



Federal Republic of Somalia
The Upper House
Office of The Speaker

Tix: XG/480/B-10/20

Taariikh: 13/11/2020 التاريخ

- To:- His Excellency, Mr. James Swan
The Special Representative of Secretary General to the Federal Republic of Somalia
Mogadishu – Somalia
- To:- His Excellency, Mr. Francisco Madeira
The African Union Special Representative to the Federal Republic of Somalia
Mogadishu - Somalia

Your Excellences:

This is a critical year for the Federal Republic of Somalia as all the key political institutions, i.e., the two houses of parliament, the presidency, cabinet, and some of the federal regions are in transition. As you know, we are in the midst of the electoral season which we all hope to be peaceful, free and fair to ensure the birth of progressive new order. Only a peaceful, fair, and a legitimate transitional process will produce a political outcome acceptable to the majority of our people and the world at large.

Today, I write to you both as the Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament and also as the highest elected official from the Northern Regions (Somaliland) of the Republic. I am also a senior member of the country's civil society organizations, a group I have worked for nearly thirty years. Therefore, I speak not only as the Speaker of the Upper House, but also on behalf of Northern Regions' MPs in both houses of parliament, community elders, and civil society groups.

All of us are deeply concerned about the illegitimate process the Prime Minister has followed in appointing the electoral committee responsible for managing the election of MPs from the Northern Regions. I earnestly sought to convince the PM and his team about the seriousness of their mistake, but to no avail. Consequently, I have shared my alarm and those of my constituency (Northern regions) with the leaders of the Federal Members States, and the Somali people more broadly.

On behalf of the Northern Region's MPs, Elders and the larger civil society groups, I have expressed our dissatisfaction and the lack of proper consultation on the membership of the newly appointed electoral committees for both at federal and state level representing Northern regions. I also conveyed the same message to all parties, including FMS presidencies. No other group of Somalis or regions have been treated the awful way Northerners have dealt with. The President and his team who are running for office have appointed my constituency election committee, thus the president and his team have become judge and jury. This is totally unacceptable. The President, the PM in consultation with the head of NISA have appointed the electoral committee for Northern

Somalia (Somaliland). *This is a breach of the agreement endorsed and signed in Dhusamareeb 3 agreement between the Government and Federal Member States, and sanctioned by parliament.*

Hence, it is appropriate that I also communicate our concern with your excellences and all international partners to ensure the electoral process for representatives from the Northern regions are free from manipulation.

It is worth noting:

- That the President, the PM, and NISA Director are gerrymandering the process to select supporters to represent the North in the next parliament. It is worth noting that the 57 MPs seats from Northern Somalia, a hefty bloc, can determine the future of the country.
- There are no federal states in the North to appoint the election committees of the northern regions. Consequently, it must be civics and elders from the North who have been in Mogadishu that should guide and select northern MPs just as was the case in 2016. There is absolutely no legitimate and compelling reason why the 2016 process be changed.
- In accordance of the 2016 election process the speaker of the then Parliament managed the electoral process for the Somaliland seats to ensure the government did not control and exploit. Now it is only appropriate for the electoral committees to be appointed by a trustworthy and credible body outside the government.

Since the Northern Somali unionist MPs, who are here to safe guard the unity of the Somalia Federal Republic, do not represent a federal member state nor represent Somaliland as it is not yet part of the agreed Federal structure of the country, it is only fitting that the formation of the election committees for the Northern Somali Unionist MPs are formed under a consensus based formula which is inclusive to all parties from the northern regions.

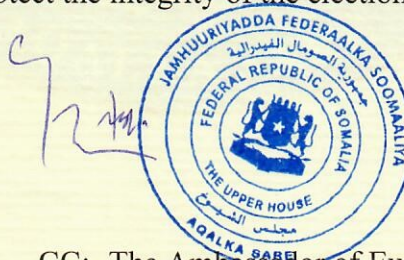
We are deeply worried that a rigged and corrupt process to select northern regions MPs will have catastrophic consequences for the Somali people.

I also would like to reiterate that any violations of the Dhusamareeb Agreement and gerrymandering of the election of Norther MPs and consequence thereof is the sole responsibility of the President, the Prime Minister, and NISA director.

Therefore, I urgently urge you and other international partners to use your good offices to get engaged in this matter and help protect the integrity of the election and the transition.

Yours faithfully,

**Senator Abdi Hashi Abdullahi,
Speaker of the Upper House
Federal Parliament of Somalia**



CC:- The Ambassador of European Union to Somalia
The Embassy of The United State of America in Somalia
The Embassy of The United Kingdom in Somalia
The Embassy of The Italian Republic in Somalia