

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### MARQAATI CONCERNED NOMINATION OF NEW PM SIGNALS CONTINUATION OF STATUS QUO

**Mogadishu, 24 Feb 2017** -- Marqaati, Somalia's sole anticorruption non-governmental organisation, is concerned by the nomination of Hassan Ali Kheyre as Somalia's new Prime Minister. The nominated PM is a close associate of tainted individuals in the outgoing administration, including the former president who oversaw a massive corruption campaign in the past year.

He has also been accused of acting as a front for the former president in business deals such as in Soma Oil and Gas, and was intimately involved in the corrupt election campaign of the former president, according to sources in the outgoing administration.

We call on President Farmaajo to withdraw the nomination of Mr. Kheyre if the latter cannot prove his detachment from the corruption of the former administration and a commitment to hold them accountable.

"The Somali parliament should deeply scrutinise his past, his associates, and his plans for combating corruption. They should not accept to become stamps for whatever the president wants; they should use their powers to check his power and demand that people of integrity are appointed to positions of power," said Mohamed Mubarak, director of marqaati.

"Parliament should reject to approve this individual if he does not prove that he had nothing to do with the corruption perpetrated by his associates and does not publicly commit to hold corrupt individuals accountable," added Mubarak.

It is unacceptable to have a continuation of the status quo of impunity, stealing public funds, awarding contracts to political cronies, systematic judicial corruption, and unmerited government appointments. We see this nomination as a continuation of the status quo.

*marqaati is leading anticorruption in Somalia.*

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