

ELECTION NEWSLETTER



National Independent
Electoral Commission
July & Aug 2020
Newsletter Edition 6

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NIEC awards 8 Political parties with temporary certificates

18 Political Parties Receive Temporary Certificates

18 Political Parties received their temporary certificates of registration from the Office of the Political Parties Registrar (OPPR) during July and August 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, eight Political Parties received the provisional certificates in a virtual on-line certification ceremony on 1 July. The meeting was chaired by the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) Chairperson, Halima Ismail Ibrahim, and included Mr. Mohamed Omar, the head of the Office of the Political Parties Registrar. Addressing the party representatives, the NIEC Chairperson urged them to make all necessary preparations and efforts to become officially registered.

Another 10 political parties received their temporary registration certificates at the NIEC offices on 17 August. The event was chaired by NIEC Commis-

sioner Hussein Abdi Adan who stated that political parties represent the only way to compete politically and reminded the parties to adhere to the Political Parties Law as official registration will enable the political parties to compete in the federal elections. The head of the Office of the Political Parties Registrar also underlined the importance of political parties working together to ensure that democratic elections are held in the country within the stipulated timeframe. The leaders of the political parties thanked the NIEC for their professionalism during the registration process and expressed the desire for the country to move from the divisive, clan-based power sharing formula to a more inclusive democratic electoral process.

100 political parties have received provisional registration by the end of August 2020.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **18 Political Parties Receive Temporary Certificates**
- **NIEC Holds Information Meeting with Civil Society Representatives**
- **NIEC Chairperson Discusses Impact of COVID-19 on Upcoming Elections at International Conference**
- **NIEC Meets with 70 Political Parties to Discuss Electoral Preparations**
- **New NIEC Commissioner Approved by Upper House of Parliament**

The 18 Political Parties who received temporary certificates are:

1. Alliance for the future party
2. Justice and development of democracy and self-respectfulness
3. Social democratic party
4. Soomalinimo party
5. National restore party
6. The path to progress and peace party
7. Life and justice party
8. Citizens United party
9. Israac National Party
10. Democratic Party of Change
11. Motherland Party
12. Hayaan Party
13. Somali Youth League
14. Hogaanshe Political Party
15. Astaan Qaran Party
16. Truth and Justice Party
17. Reconciliation and Development Party
18. Somali Peace and Conflict Resolution Party



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NIEC Holds Information Meeting with Civil Society Representatives

On 7 July, the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) held an information sharing meeting with representatives from Civil Society Organization (CSOs) who represented their organisations from around the country. Participants

in the meeting discussed issues related to the role of civil society in the upcoming elections. The NIEC chairperson gave an update of the Commission's efforts to hold direct elections in the country, and to shift from the clan-based election process to a multi-party system. She underlined the importance of working together stating that the electoral process is a collective responsibility that requires accountability of all parties in order to ensure credible elections. Civil Society Organization's representatives thanked the Election Commission for the information sharing and pledged to play their role in advocating for the constitutional rights of citizens. NIEC and Civil Society Organizations agreed to meet regularly and share information regarding the conduct of credible elections.



NIEC holds information meeting with Civil Society representatives

NIEC Chairperson Discusses Impact of COVID-19 on Upcoming Elections at International Conference

The Chairperson of the NIEC, Halima Ismail Ibrahim, participated in a virtual conference on 11 July with international partners including regional EMBs to discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the forthcoming elections. In her remarks, the Chairperson outlined the impact of COVID-19 on Somalia's preparations for the 2020/21 elections as well as the technical and financial support provided by the international assistance providers to the Electoral Commission.

The meeting was organized by the UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States (RBAS). Moreover, the participants of the conference discussed how Electoral Commissions and other stakeholders can foster a working relationship and share experiences to create a system that enable elections to be held while protecting the health of the electorate.

Impact of covid-19 on electoral assistance

Thursday 9th July 2020
1400 GMT



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UNDP Bureau for Arab States



Halima Ismail Ibrahim
Chairperson
National Independent Electoral Commission - Somalia



Craig Jenness
Director
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Najia Hashemee
Regional Electoral Policy Specialist
UNDP
Session Moderator

Via Zoom
Language: English with simultaneous Arabic/ Spanish/ French interpretation

NIEC Chairperson discusses impact of COVID-19 on upcoming elections at international conference

NIEC Meets with 70 Political Parties to Discuss Electoral Preparations

On 13 July, the NIEC Board of Commissioners led by the Chairperson, Halima Ismail Ibrahim, held a meeting with 70 representatives of provisionally registered political parties in Mogadishu. This was the first meeting held directly with stakeholders since the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic. The Chairperson underlined the need for the political parties to work on their permanent registration and to ensure they fulfill all the legal requirements. She updated the meeting on the progress of the discussions in Parliament regarding the Amendments to the Political Parties Law and other electoral legal regulations.

The Chairperson also called on the political parties to be united as the country prepares to hold universal suffrage elections and to avoid the clan-based selection scenario. The NIEC is a technical organization whose mandate is to implement the law and the Commission welcomes all views and suggestions made by the po-

litical parties. Mr. Mohamed Omar Ahmed Hydra also shared the progress made by the NIEC Office of the Political Parties Registrar on registration for political parties.



NIEC meets with 70 political parties to discuss electoral preparations

New NIEC Commissioner approved by Upper House of Parliament

On 5 August, the Upper House of Parliament approved the cabinet nominee for NIEC Commissioner, Ms. Sadia Shurie, to fill a vacancy on the Board of Commissioners. The House of the People had endorsed her nomination in June. The National Independent Electoral Commission is the only independent institution in the Federal Government of Somalia which has more than 30% women's representation on their board. The position was left vacant following the resignation of Commissioner Mohamed Hassan Tani.



New NIEC Commissioner approved by Upper House of Parliament