



## **THE VOICE OF BORANA PROFESSIONALS ON 2022 ELECTIONS**

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### **OBSERVATIONS, ANALYSIS AND RECOMENDATIONS**

BPA has carefully listened to all the political voices and watched the various activities with utmost discernment, made observations and assessments and now wish to make the following statement as pertains to the 2022 electoral contests in Marsabit and Isiolo counties;

#### **A.1 ISIOLO COUNTY**

1. In Isiolo County, Borana are well organized under the patronage of Isiolo chapter of BORANA COUNCIL OF ELDERS (BCE) who have successfully championed Borana unity (TOKUMMA).
2. Withdrawal of current Isiolo Governor from 2022 race and his endorsement of the unfNairobi county majority leader to replace him has created confusion among some sections of Waso Borana but with insignificant effect on the unity resolve under BCE.
3. In Isiolo, dissenting voices emerged at some levels of political contest after BCE declaration. Unfortunately, these individuals/groups have proceeded to mount own campaign at great displeasure of the community who have largely embraced “TOKUMMA”.
4. The TOKUMMA candidates campaigning under the banner of “ISIOLO SUPPER ALLIANCE” have so far conducted peaceful and successful campaign drive selling the unity message, demonstrating great team spirit to deliver the political seats.

5. Under the guidance of wise BCE leaders, H.E Godana Doyo made right choice by picking a youthful Somali Deputy Governor for continuation of Borana-Somali historical relationship in the region.

## **A.2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. In Isiolo County, BPA leadership and its fraternity stand with and fully support the resolution of Isiolo BCE. In this respect, we therefore call on dissenting candidates (HusseinTene, Halake Dida, Mumina Bonaya, Hussein Golicha, Abdullahi Banticha) and their key supporters to rethink their position for sake of posterity.
2. We call on Waaso Borana to continue reaching out to other communities as envisaged in the formation of the ISIOLO SUPPER ALLIANCE (ISA) and rally behind the TOKUMMA team of H.E Governor Godana Doyyo and his Deputy Governor, Hon. Senator Nuh Mohammed Ibrahim, Hon. Rehema Dida Jaldesa for Isiolo Woman Representative, Hon. Hassan Odha Hulufu for Isiolo North MP and Hon. Mohammed Tuppi Bidhu for Isiolo south MP.
3. BPA supports the Isiolo Super Alliance (Unity/Tokumma) drive that encompasses ALL COMMUNITIES living in Isiolo without leaving behind even the minorities in post-election governance structure. The overall sense of belonging and ownership must be the guiding principle in the unity drive.
4. We recommend the rejection of H.E Governor Mohammed Quti's fundamental error of judgment preferring to be succeeded by a non-resident and little known Gubernatorial candidate from Nairobi.

## **B.1 MARSABIT COUNTY**

1. In Marsabit County, Borana are unprecedentedly divided and disorganized at all levels. The unity founded in 2017 under BORANA COUNCIL OF ELDERS and endorsed by RAABA GADA has since been watered down by politically motivated rivalry which resulted to birth of a splinter elders' council christened BALITI BORANA COUNCIL OF ELDERS. Regrettably, each of the two mentioned eldership group endorsed opposing political lineup anchored upon two main Governor Candidates.

2. Withdrawal of the CS Treasury from Marsabit County race for 2022 and the emergence of duo Gabra Gubernatorial aspirants has evened out the contest despite our multiple candidates. However, the division stated in observation 1 above remains a concern that could result in Borana losing the Governor seat.
3. BPA is disheartened to note the ugly and shameless alignment of support for candidates on **Clan Considerations**. This is a cancer that we all claim to hate but inwardly succumb to which is unfortunately not only weakening but also embarrassing Borana.
4. While the number of Borana candidates at all levels of political contest is a concern, we trust the **ingenuity** of our people to discerningly choose from the many in a manner that guarantees the retention of the **Governor** seat as well as both the Moyale and Saku Constituency Parliamentary seats.
5. BPA made discrete efforts early in the day to find compromises that could avoid us ending up with multiple candidates. Unfortunately, our efforts were turned down by the aspirants opposing current County Governor. In our view, the threat to Borana losing Marsabit Governorship are from various sources, namely;
  - i. Refusal by opposing gubernatorial candidates to submit themselves to proven Traditional Gadissa system.
  - ii. Vying for other junior County seats (Senate, WR), which has denied or killed opportunities of forming alliances needed to keep the lucrative Governor seat.
  - iii. Uncontrolled appetite by large clans wanting to vie for all seats.
  - iv. Lack of consensus among professionals themselves. These elitist lot seem to be oblivious to the danger posed by fanning the rivalry flame between opposing candidates. The social media craze has served as the fuel to sustain a vicious intra Borana cut throat competition. This is both shameful and regrettable.
6. We are aware similar efforts by the elders were equally rejected. Claims of partisanship and unfair profiling of BPA and BCE made it difficult to come to a round table (Gadissa) to amicably discuss and reach consensus.
7. When we realized the contesting parties were determined to go forward into the race, we decided that it was best to give each their fair chance and space

