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KENYAN LEADERS' DEVELOPMENT RECORD

ISSUE NO. 010

Ali Roba's development record as Mandera Senator since 2022



ALI ROBA PROFILE

Hon. Ali Ibrahim Roba Senator for Mandera County



Captain Ali Ibrahim Roba is the current Senator of Mandera County. Before being elected to the Senate in the 2022 elections, he was the Governor of Mandera County.

He holds both undergraduate and postgraduate degrees from the University of Nairobi, specialising in Marketing and Strategic Management, respectively.

He has also undertaken various professional and technical courses at several institutions, including Kenya Utalii College, Delta Qualiflight School of Aviation in Fort Worth, Texas, and the Kenya School of Flying, among others.

Senator Roba is a qualified pilot holding an Airline Transport Pilot Licence (ATPL). He is also a flight instructor and examiner, and serves as a Kenya Civil Aviation Authority (KCAA)-approved Instrument Rating Examiner.

In addition, he is a Training and Check Pilot as well as a Ground Instructor in various aviation-related subjects.

Between 2002 and 2012, Roba worked for the multinational company DAC Aviation International, where he rose through the ranks from Co-Pilot in 2002 to Director of Flight Operations (DFO). In his capacity as DFO, he was responsible for overseeing the company's core flight operations across more than nine countries.

In early 2008, he was appointed Chief Pilot, a position in which he made a significant contribution to the overall compliance standards of DAC Aviation (EA) Ltd. He played an instrumental role in helping the company achieve an 'A' rating in systems and operational audits conducted by DAC Aviation International.

DAC Aviation specialises in turnkey aviation contracts, particularly in

humanitarian relief operations. Its key clients have included the World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS), European Union, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Tullow Oil, Shell International and Petrol Energy International, among others.

Capt. Roba also played a key role in restructuring the Flight Operations Department and strengthening the efficiency of operational control functions, helping raise the department's performance to highly regarded levels within Kenya's general aviation industry.

He has undertaken more than 10 years of extensive management training and brings over 24 years of professional work experience, the majority of which has been in senior management positions.

Ali Roba's hand in how Equalisation Fund catalyses development in 34 marginalised regions

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Kenya can only realise people-centric and inclusive growth when all citizens have access to infrastructure that can catalyse social and economic development.

The establishment of the Equalisation Fund alongside legal and administrative structures to manage it is a big plus for the country and a key enabler of the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) that is intended to graduate Kenya's status from lower-middle-income country to upper-middle-income status.

Mandera Senator Ali Roba, through his contribution to the Equalisation Fund (Administration) Bill, 2023 the government's agenda is well on course. Since his entry to the Senate in 2022, Senator Roba has provided legislative and oversight support crucial in the growth agenda.

As the sponsor of the Bill, the Mandera senator helped to establish the Equalisation Fund Advisory Board to issue money out of the Fund and its application towards certain public basic services.

The Equalization Fund (EF) was established under Article 204 (1) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010

which requires that one half percent (0.5%) of all the revenue collected by the National Government each year, calculated based on the most recent audited revenue received, as approved by the National Assembly, to be paid into the Fund.

Article 204 (2) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 provides that the national government shall use the fund only to provide basic services including water, roads, health facilities and electricity to marginalized areas to the extent necessary to bring the quality of those services in those areas to the level generally enjoyed by the rest of the nation, as far as possible.

By June 2025, the Fund received

Ksh15.9 billion. Under the Second Marginalisation Policy, 1,556 projects worth Ksh9.76 billion had been approved across 34 counties, with 327 projects completed within that period. About Ksh3.5 billion had been paid against the approved projects.

The Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA) expanded the number of counties benefiting from the Equalisation Fund from the initial 14 to 34 counties.

Instead of looking at entire counties, the government now uses a granular approach to target 1,424 specific impoverished sub-locations and wards within these 34 regions. These regions were the



Senator Ali Roba arrives for a past event in Mndera. PHOTO | Ali Roba.

Continued from page 3 →

first to benefit from the fund due to severe historical development gaps and a high poverty index.

The original 14 arid and semi-arid counties were Turkana (receives the highest individual share, recently allocated Sh1.86 billion) and West Pokot are the biggest beneficiaries. Others are Mandera, Wajir, Marsabit, Garissa, Samburu, Isiolo, Tana River, Narok, Kwale, Kilifi, Taita-Taveta and Lamu.

The 20 added counties (Specific Pocket Marginalisation), which generally have better infrastructure but contain hidden “pockets of extreme poverty” and neglected wards that now receive dedicated funding are Baringo, Nakuru, Nandi, Kericho, Bomet, and Trans Nzoia in Rift Valley Region; Busia, Bungoma, Kakamega, Migori, Homa Bay, Kisumu, and Siaya in Western & Nyanza regions; Kitui, Meru, Tharaka-Nithi, Machakos, Laikipia, and Murang’a in Eastern & Central

regions; Coast and Kajiado (South Rift transition zone) regions.

Senator Roba’s legislative intervention helped create the framework for implementation. Senator Roba, on May 6, 2026, through the Equalisation Fund Appropriation Bill, 2025, sought to extend the Fund’s tenure by another 10 years.

Senator Roba also sought to give the Fund’s Board a stronger legal and institutional position instead of leaving it as a department within the National Treasury.

The proposed extension was intended to prevent the Fund from expiring before marginalised communities had received the services. Greater institutional independence was intended to improve the Fund’s ability to manage and release resources.

Since its establishment, the National Treasury allocated Ksh 10.25 billion to the Equalisation Fund for the 2026/2027 financial

year. In 2023/2024 and 2024/2025, the Treasury allocated the agency Ksh 10.30 billion and Ksh 10.33 billion, respectively.

Senator Roba advocated for the Fund’s continuation, legal protection and financing through parliament. In mid-2026, Senator Roba successfully led his committee to adopt and recommend the passage of the Equalisation Fund Appropriation Bill. Senator Roba’s leadership directly unlocked Ksh16.8 billion, targeted at 1,424 marginalized sub-locations spread across 34 counties. For his home region, Roba confirmed that the draft bill earmarked Ksh747.59 million specifically for the six constituencies of Mandera County to fast-track development.

The bill officially gives the government permission to spend billions of shillings that were stuck at the National Treasury. The money cannot be spent on just anything. It is strictly ring-fenced

to build four essential things that these communities lack: clean water (digging boreholes and building water pipes); good roads (connecting remote villages to markets and hospitals); healthcare (building and equipping local dispensaries and clinics); and electricity (connecting schools, markets, and homes to the power grid).

To spend this money, the Equalisation Fund Advisory Board requires these counties to submit project proposals restricted strictly to the four critical services. These projects have helped to improve the quality of life for the residents.

Senator Roba has been a vocal critic of the executive’s historical delays in disbursing funds. He fiercely pokes holes in the bureaucratic bottlenecks tying the fund to the National Treasury. Senator Roba pointed out that while the constitution guarantees 0.5% of audited national revenues to the fund, accumulated arrears have climbed to over Ksh62 billion.

The Senator has publicly called out successive regimes for being “committed in word but not in action”, noting that the fund is often treated as the easiest target for budget cuts. To fix this, Roba has strongly advocated for the complete administrative and operational independence of the Equalisation Fund Advisory Board.

Under Senator Roba’s direction, the Senate Finance Committee is pushing for a dramatic paradigm shift in how the funds are utilized. During consultative reviews with the Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA), Senator Roba insisted that future distributions must focus on large-scale, high-impact capital infrastructure rather than small community micro-projects that do not stand the test of time.

The Senator argues that major, ring-fenced investments are the only way to leave a permanent footprint and permanently break the cycle of organized regional poverty in Kenya.



Senator Ali Roba at a past event. PHOTO | Ali Roba.



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With the advent of devolution, significant investment in the health sector has been crucial in boosting economic productivity, social growth and human capital development across the 47 regional governments.

Mandera Senator Ali Roba has avidly championed for strengthening of the sector through his legislative, oversight role since his entry into the senate four years ago. The Senator is shaping legislation, scrutinise public spending and advocating for county financing.

