

PASTORALISTS INDIGENOUS NON GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS (PINGOS) FORUM

- PINGOS FORUM STATEMENT TO THE SECOND SESSION OF THE  
FORUM ON MINORITY ISSUES

## INTRODUCTION

Pastoralists and Hunter-Gatherers Communities in Tanzania have been exposed to massive evictions countrywide beginning the year 2006 to date. The national wide campaign to evict pastoralists implemented under the government strategy to protect the environment targeted only Maasai, Barbaig, Sukuma and Tatoga as well as Hunter-Gatherers, the Hadzabe and Dorobo<sup>1</sup>. In all areas where the evictions were implemented (Usangu-Ihefu, Kilosa, Mvomero, Ulanga, Nkasi, Mpanda, Same, Mwanga, Yaeda chini-Mbulu, Chalinze, Bagamoyo and Loliondo pastoralists and hunter-gatherers are a minorities'.

The evictions took place based on the fact that political representation of pastoralists and Hunter-Gatherers at local and national levels does not exist or if exists it is weak. Political representations at local government authority and parliaments level is based on majority vote, hence absence of political representatives' at ward and parliamentary levels' for pastoralists and hunter-gatherers<sup>3</sup>.

The political arrangement in Tanzania made it difficult for pastoralists, to influence political, economic as well as socio-cultural decisions of interest to their survival as a people in the contemporary Tanzanian society. Lack of political influence among pastoralists and hunter-gatherers of Tanzania subjected them to marginalization and discriminative practices in accessing social-cultural and economic resources for their development. A number of political statements have been made high level national leaders that further political, economic and social cultural discrimination'.

ABSENCE OF POLITICAL WILL ON THE PART OF THE STATE CREATING AN  
ENVIRONMENT OF EFFECTIVE POLITICAL PARTICIPATION THROUGH.OBSERVATION OF  
HUMAN. RIGHTS

The minority and marginal position that pastoralists and hunter-gatherers communities occupy in the political system of Tanzanian state has made it difficult for pastoralists to effectively participate in the political process of Tanzania. The lack of such processes led into gross humanrights violations and freedom to participate into political and democratic engagement that determines the destiny of minorities in Tanzania. Minority issues of concern therefore could not be addressed adequately and effectively between 2006 to date, Example; burning pastoral houses, rapping of women, beating of innocent pastoralists, while on the other hand the government allocates pastoral land and grazing resources to Ortello Business Corporation(OBC) and Thomson Safari for Tourism and wealthy farmers, In of such processes minority pastoralists denied access to education, employment (engagement into traditional pastoral activities), confiscation of pastoralists' properties', most of such state sponsored human rights violation left many pastoralists poorer than they were before, health service, imprisonment without fair trial and freedom of speech, all these violations were implemented during and after the eviction process by government police forces and OBC game rangers<sup>6</sup>.

Evidence of lack of political will to address pastoral human rights violations include silence of the government, discriminative and biased position towards pastoralists in the Loliondo. The reasons behind political behavior of the state around Loliondo pastoralists human rights violation is the insignificancy of the Ngorongoro constituency and overall pastoral community have in determination of the political direction of the nation'.

The state have always, since July 2009 to date, been on the defensive side against the plight of pastoralists Loliondo, while at the same time protecting the interest of the investor particularly OBC and Thomson Safaris with a financial muscle able to

corrupt high' level political leaders to defend their hunting tourism businesses at the expense of minority pastoral community livelihoods in the area.

## OBSTACLES TO PASTORALISTS AND HUNTER-GATHERERS PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL PROCESS

Pastoral communities together with their representative CSO's and the Tanzanian Pastoralists Parliamentary Group (TZPPG) engaged into a process influence the parliament to take up actions against the government supported pastoral and hunter-gatherers human rights violation around the country . The initial political engagement through the parliament failed due to a number of reasons;

1. High level corruption
2. High level government leaders political statements stereotyping pastoralists and hunter-gatherers communities
- 3..The small number of parliamentarian supporting pastoralists in the parliament
- 4.Limited capacity of pastoralists parliamentarian on how to take advantage of the United Republic of Tanzania ParliamentaryGuidelines to influence for favorable decision on behalf of affected pastoralists and hunter-gatherers.
5. Political statements, threats issued by the government as well use of excessive force focused at weakening CSO's, diplomatic Corps and pastoral communities suppbtrng the political processes against the evictions
6. Lack of formal recognition of institutions like TZPPG by the parliament and the executive as well as power to represent issues of concern to pastoralists•in different political processes and institutions

## THE IMPACT OF PASTORALISTS POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

The impact of political process to address issues of concern among pastoralists, to include the evictions, in Tanzania is limited and could be said to ineffective to some extents due to biased nature of the structure and means of representation in political

institutions and processes to protect the basic human rights of pastoralists and other minority communities of Tanzania.

