



**REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY GOVERNOR PATRICK KETURET
OLE NTUTU DURING THE 60TH JAMHURI DAY CELEBRATIONS
AT SUSWA PRIMARY SCHOOL**

12TH DECEMBER, 2023

**The Deputy Governor Hon. Tamalinye Koech,
The County Commissioner Mr. Isaac Masinde,
Area Member of Parliament, Hon. Ken Aramat,
Members of Parliament Present,
Narok County Assembly Speaker Hon. Davis Dikirr,
Members of the County Assembly,
Distinguished Guests,
Watu wa Narok East,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is indeed a great day that we are all gathered here today to celebrate 60 years since our country Kenya attained independence from colonial rule. It is on this day in 1964, that our Country was admitted into the commonwealth as a republic. Jamhuri day provides us with an opportunity to remember and appreciate the history of our Country before, during and after the colonial rule.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this day granted our country the autonomy and the opportunity to oversee its social, economic, political, and developmental affairs. It is this autonomy that allowed Kenyans to promulgate the new Constitution in 2010—a Constitution that established 47 devolved units under one national government. With the devolved units in place, the initiative to decentralize national celebrations to the counties and grassroots level was introduced.

Since then, several national holidays have been celebrated in different areas across our County. Here in Narok County, we have taken national celebrations to Narok West, Narok South and Kilgoris with the latest celebration being in Emurua Dikirr. As we reflect on the journey that brought us to this moment, let us not forget the struggles and the resilience of those who came before us. Jamhuri Day is not merely a date on the calendar; it is a symbol of our freedom, unity, and the indomitable spirit of the Kenyan people.

Last year, the President of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency Dr. William Samoei Ruto, brought forward the idea of having thematic-based celebrations. This initiative aims to provide us with an opportunity to reflect on our collective national aspirations and to create a personal connection between the commemoration event and our hopes and desires.

This year's celebration carries a theme that resonates deeply with the aspirations of our nation—Youth, Creative Economy, and Sports. Our youth are the heartbeat of our nation, the driving force behind innovation, progress, and the realization of our collective dreams. Today, we honor the energy, enthusiasm, and potential that our young people bring to the table.

The Creative Economy theme emphasizes harnessing our nation's diverse creative talents, spanning music, art, literature, and technology, to build a prosperous global presence. Acknowledging the role of sports in fostering unity and discipline, we celebrate our athletes during this Independence Day, recognizing their achievements in proudly representing Kenya.

To that end, my administration has focused on youth empowerment by hiring a majority of young individuals in the County Government and employing over 200 young Revenue Clerks to support revenue collection. Additionally, my administration has shown support for sports and talent development, exemplified by the successful Governor Ntutu Cup tournament held this year. The tournament has not only identified promising talents like Brian Nyambane, who won the golden boot and now plays for Nairobi City Stars, but also

unearthed talents like Maasai warrior Lamon Ranketi from Loita, signed by Maa FC in Kajiado County which is currently playing in the National Super league.

In athletics and field events, I cannot fail to mention Leshan Itanao, the Gold Medalist at the Africa Junior Athletics Championship from Loita in Narok South. Leshan has qualified for the Africa Games, which are scheduled to be held in Ghana next year. Currently, he is undergoing free training at the

William Ole Ntimama Stadium in preparation for the upcoming games.

Further, throughout this year, Narok County has actively participated in the KICOSCA games and hosted various sporting tournaments, including the WASCO and KECOSO games. Regarding the KICOSCA games, my administration, through the Department of Sports, introduced the wheelchair race as one of its sporting disciplines, aiming to promote sporting talent among persons with disabilities. It is gratifying

to note that in November of last year, Narok was one of the counties that participated in the Desert Wheel Race held in Isiolo County. Additionally, in July of this year, Narok County had the privilege of having six (6) of its paravolleyball players selected to join the National team, representing Kenya in Ghana in September.

Still on sports, we have undertaken significant renovations at the William Ole Ntimama Stadium, attracting Shabana FC to make it their home ground and facilitating the hosting of sporting events such as WASCO and KECOSO games. The stadium has become a prominent venue for high-profile matches in the Kenya Rugby Union league, leading to the inclusion of the Maa Warriors Rugby Team in the league, who also benefit from free training facilities in Narok town. The infrastructural improvements have positioned the William Ole

Ntimama Stadium as a key hub for diverse sports activities and tournaments.

On arts, the Narok Maa dance troupe, having consistently excelled in national competitions for seven years, is recognized for its significant contributions to various events and celebrations in Kenya. The troupe is set to represent Kenya in the East Africa Local Authorities Sports and Cultural Games in Kisumu, followed by international performances in the United Kingdom in April and the USA in July next year. The

County Government of Narok pledges ongoing support to the troupe as they promote Kenyan culture and serve as ambassadors for the county.

The Maasai culture, renowned globally, has significantly contributed to the flourishing cultural tourism in our County, encompassing Narok, Kajiado, and Samburu. My government is dedicated to supporting and promoting culture, evident in the decision to hold a Maa Cultural week and the subsequent decision of designating traditional attire for all communities in

the county during national holidays, such as the current celebration of Jamhuri day.

This initiative not only fosters cultural preservation but also boosts local businesses selling traditional attires and ushanga. Notably, the Ushanga initiative, coordinated by the County Government, has been instrumental in providing meaningful employment to women engaged in beadwork, serving as their longstanding source of income and livelihood.

Additionally, through the department of ICT & E-Government, my administration is also in the process of establishing ICT hubs in all the thirty wards of the county complete with internet connection. With these hubs, residents of Narok will have an opportunity to be trained on basic computer skills and to explore the creativity that the online space provides, including but not limited to online work opportunities.

On development:

Over the past year, I have visited Suswa ward several times to interact with the residents of this ward and to discuss with you matters that are of mutual concern. Let me take this opportunity to thank you for agreeing to dialogue, support and work with my administration in delivering services to you.

It is that same public participation that determined the 70 development projects that my administration has implemented across Narok East as well as the over 600 projects that we have implemented across the County. These projects were funded by the Ksh 100 million that my government had allocated to every ward in our development budget of the previous CIDP.

It is worth noting that most of the projects being implemented in Narok East wards are in the Water, Health and Education sectors with several roads finding their way into that phase of the CIDP. The prioritization of water and Health in these wards is a clear indication of what is of urgency and my administration has risen to that occasion.

In Suswa ward, addressing the critical need for water was a top priority as aforementioned. We undertook the initiative to tackle the persistent water shortage issue, investing Kshs 75 million to revamp the Dry-port Suswa water supply project. This involved repairing faulty one million liter capacity water storage tanks, providing hundreds of residents in Suswa ward with access to clean water. We have since connected 300 households to the water supply while serving over 5,000 people around Suswa.

During a recent development tour of the ward, accompanied by Trans Nzoia Governor George Ntembeya, I inaugurated the Ilkirragarien borehole, eliminating the need for Suswa residents to fetch water from the seasonal Gitwe spring in Sintakara using donkeys. This borehole is complete with solar panels, water points and water tanks. Additionally, the newly established Olasiti water pan, with a capacity of two million liters, ensures that residents will no longer need to relocate their livestock to Nairagie Enkare Junction and Ilkirigarien in

search of water. I'm optimistic that soon we will commission the remaining boreholes and water pans across the wards hence help to fix the persistent water challenge in the region.

The construction of Sintakara Dispensary, the dispensary at Karuka, the renovation of Oloikarere Dispensary, drilling and development of a borehole at Eroret, drilling and development of a borehole at Oltangi, the construction of a dormitory at Enoorpopong Primary School, and the construction of an administration block at Ntukumeti Primary

School are among the many projects we are implementing across Narok East subcounty.

My administration is currently working around the clock to ensure that all other ongoing projects across the county in various sectors (Health, Agriculture, Roads, Education, Water, and Tourism) are completed in time before we embark on new projects for this financial year.

May I as well take this moment to remind all of us that, the listing for this financial year's bursary is ongoing. My administration has worked to remove any challenges we faced previously in issuing our bursary, so as to make the process smoother. As such, I implore all of you to make haste and hasten your applications, as the listing will be closed on the 19th of this month. My administration will continue putting resources where they will give maximum benefit to mwananchi.

As I end my remarks, allow me to reiterate that today we are celebrating not just a milestone in years but a testament to the unwavering spirit of the Kenyan people. As we move forward, let the flame of patriotism continue to burn brightly in our hearts. May the next 60 years bring even greater achievements and may the Jamhuri spirit forever inspire us to build a Kenya that we can all be proud to call our home.

Happy Jamhuri Day, and may God bless Kenya.

H.E. Hon. Patrick Keturet Ole Ntutu
Governor, Narok County