



**SPEECH BY H E SUSAN KIHKA, NAKURU COUNTY GOVERNOR,
DURING THE 63RD MADARAKA DAY CELEBRATIONS HELD IN
MAUCHE, NJORO SUB-COUNTY, ON 1ST JUNE 2026**

The County Commissioner,
County Officials,
Elected Leaders,
Religious and Community Leaders,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon.

1. It is a great honour to join you today as we celebrate the 63rd Madaraka Day — a historic day when our nation attained internal self-governance and laid the foundation for the freedom, dignity, and prosperity we continue to enjoy today.
2. As a nation, we have made significant progress over the years since that important day in 1963. One of the greatest milestones in our governance journey has been devolution, which has brought services and development closer to the people.
3. Today, as we gather here in Mauche under the theme “Education, Skills and the Future,” we are reminded that education remains the most powerful equaliser in society. Education opens doors, transforms communities, and gives hope to generations. It is through education and skills development that we shall prepare our children and youth for the future economy.

Fellow residents,

4. Across all levels of learning, one truth remains constant: it is our collective responsibility to ensure that every child remains in school and receives quality education. That is why we have continued to heavily invest in bursaries and scholarships for needy learners across Nakuru County.
5. For the 2025/2026 Financial Year, we have allocated Sh447 million to the bursary fund — an increase from Sh440 million in the previous year and a significant rise from Sh 177.8 million during my first year in office. This demonstrates our unwavering commitment to education as the foundation of development.
6. Through the first tranche alone, we have already supported 57,231 beneficiaries with bursary cheques worth over Sh284 million. The beneficiaries include students in universities, colleges, vocational training centres, secondary schools,

and special institutions. I am also proud to announce that this year, Nakuru County awarded 69 scholarships to exceptionally bright but extremely needy students from across the county.

7. As a county government, we are also committed to supporting learners with special needs by providing additional resources and creating an environment where every child can learn with dignity and confidence.

Fellow residents,

8. Our investment in Early Childhood Development Education continues to bear fruit. We currently have 1,073 public ECDE centres across the county, up from 1,003 when I assumed office.
9. Over the past year, we have constructed 230 classrooms and 82 toilets, equipped 311 classrooms, and built 12 kitchens. Through our school feeding programme, we now provide enriched porridge daily, contributing to an increase in ECDE enrolment from 58,000 to 66,000 learners.
10. We have also supplied instructional materials worth Sh17 million, employed 192 ECDE teachers on permanent and pensionable terms, confirmed 306 teachers, and continued training over 3,000 teachers annually on the Competency-Based Curriculum.

These investments are ensuring that our children receive a strong educational foundation during their formative years.

Fellow Residents,

11. Vocational training is equally important in preparing our youth for the future. Not every child will follow the same academic path, but every young person deserves an opportunity to acquire practical skills for employment and self-reliance. That is why we have expanded vocational training centres from 33 to 43 across the county and increased enrolment from 2,000 trainees to 6,850 trainees.
12. We have disbursed over Sh480 million in capitation grants—Sh30,000 per learner—as well as supplied tools and equipment worth Sh67 million, and invested more than Sh120 million in workshops, training rooms, and dormitories.
13. We are integrating digital learning, modernising our training programmes, and partnering with international organisations to align our courses with current market demands. At our Youth Empowerment Centres in Bondeni and Naivasha continue to equip young people with digital, creative, and technical

skills through textile hubs, Ajiry digital programmes, and modern recording studios.

14. To assist our youths leaving education institution and women, we have made deliberate efforts to remove one of the major systemic barriers preventing them from fully participating in economic growth: limited access to affordable credit. Through the Sh100 million low-interest Wezesha Fund—the County Enterprise Fund and the County Cooperative Revolving Fund—we are empowering Saccos, groups, and individuals with accessible financing to start or expand businesses. To date, we have disbursed Sh55.43 million to 16 cooperatives and Sh19.92 million to 120 groups. I urge all youth and women to take advantage of these transformative loan facilities.
15. As we focus on education and the future of our children, we must also confront the painful realities that threaten their safety and wellbeing. Recently, our county was deeply saddened by the tragic fire at Utumishi Academy in Gilgil and the heartbreaking defilement and killing of young Mercy Nyambura of Sinendet Primary School in Lare, Njoro.
16. These incidents remind us that the safety and protection of our children must remain a shared responsibility for parents, teachers, communities, religious leaders, and government institutions. No child should lose their life in a school fire. No child should suffer abuse, violence, or exploitation. We must strengthen safety standards in our schools, improve guidance and counselling programmes, and ensure that every child learns in a secure and supportive environment.

