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THE PROGRAMME OF THE SOMALI REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST PARTY

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JAALLE MOHAMED SIAD BARRE

General Secretary of the SRSP

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INTRODUCTION:

This new programme of the Somali Revolutionary Socialst Party, which is the second of its kind is a modified version of the old programme which has functioned for a period of six years during which much experience was gained necessitating its revision and substitution by this programme which is a practical one and which gives expression to the present historical situation of the country.

The aim behind the adoption of this programme is not to change the general strategy of the country, but rather to make it more compatible with the true circumstances and real life conditions of the Somail people.

This programme brifly outlines the successive stages through which the Somail people's struggle for independence and unity has passed. That struggle did not end with the achievement of independence and unity, but entered another stage marked by the successful unification of popular forces and opposition to the post-colonial regimes which were characterised by the pursuit of their self-interests and subservience to colonialism. This brought about or precipitated into the country a revolutionary change which was fully justified since it took place at the ripening of its objective circumstances.

The progressive officers who carried out the 21 October, 1969 Revolution clearly pointed out the necessity to carry on the struggle of the Somail people, declaring in the 1st, 2nd and 3d charters of the Revolution the inevitability of realising the long-cherished aspirations

of the Somali people for a better life and a promising future.

In order to effect a profound transformation in the country, the Revolution has adopted the socialist system which is the only road leading to the achievement of speed progress and the creation of a new society free from expioitation and injustice.

Under the leadership of the revolutionary government, the country has taken progressive step that changed its political, economic, social and cultural structures, and paved the way for the creation of a society founded on equality, work and justice.

A programme is a statement of the objectives and general strategy which guide a party towards the development of its society, and conditions its tactical approach to the realisation of this strategy. Every party fashions its programme in accordance with its circumstances and historical experiences.

Therefore, this programme which has been laid before and approved by the Second Congress of the SRSP expresses the revolutionary change that should, in future, be implemented in the country.

it is a piedge clearly indicating the SRSP's plan for the development of the Somali people politically, economically, socially and culturally.

It is the duty of every party member and every citizen to study this programme, to apply it in his day to day living and to face any difficulty that may encounter him in that regard. This programme contains the essence of the Somali people's struggle and the experience gained by the SRSP during its existence. Its application and implementation lead to the building of a society in which equality and justice prevail.

I wish you success in your tasks.

Jalle Mohamed Siad Barre General Secretary of the SRSP.

THE HISTORY OF THE HUMAN SOCIETY:

The human society has entered the last quarter of the twenieth century. It has always yearned for the attainment of a social order ensuring for everyone a life worthy of a human being, and leading him to resist and break the bonds of servitude, colonialism and enslavement. This long struggle has today reached a stage where it is fully recognized that everything depends on the system of administration and the sincerity of the group that controls the friuts of the labour of society.

This fact become more established with the acheievement of higher levels of technological and economic development and with the maturation of the political consciousness of mankind. The development of mankind's political consciousness led to the evolvement of greater cohesion and solidarity among the oppressed classes who closed ranks in an effort to shake off the burden of their oppressors. Their movement, however, lacked a firm political and scientific basis.

With the help of deep researches concerning the history of mankind as well as the natural, social and economic sciences, progressive philosphers were able to give a clear, scientific definition to the history of the human society and the relations existing between its various classes, and to establish the general laws that should prevail in a social system based on justice and equality.

THE STRUGGLE OF THE SOMALI PEOPLE:

The Somali Democratic Republic is one of the African countries which gained their independence in 1960. Independence was won following a long struggle and fighting by the Somali people in order to regain their freedom, honour and soverignty.

The most prominent episodes in the Somali peole's long history of anti-colonial struggle and resistance are: The war led by the great hero, Ahmed Gurey, the freedom struggle of Sayid Mohamed Abdille Hassan, and the independence movement led by the political parties which began during World War II.

These and numerous other movements had the following objectives as their motive force:

- a) To gain freedom from colonialism;
- b) To unite the Somali people;
- c) To wipe out the vestiges of such backward. practices as tribalism, clannism and regionalism; and proceed on the erection of a democratic state shared by all.

The colonialst rate that enslaves our country and people for so long had brought to us a culture that was different from the one indigenous to our people. It consisted of the worst and least worthy parts of European cultures, and the Somali people gained nothing from it except disappontment and loss.

