

## *Somalia New Dreams*

Somalia elected a new president in a delayed election marked by corruption. Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo is the new president. The new Somali president has a dream. Somali mainstream has a dream. Chaos-profiteers, International stakeholders and clan warlords have a different dream. Shabab is on its toes and waiting.



His six-month tenure as the premier of Somalia in 2010 and the popularity he acquired thereon encouraged him to seek Somalia's top post – the Presidency. He foresaw that he could be a leader who will go into the history as the savior of Somalia, a country bedeviled by decades-long civil war, anarchy, usurpation by international vested interests. Would he make it? History will tell but the odds are discouraging. Most of the challenges come from within as well as from outside.

The Somali mainstream has a dream. Somalis got fed up with the never-ending clan-wars and clannish wrangling, bankrupt politicians, rampant corruption, the war-weariness, general fatigue and brewing disintegration. They spoke through the ballot box and elected a president whom they assumed may save the country from demise. A ray of hope beamed.

Somali bad guys stand on the way akimbo, pondering a move to nib the dreams in the bud. They have a different sinister dream, not to let go of the mainstream dream. Motivations vary, ranging from being proxy to clannish concerns to vested interests. They seem not to share the general patriotic sentiment of the main public.

International stakeholders in pursuit of their agendas are on the prowl. They mingled in the Somali clan-charged politics and are by far the most dangerous of all. The frontline states and the AMISOM troop-contributing countries have their stakes in Somali affairs.

Al-Shabab is on its toes. They need to be called out from the cold in a general reconciliation offer. The new President has called on them to be part of the Somali reconciliation. The group's response remains to be seen.

Somalia doesn't have many international friends. People are counting on the Somali's known resilience and buoyancy. Patriotism borne out of the decades of hopelessness is on the rise. The young generation which accounts for 70% of the Somali population is the vanguard.

The President's chances of success depend on the Prime Minister he appoints and the cabinet the Prime Minister forms. The intricate political maze is exasperated by the clan-based power-sharing which is necessitated by the transitional system adopted.

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