Senator Roba is the immediate former governor of Mandera, where his administration oversaw the expansion and rehabilitation of health infrastructure, recruitment of medical staff, acquisition of ambulances and introduction of specialised services, including dialysis.

Mandera's health needs are closely linked to the wider difficulties facing northern Kenya. A Senate Health Committee oversight mission to Mandera, Wajir and Marsabit counties last year highlighted persistent weaknesses in the region's healthcare systems. The concerns included medicine shortages, inadequate staffing, obsolete equipment, dilapidated infrastructure and poor financial management.

During the tour, Senate committees examined the performance of county health systems and engaged county governments and county assembly health committees.

A Senate committee report issued in February 2026 acknowledged the support provided by Senator Roba during the visit.

He facilitated parliamentary scrutiny of how county systems are functioning and how public resources are being utilised. As the committee chairman, he oversaw the formulation of findings and recommendations to influence policy.



Mandera Senator Ali Roba. PHOTO | Ali Roba.

Ali Roba champions investment in healthcare, promotes socio-economic growth

The findings demonstrated that constructing health facilities is only one part of improving healthcare. Hospitals and health centres also require reliable supplies, qualified personnel, functional equipment, maintenance and predictable funding.

Senator Roba chairs the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Budget, a position that gives him influence over matters affecting county governments, especially healthcare.

In February 2024, the committee held discussions on the Budget Policy Statement, the Medium-Term Debt Management Strategy and the Medium-Term Revenue Strategy. The Council of Governors used the engagement to urge the Senate to protect and strengthen devolution. Although the discussions were not limited to healthcare, their

consequences extend directly to the sector.

County governments manage most frontline health services, including county referral hospitals, health centres, dispensaries, primary healthcare programmes and the health workforce.

The funds counties receive from the national government affect their ability to purchase medicines, maintain facilities, employ workers and provide emergency care.

For Mandera, the findings placed local health problems within a broader national debate about financing services in remote and marginalized counties. Mandera's size, distance from major urban centres, insecurity and dispersed population make healthcare delivery expensive and difficult. A facility may exist, but its effectiveness depends on whether

patients can reach it, whether medicines are available and whether trained health workers are present. These conditions make parliamentary oversight and equitable financing particularly important.

The legislator's approach to healthcare has therefore extended beyond medical policy. He has treated it as a question of public finance, devolution and equitable access to national resources.

His first term as a senator has coincided with major changes to Kenya's health financing system. Parliament approved the laws creating the Social Health Insurance Fund and frameworks for its implementation. The reform has particular significance to Mandera and other remote counties.

Social Health Insurance Fund

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(SHIF), managed by the Social Health Authority (SHA), marks a historic shift for marginalized and remote areas like Mandera, Wajir, Garissa, and Turkana counties.

The introduction of Kenya's Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF), managed by the Social Health Authority (SHA), marks a historic shift for marginalized and remote areas like Mandera, Wajir, Garissa, and Turkana counties. SHIF represents the biggest shake-up to the country's healthcare financing structure in over 50 years.

Historically, these northern and pastoralist regions suffered from severe healthcare underfunding, poor infrastructure, and low insurance penetration. The transition from the old National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) to SHIF fundamentally shifts the

approach to healthcare delivery in these underserved environments.

SHA has disbursed massive sums to Northern Kenya, including KSh 4 billion shillings to Mandera, KSh 3.5 billion to Garissa, and KSh 1.3 billion to Wajir.

The reform boosted Primary and Emergency Care in remote areas, which seldom have large referral hospitals nearby, forcing residents to travel hundreds of kilometers for basic care. SHIF tackles this through specialized sub-funds.

Additionally, through the Emergency, Chronic and Critical Illness Fund (ECCIF), patients in remote areas are entitled to free emergency stabilization and ambulance services for the first 24 hours of an emergency, regardless of their financial status.

Historically, doctors and

specialists refused to work in remote counties due to dilapidated facilities and delayed salaries. The massive cash injections from SHIF have empowered counties to change this. For instance, Mandera County has successfully built or upgraded 39 health facilities to expand medical outreach, recruited over 460 new healthcare workers, including 12 rare medical specialists, and spent over one billion shillings on medical supplies and vital drugs.

Because specialists are scarce in remote borders, SHIF is heavily integrated with the National Digital Health Act. The new infrastructure explicitly supports telemedicine consultations. Local nurses in a village dispensary in Mandera can securely share digital patient files with specialists in Nairobi

to receive accurate diagnostic assistance without requiring the patient to travel.

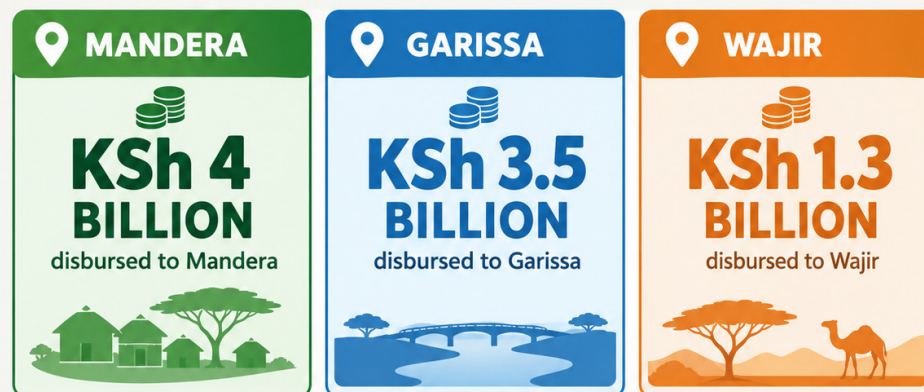
Through the healthcare reforms, households with little or no reliable income can have their SHIF contributions covered entirely by the government. The subsidy is intended to ensure that financial hardship does not prevent vulnerable families from accessing essential and potentially life-saving healthcare services.

The new SHIF arrangement provides broader family coverage than the former NHIF system, which limited benefits to a specified number of dependants. Under SHIF, all biological children can be included, making the change particularly important for families in counties such as Mandera, where larger households are common.



SHA HAS DISBURSED MASSIVE SUMS TO NORTHERN KENYA

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Stronger communities.



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-  Healthier families
-  A stronger, more resilient Northern Kenya

The Senator of
Mandera Ali Roba.
PHOTO | Ali Roba.



Mandera Senator Ali Roba. PHOTO | Ali Roba.

Senator Roba's support for youth-responsive projects boosts residents' welfare

Report ID: MB-2026-09-00053-A2 |
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The roll-out and adequate implementation of youth-responsive initiatives through technology has become an important development concern in Mandera, where geographical distance, limited formal employment and infrastructure challenges restrict opportunities for many residents.

Jitume Digital Laboratory lands at the top of the list. President William Ruto commissioned a Jitume Digital Laboratory at Mandera Technical Training Institute on 4 February 2025, with Mandera Senator Ali Roba participating. Jitume lab is an

initiative by the Konza technopolis in partnership with the Kenya government and ICT authority aimed at providing the youth with access to digital services, digital skills, and opportunities to enable them to take advantage of technology for job creation.

Jitume centres are intended to provide computers, digital services, training and access to technology-related opportunities. The laboratory could help connect Mandera's young people to Kenya's expanding digital economy and reduce the disadvantages created by the county's distance from major employment centres.

The primary purpose of the Laboratory is to train youth in

digital skills and connect them to online jobs. It acts as a digital hub to bridge the technology gap and create employment in the region. Students can work on online writing, data analytics, or virtual assistance tasks at the lab during their free time, helping them earn money while they complete their physical certificates.

It is helping to increase computer literacy, facilitating digital research, access to critical government services government services and digital financial services.

The facility is also complementing traditional technical and vocational education by adding a digital layer to physical skills. It ensures that technical trainees do not just

graduate with manual or trade skills, but are also digitally literate and ready for the modern freelance economy. Students training in construction, mechanics, agriculture, among other fields, are using digital tools for research, marketing, record-keeping and communication.

The Lab complements TVET learning by blending hands-on trades with technology. Trainees in plumbing, electrical engineering, or mechanical work learn to use digital software, automated systems, and diagnostic tools related to their industries.

