



# **CIVIL SERVICE INSTITUTE**

## **DEPARTMENT OF LAW**

**TITLE:-**

**ASSESSING THE INFLUENCE OF THE NATIONAL PROSECUTION ON CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS  
IN SOMALILAND: A CASE STUDY OF THE SOMALILAND PROSECUTION OFFICE**

**Submitted By**

**Abdifatah Mohamed Yousuf**

**Student ID**

**CSI-LLB-4809-2025**

**Advisor**

**Ahmed Awil Elmi**

**A Research thesis Submitted to the Department of Law LLB, Civil Service Institute, in Partial  
Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Award of Bachelor Degree in Civil Service Institute.**

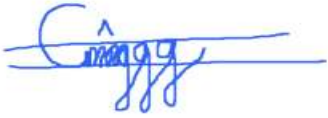
**July 2025,**

**Hargeisa, Somaliland**

## DECLARATION

I, **Abdifatah Mohamed Yousuf**, do hereby declare that “**Assessing the Influence of the National Prosecution on Criminal Investigations in Somaliland,**” is my own original work, and no one else has partially or fully submitted to any other University for an Award of Degree or other qualification and that all sources that I have used or have quoted from have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references.

Name of Graduate Candidate **Abdifatah Mohamed Yousuf**

Signature: 

Date: 17/07/2025

This Thesis has been submitted for Examination with my approval as University Advisor.

Name of Advisor: **Ahmed Awil Elmi**

Date: 17/07/2025

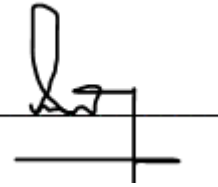
Signature: 

## APPROVAL

The undersigned certify that they have read and hereby recommend to the Civil Service Institute the acceptance of the thesis submitted by **Abdifatah Mohamed Yousuf**, entitled “Assessing The Influence of The National Prosecution on Criminal Investigations in Somaliland: A Case Study of The Somaliland Prosecution Office” in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of a **Bachelor's Degree in Law**.

Name of Advisor: **Ahmed Awil Elmi**.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: 17/07/2025

Name of the Internal Examiner : \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of External Examiner: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this work to my beloved mother, Hodan Madahey Hassan, whose endless sacrifices, prayers, and unconditional love have been the backbone of my success. Your resilience and support have carried me through every challenge.

To my dear sisters, Hani Harir Mohamed and Asha Mohamed Yousuf, thank you for your constant encouragement, motivation, and belief in my potential. Your love and presence have always inspired me to aim higher. You are not just my sisters, but also my greatest supporters — always giving me motivation, speaking well of me, and believing in me even when I wasn't sure of myself. Without your love and support, I would not have reached this far.

This thesis is also dedicated to my extended family, friends, and everyone who has contributed to my personal and academic growth, whether through advice, support, or simply believing in me.

May Allah (SWT) reward you all abundantly

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am profoundly thankful to **Allah (SWT)** for granting me the courage, endurance, willingness, and abilities to complete this work. **Allah (SWT)** is the ultimate source of all blessings, and I am deeply appreciative of His guidance and support throughout this endeavor.

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to my dear family, including **my mother, Hodan Madahey Hassan**, and **my Sisters, Hani Harir Mohamed and Asha Mohamed Yousuf** as well as all those who have stood by my side. I extend my heartfelt thanks for their understanding and unwavering support during the process of writing this research thesis. Their patience, understanding, and encouragement have been invaluable, and I am always cherishing their contributions.

Additionally, I would like to convey my appreciation to **Ahmed Awil Elmi** , a trusted advisor, for his invaluable and dedicated guidance. Without his patience and significant input, this thesis would not have achieved success. He has been a constant source of inspiration, believing in the potential of this thesis from the beginning and providing continuous guidance to enhance its quality. I am truly grateful for his passion and commitment to improving my work, and his contributions will always be cherished.

To all those who have supported and motivated me throughout this journey, I offer my heartfelt gratitude. Your belief in my abilities and unwavering support have been a constant source of inspiration. May Allah (SWT) bestow upon you peace, happiness, and continued success.

## LIST OF TABLES

|                           |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| Table 1 Budget Frame..... | 36 |
| Table 2 Time Frame.....   | 37 |

# TABLE OF CONTENT

|                                                                                                      |           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| DECLARATION .....                                                                                    | i         |
| APPROVAL .....                                                                                       | ii        |
| DEDICATION .....                                                                                     | iii       |
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENT .....                                                                                | iv        |
| LIST OF TABLES .....                                                                                 | v         |
| ABSTRACT .....                                                                                       | ix        |
| <b>CHAPTER ONE:- INTRODUCTION</b> .....                                                              | <b>1</b>  |
| 1.1 Background of the Study .....                                                                    | 1         |
| 1.2 Problem Statement .....                                                                          | 3         |
| 1.3 Research Objectives .....                                                                        | 5         |
| 1.3.1 General Objective .....                                                                        | 5         |
| 1.3.2 Specific Objectives .....                                                                      | 5         |
| 1.4 Significance of the Study .....                                                                  | 5         |
| 1.5 Scope of the Study .....                                                                         | 6         |
| 1.6 Description of the Study Area/Organization .....                                                 | 7         |
| 1.9 Limitations of the Study .....                                                                   | 7         |
| <b>CHAPTER TWO:- LITERATURE REVIEW</b> .....                                                         | <b>10</b> |
| 2.0 Introduction .....                                                                               | 10        |
| 2.1 Theoretical and Legal Frameworks of the National Prosecution's Role in Criminal Investigations . | 10        |
| 2.1.1 Definition and Features of the Prosecution Office .....                                        | 10        |
| 2.1.2 The Rule of Law Theory .....                                                                   | 10        |
| 2.1.3 Institutionalism Theory .....                                                                  | 12        |
| 2.1.4 Legal Realism .....                                                                            | 12        |
| 2.2 Role of the Prosecutor .....                                                                     | 12        |
| 2.2.1 Relationship of the Prosecution to the Criminal Investigations .....                           | 14        |
| 2.3 Mandated Roles and Responsibilities of the Somaliland Prosecution Office .....                   | 15        |
| 2.4 Integrated Investigation-Prosecution Models in Comparative Perspective .....                     | 15        |
| 2.5 Barriers to Independent and Effective Prosecutorial Oversight .....                              | 17        |
| 2.6 Legal and Institutional Framework of the Prosecution Office in Somaliland .....                  | 17        |

|                                                                |           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 2.7 Gaps in the Literature .....                               | 19        |
| 2.8 Conclusion .....                                           | 19        |
| <b>CHAPTER THREE:- RESEARCH METHODOLOGY .....</b>              | <b>20</b> |
| 3.0 Introduction .....                                         | 20        |
| 3.1 Research Design .....                                      | 20        |
| 3.2 Study Area .....                                           | 20        |
| 3.3 Target Population.....                                     | 21        |
| 3.4 Sampling Techniques and Sample Size .....                  | 21        |
| 3.5 Sources of Data .....                                      | 22        |
| 3.5.1 Primary Sources.....                                     | 22        |
| 3.5.2 Secondary Sources.....                                   | 22        |
| 3.6 Data Collection Methods .....                              | 22        |
| 3.7 Data Analysis Techniques.....                              | 23        |
| 3.8 Ethical Considerations.....                                | 24        |
| 3.9 Limitations of the Methodology .....                       | 24        |
| 3.10 Conclusion.....                                           | 24        |
| <b>CHAPTER FOUR:- ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS.....</b> | <b>25</b> |
| 4.0 Introduction .....                                         | 25        |
| 4.1 Background and Role Understanding .....                    | 25        |
| 4.2 Legal Framework and Mandate .....                          | 25        |
| 4.3 Prosecutorial Oversight and Practice .....                 | 26        |
| 4.4 Institutional Challenges .....                             | 26        |
| 4.5 Inter-Agency Collaboration .....                           | 27        |
| 4.6 Reform and Improvement .....                               | 27        |
| <b>CHAPTER FIVE :- CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....</b>     | <b>28</b> |
| 5.1 Conclusion .....                                           | 28        |
| 5.2 Conclusion.....                                            | 29        |
| 5.3 Recommendations .....                                      | 30        |
| <b>REFERENCES.....</b>                                         | <b>32</b> |
| <b>APPENDICES .....</b>                                        | <b>34</b> |
| Appendix I Semi-Structured Interview.....                      | 34        |
| Appendix II: Doctrinal Legal Documents Reviewed .....          | 36        |



