



**SPEECH BY H.E. THE GOVERNOR MOHAMED ADAN KHALIF, EGH- DURING THE
COMMEMORATION OF THE MASHUJAA DAY HELD AT MANDERA MOI
STADIUM ON 20TH OCTOBER, 2025.**

**H.E. The Deputy Governor, EBS
H.E. The Senator Mandera County, EGH
Hon. Members of Parliament,
Hon. Speaker of the County Assembly,
County Commissioner and Security Team,
Members of the County Assembly,
County Executive Committee,**

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Asalamu Alaikum

Ladies and gentlemen,

Kenya is mourning; therefore, as we commemorate today's Mashujaa Day, we do so with very heavy hearts. We have gathered here to not only celebrate this day but also acknowledge the loss of our nation's beloved hero, the Right Hon. Raila Odinga. As we mourn his passing, in the same breath, we celebrate his contribution to this country along with his fellow heroes who shaped the history of our Nation. Traditionally, we celebrate the freedom fighters, community heroes and the National leaders: Our first president, Mzee Jomo Kenyatta and those who came after him; however, today, our former prime minister has joined their ranks, leaving the country with fresh wounds and heavy hearts.

The 15th of October 2025 is indeed a dark Wednesday; let us take a moment of silence to honour and remember our former Prime Minister, the late Hon. Raila Odinga, famously known as Baba.

We will remember him for many contributions; however, his relentless advocacy for devolution and firm defence of the constitution is a legacy that will live with us forever. As one of the principal architects of devolution, he fought for the independence of county governments to drive

development and educated Kenyans on the benefits of devolution, including equitable resource distribution, reduced marginalization, and empowered counties. We have lost a true statesman, a hero! And Kenya will forever honour his sacrifices. My heartfelt condolences to the family and close associates. May his soul Rest in peace.

My fellow citizens, this year's theme is 'Transforming lives through sustainable energy solutions'. We are going to focus on energy as a vital driver of economic growth and social transformation. The goal is to ensure access to energy that is sustainable, inclusive and modern. Kenya's Vision 2030 is anchored on economic, social and political pillars, which identify energy as an enabler of national development. The vision is implemented through its medium-term plans (MTPs) and Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA). As a county, we are committed to achieving SDG7, which seeks to ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy for all by 2030.

Mandera County has been facing power outage challenges that have affected businesses and the livelihoods of people for a long time. However, we have been working on other sources of energy, such as renewable energy and upgrading power infrastructure by incorporating hybrid solar systems. Energy is a national government function; nonetheless, we are in advanced discussions with the National Government and Kenya Power to connect Mandera County to the National grid. Nationally, the closest grid to Mandera is Garissa, which is approximately 650km away. Alternatively, we can explore the possibility of connecting to the Ethiopian power grid for proximity and access.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Health and energy go hand in hand. As we invest in upgrading all our levels 4 and 5, which include MRI, Surgical units and dialysis, we are simultaneously working towards sustainable power solutions, to ensure the improved medical infrastructure serves the public efficiently. Our Health sector has seen massive improvements, guided by the Progressive Health Reform Task Force Report 2022, which was motivated by my manifesto. We have heavily expanded the healthcare infrastructure and workforce.

The Mandera County Teaching and Referral Hospital (**MCTRH**) has been upgraded to a level 5 status, completion and equipping of the CT-Scan facility. 5 new Renal machines have been installed and are currently in use. Across the county, key hospitals have been upgraded to bring critical services closer to the people. The renal unit at Elwak Sub-County hospital is ready for use, joining MCTRH in providing the much-needed dialysis services while reducing long-distance referrals. New surgical theatres and emergency units have been operationalized in Kutulo, Elwak, and Lafey Sub-County. The modern maternity and laboratory complex in Rhamu is complete and ready for use, strengthening maternal and newborn health services. Generally, access to healthcare has improved through the rehabilitation of 27 health facilities and 12 new dispensaries across the county.