Secondly, it is adding business and freelance skills whereby a student learning a trade like tailoring or carpentry can use the lab to learn digital marketing, open an e-commerce shop, or find international clients.

Thirdly, it is boosting access to online learning resources by enabling trainees to use the virtual desktops and high-speed internet to do research, watch technical tutorials, and complete engineering assignments.

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The programme successfully trained over
17,250
local CDCs. Together, they helped over 600,000 citizens (including over 84,000 in Mandera County alone) build digital skills and confidence before its close-out in May 2025.

Trainees achieved an average income increase of
35%
for local youth, dozens of small businesses were helped to set up an online presence, and entrepreneurs were guided in starting new digital agribusiness ventures.

In addition to their government TVET diplomas, students earn globally recognized ICT certificates through partnerships with Konza Technopolis and tech trainers.

The establishment of the facility is part of the government's efforts to improve the welfare of the residents through the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

Senator Roba has been a vocal supporter of the Jitume Digital Laboratory. The Senator views the hub as a crucial step toward ending the historical marginalization of Northern Kenya and empowering

local youth. Senator Roba highly praised President William Ruto for traveling to Mandera to personally commission the Jitume lab which he considers a Milestone for Equity and inclusivity.

He noted that bringing such advanced digital programs to Mandera sends a strong message that every corner of Kenya deserves equal development attention.

With a focus on youth inclusion, Roba strongly advocates for programs that help youth become self-employed. He championed technical and vocational education during his previous tenure as



Mandera Senator Ali Roba. PHOTO | Ali Roba.

Mandera's governor.

Following the lab's launch, Senator Roba joined other Mandera leaders in high-level meetings with the President to secure further funding for student hostels at the technical institute. This accommodation makes it easier for trainees from far-away sub-counties to live near and access the digital hub safely.

The laboratory also supports small businesses by enabling traders, farmers and service providers to advertise products, communicate with customers, maintain records, access financial services and reach wider markets.

Youth empowerment remains central to Mandera's development agenda. In October 2023, Roba joined other leaders during a youth engagement held as part of a "Meet the People Tour".

The discussions focused on youth empowerment and development opportunities.

The meeting brought issues such as employment, skills training, entrepreneurship, and access to

government support to the fore.

The Strengthening Digital Communities (SDC) Project – launched in September 2024 – was a major initiative designed to bridge the digital divide and reduce "food poverty" in rural Kenya. The project focused heavily on Mandera and Busia counties. It was led by the Kenya ICT Action Network (KICTANet) and funded by the UK Government's Digital Access Programme through the British High Commission in Nairobi.

The SDC project helped marginalized groups – such as women, youth, persons with disabilities (PWDs), farmers, and small traders – gain the tech skills needed for economic growth and social inclusion. By spreading digital literacy, the project enabled remote communities to access government services online, run digital businesses, and boost their household incomes.

The programme successfully trained over 17,250 local CDCs. Together, they helped over 600,000 citizens (including over 84,000 in Mandera County alone) build digital skills and confidence before its close-out in May 2025.

Trainees achieved an average income increase of 35% for local youth, dozens of small businesses were helped to set up an online presence, and entrepreneurs were guided in starting new digital agribusiness ventures.

Senator Roba viewed it as a game-changing tool to fight historical marginalization and reduce local poverty. He supported the SDC project because it bypassed physical borders and gave local youth and women the requisite digital tools needed to earn money online without leaving Mandera.

He openly praised the visible, positive improvements the project brought to grassroots families across Mandera's sub-counties. As the Chairperson of the Senate Finance and Budget Committee, he maintains strict oversight to ensure that funds meant for community empowerment and local development are fully accounted for and used properly.

Education sector records success through excellent legislation as Roba leads from the front



Senator Ali Roba interacts with locals during a past event. PHOTO | Ali Roba.

Report ID: MB-2026-09-00054-A2 |
Milestone Badge

Access to quality education demonstrated through the increase in enrolment rates across all levels of education is central to the development of individuals potential in a holistic and integrated manner.

The goal of the education sector is to have globally competitive, quality education, training and research for sustainable development by 2030.

Further, Kenya aims to be a regional centre for research and development in new technologies. To realize the sector's objective,

Kenya transitioned to the Competency Based Curriculum (CBC) in 2018. The country has witnessed a significant increase in enrolment rates across all levels of education since 2007, which is attributed to the continued implementation of the Free Primary Education (FPE) programme and Free Day Secondary School programme.

With education being a key foundation for accelerating socio-economic transformation of the country, Mandera Senator Ali Roba has been at the forefront in advocating for education equity, especially for school children in Mandera.

He launched a

KSh11 million

cheque to pay for the school fees of the students.

Since becoming Senator, Roba's education work has focused on making school affordable, building classrooms, and fighting local teacher shortage. His has enabled him to represent the county's interests in national policy, oversight and public resource allocation.

Senator Roba has drawn attention to Mandera's shortage of qualified teachers and supported

efforts to increase the number of students from the region pursuing teaching courses.

Mandera faces difficulties attracting and retaining teachers predominantly due to persistent insecurity, harsh climate and poor infrastructure. These factors affect enrolment and transition rates from primary to secondary levels, therefore adversely impacting on delivery of high-quality education.

Senator Roba has supported the recognition of Mandera Teachers Training College as an important working tool for addressing teacher shortage in Northern Kenya amidst exodus of non-local teachers due to insecurity.

To help local students get into the college, Senator Roba and other regional leaders pushed the national government to lower the required entry grade. They successfully negotiated to change the P1 teacher training entry grade from a C to a D+ for students in the region. This legal tweak created a steady stream of local, qualified teachers who would not flee during regional security crises.

When he served as Governor from 2013 to 2022, his administration fully sponsored students who enrolled at the college. For example, he launched a KSh11 million cheque to pay for the school fees of the students.

Through his Senate role, Roba has supported policies that improve teacher recruitment and retention in remote areas. Better teacher welfare is directly linked to education quality because schools cannot perform well without adequate and motivated staff.

Mandera has faced heavy school disruptions due to Al-Shabaab terror threats, which caused non-local teachers to flee. Senator Roba has consistently advocated at the national government level, demanding that the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) hire and safely deploy more teachers to the

Continued from page 10 →

region so learning does not stop.

Senator Roba has used his legislative and policy-making power to change how education is funded and managed in Kenya. Because he serves as the Chairperson of the Senate Finance and Budget Committee, his policy work focuses on moving national funds toward schools and pushing for systematic changes.

Senator Roba has pushed a policy proposal to completely restructure how the National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF) is used. Instead of MPs hand-delivering school bursaries as personal favours, the push called for a policy change so that all NG-CDF money is combined and sent directly to schools. The shift would easily allow Kenya to provide 100% free secondary education nationwide.

As the Finance Committee

**He launched a
As the Finance Committee Chairman,
Senator Roba led the Senate to pass the**

KSh16.8 billion

Equalisation Fund Bill. This targeted policy sends extra resources directly to long-neglected and marginalised areas.

Chairman, Senator Roba led the Senate to pass the KSh16.8 billion Equalisation Fund Bill. This targeted policy sends extra resources directly to long-neglected and marginalised areas. A significant chunk of the money is directed towards building classrooms, labs and clean water systems for schools in these zones.

His policy defence ensures that counties receive their multi-billion-shilling equitable share allocations on time, thereby securing local educational funding.

Senator Roba is advocating

for human capital development that is only achievable through adequate recruitment of teachers, education reforms, expansion of infrastructure in all learning institutions and strengthening linkages between industry and training institutions.

As a central player in moving funds from the national level to devolved governments, Senator Roba routinely steers the County Allocation of Revenue Bill through parliament. The Senator agitates against attempts by the national government to cut down the cash meant for counties.

He champions policy measures that keep county allocations adequate so that local governments have enough resources to run Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) centres and vocational village polytechnics.

Senator Roba has used his floor

time in the Senate to support national education overhauls. He has publicly endorsed legislative efforts to hire thousands of new teachers en masse and supported structural updates to the university funding model to ensure poor students do not get locked out of higher learning.

