

Date: 3rd of January 2019

## REMARGALISATION OF ASAL REGION BY GOVERNMENT

- In 1965, the Kenya Government adopted Sessional Paper No. 10, which stated, "One of our problems is to decide how much priority we should give in investing in less developed provinces. To make the economy as a whole grow as fast as possible, development money should be invested where it will yield the largest increase in net output"
- As leaders from this region, we are beginning to realise that history repeats itself. The government of the day has embarked on reintroducing an exclusionist approach to sharing of national resources. We have seen a trend where the ASAL region is no longer seen as an equal partner in resource sharing from the national government. The following issues are a major concern to us.

### ON EQUALIZATION FUND:

- The Equalization Fund is a creation of the Constitution under Article 204. Money in the Equalization Fund is public finance set aside to accelerate the level of services in marginalized areas to bring them up to par with the rest of the country
- To date the funds earmarked for the equalization meant for the ASAL Counties have not been released. The Monies spent so far have largely gone to the operational costs of 7 PS's that form the governing board of the fund. We expect the national treasury to urgently disburse the funds or else we proceed to court for a judicial redress. So far, we have not received any response on our correspondence to the PS National Treasury requesting for urgent disbursement.
- The equalization fund has a maturity age of 20 years. Since promulgation of the constitution it is now 10 years. We have therefore lost half period we could have utilized this funds so far.

### NEW REVENUE SHARING FORMULA:

- The Commission of Revenue Allocation or commonly known merely by its initials the CRA, is mandated by the constitution under article 203 to determine the formula for sharing the national funds. Last week the CRA gave its recommendations for the 3rd Revenue sharing formula that determines how much money goes to the county government every year. We find this formula to be very unfair to the ASAL counties. The parameters are very subjective and discriminatory. The CRA consultative draft does not really give on what basis they chosen these parameters while using population as basic denominator. The population factor shall therefore determine close to 70% of the resource allocations. The ASAL counties are generally disadvantaged on population because of the sparse distribution.
- The ASAL counties are going to lose close to 10 billion shillings per year if the new formula is adopted. The table below shows the comparative lose to our region in view of the overall increase funds proposed by the CRA for all the 47. The 2018/2019 budget vis a vie 2019/2020 budget shows overall increase of 6.9%. Whilst the rest of the country shall be benefiting, ASAL regions are going to lose close to 10% of their potential gains.

### On Census 2019

- The 2019 census shall determine how revenue shall be shared. The government is proposing the

use of biometric system for this exercise. The biometric system has raised many questions during the last general elections. Therefore, the credibility of the biometric system is in question. We are not opposed the census but demand a transparent and inclusion of international observers to ensure a credible census.

Conclusion:

- The leadership of the ASAL counties under the auspices of the Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC) and the Pastoralists Parliamentary Group (PPG), shall pursue these issues through a political process that shall imply finding like-minded political leaders to get legislation through the National Assembly and the Senate to reject policies that shall negatively affect our region.
- We have seen the leaders now dictate the policies of the national government from the some sections of this country.
- We have observed with much amazement worrying statements coming from some parts of this country that clearly shows that these so-called leaders are not acting in the spirit of building bridges and fostering national unity especially when a leader describes the population of Northern Kenya as goats, cows, and trees.

Signed:

For FCDC: For: PPG

H.E Capt. Ali Roba Hon Rehema Dida  
Chairperson FCDC  
Governor Mandera County Secretary General PPG