

The County Government of Marsabit



Celebrating Success



Kayo's Government



Governor Mohamud Ali take oath of office

County Chief Officers



The County CECM shortly after taking oath of office



Hon. Hussein Sasura take oath of office as the County Secretary



Message From the Governor

H. E. Mohamud Ali



Throughout these years, our county has achieved considerable success in the implementation of vital development programs and services. Despite the hurdles posed by a rapidly changing landscape, we have persevered in our mission to bring positive change to the lives of our people.



It is with immense pride that I welcome you to this special edition of the Marsabit County Magazine. This publication samples some of the programs that is testament to the remarkable journey we have undertaken over the past six years, marked by progress, resilience, and a shared commitment to the well-being of our people.

In the face of numerous challenges, both anticipated and unexpected, the people of Marsabit County have shown their unwavering spirit and determination to forge ahead. In this magazine, the few projects profiled serve as a record of the tireless efforts, unwavering dedication, and countless achievements that have defined our path.

Throughout these years, our county has achieved considerable success in the implementation of vital development programs and services. Despite the hurdles posed by a rapidly changing landscape, we have persevered in our mission to bring positive change to the lives of our people.

Undoubtedly, the recent global Covid-19 pandemic posed unprecedented challenges, testing our healthcare systems, economy, and the resilience of our communities. The reallocation of funds towards emergency response demonstrated our collective resolve to protect the health and well-being of our residents.

The recurring droughts that befall our region have necessitated quick actions and resource redirection to alleviate the suffering of our people. These instances, though challenging, have showcased our readiness to prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable amongst us.

Insecurity, a challenge that has at times slowed down our progress, is now being firmly addressed. Through unity, collaboration and dialogue the people of Marsabit have resolved their differences, transforming our county into a haven of peace. This newfound stability paves the way for accelerated development programs, enabling us to channel our energies towards building a prosperous county.

As we reflect on our achievements, let us not forget the natural beauty that graces our region. Marsabit boasts numerous tourist destinations that remain untapped. I extend a warm invitation to all our readers to immerse themselves in the captivating allure of our land, with the upcoming Lake Turkana Festival in November 2023 being a perfect occasion to experience the rich cultural tapestry of our county.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to every citizen of goodwill, partner, and stakeholder who has contributed to our success.

Have a wonderful read!



Inside Saku Modern Market



Governor Mohamud Ali and other senior county staff during the commissioning of Dokatu borehole



Governor launches the Marsabit County Gender policy



Governor Mohamud Ali participate in tree planting exercise



Governor Mohamud Ali joins traditional dance during opening of Borehole in Dokatu



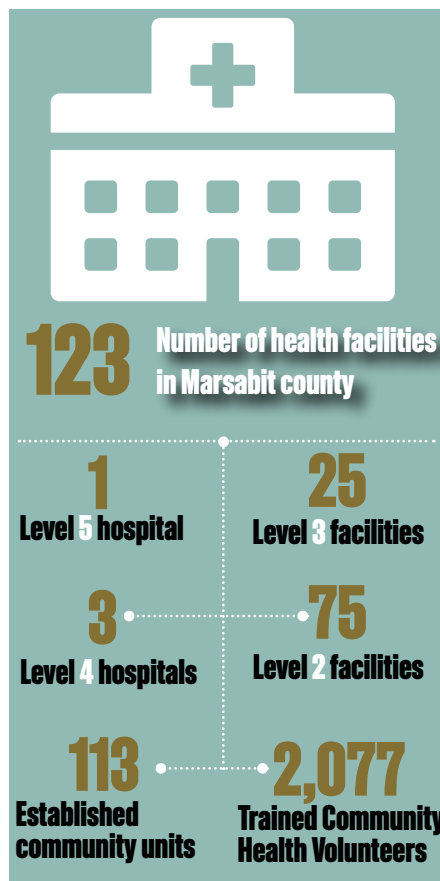
Renal unit at Marsabit Referral Hospital. Most of the patients here used to trek to Nairobi to access this care

Five years of transformation in health sector in Marsabit County bears sweet fruits

On Saturday evening on August 5, 2023, at around 6.50PM, a distress call was received at the Marsabit's department of health. The Health Services County Executive Committee member (CECM) Grace Galmo was informed that a lorry carrying over 200 people heading to wedding in Kargi from Hula-hula, a small village near Marsabit town, had been involved in an accident.

Seven minutes later, the first group of the injured were received at the Marsabit County Referral Hospital, commencing a long working night for the health personnel and other senior county staff led by the County Secretary, Hussein Sasura.

This night, a total of 114 victims were brought to the hospital. It was a sad incident that tested the capacity and capability of the county's referral facility. Nevertheless the highly trained health team, the pharmacy, the newly opened blood bank and oxygen plant, Modern theatre, laboratory and CT scan among others proved to be a game changer. Disaster was averted.



“We were all in doubt about the capability of the hospital to handle the tens of victims streaming in. However, we were pleasantly surprised that the efforts made to ensure the hospital is well equipped to handle such medical emergencies had borne fruit,” said Hon. Leruk, MCA Karare Ward.

Marsabit County, under the visionary leadership of His Excellency the Governor-Mohamud Ali, has made remarkable strides in the health sector over the past five years. The County's Department of Health Services has been at the forefront of various initiatives, leading to significant improvements in healthcare service delivery and accessibility for the people of Marsabit.

Despite this massive improvement and show of confidence by the residents and leadership, Governor Ali says 'we are not yet at the place where I want this hospital to be.'

The county has made significant investments in healthcare infrastructure. Currently, there are a total of 123 health facilities in the county, including one level 5 hospital, three level 4 hospitals, 25 level 3 facilities, and 75 level 2 facilities. Moreover,



CT Scan County Referral Hospital

113 established community units and 2,077 trained Community Health Volunteers further enhance health services' accessibility to the rural population.

The laboratory services have also been strengthened over the years, with the construction and operationalization of 14 new laboratories. Previously, the county had only two laboratories, whereas now, modern facilities with advanced equipment have been established in various regions, allowing for improved diagnostic capabilities and patient care.

Efforts to improve water supply and sanitation have resulted in a 45% increase in latrine coverage over the last five years, as the department moves to monitor and control diseases related to water borne infections. The department aims to achieve an "Open defecation free Marsabit" by 2030, advocating for better sanitation practices and health education.

