



**MANDERA COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
P.O. Box 13-70300, MANDERA**



STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS

**DELIVERED ON 21st FEBRUARY, 2024 TO THE MANDERA
COUNTY ASSEMBLY**

MANDERA COUNTY ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS

BY

H.E HON. MOHAMED ADAN KHALIF, EGH

GOVERNOR, MANDERA COUNTY

FEBRUARY 21ST, 2024

Honourable Speaker of the County Assembly,

H.E The Deputy Governor, Mandera County

Honourable Members of the County Assembly,

Members of the County Executive Committee,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Honourable Members,

1. I stand before you today with a deep sense of pride and commitment to provide an account of the state of our beloved Mandera County. Our journey towards progress and development is a testament to the resilience and determination to transform Mandera County for the benefit of our people.
2. The Constitution of Kenya 2010 established a devolved system of government consisting of 47 county governments. Article 176 (1) states that "there shall be a county government, consisting of a county assembly and a county executive". We have converged here today for the county executive to deliver an annual State of the County address on the implementation status of the various county policies, plans, and obligations as set out in various laws.
3. This state of the County address is in line with the provisions of section 30 (2)(k) of the County Government Act 2012, which states that "a governor shall deliver the annual state of county address containing such matters as may be specified in the county legislation" and the provisions of the standing order number 23 of the Mandera County Assembly.

4. Before I outline the key achievements of my administration since the assumption of office on 25th August 2022 to date, I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to the honourable members of this August House for the cordial working relations that we have continued to enjoy with each other. This positive and productive relationship between the Executive and the Assembly has been instrumental in advancing our shared goals of improving the lives of all residents of Mandera County. I look forward to continue working with this Assembly in the spirit of cooperation and mutual respect, and I am confident that together we can build a brighter future for the people of Mandera. As a County government, we also enjoy similar working relationships with other National leaders elected and nominated from Mandera County.
5. The great people of Mandera County elected us to the office based on the development priorities we promised to deliver upon our election as contained in our Manifesto. Those election pledges are now aligned with the Mandera County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2022-2027. To ensure a sustained focus on the CIDP, the county executive is required to establish the requisite legislative and policy framework that will facilitate a comprehensive implementation of the plan. To this end, we have so far submitted the following proposed legislation to Mandera County Assembly for enactment;
 - a) The Mandera County Disaster Risk Management Bill 2023;
 - b) The Mandera County Health Services Improvement Bill 2023;
 - c) The Mandera County Community Health Promoters Bill 2023;
 - d) The Mandera County Education Bursary Fund Regulations (Amendment) 2023;
 - e) The Mandera County Peace Building & Conflict Management Bill 2023 and
 - f) Approval of various fiscal plans and papers in 2022 and 2023.

6. I express my immense gratitude to this August House for its timely passage of the Mandera County Disaster Risk Management Bill 2023, which has since been assented to. I am optimistic that the remaining businesses pending before this House will equally get its nod, enabling us to have the legal framework within which we can execute our mandate. Further, the county executive is working on several other legislative proposals, some at a very advanced stage, which we shall forward to this Honourable House for the member's consideration and approval.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Honourable Members,

7. Pursuant to the provisions set out in section 30 (2)(k) of the County Government Act, 2012, I hereby give an account of the state of the County by presenting the progress report of all sectors' performance under my leadership. This address also highlights my unwavering commitment to delivering socio-economic transformation by confronting the county's development challenges.
8. When we assumed office, we were guided by the principle that "A government's success is measured not by the strength of its authority, but by its commitment to caring for the well-being of its people." This principle became especially crucial as we faced significant challenges. Severe drought struck the county, resulting in the loss of livestock worth approximately Ksh. 11 billion; this resulted in a surge in poverty, given over-reliance on pastoralism. The aftermath included an increase in school dropouts and diseases like malnutrition, particularly affecting children and expectant mothers, among many others. Subsequently, we experienced heavy rainfall that led to loss of lives, displacement of people, destruction of properties and waterborne diseases. Clan conflicts added to these complexities. Despite these formidable challenges, our commitment to the well-being of our people propelled us to tirelessly work towards supporting our communities.