To sustain this development, the county has expanded its healthcare workforce by recruiting over 480 workers, investing in human resources for health. To place Primary Health Care at the core of our reforms, we have established 9 fully functional Primary Care Networks (PCNs), operationalized 127 Community Health Units, and trained 1200 Health Promoters who have already reached 96,000 HHs through the digital eCHIS platform. Due to these efforts, we have recorded higher skilled deliveries, increased immunization rates and expanded social health insurance cover for about 240,000 residents.

Therefore, we must work towards reliable energy to sustain our hospitals, preserve medicine, power lifesaving equipment and drive modern healthcare even in the most remote villages.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Energy and water have a nexus relationship. With strong interdependence between energy and water: energy needs water for generating hydropower, among many other functions, and water needs energy at every stage of the supply process, from pumping to powering boreholes and irrigation systems. As is known to many, Mandera has faced acute water shortages during the cyclic drought period; however, over the past few years, the county has made tremendous progress in expanding access to clean and reliable water across all the sub-counties.

The county government drilled a total of 22 new boreholes in water-stressed areas where communities heavily relied on water trucking across all 6 sub-counties. 7 of these boreholes: Bolowle, Andarak, Malkamari, Libehiya, Arabia, Hullo, and Derkhale have already been equipped and are awaiting civic work for operationalization; the remaining 15 will be completed by the end of **FY 2025/2026**.

To enhance immediate action to water emergencies, the county established 3 rapid response teams, operating to repair and maintain boreholes 24/7. **From July 2023 to June 2025**, over 180 boreholes have been repaired. However, the recent drought has taken us back to an urgent need for water trucking services. Therefore, it emphasizes continued investments in resilient and sustainable water systems.

Mandera County is part of the Horn of Africa Groundwater for Resilience Project (HoAGW4R), aimed at expanding rural water supply schemes by improving groundwater management. The first 10 of 30 planned Batch 1 borehole rehabilitation subprojects are divided into 2 lots. Lot 1 Corner S, Harsanga, Wargadud (2) boreholes, Orgay and Damog. Lot 2 is Girisa (4) boreholes, Rhamu Dimtu, Degmarer, Daidai and Shirshir.

Due to severe water stress, the county has collaborated with various partners, EU-funded **BORESHA-NABAD, RACIDA** and World Vision to rehabilitate boreholes and improve water infrastructure across the county.

Additionally, through the FLoCCA Program, several climate-resilient projects have been implemented, such as: Solarisation of several boreholes, canal rehabilitation, implementation of sustainable cooking solutions in institutions: Takaba Girls Secondary School, Mandera Teachers Training College and Mandera School for the Deaf, and integrated ecosystem restoration of several farms along Dawa River from Neboi to Rhamu and Yabicho

Ladies and gentlemen,

Our communities are mainly pastoralists; however, with global warming and climate change, Mandera experienced the worst drought ever recorded, which led to the loss of livestock amounting to over 11 billion. This was a hard hit, and as the county government, we immediately encouraged our communities to diversify into other economic activities such as farming alongside pastoralism.

With improved water supply and reliable energy sources, in the 2024/2025 financial year, a total of 8,397 hectares of rainfed and irrigated farms yielded **28,000** metric tons of assorted farm produce valued at **2.1 billion**.

To continue improving farm productivity, the county procured and distributed **5** metric tons of assorted seeds, farm tools and agrochemicals. Moreover, **1345** farmers received intensive training supported by partners such as **WFP, RACIDA, ACF, DRC, Islamic Relief, and Concern Worldwide on climate-smart agriculture**, dryland farming, pest management, and soil and water conservation.

On the Food Systems Resilience Project (FSRP), aimed at improving food security, the county prioritised 5 key value chains: red meat, camel dairy, sorghum, apiculture and simsim. The county trained 56 technical staff and developed 30 community action plans to guide localised intervention. 210 agriprenuers (149 men and 61 women) were recruited across all wards and established an Interim County Irrigation Development Unit (CIDU) to coordinate irrigation and efficient consumption of water.