The department has received considerable support from Mama Guyo Foundation, an initiative of the County First Lady, in conducting free health camps, notably eye surgery camps and the cancer screening campaigns. The enhanced outreach services and more health centers has reduced maternal and neonatal mortality rates, and immunization coverage has improved.

Health Commodities and Equipment:

The county's supply chain and health com-

Surgeons in a theatre at Marsabit Referral Hospital



modities management have undergone significant improvements. Adequate supply of drugs and non-pharmaceuticals is now available in all health facilities, ensuring efficient and effective service delivery. The county has increased the allocation of drugs supply from Sh 60 million to Sh140 million, allowing for better healthcare access to the population.

Moreover, the County Government has heavily invested in acquiring essential medical equipment. Modern equipment such as theatre tables, anaesthetic machines, ultrasound machines, CT Scan machines, and dental x-ray machines have been procured

and distributed to health facilities, greatly enhancing the quality of care.

The County Renal unit has seen patients from Marsabit who used to camp in Nairobi and Meru for dialysis services now access this life saving service in Marsabit, saving them travel and accommodation cost.

The health workforce has also been significantly expanded, with the number of health personnel increasing from 350 to 1100 over the last five years. This increase has led to improved access to healthcare services, and the workforce is continuously being trained and capacitated to enhance service delivery.



County First Lady Alamitu Jatani looks on during free eye clinic camp in Moyale

The aerial view of the proposed Marsabit Medical Training College. The college is set to open its doors for admission early next year



Regional lab



Blood Bank

The new oxygeneplant at the County Referral Hospital



Marsabit County Adopts

resilience measures for sustainable food production

Marsabit County boasts of sizable arable land, however, the food production has been threatened by successive erratic rainfall.

The Department of Agriculture, while supporting farmers with drought resistant crops, is also seeking alternative ways of boosting food production to make Marsabit food secure amid erratic rainfall.

The county has established micro-irrigation schemes putting more than 1500 acres under irrigation across the county and distributed 36 greenhouses. Further the county tractors are offering tilling services at a subsidized rate.

The department supports value addition initiatives; and vegetables and fruits farmers groups are among those trained vegetable driers purchased and distributed to producer groups. Further, market food commodity prices are generated every month for local and regional major markets.

The department of agriculture is tapping into KALRO expertise for research on crops, pests, and diseases.

The research and training are bearing fruits as observed by the uptake of certi-

fied crop seeds has increased from 1% to 30% among agro-pastoralists over the past five years, Kitchen gardens using multi-story technology, sunken beds and shade net technology uptake has also increased.

“In partnership with the partners, certified drought tolerant crops seeds were purchased and distributed before rainy seasons which boosts production. We will strive to improve on the timing of distribution and with the county tractors in place, we expect a bumper harvest coming season,” said Orge Bajji, Chief Officer, Crop.

Triumph in the Skies: Marsabit County's Victory over Locust Invasion

Marsabit County, is a shining example of resilience and effective locust control measures, having successfully fought off one of the worst locust invasions in recent memory.

This victory is a major milestone in safeguarding agricultural lands and preserving livelihoods that were threatened by the voracious swarms. From December 2019 to March 2021, the region faced two waves of locust invasion that posed a severe challenge to crops and grazing lands. However, in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Marsabit County

minimized the damage caused by locusts.

The Emergency Locust Response Project (ELRP) domiciled within the department of Agriculture was a comprehensive project focused on not only combatting the immediate threat but also strengthening the county's preparedness to tackle any future invasions. The program brings together national, county, and community-level collaboration.

One of the critical components of the ELRP was the Desert Control Surveillance and Control Measures, which included locust surveillance operations to monitor and contain the spread of the swarms. Swift action and aerial spraying in affected areas helped to curb the locust invasion and minimize the damage to crops and pasture lands.

A vital aspect of Marsabit County's success was its unwavering commitment to protecting livelihoods and restoring communities' resilience. The Livelihood Protection and Restoration component of the ELRP aimed at assisting affected farmers and livestock-holding households in rebuilding their productive assets. Climate-smart practices for both crops and livestock were promoted to ensure enhanced resilience against future locust

wheat harvest by residents. County Government supports residents with seeds, subsidized tractor services and land tilling





The Marsabit Modern Market completed by Governor Mohamud Ali

Marsabit Municipality:

A Look at the journey towards a cleaner and safer town

Marsabit, a key urban center in Kenya, has witnessed a transformative journey, since the onset of devolution.

However, this exponential growth and high influx of people requires proactive mechanism to ensure the infrastructure supports the growing population.

The county Government of Marsabit with support from Kenya Urban Support Programme has seen the Municipality of Marsabit achieve significant milestones.

Since 2018, this initiative has brought about significant improvements in the Municipality's infrastructure and institutional support, addressing pressing challenges and paving the way for a brighter and more sustainable future.

Among key development programs are Covering of Open Drainage system with reinforced concrete slabs within Central Business District. The open drainage while essential for managing rainwater discharge, can become hazardous when left uncovered. This project effectively addressed



health and sanitation concerns, minimized water-borne diseases' spread, enhanced business activity, and improved pedestrian safety.

The municipality has completed con-

struction of Taxi, Matatu Stage, and Bus Park to address the challenges of heavy traffic congestion in the CBD.

Municipality has developed Integrated Development Plan Development (IDEP), which is a forward-looking approach. This comprehensive plan will serve as a roadmap for future urban development, ensuring systematic growth and effective resource allocation.

Further, the municipality is enhancing emergency response capabilities by building a fire station, digitizing municipal services and developing the Marsabit Municipality Spatial Plan.

Transformation in the Livestock Sector in Marsabit County spurs development



Part of over 1000 goats bought for the restocking program

Livestock is a key priority investment sector for the county government of Marsabit, with 80 per cent of the county’s population depending on livestock production as the main source of income. The sector plays a crucial role in ensuring food security and income generation.

However, the sector has in the past faced a myriad of challenges occasioned by erratic weather patterns and prolonged drought. The department of livestock has been steadfast in seeking ways to cushion the livestock through multiple initiatives.

During this period, the county, in collaboration with development partners and the national government, implemented emergency interventions such as livestock feed supplementation, slaughter off-take for small ruminants and cattle, livestock treatments, water provision, and livestock

insurance payout.

The department in the recent past distributed 17,300 bags of ranch pellets-concentrates in the most drought hard hit areas to mitigate against weight loss.

The county is currently implementing the Kenya Commercialization Project (KeLCoP) program which focuses on poultry, beekeeping, and small ruminants. Already selected beekeepers in Moyale and Saku have received modern hives and hive production accessories. In addition, over 3500 livestock producers have been trained in poultry, beekeeping, improved animal husbandry, and feed storage.

The department has further embarked on restocking, with groups across the country benefiting from the first batch of 1,000 goats, with more groups set to benefit as the program gets underway.

Marsabit County’s veterinary services have officers countywide and they play vital

roles in disease surveillance, diagnosis, reporting, and control. The county conducts active, passive, syndromic, and abattoir surveillance for livestock diseases.

The department carries out periodic vaccination targeting all herds in Marsabit County, treat clinical cases and in some instances impose quarantine during disease outbreaks in instances where isolation of cases are required. These activities focus on most prevalent livestock diseases of all livestock species, existing in endemic or epidemic states. Vaccination coverage in Marsabit is estimated to range between 30 to 50 per cent across the county. The department continues to improve on existing infrastructure and resources for support of livestock vaccination. These include cold chain, vaccination equipment, human resource and stakeholder engagement.

80%

of the county’s population depending on livestock production as the main source of income

1,000

The first batch of goats set for restocking with groups across the country benefiting

over 3500

livestock producers who have been trained in poultry, beekeeping, improved animal husbandry, and feed storage.

17,300

Ranch pellets bags distributed by livestock department in the recent past to most drought hard hit areas



A farmer receives a beehive from Mohamud Ali





A breath taking view of Lake Paradise within Marsabit Forest

Exploring Marsabit County: A Celestial Adventure Awaits!

Ladies and gentlemen, take your pen, mark this date. Lake Turkana Annual Festival to be held from November 21, 2023 in Loiyangalani, on the shores of Lake Turkana. Ooh Wow! You can't miss this. *See you there....*

While at it, be sure to sample some of our other popular tourists' destinations.

Your Gateway to the Wonders of the North!

The avid travelers and adventure seekers, Marsabit County in Kenya emerges as an extraterrestrial paradise, offering a unique fusion of terrestrial splendor and otherworldly charm. Brace yourselves for

an unprecedented journey beyond the confines of the city as we unveil the tourism potential of this great wonderland in the North.

Astronomical Marvels Above

Marsabit County boasts some of the darkest and clearest skies on our planet, setting the stage for a stargazer's utopia. As the sun surrenders its reign to the night, the celestial canvas comes alive with a breathtaking display of constellations, planets, and shooting stars. Jupiter, Saturn, and even Mars itself, our neighboring red planet, grace the spectacle. Prepare to be mesmerized by the Milky Way's celestial dance, an awe-inspiring sight that leaves even the most seasoned stargazers in wonder.

Crater Lakes and Oasis in the Desert

Against the backdrop of arid landscapes, Marsabit County surprises visitors with lush oases and serene crater lakes. Lake Paradise, and Lake Turkana, the largest desert lake worldwide, create an enchanting contrast with their sparkling waters amidst the desert's vastness. These picturesque oases offer a sanctuary for travelers seeking tranquility and respite from their earthly cares.

Wildlife Encounters: Elephants in Their Realm

Wildlife enthusiasts are in for a treat as Marsabit National Park becomes a haven for observing majestic elephants in their nat-

ural habitat. The park boasts a significant elephant population, providing a remarkable opportunity to witness these gentle giants roaming freely amidst the pristine wilderness. Not just elephants, but also giraffes, zebras, lions, and various avian species, call this unique ecosystem their home.

Chalbi Desert: A Martian Odyssey

For those with an appetite for adventure, the Chalbi Desert awaits with its surreal white sands and volcanic terrains. A landscape seemingly plucked from Mars, the Chalbi Desert invites travelers to embark on thrilling camel safaris or daring 4x4 expeditions across this extraterrestrial-like expanse. Brace yourself for an extraordinary encounter with the boundless desert, an experience that lingers in memory long after the journey ends.

Diving into Martian Culture

Marsabit County's allure extends beyond natural wonders, with a rich tapestry of cultural heritage awaiting discovery. Unearth ancient archaeological sites, sacred caves, and captivating rock art that unveil the tales of the resilient Marsabit community, whose history stretches back centuries. Engage with local communities and immerse yourself in their traditional music, dance, and delectable cuisine, a treasure trove of cus-



The visiting diplomats chats with Governor Ali and County Woman Mp in Marsabit

toms passed down through generations.

Scaling Mount Marsabit: Reaching for the Stars

Hiking enthusiasts will find solace in conquering Mount Marsabit, revealing lush montane forests and unique flora and fauna along the ascent. Gaze upon breathtaking panoramas of the surrounding landscapes, capturing a glimpse of the boundless Martian-like terrain from the summit's vantage point.

Unraveling Martian Volcanoes

For the daring explorers, the Marsabit Volcano Range promises an encounter with geological marvels. While dormant now, the remnants of lava flows and distinctive rock formations tell the tale of a turbulent Martian past, leaving a lasting impression on those who dare to explore.

Marsabit County is a celestial playground, offering experiences that blend Earth's beauty with the allure of the cosmos. Embark on this once-in-a-lifetime celestial journey to Marsabit County, where adventure, wonder, and extraterrestrial magic await!



Samburu Moran and women line up to receive guests in Mt Kulal



Marsabit-National-Park elephants



Transforming Marsabit County: Nurturing a greener future with sustainable water initiatives and climate leadership

In the heart of Kenya's Marsabit County, a remarkable transformation is underway as the Department of Water, Environment, Climate Change, and Natural Resources spearheads initiatives to ensure water accessibility, environmental conservation, and climate resilience.

Over the past five years, the county has witnessed major achievements in both the

water and environment sectors, redefining the future for communities and their livestock in line with Governor's Mohamud manifesto of access to clean and sufficient water.

Water scarcity has been a pressing concern, impacting various sectors in the county. To combat this challenge, the Directorate of Water Services took bold steps to address water availability and access.

One noteworthy accomplishment is the distribution of 4050 plastic tanks and rainwater harvesting infrastructure to households and institutions. This strategic move ensures a reliable water supply even during dry spells, benefitting numerous families.

In a bid to secure water resources for the long term, the county invested in the development of 15 major medium-sized



The new completed Bakuli 4 dam that serves Marsabit town and its environs

strategically placed across sub-counties. These dams now serve as vital reservoirs, supporting water conservation efforts and bolstering access for communities.

Moreover, the Directorate introduced a pioneering approach to water management through the installation of 62 major community water points equipped with prepaid meters, often referred to as Water ATMs. This groundbreaking innovation promotes equitable water distribution, reduces wastage, and enhances revenue collection. Notably, Marsabit County has emerged as a trailblazer in this technology, inspiring other regions to adopt similar systems.

In partnership with national government water agencies, Marsabit County has seen expansion of Bakuli dam within Marsabit Forest, which will reduce considerably the water shortage for Marsabit town inhabitants.

“Bakuli dam with the capacity of 300 million liters of water is full to the brim. We are now focusing on resolving the dis-

tribution challenges,” says Sora Katelo, Managing Director Marsabit Water and Sanitation Company (Marwasco)

Enabling these groundbreaking projects were the Marsabit Water Policy and Marsabit Water and Sewerage ACT, 2018. These policies laid a strong foundation for efficient water management and led to the establishment of Marsabit Water and Sewerage Company (MARWASCO). With a well-defined legal framework in place, the county is now better equipped to tackle water-related challenges.

While Marsabit County excels in water initiatives, it has also taken on a leading role in climate change policy formulation. The Directorate of Environment has championed environmental conservation and climate resilience through a series of transformative actions such as tree planting and coming up with enabling policies and regulations.

In a major stride, the county has developed the County Climate Change Policy and Climate Change Fund Act of 2020,



4,050

The number of plastic tanks and rainwater harvesting infrastructure distributed to households and institutions.

15

Major medium-sized dams strategically placed across sub-counties

62

Number of major community water points installed and equipped with prepaid meters, often referred to as Water ATMs.



paving the way for funding critical climate change programs within the region. This strategic move empowers the county to undertake climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives, securing a sustainable future for its communities.

The county has initiated locally led climate change actions by establishing the Ward Climate Change Planning Committee, a grassroots structure designed to embrace locally driven climate solutions. This approach ensures that communities are actively involved in decision-making and resilience-building efforts, fostering a sense of ownership and cooperation.

To enhance its climate finance mechanisms and strengthen its capacity to tackle climate challenges, Marsabit County has developed a climate change finance framework. This strategic blueprint serves as a guiding document to attract funds and investment in climate-related projects, enabling the county to achieve its climate objectives effectively.

With the recent operationalization of the Climate Change Act of 2020, Marsabit County now stands at the forefront of climate change leadership, presenting a unique opportunity to access both local and global climate change funding opportunities. This landmark achievement positions the county to secure critical financial support for its climate initiatives, accelerating progress towards a sustainable and climate-resilient future.



Inside Desalination Plant



A Major Desalination Plant in Bubisa



Governor Mohamud Ali shortly after opening a borehole



The tanks lined for distribution to the residents

Mama Guyo Foundation Igniting Empowerment:

Gaddis Game Night Sparks a Flame of Change



The girls listen to speakers during Gaddis Gamme program, an initiative of the county First lady Alamitu Jatani

The April/May holiday has just commenced. It's a cold evening on the slopes of Marsabit mountain, the night silence is disrupted by a bonfire and laughter as what this night holds for tens of school girls gathered here from across Marsabit County unfolds.

Gathered in a circle, a bonfire at the centre, the setting resembles a traditional African firesite story telling session. Amidst the crackling of a warm bonfire, a sense of camaraderie envelops the air as 136 remarkable young girls, accompanied by four inspiring first ladies, parents, and community leaders, gather for an extraordinary evening - the much-anticipated Gaddis Game Night.

Gaddis Gamme is a Borana language phrase that can be loosely translated as 'Congregation of girls'; only that the initiative covers not only Borana girls but also brings together girls from all tribes found in Marsabit and beyond. The program by the Mama Guyo Foundation, is an initiative of Marsabit County First lady meant to create a movement of enlightened and empowered girl child that can stand up and protect the current and future generations

against harmful practices.

A tapestry of experienced voices weaves through the night, delving deep into the heart of the girls, igniting discussions on critical topics that are reshaping the destinies of these young lives.

In a world often fraught with challenges for young girls, this initiative is a beacon of hope.

The event creates a platform for the girls to interact, share ideas and learn from the best. Picture it: the soft glow of the bonfire dances on their faces as they exchange stories, dreams, and strategies to combat harmful practices like Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and early marriages. The crackling flames mirror the fiery determination in their hearts to overcome obstacles and claim their rightful place in society.

But this evening is not just about any conversations. It's a powerful call to action. Discussions traverse the terrain of menstrual health, personal hygiene, and legal rights, imparting knowledge that empowers these girls to confidently navigate life's hurdles. Just like the bonfire's warmth, it seemed their resolve is fueled, as they delve into matters of cleanliness and discipline, paving the way for a brighter future.