Mr. Speaker Sir,
Honourable Members,

On Education Sector

9. Under my administration, we have achieved notable successes in the county's education sector, emphasizing that education is not merely a priority but a crucial investment in our future, echoing Benjamin Franklin's insights that an investment in knowledge pays the best interest. Upon assuming the office, my administration formed an education reform task force, which presented a comprehensive report on the education situation in the county. The report, launched on 10th October 2023, highlighted the integration of Islamic schools (dugsi) with ECDE, enhancement of technical institutions and collaboration with stakeholders on improving education services in the county.
10. My administration allocated Kenya Shilling Four hundred sixty million (460M) for the Elimu Kwa Wote Initiative for the FY 2023/24; this is a 31% increase as compared to Kenya Shillings Three hundred fifty million (350M) allocated during the FY 2022/23. So far, my administration has disbursed a total of Kenya Shilling Eight Hundred and Ten Million (Ksh 810 M) since I assumed office. Elimu Kwa Wote initiative is bursary education for all secondary students in Mandera County, which supports over 29,000 fully sponsored secondary students across the county, 50% scholarship for 696 students at Mandera Teachers Training College, 376 students at Mandera Technical Training Institute and students from various universities and colleges through ward-based bursary and university scholarship for 43 vulnerable and needy students.
11. This Initiative has not only improved the enrollment rate in our various learning institutions within and outside the county but will also improve the literacy level in the county, increase skilled labour and alleviate poverty, as education is the equalizer for economic growth and sustainable development.

12. The Elimu Kwa Wote initiative was intended to cushion families against the harsh economic and environmental shocks caused by the prolonged drought that preceded the enhanced El`nino. The Initiative resulted in parents saving money, increasing their purchasing power to buy other goods and improving the family's living standard. There was also an unprecedented increase in the value of the livestock as supply to the market in exchange for cash for school fees drastically reduced. This Initiative will go a long way in improving our people's living standards.
13. In early childhood education, my administration has invested in the construction of ECDE classes and provided ECDE learning materials and school feeding programmes amounting to Kshs.157m. These noble programmes improved the ECDE enrollment rate by 30%, increased child retention and reduced the cases of malnutrition amongst ECDE learners. We are happy to report that we had a 100% transition rate of ECDE learners to primary schools in the county for the calendar year starting January 2024.
14. To address teacher shortages in the county, we recruited 430 ECDE teachers; thus, we now have 847 teachers serving in 342 centres across the county.
15. Support for vocational training has been my administration's focus, as demonstrated through the provision of start-up kits to 342 graduates who completed NITA exams and capacity-building programmes for instructors in collaboration with the GIZ organization. Our commitment to education is further demonstrated by ensuring the availability of instructional materials for Vocational Training Centers. These collective achievements embody this administration's unwavering dedication to improving and advancing the education landscape in the county.

Mr. Speaker Sir,
Honourable Members,

On Health Services

16. As you know, health is an economic and social right under chapter four of the Bill of Rights of our Constitution. Upon assumption of office, my administration formed a health task force that presented a report on the health situation in the county, areas of improvement, and collaboration with stakeholders on health services in the county. During the FY 2023/24, my administration allocated 2.3 Billion Kenya shillings to the health sector, taking the lion's share of the county budget.
17. On maternal health care, the number of pregnant mothers completing their 4th ANC visit has increased from 13,314 in 2022 to 15,186 in 2023. We also saw an increase in the number of births delivered by skilled personnel from 22,758 in 2022 to 24,240 in 2023. The successful improvement of infant and maternal healthcare services in the county is attributed to the deployment of skilled personnel across hospitals and primary health facilities, reducing maternal and infant mortality in the county.
18. Immunization is one of the critical services in the health sector used to control diseases in children under five years of age. It is a primary health investment that provides a strong immune system to the children and reduces morbidity and mortality in the county. The county's fully immunized children under one year have increased from 26,356 infants in 2022 to 27,818 in 2023.
19. To improve health services, the provision of affordable, effective and quality medicines and medical supplies remains a key priority for my administration. In FY 2023/2024, the budgetary allocation for procurement of Pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical supplies stands at Kenya shillings 365 million.

20. Similarly, we have recently expanded services in most sub-county hospitals, which are now fully equipped with diagnostic machines such as X-ray and hemogram.
21. It is essential to note that the Mandera County Government provides healthcare services not only to its population but also to the neighbouring countries of Ethiopia and Somalia. These expanded services are the main reason for the increased consumption of medicines and medical supplies in most healthcare facilities, thus straining the county's limited health resources.
22. Universal health coverage means the full continuum of essential health services, from health promotion to prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care. In collaboration with the National Government's Ministry of Health, National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF), and Mandera County Government, we have identified 21,573 of the most vulnerable members of our society for universal health care benefits and captured their biometric details. Also awaiting approvals are 10,000 more households that have been enrolled for consideration. My commitment to fulfilling the promises of universal health coverage in line with my administration manifesto is realized.
23. In June 2023, my administration, in collaboration with the National Government's Ministry of Health, renewed the contract of 232 health workers recruited for the Universal Health Care Promotion for another year. These include nurses, nutritionists and community health assistants. My administration is committed to continue supporting the program.
24. Primary Health Care: through the recommendations of the health task force report and the subsequent launch of the primary health care component by H.E President William Ruto, Mandera County was able to register 212 New Community Health Units (CHUs) and identified 2120 Community Health Promoters (CHPs) which I inaugurated during the 20th October 2023 Mashujaa day celebration in Takaba.

