



**SPEECH BY H E SUSAN KIHKA,
NAKURU COUNTY GOVERNOR, DURING
THE LAUNCH OF A SCHOOL FEEDING
PROGRAM AT OSEMBO
COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL BY
FEEDING FUTURES IN BAHATI,
NAKURU ON 13TH JANUARY, 2026**

Hon Irene Njoki, MP for Bahati
The leadership and management of Feeding
Futures Charity,
Our County Executive Committee Members and
Chief Officers,
Members of the County Assembly present,
School administrators, teachers and parents,
Dear children of Osembo Comprehensive
School,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

1. It is a great honour and joy for me to join you today at Osembo Comprehensive School during this important occasion of launching the school feeding program. I am particularly delighted to be here in Bahati Sub-County, an area that continues to play a critical role in

Nakuru County's agricultural strength and in nurturing the future of our children.

2. Allow me first to thank Feeding Futures for the exemplary work they are doing in providing sustainable school meals to combat hunger and supporting education for children, by offering nutritious lunches to enhance learning and retention. It is encouraging to learn that your program focuses on sustainable agriculture, often involving school farms and, in a broader context, the initiative aligns with the Kenyan government's goal to embed sustainable practices like hydroponics into national school feeding.
3. Consequently, today's event is not just about a meal; it is about dignity, opportunity, and hope. It is about ensuring that every child, regardless of their background, starts their learning journey nourished, healthy, and ready to learn.
4. Allow me to speak briefly about Early Childhood Development Education in Nakuru County, because this is where the foundation of our future is laid. As of September 2025, Nakuru County has **1,066 public ECDE centres** serving **65,951**

learners, almost equally distributed between boys and girls. These centres are supported by a total of **2,010 teachers**, comprising **847** county-employed **teachers** and **1,163** Board of Management teachers.

5. Here in Bahati Sub-County, we have **46 ECDE centres** with an enrolment of **2,445 learners** and **111 teachers**. These numbers reflect not just statistics, but real children whose lives we are committed to transforming.
6. Since assuming office, we have made deliberate investments in ECDE infrastructure and quality. Across the county, we have constructed and equipped **145 classrooms**, completed **two** ECDE Centres of Excellence in Naivasha and Nakuru West, built **68 toilet blocks**, and furnished **295 classrooms** with age-appropriate furniture. We have also equipped **11 centres** with outdoor play equipment, constructed **10 kitchens**, fenced **14 ECDE centres**, and installed water tanks in **11 centres**.
7. Currently, we have **121 ongoing ECDE projects**, including the construction of **46 classrooms**, **29 toilet blocks**, fencing of **7 centres**, equipping of **28 centres**, and

construction of **5 kitchens**. Looking ahead, we have planned the construction of **69 new ECDE centres**, equipping **45 centres with age-appropriate furniture**, installing water tanks in **4 centres**, and building **26 ECDE toilets**.

8. Beyond infrastructure, we are strengthening systems and policies. We have developed key legislative frameworks, including the Nakuru County School Feeding Bill 2025, the Draft School Feeding Policy, and a concept paper towards Free Pre-Primary Education in Nakuru County. These are bold steps towards sustainability and equity in early learning. The County has also advanced digital integration in ECDE through the deployment of 1,900 digital learning devices, supporting age-appropriate digital literacy. To ensure accountability and continuous improvement, the County has strengthened monitoring and evaluation frameworks, education data collection systems, and curriculum oversight mechanisms across all public ECDE centres
9. One of the flagship interventions of my administration is the **Uji Program**, which ensures that children in ECDE centres receive a nutritious meal every school day. Currently,

this program benefits **65,951 learners** across all **1,066** public ECDE centres in Nakuru County. To support this, we have constructed **10 kitchens** specifically dedicated to school feeding. **Five** more kitchens are under construction. This program has significantly improved attendance, retention, and learning outcomes, particularly in vulnerable communities.

10. It is within this shared vision that we are proud of our partnership with Feeding Futures Charity, formalized through a five-year Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2024. The objective of this MoU is clear: to promote sustainable, community-driven school feeding programmes, combat malnutrition, improve educational outcomes, and strengthen local agricultural value chains.
11. Through this partnership, Feeding Futures will empower communities to sustain school meals, source food locally to support our farmers, engage learners in school gardens, and promote climate-smart agriculture. On our part as a County Government, we are committed to facilitating access to schools, sharing data and policy documents, involving Feeding Futures in county training

programmes, and mobilizing our professionals to support this initiative.

12. Despite being an agricultural county, Nakuru still faces food insecurity due to climate change, small-scale farming challenges, post-harvest losses, poverty, and rapid urbanization—particularly in areas like Bahati and Molo. School feeding programmes such as Feeding Futures are therefore not optional; they are essential.
13. As we strengthen the County Uji Program, we would like to explore further areas where Feeding Futures can support us. These include:
 - Enhancing nutritional diversity in school meals;
 - Supporting school and community grain storage solutions;
 - Expanding school kitchen infrastructure and energy-efficient cooking technologies;
 - Strengthening community training on climate-resilient agriculture; and
 - Supporting monitoring and evaluation to continuously improve impact and cost efficiency.

14. In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, when we feed a child, we are not just filling a stomach—we are fuelling a dream. I commend Feeding Futures for walking this journey with us, and I assure you of Nakuru County’s unwavering commitment to ensuring that no child is left behind. To the children of Osembo Comprehensive School: dream big, work hard, and know that your government and partners believe in you.

Thank you.

H E SUSAN KIIHIKA, EGH

GOVERNOR, NAKURU COUNTY