



**PRESS STATEMENT BY THE PASTORALISTS PARLIAMENT GROUP (PPG) AND THE FRONTIER
COUNTIES DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (FCDC) ON THE BUILDING BRIDGES INITIATIVE
REPORT (BBI)**

Background:

Today we are gathered here as the leaders representing more than 15 counties in Kenya. The Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC) and The Pastoralist Parliamentary Group (PPG) membership in the 12th Parliament stands at 108 MPs from the National Assembly and the Senate, which includes three members from East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA). It also constitutes 80% of the landmass of Kenya.

We are here to make a public pronouncement and add our clear voice to the ongoing debate surrounding Building Bridges Initiative Report (BBI). As members of the pastoralist community, we have shared concerns and problems and stand together to bring forward our voice and give our irreducible minimums as pertains to the points touched upon in the BBI Report.

Irreducible Minimums:

1. Revenue Allocation:

- Remove the capping of resources as proposed in the BBI report of per capita income which spells out that no county should get three times of resources of the lowest allocation for a county
- Modalities to make sure the 35% is easily accessible by the counties as currently the 15% is a challenge. We should use the last years audited account.

2. Representation:

- Secure the 290 existing constituencies and enshrine in the constitution
- For the 70 seats proposed, distribute one each for the 47 counties, and then equitably share the balance.

3. Health Service Commission:

- Scrap the proposal of this commission as this takes away from the independence of counties to manage their human resource and health provision capacity
- It will erode the gains made by counties in the recruitment and management of their healthcare workers

4. Equalization Fund:

- Increase the sunset clause and restart the 20 year period for the fund as the fund has not achieved its objective to equalize infrastructure of marginalized regions
- There has to be a formula to effectively release and manage the fund just like any other conditional grant through the counties and funds should be equitably shared to each sub-counties or constituencies.

5. Senate:

- Propose Senate as an Upper House
- The delegation model of voting must be retained

6. Affirmative action/discrimination:

- Issuance of National Identity Cards and other crucial documents to make sure all pastoralists of age are registered
- Address issues of community land, registration and management of land in pastoral areas
- Address issues of Human Rights violations

7. Education:

- Guarantee Access to Education as right for the people of North Eastern and ASALS. TSC has withdrawn ALL teachers putting the future of our children at risk

8. Pastoralist livelihood:

- We propose the establishment of Livestock Marketing Authority with capacity of vessels for exporting live animals to competitive markets

In Conclusion, we would like to reiterate that we want to enrich this process so that it is true to its objective of having a cohesive, inclusive, equitable and equal Kenya. The BBI is a proposal to amend the constitution and laws so as to attain the aspirations of the Kenyan people and as such, is not cast in stone.