



County Government of Isiolo

MASHUJAA DAY CELEBRATIONS SPEECH

DELIVERED BY

H.E. Abdi Ibrahim Hassan

GOVERNOR, ISIOLO COUNTY

In

Isiolo Town

20th OCTOBER 2022

**The County Commissioner of Isiolo Mr. Geoffrey Omoding,
All our elected leaders representing us at National level.
My Deputy Governor-Mr James Lowassa,
The Speaker of Isiolo County Assembly
Members of County Assembly present,
All Other National Government officers present;
My County Government staff;
The religious leaders;
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;**

My fellow Isiolo people-Hamjambo? Assalam Aleykum?

It is my great pleasure to be with you this morning to mark this year's Mashujaa day-the first one since I was sworn in as your 3rd Governor, exactly 57 days ago.

Let me begin by thanking Almighty Allah as He continues to see us through the most difficult drought situation that continues to threaten people's lives and livelihoods across our County and Nation at large.

We do pray to Him to send His mercy our way, and grant us beneficial rain.

Fellow Isiolo People,

As you all know, Mashujaa day is a day to remember, reflect upon and celebrate all examples of Kenyan heroism-both great and small, and back home, in our County, on this day, I proudly celebrate ordinary men and women who work tirelessly in sustaining our local economy despite the ravaging drought. The herders who trek long distance in search of pasture and water, the farmers who work on their farms from dawn to dusk, the small-scale traders and bodaboda riders who complete the chain by delivering the food at the comfort of our homes. These are my everyday shujaas, I celebrate

you. I wish to assure you that my administration is ready to invest in you and what you do.

Fellow Isiolo People,

I am aware you voted me on hopes that I will transform security in our county alongside other critical development sectors like health, education, livestock and Agriculture, roads, youth and women economic empowerment among others. I am proud to report to you that we are on track in laying down the foundations on which this transformation will happen and progress.

On Security, we are closely working with national government agencies to re-energise physical presence of security officers on the ground, especially in areas that is marked as hotspots, in order to deter attack while improving on the response. Similarly, we have finalized recruiting over 200 Kenya Police Reservists spread across our County to provide the much-needed security. I am also happy to report to you that, in principle, the National government has granted my request to set up buffer zone in specified security prone zones at our borders. It is my hope and believe that the insecurity menace will soon be behind us in order to allow us refocus our energy on other important development agendas.

My fellow Isiolo people,

Health is a critical service that my administration is working tirelessly to fix. As you all know, from the day we were sworn in, my deputy and I have appeared in some of our health facilities to observe fast hand how citizens are being served and I want to report to you that we have picked up the challenges and we are making headways in restoring sanity and right attitude to enable effective and efficient service delivery to our people. Today, as I stand here, unlike before, all our health facilities have got enough medics ready to serve the people with sufficient medicines at their disposal.

My fellow Isiolo people,

On Agriculture and Livestock, I believe we can restore back human dignity, if and only when, we can feed ourselves. It is therefore in my plan to invest in our farmers and pastoralists in order to make our county food secure. In this regard, my administration is in the process of:

1. Reviewing to see possibility of reviving the collapsed irrigation schemes like Rapsu, Gafarsa and CEFA in Merti;
2. Mapping out new but strategic areas where crop farming can be undertaken;
3. Revisiting deserted drought reserves in Yamicha Chari, Barambate and others

All with a view to rehabilitate existing water source as we set out to drill new boreholes for farming and livestock use.

Also, on our plan to operationalize the abattoir as an important component that will transform our livestock sector, a service provider is now on board to begin equipping the abattoir, and if all factors remain constant, the abattoir will open its doors to farmers May next year.

On Early Childhood Education (ECDE), I am aware there is so much laxity and poor execution of learning that has compromised the quality of learning at this formative stage. Many parents who can't afford to take their children to a private school have reached out to me, painfully explaining to me how the early childhood education that forms the foundation of our children's education stands weak. In this regard, my administration will soon begin a process that will give us holistic look at ECDE in order to have it revamped to ensure high value learning outcomes for our learners.

On promoting financial inclusion on the part of our youth and women, my administration is working with the county assembly to finalize the legal and

regulatory framework that will help us set up a business fund from which youth and women will draw down interest free loans that will help them either expand their existing businesses or start new ones. In this regard, I am focused to ensure this fund is soon set up, disbursed to the right group and capacity building will be undertaken for it to have the desired impact.

My fellow Isiolo people,

On opening up our County through improved road infrastructure, Isiolo-Modogashe road is set to begin anytime now and I am happy to report that I have had engagement at the highest level with both World Bank and KENHA, and we have agreed locals will constitute 80% of the human resource required to construct this road. Similarly, KENHA is finalizing its procurement that will ensure sub-contracting in supplying materials to the site go to the local companies. On the same note, I am in touch with those in LAPPSET project to realize involvement of locals before they begin the project

In opening up Isiolo south to north to allow free flow of people and goods, I am happy to share that we have secured 250M funding from Equalization Fund Kitty towards construction of Kubi-qalo bridge. The tendering of the same is set to begin before the year ends.

As I conclude, I wish to reiterate that ours is a journey inspired by the trust and confidence you have continued to place in me and my administration, and as your Governor, my promise to you is to work day and night to better your lives.

I therefore reach out to all of you to walk with us on this journey as we also continue praying to Allah to bring us rains and shower us in His blessings.

ONCE AGAIN, HAPPY MASHUJAA DAY TO YOU ALL

ASANTENI SANA, NA MUNGU AWABARIKI!

Signature

Date

**H.E. ABDI IBRAHIM HASSAN
GOVERNOR,
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF ISIOLO**