

**Speech**  
**H.E. Mohamed Hussein Roble - Prime Minister Meeting**  
**with C6+ Mogadishu, 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

Your excellences,

- Allow me to begin by expressing my gratitude and that of the government for your unwavering support to the Somali nation.
- The past few weeks have been quite an extraordinary period in which political tensions have undermined our security and the coherence of Somalia's security forces.
- Of course, these events were directly linked with the opposition against the special election law adopted by the Federal Parliament on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April, as a result of the failure by the principles to finalize the September 17<sup>th</sup> agreement. This led to a false narrative from the opposition that the executive wanted an extension to its mandate when in fact the parliament's decision was a by-product of the inability to reach an agreement based on the September 17<sup>th</sup> agreement and the subsequent Baidoa technical team recommendations of 26 February 2021.
- In response to this extraordinary event and after discussion with the relevant Federal Member States, I have taken the decision to prepare the country for elections based on the 17<sup>th</sup> September agreement with the support of the president.
- Subsequently, the President has requested the Parliament to rescind the special election law and to reinstate Law no.30. Following the President's request, the Parliament has voted to pave the way for indirect election as stipulated by the 17<sup>th</sup> September agreement.

- In addition, the President accepted to handover the election process, election security and the implementation of the national security plan and I am happy to oversee the implementation of a successful elections.
- Ensuring they are held in a safe and secure manner. As part of my role in leading the Federal elections, and the election security, I have invited all the FMS leaders and the governor of Benadir to Mogadishu on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May which they have all accepted in order to reassume talks and finalize the September 17<sup>th</sup> agreement and the subsequent Baidoa technical team recommendations of 26 February 2021.

Your excellences

- In an effort to calm the situation and ensure we all uphold the rule of law and ensure stability, I have engaged with opposition political leaders to assure them of my willingness to work with them in addressing any concerns they may have with regards to elections, as well as express my determination to hold a free and fair elections which would be instrumental for the integrity of the next administration.
- I have also met with the business community as well as civil society groups to seek their support and engagement.
- I'm glad to note my discussions with the Council of Presidential Candidate (CPC), the speaker and the deputy of the lower house, leaders of FMS have been extremely positive and I wish to reiterate my willingness to build greater trust among all parties and my readiness to address any concerns that could pose challenges to an inclusive electoral process.

- I have equally impressed upon all the stakeholders in Mogadishu the need to demilitarize Mogadishu, I have asked for all FGS forces to return to their camps and requested the opposition leaders to also emphasize on the importance of ensuring FGS forces supporting them return to their posts within and outside Mogadishu.
- As part of the process to demilitarize Mogadishu and a means to stabilize the situation, I have appointed a technical committee to work on relocating the military forces in Mogadishu back to their forward operation bases, and help to mitigate the mistrust, as well as address the internal issues within the security forces. The committee is expected to report to me within the next 48 hours with concrete recommendations.
- To ensure peaceful and transparent electoral process, my government is committed to the implementation of comprehensive election security plan and enacting an impartial and inclusive Election Security Task Force that performs its duties within the boundaries of the law and after consultation with all stakeholders.
- I call upon AMISOM to prepare for greater support before and during elections to work with our security forces.

Your excellences,

- Let there be no doubt the FGS wants to hold an election at the earliest opportunity and our ability to hold an election is once again dependent on the endorsement of two FMS leaders without any further preconditions.

- I am here today to present a very clear message about the commitment of the FGS and the imperative to learn from the mistakes of the past.
- The Federal Government of Somalia has met all reasonable preconditions including the prime minister's office taking over the overall leadership for holding the elections upon the request of the Federal Member State leaders and the oppositions.
- For the sake of Somalia's long-term stability and prosperity the only conceivable impediment to the holding the election remains the finalization of the 17<sup>th</sup> September agreement through the Baidoa technical agreement.
- In an effort to ensure meaningful and productive dialogue with all FMS leaders, I have spoken to both President Ahmed Madobe and President Said Deni to reassure them of my determination to allay any concerns they may have within the context of the September 17<sup>th</sup> agreement, as well as inform them of my intention to invite all the FMS leaders to Mogadishu for discussions which they have all accepted.

Your excellences

- I'm sure you will all agree the importance of ensuring a quick conclusion to this process of election in a manner that can provide the next administration the confidence required to be able to move forward the key policies required to keep Somalia on the path of stability, development and prosperity.
- To this end, I would like to request your essential support both technical and financial for the upcoming Mogadishu meeting, as

well as your moral support in encouraging all of the principle signatories and opposition to support the process.

- I believe it's imperative to have a united front of support for the process by both government and oppositions in order to strengthen public confidence in governance and counter the negative narratives of extremist.
- Equally, I would like call upon the UN and our International partners to begin discussions on supporting the implementation of the election process in terms of logistics, technical and financial support. I will of course shortly name a team from my office that will lead the election process that will engage with the UN's Integrated Election Support Group in order to identify the financial and logistic requirement for implementing the election

#### Your excellences

- Another key aspect of the discussions with the FMS leaders will be adequately addressing the role of women within the upcoming Federal election
- Ensuring a commitment to obtaining at least 30% of the parliament seats.

#### Your excellencies

- At the same time, our country and our people are confronted with a global pandemic. COVID-19 has questioned the way we live our lives and has unfortunately lead to the death of many.
- The damage Covid-19 has had on our economy has been immense but despite the triple difficulties of the virus, a political

impasse and limited budgetary support the Government revenue mobilization and expenditure management enabled the payment of salaries to civil servants, security personnel and maintain the continuation of priority services to the public.

- However, the imperative need to strengthen governance further and continue with the successes achieved including in the fiscal management, security sector reform and social sector will require the support of our international partners and I call upon all of you to support the reinstatement of the budgetary that have been instrumental to maintain the pace of our development.

I thank you all.