

The 1961 Referendum on the 1960 Somali Republic Constitution
Date: 20 June 1961
The Official Returns Table 1- Referendum Costituzionele 1961 (see Page 2)

Extracts of the Figures of the Two Northern Regions (and 6 Districts) and (below) those of the Six Southern Regions

Referendum on the 1961 Constitution							
Northern Regions	District	No of Voters	YES VOTES		NO VOTES		Spoilt
			Number	%	Number	%	%
Hargeisa Region	Hargeisa	37608	10449	27.78	27087	72.02	0.20
	Berbera	7534	2220	29.47	5231	69.43	1.10
	Borama	14965	14380	96.09	522	3.48	0.43
	S/ Total	60107	27049	45.00	32840	54.63	0.37
Burao Region	Burao	19295	6427	33.30	12868	66.70	..
	Las Anod	14661	12090	82.46	2553	17.14	0.12
	Erigabo	9970	3950	39.62	6019	60.38	0.00
	S/Total	43926	22467	51.15	21440	48.81	0.04
ALL NR	TOTAL	104033	49516	47.59	54280	52.17	0.24
Comparison with the Southern Regions							
ALL SR	TOTAL	1948348	1756216	90.14	183000	9.40	0.46

Comparisons with Somalia Regions - (for the Southern Districts, see next page)

SOUTHERN REGIONS	YES %	NO%
Benadir	91.01	8.71
Lower Juba	95.31	4.37
Upper Juba	98.58	0.58
Hiran	37.64	68.99
Mudug	88.18	10.88
Mijertenia	92.84	6.95

Summary:

- In 4 of the 6 Districts of the Northern Regions (Somaliland) where the majority of the population lived and where there was also a call for boycotting the referendum, the percentages of **No** votes ranged from **72% to 60%**.
- The overall recorded figures for the two Northern Regions was **54% NO for the Hargeisa Region and 48.81% for the Burao Region** (which was largely accounted for by the high Yes percentage votes in the 2 districts of Borama and Las Anod).
- In contrast, with the exception of Hiran Region where there was a No vote of 68% , **the No vote in all the other 5 Southern (Somalia) regions was in single digits ranging from 8% to 0.5%**.
- Incredible 'Yes' figures were recorded for many districts signified, at worst, by **Wala Weyn** district which officially recoded 100% Yes. "Waal Weyn" became the sobriquet for "Southern" Somalis (Somalians) from that time onwards and still widely used by Somalilanders.

5. The recorded 1.94 million votes (with 1.75 million Yes votes – 90.1%) far exceeded any total votes at any national election in the 1960s. Indeed in the **1964 National Assembly elections**, the total national recorded votes was well below a million votes – **914,069**. The **1961 figures were only surpassed on 25 August 1979 when the outcome of a referendum on the 1979 Dictatorship Constitution was reported as having been a Yes vote of 3,597,592 (99.79%)**.

Appendix : Official Table 1 figures 1961 Referendum

Region	District	N. voters	Votes in favor of the Constitution		Votes opposed to the Constitution		Schede nulle	
			N.	Percent	N.	Percent	N.	Percent
Benadir	Mogadiscio	42.583	26.804	62.95	15.297	35.92	482	1.13
	Merca	94.067	83.450	88.71	10.597	11.27	20	0.02
	Brava	72.770	70.911	97.44	1.599	2.20	260	0.36
	Afgoi	78.901	77.627	98.39	895	1.13	379	0.48
	Uanle Uen	69.000	68.994	100.00	--	--	6	0.00
	Villabruzzi	87.679	83.414	95.14	4.234	4.83	31	0.03
	Balad	51.341	38.461	74.92	12.553	24.45	327	0.63
	Itala	64.068	60.354	94.21	3.684	5.75	30	0.04
Regional total Benadir		560.409	510.015	91.01	48.859	8.71	1.535	0.28
Basso Giuba	Chisimato	44.999	40.302	89.56	4.640	10.31	57	0.13
	Margherita	64.018	60.975	95.25	2.692	4.20	346	0.55
	Afmadu	59.271	58.702	99.05	368	0.62	201	0.33
	Qelib	40.990	39.479	96.32	1.442	3.52	69	0.16
Regional total L. Juba		209.273	19.458	95.31	9.142	4.37	673	0.32
Alto Giuba	Baidoa	114.678	114.441	99.80	213	0.18	24	0.02
	Bur Hacaba	87.331	87.041	99.66	97	0.12	193	0.22
	Lugh Ferrandi	110.978	106.561	96.02	900	0.82	3.517	3.16
	Hoddur	66.051	65.833	99.66	121	0.19	97	0.15
	Dinsor	60.856	60.147	98.83	369	0.61	340	0.56
	Bardera	54.991	53.831	87.89	1.156	2.11	4	0.00
	Regional total Upper Juba		494.885	487.854	98.58	2.856	0.58	4.175
Hiran	Belet Uen	16.360	6.930	42.36	9.359	57.21	71	0.43
	Bulo Burti	21.629	7.366	34.06	14.194	65.63	69	0.31
Regional total Hiran		37.989	14.296	37.64	23.553	61.99	140	0.37
Mudugh	Galcaio	53.412	43.476	81.39	9.658	18.08	278	0.53
	Dusa Mareb	26.598	23.098	86.84	2.589	9.78	911	3.43
	El Bur	56.399	52.598	93.26	3.609	6.39	192	0.35
	Obbia	32.452	29.716	91.56	2.519	7.77	217	0.67
Regional total Mudugh		168.861	148.888	88.18	18.375	10.88	15.98	0.94
Migiurtinia	Bosaso	41.727	29.169	69.91	12.308	29.49	250	0.60
	Candala	43.992	42.035	95.56	1.924	4.37	33	0.07
	Ahula	54.765	54.641	99.78	4.484	0.08	80	0.14
	Scusciuban	68.107	63.278	92.91	44	6.58	345	0.51
	Carde	80.399	78.190	97.25	2.198	2.74	11	0.01
	Eil	83.908	78.876	94.01	4.977	5.93	55	0.06
	Regional total Migurtinia		372.898	346.189	92.84	25.935	6.95	774
Hargheisa	Hargheisa	37.608	10.449	27.78	27.087	72.02	72	0.20
	Berbera	7.534	2.220	29.47	5.231	69.43	33	1.10
	Borama	14.965	14.380	96.09	522	3.48	33	0.43
Regional total Hargheisa		60.107	27.049	45.00	32.840	54.63	218	0.37
Burao	Burao	19.295	6.427	33.30	12.868	66.70	--	--
	Las Anod	14.661	12.090	82.46	2.553	17.142	18	0.12
	Erigabo	9.970	3.950	39.62	6.019	60.38	1	0.00
Regional total Burao		43.926	22.467	51.15	21.440	48.81	19	0.04
Grand total		1,948.348	1,756.216	90.14	183.000	9.40	9.132	0.46

Source: Referendum Costituzionale 1961