Through parliamentary statements and Senate inquiries, Roba has consistently challenged TSC's deployment guidelines. He advocates for policy changes that mandate the Commission to prioritise hiring local teachers in terror-vulnerable border regions, ensuring children's right to education is protected even during security emergencies.

He has supported resource-allocation policies that take account of the higher cost of delivering services in marginalised counties. Senator Roba has supported efforts to expand educational opportunities for girls and other disadvantaged learners.

Girls in marginalised communities may face poverty, household responsibilities, long distances to school, insecurity and early marriage. Addressing these barriers requires scholarships, safe learning environments, sanitation, secondary-school access and opportunities for tertiary and professional training.

Senator Roba's support for girls' education forms part of a broader effort to reduce inequality and improve social and economic outcomes in Mandera.

He participated in national discussions on education reforms, including the Competency-Based Education. Such reforms highlighted critical issues ranging from teacher preparedness, classroom congestion, learning materials, assessment, workload, staffing, and financing. Senator Roba can use national forums to argue that reforms must be properly funded and implemented in ways that do not leave marginalised learners behind.



Senator Ali Roba. PHOTO | Ali Roba.

Roba's push to empower Mandera youth and create jobs pays off



Senator Ali Roba chairs a past session with governors at Parliament. PHOTO | Ali Roba.

Report ID: MB-2026-09-00055-A1 |
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Senator Ali Ibrahim Roba, former two-term governor and current Senator for Mandera County, has pursued a broad youth empowerment strategy aimed at tackling unemployment by equipping young people with skills, access to finance and opportunities to create livelihoods.

Rather than relying solely on scarce public-sector jobs, Roba's approach has emphasized technical and vocational training, entrepreneurship, digital skills, access to affordable finance and advocacy for investments capable of expanding Mandera's economy.

The strategy comes against a difficult economic backdrop. Mandera faces limited private-

sector investment, inadequate infrastructure, climate-related shocks and a shortage of formal employment opportunities, leaving thousands of young people searching for sustainable livelihoods.

Roba's interventions have therefore focused on a broader objective: enabling young people to become skilled workers, entrepreneurs and employers while helping create the economic environment necessary for businesses to thrive.

Expanding skills

Technical and vocational education has been one of the most prominent pillars of Roba's youth empowerment agenda.

During his tenure as governor, the number of operational vocational training centres in

The NYOTA programme has disbursed

Ksh63 million

directly to 2,520 young entrepreneurs across Mandera's 30 wards to serve as business start-up capital.

Mandera increased from two to seven. The expansion created more opportunities for young people to acquire practical skills without having to leave the county in search of training.

The institutions offer training in areas including electrical work, plumbing, carpentry, mechanics, engineering and ICT. Such skills have provided direct pathways into employment while also enabling graduates to establish small businesses and offer services within their communities. Roba

has also supported infrastructure development around technical institutions. The development of the Student Village and related facilities at Takaba Technical and Vocational College is one example of efforts to strengthen the vocational training ecosystem.

The wider objective is to make skills training a direct link between education and employment, particularly for young people who may not have access to university education or formal white-collar jobs.

Nurturing entrepreneurs

Roba's youth empowerment strategy also places considerable emphasis on entrepreneurship and access to capital.

During his tenure in the county executive, the Mandera County Youth and Women Revolving Fund was established to provide affordable financing to young people and women seeking to start or expand businesses.

Through the Ali Roba Foundation, community groups have similarly received support for income-generating activities, providing beneficiaries with productive assets and capital to establish livelihoods.

As Mandera senator, he collaborated with the national government to oversee the rollout of the National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement (NYOTA) programme. The NYOTA programme has disbursed Ksh63 million directly to 2,520 young entrepreneurs across Mandera's 30 wards to serve as business start-up capital.

One of the foundation's notable recent initiatives is the Elwak youth empowerment programme, under which 33 motorcycles were handed over to a youth group. The project, valued at at least Ksh5.3 million, has benefited 125 young people.

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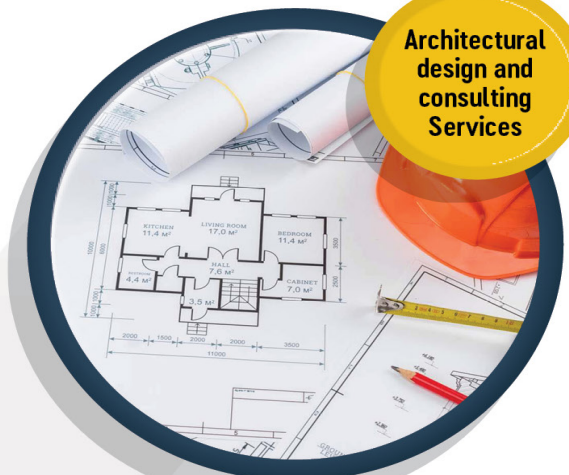
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Senator Ali Roba speaks during a past session in Parliament. PHOTO | Ali Roba.

The beneficiaries were supported with training and licensing and organized into five SACCOs. The model combines productive assets with financial organization, giving young people an opportunity to earn income while building a structure through which they can save, access finance and manage their businesses collectively.

For a county where formal employment opportunities remain limited, such interventions offer an alternative route into the labour market.

The digital door

Roba's youth agenda also recognizes the growing importance of digital employment.

With conventional employment opportunities limited, access to the internet and digital skills can connect Mandera's young people to opportunities beyond the local economy.

Support for initiatives such as Jitume Youth Innovation Hubs has helped provide access to computers, internet connectivity and digital literacy resources.

The emerging digital economy offers opportunities in online freelancing, digital services, e-commerce, content creation and other forms of remote work.

For Mandera youth, the significance is potentially far-reaching: employment is no longer necessarily tied to the physical availability of a company or office within the county.

Infrastructure as a foundation

Roba's employment agenda extends beyond direct youth programmes to advocacy for infrastructure and investment.

His position has been that sustainable employment requires an economy capable of supporting businesses, industries and productive enterprises.

Electricity connectivity is therefore a key part of the strategy. Reliable power can support workshops, manufacturing, refrigeration, ICT businesses, agro-processing and other enterprises capable of employing young people.

He has also advocated for modern markets, improved roads, technical college infrastructure and other investments intended to reduce the cost of doing business and attract private investment.

In the 2025/26 financial year, Ksh250 million was set aside for industrial parks and related efforts aimed at stimulating job creation through collaboration between his office and the Mandera County Government.

Industrial development could provide opportunities extending beyond direct employment, creating demand for transport, supply, construction, retail and other services in which young people can participate.

Agriculture as a job-creation engine

Agriculture is another area Roba has identified as having significant potential to absorb Mandera's youthful population.

Drought and climate variability have historically constrained agricultural production in the county. Roba has consequently advocated for irrigation and climate-resilient agricultural development as a way of turning agriculture into a more reliable source of employment and income.

In February 2026, Roba, Governor Mohamed Adan Khalif and Mandera MPs met President William Ruto, where plans were formalized to position Northern Kenya as a frontier for large-scale food production through irrigation.

Roba has also backed efforts to revive irrigation schemes along River Daua and has engaged development partners around climate-smart agriculture and support for local farmers.

The emphasis is not only on farming itself but on the wider agricultural value chain—production, processing, transport,

marketing and trade—which can create multiple opportunities for young people.

Jobs beyond government

At the heart of Roba's youth empowerment agenda is an attempt to reduce dependence on government employment as the primary pathway to economic security.

The expansion of vocational training gives young people practical skills. Youth financing provides capital to turn those skills into businesses. SACCOs create a structure for saving and accessing revolving capital, while digital initiatives open opportunities beyond the county.

At the same time, advocacy for electricity, industrial parks, markets, irrigation and improved infrastructure seeks to create the economic conditions in which businesses can grow and employ more people.

This makes youth empowerment a broader economic strategy rather than a collection of stand-alone programmes.

From beneficiaries to employers

Senator Ali Roba's youth agenda in Mandera is ultimately built around a shift from dependence on conventional employment toward skills, entrepreneurship, financial inclusion and productive investment.

