Journey of resilience and transformation

Frontier counties attract Sh120 billion from partners

1st SOMALI CULTURAL FESTIVAL
Celebrating our culture
Festival of Unity

Fond memories of a rich history as Governor Ali Roba (far right) emerges from a traditional hut to proudly lead celebrations marking the first Somali Cultural Festival depicting warriors of yore, song, dance and the nourishment of camel milk. Mandera people have truly not forgotten their past as they march into a new frontier of transformation.
Governor highlights great transformation
Success of devolution impresses leaders
Thank you President, World Bank, AfDB
Fontier founties form cooperation council
Mega projects boost residents’ livelihoods
Big 4 Agenda plus our Top 5 priorities
Fostering sustainable shelter development
Essential Treasury services devolved
Improved security supporting growth

A noble mission to provide health for all
Historic milestones for children’s health
From bad reputation to joy of motherhood
Speaker reiterates MCA’s oversight role
Agricultural reforms key to food security
Horticulture a reality, thanks to Irrigation
Flowers, vegetables thrive under the sun
Cushioning livestock from drought effects
Useful dairy lessons from visit to Denmark
Flood-hit residents receive relief supply
Coping with effects of a harsh climate
Planning vital for county’s main
Enterprise revival a boon for traders
Kenya, Somalia sign pact to strengthen ties
Enhancing security and communication
Devolution powering our transformation

Mandera County continued to register positive progress anchored on achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) despite challenges and the devastating effects of climate change, which saw prolonged dry spells followed by heavy rains and flooding.

Floods displaced families, washed away crops and farming infrastructure and cut off roads. The resilience of our people was put to the test afresh. Interventions by the County and National Governments helped us cope with the disasters, but our people deserve to be cushioned more.

Through the will of the almighty God, we overcame the prolonged litigation period, which slowed our work and delayed the appointment of a full Cabinet and Chief Officers. Today, we have a full Cabinet and expanded roles for the accounting officers.

We hosted the first Somali Cultural Festival in Mandera Town, showcased the richness and diversity of our cultural heritage, treated ourselves to rare dances like Shabaal, Galeisa, Saar, games, traditional cuisine and attire. This event attracted hundreds of residents and visitors from all corners of Kenya. Due to public demand, we will celebrate the fete as an annual event, while aspiring to make it regional.

Confronted by the persistent threats of violent extremism and increasing incidents of radicalization of the youth, we hosted a three-day stakeholder conference on community-led strategies to combat terrorism. The goodwill of religious and political leaders, women, youth, state and non-state actors was encouraging. The feedback and impact was immense and resolutions were solid and we are committed to implementing them.

We made significant progress on the social indicators of education, water and health, but more efforts are required to achieve the SDGs. The county continues to face high poverty levels as outlined in the Multidimensional Poverty Index. UNDP and the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics place poverty levels beyond the national average at 39.9%.

We aligned our programmes with President Uhuru Kenyatta’s and the National Government’s Big 4 Agenda, focusing on affordable healthcare, manufacturing, food security and affordable housing. We looked even further at challenges at our doorsteps and profiled five Mandera-specific agenda - peace and security, water, education, infrastructure and livestock to fast-track the achievement of Vision 2030 and delivery of the SDGs.

My administration remains committed to working with stakeholders, the National Government and development partners in order to make positive steps in human development and economic growth for our people, with the aim of rolling back the effects of 50 years of marginalization.

I am happy that the United Nations has expressed interest in setting up offices in Mandera Town. Their interest implies an endorsement of Mandera County as a crucial destination, against the tag of a ‘danger zone.’ We invite the international community to join us in changing the narrative of Mandera County. I am also proud that the British Government, through UKaid, selected Mandera for grants from Sustainable Urban Development Programme. We are grateful to the UK Government.

This edition profiles some of the special moments in the evolution of our growth under devolution as well as interventions in our journey of resilience and transformation.
“In Mandera, child mortality has halved due to the county’s investment in medical facilities. We owe that success, first and foremost, to the diligence of our people; and to the leaders here, and their predecessors. I extend our warmest thanks to you all for this success so far”.

Televised address during the 2018 Devolution Conference in Kakamega

“I have always known the Mandera Stadium, but today as I was entering the venue, I wondered whether it was Nyayo Stadium in Nairobi! I would like to thank Governor Ali Roba for proper utilization of money allocated to the county on development.”

During an official visit to Mandera in May 2016

“Radicalization of the youth is a legitimate and significant concern among all peace loving Kenyans. I am optimistic that radicalization, extremism and terrorism can be defeated through development, resolution of inequities and ensuring basic services and human rights for all.

“As part of these efforts, I note that the Mandera County Referral Hospital has been refurbished from its formerly dilapidated state. It has emerged from the ashes into a very good hospital facility.”

- First Lady Margaret Kenyatta

During the delivery of the 33rd fully kitted Beyond Zero mobile clinic to Mandera County, 20 international agencies including 15 from the United Nations, World Bank and three embassies, the largest ever delegation, accompanied the First Lady.
Mandera County is located in the North-Eastern part of Kenya. It is bordered by Wajir County to the south and east, Ethiopia to the North and Somalia to the East. The county covers an area of 25,991.5 Km², 95% of which is arid.

According to the Kenya Population and Housing Census (GoK, 2009), the population of Mandera County was 1,025,756 persons (559,943 male and 465,813 female, representing 54.6% and 45.4% respectively) and was projected to grow at 3.96% per annum to stand at 1,399,503 by 2017. Around 87.5% of the county’s population live in rural areas.

Mandera County is predominantly semi-arid, with most of the county receiving average annual rainfall of below 250mm.

The topography is generally flat and low-lying, except for a few rocky hills that rise to between 400 and 700 meters above sea level.

Despite the unfavourable climatic conditions, agriculture is the major source of livelihood, employing over 90% of the population. Livestock production is the predominant sub-sector, employing over 84% of the population, and contributing approximately 72% to household incomes.

The absolute poverty level is 89.1% compared to the national average of 46%, making the county’s residents among the poorest in the country. Poverty is highest in rural areas, where close to 100% of the population live below the poverty line (KIPPRA, 2013).

Mandera County also has a significantly low Human Development Index (HDI) of about 0.42 relative to the national HDI of 0.52 (GoK; UNDP, 2013). The literacy level is not only very low, at 25% compared to the national rate of 71.4%, but is also characterized by a large disparity between males and females. Only 5% and 25% of Mandera County residents have secondary and primary school level of education respectively, while 70% have no formal education (KNBS, 2013).

In Mandera County, 38% of residents use improved sources of water, with the rest relying on unimproved sources.

Access to clean modern energy sources is low, with less than 1% of residents in Mandera County using liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), while 93% and 6% use firewood and charcoal respectively.
WHAT THE LEADERS SAY

Former Prime Minister and ODM leader Raila Odinga
“...The transformation witnessed in Mandera County is a true testimony of the success of devolution. I have been very much impressed during my tour.”

Joseph Kinyua Head of Public Service.
“...Governor, I appreciate your focused effort to transform Mandera. Keep it up and you can count on us in Nairobi,”

Samburu Woman Representative Maison Leshomo
“We were skeptical due to security fears but I am surprised that Mandera is more peaceful and secure than Nairobi. I am very much happy in my maiden visit to this beautiful county,”

Cabinet Secretary Industrialization Adan Mohamed
“...Great to be home. This is the future. Great and successful devolution story. Keep the good work up. Tuko pamoja.”

Siaya Senator James Orengo
“Our Constitution is anchored on the principles of human rights and the provision of services closer to the people at the grassroots. Well done! Devolution is working in Mandera.”

Chairman National Assembly Defence and Foreign Relations Committee Katoo ole Metito
“I am very much impressed with the impact and ways devolution is transforming the lives of the people of Mandera through tangible development. I would also like to thank the Office of the Governor for the hospitality accorded the committee”
Member of Building Bridges to Unity Taskforce Major (Rtd) John Seii
“I was last in Mandera 53 years ago. Mandera town was a hamlet. All we could see then were thickets, wild animals and sparse population. For the six months that I stayed in the area we used to draw water from River Daua using donkeys, but the changes I have witnessed are tremendous. My visit this year is a complete contrast to that of a half a century ago. The people are very friendly and what has amazed me most is the resilience of the people to develop their county despite threats posed by insecurity. Devolution has played a major role in the development of the region.”

Building Bridges to Unity Taskforce CEO Amb Dr Stephen Karau
“I first visited Mandera in 1979 as a military doctor to pick a referral patient and ten years later, travelled back to the county to pick family members of the then dethroned Somalia president Siad Barre at Elwak. The two instances gave me a sneak peek of the county. However my recent visit as the Building Bridges Initiative CEO gave me an opportunity to interact with the residents and leaders. Contrary to belief, Mandera is secure, with vibrant wananchi and huge strides in development. My message to all Kenyans is that this is a stable and secure country.”

Principal Secretary Ministry of Defence Saitoti Torome
“We appreciate the pace of development in Mandera and the progress made in the border securitization programme. Thank you Office of the Governor for your warm reception,”

Former Methodist Church Presiding Bishop Lawi Imathiu
“When I first visited the Mandera in the mid-1960s during the Shifta War under the umbrella of the National Council of Churches Kenya (NCCK), Mandera was just a small village devoid of any development. Today, I am impressed at the level of development initiated by the county government. With its vast land, Mandera can be turned into an agricultural hub if proper measures are put in place. The country is an interesting destination to visit.”

Building Bridges Initiative Vice-Chairman Prof Adams Oloo
‘It is a lifetime experience. I’ve never been here before. It’s a historic visit to the frontline of the country. Governor Roba has turned around Mandera and I give him credit despite the climate challenges and security issues. I am very impressed with the great development I have witnessed and the cooperation between the county and the national government. It is completely contrary to the perception of many Kenyans who have never visited Mandera County. My appeal is to the people of Mandera to help the government in securing of our border as it takes both them and the government to establish a safer county.”
The North and North Eastern Development Initiative (NEDI) funded by the World Bank is set to increase investments in transformative and integrated infrastructure and sustainable livelihoods in the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs).

The marginalized area occupying nearly 70% of the country’s land mass is dogged by high levels of poverty and also suffer poor access to basic services compared to the rest of Kenya. Socio-economic indicators are below the national average and female literacy rate stands at 41 percent below the national average of 81%.

The climate equally visits harsh conditions on the people and the environment. Frequent droughts pose a serious threat to pastoralism which supports the majority of households.

And when rains begin, most areas are affected by floods that displace people and wash away crops, homes and render roads impassable.

The initiative targeting the ASALs aims at alleviating some of these challenges. The Government of Kenya, with the support of the World Bank, launched the $1 billion NEDI to increase investments in transformative and integrated infrastructure and sustainable livelihoods to the region.

NEDI will be spearheaded by both the national and county governments. Its success will depend largely on strong collaboration between the stakeholders: the two levels of government, the private sector, civil society organizations and development partners.

“The people living in the region are among the poorest in the country,” said Diarietou Gaye, World Bank country director for Kenya. “This calls for more investments in the region, much more than we have done in the past.”

NEDI will benefit 10 counties - Garissa, Isiolo, Lamu, Mandera, Marsabit, Samburu, Tana River, Turkana, Wajir and West Pokot. It has six new projects in energy, road transport, water and sanitation, agriculture, social protection, and a programme to support communities hosting refugees.

The north and north-eastern regions are characterized by profound infrastructure deficits, including lack of access to roads, electricity, water, and to social services.

“Think about it; if there is no electricity, communities will live in the dark with limited ability to seize economic and social opportunities,” said Helene Carlsson Rex, World Bank programme leader for sustainable development. “Without roads, people have difficulties accessing jobs, markets and social services.”

Through the North-Eastern Transport Improvement Project, roads will be improved, travel time reduced and, providing access to jobs and markets to the people living along the corridor. The Water and Sanitation Development Project will connect households to piped water, provide community water points, and improve sanitation services in Wajir town and for Dadaab host communities in Garissa County.

Pastoralism and agriculture are the foundations of the region’s economy, but their huge potential remain unexploited. Harnessing this potential would improve livelihoods of the local people and, the region can become a breadbasket that can feed the growing market for agricultural produce and livestock products in the Horn of Africa. The Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project intends to increase productivity of livestock systems, promote integrated soil fertility and market access.

“This way, the communities in the northern arid lands will be empowered to effectively exploit the livestock and crop farming potential,” said Gandham NV Ramana, World Bank programme leader for human development. “Value chains will be improved through strengthening of partnerships with the private sector.”

Through the North-Eastern Transport Improvement Project, roads will be improved, travel time reduced and, providing access to jobs and markets to the people living along the corridor.
Mandera County residents and government have many reasons to thank President Uhuru Kenyatta, the World Bank and African Development Bank (AfDB) for investing in transformative projects.

Through President Uhuru’s leadership, we have seen attention given to regions that have gone through challenging times during a period of historical marginalization stretching over five decades.

The people of Mandera salute President Uhuru Kenyatta, Deputy President Dr William Ruto and the government for the continued implementation of a transformative agenda for our resilient people.

For the first time, the fragile county bedeviled by effects of climate change through prolonged droughts, followed by devastating floods causing untold suffering can now proudly stand among the counties of Kenya and point at projects that have changed the lives of the people.

Mandera County was the epitome of social inequalities. Now we are seeing Kenya’s policy makers talk about Mandera and considering the county for mega projects. Our youth are happy beneficiaries of equipment donated to the Mandera Technical Training Institute amounting to Sh100 million, which will go a long way in empowering them with skills for the job market.

Devolution began well with the allocation of resources not previously available to Mandera to improve roads, hospitals, schools, agriculture, as well as the provision of water. Today, investment in roads has reduced travel time and provided access to jobs and markets to the people living along the corridor. We have better connectivity between our counties and we are hopeful that when the Moyale-Mandera road is completed, residents can travel to the capital Nairobi within one day unlike the two days currently.

The Water and Sanitation Development Project will connect households to piped water, provide community water points, and improve sanitation services in Mandera Town at the cost of Sh3 billion. The project, which has already been commissioned, is funded through the Africa Development Bank and is expected to be ready by end of 2020.

The Kenya-Somalia border wall project undertaken by the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) has improved security along the border. We salute the Commander-in-Chief and the gallant KDF soldiers for a job well done and look forward to a speedy completion.

Mandera is reaping the impacts of improved security through deployment of the National Police Services officers, the National Intelligence Service team, the KDF soldiers and Kenya Police Reservists in good numbers. Our people are safer and so are our businesses. We do not take the peace security and prosperity we enjoy for granted.

Now we are seeing Kenya’s policy makers talk about Mandera County and considering the county for mega projects that are changing the people’s lives.
President Uhuru Kenyatta and Deputy President William Ruto when they welcomed Governor Ali Roba to State House, Nairobi.

PHOTO Courtesy PSCU

Cabinet Secretary for Devolution Eugene Wamalwa shares a light moment with Governor Roba when he paid him a courtesy call at the county headquarters in Mandera. The CS later assessed the damage caused by floods across the county.
ITALY PLEDGES TO HELP KENYA ACHIEVE ITS DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

Italy Deputy Prime Minister Luigi Di Maio with Deputy President William Ruto and Governor Ali Roba during the bilateral talks in Rome. Cooperation for leather production, improving technical training institutes were discussed.

Deputy Prime Minister Luigi Di Maio greets Governor Ali Roba and Governor Dr Joyce Laboso (above) during the bilateral talks in Rome as he welcomed Deputy President William Ruto to Italy.
Governor Roba welcomes Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary Dr Monica Juma as she arrives at the Mandera Airstrip for the signing of an agreement with her Somalia counterpart Ahmed Isse Awad to deepen trade, cross-border and security relations between the two countries. Mandera County Commissioner Olaka Kutswa and Deputy Governor Mohamed Ahmed Arai (left) were also present.

Pomp and galore marked the hugely successful inaugural Somali Cultural Festival marked with exciting traditional song and dance, cultural displays of fashion, artifacts and rich cuisine. The women of Mandera adorned in smart and colourful attire were an integral part of the pulsating celebrations that lasted for three days.

Story and pictures on pages 92 to 96
Governor Roba with IGAD Executive Secretary Amb Eng Mahboub Maalim (second left) and Chief of Staff David Ohito (left) in Nairobi during a meeting to discuss cross-border cooperation in the region.

Governor Roba in talks with Gedo Governor Mohamed Mohamud Aden from Somalia when he paid him a courtesy call in Mandera.

Lawyer Abdikadir Mohamed with Mandera East MP Hassan Omar during the reopening of Rhamu integrated market.

Governor Roba with Kenya Defence Forces border securitization team’s Major-General Chepkuto and Colonel Ngare.
West Pokot Governor Lonyangapuo and Governor Roba are welcomed by traditional dancers when West Pokot hosted an FCDC conference focusing on livestock development.

Governor Ali Roba (left) and Marsabit Governor Mohammed Muhamud (centre) share a light moment with West Pokot Senator Samuel Poghisio at the FCDC retreat in Naivasha.

