



United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS)

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SRSB calls for end to external meddling in Somali internal affairs

Nairobi, 01 March 2010 – On the 30th January 2010, President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed celebrated one year in office. Yesterday marked the first anniversary of Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke in the office of Prime Minister. “Over the last year, both leaders as well as the Speaker, Sheikh Aden Mohamed Nur (Madobe) have demonstrated to their people and to the region a strong and united leadership in addressing their nation’s many problems,” the United Nations Special Representative for Somalia, Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah said.

“On this occasion, I would like to sincerely congratulate and encourage them to continue their united and cohesive leadership. The success of their resilience and their strength is also that of the Cabinet, the Parliament and the Security Forces. Civil Society and the business community have also shown true patriotism during this period. Despite enormous difficulties including lack of political experience, security threats, absence of regular payments and many other challenges, the national leadership of Somalia has maintained its cohesion and shown a coherent approach in reaching out to their political opponents.

“In one year, Somali authorities - the President, Prime Minister and the Speaker, members of the Cabinet, the Parliament and the Security Forces - have all worked hard to push for the respect and dignity of the country and its people. They have elaborated a national budget, rehabilitated a number of institutions and infrastructures, negotiated with political opponents and kept the door open to all Somalis who favour dialogue over violence. My congratulations are also extended to the leadership in Puntland and Somaliland.



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“I would like to take the opportunity of this first anniversary of the Cabinet to call, once more, on Somalis to continue their support to the President and the national leadership. There is a political, social, religious and moral obligation to rehabilitate the image and the good name of Somalia. I also call on foreign governments to refrain from meddling in Somali affairs. Today, external political interference perpetuates instability and encourages illegal fishing, as well as piracy and other criminal economic activities.

“This is also an opportunity to recognize and thank the Government of Turkey’s positive role in supporting political stability, reconstruction and development in Somalia. Turkey’s constructive role is supported by the Government of Somalia, the United Nations and all the true friends of peace in Somalia.”