In addition, 28 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and 27 SACCOs were approved to support initiatives like the e-voucher livestock vaccination model. The county also trained ICT and Veterinary officers to roll out the e-voucher system and conduct cold chain assessment to maintain vaccine quality. 8 farmer producer organizations and 11 SACCOs have been prioritized to strengthen financial linkage, 31 demo sites and 30 primary schools have been identified to promote agricultural education through 4K clubs. These interventions are aimed at diversifying our economic activities and transforming Mandera's agriculture into a more resilient and inclusive sector.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Despite very harsh climate conditions and cyclic drought, with the support of the county government, the communities have shown resilience and consistent progress in livestock production. To build a profitable livestock industry, the county introduced juncao grass technology, distributing 68,000 cuttings and contracting hay storage facilities, to ensure the

availability of food reserves during drought. Takaba Livestock Market and modern slaughterhouse were constructed and operationalised, as well as veterinary drug stores in Takaba and Elwak.

Additionally, the county distributed 540 modern bee hives to households; this initiative advanced honey production and environmental conservation. Moreover, we have recruited 24 livestock extension officers and trained farmers on fodder production, sustainable rangeland management and ecosystem restoration to enhance resilience against future climate shocks.

In animal health, the county government vaccinated over 578,000 (cattle, goats, camels and sheep) against major diseases such as PPR, 552,000 animals were dewormed, and 6000 treated for various infections. For improved disease surveillance, 35 technical officers were trained on the Epicollect mobile reporting tool, and 90 community disease reporters were equipped to conduct symptom surveillance.

Recognizing the importance of successful livestock production, sustainable energy is required for facilities such as modern slaughterhouses, veterinary drug stores, refrigeration for vaccines and livestock markets. Additionally, energy is required for value addition activities such as meat processing, milk cooling, and water pumping for hygiene and honey extraction. Therefore, the processing and preservation of these products require sustainable energy to make the product more affordable.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The county, through the Department of Energy, installed over 400 new energy-efficient streetlights, hugely improving visibility, public safety and energy conservation. The shift to LED and solar-powered lighting has reduced energy costs and extended the lifespan of lighting systems.

Key installations include solar streetlights and flood lights across several wards: 87 in townships, 53 in Fino, 53 in Warankara and several others in Wargadud, Takaba South, Gither, Ashabito and Khalalio wards. These efforts have demonstrated the county's commitment to clean, renewable energy solutions.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Through the Department of Trade, Mandera County has made significant progress in promoting entrepreneurship and strengthening cooperatives growth. The county provided 135 SMEs with start-up kits to support business growth as well as support their livelihood. 15 dormant cooperatives were revived, operationalization of Mandera Women United SACCO, the county's largest cooperative with 800 members. In partnership with **RACIDA** 23 SMEs groups, each with 15 members, were trained in business management.

The ministry has been championing cross-border trade through peacebuilding and collaboration. Key infrastructure projects are the construction of a one-storey market building in Banisa town set to accommodate around 84 traders, and the Ashabito market, which has 24 stalls and open trading spaces.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In Islam, taking care of the vulnerable is a moral and religious duty; we are required to practice compassion, social justice and responsibility towards those in need. This administration has enhanced inclusion and social protection across the County. We distributed mobility devices such as wheelchairs, tricycles, and crutches to PWDs. Through partnerships with **HFD, NAJDA**, and Salam Hub, 2000 Households (HHs) benefited from targeted relief food. The vulnerable housing program completed over 900 houses, 148 ongoing and 1400 toilets constructed in flood-prone areas.

The county has operationalized the PWD Resource and Information Centre and strengthened disaster preparedness through the County DRM Technical Working Group, and training in early warning and anticipatory action. In collaboration with the county government, **KISE** is registering PWDs, training ECD teachers and creating job opportunities for PWDs.