FCDC governors address a joint press conference after the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) worth Sh1.57 billion with the Kenya Water Services Trust Fund for the implementation of water related projects.

FCDC governors adorned in traditional Pokot regalia when they attended the conference on livestock development.

FCDC governors display the signed MoU with the Kenya Water Services Trust Fund.
The Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC) is a regional economic bloc composed of the county governments of Lamu, Tana River, Garissa, Wajir, Mandera, Marsabit, Isiolo, Turkana, Samburu and West Pokot.

The council was formed in March 2016, when governors from seven member counties signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU). The composition has since grown from seven member counties to 10 as of September 2018 to become the largest economic bloc in Kenya. The formation of county regional economic blocs is the result of the appreciation that regional development is a core pillar of economic growth.

Counties are vital drivers of the country’s economy and therefore county integration can provide the critical leverage necessary to realize economic growth.

The role of FCDC is to promote cooperation, coordination and information sharing between counties to enhance socio-economic development and promoting peaceful co-existence among its members. FCDC wants to enhance the benefits of the devolution process in their member counties by serving as a catalyst and trigger for sustainable development and prosperity in the FCDC region.

So far, the council has attracted significant development support from development partners and governments, including the World Bank’s NEDI project that is set to transform the infrastructure landscape of frontier counties. The Sector Forum for Agriculture and Livestock (SFAL), through the Livestock Sector Strengthening (LSS) project supported by the Swiss government, seeks to enhance livestock production by creating a favourable environment for the delivery of livestock services.

This support includes measures to modernize the sector, policy and advocacy work, and knowledge management and information. The project is contributing to enhanced pastoralist community resilience that will result in improved livestock-based livelihoods and sustainable socio-economic development.

The main emphasis is on improving key factors such as herd management, animal health, fodder production and market development and strengthening institutions involved in the livestock sector to deliver relevant services more effectively and by enhancing inter-county coordination, peace and cohesion.

The role of FCDC

- Addressing short-term regional problems and opportunities in the region
- Building a foundation for medium and long-term sustainable, broad-based development
- Strengthening resilience of frontier counties’ dwellers in the face of new opportunities and traditional problems
- Taking advantage of regional synergies and economies of scale
- Genuinely involving the citizens in developing and implement solutions that affect their livelihoods

www.fcdc.or.ke
MANDERA COUNTY GOVERNMENT
MEGA PROJECTS

An artist’s impression of the ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY CENTRE

Mandera Town Accident and Emergency Centre | Complete

Elwak Accident and Emergency Centre | Complete
An artist’s impression of the REST HOUSE

Work in progress

An artist’s impression of the COUNTY HEADQUARTERS

Work in progress
An artist’s impression of the COUNTY ASSEMBLY

Mandera Town bridge and interchange (inset) | Complete
An artist’s impression of MOI STADIUM

Moi Stadium | Complete

Mandera Town fire station | Work in progress
The 100,000 cubic-metre Wangaidahan Dam

Falama Water Project Complete
Intensive farming along River Daua through irrigation and modern farming methods has seen farmers benefit from increased yields and income.
Mandera’s Big Nine Agenda

- Enhancing manufacturing sector
- Food security and nutrition
- Universal health coverage
- Affordable housing
- Water
- Roads
- Education
- Livestock
- Peace, security and prevention of violent extremism

Jubilee’s Big 4 Agenda plus our Top 5 Priorities

Food security and nutrition
- Improve food security from 59% to 80% by 2022
- End hunger and starvation by offering relief food and subsidies to vulnerable families
- Improve irrigation and acreage under crop
- Avail pasture and water to animals
- Invest in fish production
- Invest in hunger safety nets
- Cushion pastoralists against drought and effects of climate change
- Expand fruit and grain production
- Harness honey production

Affordable housing
- Construct houses for internally displaced people
- Improve the living conditions for the vulnerable
- Ensure provision of adequate, affordable and habitable housing for all

Universal health coverage
- Improve access to affordable and quality health services
- Improve life expectancy
- Achieve universal healthcare for all including cross-border patients
- Reduce burden of disease amongst households
- Enhance wellness
- Respond to health disasters and emergencies
- Reduce infant mortality rates
- Commission Mandera Town and Elwak accident and emergency centres
- Improve maternity healthcare
- Equip hospitals with diagnostic and treatment equipment

Improve access to clean and safe water
- Reduce amount of time spent in search of water
- Avail water for humans and animals
- Improve access to water services
• Invest in rainwater harvesting
• Expand borehole water access
• Increase piped water access in urban areas
• Improved sanitation
• Expand water for irrigation
• Drilling of more boreholes

**Improve overall road infrastructure**
• Shorten journeys
• Partner with national government to extend bitumen roads
• Reduce cost of transport of goods
• Increase accessibility to markets
• Build capacity
• Increase linkages with neighbouring countries
• Improve access to hospitals and schools

**Improve literacy levels from 30% to 70%**
• Improve access to inclusive quality education
• Building capacity and skills of locals
• Offering scholarships/ bursaries for students
• Increasing staffing levels
• Improving levels of ECDE
• Improve performance in national examinations
• Increase access to basic education
• Promote life long learning
• Use of ECDE facilities for afternoon adult education learning
• Increase enrolment for primary, secondary and tertiary education

**Transform livestock from a way of life to a viable economic activity**
• Revitalize livestock sector
• Create disease-free zones
• Improve livestock breeds
• Improve linkage with value added products
• Increase fodder production
• Increase resilience to drought and climate change

**Peace, security, prevention of violent extremism**
• End tribal inter-clan conflicts
• Peace building and reconciliation programmes
• Political inclusivity and mediation programmes
• Foster cross-border security
• Deradicalization campaigns
• Rehabilitation and training of returnees from violent extremism
• Partnering with security stakeholders among the non-state actors.
Investing in sustainable shelter development
757-UNIT HOUSING PROJECT PRAISED

Access to decent and affordable housing for all remains an enduring dream for Governor Ali Roba.

The county has shouldered responsibility of responding to people displaced by internal conflicts and driven out of places they call home.

"Over a period of two years, and in partnership with the national government which injected Sh70 million, we have managed to put up 757 low-cost housing units in Rhamu area in Mandera North constituency," says the County Executive Committee Member in charge of Special Programmes Ibrahim Hassan Barrow, who also holds the Finance and Economic Planning docket.

Each house cost about Sh115,000 and came in handy for the suffering people who needed a roof over their heads. The project has contributed immensely to reducing inequalities and social exclusion of the displaced and offered an avenue for reintegration of the people.

Today, the housing project has become an illustration of the county government’s commitment to investing in the provision of sustainable shelter development and is being used as a model for the national government’s affordable housing agenda.

Affordable housing comes with advantages for low-income members, and leads to improved neighbourhood and quality housing in a safe environment, as well as less crowding. It also reduces inequalities and improves self-belief and hope for the future while also contributing to healthy lifestyle.

The Special Programmes and Disaster Management Unit in the Ministry of Finance whose objective is to build the community’s resilience to natural and man-made disasters to minimize impacts of shocks and hazards, has played a big role in alleviating suffering.

The unit has played a major role in the construction of complete 757 housing units for internally displaced persons (IDPs) as a result of the inter-clan clashes and provided monthly food rations to 4,000 IDP households, the orphanages as well as for vulnerable members of the community.

The unit also distributes food as a drought mitigation measure once or twice yearly.
The Ministry of Finance is committed to bringing financial services closer to the people in tandem with the spirit of inclusion in devolution. In that respect, the County Treasury has decentralized its services to all the seven sub-counties. First was Mandera South sub-county at Elwak in 2016 followed by all the sub-counties in January this year.

On staff recruitment and training, the County Treasury in partnership with AHADI Kenya has been conducting courses for is staff including accounting officers in capacity building and public finance management. The unit has also recruited internal auditors to fit in the approved ministry establishment to improve efficiency and ensure compliance.

With enhanced efficiency in accounting and financial services, the unit has consolidated and submitted to the relevant entities, timely statutory reports and financial statements in compliance with the Public Finance Management Act, 2012. The unit’s efficient cash flow management has ensured continuous county services operations.

The National Treasury has in turn recognized the continued commitment and setting of the right tone at the top on financial reporting and the progress made by the county in posting transactions in IFMIS. This performance has resulted in the seconding of technical assistance from the National Treasury for the reconciliation of financial statements to IFMIS and the resolution of audit issues.

On supply chain management, the County Treasury has attained effective procurement services with a consolidated County Annual Procurement Plan achieved in full compliance with the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act, 2015 and the regulations thereto.

Decentralization of procurement services to sub-counties and the engagement of only prequalified suppliers with evidence of existing business at the sub-counties have gone a long way in providing opportunities for residents, helping improve their living standards.

The County Treasury has been preparing all budget guidelines and plans in time, including the Budget Circular, the County Budget Review and Outlook Paper (CBROP) and the County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFS) in compliance with sections 128, 188 and 117 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012. The department has further converted the County Budget into IFMIS compliance through timely coding and system feeding.

The ministry has provided effective citizen engagement throughout the budget process by conducting public participation in all the seven sub-counties. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the budget implementation have been also achieved.

The department has embraced and operationalized the programme based budgeting (PBB) concept by enhancing accounting officers capacity on budgeting through trainings and providing them with various guidelines and templates for their use.

The department established an Asset and Logistics Management Unit responsible for all the assets and logistics activities within the county. The activities include an up-to-date county asset register, assets tagging, asset tracking, maintenance and servicing.

Despite the challenges, the department has registered improved local revenue collection comparatively from last year. The introduction of the mobile phone payment system are among the measures that have been put in place to diversify and improve local revenue collection.

The Country Treasury has five units - Accounting and Financial Services, Economic Planning and Statistics, Revenue Services, ICT Services and Special Programmes and Disaster Management.

The ministry has lived up to its vision of being ‘A well-resourced and efficiently managed Mandera County’ and its mission ‘To effectively mobilize, prudently manage resources, and provide leadership in development planning and tracking of results’.

Decentralization of procurement services to sub-counties and the engagement of only pre-qualified suppliers with evidence of existing businesses at the sub-counties have provided opportunities and helped improve living standards.
Mandera County Government

HE Capt Ali Ibrahim Roba
Governor

HE Mohamed Ahmed Arai
Deputy Governor

Ibrahim B. Hassan
CECM, Finance and Planning

Izzudin Abdullahi
CECM, Education, Sports, Culture and Tourism

Ahmed Sheikh Mohamed
CECM, Public Service Management, Conflict Management, Cohesion, Integration and Devolved Units

Johora Mohamed Abdi
CECM, Agriculture, Irrigation, Livestock, Fisheries and Veterinary Services

Mohamed Ali
CECM, Water, Energy, Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change

Adan Hussein Hassan
CECM, Lands, Housing, Physical Planning and Urban Development

Abdiaziz Sheikh Maad
CECM, Trade, Investment, Industry and Cooperative Development

Dr Mohamud Adan
CECM, Health Services

Shamsa Mohamed
CECM, Gender and Social Services

Suleikha Harun
CECM, Roads, Public Works and Transport

Abdinur Maalim Hussein
County Secretary
Head of Public Service/Secretary to the Cabinet

David Ohito
Chief of Staff

The Official Magazine of Mandera County Government
Senior Executives

Tamima Ali  
Head of NEDI Projects

Ahmed Ali Madey  
Head of Delivery Unit

Okash Abdullahi Adan  
Head of Efficiency and Monitoring Unit

Mohamud Omar Obsiye  
Deputy Head of Efficiency and Monitoring Unit

Hassan Hussein  
Deputy Head of Delivery Unit

Dr Issack Ibrahim  
Religious Advisor

Ali Ibrahim  
Political Advisor

Hamar Ibrahim  
Gender Advisor

Colonel (Rtd) Noor Musa  
Security Advisor

Abdi Hassan Abdulla  
Economic Advisor

Adan Kollow  
Head of Legal Services

Hussein Abdi Hassan  
Deputy County Secretary

Anzal Rashid  
County Legal Counsel

Hassanoor Adan  
Mandera Municipality Manager

Abdikadir Tache  
CEO, Mandera Water and Sewerage Company

Zahara Bashir  
Delivery Unit

Dakane Ahmed  
Delivery Unit

Matker Mohamed  
Efficiency and Monitoring Unit

Ali Kala Didow  
Special Aide to the Governor

Alikheyr A. Mohamed  
Head of Administrative Service, Office of the Governor
Members of Parliament

Hon Mahamud Mohamed
Senator

Hon Hassan Amina Gedow
Woman Representative

Hon Hassan Omar Mohamed Maalim
MP Mandera East

Maj Rtd Bashir Abdullahi
MP Mandera North

Hon Ibrahim Abdi Mude
MP Lafey

Hon Yussuf Adan Haji
MP Mandera West

Hon Hassan Kulow Maalim
MP Banisa

Hon Ali Adan Haji
MP Mandera South

Hon Adan Mohamed Noor
EALA MP
Whenever Mandera is mentioned, the minds of the majority of Kenyans think of the threat of terrorism and Al-Shabaab militants roaming around the county spreading fear among innocent civilians.

County Commissioner Olaka Kutswa considers this common perception a misconception which needs to be changed as there has been quite a significant improvement of security in the county. Reassuring residents and all Kenyans as well as visitors, the Commissioner says security has been bolstered in the region, minimizing terror-related incidents.

He says the national and county government are collaborating and jointly working on logistics and holding regular security briefs to effectively stamp out the terrorist attacks which had become a common occurrence.

"Initially there was duplication of work by both the national and county governments on security matters, which made it impossible to achieve the desired security goals, but since we started working as a team on security-related matters, there have been great achievements which have seen a great reduction in incidents of terrorism," explains Kutswa.

He says the collaboration between the county and national government had seen the devolved government recruit National Police Reservists, who have greatly supplemented the national government security forces who have been deployed in the region.

Statistics from the county government’s Ministry of Public Service indicate that it has invested heavily in security matters, facilitating the hiring of more than 330 National Police Reservists and the leasing of security vehicles for prompt and timely responses to attacks and assist with daily security patrols.

The commissioner discloses that the security committee in the county has already mapped out 102 ‘Nyumba Kumi’ initiative to beef up security within the eight locations of Mandera East sub-county which also hosts the county and national government headquarters.

"There has been intensive training of the local administrators on the Nyumba Kumi initiative in order to achieve the desired security objective. Every person regardless of his status in society is included in the Nyumba Kumi programme," adds Commissioner Kutswa.

He says there has been enhanced strategic cooperation between the security forces and local residents through interactions and information sharing which has seen an improved rapport and security in the hotspots.

He notes that non-locals have been the main target of extremists, who for long have crossed into Mandera at will, caused mayhem and returned to war-torn Somalia uninterrupted, but construction of the border wall and support by the locals has boosted security.

Kutswa says strategic partnership involving all stakeholders in the security sector has also been instrumental in achieving the peace currently being witnessed in the county, which has led to improved trade and other social, economic and administrative activities. Terrorism has equally affected the local community who have either been killed in suspicious and unexplained circumstances, or through economic sanctions which have left them helpless, and greatly affected trade in the region.

In collaboration with the national government, the county government in October 2018 organized a successful regional conference on countering violent extremism that brought together counties in the larger north-eastern and eastern region.

The political, religious leaders, youths and women groups unanimously pledged to unite and fight violent extremism during the two-day conference. Fruits of the conference have been realized as evidenced by the communities opening up and increased sharing of information on Al-Shabaab.
Ambulance referral system
HEALTH FOR ALL MISSION

The newly-constructed Elwak Accident and Emergency Centre

Dr Mohamud Adan
CECM, Health Services

The advent of devolution provided a great opportunity to transform the health sector landscape in Mandera County. The health infrastructure was in a sorry state before 2013, with a paltry 33 facilities working at only 13% capacity due to under-staffing, very poor medical supplies, lack of modern equipment in addition to a myriad of other factors.

Subsequently Mandera County Government has developed a focused policy to improve access to quality healthcare services throughout the county to ensure it plays its crucial role in the realization of the Big 4 Agenda, Vision 2030, the sustainable development goals (SDGs) as well as ensuring a healthy population.

We have made tremendous progress with the improvement in all health indicators, scoring little successes which have been acknowledged.

Under the leadership of Governor Ali Roba, health facilities have been improved from 33 to 88, supplies are now timely and reliable through KEMSA, human resource numbers stand at 864 from 154, with five specialists offering services at our County Referral Hospital, and some more expected back from studies within this year. We have embarked on building our local capacity by sponsoring our medical staff to go for specialized trainings, thereby ensuring adequate local numbers over the years to come.

When devolution took effect, the county ensured that at least every sub-county had an ambulance on standby. Red Cross ambulances were initially engaged to offer internal and external referral services. Come 2017, Mandera took over fully the ambulance services and county-owned ambulances were placed in five sub-counties.

Some of the areas that have benefited from this elaborate referral system are Banisa, Elwak, Kutulo, Lafey, Mandera, Rhamu and Takaba. The number of referrals increased from 773 in 2017 to 1,638 in 2018. With an additional fleet of seven ambulances expected in the financial year 2018/2019, referral services will be more efficient.

