



**SPEECH BY H E SUSAN KIIHIKA, NAKURU COUNTY GOVERNOR,
DURING A NAKURU OPINION LEADERS' MEETING AT STATE
HOUSE NAKURU ON 28TH OCTOBER, 2025**

Salutations

1. It is my distinct honour and profound privilege to stand before you this day as the head of this distinguished delegation of opinion leaders from Nakuru—the County of Unlimited Opportunities. We are deeply grateful that Your Excellency has graciously accorded us this audience here at State House.
2. Allow me, Your Excellency, at the very outset, to convey our heartfelt appreciation for the immeasurable support, encouragement, and goodwill that you have consistently extended to the people of Nakuru. Through your visionary leadership and steadfast commitment to national unity and development, you have not only affirmed your deep affection for our County but also inspired us to strive ever higher in the pursuit of progress, prosperity, and peace.
3. This delegation, is composed of elected leaders at both the national and county levels, grassroots opinion shapers, youth champions, and women leaders—all united by a common purpose: to serve, to lead, and to inspire.
4. Since assuming office, we have undertaken bold measures to enhance and uplift the lives of the people of Nakuru. Numerous projects have been completed, are ongoing, and will continue as part of this demanding transformation journey. When we appear before you, our purpose is to showcase our accomplishments and, above all, to affirm that with the valuable support and intervention of your Government.
5. Your Excellency, when I assumed office, I made a bold choice—to allocate 40 percent of Nakuru County's annual budget to health. This decision was anchored on one truth: the wellbeing of our people is non-negotiable. Three years later, this commitment has transformed Nakuru's healthcare landscape from a fragmented system into a coordinated, data-driven, and people-centred network.
6. At the core of this transformation is Primary Health Care. Sixteen Primary Care Networks (PCNs) now anchor 219 spokes and 391 community units, seamlessly connecting villages to hospitals. Through 268 outreach and in-reach programs, over 12,000 residents—many from remote areas—have received preventive and curative services.
7. Our digital transformation has expanded this reach. Nakuru was among the first two counties in Kenya to implement a smart PCN, transitioning to

electronic medical records in 14 facilities across 11 sub-counties. In partnership with the Ministry of Health, we are deploying the Taifa Care System—training 500 users and equipping facilities with 900 tablets and 160 computers.

8. Maternal and child health, Your Excellency, has seen remarkable gains. Ninety-three maternity units are operational, with new facilities in Kiptangwany and Barut, and expanded services in Mau Narok, Dundori, and Lanet. The reopened Bondeni Maternity Theatre—closed since 1958—now offers lifesaving surgeries closer to home. Teenage pregnancies have dropped from 18 to 12 percent through youth-friendly services, referrals, and health education.
9. Infrastructure development continues with new Level 4 hospitals in Kuresoi North, Rongai, Molo, Njoro, and Maai Mahiu. The revived Trauma Centre and Naivasha’s 124-slice CT scanner enhance specialized care. Our workforce has grown—250 permanent staff, 557 on longer contracts, and 900 promoted—supported by training and welfare improvements.
10. Through SHA reforms, 7,220 households (943,000 individuals) are registered, unlocking Sh12.6 million in reimbursements. Health financing has risen from Sh6.8 billion in 2022/23 to Sh 8.57 billion in 2025/26—a 25 percent increase—building a self-sustaining, accountable, and people-centred health system where no Nakuru family is impoverished by illness.

Ladies and gentlemen

11. Your Excellency, Nakuru is primarily an agricultural county. To enhance agricultural productivity, the County has prioritized key value chains such as pyrethrum, coffee, edible oils, and avocado. So far, 34.5 million pyrethrum seedlings worth Sh146 million have been distributed to 11,000 farmers, while over 394,000 grafted avocado seedlings valued at Sh131 million have benefited more than 17,000 farmers. Additionally, 42 metric tonnes of maize seed were distributed to 10,500 vulnerable individuals, including persons with disabilities. In Kabazi Ward alone, 20,166 coffee seedlings were supplied to 1,000 farmers, with plans to extend similar initiatives to Subukia, Bahati, and Rongai sub-counties.
12. Nakuru, Your Excellency, also partnered with the National Government under the Edible Oil Crops Promotion Project, distributing over 55 tonnes of sunflower seed and 5 tonnes of canola seed to more than 13,000 farmers.
13. To strengthen agricultural value chains, Nakuru has constructed or renovated 39 tea-buying centres and established 14 fertilizer satellite stores through a last-mile delivery model. Working with five cooperatives, the County distributed over 32,000 bags of fertilizer to nearly 9,000 farmers. More than

100 agricultural cooperatives now benefit from the Cooperative Development Revolving Fund, which offers affordable credit.

14. In the livestock sector, 2024 saw the production of 318 million litres of milk worth Sh13.9 billion from 466,800 dairy cattle. Ten milk cooling plants have been built, eight fully equipped, and a Sh10 million subsidized artificial insemination program launched, benefiting 5,000 farmers. Nakuru has also administered 155,267 livestock vaccinations.
15. The County is equally investing in the blue economy, stocking 200,000 fingerlings in Lake Naivasha, dams, and ponds while promoting sport fishing, boat riding, and related industries such as boat building and net manufacturing. Through partnerships with national agencies, Nakuru continues to advance knowledge transfer via programs like NAVCDP, ASDSP, KeLCoP, and the Edible Oil Promotion Project—scaling up research, innovation, and farmer capacity for sustainable growth.

