

# COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF ISIOLO



## EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

---

SPEECH OF HIS EXCELLENCY HON. ABDI IBRAHIM HASSAN, EGH

DURING

CELEBRATIONS OF JAMHURI DAY

HELD AT POLICE MESS GROUNDS

ON

THURSDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2024

Our Deputy Governor,  
The County Commissioner and National Government Officials,  
Honourable Members of the National Assembly and Senate Present,  
Honorable Speaker of the County Assembly,  
Honourable Members of the County Assembly,  
County Executive Members and Chief Officers,  
Members of the County Public Service Board  
Our Development Partners,  
Invited Guests,  
The Great People of Isiolo County,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Assalam Aleykum and Hamjambo?

I am delighted to be here today as we join the rest of the country in celebrating 61 years of our independence. As we gather, we reflect on the aspirations of the brave men and women, who, 61 years ago, came together to build a new republic. It is on the foundation of their dreams for a better Kenya that we in the county administration continue to implement innovative and sustainable programmes aimed at improving the lives and livelihoods of the 'Mwananchi' at the local level.

While we celebrate our nation's history, it is essential to acknowledge the role we must play in shaping its future. As the Governor of Isiolo County, I am proud to share the strides we have made over the past year to advance the development of our county and improve the lives of our people. These achievements reflect our collective commitment to delivering on the promise of independence.

1. Access to quality and affordable healthcare is a pivotal development aspiration that is close to my heart. To this end, during the 2023/2024 financial year, my administration constructed two new dispensaries one in Chumvi Yare, Ngaremara Ward and another one in Parkuruk, Oldonyiro ward.

Further, bringing health services closer to our people, I am happy to report that we have renovated and operationalized; Mwangaza, Biliqi, Mogore and Gubatu dispensaries. We have also operationalized theatre at Garba Tulla hospital. These efforts are expected to bring to an end numerous journeys made by our people to Isiolo Teaching and Referral Hospital thereby reducing congestion at this critical health facility. To address rampant shortage of patients' evacuation and hospitals referral

transportation, my administration, has purchased an ambulance for Oldonyiro Sub-County. These efforts are expected to enhance government's commitment to providing prompt and effective emergency medical response.

We have also made great strides in the management of our human resources for health. To take care of shortage of nurses and other medical practitioners ,we have employed an additional **60 nurses, 20 clinical officers, 16 social workers and 15 nutritionists**. These efforts have been strengthened by employing six more Physicians and three Radiologists.

Notably, Isiolo Teaching and Referral Hospital has long experienced congestion due to a high number of referral patients from road accidents. To address this issue, my government has completed the construction of a new accident and emergency centre at ICTRH. Further to the aforementioned, as your governor, I am in discussions with the national government to help us expedite the equipping of this critical facility. We have also expanded the eye and dental units and renovated and modernized the female and male wards at ICTRH.

2. In the past two years, my government has made significant progress in providing clean, safe, and sustainable water for domestic and agricultural use. We have drilled **36 boreholes** across our vast county. These boreholes have been drilled and equipped in various locations, including Dadachabasa, Merti-Lakole, Qurquichi, Kakili, Kombolla, Akadeli, Hagarsu and Sabansa (formerly Iresaboru) and many others. It is my strongest believe that the boreholes are significantly contributing to water and food security across our county.

Equally, as a responsible government, we are prioritizing investments to improve water security. To this end, we have increased our funding to the water sector from **Kshs.143,787,512** in the financial year 2023/2024 to **Kshs.178,258,596** in the financial year 2024/2025. It is noteworthy that, we are finalizing plans to acquire a drilling rig, which will not only reduce costs but also expand our opportunities to explore more groundwater resources.

To address water supply issues in our homes, Isiolo County Government, in partnership with USAID-STAWI, plans to undertake an approximately 7 km extension of the pipeline in Bula Pesa and Wabera wards. In addition to this, we have also partnered with STAWI to enhance the management and operations of the Mwangaza Water Treatment Plant, with the aim to increase revenue and expand IWASCO's water service supply capabilities.

3. On the path to economic progress, our herders have over the years faced numerous challenges and obstacles. I am happy to report that, my administration, has, following a rigorous and competitive tendering process identified a private investor to partner with, in operating and managing the Isiolo Export Abattoir. I firmly believe that this partnership will enhance prosperity in our county within the livestock value chain.