The County Government has increased the health budget over the years, so that our people get quality services. Mandera County Referral Hospital now has a new state-of-the art Accident and Emergency Centre that will offer ICU and HDU services, endoscopy, renal, theatre, radiology units, laboratory, specialised clinics and amenity unit. Add to this a comprehensive maternal and newborn care unit, CT scan and a planned oncology centre, healthcare services in Mandera will be considerably transformed. The county government will also significantly improve services in all sub-county hospitals, with Elwak and Takaba awaiting the launch of new facilities.

The Astana Global Conference on Primary Health care made a global call to action; from ALMA – ATA towards Universal Health Coverage and SDGs with emphasis on Primary Health Care. Mandera County’s focus on primary healthcare as a means of achieving high-quality sustainable, efficient and effective promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative as well as palliative health services will no doubt contribute to our people’s well-being.

Despite all this effort, challenges do exist, including cross-border disease outbreaks from the neighbouring countries of Somalia and Ethiopia spilling over into Mandera, as well as the large number of patients from these countries seeking health services at our facilities, constraining our budgets. Our focus and commitment is to offer affordable quality care in line with the manifesto of Governor Ali Roba. Towards this, we say, let’s travel together and stay on course to achieve this noble goal.
Takaba Sub-County Referral Hospital located in Mandera West serves patients within and from outside the county, including some referrals from neighbouring Ethiopia. The 24-hour facility also occasionally organises philanthropic health services to support those needing special attention. In September 2018, the hospital held a five-day surgical camp that carried out 56 successful operations, a number of them life-transforming. This was preceded by a week-long screening of 367 patients to identify needy cases. The team comprised one surgeon, two medical officers, three anaesthetists, three theatre nurses, one health records information officer, three ward nurses, one pharm tech, two laboratory personnel and three subordinate staff.

56 surgeries in five days

Takaba Sub-County Referral Hospital services and facilities

- Male, female and paediatric wards
- Well-equipped maternity facilities
- Modern theatre with two operating beds
- Radiology department
- Outpatient services
- Maternal and child health (MCH) and family planning (FP) services
- Laboratory services
- Pharmacy

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Referrals management

Takaba Hospital commonly receives obstetric emergencies, surgical and medical complications from the following areas and facilities among others:

- Dandu CLC
- Gither Dispensary
- Burduras Health Centre
- Sake Dispensary
- Gagaba Dispensary
- Qarsahama Dispensary
- El Danaba Dispensary
- Wajir County
- Ethiopia.
One of the most improved sub-sectors of health in Mandera County since the onset of devolution is child health. While immunization, numbers have increased by over 100%, and skilled deliveries quadrupled between 2013 and 2018.

26,434 children received the life-saving BCG vaccine in 2018 compared to 12,624 in 2013. BCG vaccine is essential to protect infants from fatal tuberculosis.

In the same year 26,107 single doses of DPT/Hep+HiB vaccine against hepatitis, polio and diphtheria were administered. This is double the numbers given in 2013, which was 12,603.

The number of those who received all the three doses of the DPT/Hep+HiB did also increase to 21,546 from 10,607. In total 21,519 children under one year were immunized in 2018 compared to only 8,376 in 2013.

As at 2013, the number of skilled deliveries stood at just 4,947. But in 2018, at least 22,693 women delivered with the assistance of a professional. The number of caesarian sections increased from 147 to 404 in 2018, a sign more lives of expectant women were saved.

During the same period, health facilities in Mandera recorded an increase of 15,185 new antenatal clinic visits from expectant women. While in 2013, only 1,942 expectant women managed to attend all the four recommended clinics, in 2018, 12,753 adhered to all the four clinic visits.

It is also important to note that Mandera being a county with one of the highest fertility rates - about five children for every women according to the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (Unicef) - more women were taking up modern family planning methods. This saw the number increase from 3,236 in 2013 to 17,768 in 2018.

However, a challenge is still being faced in the fight against HIV/AIDS as the number of residents tested for the virus went down to 44,360 in 2018 compared to 47,247 in 2013.

TB-related deaths, which is one of the complications of co-infection with HIV, went down with six reported deaths in 2018 from nine in 2013.

The county detected 215 TB cases in 2018 of which 150 turned to be smear positive. In 2013, 262 TB cases were detected of which 88 turned smear positive.
The joy of motherhood is in cuddling a new born baby after enduring the nine months of pregnancy and excruciating labour pains. In Mandera before devolution, giving birth was a risky affair due to the poor state of health facilities and lack of specialised medical personnel in the county. High maternal deaths at 3,795 deaths per 100,000 live births were the highest in the world at the time compared to the national average of 488 deaths per 100,000 live births. A statistic worse than what is recorded in areas plagued by war.

Insecurity and harsh climatic conditions aggravated an already worst situation. The advent of devolution has proved to be a God-send gift to the people of Mandera County.

Governor Ali Roba says before the promulgation of the new Constitution and the introduction of the devolved units, the health sector in Mandera was in a sorry state. His administration first addressed the runaway insecurity in the region which had scared-off skilled workers, leaving the 53 run down health centres under the care of an unskilled work force. “The situation was dire as there was a work force of 154 health workers in a vast area, the majority of whom were unskilled. Dilapidated one-roomed structures known as dispensaries littered the county and were the only source of help available to the locals. There were no ambulances or emergency equipment,” he recalls.

The Governor decided to prioritize the health sector, with an increase in budget allocation of 21%. Dispensaries were upgraded to five-roomed facilities and were fully staffed and equipped.

The county government has built state-of-the-art Accident and Emergency centres complete with ICU, HDU, dialysis, radiology, endoscopy, laboratory and theatre in both Elwak and Mandera hospitals. “The number of hospitals offering basic emergency obstetric care during pregnancy have been increased from 18 to 80, all working at full capacity. This has gone a long way in reducing the maternal and infant mortality rate. Our target is to have zero deaths,” says Roba.

The county government has employed 864 skilled medical personnel to improve the quality of medical services rendered, which has seen a sharp increase in hospital attendance among the county’s residents.

The county has partnered with the Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC) to establish a mid-level in-service training for hospitals workers. To overcome the challenges faced in attracting the specialist cadre of medical personnel, the county government fully sponsored doctors to pursue various specialised courses in different universities. So far, four of these specialist doctors have reported back and are serving residents together with the two Cuban doctors sent by assigned by the Ministry of Health. More are expected back once they complete their studies, including three gynaecologists.

“We are continually strengthening maternal and newborn health services, with the ultimate goal of drastically cutting down maternal mortality to the national average,” says Governor Roba.

Mandera in northeastern Kenya has often been described as ‘the worst place on earth to give birth’. Mandera’s maternal mortality ratio stood at 3,795 deaths per 100,000 live births (before devolution), almost double that of wartime Sierra Leone at 2,000 deaths per 100,000 live births. Mandera County demonstrates what can be achieved with strong political leadership and strategic partnerships.

- Siddharth Chatterjee,
The UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative for Kenya
CHILD CARE: Children receive medical attention at the Mandera Referral Hospital paediatric unit.
Ambulance referrals increased by over 100%

Specialist teams flown three times in emergency situations

Specialist consultants

Dispensaries

Surgical camps
    gynaecology • fistula • orthopaedic, • ENT • cleft lip/palate • general surgery

Increased health workers

Increased number of nurses

Children vaccinated against polio and measles in 2018

MCRH Level 5, with ultramodern accident and emergency comprehensive maternal and newborn unit and an operational dialysis unit
Mandera County Assembly Speaker Mohamed Khalif welcomed members to the Third Session of the House and urged the lawmakers to focus on developing policies that will help to transform lives.

The Assembly amended Standing Orders and Members will now sit full day on Tuesday and Wednesday every week. The Speaker has asked Members to familiarize themselves with the new Standing Orders.

He cautioned members on quorum hitches: "During the last session there were concerns about quorum hitches both in the plenary and in some committees which have compromised their effective performance. He drew attention to the provisions of Standing Orders number 170.

(1) “If a member fails to attend four consecutive sittings of a Committee without the written permission of the chairperson of the Committee, or the permission of the Speaker if the Member is the Chairperson, the Chairperson or the Speaker, as the case may be shall notify the Committee of the failure.

(2) The Committee having noted the notification under paragraph (1) may resolve that the Member or the Chairperson as the case may be, be suspended from the membership of the Committee and that the matter be reported to the County Assembly Business Committee.

(3) Upon receipt of a report under paragraph (2), the County Assembly Business Committee shall consider the matter and shall propose a replacement of the Member for approval by the County Assembly.

I therefore direct the parties’ Whips and all the Committee Chairpersons to take responsibility of their committees and the Office of the Clerk to ensure that the meetings comply with the provisions of the Standing Orders,” the Speaker said in the communication from the Chair.

“Take responsibility of your committees
SPEAKER DEFINES MCAs’ OVERSIGHT ROLE

Currently there are two Bills that have been sponsored by Private Members published and ready for the First Reading - The Mandera County Breast Feeding Mothers Bill 2019 by Hon Sokorey Maalim and The Mandera County Health Services Bill 2019 by Hon Kullow Alio. The Speaker called for speedy enactments.

The County Assembly has adopted Motions compelling the County Executive to deliver services in the county. The Speaker cautions that the Implementation Committee has power to propose to the County Assembly sanctions against any Member of the County Executive Committee who fails to report to the relevant Select Committee on the implementation status without justifiable reasons.

“As we discharge our constitutional responsibilities and embrace the ‘handshake’, we should not lose track of our oversight mandate as entrusted to us by the public and we should ensure prudent utilization of resources and demand for value for money. Very important to note is equitable distribution of resources among sub-counties and wards.

He urged the County Executive Committee Members to formulate policies and submit to the County Assembly for consideration and approval in accordance with Article 183(3) of the Constitution which states: “That the County Executive Committee shall provide the County Assembly with a full and regular report on the matters relating to the County.”
Mandera County Government is keen on turning around the untapped agriculture potential of the semi-arid area into a food basket.

“Our dream is to have a county where food is nutritious, accessible and affordable for all residents,” says Governor Ali Roba.

Working hand-in-hand with farmers, offering them technical support through extension officers as well as irrigation experts, we have prioritized resources aimed at accelerating progress in food and agriculture production.

The participation by different farmers on their own across the county is encouraging for a community that is known for pastoralism as a way of life. Today, crops from Mandera like onions are exported to Addis Ababa, Nairobi’s Wakulima Market unlike before.

Mandera County has showcased how farmers’ actions are tackling real issues in a region that previously relied on food donations, net imports and relief consignments to cope with the challenges of harsh climatic conditions.

“We are encouraging farmers to practice sustainable agriculture to help close the doors on hunger, protect the environment from degradation while also improving the economic and social well being of our people,” says Governor Roba.

“Mandera County has the potential to address many of its challenges, serving up affordable nutritious organic foods, strengthening livelihoods, while revitalizing huge tracts of lands that were bushes occupied by Prosopisjuriflora popularly known as Mathenge weed,” he says.

Farmers are encouraged to plant agroforestry trees to help reduce damage to the environment, conserve soil and improve soil fertility.

The county has increased the agricultural area under production and promoted sustainable agriculture and the results are practical.

“Who believed Mandera could produce cabbages, grapes, avocado, strawberry and passion fruit?” asks County Executive Committee Member for Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Veterinary Services, Johora Abdi.

“We are trying to make our farmers more resilient to external shocks but climate change gives two extremes. We confront long, dry spells and when rains come it washes away the efforts of farmers, exposing them to losses of irrigation infrastructure like pipes, canals, water pumps and acres of crops,” says Johora.
Mandera County, though arid and semi-arid, has the potential to address many challenges of serving up affordable nutritious organic foods, strengthening livelihoods, while revitalizing huge tracts of lands that were bushes occupied by *Prosopis juriflora*, popularly known as Mathenge weed. Our farmers have proved it can be done.

– Governor Ali Roba.
HORTICULTURE A REALITY, THANKS TO IRRIGATION

Though heavy flooding ravaged Mandera farmers’ crops, the total production of assorted farm produce in 2018 was over 18,000 metric tons and earned farmers over Sh1 billion.

The crops that registered highest income for farmers included watermelons, onion bulbs, tomatoes, maize, pasture and fodder, bananas, mangoes and pawpaws.

The bumper harvest can be attributed to the improved extension service delivery by the county’s Ministry of Agriculture, which has also seen individual farmers in Banisa and Mandera West conduct trials in their farm on non-conventional crops for Mandera such as grapes, cabbages, passion fruit and avocados with a marked degree of success.

ABOUT GRAPES

Grown in temperate climates across the world, including southern Europe, Africa, Australia and North and South America and now in Mandera.

Grown for thousands of years, grapes come in different colours - green, red, black, yellow and pink.

Offer a wealth of health benefits due to their high nutrient and antioxidant content. Also a good source of Vitamin C.

Good source of fibre, potassium, a range of vitamins and other minerals.
The biggest challenge encountered last year by farmers was floods during the period. The flooding can be attributed to among other reasons the effects of climate change. This really discouraged some of the farmers who lost their crops, the main source of their livelihoods.

Training
The ministry conducted training on agricultural technologies and Development for 40 staff, while farmers received training on production of high value crops for improved food and nutrition security.

We also built the capacity of our staff by sending technical officers for international course on intensive Crop Production with Modern technologies in Israel. The course sponsored by the Israeli Embassy in Kenya. The training for irrigation staff took place at Mashav International Agricultural Training Centre (MIAT). Senior staff attended the Senior Management Course at the Kenya School of Government to be able to serve the residents better.

Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project had two desilting and rehabilitation water pan projects approved at Gari-Warankara and Kobadadi-Shimbir Fatuma.

It is anticipated that with the Koromey Irrigation Scheme project, 250 acres will be placed under irrigation while the Kotulo waterpan will put 250 acres under irrigation in the first phase with the aim of increasing the area under irrigation and food production for food and nutrition security in the county.

The county has also employed and deployed four agricultural engineers and posted two chief officers for agriculture and extension services. Public participation on the proposed Koromey Irrigation Scheme has already been conducted to prepare farmers and the community on the relevant interventions.

The proposed Koromey Irrigation Scheme plan is ongoing and already a feasibility study for the proposed Project no. 4 of 225m3 of water storage structures (masonry tanks) in the project area where feasible are ready.

The other documented records include detailed toposurvey and profile survey, geotechnical analysis and soil sampling, environmental and social impact assessment, preparation of technical design report with design drawing, BOQ and tender document.

River Daua has proved to be a vital source of nourishment for the land along its banks, providing much-needed water for irrigation to grow agricultural produce.
A blazing yellow field of sunflowers in Rhamu has raised the profile of horticulture, debunking the myth that arid and semi-arid lands can only be associated with livestock rearing.

Assorted crops including dates, sorghum, watermelons, mangoes and bananas in Banisa farmlands - enough testimony of Mandera’s agricultural diversity and capacity to become a regional breadbasket.
Others include detailed designs of irrigation infrastructure including intake works, pump house, rising main, storage tanks, distribution systems, scheme layout, infield systems and access roads. Implementation plan is ready together with the project cost-benefit analysis.

The feasibility study for Kotulo (Malbe) 200,000 m³ irrigation waterpan project is ready. The programme is being conducted 279 km south-west of Mandera and can be accessed through Rhamu. The proposed gross area is 513 hectares, while net irrigable land is 405 hectares. The feasibility study of water storage structure/reservoir (waterpan) in the project area where feasible and a detailed toposurvey and profile survey-detail designs of irrigation infrastructure include diversion weir, waterpan, draw-off system, water reservoir or storage tanks, distribution system, scheme/farm layout, infield system and access roads have already been finalised.

The county has also conducted geotechnical analysis and soil sampling, environmental and social impact assessment, preparation of technical design report with design drawing, BOQ and tender document, implementation plan and project cost benefit analysis.

IGAD-FAO Partnership Programme on Drought Resilience

The partnership plan addresses nutrition and food security by encouraging poor household farmers to increase food production through support in irrigation and rain-fed dryland farming along the arid and semi-arid areas on the Ethiopia-Kenya-Somalia border along River Daua basin.

- Diesel-powered pump sets ideal for farm irrigation - three and two irrigation pumps issued to BP1 and Khalalio farmers
- Construction of two pump houses completed at Khalalio (Isra and Awkey).
- Certified crop seeds - five kilogrammes of crop seeds to each of the three communities - BP1, Khalalio and Girissa
- Fodder and pasture seeds consisting of 250 kg grass seeds distributed among the five communities - BP1, Khalalio, Girissa, Elgolicha and Lafey.
- Farmers trained on fodder production, storage and conservation - five communities trained on crop husbandry
- Provision of farm tools and equipment - each 50 pieces of ox-plough, plain jembe, fork jembe, wheelbarrows and spades.
- Two shallow wells rehabilitated at Elgolicha.

A farmer harvests plump, leafy cabbages ready for sale in Banisa.

Sugarcane farming has great potential.