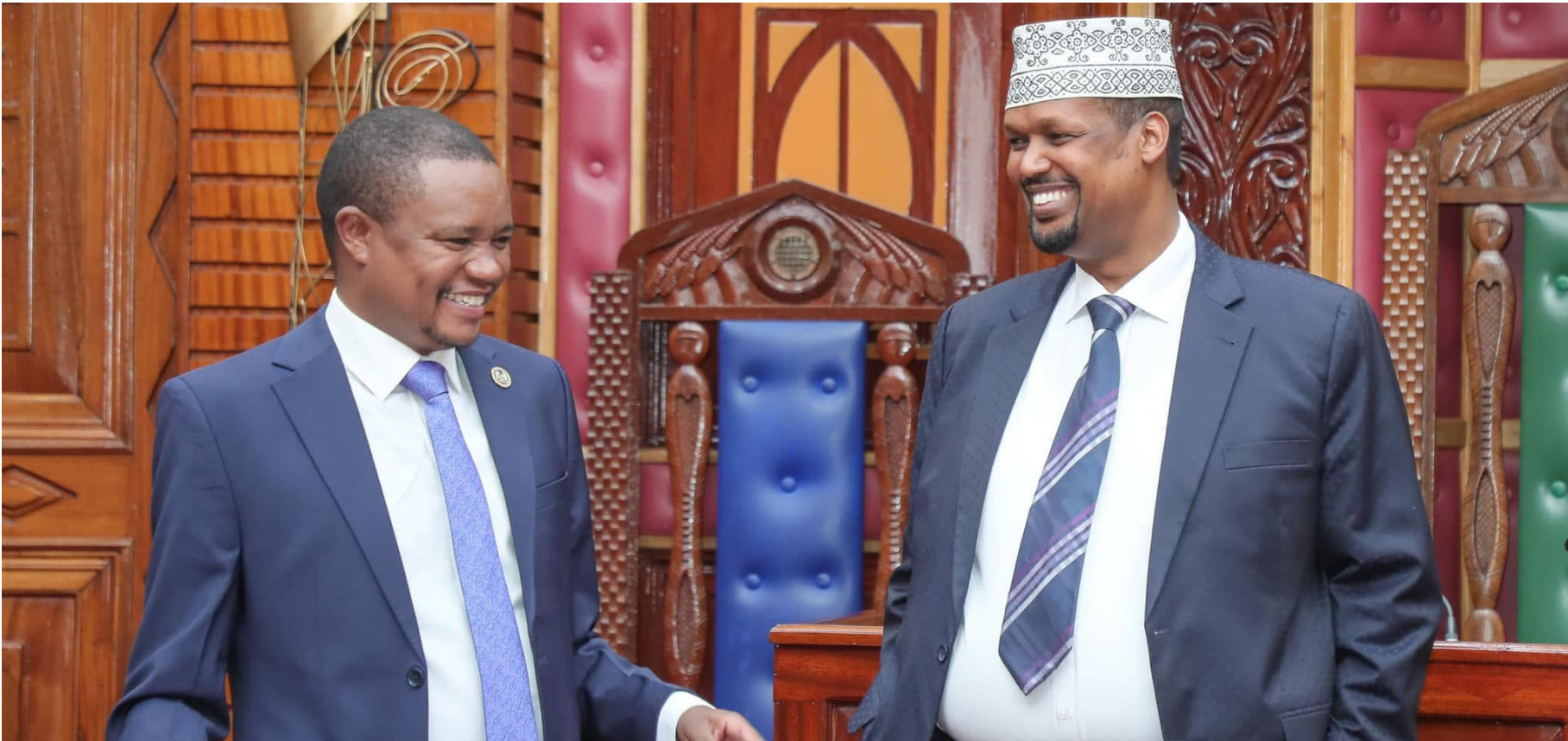
From expanding vocational training centres to supporting youth enterprises, motorcycles, SACCOs and digital opportunities, his initiatives have sought to equip young people with the tools to generate their own livelihoods.

His advocacy for industrial parks, electricity, irrigation, markets and agricultural investment complements those efforts by addressing the wider constraints that limit job creation in the county.

For a county with a large youthful population and limited formal employment, turning that proposition into sustainable businesses and long-term jobs remains the ultimate test of the empowerment agenda.

Senator Ali Roba. PHOTO | Ali Roba/FB.

Senator Ali Roba shares a light moment with the Chairperson of the National Assembly Committee on Finance, Kimani Kuria, during a joint parliamentary approval hearing earlier for the Central Bank of Kenya Deputy Governor Nominee, Mr. Gerald Arita Nyaoma on November 25, 2024. PHOTO | Ali Roba.



Senator Ali Roba awarding winners of the Senator Ali Roba’s peace tournament, which featured an exciting match between Lancaster FC and Admiral FC at Mandera Stadium on January 22, 2025. PHOTO | Ali Roba.



Senator Ali Roba symbolically laying the foundation stone for Takaba Technical and Vocational College (TVC) on February 9, 2026. PHOTO | Ali Roba.

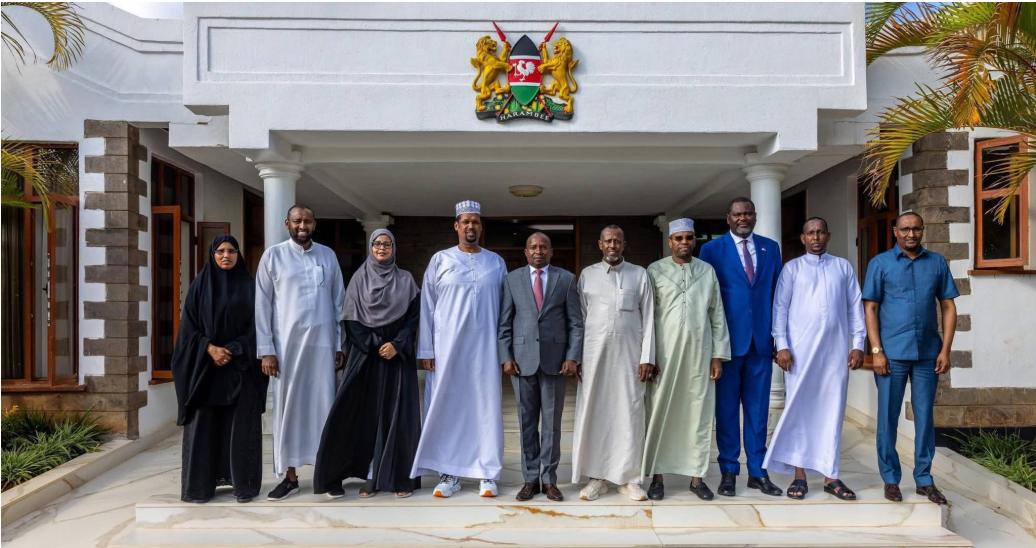


Senator Ali Roba congratulating winners of the Senator Ali Roba’s peace tournament, which featured an exciting match between Lancaster FC and Admiral FC at Mandera Stadium on January 22, 2025. PHOTO | Ali Roba.

Senator Ali Roba. PHOTO | Ali Roba/FB.



Senator Ali Roba with President William Ruto when the Head of State visited Mandera County on Februray 5, 2025. PHOTO | Ali Roba.



Senator Ali Roba with other leaders pose for a group photo with Deputy President Kithure Kindiki after a consultative meeting between the Mandera County leadership and the national government on January 9, 2025 PHOTO | Ali Roba.



Senator Ali Roba together with other leaders from Mandera County when they welcomed Sultan Haji Mohamed Haji Hassan Gababa upon his visit to Kenya on May 12, 2024. PHOTO | Ali Roba.



Senator Ali Roba takes part in a fact-finding mission by the Forum of Parliaments of the Member-States of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (FP-ICGLR) on the Security, Humanitarian and Political Challenges in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo in Kigali, Rwanda in February 2024. PHOTO | Ali Roba.



Senator Ali Roba awarding winners of the Senator Ali Roba's peace tournament, which featured an exciting match between Lancaster FC and Admiral FC at Mandera Stadium on January 22, 2025. PHOTO | Ali Roba.