25. The Department of Health Services also received 1268 CHP kits, drugs and mobile phones. So far, 180 CHPs have been trained on basic CHP modules, and an additional 600 are to be trained through partners and the Department of Health Services this quarter (Jan-March 2024).
26. The county Department of Health Services has equally planned to establish three (3) Primary Care Networks (PCNs), linking primary health care facilities such as the dispensaries and health Centres to level 4 and 5 facilities as the "hub". The initial three (3) will be established in Mandera East, Mandera South and Mandera West.
27. To align with our vision and better service delivery to the people of Mandera County, we restructured the County Health Management Team and Sub-County Management Team, emphasizing enhanced service delivery. Legislative advancements, including the submission of the Mandera County Health Services Improvement Bill and the Mandera County Community Health Promoters Bill, underscore our dedication to effective healthcare governance.
28. The Health Department on infrastructure development has initiated the upgrading of several sub-county hospitals during this FY 2023/24, focusing on renovations, expansions, and the establishment of specialized units to enhance healthcare delivery. Expanding and equipping Lafey, Banissa, Rhamu, and Kutulo sub-county referral hospitals will significantly reduce referral cases, maternal mortality, and pressure on our ambulances and traffic at Mandera County Referral Hospital. This will go a long way in completely transforming the healthcare in the County. We are keen on ensuring the manifesto pledge on health services is fully achieved.
29. At Mandera County Referral Hospital, we have operationalised a blood bank, constructed a new dental unit with plans to build specialised clinics and a mental unit, installed a modern smokeless incinerator, renovated a kitchen and procurement assorted medical equipment.

30. We must also acknowledge the looming crisis on Medical Equipment Services (MES) as the contract service period for state-of-the-art equipment, which the National Government previously managed, has ended. It was less expensive when managed by the National government as the contractor had a contract for all 47 counties, and due to economies of scale, the charges were uniform. With our geographical location far from Nairobi, it will be very costly for us to maintain that equipment in Mandera. Some of these equipment have become obsolete and require replacement. We must be alive to this fact as a legislative arm of this county government.

31. My administration is focusing on the operationalisation of the constructed Dispensaries. We have operationalized two (2) of the eighteen (18) dispensaries built, that is, Elkala and Ababasone Dispensaries in Mandera South, and we intend to operationalise the remaining sixteen (16) before 1st of July 2024 In Shaa Allah. I want to take this opportunity to extend an invitation to you for the official launch of Kamor Health Centre in Mandera East tomorrow morning, In Shaa Allah.

Mr. Speaker Sir,
Honourable Members,

On Water Services, Environment & Natural Resources Ministry

32. Mandera County experienced the worst drought in 40 years, intensified by climate change, creating severe water scarcity. My administration, recognizing the urgency and complexity of the issue, has diligently worked to address the challenges presented by water shortages. Despite the dynamic nature of climate change impacts, we have ensured the community got relief by enhancing water infrastructure across the county.

33. Mandera County's water and sanitation sector has undergone significant reforms since the development of its strategic plan, emphasising accessibility, affordability, and service quality. Key priorities outlined in the master plan include constructing large-scale dams to enhance water availability, connecting institutions like schools to clean water, and drafting legislative documents for an urban water supply plan.
34. UNICEF has also supported the County Government in satellite-assisted groundwater mapping in the Waranqara and Banisa areas. So far, fieldwork has been completed in the Waranqara area, and the team is now in Banisa conducting similar fieldwork.
35. The County Government has procured modern Hydrogeological Survey equipment (ABEM LS2 Terrameter), and the Groundwater team in the department will now be able to undertake geophysical investigations across the county for exploration and development of groundwater. This equipment will transform the overall performance of the water sector as it will increase the drilling success rate.
36. Under the Horn of Africa Ground Water for Resilience Project, a 5-year World Bank-funded project, increased accessibility and management of groundwater will be achieved in the 5 Counties of Mandera, Marsabit, Turkana, Wajir and Garissa. A county-level stakeholder workshop was conducted in May 2023 in which 70 rehabilitation sites, 65 drilling sites and five operation and maintenance pilot sites were selected. Site-specific eligibility screening work for the first 30 borehole rehabilitation will be concluded by the end of March 2024, paving the way for design work.
37. The county is actively restructuring water management teams to enhance efficiency and governance. We aim to increase access to clean water by drilling strategic boreholes, utilizing modern hydrogeological survey equipment, and implementing solar solutions for sustainable water accessibility.

