



**SPEECH BY H E SUSAN KIIHIKA, NAKURU
COUNTY GOVERNOR
ON THE CHEMUSUSU WATER SUPPLY AND
DISTRIBUTION TO THE RESIDENTS OF
NAKURU COUNTY ON 5TH FEBRUARY, 2026**

**Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Water, Environment
and Natural Resources,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good morning.

I am deeply honoured to join you today during the inspection of this very important project touching the livelihood of the people of Nakuru.

At the outset, allow me to thank the Honourable Cabinet Secretary and the Ministry for their continued collaboration with county governments in advancing access to clean, safe, and reliable water.

Access to water is not merely a basic service; it is a fundamental human right and a critical enabler of public health, economic growth, food security, and social stability. In Nakuru County, water remains one of our

most urgent development priorities. However, it is also one of our most complex challenges, driven by rapid population growth, accelerated urbanisation, climate variability, and years of historical underinvestment in bulk water infrastructure.

The scale of this challenge is best illustrated by data. Current projections indicate that Nakuru County's water demand will rise to approximately 451,561 cubic metres per day by the year 2030. Presently, the combined water production by the three utilities serving the county—NAWASSCO, NARUWASCO, and NAIVAWASCO—stands at about 102,626 cubic metres per day, against an existing daily demand of 355,085 cubic metres per day. This widening gap between supply and demand presents a significant risk to sustainable socio-economic development if not addressed with urgency and scale.

Despite these constraints, the County Government of Nakuru has taken deliberate, responsible, and targeted actions within its fiscal capacity to expand access to water, particularly at the last mile. We have invested in borehole drilling and equipping, development of small surface water intakes and weirs, construction of water storage facilities, expansion of distribution networks, and the rollout of community-based water schemes in rural and peri-urban areas. These interventions have translated into tangible improvements in water access, reliability, and equity for thousands of households that were previously unserved.

Ladies and gentlemen

In parallel, we have prioritised strengthening governance, accountability, and operational efficiency within our water utilities. As a result, Nakuru County has achieved Non-Revenue Water levels of below 39 per cent. While this remains above the national benchmark, it places Nakuru among the better-performing counties nationally. We remain firmly committed to further reducing losses through infrastructure rehabilitation, system metering, and improved network management.

Rongai Sub-County exemplifies both the progress we have made and the magnitude of unmet demand that still confronts us. With a population of over 199,906 residents, water demand in Rongai continues to rise steadily. Through the Chemususu Water Supply Scheme, the County Government, working with partners, has enabled more than 5,000 households to access clean water at their doorsteps, with the scheme currently supplying approximately 6,000 cubic metres of water per day.

Beyond bulk supply, the County Government has deliberately invested in last mile connectivity to ensure that water reaches households, social institutions, and villages. Between the 2019/2020 and 2021/2022 financial years, Nakuru County allocated Sh10.5 million to the Chemususu last mile network. This investment facilitated the laying of a total 5,964 metres of pipeline,

including six-inch uPVC, four-inch HDPE, and two-inch distribution lines.

These works involved extending pipelines from the 1,000 cubic metres Emkwen storage tank toward Kipsyenan AIC Church, Lelechwet Village, Koisamo Junction, Kipsyenan Dispensary, Molkelwet Village, and Kinoiyo. Through these targeted extensions, an estimated 1,600 residents now enjoy improved access to safe water, significantly reducing walking distances, easing the burden on women and children, and supporting schools and health facilities within the area. However, even with these gains, Rongai Sub-County's ultimate water demand stands at approximately 19,248 cubic metres per day. This leaves a daily deficit of over 13,000 cubic metres, a gap that cannot be bridged through small-scale or last mile interventions alone.

It is for this reason that we respectfully appeal to the National Government to fast-track strategic, large-scale water projects that are critical to the long-term water security of Nakuru County. Foremost among these is the Itare Dam Project, which remains the most viable and transformative solution for meeting Nakuru County's holistic water demand, estimated at over 110,000 cubic metres per day. To the people of Nakuru, Itare Dam is more than an infrastructure investment; it is a promise of sustainability, resilience, and dignity for generations to come.

Ladies and gentlemen

We also seek the urgent rehabilitation and dredging of Turasha Dam, a vital water source for Nakuru County. With a design capacity of 19,000 cubic metres per day, and current production of approximately 13,000 cubic metres per day, restoring Turasha to full capacity will significantly enhance water availability. Equally important, Turasha provides fresh surface water essential for blending and reducing high fluoride levels prevalent in many of our groundwater sources, thereby improving overall water quality.

We further request support in the rehabilitation and formal handover of existing national water infrastructure within the county, some of which remains underutilised due to delayed transitions and unclear ownership documentation. In addition, we seek enhanced national financing, technical assistance, and partnerships to support climate-resilient water infrastructure and modern water management systems.

I wish to assure you that Nakuru County is fully prepared to partner with the National Government. Several bankable water project proposals have already been developed by the County Government and our water utilities. I respectfully request an opportunity, together with county leadership and utility management, to formally present and submit these proposals to your office for consideration and support.

In conclusion, Nakuru County remains steadfast in its commitment to transparency, accountability, and

effective intergovernmental collaboration. Through coordinated action between the National Government, County Government, and sector stakeholders, we can expand access to potable water, reduce water-borne diseases, enhance agricultural productivity, and significantly improve the quality of life for our people. Together, we can ensure that every resident of Nakuru County can turn on a tap with confidence, dignity, and hope.

Thank you.

H E SUSAN KIIHIKA, EGH

GOVERNOR, NAKURU COUNTY