



MTHWAKAZI REPUBLIC PARTY

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Monday, 05 January 2026

To:

His Excellency Benjamin Netanyahu
Prime Minister of the State of Israel
Prime Minister's Office
3 Kaplan Street, P.O. Box 187
Kiryat Ben-Gurion
Jerusalem 91919
State of Israel

Re: Diplomatic Engagement

Your Excellency,

I have the honour, on behalf of the Mthwakazi Republic Party and the indigenous peoples of Matabeleland/Mthwakazi, to extend our respectful greetings and to convey our highest consideration.

By way of brief introduction, Matabeleland/Mthwakazi was an established and sovereign African state prior to colonial occupation, possessing clearly defined and recognised territorial boundaries, authoritative systems of political leadership, and well-developed social, economic, and customary governance institutions. Its incorporation into colonial and later post-colonial state arrangements occurred through conquest and administrative imposition, rather than through the free and informed consent of its people, resulting in a fundamental rupture of its sovereignty and institutional continuity.

Under British colonial rule, and subsequently following Zimbabwe's independence in 1980, the people of Mthwakazi experienced sustained political subjugation, dispossession, and marginalisation. In the post-colonial era, this condition was compounded by systematic exclusion from political power, economic opportunity, and cultural recognition, as well as episodes of state-sponsored violence and repression under successive ZANU-PF administrations dominated by a different ethno-political elite. These experiences have profoundly shaped a collective and enduring pursuit of justice, dignity, and the peaceful restoration of self-government grounded in international law.

At the outset, allow me to formally congratulate the Government and people of the State of Israel for the bold, decisive, and thoughtfully considered decision to intentionally and formally recognise the Republic of Somaliland and to establish full diplomatic relations with it. This principled step reflects strategic clarity and moral courage, and accords with the foundational norms of international law that recognise peoples, governance, and legitimacy as central to a peaceful international order. We regard Israel's recognition as a constructive contribution to lasting stability, security, and cooperation in the Horn of Africa, and as an action that may encourage other states to reassess their positions and to formalise principled engagement with the State of Somaliland.

I write further to formally engage the Government of the State of Israel following this landmark recognition—an act that did not create a new state, but rather acknowledged an



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existing political reality grounded in historical sovereignty, popular will, effective governance, and sustained restraint. In this respect, Israel's decision is consistent with Article 1(2) of the Charter of the United Nations, which affirms the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples as a cornerstone of international peace and stability.

We further note that Somaliland's recognition aligns with the jurisprudence of the International Court of Justice, particularly its Advisory Opinions on Western Sahara (1975) and Kosovo (2010). In these opinions, the Court affirmed that declarations of independence are not prohibited under international law, and that the right to self-determination belongs to peoples rather than to inherited administrative arrangements imposed without their consent. Somaliland's reassertion of independence in 1991 followed the fundamental breach of its 1960 union, prolonged marginalisation, and systematic state violence—conditions under which claims of territorial integrity are widely understood to lose their legal and moral force.

Within the African context, Israel's recognition also resonates with the spirit and letter of the Constitutive Act of the African Union. While Article 4(b) affirms respect for borders existing at independence, this principle is not absolute. It is balanced by Article 4(a), which recognises the sovereignty of peoples, and Article 4(h), which affirms a collective responsibility to respond to grave circumstances, including crimes against humanity. Where borders are sustained through violence, exclusion, and the denial of justice, their legitimacy is necessarily diminished.

In this regard, we respectfully observe a prevailing inconsistency in continental practice. Earlier this year, leaders of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), including His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa of the Republic of South Africa and His Excellency President Emmerson Mnangagwa of the Republic of Zimbabwe, issued clear and unequivocal statements in support of the independence of Western Sahara, affirming the Sahrawi people's right to self-determination in accordance with United Nations resolutions and ICJ guidance. Yet, within the same African institutional framework, recognition and even acknowledgment of the Republic of Somaliland—another African polity with demonstrable historical sovereignty, functioning institutions, and sustained popular legitimacy—has often been resisted.

We raise this observation with due sensitivity to the complexities of contemporary diplomacy and with full awareness of current strains in relations between certain states and Israel. Our intention is neither to provoke nor to posture, but to affirm that Israel's recognition of Somaliland represents a lawful, principled, and forward-looking application of international norms—one grounded in facts, governance, and the clearly expressed will of a people.

For the people of Mthwakazi, Israel's decision affirms a critical and enduring truth of international law: that legitimacy is not extinguished by time, silence, or suppression. It is preserved through historical continuity, internal cohesion, peaceful political organisation, and adherence to justice. Israel's recognition of Somaliland demonstrates that the international system retains the capacity to evolve when confronted with sustained legitimacy and moral clarity.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



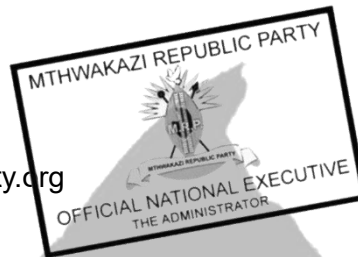
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Yours sincerely,

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Matabeleland demands justice, fairness, and recognition. Enough is enough.

Sisonke Sibambene SinguMthwakazi Sesikulungisa!