Appendix IV: BUDGET FRAME..... 36

Appendix V: Time Frame ..... 37

## ABSTRACT

*This study examines the role and influence of the Somaliland Prosecution Office in overseeing criminal investigations, focusing on the institutional, legal, and practical dynamics that define prosecutorial oversight in the Republic of Somaliland. Despite constitutional and legal mandates particularly focus on the practical application of Article 12 of the Criminal Procedure Code which empower the Office of the Attorney General to direct police investigations, the actual implementation of prosecutorial supervision remains inconsistent and largely ineffective. The research addresses this gap by exploring how prosecutorial involvement shapes investigation quality, evidence reliability, and procedural fairness.*

*A qualitative descriptive methodology was employed, combining doctrinal legal analysis and semi-structured interviews with sixteen key stakeholders, including prosecutors, police officers, judges, and defense lawyers in Hargeisa. The findings reveal that while the legal framework grants prosecutors a supervisory role, in practice, they are often excluded from early investigative stages due to institutional constraints, resource limitations, and lack of coordination mechanisms. Furthermore, political interference and the absence of formalized inter-agency protocols significantly hinder prosecutorial independence and efficacy.*

*The study concludes that the prosecutorial function in Somaliland, though legally significant, remains underutilized due to systemic challenges and operational ambiguity. It recommends strengthening the legal enforcement of prosecutorial mandates, enhancing institutional capacity, promoting inter-agency collaboration, and safeguarding prosecutorial independence. These reforms are essential to ensure the rule of law, protect human rights, and improve the credibility of criminal justice in Somaliland.*

# CHAPTER ONE:- INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background of the Study

Prosecutors are the essential agents of the administration of justice, and as such should respect and protect human dignity and uphold human rights, thus contributing to ensuring due process and the smooth functioning of the criminal justice system. Prosecutors also play a key role in protecting society from a culture of impunity and function as gatekeepers to the judiciary. A prosecution office is generally defined as a public institution authorized to initiate legal proceedings against individuals accused of crimes (GARNER, 2004)

The prosecution office refers to a government entity led by the Attorney General, responsible for overseeing and directing criminal investigations and ensuring that suspects prosecuted lawfully. Police officers are individually responsible for using these powers in accordance with the law these powers should be necessary and proportionate and compatible with human rights and equalities legislation (ELLISON, 2025).

Police investigations are one part of a larger legal process in which police coordinate with other institutions, such as the district attorney or prosecutors office (the *fiscal* or *ministerio público* in much of Latin America). This separation of powers is an important way in which democracies seek to control the state's coercive power. However, this essential oversight function appears to be far stronger in common law, adversarial legal systems than in the civil law, inquisitorial legal system in place throughout Latin America (Palmieri, 2015)

The police are primarily responsible for investigating crimes, collecting evidence, and ensuring public safety. Prosecutors oversee the preparation of cases, provide legal guidance during investigations, and represent the state in court proceedings. Their collaboration is crucial for the effective functioning of the justice system, particularly in ensuring that investigations lead to successful prosecutions while adhering to the rule of law and due process.

The main purpose of a criminal investigation is to establish if, how, where, when, why, and by whom a crime was, or will be, committed (Cook & Tattersall, 2014, Greenwood,

Chaiken, & Petersilia, 1977, Gross, 1893). To do this, detectives must discover, collect, check and consider clues from various sources of information and try to construct a coherent account of the event (Dean, Fahsing, Glomseth, & Gottschalk, 2008, Innes, 2003).

Globally, national prosecution offices are pivotal in upholding justice, ensuring public safety, and maintaining the rule of law. Prosecutors are tasked with initiating, directing, and supervising criminal cases, working closely with law enforcement to guarantee fair investigations and lawful prosecutions. Their involvement ensures adherence to legal procedures and the realization of justice in accordance with both national and international standards ((IAP), 2014).

The structure of prosecution services varies internationally. For instance in the United States, the Department of Justice, led by the Attorney General, oversees prosecutions and investigations, with U.S. Attorneys handling cases across various jurisdictions (Associated Press, 2023). In Germany, the *Staatsanwaltschaft* (Public Prosecutor's Office) operates independently, with prosecutors obligated to investigate all reported crimes and decide on indictments. Similarly, France maintains an independent prosecutorial body to uphold impartiality and legal integrity (CCPE, 2024).

In the African context, prosecution office's structures and effectiveness influenced by colonial legacies, local governance structures, and socio-political contexts. South Africa's National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), established under the National Prosecuting Authority Act of 1998, functions independently and plays a crucial role in investigations. Kenya and Nigeria have prosecution institutions that collaborate with police forces to uphold justice and accountability (CCPE, 2024).

In the Horn of Africa, countries like Ethiopia, Somalia, and Djibouti have established prosecution systems tailored to their national governance models. Ethiopia's Attorney General, appointed by the House of Peoples' Representatives, manages investigations and prosecutions across the country (Ethiopia, 1995). Somalia maintains both federal and regional prosecution offices within its decentralized system, with the Attorney General's Office leading and directing criminal investigations and ensuring the protection of citizens' rights (Office of the Attorney General, Somalia, n.d.).

Somaliland, despite its lack of international recognition, has developed a distinct legal and institutional framework that governs its justice system. At the core of this system is the Somaliland Prosecution Office, which operates under the authority of the Attorney General and holds a pivotal role in the administration of criminal justice. The Office mandated to assess evidence, supervise investigations, and prosecute criminal cases in accordance with both statutory and customary laws (Republic, 1963 ).

According to Article 12, Paragraph (4) of the Somaliland Criminal Procedure Code, the investigation and suppression of crimes shall be carried out by the Police under the direction of the Office of the Attorney General, reinforcing the Office's supervisory role in ensuring procedural fairness. Furthermore, Paragraph (5) of the same Article provides that when deemed necessary, the Attorney General may, at any stage of the proceedings, order that his own Office shall take over the investigation or prosecution of any case. This provision strengthens the Attorney General's oversight powers and supports the broader mission of the Prosecution Office to uphold due process and bolster public confidence in the justice system.

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

An effective and accountable criminal justice system depends significantly on the functional collaboration between public prosecutors and law enforcement agencies. Globally, prosecutors not only represent the state in court but also play a pivotal role in supervising criminal investigations to ensure evidence is collected lawfully, suspects' rights are safeguarded, and legal procedures are strictly followed (UNODC, 2014). Such cooperation is widely recognized as a global best practice essential to ensuring fair trials, minimizing wrongful convictions, and fostering public confidence in judicial institutions.

Ideally, prosecutorial oversight during the investigative phase should ensure that law enforcement activities align with national laws and international human rights standards. However, in Somaliland, the reality diverges markedly from this normative framework. Despite constitutional provisions and national legislation, particularly Article 12 of the Criminal Procedure Code (Ganzglas, 1971) granting the Office of the Attorney General authority to oversee police investigations, this mandate is often weakly enforced

or altogether neglected. As a result, investigations frequently conducted without meaningful prosecutorial input, leading to fragmented, delayed, and legally deficient procedures (Omar, 2019).

