# NEWSLETTER



January-March 2020 Newsletter issue 4

### **National Independent Electoral Commission**

## **Highlights**

- NIEC awards temporary certicates to newly registered political parties
- NIEC commissioners elect deputy chair-
- NIEC awards temporary certificates to political parties
- NIEC chair held meeting with Sweden's ambassador
- NIEC held meeting with various parts of the Baidoa community
- NEIC meeting with parliament interim committee for the national electoral law
- NIEC consult with the members of the Galmudug state community
- NIEC meeting with the community members of Hirshabelle state
- NIEC met with joint parliamentary com-
- NIEC chairperson met with Somali police force commander

### NIEC AWARDS TEMPORARY CERTICATES TO NEWLY REGIS-TERED POLITICAL PARTIES On the 4th of January 2020, NIEC Office of the



NIEC awards temporary certicates to newly regis tered political parties (Photo credit: NIEC)

registrar of Political parties awarded temporary certificates of registration to seven Political parties at a ceremony held at the NIEC main offices. The seven newly registered Political parties are: The Coalition, Justice and equality party, National Salvation party, Justice and reconstruction party of Somalia, National Concertation party, Horseed party, Maan Deeq Unity party and Security and democracy development party

The registrar of Political parties Mr. Mohamed Omar Haydara who spoke at the event welcomed all the newly registered party officials and underscored the need for the new parties to fulfill the stipulated requirements so as to be fully registered. Mr. Haydara outlined the requirements for the parties to comply with so as to be fully registered. He also called on the newly registered parties to work within the confines of the law.

Officials of the newly registered Political parties who spoke at the event thanked the electoral commission for their support during the registration period.

#### **NIEC** COMMISSIONERS ELECT **DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON**

On 9th January, NIEC Commissioners converged to elect a new deputy Chairperson. The election saw the participation of three commissioners as aspirants. They are: Hussein Abdi Adan, Adam Abdinasir Mohamed iyo Abdirahman Osman Dirir.

As per NIEC law from which the Commission was formed dictates that NIEC Commissioners can elect among themselves a Chair and deputy Chairperson. Speaking at the occasion, NIEC Secretary general Mr. Abdirizak Bashir stated that for the election to take place, as the law dictates, six Commissioners must be present.

The Chairperson Ms. Halima Ismail stated that the deputy Chairperson's post fell vacant in January 2019 and the Commission awaited Parliament to fill the post. Seven Commission members participated in the voting process with the exclusion of the Chairperson.

Mr. Adam Abdinasir was elected as the Deputy Chair in the second round of the elections after Abdirahman and Hussein decided to quit. The election was witnessed by MPs from both houses of Parliament and representative from the CSOs and Officials from Mogadishu mayor.



NIEC commissioners elect deputy chairperson (Photo credit: NIEC)





#### NIEC AWARDS TEMPORARY CERTIFICATES TO PO-LITICAL PARTIES



NIEC awards temporary certificates to political parties (Photo credit: NIEC)

On 2nd February, OPPR awarded temporary certificates to six Political parties at a ceremony held at the NIEC headquarters office in Mogadishu. The Six Political parties issued with temporary certificates are: Somali National Union Party, Dugaal Democratic Party, tion until issuance of certifi-National Champion Party Hilaac Party, Hiigsi cates. Qaran Party and Social Justice Party.

The registrar of Political parties Mr. Mo- Mr. Abdinasir Mohamed, in hamed Omar Haydara, in his opening address his closing remarks, called on at the ceremony, welcomed the newly regis- all Political parties to adhere tered Political parties and commended them to the political parties' law to for their desire to compete in the 2020 demo-reach their objectives. cratic elections.

Mr. Haydara asserted that the certificates issued are temporary and that permanent certificates will be issued to them once they complete the stipulated requirements so as to compete in the coming elections. He called on the newly registered Political parties to ensure they fulfill all the requirements so as to be fully registered.

The registrar also called on the Political parties to work together to ensure democratic elections are held in the country. Officials of the newly registered Political parties spoke at the ceremony. They thanked the NIEC for their professionalism while filing for registra-

The NIEC deputy Chairperson

#### NIEC CHAIR HELD MEETING WITH SWEDEN'S AMBASSADOR

On 6th February, NIEC Chairperson Ms. Halima Ismail held a meeting with Swedish ambassador to Somalia Mr. Staffan Tillander at the Commission's offices in Mogadishu. The Chair updated the ambassador on the electoral Commission's preparations for the upcoming universal suffrage elections slated to be held end of 2020.

The chair and ambassador thanked both houses of Parliament for ensuring the electoral law to be ready in time for the elections (the election bill has already been passed by the lower house and is currently before the Senate and expected to pass it soon).

Mr. Tillander thanked the Commission for their preparations and assured the Chair of Sweden's support to the Commission as it gears up to conduct the forthcoming general elections. In closing remarks, Ms. Ismail thanked the Swedish government for their support and contribution towards Somalia's Electoral process.



