



**SPEECH BY H E SUSAN KIIHIKA, NAKURU COUNTY GOVERNOR,
DURING THE GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR THE
COMPLETION OF THE TRAUMA CENTRE AT THE NAKURU COUNTY
TEACHING AND REFERRAL HOSPITAL ON 13TH NOVEMBER, 2025**

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

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning.

It is both a profound honour and a great privilege to address you today during this historic occasion — the ground-breaking ceremony of the Trauma Centre at the Nakuru County Referral and Teaching Hospital. Today we witness the revival of a long-held vision that was conceived more than a decade ago and has remained suspended in time, awaiting the right moment and the right partnerships to breathe life into it.

Let me begin by acknowledging and appreciating the unwavering support of Hon Soipan Tuya, the Cabinet Secretary for Defence, and the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) for their unwavering support in making this day possible. Hon Tuya, your dedication to this project has been consistent and admirable. The people of Nakuru County and the entire Central Rift region extend their deepest gratitude to you and the KDF for your contribution toward a cause that will save lives and serve generations.

The journey to this day has been long and challenging. For many years, the incomplete structure of the Trauma Centre stood as a painful reminder of an unfulfilled promise—an emblem of hope that was put on hold. But today, we

breathe new life into that promise. We restore faith in public service delivery, and we take concrete action to address the urgent healthcare needs of our people.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The construction of the Nakuru County Trauma Centre originally began on 14th June 2012. The contract was awarded at a sum of Sh 89,944,839.80, with an expected completion date of 13th June 2013. The project was funded through the Molo-Nakumatt Fire Victim Fund and the Ministry of Medical Services. The fund was expected to contribute Sh69.9 million, while the Ministry was to cover the remaining Sh20 million.

This initiative followed the tragic Sachangwan–Nakumatt fire incident in March 2009, which highlighted the dire need for a dedicated trauma centre along the busy Northern Corridor highway. The Rift Valley Provincial General Hospital, now Nakuru County Referral and Teaching Hospital, was identified as the most suitable location for this life-saving facility.

Unfortunately, after an initial disbursement, the project stalled. Transition challenges brought on by devolution in 2013 further complicated the situation. Amidst these delays and cost variations, the project stalled indefinitely. The contractor eventually sought legal redress, and the partially completed structure was left abandoned.

When I was elected Governor, I could not stand by and watch this vital project remain incomplete—the reason we decided to take deliberate steps to resolve the impasse. I therefore took the matter directly to the highest office in the land. On 11th June 2025, during a meeting at State House, His Excellency President William Ruto responded with urgency and compassion. He issued a Presidential Directive mandating the Kenya Defence Forces to lead the reconstruction of this stalled project. We are grateful for his leadership and commitment to the welfare of our people.

What followed was a series of intense, high-level meetings—led by myself and Hon Tuya—through which we forged a partnership agreement between the Nakuru County Government and the Kenya Defence Forces. I want to sincerely applaud the KDF—for their discipline, professionalism, integrity, and unmatched work ethic. This partnership is not just about completing the Trauma Centre; it's about building trust, restoring hope, and upgrading healthcare. It is an exemplification of what is possible when institutions work together for the public good.

Ladies and gentlemen

Under the new design, the Trauma Centre will cover a total built-up area of 4,441 square meters over two levels. The ground floor will feature a parking area, waiting bay, customer care and front office, resuscitation lobby, diagnostic offices, consultation rooms, pharmacy, laboratory, a minor and a major theatre, and a radiology department. The first floor will comprise six wards—including burns, male and female trauma wards, a High Dependency Unit (HDU), and an Intensive Care Unit (ICU)—with a total bed capacity of 50. It will also house four VIP rooms, consultation rooms, a resource centre, conference room, doctors' lounge, and ablution facilities.

Once operational, the Nakuru Trauma Centre will offer timely and specialized emergency care not only to Nakuru residents but also to patients from neighbouring counties. It will drastically reduce preventable deaths due to trauma and improve health outcomes for thousands. This facility will be a game changer in emergency healthcare delivery for our region.

As we break ground today, I want to assure the people of Nakuru County that this project will be completed and operationalized within the stipulated timeline. We are fully committed to transparency, efficiency, and excellence. To guide our efforts, we have adopted five core principles:

- Timely Completion — with clear milestones and mechanisms for accountability.
- High-Quality Standards — ensuring no compromises on construction, equipment, or staffing.
- Sustainability — including robust staff training and provision for operational budgets.
- Equity — guaranteeing access to care for all, regardless of income or background.
- Transparency — with open reporting and public oversight to build trust and accountability.

Let today's launch serve not merely as a ceremonial event, but as a rallying call to action. From engineers to medical staff, from County Assembly Members to ordinary citizens—each of us has a role to play. Together, we will turn this vision into reality and restore dignity to emergency care in Nakuru and beyond.

In conclusion, I dedicate this moment to all the families who have lost loved ones due to delayed or inadequate trauma care. Let this centre stand as a lasting testament that we heard your cries, we acted, and we chose to do better. May this ground-breaking mark the beginning of a new era in healthcare for Nakuru County.

Thank you

H E SUSAN KIIHIKA, EGH

GOVERNOR, NAKURU COUNTY