This problem exacerbated by the absence of a clear legal and institutional framework to regulate the relationship between police and prosecutors during the pre-trial phase. The lack of structured coordination mechanisms has led to incomplete or inadmissible evidence, hampering the prosecution's ability to build strong cases and adversely affecting the administration of justice (Omar, 2019). Furthermore, political interference continues to pose a significant threat to prosecutorial independence. Empirical studies and reports have highlighted instances where political actors, including ministers and other high-ranking officials, have influenced criminal investigations and prosecutorial decisions, thereby undermining judicial impartiality and eroding public trust (Mohamed, 2014).

If left unaddressed, these challenges will perpetuate systemic inefficiencies, encourage impunity, and normalize unlawful investigative practices within Somaliland's criminal justice system. The potential consequences include deteriorating rule of law, increased human rights violations and a decline in public confidence in justice sector institutions.

Therefore, this research seeks to critically assess the influence of the National Prosecution on criminal investigations in Somaliland, with a specific focus on the Somaliland Prosecution Office. By identifying existing legal and institutional gaps, evaluating the current state of prosecutorial-police coordination, and proposing context-specific reforms, this study aims to enhance prosecutorial oversight, promote legal accountability, and support broader justice sector reform in Somaliland.

## **1.3 Research Objectives**

### **1.3.1 General Objective**

The General Objective of the study Was to examine the role of the National Prosecution Office in criminal investigations in the Republic of Somaliland.

### **1.3.2 Specific Objectives**

1. To identify the duties and responsibilities of the prosecution office in criminal investigations.
2. To examine the legal frameworks that govern the functions of the Somaliland Prosecution Office.
3. To explore the challenges that hinder the prosecution's effectiveness in overseeing investigations.
4. To assess the level of collaboration between the prosecution office and law enforcement agencies.
5. To propose strategies for strengthening the performance of the prosecution office.

## **1.4 Significance of the Study**

This study is significant both academically and practically. It is designed to contribute to the advancement of knowledge concerning legal institutions in Somaliland, particularly the role and influence of the National Prosecution Office in criminal investigations. By focusing on this institution, the study will help close the gap in academic literature regarding the prosecutorial system in Somaliland, which remains under-researched despite its crucial role in the administration of justice. As a result, the study will serve as an important academic reference for scholars, students, and researchers interested in legal reform, criminal procedure, and institutional development within emerging legal systems.

In addition to its academic value, the study is expected to have meaningful socio-economic and practical impact. The findings will offer insights into how the prosecution service operates and how it influences the quality, speed, and fairness of criminal investigations. This information will be particularly useful for legal practitioners, law

enforcement agencies, judicial officers, and human rights organizations. These actors will benefit from a clearer understanding of the existing challenges and gaps in the prosecutorial system, which in turn may help them improve their practices and foster better coordination between institutions responsible for upholding justice.

Policymakers and government institutions involved in justice sector governance will also benefit from this study. The research will provide evidence-based recommendations that may guide future reforms, capacity-building initiatives, and resource allocation within the prosecution service and its associated agencies. It will support efforts aimed at strengthening the independence, transparency, and efficiency of criminal justice processes in Somaliland.

Furthermore, the wider community stands to gain from the anticipated improvements in the justice system. A more effective prosecution system will contribute to the protection of human rights, reduction of case backlogs, and increased public trust in legal institutions. The socio-economic value of such outcomes is considerable, as they contribute to peace, stability, and sustainable development.

This study is important because it will generate new knowledge, inform legal and institutional reforms, and contribute to the strengthening of justice delivery mechanisms in Somaliland. It will benefit academics by enriching the literature, assist practitioners by exposing institutional challenges, and guide policymakers with practical recommendations that support a fair and efficient criminal justice system. For all these reasons, the research is not only worthwhile but necessary.

## **1.5 Scope of the Study**

This study is limited to examining the role of the Somaliland Prosecution Office in criminal investigations. It focuses on the institutional structure, legal framework, functional responsibilities, inter-agency collaboration, and operational challenges. The study is geographically limited to Somaliland and does not cover comparative analysis beyond general references to other systems.



## **1.6 Description of the Study Area/Organization**

The research is conducted in the Republic of Somaliland, with a focus on the Prosecution Office. Following its declaration of independence, Somaliland established its legal and institutional systems, among which the Prosecution Office plays a pivotal role in upholding criminal law. The office operates under the Attorney General's supervision and cooperates with police and judicial authorities to ensure lawful investigations and prosecutions. It is mandated to assess evidence, initiate charges, and represent the state in criminal proceedings.

## **1.9 Limitations of the Study**

As with any academic research, this study is subject to a number of limitations that may affect the depth, scope, and generalizability of its findings. Although considerable efforts were made to ensure methodological rigor and data reliability, several challenges inevitably shaped the research process and its final outcomes.

One of the primary constraints was time. The research had to be completed within a tight academic schedule, which significantly limited the period available for conducting comprehensive fieldwork, scheduling follow-up interviews, and performing in-depth analysis. This time pressure inevitably affected the scope of the study and narrowed the range of data that could be collected.

In addition to time, financial limitations also had a notable impact. The researcher lacked the necessary funds to access certain key resources, including extensive travel beyond Hargeisa and engagement with respondents in remote regions. As a result, the research was geographically confined, and this may have influenced the representativeness of the findings.

Another major challenge concerned access to sensitive data. While institutional transparency was crucial for this study, some documents such as internal reports, investigation files, and correspondence relevant to prosecutorial oversight—were inaccessible due to confidentiality protocols and bureaucratic barriers. These restrictions

limited the researcher's ability to trace the detailed involvement of prosecutors in specific criminal investigations.

Furthermore, respondent reluctance posed a significant hurdle. Certain key stakeholders, particularly those in politically sensitive or senior positions, were hesitant to share detailed information or express candid opinions. This reluctance compromised the comprehensiveness of the collected data, as some perspectives were either generalized or left out entirely.

The study was conducted by an undergraduate researcher whose academic training and practical experience are still developing. This inevitably influenced the interpretation of some legal frameworks and institutional relationships. While the researcher took care to consult multiple sources and cross-check facts, limited exposure to advanced legal analysis may have affected the depth of some conclusions.

Compounding these issues was the high staff turnover within justice institutions. The frequent reshuffling of prosecutors, police investigators, and administrative personnel resulted in inconsistent information across interviews. In some cases, previously contacted respondents were transferred or unavailable, causing delays and requiring adjustments in the data collection schedule.

An additional technical limitation was the lack of centralized digital records and case management systems within the institutions under study. This absence hindered efforts to track the prosecutorial process in a systematic and reliable manner. Without accessible digital archives, the researcher had to rely heavily on fragmented manual records and the recollections of staff members, which in some cases were incomplete or inconsistent.

Moreover, a language barrier emerged during data collection. Although most respondents were fluent in Somali, the research instruments—including interview guides and questionnaires—were prepared in English. This led to some communication challenges, especially with participants who were less comfortable expressing themselves in a second language. The need for on-the-spot translation sometimes disrupted the flow of interviews and may have introduced slight variations in meaning.

Despite these limitations, the researcher made every effort to uphold the credibility, validity, and academic integrity of the study. Techniques such as triangulating data sources, anonymizing respondent identities, and strictly adhering to ethical research standards were employed to minimize bias and improve the overall quality of the findings. While the constraints mentioned above inevitably influenced the study, they do not invalidate its insights, which remain a valuable contribution to understanding the role of the prosecution in criminal investigations in Somaliland.

## **CHAPTER TWO:- LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.0 Introduction**

This chapter provides a comprehensive review of relevant literature concerning the role of national prosecution offices in criminal investigations. It covers international practices, regional and local contexts, theoretical frameworks, empirical studies, and gaps in the literature. The chapter aims to establish a foundation for understanding the prosecutorial function in Somaliland and highlight areas that require academic inquiry.

