

CITIZENS EXPECTATIONS TOWARDS THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ELECTED IN 2021

TECHNICAL LED BY:
SOMALILAND DIALOGUE WORKING GROUP (SDWG).





INTRODUCTION

This participatory meeting dialogue to the Citizen's expectations towards the House of Representative elected is the proposal to raise the awareness and the mutual relationship between the citizens and their MPs, an introduction of understanding the functions and the responsibility of the Parliament will be one of main factors to discuss during course of the meeting dialogue, the definition of the Parliament, their accountability and their nature of work is under discussion in this meeting dialogue.

Citizen's participation dialogue with their Representatives will promote the capacity of the political system to be representative and responsive.

CDG and Somaliland Dialogue Working Group is acknowledging Heinrich Böll Foundation for their technical and financial contribution for the support of SDWG and the process to establish open dialogue between MPs and their citizens in Somaliland.

OPENING REMARKS;



"Firstly, the root of the problem is that the Citizens do not fully aware the objectives of the Parliament, in addition to that, some of the MPs do not understand their role. During the meeting between the citizens and the elected Representatives, will be discussed and asked, what do the Parliament do? How do they work? So, this participatory meeting will be the introduction between the citizens and their House of the the Representatives elected." Mahdi Sheekh.

"This dialogue is intended for the introduction between the Citizens and the elected MPs. The accountability of the House of Representatives and the Citizens. Why have you elected? What is your expectations? All those questions will be raised in this community and MPs participatory dialogue. We need that the members of the House of elected Representative to be representative for the community who have elected them, to come in an open meeting and discuss about what has been achieved during his/her stay in the council. This participatory dialogue on the citizen's expectations towards the House of Representatives elected, will not be the last, but we have planned to do three more events before the end of this year, more importantly we will focus on many aspects and subjects that is useful to the community towards the MPs you have elected." Abdirahman Warsame.

OBJECTIVES

The policy makers and Citizens will meet face to face with open dialogue platform for sharing achievements and challenges and to have common understanding the role of House of Representative.

NEED FOR THE PUBLIC DIALOGUE

The Need for Public Dialogue in Somaliland Recent years have seen increasing concerns about a widening 'democratic deficit' resulting in a decline in participation in political processes. This is characterized by declining trust in authority and expertise, particularly in the areas of political parties' leadership and the practices of the democratic values in the country. Cultural interference and the legal gaps of the public and the private institutions.

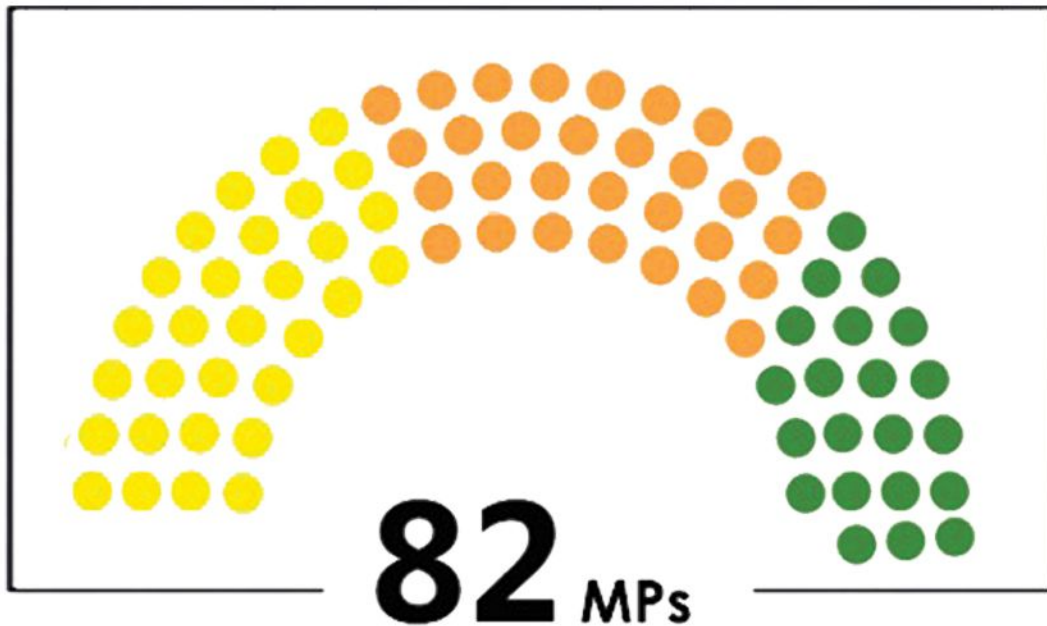
Three political parties serve the pluralist ideologies in Somaliland which each decade renew their existence and contribution to Somaliland governance and leadership. Forums aimed to reduce the gaps especially for political participation in the process of democratization of Somaliland. Economic democracy and Social democracy have remained key issues for a maturity of democracy. Despite Somalilanders playing a significant part in economic and financial development in Africa and the world generally through building financial institutions, technological institutions and industrialization of the Horn of Africa in particular.