HOW ABOUT THIS? Bounty from the fruits of investment in modern agricultural methods as a farmer proudly hoists a bunch of healthy bananas from his farm.
Over 80% of the Mandera County population derive their livelihood from livestock, despite the ravaging drought which poses a serious challenge to the pastoralist community.

The county boasts of 863,625 cattle, 1,016,790 camels, 3,415,484 goats, 1,164,238 sheep, 208,126 donkeys, 56,874 chicken and 23,388 beehives.

In the past, hundreds of breeders were forced to quit pastoral life during the extremely dry season following the deaths of their livestock resulting from lack of pasture, nutritional deficiencies and opportunistic livestock diseases. However, this trend has been reversed since the establishment of the county government.

To cushion the pastoralists against the adverse effects of drought which often plunges most families into abject poverty following death of livestock, the county government has devised ways to alleviate the locals suffering through:

- Provision of 698.1kg of assorted grass seeds for promotion of pasture and fodder production and establishment of strategic livestock feed reserves.
- The intervention had led to the production of about 100,000 bales of hay by the end of 2018.
- Training of 200 riverine farmers on pasture and fodder production.
- Construction of 4 hay stores at Elwak, Takaba, Rhamu and Banissa sub-county headquarters.
- Construction of 16 cattle crushes with loading ramps for promotion of livestock marketing, vaccination and treatment.
- Renovation of veterinary diagnostic laboratory. This has improved disease diagnosis and timely response in disease treatment and control.
- Construction of four slaughter slabs and completion of ESP slaughterhouse which has improved meat hygiene and trade.

**Beekeeping**

The county government has also sensitized the locals on the importance of beekeeping which has seen the pastoralist community embrace the novel idea in Banisa and Rhamu.

In the past, hundreds of pastoralists were forced to quit pastoral life during the extremely dry season following deaths of their livestock resulting from lack of pasture, nutritional deficiencies and opportunistic livestock diseases. However, this trend has been reversed since the establishment of the county government.
The county government in its commitment has procured 700 Kenya Top Bar Hives honey harvesting kits to promote honey production. In addition, the county government has also constructed two honey refiners at Banisa and Rhamu to improve honey processing and packaging to meet international standards.

**Fisheries**

The Fisheries Department has contributed immensely to economic growth and provided means of livelihood to residents of the county. The development and advancement of aquaculture will definitely improve the lives of Mandera people through wealth creation, job opportunities, fish trade and income generation. To make the sector more vibrant the ministry:

- Is in the process of operationalizing the county director of fisheries’ office
- Conducted Intensive training for farmers and equipped them with the latest technologies and skills to exploit fisheries resources.
- Construction and establishment of one hatchery at the Livestock Training Centre at Bulla Hajji. This hatchery is the county’s production centre for fish fingerlings.
- Established ten fish ponds for both group farmers and institutions.
- Procurement, supply and distribution of fish feeds (3,500 kg) to fish farmers and institutional ponds.
- Procured feed formulation machines ready for installation and operation at the livestock training centre.
Learning from the best: Governor Roba undertook a capacity building programme in Allborg Denmark to gain vital lessons on successful dairy farming methods that can be replicated in Mandera. He was given useful insights on mechanization and dairy farming and fodder production and storage. In Denmark cows produce up to 60 litres of milk daily. “We seek to upgrade livestock production beyond traditional pastoralism, increase productivity and reduce poverty,”

- Governor Roba
Flood-hit residents receive relief supply

Following extensive flooding that affected thousands of households mainly in Takaba and Elwak sub-counties, Governor Ali Roba led a high-level delegation from the national government led by Cabinet Secretaries Eugene Wamalwa and Aden Mohamed to the two sub-counties to spearhead distribution of emergency relief food.

Senior national government officials from Health, Roads, Irrigation and Energy ministries were also part of the delegation. The team also visited Mandera East for the final leg of the relief food intervention.

Besides lobbying for national government intervention, earlier the Governor directed the county’s Ministry of Trade, Industrialization and Cooperatives to undertake emergency drainage improvement activities in Mandera town, with a particular focus on the hygiene of the markets. The department has:

1. Created drainage paths
2. Improved existing drainage infrastructure
3. Placed waste disposal containers at all corners of the market.
4. Began a thorough cleaning of the market.

The exercise conducted in collaboration with the Public Health, Enforcement and Sanitation departments will be extended to other markets in the county.

Devolution Cabinet Secretary Eugene Wamalwa with East African Community Affairs CS Adan Mohamed when they visited Mandera during the final leg of the relief food intervention.
Coping with a harsh climate

Mandera County Government has adopted elaborate adaptation and mitigation measures to help communities cope with tough climatic conditions and drought emergencies through water trucking, mega dams construction and harnessing of rainwater to increase resilience.
Crops destroyed by the raging floods after a long spell of drought.

Agony for travellers as submerged four-wheel drive vehicles and a bus are stuck in water when River Daua burst its banks.
Land is the single most resource upon which other development activities are embedded, but it is also a source of conflict if not well managed.

For many years Mandera County which is endowed with vast land that can be sustainably harnessed to achieve long-term development goals has witnessed the mushrooming of unplanned structures in urban centres and ownership conflict. Such challenges had been brought about by marginalization and failure by the then local authorities to plan urban centres and maintain proper records. To address these salient challenges, the County Government has managed to complete the preparation of IUDPs for Adan Hussein Hassan.

Adan notes that major developments characterized by large commercial enterprises are increasingly evident in Mandera County. Further, property values in planned areas are on the rise, a clear indication that land use planning is transforming the various sectors of the county’s economy.

Achievements
Land registry
The land registry has been reconstituted and the records are available both in digital and manual format. This has resulted into many properties being captured for revenue collection in the form of rental payments. Modern land registries have been constructed in Mandera town and Elwak.

The land records have been computerized and it is now easier to search for property records. The Ministry of Lands has also initiated the process of procuring the Land Information Management System (LIMS) to completely digitize all the land records and bring them at par with national best practice in land record keeping.

Integrated Urban Development Plans (IUDPs)
The county government inherited unplanned towns from the defunct local authorities. Apart from a section of Mandera town, all the urban centres were unplanned. This resulted in haphazard land use as there were no regulations in place to control land use planning. The County Government has managed to complete the preparation of IUDPs for
Mandera, Elwak and Kotulo. To achieve this goal, the services of consultants has been procured to undertake cadastral survey of 5,000 plots in the planned towns:
• Mandera Town - 2,000 plots
• Elwak - 1,500 plots
• Kotulo - 1,500 plots
The plans that are at the approval stage are expected to revolutionize land management and development control. The plans are further expected to provide secure tenure and make Mandera a safe regional hub for local and foreign investors.
The county has managed to employ two physical planners, three surveyors and two compliance and development control officers who have played an important role in land use planning, survey and development compliance.
Participatory Planning Approach (PPA) as stipulated in the Constitution of Kenya and the Urban Areas and Cities Act has been fully embraced in the preparation of the plans. This has proved beneficial especially in sealing planning gaps as well as making the community feel part of the ongoing spatial planning initiatives.

Technical Support
The Ministry of Lands played a critical role in providing technical support to other line ministries through mapping of project areas and approving proposed developments. Such projects include but are not limited to the proposed Karrow Airstrip, Takaba Airstrip, Municipality headquarter offices, MANDWASCO offices, Mandera sewage treatment plant and Elwak Baraza Park among others. The construction of most of the public utilities is ongoing and their successful completion will keep the county at par with other counties.

In addition to surveying and mapping, we have secured many public utility plots by erecting concrete pillars,” says Hassan.

The ministry has also provided support towards road clearance and expansion in Mandera town, Rhamu town and Banissa where encroachment into road reserves was the order of the day. Illegal and informal structures on road reserves have been cleared with the help of enforcement officers. The residents of areas where such actions have been taken have welcomed the initiative due to improved accessibility.

Generally, Mandera town has experienced increased investment in the real estate and hospitality sectors. Investors, through land use planning, can today identify strategic locations for premises. As a result, high-end modern structures have changed the face of the town compared to before the era of devolution.

Today, Mandera County is one of the fastest growing regions in the country and the Department of Lands, Survey, Physical Planning, Housing and Urban Development is committed to providing easy access and equitable allocation of land to all.

Housing Development
The administration is committed to the Big 4 agenda which factors the provision of affordable housing. The ministry has identified and set aside adequate land in Neboi and Garbarqoley for the construction of the first 2,000 units in collaboration with the National Government.

Expectations for the 2019-2022
• Preparation of County Spatial Plan
• Preparation of County Valuation Roll
• Planning of urban centres at ward level
• Establishment of land registries in all the sub-counties
• Digitization of land records and implementation of Land Management Information Systems (LMIS) in all the sub-counties
• Site and service schemes for the newly-planned areas around the county headquarters
• Recruitment of planners and surveyors in all the sub-counties to ensure timely service delivery
• Preparation of County Land Use and Housing Policy.
ENTERPRISE REVIVED

The Ministry of Trade, Investment, Industry and Cooperative Development is on track to deliver on its mandate. This mandate is derived from the Constitution of Kenya Fourth Schedule (in part), Intergovernmental Act, the County Government Acts and the contentious Executive Order No 3.

The situation before devolution for sectors under the ministry’s docket was weak and peripheral in terms of funding, office facilities and staffing for development. Then the ministry had three members of staff for trade and cooperatives and only one office existed in Mandera East sub-county.

The ministry, which is responsible for the implementation, formulation, coordination and administration of trade, investments, industrialization and cooperative development, has 19 members of staff across the county for effective and efficient service delivery in line with the Governor’s Executive Order.

The ministry has a cooperative officer and trade officers in each sub-county performing core functions. Allocation of Sh1.8 billion development funding has led to improved service delivery in trade circles and the cooperative movement in the county.

Allocation of funding for development amounting to Sh1.8 billion has led to improved service delivery both in trade circles and the cooperative movement in the county.

Confectionery and drinking water manufacturing industries in major towns is a clear indication that the county has the potential for an industrial hub. The county government is on a mission to attract major industries through the granting of tax subsidies.

Co-operative movement at 45 years

With an estimated share capital of over Sh1 million and total savings in bank accounts of close to Sh16.5m, the cooperative movement is on an upward trend as it marks 45 years post-establishment of the first Sacco. The total assets value for co-operatives in the county is approximately Sh13m, with an annual turnover of Sh7.5m, and total loans granted to members about Sh11m by the two conventional Saccos.
Mandera Farmers Co-operative Society Ltd, the first co-operative in Mandera was formed and registered on 9th November 1973. At inception of devolution there were a paltry 36 cooperative societies, most dormant. Six years later there are 168 registered cooperatives of various categories to meet members’ needs. Total membership before 2013 was 950 but is currently 4,631 - youth (35%) women and the elderly (47%, 18%). Few women hold management positions.

The ministry is helping revive dormant as well as streamline and strengthen active co-operatives. Cooperatives have been empowered in value addition chain to boost the local economy through investment in various initiatives including buying of a pasteurised milk cooler and dispenser for the Mandera East Milk Sellers Sacco and construction of a grain store for the Mandera Border Point 1 Farmers Cooperative. The grain store will go a long way in helping to alleviate post-harvest losses, milk processing equipment will enhance hygiene, prolong the shelf life of milk and enable better sales management. Training and extension services has improved compliance, sharia compliant products, auditing, business skills, value addition, record keeping and prudent financial management.

Members now enjoy economies of scale in their activities, value addition and processing, cheap credit facilities and transport. The department conducted seventeen (17) entrepreneurship training for 2,350 local youth and women to equip business Starters and as well as traders with the basic concepts of entrepreneurship and knowledge of business planning essential to the success of the entrepreneur of a small business. It’s aimed at inculcating entrepreneurial culture in the society as key to self-development.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Market</th>
<th>Before Devolution Capacity/Stalls</th>
<th>After Devolution Capacity/Stalls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Market Stalls in Rhamu and in Mandera North Sub-County</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandera Bulla Jamhuria Market</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banisa Market</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eymole Market</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buspark</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Rhamu Market</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Takaba Market</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khalailo Market in Mandera East Sub-County</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sala Market</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lafey Market stalls and open shade</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wargadud Market</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fino market in Fino ward</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandera town Esp market</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-going construction of Miraa market</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kutulo market</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elwak SME market park (modern)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>210 stalls, 100 bale shed, 15 eateries, 40 milk/meat section, mosque and parking yard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borehole 11 market</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashabito market</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refurbishment of existing old Rhamu markets</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhamu Dimtu Market</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL STALLS</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>667</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CECM Trade, Investment, Industry and Cooperative Development Abdiaziz Maad awards certificates to during Ushirika (Cooperative) Day as members (below) march to celebrate the occasion.
Industry

The economy is broadly divided into three industries - primary, secondary and service. While production in primary and secondary industries results in output of tangible goods, outputs of the service industry are largely not tangible. Service industries include wholesale and retail trade, repairs, transport and storage, accommodation and food services, information and communication, financial and insurance activities, real estate, professional, scientific and technical activities, administrative and support service activities, public administration and defence, education, human health and social work, arts, entertainment and recreation.

Mandera County has huge resources whose potential remain largely unexploited for industrial investments and are used or exported in raw primary form without any value addition. The hospitality, transport, construction and manufacturing small, medium industries offer new investments opportunities with new players entering the market.

The ministry is in the process of establishing small and medium fruit processing plants for value addition to basic raw materials. Branding, labelling and packaging will improve market value and export potential, and earn more returns for further reinvestment to create more employment opportunities.

The county has confectionery and small manufacturing industries based in major towns - four for drinking water, four bakeries and three for leather tanning. This is a clear indication of Mandera’s potential to become an industrial hub. The county government is on a mission to attract major industries for gypsum (cement), honey, leather, solar energy, Arabic gum processing, with 650 hectares of land allocated for investment and tax subsidies granted to ease the establishment of industries.

To support the Jua Kali (informal) sector (blacksmiths, tailoring, welding, mechanical, pottery), the county is establishing and equipping model cottage industries in all seven sub-counties. This will help increase employment opportunities, and access to new markets due to product standardisation, enhanced skill pool to drive productivity, increased investments and ease of doing business.

Financial institutions

The financial and insurance activities sector covers business related to financial intermediation activities including central and commercial banking, credit institutions, forex bureaus, insurance, reinsurance and pension funding and activities auxiliary to financial services and insurance activities.

There are three main banks in the county (Kenya Commercial Bank, National Bank and Equity Bank) with also auto branch at Elwak. With the business environment favourable, micro insurance institutions are taking shape with presence three local insurance firms in county providing both third party and comprehensive insurance.

The challenges that could face the business environment usually relates to insecurity and power supply that affects the operations of the business sector.

Mandera County residents have been beneficiaries of financial inclusion, with three major banks - KCB, National Bank and Equity Bank - offering banking services.
Kenya, Somalia form joint commission

When the once vibrant Mandera-Beled Hawo border point was shut down by the government in 2014, little did the residents of the conjoined towns know that the decision would have huge ramifications for their livelihoods. Since the closure, the movement of both people and goods has been restricted and legitimate businesses negatively impacted. This situation has led to an increase in the cost of basic commodities and reduced revenue earnings, specially for Mandera County.

All that is, however, set to change after Kenya’s Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary Monica Juma and her Somali counterpart Ahmed Awad met on 29 January 2019 in Mandera and adopted a policy framework aimed at improving and promoting cross-border trade. Hopes are high as Mandera residents are looking forward to the good old days when hundreds of tons of goods crossed the border to Somalia, and Mandera County Council used to give loans to the national government.

In an communique released by the two governments, both parties agreed to allow legitimate businesses and traders to transact freely. The agreement touched on the promotion of cross-border trade, security, cultural and socio-economic matters, among others.

The deal will certainly be a factor in alleviating poverty across the county. More importantly, an increased cross-border trade between Mandera County and Somalia will certainly enhance trade. Traders in the county would see more benefits of the agreement due to Mandera’s strategic location. They will now be able to do more cross-border business, faster and at less cost with their counterparts in Somalia.

There is a huge potential in trade and investments in both Mandera County and Somalia and the agreement will certainly enhance trade. More importantly, an increased cross-border trade between Mandera County and Somalia will certainly be a factor in alleviating poverty across the county. Such trade will also support livelihoods and lead to the creation of employment opportunities, including for the county’s disadvantaged and marginalised members of the society.

The removal of procedural, policy and physical constraints at the Mandera border will also help boost peaceful coexistence between the neighbouring communities, and thus critically contribute to promoting peace and stability.

In conclusion, removing obstacles to trade between Mandera and Somalia as agreed between the two governments would be particularly beneficial to the poor, as they are the ones who conduct most of the small-scale, cross-border commerce that happens. The potential benefits that would accrue from that will include poverty reduction, job creation, food security, more tax revenues for both Kenya and Somalia and enhanced cooperation between the two countries.

Evolution of Mandera air travel

Initially there used to be daily flights from Nairobi but it was meant for transporting miraa from Wilson Airport to Mandera and individuals wishing to travel to the county had to seek space in the light planes crammed with miraa.