For instance the political process to intervene on the eviction of pastoralists in Loliondo by the government forced the Member of Parliament for the Ngorongoro constituency to table a *private motion* in the parliament. The private motion has to be debated by the parliament and decision be made on actions to be taken by the parliament.

There is likelihood that a parliament will form a parliamentary committee to investigate on the alleged human rights violation in Loliondo. The government did everything they can through the ruling party to stop the parliament from forming parliamentary committee which has the power to impinge the government based of evidence generated. This being the case the ruling party influenced the Ngorongoro Constituency parliamentarian to change the issue from a *private motion* to *personal statement*. This political process in parliament' gives the government an opportunity to escape and being taken to task' by the parliament. Hence rights denied to pastoralists who suffered the eviction.

Although, in this political process through the parliament aiming at seeing justice being served to Loliondo pastoralists did not manage to influence the parliament to form a parliamentary committee of enquiry. The speaker of the National Assembly instructed the permanent parliamentary committee on Lands, Natural Resources and Tourism to investigate to investigate on the allegations and report to the parliament in January 2010 parliament session.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EFFECTIVE POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF PASTORALISTS  
AND OTHER MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN TANZANIA

## TANZANIA GOVERNMENT

1. To formally recognize and empower national institutions<sup>-</sup> and CSO's that represent minority communities in Tanzania such as the Tanzania Pastoralists Parliamentarian Group (TZPPG) and Pastoralists Indigenous Non Governmental Organizations (PINGO's) Forum, Legal and Human Rights Centre and Land Resources Research Institute.
2. Tanzania State to deliberately design and implement policies and laws that will increase formal and permanent representation of Pastoralists and Hunter-Gatherers communities in political process and institutions such as local government authorities, the parliament and government institutions such a ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism as well as the ministry of Lands and settlements, and Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries were minority communities of Tanzania have, interest.
3. Tanzanian state to effectively involve minority communities in the design and implementation of policies, strategies, campaigns and plans that will affect their livelihoods and culture; example the national wide campaign to evict pastoralists, the crafting of new laws example• the recent Wildlife Act 2009 that openly discriminate pastoralists and hunter-gatherers. This can be done by deliberate inclusion of minority communities in state decision making institutions.
4. The parliament of United Republic of Tanzania to form a 'parliamentary committee to investigate on the alleged human rights violation pastoralists and hunter-gatherers in Tanzania. The engagement should be focused at opening up

opportunities and setting precedent on how to observe economic and social rights of pastoralists and hunter-gatherers.

5. The state to remove restrictive procedures and practices for pastoralists and hunter-gatherers communities to hold peaceful public meeting the case. Example of such restrictions put in Kilosa, Loliondo, Mpanda and. Nkasi during and after the national wide eviction of pastoralists in those areas.

6. The state to enhance the ability of Pastoral and hunter-gatherers CSO's in supporting processes that lead into improved political participation of pastoralists and hunter-gatherers, rather than putting restriction, threats of deregistration CSO's, and threat to CSO's leaders.

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1. • To put more effort to pressure the Tanzania government to recognize existence of indigenous people and protect their rights based on international laws that Tanzania has ratified.
2. To support Tanzania CSO's in efforts to improve political engagement of minority communities in processes to defending, their rights. Particularly now that pastoralists and hunter-Gatherers of facing massive eviction country wide to give way for conservation, tourism and mining investments.
- 3 To keep up the pressure to the government through national leadership to eliminate structural barriers to effective participation of minority communities such as the electoral process that require political party affiliation, majority representations in electoral constituencies that discriminate and exclude minority communities from participation. The focus should be in areas inhabited by pastoralists and hunter-gatherers Usangu-Ihefu, Matebete, Kilosa (Ngaiti, Mabwegere), Mvomero, Mpanda, Loliondo, Same, Nkasi, Mbulu-Yaeda Chin' and Mangola and Mwanga.

#### INTERNATIONAL CSO's

1. To engage into capacity building programs for national CSO's dealing with minorities issues in Tanzania
2. To engage their Embassies to influence for increased political participation of minority communities on issues of their interest.