



STATEMENT BY H E SUSAN KIIHIKA, NAKURU COUNTY GOVERNOR, ON CHILD SEX TRADE IN MAAI MAHIU DATED 8TH AUGUST, 2025 in NAKURU CITY

Good morning.

1. We are gathered here today not just to speak – but to act. We are here because an evil has taken root among us – one that violates our children, shames our community, and threatens the future of Nakuru County.
2. The child sex trade in Maai Mahiu is a painful truth we must confront. It is not just a crime. It is a betrayal of our values, of our laws, and of the sacred duty we have to protect our children.

And let me be clear: This vice must end. And it will end.

3. We must begin by acknowledging the problem not hiding from it. For too long, silence has been our enemy. Children some as young as 12 years are being exploited, traded, and abused by predators, both local and foreign. Many times, it is happening in broad daylight, under the blind eyes of a society that has grown numb. Maai Mahiu, a key transport hub, has sadly become a hotspot for this exploitation, driven by poverty, lack of opportunities, and a network of traffickers who prey on desperation. But this is not who we are.
4. This administration will no longer allow this vice to thrive. Starting today, we are setting forward the following five-point action plan to end child sex trafficking in Maai Mahiu and beyond.
 - We are calling on the the National Police Service, DCI, and DPP to: Identify, arrest, and prosecute child traffickers, exploiters, and brothel operators. They should also monitor truck stops, guest houses, and known hotspots; launch undercover operations and intelligence-led investigations. Let all perpetrators be warned: Your time is up.
 - We are setting up Child Protection Committees in every ward in Naivasha Sub-county, involving chiefs, teachers, religious leaders, and youth groups to report abuse, protect victims, and raise awareness. If we wait for the government alone, we will lose more children. This fight must begin in our homes, schools, and churches.

- We are working with partners to: Open a safe house in Maai Mahiu for rescued children. We will also provide trauma counselling, healthcare, education, and skills training. We will reintegrate survivors back into safe, supportive environments. No child should be left broken. Every child deserves a second chance at dignity and a future.
 - Poverty fuels this trade. So, we will scale up: We have already established the County Enterprise Fund and the County Cooperative Enterprise Fund to benefit small scale traders. We continue to issue bursaries to needy children at all levels of education and our school feeding program is ongoing. No mother should ever feel forced to offer a child to survive.
 - We must change attitudes. We must speak to our men, our boys, our truck drivers, our employers. Buying sex from a child is not just “bad behaviour.” It is rape. It is a crime. It is evil. We will roll out a county-wide campaign on child protection in schools, churches, matatu stages, and boda boda stages to educate and to shame those who enable this trade.
5. To the parents, talk to your children. Love them. Listen to them. To the teachers, report signs of abuse. Be watchful. To our leaders, pass policies that protect, not exploit. To law enforcement, enforce the law without fear or favour. And to all citizens of Nakuru, stand up. Speak up. Step in.
 6. In conclusion, this is my promise as your Governor: Not one more child will be lost to this darkness while I am in office. We are done tolerating excuses. We are done blaming poverty while predators walk free. We are done closing our eyes while our daughters are sold for a plate of food or a truck fare.

Enough is enough.

Let Maai Mahiu no longer be known as a haven for vice, but as a beacon of victory – where the people stood up and said: Not in our town. Not to our children. Never again.

Thank you.

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