On youth empowerment and sports, **GENCAD and the British High Commission** trained 1,083 youth in digital literacy, and **FAO** committed 334 million to benefit 14,000 youth and women over 5 years. 10 youth groups received agricultural start-up kits, and the Mandera basketball court at Mandera stadium was constructed. The county organized and planned the Governor MAK Super cup 2025 as they prepared for the **KYSIA** Games 2026 to foster talent growth.

During the Devolution Conference 2025, the Department of Culture and Tourism showcased our county's cultural and tourism potential. We have completed and furnished the Mandera County Library and constructed new libraries in Elwak and Lafey. The department has advanced digital archiving of indigenous songs, folklore and traditional practices. The county government has collaborated with Kenya Wildlife Services and communities to manage conservancies and strengthen tourism potential.

Most importantly, we have drafted policies for culture, tourism and wildlife to guide sustainable sector development and investment.

Ladies and gentlemen,

On Housing, Physical Planning and Urban Development, the county has developed valuation rolls for Mandera and Elwak municipalities to enhance revenue generation and property taxation. The department placed 102 approved geodetic control points to promote accurate land survey and titling.

Aiming to reduce land-related conflict and enhance secure land tenure, the county established a GIS laboratory and rolled out the Land Information Management System (**LIMS**). This system has modernised land management, improving safety and record keeping.

Additionally, physical and land use development plans for Kiliwehiri, Khalalio, Saala and Rhamu Dimtu are at the completion stage, guiding us to improve urban growth. The upcoming issuance of 5300 title deeds is going to promote land ownership security.

The department has initiated the Slum Protection and Upgrading Policy, identified sites for construction of affordable housing projects, and earmarked land for development of an industrial park to drive economic growth.

Urban and industrial development requires reliable energy sources to make land productive, powering land development. Effective planning between energy and land will result in efficient use of resources, sustainable growth and environmental conservation.

The county supplied new protective equipment and sanitation tools to Takaba, Rhamu, Lafey, and Kutulo. Banisa dumpsite has been completed, Rhamu dumpsite renovated, and 3 garbage collection points built in Takaba to ensure proper waste disposal and environmental conservation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

On Revenue Services, we have made huge progress in our financial performance. We have increased our revenue collection from Ksh 169 million in FY 2023/24 to 428 million in FY 2024/25, marking a 158 % rise. This achievement is attributed to the rollout of 150 POS machines, improved automation through upgrades to the revenue management system, civic education and public awareness.

The county decentralized revenue collection through the enactment of the FIF Act 2024 and the Water Companies Act, ensuring ownership at the Sub-County level. Through the Department of Economic Planning and Statistics, we have upheld fiscal discipline and total transparency by producing all statutory planning documents, such as **CIDP 2023/2027**, **ADPs**, and Budget Estimates, among many others. This has ensured public participation and inclusivity, a clear county development roadmap, monitoring and evaluation, as well as legal and budgeting frameworks.

The department of ICT has spearheaded Mandera's digital transformation agenda through the establishment of ICT hubs in Mandera East, Elwak, and Banisa. The county government, in partnership with the British Embassy, equipped the ICT hubs with 150 computers. Moreover, 2,000 youth have been trained in digital skills through the Ajira Digital Training Program. More than 100 youths have already secured online jobs.

The establishment of ICT hubs relies heavily on electricity, often supported by solar energy, due to our off-grid nature and frequent power interruptions. Through improved revenue collection and economic planning, collaboration with the national government and Kenya Power, the county government will work towards energy investments, extending electricity to rural areas, promoting solar energy systems and renewable energy sources for a more energy resilient Mandera.

Ladies and gentlemen,

On Early Childhood Development ECD, since this administration took office, 438 new ECD teachers have been recruited, 50 existing teachers upgraded to graduate level, and 800 ECD teachers trained on Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC). Infrastructure development remains a priority, with 111 new classrooms constructed and 11 renovated. To sustain the ECD centres, comprehensive school feeding programs have been rolled out across 379 ECD centres, improving attention, learner retention and boosting enrolments.