According to Shillow Abukar Hassan who was the sole agent of flights to Mandera, carrying passengers was not a profitable business then for aircraft. It was the transportation of miraa that mattered.

“A passenger had to wait until all the miraa was loaded in the aircraft and by the grace of God if there was any space left we would squeeze one to a maximum of two passengers,” he recalls.

Failure by the Kenya National Highway Authority (KeNHA) and rampant insecurity occasioned by the Al-shabaab terror attacks has made travelling from Nairobi to Mandera County a nightmare for residents and individuals wishing to visit the county.

However the promulgation of the Constitution and the establishment of the County Government has seen Mandera record an increase in the number of flights ferrying passengers to the border town.

At the peak of competition, Shillow says there were five passenger airplane flights to Mandera daily, but it has whittled down and there are currently only two daily flights plying the route. He explains that before the commencement of commercial passenger flights, travelling to and from the county was a harrowing experience for the locals as the main roads from Mandera through Garissa and Moyale were in deplorable condition and attacks by Al-Shabaab had worsened the situation.
Once dogged by insecurity, dilapidated roads and lack of telecommunication services that almost turned it into a ghost town, Mandera is now a thriving business hub following the advent of the county government which has turned the tide around.

The county government has invested heavily in infrastructure, security and played a key role in the expansion of the telecommunication sector, attracting private investors in real estate, transport, hospitality, cottage industries, farming and petrol stations.

In collaboration with the national government, Mandera has witnessed the construction of tarmac roads, while the poor road network that characterised the area has been upgraded and maintained, turning rough roads linking wards and sub-counties into all-weather thoroughfares, improving trade.

Top-notch hotels have been opened and over 30 communication masts erected to improve mobile and internet connectivity. The county has also invested in market infrastructure in all seven sub-counties notably the Elwak SME Park and Rhamu Integrated Market that will house more than 650 traders.

Fact Box
Over 18,000 metric Tons of agriculture produce earn farmers over Sh1billion

Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) says Mandera contributed 0.5 to the GDP from a paltry three to over 20. Three shopping malls and a supermarket that never existed before are now in place.

On petrol stations, Abdiaziz explains that residents of Mandera were burdened by high fuel prices due to the poor state of the road from Nairobi to Mandera and the monopoly by a few businessmen who invested in the energy sector. That is now a thing of the past.

“The improved road network and increase in the number of petrol stations has been a boon to motorists and businessmen in Mandera who for many years bore the brunt of exploitative fuel prices.”

Top-notch hotels have also been opened and over 30 communication masts erected to improve mobile and internet connectivity. The county has also invested in market infrastructure in all seven sub-counties notably the Elwak SME Park and Rhamu Integrated Market that will house more than 650 traders who will sell a variety of commodities.

In the hospitality industry, Abdiaziz adds that before the establishment of the County Government, Mandera hotels had a bed capacity of 120 whose standards was considerably low, but six years after devolution the capacity has increased to slightly over 1,000 with an impressive commercial value.

The employment of over 1,800 workers by the County Government and the influx of casual labourers following a construction boom in the area has also led to increased business in the county.

However Abdiaziz appeals to the National Government to consider the reopening of the border to foster cross-border trade and also open up the closed quarries to cushion investors from the high cost of building materials.
Building the bridge of national unity

Members of the Building Bridges to Unity Advisory Taskforce commonly known as the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) chaired by the Wajir Senator Yusuf Haji visited Mandera County and collected views from the members of the public and leaders on nine key issues.

Residents from the county’s seven sub-counties who gathered at the Granada Hotel in the town gave their views on the country’s divisive elections, lack of national ethos, ethnic antagonism and competition, inclusivity, devolution, safety and security, corruption, shared prosperity and responsibilities and rights.

Before the members started the session at the hotel they visited Border Point 1 where the boundary of Kenya-Ethiopia and Somali meet to assess the progress of the securitization programme on the Kenya-Somalia border. The members said that securing the countries border was a prerequisite to curtailing terrorism, curbing illegal products being smuggled into the country and ensuring the security of Kenyan citizens, which in turn could lead to development and peaceful coexistence.

Presenting his views to the BBI Taskforce, Governor Ali Roba called for the fixing of the problems bedeviling the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) to enable the commission to be more acceptable to gain public confidence.

The team formed following President Uhuru Kenyatta and opposition leader Raila Odinga’s ‘handshake’ to oversee the implementation of the Building Bridges Initiative and come up with a road map to lasting peace in the country held a seven-hour session with the leaders.

The 14-member team is chaired by Haji and Dr Adams Oloo as vice-chairman. Members are Agnes Kavindu, Senator Amos Wako, Florence Omose, Prof Saeed Mwanguni, Mzee James Matundura, Major (rtd) John Seii, Bishop Lawi Imathiu, Hon Maison Leshomo, Morompi ole Ronkai, Bishop Peter Njenga, Rose Moseu and Archbishop Zecheus Okoth.
The Ministry of Youth and Gender, through its safety net programme, is constructing 65 houses, toilets and restocking charity homes with non-food items.

Under the project, 116 vulnerable families identified following a public participation exercise attended by elders, religious leaders, chiefs, women and youths are expected to receive 10 goats each. Beneficiaries from Mandera East will get 16 houses while 28 families will get ten goats each. Eight houses will be built in Mandera North and 14 families will receive 10 goats each. Lafey will benefit from a similar number of houses, families in Mandera North will receive a similar number of goats.

Nine houses will be built in Mandera South and 18 families will get ten goats each, while seven houses will be built in Kutulo and 14 families will get ten goats each. Eight houses will be built in Mandera West and 15 families will get 10 goats each.

On persons with disabilities (PWDs), the Gender Office in collaboration with the Ministry of Education have taken up the sponsorship of disabled students who have completed high school and attained grades B and C+. A high school student is also among the beneficaries. A disability resource centre under construction is at final stages and it will be equipped and operationalized this financial year.

Income generating activities such as tanning of leather for the production of handbags, wallets, shoes and belts will be created for PWDs. The ministry also plans to buy mobility kits for persons with disability this financial year, the kits that will be procured include wheelchair, tricycle with carrier and crutches.

On gender issues, the ministry is in the process of formulating a Gender-based Policy to be submitted to the County Assembly for adoption. In collaboration with the national security team, prosecutors, teachers, civil society and a gender-based technical working group has been formed and it is expected that it will be replicated at the sub-county levels.

A gender-based violence clinic will be established at the Accident and Emergency centre of the Mandera County Referral Hospital. The clinic will be run by healthcare workers from the hospital, social workers from the ministry in collaboration with the security team. Plans are underway to form a women’s peace movement across the county to increase awareness against sexual-based violence and domestic violence. Women leaders, businesswomen and the youth will be incorporated into the programme.

Various women’s groups will during this financial year benefit from income generating equipment for tailoring and the provision of machines such as fridges for storing milk and yoghurt, packaging and branding materials for women who make Nyirmyr, yoghurt and those who harvest honey. The women will be trained on entrepreneurial skills, bookkeeping, marketing and value addition.
Support for orphans

The County Government supports five orphanages by issuing them with grants every financial year:
- Al-hidaya orphanage centre
- Mandera Islamic centre
- Al-sunna orphanage
- Al-uweis orphanage centre
- Al-fawzan orphanage centre

All the existing social halls in the sub-counties headquarters will be operationalized, this financial year and make the social halls one stop centre for youth. The halls will be equipped with computers, Internet, photocopying machines, scanners and indoor games such as table tennis and rackets games that will be played at the adjacent Geneva sports grounds. There will be a well-furnished social hall for regular youth meetings for mentoring and guidance. Khalalio social hall will also be operational this financial year. Furniture has been procured and the youth from Khalalio will be fully engaged.

Activities targeting the youth include:
- Mentoring youth at the one-stop centre on a monthly basis
- Carrying a youth baseline survey to find out exactly what the youth need
- Procurement of income generating activities for youth who have completed vocational training on a monthly basis
- Procurement of income generating activities for youth who have successfully completed courses at Mandera Vocational Training College
- Youth Policy formulation.

Governor Roba serves food to children at Mandera Islamic Centre. The centre caters for vulnerable and orphans.
Media meets the people

The Kenya Editors’ Guild’s recent visit to Mandera was one of its kind, as it set a new pedestal on which subsequent office-bearers will use as a barometer to gauge their level of interaction with the people at the grassroots.

The visit, the first in the vast northern region of the country, provided a rare opportunity for the residents of the expansive county to have a one-on-one interaction with senior media personalities.

The editors pitched camp in the sweltering heat of Mandera town with the sole view of interacting with residents and enlightening them on the media’s role.

Other than interacting with the locals, the Guild’s president Churchill Otieno said the public forum was quite necessary as most of the arid and semi-arid parts of Kenya have for many years been marginalised and have never really known the media’s role.

“The Guild is determined to build public confidence in the media. We entertain, disseminate information and educate - a major role - it is important that the people trust what we offer.”

On his part Governor Ali Roba noted that the county was being forced to source for media coverage from Nairobi whenever there was a function in the area. He appealed to the Media Council to advocate for the establishment of media outlets in the county.

The Governor noted that Mandera had a huge potential in many fronts which have not been highlighted as most media houses concentrate on negative aspects such as terrorism, which had impacted badly on the county.

“For us to compete on a level ground with other counties, it is imperative that the positive aspects of the county be highlighted. Negative publicity has greatly affected us as a county and this needs to stop.”

Face-to-face with journalists

Spare us the negative publicity. There is a lot of good to report on Mandera... we are victims of terrorism, a global problem.

Women suffer a lot in silence. It is our husbands, sons or nieces who are radicalized or desert families to join militants.
Securing the border

Border Point 1 in Mandera County, the boundary between Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia has been frequently visited by national security organs - it is a point where the border securitization programme commenced in the efforts to tame acts of terrorism.

National Assembly Defence and Foreign Relations Committee, Inspector General of the police force and the members of Building Bridges to Unity Advisory Task Force chaired by Wajir Senator Yusuf Haji visited Border Point 1 at different times and expressed satisfaction with the way the wall was being constructed.

The chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Defence, Katoo ole Metito, expressed satisfaction with the securitization programme and expressed optimism that it would lead to lasting peace and foster faster development in the region.

“Our appreciation the developments in Mandera and the progress made in the border securitization programme. Thank you office of the Governor for your warm reception,” said Ministry of Defence Principal Secretary Saitoti Torome.

During the members of the BBI team’s visit the military explained that the construction of the wall which stretches over 700 kilometers had been temporarily suspended due to structures constructed on the two countries’ common border at Bulahawa but expressed optimism that the construction would resume soon.

Members of the BBI also expressed optimism that the securitization of the border would go a long way in improving security in the area but expressed concern about individuals building their homesteads too close to the wall.

“During my time as a District Officer in the area, there was a two kilometre no-man’s zone where no structures were allowed but the case is now different and people are building too close to the boundary. This should be discouraged,” said Haji.

Non-locals have been the main targets of the extremists, who for long have crossed into Mandera at will, caused mayhem and returned to war-torn Somalia uninterrupted. However, the construction of the wall and increased security personnel including police reservists have played a key role in scaling down insecurity incidents.

The local community has suffered too from the consequences of terror cells either by being killed in suspicious and unexplained circumstances, or through economic sanctions which have left them helpless. To address terror incidents in the area, the Governor created the Department of Deradicalization and Countering Violent Extremism in 2018.
Greening Mandera

Since the launch of ‘Greening Mandera’ by Governor Ali Roba, over 60,000 trees have been planted in the county, greatly transforming major urban centres in the county.

The ambitious project has seen trees planted along streets, major highways and public institutions, in turn offering employment to over 270 vulnerable and needy individuals who have been tasked with nurturing and watering the trees on a daily basis.

Of the 270 employees engaged in the project, 95% are women, most of them working at the county headquarters where more than 4,500 trees were recently planted to supplement over 30,000 trees planted earlier.

The Greening Mandera initiative continued to flourish when the Department of Environment and Natural Resources welcomed its key National Government partner to kicks-tart a tree planting programme at Mandera Technical Training Institute following the onset of the short rains mid-last year.

The event was graced by Deputy Governor Mohamed Arai, who promised to fully support the initiative as he emphasised the administration’s commitment to turn around the county’s afforestation plan as outlined the Greening Mandera initiative. More than 200 seedlings were planted during the well-attended function as the residents pledged to fully support the exercise.

The team from the National Government visited Hola, Garissa, Wajir and concluded their mobilisation with Mandera.

The event was attended by senior county government officials led by the Ministry’s County Executive Committee Member Mohamed Ali Maqar, Township MCA Adan Maalim Abdullahi other and residents of Mandera who promised to continue planting more trees.
The importance of establishing a regional centre for disease surveillance and control of human and livestock health in Mandera has been warmly welcomed.

Dubbed Mandera Triangle Centre covering the three countries of Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia, the centre is a key investment towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 which aims at ensuring healthy lives and delivery of health needs to populations in the three countries.

Mandera Triangle will address tough health problems at their source working directly with vulnerable families and communities in local hospitals, clinics and labs. The centre will help reduce the long distance travelled to test samples at the nearest laboratory in Nairobi over 1,200kms away. It will also help in timely diagnosis of human and livestock diseases and ensure a rapid intervention to contain emergencies such as the Rift Valley Fever disease. It will conduct and support health promotion, prevention and preparedness activities in Mandera County and the triangle.

The Ministry of Health, Kenyatta National Hospital, Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital, the Kenya Medical Research Institute and private healthcare service providers are partnering to monitor and prevent disease outbreaks while also implementing vital disease prevention strategies to maintain, county, national and regional health statistics.

Governor Roba at the launch of a regional centre for disease surveillance and control of human and livestock health.
“We are proud of the progress we’ve witnessed in Mandera County,”
- Stephen Gitagama, CEO Nation Media Group

The Nation Media Group has partnered with the Mandera County Government in a bid to improve literacy in the region.

While presenting textbooks, to learners in the region Nation Media Group CEO Stephen Gitagama said the media house would help the county government improve literacy levels through the Daily Nation education programme.

The company donated textbooks to Karomey Primary school and Rhamu Girls Secondary School.

Illiteracy levels in Mandera currently stand at about 70%, which is among the highest in the country. Governor Ali Roba urged Nation Media to continue supporting the fight against terrorism in Northern Kenya.

Governor Roba receives donation of books from Nation Media Group CEO Stephen Gitagama.

The NMG team when they visited the livestock training centre and various life-impacting projects initiated by the County Government.
State-of-the-art technology enhances vocational training

Mandera County Chief Officer for Education Abdi Mohamed, while receiving the donation, said residents have immensely appreciated the National Government’s efforts in complementing the county’s development strategies to plug the gaps in capacity training the youth.

He said the donation would certainly go a long way in upgrading skills and abilities of our youth. Equipping youth for the job market is a critical intervention that will help strengthen the county’s education and skills base, Mohamed noted.

Hew said the training would support the transition to a modern, market-based economy and promote inclusive growth and job creation. It would further advance aspirations for technical, vocational education and training (TVET) aimed at effectively meeting evolving workforce needs.

The multi-million donation from the government is expected to boost technical training and equip students with current technology skills. Through devolution, Mandera County is witnessing rapid transformation. The County Government has strategically invested in tertiary institutions with a target to churn out skilled groups of locals to fit its unique circumstances with teacher training to bridge the gaps occasioned by teachers who fled on grounds of terror fears and extreme weather.

The college, which was established in May 2016, initially admitted 47 holiday-based students in August the same year. In September 2016, the college witnessed significant improvement and admitted 55 regular students. Later in 2017, the number of students gradually improved with 26 more students joining under the full sponsorship of the Mandera County Government.

Directorate of Technical and Vocational Education and Training official Samuel Kiptoo said the equipment was donated through the TVET Kenya-China Project. He was accompanied by the immediate former TVET Director Bahir Mur-sal. The event was also graced by Mandera East Deputy County Commissioner Lawrence Omondi, County Assembly Commissioner Lawrence Omondi, County Assembly Majority Leader Abdi Adan, Minority Leader Jimale Abdi, County Assembly Education Committee Chairman Yakub Eymoi and senior county officials.
The Mandera County Department of Education and Vocational College is committed to enhancing access to equity, quality and relevant education at all levels. It is also committed to enhancing access to technical and vocational education training to provide skilled and globally competitive employable human resources in line with the Mandera County Integrated Development Plan and Kenya Vision 2030.

It is in the realization of the importance of the educational sector that we are committed to addressing various challenges facing the education sector, including low student/teacher ratio and poor transition at all school levels.

Early Childhood Development Infrastructure

Early Childhood and Development Education is one of the functions fully devolved, as provided under Schedule 4 of the Constitution, 2010. The Mandera County Government has invested in the ECDE sector, which has 269 public ECDE centres.

In collaboration with the National Government, the department has realized positive gains within the educational sector.