Senator Ali Roba's infrastructure legacy in Mandera

Report ID: MB-2026-09-00056-A1 | Milestone Badge

Senator Ali Ibrahim Roba has played a significant role in the development and mobilisation of resources for physical infrastructure in Mandera County, first through direct project implementation during his two terms as governor and later through

legislation, budget oversight and national resource mobilisation as senator. His contribution to Mandera's physical transformation spans roads, public buildings, education facilities, markets, housing, technical institutions and other community assets. The evolution of his role — from implementing projects at the

county level to influencing national budgets and legislation — has enabled him to remain involved in efforts to address Mandera's long-standing infrastructure deficit.

Mobilising resources

As Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Budget, Roba has been involved in shaping legislation and budgetary frameworks governing the flow of resources to county governments. His role at the Senate has included scrutinising allocations, supporting additional financing mechanisms and advocating for resources that can support infrastructure development in counties. One of the key areas has been

legislation governing additional allocations to county governments. Such frameworks provide avenues through which counties can access additional national government resources, loans and grants for development programmes. These resources can support physical projects including industrial parks, livestock markets, Early Childhood Development Education classrooms and other public facilities. Roba has also played a role in advancing legislation relating to the Equalisation Fund, a critical financing mechanism for historically marginalised areas. Through his leadership in the Senate, more than Ksh13.4



Mandera Senator Ali Roba engages youth from Takaba, Mandera West Constituency during a consultative discussion on February 21, 2025. PHOTO | Ali Roba.

 Continued from page 17 →

billion was secured under the Equalisation Fund for Mandera and other marginalised areas. The fund is designed to address disparities in access to essential services and infrastructure, including water, electricity, roads and health facilities.

For Mandera, the fund represents an important mechanism for addressing infrastructure gaps in communities that have historically remained underserved.

Transforming Mandera's connectivity

Road infrastructure has been one of the most visible areas of development in the county.

As senator, Roba has continued to follow and advocate for the progress of major road projects, including the Kotulo-Kobo-Elwak road, an important corridor for the movement of people and goods.

The Kotulo-Kobo section was allocated Ksh1.08 billion, with

Senator Ali Roba at Elwak airstrip as he arrived to preside over his foundation's activities in Mandera county. PHOTO | Ali Roba.

Ksh720 million budgeted for specific expenditure milestones.

The road is part of a wider network intended to improve connectivity within Mandera and link the county more effectively with other parts of northern Kenya.

Roba's involvement in regional road development also dates back to his tenure as governor. He was among regional leaders involved in early agreements supporting the Horn of Africa Gateway Road Project, a major transport corridor connecting Isiolo, Wajir, El Wak and Mandera.

The wider project covers approximately 749 kilometres of road infrastructure and has received World Bank support.

At the county level, Roba's administration also oversaw a major upgrade of roads in Mandera Town. The KSh2.4 billion project involved the tarmacking of 20

kilometres of urban roads.

Landmark assets

During his tenure as governor, Roba directly oversaw the construction of several county government assets.

Among the most recognisable is the governor's official residence, constructed in 2014 at an estimated cost of Ksh107 million.

The two-storey building became one of Mandera's most prominent government structures and remains part of the county's physical asset base.

Beyond government buildings, Roba has also participated in efforts supporting major community infrastructure projects.

In July 2026, he joined other regional leaders during the official opening of the modern Takaba Jamia Mosque. The project was

largely community-funded, with approximately Ksh36 million raised through local fundraising.

While the mosque was primarily a community initiative, Roba's participation reflected the role of political leadership in supporting and mobilising around significant community assets.

Investing in education

Education infrastructure has been another important component of Mandera's physical development.

Mr Roba has supported efforts to mobilise resources for technical and vocational institutions designed to expand access to education and practical skills within the county.

Technical training institutions have been developed across Mandera's six constituencies, providing young people with

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facilities where they can acquire skills relevant to employment and enterprise.

Mandera Technical Training Institute is one example of county and national government collaboration.

Its initial construction received a block allocation of Ksh107 million, while the national government, through the Ministry of Education, subsequently strengthened the institution with modern mechanical technology and engineering equipment valued at Ksh120 million under the Kenya-China TVET project.

Elwak Technical and Vocational College has similarly expanded the physical infrastructure available for technical education in the county.

Another major education investment is Mandera Teachers Training College, constructed at a cost of approximately KSh250 million.

The institution was intended to help address the shortage of teachers in a region that has historically faced difficulties attracting and retaining professionals because of insecurity and other challenges.

At the basic education level, Roba has supported efforts to improve facilities for learners with special needs. Among the projects is the construction of dedicated special-needs classrooms at Takaba Primary School at a reported cost of KSh1.5 million.

Markets, housing and economic infrastructure

Roba's infrastructure agenda has also extended to facilities designed to support economic activity.

Working alongside the county and national governments, he has engaged on the development of modern markets in Mandera.

The development of affordable housing under the national government's housing programme is another component of Mandera's emerging urban infrastructure.

Beyond providing housing, such projects can stimulate construction activity and support associated



Senator Ali Roba at Elwak airstrip as he arrived to preside over his foundation's activities in Mandera county. PHOTO | Ali Roba.

businesses and employment.

Roba has also advocated for industrial parks and increased investment in Mandera as part of a wider strategy to establish physical infrastructure capable of attracting private-sector investment.

Foundation for development

For Mandera, infrastructure is

not simply about buildings and roads. It is closely connected to economic opportunity, access to education, healthcare, trade and employment.

This broader understanding has informed Roba's advocacy for investment in infrastructure during his tenure as governor and later in the Senate.

His role has increasingly shifted from direct implementation to influencing policy, budgets and resource allocation while working with county and national authorities to advance projects.

From county to national projects

Senator Ali Roba's infrastructure contribution in Mandera therefore reflects two distinct phases of public service.

As governor, he was directly responsible for planning and implementing county development projects, including urban roads, public buildings and education infrastructure.

As senator, his role has centred more on legislation, oversight, budget influence and mobilisation of national resources for marginalised counties.

This distinction is important because most devolved construction projects are implemented by county governments, while senators primarily exercise legislative, oversight and representation functions.

Roba's contribution at the Senate level has consequently been through the policies, laws, allocations and advocacy that help create the financial space for infrastructure development.

From roads and government buildings to technical colleges, classrooms, markets and other public facilities, Mandera has experienced significant expansion of its physical asset base over the past decade.

Roba's tenure as governor laid part of the foundation through direct county investment, while his subsequent role as senator has provided another avenue for influencing national resources and infrastructure policy.

His contribution is therefore best viewed not as the work of a single office or administration, but as an evolving role in Mandera's physical development—first as an implementer of county projects and later as a legislator and resource mobilisation advocate.



At the basic education level, Hon. Ali Roba has supported efforts to improve facilities for learners with special needs. Among the projects is the construction of dedicated special-needs classrooms at Takaba Primary School.

Senator Ali Roba's enterprise push opens new doors for Mandera women



Senator Ali Roba engaging a cross-section of Lafey Ward residents in Lafey town during a consultative meeting on February 1, 2026. PHOTO | Ali Roba.

Report ID: MB-2026-09-00057-A1 |
Milestone Badge

Senator Ali Ibrahim Roba has placed women's economic empowerment at the centre of his broader development agenda in Mandera County, with a focus on enterprise, financial inclusion, skills development and sustainable livelihoods.

Through the Ali Roba Foundation, partnerships with local leaders and advocacy at the national level, Roba's initiatives seek to move women beyond dependence on conventional employment and toward self-employment,

enterprise development and greater economic independence.

In Mandera, where private investment remains limited and households face persistent challenges linked to inadequate infrastructure, climate shocks and economic vulnerability, access to capital can be as important as access to formal employment.

Roba's approach emphasizes group-based enterprise, seed capital, skills training and access to economic opportunities.

Rather than treating empowerment as a one-off handout, the programmes associated with his foundation aim to organize women

into economic groups capable of establishing and expanding income-generating ventures.

