



**SPEECH BY H.E. THE GOVERNOR MOHAMED ADAN KHALIF
DURING THE VISIT BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE TO MANDERA ON
22ND AUGUST 2023**

The Chief Justice of the Republic of Kenya and the president of the Supreme Court,

The Chief Registrar of Judiciary, Honourable Anne Amadi

Justices of the Court of Appeal Present

Judges of the high court and ELC court present

The County Commissioner

Member of Parliament for Mandera East Hon. Hussein Weytan

Honourable Registrars, Kadhi & Magistrates present

Honourable Members of the County Assembly present

Senior County Officials present

Judiciary partners present

AJS Chair and his team

Other distinguished guests,

Elders and Ulamas present

Asalamu Aleikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh

Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning.

Today marks an extraordinary and historic occasion as we welcome the first Chief Justice to ever grace our County. I ask you all to join me in extending a warm and heartfelt welcome to the Chief Justice of the Republic of Kenya, Her Ladyship Madam Martha Koome.

Your Ladyship, your visit, alongside your esteemed guests, holds immense significance for all of us. Your Ladyship, welcome to Mandera!

Today, we are gathered here to bear witness to three pivotal events that are set to advance access to justice for the people of Mandera.

To begin with, the utilization of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in court document filing enhances the efficiency and accessibility of

judicial services by streamlining the recording, storage, and retrieval of court documents. This process minimizes the need for manual handling and paperwork while upholding the accuracy and integrity of court records—an imperative for ensuring fairness and dependability in legal proceedings.

Nonetheless, we acknowledge that the lack of stable internet connectivity in certain parts of Mandera County may pose a challenge for some court users. We are optimistic that the tireless efforts of the Judiciary and its partners to enhance internet connectivity across all court stations will ultimately result in the seamless use of e-filing and virtual court proceedings.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Secondly, the establishment of a High Court sub-registry in Mandera represents a significant stride towards making the judicial process more accessible and convenient for our County's residents. This achievement underscores the Judiciary's commitment to upholding justice and equality, ensuring that each citizen can seek redress and have their legal matters heard.

The scale of this initiative bears tremendous significance. Establishing a local sub-registry will undoubtedly alleviate the challenges faced by individuals who, in the past, had to undertake extensive journeys of almost 600 kilometres to High Court stations in Garissa or Marsabit for addressing legal matters within the High Court's jurisdiction.

The implications of these hardships might even extend to the potential denial of justice for a considerable number of individuals.

I extend profound gratitude to the entire Judiciary team for their steadfast dedication, which has transformed the establishment of the High Court sub-registry in Mandera from a vision into reality.

Esteemed Guests,

Thirdly, the Honorable Chief Justice is present to inaugurate the Maslaha Alternative Justice System Centre in Mandera. The Alternative Justice System

(AJS), a form of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) outlined in Article 159(2)(c) of the Constitution, is being recognized.

AJS, an informal dispute resolution method, provides an avenue to resolve disputes in ways that consider the cultural, socio-economic, and geographical context of our people.

Despite Mandera County's vast expanse of over twenty-five thousand square kilometres and a population exceeding one million, we currently have only one mainstream court station—Mandera Magistrates Court. Additionally, the county houses three specialized courts: Kadhis courts in Mandera, Elwak, and Takaba.

Given that disputes emerge in both urban and rural settings, it is evident that most disputes in Mandera County are resolved through informal mechanisms. Institutionalizing AJS in Mandera will undoubtedly fortify local dispute resolution systems, as decisions made by AJS panels will hold weight in formal courts.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Moving ahead, we urge the Judiciary and its partners to establish the necessary frameworks to ensure the enduring success of AJS initiatives.

On our part, we assure you of the County Government's steadfast commitment to providing continuous support for the triumph of AJS endeavours.

Given the honour of hosting the esteemed Chief Justice, I humbly present a few requests to the Chief Justice and the Judiciary, reflecting the hopes and aspirations of the people of Mandera County:

1. Establishment of Magistrate Court Stations in Elwak and Takaba: As previously highlighted, our county currently relies solely on the Mandera Magistrates Court to address legal matters. Recognizing the challenges posed by lengthy journeys of over 200 kilometres and delayed justice, we appeal for the establishment of new Magistrate court stations in Elwak and Takaba towns. Such a strategic move would not only alleviate the hardships faced by our citizens but also contribute to a more streamlined and accessible justice system.

2. Creation of New Kadhis Court Stations: Our appeal extends to the establishment of new Kadhis Court stations in Rhamu, Lafey, and Banisa towns. This addition would significantly improve access to legal services concerning personal status matters for our community. The County Government is fully committed to promptly providing suitable land parcels to facilitate the realization of these essential court stations.

3. Prioritizing Completion of Court Building Projects: We kindly urge the Judiciary to accord high priority to the completion of the ongoing court-building projects here in Mandera. By doing so, our people will be able to fully enjoy the benefits of this investment, including the modern amenities associated with these developments.

In conclusion, I wish to convey our profound gratitude to all stakeholders, especially the Chief Justice and her dedicated team, for their invaluable presence and commitment to elevating the quality of our County's justice system.

Through your persistent efforts, you are instrumental in forging a path toward an accessible, equitable, and efficient judicial process that will serve the best interests of all our citizens.

With profound respect for the honour and privilege of her presence, I extend a formal invitation to the Chief Justice of the Republic of Kenya, humbly requesting her to grace us with her remarks.

Thank you all! Karibu Your Ladyship