Some of the Key notable achievements so far include: -

- Water trucking services to 342 centres and 60 schools were done during the drought, benefiting approximately 432,000 people and their livestock.
- Feasibility studies and design for ten water supply schemes have been done, and six of these water supply projects, mainly in the sub-counties, have already been advertised this FY 2023/2024.
- The Department of Water Services also undertook repairs and maintenance of 182 Boreholes which had broken down during the drought season,
- We have constructed and desilted 15 earth pans across the County. Construction of an additional 14 earth pans has been advertised in the current financial year.
- We constructed and repaired 16 underground water tanks in the last financial year 2022/2023.

38. Challenges noted in the water sector include low rainfall, poor surface water development, inadequate funding, infrastructure limitations, massive destruction of water supply infrastructure, and water pans caused by recent El Nino rains that will cost the County hundreds of millions of shillings to restore the same. Despite these challenges, my administration, in collaboration with like-minded partners, will make necessary efforts to mobilize resources for infrastructure development, capacity building, and legislative development.

39. On environmental and Climate change matters, my administration has made a concerted effort to combat the detrimental effects of climate change and implemented climate resilience and environmental conservation initiatives. To achieve my administration pledge of planting one (1) million trees, we have, to date, planted 27,475 trees across the county with plans to plant an additional 160,000 trees in collaboration with Kenya Forest Service and NEMA in the year 2024. We plan to establish a county tree nursery with 100,000 seedlings specialising in indigenous trees.

I call upon all of you to adopt a culture of planting trees in your homes and institutions and discourage deforestation.

40. I hereby direct that all Major County Projects, especially water projects, must have a tree-planting component,

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Honourable Members,

In the Agriculture, Livestock and irrigation sector

41. Mandera residents rely heavily on the well-being of their livestock as the backbone of our local economy. Unfortunately, our community experienced significant losses, exceeding Kshs.11 billion worth of animals, due to livestock deaths during a severe drought compounded by an outbreak of diseases. Recognising the gravity of the situation, my administration spared no effort to address these challenges. We sought support from the national government and generous donors, securing some assistance. In response, we initiated the distribution of essential animal feeds to support pastoralists, and our ongoing commitment includes the consistent provision of crucial vaccines to safeguard the health and resilience of our invaluable livestock.

42. Through the Department of Veterinary Service, my administration has conducted countywide vaccination campaigns, where we successfully vaccinated over 535,000 goats, 130,000 sheep, 14,000 cattle and 25,000 camels against various diseases. Surveillance activities addressed outbreaks, and significant efforts were made towards building capacity and training 26 technical staff and 60 community disease reporters on livestock disease surveillance skills.

43. We have also implemented a multifaceted approach to support pastoralist livelihoods in Mandera County, which includes the following:

- Distribution of 90,700 bags (50 Kg) of Range cubes to pastoralists to caution livestock against deaths; destocking of 3 710 heads of cattle and distribution of meat to 37,100 poor households;
- Registration of 5,548 livestock insurance policyholders under the DRIVE project;
- Training sessions in fodder production, livestock insurance sales, and
- Support for riverine farmers.

All of which contributed to the overall welfare and resilience of pastoral communities.

44. Recognising the risk of fully depending on livestock after the cyclic drought impacts, we encourage our farmers to be more active in crop production. In the financial year 2023/2024, the Department of Crop Production undertook strategic initiatives to support the agricultural sector where we proactively procured 17 metric tons of assorted seeds, spanning cereals, pulses, horticultural crops and farm tools, which were subsequently distributed to farmers.

45. Addressing challenges such as pest outbreaks during long and short rains, the County Government procured 1,560 litres of assorted pesticides to control pests and protect crops in infested areas. Surveillance for crop pests and diseases was also conducted, and assorted pesticides in cases of infestations were provided, particularly in Banisa, Mandera North, and Mandera West.

46. Despite facing obstacles like pest infestations and floods in riverine areas, Mandera County experienced successful harvests. In 2023, the county harvested 950 metric tons of sorghum and 3,180 metric tons of maize, with higher production in rainfed areas such as Banisa, Mandera West, and Mandera North.

