

Hassan Sheikh 2.0: A Government of Sleaze and Scandal

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Each administration has its own peculiarities. Compared to his predecessor, Farmajo, Hassan was seen as relatively democratic, especially in his first term, Hassan 1.0. His first and second years were highly appreciated as his administration launched all-out war against the terrorist group of Al-Shabaab, though the initiative was pioneered by Macawisley, a locally organized group of militant men. It was also highly important for Hassan's campaign against Ethiopia after Addis had signed an MoU with Somaliland. The patriotic speeches and actions President Hassan has demonstrated were timely and significant and rejuvenated the old Somali irredentism and patriotism that we lacked for many years. Due to Hassan's volatile foreign policy, he reunited with PM Abiy and humiliated his people, the Somalis. Hassan was also tricked by the proxy war between Egypt and Ethiopia on the Blue Nile case after Abiy's government finalized the filling of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD). His administration now, is neither pro-Ethiopia nor pro-Egypt.

Corruption, dastardly deeds, nepotism, and the jackpotting of publicly owned properties devastate his administration. As I write this article, the incumbent government used the Somali National Army to evacuate and torture the local resident in Mogadishu, especially **Siinay** market. One thing is, the public land belongs to the government. But the lingering question is that the displaced people are arguing that the government is buying these lands for the businessmen. Both arguments from the government and the local people are ideally valid, but the aim is deeper than that. Hassan's cloistered PM Hamza has nothing to do with Hassan's insatiable appetite for power and money, and his frivolous demands for re-election, which is utterly disastrous.

I watched meticulously the cherry-picking audience of the PM's third-year commemoration. The degree of innocence of the PM is indeed nonpareil. Hamza subscribes to anything that emanates from his boss, regardless of whether it's a wrong action, irrespective of whether these actions are damaging for his credibility and morality. The untrammelled appetite of Hassan's administration for auctioning the public properties is shocking. The Somali people's concerns

and feelings are paid no heed by the sitting government's actions. The actions they take lack a conscientious way of handling challenges. The uncertainty surrounding the upcoming election is another imminent threat, not only for the stability of the country, but also because it damages the unity of the Somali people.

Puntland and Jubbaland FMS: The Ideal Opposition vs Hassan-Hamza Government

It appears that the so-called opposition members based in Mogadishu are dominated by one clan and don't have a coherent agenda for challenging the incumbent government. Puntland and Jubbaland federal member states have been facing isolated hostilities from the federal government of Somalia, not only under Hassan Sheikh 1.0 and 2.0, but also under Farmajo's administration. The three FMS's, namely Galmudug, Hirshabelle, and Southwest, have sided with every federal government, not because they are happy for Villa Somalia's policies, but because they can't survive without the support of Villa Somalia. The newly established federal member state, Northeastern, is under political pressure from Villa Somalia's counterproductive policies. So far, North-East state is a playground for Hassan's administration as he is planning to select MPs who will vote for him.

As I write, President Hassan is willing to sit with President Ahmed Madobe of Jubbaland and sort out their differences. In doing so, why has Hassan wasted close to two years for damaging, criticizing, and cutting the budget support for Jubbaland? Why did he offend and invade the Jubbaland districts of Raskamboni, Balad-hawo, and the wider Jubbaland? Why did he engage in a war that he can't win?

Conclusion and Recommendation

For posterity's sake, together the federal government, the FMS, and the opposition should come to the discussion table and reach some sort of agreement, especially for the upcoming election.

In a nutshell,

A. The federal government of Somalia should offer further concessions to the opposition group.

B. Puntland and Jubbaland FMS should participate in the discussion, not as subjects of it, but as active contributors to important issues such as the upcoming election, the constitution review process, and other relevant topics.

C. The federal government should retract from the unilateral independent electoral commission, and give representatives from the FMS and the opposition.