NIEC chair with Sweden's ambassador (Photo credit: NIEC)

#### NIEC HELD MEETING WITH VARIOUS PARTS OF THE BAIDOA COMMUNITY



NIEC with various parts of the Baidoa community (Photo credit: NIEC)

13Feb, 2020, the National Independent Electoral Commission met in Baidaba today with various parts of the community. The meeting was aimed at creating public awareness of the 2020-2021 election, and was focused on providing the

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public with information on the electoral process and issues related to the electoral law. Vice-Chairman of the National Electoral Commission Mr. Adam Abdinasir opened the meeting by explaining

the importance of the orientation for the community and its commitment to consult the Somali community wherever they are.

The head of the Commission's office in the South-West Mr. Adam Abdinasir presented a brief history of the establishment of the NIEC and the work that has been done, so that the community is informed of the Commission's activities.

During the meeting, Commissioner Hussein Abdi Adan explained the progress of implementing the Election Law. Mr. Hussein praised both houses for their efforts to enact the Electoral Law. Commissioner Hussein pointed out that the Commission is not responsible for making the law but for implementation.

Finally, the community members asked the Commissioners questions about election issues, and members of the Commission provided answers to their questions.

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#### NIEC CONSULT WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE GAL-MUDUG STATE COMMUNITY

In February 2020, the National Independent Electoral Commission met in Dhusamareb with the members of the community to consult with them and listen to their concerns. The meeting was aimed at creating public awareness of the 2020-2021 election and was focused on providing the public with information on the electoral process and issues related to the electoral law.

Ms. Halima Ismail Ibrahim, the Chairperson of NIEC opened the meeting and shared with the community the purpose of their visit to Galmudug which was to provide information about the electoral process that the Commission has been working for some time. The Chairperson informed the public that the National Electoral Law was passed by the two Houses of the Federal Republic of Somalia and was signed by the President. The Commissioner also announced that they will go to all of the provinces to meet with the communities, saying that the commission visited last week Baidoa, southwest state.



NIEC consult with the members of the Galmudug state community (Photo credit: NIEC)

#### NEIC MEETING WITH PARLIAMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE FOR THE NA-TIONAL ELECTORAL LAW



NEIC meeting with parliament interim committee for the national electoral law (Photo credit: NIEC)

On 17th Feb 2020, the electoral commission met in Mogadishu with the Interim Committee of the parliament responsible for the preparation of the National Electoral Law. After exchanging ideas on the preparation for the recent National Electoral Law passed by the two Houses of the Federal Republic of Somalia, NIEC has shared with the Interim Committee their recommendations on the latest version of the electoral law recently adopted by the houses. NIEC is committed to be prepared for the upcoming election in 2020 at the level of their mandate and role.

#### NIEC MEETING WITH THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS OF HIRSHABELLE STATE



NIEC consult with the members of the Hirshabeele state community (Photo credit: NIEC)

On 25 February 2020, the National Independent Electoral Commission held an extensive Finally, Commissioner Khadimeeting in Jowhar city, attended by various ja Osoble Ali urged the commembers of the community including; Wom- munity, especially women and en, Youth, Disabled, intellectuals, University Students and Local Elders to consult and listen to their concerns about the upcoming cast their votes to elect their election. The meeting was aimed at creating representatives. public awareness of the 2020-2021 election and was focused on

providing the public with information on the electoral process and issues related to the electoral law.

Officials from NIEC spoke at the meeting. Mr. Mohamed Mukhtar, the Head of NIEC office in Hirshabele State o gave a brief explanation of the activities of the Electoral Office in Hirshabelle. A commissioner from NIEC, Khadija Osoble Ali revealed that the purpose of their visit to Jowhar to meet with the community and to create public awareness of the election.

people with special needs, to turnout on election day and

#### NIEC MET WITH JOINT PARLIAMENTA-RY COMMITTEE

On 31st March 2020, the National Independent Electoral Commission held meeting in Mogadishu with the Parliamentary Joint parliamentary Committee charged with compiling regulations in the finalized electoral law.

The Parliamentary ad hoc Committee held consultations with different stakeholders including the National Independent Electoral Commission.

The Parliamentary committee was selected from both houses of Parliament to draft regulations for the finalization of the electoral law, which the President of the Federal Republic of Somalia accented into law last month.



NIEC met with joint parliamentary committee (Photo credit: NIEC)

#### NIEC CHAIRPERSON MET WITH SOMALI POLICE FORCE COMMANDER



NIEC chairperson met with Somali police force commander (Photo credit: NIEC)

On March 27th 2020, the Chairperson of the National Independent Electoral Commission Ms. Halima Ismail Ibrahim met with the Somali Police Commander Mr. Abdi Mohamed Hajaar at the Commission's Office in Mogadishu to discuss security issues related to the upcoming national elections to be held at the end of 2020 or early 2021.

The Chair and the Police Commander discussed the implementation of the activities that were agreed in recent meetings of the Electoral Security Committee. They also discussed the establishment of the Electoral Security taskforce at the state level and the development of a joint security plan for the voter registration exercise.

The meeting comes at the backdrop of the National Independent Electoral Commission issuing a statement earlier in the week urging the Electoral Security taskforce to accelerate the electoral security activities. The Commander thanked the NIEC for its unequivocal commitment to expedite its activities and praised the commission for its dedication to holding elections.

#### STATEMENT ON FEDERAL ELECTOR-AL LAW





