



**REMARKS BY GOVERNOR SIMON KACHAPIN DURING  
MADARAKA DAY CELEBRATIONS HELD AT MAKUTANO  
SHOWGROUND, 1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE, 2023.**

**Deputy Governor,**

**Senator,**

**County woman representative,**

**County commissioner,**

**Members of parliament,**

**Speaker of the county assembly,**

**Members of the county assembly,**

**Distinguished guests,**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

***Good Morning/ Good Afternoon,***

Today, we gather here on this momentous occasion of Madaraka Day, a day that holds great significance in the history and progress of our nation. It is a day when Kenyans converge to commemorate the moment our country attained self-governance, marking a crucial milestone on the road to independence. On this auspicious day, I stand before you as your Governor to celebrate the achievements of our region and reflect on the journey that lies ahead.

After the passing of the constitution, ladies and gentlemen, we all rallied behind leaders, who we entrusted with sovereignty. I proudly stand with confidence today, as one of those leaders. Our task is to complete the journey that was began. The road has been long and full of challenges,



but today, I feel proud of the immense achievements we have made as a county.

I take this opportunity to salute all men and women who gave up all they had in exchange of our freedom. An independent Kenya is what we have today, as a result. The county government, better still, is what we have as their gift to us, brought forth by the constitution.

### ***Ladies and gentlemen,***

Madaraka Day represents the spirit of freedom and self-determination that our forefathers fought for. It reminds us of the sacrifices made by countless individuals who believed in the vision of a united and prosperous nation. As we gather to honor their legacy, let us reaffirm our commitment towards upholding the values of democracy, unity, and progress that they held dear.

We are fortunate to live in a nation that has made significant strides in various spheres of development. Our region, too, has witnessed remarkable growth and transformation in recent years. We have witnessed advancements in infrastructure, education, healthcare, and many other sectors that have improved the lives of our people. These achievements are a testament to the hard work and dedication of our people, as well as the collaborative efforts between the government and the community.

### ***My County People,***

I am glad to note that less than a year into office, my administration has made great progress in improving our healthcare services, expanding



access to education, enhancing agricultural practices, productivity and sustainability.

We were also among the privileged counties that got the opportunity of recently hosting the President of the republic of Kenya, H.E Dr. William Ruto for a prayer and a thanksgiving service. It is through this function that the President announced that his government had set aside Ksh. 650 million for the completion of Siyoi-Muruny Water Project to ensure that area residents access clean drinking water.

The president also assured us of an irrigation project along Pokot-Turkana border that will tackle food insecurity and reliance on food aid. Completion of the Nasukuta Export Abattoir, agricultural aggression and establishment of an industrial park, are among the projects that will be done, through the joint efforts of the county and national governments.

My office upholds collaboration and will therefore continue to work closely with the national government to catapult our county to greater development heights.

### ***Ladies and gentlemen***

Despite the many challenges that we face as a county, we have made great development strides in various sectors. Access to ***quality healthcare*** is a fundamental human right. Is it 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 procurement of sufficient drugs and pharmaceuticals.



With the health sector getting the lion's share of the county's budget, we have been able to procure drugs and pharmaceuticals worth Ksh.117 million from KEMSA, introduce ultra-sound machines in Chepareria and Sebit, as well as eye services in Kacheliba and Ortum health facilities, where we had none before. An MRI scan at Kapenguria County Referral Hospital, is also at 70% completion and once completed, our people will be getting diagnosis for tumors or brain disorders from the county, and no longer from Eldoret as before.

We are also constructing a health center in Makutano town. The facility will offer specialized services to residents of Makutano town, hence reducing congestion at the Kapenguria County Referral Hospital and enabling overall improvement of the health sector by bringing services closer to the people.

My administration, ***ladies and gentlemen*** appreciates partnership with stakeholders. Through AMREF, we received 305 oxygen cylinders, that were distributed to more than 10 health facilities. Furthermore, I recently signed a multi-million agreement with Elsmad Healthcare Solutions to provide and deliver state-of-the-art equipment to our facilities.

### ***Distinguished Guests,***

Madaraka literally translates to freedom. Freedom from the colonial yoke, freedom from oppression, illiteracy and poverty. It was a new dawn to the entire country, and marked the beginning of equality, granting us the right to education.



**Education**, as we all know, is critical for the developmental progress of societies. It embodies the progress of nations, and my administration remains steadfast in changing the old narrative of our county, of having illiteracy levels stand at 67 per cent. We have made deliberate efforts to ensure that each person accesses education fairly. This will be made possible through the Ksh. 435 million bursary kitty that I launched, that is set to benefit more than 41,000 students in high schools, college and universities and other institutions.

In addition, 300 ECDE teachers in Pokot North have been inducted on Competency Based Curriculum (CBC) reforms, in line with the government requirements. Construction of 129 ECDE classrooms is also ongoing.

***Ladies and Gentlemen,***

My main aim is strongly entrenched in our beliefs that we are great achievers. I am committed to ensure that each and every child feels comfortable at school. Through my office, iron sheets and 4,000 chairs have been distributed in Akulo, Kanyeris, Kamelei, Katikomor, Apuke border peace schools. A total of Ksh. 20 million has also been set aside for infrastructural support in primary and secondary schools.

Completion of Chesta TTC Hostel, Education Administration Block, Abolition Block at ECDE College and staff houses in Aramaket, are ongoing projects that will contribute towards improving the education sector in our county.

***Distinguished Guests,***

West Pokot County prides itself in being rich when it comes to agriculture and is one of the major sources of income in the county, with close to



80% of area residents depending on farming as a source of income and livelihoods.

In an elaborate plan to ensure that our county is food secure and cushioned from the effects of climate change, we have empowered our farmer's through initiative and programs aimed at building resilience and supporting livelihoods. These include distribution of 322 tonnes of maize seed to 161,000 households to improve food productivity, mass vaccination of more than 600,000 livestock along the Pokot-Uganda border and North Pokot to achieve a disease-free zone, and distribution of 176 dorper and galla goats to groups in Suam and Batei wards in collaboration with UN Women & 319 dorper sheep to 19 groups across the county through the Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Programme (KCSAP).

Furthermore, we recently handed over cheques worth 7.7 million through the Emergency Locust Response Program (ELRP), a Government of Kenya project, funded by the World Bank. This was distributed to 31 different groups, to respond to the threat to livelihoods posed by outbreaks.

***Ladies and Gentlemen,***

We all know that water is a very basic commodity in human life, and that the human body is made of 70% water. It is with this respect that my government is working hard and in close collaboration with the national government and other stakeholders to ensure that water is easily accessible to our county people.

In this financial year, we have earmarked several water projects. Some have been completed, while others are ongoing and others are yet to start. Allow me, ladies and gentlemen, to mention just a few projects that



have been completed, including drilling 17 boreholes across the county, repairing of borehole drilling equipment and procuring a new rig, distribution of 186,000 trees seedlings to farmers in line with the president's directive to plant 15 billion trees by 2032. The Sigor water gravity project is also 50% done and should be completed in due course.

### **Fellow County People,**

Through my administration, Chapareria town has been conferred to municipal status, while Konyao, Lomut, Kacheliba, Kabichbich, Alale, Ortum and Sigor Market Centres have been upgraded to town statuses. We have also initiated registration of Kiwawa, Chelopoy and Kases community land.

Ongoing Construction Kapenguria Recreational Park at Makutano and Jacaranda garden.

1. Opened, Graded, Graveled and installed Culverts in 11.7 Km Roads in our Urban Centers
2. Maintained Ortum Tarmac Road
3. Fast tracked Finalization of Kapenguria Fires station and repair of Fire Engine.
4. Planned to form Public Land Regularization taskforce Committee
- 5.** Initiated Land Tenure Regularization of Kabichbich and Aramaget Informal Settlements Under second Kenya Informal Settlements improvement Project(KISIP2)



## **Sports, Youth and Tourism**

Being the Council of Governors chairperson for Sports, Youth and Culture, development of sports is an issue that I uphold with high regard. Sports has always been a unifying force; bringing people together, fostering teamwork and promoting physical fitness and mental well-being. It is crucial to invest in the development of sports in our county, where we have immense potential.

Following this, I will be at statehouse tomorrow for the official unveiling of the Talanta Hela Initiative which aims to boost growth and commercialize sports and talent in Kenya. This will be a good opportunity to advance our agenda as a county.

One of our key priorities should be the empowerment of our youth. They are leaders of tomorrow, innovators, and change-makers of our society. We must invest in their education, skills development, and entrepreneurial opportunities, providing them with a solid foundation for success. By nurturing their talents and providing a conducive environment for growth, we will unlock the potential that lies within our youth and pave the way for a brighter future.

**My administration has supported** supported the tournament by providing finances to level fields, facilitation and transport to and from the venues. A total of 36 athletes from the county participated in the regional competition held in Maralal, Samburu County. 8 proceeded to the nationals held in Ruiru where four of them proceeded to Bathurst-Australia for International race series.





2. The department conducted successful **Ward Football Tournament** in Sekerr, Alale, Mnagei, Kapenguria, Kapchok, Kapenguria, Weiwei, Masol and Batei wards. Players were provided with uniforms and balls and best performing teams were awarded.
3. The county participated in Kenya Inter-Counties Sports and Cultural Association (**KICOSCA**) tournament held in Kisumu County and scooped **4 trophies**; Borrowed East Africa Dance (1 st ), Table Tennis (2 nd ), Football (3 rd )and Kenyan borrowed dance (3 rd ). Overall, the county emerged position 8 nationally.
4. Training of youths on **Entrepreneurship, Reproductive Health and career development** in collaboration with Ajira Digital, Ajira Poa and Anglican Development Services was successfully conducted at Makutano and Chepareria Youth empowerment centers. More than **700 youth** benefited from the program.

### ***Ladies and Gentlemen,***

As we celebrate our accomplishments, we must also acknowledge the challenges that lie ahead. Our journey towards prosperity and inclusive development is an ongoing one, requiring collective determination and a shared vision. It is our duty as responsible citizens to address these challenges head-on and work towards finding sustainable solutions.

Additionally, we must prioritize the well-being of all our citizens, especially the vulnerable and marginalized. Our commitment to social justice should be unwavering, ensuring that no one is left behind. We must invest in



accessible healthcare, quality education, affordable housing, and social safety nets to create a society where every individual can thrive.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

As we celebrate Madaraka Day, let us remember the importance of unity and cohesion. Our diversity is our strength, and it is through embracing our differences that we can build a more resilient and harmonious society. Let us reject division and embrace dialogue, understanding, and respect. Together, we can overcome any challenge and create a nation that upholds the principles of justice, equality, and freedom for all.

In conclusion, it is my privilege to stand here today to celebrate the significance of Madaraka Day. Let us cherish our hard-earned freedom, appreciate our achievements, and rededicate ourselves to the pursuit of a better future. Together, let us march forward with unwavering determination, unity, and a shared vision, building a prosperous and inclusive region for generations to come.

Thank you, and Happy Madaraka Day!