



SPEECH BY H E SUSAN KIIHIKA, NAKURU COUNTY GOVERNOR, DURING JAMHURI DAY CELEBRATIONS ON 12TH DECEMBER, 2025 IN SUBUKIA, NAKURU

**Honourable Members of Parliament
County Commissioner
Honourable Members of the County Assembly
Distinguished Guests
And the Great people of Nakuru**

1. Today, as we celebrate Jamhuri Day, we honour the historic moment when Kenya proudly stood as a free nation—united by a shared dream of prosperity, justice, and dignity for all. Sixty-two years later, that dream continues to inspire us. It challenges each of us to build a nation where opportunity thrives and where every county, including ours, becomes a shining example of excellence in development.
2. This year's theme—Tourism, Wildlife, Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions—holds special meaning for Nakuru, a county that uniquely embodies Kenya's tourism promise. Few regions showcase the country's natural splendour and cultural richness as powerfully as we do. From our world-renowned national parks and dramatic escarpments to vibrant heritage, resilient wildlife, and the warmth of our people, Nakuru stands as a living expression of Kenya's natural and cultural wealth.
3. Our tourism assets remain diverse, exceptional, and deeply rooted in history. Lake Nakuru—celebrated globally for its flamingos and thriving rhino sanctuary—continues to be one of our greatest treasures. The geothermal landscapes of Naivasha, the prehistoric sites of Hyrax Hill and Kariandusi, and the county's sweeping valleys and hills narrate stories spanning thousands of years. For us, tourism is far more than an economic pillar; it is an essential part of our identity.
4. As we shape Nakuru's future, we are committed to building a modern tourism ecosystem that is competitive, sustainable, inclusive, and community-driven. Over the past two years, Nakuru County has accelerated the development and marketing of tourism products. Through the Nakuru Tourism Board, we have strengthened our destination brand, enhanced hospitality standards, and coordinated strategic promotion that positions Nakuru as a premier domestic and international travel destination.
5. Our flagship campaign, *Tembea Nakuru*, has significantly raised the profile of our tourism circuit. It has spotlighted attractions such as the Njoro River Caves, Kainaine Springs, Lord Egerton Castle, Hell's Gate National Park, Lake Naivasha, Menengai Crater, and our diverse cultural tourism experiences. Today, we also celebrate Subukia—one of Nakuru's most serene and spiritually important tourism hubs. Home to the National Marian Shrine, it draws thousands of pilgrims from across Kenya and beyond. Its Rift Valley viewpoint offers panoramic beauty, while the Subukia Natural Springs attract visitors seeking peace, reflection, and spiritual renewal.
6. Nakuru is rapidly emerging as a major centre for MICE tourism. Our strategic location along the Northern Corridor, expanding urban capacity, modern infrastructure, and vibrant hospitality industry position us as a leading hub for national and regional conferences. The growth of Nakuru City and Naivasha as conference destinations has spurred hotel development, meeting facilities, entertainment spaces, and improved transport services—creating employment and strengthening local businesses.

7. Tourism must now boldly evolve. Post-pandemic travellers seek wellness, nature, authenticity, and digital convenience. To stay competitive, our businesses must embrace strong online presence, automation, and experience-driven tourism. Our guiding mission is clear: build tourism, strengthen hospitality, support enterprise, protect wildlife, and elevate Nakuru into East Africa's leading destination for tourism, wildlife, and conferences.
8. While tourism is our anchor theme today, development must be holistic—and Nakuru is delivering growth across all sectors. In Health, we continue to invest nearly 40 percent of our county budget to guarantee accessible, dignified, and dependable care. The establishment of 16 Primary Care Networks has strengthened community-level health services. New and upgraded Level 4 hospitals in Kuresoi North, Rongai, Molo, Maai Mahiu, Njoro, and right here in Subukia have expanded emergency and diagnostic capacity. Modern equipment—CT scans, neonatal ICUs, theatres, and digital health systems—ensure quality care for every resident.
9. Agriculture remains the backbone of our economy with focus on boosting productivity, value chains, and farmer livelihoods. Priority chains—dairy, pyrethrum, avocado, coffee, maize, potato, and edible oil crops—have expanded significantly. Farmers received 33.9 million pyrethrum seedlings, establishing 5,000 acres, and 208,943 avocado seedlings, raising acreage to 10,000 acres. Food security support included 42 MT of maize seed for 10,500 households, while the coffee sector gained 20,166 seedlings. Through the Edible Oil Crops Promotion Project, farmers received 55 tons of sunflower and 5 tons of canola seed. Livestock production reached 326 million litres of milk, supported by 20 cooling plants and a strengthened AI program. Fisheries growth includes 526,666 fingerlings restocked. Farmer groups benefited from dairy goat, sheep, and poultry initiatives, alongside new feed storage infrastructure and progressive agriculture policies strengthening long-term sustainability
10. In Education, we are building a strong foundation for future generations. Guided by the belief that no child should be left behind due to poverty, the administration has prioritized education and nutrition. Since taking office, it has issued Sh952 million in bursaries to more than 140,000 learners, including Sh430 million this year to over 48,000 beneficiaries. Significant progress has been made in Early Childhood Development and Education, with 140 new classrooms completed, two Centres of Excellence finished, 68 modern toilet blocks installed, and extensive improvements such as fencing, new kitchens, outdoor play facilities, furniture, and water tanks across multiple centres. A further 121 ECDE projects are underway, and the county's network has grown from 1,003 to 1,068 centres. The School Feeding Programme now reaches over 65,000 learners. Additional achievements include distributing 33,270 instructional materials, hiring and supporting teachers, modernizing learning with 1,900 digital devices, expanding Vocational Training Centres from 33 to 41, completing major infrastructure, and increasing enrolment by 43.7 percent.
11. In Water and Sanitation, Access to clean water, sanitation, and climate-resilient services expanded significantly over the past year. The County implemented 132 water projects, adding 488.72 km of pipelines and raising clean-water access from 59.2 percent to 62.33 percent. Household supply improved through 17,070 new connections, drilling 72 boreholes, equipping over 90, solarizing 92, protecting seven springs, and restoring 11 boreholes serving 6,000 residents. A Sh70 million drilling rig will support 130 more boreholes next year. Sanitation upgrades included a 1-km sewer line and 200 connections in Kabati, major improvements in Flamingo Estate for 300 residents, and extensions across multiple estates. Flagship sewer projects in Barnabas–Mwariki B and Neylan will benefit 17,000 residents. Additional gains include expanded water infrastructure, air-quality monitoring, rehabilitation