Moreover, no development of any significance was realised in the country during the colonial era. Colonialism contributed nothing to economic and social advancement in the country; it rather deprived the Somali people the science and the technology which the progress of any nation depends on.

Colonial administrations disseminated and greatly encouraged such bad practices as murder, looting, robbery work apathy, mishandling of public property, bribery, tribalism, regionalism, the incitement of people against one another and the creation of confrontations between them in order to fulfill their notorious policy of "Divide and Conquer".

THE VICTORY OF INDEPENDENCE

After a long struggle, two parts of the Somali territory partitioned by colonialism gained their independence in 1960 and united to form the Republic of Somalia.

Exposing its reactionary nature, the new leadership that enherited the rule of the country in 1960 turned its back on the interests of the somali people who had just emerged from their long struggle for freedom. This was due to ignorance, lack of planning and a relapse into tribalist practices on the part of the post-colonial leadership, a fact which led to the complete suspension of the people's legal rights. Instead of increasing production and improving living standards, theft, robbery and irresponsible spending of public funds in the service of personal interests became the order of the day.

Unemployment, disease, hunger and ignorance became rife; security and order nearly collapsed; favouritism, murder, tribalism, robbery and corruption surfaced to reach unprecedented levels; numerous political parties approaching eighty-eight in number with tribal-and personal-interest objectives were set up which led to political instability and contributed greatly to the creation of a chaotic atmosphere in the country and the worsening of its problems.

The Somali masses and workers were greatly dismayed by bleak situation, and they expressed their mounting anger and frustration by alternately fighting and demonstrating against the corrupt reactionary adminstrations.

The opposition movement, however, lacked coordination, organization and unity, a fact which unnecessarily delayed the overcoming of those unbearable conditions.

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THE ADVENT OF THE 21 OCTOBER 1969 REVOLUTION:

In these circumstances of instablility and strain, the armed forces, led by progressive officers, saved the Somali nation and rose to its defence by bringing about the revolution of 21 October 1969 which stood for the interests of the people.

This take-over of power was not aimed at furthering the private interests of the armed forces, but was prompted by the feeling of the armed forces that they were dutybound to fulfill the heavy responsibilities that they had under-taken, namely the defence of the motherland and the safe-guarding of the people's interests against any robber and crook from outside the country or from within.

The armed forces and the popular forces supporting the Revolution recognized from the beginning the need to establish a democratic form of revolutionary government, and to reverse existing social relations until the attainment by every citizen of employment, security and equality. The word "democratic" that was added to the former name of "The Somali Republic" denotes that objective.

In the first charter of the Revolution, the Supreme Revolutionary Council declared the philosophy and objectives of the Revolution, which included the creation in Somalia of a new society founded on justice, hard work and social equality.

Striving towards the realisation of these goals, the revolutionary government has effected a profound positive change in the economic, political and social fields as well as in the areas of defence and seccurity.

At the same time, it launched a bitter campaign againist the negative practices and habits cultivated and left behind by the colonial regimes, promoting in their place progressive Somali costums based on patriotism, respect for work and comradeship. It also laid great emphasis on the revival and encouragement of the possitive Somali culture and traditions long suppressed by colonialism.

The adoption of a Somali script, the creation of the national university, the implementation of compulsory education, the successive educational and social development campaigns, and the educational programmes constantly broadcast over the radio are all courageous steps taken by the Revolution in order to transform the Somali society and to root out the negative practices and attitudes left behind by colonialism, and to bestow a clean culture on the Somali people.

The Revolutionary government eliminated the murder and banditry which were rampant; it rekindled the waning hope of the Somali people; it laid down a detailed policy oriented towards serving the interests of the people, giving full participation in the administration to the masses in the country's regions, districts and villages.

The SRC's Political Office the Presidency played an important and fruitful role in the establishment of a profound rapport between the SDR leadership and the masses. It organised and mobilised the masses and workers and considerably raised their political awareness.

It was the first time in the history of the country that the people actively participated in the constrution and administration of the country. This cemented the close relations and mutual trust existing between the masses and their revolutionary leadership. This fact is amply demonstrated by the prominent role the people played in the implementation of the various national projects such as the successive campaigns launched with the aim of realising all—round development for the society.

