



14 April 2018

TO WHOM THIS MAY CONCERN,

I am writing this letter as a Daasanach leader and current MCA of the Illeret area (Member of the County Assembly, Marsabit County) as well as a long term supporter of the MCFT/MCTC Foundation projects in Illeret. I have known Liza Cronhelm , her sister Amy and their parents since early 2010 when they and a group of volunteers came to Illeret to build the library. I was a Guest Speaker at the opening ceremony in September 2010 where we had a large crowd of children and parents who welcomed this library enthusiastically, a first in Daasanach history.

Since those days, the foundations tireless efforts to boost education have contributed greatly to my community of Daasanach living in and around Illeret.

I know education is the current focus however during one of our worst extended drought periods in early 2017 the foundation and their supporters stepped up and came to help us. They came from the other side of the world to supply grain and feed over a 1,000 people in and around the El Bokoch School area, something we will never forget.

I have volunteered over many years to assist the foundations efforts and have worked closely with Liza Cronhelm and Amy Cronhelm and seen how much care they have shown us and the struggle they have made on our Daasanach communities behalf.

The library has been run continuously since 2010 and in 2014 the foundation took over the running of El Bokoch School on the north side of the river. Since 2014 there has been increased capacity to educate our young people mostly living in the Watali area and further up the riverbed in adjoining areas where the Koobi Fora Field School have previously camped. Young children come as far away as from the cattle camps in the fora to attend school, being looked after by family members living close to the El Bokoch School grounds. During the last term of 2017 the roll shot up to around 200 pupils some of whom came from Illeret Primary to study and revise for their end of year exams. There are now more girls in our area being encouraged to go to school. This is slow progress but undoubtedly is the way forward for our people.

Once the foundation has built the last two classrooms then it will be eligible to be registered with the Marsabit County Government something I have encouraged the foundation to do. I support the foundations plan to turn the school into a dual primary and high school as we have many young Dassanach who are unable to attend high school outside our district. This will be a first of a kind in this area and give a critical boost to our ability to shape our own

future and to expand ways in which Daasanach can be more self-sustaining in the years to come.

I kindly urge you in whatever capacity you can to support this dedicated effort to complete the construction of the El Bokoch School.

I thank you all for the support you can give the MCFT/MCTC in their incredible effort to provide education for our Daasanach Community.

Yours sincerely



Korie James Haile

MCA (Member County Assembly – Marsabit County) Illeret Ward

E-mail: jameshaile54@gmail.com

Mobile: +254711255195

