



SPEECH BY H E SUSAN KIIHIKA, NAKURU OUNTY GOVERNOR, DURING THE GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY OF THE KAISHAN GREEN FERTILIZER PROJECT AT OLKARIA GEOTHERMAL FIELDS ON 3RD NOVEMBER, 2025

Hon Opiyo Wandayi, Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Petroleum
Mr Alex Kamau, Principal Secretary, State Department for Energy
Dr Tang Yan, Managing Director, Kaishan Group Co. Ltd
Eng Peter Njenga, Managing Director and CEO, KenGen
Nakuru County Officials,
Distinguished Guests,
Members of the Local Community,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Today marks a defining moment in the history of Nakuru County, and indeed, in the story of our nation. We gather here not just to witness the ground-breaking of a facility, but to celebrate the dawn of a new era—an era of green industrialization, clean energy innovation, and agricultural transformation.

The Kaishan Green Fertilizer Project stands as a visionary partnership between the Kaishan Group Co. Ltd and our very own Kenya Electricity Generating Company (KenGen). The project will harness geothermal steam from KenGen's operational wells right here in Olkaria, to power a 165.4-megawatt plant that will produce 100,000 tons of green ammonia and fertilizer annually, all from clean, renewable geothermal energy.

Upon completion, this Sh124 billion investment will scale up to yield 200,000 tons of green ammonia, 180,000 tons of urea, and 300,000 tons of calcium ammonium nitrate every year. The expected annual revenue—between Sh34 and Sh39 billion—is not only a testament to Kenya's growing industrial potential but also a bold statement of investor confidence in Nakuru County's position as a hub of energy, agriculture, and innovation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This project could not have found a more fitting home. Nakuru is the agricultural heartbeat of Kenya—the nation's second-largest food-producing county, feeding millions across our borders. Our rich soils and favourable climate sustain a diverse range of value chains—from potatoes in Molo and Kuresoi, to avocados in Njoro and Bahati, pyrethrum in upper Nakuru, and maize across Rongai, Subukia, and Gilgil. We are also a key player in dairy, horticulture, and floriculture, with thousands of smallholder farmers driving rural livelihoods.

To these farmers the promise of affordable, locally produced green fertilizer means more than just savings—it means hope. It means higher yields, improved food security, and restored dignity for the hardworking men and women who till our land. With lower input costs, we expect more farmers to reinvest in modern farming methods, expand acreage, and venture into value addition.

As a County Government, we are determined to ensure that this green revolution extends beyond production to processing, packaging, and export. Our focus is on value addition and manufacturing. Through the Naivasha Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and ongoing construction of the County Aggregation and Industrial Park in Njoro, we are encouraging investors to establish plants that can process potatoes into crisps and starch, avocados into oil and cosmetics, pyrethrum into natural insecticides, and maize into flour, feed, and ethanol.

We envision Nakuru as the agro-industrial and renewable energy capital of East Africa—where green power drives manufacturing, and where agricultural products are transformed into high-value goods that create jobs and wealth locally. The Kaishan–KenGen partnership is a perfect fit for this vision. It will not only stabilize fertilizer supply but also power industries that depend on clean and affordable energy.

Environmentally, this project is equally transformative. By producing fertilizer using geothermal energy instead of fossil fuels, it will prevent an estimated 600,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions annually. This project—once complete—will also create **over 2,000 direct and indirect jobs**, benefiting thousands of our youth in Olkaria, Naivasha, and across Nakuru County.

I want to acknowledge the tremendous work that KenGen continues to do—not just in generating power, but in uplifting communities. From school support programs and water projects to the construction of the Naivasha Level 4 Hospital Outpatient Block worth Sh300 million, KenGen has consistently demonstrated corporate citizenship of the highest order.

As we embark on this next phase, I wish to propose three key areas for deeper collaboration between KenGen, Kaishan Group, and the County Government:

1. **Community Benefit and CSR Investment:**

Let us establish a transparent framework that ensures local communities directly benefit through scholarships, healthcare expansion, and empowerment of women and youth enterprises.

2. **Land for Public Facilities:**

We must allocate land for essential public services—schools, dispensaries, and recreational facilities—so that growth here translates into real opportunities for our people.

3. **Employment and Skills Development:**

Together, we can establish training and apprenticeship programs in geothermal technology, renewable energy, and industrial operations—so that our youth, from Hell’s Gate to Gilgil, become active participants in this new green economy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This ground-breaking is not just a ceremony—it is a commitment. A commitment to a future where clean energy powers our industries, where our farmers prosper, where our youth are skilled and employed, and where our environment is preserved for generations to come.

Today, Nakuru stands tall—not only as the heartland of Kenya but as the heartbeat of Kenya’s green transformation. Together with our partners, we are showing Africa and the world that sustainability and prosperity can go hand in hand.

As we break this ground today, let us also break new ground in vision, partnership, and innovation. Let us build a future of shared growth, powered by the energy beneath our feet and the strength of our people.

Thank you

H E SUSAN KIHKA, EGH

GOVERNOR, NAKURU COUNTY