



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

Ref: GSH/XX/CXA/WB_RL

Date: 03/05/2024

To: Kristina Svensson - Country Manager of the World Bank – Somalia
Cc: Vice President of Integrity (INT)
Cc: President / Prime Minister of Federal Republic of Somalia
Cc: ALL Members of the House of People and the Senate
Cc: Office of the Speakers of the House of People and the Senate
Cc: International Transparency
Cc: Mr. Aphicoke (Andy) Kotikula – Senior Economist (Somalia)

Subject: Urgent Concerns About the World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers Being Violated in Somalia

Dear Your Excellencies,

I would like to express my gratitude for your collaboration on this matter and your unwavering attention to this serious issue. I am writing to bring to your esteemed attention a matter of significant concern regarding an individual associated with the World Bank project **ID: P171160** titled Somali Integrated Statistics and Economic Planning Capacity Building.

I also wish to draw your attention to **Section III, Para 3.14, 3.16 & 3.17 of the World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers: Procurement in Investment Projects Financing Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services, July 2016, revised November 2017 August 2018, and November 2020 ("Procurement Regulations")**, as well as the Bank's policy requiring that consultants under Bank-Financed contracts observe the highest standard of ethics during the selection and execution of such contracts. Pursuant to this policy, the Bank prohibits engaging in fraudulent practices, including misrepresentation of any qualifications, either knowingly or recklessly.

It has recently come to our attention, through various sources, that **Mr. Hassan Adam Hosow (Executive Director of the National Economic Council)**, who is engaged in this project, may have misrepresented his qualifications. Despite claiming to be an economist by trade and holding significant responsibilities within the project, there are serious doubts regarding the authenticity of his academic credentials. Numerous sources suggest that his purported degrees may have been obtained from unrecognized universities or so-called degree mills, raising questions about his suitability for the role he occupies. There is no evidence to support his claim of holding a doctoral degree or a degree in economics, or even majoring in economics in college, despite his public assertions of being an economist by trade.

Of particular concern is the fact that Mr. Hosow's credentials were apparently not vetted by the World Bank prior to his engagement on the project. Given the substantial salary he receives, both as a consultant on the project and as a civil servant within the President's Office, it is alarming that his qualifications were not thoroughly verified. This oversight reflects poorly on the integrity of the project and raises doubts about the efficacy of its outcomes.

Furthermore, Mr. Hosow's alleged political affiliations and associations with the president only compound these concerns. There are suggestions that he may be exploiting his position for personal gain, potentially at the expense of the project's objectives and the welfare of the Somali people.

In addition to these concerns, recent evidence has surfaced regarding Mr. Hosow's deceptive practices, including his false claims of holding a PhD and multiple degrees within an implausibly short timeframe. Records from the University of Illinois indicate that Mr. Hosow graduated with a Master of Management degree, not a PhD as he had claimed, further highlighting the extent of his deceit.

For instance, a Facebook post dated May 13, 2022, in which he has since deleted after many people questioned his different posts claiming to have had a PhD even prior to that date. While presenting at the 3rd edition of the Trade for Peace Week at the WTO, he provided a profile listing himself as a PhD holder. However, according to University of Illinois records, Hosow is

listed as a May 14, 2022, graduate of the Master of Management degree, not a PhD as he claimed and not in economics. Another search also shows that he has a bachelor's degree in commerce, again not in economics. How can one obtain three degrees between 2021-22 while working full-time at UNSOM as an economic advisor? He has claimed many times to be an accomplished economist with extensive experience in economic research, financial policy development, and regulatory affairs. However, he has never worked in any financial institution before nor published any research papers.

Moreover, his purported expertise in economic research and policy development has been called into question, as there is no evidence to support his claims of previous work experience or academic achievements in these fields. A Twitter post from July 6, 2023, by an individual who knew Mr. Hosow during his time at Alberta corroborates these doubts, asserting that Mr. Hosow never received a PhD degree at all. Despite all of these revelations, not only did Mr. Hosow misinform the Somali public, but he also failed to disclose to journalists about his credentials as a trained economist. Instead, he provided them with further inaccurate information about himself and even tagged that information but failed to correct that misinformation until now.

