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African Union Mission for Somalia

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## ***PRESS RELEASE***

***AU Deputy Special Representative warns spoilers against intimidating members of the Technical Selection Committee (TSC).***

***Mogadishu-August 14th, 2012;*** The Deputy Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (DSRCC) for Somalia, Honorable Wafula Wamunyinyi has noted with great concern the behavior of some disgruntled individuals who are desperately trying to intimidate members of the Technical Selection Committee (TSC) by sending death threats through anonymous text messages and phone calls. Honorable Wamunyinyi has also noted with regret reports that some political leaders are involved in interfering with the work of TSC members.

The AU Deputy Special Representative while condemning these deplorable acts reaffirmed the African Union's commitment to supporting the people of Somalia in the implementation of activities towards the end of the transition and sternly warned that AMISOM along with other members of the international community will not allow spoilers to derail the process. He said; "No amount of intimidation will stop the process of ending the transition from moving forward and the criteria for selecting delegates will have to be followed."

The AU Deputy Special Representative said it is important to note that this is the longest period of peace that Somalia has enjoyed since the fall of a central government in 1991 saying there have been sacrifices to get to where we are and that AMISOM will not allow anybody to disrupt the peace process.

"At this critical point of Somalia's political process of ending the transitional period, an opportunity has been availed for the people of Somalia to determine the destiny of their country. I therefore wish to reiterate my earlier calls to all stakeholders to refrain from acts and statements that may distract the ongoing progress and a new dawn of peace enjoyed in Mogadishu and most parts of the country."

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