The aims behind all these measures were:

- a) To weed out neo—colonialist policies, and clean up the administration in order to get rid of internal revisionists.
- b) To create the material basis necessary for the achievement of economic, political and social progress.
- c) To lay the foundation for the long process of building, in accordance with its socio economic system, a society based on equality and justice.
- d) To breed able people with enough political awareness and a high level of intellectual attainment who will realise the objectives of the Revolution.

The promise of the revolutionary leadership to guide the country along a clear—cut path culminating in the realisation of the aspirations of the Somali people and workers was fullfilled when, in the Second Charter of the Revolution, it was declared that the Socialist system is the only road that can lead to the realisation of the Somali people's aspirations. Hence the country has entered a difficult stage of transition which abounds in characteristic confrontations and through which we must pass the help of constant struggle, steadfastness and unity.

THE CREATION OF THE SRSP

With the attainement of political maturity by the workers and masses, when the pressing need for the creation of a political organisation to guide the course of the Revolution and safeguard its achievements became clear; and in application of the spirit of the First, Second and Third charters of the Revolution, The Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party was founded on 1st July, 1976.

1. The Outlook of the SRSP:—

The Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party is a party of a new type and different from those political organisations that existed before the Revolution; it is a vanguard party aiming at building a society based on justice, equality, unity and progress.

It is a true revolutionary party because its aim is not only to take over power in the country but olso to carry out a revolutionary transformation with a solid economic basis.

It rapresents and protects the true interests of the Somali people, particularly the workers and the other progressive forces of society.

The Party is not one within which futile and meaningless arguments are conducted. It is rather the organizer, educator, supporter and guide of the masses.

It has the power and capability to apply the laws of socialism to the particular circumstances of the country; to foresee and fulfill its obligations at every stage, and to formulate a comprehensive programme regarding the issues of the state's internal and external policies.

The Revolution, fulfilling its promise in the first charter, adopted, in 1979, a democratic constitution. At the same time, free general elections were held leading to the formation of the People's Assemblies at both the national and regional levels.

These institutions, adhering to their internal regualtions, put into effect the programme of the Party and the constitution of the country.

The Party guides the general policy of the State, and directly collaborates with the government in the execution of the latter's action plan; it carries out the organization, mobilisation and orientation of the masses as well as the raising of their political consciousness through such social organizations as the labour, Youth, Women an Co—operative unions.

Since the Party is the supreme political organ in the state, it is obligatory that it direct the activities of the social organizations and governament institutions.

The Party should ensure the provision of guidance, inspection and rectification of the political, economic and social activities of the state.;

2. The Creation of The Party Cadre

In order to build a progressive society, the preparation, cultivation and appropriate distribution of the Party cadre is of particular importance. The Faculty of Political Sciences plays a major role in this field.

The faculty is the educator, promoter and supporter of the Party cadre and the mass organizations, and is also the highest centre for the dessimination of the political and social knowledge consistent with the culture and traditions of the somali people.

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The basis for the creation of the cadre is the teachings and experiences of the socialist system. And this will enable us to get the criteria for the proper selection of the required cadre.

A candidate should be admitted on the basis of his revolutionary dediction, working ability, sincerity, conduct, trustworthiness, tolerance, knowledge, or his extra credit based on a special occupational skill.

In this new stage of our revolutionary struggle led by the SRSP, it is imperative to recruit the cadre that would carry out the weighty and historical responsabilities at hand. We should also take advantage of the experience which has been gained by the Revolution since its inception.

It is therefore, the duty of all party officials to assume the responsability of conscientiously recruiting the party cadre through the maintainance of direct links with the masses.

DEFENCE AND SECURITY

Since the defence and security of the state have top priority and are basic to its existence, the defence capability of the armed forces should be enhanced and reinforced by the participation of all citizens in the activities of national defence. Special importance should be given to the fulfillment and proper execution of the duties of the armed forces in order to ensure the independence, sovereignty and dignity of the somali people

The armed forces whose members have emerged from and belong to the ranks of the somali people have played a leading role in the construction of our country Having in view the interests of their people and acting on their behalf, they planned and executed the Oktober Revolution and now vigilantly safeguard its achievements, maintain secutiry and stability in the country and take a lion's share in the construction of the new society.

