



SPEECH FOR H E SUSAN KIIHIKA, NAKURU COUNTY GOVERNOR, DURING THE LAUNCH OF A CT SCAN AT THE NAKURU TEACHING AND REFERRAL HOSPITAL ON 29TH OCTOBER, 2025

Salutations

Good morning.

It gives me great joy to welcome you all to Nakuru Teaching and Referral Hospital for this momentous occasion—the official launch of our new CT Scan machine, a milestone that marks yet another step forward in our commitment to providing quality healthcare to the people of Nakuru County and beyond.

Your Excellency, today's event is not just about unveiling a piece of medical equipment. It is about bringing hope, efficiency, and accuracy to the diagnosis and treatment of thousands of patients who rely on this hospital every year. With this state-of-the-art CT Scan machine, our doctors will now be able to detect complex conditions—such as cancers, internal injuries, and neurological disorders—quickly and accurately, saving both time and lives.

Previously, many of our patients had to travel long distances to Nairobi or Eldoret for such diagnostic services, often at great financial and emotional cost. Today, that burden is lifted. Nakuru a true regional medical hub, not only serving our residents but also our neighbors from Baringo, Nyandarua, Kericho, and Bomet.

Your Excellency, over the past three years, Nakuru County has rewritten its healthcare story. Through decisive leadership and data-driven coordination, a once-fragmented system has become people-centred and efficient.

Investment in Primary Health Care has transformed access. Sixteen Primary Care Networks (PCNs) now anchor 219 spokes and 391 community units, linking villages to hospitals through an effective model. Through 268 outreaches and in-reaches, over 12,000 residents—many from underserved areas—received preventive and curative services. Healthcare is no longer an urban privilege but a community reality.

Digital transformation has expanded this reach. Nakuru was among the first counties in Kenya to implement a smart PCN, shifting from paper to electronic records. EMRs now operate in 14 facilities across 11 sub-counties. Partnering with the Ministry of Health, the county is rolling out the Taifa Care System, training 500 users and equipping facilities with 900 tablets and 160 computers. This enables real-time data flow for faster patient management and smarter decision-making.

Maternal and child health remains central. Ninety-three maternity units are operational, including new ones in Kiptangwany and Barut, with expanded capacity in Mau Narok, Dundori, and Lanet. Bondeni Maternity Theatre—stalled since 1958—is now fully functional, performing lifesaving surgeries and easing pressure on Nakuru County Referral Hospital. Teenage pregnancies have dropped from 18 percent to 12 percent through youth-friendly services and health education.

Nutrition and family wellness are improving through 350 mother-to-mother and father-to-father support groups and the school feeding programme. Six lactation stations in hospitals and horticultural farms allow mothers to breastfeed safely, promoting healthier families and productivity.

Integration of HIV and TB care now ensures continuity: 96 percent of HIV patients are screened for TB, and 98% of TB patients tested for HIV. Despite donor transitions, treatment continues locally, with success rates above 85 percent.

Hospital infrastructure is expanding, with new Level 4 hospitals underway in Kuresoi North, Rongai, Molo, Njoro, and Maai Mahiu to decongest referral centres. Kuresoi North is 44 percent complete and Rongai 34 percent. The long-stalled Trauma Centre, revived through partnership with the Kenya Defence Forces, will soon offer advanced emergency and orthopaedic care. Staff welfare is prioritized: 250 health workers made permanent, 557 upgraded to contracts, 900 promoted, 224 new recruits onboarded, and 50 officers in management training. Stability and morale now drive performance.

Public health surveillance has strengthened. The Emergency Operations Centre detects outbreaks in real time, while a new emergency call centre with live ambulance tracking has reduced response times. The 2024 County Food Testing Laboratory has shortened food safety response.

Gender-based violence response improved through MediCapt, a digital tool for forensic documentation. Over 170 health workers trained, and three GBV clinics established.

Inclusivity has advanced: persons with disabilities increased from 2,550 to 4,880; 600 received assistive devices, 40 prostheses, and many enrolled in insurance and employment programmes.

Laboratories and supply chains modernised through the Atellica Automation System, raising test volumes 25 per cent and monthly revenue from Sh10M to 14M.

Under Social Health Authority (SHA) reforms, 7,220 households—943,000 individuals—are registered, with Sh12.6M in real-time reimbursements reinvested into facilities.

The county health budget rose from Sh6.8B in 2022/23 to Sh 8.57B in 2025/26—a 25 per cent increase—transforming Nakuru's health sector into a self-sustaining engine of service and accountability.

In conclusion, this achievement reflects your government's Bottom-Up vision of improving healthcare accessibility and equity. On behalf of the people of Nakuru, I express our deepest gratitude for your unwavering support and partnership.

Together, we are building a healthier, stronger Nakuru—one where no life is lost for lack of timely diagnosis or proper medical care.

Thank you

H E SUSAN KIHKA, EGH

GOVERNOR, NAKURU COUNTY