

The poison that doesn't kill you leaves you stronger.

Somali government representatives, diplomats and civil society organisations met yesterday at the Jazeera Palace Hotel in Mogadishu to celebrate its re-launch after major reconstruction following July's bombing.

Describing how the hotel was now better, brighter and safer than it was before the attack General Manager Justus Kisaulu said "The poison that doesn't kill you leaves you stronger."

Among many other speakers who related their experiences of being in the hotel on the fateful day, the Mayor of Mogadishu, Yusuf Hussein Jim'ale, paid tribute to the Somali spirit of resilience embodied in the Jazeera Palace's response to the attack.

This theme was continued by Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Ahmed Abdi, a Mogadishu Police Commander who recited from a traditional poem about Somali patriotism, cultural values and respect for peace.

The director of the Human Rights NGO Elman, Fartuun Abdisam Haji Aden, also described the hotel as "an icon of Somalia revival".

The event was concluded by the general manager who thanked everyone for their contributions and for the solidarity that had been demonstrated by the whole community.

"We at the Jazeera Palace are extremely proud of what we have achieved here together in such a short time since the events of the summer" he said. "Our message today is that Somalia is open for business; Mogadishu is open for business and the Jazeera Palace is open for business people and guests from around the world."

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