### **2.1 Theoretical and Legal Frameworks of the National Prosecution's Role in Criminal Investigations**

#### ***2.1.1 Definition and Features of the Prosecution Office***

Prosecutor office is generally defined as a public institution authorized to initiate legal proceedings against individuals accused of crimes (GARNER, 2004). The main activity of the AGO is the prosecution of criminal cases on behalf of the state. This is broadly articulated in Article 103 of the Constitution of the Republic of Somaliland, which states: *'The Procuracy of the State shall consist of the Attorney General and his deputies.'* (UNODC, February 2021)

A sound theoretical foundation is essential for understanding how prosecution offices influence criminal investigations. Legal Rational Theory proposed by Max Weber and reinforced by the Conditional Deterrence Theory from criminology. Weber argued that state legitimacy arises from a bureaucracy governed by formalized laws and procedures the following theories provide a conceptual basis for the study.

#### ***2.1.2 The Rule of Law Theory***

Rule of Law is central to modern justice systems. According to this theory, all institutions including the police and prosecution must act within the boundaries of the law. The prosecution's role in supervising investigations ensures that investigative processes are lawful and respect human rights (Dicey, 1959). In the context of Somaliland, the theory

supports the argument that prosecutorial oversight is vital for lawful criminal investigations.

Rooted in A.V. Dicey's (1959) classical articulation that "*no one is above the law*" the theory of the rule of law emphasizes that all public authorities, including investigative and prosecutorial bodies, must operate within the framework of established legal norms. Dicey's concept underlines three core principles: the absolute supremacy of regular law over arbitrary power, equality before the law for all citizens, and the constitution as a consequence of individual rights rather than a source of them. Within this context, prosecutorial oversight plays a critical role in ensuring that law enforcement agencies comply with legal standards during criminal investigations. It prevents the abuse of power, ensures procedural fairness, and upholds legal accountability (Dicey, 1959).

Building on Dicey's foundational doctrine, Bingham (2010) offers a more contemporary and comprehensive interpretation by proposing eight sub-principles that underpin the rule of law in modern democratic societies. These principles include that the law must be accessible and understandable. Legal rights and responsibilities should be determined by law, not by discretion. The law must apply equally to everyone. It must also protect fundamental human rights. There should be affordable and timely ways to resolve legal disputes. Public officials must act in good faith and within their legal limits. Legal processes must be fair. Finally, the state must follow its international legal obligations.

These subprinciples collectively reinforce the importance of prosecutorial independence and oversight in maintaining lawful and rights-compliant criminal investigations. In this sense, the prosecution serves not only as a legal actor however, as a guardian of constitutional and human rights norms (Bingham, 2010).

Further contextualizing this within postcolonial legal systems, Hansen (2016) argues that countries like Somaliland necessitate a "thick" conception of the rule of law. Unlike "thin" models, which focus solely on formal legality and institutional procedures, a thick approach encompasses broader socio-political realities, including informal institutions, customary practices, and power dynamics that operate beyond codified law. In postcolonial states where legal pluralism and historical legacies influence governance, the prosecution's role must extend beyond formal statutory compliance to include engagement

with these informal structures to ensure justice is both legally valid and socially legitimate. Hansen contends that only through such an integrated framework can the rule of law become an effective and accepted principle in transitional societies like Somaliland (Hansen, 2016) .

### ***2.1.3 Institutionalism Theory***

Institutionalism focuses on the structure and function of state institutions. It argues that institutions like the Prosecution Office shape policy outcomes through their roles, rules, and relationships (March & Olsen, 1984). In the criminal justice system, institutional capacity, autonomy, and collaboration between prosecutors and police affect investigation quality and fairness.

### ***2.1.4 Legal Realism***

Legal realism emphasizes the gap between law in theory and law in practice. According to this theory, the effectiveness of laws depends on institutional behavior and enforcement. In Somaliland, the difference between the prosecutorial role defined in the Criminal Procedure Code and the actual practice of investigations highlights the relevance of this theory.

## **2.2 Role of the Prosecutor**

In any criminal justice system, prosecution is a central component of the criminal justice process. Traditionally, the prosecutorial function entails taking legal action against individuals who are accused of violating a state's criminal laws and ensuring a fair trial for persons accused of criminal offenses. Depending on the history, culture, and traditions of a given legal system, prosecutors are often afforded a measure of discretionary power to decide whether to initiate criminal proceedings or not. Other discretionary powers include deciding on plea agreements, offers of immunity, the role of witness testimony in trial strategy, and the content of sentencing recommendations. Given the numerous decisions that must be made to carry out the prosecutorial function, prosecutors exercise considerable power vis-à-vis citizens in the criminal justice system (Howard Varney, October 2019)

Deciding whether or not to prosecute is the most important step in the prosecution process. It requires assessing and balancing numerous factors, such as the availability of evidence, the likelihood of conviction, and the interests of various stakeholders, including the victim, the accused, and the community at large. Prosecution guidelines identify the necessary factors that prosecutors must consider before making the decision to prosecute (Howard Varney, October 2019).

A prosecuting attorney is responsible for pursuing criminal charges against individuals accused of committing a crime. Their main goal is not only to secure a conviction but also to ensure that justice is served fairly for both the accused and the society at large. While their job is to prove that the accused is guilty, they must also follow ethical guidelines to ensure the rights of the accused are not violated (Attorney, n.d.)

Article 13 of the UN Guidelines delineates the criteria prosecutors must meet to initiate prosecutions. The guidelines state that in the performance of their duties, prosecutors shall, inter alia: a) Carry out their functions impartially and avoid all political, social, religious, racial, cultural, or any other kinds of discrimination (b) Protect the public interest, act with objectivity, take proper account of the position of the suspect and the victim, and pay attention to all relevant circumstances, irrespective of whether they are to the advantage or disadvantage of the suspect, and (c) Consider the views and concerns of victims when their personal interests are affected and ensure that victims are informed of their rights in accordance with the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power (Howard Varney, October 2019).

Importantly, the UN Guidelines emphasize the need for prosecutors to keep in mind the public interest as well as the interests and concerns of victims when carrying out their duties. Article 13(d) reaffirms the Declaration of the Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power, which mandates prosecutors “allow the views and concerns of victims to be presented and considered at appropriate stages of the proceedings where their personal interests are affected, without prejudice to the accused and consistent with the relevant national criminal justice system.” (Howard Varney, October 2019).

### ***2.2.1 Relationship of the Prosecution to the Criminal Investigations***

Prosecutors are not empowered with legal authority to direct the police to carry out or avoid certain investigative practices. The police may seek the legal advice of a prosecutor. The interaction between police and the prosecutor makes cooperation necessary. The Prosecutor General is authorized by section 10 of the Punjab Act to issue general guidelines to the prosecutors and investigating officers for effective and efficient prosecution (System, n.d.).

According to the Constitution of the Republic of Somaliland, the Attorney General and the Prosecution fall under both the judiciary and the procuracy. Article 97 outlines the general structure of the state and includes the judiciary as one of its branches. Article 99 further clarifies that the judiciary comprises both the courts and the procuracy, thereby positioning the Prosecution as an integral part of the judicial system. Additionally, Article 113 classifies the Prosecution as one of the special organs of the state, emphasizing its unique and independent role within Somaliland's governance framework.

Across the globe, prosecutorial offices are widely recognized as key actors in the criminal investigation process. In the United States, for example, federal prosecutors (U.S. Attorneys) collaborate closely with the FBI and local law enforcement agencies to ensure that evidence is collected lawfully and procedural rights are upheld (DOJ, 2023). In Germany, the *Staatsanwaltschaft* (Public Prosecution Service) constitutionally mandated to initiate investigations and supervise police activities to maintain legal compliance and accountability. Similarly, in France, prosecutors play a central role in directing investigations, ensuring both impartiality and adherence to legal standards throughout the process (CCPE, 2024). These international examples underscore the critical importance of prosecutor-police collaboration in safeguarding justice, preventing unlawful detentions, and minimizing abuses of power.



