

H.E THE DEPUTY GOVERNOR

THE COUNTY COMMISSIONER

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT PRESENT

HON.SPEAKER OF MANDERA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY SECURITY COMMITTEE

HON.MEMBERS OF THE MANDERA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

COUNTY EXECUTIVES AND STAFF PRESENT

RELIGIOUS LEADERS

MANDERA RESIDENTS

A-SALAAM ALEYKUM, JAMBO

Ladies and gentlemen,

First and foremost, let us all jointly thank Allah (SWT) for His blessings; plentiful rain, peace and good health. Alhamdulillah.

Today, as we gather to celebrate our 60th Madaraka Day, a day that holds immense significance in the history of our great nation, I stand before you with great pride and gratitude.

Madaraka Day is significant in our history because it is on this day in June 1963 that we secured Madaraka or Self-rule from the colonial government, and six months later, on 12th December 1963, our full independence.

Madaraka Day is a time for reflection, for unity and for envisioning a brighter future for our county and our nation.

It is a time to remember the sacrifices made by our forefathers who fought for the independence of our beloved nation. It is a day to honour their courage and unwavering commitment to the principles of freedom, justice and self-governance. Today, as we celebrate the progress we have made as a country, we must also remember the challenges we have faced and the sacrifices that have been made along the way.

I want to express my gratitude to the people of Mandera for your unwavering support and dedication to the development and progress of our County. It is your resilience, your determination, and your spirit of unity that make Mandera County the thriving community that it is today.

In Mandera County, we have come a long way in our journey towards development and prosperity. We have made significant strides in education, healthcare, infrastructure and the empowerment of our youth and women. However, we also recognize that there is still work to be done. We must continue to invest in the well-being of our people and work tirelessly to address the challenges that lie ahead.

Ladies and gentlemen,

With great pride and joy, I stand before you today to share some of the remarkable accomplishments we have made as a county.

As you remember, recently, we received high-level visitors led by the Deputy President, H.E. Rigathi Gachagua, during the launch of the Kenya-Somalia -Ethiopia Borderlands Project. During the event and subsequent meetings in Nairobi, our minister of the Interior, Professor Kindiki Kithure, announced the opening of our borders with the neighbouring countries. This development will boost the socio-economic progress of our county, fostering trade, cultural exchange, and peaceful coexistence between communities.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Our county is still recovering from the impact of the worst drought for forty years (40 years).

Although we lost a substantial number of livestock, it could have been worse if it were not for our effective response with the support of the national government and development partners.

During the peak of the drought, the County Government distributed foodstuffs and animal feeds as well as implemented water trucking to 342 centres and 60 schools. These efforts were instrumental in providing vital food and water supplies for both human and livestock populations.

Moreover, the county government drilled four emergency boreholes at El-ram, Birkan, Errestino, and Kiliwehiri. Two of these boreholes, Birkan and Kiliwehiri, have been equipped and are fully operational, providing water to an estimated population of 16,256 individuals and their livestock.

For us to reduce the impact of climate change, we must take care of our environment. There are individuals who are cutting down trees aimlessly. Let us all work together to stop this practice. I

instruct the relevant departments to come up with concrete plans to deal with this menace. We should be planting more trees and not cutting them.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Department of Health has been providing quality healthcare to the people of Mandera County and our neighboring populations of Ethiopia and Somalia.

Our county has faced and overcame various challenges, from malnutrition among children and pregnant women to the recent cholera outbreak caused by severe drought and water shortage. The Ministry of Health launched a robust response, establishing a Cholera Treatment Centre in Mandera East.

Furthermore, the launch of the Satellite Blood Bank at Mandera County Referral Hospital has revolutionized blood processing and management, ensuring a steady supply of blood products for our people.

The recently launched Health Reforms Task Force Report highlighted the progress we have made in the health sector and identified areas that require further attention. The implementation of the Taskforce recommendation will start very soon and will see an effective and efficient service delivery and the strengthening of primary healthcare across our county.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In the agricultural sector, the department procured and distributed assorted seeds for cereals, pulses, and horticultural crops to farmers in all sub-counties, enabling them to take advantage of the rains. The department also procured pesticides to effectively address the outbreak of fall army-worm infestation in farms and encouraged our farmers to adopt sustainable agricultural practices.

The Department of Livestock conducted mass vaccination campaigns across all sub-counties, ensuring the health and well-being of our animals.

We understand that a healthy livestock population not only sustains our economy but also contributes to our food security. Therefore, we continue to prioritize the needs of our pastoral communities.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As Gandhi said, “The greatness of a nation can be judged by how it treats its weakest members.”

Early on in my administration, I directed the department of the devolved units and special programmes to conduct needs assessments for vulnerable populations across the county. The data collected enabled us to provide relief food across the sub-counties ensuring that no one is left behind.

Additionally, through the Department of Community Cohesion and Conflict Management, we have implemented strategies and interventions to foster peaceful coexistence and integration among communities within and beyond our county borders.