Emphasizing the commitment to farmers' knowledge and skills, the department organized training initiatives where fifty (50) farmers in Mandera West and Banisa were trained on Good Agricultural Practices and Integrated Pest Management, supported by the World Food Programme.

47. Five technical staff members are undergoing a two-week Agri-nutrition course at the Kenya School of Agriculture in Nyeri to enhance their expertise. The Mandera County Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the World Food Programme for the Sustainable Food Systems Project, a five-year initiative to promote food security and community resilience, in December 2023.

48. Another noteworthy endeavour is the inter-governmental participation agreement signed on July 18, 2023, with the national government through the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development to implement the Food Systems Resilience Project (FSRP). This project targets addressing food insecurity through increased resilience of food systems over the next five years.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Honourable Members,

Social Development Ministry

49. In every society, economic disparities exist, and our county is no exception. With a significant percentage of the population facing poverty, the cyclic droughts further worsen vulnerabilities, pushing poverty rates to alarming levels. Guided by Nelson Mandela's wisdom that "the well-being of the people should be the ultimate goal of any just and compassionate government," our administration prioritized the welfare of our citizens over immediate development projects.

50. Acknowledging the severity of the situation, we redirected some of our resources and external aid to shield the community from the unprecedented impact of the severe drought. Through Mandera County's Department of Special program, we addressed challenges like cyclic droughts and floods through extensive relief efforts for the affected population across the county. A significant number of people benefited during the drought. We collaborated with various organizations to distribute food and non-food items, provided cash transfers, and formulated a flood contingency plan. During the recent floods, over 5,000 people affected were supported across the county.
51. We undertook two rounds of relief food distribution to over 120,000 households, targeting the most vulnerable individuals affected by severe drought across all sub-counties. We also intend to do one more round of food distribution at the beginning of Ramadhan Insha Allah.
52. The county formulated a Disaster Risk Management Policy to efficiently organise disaster risk reduction, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery from emergencies and disasters.
53. We have strengthened the County Steering Group and properly coordinated and managed to mobilise resources to the tune of Ksh 1.7 Billion in cash transfers and increased presence in all sub-counties with the support of food and non-food items from our partners. In a well-coordinated and concerted effort, we overcame the challenges of drought and El Nino.
54. In support of vulnerable orphans, an additional Ksh Twelve million (12M) was launched to support orphanage centres, showcasing a commitment to comprehensive community support.
55. To help the persons with disabilities in the County, we have partnered with the National Council of Persons Living with Disabilities to undertake mass registration in all sub-counties, taking custom-sized measurements for assistive devices for persons with disabilities and distributing them free of charge.

I call upon honourable members to help us mobilise PWDs when the exercise starts, which you will be notified of. This partnership will go a long way in integrating PWDs into our society and removing the stigma associated with disabilities. As the old adage goes, disability does not mean inability.

56. The Department of Women's Empowerment tackled gender-based violence in collaboration with humanitarian associations and played a key role in drafting a guide for women's land rights.

57. In the youth sector, the Department of Youth, Sports, and Talent Development focused on sensitization, sports participation, and policy development, leading to opportunities for talented youth. During the national talent held play-offs in Nyeri County in November 2023, Mandera County under 19 goalkeeper Mr Dahir Abdikadir was scouted to join the National under 19 team. Young Dahir was also selected among the team's first eleven (11) that went to Spain for football games. Furthermore, five other players were also chosen to be trained at Kenya Sports Academy to nurture and develop their sporting skills. This clearly demonstrated homegrown talents in our county, and we need to nurture them.

58. The department successfully hosted the county finals for the Safaricom Chapa Dimba Tournament that was held on Sunday, the 18th of February, 2024. Our Taekwondo team also won the regional championship in Garissa on Thursday, the 28th of December, 2023. The team will proceed to the national competition, which will be held in Mombasa early next year. We pride ourselves in supporting the TAI KWONDOO and other talents.

59. I wish to inform our youth that the Governor's tournament will be held in April-May 2024, and I encourage our youth to prepare for the same.

60. We call upon our youth to pursue technical courses offered at our local polytechnics and technical colleges at subsidised cost to prepare themselves for the ready market and create a culture of entrepreneurship, creating jobs for others while solving societal needs. We also urge young people to enrol in online programmes like Ajira and Jitume. We also plan to implement one for our own in the county, connecting technicians and other professionals to ready markets for employment and opportunities for entrepreneurship.

