

CITIZENS' FORUM ON POLITICAL LITERACY AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN GALMUDUG

MADASHA MUWAADINIINTA EE WACYIGELINTA IYO
KA QAYBGALKA SIYAASADEED EE GALMUDUG.



Date: 29-30 May 2026

Venue: Dhuusamareeb,
Galmudug State, Somalia



1. Introduction

Horncenter Dialogue successfully organised a two -day Citizens' Forum on Political Literacy and Political Participation in Dhuusamareeb, Galmudug State. The forum brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including citizens, youth representatives, women leaders, civil society actors, traditional elders, and representatives from political organisations. The main objective of the forum was to strengthen political literacy among citizens and promote meaningful participation in democratic processes, with a special focus on electoral integrity, civic engagement, and inclusive governance in Galmudug and Somalia at large.

2. Objectives of the Forum

The forum aimed to:

- Enhance citizens' understanding of political systems and democratic governance
- Promote active civic participation in political and electoral processes
- Strengthen dialogue between citizens and political actors
- Encourage transparency, accountability, and inclusive governance
- Support discussions on fair and credible elections, including One Person One Vote aspirations

3. Key Themes Discussed

The forum focused on several critical governance and democracy-related topics, including:

- Political literacy and civic responsibility
- Electoral systems and the prospects of One Person One Vote
- Election transparency and prevention of electoral malpractice
- The role of political organisations in democratic consolidation
- Youth and women's participation in politics
- Peacebuilding and social cohesion in Galmudug

4. Day One Highlights

The first day of the forum focused on citizens' engagement and political literacy. Participants engaged in interactive discussions on:

- The meaning and importance of political participation beyond elections
- Challenges affecting civic awareness in local communities
- The need for transparency and trust in electoral processes
- Strengthening democratic values such as accountability and inclusion

Participants emphasised that informed citizens are key to building a stable and democratic society.

5. Day Two Highlights

The second day focused on a multi-party and political organisations' dialogue session, featuring representatives from political organisations, including

Towfiiq

Ramaas

Karaama

Sincad

Tiir

Saab

JSP

Dan-shacab

Key discussions included:

- The role of political organisations in strengthening democracy in Galmudug
- Youth and women's inclusion in political leadership
- Strategies for ensuring free, fair, and credible elections
- Addressing challenges such as electoral mistrust, political fragmentation, and clan based politics
- Commitments to promote issue-based political engagement

Political representatives also responded to citizen questions, reinforcing the importance of accountability and public trust

6. Key Discussions and Issues Raised

Across both days, participants highlighted several critical issues:

- The need for stronger civic education and political awareness
- Ensuring transparency and fairness in future elections
- Expanding youth and women's participation in political leadership
- Strengthening independent institutions and electoral systems
- Promoting peace, unity, and national cohesion
- Reducing political polarisation and clan-based politics

7. Key Outcomes

The forum achieved the following outcomes:

- Improved understanding of political literacy among participants
- Strengthened dialogue between citizens and political actors
- Enhanced awareness of electoral processes and democratic rights
- Increased commitment from political actors to inclusive participation
- Collection of citizen recommendations for democratic reform
- Strengthened collaboration between civil society and political organisations

8. Recommendations

Participants recommended the following actions:

- Expansion of civic education programs across Galmudug
- Strengthening of independent electoral institutions
- Increased inclusion of youth and women in political processes
- Regular citizen–political actor dialogue forums
- Promotion of peaceful and issue-based political competition
- Enhanced transparency and accountability mechanisms

9. Conclusion

The Citizens' Forum on Political Literacy and Political Participation marked a significant step towards strengthening democratic governance in Galmudug. The discussions showed a strong desire among citizens and political actors to create a more inclusive, transparent, and accountable political system. Horncenter Dialogue reaffirms its commitment to continuing support for civic engagement platforms that promote peace, democracy, and good governance in Somalia.

Day One Picture



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Day Two Picture



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Prepared by: Horncenter Dialogue