The Ministry of Lands has made significant strides in modernizing its operations. The department purchased state-of-the-art survey equipment and provided comprehensive training for the staff. This investment has greatly improved the efficiency and accuracy of the physical planning and survey departments, thereby enhancing land management.

In addition, we have embarked on the delineation process to establish the boundaries of several centres in the county with the view to establishing Townships.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In the realm of youth and sports, our youth has demonstrated exceptional talent and determination. The Mandera County team participated in the 8th edition of the Kenya Youth Inter-county Sports Association (KYISA) games, showcasing their skills and representing our county with pride.

Sports play a crucial role in the development of our youth, fostering discipline, teamwork, leadership, and healthy competition. The participation of our county team in the KYISA games not only promotes physical fitness but also provides a platform for the youth to harness their talents, nurture their passion for sports, and pursue their dreams.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As you are aware, our youth are facing an existential threat from the prevalence of drugs. Drug abuse is becoming too common, and we need a concerted effort to stop it. I commend our anti-narcotic team for the work they are doing to stop this menace and encourage them to redouble their effort.

The suppliers of the drugs are people from our own communities, and we must collectively confront them. In addition, I request the law enforcement agencies and chiefs in the county to heed the call by Deputy President H.E Rigathi Gachagua to fight suppliers of drugs in their jurisdiction.

The Department of Special Programmes and Disaster Management has been instrumental in providing support to our community during their times of need. They have distributed food to

vulnerable households, supported institutions, and assisted flood-affected victims. Their relentless efforts have alleviated suffering and brought hope to those in distress.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Department of Trade has been actively working towards enhancing our economic growth. Trade offices have been operationalized in Banisa and Lafey sub-counties, ensuring effective service delivery and maximizing revenue collection. Through the registration and mapping of small industries, we have fostered the processing and value addition of our local produce. Currently, we have 21 registered small industries in Mandera. Moreover, our ministry staff have undergone capacity building and training in collaboration with the World Food Program (WFP) on value addition and positioning our county as an investment hub.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As the late President Mandela said, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”. As you are aware, we provided bursaries to all students in Government Secondary Schools in Mandera County to cushion our people. Following the devastating drought, we had no choice but to ensure no student dropped out of school for lack of fees. The policy we adopted has led to a dramatic increase in enrolment in our schools and lifted the heavy burden on the shoulders of parents and teachers.

However, I am aware that the increased enrolment has put pressure on our school’s existing infrastructure. As a government, we shall do whatever we can in collaboration with our national leaders, national government, and development partners.

In addition, we have started a school feeding programme targeting all ECDE centres in the county to prevent malnutrition and therefore boost learning. We have also provided teaching and learning resources, employed additional ECDE teachers, and, as soon as the Education Task Force submits its report, embark on further reforms in the sector.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We acknowledge the progress we have made so far, but we also recognize that there is still much work to be done. As we move forward, we remain dedicated to serving the people of Mandera County, improving their lives, and building a prosperous and harmonious future for all. Together, with the support of our partners and the resilience of our communities, we can overcome any challenges and continue on the path of development and growth.

On this Madaraka Day, let us celebrate these achievements and express our gratitude to all the departments, staff members, and individuals who have contributed to the progress of our county. Together, we have overcome challenges, improved livelihoods, and built a brighter future for Mandera.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As the Governor of Mandera County, I want to assure you that I am fully committed to the progress and development of our county.

I am dedicated to ensuring that every citizen of Mandera has access to quality education, healthcare, and opportunities for economic empowerment.

I pledge to work tirelessly to create an environment that nurtures innovation, supports entrepreneurship, and attracts investment to our county.

But progress cannot be achieved by the government alone. It requires the active participation and collaboration of all stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society, and the community at large.

I urge each and every one of you to join hands with us and contribute to the growth and development of Mandera County.

Today, let us reaffirm our commitment to unity, to peace and to the ideals that our forefathers fought so hard to achieve. Let us rise above our differences and work together towards a common goal-the prosperity and well-being of every citizen of Mandera County.

On this Madaraka Day, let us celebrate our achievements, but let us also reflect on the challenges that lie ahead. Let us seize this opportunity to renew our commitment to building a prosperous and inclusive society.

Together, we can create a Mandera County that is a shining example of progress, unity and opportunity.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In conclusion, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to our esteemed partners who have played a crucial role in ensuring the well-being and development of our people.

We are immensely grateful for your collaboration and assistance in providing the necessary resources, expertise, and funding that have enabled us to address the needs of our citizens effectively.

Together, we have worked tirelessly to alleviate suffering, promote resilience, and empower our people to thrive in the face of adversity.

May Allah bless our Nation.

May Allah bless our County.

May Allah bless you all.

Thank you all, and Happy Madaraka Day

H.E Mohamed Adan Khalif

Governor

Mandera County

County Government of Ma