



SPEECH FOR H E SUSAN KIIHIKA, NAKURU COUNTY GOVERNOR, DURING THE GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY FOR SUSAN KIIHIKA PRIMARY AND JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL IN KIRATINA, NAKURU CITY ON 29TH OCTOBER, 2025

Salutations

Good morning

Today is a proud and historic day for the people of Kiratina and the greater Free Area community, Your Excellency. We gather here to break ground for the Susan Kihika Primary and Junior Secondary School, a beacon of hope, opportunity, and excellence for our children and future generations.

Your Excellency, this project is a joint partnership between the County Government of Nakuru and the Nakuru Town East CDF (NTE NGCDF). I wish to sincerely thank our partners for their collaboration and commitment to ensuring that education remains a cornerstone of development in our county. As a county, we have provided two acres of land for this noble cause, reaffirming our dedication to investing in the education and safety of our children.

This school will cater for ECD, Primary, and Junior Secondary learners, offering a seamless and holistic learning environment that nurtures the minds and talents of every child. Once complete, it will not only enhance access to quality education but also decongest neighbouring schools in Free Area.

Your Excellency, importantly, this school will help reduce the risk of accidents that have sadly occurred as our children cross the busy highway to attend distant schools. By bringing education closer to their homes, we are safeguarding their lives while opening doors to endless possibilities.

To the parents, teachers, and community leaders present, I urge you to take ownership of this project. Let us work together to ensure that this institution becomes a model of excellence — a place where dreams are nurtured, and futures are built.

Your Excellency, this year, we allocated a total of Sh440 million to the County Bursary Fund, an increase from the Sh342 million allocated in the previous financial year benefitting 49,865 students at various levels. During my first year in office, we set aside Sh177.8 million for bursaries. Of the Sh440 million allocated, we already distributed the first tranche of Sh165 million earlier this year.

In fulfilment of our mandate on Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) and Vocational Training, we have made significant progress over the past year. Our efforts have been directed toward strengthening the foundation of education and skills development across the county to ensure every child and youth has access to quality learning opportunities.

To begin with, Your Excellency, we have employed 498 ECDE teachers on permanent and pensionable terms, bringing the total number of teachers to 821. This milestone reflects our unwavering commitment to improving the quality of early childhood education by ensuring that our learners are guided by qualified and motivated educators. In addition, we successfully implemented the Uji Program across the county, an initiative that has seen an increase in learner enrolment from 59,000 to 65,000 and the number of ECDE centres rise from 1,003 to 1,068.

To provide a conducive learning environment, we constructed 127 new ECDE classrooms, rehabilitated 16, and equipped 628 centres with age-appropriate furniture. Furthermore, we built 10 kitchens to support the Uji Program and 69 toilets to enhance hygiene and comfort for our young learners.

In vocational training, Your Excellency, we have continued to invest in infrastructure and equipment to improve the quality of technical education. We constructed eight training rooms and workshops at our Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) at a cost of Ks Sh15.2 million and equipped nine VTCs with modern tools and machinery worth Sh15.7 million. We also constructed and opened seven new VTCs, bringing the total number to 40 across the county. Additionally, we built ten Centres of Excellence, which will be operationalized this year to further boost technical and vocational skills development.

Your Excellency, our focus on accessibility and affordability has led to an increase in VTC enrolment from 5,361 trainees last year to 6,250 this year. We have continued to pay a capitation fee of Sh30,000 for each VTC learner, easing the financial burden on families and promoting inclusivity.

In conclusion, let us continue working together—leaders, educators, parents, and well-wishers—to ensure that the dreams of Nakuru’s children are not dimmed by poverty. Education remains the most powerful tool we can offer them; through it, we break the chains of poverty and open doors to a brighter, more hopeful future.

Thank you

H E SUSAN KIIHIKA, EGH

GOVERNOR, NAKURU COUNTY