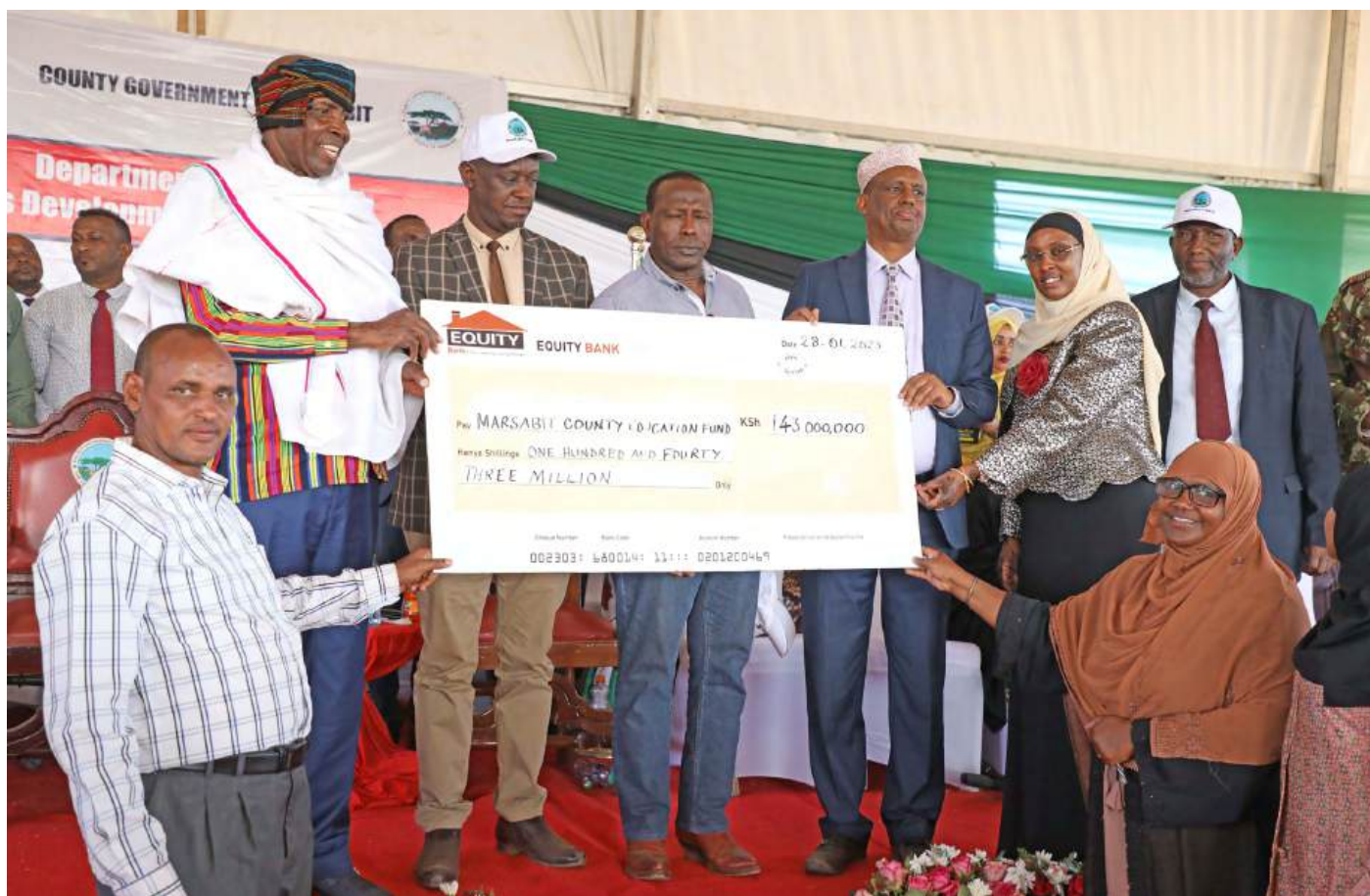
As the night unfolds, the climax of the Gaddis Gamme Girls Camp takes center stage, marking the culmination of a transformative four-day journey. Hearts swell with pride and joy as these young warriors stand tall, having conquered a rigorous program that equips them with essential life skills. The camp has become a crucible of growth, where they've been armed with knowledge about the perils of FGM, the impact of HIV/AIDS, and the formidable strength of their legal rights.

A symphony of voices fills the air as these girls share newfound wisdom about topics like HPV, early marriage, sexual assault, STIs, and teenage pregnancy. It's a testament to their resilience and a clarion call for change - for a world where the empowerment of girl and boy child equally takes center stage.

"We are deeply grateful to all of our partners who made this event possible, and we extend a special thank you to the First Ladies of Nairobi, Migori, Taita Taveta, and West Pokot Counties, who joined us for benchmarking. Your support means the world to us, and we hope that you will take what you have learned here and apply it to your own initiatives in support of the girl-child," said the Marsabit County First Lady, famously referred to as Mama Guyo.

Throughout the event, participants were guided and inspired by a team of expert facilitators, who worked tirelessly to ensure that each and every girl left camp with a newfound sense of confidence and purpose. For the period that they were at the camp, when the sun set each evening, the young ladies were treated to special mother-daughter bonding sessions where they shared stories and created memories that will last a lifetime.

"But our commitment to young people doesn't stop there. We are fully committed to the empowerment of both the girlchild and the boychild, and we will continue to work towards this goal in all of our ongoing and future projects," said the County First Lady.



CS Ezekiel Machogu and Governor Mohamud Ali lead other attendees in displaying a dummy cheque during the commissioning of the Marsabit County scholarship 2023 beneficiaries

Marsabit County Scholarship Fund: Empowering Dreams and Fostering Excellence in Education

In 2019, the visionary Governor of Marsabit County, H.E Muhammad Ali transformed and enhanced the Marsabit County Scholarship Fund with a noble purpose – to provide financial support to bright and needy students pursuing higher education in fields where the county was experiencing human resources gaps. Over the years, this fund has evolved and expanded, becoming a beacon of hope and empowerment for countless young minds in the region.

The scholarship was started in 2019 and has so far supported over 2020 students. The first cohort of 252 students sat for the exam in 2022, out of which 184 attained university entry grades. Starting with a modest Sh13 million annual budget benefiting 259 students, The Scholarship kitty has now blossomed into

an inspiring Sh100 million plus annual budget initiative.

A Journey of Growth and Inclusivity

In a groundbreaking move during the fiscal year 2017/2018, the Marsabit County Scholarship Fund also extended its support to high school students from humble backgrounds in line with Governor Ali's manifesto of creating a pool of educated, skilled citizens that can compete in ever evolving global world of technology. This decision aimed to uplift those facing financial hardships and broaden access to quality education for the youth of Marsabit County.

The initiative has cushioned parents and students against the recurrent drought trends that had caused devastating loss of lives and livelihoods in the region by providing financial assistance

2019

The scholarship was started in 2019 and has so far supported over 2020 students

252

The first cohort of 252 students sat for the exam in 2022, out of which 184 attained university entry grades

100 Million

Starting with a modest Sh13 million annual budget benefiting 259 students, it has now blossomed into an inspiring Sh100 million plus annual budget initiative

to deserving students, hence alleviating the burden of educational expenses.