of disposal sites, recycling innovations, 48 climate projects, ecosystem restoration, and 1.5 million trees planted.

12. In Infrastructure, we are expanding and modernizing its transport network through the Imarisha Barabara Programme, upgrading 513 km of graded roads, 383 km of gravel, over 10 bridges, and 620 streetlights, while completing major urban road works and NMT facilities. Backed by an NYS partnership, Tea Cess upgrades, and upcoming Rironi–Mau Summit Highway, the County is boosting mobility, trade, safety, and inclusive growth. In Sports, Youth and Gender, we have advanced social halls, youth centres, and sports facilities countywide. Construction has begun on Olenguruone Stadium and Afraha Stadium Phase Two with KDF, while stadia in Jewatho, Molo, Gilgil, Maai Mahiu, and Kihoto remain functional. Work continues on Keringet High Altitude Academy and Site Grounds. Most social halls operate, with more centres nearing handover or revival, supporting active youth empowerment.
13. In Lands, Housing, Physical Planning and Urban Development, we accelerated land titling, enabling over 10,000 households to secure ownership. In Mutukanio–Kiptangwanyi, 3,000 titles cleared a long backlog, while surveys in Kihingo–Njoro, Maji Tamu–Rongai, and Subukia will add 2,100 titles by June 2026. Verification in Bahati and Dundori will deliver 1,000 more, and spatial planning in Naivasha Industrial Area, Gilgil Kampi Somali, Leleshwa, and Sitoito will pave the way for 5,300 additional titles. Housing improved through estate re-roofing, 65 sanitation facilities, empowerment programs, affordable housing support, and urban upgrades benefiting households, traders, and displaced residents. The Nakuru City Board is advancing major works, including Afraha Stadium expansion, drainage, streetlighting, and cultural programs like the 2025 Nakuru City Festival. Naivasha and Molo municipalities have boosted growth through market modernization, road and NMT upgrades, drainage, sewer improvements, and expanded water and sanitation projects.

Development Projects in Subukia Sub County

14. Ladies and gentlemen, because we celebrate Jamhuri Day here in Subukia, allow me to highlight key achievements in this great sub-county:
 - **Infrastructure:** We have installed 23 streetlights, constructed three major bridges, graded 91.6 km of roads, gravelled 58.5 km, and built four boda-boda sheds. Roads such as Kamemo–Kirima–Kahiga–Tetu–Kirengero–Munanda–Sidai have undergone major upgrades. The Tetu–Arash Bridge has been awarded to ease access for Subati Flower Farm workers.
 - **Water:** Subukia has seen 14 boreholes drilled, 11 solarized, 7 concrete tanks constructed, and over 32 km of pipelines laid. Water coverage has risen to 33 percent, benefiting over 27,250 residents. Key projects include the Gatongu Borehole, Subukia Valley and Tetu boreholes, Kahawa tank, and extensive piping across Morro, Munanda, Gatongu, Kware, and Mihango.
 - **Trade and Enterprise:** Market infrastructure has improved, with new toilets in Waseges markets and ongoing construction of the Subukia ESP Market at 59 percent completion. The Wezesha Fund, Boda Boda Fund, and MSME credit schemes continue empowering traders.

- **Youth and Sports:** Subukia youths have benefited from the KSh 96 million empowerment programme—receiving hospitality equipment, creative economy tools, jua kali equipment, and sports materials. Stadium and sports upgrades continue across the wards.
- **National Government Projects:** The Subukia TTI Hostel (580-bed capacity) is underway, alongside the dualling of the Rironi–Mau Summit Road and nationwide teacher recruitment.

15. As we enter the festive season, I wish to address the security situation in Nakuru. Our county has remained generally stable, thanks to the close collaboration between security agencies, local administration, community policing units, and our vigilant citizens. However, we have noted isolated cases of theft, road accidents, and incidents involving festive gatherings. I urge all residents to remain alert, cooperate with security officers, report suspicious activities through Nyumba Kumi structures, and observe responsible celebration. Let us avoid drunk driving, ensure the safety of our children in crowded spaces, take care of personal property, and embrace peaceful coexistence. This season should unite us—not expose us to danger—so let us all be ambassadors of safety and harmony.
16. In conclusion, as we celebrate this Jamhuri Day, let us advance with unity, pride, and renewed commitment. Let us protect our heritage, grow our economy, and proudly showcase Nakuru—from Subukia to Naivasha, from Menengai to Mau—to Kenya, Africa, and the world. I wish you all a Happy Jamhuri Day.

Thank you

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GOVERNOR, NAKURU COUNTY