



SPEECH BY H E DAVID KONES, NAKURU COUNTY DEPUTY GOVERNOR, DURING A MEETING WITH GERMAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION IN NAIVASHA ON 31ST OCTOBER, 2025

Salutations

I am honoured to stand before you today to share with you the strong and growing partnership between our county, our national government in Kenya, and the German Government.

At the outset let me say how heartening it is to welcome you here in Nakuru County — a county of tremendous potential, dynamic energy resources, rich biodiversity and a growing economy. We know that Germany has long been a trusted partner of Kenya and of Nakuru County in particular, and today we highlight how that partnership is bearing fruit.

Let me begin by emphasising our mutual commitment: Germany's development cooperation in our region is not simply about funding, but about forging sustainable paths for renewable energy, environmental conservation and community well-being. In Nakuru County we are therefore privileged to host several major German-supported initiatives, and I wish to highlight a few key ones.

Firstly, through the Geothermal Risk Mitigation Facility (GRMF) we in Nakuru have a number of geothermal projects in the pipeline. On the geothermal front:

- The “Menengai West DP1” project (Kenya, Nakuru) is supported by a grant of USD 8,381,072 and is currently in the project pipeline. The developer anticipates a likely installed capacity of approximately 100 MW once implemented.
- The “Menengai West SSH2” project (Kenya, Nakuru) is supported by a grant of USD 1,134,215, currently in the pipeline and focused on surface study work.
- The “Elementaita SSH2” project (Kenya, Nakuru) is supported by a grant of USD 994,102, at the stage before grant contract signing, also for surface study.
- Finally, the “Nakuru SSH2” project (Kenya, Nakuru) is supported by a grant of USD 1,125,963, likewise in the pipeline for surface study.

These four initiatives under GRMF reflect the deep trust Germany places in our county's geothermal potential, especially around Menengai and Elementaita, and they mark important stepping stones to our shared goal of sustainable energy and job creation in the region.

Secondly, under the broader renewable energy umbrella, we have the Renewable Energy Enhancement Facility – Grid Stabilisation Program. Under this programme, the “New Rongai Substation” in Nakuru County is slated, supported by a grant of USD 17,600,000 and currently in preparation. The substation will strengthen our electricity grid, improve reliability, and thus enable local businesses and industries to invest with confidence.

Thirdly, the “Olkaria I and IV Upgrade” project in Nakuru is supported via a subsidised-interest loan of EUR 45 million and is already in implementation (2023-2028). The overarching objective is to promote efficient and stable use of renewable energies in Kenya's electricity supply, and thereby contribute to sustainable economic growth, social development as well as environmental and climate protection. This project directly links Nakuru County with Germany's climate-and-energy diplomacy.

Fourthly, we should mention the “Lake Nakuru Biodiversity Conservation Project” (Kenya, Nakuru) which is supported by a budget loan of EUR 29 million plus a grant of EUR 14 million, currently in implementation. The aim is to reduce discharge of pollutants into Lake Nakuru through improved urban wastewater infrastructure, thereby ensuring the long-term protection of the lake's unique biodiversity. Construction is scheduled to begin in Q1 2026, with planned completion by 31 December 2027. This is tangible evidence of Germany's commitment to our environment and to preserving one of our greatest natural assets.

Fifth, the Water Sector Trust Fund (WSTF) project in Nakuru County is also a success story — EUR 1 million of Trust Fund funds has already been implemented in the county, spanning water kiosks, pipelines, tanks, public toilets and household toilets, from 2012 to date. This shows the long-term, consistent presence of German-supported water and sanitation interventions in Nakuru.

These projects collectively illustrate the strong synergy between Nakuru County's development aspirations and Germany's development cooperation priorities. For our part, Nakuru County is committed to providing enabling policy, infrastructure and local stability so that these investments can flourish and deliver benefits for

our citizens. We recognize that Germany's support is not simply financial—but also a partnership in knowledge-transfer, capacity-building and governance.

During this visit today, I would like to emphasise a few key points of cooperation:

1. Energy and Climate Action – Our geothermal and grid-enhancement programmes link directly to climate-resilient economic development. Nakuru County welcomes German technical expertise, investments and international standards in these sectors.
2. Environmental Sustainability – The Lake Nakuru-Biodiversity initiative speaks to protecting our fragile ecosystems, promoting eco-tourism, preserving indigenous flora/fauna and ensuring clean waterways for future generations. German support is transforming promises into action.
3. Social and Community Impact – Water, sanitation and local infrastructure programmes supported by Germany mean healthier communities, more inclusive growth and stronger foundations for education and economic participation.
4. Investment and Local Policy – We value how German partnership encourages institutional reforms, policy coherence and transparency. Nakuru County is actively reforming its business environment, levies and licenses to attract both domestic and foreign investment.

In closing, allow me to say this: the German-Kenyan relationship in Nakuru County is more than donor-recipient—it is a strategic collaboration rooted in mutual respect, shared values and long-term vision. To our German friends: your confidence in Nakuru County, your willingness to support our geothermal ambitions, our environmental goals and our infrastructure needs is deeply appreciated. To our people of Nakuru County: let us welcome this partnership with eagerness, commit to good governance and ensure these interventions deliver real, sustainable benefits.

Thank you

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