## **2.3 Mandated Roles and Responsibilities of the Somaliland Prosecution Office**

### **I. Representation of the State**

The Attorney General (AG) of Somaliland plays a central role in representing the state in various legal matters. This includes appearing in court to defend the government in civil, administrative, and criminal cases. The AG also has the authority to file lawsuits on behalf of the government and respond to legal claims made against state agencies. This function strengthens the government's legal position and ensures that public officials and institutions are held accountable under the law (Somaliland., The Constitution of the Republic of Somaliland. Hargeisa., 2001)

### **II. Protection of Public Interest**

Another major responsibility of the AG is to protect the public interest. This means defending the rights of citizens, safeguarding constitutional values, and making sure that government decisions comply with the law. The AG may get involved in cases involving public policy, corruption, or human rights. Their intervention helps maintain legal order and ensures that justice serves the public, not just the powerful (Bassiouni, 2012)

### **III. Enforcement of Laws**

The AG is also responsible for ensuring laws are properly enforced. This includes investigating complaints, giving legal advice to government agencies, and initiating prosecution when laws are violated. The AG may issue legal opinions and direct other institutions, including the police, to take action in certain cases (Commission), 2010).

## **2.4 Integrated Investigation-Prosecution Models in Comparative Perspective**

In several jurisdictions, prosecutorial offices are not only responsible for presenting cases in court but also authorized to conduct or directly supervise investigations especially in cases involving complex or high profile crimes such as corruption, financial fraud, and organized crime. These integrated models allow prosecutors to play a central role from the early stages of a case, which enhances legal oversight and strengthens the quality of evidence collected.

For example, in Germany, prosecutors (Staatsanwaltschaft) have a constitutional obligation to lead criminal investigations. In cities like Hanover, special units within the prosecution office tasked with tracking, freezing, and recovering criminal assets, especially in financial crime cases (Offal, 2023). This model enhances accountability and ensures that investigations grounded in legal standards from the outset.

Similarly, in the United Kingdom, the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) represents an integrated approach where legal, financial, and investigative professionals collaborate under one roof to handle serious economic crimes. The SFO employs lawyers, forensic accountants, and investigators, allowing it to handle complex cases with both legal and technical expertise. While this integration boosts efficiency, it also demands strong internal coordination to prevent conflicts between investigative strategies and prosecutorial objectives (Ashworth, 2010).

In France, prosecutors (procureurs de la République) can direct and supervise police investigations, especially in serious criminal cases. Their role ensures legal compliance during the evidence-gathering process, which is essential for fair trial standards (Council of Europe, 2014). Likewise, in Italy, anti-mafia units operate under direct prosecutorial control, allowing for swift and coordinated legal action against organized crime (UNODC, 2021).

These integrated systems show that when prosecutors are involved early and actively in the investigative process, outcomes tend to be more legally aligned with due process. However, such systems also require high institutional capacity, legal safeguards against abuse of power, and a strong culture of accountability.

## **2.5 Barriers to Independent and Effective Prosecutorial Oversight**

### **I. Case Overload and Time Constraints**

Prosecutors in Somaliland, like in many developing countries, face heavy caseloads and limited time to prepare each case. This makes it difficult to conduct thorough investigations or provide timely justice. Inadequate staffing and lack of digital case management tools are key factors (UNODC, 2015)

### **II. Ethical Dilemmas**

Prosecutors often face ethical challenges when deciding whether to charge someone, offer plea bargains, or drop cases. These decisions require careful judgment and may affect public trust in the justice system. Balancing justice, fairness, and societal interest is a constant concern (Bassiouni, 2012) .

### **III. Witness Cooperation and Reliability**

Getting witnesses to testify can be difficult. Some may be afraid, unwilling, or unreliable. Prosecutors depend heavily on witness testimony, and when witnesses are not available or change their stories, it can weaken the entire case (Luna, 2010)

### **IV. Public Accountability**

Prosecutors are often scrutinized by the public and the media. They must act transparently while also protecting legal confidentiality. If a prosecutor is seen as biased or politically influenced, public trust in the justice system can be damaged (Initiative., 2019)

### **V. Political and Social Pressures**

Sometimes prosecutors face pressure from political leaders or community groups to act in specific ways. This can affect their independence and objectivity. A strong legal framework is needed to protect prosecutors from interference (Prosecutors., 2018)

## **2.6 Legal and Institutional Framework of the Prosecution Office in Somaliland**

The legal framework governing the prosecution office in Somaliland primarily established under Article 12 of the Criminal Procedure Code (GANZGLAS, 1971). This article mandates that police investigations be conducted under the direction and supervision

of the Attorney General. Furthermore, Paragraph 5 empowers the Attorney General to intervene directly in any case when necessary, thereby positioning the prosecution as a key guarantor of procedural fairness and the legality of criminal investigations.

In theory, this framework provides the prosecution office with significant authority to oversee and guide police investigations to ensure they comply with legal standards and respect human rights. Prosecutors expected to supervise police actions, issue instructions during sensitive investigative procedures such as arrests and searches, and help improve the quality of evidence gathered for court proceedings (WOLA, 2021).

However, in practice, the implementation of these legal provisions faces several challenges. Prosecutors often excluded from the investigative phase due to weak enforcement mechanisms, poor coordination between police and prosecutorial offices, and political interference (Omar, 2019). This gap between the formal legal mandate and practical realities undermines the prosecution's ability to effectively oversee investigations, which can lead to procedural errors, incomplete evidence, and ultimately weaken the quality of justice delivered.

The institutional arrangement in Somaliland grants operational independence to the police, with prosecutors playing a coordinating and supervisory role. This balance aims to avoid conflicts of authority and ensure accountability, but it requires clear communication and well-defined boundaries between the two institutions (European Commission for Democracy through Law, 2010). Without strong institutional collaboration, the system risks confusion and inefficiency, which may compromise investigations.

Additionally, prosecutors in Somaliland have a responsibility to supplement police investigations when they are incomplete or lack sufficient evidence. This includes requesting further inquiries, such as additional witness interviews, forensic tests, or expert evaluations, to strengthen the case before it proceeds to trial. Prosecutors not solely focused on securing convictions but also tasked with ensuring fairness and justice throughout the investigative and prosecutorial process (Luna & Wade, 2010).

## **2.7 Gaps in the Literature**

The role of the Somaliland Prosecution Office in criminal investigations has not been sufficiently explored. Existing literature tends to focus on judicial independence or police misconduct, with little emphasis on prosecutorial oversight during the investigative phase. There are noticeable gaps in knowledge that this research aims to address. First, there is limited empirical information on how prosecutors and investigators interact in Somaliland. Second, the enforcement and practical application of Article 12 of the Criminal Procedure Code remain under examined. Third, there is a lack of scholarly work analyzing political interference in prosecutorial decisions. This study proposes to fill these gaps by assessing the influence of the National Prosecution on criminal investigations and developing recommendations to strengthen prosecutorial oversight.

## **2.8 Conclusion**

This section has highlighted the crucial role of the Somaliland Prosecution Office in overseeing criminal investigations. The prosecution is legally empowered to supervise investigations, provide legal guidance, and assist the police, particularly in complex cases. Prosecutors play a key role in ensuring justice by directing investigations, supplementing police work, or taking direct control when necessary. Despite their important contributions, prosecutors face significant challenges, including heavy workloads, ethical dilemmas, and external political pressures. To strengthen the criminal justice system in Somaliland, effective coordination between prosecutors and police, supported by robust institutional frameworks, is essential for upholding justice and protecting human rights.

