



PRESS RELEASE

05-September,2020

THE TOP EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY IN SOMALILAND TAKES A STANCE ON WOMEN RIGHTS: RESPONSIBLE ORGANS AND AGENCIES MUST ACT

From 4th October 2020 a conference of the Kulmiye party was instituted and it will conclude on 6th October 2020. The election of the party National Executive Committee of the party was constituted to lead the party for the next five years. CDG congratulates the chairman also the president of the Republic of Somaliland upon the election that streamlines the party structures. We applaud the president and members of the party for successfully convening the conference and the deliberations that will lead to the next democracy and governance of this country. We are sure that all other major political parties in Somaliland are in the process of composing party structures and systems that will operate the next election. However, women in democracy are always taking a significant position in composition of party conferences.

In a special manner we are thrilled by the president's position on women rights, empowerment and participation in the governance and development of Somaliland. In response to the action of the parliament in the recent voting for approval of the election bill into election law for Somaliland the legislators missed cognizance of a landmark decision to include the women quota and minority clans in the election Law. And in the words of the president H.E Muse Bihi Abdi said;

"To remove the quota for women and minority clans was not correct because women have a right to be the leaders on Islamic perspective. We need to respect the right for women and Kulmiye party will continue promote and focus on women rights in this country" President Muse Bihi Abdi.

We reiterate that for the success of popular politics, political parties need to observe the contribution of women to national development and slot in their leadership quota. We observe that over 40% of Kulmiye conference attendance are women in party structures and this should reflect in party top leadership positions too. The step taken by Kulmiye Party to earmark 20% leadership and regional representation to women is a significant step to inclusion of women decision makers. While the chairman and his 4 deputy chairmen of Kulmiye party are men, the party shows signs that soon the party central executive committee will bring women on board as part of the executive. Also Women have their women wing leader, it makes significant importance to include leaders of a section that turns up to vote with 70% voter presence.

As Center for Democracy and Governance, and other advocates of women rights call upon political parties which are advocates of civil rights to streamline the equal opportunity principle for women in party leadership structures. The president's position aligns with the number of women in the cabinet ministers and director generals which needs expanding as a commitment to gender mainstreaming in leadership.

To the frustration of women, removal of the women quota and minority clans excludes fair representation of those two groups and the attorney general and National electoral Commission need to listen to authority. The people of Somaliland believe the house of parliament and House of Elders will do their obligation in ensuring legislation captures the voice of the president. These organs should do their job in legislation and ensuring the rights of women and minority are given a fair treatment by enacting a law for inclusion of women and minority representation as required by the constitution of Somaliland, 2001.

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