The Party believes that in this new progressive stage the armed forces of the SDR are still playing a prominent role in the society, and are simultaneously carrying out their duties in the fields of defence and national development.

The Party pays special attention to the enhancement of the national defence capability, and recognizes the necessity of meeting the technological needs of the armed forces, the raising of their combat readiness, the development of their special skills and political awareness and the inculcation in their members of a spirit of patriotism and self—sacrifice for the motherland.

The Party is constantly preoccupied with the defending and safeguarding of the Revolution's gains and achievements against the plotting of both internal and external reactionaries as well as anti—somali traitors; it preoccupies itself with the fostering of security and stability and protection of the laws of the country; it is also concerned with the reinforcement of the National Security Service, the Police Force and the People's Militia by improving the level of their technical skills, education and political maturity and by recruiting their members from the ranks of those who believe in and adhere to the principles of the Revolution.

THE EXTERNAL POLICY OF THE PARTY

The progressive external policy of the SDR is a reflection of the revolutionary essence of our internal policy.

The external policy of our Revolution is inspired by the nature of the present era, and is an inseparable part of the world revolutionary movement which is struggling for freedom, democracy and peaceful co—existence among the people's of the world.

Therefore, the Party endeavours to realise those principless stated in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd charters of the Revolution and to execute the tasks currently at hand which include the following:

- 1. To continue the struggle against all forms of colonialism, neo—colonialism and apartheid for the sake of peaceful co—existence and the realisation of national independence as well as international peace and security.
- 2. To strengthen, as was clearly stated in the 1st charter of the Revolution, the country's foreign policy which is based on adherence to the principles of positive neutrality.
- 3. To further cement co—operative relations with every willing state and nation on the basis of mutual respect, peaceful co—existence and equal collaboration.
- 4. To support the co—operation of African peoples, and extend assistance to the national freedom movements struggling for the attainment of full independence.

- 5. To endeavour towards the implementation and fostering of greater co—operation among African countries, particularly in the region of eastern Africa, and the settlement of their disputes by peaceful means and through mutual understanding.
- 6. To fully support and recognize the just struggle of the Western Somali People who are languishing under the yoke of colonisation in order for them to attain their freedom and independence.
- 7. The Somali people are part and parcel of the Arab nation and support the just struggle of the Arab nation against the attacks and oppression of colonialism and Zionism in order to free the occupied Arab lands and restore the legal rights of the Palestinian people.
- 8. To actively participate in the activities of the Arab League, the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the United Nations Organization, the non—aligned movement, and other international organizations.
- To faster stronger international relations, recognizing all the international commitments of the SDR.
- 10. The SRSP opposes all forms of foreigns intervention, and belives that differences arising between African countries should be solved through peaceful negotiations with a view to finding just and durable solutions for these differences.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Economics forms the basis for the life of society, and the level of a nation's economic development can serve as a true measure of its progress or backwardness.

In our country, livestock, agriculture, fisheries, industries and the as—yet—unexploited mineral wealth together form the basis of our economy. Our economic development and the improvement of the somali people's living standards depend upon our perseverance in the exploitation and utilization of these economic resources of ours.

Hence, the general economic obligations of the Party are: the elimination of economic backwardness, the upgrading of technical knowledge and the creation of the technological and material base necessary for the realisation of economic growth.

In order to achieve these goals, the following steps should be taken:

1. Planning:

- a. The implementation of a comprehensive scientific plan which guides our economic and social policies, fully exploiting the manpower and material resources of the nation.
- b. The modernisation of our planning instruments and the selection of qualified experts for it.
- c. The proper planning of our manpower, and the preparation of the experts, technicians and skilled workers necessary for the implementation of that plan.

- d. The decentralization of governament administration and its extension to the regions and districts so that the whole nation can partake in the preparation and implementation of the development plan leading to the attainment of a balanced socio—economic development.
- e. To endeavour for the success of economic projects, and their protection against delays and sabotage, paying special attention to the selection of the officials and workers engaged in their implementation.
- f. The creation of job opportunities in order to combat unemployement.