When it comes to the Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) sector, the Jitume Programme, an online job creation initiative that was launched at Mandera VCT, has improved the digital and employability skills of our youth. Enrolments across vocational training sectors have increased from **465 to 746** trainees. Innovation centres have been established at Mandera, Elwak, and Banisa VCTs, promoting creativity and local innovations.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Mandera County is facing serious environmental challenges, particularly deforestation and poaching, which threaten both ecosystems and livelihoods. Loss of vegetation cover is a serious threat to our environment; therefore, unsustainable practices such as burning charcoal should be stopped with immediate effect. Poaching, on the other hand, is undermining our biodiversity conservation and disrupting fragile ecosystems.

In response to this, the county government, local communities, security agencies, and development partners have intensified tree planting programs, promoted alternative sources of energy, strengthened surveillance against illegal activities and increased community awareness to protect our environment and ensure sustainable resource use.

The county government has noted with concern that a few rogue individuals are vandalizing government projects, such as solar, streetlights, and water lines, among other projects, to acquire scrap metals. Under Kenyan law, scrap metal legislation states that anyone who removes scrap metal from a government infrastructure project commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding 10 million or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years, or both. This is a warning to the few irresponsible individuals, and it should be taken very seriously.

Contrary to this, our efforts have been recognised locally, nationally and internationally. In 2024, Mandera County won the AIPH World Green City Award in the category “Greening initiatives at the Municipality”. In 2025, I received the People’s Choice Governor’s Excellence Award in Paris for my leadership in the “**Elimu Kwa Wote**” Education initiative. We are thrilled to have been selected and awarded, and we will continue working towards bigger achievements.

Ladies and gentlemen,

On this Mashujaa day, I urge all of us to be ambassadors of peace, reject any form of division and embrace unity and love for one another. Despite a few challenges and time-to-time tension overflowing from the borders, Mandera stands as a symbol of peace, stability and resilience at the heart of three countries.

My administration has made peace a central pillar, we have supported local initiatives, and partnered with elders, religious leaders, women and youth, and our people have shown that peace is possible through dialogue, unity and collaboration.

When it comes to Violent extremism, as a community, we can work together to protect our peace, security and the future of our young generation. In 2025, the PCVE department conducted 174 outreach programs in schools, colleges and rehabilitation centers.

In partnership with local NGOs, 460 youth were trained to counter violent extremist ideologies, including 45 at-risk individuals who received training and business startup kits to become self-reliant change makers. Additionally, 2 County Engagement Forums were held to enhance trust and collaboration between communities and security agencies.

We conducted cross-border peace meetings with our neighboring countries, Ethiopia and Somalia, to promote peace, and we are happy to state that we received strong cooperation from the **Dawa** and **Liban zone administrations**. I take this opportunity to extend our gratitude for their support in promoting peace and security.

As a government, we will continue investing in infrastructure, education, water, energy, and healthcare while empowering women and youth to actively take up their roles. However, it is important to understand that resources are better shared than fought over; these fights will only

drag us behind, scare investors, and hence delay our development. As we work towards sustainable energy solutions, let us champion peace and the concept of sharing resources as one people.

I extend my appreciation to the National Government, non-state actors, partners, local NGOs, security agencies and our law-abiding citizens for collectively working together towards a successful Mandera County.

While we celebrate our national heroes, it is equally important to honour our local heroes who make a difference within our communities. Therefore, I want to recognise the elders who took part in negotiating for the release of the 5 chiefs abducted while in the line of duty. My sincere appreciation to the Somali administration and the Mandera people who supported them during this difficult time. Additionally, we dedicate this moment to our fallen soldiers from NPS, NPR and other fighting units, especially the NPRs who selflessly volunteer to serve and protect. Their service and sacrifice will be honoured and remembered.

Finally, we are approaching the examination period. I wish all the candidates the very best, and I urge all parties involved in this process to observe examination integrity.

Thank you, and once again, all the best.