



**SPEECH BY H E SUSAN KIIHIKA, GOVERNOR OF NAKURU COUNTY, DURING
THE WELCOME RECEPTION FOR H E SUSAN BURNS, CHARGÉ D’AFFAIRES, U.S.
EMBASSY IN KENYA HELD ON 30TH SEPTEMBER 2025, NAIROBI**

**Your Excellency Susan Burns, Chargé d’Affaires of the United States Embassy in Kenya,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good evening.

It is both an honour and a pleasure to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to Your Excellency to our great nation, Kenya on behalf of the people of Nakuru County. This evening’s gathering reaffirms the strong and enduring friendship between the United States and Kenya—and more specifically, the deepening ties between the U.S. Embassy and Nakuru County.

At the onset, allow me to commend your leadership and the pivotal role the U.S. Embassy continues to play in promoting development, good governance, and people-centred partnerships across Kenya. In Nakuru County, we have proudly benefited from this collaboration—one grounded in mutual respect, shared values, and a shared commitment to building resilient communities.

Our partnership has had a tangible impact across critical sectors that underpin our county’s growth.

Agriculture, the backbone of Nakuru’s economy, has seen remarkable transformation through support from U.S. agencies such as USAID and various implementing partners. These efforts have not only strengthened food security but also introduced climate-smart farming practices that are improving livelihoods, particularly in rural areas.

A flagship initiative is the revitalization and promotion of the pyrethrum value chain, including the establishment of a processing plant in Naivasha. This facility is breathing new life into a historically significant crop, generating employment, enhancing value addition, and expanding export opportunities. We are deeply grateful for the technical support and investor linkages facilitated by the Embassy in making this a reality.

In the health sector, U.S. support has been equally transformative. Through initiatives like PEPFAR, our county hospitals and health centres have received critical infrastructure, equipment, and training. These interventions have significantly improved service delivery in areas such as HIV/AIDS treatment, maternal health, and primary care—ensuring even our most vulnerable citizens are not left behind.

Access to clean and safe water has also improved, thanks to programs supported by U.S.-funded development partners. These efforts are especially impactful in semi-arid and underserved regions of our county, directly enhancing public health outcomes.

In terms of economic empowerment, the U.S. Embassy played a key role in supporting the Nakuru County Investment Convention held last year. The event attracted both local and international investors to explore our county's potential in agribusiness, tourism, manufacturing, and energy. I am pleased to note that American investors were present, reinforcing our shared commitment to economic cooperation.

Looking ahead, Nakuru County is fully committed to strengthening its partnership with the U.S. Embassy and affiliated institutions. We envision deeper collaboration in areas such as youth empowerment, technical and vocational training, green energy, and urban development.

We are also eager to work together on governance and institutional capacity building, particularly in public financial management, data-driven policymaking, and transparency. These areas are vital to our long-term vision for sustainable and accountable governance.

As many of you know, Nakuru was elevated to city status four years ago. This milestone came with new responsibilities and opportunities. We welcome the continued support of the U.S. Embassy as we embrace smart city solutions, inclusive urban planning, and infrastructure development that aligns with our vision of a modern, equitable, and prosperous Nakuru.

Your Excellency, your presence here is not merely a diplomatic gesture—it is a powerful symbol of solidarity, friendship, and shared purpose. On behalf of the people of Nakuru County, I thank you—and through you, the Government and people of the United States—for your unwavering partnership.

Let us continue to build bridges—not just of diplomacy, but of opportunity, progress, and hope.

Thank you—and once again, Karibu Sana!

H E SUSAN KIIHIKA, EGH
GOVERNOR, NAKURU COUNTY