The county has constructed an additional 171 ECDE centres with an enrollment of 23,120 learners staffed by 530 ECDE teachers. We will also be recruiting an additional 300 ECDE teachers including Arabic teachers in the Ministry of Education curriculum. The department’s commitment towards bridging the teachers gap of in the county and support for curriculum supervision remains paramount.

This year 260 students from the ECDE College in Mandera sat for the exams administered by the Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC). Out of this number, 105 have completed ECDE proficiency exams, 98 completed the certificate level whereas 57 students completed their diplomas. To boost the nutrition levels and enhanced enrolments within our ECDE centres, the department is provided school meal programmes to all the centres within the county. The department shall also undertake immunization programmes, deworming exercises and the growth monitoring programmes at all ECDE centres in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.

Mandera County Bursary Fund

As part of Governor Ali Roba’s Education Transformative Programme, the department has been offering scholarship programmes to students wishing to pursue various careers. We are currently in the process of disbursing the Sh128,000,000 bursary fund to support bright and poor students to pursue their education.

- 9,111 in various colleges
- 10,214 in Secondary schools
- 248 in TTCs
- 177 in Technical Training Institutes bringing the number to a total of 19,700 students getting support.

- Roba

Education key to development

Our Bursary Fund Board has disbursed Kshs126,000,000 bursary fund to support bright and poor students to pursue their education.

- 9,111 in various colleges
- 10,214 in Secondary schools
- 248 in TTCs
- 177 in Technical Training Institutes bringing the number to a total of 19,700 students getting support.

- Roba
Mandera Technical Training Institute
Mandera Technical Training Institute has an enrolment of 320 students (227 male and 93 female). The Mandera County Government has invested heavily in the Mandera Technical Training Institute (MTTI) to empower the youth targeting expansion to a world-class university of science and technology. The County Government has already allocated 50 acres of land to the institution.

The Mandera Technical Training Institute is being provided with modern technology and equipment.

Vocational Department
In a county where the youths are prone to getting radicalized and recruited into violent extremism, the department has shown unwavering support to ensure the youth have an opportunity to acquire skills that will prepare many for the labor market.

The county has six operational vocational training centers in Mandera, Fino, Elwak, Rhamu, Takaba and Banisa. The centres teach technical courses such as dressmaking and tailoring, motor vehicle mechanics, welding and fabrication, building technology, electrical installation, hairdressing and beauty therapy, ICT and carpentry.

This year we plan to open an additional polytechnic to accommodate the growing number of students. The investment in vocational training has increased the employment rate. Many youth with technical skills are released into the market every year.

The department is in the process of recruiting 33 additional instructors to enhance the capacity of the vocational centers. A total of 96 students in Takaba and 161 students in Mandera have graduated and qualified for the respective professional exams as administered by the National Industrial Training Center (NITA). Both the National Industrial Training Center (NITA) and KASNEB have accredited the Mandera Polytechnic as an exam centre.

Mandera Teachers Training College
The Mandera Teachers Training College is fully operational and has an enrolment of 265 students.

To improve the infrastructure, and capacity of the institution, the County Government is investing an additional Sh150 million to build the institution's administration and learning centres. The college has already admitted an additional 190 students as part of the Ministry of Education Affirmative Action Plan. Students in this college will be supported through the Mandera Bursary Fund. Most of the beneficiaries are students who live below the poverty line and are vulnerable on many fronts including being enticed into violent extremism.

Sports, Culture and Creative Arts
Mandera County is rich in culture and arts. The County Government encourages the preservation of heritage and culture. In December 2018, Mandera County opened the first museum and will assist in the preservation and documenting of various traditional cultural tools and artifacts.

The department also organized the first ever Mandera Cultural Festival, which was held between 9th and 11th December 2018. This was a three-day cultural extravaganza featuring songs, dances, poems, games of yore and traditional Somali food and drinks.

Governor Ali Ibrahim Roba indicated that the cultural festival would be celebrated annually.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administration and Tuition Block</td>
<td>Completion of Main Administration and Tuition Block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshops</td>
<td>Electrical Engineering Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshops</td>
<td>Mechanical Engineering Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Quarters</td>
<td>Staff Quarters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hostel</td>
<td>Female Hostel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hostel</td>
<td>Male Hostel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Equipment</td>
<td>Computers, Office Equipment, Learning Equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Material</td>
<td>Learning Material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ablution Block</td>
<td>Ablution Block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fencing</td>
<td>Perimeter Fence chain link around 50 acre of land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Supply</td>
<td>Water connection and equipping: 4 kilometers from source of the water supply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical Installation</td>
<td>Electrical Installation to various areas in the institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land</td>
<td>Mandera County Government has allocated 50 acres of land for the Mandera Technical Training Institute</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mandera is an arid and semi-arid region that faced severe water shortages before devolution. The water stress is often worsened by long dry spells and the effects of climate change that dog County 009.

Today, residents have a reason to smile since a total of 56 boreholes have been successfully drilled, seeing them access clean drinking water after many years of marginalization.

Being an arid area faced with very serious challenges, the County Government has put emphasis in the sector with the construction of 81 new small to medium-sized water pans (15,000m³ – 30,000m³) and construction of 21 big dams (60,000m³ – 110,000m³) that has brought the storage capacity availed through the construction of dams/pans to 3,175,000m³.

The County Government placed priority in water services as a very critical deliverable to alleviate the suffering and quench the thirst of humans and animals.

Our Constitution in Article 43 lists water as a basic human right which should be available in adequate quantities. Through partnership with stakeholders we a vision of making efforts to ensure all Mandera people have access to water throughout the County.

To achieve its targets, the Ministry of Water outlined a strategic plan covering five years (2013 -2018) in line with Mandera County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) envisaged to increase water coverage from 31% to 56% by 2019, which it has achieved. The second version of the county’s CIDP deepened the foundations already laid to reduce distances covered to access water.

The administration targets to achieve the four programmes put in place - development of ground water and surface water, rehabilitation of existing water supplies, drought mitigation and the improvement of institutional capacity. The planned activities aims at drilling 80 boreholes, construction of 89 earth pans, construction of five medium size water supplies, as well as the rehabilitation and maintenance of 74 water schemes and capacity building of institution. The County Government remains committed to increasing access to efficient, safe and affordable water and sewerage services through:

- Rehabilitation of four urban and 60 rural water supplies
- Construction of two major new urban water supplies
- Construction of 34 new rural water supplies

This has brought the additional population with access to clean and safe water services to 720,000 by 2019.

In reducing the vulnerability of communities to the negative impacts of drought and floods, the ministry has undertaken:

- Rapid response maintenance teams to reduced the vulnerability of communities to negative impacts of drought, This has enabled quick response to emergencies within 24 hours.
- Emergency water trucking was successfully conducted to between 125 and 153 sites during various drought seasons between July 2013 and April 2017.

As a result no livestock death due to drought has been reported in the county since July 2013 due to the shortage of water.

In a bid to address long-standing challenges of inadequate human resource capacity, the ministry has deployed 22 water engineering assistants and seven county drivers from the other departments through...
inter-departmental transfers.

Lighting our streets with solar energy
Some 2,051 solar-powered street lights have been installed in all sub-county headquarters:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town</th>
<th>No. of Poles</th>
<th>Sub-County/Ward</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mandera</td>
<td>397</td>
<td>Mandera East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elwak</td>
<td>327</td>
<td>Mandera South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Takaba</td>
<td>327</td>
<td>Mandera West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lafey</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>Lafey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banisa</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>Banisa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhamu</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>Mandera North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Busle</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>Neboi ward - Mandera East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morothile</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Morothile ward - Mandera North</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• 18 high-mast security floodlights have been installed in strategic places in Mandera Town
• Installation of stand-alone solar-powered systems in ten public institutions including schools, dispensaries and offices.
• Establishment of solar mini-grids in 6 wards in partnership with Rural Electrification Authority
• Also in partnership with National Government Agencies (MoE, KPLC and REA) the department is implementing the K-OSAP project funded by the World Bank covering:
  » Solar mini-grids
  » Stand-alone systems
  » Clean cooking solutions

Greening Mandera
• Implementation of afforestation programme in which 60,000 tree seedlings were planted, nurtured and maintained across the county
• Distribution of over 100,000 tree seedlings to households and public institutions to enhance forest cover.
• Spearheading of environmental education and public awareness creation on the importance of environmental conservation.
• Distribution of afforestation tools such as watering cans, hoes, and wheelbarrows.
• Enforcement of EMCA 1999 Cap 387 law and its regulations including EIA/EA, waste management and air quality regulation in full collaboration with the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)
• Clearing of the Prosopis juliflora (Mathenge) in areas where the plant species has invaded, such as roadsides and public places
• Enforcement of the ban on the use of plastic carrier bags in collaboration with NEMA
• Formulation and operationalization of the County Environment Committee.
• Engaged 270 casual workers to water and maintain trees planted under the Greening Mandera initiative.
• Planted 400 trees at Moi Stadium under the Mandera Town greening programme aimed at providing a conducive environment for locals attending public events held at the venue.
• Constructed four additional water storage tanks to support afforestation programme.
• Revival of five existing dormant community-owned wildlife conservancies to promote tourism in the county.

Fact Box

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bore holes constructed</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dams/Pans Constructed</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big pans / Dams constructed</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underground water tanks</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Camels quench their thirst at the Merille earth pan in Banisa sub-county

Drilling of water boreholes in Banisa.

Solar street lighting in Mandera
Mandera County is arid and semi-arid characterized by low-lying rocky hills located on plains that rise gradually between 400 to 970 meters above sea level. The rest of topography is low-lying, with dense vegetation of savannah-type thorny shrubs. The flat plains make drainage poor, causing floods during heavy rains.

• Major flooding in Mandera County is mostly attributed to River Duaa that covers a distance of approximately 150km along Kenya’s border with Ethiopia.
• River Duaa is trans-boundary with its source is the Ethiopian highlands flowing eastwards along the Kenya-Ethiopia border through Malkamari into Somalia at Border Point One (BP1).
• The River Duaa basin that is shared between Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia, spans an area of about 60,106 km².
• About 9,119 km² of the basin area lies in Mandera County, Kenya.

• River Duaa water is used by communities in Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia.
• The middle and lower areas traversed by the river characterised by frequent droughts and floods.
• These climate extremes impact negatively on the region’s socio-economic development whose economy depend mainly on livestock and rain-fed agriculture.
• The River Duaa watershed has immense opportunities for irrigation, recreation parks, cottage industries, tanneries, livestock trade, mining industries, pastoralism, urbanization and human resources.
• The primary focus of the proposed plans is to reduce vulnerability of the local communities to the negative impacts of droughts and floods through the implementation of appropriate adaptation and mitigation interventions that shall progressively sustain, conserve, and protect the river Duaa watershed.
• The River Duaa river watershed lies in a semi-arid region characterised by unreliable rainfall, hence the river waters are vital for cultivation, livestock rearing, domestic use and industrial development of the three riparian states.
• For sustainable management and utilization of these resources, Kenya needs to cooperate with its riparian partners.

To reduce the vulnerability of agro-pastoral communities to negative impacts of droughts and floods, several interventions are proposed: Mandera County Government and National Irrigation Board conducted a study to identify and

The River Duaa watershed has immense opportunities for irrigation, rainwater harvesting, recreation parks, cottage industries, tanneries, livestock trade, mining industries, pastoralism, urbanization and human resources

‘The river’s waters is shared by communities in Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia and has potential to transform socio-economic status of the riparian basin, control floods, boost irrigation, attract tourism and Hydro-power production. We appeal to the international community to support the construction of a multi-purpose dam’
- Governor Ali Roba
Multipurpose Dam
- Water supply
- Irrigation
- Regulation of flow (ensure continuous flow of water throughout the year)
- Flood control or protection
- Tourism
- Increased livestock production
- Fisheries

Hydropower
- Cross-border community integration and cohesion
- Reduce siatation at lower reaches of River Daua
- Other water-related activities.

Hydropower potential was estimated to yield 8.2 MW with a potential energy yield of 43Gw. The development of hydropower in the region will lead to a cheap source of power for domestic, water supply, irrigation and industrial use, hence fostering economic growth among the three countries.

Cross-border community integration and cohesion and other water-related activities

Bridge Connecting Ethiopia and Kenya.
1. The cross-border communities in Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia trade on onions, sweet melons, oranges, bananas and tomatoes and livestock. Potential to increase cross-border trade in various agricultural commodities and livestock is immense.
2. With the construction of the dam, Kenya proposes the construction of a bridge across River Daua to connect Kenya and Ethiopia at Malka Suftu and Malka Mari.
3. The three countries will benefit from controlled trade noting that a Customs and Immigration Border Control Point will be established.

Watershed Management.
- The proposed Daua Dam will be located in River Daua at latitude 4.064824 and longitude 41.043819. The proposed site is located at approximately 20km upstream of Rhamu Dimtu town in Mandera County
- The dam has a potential to command a total net area of 133,000 hectares that can benefit the three partner states.
- Estimated dam height is about 90m with a capacity of approximately 4.5 billion M³ and can be utilized to generate hydropower estimated at 8.2MW.
- Intervention under multipurpose dam.
- Water supply - the development will provide better access to water throughout the year and improve supply for domestic, livestock and industrial use in both urban and rural areas.

Irrigation
To build on current agricultural practices in the basin, the ongoing small irrigation farming along the basin has enabled farmers to transition from a purely pastoral livelihood to a mixed farming system and a similarly important learning in the process. It is very interesting that the current production systems are mixed farming systems that are viable options under an intensive irrigated situation.

Legal mechanism spell out in the constitution of Kenya has necessitated the development of a monitoring and evaluation system for county governments. The Constitution requires adherence to principles of good governance and transparency in the conduct and management of public programmes and projects. Governor Ali Roba upholds performance management for public service delivery and intends to accelerate progress to achieve high quality of life for the people of Mandera.

He aspires to create a strong feedback mechanism to regularly provide residents with good quality and timely monitoring and evaluation information on implementation progress of flagship development projects and programmes.

The purpose of establishing EUM is to:
- Work with other departments to fast-track implementation of high priority development
- Collect and collate data, analyzing and using information to inform the progress and impact of interventions.
- Keeping the Governor informed on timely and regular basis of progress of county plans and programmes
- Monitor weekly reporting template on performance of flagship projects and monthly Governor’s Dashboard to ensure the Governor is fully informed of progress and challenges including early warning system to identify risk and bottlenecks.

- Provide mentoring, coaching services for project managers to ensure projects and services are evaluated for impact created.
- Ensure programmes are implemented as per budget, CIDP and Annual Workplan.
- Establish framework for progressively achieving a County Government culture of data-driven decision-making.
- Review planning process and assist county departments to know step-by-step what needs to be done to deliver results on high priority programmes.

Achievements
- Training of staff on M&E
- Induction of staff on County Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Systems and Human Resource Management
- Improved service delivery through close supervision of projects and programmes
- Timely submission of statutory report by ministries
- Formulation of County M&E framework

Delivery Unit

The Mandera County Delivery Unit aims at delivering the Governor Ali Roba legacy.

The Governor established the unit to track delivery of services by working collaboratively with all departments to fast-track the implementation of key high-priority projects.

The team is tasked with providing monthly, quarterly, annual reports on programmes, services and value for money.

The unit keeps the Governor informed on timely and regular basis on progress of county plans and programmes

- Monitor weekly reporting template on performance of flagship projects and

We emphasize on non-financial reports and timely implementation of projects and plans. The Delivery Unit appraises plans and reports formulated by the Economic Planning Department. We independently evaluate, verify, investigate and serve as a “response unit” to avoid risks.

Head: Ahmed Ali Madey
Deputy Head: Hassan Hussein Mohamed
Assistant Deputies: Zahara Bashir, Dakane Mohamed
Coordinators: Hassan Hashim, Mustafa Mohamed Adan, Muntaz Bishar Musa, Abdi H. Kahiye, Abdilahi Hussein Kassim

Efficiency Monitoring Unit

Mandera

Okash A. Adan
Head of Efficiency and Monitoring Unit

Ahmed Madey
Head of Delivery Unit

The Official Magazine of Mandera County Government
Mandera Town residents will benefit from a whooping Sh2.5 billion water and sewerage project set for completion within 20 months. Funded by the Africa Development Bank (AfDB), the project will provide safe and clean safe water and improve sanitation.

The two projects are being undertaken by Chinese firm Sini Hydro which is expected to hand it over for commissioning within 18-24 months. Despite Article 43 of the Constitution clearly listing water as a basic human right which should be available in adequate quantities, residents of Mandera County have never relied on conventional water sources.

Over the years the main sources of water have been River Daua and water pans, which has exposed residents to risk of contracting waterborne diseases.

It is a normal occurrence to see individuals with carts pulled by donkeys hawking water and residents scrambling for the precious commodity without bothering to know where it has been sourced from.

However this will soon be a thing of the past after the County Government in collaboration with the National Government and other key partners launched an ambitious Sh1.4 billion targeting over 100,000 families.

During the handing over of the project site Deputy Governor Mohamed Arai said he was happy to join residents of Mandera Town in the launch of the works as it would go a long way in quenching the thirst of Mandera people.

"Through partnership with stakeholders we have a vision of making efforts to ensure all Mandera residents have access to clean piped water. It is a milestone for us and we thank the National Government for negotiating for resources that will finance this Sh.1.4 billion project for the construction of a modern water supply system for Mandera Town and its environs," he said.

The DG said water provision anchors very well in the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 6, which seeks to ensure access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.

This intervention, Arai noted was laudable and thanked the Ministry of water for championing such a ‘wonderful life changing’ project that would benefit over 252,000 people.

The project will cover all the nine locations of Mandera Town including the furthest corners like Koromei and Neboi wards. The works include a pipeline of 316,820 metres.

"It comes with a water treatment system with a capacity of handling over 16,000 cubic metres per day with all its components and the water pumps will be mounted from a floating position deploying some of the latest state of the art technologies," he said.

Deputy Governor Arai noted that after the completion of the project, the treatment works will include filtration and disinfection to render it safe for human consumption.

The project will have storage tanks with a capacity of 16,037 cubic metres with concrete underground tanks and elevated steel pressed tanks.
In line with Governor Ali Roba’s vision to transform the water sector in the county, Mandera Water Utility Company (Mandera Water and Sewerage Company) has been revamped to effectively provide services to the residents of Mandera. The Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer were appointed to oversee the turnaround of the organization. The new management is currently working on the following initiatives to streamline operations:

- Formulation of strategy and policy guidelines
- Mapping and survey users in the town
- Infrastructure improvements across the supply network
- Automation of customer data and installation of revenue and billing systems
- Resourcing firm with capable technical staff and restructuring the organization
- Customer awareness, public participation to improve on perception and buy-in of users.

Infrastructure Project
The challenges of water shortage in Mandera Town will soon be a thing of the past as the construction of the Water and Sewerage Infrastructure project funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB) has officially commenced. The water infrastructure project which includes a water treatment plant, distribution and storage facilities was contracted at Sh1.4 billion. The project, the first sewerage programme was contracted at Sh1.04 billion.

Urban water supply boost

MANDWASCO board pose for a group photo with Governor Ali Roba after the inauguration meeting at the County headquarters
Governor Roba has set his eyes on taking advantage of Mandera Municipality’s unique geographical position bordering Somalia and Ethiopia and use it as anchor to spur economic growth, wealth creation and service provision. Mandera Town is the biggest urban area that covers a radius of 500 kilometres and has been a traditional trading point over generations. “We are looking at possibilities of exploring tourism where visitors can have breakfast in Ethiopia, lunch in Somalia and dinner in Kenya. The right effort is to make Mandera Municipality a smart city which incorporates a clear focus on sustainability, resource productivity, economic development and job creation, as well as getting basic core infrastructure right to enable decent quality of living in our border town.”

“We have unique challenges as a border town which has suffered effects of violent extremism but is now stabilizing to attract investors. We are looking forward to partnerships with many local foreign institutions among them UKAid, World Bank, USAid, World Food Programme, Islamic Relief and local corporates on many fronts,” says Governor Roba.

What the Mandera Municipality Charter says
The Charter has been adopted by the County Executive Committee (CEC), the Mandera County Assembly, signed and gazetted to make it operational.

Mandera Municipality will comprise Central and Khalalo divisions which covers three wards - Township, Neboi and Khalalo.

Four of the Board members were competitively recruited by the County Executive Committee while the remaining five members were nominated by different bodies.

The Governor appointed the committee members with the approval of the County Assembly. The Charter also specifies the roles of the Municipality:

- Promotion, regulation and provision of refuse collection and solid waste management services
- The promotion and provision of water and sanitation services and infrastructure (in areas within the Municipality not served by the water and sanitation provider)
- The construction and maintenance of urban roads and associated infrastructure;
- Construction and maintenance of storm drainage and flood controls;
- Construction, maintenance of walkways and other non-motorized transport infrastructure
- Construction, maintenance of recreational parks and green spaces
- Construction and maintenance of street lighting
- Construction, maintenance and regulation of traffic controls and parking facilities
- Regulation of outdoor advertising
- Construction, maintenance and regulation of municipal markets and abattoirs
- Construction, maintenance of fire stations provision of fire-fighting services, emergency preparedness, disaster management
- The promotion, regulation and provision of municipal sports and cultural activities
- Promotion, regulation and provision of animal control and welfare
- Development and enforcement of municipal plans and development controls
- Administration services (construction and maintenance of administrative offices)
- The promotion and undertaking of the key infrastructural development and services within the Municipality
- Develop the framework of the spatial and master plans for the Municipality
- Any other functions as may be delegated by the County Executive Committee.

However, the Municipality has not taken over all the above roles since the roles will have to be gazetted and delegated at intervals.
We celebrate a historic milestone in which the Mandera Municipality was considered for funding from the 60 million sterling pounds (Sh7.8billion) kitty from UKAid through the Sustainable Urban Development Programme (SUED).

Mandera was selected among nine other municipalities from 53 applicants who submitted bids for qualification for the kitty.

It is a historic moment for us to have emerged successful for consideration of grants that will improve the resilience of our people, the shocks of climate change and the many challenges of an urban border centre.

The impact of the programme will benefit many people in the Mandera Triangle including our neighbours in Ethiopia and Somalia as well as the neighbouring counties that are connected to Mandera.

“Mandera County Government and Mandera Municipality is grateful to the British High Commission and we reiterate our commitment to fully supporting the successful implementation of the Sustainable Urban Development Programme fully through our focal point person,” says Governor Roba.
Elder’s unforgettable memories

SENATOR YUSUF HAJI

He is a father figure in the entire northern region, a unifying factor and a no-nonsense administrator turned politician. Garissa Senator Yusuf Haji’s visit to Mandera was nostalgic, as it brought back memories of his youth while serving as a District Officer (DO) in 1963.

The senator visited the building which served as his office over 55 years ago and recalled how challenging it was working in the area at the height of the Shifta uprising and the Somali-Ethiopia War.

“It was a very difficult moment and a traumatizing experience then, especially the war between Somalia and Ethiopia. Missiles fired by the warring countries used to pass over my office as Mandera is sandwiched between the two countries,” he recalls.

To complicate matters, the raging Shifta War in the region gave me sleepless nights as there was a curfew imposed and the situation became more critical following the murder of a white District Officer Andrew near Elwak.

Andrew, recalls the senator was travelling back to Mandera from Isiolo when he got a puncture a few kilometers to Elwak and in the process of changing the tyre, they were attacked by Shifas and he was killed.

Haji narrates that the security situation in the area then was so bad that vehicles travelled in convoys with three police escort units in front of the convoy, middle and the rear. The state of the road aggravated the situation.

“Travelling from Mandera to Thika took us three days using either the Kula Mawe-Isiolo or the Wajir Garissa routes. The convoy comprised of 40 to 50 vehicles and at no time was any of the vehicles supposed to stop unless it was an emergency and in the event of one, the headlights were switched on and all vehicles stopped,” he says.

He adds that unlike today where people enter Mandera Town and leave at their whim, the situation then was very different as the township comprising about only ten shops was fenced with one gate and one needed a permit to enter.

“I am the one who issued the permits and the town was fenced and guarded by police officers dressed in red turban and white uniforms. One had to get clearance to be in the area and by 6pm the gate was closed,” recalls the Senator.

In those days whenever it started to rain, all the roads were closed to ensure that heavy trucks did not destroy the roads.

He recalls that the most trying moment of his career was when he was informed that three Shiftas wanted to surrender their guns.

“It was a tense moment. When they arrived with the guns in the morning outside the barricade I asked them to put the guns down near the fence and move behind fifteen yards then we recovered the guns. I however received a tongue lashing from my superiors for putting my life on the line,” he says.

“There is a very big change in the county under the leadership of Governor Ali Roba, which I would not have envisioned when I served as an administrator her,” Senator Haji notes.

The roads, he says have been tarmacked, water drilled in the area unlike before when they used to fetch water from River Daua using donkeys. Sanitary facilities have been established in the town, unlike during Haji’s time when they used a bucket as a toilet.

“In those days we had one small dispensary which served the locals including people from Ethiopia and Somalia. Even during the Shifta War the dispensary remained open but today the county government has established modern health facilities,” he adds.

Development that has been attained in Mandera since the advent of devolution is enormous and the Senator believes that in another 50 years, the county would have achieved very significant growth.
When the name of Mohamed Kahio Osman is mentioned in Mandera town and its environs, it does not ring a bell to the majority of the residents, but when you talk of Haji Bullow it elicits fear and love in equal measures.

Having served as chairman of the expansive Mandera County Council for a decade and Mayor for five years, Bullow is well-known by the locals and revered in political circles, having brought down political opponents and elevated others despite having come from a minority corner tribe.

Bullow wielded immense power and served as a Kanu Chairman during retired President Moi’s era, which earned him an equal number of friends and enemies. He opines that is now water under the bridge as he is now ready to work with all the elected leaders for the sake of the development of Mandera County.

He recalls that during his time as the chairman of the defunct county council and also subsequently as Mayor, he initiated several developments and fought for the rights of the minority tribes but adds that the dynamics have now changed greatly.

“During my tenure, despite coming from the corner tribe, I was able to be elected as a Chairman and Mayor but the situation now is different. There is stiff political competition among the large tribes which has seen the minority tribes marginalized. I am asking the Governor to intervene on this,” he said during an interview.

Bullow, 80, notes that since the promulgation of the new Constitution and introduction of devolution, Mandera County has experienced a meteoric rise in development, in terms of infrastructure and service delivery under the leadership of Governor Ali Roba.

“Roads have now been tarmacked, all the government ministries under the devolved system have constructed their offices and there is general improvement in the business atmosphere in the county. Facilities that we used to see in Nairobi are now readily available here” Bullow says with a smile.

The respected elder is however appealing to the Governor to closely safeguard the interests of the minority tribes to enable them have a say in leadership and the awarding of tenders.

In his time, observes the former mayor, the funding from the central government was minimal and the council basically depended on revenue collection which was meagre and unable to either sustain or initiate meaningful development, unlike what is being witnessed today in the county.

He however notes that the allocation to the county was low, observing that even if one merged Kakamega, Kisumu and Vihiga counties they could not measure to even a half of Mandera and faulted the Commission of Revenue Allocation (CRA) for “under-allocating” funds to the county.

“The Governor is really trying his level best to utilize resources allocated to him bearing mind the expansive nature of the county. I have served in the same capacity under less resources and I understand what the Governor is going through. The allocation of the revenue should be reviewed so as to favour expansive counties,” he urges.

He concludes saying he is ready to support the elected leaders and the Governor in order to ensure that Mandera attains a high level of development and effectively deliver service to the people.

Since the promulgation of the new Constitution and introduction of county governments, Mandera County has experienced a meteoric rise in development, in terms of infrastructure and service delivery under the leadership of Governor Ali Roba.
The Ministry of Public Service, Conflict Management and Devolved Units plays a vital role in the administration of decentralized units, human resource management, conflict management, public participation, civic education and countering violent extremism under its various departments.

The ministry has invested heavily in security matters and facilitated more than 330 National Police Reservists and hired fleets of security vehicles to facilitate prompt and timely response to terror attacks and assist with daily security patrols.

In the recent past, Mandera County has experienced relative inter-community tensions. The trend of a secure and peaceful environment has translated into progress and prosperity for all the residents. Mandera people are no longer spending nights in fear and businesses are thriving and operating late into the night in major towns in the county.

The residents have abided by the 2014 ceasefire whose foundation was laid by President Uhuru Kenyatta. The President laid the original seed for this quest for a lasting peace in Mandera by setting up the Committee on the Wajir and Mandera conflict, under the co-chairmanship of Senator Yusuf Haji, and former Speaker of the National Assembly Francis ole Kaparo. It’s this initiative that yielded the ceasefire and sprouted the success story that was celebrated in October 2018.

The Governor prepared the residents for the official launch of the Mandera County Peace Day in Rhamu and requested for permanent closure of all clan-based markets and opening up of the integrated and cosmopolitan Shantoley market. The event was also used to recognize peace heroes and champions who contributed tremendously to the peace and cohesion in Mandera North sub-county.

In October 2018, the department organized a very successful regional conference on countering violent extremism that brought together counties in the larger North Eastern and Eastern region. The political, and religious leaders, youth and women groups unanimously pledged to unite and fight violent extremism in the region during the two-day conference. The fruits of the conference have already been realized as evidenced by the communities opening up and information sharing on Al-Shabaab.

The Governor formed the Department of Governance, Civic Education and Public Participation to enhance citizen participation and engagement in all government programmes and services. As a result, all ministries and departments are making sure programmes and projects are initiated and supported at the grassroots. The department was instrumental in the training of senior government officials on civic education and public participation while spearheading the formulation of public participation and civic education policy for Mandera County.

**Achievements**
- Managed to train 14 sub-county and deputy administrators, six town administrators on human resource issues, public finance management act, code of ethics and regulation.
- Managed to segregate payroll for personnel emoluments into respective departments and officers exact duty stations.
- Strengthened human resource registry (records) operations by constructing a modern registry and giving guidelines and procedures for the day-to-day functions to safeguard the security of information, records and file management.
We have managed to reduce the deadline for payroll closure by 10 days from the previous 25th of the month to 15th of every month.

Managed to construct and operationalize standby genset for the Geneva offices to improve power outages and failures thus improving service delivery.

Organized a regional CVE conference in Mandera which brought together over 300 participants from Mandera, Wajir, Isiolo and Garissa.

Organized religious leaders’ consultative meetings on CVE in Mandera East, Mandera South, Lafey, Kutulo and Mandera North.

Managed to draft and validate the Mandera County Action plan on countering violent extremism which will soon be launched.

Trained ToTs from Nyumba Kumi clusters on community policing, neighbourhood safety and partnership with security agencies.

Organized Peace Day celebration in Rhamu attended by all leaders to commemorate the existing peace and resilience of the communities living in Rhamu.

Conducted dialogue meetings at Wante (between Murulle and Garre) and Darnasa (Murulle and Marehan) to quell the violence and the tension as a result of resource based conflict.

15 ward offices constructed and operationalized hence enhancing service delivery to the people.

Managed to construct and operationalize dump sites in all the sub-county HQs so as to improve garbage and waste management.

Managed to constitute and operationalize Mandera Municipality.

Procured two skip loaders tracks and constructed 14 garbage collection centres for improved sanitation.

Initiated the drafting of public participation policy with the help of the County Assembly.

Initiated monthly cleaning day in various towns that involves the community members as a way of community sensitization on clean environment.

Managed to coordinate all the public participation exercises conducted by various ministries and departments with the aim of enhancing community participation, engagement and feedback.

The County Government has proposed the closure of all clan-based markets.
We have taken the soft approach. We strongly believe in persuasion of the people and intensive engagement. Mandera is the first county government to develop and establish a fully-fledged department tasked with programmes of prevention of radicalisation and countering violent extremism. We have a Chief Officer in charge of the docket because of the challenges we face. We have a 100% vigilance strategy and with support of partners we can sustain it. We have zero movement of terror cells now unlike before. We are also engaging the community in the worst

"We have come a long way from an average of nine attacks each month between 2013 and 2015 to no attack at all since 2016"

- Governor Roba
-hit vulnerable areas like Mandera South and in Lafey constituencies. We are sustaining the pressure. In 2002 public sympathy for Al Shabaab was very common. Today the perception is changing, but the threat is still alive.

We thank the National Government because virtually all that we have asked for from President Uhuru Kenyatta we have got in terms of security.

If you look at the trends of attacks in Kenya, all terror incidents have a link with Mandera either used as a gateway or a recruitment base. The base for recruitment is now shifting to other parts of the country.

We convened a historic stakeholders conference on deradicalisation, prevention and countering violent extremism in Mandera on 22-23rd October 2018. We had a frank conversation and made a resolution to take a community-driven approach to countering violent extremism. Religious leaders, political leaders, community leaders, youth and women spoke in unison. We need support from partners and the international community to deepen our activities and offer returnees an opportunity to reintegrate into the society with meaningful life skills. We have proposed a life skills training centre which will offer basic training for those who cannot earn entry into tertiary institutions.
In line with executive order by Governor Ali Roba to fast-track service delivery to the community and improve coordination of government business, the Devolution Department has formed departmental committees to oversee and review service delivery in every ward.

The committee’s mandate includes reporting whether communities are getting prompt and effective services, for instance access to water, healthcare, education and general well-being.

To improve efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery, the sub-county administration conducts bi-weekly meetings to check on the level of progress with regard to service delivery.

By the end of the 2018/2019 financial year, it is expected that the committees will have been fully instituted in all the seven sub-counties. Already the County Government has completed the construction of 15 ward administrators’ offices with five ongoing. The ward administrators play the role of coordination, and manage and supervise the general administrative function at the ward level.

For effective service delivery, the County Government has undertaken the construction of sub-county administrators’ offices since the administrators play a key role in coordinating government policies, programmes and service delivery in the sub-county and wards.

Capacity Building
The Department of Devolved Units conducted orientation and training for the newly-recruited administrators and other administrators on 23 November 2018. The objective of the training for the officers was to familiarize themselves as they reported to their duty stations. The administrators were trained in the following fields:

- Strategic Planning, M&E
  Areas covered were county planning, budget making process – MTEF among other crucial financial trainings required by the administrators.

- Training administrators
  Sub-county administrators and town administrators attended an internal training in areas such as public finance, public participation, civic education, conflict management and human resource management.

- Transformative leadership
  Women administrators have not been left behind. In the spirit of devolution, Mandera County Government sponsored three female ward administrators to attend a transformative leadership training in Mombasa organized by the Council of Governors.

Devolution to the grassroots

Key stakeholders
A fruitful collaboration between the Department of Devolved Units, the National Environmental Management Agency (NEMA) and other key stakeholders in maintaining a clean and healthy environment for Mandera County residents remains paramount. During the town’s induction, all the key stakeholders came together and brainstormed in an interactive session.

The Department of Devolved Units is tasked to ensure proper sanitation within the county. The County Government has purchased sanitation trucks used for garbage collection. The department ensures proper sanitation in six towns in the county. This includes towns within the sub-counties with the exception of Mandera East, which has been elevated to municipality status.

The formation of town committees is expected soon. With the formation of town committees, all the towns will be managed through these committees via the town administrators. The committees shall be expected to draw up an integrated plan for their respective towns and perform functions mandated to them by the Urban and Cities Act 2011 as well as the Mandera County Towns Act.

Supporting the vulnerable
The Department of Devolved Units officially launched the sanitation programme in Kutulo Town.

Chief Officer for Devolved Units Yusuf Didow together with MCA Mohamed Rashid and the National Government represented by the Deputy County Commissioner of Kutulo, sub-county administrator, town administrator, local elders, religious leaders, youth and women were in Kutulo to officially launch the programme.

Governor Ali Roba’s administration is focused on ensuring that every person has the right to a clean and healthy environment as enshrined in Article 42 of the Constitution.

The programme is aimed at supporting the most vulnerable and needy members of the society, lifting their living standards while ensuring that a clean and healthy environment is maintained.

Governor Ali Roba’s administration has so far engaged 342 sanitation workers, mostly vulnerable women who are selected by communities through public participation across all the seven sub-counties.
The Mandera County Public Service Board has attracted and recruited over 2,500 members of staff across the county for both technical and support services.

The Board also established and operationalized the Mandera Water and Sewage Company and the Municipality, which are offering essential services to the residents of Mandera.

The Board developed two manuals which will greatly improve service delivery and the two documents are an Induction Handbook for all staff/new recruits in the county and Code of Conduct to guide in the expected behaviour and values of all county staff. The books were developed and published by the Board and distributed to all departments.

In an effort towards enhancing efficient and effective service delivery and management of human resource at various departmental level, the Board delegated some of its human resource functions to the Departmental Human Resource Management Advisory Committee.

The Board conducted sensitization programmes on promotion of national values and principles of governance as enshrined in Article 10 and 232 of the Constitution to all the county staff members in all the sub-counties.

The Board was also able to promote, upgrade and re-designate about 280 staff across the departments. The promotion is an ongoing process and the Board ensures that departments promote their staff when they are due for promotion after meeting all the requirements.

The Board’s work is in line with its vision to ‘Build the most efficient public service in North-ern Kenya’ and mission to ‘To provide transformative, highly qualified and diverse human resources within a supportive work environment.’

The Public Service Board aspires to provide quality human resource services to attract, develop, motivate and retain diverse workforce within a supportive work environment. It does this with an emphasis on service delivery based on consultation and communication within all the communities in Mandera County.

The Board’s Committees
The Board has established three main committees to operationalize its mandate. The committees are:
- Establishment, Recruitment and Selection, Training and Development.
- Discipline, Compliance and Ethics, and HR Audit.
- HR Planning, Performance Management, Finance and Administration.

The role of each committee is to coordinate activities within its mandate and make the necessary recommendations to the Board for consideration and decision. Each committee comprises a chairperson and members of the Board, supported by the Secretariat.

The mandate of the Board is contained in Section 59 of the County Government Acts 2012. These include establishing and abolishing offices in the County Public Service, appointing persons who hold and act in offices of the public service, among others duties.

The Board has managed to put in place critical structures to enable the County Government to operate efficiently and effectively. It has also ensured that all the departments receive adequate staff to enable them deliver services to the residents of Mandera County.

Plans and Programmes
- Development of appropriate policies, values, standards, systems and processes in human resource management and development.
- Capacity development and management of human resource.
- Budget for and recruitment of the remaining key staff for the county.
- Continuous sensitization for all staff in the county on national values and principles of public service.
- Development of a database of persons living with disability in Mandera County with the help of the National Council of Persons Living with Disability.
- Provide and lobby for budgetary allocation for purposes of training and sensitizing public officers on the national values and principles of public service.
- Carry out annual comprehensive human resource audit and payroll cleansing.
- Monitor and review performance management processes in the county.
- Review all the staff cases due for promotion from on need basis.
- Carry out baseline survey on the status of the County Public Service in terms of compliance with national values and principles of governance.
- Review and implement the County Public Human Resources manual and other existing policies.
- Ensure a proper and working organizational structure for each department and the corresponding optimum staff establishment to ensure that county achieves its mandate.
- The Board will ensure sensitization and training in code of conduct, national values and strategic plan to all the county staff in 2018.
The Ministry of Roads, Transport and Public Works is committed to its vision to provide quality road and transportation infrastructure to spur social-economic growth in Mandera County and the region at large. The county has put in a lot of effort in the construction, rehabilitation and upgrading of the transport system, which is in line with the Governor’s manifesto relating to roads and infrastructure development.

In recent years, the road network connecting inter-ward and inter-sub-county levels has greatly improved. Every remote village is now easily accessible. Security has also greatly improved and this has promoted cross-border trade in the county.

The County Government inherited from the National Government road networks that were in a deplorable state, with the main artery linking the county to the rest of the county Road A13 impassable due to the poor state of the road. The county inherited the following roads:

- Bitumen road - non-existent.
- Gravel roads - 100km.
- Earth roads - 2,083km

The Roads Ministry has made tremendous gains in the public infrastructure sector. Some of the milestones covered are:

- Bitumen roads (Mandera Town roads) - 24km currently at 98% complete.
- Gravel roads - 100km.
- Earth roads - 2,083km

Roads constructed

- Mandera-Arabia.
- Arabia-Fino
- Fino-Lafey
- Fino-Waranqara
- Rhamu-Olla
- Olla-Guba
- Guba-Banisa
- Banisa-Eymole
- Banisa-Kiliwehiri
- Banisa-Takaba
- Banisa-Domal
- Takaba-Shimbir Fatuma
- Takaba-Qofole

Mission

The ministry’s mission is to facilitate the construction, upgrading, rehabilitation and maintenance of the road infrastructure in Mandera County so as to enhance regional connectivity for sustainable social-economic development in line with Vision 2030.

Key Strategies

- Build capacity of Infrastructure, personnel and equipment.
- Facilitate public private partnership to drive the development agenda.
- Citizen participation in the Planning and Execution of projects and programmes in civic education.
- Attract, hire, develop and retain an effective, diverse, professional, dedicated and responsive team of employees.
- Empower employees at every level to provide county services with maximum effectiveness and efficiency.
- Develop employees to become leaders who promote ethics, innovation, service, accountability and peak performance.

National Government Support

Additionally the National Government through agents like KeNHA, KURA and KeRRA has constructed:

- 135km of low-volume seal road from Rhamu to Elwak (KeNHA)
- Maintenance of A13 Road (KeNHA)
- 11km tarmac road within Mandera Town Road (KURA)
- All-weather road murram road - 15km (KURA)
- 60km of low volume seal Roads from Mandera – Arabia (KeRRA)
- All-weather murram roads- 100km (KeRRA)

Projects implemented

FY2018-19

- Construction of Elwak- Kutayu Road
- Construction of Rhamu Dimtu- Ardhagarbicha Road
- Construction of Choroqo – Guba Road
- Construction of Takaba- Gilher Road
- Construction of Karo Airport
- Construction of passenger terminal and fencing for Karo Airport
- Construction of passenger terminal and fencing for Takaba Airstrip
- Construction of Daresalam- Saro Hindi Road
- Maintenance of Lafey-Kabo Road
- Maintenance of Arabia – Bambo 2 Road
- Maintenance of Afqoy-Libahiya Road

Drifts across seasonal streams.

- Mandera South Sub-county Airstrip built to gravel standards and fully operational.
- Over 350km of new unclassified roads have been successfully bush-cleared and opened.

Roads constructed

- Mandera-Arabia.
- Arabia-Fino
- Fino-Lafey
- Fino-Waranqara
- Rhamu-Olla
- Olla-Guba
- Guba-Banisa
- Banisa-Eymole
- Banisa-Kiliwehiri
- Banisa-Takaba
- Banisa-Domal
- Takaba-Shimbir Fatuma
- Takaba-Qofole

Mission

The ministry’s mission is to facilitate the construction, upgrading, rehabilitation and maintenance of the road infrastructure in Mandera County so as to enhance regional connectivity for sustainable social-economic development in line with Vision 2030.
• Maintenance of Shafshafey Road
• Construction of Box Culvert at Lagwarera
• Construction of Box Culvert at Busley along Mandera – Khalalio Road
• Construction of Drift at Lagworera
• Construction of Drift at Bulla mpiya Lagwarera

Ministry plans/programmes 2018-2022

Rehabilitation of Existing Roads
• Fino-Lafey-B9
• Lafey-Waranqara
• Elwak- Kutulo
• Kutayu- Boji Garse
• Mandera-Khalalio-Sala-Rhamu
• Elwak-Shimbir Fatuma-Takaba
• Takaba-Qofole
• Takaba-Qoqay-Wargadud
• Rhamu-Banisa-Takaba

Tarmac Standard Roads
• Mandera North - 10km
• Mandera South - 10km
• Mandera West - 10km
• Banisa Sub-County - 7km
• Lafey Sub-County - 7km
• Kutulo sub-county - 7km

Upgrading of roads from earth to all-weather murram standard

Mandera East Sub-County
• Mandera Town Ring Road
• B9-Libeihya-Odha- Arabia
• Sala-Rhamu
• Khalalio-Gadudia-Borja-Marere

Mandera North Sub-County
• Rhamu-Ashabito
• Ardha Garibicha -Malkamari
• Malkamari-Domal
• Malkaruqa-Riverine
• Huulo-Riverine
• B9-Ashabito
• Ashabito-Qoqay
• Kalicha-Guticha
• Ola-Guticha-Marothiley
• Riverine Road-Khalalio

Mandera South Sub-County
• Dololo-Qalanqalesa-Kutayu
• Shimbir Fatuma -Chachabole -Elele-Wargadud
• Shimbir Fatuma-Harbate-Makutano
• Elwak-Elqala (Burache)
• Elwak-Yedo

Bridges, Culverts and Drifts

Mandera Town
• Mandera Livestock Market Laga.
• Hareri Bridge.

Takaba Town
• Wangaidhan Laga.
• Didkuro Laga.

Banisa Sub-County
• Dandu-Didkoba-Qarsahana-Eresteno-Teso
• Rhamu- Gagaba
• Sake-Burduras
• Dandu-Kubi Halo-Gither
• Didkoba-Arger awar-Dadabo-Sake
• Qofole-Bolowle-Gulani-Burmayo

Mandera West Sub-County
• Dandu-Didkoba-Qarsahana-Eresteno-Teso
• Rhamu -Gagaba
• Sake-Burduras
• Dandu-Kubi Halo-Gither
• Didkoba-Arger awar-Dadabo-Sake
• Qofole-Bolowle-Gulani-Burmayo

PUBLIC WORKS
The Department of Public Works is responsible for
• Designing and Supervising the county project.
• Designing structural works for buildings
• Designing and supervising electrical and mechanical services for building works
• Preparation of bills of quantities for tender projects
• Some of the ongoing projects supervised by the department include construction of flagship - the County Headquarters, Governor’s Residence, County Assembly, Rest House, Mandera Town Fire Station, MANDWASCO office block, Mandera Municipality offices, Mandera Medical Training College, and Sub-county Headquarters.
There were times when we could not gather like this peacefully, yet now we can dance and make merry in the open for three days without an ugly incident.

- Capt Roba

A symbolic gesture that peace was taking root in Mandera County and the entire North Eastern Kenya region happened when a refurbished Moi Stadium that featured everything but grass literally pulsed with white gowns during the first ever Somali cultural festival.

Governor Ali Roba and the entire county leadership, invited guests and performers of various activities retrieved from the past wore white outfits with matching headscarfs and green belts holding ceremonial daggers in conformity with the Somali traditional attire dating back to a past dominated by Arabs.

Women donned white and impressive gaudy colours, enhancing their feminine beauty. The First Lady was resplendent in a glittering crown.

Disappearing cultural activities such as best practices in milking camels, goats and cows using the right implements and age-old methods to preserve milk and meat were on display for the younger generation to learn and copy how their forbears survived in times of scarcity and plenty.

For milk, the incontrovertible primary food of pastoral communities, it was shown the special way it is squeezed from the udder to deftly cleaning its container - an art passed down the generations. It was the preserve of women to extract ghee, an exercise that seemingly took them hours on end to accomplish, juggling a wooden container called diil.

Any grown man found tinkering with diil to extract ghee was liable to a severe punishment of spending his life without a wife, cultural experts explained.

To give milk the best smell and taste, twigs from a particular tree were pushed into fire and the smoky end used to fumigate and clean the diil containers.

Not to be left behind were migratory huts known as erio, walled and roofed with grass. It was quite a fascination when a traditional Somali wedding was held in the erio with camel milk and meat taking the centre stage to eclipse conventional wedding cake.

A live migratory caravan comprising several camels (orofa ile) in Somali dialect lit the stadium when the hardy animals and their handlers clad in traditional gears lumbered around. The scene was ‘lit’ with excitement galore when the Governor and the First Lady descended from the dais to join the caravan as the animals strode past.

Long-forgotten dancing styles were performed to deafening cheers. The cheering crowd was left enthralled when an agile man gyrated on his head undaunted by the dust, his legs flailing like wooden marionettes in the air as women clapped and shouted heart-warming praises.

Governor Roba said the success of the inaugural cultural festival was a bold indicator that security had not only returned, but was flourishing in the county once deemed the most dangerous in the republic because of repeated Al Shabaab attacks.

“Times were when we could not gather like this peacefully, but now we can dance and make merry in the open for three days without an ugly incident,” said Capt Roba.
SAVE THE DATE: 9-11 December 2019
We will celebrate our culture on the same date in subsequent years
- Governor Ali Roba
1. Somali dialects are divided into four main groups: Northern, Garre/Oromo Benaadir and Maay.
2. Arabic is an official national language of Somalia, which shares borders and origin with Somalia.
3. Somalis are entirely Muslims the majority belonging to the Sunni branch of Islam and the Shafi’i school of Islamic jurisprudence.
4. Clan membership plays a central part in Somali culture and politics.
5. Clans are patrilineal and are divided into sub-clans and sub-sub-clans, sometimes with many sub-divisions, resulting in extended families.
6. Traditional Somali attire for men consists of two sheets (often plain white), one draped over the shoulder and the other tied around the waist. Women wear the guntìino; a long stretch of cloth tied over the shoulder and draped around the waist. The garment can be worn in many different styles and with different fabrics.
7. Somali art include artistic traditions in pottery, music, architecture, wood carving and other genres.
8. Linguistic skills including poetry and good speech are highly valued among all Somali clans.
9. Henna is an important part of Somali culture. It is worn by Somali women on their hands, arms, feet and neck during weddings, Eid, Ramadan, and other festive occasions.
10. Somalis warmly greet each other with handshakes, but shaking hands with the opposite sex is avoided by many.
Pomp and galore marked the hugely successful inaugural Somali Cultural Festival, with traditional song and dance, cultural displays of fashion, artifacts and rich cuisine.
Young children with boards and chalk showcase a typical madrassa class during the Somali Cultural Festival as guests clad in white outfits with matching headscarves and green belts holding ceremonial daggers in keeping with Somali traditional attire graced the occasion.
Governor Roba shows off his dance moves with Samburu Morans during the 29th edition of the Camel Derby and cultural extravaganza in Maralal Town, Samburu County. INSET: A coverage of the story by The Standard newspaper published on September 3, 2018.
Entrenching democracy

Governor Roba: This is all we have done so far and we ask you to judge us fairly. But like former US President Barack Obama said...

"Democracy is sometimes messy, and for leaders, sometimes it’s frustrating. Democracy means that somebody is always complaining about something. Nobody is ever happy in a democracy about their government. If you make one person happy, somebody else is unhappy. Then sometimes somebody who you made happy before, later on, they’re not happy. They say, what have you done for me lately? But that's the nature of democracy. That’s why it works, it is because it’s constantly challenging leaders to up their game and to do better.

- Barack Obama
Former US President
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