishu.