



**SPEECH BY H E SUSAN KIHKA, GOVERNOR OF NAKURU COUNTY,
DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE FIRST TRANCHE OF THE 2025/2026
COUNTY BURSARY FUND AND DISTRIBUTION OF CHEQUES FOR
BAHATI SUB-COUNTY AT KIAMAINE PRIMARY SCHOOL, BAHATI –
24TH APRIL 2026**

**Honourable Members of the County Assembly,
Members of the County Executive present,
Chairperson and Members of the Bursary Fund Board,
Teachers and beneficiary students,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

Good morning.

1. It is both an honour and a privilege to join you today for the official launch of the first tranche of the Nakuru County Bursary Fund for **the 2025/2026** Financial Year, amounting to **Kshs 284,480,397**. This milestone reflects our unwavering commitment to expanding access to education and ensuring that no child in Nakuru County is left behind due to financial constraints.
2. At the outset, I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to the Members of the County Assembly for their steadfast support and vital role in making this initiative a reality. I also commend the dedicated teams who worked tirelessly to process and vet thousands of bursary applications, as well as the schools and institutions that have partnered with us patiently throughout this process.
3. Today's event goes beyond a ceremonial launch. It represents hope, opportunity, and a shared belief that every child—regardless of their background—deserves a chance to learn, grow, and succeed. Through this programme, we reaffirm our resolve to invest in the future of our county by supporting those who might otherwise be denied an education due to financial hardship.
4. Across all levels of learning, one truth remains constant: it is our collective responsibility to ensure that every learner stays in school and receives quality education. Just as a seed requires nurturing to grow into a strong plant, our students need consistent support to realise their potential. We must not allow bright, promising minds to fade away due to lack of opportunity. Through the bursary programme, we aim to:

- Improve access, retention, completion, and transition rates across all education levels Mitigate the effects of poverty and other barriers to education
- Support learners with special needs and prepare them for self-reliance
- Promote vocational training and youth empowerment, including skills such as driving, to enhance self-employment opportunities

Ladies and Gentlemen

5. For the 2025/2026 Financial Year, the County Government of Nakuru has allocated **Kshs 447 million** to the bursary fund—an increase from **Kshs 440 million** in the previous year, and a significant rise from Kshs 177.8 million during my first year in office. This steady growth demonstrates our deepening commitment to education as a cornerstone of development.
6. Today, we begin issuing cheques to **57,231** beneficiaries under this first tranche, totalling **Kshs 284,480,397**. These beneficiaries span all levels of education, including universities, colleges, vocational training centres, secondary schools, and special institutions. The distribution is as follows:

Category	No of beneficiaries	Amount Awarded (Kshs)
College	5,655	44,963,400
Secondary	42,724	163,453,770
Special Schools	656	4,241,500
University	4,719,	33,695,800
Vocational	3,477	30,862
TOTAL	57,231	284,480,397

Allocations in terms of sub counties across Nakuru County are as follows:

Sub County	Beneficiaries	Amounts (Kshs)
Bahati	5,885	25,608,820
Subukia	2,958	12,650,750

Gilgil	4,883	23,863,613
Naivasha	8,300	43,142,250
Kuresoi South	4,092	19,452,015
Kuresoi North	4,332	18,741,865
Rongai	4,841,	25,740,385
Nakuru Town East	5,582	27,195,500
Nakuru Town West	4,747	36,586,168
Njoro	6,703	31,527,531
Molo	4,908	19,971,500

7. Allow me now to focus on Bahati Sub-County. In this first tranche, **5,885** students have received bursaries amounting to **Kshs 25,608,820**. The distribution across wards is as follows:

- **Bahati** — 1,271 students — Kshs 4,299,500
- **Kiamaina** — 1,474 students — Kshs 5,828,000
- **Lanet/Umoja** — 1,160 students — Kshs 5,901,820
- **Kabatini** — 1,023 students — Kshs 4,792,500
- **Dundori** — 957 students — Kshs 4,787,000

8. Also, I want to report that this year we have awarded full scholarships to a total of 69 students at various levels of education as follows:

- **Bahati** — 12 scholarships
- **Gilgil** — 4 scholarships
- **Kuresoi North** — 4 scholarships
- **Kuresoi South** — 3 scholarships
- **Naivasha** — 13 scholarships
- **Nakuru Town East** — 4 scholarships
- **Nakuru Town West** — 5 scholarships
- **Njoro** — 6 scholarships
- **Rongai** — 10 scholarships

- **Subukia** — 8 scholarships

Ladies and gentlemen

9. Beyond bursaries, we remain committed to supporting learners with special needs. These young individuals require additional resources and tailored support, and we are determined to equip them with the tools necessary for independence and dignity. I call upon individuals, institutions, and development partners to join hands with us in advancing this important cause.
10. In fulfilling our mandate in Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) and Vocational Training, we have made significant strides over the past year. We currently have 1,073 public ECDE centres across the county. Our achievements include:
 - Construction of 230 classrooms and 82 toilets
 - Equipping 311 classrooms and building 12 kitchens
 - Providing enriched porridge daily, which has increased enrolment from 58,000 to 66,000 learners
 - Supplying instructional materials and curriculum resources worth Kshs 17 million
 - Employing 192 ECDE teachers on permanent and pensionable terms, and confirming 306 others
 - Continuous training of over 3,000 teachers annually on the Competency-Based Curriculum

In vocational training, our progress has been equally encouraging:

- Disbursed over Kshs 480 million in capitation grants to trainees
- Provided tools and equipment worth Kshs 67 million to over 30 training centres
- Constructed new facilities, including training rooms, workshops, and dormitories, at a cost exceeding Kshs 120 million
- Expanded the number of operational vocational training centres from 33 to 43
- Increased enrolment from 2,000 to 6,850 trainees
- Graduated over 4,000 students in 2024, with over 3,000 expected to graduate in November 2026
- Recruited 57 instructors and initiated the hiring of 66 more
- Integrated digital learning and modernised training programmes
- Strengthened co-curricular participation up to national level

- Partnered with international organisations to align courses with market demand

These achievements reflect a deliberate effort to build a skilled, empowered, and self-reliant generation.

11. In conclusion, education remains the most powerful tool we can use to transform lives and shape the future of our county. Let us continue working together to ensure that every child has the opportunity to learn, thrive, and achieve their dreams.

Thank you

H E SUSAN KIIHIKA, EGH

GOVERNOR, NAKURU COUNTY