2. Public and Private Property:-

- a) The government must fully plan and conserve the main economic resources of the country, a measure of fundamental importance to the development of the national economy.
- b) The encouragement of private investment from inside and outside the country, and the proper utilization of this investment in the fields of industry, arrigulture, livestock, fisheries, commerce and adminstration so that it will play a prominent role in the realisation of economic growth.

3. Livestock Development

a) To bring about the development, on all sides, of our livestock and herdsmen who constitute the backbone of our economy, paying due attention to the conservation of grazing lands, and the promotion of animal health and husbandry.

- b) To introduce new, more productive and qualitatively superior breeds of livestock.
- c) To establish a more balanced income distribution between country and town dwellers, extending public services and utilities to the rural areas in order to forestall migration into the towns and the consequent rise of urban unemployment.
- d) To set up State and Co-operative livestock breeding centres in order to satisfy the people's need for their products.
- e) To protect the country's game and wildlife against illegal hunting, and set up zoos where they can be cared for.
- f) To conserve and develop the pastures, ranges and forests of the country in order to prevent soil erosion.

4. Agricultural Reformation

It is imperative to increase agricultural productivity and encourage farmers to intensify their toil, always giving top priority to the cultivation of the basic food crops essential for the livelihood of the people.

The fulfillment of this task calls for the adoption of the following measures:-

- a) The cultivation of new arable lands.
- b) The creation of government and co-operative farms that will contribute to the boosting of agricultural production.



- c) To employ modern agricultural technology and reinforce such agriculture-related activities as the maintenance of machinery, the production of fertilizers and the utilization of electric power.
- d) Ti increase the production of those crops already grown in our country and introduce new ones in order to guarantee the adequate supply of agricultural produce to the population and the factories, and to create a State reserve to resort to in times of stress and famine.
- e) To carry on further the settlement of our nomadic population in order to bring about transition from nomadism to a settled, higher mode of living based on the system of co-operatives.
- f) To organize and encourage the formation of people's co-operatives for production, and to reinforce their role in the economy, particularly those of agriculture, livestock, fishing, etc.



5. Industrialization

Industrialization is the symbol of national progress, and as such should get our maxmimum attention. This dictates that we take the following steps in order to realise industrial development:-

- a) To consolidate and develop the state-owned industrial sector and, at the same time, encourage private industries-to basic requirements for the realization of progress and national economic development.
- b) To build new factories and reinforce existing ones so as to lessen dependence on imported goods.
- c) To give priority to the construction of factories the raw materials of which can be available in the country.
- d) To solve the problem of unemployment and, at the same time, satisfy the public needs of manufactured goods.

6. Water and Mineral Resources

- To find a way for the extensive supply of water to the population, livestock, farms and factories; harnessing rain water, streams and rivers.
- b) To, appropriatly utilize river water and prevent the damage caused by floods.
- c) To intensify the exploration and exploitation of the country's minerals and underground water in collaboration with the friendly governments and organizations that can assist us in this field.

d) To intensify the studies of the various sources of energy (sunlight, wind, steam, etc) in order to dispense with the burning of wood for fuel and with dependence on the outside world for our energy needs.

7. Transportation and Communication

- a) To develop land, air and marine transportation by the extension and improvement of roads, highways, bridges, ports and airports; and to promote the services of posts and telecommunications.
- b) To set up and develop a communications system designed to meet the internal needs of the country and provide an effective link with the outside world.
- To develop telecommunications and the radio broadcasting service, and also to implement the television project.

8. Marine Resources

Since we have a very long coast, we should exploit our marine resources and increase our ocean-related productivity.

In order to effectively implement this task, it is mandatory to:-

- a) Build new dockyards for manufacturing fishing vessels and fishing implements, and reinforce those already in existence.
- b) Upgrade the skill of those engaged in sea activities, and improve the system of their adminstration.

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- c) Raise the quality and quantity of marine science institutes.
- d) Put emphasis on the effective processing, storage and marketing inside and outside the country of our sea products.

9. The Policy of Finance and Currency Exchange

Finance is one of the grave issues that need an immediate scientific solution in order to counter economic problems. Therefore, it is mandatory to:

- a) Implement the unification of the state budget and the system of accounting.
- b) Implement the policy of development and currency exchange that is aimed at the encouragement of production, the countering of inflation and the consolidation of the value of the somali shilling.
- c) The State's hard currency reserves can be bolstered and increased by increasing production, promoting more industries, farms, financial institutions, and by boosting internal and external trade as well as by the effective organisation and implementation of the taxation system.