## **CHAPTER THREE:- RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **3.0 Introduction**

This chapter presents the methodological approach adopted to explore the influence of the National Prosecution on criminal investigations in Somaliland, with a specific focus on the Somaliland Prosecution Office. It outlines the research design, study area, target population, sampling techniques, sources of data, data collection methods, data analysis approaches, and ethical considerations. This methodology is designed to ensure comprehensive and contextually relevant insights into the research objectives, as outlined in Chapter One, and supported by the theoretical framework discussed in Chapter Two.

### **3.1 Research Design**

This study utilizes a qualitative descriptive research design. This approach is chosen for its capacity to capture detailed, context-rich insights into the real-world practices, challenges, and perceptions surrounding the role of the National Prosecution Office in criminal investigations. The qualitative descriptive design is particularly suited for examining complex, institutionally embedded processes and for understanding the perspectives of diverse stakeholders within the justice system. This approach aligns with the study's aim to explore the nuanced interactions between legal frameworks and practical enforcement dynamics within Somaliland's criminal justice system.

### **3.2 Study Area**

The study will be conducted in Hargeisa, the capital of Somaliland, which serves as the administrative, legal, and economic hub of the region. It focuses on key institutions involved in criminal investigations and prosecutions, including the Office of the Attorney General, selected Regional Courts, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), and legal professionals.

These sites were selected due to their central role in the criminal justice process, the availability of relevant data, and their significance in understanding the prosecutorial impact on criminal investigations.

### **3.3 Target Population**

The target population for this study includes key actors in the criminal justice system who possess specific knowledge relevant to the research objectives. These participants include national and regional prosecutors, police investigators, particularly those from CID units, judges handling criminal cases, defense lawyers and legal advocates. This diverse participant pool ensures a comprehensive understanding of the prosecution's influence on criminal investigations from multiple perspectives.

### **3.4 Sampling Techniques and Sample Size**

This study employed a non-probability sampling technique, specifically purposive sampling, to select participants who have direct experience and specialized knowledge of the prosecution process and criminal investigations in Somaliland. Unlike probability sampling, which involves random selection from a population, purposive sampling is used when the researcher intentionally selects individuals based on specific characteristics relevant to the study's objectives.

The sample was carefully chosen to ensure representation from key stakeholders within the criminal justice system. **A total of 16 participants were selected**, including five prosecutors from different levels, five police officers from both the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and general investigation units, three judges from criminal court divisions, and three defense lawyers. This composition provided a diverse and informed perspective on the role of the prosecution office in overseeing investigations.

This sample size is considered appropriate for qualitative research, where the focus is on gaining deep, detailed, and context-rich insights rather than statistical generalization. By engaging individuals with first-hand involvement in criminal investigations, the study was able to collect meaningful data that reflect the practical realities and challenges faced in the field.

### **3.5 Sources of Data**

Data for this study will be drawn from both primary and secondary sources to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the research problem.

#### ***3.5.1 Primary Sources***

The primary sources will include 16 interviews with key stakeholders in the criminal justice system, such as prosecutors, police officers, judges, and legal professionals. Additionally, key national legal instruments such as the Somaliland Criminal Procedure Code, the Somaliland Constitution, and the Somaliland Evidence Act will be consulted to understand the formal legal frameworks governing criminal investigations. Empirical data will also be gathered through qualitative 16 interviews and field observations within selected prosecution offices and legal institutions.

#### ***3.5.2 Secondary Sources***

The research will also incorporate secondary sources to provide theoretical, contextual, and comparative insights. These include academic books, peer-reviewed journal articles, government reports, policy papers, and legal commentaries relevant to the prosecution process.

Specific focus will be placed on scholarly works addressing the challenges of criminal investigations in developing legal systems, as well as international best practices for prosecution. Reports from international organizations such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Human Rights Watch, and local NGOs engaged in legal reform and human rights advocacy in Somaliland will be reviewed.

### **3.6 Data Collection Methods**

To capture the complexity of the research topic, data will be collected through the following methods:



### **1. Semi-Structured Interviews:**

Semi-structured interviews will be conducted with prosecutors, police investigators, judges, defense lawyers. This approach allows for consistency across interviews while providing the flexibility to explore emerging themes in depth. Interview guides will be prepared for each participant category to ensure comprehensive coverage of key topics, including the role, challenges, and impact of the prosecution in criminal investigations.

### **2. Doctrinal Data Collection:**

This method will involve the systematic examination of legal documents, statutes, regulations, case laws, policy papers, and official government reports to understand the legal context within which prosecutions are conducted in Somaliland. Key sources will include the Somaliland Criminal Procedure Code, the Somaliland Constitution, official reports from the Prosecution Office, policy documents from the Ministry of Justice, and international conventions like the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). This doctrinal approach will ensure a comprehensive understanding of the legal frameworks governing prosecution and criminal investigations.

## **3.7 Data Analysis Techniques**

The data analysis in this study will involve two primary approaches:

### **1. Doctrinal Data Analysis:**

This will involve a systematic analysis of the legal texts relevant to the study, including the Somaliland Criminal Procedure Code, the Constitution, and international legal instruments. The process will include textual analysis to clarify the meaning and scope of these laws, critical comparison with international standards, and synthesis of findings to assess their impact on criminal investigations.

## **2. Empirical Data Analysis:**

Empirical data from interviews will be analyzed using thematic analysis. This will involve transcription, coding, theme identification, and interpretation to reveal patterns related to the challenges and dynamics of criminal investigations. The integration of doctrinal and empirical findings will provide a comprehensive understanding of the role of the National Prosecution in Somaliland.

### **3.8 Ethical Considerations**

Ethical approval for this study was granted by the Ethics Review Committee of the Civil Service Institute before the commencement of data collection. The study adhered to key ethical principles, including obtaining informed consent from all participants, ensuring the confidentiality of their information, and guaranteeing that participation was entirely voluntary. Throughout the research process, neutrality, professionalism, and respect for participants were strictly maintained. Additionally, all personal and sensitive data were anonymized, and all research records were securely stored to protect participants' privacy.

### **3.9 Limitations of the Methodology**

Potential limitations include restricted access to sensitive documents, participant reluctance to share potentially critical insights, and challenges related to language or interpretation during interviews. These will be mitigated through trust building, confidentiality assurances, and careful question design.

### **3.10 Conclusion**

This chapter has outlined the research methodology guiding this study. By employing a qualitative descriptive approach, purposive sampling, semi-structured interviews, and doctrinal data collection, this methodology aims to provide a comprehensive, contextually informed understanding of the National Prosecution's influence on criminal investigations in Somaliland.

## **CHAPTER FOUR:- ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS.**

### **4.0 Introduction**

This chapter presents a comprehensive analysis of the data obtained through semi-structured interviews conducted with key stakeholders in the Somaliland criminal justice system. These include prosecutors, police officers, judges, defense lawyers. The purpose of this chapter is to evaluate the role and influence of the National Prosecution Office on criminal investigations, based on real-world practices and institutional experiences. Thematic analysis was used to categorize and interpret the information collected.

### **4.1 Background and Role Understanding**

Interviews with various stakeholders revealed a wide range of experience levels, with most respondents having worked in the criminal justice sector for over 5 years. Respondents from the Prosecution Office explained that while their legal mandate is defined by the Criminal Procedure Code, their day-to-day roles vary depending on the case and collaboration with the police. One senior prosecutor explained, "Although we are given the power to supervise investigations, often we are brought into the process only after police have finished their work." Police officers acknowledged that involving prosecutors earlier in investigations could enhance legal compliance, but they also emphasized operational constraints, such as time pressure and lack of communication channels. A police officer remarked, "We understand their importance, but we don't always have a clear process to bring them in early." This theme illustrates a disconnect between formal roles and practical execution.