61. The Department of Culture, Tourism and Library Services actively participated in cultural events and has plans for development, including the Mandera Youth Innovation Centre. The library services function was transferred to the County, and we have already advertised the renovation of two libraries in Lafey and Mandera South sub-counties. In addition, the main library in Mandera County is undergoing repairs and expansion to enhance a conducive reading environment for the public.

Mr. Speaker Sir,
Honourable Members,

Trade & Cooperative Development Performance

62. Mandera Municipality, the county headquarters, is situated between two neighbouring countries and is the key driver for economic and social development. This strategic location facilitates the exchange of goods and services and plays a crucial role in fostering community cohesion and peace across borders. The emphasis on trade in our region goes beyond economic considerations, encompassing a broader vision of interconnectedness and collaboration that contributes to the overall well-being of our communities.

63. Through the Ministry of Trade, Industry, Investment, and Cooperative Development, we have made substantial progress, completing the Eldanaba market in Mandera West Sub-county to support SMEs and spur economic growth.

Our strategic goal of establishing the County Aggregation and Industrial Park (CAIPs) is still in progress where the project has already been awarded, focusing on the value chain concept to reduce post-harvest losses and enhance Mandera's trade. This project is co-funded by the County and National governments.

64. Over the past year, the number of SMEs in Mandera County has grown from 7,200 to around 8,500, attributed to the provision of market spaces, establishment of market stalls, and vegetable shades across the county, fostering an environment conducive to growth.
65. Operationalizing the Jamhuri ESP market in Mandera East has further supported over 200 mothers selling vegetables by relocating them from the streets, decongesting the area, and fostering business growth. The County registered 21 small industries to enhance processing and value addition of our local produce. SMEs account for 30% of the county's own source revenue, and the department remains committed to maximizing collection and supporting the county's economy. There are plans to operationalize dormant markets and promote value addition, demonstrating a commitment to fostering economic growth and development in Mandera County.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Honourable Members,

Roads, Transport & Public Works Performance

66. The Ministry of Roads, Transport, and Public Works has achieved significant milestones in infrastructure development. In the Department of Roads and Transport, achievements include the rehabilitation of Mandera Airstrip, road maintenance and the extensive town drainage facilities, reflecting the commitment to ensuring safety and preparedness for adverse weather conditions.

Countywide road assessments done after the El Nino disaster that eroded many gains made by the county government have informed rehabilitation plans, focusing on addressing damage caused by heavy rains.

67. In the Transport sector, efforts have been made to service executive vehicles, procure new ones, and develop a County Transport Policy, emphasizing the importance of mobility and strategic planning. In collaboration with the State Department of Mechanical and Transport, we have evaluated motor vehicles, motorcycles, plants, and equipment inherited from the National Government and defunct Local Authority to facilitate the transfer of ownership documents to the county.

68. In the Public Works department, several projects supervised by our engineers from previous financial years have been completed, including the Deputy Governor's residence, KMTC, MTTC, regional livestock market, and a slaughterhouse in Elwak. Ongoing and upcoming projects encompass diverse areas, from equipping facilities like the County Rest House to constructing dental blocks, markets, hospital upgrades, and renal units. The comprehensive scope of designing and supervising county projects underscores the ministry's dedication to enhancing public infrastructure and overall development in Mandera County.

Mr. Speaker Sir,
Honourable Members,

Lands, Physical Planning, Housing & Urban Development Performance

69. We have made a significant milestone in the Ministry of Lands, Physical Planning, Housing, and Urban Development in Mandera County. These accomplishments include procuring modern survey equipment, consisting of handheld GPS, RTK, and total station, to enhance the efficiency and accuracy of operations in the physical planning and survey departments.

Two crucial training sessions were conducted for staff, covering key aspects such as development control, staff conduct, and the utilization of modern equipment like Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)/drones for data collection.

70. Our strategic partnerships with organizations like the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) have brought valuable support. FAO's Digital Land Governance Programme supported the preparation of the County Spatial Plan and establishment of a GIS lab, while IGAD supported the development of physical land use plans for specific areas in Mandera, which include Khalalio, Sala, Rhamu Dimtu, and Kiliwehiri wards, marks a crucial step in effective spatial planning.
71. The Department of Lands has initiated processing 8,500 title deeds, demonstrating our commitment to ensuring land rights and revenue enhancement strategies. Engagements in programmes such as Kenya Informal Settlement Improvement Project (KISIP) phase II and Kenya Urban Support Programme (KUSP) phase II underscore our dedication to urban development, with specific projects benefiting Elwak, Mandera Town, and Banisa. The establishment of Mandera Green Park further signifies our efforts towards sustainable urban development and improved living conditions for our residents.
72. The establishment of an Alternative Justice System (AJS) has been realized and officially launched, aiming to promote local dispute resolution mechanisms. The initiation of the County Spatial Plan (CSP) process is underway, signalling a commitment to strategic planning and development in the County.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Honourable Members,