10. External & Internal Trade

A External Trade:

- To develop external trade on the basis of parity and mutual benefit.
- To increase and encourage the exportation of existing export items while cutting back on the importation of luxuries.

3. To import those materials essential for the development of the national economy.

B. Internal Trade:

- 1. The government should determine and control the prices of those commodities meant for domestic consumption.
- 2. The government should organise the distribution of goods to the country's regions and districts and ensure that they reach their destinations in order to curb inflation and black-marketing.

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

One of the main objectives behind the breakout of the Revolution was to build a new society which achieves an all-round development.

Therefore, in pursuit of that goal, the Party sets for itself the following tasks:-

1. Education

- a) To raise the quality of education at its various levels, particularly the university, in order to produce competent cadres. It is also necessary to relate our education to production.
- b) To design the education curriculum in accordance with our needs for economic, social and cultural development, and for raising productivity.
- c) To instill in the minds of students the spirit of patriotism, sound moral behaviour and aversion to negative and reactionary customs.

d To increase the number of technical and vocational schools in order to create qualified technicians and do away with the educational system that is not production-oriented.

To strengthen the Arabic languages Study Programme, revising at the same time the basic curriculum for teaching of important foreign languages.

- f. To proceed on to the implementation of compulsory education at the intermediate school levels which can be attained by the construction of fully staffed and adequately equipped schools.
- g. To expand and reinforce adult and working youth education, and to make more permanent the Rural Development Programme.
- h. To expand kindergartens, and accomadate orphans and children of poor parents in Revolutionary Youth Centres where they could be provided for with care.

2. Health & insurance

- a. To develop health and upgrade the knowledge and skill of doctors, nurses and, in general, all health personnel.
- b. To endeavour towards the realisation of free medical care for the public, increasing the number of health centres such as outpatient dispensaries, hospitals, etc, and fitting them with modern medical equipment.
- c. To create national factories for the production of medicine in order to solve the problem of medicine shortage.



- d. To prevent and combat the spread of epidemic diseases.
- e. To take the necessary steps for the development of Mother and Child Health Care services (MCH).
- f. To organize and launch campaigns aimed at raising awareness of the necessity for promoting public health.
- g. To complete and fully organize the system for the protection and improvement of labour compensation and social insurance.

3. Justice

In order to realise a society based on equality and justice, the Party should endeavour to achieve the following:-

- a. To ensure that the citizens fully exercise their rights and duties.
- b. To ensure that the application of justice encompasses the political, economic and social aspects of life.
- c. To consolidate the role of the jury in courts, and involve the people in the juridical process.
- d. To ensure public security and stability.

4. Culture

The adoption of an official script for the somali language has greatly enhanced the process of modernization and the development of culture and literature in the somali society. Therefore, it is necessary to take the following steps in order to consolidate our gains in this fields:-



- a. .To put emphasis on the revival of the Somali people's history and cultural heritage, and to renovate and care for the various historical sites and buildings that show the long struggle of the somali people for their independence, and to initiate researches into the history of the land, the people and their culture.
- b. To encourage the arts, literature and folklore dances of the somali people.
- c. To combat such negative customs and habits as tribalism, favouritism, regionalism, licquor and Khat consumption as well as the other practices that lead to moral disintegration in society, and to enhance the development of positive hobbies among the population.
- d. To lay down a solid foundation for the development of sports, which is of great benefit to our youth because it inculcates in them the love of work and the spirit of patriotism necessary for the defence of the mother-land.
- In order to solve the problem of homelessness afflicting the workers and the population at large, every institution should construct residential units for it workers.

THE ISLAMIC RELIGION

Islam is the religious faith of the somali people, and has played a significant role in the somali people's struggle against colonialism, oppression and ignorance. It is common knowledge that Islam calls for equality, justice and the progress of its peoples.

Having this in mind, the revolutionary government has restored to the Islamic religion its sacred status, and directly fulfilled its dissemination through the development of religious learning centres and the construction of more mosques.

The Party shall be on its guard and keep a watchful eye on those elements that engage in distorting the Islamic religion.

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