These revelations point to a larger issue of fraudulent practices within the consultant procurement process, including the submission of CVs containing intentional inaccuracies to meet evaluation criteria. Such practices not only compromise the integrity of World Bank projects but also hinder the participation of qualified professionals and perpetuate gender exclusion practices.

In light of these troubling developments, I urge immediate action to rectify the situation and ensure accountability and transparency in the consultant procurement process. It is imperative that steps be taken to strengthen due diligence procedures and enforce adherence to the World Bank's Guidelines for the Selection and Employment of Consultants.

As stewards of public funds, it is imperative that the World Bank ensures the highest standards of transparency, accountability, and integrity in all its projects. The presence of individuals with questionable credentials and

potential conflicts of interest undermines these principles and risks damaging the Bank's reputation and effectiveness in Somalia.

I kindly request your cooperation in providing my office with the CV or resume submitted to award this contract number: **1727025**, so that we may hold those in public offices accountable and prevent further misuse and fraudulent practices.

I urge you to conduct a thorough investigation into these allegations and take appropriate action to address any shortcomings or irregularities. Again, it is essential that the integrity of the project and the credibility of the World Bank's involvement in Somalia are safeguarded.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your prompt response and actions to rectify this situation.

NB: Here is a good example of WB Policies and Rules being Violated by the Federal Republic of Somalia Government that I am currently investigating:

MR. HASSAN ADAM HOSOW – Executive Director of National Economic Council US\$240,000 - SO-MOPIED-337609-CS-CDS – 1727025

Mr. Hosow is a political appointee by the President and has a BCOM (Commerce) NOT ECONOMICS from Alberta University Canada. But the rest of the other degrees don't exist and can show single proof of educational qualifications. He is not an economist as he claims and can show what type of qualification in experience that he has. He is also very close, not at a professional level, to one of the lead economists with the World Bank who deals with much of the economics in Somalia, **Mr. Aphichoke (Andy) Ktikula**. His hiring with WB was Direct Selection and if WB had done its due diligent work, they would have found out all the fake degrees and qualifications in terms of experience.

MR. KAMAL MOHAMED ABDULKARIM – Nephew of the Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Bare - US\$59,280 - SO-MOPIED-363773-CS-INDV - 1773621

Mr. Kamal was hired and made a recommendation by Mr. Hosow as a favor for the Prime Minister to secure his position as NEC Chair. Mr. Kamal has no education and experience or qualifications to be hired. He never shows up to work.

MR. OMAR MOHAMED ALI – Husband of Director of FRC and now his Ex-Husband - US\$70,200 - SO-MOF -266891-CS-INDV - 1771744

Mr. Omar was hired by his wife Amina Mohamed Ali (Director of Financial Reporting Center) and although he is now an ex-husband and is married to the Chief WHIP of the Somali Parliament, his contract is renewed, and he has no education or experience qualification to be hired by WB as a consultant.

MS. NAIMA MOHAMED ABDULLAHI – Sister-in-law of Governor of the Central Bank of Somalia - US\$361,440 - SO-MOF-190091-CS-CDS - 1673301

Ms. Naima is the sister-in-law of the Governor of the Central Bank of Somalia, and instead of hiring his wife, he hired his sister-in-law. She does not have the basic education and qualifications to be working at the Central Bank of Somalia. Ms. Naima never worked a single day and never showed up to work. I don't know how WB can justify paying US\$361,440 to someone who is not qualified in the first place.

MR. MOHAMED SHEIKH OSMAN OMAR – Uncle from the mother's side of Governor of Central Bank of Somalia - US\$349,920 - SO-MOF-190093-CS-CDS - 1673306

Mr. Mohamed is the first uncle (Governor's mother and Mr. Mohamed are brother-sister) of the Governor. He lives in Las Anod Puntland and never showed up to work and receives WB contract money plus the Central Bank of Somalia salaries and benefit as a consultant. He has no education or job experience. The only qualification of Mr. Mohamed is to be the uncle of the Governor of the Central Bank.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Abdillahi Hashi Abib - **BA, MA, MASc, Ph.D**
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