Seed capital

A key pillar of the agenda is the provision of seed capital to organized grassroots women's groups.

In early 2026, the Ali Roba Foundation announced a Women Empowerment Programme targeting women across all 30 wards of Mandera County. Under the programme, women were organised into structured groups and supported financially to establish income-generating

activities.

Each group received Ksh50,000 in seed funding to venture into businesses such as retail, agriculture, livestock-related activities, food production, tailoring and small-scale trade.

The programme received a major public boost during a fundraising event at Moi Stadium in Mandera in April 2026, which was attended by President William Ruto.

Through the foundation and collaboration with county leadership, funds were channelled towards women's empowerment initiatives.

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Beyond benefiting individual members, women-led enterprises have the potential to create employment and stimulate economic activity within local communities.

Local employment engines

The group-based model provides a platform for women to pool resources, share responsibilities and build businesses that serve local markets.

Financial inclusion is an important part of that model. By encouraging saving, borrowing and collective management of

resources, organized groups can create a pathway into the formal economy and give small entrepreneurs the capacity to grow.

The foundation's Greening Project illustrates how empowerment can combine income generation with environmental conservation. At least 270 needy casual workers were engaged, with each woman allocated 15 trees to water and care for while receiving monthly wages.

The foundation has also distributed 68 sewing machines, 29 chest freezers, industrial baking ovens, juice blenders and 56

salon and barbershop setups. The support is intended to help women enter tailoring, catering, food processing and beauty businesses without having to meet the full cost of acquiring equipment upfront.

Economic resilience

The foundation's humanitarian interventions, including Ramadan food assistance to vulnerable households, have addressed immediate needs.

Its enterprise programmes, however, seek to tackle the deeper economic vulnerability that can leave families exposed to drought

and other shocks.

The logic is straightforward: helping households earn a reliable income can strengthen their ability to withstand economic and climatic disruptions.

Leadership and skills

Roba's women empowerment agenda also extends beyond business.

During his tenure as governor, he advocated for greater inclusion of women in county government and supported their appointment to senior administrative positions.

Education and skills development form another part of the strategy.



Senator Ali Roba reacts during a past meeting with locals in Mandera. PHOTO | Ali Roba.

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Through the Ali Roba Foundation's bursary and education support programmes, assistance has been provided to students and vulnerable families seeking educational opportunities.

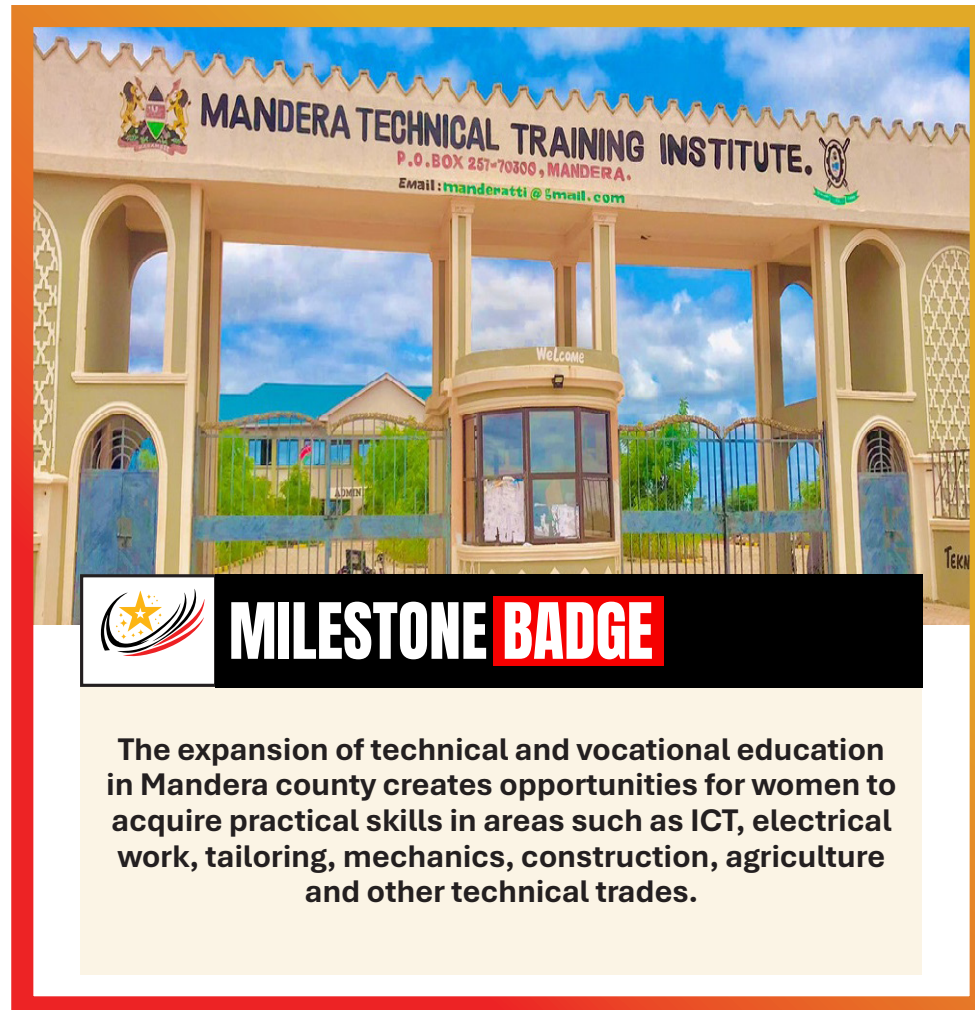
Keeping girls and young women in school is particularly important for their long-term employment prospects. The expansion of technical and vocational education in Mandera also creates opportunities for women to acquire practical skills in areas such as ICT, electrical work, tailoring, mechanics, construction, agriculture and other technical trades.

Such skills can enable women to enter sectors traditionally dominated by men and, importantly, create businesses of their own.

Path to sustainable enterprise

The foundation's emphasis on organized groups and SACCOs provides another potential route towards sustainable empowerment.

Well-managed SACCOs can help members save, borrow and collectively manage financial resources, allowing entrepreneurs



to gradually move from dependence on grants to revolving capital.

The foundation's youth empowerment programme offers an example of this approach. Beneficiaries of the Elwak boda

boda initiative were organized into five SACCOs and trained in SACCO management, demonstrating the value of combining productive assets with institutional capacity.

Infrastructure matters

For women-owned businesses to thrive, however, capital and skills alone are not enough.

Roba's advocacy for improved infrastructure has direct implications for women entrepreneurs.

Reliable electricity, modern markets, better roads, irrigation and improved connectivity can reduce the cost of doing business and open access to larger markets.

Women running shops, food enterprises, agricultural ventures, tailoring businesses and digital enterprises all require dependable infrastructure to expand.

His advocacy for industrial parks and increased investment in Mandera could similarly create new markets and supply-chain opportunities for women-owned businesses.

Major shift

Senator Ali Roba's women empowerment agenda represents an effort to shift the narrative around women in Mandera—from viewing them primarily as recipients of assistance to recognizing them as entrepreneurs, producers, employers and contributors to local economic growth.

Through the Ali Roba Foundation, women have been organized into economic groups and targeted for seed funding, while complementary initiatives have promoted education, financial inclusion, leadership participation and access to productive assets.

The 2026 Women Empowerment Programme and the high-profile fundraiser at Moi Stadium underline the ambition to extend these opportunities across all 30 wards.

At its core, the strategy rests on a simple economic proposition: when women have access to capital, skills, organized financial structures and the infrastructure needed to do business, they are better positioned to build independent livelihoods, create jobs and strengthen the wider Mandera economy.



Senator Ali Roba during the launch of a Women Empowerment Program in Mandera County on April 18, 2026. PHOTO | Ali Roba.



Senator Ali Roba shares a word with a local in Banisa Constituency on November 23, 2025. PHOTO | Ali Roba.

Inside Ali Roba's infrastructure push in health, water and security sectors

Report ID: MB-2026-09-00058-A1 |
Milestone Badge

Senator Ali Ibrahim Roba has contributed to the development and mobilisation of resources for physical infrastructure in Mandera's health, water and security sectors, first through direct implementation during his two terms as governor

and later through legislation, budget oversight and engagement with the national government as senator.

