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Constitutional Changes Threaten State Building and National Unity

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Puntland Diaspora Forum (PDF) is taking a strong stand against the rushed constitutional amendments proposed by the Federal Parliament, citing profound apprehension over President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud's recent unilateral actions. These changes, which blatantly disregard key provisions outlined in the provisional constitution agreed upon by Somalia in 2012, pose a significant threat to the delicate balance of power sharing within the nation and undermine fundamental principles of democracy and inclusivity.

Despite Puntland's persistent calls for broader consultations, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud has proceeded with his agenda, disregarding dissenting voices. The use of unethical tactics such as bribery and promises of ministerial positions to influence votes from members of parliament further undermines the democratic process and erodes public trust in the government.

The lack of transparency and consultation surrounding these amendments casts serious doubt on the integrity of the democratic process. Puntland, one of the largest states in the country, along with Somaliland, which has declared independence from Somalia, collectively encompass more than half of the nation's territory. The remaining areas, largely under the rule of Al-Shabaab, underscore the president's questionable legitimacy to lead a unified Somalia.

This divisive approach exacerbates existing tensions and undermines efforts toward national reconciliation and unity. Of particular concern is the inclusion of an article granting the president unchecked authority to dismiss the Prime Minister without parliamentary procedure, representing a dangerous erosion of democratic norms and accountability mechanisms.

Stakeholders from diverse political backgrounds, including former presidents and civil society representatives, vehemently oppose these constitutional changes. They caution that such amendments will impede progress toward state building and hinder the nation's ability to heal from the scars of civil war.



In response to these developments, the Puntland Diaspora Forum calls for urgent action to address the situation and uphold the principles of democracy, inclusivity, and respect for constitutional processes.

Given the gravity of the circumstances, the Puntland Diaspora Forum fully supports the State of Puntland's withdrawal of recognition of President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud as a President of Somalia.

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