



## United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS)

For Immediate Release

### **PRESS RELEASE 005/2009**

#### **New Members of Somalia's Parliament sworn in**

Djibouti, 28 January 2009 - Some 150 new Members of Somalia's Transitional Federal Parliament, belonging to the Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia, were sworn in today. The first to be sworn in, at the People's Palace in Djibouti, were the ARS leaders Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed and Sharif Hassan Sheikh Aden.

The UN Special Representative for Somalia, Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, said it was an important step towards stability.

"We are finally seeing progress from the hard work by all sides to create an inclusive Parliament," he said. "I would like to congratulate and encourage all the Parliamentarians to work for the good of the country."

The Parliament, which voted on Monday to expand by an additional 275 members, also agreed to extend its term until August 2011.

The expanded Parliament will elect a new President on 30 January with the Presidential candidates having until 2 am on 29 January to present their candidature. They will all have the chance to address Parliament on Thursday to put forward their agendas. Some designated ARS MPs who missed the ceremony today will be sworn in tomorrow.

Some 75 Parliamentary seats are being kept vacant, but will be allocated at a future date to those still to join, including members of civil society and opposition who are not members of the ARS.

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