



Federal Republic of Somalia
House of the People
Office of Hon. Abdillahi Hashi Abib

Ref: GSH/XX/CXA/GPE_ME_3

Date: 02/06/2024

To: Padraig Power - GPE
To: Jo Bourne - GPE
To: Sven Baeten - GPE
To: Fazle Rabbani - GPE
To: M. Hassan - Save the Children
To: Ummy Dubow - Care International
To: Minister of Education, Culture and Higher Education - Somalia
Cc: Morten Sigsgaard - GPE
Cc: Goli Whittaker - FCDO - UK
Cc: UKAID - Somalia
Cc: USAID - Somalia
Cc: EU - Somalia

Subject: Concerns on Implementation and Requests for Oversight Documents Regarding the GPE Program in Somalia

Dear Padraig Power,

In response to your email dated June 1, 2024, which addressed four points from my letter dated May 27, 2024, and my letter to Save the Children dated May 30, 2024, I have decided to respond to three of the points mentioned in your official E-Mail. Given your title as Chief Financial Officer, I advise you to seek legal counsel before responding to the concerns I raised in this letter, as legal counsel is better equipped to address areas involving constitutional issues.

Despite assurances from the GPE Secretariat that my letter would be addressed through the appropriate parliamentary channels, it has become evident that this will not materialize due to the Minister's deceptive practices and efforts to avoid any scrutiny.

The Minister of Education, Culture and Higher Education has consistently ignored all oversight requests and has refused to appear before the subcommittee on education for a public hearing. His actions are reminiscent of an authoritarian figure, effectively controlling the leadership of the House of the People to prevent any member of parliament from bringing a motion against him. This manipulation undermines the very essence of parliamentary oversight and accountability.

Instead of addressing the serious issues I have raised, the Minister has focused his efforts on harassing me and attempting to discipline me through the parliamentary whip, solely because of my diligent oversight work. This is not the first time I have faced threats of disciplinary action due to my efforts to hold all Federal Government Agencies including the Office of President, the Office of Prime Minister and all Ministries accountable. Please find attached proof of the harassment I have endured as a result of my oversight activities.

Given these circumstances, I request the following actions from the Global Partnership for Education (GPE):

- 1. Commitment to Legal Compliance:** GPE must consult its legal department and provide a clear written statement confirming its commitment to **not participate in any actions taken by the Minister of Education that violate the Federal Republic of Somalia's constitution**. The constitution clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of education as the duty of the Federal Member States of Somalia.
- 2. Removal of Misleading Information:** GPE should promptly remove any reference to **"Somaliland"** from its website, **recognizing that Somaliland is part of Somalia**. **Additionally, funds allocated for the SSC State of Somalia must be directed to the SSC State Ministry of Education, not to Somaliland**.
- 3. Assurance of Accountability:** GPE must assure that it will not support or enable any actions by federal government officials that violate the constitution of the Federal Republic of Somalia.

Failure to address these concerns will leave me no choice but to bring a motion against GPE to halt the project implementation until GPE abides by

and respects the constitution of the Federal Republic of Somalia. Our country is not **a Banana Republic** where organizations can willingly violate our constitution or enable or embolden federal government officials like the Minister of Education, Culture and Higher Education to our rule of laws.

To address a critical issue regarding the potential conflict of interest involving the Minister of Minister of Education, Culture and Higher Education, which directly impacts the integrity and future of our educational institutions. While I understand that the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) has stated that no GPE funds can benefit private for-profit education institutions, this matter remains a significant concern for the Somali people who have entrusted this Minister with the responsibility of leading our education sector.

It may not be a direct concern for GPE, but it is a pressing issue for the Somali citizens who expect transparency, accountability, and ethical governance from their leaders. If a similar conflict of interest existed within GPE, I believe that the GPE board would require the involved individuals to recuse themselves from the decision-making process, in accordance with the organization's bylaws and the ethical standards upheld by corporations worldwide.

The Minister of Education, Culture and Higher Education holds shares in Simad University and Daha University, as well as Ahmed Gurey and Mohamud Harbi Primary Schools. These are all private institutions, and his vested interests in them raise serious concerns about his ability to impartially manage public educational institutions. This situation represents a clear conflict of interest, which can influence his decisions both directly and indirectly, thus undermining public trust in the Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education.

To mitigate this conflict of interest and restore confidence in the Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education, I propose the following actions:

1. Reassignment of Project Oversight: The Minister should delegate the management of this project and other similar initiatives to either **the Deputy Minister, the State Minister, or the Director General of the Ministry**. This reassignment will help remove any perception of conflict of interest and enhance public trust in the Ministry's operations.