Further, it is worth noting that our efforts to improve livestock sales for herders and increase their incomes will be bolstered by this administration's plan to construct a Class C slaughterhouse in Ngaremara location in the next financial year. This facility will also help us destock during droughts, support herders, and reduce potential losses. In

addition to this, during a recent development tour, we distributed **1,000 goats** to vulnerable herders in Oldonyiro Sub County. In my opinion, this initiative will revitalize economic activities in the local livestock market and help boost incomes for our people.

In addition, to actualize my vision of a food secure county, my administration has completed the rehabilitation of four key irrigation schemes: the Elsa Irrigation Scheme in Burat Ward, Gabaya and Tiyole farms in Kinna Ward and Uji Tante Jabesa project in Cherab ward. This is expected to improve agricultural productivity, and support the livelihoods of farmers in our beautiful county. We have also provided inclusion grants of **Kes 500,000** to three community organizations: **Nasole SACCO in Kinna, Ekuenos Cooperative in Burat, and Naibunga Cooperative in Oldonyiro** to strengthen their capacity and recruit members.

Equally, my administration has employed an additional **27 extension workers** under the Department of Agriculture and Irrigation. This strategic move aims to address existing challenges in service provision and enhance extension services throughout the county. These efforts are part of a broader commitment to ensure that our farmers receive the necessary guidance services and support required for successful agricultural practices.

4. Land has been an emotive issue in our home county for many years. In this regard, my government has initiated the process of land adjudication for Garbatula ward, and we are currently awaiting the finalization of **3,500 title deeds**. Similarly, we are working with the National Land Commission (NLC) to produce **1,400 allotment letters** to six

municipality centres in Isiolo township. In my opinion, these efforts will substantially reduce land disputes within Isiolo Municipality.

To ensure we safeguard our community land from encroachment and possible grabbing, my administration is currently registering community land in Cherab and Chari wards. To address future land disputes, we have updated the Registry Index Maps for title numbers and partnered with FAO-Kenya under the Digital Land Governance Program to equip a GIS lab. This initiative will help us effectively digitize our county's land records, thereby reducing instances of double allocation. Further to aforementioned, to support effective land use management and urban planning, my government is also finalizing the development of a county spatial plan.

Roads enable market access and enhance livelihoods. In this regard, we have rehabilitated, graded and maintained access roads in Oldonyiro, Burat, Ngaremara, and Wabera. Plans are also at advanced stage to rehabilitate additional access roads in the remaining wards. Noteworthy, to improve security and encourage a 24 hour economy in our local towns, my administration has installed a 500 by 100Metres Solar powered street light in Oldonyiro town. Equally, we have an elaborate plan in the next financial year to erect additional high flood masts at strategic points across our vast county.

5. As our county progresses, the youth stand as a beacon of hope for our economic, social, and cultural future. However, this potential is increasingly challenged by emerging societal issues that threaten their dreams and aspirations. Recognizing the transformative power of sports in uniting communities, nurturing talent, and

promoting healthy lifestyles, my administration has launched the inaugural Annual Governor's Football Tournament. This initiative aims to inspire and empower our youth through active participation in sports. Looking ahead, we are committed to expanding this program in the next financial year by incorporating a wider range of sporting activities to ensure inclusivity and greater opportunities for our youth to thrive. I am also pleased to announce that in the financial year 2023/2024, we have successfully rehabilitated **two** playfields in Garbatulla and Oldonyiro, making them suitable for training and competitive sports. In addition to this, I am happy to report that we are expanding our efforts by rehabilitating **four** more playfields in Kinna, Merti, Ngaremara, and Sericho in the current financial year. These projects demonstrate our commitment to providing quality sports infrastructure throughout the county.

6. In conclusion, as we embrace the spirit of the festive season, I urge all residents of Isiolo County to share the joy with our vulnerable neighbors, ensuring no one is left behind during this special time. I also encourage everyone to support our local economy by visiting and enjoying the breathtaking beauty of our game reserves. To make this season more special for all residents of Isiolo County, I **hereby direct the CEC for Tourism and Wildlife Management to waive park fees for all residents on Christmas Day.** Let this season be one of unity, compassion, and celebration for everyone.

**THANK YOU!**

**GOD BLESS ISIOLO COUNTY!**

**HAPPY JAMHURI DAY!**

**\*\*\*END\*\*\***