The 38th Session of Puntland House of Representative

Puntland State Parliament has commenced its 38th session on Saturday 29 October 2016 in Garowe. H.E President Abdiwali Mohamed Ali officially opened the 38th session giving his constitutional address to the parliamentarians. While addressing the plenary, President gave remarks on his government achievements on healthy, security, infrastructure, politics, economy, democracy and environmental protection in the region.

Honourable Ahmed Ali Hashi, the Speaker of PL Parliament, informed the plenary that in this 38th session, the HoR plans to listen to committee reports, review the 2017 state budget, and approve and implement the plenary agenda of the House. Hon. Hashi continued to inform the meeting that the House of Representatives had competently selected 11 members of the Upper House of Federal Parliament in October 2016.

The Speaker also highlighted the Parliament’s contribution to the social, political and economic developments of the state and the significant role that Puntland Parliament has played in the implementation of Somalia Vision 2016. Finally, Hon. Hashi remarked on the impact of the severe droughts that hit some parts of the country as well as the ongoing conflicts between Puntland and Galmudug.

Speaker Hashi emphasized that the state needs to tackle the adverse effects of drought on pastoral communities and called on warring parties to choose peace and reconcile their differences in a peaceful fashion.
Annual Work Plan with budget of USD 5.4 Million for Parliamentary Support Project was approved with funding gap of USD1.4 Million. Considering the progress of the project and requirement of additional funds to implement the prioritized unfunded activities, UNDP injected USD 600,000 to bridge the funding gap in early Nov 2016 which reduced the funding gap to USD 0.8 Million. Project is requested, by national counterparts, to provide the necessary technical and financial assistance needed in order to ensure that the transition period is peaceful and orderly. With support to the initial transition, induction of the new MPs as well as support to the new upper house, the National Federal Parliament will begin its new term to fulfill its constitutional mandate during the next four years. Considering this expansion of the scope of work, the Project Board meeting held on 17 October 2016 approved three months cost extension of the project until 31 March 2017 to support Parliament’s transition and the continuation of project support to all 6 parliaments. On request of project, PSG-1 meeting held on 15 Nov 2016 approved the re-allocation of funds USD 0.8 Million from Constitutional Review Support Project to the Parliamentary Support Project in order to fill the funding gap to support the initial phase of transition related activities in 2016, support to newly formed Hirshabelle State Assembly and other unfunded activities of AWP.

Legislative Drafting Workshop For PL HoR

As part of capacity building for the emerging parliaments, National Federal Parliament has provided technical support to the newly formed parliaments namely Jubaland, South West and Galmudug State Assemblies. The project funded the transfer of knowhow with a series of trainings provided by NFP on Business of the House and provision of technical and legal support to these parliaments. This inter-parliamentary cooperation helped the new parliaments to set up their organizational structures, to prepare their internal governance documents and to learn from the experience of those parliaments who went through a similar phase earlier. The impact of the project in terms of capacity development of Parliaments of Somalia has produced staff members capacitated by the UNDP project who are now transferring knowledge and experience to emerging parliaments. This will contribute to UNDP’s efforts of ensuring sustainability of results and interventions.
On 18-27 July 2016, a team of experts conducting results oriented monitoring (ROM) was tasked to monitor the European Union (EU) funded projects in order to establish whether projects and programs are on target and delivering the intended results. One of the monitored project was UNDP’s PSP “Support to building inclusive institutions of Parliament and inclusive political process in Somalia.” The expert meet with the respective parliamentary counterparts and UNDP team in the fields as well as other relevant stakeholders. The results of the monitoring indicated overall the progress is very satisfactory and positive. Quality is very good, and much has been achieved in a short period of time. The monitoring underlined the Young Graduates Program was the most successful component in the project support to the National Federal Parliament. The work that these young professionals deliver is widely appreciated as one of the biggest achievements of the project and a potential game changer in terms of sustainability and effectiveness. Work with the parliamentary committees is assessed by all interlocutors to be of high quality. In addition, the assessment feedback confirmed that ownership is very good. The Speaker of the House, Members of Parliament, committee members, senior staff and young graduates all speak highly of the parliamentary reform project, and express their desire to see the project continue. Moreover, the exercise found that all donors to the multi-donor trust fund have contributed according to their commitments. The outputs are being delivered in a cost-efficient manner. A consolidated expenditure report has been submitted by UNDP in a transparent and accountable manner. Furthermore, the report revealed that the quality of all project material (e.g., manuals, guidelines, strategic plans) met with universal approval of the final beneficiaries. Outreach appears to be a success in Garowe and Hargeisa. The human capacities of both the staff and parliamentarians are being built on several levels. The institutional groundwork is being laid in a quite sustainable manner. The beneficiary institution has committed to maximum efforts of cooperation, but support of the international community will continue to be required. Among the recommendations from the evaluation for future involvement include:

- Assess the basic infrastructure needs of the various parliaments; make an end-of-project detailed assessment of the capacity that has been built and relate it to indicators that are as quantified as possible; expand the Young Graduates program to both Somaliland and Puntland; maintain a consolidated table of achievements vs objectives for the remainder of the project; and push diplomatically at federal level for all legislation that was passed by Parliament to be signed by the President of the Republic.

Somaliland’s House of Elder (Guurti) started their 61st session on 29th October 2016. The ongoing session is expected to last for two months and close on December. On the agenda of this session foresees are many important issues related the recurrent droughts in the country, clan disputes in Sool and Togdheer regions and updates from the ongoing political mediations, and lastly to present the plenary the proposal from the president to separate the presidential and parliamentary elections thereby extending the term of the House of Representatives.

The 61st Session Agenda includes:

- Hearing reports (from the Guurti Leadership, Standing Committee, the current droughts and the Government Response). The overall situation of the country (e.g. the decentralization processes and voter registration updates). Security and promoting stability. To conclude the mediation processes of Sool and Togdheer regions, especially the implementation of decisions made and Diiya Payments between the disputed clans in El-Afwayn and Dharkayn-geeyo Districts. To promote peace and stability in Somaliland regions To conduct an awareness campaign to tackle the youth gang groups in the major towns. To summon Government officials and Independent Agencies. Minister of Education National Electoral Commission (NEC).
PL HoR Pass Revised Rules of Procedure

Puntland’s House of Representatives adopted the revised Rules of Procedure on Tuesday, 22 November, during its sitting that day. The Rules of Procedure are extremely important and guide the plenary on all aspects of their work such as bills, debate, and voting. The Speaker led the process and explained to the MPs on the importance of the RoPs. With support from UNDP, the old Rules of Procedure were reviewed in 2015 with expert advice from Hon. David Payne, a former Canadian MP. They were then translated from English to Somali. The new RoPs will be printed with support from the PSP and will be distributed to all MPs and staff in the upcoming month.
As part of capacity building for the emerging parliaments, National Federal Parliament has provided technical support to the newly formed parliaments namely Jubaland, South West and Galmudug State Assemblies. The project funded the transfer of knowhow with a series of trainings provided by NFP on Business of the House and provision of technical and legal support to these parliaments. This inter-parliamentary cooperation helped the new parliaments to set up their organizational structures, to prepare their internal governance documents and to learn from the experience of those parliaments who went through a similar phase earlier. The impact of the project in terms of capacity development of Parliaments of Somalia has produced staff members capacitated by the UNDP project who are now transferring knowledge and experience to emerging parliaments. This will contribute to UNDP’s efforts of ensuring sustainability of results and interventions.

**VTC Installed to PL HoR**

Puntland Parliament has completed the installation of a new Video Teleconferencing (VTC) technology, which has been provided by UNDP Parliamentary Support Project. With this video conferencing technology, Puntland Parliament and its partners in the national and international community are able to communicate visually without having to jump on a plane or drive across the country, thereby reducing exposure to risk while cutting back on costs and time. By putting everyone in the same room at the same time, this VTC technology will also facilitate improved collaboration between the project and its national counterparts with the accountability of having to be present and aware of major decisions about the project.

**Provision of Security Equipment to PL HoR**

The UNDP Parliamentary Support Project procured and transferred complete sets of security equipment to Puntland Parliament. This state-of-the-art equipment includes two walk-through metal detectors, two handheld metal detectors and two vehicle-check mirror screens.