### **4.2 Legal Framework and Mandate**

Respondents widely agreed that the legal framework specifically Article 12 of the Somaliland Criminal Procedure Code formally empowers prosecutors to supervise criminal investigations. However, many stakeholders described this law as 'symbolic' rather than operational. A regional court judge stated: "Yes, it is in the Code, but I rarely see structured implementation or evidence that prosecutors are actively guiding the

investigation phase." Participants called for supplementary regulations, such as ministerial directives or internal prosecutorial policies, to clarify how and when prosecutors should intervene. Legal experts also noted the lack of awareness among police about prosecutorial powers, which reduces the law's practical impact.

#### **4.3 Prosecutorial Oversight and Practice**

Prosecutors themselves highlighted that their role is largely reactive. They are often handed case files after the investigation is already completed. One prosecutor noted: "We don't know what evidence was missed because we were not involved during the evidence gathering stage." This reactive model reduces the prosecutorial office's ability to ensure procedural fairness, quality evidence, and respect for suspects' rights. Judges confirmed that cases sometimes proceed to trial with incomplete or inadmissible evidence due to inadequate early legal review. Some defense lawyers also observed procedural gaps, arguing that early oversight could reduce pretrial rights violations and improve case efficiency. This finding supports the need for prosecutors to be embedded earlier in the investigative process.

#### **4.4 Institutional Challenges**

All interviewees pointed out that the prosecution service is under-resourced. Prosecutors handle high caseloads, often without adequate clerical, investigative, or technological support. A lawyer explained, "It is not that prosecutors do not want to supervise investigations they simply do not have the time or resources." Prosecutors also highlighted the absence of digital tools for managing case files or tracking investigation progress. Additionally, political interference was reported, especially in high-profile or sensitive cases. A civil society representative stated, "There are cases where decisions are influenced from the top this undermines the principle of legal neutrality." These structural and ethical barriers compromise the effectiveness of prosecutorial oversight.

#### **4.5 Inter-Agency Collaboration**

Most participants emphasized that while the relationship between the police and the prosecution office is cooperative, it lacks formalization. There are no memoranda of understanding, no joint protocols, and no routine coordination mechanisms. A police investigator admitted: "Sometimes we don't know who to talk to at the prosecutor's office, especially during night arrests." This leads to delays, poor evidence handling, and case dismissals. Prosecutors also expressed a need for case briefings, joint planning sessions, and regular evaluation of inter-agency performance. Several respondents recommended that liaison officers be appointed at both the police and prosecution units to facilitate continuous coordination.

#### **4.6 Reform and Improvement**

Participants offered various reform ideas to improve prosecutorial influence. First, many emphasized training both joint training for prosecutors and police and specialized training for prosecutors on complex cases, such as cybercrime, financial crimes, and gender-based violence. Secondly, legal reform was proposed, such as revising the Criminal Procedure Code to add operational guidelines and clear timelines for prosecutorial intervention. Thirdly, many suggested establishing a National Prosecution Oversight Unit to handle complaints, ensure accountability, and resist political interference. Technological upgrades such as introducing digital case filing systems and electronic communication portals were also recommended to increase transparency and efficiency. A senior judge concluded: "The only way forward is to create a justice sector where prosecutors and police are both equal partners guided by law and supported by systems."

## **CHAPTER FIVE :- CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **5.1 Conclusion**

This study aimed to critically assess the influence of the National Prosecution Office on criminal investigations in the Republic of Somaliland. Recognizing that effective criminal justice hinges on cooperation between prosecutors and law enforcement agencies, the research explored whether the prosecution plays its legally mandated role in guiding and supervising investigations. The study employed a qualitative descriptive methodology, relying on semi-structured interviews with prosecutors, police investigators, judges and defense lawyers.

Data were gathered in Hargeisa, focusing on institutions directly involved in criminal justice administration. The findings were analyzed thematically in Chapter Four and revealed significant issues regarding legal enforcement, prosecutorial practice, institutional weaknesses, and inter-agency collaboration.

A key finding is that while the legal framework specifically Article 12 of the Criminal Procedure Code empowers the prosecution to oversee investigations, the actual enforcement and practice of that provision remain limited, irregular, and vulnerable to political and operational constraints. This disconnect between law and practice affects evidence quality, procedural fairness, and ultimately, the credibility of the justice system.

The study revealed several critical findings regarding the role and influence of the National Prosecution on criminal investigations in Somaliland:

**Lack of Coordinated Work Plans:** The findings pointed out that criminal investigations often lack coordinated strategies between the police and the prosecution. Investigators reported limited guidance from prosecutors, especially during the early stages of evidence collection, which affects the admissibility and quality of evidence in court.

**Limited Legal and Technical Capacity:** Both the prosecution and the investigation departments were found to suffer from inadequate capacity in terms of legal expertise,

forensic skills, and access to modern tools. This limitation impacts the ability of prosecutors to guide investigations effectively and provide sound legal direction.

**Positive Outcomes Despite Challenges:** Despite the challenges, the study observed some areas of strong performance, particularly in high-profile or sensitive cases, where close collaboration between prosecutors and investigators produced successful outcomes. This suggests that with the right framework, the prosecution can significantly enhance criminal investigations.

**Employee Perceptions and Morale:** Prosecutors and investigators expressed dissatisfaction with how conflicts are handled, particularly when it comes to promotions, workloads, and decision-making authority. The perception that conflicts are ignored or poorly managed contributes to low morale and hinders collaboration.

## **5.2 Conclusion**

Based on the empirical evidence presented in Chapter Four, the study concludes that the National Prosecution Office holds a central, yet underutilized, role in criminal investigations in Somaliland. Although legally recognized as a supervisory body with authority to guide police investigations, in practice, this oversight function is inconsistently applied or entirely absent.

The reasons for this gap are both legal and institutional. The law lacks operational clarity and does not establish timelines or procedures for prosecutorial engagement. Meanwhile, the institutional environment is marked by high caseloads, a lack of trained personnel, resource shortages, and limited technological infrastructure. These challenges severely restrict the ability of prosecutors to fulfill their duties as mandated by law.

Moreover, political interference continues to erode prosecutorial independence. Several interviewees reported cases where external pressure influenced prosecutorial decisions, particularly in politically sensitive investigations. Without robust safeguards, the risk of selective prosecution or legal impunity increases, undermining both the rule of law and public trust.

Despite these setbacks, there is considerable awareness among justice sector stakeholders about the weaknesses in the current system. Prosecutors, judges, and police officers all expressed a willingness to improve collaboration, strengthen institutional capacities, and reform the legal framework. The study therefore concludes that the current situation, though problematic, is not beyond repair. With coordinated policy action and institutional commitment, the prosecution's role can be made more effective, just, and accountable.

### **5.3 Recommendations**

Based on the above findings and conclusion, the following recommendations are proposed to improve prosecutorial influence and coordination in criminal investigations in Somaliland.

1. The government should issue implementing guidelines for Article 12 of the Criminal Procedure Code. These should define when prosecutors must be involved in an investigation, what form their involvement should take, and how police must respond to their directives. Without such clarity, the existing legal provisions remain ineffective.
2. The Ministry of Justice, in collaboration with the Attorney General's Office and Police Command, should establish formal inter-agency protocols. These protocols should mandate regular meetings between investigators and prosecutors, assign liaison officers in major police stations, and create shared documentation systems for case reviews.
3. The Prosecution Office needs a significant increase in staffing, equipment, and training. Recruiting more prosecutors, providing them with administrative and forensic support, and integrating technology such as digital filing and case tracking systems will help reduce overload and increase effectiveness.



