

Institute for Strategic Insights and Research

Quarterly Report

Date: 16/07/2025

Reporting period: March- May 2025

1. Short Introduction

Provide short description of the report, timing and purpose not more than one paragraph

The Nala Shaah event took place in Burco on April 25, focusing on a paper about Budget Analysis to stimulate discussion. The purpose was to educate participants on the budgeting process and its decentralization. The panel, along with the paper's author, outlined the event's objectives in detail. After the discussion concluded, participants shared their reflections and comments.

On April 26, a discussion was held in parliament centered on legal drafting, highlighting its importance as a key function of the House of Representatives.

On May 3, a dialogue was held regarding parliamentary agenda research, concentrating on how the House of Representatives prepares the agenda for each session.

Project Updates

2. Key Activities Completed/Achievements (bullet points)

- Activity 1 Nala Shaah/Xildhibaanka La shaah
- Activity 2 Quarterly Debate (Discussion on legal drafting process in the parliament)
- Activity 3 Parliament Oversight
- Activity 4 Parliament Agenda Research Dialogue
- Activity 5 Gole Watch Posting Website, Twitter and Facebook

3. Stakeholder Engagement

- **Meetings/Events: List significant meetings, workshops, or events organized /attended with CSO, parliament or citizens**

Xildhibaanka La Shaah Event

In this quarter, the Nala Shaah event featured a presentation titled “Budget Analysis: How Decentralized Is It?” held in Burco on April 25, 2025. The focus was on the decentralization of Somaliland's budget, with the author sharing findings and recommendations with participants. This event served as a wake-up call for participants, regional coordinators, municipal leaders, and central government officials to reorganize and engage in meaningful discussions about decentralizing the budget for 2026, which is set for approval by the House of Representatives.

On May 7, a cabinet meeting addressed decentralized budget management at the district level, primarily reflecting on the discussions from the Nala Shaah event. This led to an impactful outcome, as participants voluntarily requested regional coordinators to emphasize that the next budget plan should be aligned with regional needs rather than solely focused on the national level.

The key takeaway from the event and subsequent discussions was that the new government recognized the importance of a decentralized budget. During a cabinet meeting on May 14, it was decided to move forward with decentralizing the budget, with a commitment from the government to implement this change promptly.

Discussion on the Legal Drafting Process in Parliament

On April 26, a debate session was held at the Sky Hotel in Hargeisa, concentrating on the legal drafting process within the House of Representatives. The primary goal of this session was to educate participants about the various stages involved in drafting laws or acts, which are later submitted to House members for their approval.

Legal drafting is a vital function of the House of Representatives, yet many citizens have limited understanding of this process and the necessary steps before an act receives approval. The quarterly debate aimed to bridge this knowledge gap by bringing together 20 participants, including both lawyers and ordinary citizens.

During the session, participants explored the essential steps in legal drafting that the House prioritizes when preparing legislation. This included discussions on the importance of clarity in language, the need for thorough research, and the role of public input in shaping proposed laws. By emphasizing these elements, the session sought to foster greater awareness and engagement among citizens regarding the legislative process.

Overall, the event provided a platform for dialogue and learning, ensuring that participants could better grasp the intricacies of legal drafting and its significance in the functioning of the House of Representatives.

[The Process of Legal Drafting of Somaliland – Gole Watch](#)

Parliament Oversight Visit Report

On April 20, 2025, the President of Somaliland delivered the annual constitutional address to Parliament, which included both the House of Representatives and the House of Elders. The main purpose of this address was to provide an overview of the country's current situation. The project team attended the House of Representatives to participate in the President's speech. During the address, the President highlighted key accomplishments of the government and outlined plans for future initiatives.

[President's Annual Speech in Parliament – Gole Watch](#)

Parliament Agenda Research Dialogue

On May 6 and May 8, a dialogue on agenda research was held at the Ambassador Hotel. The preparation of the parliamentary agenda is a crucial responsibility of the House of Representatives, with each session having its own specific agenda. The business committee prepares this agenda in advance and submits it to the House for voting and approval. Members of the House have the right to discuss and suggest changes before the agenda is approved.

The event aimed to educate citizens about the steps involved in agenda preparation and how the House of Representatives formulates its agenda. Fourteen participants, consisting of seven men and seven women, engaged in discussions to gain a comprehensive understanding of how the House prepares its agenda and initiates each session.

The agenda outlines the sessions, and after each session concludes, the House takes a four-week break. According to Article 21, the House of Representatives conducts three regular sessions, while Article 46 of the Constitution also addresses this. Participants gained insight into these articles, particularly Article 23aad of the House's code of conduct, which pertains to agenda preparation.

- **Stakeholder Feedback: Summary feedback from stakeholders,**

The participants of Nala Shaah from Burco are welcomed the debate and the discussions of the paper and requested to continue these debates.

- **Collaboration: state if there any collaboration efforts with other CSO**

CSOs have agreed to hold the upcoming coordination meeting at the House of Representatives office to enhance collaboration with the House. Additionally, they will jointly conduct sessions focused on debates concerning public interest issues being discussed in the House of Representatives.

4. Communication & Visibility

- **Publications/Media: indicate if there are any articles published or media coverage (provide links here)**

[The Process of Legal Drafting of Somaliland – Gole Watch](#)

[House of Representatives Approves Session 11 Agenda – Gole Watch](#)

- **Social Media Activity: Summary of social media activity related to the activity**
- Gole Watch on Twitter and Facebook shares updates on the House of Representatives, including released documents, approved acts, and notifications about member resets and the resumption of sessions.
- An infographic on budget analysis was shared to show citizens how the budget is allocated.

5. Limitation/challenges

The participation of the members of the house of representatives are very weak and not attending the debate session. The coincident of their activities may be a challenge to attend the debate.

6. Recommendations/next activities

- **Planned Activities: here provide the planned activities for the next reporting period**
 - Third CSOs coordination meeting
 - Quarterly debate
 - Nala Shaah event
 - Meeting with department of planning
 - Parliament oversights
- **Recommendations: provide any recommendations**

To enhance parliamentary oversight, it's beneficial to obtain a manual on the subject from Mzalede. It's important to focus on resources that support effective oversight.

Outcome Harvest

- The discussion on budget analysis was highly positive, and regional coordinators have agreed to hold regional-level discussions when preparing the 2026 budget analysis.
- The cabinet has agreed to meet for the approval of budget decentralization at the district level and has formed a committee to oversee the decentralization process.

- The youth organizations present at the session asked the author to prepare a specific presentation to clarify the budget details, and both the author and the youth agreed to do this.
- Some members of the Burco council conducted interviews after presenting a paper to discuss the challenges posed by Act 12 (General Tax), which needs to be revised, as it represents one of the biggest obstacles facing Burco. They also addressed the issues related to Act 73/2016 regarding customs laws.
- Burco Forums (Laas-Geel Institute) are created to initiate discussions on the development of Burco city and to strategize solutions for the socio-economic challenges it faces.

7. Annexes

- Annex. Success stories
- Annex. photos (provide high quality photos, printed visibility material)





Burco NALA Shaah Event



Parliament Agenda Research Dialogue