POLITICAL CORRUPTION IN THE AFRICAN CONTINENT: SOMALIA CASE



Somalia is an Eastern African country in the Horn of Africa, located on an extended coastal area on the Indian Ocean and Aden Gulf. Somalia's southern geography lies on the equator line. It takes the shape of a diverged two strips opened towards the Middle African countries, and it has an important geopolitical position between the Arab peninsula and Sub-Saharan countries. According to the UN, Somalia has a population of 15 million. Somalia's 85% consists of ethnic Somalis, who have inhabited the region historically. Ethnic minorities make up the rest of the population and are concentrated primarily in Somalia's southern areas (mainly Arabs from Yemenite origins). Non-Somali ethnic groups include Benadiri, Bravanese, Bantus, Ethiopians, Indians, Persians, and Italians (Bantu minorities). Muslims make 99% of the people in Somalia. Most of the people work either in livestock raising or agriculture (mainly bananas) or fishing, and at the same time, the country has many underground resources like; tin, phosphate, gypsum, guano, coal, iron ore, and uranium—and both quantity and quality are too low for mining to be worthwhile. The country's export diversification is also very low, so export income is based on a few products. Most of Somalia's export is bananas and livestock to Oman, UAE, Saudi Arabia,

and India. The existence of natural gas well is not exploited. The country has many structural problems, and one of these problems is political corruption.

The African continent has suffered for long years of poverty, slave-trade, exploitation of local resources, and the European colonists' hegemony over the whole continent. The biggest problems in Africa are the existing dictatorships and corrupt governments. The most prominent example is the Somalian Government. Besides their inadequate natural resources, the Somalian people are frequently facing famine and drought, making Somalians' lives more difficult. Moreover, the Al-Shabaab movement is still active on the border with Kenya. Therefore, the country's security problem continues. The Government has failed in protecting the civilians from radical organizations, such as Al Shabaab, attacks, and it keeps the country in an unstable environment. Lack of freedom of expression for people and media activists, lack of infrastructure, lack of healthcare, shortage in societal and political life enablers (multiple party system, free and fair elections in place, democracy, and people's representations levels) are all deficient. The government authority only thinks for their interest and seeking ways to sustain their power over the country. The president of the country has many authorities over the state. There is no separation of power and not a vital check and balance infrastructure.

Furthermore, a liberal state structure in the country is lacking. The president is the defender of the state and the faith. Swears to defend the country and the religion, indicating the unity of both. World Bank and Transparency International indexes show Somalia as one of the weakest countries in a 180 countries list regarding socio-economic development. All the mentioned above indicate that there is a gap between the resources and the country's development.

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