

**ASALAAMU ALEIKUM WARAHMATULLAAHI
WABARAKATUHU.**

**THE FOURTH JAMHURI DAY SPEECH BY THE FIRST
GOVERNOR OF MANDERA COUNTY H.E. CAPT. ALI
IBRAHIM ROBA ON MONDAY 12TH DECEMBER, 2016**

The Deputy Governor, The County Commissioner, Members of the County Executive, Members of Mandera County Assembly, and Council of Elders present both National and local, all other distinguished guests, my beloved people of Mandera County good morning.

Today we are gathered here to commemorate the 53rd anniversary of Jamuhuri when we got independence from the colonial rule. The independence of Kenya did not come easy on a silver platter. It came as a result of the heroic sacrifice made by many Kenyans. The colonial army had much more superior armaments but they were no match for the gallant spirit of our freedom fighters who with rudimentary weapons but brave spirits were able to vanquish out a superior military force and win us the freedom we are now celebrating. Let us remember our freedom fighters with much respect for their bravery and sacrifice.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the Area of Agriculture and Livestock,

Devolution has radically changed the county's narrative and made farming a success story. The drought threatened arid lands have been turned into farms through irrigation along River daua. The county has procured 15 no. motorcycles for use by extension officers. The county has operationalized all the previously stalled irrigation schemes namely BP1, Gadudia, Aresa, Hareri, Shantoley and Rhamu dimtu and which are all at different levels of implementation. Irrigation canals have been increased by a total of 7.8km of main concrete and lateral canals to facilitate year round farming. A total of 2,145 acres of farmland has been opened up through bush clearing of *Prosopis juliflora* (Mathenge) to promote more production which has doubled our farming capacity in the county. We have constructed 1,520m of gabions along River Daua to protect irrigated farmlands from destruction by floods which is a common occurrence. Additionally we have distributed more than 100 irrigation water pumps to irrigation schemes and farmers along the river as well as distributed 40 portable water pumps to various farming groups with shallow wells. Greenhouse farming has also recorded success stories in parts of Banisa and Mandera West sub-counties where tomatoes, kales and capsicums are produced.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Over the last three years, we have distributed over 150MT of assorted seed of cereals, pulses, oil crops and horticultural crops and 20,400 assorted fruit tree seedlings to farmers countywide. Commercial farming of onions and watermelon has taken root in the Mandera East with our produce being marketed to Nairobi and beyond. Fodder production along the river Daua has also recorded a lot of success resulting in minimal livestock loss. In the Agricultural Mechanization Station we have procured and operationalized 6no farm tractors with accessories in addition we have received a donation of 2no tractors with accessories from the Turkish government.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The area under crop production has increased from 3950ha in 2012 to 6170 ha in 2015 and the total production of crops has also increased from 6430MT in 2012 to 10,730MT in 2015. Increased production has resulted in increased income resulting in improved standard of living with the active farmers being able to meet their basic needs of food, healthcare, shelter and their children's education.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Over the last four years our livestock number have more than tripled in this county owing to the blessings of the Almighty Allah and the interventions of the county government in responding to drought emergencies as well as veterinary support. The County Government Constructed 15 cattle crushes, 8 fish ponds in the county, 13 water

troughs, Purchased and distributed 6981kgs of grass seeds county wide, Purchased and distributed 35,000 bales of Hay County wide to caution farmers against La-Nina

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the area of Youth Gender and Social services

The ministry has established a committee called the Mandera County Drugs and Substance Abuse committee whose core role was to commission research into drugs and substance abuse problem and the recommendations that the committee made helped the ministry carry out necessary interventions into the menace. The ministry has constructed 5 Social halls in 5 sub counties. At the same time the ministry has given out a 6 million grant to 7 orphanage centres. . A further 11 million grant was also disbursed to the maendeleo ya wanawake organization as part of the county government programme to empower the women entrepreneurs in the county. Above all the ministry has gone ahead to support orphans through construction of child friendly facilities like the renovation of a dormitory, entertainment room and four latrines at the Mandera Islamic Center orphanage (Boystown) and Al-Sunna orphanage. Further we also constructed Basic child Care facilities at Mandera East Children office. More important during the financial year 2015/16 the ministry did carried baseline survey aimed at establishing the population of persons with disabilities in the Mandera County. The main objective was to obtain and provide up-to-date information on PWDs within the county that will be useful in planning, monitoring and evaluating the

various activities, programmes and projects geared towards improving PWDs' wellbeing. In the same period the ministry did as well procure more mobility kits for over 700 PWD's comprising of wheel chairs, Tri-circle, blind sticks and crutches for all the sub-counties due to the demand from the said group, making sure that these people continue to be productive in their area of work.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ministry of Health Services