Fellow residents,

17. Beyond education, we continue to make major progress in healthcare, agriculture, water, and infrastructure. In healthcare, we have consistently allocated nearly 40 percent of our county budget to improve access to quality and affordable medical services.
18. Today, Nakuru has established 16 Primary Care Networks connecting communities to hospitals through 219 health facilities and 391 community units. Through outreach programmes, thousands of residents in underserved areas have received preventive and curative healthcare services.
19. We have expanded maternity services across the county, operationalised several maternity wings including the Bondeni Maternity Theatre, digitised healthcare systems, strengthened emergency response services, and improved staffing by employing and promoting hundreds of healthcare workers.
20. We are also constructing new Level Four hospitals in Kuresoi North, Rongai, Subukia, Njoro and Maai Mahiu while new outpatient blocks are near

completion in Molo and Olenguruone to reduce congestion in referral facilities and improve access to specialised healthcare services.

21. In agriculture, we have transformed the sector by strengthening key value chains including dairy, pyrethrum, avocado, coffee, maize, potatoes, and edible oil crops. Over 278,000 avocado seedlings, 33.9 million pyrethrum seedlings, maize seed, sunflower and canola seed, and coffee seedlings have been distributed, benefiting thousands of farmers while expanding acreage, improving food security, and boosting market access through renovated tea buying centres and fertilizer satellite stores.
22. The livestock and fisheries sub sectors have also recorded significant growth, with milk production reaching 326 million litres worth Sh14.6 billion in 2025. The county supported farmers through subsidized artificial insemination, disease control programs, dairy coolers, poultry and dairy goat improvement projects, fish restocking, and eco-tourism initiatives, while advancing key agricultural policies and legislation to secure long-term sustainability and sector growth.
23. Access to reliable water services has risen from 59 per cent when I took office to 63 per cent today. This progress reflects continued investment in boreholes, expansion of reticulation networks, rehabilitation of existing schemes, reduction of non-revenue water, and partnerships that are improving access to clean and safe water for households, schools, and health facilities, especially in underserved areas. I reaffirm my commitment that by the end of my first term, water access across the county will increase to 70 per cent.
24. In roads and infrastructure, we have continued grading, gravelling, and tarmacking roads across the county to improve mobility, enhance trade, and connect our communities to markets and essential services. Through our Government to Government arrangement, we are steadily improving the state of our roads and opening up new areas.

Fellow residents,

25. Allow me now to highlight developments projects in Nioro Sub County:

- Health sector improvements included renovating and equipping the outpatient block at Nessuit Health Centre, constructing a perimeter wall, and adding public sanitation facilities. At Njokerio Dispensary, perimeter wall works, electricity installation, and water piping were completed. The county also expects to complete, equip, and operationalize the new Njoro Level IV Hospital by year's end.

- Water projects enhanced access and livelihoods through distribution of avocado seedlings to farmers in Nessuit Ward, construction of a 100,000-litre tank and piping at Kipkogo Borehole, community water points at Tuei Borehole, pipe works at Tagitech Water Project, and equipping of Kenana Primary Borehole. Additional projects included drilling and solarisation of Mwigito Borehole, drilling and equipping Sosiote Borehole, and constructing a 20,000-litre elevated tank at Belbur Kapchil.
- Infrastructure works included bridges, roads, a footbridge at Utafiti Primary School, solar floodlights, and drainage improvements. ECDE classrooms and centres were established, while trade initiatives supported markets and disbursed Sh5.1 million to 35 groups under our Wezesha Fund. Here in Mauche, 11 groups have received Sh2 million in low interest loans.

Fellow residents

26. In conclusion, as we celebrate this year's Madaraka Day, I urge you to remain united and committed to building a better future for our children and our country. It is now our duty to use freedom responsibly by investing in education, empowering our youth, protecting our children, and working together for the progress of our nation.

I thank the people of Mauche in Njoro and the entire county of Nakuru for your continued support and partnership in development.

Thank you

H E SUSAN KIIHIKA, EGH

GOVERNOR, NAKURU COUNTY