The security equipment was delivered on 1 November, and staff training in the use of the new devices has been provided. With improved security infrastructure, Puntland Parliament is in a comfortable position to permit ordinary citizens to enter and observe the sessions and debates of the House.
In the context of the implementation of 2016 AWP to improve the capacity of the parliament, the UNDP Parliament Project is supporting the two houses to inject talented and highly motivated 10 young graduates (2 F and 6 M) into the organization in critical human resource areas including regional offices. This program aims to develop human capacity in the Parliament, supporting sustainable skills transfer through technical experts, and act as a pilot for youth empowerment and political participation. A two-day induction workshop was conducted for the young graduates on the historical background, the relations between the executive power and the legislative power, and the relations between the two chambers of the Parliament. Additional topics covered were youth and women participation in decision making.

During the course of this programme, the youth interns will receive on-the-job trainings and mentoring, be progressively absorbed by the civil service if the budget allows. The graduates are expected to support committee work as well as communication strategy at the regional levels to increases information flow to keep the youth and the public better informed on parliamentary matters.

Somaliland Public Perception Survey

Parliament commissioned the first public perception survey on how Somaliland public opinion and thoughts perceive their elected members of the House of Representatives with support from the PSP. The survey paid particular attention on the relationship between MPs and their constituents given that this relationship is an integral aspect of democratic governance. The primary objective of the public perception survey is to obtain relevant information that will inform and guide the communication strategy of the House of Representatives (HoR) and to contribute clear direction to the communication activities for the period of 2017 to 2020. The findings of this report will help future development interventions as a baseline to determine what steps need to be taken in order to increase the public knowledge and parliamen-

tary works in the future. Some of the major findings of the survey include:

- 60% of the respondents believe that they know the role of the House of Representatives, while 40% said they did not know.
- 67% of those interviewed never heard about a public consultation on HoR draft laws.
- A proportion of respondents from Hargeisa and Berbera with 41% and 42% respectively heard about a public consultation meeting compared to other regions.
- 64% noted that they never participated in any public consultation, despite hearing about it.
- Some 35% of those who heard about public consultation meetings on draft laws participated in these forums at least once.
- 24% have moderate levels of trust in the HoR, 22.7% have no trust for the parliament at all, and 19.7% do somewhat trust the parliament.
- Only 15% of the respondents trust the parliament a lot.
- Only 15% of the respondents trust the parliament a lot. 74 percent being unaware of the location of the parliamentary office in their region.
- Only 25% knew the location of the regional offices. 49% are very likely to vote in the upcoming parliamentary election. Only a small minority of the respondents clearly indicated that they are not likely to vote. The rest of the respondents would vote with varying degrees of confidence.
- The survey was done by one of the best accredited local research centers in Somaliland “SORADI” and it was fully funded by Parliament Support Project through Letter of Agreement with Somaliland House of Representatives. SORADI is an independent social research and development institute, which is aiming at fostering culture of democracy and sustainable development in Somaliland and in the Horn of Africa Region. For further details, please visit their website: http://soradi.org/
UNDP Parliamentary Support Project (PSP) provides support to the NFP, Parliaments of Puntland, Somaliland and State Assemblies of Jubaland, Galmudug, South West and Hirshabelle to capacitate and to operate as inclusive, transparent and effective law-making, oversight and representative bodies. The project provides technical assistance.

**Partners**

- Somaliland House of Elders
- Puntland House of Representatives
- Somaliland House of Representatives
- National Federal Parliament
- Galmudug State Assembly
- Jubaland State Assembly
- Southwest State Assembly

**OUTPUT 1 (Strategic Plan Objectives):** NFP and Parliaments of Somaliland and Puntland supported to enact quality legislation and to maintain effective oversight over the other branches of government according to the interests of all people and in support of peace-building and nation building.

**OUTPUT 2 (Strategic Plan Objectives):** NFP and Parliaments of Somaliland and Puntland established as an effective institution, with a functioning administration and infrastructure and leadership supported to discharge their constitutional mandates to fairly, inclusively and transparently manage the business of Parliament and lead the Parliamentary Administration.

**OUTPUT 3 (Strategic Plan Objectives):** MPs throughout the country are empowered to represent and remain accountable to the people and to provide leadership in a way that promotes national unity for Somalis, including young people and women, participative & representative democracy and more effective contribution to political decision-making.

**PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT PROJECT (PSP)**

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