to drive their campaign. We opted to watch and listen to the ground, assess and appraise each candidate's campaign in order to advise the community on where we think their fortunes are SAFE for delivery of the GOERNOR seat.

8. In Marsabit County, we have already stated that we shall depend on and trust the resolve and ingenuity of our people to choose leaders they can truly bank on for the next five years. However, in the absence of unanimity among elders, BPA feels duty bound to guide/give the community direction on critical considerations to enable the community make those choices. One such critical consideration is the "THREAT" posed by the competition from other interest groups in the county. In particular, the vicious political competition between us and our cousins (Gabra) must never escape our minds. We must remain conscious of the possibility of losing the GOVERNOR seat as we did in 2013 through similar internal rivalry like we are witnessing in this election.
9. In our view, of the three campaigns of Governor Mohammud Ali, Comm. Keelo Harsama and Prof. Wario Guyo, Mohammud Ali and comm Kello have been more visible and robust. We further noted that Comm. Keelo's campaign has largely concentrated on Borana dominated constituencies of Moyale and saku with minimal presence in other areas. On the other hand, Governor Mohammud's campaign is evidently more wide spread in area coverage and alliance consolidation and could be rated as the best performing campaign ticket so far.

## **B.2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **1. ON NEGATIVE CLANNISM**

- i. We call on all Borana to shun the disease and vote on the basis of candidates manifesto, track record and demonstrable ability to deliver seats and provide solutions to the myriad of problems which have continued to afflict our people.

- ii. More importantly, we must ensure that this unhealthy clan inclination do not tear us apart so much as to destroy our fabric, for we are and must

remain one proud and inseparable community whose common destiny must be guarded for posterity. Thus, BPA calls on GADDA COUNCIL to make this a serious agenda for deliberation in the next GUMMI GAAYO assembly.

## **2. ON RETAINING GOVERNOR SEAT**

- i. BPA HAVING TAKEN TIME to listened to the campaign chorus (Uuru) among the Borana mass and other communities and having also sought and received poll reports conducted by various political parties and other agencies. Our findings in both cases seem to agree with our assessment as stated in 8 above. Accordingly, bearing in mind that too much division of our votes is dangerous for retention of the Governor's seat, BPA advises the Borana mass to rally on one side; the side that carries the best chance of delivering the MARSABIT COUNTY GOVERNORS SEAT.
- ii. THEREFORE, we advise the community to adopt "CHONQOLAA" strategy (Communal wave), a strategy which is likely to be adopted by our competitors too to deny us County Leadership.
- iii. Give priority to the spirit of GIVE and TAKE, by embracing alliance building strategy to avoid "*Waan lafa funne irrati, wanni ukka butte*" or "*mtaka yote hukosa yote*"
- iii. "When those aspiring for leadership fail to reach consensus in the interest of the masses they desire to lead, THE PEOPLE must do what is best for them, for the power to choose leaders rests with THE PEOPLE". (Lubbuk karran bitte, karr ilmanin bitte).

**WE SHALL PREVAIL.**

**THANK YOU.**

**SIGNED:**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Signature</b>
1	Suleiman Wako	Borana Professionals Association	
2	Bashir Golich Sora	Borana Professionals Association	
3	Prof. Hussein Golicha	Borana Professionals Association	
4	Adan Kabelo	Borana Professionals Association	
5	Hon. Amina Kule	Borana Professionals Association	
6	Mjr. Khalif Ibrahim	Borana Professionals Association	
7	Kana Golicha	Abalibe University Council	
8	Wako Liban Denge	Abbalibe University Council	
9	Shukri Nura Abagudho	Abbalibe University Council	
10	Dansoye Halake Galma	Abbalibe University Council	
11	Aisha Nuur Mohammed	Abbalibe University Council	
12	Abdub Fugich Harsama	Abbalibe University council	