

**REMARKS BY THE BARINGO COUNTY GOVERNOR, H.E BENJAMIN CHEBOI
DURING THE BARINGO HALF MARATHON 2014 ON 1st NOVEMBER, 2014**

The Cabinet Secretary for Sports, Culture and Arts, Dr. Hassan Wario

ABC Bank Group Managing Director Mr. Shamaz Savani,

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

Baringo County Ministers and Executive Officers present,

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

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

Sponsors and partners

Ethiopian athletes led by Ethiopian Athletics Federation Official Kelil Mesfin

Kenyan elite athletes present,

Members of the media,

Other invited guests.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to join you all today for this year's edition of the ABC Bank Baringo Half Marathon. I have once again witnessed our people, young and old, men and women, put their energies to the races, both the 21 kilometers and the 6 kilometers. I salute you all for putting all your energies to the marathon.

Allow me to thank the sponsors, ABC Bank, and partners, the Paul Tergat Foundation for organizing this great marathon. Indeed you have become part of this county by investing in one of the things they treasure most- athletics.

I wish to congratulate all the winners in today's marathon. You have confirmed once again that indeed whatever we put our minds on we can achieve. In the same breath, I also congratulate all those who took part in the races for we are winners.

The marathon, whose theme is 'Developing Athletic Talent', is aimed at identifying and nurturing young and promising athletes. This is in line with my agenda for the youth in this county- to help them realize their full potential and to become self-reliant.

The ABC Bank Baringo Half Marathon has also become a great unifying platform, drawing people from far and wide. When we come together we share in the joy and triumphs of our lives; we share who we are and through this we become a more united and stronger people.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me take this opportunity to invite you all to take time to enjoy the beauty of our county and the hospitality of our people. Baringo County is endowed with many species of flora and fauna, attractive natural features.

Baringo County also produces some of the most tender and juiciest goat meat. You actually cannot say you have been to Baringo if you have not sampled our mbuzi choma. We also have the best natural honey and fruits. Please make sure to take some of Baringo sweetness home. By so doing you will also be supporting our business people. Do not deny yourself!

And to the astute entrepreneurs, Baringo County has no shortage of investment opportunities. Ranging from agribusiness to hospitality to financial services, among many others, you are welcome to engage us and get proper guidance on where to put your money. You will enjoy good returns and while at it, create employment for more of our youth and therefore become part of the Baringo County success story.

We have created an enabling environment and strengthened our security system to assure you of safety of your investment. We are also investing in improving our infrastructure especially roads to facilitate easy movement of goods and people within the county and across to other counties.

We look forward to engaging you on areas of collaboration in line with your business interests.

Finally,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I once again invite you to tour our wonderful, scenic county and a safe journey on your way back to your homes.

Thank you.