Let me take this early opportunity to thank the nurses who have agreed to return back to work after a successful negotiation exercise with the government and we would like to ask our doctors to do the same and call off the strike as negotiations are ongoing.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before Devolution, Health care in Mandera had one of the worst health indicators where high maternal/infant mortality, poor child survival and disease burden have been the highest not only in Kenya but globally. These were as a result of inadequate infrastructure, minimal Human resource for health, medical supplies, nonexistent referral system and access to health care services.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To improve health care Mandera County Government has increased health care financing from Ksh50M before devolution to current annual average of Ksh1.5B. Through these enhanced financing, the

county government has increased the number of referral hospitals from 1 to 3 to improve access to specialized services while other 3 hospitals have been upgraded from level 3 to level 4. The number of primary health care facilities which include health centres and dispensaries has also been increased from 18 to 68. In addition to this, 18 modern maternity wings have been constructed. skilled deliveries which have since then increased from 3,800 to 12,300 safe deliveries and antenatal attendance has improved from 8,900 to 12,300 pregnant women. The county government in a bid to improve maternal health care is in the process of constructing 2 new operating theatres for Lafey and Banisa sub counties to offer comprehensive obstetric care. Health work force has been increased from 150 to 831 health workers, increasing our staffing level to 45% compared to the 3% pre devolution. Supply of pharmaceutical, non- pharmaceutical and other essential health products has been improved and about 500 tons of supplies have been procured to treat the most common ailments. The availability of these essential drugs and supplies has increased the utilization of health care facilities from 15% in 2012 to 65% in 2015. Stock-outs of essential supplies is now thing of the past.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Very soon we will be operationalizing 53 new health facilities across the six sub-counties which will have effectively increased our service capacity by 300%. Our struggle to improve healthcare is continuing

with the construction of accident and emergency centers in Mandera and Elwak. Once completed it will help us respond more effectively to medical emergencies. We expect these two facilities to house HDUs, ICUs, it will have MRI and CITI-SCAN machines as well as dialysis machines to save lives and respond effectively to the medical needs of citizens.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Lands, Housing And Physical Planning

As you may be aware we lost most of our land records to terror attacks in Mandera town however The county government had reconstructed the entire registry records by physically visiting all land owners and re-registering plots. Today, almost all the land parcels in Mandera town and its environs are captured in the land register. The land registration process was replicated in all the sub-counties and we are glad to report that the registration process has trickled down to the ward level. This has resulted into many properties being captured for revenue collection in the form of rental payments. In addition, Automation of land records is also at an advanced stage.

In addition to surveying and mapping, we have secured many public utility plots by erecting concrete pillars around their beacons to clearly mark the existence of such plots and ward off grabbers. Today, Mandera County is considered as one of the fastest growing regions in the country and the department of lands is committed to providing easy access and equitable allocation of land to all.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ministry of education sports and culture

Before Devolution there were only 3 ECDE teachers in the entire county. My government recruited 460. Furthermore, there was not a single ECDE class before devolution but today there are 167 including model ECDE classes. In addition, the county Government distributed learning materials to 145 schools My government has in the last 4 years operationalized 3 colleges with a population of 300 ECDE students at different categories of proficiency, certificate and diploma. In addition Mandera teachers training college with an enrolment of 103 students are to sit for their exam in September 2018 while Mandera Technical training institute is hosting yet another 50 students pursuing different courses. In the area of polytechnic, before devolution we had only 2 centers takaba and mandera but 4 other centres have so far been opened in banisa, Elwak, fino and Rhamu. All are registered as exam centers. A total of 379 students are enrolled in the 6 centers while 185 students have so far done the National industrial Training Authority Exam (NITA). For sports Moi stadium field has been completed and handed over. Several schools sports fields were constructed to promote sports. The county Government has also provided uniforms to teams in all the sub counties.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Trade, investments, industrialization and co-operative development

In line with the National vision of attaining middle-income newly industrialized country status by the year 2030, My County Government through The ministry of Trade, Investments, Industrialization and Cooperative Development has carried out a raft of measures to boost the economy of the county. We have constructed ten (10) modern markets distributed throughout the county in order to create conducive environment for Micro and Small enterprises businesses. To help in financing start-ups and to improve the capacities of existing businesses especially businesses run by the Youth, Women and Persons Living with Disabilities, we have set up two Funds (The Mandera County Trade Development Fund and the Mandera County Cooperative Development Fund) with a combined initial seed capital of KShs.115m. We have promoted the cooperatives sector by registering and capacity building 80 new cooperatives and revived 36 in active ones. Membership of registered cooperatives grew from 1,524 to 3,564 (a whopping 133.9% increase). We shall transform our cooperatives into credible lending entities to spur economic.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Public service cohesion and Integration