4. The government should establish an independent prosecutorial oversight body to monitor misconduct, protect prosecutors from political influence, and handle disciplinary matters transparently. Clear legal protections and internal checks are vital to uphold integrity and professionalism in the prosecution service.
5. Joint training programs should be held regularly for prosecutors and police officers on evidence handling, criminal procedure, human rights, and ethical standards. Specialized training for complex crimes such as corruption, cybercrime, and gender-based violence should be prioritized.
6. Civil society organizations, in partnership with the Prosecution Office, should launch awareness campaigns on the rights of suspects, the responsibilities of prosecutors, and the justice process. Public trust in justice institutions improves when the public is well informed and can hold institutions accountable.
7. The Ministry of Justice should develop performance indicators to evaluate the effectiveness of prosecutorial engagement in investigations. Regular performance reports, public audits, and stakeholder feedback mechanisms will help ensure continuous improvement

## REFERENCES

Ashworth, A. (2010). *Sentencing and Criminal Justice* (5th ed.). Cambridge University Press.

Attorney. (n.d.). *Role and Responsibilities of a Prosecutor*. Retrieved from [relevant source if applicable].

Bassiouni, M. C. (2012). *The Pursuit of International Criminal Justice: A World Study on Conflicts, Victimization, and Post-Conflict Justice*. Intersentia.

Bingham, T. (2010). *The Rule of Law*. Penguin UK.

CCPE. (2024). *Opinion No. 15 (2020) of the Consultative Council of European Prosecutors (CCPE)*. Council of Europe.

Commission. (2010). *Prosecutorial Guidelines and Legal Oversight Mechanisms*. European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission).

Dicey, A. V. (1959). *Introduction to the Study of the Law of the Constitution* (10th ed.). Macmillan.

DOJ. (2023). *U.S. Department of Justice – Prosecutorial Coordination with Law Enforcement*. United States Government.

European Commission for Democracy through Law. (2010). *Report on the Independence of the Judicial System Part II: The Prosecution Service*. CDL-AD(2010)040.

GARNER, B. A. (Ed.). (2004). *Black’s Law Dictionary* (8th ed.). West Publishing.

GANZGLAS, E. (1971). *Criminal Procedure Code of the Somali Democratic Republic*. Ministry of Justice.

Hansen, T. O. (2016). *Rule of Law and the Postcolonial State: An Analytical Framework*. *Cambridge Journal of International and Comparative Law*, 5(2), 223–248.

Howard Varney. (October 2019). *Prosecutorial Discretion and Oversight: International Standards and Best Practices*. International Center for Transitional Justice.

Initiative. (2019). *Strengthening Public Trust in Prosecution Offices: Transparency and Accountability Tools*. Justice Reform Initiative.

Luna, E. (2010). *Prosecutorial Accountability*. *Minnesota Law Review*, 103(4), 2055–2100.

Luna, E., & Wade, J. (2010). *Improving Prosecution and Police Collaboration in Transitional Justice Systems*. *Justice Review Journal*, 12(1), 45–62.

March, J. G., & Olsen, J. P. (1984). *The New Institutionalism: Organizational Factors in Political Life*. *American Political Science Review*, 78(3), 734–749.

Offal, R. (2023). *German Prosecutorial Structures and Financial Crime Units: An Empirical Review*. *European Journal of Criminal Law*, 34(1), 67–85.

Omar, H. A. (2019). *Prosecutorial Challenges in Somaliland: A Legal Commentary*. *Somaliland Legal Review*, 7(1), 12–30.

Prosecutors. (2018). *Ensuring Prosecutorial Independence: Comparative Perspectives*. Open Society Foundations.

Somaliland. (2001). *The Constitution of the Republic of Somaliland*. Hargeisa: Government Press.

System. (n.d.). *Prosecution-Public Safety Coordination: Lessons from Punjab's Model*. Retrieved from [relevant source if applicable].

UNODC. (February 2021). *The Status and Functions of Prosecution Services Worldwide*. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

UNODC. (2021). *Integrated Models of Prosecutorial Investigations: Best Practices in Europe*. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

UNODC. (2015). *Challenges Faced by Prosecution Services in Developing Countries*. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

WOLA. (2021). *Strengthening the Rule of Law in Post-Conflict States: Prosecution's Role in Justice Reform*. Washington Office on Latin America.

## **APPENDICES**

### **Appendix I Semi-Structured Interview**

#### ***Civil Service Institute***

Research Title: Assessing the Influence of the National Prosecution on Criminal Investigations in Somaliland

This guide is designed to facilitate semi-structured interviews with stakeholders in the criminal justice system in Somaliland. The questions are grouped into thematic sections based on the research objectives. The format allows flexibility for the interviewer to probe for further details based on the participant's responses.

#### **Section A: Background and Role Understanding**

1. How many years have you served in your current position?
2. Can you describe your main responsibilities in criminal investigations?
3. How does your office interact with the police during the investigation process?

#### **Section B: Legal Framework and Mandate**

1. Are you familiar with Article 12 of the Criminal Procedure Code? How is it applied in practice?
2. In your view, is the legal mandate of the Prosecution Office clear enough to oversee police investigations effectively?
3. What improvements would you suggest in the current legal framework governing prosecutorial oversight?

#### **Section C: Prosecutorial Oversight and Practice**

1. How involved are prosecutors in directing or supervising investigations before a case goes to trial?
2. Can you share an example of a case where prosecutorial input significantly changed the outcome of an investigation?
3. What are the most common gaps or challenges in coordinating investigations with the police?

#### **Section D: Institutional Challenges**

1. What institutional barriers (e.g., workload, resources, political interference) hinder your role in overseeing investigations?
2. Do you think prosecutors in Somaliland are given enough independence to carry out their duties effectively?
3. How do you manage ethical dilemmas when handling sensitive cases or conflicting interests?

#### **Section E: Inter-Agency Collaboration**

1. How would you describe the working relationship between the Prosecution Office and the CID?
2. Are there any mechanisms or protocols in place to ensure effective collaboration between prosecutors and investigators?
3. What improvements do you recommend to enhance inter-agency cooperation?

#### **Section F: Reform and Improvement**

1. What reforms do you believe are necessary to strengthen the role of the Prosecution Office in criminal investigations?
2. What kind of training or capacity-building programs would help improve the effectiveness of prosecutors?

#### **Section G: Final Thoughts**

1. Is there anything else you would like to add regarding the influence of the National Prosecution Office on criminal investigations?

### ***Appendix II: Doctrinal Legal Documents Reviewed***

1. Somaliland Criminal Procedure Code (Article 12)
2. Somaliland Constitution (Articles 97, 99, 103, 113)
3. Somaliland Evidence Act
4. UN Guidelines on the Role of Prosecutors
5. Reports from UNODC and WOLA on Criminal Justice and Prosecution

### ***Appendix IV: BUDGET FRAME***

***Table 3 Budget Frame***

| <b>Activity description</b>    | <b>Unit price \$</b> |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Internet</b>                | \$25                 |
| <b>Flash disk</b>              | \$10                 |
| <b>Transportation Expenses</b> | \$45                 |
| <b>Stationary costs</b>        | \$20                 |
| <b>Total</b>                   | <b>\$100</b>         |

## *Appendix V: Time Frame*

***Table 4 Time Frame***

| <b><i>Activity description</i></b> | <b><i>March 2025</i></b> | <b><i>April 2025</i></b> | <b><i>May 2025</i></b> | <b><i>June 2025</i></b> | <b><i>July 2025</i></b>     |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b><i>Chapter One</i></b>          |                          |                          |                        |                         |                             |
| <b><i>Chapter Two</i></b>          |                          |                          |                        |                         |                             |
| <b><i>Chapter Three</i></b>        |                          |                          |                        |                         |                             |
| <b><i>Chapter Four</i></b>         |                          |                          |                        |                         |                             |
| <b><i>Chapter five</i></b>         |                          |                          |                        |                         |                             |
| <b><i>Proposal Defense</i></b>     |                          |                          |                        |                         | <b>28<sup>th</sup> July</b> |