



**SPEECH BY H E SUSAN KIHKA, NAKURU COUNTY GOVERNOR,
DURING THE COMMEMORATION OF INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS'
DAY, NAKURU COUNTY ON 23RD JUNE, 2026**

The Leadership of Tabernacle Widows Home,
Distinguished Guests,
County Officials Present,
Development Partners,
Religious Leaders,
Widows and Families Gathered Here Today,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon

It gives me great pleasure to join you here today as we commemorate International Widows' Day. This is a significant day that calls upon all of us to reflect on the experiences of widows in our communities, celebrate their resilience, and renew our commitment to supporting them in meaningful ways.

Allow me, first and foremost, to express my sincere appreciation to Tabernacle Widows Home for organizing this important event and for the remarkable work you continue to do in restoring hope, dignity, and purpose to widows. Through your compassion, dedication, and service, you have become a beacon of support for many women navigating difficult circumstances. Your efforts remind us that when communities come together, lives are transformed.

Today is not only a day of remembrance and reflection; it is also a day of recognition. Across Nakuru County and indeed across our nation, widows continue to play a critical role in raising families, supporting communities, building businesses, and contributing to economic and social development. Despite experiencing profound personal loss, many widows demonstrate extraordinary courage and determination as they rebuild their lives and provide for their loved ones.

However, we must also acknowledge the challenges that many widows continue to face. The loss of a spouse often comes with emotional pain, financial uncertainty, social isolation, and in some cases, violations of property and inheritance rights. Some are left to shoulder the responsibility of caring for families with limited resources and support systems. These realities require collective action from government, civil society, faith-based organizations, and the private sector.



As the County Government of Nakuru, we remain committed to ensuring that no vulnerable member of our society is left behind. Our development agenda is anchored on inclusion, empowerment, and the protection of human dignity.

Over the past years, we have implemented programs aimed at improving the welfare of women and vulnerable groups, including widows. Through our social protection initiatives, we have continued to support vulnerable households with access to healthcare services, community-based support programs, and economic empowerment opportunities.

Through the Department of Gender, Social Services, and Inclusivity, we have strengthened women's empowerment programs that provide training in entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and business development. Many women, including widows, have benefited from these initiatives, enabling them to start and expand small businesses, improve household incomes, and achieve greater financial independence.

Our administration has also continued to support women's groups and community organizations through capacity-building initiatives and linkages to government empowerment funds. We believe that empowering widows economically is one of the most sustainable ways of restoring dignity and creating opportunities for long-term prosperity.

Looking ahead, Nakuru County intends to strengthen interventions specifically targeting widows. We shall work towards expanding access to livelihood programs, enhancing psychosocial support services, promoting awareness of legal rights relating to inheritance and property ownership, and increasing opportunities for skills development and economic empowerment.

We also recognize that effective support cannot be delivered by government alone. This is why partnerships are critical. Today, I wish to affirm our commitment to working closely with Tabernacle Widows Home and other like-minded organizations to advance the welfare of widows across Nakuru County. Together, we can develop programs that address the unique needs of widows, create stronger support networks, and ensure that every widow has access to opportunities that improve her quality of life.

To all the widows gathered here today, I want to say this: your strength inspires us. Your resilience strengthens our communities. Your contribution to society is invaluable. You are not defined by loss, but by the courage with which you



continue to move forward, care for your families, and contribute to the development of our county.

As we mark this International Widows' Day, let us recommit ourselves to building a society that values every individual, protects the vulnerable, and creates opportunities for all. Let us continue to stand with widows not only today, but every day, through practical actions that promote inclusion, dignity, and empowerment.

Once again, I thank Tabernacle Widows Home for bringing us together for this noble cause and for your unwavering dedication to serving widows. The County Government of Nakuru remains your partner in this important journey.

Thank you.

H E SUSAN KIIHIKA, EGH

GOVERNOR, NAKURU COUNTY