



**SPEECH BY H E SUSAN KIHKA, NAKURU COUNTY GOVERNOR,  
DURING THE GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY FOR  
CONSTRUCTION OF PHASE II OF AFRAHA STADIUM ON 13<sup>TH</sup>  
NOVEMBER, 2025 IN NAKURU CITY**

**Hon Soipan Tuya, Cabinet Secretary for Defence**

**Dr Patrick Mariru, Principal Secretary, State Department of Defence**

**Members of Parliament present**

**Top Ministry of Defence and Department of Defence officials**

**Nakuru County officials**

**Our celebrated athletes present**

**Distinguished Guests**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good afternoon

Today is a proud and significant day for Nakuru County and for all sports lovers across our great nation. It is a day of action, a day of promise, and a day that marks the continuation of our journey to transform Afraha Stadium into a modern, world-class sporting facility.

At the onset, allow me to recognize and sincerely thank a number of people and institutions who have been instrumental in this journey. First and foremost, H E President Dr William Ruto — thank you, Your Excellency, for your visionary leadership and for directing the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) to spearhead this critical construction project. Your commitment to the growth of sports in Kenya and to the development of regional infrastructure is deeply appreciated.

To the Cabinet Secretary for Defence, Hon Soipan Tuya, thank you for your steadfast commitment to this project. Your presence with us today is not just symbolic — it is a powerful reminder that when national and county governments collaborate in unity, great things happen.

To the leadership and engineering teams from the Kenya Defence Forces, we are truly honoured to partner with you. You have brought a level of excellence, professionalism, and discipline that we deeply admire, and we have full confidence in your delivery of Phase Two of Afraha Stadium.

Last year—in April—marked the successful completion of Phase One of the Afraha Stadium redevelopment — a massive milestone and a testament to what we can achieve through vision, dedication, and strategic partnerships.

Now, we gather here to break-ground on Phase Two of this transformative project — a project that will not only enhance Nakuru’s sporting infrastructure but also stimulate our local economy, promote youth empowerment, and further cement our place as a leading sporting hub in Kenya.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

In Phase One, we saw the rise of modern infrastructure that has already begun to transform the sporting experience in Nakuru. This included:

- Pavilions One and Two, built to the highest standards for comfort and visibility,
- A massive 600,000-litre underground water tank and an elevated tank to ensure consistent water supply,
- A professionally laid tartan track for athletics,
- Modern and spacious parking works,
- Offices for both home and away teams,
- A state-of-the-art VIP lounge and dias,
- Changing rooms,
- Well-planned restaurants to serve fans and athletes,
- An anti-doping office in compliance with international sporting regulations,
- Team manager offices, and
- Modern, clean public washrooms for both fans and players.

This infrastructure is not just bricks and mortar. It is a symbol of our county's bold aspirations, and our commitment to nurturing talent, celebrating sport, and creating economic opportunities for our people.

As we now commence Phase Two, I am delighted to announce that we are scaling even higher. Pavilions Three and Four will now be constructed — expanding capacity and improving accessibility for all spectators. These additional stands will

make Afraha Stadium one of the largest and most modern stadiums outside of Nairobi.

We will also build more public washrooms — because we understand that a great stadium must serve everyone comfortably, from the fans in the terraces to the athletes on the pitch. This phase is not just about expansion. It's about completing the vision. Afraha will not just be a stadium — it will be a centre of excellence, capable of hosting national and international events, a source of pride for Nakuru, and a beacon of opportunity for our youth.

To our young athletes, I want to say this: We are building this for you. To give you a place to train, to compete, to dream, and to shine. We want to see the next great Kenyan footballers, runners, and sports leaders rise from Afraha.

To our business community — from restaurant owners to sports vendors — this is also for you. Afraha Stadium will open up opportunities in tourism, hospitality, retail, and entertainment. It will attract fans, teams, and investors — and you must be ready to seize the opportunities that come with it. To our fans and residents — thank you for your patience and support. Your pride and passion for sport have always made Afraha come alive, and now you will have a stadium that matches your energy.

This project is more than construction. It is about legacy. It is about the kind of future we want to leave behind for the generations that will follow us. Let us continue to walk together — county and national government, military and civilians, leaders and wananchi — all united in purpose. Let us work together to ensure that Afraha Stadium stands not only as a monument of infrastructure but also as a monument of unity, resilience, and progress.

In conclusion, I reaffirm my commitment to ensuring that this project is delivered on time, on budget, and to the highest standard possible. We will remain accountable and transparent to you — the people who own this stadium. With your continued support, Phase Two of Afraha Stadium will be a resounding success — and a powerful chapter in Nakuru County's growth story.

Thank you

**H E SUSAN KIIHIKA, EGH**

**GOVERNOR, NAKURU COUNTY**