The Governor Mohamud Ali expressed deep pride in the progress of the Marsabit County Scholarship Fund noting the stellar performances posted by the first cohort. One remarkable example is Dida Roba Karayu, who achieved an outstanding A plain with 81 points, making waves across the country and he has already been admitted to study Medicine in the ongoing university entry selection exercise.

A Grateful Salute

Speaking during the commissioning of 2023 cohort, Governor Ali expressed heartfelt gratitude to all those who contributed to the success of this noble program. From the Fund’s management and selection committee to the county’s ministry of education leadership, County Assembly Members, and other education stakeholders, their collective efforts have paved the way for transformative impact in the lives of the youth.

A Promising Future

As the Marsabit County Scholarship Fund celebrated its fifth year, it stands as a testament to the power of education and the unyielding spirit of Marsabit County Government under stewardship of Governor Ali’s determination to uplift its future generations. With each passing year, the Fund continues to illuminate the path for young minds, guiding them towards excellence and prosperity.



Featured: The top student of County’s scholarship first cohort is honoured by CS Ezekiel Machogu and Governor Mohamud Ali



Featured: 2023 Scholarship beneficiaries

Marsabit County Enhances Transport Mobility for Its People through Improved Road and Transport Infrastructure

Marsabit County has made significant strides in enhancing transport mobility for its residents. The County's Department of Roads has achieved considerable success through its comprehensive program of developing new roads, and upgrading, rehabilitating, and maintaining existing ones across the four sub-counties.

In line with Governor Mohamud Ali's manifesto, the department has since 2017 paved 6.6 kilometers of new tarmac roads and opened up 505 kilometers of roads through extensive bush clearing and removal of other obstacles. Additionally, 576 kilometers of roads have been upgraded through graveling, and 1,778 kilometers have been properly graded.

Over the past five years, Marsabit County has witnessed remarkable improvements in its road network, leading to increased accessibility to the region.

In Moyale, the laying of tarmac road from Manyatta Burji to Hellu is complete while the Butiye to Sessi is more than 90 percent complete, easing movement of people, goods and services.

To ensure the longevity of the existing road infrastructure, the department has placed a strong emphasis on road drainage slabs and drifts, covering over 8,803 meters. In Marsabit town, the county has covered with permanent slabs the open drainage system, therefore creating more walking and parking spaces. This has improved safety for pedestrians and contributed to an improved business environment.

To further improve the safety for



The ongoing tarmac of Butiye-Sessi road in Moyale

pedestrians, five new footbridges have been constructed across the county to enhance pedestrian safety and 280 new culverts to maximize effective drainage along the roads.

The Public Works officers at the department have intensified its monitoring and evaluation efforts in the design, documentation, and supervision of various building

projects within the County. Through collaboration with other departments, the Public Works Sector has overseen essential developments in key installations across Moyale, North Horr, Saku, and Laisamis Sub-Counties. The department has supervised over 800 projects being implemented by the county government various departments.

Marsabit County's relentless efforts

in improving road and transport infrastructure, along with the development of essential public works, have significantly contributed to enhancing mobility and accessibility for its residents. These initiatives are a testament to the county's commitment to progress and improving the lives of its people.

6.6 km Kilometers of new tarmac roads paved since 2017	505 km Kilometers of roads opened up through extensive bush clearing and removal of other obstacles.	576 km Kilometers of roads that have been upgraded through graveling	1,778 km kilometers of road that have been properly graded.
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The construction of Hellu road. The construction has been completed

Section of road in Mt Kulal. The road was constructed in partnership with lake Turkana Wind Power





Boost in fish production as county up's investment in the Fisheries sector



Marsabit County's fisheries sub-sector continues to thrive, achieving impressive milestones in fish production underlined by massive investment in the sector by the County Government of Marsabit.

The County, in 2022 recorded an outstanding production of over 1,587 metric tonnes of fish, marking a remarkable 30

per cent increase from the previous year. This upswing in production underscores the county's commitment to sustainable practices and responsible fisheries management.

The Fisheries department has constructed an ultra-modern fish processing factory in Loiyangalani. This flagship initiative aims to catalyze the commercialization of the fish sector in the county, bolstering the local economy, and creating numerous opportunities for residents.

The state-of-the-art facility will significantly enhance fish processing capabilities, ensuring higher-quality products for local consumption and export markets. Moreover, the factory will spur job creation, empowering the local workforce and driving economic growth in the region.

The sector boasts of diverse array of fish types, making it a significant hub for fish enthusiasts and food lovers. Among the commonly found fish species are Tila-

pia, Labeo, Allestes, Mud fish, and Lates Niloticus, ensuring a bountiful supply to meet the local demand and export to other counties.

Recognizing the significance of proper storage facilities in preserving fish quality, Marsabit County has invested in two cold rooms, one in Loiyangalani and the other in Illeret and ten solar-powered refrigerated containers. These modern facilities play a pivotal role in reducing post-harvest losses and extending the shelf life of the catch, further incentivizing local fishers to adopt sustainable fishing practices.

The county continues to grow the capacity of its surveillance team and support team; equipped with rescue and

