

The 21: Towering, stately, and unique premiere



The man to watch over the next four years

BY Fu'ad Haji Abdi Weli- 5Magazine

President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, who was elected as Somalia's 10th president on May 15th, appointed the nation's prime minister 30 days after taking office, as was customary. The president introduced Hamza Abdi Barre, a relatively new name, from a platform in the Villa Somalia.

On June 15, Somalis around the world watched on television as the articulate and towering figure addressed the country for the first time as designated Prime Minister. Standing next to the president, he offered a message of hope to Somalis and thanked the president for the chance he accorded him to serve the country.

The prime minister received a unanimous vote of confidence from members of the Federal Republic of Somalia during the session on 25th June. According to House Speaker Aden Madobe, all 220 MPs who attended the session voted in favor of Hamza Abdi Barre's appointment.

President Hassan said in his announcement that he "took this decision after recognizing Hamza's knowledge, experience, and ability." At the same time, the president urged the new Prime Minister to move quickly on his top priorities, which include addressing security concerns, droughts, reconciliation, and the nation's relations with the rest of the world.

This showed the president's confidence in Hamza, who assumes the position at a challenging time when Somalia faces crises ranging from insecurity to humanitarian crisis.

The president has great confidence in him, which makes his appointment special. In a tweet after the appointment, the president wished the new PM the best of luck as he spearheads the government's ambitious reform agenda and requests that the Somali people give

him their unwavering support.

Hamza Abdi Barre was born in Kismayu in 1974, and his appointment is the first of his clan, sending another message of inclusivity. He is also a local person and has not fled the country during the civil war, which is also a break from diaspora prime ministers that used to be the standard for a long time, he becomes the 21st Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Somalia.

This appointment comes at a critical time; Mr. Hamza is expected to lead a fractured, divided nation that is still recovering from the effects of COVID-19 and is battling an international terror group that has gained ground in recent years. While only time will tell if he will succeed or fail, he recently hinted that he will try his best and that he intends to enter heaven based on the good deeds he will perform as a politician.

Here is brief information about the incoming prime minister

Education

He attended Mujama' Umul Qura for his high school education before moving to Yemen to complete his undergraduate studies at the University of Science and Technology, where he focused on business administration. Additionally, Mr. Hamza pursued a master's degree in Malaysia, where he took a management course.

Camaraderie of the President and the PM

The Peace and Development Party, which is the party that the president founded, is a party shared by both the PM and the president.

This also marks the first time a president and prime minister from the same political party have led the country at the same time, raising the possibility that they will get along well.

Hamza, the Prime Minister, and President Hassan were both teachers at some points, prime minister Hamze Abdi worked as a private school teacher and president Hassan as national teacher in the 80s.

Both men have taught in classrooms and universities since the start of their careers, albeit at different times. In Somalia in the early 2000s, the new PM was a

founding member of and a major contributor to the private educational networks.

The two became influential and made unrivaled contributions to the education sector. They both had stints at the universities notably Simad University (previously institute) and Mogadishu University as lecturers and heads of departments; producing many professionals who are serving the nation in different capacities.

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Experience

Mr. Hamza is a well-known humanitarian activist who has long supported the education sector by helping to found a number of institutions. He has also worked in civil society organizations and closely collaborated on a number of projects with the current president before they entered active politics.

Mr. Hamza has been politically active for the past ten years. He previously served as Secretary General of the Peace and Development Party and in a variety of federal and regional capacities.

The prime minister has a distinguished professional background that includes serving as the academic affairs director at Kismayo University in Somalia from February 2006 to 2011 and as a lecturer and deputy general registrar at Mogadishu University from 2004 to 2006.

Mr. Hamza has also held positions that includes Jubaland Independent Boundaries & Electoral Commissioner and advisor to the Somalian Ministries of Culture & Higher Education and Constitutional Affairs. He was also recently elected as a member of parliament at the federal level in the most recent election.

Local premier

Apart from his higher education, which he received in Yemen and Malaysia, respectively, Mr. Hamza spent the majority of his life in Somalia. This is good news because, unlike the previous Prime Minister, he has never left the country and has only been abroad on a few occasions. Mr. Barre remained in the nation

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throughout its most turbulent times and worked as an educator for the majority of his professional life making him suitable for the job.

The experience he gained from living in the country is vast, and many pundits have noted that Hamza understands the situation of the country and the variety of complexities that the country faces. He is also said to understand the difficulties that the average Somali person faces, which is a situation that many people in the diaspora are unable to comprehend.

Inclusivity

The fact that Mr. Hamza is from Jubaland and comes from a clan that has never held this position before has been a welcome development because it indicates that no Somali clan is excluded from holding this position.

Hamza has a friendly relationship with Jubaland leaderships. His knowledge of the area may give him an advantage in dealing with crises like Gedo in the regional state of Jubaland. He also has a great chance to interact with Puntland’s elite and forge stronger bonds with them. Hamza’s administration will accomplish a lot if he can end the customary conflict between the federal and regional government.

Personal life

Mr. Hamza is said to be a religious man who has stated that he intends to use politics to get to Jannah, implying that he will work honestly. He is a family man who is married with eight children according to various sources. He is the man to watch over the next four years.

A new hope

Mr. Hamza was welcomed across the Somali spectrum, and many praised President Hassan for taking the bold action of picking the youthful politician. During his previous tenure, Mr. Hassan appointed a PM in less than a week, but it took him 30 days to appoint Hamza, implying that the President may have taken his time vetting and finally deciding his choice.

The immediate president congratulated Mr. Hamza, and in a statement, Mohamed Abdullahi Farmaajo said he prays to God to make it easier for the Prime Minister-designate to fulfill his responsibilities. At the time, Faramajo also requested that the Federal Republic of Somalia Parliament give their vote of confidence.

Hamza enters Somali politics at a critical juncture; the protracted election has diverted attention away from pressing issues, and the country now faces a massive crisis, affecting millions of Somalis.

What he has to offer the Somali people will be revealed in time.

What he will offer to the Somali people will become clear with time. The 5 magazine wishes the PM all of luck.