For Mandera, where access to essential services is shaped by vast distances, harsh climatic conditions and insecurity, investment in physical infrastructure is particularly important.

Health facilities, water systems and security installations form part of the basic infrastructure required to improve living standards, support economic activity and strengthen the resilience of communities.

Roba's contribution has therefore extended beyond individual projects to efforts aimed at mobilising resources and creating an enabling environment for continued infrastructure development.

Health infrastructure

Healthcare infrastructure has been an important component of Mandera's development needs.

One of the significant investments is the development of Mandera Medical Training College, which provides facilities for training healthcare workers from the region. The institution is intended

to strengthen local capacity by increasing the number of health professionals trained within the county.

A key component of the institution's infrastructure is student accommodation. The KMTC hostel project is estimated to have cost approximately Ksh200 million, providing residential facilities for students undertaking medical training.

The development of medical training infrastructure has wider implications for Mandera's health system. The county has historically depended significantly on health professionals recruited from outside the region, while attracting and retaining qualified personnel has remained a challenge.

Roba's broader contribution to health infrastructure has also

Continued from page 24 →

involved advocacy and resource mobilisation for public facilities and essential services. His role as senator has provided an additional platform for engaging national institutions and influencing resources directed towards marginalised areas.

Water infrastructure

Water is among Mandera's most pressing development challenges, making water infrastructure one of the county's most important areas of physical investment.

A major project is the Ksh2.4 billion Mandera Water Supply and Sanitation Project. The project is designed to improve the production, treatment, storage and distribution of water to residents.

Its infrastructure includes a new water treatment plant, a pontoon intake along River Daua, five

infiltration wells, large concrete and steel storage tanks and approximately 230 kilometres of distribution pipelines.

The project is being financed jointly by the African Development Bank and the national government under the Kenya Towns Sustainable Water Supply and Sanitation Programme.

The scale of the infrastructure demonstrates the importance of long-term investment in addressing Mandera's water shortages.

There have also been collaborations around the KfW-funded Border Point 1 Water Project, further expanding efforts to improve water access in communities around the Kenya-Somalia-Ethiopia border region.

For a county frequently affected by drought and climate variability,

water infrastructure is not merely a public service investment. It is also an economic and resilience project. Reliable water supplies support households, livestock, agriculture, businesses, schools and health facilities.

Roba's role as a national legislator has increasingly focused on creating avenues through which marginalised counties can access additional public resources for such infrastructure.

Security and strategic infrastructure

Mandera's strategic location along Kenya's borders with Somalia and Ethiopia makes security infrastructure an essential part of the county's physical development.

Roba has supported efforts to strengthen security infrastructure, including the construction and improvement of police posts and

support for Kenya Police Reservists.

Security installations provide a physical government presence in remote and border communities where insecurity has historically disrupted social and economic activity.

Mobilising resources for marginalised areas

Roba's contribution to these sectors must also be viewed through his changing role in public service.

As governor, he had direct responsibility for county-level development planning and implementation. This gave him an executive role in the development of physical infrastructure and public facilities.

As senator, his influence has shifted towards legislation, budget oversight, resource mobilisation



Senator Ali Roba speaking during a consultative meeting with women and mothers from Takaba on February 20, 2025. PHOTO | Ali Roba.

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and advocacy for Mandera at the national level.

As Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Budget, Roba has participated in legislative and budgetary processes affecting the distribution of resources to counties.

His involvement in legislation governing additional allocations to counties and the Equalisation Fund has provided avenues for marginalised areas to access resources for essential services and infrastructure.

The Equalisation Fund, in particular, is designed to address historical disparities in access to basic services.

Foundation for Mandera’s future

Roba’s contribution to physical infrastructure in Mandera’s





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Hon. Alia Roba’s contribution to physical infrastructure in Mandera’s health, water and security sectors reflects the evolution of his public role - from direct county project implementation as governor to legislation, oversight and resource mobilisation as senator.

health, water and security sectors reflects the evolution of his public role—from direct county project implementation as governor to legislation, oversight and resource mobilisation as senator.

In health, the expansion of medical training infrastructure seeks to strengthen the county’s future workforce. In water, major treatment, storage and distribution systems are being developed to address one of Mandera’s most persistent challenges. In security, physical installations and improved connectivity are intended to strengthen the state’s presence and protect communities.

Together, these investments demonstrate how physical infrastructure can underpin broader development.



Senator Ali Roba follows proceeding during a past event in Banisa on May 9, 2025. PHOTO | Ali Roba.

Report ID: MB-2026-09-00059-LA1 | Milestone Badge

Senator Ali Ibrahim Roba has sponsored a total of 11 Bills in the 13th Parliament.

He also serves as Chairperson of the Senate’s Finance and Budget Committee, and is a member of the Liaison Committee and the Senate Business Committee.

Majority of the Bills relate to public finance management and the devolution of resources to county governments.

This is consistent with Senator Roba’s role as Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee, a position that gives him significant influence over Bills concerning the allocation, appropriation, and equalization of national revenue to counties.

Several of the bills are recurring, annual pieces of legislation such as the County Allocation of Revenue Bill and the Equalization Fund Appropriation Bill which are typically re-introduced each financial year as part of Kenya’s constitutionally mandated budget-making cycle.

Below are the Bills:

1. County Governments Additional Allocations (No. 2) Bill.
Introduced/Published (1 November 2022). An

Senator Ali Ibrahim Roba

11 bills in the Senate

- early-term bill seeking supplementary allocations to county governments.
2. The County Allocation of Revenue Bill, 2025.
This bill successfully passed through both Houses and was signed into law, setting out how national revenue is shared among the 47 county governments for the relevant financial year.
3. The County Governments Additional Allocations Bill, 2025.
Introduced/Published (1 July 2025). Provides for supplementary funding to counties beyond the standard equitable share.
4. The Equalization Fund Appropriation Bill, 2025:
This bill governs the appropriation of the Equalization Fund, a
- constitutional mechanism designed to bring marginalised areas, including Mandera, the Senator’s own county, up to national standards of public service provision. It received Presidential assent May 29, 2026.
5. The County Allocation of Revenue Bill, 2024:
The prior year’s iteration of the annual revenue-sharing bill, successfully enacted into law.
6. The County Governments Additional Allocations Bill (Senate Bills No. 19 of 2024):
Still under committee consideration at the time the data was captured.
7. The County Statistics Bill, 2024:
A notable departure from pure fiscal bills, this proposed legislation aims at establishing a framework for the collection

- and management of county-level statistical data, which would support evidence-based planning and resource allocation.
8. The County Allocation of Revenue Bill, 2023:

One of Senator Roba’s earliest successful bills, enacted within his first year in the 13th Parliament. It received Presidential assent on June 30, 2023.
9. The Equalization Fund (Administration) Bill, 2023:
This bill sought to establish clearer administrative and governance structures for managing the Equalization Fund.
10. The Equalization Fund Appropriation Bill (No. 2) (Senate Bills No. 30), 2023:
A supplementary appropriation bill for the Equalization Fund that remained under committee review. It is still at the committee stage.
11. The County Governments Additional Allocation Bill (Senate Bills No. 4 of 2022):

One of the Senator’s earliest bills, successfully signed into law.

Of the 11 bills, at least five have received Presidential Assent and are now law (the County Governments Additional Allocation Bill of 2022, the County Allocation of Revenue Bill 2023, the County Allocation of Revenue Bill 2024, the County Allocation of Revenue Bill 2025, and the Equalization Fund Appropriation Bill 2025).

Two bills remain at the Committee Stage, one has reached Third Reading, and three others are recorded simply as Introduced/ Published, indicating they are either newly tabled or still moving through earlier legislative stages.



Senator Ali Roba. PHOTO | Ali Roba.



ABOUT MILESTONE BADGE

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Milestone Badge is a dynamic digital platform that documents completed projects, reforms, and public welfare programmes delivered by Kenyan leaders since 2013.

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