Political unrest, conflict and protests especially in post-election and pre-election are common place and these challenges the people of Somaliland and international development partners. The private sector/business sector has made significant contribution to rebuilding the self-determined nation. Women and youth have significantly to the business sector but also to the democracy by turning up in huge numbers to support the democratic process.

"CITIZENS TO KNOW"

- 82 MPs from six regions of Somaliland
- 5 years Elected term
- Regional Representative
- The house has two employees (Elected and Un-elected Staff)

- The number of secretariat staff in between 226 to 243
- The parliament has 23 Advisory members
- The annual budget of the house between 6.5 to 8 million dollars
- 1 women in the house out of 82 MPs



	KULMIYE	30 MPs	 81  01
	WADDANI	31 MPs	
	UCID	21 MPs	

NEW SIGHTINGS,

The budget of the House of Representatives is \$8 million annually, the power of the distribution and allocation of the budget is specific to the Executive Committee of the Council, the MPs in the council has no access to discuss or have a suggestion for the approval of the budget in the Council, no internal control system was set for appropriation and to avoid any mismanagement funds of the House of the Representatives.

The employment process of the staff in the House of the Representative is unclear, no announcements is being made or use the channels of publications to distribute the vacant positions from the House of Representatives, selection process is only specific to the Executive Committees of the House of Representatives. Two hundred (243) employees work in the House of the Representatives, 20 employees are permanent staff, while 27 consultants in whom 4 of them are legal consultants.

No new laws was generated during the last two years' time in the House of the Representatives, the process of creating the laws is not fully functioning, thirteen (13) laws was passed through the process by the executive, as the council uses previous agendas, the MPs still reluctant to introduce more laws, although they planned to develop and introduce laws for the rest of their tenure, apart from the act of the Somaliland National Army and the act of cities is on the process to finalize for approval.

Check and balance is one of the main functions of the Parliament to hold the executive government to account to enable for the protection of their citizens and as well the public interest, but apparently the MPs do not fulfill that responsibility, internal conflicts and confrontations among the Parliament, led the council's cooperation rigidity, due to lack of understanding the nature of the work. Conflict of politics and also political parties caused very slow progress of the day-to-day working activities in the council. It's being two years, since the House of Representatives were elected, but conflicts lasted among the members of the Representatives.

The bids in the house of the Representatives goes through the normal procedure with the line of the bylaws of the council and is being passed to the National Tender Committee, tender notices are announced.

The MPs of the Representative cannot run for the contracts announced within the Council directly, but their companies or institutions have eligible to compete tender notices from the House. Bylaws in the Council is functional, but contrarily the House of the Representatives do not have code of conduct, that made it difficult to attain a satisfactory level of accountability among the MPs, as ethics can be considered a form of General Observations,

General Observations,

The participants of the meeting were not fully satisfied compared to the expectations towards the House of the Representative elected, in regard the explanations from their MPs, to clarify the \$8 million annual budget of the House of the Representatives and how they use it, also the citizens were shocked the absent of the accountability among the House of the Representatives and the slow progress of the work in the Council.



Conclusion,

The outcome from the Participatory meeting dialogue between the Citizens and the House of the Representatives elected, revealed the weaknesses and the incompetent quality that exists among the MPs. For one thing the negligence of the accountability among the Representatives is one of the major risks that the MPs has stepped, in addition to that, no new laws were generated during the last two years in the Council as well as the code of conduct was not set to minimize the conflict of interest of the House of the Representative. Employee policy and procedure manual is not functioning, as this dialogue uncovered the lack of transparent staffing process in the Council.

Recommendations,

One important factor is that, the MPs must take firstly on how they would solve the differences of their political perspectives and promoting the conflicts among them, that led the Council to be almost malfunctioned. The MPs must accept for the accountability to their citizens and do their work in a responsible way, setting plans, goals, cooperation and commitment for implementations would be the only way that the House of the Representatives could come over for the hard work and the challenges that lie ahead.





The Centre for Democracy and Governance (CDG) is an independent, Somaliland-based nonprofit center of excellence that promotes the advancement of democracy and good governance. The deepening of democracy and works to contribute to peace and security in the Horn of Africa, the African continent, and beyond through dialogue, the pursuit of knowledge, and rigorous analysis of critical issues and developments. In exercising this responsibility, CDG focuses on the challenges of institution building, democratic governance, and the rule of law, as well as opportunities for peace, security, cooperation, and integration.

Address:

Centre for Democracy and Governance
Badacas, behind Statehouse, IDPs,
Hageisa, Somaliland
Phone: +252 63 479 1050 | +252 63 350 5458
www.cdgsom.org
Email: country-director@cdgsom.org