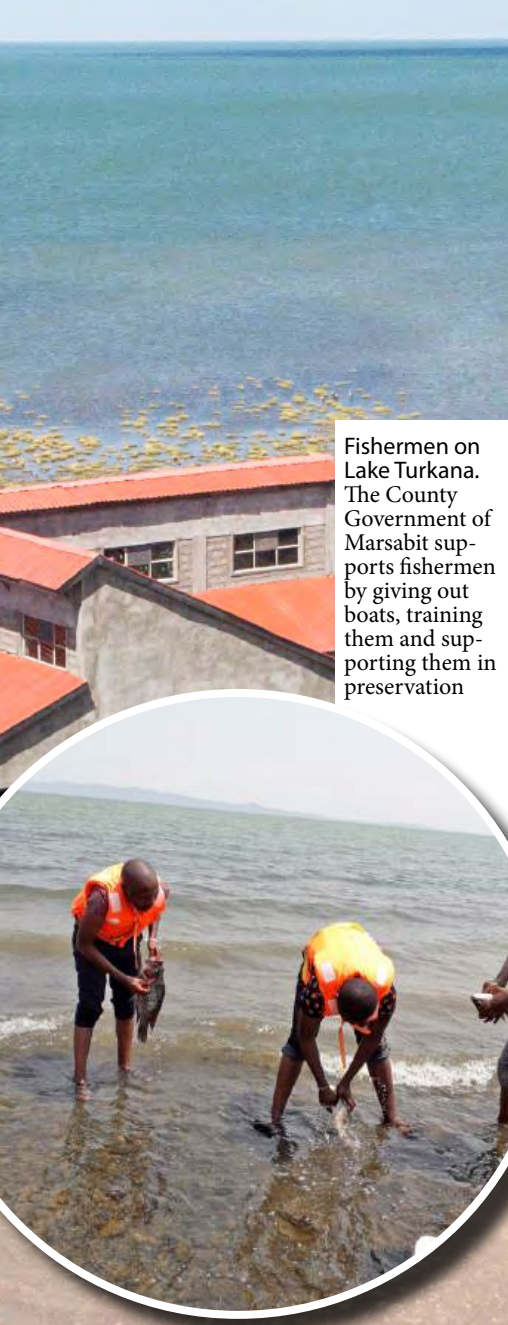
patrol boats and seventeen motorized fishing boats, the department ensures the safety and efficiency of fishing operations. These investments underscore the county's commitment to fostering a thriving fisheries sector.

The county has taken substantial strides in enhancing fish value chains to maximize the economic benefits for the local communities. The establishment of three cooperatives, two in Loiyangalani and one in Illeret, fosters collaboration among fishers, processors, and traders. These cooperatives play a crucial role in streamlining the supply chain and promoting fair trade practices.

Further, The county's fishing community operate through the Beach Manage-

ment Units (BMUs). There are currently 10 BMUs. This organized approach enables the fishing community to work together in managing fishing activities responsibly, preserving aquatic resources, and ensuring sustainable practices.

As the Marsabit County Fisheries Department continues to steer the fisheries sub-sector towards prosperity, it remains committed to its vision of sustainable resource management, economic growth, and community empowerment. With its dedication to responsible fishing practices, conservation, and innovative strategies, Marsabit County's fisheries sub-sector is poised to secure a vibrant and sustainable future for generations to come.



Fishermen on Lake Turkana. The County Government of Marsabit supports fishermen by giving out boats, training them and supporting them in preservation



Empowering Communities Through Land Ownership

Governor Ali issuing title deed to residents



Under the leadership of Governor Mohamud Ali, the Marsabit County Government has embarked on a mission to ensure equitable access, secure tenure, and the sustainable management of land-based resources.

With a keen focus on efficient land administration and well-planned urban centers, the Department of Land has become a beacon of progress, facilitating a process that empowers residents and enhances the future of the county.

Under the visionary leadership of Governor Mohamud Ali, Marsabit County is committing to creating wealth and empowering its people through sustainable land practices.

Over the past six years, the Department of Land has been instrumental in streamlining the land ownership process. Guided by a commitment to transparency and accountability, they have completed key ad-

judication projects that have resulted in the issuance of hundreds of title deeds to rightful landowners.

One noteworthy achievement is the successful completion of the adjudication process in Sangate 1 and Karare, located within the Saku Constituency. This accomplishment has not only solidified land ownership but has also provided 1350 title deeds to the residents of Sangate 1 and 750 title deeds to the people of Karare.

As the department continues to make significant strides, their efforts are far from slowing down. In Badassa I, the adjudication process is in full swing, with approximately 1200 parcels of land set to benefit from the process. The Hulahula Adjudication section has also made significant progress, with the demarcation and survey of around 200 parcels.

In a bid to integrate urban planning into the development narrative, the Department of Land has partnered with the National Land Commission to complete part

development plans (PDPs) for public utilities. These plans cover 45 public schools and health facilities within four wards of Marsabit County. The planning process for various centers within the county has also been a priority, with completed and validated plans for Merille, Sessi, Lami, Sololo makutano, Upper Technical, Logologo, and Uran.

One of the Department of Land's proudest achievements is the establishment of a fully equipped and operational Geographic Information Systems (GIS) laboratory. In collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), this lab, situated in the Lands Office in Marsabit, is a testament to the county's commitment to embracing modern technology for efficient land management.

Marsabit County's journey towards empowering its people through land ownership has been marked by dedication, innovation, and a resolute commitment to progress.



Relief distribution exercise

Humanity Prevails: Marsabit County's Inspiring Response to Consecutive Rain Failures, Saving Lives Through Water Trucking and Relief Food

Five successive rain failures had devastating effect on the environment and impact on the livestock industry was particularly devastating, with close to Sh10 billion worth of livestock lost in Marsabit County according to the data by the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA).

The few herders trying to salvage their herd faced significant challenge as the price of animals in the market reduced by more than 50 per cent. Additionally, following the total crop failure, food prices increased by more than 60 per cent, making it out of reach for most residents. At least 309,000 residents were rendered food insecure.

The worsening situation forced the County Steering Group (CSG) chaired by Governor Mohamud Ali to consider the drought as emergency. The county Government suspended development programs as it focused on saving lives through distribution of relief food and trucking water to the affected residents.

“The prolonged drought caused by the failure of five successive rainy seasons, coupled with the effects of locust invasions and

the Covid-19 pandemic, have taken a severe toll on the already distressed residents in the region,” said Governor Mohamud Ali, at the time.

According to the data by NDMA 122,780 cattle, 535,972 goats, 511,054 sheep, and 82,841 camels perished in Marsabit County between October 2022 to January 2023 alone.

The next months saw the county Government distribute rounds of relief food targeting most vulnerable households in all 20 wards. Each round of the distributions comprised rice and cooking oil benefiting 20,000 households across the county and 1,000 households in each ward with each beneficiary receiving 25 kgs of rice and two litres of cooking oil.



Relief food distribution exercise in Dirib Gombo

The number of people severely affected by drought was identified by village elders. The county Government worked with other partners to cushion the residents against hunger.

Governor Mohamud Ali, further up-scaled the education scholarship program to Sh143 million and admitted all the qualified students from humble background in recognition of the hardship that the parents were facing.