Public Service Management, Devolved Units & Cohesion Performance

73. There have been security challenges in our county, where the number of incidents of insecurity continues to impact our people negatively, and this calls for community leaders, elders, and all of us to address it collectively. Twenty-nine (29) terror-related incidents were reported to have happened in our County in the year 2023. This has caused loss of lives, injuries including security personnel and destruction of properties, especially critical communication installations across the county. Through the Department of Prevention of Radicalization and Extremism, we have effectively implemented key pillars of Mandera County action plans, collaborated with stakeholders, and enhanced security measures to combat radicalization and extremism.
74. We appreciate the cooperation and continued support from our National Security team. However, we urge them to scale up security surveillance by closely working with members of the public. I call upon the members of the public to share information and intelligence with our security agencies so that we can quickly avert the risks.
75. Inter-clan conflicts in our county have been a recurring challenge, often rooted in historical tensions, competition for resources and land-related issues. This has impacted the county's image and affected our people's livelihood. We have had a few cases in Banisa, Mandera North and Lafey Sub-counties, recent clashes being in Rhamu Sub-county where it had caused loss of lives, displacement, economic disruption and social cohesion breakdown. Therefore, we need to address the root causes of inter-clan clashes and implement sustainable solutions essential to promoting stability, resilience and development in our County.

76. To address conflicts in our county, the Department of Conflict Management, Cohesion and Integration has conducted numerous dialogue meetings, formed Community Management Committees, and sensitized civil society organizations. It had further coordinated with peace actors, engaged in cross-border activities, and revising/implementing peace declarations and agreements.
77. In ensuring public engagement and timely access to information, the Department of Community Engagement, Civic Education, and Public Participation has successfully conducted public participation on key documents, engaging citizens across constituencies. We have also implemented strategies to enhance public sensitization, civic education, and capacity building, with an extension of participation forums to the ward level for greater inclusivity.
78. The Department of Devolved Units and Inspectorate has a fully operationalized devolved administrative structure from sub-county administrators to village administrators. The department has constructed six (6) Sub-county headquarters offices fully equipped with 22 Ward Administrator's offices across the county to promote efficient service delivery. The Administrators have successfully contributed to developing and implementing government policies, plans and procedures, ensuring compliance with legal and regulatory frameworks and promoting good governance and transparency within the County Administration.
79. The Directorate of Inspectorate undertook various activities in a bid to reduce cases of violations of county by-laws, thereby upholding the county's values, vision and missions in line with Enforcement programs and has various units, i.e. Rapid Response and Compliance Team, Band, Critical Infrastructure Protection, Drug Control and Traffic Marshalls which have recorded greater accomplishments.

80. Drug abuse in Mandera County poses significant challenges, and addressing this issue requires a multi-agency approach involving various stakeholders. I therefore call upon our drug control inspectorate unit, chiefs, DCC, police and community leaders to crack down on drug abuse.

81. As you are all aware, we undertook our maiden sub-county visits in October 2023. The trip enabled us to interact with the public and hear their challenges firsthand. We also had the opportunity to hold our first-ever national celebrations outside the county headquarters, Mashujaa Day, in Takaba. This has led the people to appreciate the principles of devolved governance and participate in opinion-making by giving their remarks during the occasion.

82. We plan to visit the remaining Sub-counties after the Holy month of Ramadhan In Shaa Allah.

83. Similarly, through the Department of Public Service Management, we have modernized HR records and improved staff welfare by providing medical cover. We will also implement an ICT-based HR records management system and biometric staff identification cards and enhance employee performance management for increased effectiveness.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Honourable Members,

County Treasury Performance

84. In the current financial year, the county government has projected to generate its own source revenue (OSR) with a target of a total of Kenya, shilling three hundred and thirty-six million (kshs.336m). We are in the process of achieving this target by employing different strategies to curb revenue leakages.

