



**REMARKS MADE BY ABC BANK GROUP MANAGING DIRECTOR MR. SHAMAZ SAVANI DURING THE ABC BANK BARINGO HALF MARATHON ON 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2014, KABARNET TOWN, BARINGO COUNTY**

---

**Our Chief Guest, the Cabinet Secretary for Sports, Culture and Art Doctor Hassan Wario**

**The Baringo County Governor, His Excellency. Benjamin Cheboi,**

**County Governors from Uasin Gishu, Nandi, Elgeyo Marakwet, Nakuru, and Kericho**

**Baringo County Ministers present,**

**Athletics Kenya President Mr. Isaiah Kiplagat and other Athletics Kenya officials present,**

**Patron of the ABC Bank Baringo Half Marathon, Ambassador Paul Tergat**

**Our partners and sponsors,**

**The Kenya Secondary Schools Sports Association National Chairman Mr. Kimutai Ng'etich**

**Ethiopian athletes led by Ethiopian Athletics Federation official Kebede Yohanne**

**Kenyan elite athletes present**

**Members of the Media,**

**My colleagues at ABC Group,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good afternoon to you all. I am very excited that the event has been a success, and I hope you all have had as much fun as I have. I want to really thank you all for turning up and for participating in today's event.

I also want congratulate all those who have ran the race. It takes a great deal of courage and endurance to run a race. You have bravely tackled the tough route and endured the elements. You have run, not against your fellow athletes or time, but against the distance. That makes us all winners. You are all winners! Please let us give a round of applause to all the participants!

Let me take this opportunity to thank our Chief Guest, the Cabinet Secretary for Sports, Culture and Art, Doctor Hassan Wario for accepting our invitation. We are glad you could join us for this important sporting event. We appreciate the support of your ministry for this marathon, whose theme is 'Developing Athletic Talent'.

I wish to also thank all our partners, without whom this event would not have been a success. I am particularly grateful to The Baringo County Governor, His Excellency Benjamin Cheboi and his government, and the local organizing committee of Athletics Kenya for joining hands with us in this endeavor.

Our partner, the Paul Tergat Foundation and my good friend Paul Tergat, we are very appreciative of your foresight in initiating this great marathon, which has become a launching pad for many budding athletes.

I am also grateful to our sponsors- Airtel, AIC Cure International Hospital, Delight Cabs, Kabarak University, Panthera Publishers, Sedco Consultants for your support, which has made this year's event a success.

I thank the committees that have worked tirelessly since May this year, giving their time and resources to ensure we have a great event. I also thank the ABC Bank staff for their efforts in coordinating the planning of this year's marathon.

I cannot forget the people of Baringo and adjacent counties for your goodwill extended to us over the years we have been part of this marathon. You have unreservedly embraced and supported us, and we indeed feel part of you.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The ABC Bank Baringo Half Marathon has indeed come of age. Over the two years that we have been title sponsor, we have seen it grow in leaps and bounds in many ways. We have seen young talented athletes discovered and nurtured and are on their way to living their dreams of becoming world champions.

During last year's marathon, we picked twelve youths who performed exceptionally well and put them under our unique athletes' development program. We placed them in various training camps under dedicated professional coaches to prepare them to participate in various local and international events, and to become champions. To help them become all round individuals and to lead successful lives off the track, we are also offering them life skills training in public speaking, success management, handling media interviews, managing sponsorship contracts, personal finance and investments.

Indeed some of them have participated in local and international events and performed well. For example, in August this year, Alfred Barkach clinched the gold medal in the

10,000 meters race in the East African Secondary Schools Games in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Others have taken part in international events in India, Japan, Morocco, and other countries, and they have gained valuable exposure which makes them even more prepared for bigger challenges.

Encouraged by this wealth of athletics potential resident in Baringo and neighboring counties, we will make further investment in our Athletics Development Program. As we flagged off today's marathon, our professional athletics judges were on the lookout for talented young athletes who will soon join our Athletes' Development Program.

Since we started the program, it has been a learning experience. It has not been easy but it is our commitment to further refine our model for developing and managing athletes to yield even better results in future.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Besides sports, ABC Bank is also interested in seeing the residents of this area unleash their economic potential. We are keen on Public Private Partnerships to alleviate capacity constraints and bottlenecks in the county economy.

We are also interested in collaborating with other investment partners to unlock the county's potential by aligning our strategy to address some of the needs, especially financial inclusion and access.

**Finally, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As we depart from here today, we will take with us the memorable moments we have all shared and will every other day be looking forward to meet here again next year. I wish you safe travel back to your homes and enjoy the beauty of Baringo, and don't forget to take some goat meat with you!

Thank you!