2. GPE Investigation: I urge GPE to conduct a thorough investigation into these allegations. If the investigation confirms the conflict of interest, GPE should request that the Minister appoint an appropriate individual within the Ministry to oversee the projects in question.

3. GPE Accountability: Should GPE fail to take the necessary action to address this conflict of interest, I will have no choice but to appeal to the GPE Board and their legal advisors. I will seek an explanation as to why a conflict of interest is permitted in Somalia while similar situations would not be tolerated within GPE's own organization.

The Somali people deserve a transparent and accountable education system led by individuals who prioritize the public interest above personal gain. I trust that GPE will take this matter seriously and act accordingly to uphold the ethical standards that both the Somali people and the international community expect.

I am expressing serious concerns regarding the misuse of funds and fraudulent activities if no serious and concrete action are not taken by GPE the funded programs in Somalia may be misappropriated or mismanaged, as revealed through my oversight work over the past two years on similar projects in Somalia managed by International Agencies or International NGOs. While I acknowledge the GPE's stated zero tolerance for misuse of funds and the procedures outlined for addressing such cases, the reality on the ground is significantly different from what is depicted in your guidelines.

You have indicated that GPE partners, including Save the Children and CARE, are responsible for addressing misuse cases through their own policies and procedures. However, my observations and investigations highlight systemic issues that undermine these processes. The primary issues I have identified are as follows:

1. Procurement Process Integrity: The effectiveness of procurement processes hinges on the selection of a qualified and impartial committee. Unfortunately, my investigations have revealed that conflicts of interest and lack of qualifications among committee members often lead to the selection

of incompetent companies, compromising the integrity of the procurement process.

2. Third-Party Monitoring (TPM) Corruption: The selection and performance of third-party monitoring companies are critical to ensuring accountability. However, my oversight has uncovered instances where TPMs have been bribed to certify fraudulent audits and reports. This compromises the entire monitoring and evaluation framework, allowing misuse of funds to go unchecked.

3. Mismanagement by Save the Children: Despite the purported excellence of Save the Children's rules and regulations, the actual implementation of these guidelines is deeply flawed. My investigations into the distribution of nutritional food have uncovered significant discrepancies. For instance, in Region A (can't disclose location for safety issues), 100 trucks of nutritional biscuits are received monthly from Port B managed by WFP Logistics. WFP logistics personnel, in collusion with Save the Children logistics staff and regional managers, systematically remove 250-300 small boxes from each truck at Port B, each worth \$10 on the street market. This results in a monthly profit of \$250,000-\$300,000, amounting to \$3,000,000-\$3,600,000 annually in diverted funds. Despite providing proof of these wrongdoings to WFP, no action has been taken.

Given these findings, I am deeply concerned about the leadership of these international agencies and INGOs. It appears they are either unaware of or indifferent to the rampant corruption occurring within the projects they implement in Somalia.

To address these grave issues, I urgently request the following actions:

1. Comprehensive Investigation: GPE must initiate a thorough investigation into the allegations of fraud and corruption in the GPE-funded programs, particularly focusing on the procurement processes and the activities of third-party monitoring companies when this project starts.

2. Accountability Measures: Immediate steps should be taken to hold accountable those involved in fraudulent activities. This includes dismissing and prosecuting individuals found guilty of corruption, whether they are part of GPE's partners or associated organizations.

3. Strengthened Oversight: Implement robust oversight mechanisms to ensure transparency and accountability in all aspects of program

implementation. This includes regular audits by independent bodies and stringent vetting of all personnel involved in procurement and monitoring.

4. Direct Engagement with Donors: If these issues are not adequately addressed, I will have no choice but to escalate this matter to the lawmakers of donor countries who appropriated these funds. I will also call upon my fellow Members of Parliament to take necessary actions to disallow organizations that violate our rule of law from operating in Somalia.

I urge the leadership of GPE to take my request seriously and act swiftly to address these critical issues. Your immediate attention to this matter is crucial for upholding the integrity of Somalia's educational governance and ensuring that public funds are managed transparently and responsibly.

I urge you to take these concerns seriously and provide clear, decisive answers and a concrete plan of action. The Somali people deserve better, and it is imperative that we restore public trust and ensure that all donor funds are used effectively and ethically.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

Thanks

Yours sincerely,



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Federal Republic of Somalia the House of People
Mogadishu, Somalia
MP- HOP #201 Awdal Region and Gebileh District
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