85. The development and formulation of the Mandera County Revenue Administration Bill 2024 are now at the public participation stage. I, therefore, seek your full support and prompt approval to seal revenue leakages and improve local revenue sources.
86. In fulfilment of section 137 of the Public Finance Management Act 2012 requirement, we operationalized the County Budget and Economic Forum (CBEF). The CBEF serves as oversight on the budget-making process and implementation.
87. The Department of Economic Planning has timely prepared and submitted statutory fiscal documents, which include the following: -
- The third generation County Integrated Development Plan 2023-2027.
 - Two Annual Development Plans, i.e. ADP 2023/24 and ADP 2024/25, are starting the formulation of the third ADP 2025/2026 that will be submitted to the Assembly by 1st September 2024.
 - County budget review and outlook paper 2022/23, 2023/2024 and 2024/2025
 - County fiscal strategy paper 2023/2024, 2024/2025
 - The first programme-based budget for 2023/2024
 - Citizen/wananchi guide of the budget 2022/2023
88. The Department of Accounting and Financial Service has made significant improvements in managing the county treasury, and key among them include:-
- Enhanced our compliance level by submitting statutory reports to the relevant authorities on time. This includes Quarterly financial reports, COB reports, and Statutory deductions, including KRA Withholding taxes, PAYE, NSSF, NHIF, and Pensions, which were promptly remitted.
 - Staff capacity building on Financial Management was undertaken to improve the quality of their Financial reports and budgeting.
 - Operationalisation of Asset Management Unit to enhance management of county assets and improve record management through asset register.

89. The Department of ICT and E-government has made some achievements, key among them including;

- Rolled out official email use for all senior staff for all official communications;
- Successfully implemented the first online system for bursary management where close to 5,500 students from Mandera applied;
- Implemented a system for youth <https://youth.mandera.go.ke> to access government information on opportunities which will be launched soon.
- Developed a system to manage bursary allocation for Secondary schools;
- Internet connectivity and public WIFI – working with ICTA, we can get approval for LAN cabling and internet connectivity.
- Completed a draft policy for ICT and this will soon be taken for public participation and transition to cabinet.
- We have also put in place other plans to roll out ICT hubs in all sub-counties, LAN cabling and internet connectivity to all sub-counties offices, training of youths and online employment in all ICT hubs, and Full fibre connectivity across the county.

Mr. Speaker Sir,
Honourable Members,

90. In addition to the above achievements, Mandera County has gained recognition nationally and internationally. The county has hosted a good number of esteemed guests who have visited Mandera, including H.E. the Deputy President, Chief Justice Martha Koome, Cabinet Secretaries: Hon. Aden Duale (Defence), Prof Kithure Kindiki, Hon. Nakhumicha S. Wafula (Health), and Hon. Ezekiel Machogu (Education), PS Youth Affairs Maalim Mahdi, PS Interior Raymond Omollo, WFP County Director Lauren Landies and the immediate former UK High Commissioner H.E Jane Marriott and current H.E Neil Wigan among others dignitaries. This shows the importance and recognition of Mandera at various governmental and international levels, reflecting collaborative efforts to address challenges and contribute to the county's progress.

91. I wish to register my sincere appreciation to all our partners and individuals who have helped us in one way or another through the difficult times experienced during the drought and Elnino. Special gratitude goes to the National Government, WFP, FAO, IGAD, Kenya Red Cross, UNICEF, Interpeace, Action Against Hunger, RACIDA, DRC, NDMA, Islamic Relief, World Vision, NAPAD, COCOP, NEPAD, GENCAD, Care International, Save the Children and others partners for their invaluable assistance and continuous support.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Honourable Members,

Finally, on inter-clan clashes,

92. We are Muslims, and Allah has forbidden us from spilling the blood of another Muslim. Why are our people crucifying each other? Why are the community members, opinion leaders, and local administrators living in the grassroots not stopping the perpetrators of these heinous acts? What are we doing as leaders at the top? Should we fold our hands and let fate take its course?

93. It is time we all act and stop the madness and barbaric acts of using weapons against each other and join hands in completely stopping these clashes.

94. Allah has commanded us in the Holy Quran(4:93), "And whoever kills a believer intentionally, his recompense is Hell to abide therein, and the Wrath and the Curse of Allah are upon him, and a great punishment is prepared for him".

95. Our Prophet (Peace and Blessing be Upon Him) has also warned us against bloodshed, as stated in the different Hadiths: Jami At-Tirmidhi 2510 ".....You will not enter Paradise until you believe, and you will not believe until you love each other....spread the peace among each other."

96. I call upon our communities and leaders to jealously guard peace and co-existence among the people of Mandera, as we only have this county.

Please let all of us, especially our Ulamaas, pray for continued peace and prosperity in Mandera County.

God Bless You All, and God bless Mandera County!