

Mogadishu, Somalia, October 3 (Infosplusgabon) - Somali President Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo's popularity rating has dropped by a massive 19% to 67% within one year, according to a new opinion poll conducted by Ipsos and Farsight Africa Research.

The opinion poll whose results were released Tuesday, was conducted in six regions in Somalia, ahead of the Horn of Africa nation's first universal suffrage vote in 2020 since the country's fall into anarchy.

President Mohamed, popularly known as Farmajo, was elected in early 2017 during a Parliamentary session, where he defeated his rival, then President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud.

Mohamud was named interim Chairman of a new political party, Union for Peace and Democracy, which is set to be launched officially on Thursday.

President Farmajo is also expected to announce the name of the political party he intends to run on during the forthcoming national elections.

Ahead of the one-man-one vote, a first for Somalia in recent time, French firm, Ipsos Limited and Farsight Africa Research conducted the Confidence Index Survey on Somali Citizens, which reported the decline in the President's popularity.

The survey sought to assess the economic and security perceptions of the Federal Government of Somalia and its institutions.

According to the survey findings, 42% of the citizens feel the general economic conditions have been static over the last one year. Another 48% feel that the country is headed in the right direction.

However, there are regional variations such as in the case of Banadir region, which houses the capital city of Mogadishu. Some 34% of the city residents feel that the country is headed in the wrong direction.

Identifiable factors in Banadir attribute this to perceived insecurity, corruption, misuse of funds as well as slow economic growth.

The significant lack of confidence on the Presidency is linked to the corruption and mismanagement of funds as well as the slow rate of economic growth.

The Somali leader's popularity rating dropped from 86% in 2017 to 67%.

Similarly, Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khairé's confidence ratings among the citizens dipped from 83% in 2017 to 62%. The Cabinet also suffered a significant loss in confidence rating, dropping from 86% in 2017 to 49% at present.

“The leaders in government are fast losing popularity among citizens. It is crucial that the areas that we have highlighted – where confidence is low among the citizens – are addressed with the view to satisfy the citizens' needs,” said Anthony Ndirangu, Research Director at IPSOS/Farsight.

The public confidence in the Somali Police Force and the Somali National Army have equally decreased suggesting Somali citizens strongly believe they have been failed by the entities charged with the responsibility of securing the country and safeguarding their peace.

Popularity of the regional presidents was generally low in the regions. Out of the six regions sampled only two regional federal state presidents had more than 50% confidence rating.

These are Southwest State with 55% and Jubbaland with 52%.

The rest had scores ranging from 43% and 31% with the lowest confidence score registered by Puntland at 31%.

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