



**SPEECH FOR H E SUSAN KIHKA, NAKURU COUNTY GOVERNOR,
DURING THE GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY FOR THE
CONSTRUCTION OF OLENGURUONE STADIUM ON 13TH OCTOBER,
2025 IN KURESOI SOUTH, NAKURU COUNTY**

Hon Soipan Tuya, Cabinet Secretary for Defence

Dr Patrick Mariru, Principal Secretary, State Department of Defence

Hon Joseph Tonui, MP for Kuresoi South

Hon Alfred Mutai, MP for Kuresoi North

Top Ministry of Defence and Department of Defence officials

Nakuru County officials

Our celebrated athletes present

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning.

It is with great joy and a deep sense of responsibility that I stand before you today on this momentous occasion—the ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of the Olenguruone Stadium. This is a day we have all longed for, and I am thrilled that we are finally witnessing the beginning of a new chapter for Kuresoi South and, indeed, for the entire Nakuru County.

At the onset, allow me to appreciate Hon Soipan Tuya and the Kenya Defence Forces team for making it possible for this event to take place today. Hon Tuya, your commitment to this project has been unwavering. You have gone above and beyond to ensure this day becomes possible, and for that, the people of Kuresoi South and the entire Nakuru County are truly grateful to you and the KDF.

This project is not just about the physical construction of a stadium; it is about the restoration of hope, empowerment, and opportunity for the youth of this region. It is a testament to what can be achieved when we come together, when leaders at all

levels are committed to advancing the welfare of our people, and when we prioritize the future of our children.

Ladies and gentlemen

The story of Olenguruone Stadium is a story of resilience, patience, and perseverance. The journey began many years ago. In November 2012, under the Ministry of Public Housing and Urban Development during the tenure of the late President Mwai Kibaki, the construction of this stadium was officially launched. It was a project with an ambitious goal—to provide a state-of-the-art sports facility to the people of Olenguruone and the greater Kuresoi South. The vision was clear, and the promise was strong. The stadium was to be completed by the end of 2014.

However, as we all know, that promise was not fulfilled. In 2016, the contractor abandoned the site, leaving this important project incomplete and the people of this region without the sporting infrastructure they so desperately needed. For nearly **13 long years**, our youth have lacked a proper facility to train, compete, or host community events. For 13 years, potential champions ran on dusty village paths, the absence of a modern arena stifling talent, limiting community participation, and hindering the potential of a generation. For 13 years, we waited.

But today, we say: No more waiting. No more abandonment. No more unfulfilled promises.

It was clear—as we took office—that we could not allow this situation to continue. As your Governor, I took it upon myself to find a solution. And so, I took the matter directly to the highest office in the land. I wish to sincerely thank H E President William Ruto, who, upon hearing of this long-standing plight, responded with urgency and compassion. On June 11th, 2025, during a meeting at State House, he issued a Presidential Directive tasking the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) with the revival and reconstruction of the Olenguruone Stadium.

This was just the beginning. What followed was a series of intense, high-level meetings—led by myself and HonTuya—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 building a stadium; it's about building trust, restoring hope, and inspiring a generation.

Now, let me share our vision for the Olenguruone Stadium. This will not be just a football pitch or a track. It will be a state-of-the-art multi-purpose arena, comprising:

- A standard football pitch
- A standard running track
- Facilities for field events like javelin, shot put, and long jump
- Indoor games courts for sports like table tennis, volleyball, and handball
- A modern pavilion with all amenities
- Changing rooms, ablution blocks, and adequate parking
- A borehole and water tank for sustainability
- Provisions for future expansion

This stadium is personal to me, and it should be personal to all of us. Just a few kilometres from here, the Keringet High Altitude Sports Complex is also under construction. Together, these two facilities will form a powerful sports ecosystem that nurtures, supports, and ultimately monetizes athletic talent.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We are not just building stadiums — we are building careers. We are building economies. We are creating platforms for young people to monetize their talent, become professionals, and even represent our country on the world stage. We are not just investing in facilities; we are investing in youth empowerment, economic opportunity, and national pride.

Least you forget: Kuresoi South and North are the cradle of champions. This is the home of Faith Kipyegon, a two-time Olympic and world champion, and Faith Cherotich, the reigning World 3000m steeplechase champion. In the recently concluded Tokyo World Athletics Championships, of the seven gold medals won by Kenya, six came from Nakuru County. We are a county of champions. All we need is the infrastructure to polish that talent and propel our youth to global platforms. This is what we are delivering today.

To the young athletes, to the parents, to coaches, and to the communities — this stadium belongs to you. And I want to urge you: guard it, use it, grow with it. Let it be a stage not just for sports, but for unity, discipline, and ambition.

In conclusion, today marks a new beginning. A new chapter in the journey of Kuresoi South, a journey that is built on the promise of opportunity, unity, and progress. As your Governor, I will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that we

fulfil the potential of our county, and that every citizen, especially our youth, has the chance to succeed.

Thank you

H E SUSAN KIIHIKA, EGH
GOVERNOR, NAKURU COUNTY