



PRESS STATEMENT

20th February 2020

NCIC CALL FOR UNITY IN DISCUSSING THE BBI

“Come, let us Reason Together: United, Dignified and Peacefully.”

1. Preamble

1.1 Kenya gained, and consolidated, its independence through the combined effort and sacrifices of all Kenyans, irrespective of nationality. Our freedom is secured through the sweat, tears, courage and blood of Kenyans of diverse backgrounds: social, political, religious, gender, language and ethnicity.

1.2 Let us remember that no President in Kenya has ever been, or will ever be, elected by one ethnic group. To be a national leader is to embrace multi-ethnic posture, national ethos and values; to embrace the soul of the nation.

1.3 Our common future is certain and secure if we jointly and severally uphold the dignity of each other. As we embark on

conversations on the BBI, therefore, let us truly uphold the bridges that have enabled us to reach where we are. United, since 1963, we regained our political independence from Britain, authored our **National Anthem**, and promulgated the **2010 Constitution**.

1.4 On the basis of those sacred texts, we have, for over fifty years, built bridges of hope, unity, dignity, inclusivity, and shared among Kenyans. These texts underline strong national ethos, values and attitudes.

1.5 Together, in concerted efforts, Kenyans can craft BBI recommendations to a level of a **national sacred text** that will inspire us to build a more united, cohesive, peaceful, just and prosperous nation.

2.NCIC Suggests the Following 12 Principles to Guide Conversations on the BBI:

2.1 Build on the rich shared historical experience of struggle to consolidate independence. First, this entails working, living and together sharing our resources in the most equitable way. Second it calls for defending and sustaining democracy and unity that we have nurtured in the last 57 years;

2.2 Those entrusted with organizing the delegate's forums and rallies, as well as all speakers, must **safeguard the integrity of the BBI text**: say what it is, avoid distortions, point out gaps and make suggestions and additions to improve on it;

2.3 Those who undertake to plan forums for delegates, should have clarity on, and present, the agenda in good time. The agenda shall guide conversations and resolutions at BBI public rallies. Each public rally should endeavor to address issues and concerns of the respective region and not to advance personal or political interests;

2.4 Ensure meaningful participation of women, youth, and People with disabilities in agenda setting and formulation of resolutions and recommendations. That way the dignity of the traditionally marginalized will be upheld and strengthened in the BBI processes;

2.5 Peaceful management of both public rallies and the delegate forums is critical. Organizers and leaders should be accountable for unbecoming behavior or violent actions of their supporters and fans. Supporters or fans will also be held accountable individually and collectively for their behavior and any disruptions that they initiate.

2.6 Highlight and emphasize that which unites us, as Kenyans. We should recognize our heroes and heroines in all fields including champions of cohesion, healing and reconciliation. We should also shun that which divides us such as selfishness and ethnicism;

2.7 Law enforcement agencies should ensure law and order at the BBI forums and rallies. They should maintain strict, firm, and fair observance of the law for the safety and well-being of all Kenyans attending those events, regardless of their position in society, or political persuasion.

2.8 Affirm the dignity of every Kenyan, irrespective of one's station in life. This implies celebrating the richness of our ethnic diversity and the essence of our cultures: our names, songs, dances and cuisines;

2.9 The forums and rallies should aim to celebrate our diversity, with all its splendor and beauty, while avoiding tendencies towards the mentality of negativity;

2.10 Show respect to our institutions and their traditions by according them appropriate dignity, from the lowest to the highest;

2.11 Every person involved in rallies and forums must respect the freedom of expression of other people. Speeches and utterances must avoid abusive, exclusive, demeaning language and stereotyping or profiling of other people. There should be severe consequences for those who involve themselves in abusive activities;

2.12 All adults should set positive and constructive norms and attitudes that our youth can emulate and internalize. In doing so, we shall consolidate our unity as one strong, cohesive and hopeful Kenyan nation.

May the BBI conversations bless our land and nation, enhance justice and strengthen our security and defenses, to enable us to walk and dwell in dignity, unity, peace and liberty, and thereby share the abundance of our prosperity.

Remember that in these conversations, millions of Concerned Kenyans are watching; our neighbors are watching too; and above all, God, the Creator is watching!



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