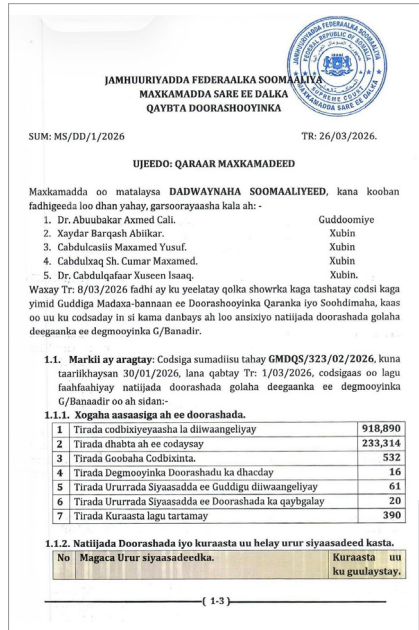


NIEBC Activities

Benadir District Council Elections Reach Final Milestone

The Benadir District Council elections have officially concluded with the swearing-in of all newly elected councillors on 2 April 2026. Somalia's Supreme Court validated the election results announced by the National Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (NIEBC) in January, providing full legal recognition and clearing the way for the new councils to take office.

The Court's decision validates the NIEBC's assessment that the elections were conducted transparently and in accordance with the electoral law. Following consultations with the participating political associations, 390 councillors from Benadir's 16 districts were formally sworn in, completing the transition from elections to governance and marking an important step forward for local democratic institutions in the capital.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Benadir District Council Elections Reach Final Milestone
- NIEBC continues Voter Registration in Southwest State, Northeastern State, Galmudug and Hirshabelle Federal Member States.
- IESG continues to provide technical and operational advice to NIEBC.
- Training of Trainers for Somalia Non-State Actors (SONSA) on Electoral Observation.

Official notice by the Supreme Court validating Benadir district council election results published on 28 March 2026. Photo Credit: Somalia Supreme Court Facebook page



Benadir district council members swearing-in on 2 April 2026. Photo Credit: NIEBC Facebook page.

NIEBC Activities Across the Federal Member States (FMS)



Citizens queuing to register in Jalalqsi district in Hirshabelle on 3 March 2026. Photo Credit: NIEBC Facebook page

Electoral preparations are continuing across Somalia's Federal Member States as the National Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (NIEBC) advances district council elections. The Commission recently announced the opening of the campaign period and the submission of candidate lists, while confirming the districts scheduled to participate in Southwest State, Hirshabelle, Galmudug, and the Northeastern state.

Voter registration has progressed at different stages across the states. In **Southwest State**, registration has been completed in Dinsoor, Burhakaba, and Bardale, bringing the total number of districts with finalized

registration to ten. Preparations are now focused on the next phase, including voter card distribution.

In **Galmudug**, voter registration has been finalized in six of the eleven districts planned for elections, with Galkacyo completing registration during the reporting period. Voter card distribution has yet to begin across the state.

Hirshabelle has completed voter registration in Bal'ad, while registration activities are underway in Mataban and Jalalaqsi in the Hiraan region. Overall, registration has taken place in five of the nine districts identified by NIEBC for elections in the state. Voter cards

have been delivered to Jowhar for use in Jowhar, Bal'ad, Adale, and Warshikh districts, ahead of distribution.

In the **Northeastern state**, voter registration in the state capital of Lasanod was completed earlier, with plans to expand registration to additional districts as preparations continue for upcoming district council elections.

Together, these activities reflect steady progress toward district-level elections across the Federal Member States, as NIEBC balances ongoing field operations with preparations for the next stages of the electoral process.

IESG Support to the NIEBC

IESG Delivers Election Logistics Deployment Plan

The Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) has supported the National Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (NIEBC) in the development and finalization of a district-level election logistics deployment plan. The plan is intended to guide NIEBC in the distribution and retrieval of polling materials as part of its operational responsibilities.

The plan outlines clear procedures for managing key polling assets, with a strong focus on timely delivery, accountability, and effective coordination across districts. By providing practical guidance for each stage of deployment, it is designed to help stream-

line field operations and mitigate logistical risks during elections.

This support underscores IESG's ongoing technical collaboration with NIEBC, aimed at strengthening operational readiness and enhancing the overall integrity of the electoral process.



IESG's Support in Navigating Constitutional Changes

During the reporting period, the National Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (NIEBC) sought technical support from the Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG) to review the implications of the proposed changes to the Federal Constitution on its electoral mandate. In response, IESG carried out a legal analysis of the draft constitutional provisions with direct relevance to NIEBC's role:

- Electoral models for the Federal President and Federal Parliament
- Electoral frameworks for Federal Member States' assemblies and leadership
- The status and representation of the Banadir Region
- Legal requirements for the formation of political associations and parties

Building on this work, the NIEBC will review the core electoral legislation, notably the NIEBC Law, the Electoral Law, and the Political Associations and Parties Law, to align them with the amended Constitution. IESG will provide technical assistance as needed to support the alignment of NIEBC's regulations and operational procedures with the revised legal framework.

Training of Trainers for Somalia Non-State Actors (SONSA) on Electoral Observation



Election Observation Training of Trainers for SONSA. Photo Credit: UNTMIS

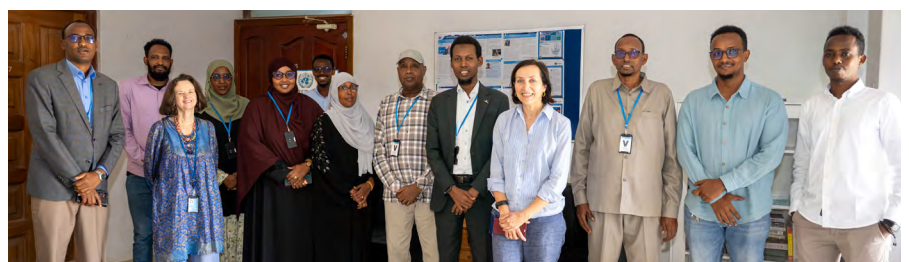
From 23 to 26 February 2026, IESG carried out a Training of Trainers on election observation for six participants from Somalia Non-State Actors (SONSA) using a cascade training approach, with the aim of strengthening the organization's capacity to independently train its own election observers. The training focused on key elements of a credible observation process, effective knowledge delivery, and practical methods for transferring skills to future observers.

By the end of the training, participants had developed a solid understanding of the fundamental principles of election observation,

including impartiality, transparency, and professionalism. They also gained practical knowledge on the use of standardized observation forms, the submission of uniform reports, and the importance of consistent and reliable documentation of findings. Furthermore, participants recognized the value of applying a standardized methodology to enhance the credibility and coherence of observation and reporting processes.

Civil society observation plays a vital role in strengthening electoral processes. In line with the IESG workplan and the EAD Policy Directive on Principles and Types of UN Electoral Assistance, this initiative supports the development of capable domestic observer groups that contribute to transparency and accountability in elections.

The overall objective of the Training of Trainers (ToT) was to promote national ownership and ensure the sustainability of domestic election observation efforts in Somalia. Following the training, the six participants are expected to train 18 additional trainers, who will in turn train domestic civil society observers.



Election Observation Training of Trainers for SONSA. Photo Credit: UNTMIS