Ladies and gentlemen

16. To enhance investments, productivity, value addition, marketing, and job creation for sustainable development, several transformative initiatives are underway. The County Aggregation and Industrial Park in Njoro is progressing steadily at 45 per cent completion with a cumulative expenditure of Sh173.1 million. To promote trade, 21 ESP markets are currently under construction across various locations, complemented by the rehabilitation of 45 markets since 2022. In the cooperative sector, 548 capacity-building sessions have been conducted for both board and general members, leading to the revival of nine marketing cooperatives and the registration of 125 new ones.
17. Your Excellency, further support to cooperatives has been provided through value addition equipment, including coffee beds, factory rehabilitation, water tanks, and milk coolers. Through the Cooperative Development Revolving Fund, 11 cooperatives received funding totalling to Sh 40.9 million, with appraisals ongoing for additional beneficiaries. Under the County Enterprise Fund Sh 11.2 million has been disbursed to 66 self-help groups, with an additional Sh 14.1 million approved for 87 more. In addition, we have initiated the Boda Boda Fund with a Sh30 million kitty to help our boda boda operators easily access loans.

Ladies and gentlemen

- 18.** Since 2022, we have continued to advance its mandate of environmental protection, climate resilience, sustainable resource management, and efficient service delivery in Nakuru County. Notable milestones have been realized across waste management, water access, pollution control, ecosystem restoration, and community engagement. To strengthen pollution monitoring, 30 air quality sensors have been installed across the county. In waste management, four major disposal sites—Giotto, Naivasha, Molo, and Tipis—have been rehabilitated and secured with improved infrastructure and equipment.
- 19.** Your Excellency, under the FLLoCA programme, 48 climate resilience projects have been implemented across the water, environment, and agriculture sectors, benefiting over 500,000 residents. Ecosystem restoration has been a major focus, with key sites such as Lion’s Garden, Muro River, Mireroni Wetland, Tayari Springs, and Kiboko Springs rehabilitated, and over 1.5 million trees planted countywide. Community engagement has been enhanced through clean-ups, awareness campaigns, and participation in the 2024 Peace and Climate Action Festival.
- 20.** To increase clean water coverage—one of my main pillars— 17,070 new household connections with 77,500 residents have gained access to clean, safe water. We have drilled 72 new boreholes, 92 solarized systems, and 488.72 km of new pipelines—raising clean water coverage from 59.2 percent to 62.3 percent. We’ve also distributed 43 water tanks and built 23 water kiosks. To scale up access further, we’ve acquired a modern Sh70 million drilling rig, aiming to drill 130 more boreholes in the coming year. As we face the realities of climate change, we’re responding with purpose.
- 21.** To achieve our goals in education and nutrition, we are led by the mantra that no child should be left behind because of poverty. That’s why we’ve disbursed Sh952 million in bursaries to over 140,000 students since I took office. This year, we disbursed bursaries amounting to Sh430 million to more than 48,000 students. Our ECDE program has expanded from 1,003 to 1,068 centres. The School Feeding (Uji) Program is now reaching over 65,000 learners—up from 59,000.
- 22.** We’ve integrated ICT into our ECDE curriculum, distributed new learning materials, and expanded Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) from 33 to 40. Enrolment is up to 5,421 students, supported by Sh110 million in capitation funding.
- 23.** In infrastructure, Our Imarisha Barabara program has opened up roads and livelihoods. We’ve graded 513 km, gravelled 383 km, built over 10 bridges, and installed 206 streetlights. Urban roads in Nakuru City, Rhonda, Biashara, and Flamingo are now complete—enhancing connectivity and

safety for our people. We are geared to embark on a, aggressive countywide exercise of opening new roads, grading and gravelling roads following an MoU we have signed with the National Youth Service (NYS). You will soon see heavy machines in your areas. Further, in tea growing areas mainly in Kuresoi, we have embarked on upgrading roads using the Tea Cess Funds.

Ladies and gentlemen

24. We've operationalized Municipal Boards—Gilgil, Naivasha, Molo, we are in the process of chartering Njoro, Maai Mahiu and Mau Narok to municipality status, and improved informal settlements through the KISIP program, impacting 57,500 residents. We are preparing the issuance of title deeds to more than 20 market centres, settlements, land buying companies and cooperatives
25. Under the National Government's Affordable Housing Program, we've completed and handed over 605 units in Bondeni, and 220 units in Elburgon, with new projects underway in Bahati and Elburgon . Through the Kenya Urban Support Program (KUSP) and the Kenya Informal Settlements Improvement Program (KISIP) we are upgrading basic infrastructure in our urban areas.
26. To promote sports, youth empowerment and protect the aged and vulnerable, we are developing our stadia and play grounds to give our youth avenues to nurture, grow and monetize talent. Two weeks ago, we broke ground for the construction of Olenguruone Stadium and we are poised to embark on construction of Phase 2 of the Afraha Stadium in partnership with KDF. Soon we will launch the Governor's Cup—a multi-sport tournament for all to participate.
27. At this juncture, Your Excellency, allow me to turn to requests of priority projects.
 - Handing over management of the Lake Nakuru National Park and Hells Gate to Nakuru County
 - By passes for Nakuru CBD through Lake Nakuru National Park, 30 kms
 - Ngata Centre-Makaburini Loop, Rongai, 13 kms
 - Siwot-Kapkembu Road, Kuresoi South 20kms
 - Gitare-Gilgil, 15 kms, Gilgil
 - Kabazi-Gituamba-Kwa Kiongo Road, 16 kms, Subukia
 - KITI Murunyu-Bahati-Maili Kumi Road, 20kms, Bahati
 - Salgaa Elburgon Road, 10 kms, Njoro
 - Modular Footbridge across main Highway to new stage, Nakuru City

28.Your Excellency, we in Nakuru assure you of our firm commitment and collaboration with the National Government in the transformation of our County. We are ready to work with you, and assure you of our unequivocal and unwavering support in your journey to transform Kenya.

Thank you

H E SUSAN KIIHIKA, EGH

GOVERNOR, NAKURU COUNTY