



COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF WEST POKOT

REMARKS BY H.E GOVERNOR SIMON KACHAPIN DURING JAMHURI DAY CELEBRATIONS HELD AT MAKUTANO SHOWGROUND,

**12TH
DECEMBER, 2023.**



**County Commissioner,
Deputy Governor,
Senator,
Members of Parliament,
Honourable Speaker,
County Executive Officers,
Heads of Departments
of National Government in the County,
Honourable Members of the County Assembly
of West Pokot,
Distinguished Guests,**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, as we gather here at Makutano Stadium in Kapenguria to celebrate the 60 years since our country attained self-rule, I am filled with an overwhelming sense of pride and gratitude.

It's an honor to stand before you all as we mark this momentous occasion in the history of our beloved nation, Kenya.

As we look back at our past, we cannot help but acknowledge the sacrifices made by our heroes and heroines who paved the way for the freedoms and opportunities we enjoy today.



Their struggles and unwavering determination serve as a beacon of inspiration for us all, reminding us of the responsibility we carry to safeguard and build upon their legacy.

In West Pokot County, we are blessed with a rich tapestry of cultures, a wealth of natural resources, and most importantly, resilient and hardworking people.

Our diversity is our strength, and it is our collective responsibility to harness this strength to propel our county and our nation towards greater heights of prosperity and development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we celebrate this day, let us also take a moment to recognize the progress we have made as a county. Our strides in education, healthcare, infrastructure, and agriculture are commendable, but we cannot afford to rest on our laurels.

Health and Sanitation

Access to quality healthcare services is a fundamental human right.

It is essential to the well-being and prosperity of a nation. In this regard, we have continuously made investments in the sector through improved infrastructure, expanded healthcare services across the county and procured enough drugs and pharmaceuticals to reduce shortages and ensure services are not interrupted.



I returned yesterday from a two day working weekend in Alale and Kasei wards where I commissioned Lelmolo and Chepelion dispensaries and observed delivery of drugs and pharmaceuticals to the dispensary.

It is worth noting that I inspected 8 projects in the health Sector in this wards with an objective of ensuring health services are closer to the people.

Some of these health facilities had stalled since 2013 during my first term.

The advent of devolution has given us an opportunity to correct all the development wrongs that the County faced before devolution as our people can now interrogate and approve the projects that meets their needs.

Education and Technical Training

My Government has prioritized the construction of additional ECD classrooms and provided fortified porridge containing essential minerals to benefit over 1000 centers and cover over 70,000 children.

This program will continue once the schools open in January. In this year's budget my Government has put aside over 700,000,000 to be distributed as bursary to secondary, college and university students, as you may be aware, the application process is ongoing and I ask all of you to ensure you follow the timelines provided by the department to ensure there is no delay in releasing the bursary next year.



I urge secondary school heads to be tolerant and ensure they have done all that is possible before sending children home. During this school holidays I urge parents to observe and guide their children and ensure they maintain discipline throughout the festive season.

Ladies and Gentlemen

My Government has continued to put emphasis on water and environment where we have increased the number of households with improved drinking water sources to over 40,000 households.

These include piped water, public tap, borehole or rain water collection.

During this period of Elnino we have managed to plant over one million trees including fruit trees in Kamatira Forest, Kapkoris hills and various schools across the county to achieve over 41 hectares of tree cover.

To take advantage of the Elnino we constructed 20 sub-surface dams, 27 gravity water systems, 132 water pans that have now collected sufficient water to be used during the coming dry months of January to May 2024.

Ladies and Gentlemen

My Government has now completed over 3000 kilometers of new roads, maintained over 700 kilometers and tarmacked 6 kilometers around our urban centers.



My Government will continue investing in the transport sector as this is the only way we can ensure our people reach the market for sale of their produce.

I have also put focus on land title deeds to ensure our people have the ownership of their land.

To this end we have mapped Aramaget for integrated settlement upgrading on infrastructure & land tenure regularization, construction of Makutano recreation park is currently ongoing, started registration of Kases, Kiwawa and Chelopoy community lands, Demarcation and survey of Riwo group ranch which is ongoing and completion of titling of Muino B registration section.

Sports, Youth and Tourism

As the CoG chair for Sports, Youth and Culture, development of sports is an issue that is close to my heart. It is crucial to invest in the development of sports in our community and I believe that we have immense potential as a county.

By nurturing their talents and providing a conducive environment for growth, we can unlock the immense potential that lies within our youth and pave the way for a brighter future.

As a county, we are very proud of our youth who are shinning in the ongoing Talanta Hela U19 Initiative, winning decisively against Kirinyaga and Wajir to advance to the knock out stages.



For the ongoing OKM Peace Tournament, I urge our youth to take advantage of the tournament by winning it in order to be able to earn a living and develop their talents further. We wish you all well in the tournament which will culminate right here in this stadium this Saturday.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I urge all of us gathered here today to recommit ourselves to the principles of unity, peace, and progress.

Let us continue to embrace dialogue, tolerance, and inclusivity in our communities especially in the wake of the attacks we witnessed two weeks ago along our border areas. Let us stand together against any forces that seek to divide us, for our strength lies in our unity.

As we hoist our flag high today, let it be a symbol of our shared aspirations, our resilience, and our commitment to building a better West Pokot County and a stronger, more prosperous Kenya.

Finally let me wish all our Christian brothers and sisters in the county and all over the country a Merry Christmas and to all the residents a Happy New Year 2023.

Happy Jamhuri Day!
Asanteni sana, Mungu awabariki.