“At the long term, with the total disruption of livelihood, the affected families require affirmative programs to restore them to sustainable livelihood programs. Pastoralism in the manner we are used to know might never be sustainable again. Reliance on rainfed farming might never be feasible going forward,” said Governor Mohamud Ali,

Governor Mohamud Ali noted that the climate change has brought livelihood disruption and there is need to look for the best way to adapt, emphasizing the need for short- and long-term interventions.

To actualize this commitment, the county government in partnership with other stakeholders are working to make irrigation reality.

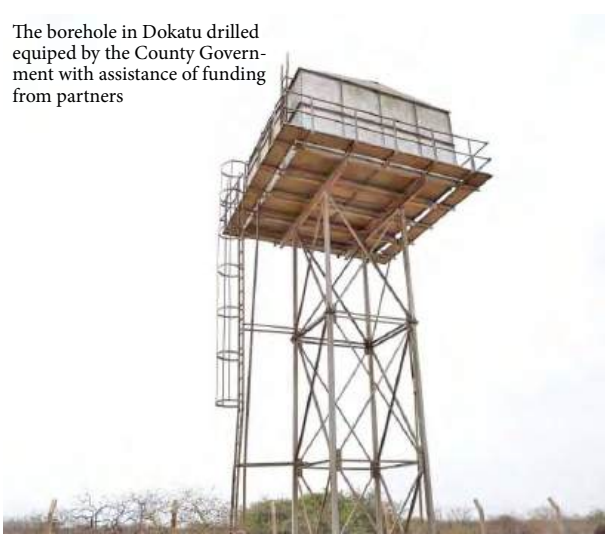


Governor Mohamud Ali with other Governors and leaders of Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC). Governor Ali is the current FCDC Chair



Burji dancers entertain during a public event

The borehole in Dokatu drilled equipped by the County Government with assistance of funding from partners



NorthHorr school bus handing over ceremony. The bus was a promise to school by Governor Ali. It was one of the several High schools that had received the buses.



Galgallo Muse Ganalle is sworn in as CEO County Public Service Board



The Chair Public Service Board Ambrose Hargura speaks during the swearing-in ceremony of the County Chief Officers



Sololo Level IV Hospital, a flagship project of Governor Mohamud Ali, is almost complete.

Deepening Cohesion

The peace meetings between Borana and Gabra communities brought together officials from Kenya and Ethiopia



Attendees follow proceedings in Dillo Southern Ethiopia during the Boran-Gabra Peace meeting



An elder speaks in Dillo Southern Ethiopia during the Boran-Gabra Peace meeting



Mzee Doyo Galgallo, a Boran Council of elder speaks in Dillo Southern Ethiopia during the Boran-Gabra Peace meeting



Tache Elema, Marsabit County Chief Officer Cohesion and Patner Cordination speaks in Dillo Southern Ethiopia during the Boran-Gabra Peace meeting



The Marsabit-Lake Turkana Cultural Festival

The Marsabit-Lake Turkana Cultural Festival will take place from the 22nd to 26th of November, 2023 in Loyalgalani town. This year's event is organized by the County Government of Marsabit with support from the other partners like Local Community Festival Committee, Kenya Tourism Board, National Museums of Kenya and Kenya Wildlife Service.

It is here where the 14 ethnic communities which live in Marsabit County: El Molo, Rendille, Samburu, Turkana, Dassanatch, Gabra, Borana, Konso, Sakuye, Garee, Waata, Burji and Somali demonstrate through song and dance their unique differences and traditions. In this remote and forgotten region; we are also made aware of the challenges faced by these minority tribes which include drought, environmental challenges, poor infrastructure and wrangling amongst each other.

Interesting Facts About Marsabit

Marsabit County is located in northern Kenya and is known for its unique geographical features, cultural diversity, and historical significance. Here are some interesting facts about Marsabit County:

Largest County in Kenya:

Marsabit County is the largest county in Kenya, covering a vast area of about 66,000 square kilometers. Its size is comparable to that of some small countries.

Varied Landscape:

The county's landscape is quite diverse, ranging from lush forested areas to arid desert regions. It includes the Chalbi Desert, which is a large sand desert characterized by its shifting dunes.

Lake Paradise:

Marsabit County is home to Lake Turkana, also known as the "Jade Sea." It is the largest desert lake in the world and is known for its breathtaking beauty.

Cultural Diversity: The county is inhabited by various ethnic groups, including the Borana, Gabra, Rendille, Samburu, and Turkana communities, among others. This diversity is reflected in the languages spoken, traditional practices, and ways of life.

Marsabit Mountain:

The county is home to Marsabit Mountain, an extinct

volcano and the highest mountain in Kenya's northern region. The mountain is a significant landmark and is often surrounded by mist, creating a mystical appearance.

Cultural Events:

Marsabit County hosts various cultural events that showcase the traditions and practices of the local communities. These events include dances, songs, and ceremonies that celebrate their heritage.

Wildlife and Conservation:

The county is home to a variety of wildlife, including elephants, lions, Grevy's zebras, and various bird species. The Marsabit National Park and Reserve are vital for the conservation of these animals.

Astronomical Significance:

Marsabit County's clear skies and low light pollution make it an ideal location for stargazing and astronomical observation. It has the potential to become a hub for astronomy-related activities.

Trading Hub:

The town of Marsabit serves as a trading center for the surrounding communities. It's a meeting point for various ethnic groups to exchange goods and services.

Historical Significance:

The county has historical significance, with ancient trading routes and caravans passing through the area. These routes connected various regions of East Africa and contributed to the exchange of goods and cultures.

Nomadic Lifestyle:

Many communities in Marsabit County have traditionally practiced nomadic pastoralism, moving their livestock herds in search of water and grazing land. This lifestyle has shaped their culture and traditions.

Renewable Energy:

The county has been exploring renewable energy sources like wind and solar power due to its ample natural resources in these areas. This could contribute to both local development and Kenya's renewable energy goals.

These are just a few of the fascinating aspects of Marsabit County. Its rich blend of cultures, stunning landscapes, and historical importance make it a unique and noteworthy region in Kenya.

The County Government of Marsabit

*Welcomes you
to*



The Marsabit - Lake Turkana Cultural

Festival

22nd to 26th of November, 2023 in Loyangalani town