The County has improved in terms of cohesion and integration due to sustained engagement with all the stakeholders on conflict resolution through localized mechanisms; we registered the lowest in terms of occurrence of incidents for a year. We successfully facilitated and conducted dialogues on the few incidents that occurred through the community's structures, opening of road routes, businesses environment normalized, schools affected by the clan skirmishes rehabilitated and fully operational, Rehabilitation of houses affected by the same rebuilt and localized conflict resolution structures strengthened. IDP were resettled at areas of their choice with all facilities like water, shelter and sanitation provided. The Ministry has constructed 15 Ward Offices and 6 Enforcement offices, the support program to the security sector has improved in terms of the facilitation of stipend for 304 NPR Officers, support in terms of logistics of six vehicles fully fueled by week for night patrols. The County peace and Security initiative was appreciated by the residence and external players like Turkana County has called on us for benchmarking trip which our team handled with a lot of strength and our counterparts appreciated. My Government in partnership with National Government have opened Malka Roqa police patrol base so as to increase security for our pollution. Finally for better service

delivery, My government has decentralized human resources to all ministries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ministry of Roads and Public Service

The ministry has made tremendous gains in the public infrastructure sector.

Mandera town roads (24km) are being constructed to bitumen standards for the first time since independence which is 70% complete, while all the main inter constituency roads have been constructed to all weather murrum roads (474km). In addition, all the main inter wards road have been constructed to all weather murrum roads (550km). Besides, Elwak Airstrip was designed and built to gravel standards and now fully operational. In Addition, Over 300km of new unclassified roads has been successfully bush cleared and opened. Other Flagship projects like the County headquarters, County Assembly, the Governor`s residence and the county hotel are all at advanced stage. Consequently, the journeys between places have been cut by more than 300 percent. For instance, where it used to take the whole day between Banisa and Mandera now takes just two-and a half hours while Takaba to Elwak that used to take four hours has now been reduced to one hour fifteen minutes. Takaba- Banisa used to take two-and a half hours now takes 40 minutes

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ministry of finance and Economic planning

The Ministry of Finance has so far managed to accomplish the following initiative.

Streamlining of the payment processes and devolving of treasury services to all departments and sub-counties. The treasury also did Installation of vote book system for all ministries and computerized the department functions and operations by adopting IFMIS in its operations. The ministry further installed an internal financial tracking system to monitor County finances and expenditures. In the area of Revenue Mobilization, the finance department launched effective revenue management in a bid to maximize tax collection, facilitate transparency and seal existing tax loopholes while ensuring all Sub Counties have fully flagged revenue offices and automated revenue collection at the hospitals. In addition the ministry has in the last 4 years increased the capacity of staff in order to manage effectively and efficiently matters pertaining to budget planning and preparation and appropriation and finance Act. Finally, the Ministry Responded to humanitarian issues and settlement of IDPs. In this regard, the Ministry managed to Construct 250 housing units for IDPs in Rhamu and Installed water and power systems for the 250 housing units for all IDPs. The ministry continues to support on Monthly basis, routine distributions of relief foods to 3000 IDPs households.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the area of water, energy environment and Natural resources,

We have secured funding through the National Government from African Development Bank to do water reticulation, metering , water treatment plant and sewage system for Mandera town. The design work has been completed and undergoing review at the ministry and ADP as well as the World bank. We expected the procurement to commence anytime soon.

We have drilled and equipped 59 boreholes across the county. We are piping fresh water to Elwak from falama. We are carrying out underground water resource mapping countywide and have completed 90 site hydrogeological surveys. We have constructed 39 new dams comprising of 21no. 20000M3, 3 no 30000M3, 14 no 60000M3, 1 no 120000M3 throughout the county which have helped ease water supply both for human beings and livestock.

We have also constructed 10 new water supply systems within the county and rehabilitated 45 water supply systems across the county. In addition to these, we have also rehabilitated through de-silting and expansion 27 water pans and dams across the country. We have constructed 86 new underground water tanks whose capacities range from 100000L3 to 300000L3 across the county.

I wish you a happy new year and prosperous 2017 free of insecurity and other challenges. May peaceful election prevail in our county and country. Ameen.

God Bless You All.