

PRESS RELEASE

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IMPLICATIONS OF APPROVAL OF ELECTION BILL BY PARLIAMENT ON 27/9/2020 AND SOMALILAND'S INCLUSION WOMEN & MINORITY CLANS IN DEMOCRACY

Recently there have been remarkable steps to indicate commitment of the Somaliland administration's commitment to ensuring governance, rule of law and democratic principles are anchored in Somaliland. The commitment of the administration is seen also in landmark cooperation with international development partners to strengthen system, structures and procedures of governance and transparent coordination of actions leading to achievement of vision 2030.

The composition of a full National Election commission of Somaliland, an independent entity that operates the election and bringing into leadership men and women who will stir the development of this country. We noted previous that the parliament has mandate to enact, scrutinize, reform and promulgate laws and rules, policies and procedures. The actions of parliamentarians sparked actors and stakeholders' enthusiastic on the attendant actions of the legislative organ to cooperate with the judiciary, the executive and other autonomous organs and agencies to do its duty in service of the people of Somaliland.

Women and youth have been advocating and pushing for a law reform but also the authenticity of the incumbent and incoming legislators' rests in the trust that the people and partners have in the law and resulting actions. A mature democracy cannot stand without the backing of the rule of law, order and can only be swallowed when political hooliganism prevails over the prime duty of service for the people. The next generation of leaders emulate the foundation of laws set for the country by the current leadership and therefore we applaud the government effort and the National Electoral commission's response to reform and regularize inclusion laws that will enable the political pluralism to strengthen role of women and minority groups.

The election law that was approved REF/91/2020 has 9 chapters and a total of 157 articles and combines together all previously segregated laws on presidential, Parliamentary and local Council elections. The Law streamlines the National elections and voter registration. We applaud the law for considering the special treatment of Sool and Sanaag regions representation in Parliament which will assure Somaliland's commitment to responding to the inclusion question and representation of view of the communities.

The election law opens opportunities electorate to choose leaders of their choice and to hold leaders accountable. Over 1000 potential leaders were waiting for the election law to catalyze, formalize and level the electoral landscape and election to national and local, municipal governments. Somaliland has always showed the rest of the world her distaste for instability and this has to start with and strengthen by

parliament that has been put to test by the executive tabling the election law on 27th September 2020 and subsequent approval. Unfortunately, Women quota and minority quota sanctions and ceilings for participation and representation remain a big question.

The success of the administration and good governance holds the three arms of government responsible for mechanisms that lead to cooperation. The Somaliland people, the international community and agencies are learning from the responsibility and commitment of the parliament to delivery of laws, statutes as duty and obligation to this nation.

Without inclusive democracy, participation principles, equal opportunity promoted by the Somaliland constitution 2001 and NDPIL values, are undercut. The Elder who are yet to approve the election law, The National Electoral Commission and the ministry of Justice, Constitutional Affairs, Interior ministry have a responsibility to perform to this effect. ***Women turn up for voting by 72% of the electorate and over 70% youth voter turn up represent a huge section of the population.***

A law to open and regulate youth, Women and Minority is an urgent need. Political parties represented on the NEC need to enhance their internal rules and structures for women empowerment denial does not equal to the value women have put on the national development and Somaliland's self-determination.

THE END