



**REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY GOVERNOR PATRICK
KETURET OLE NTUTU DURING THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH
OF THE 2024 BURSARY DISBURSEMENT AT THE
COUNTY HEADQUARTERS**

January 17, 2024

My Deputy, Hon Tamalinye Koech,

Hon. David Sankok, EALA MP,

Narok County Assembly Speaker, Hon. Davis Dikirr,

Archbishop Jackson Ole Sapit,

Majority and Minority Leaders of the County

Assembly,

Members of the County Assembly,

**Prof. Manyasi, Representaive, Maasai Mara University
Vice Chancellor**

Education Stakeholders,

Narok County Staff,

Parents and esteemed students,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Habari Ya Asubuhi!

1. Since the people of Narok entrusted me with the mandate to govern, a year has elapsed. We established our comprehensive plan for Narok County, diligently adhered to it, and now, on this second year in office, we gather in this tent at the County Government Headquarters. Our purpose today is not merely to take stock but to embark on the implementation of the second phase of a program initiated last year. This flagship program epitomizes the trademark of this government.

2. I have taken this unique approach to the launch of this year's bursary program, bearing in mind that it is the biggest ever advanced in any county since the advent of devolution in 2013. My administration commenced the first year in office last year by setting a first-time record of giving out Ksh370 million in bursaries. This year, ladies and gentlemen, we are setting yet again another record of disbursing Ksh400 million worth of bursaries.

To that end,

3. I am proud to reaffirm my unwavering commitment to the people of Narok, where education stands as a top priority. Over the past financial year and continuing into the current one, I have diligently worked to uphold this pledge, channeling resources and efforts towards the enhancement of educational opportunities within the County. Recognizing the pivotal role education plays in fostering personal growth, community development, and economic

prosperity, I have championed initiatives that aim to improve educational infrastructure, accessibility, and quality.

4. Education transcends being a mere conduit to personal triumph; it stands as the bedrock of advancement for any society. It imparts empowerment to individuals, unlocking their latent potential and nurturing the seeds of innovation and progress.

5. Allow me, before I continue, to thank parents who are here today. Your resilience and commitment to the education of your child will not go unnoticed. To the students, congratulations for attaining this opportunity. As stakeholders, our steadfast commitment to education reflects our unwavering dedication to constructing a resilient and prosperous community—one that thrives on knowledge, creativity, and inclusivity.

6. Perhaps it is worth noting that the foundational structure of a child's education is critical. If that foundation is not well laid out, the future of that child is at stake. That is why I take pride in investing heavily in the building and modernization of ECDE (Early Childhood Development and Education) centers across the county. My administration committed resources last year that saw the construction of 298 classrooms. Once all are fully functional, they will go a long way to change the lives of our learners.

7. Further, in the previous financial year, we distributed over Kshs. 372 million to aid around 43,997 students across Secondary Schools and Tertiary Institutions. Noteworthy is the fact that this signifies the first occurrence of Narok County contributing such a significant amount for educational grants as I have already stated above.

8. Following last year's disbursement, my administration took stock of the challenges we faced during the process. We learned from it, and proposed a raft of measures and changes aimed at enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the disbursement.

9. Ladies and gentlemen, in this financial year, we have allocated a total of Ksh400 million towards our bursary program, which is an increase from last year's allocation. This financial resource is aimed at

supporting about 47,308 students, up from last year's 43,997. We have also increased the number of full scholarships from 500 students last year to 1600 students this year.

10. Unlike last year, where we implemented a manual system, this year we have gone digital. Every parent will directly receive a message sent to their phones, indicating the school, the amount received in that school from our bursary kitty, reference number, and admission number. From this juncture, wangwana wenzangu, all you have to do is walk to the

school and simply present the message to confirm your bursary allocation with the school management.

11. The expansive bursary program initiated by the county of Narok stands as a commendable testament to its commitment to fostering education and inclusivity. As a county we appreciate our development partners particularly the local banks for their similar programs supporting our students in the county.

12. Within the county, KCB Foundation is sponsoring 16 students, each receiving Ksh70,000. Co-operative Bank Foundation is sponsoring 5 students, each being awarded a scholarship worth Ksh95,000 per year. Family Bank sponsors 5 students, each receiving Ksh40,000 per year, while Wings to Fly by Equity Bank is sponsoring 32 students at an average of Ksh48,000 per year

13. These comprehensive programs are complemented by a similar initiative from the national government under the Elimu Scholarship programme, which has awarded scholarships to 256 students in Narok County, complementing the bursaries from the CDF. This collaborative effort is deeply rooted in a shared understanding of the profound importance of education and the responsibility to empower every child in Narok.

14. By pooling resources and aligning strategies, these programs strive to ensure that no child has been left out, regardless of socio-economic background. The joint commitment of the county, constituencies, and banks reflects a holistic approach to education accessibility, aiming to create a more equitable and enriched learning environment for the youth of Narok.

15. As I end my remarks, may I take note that the recent heavy rains in Narok have bestowed upon us a priceless gift – an abundance of water that holds the potential to transform our agricultural landscape. As a county deeply reliant on agriculture, both in terms of crops and livestock, it is imperative for us to seize this opportunity and redouble our efforts in farming. Suffice to say, just as the bursary program has contributed to the educational growth of our youth, harnessing the benefits of these rains can empower parents to sell their bountiful produce, not only

ensuring a sustainable livelihood but also addressing their diverse needs.

16. However, as we rejoice in the blessings of abundant rainfall, it is crucial to acknowledge the potential risks that accompany such intense weather patterns. It is paramount for all residents to remain vigilant and take necessary precautions. Keep a watchful eye on weather updates, especially in areas prone to flooding, and be prepared to evacuate if necessary.

17. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the members of the bursary committees at the ward level for their diligent efforts in ensuring the successful listing of deserving students across all wards. Additionally, I want to express my appreciation to the members of the County Assembly. I firmly believe in the interdependence and positive relationship that both arms of the government enjoy.

And now it is my pleasure and honour to declare the 2023/2024 bursary and scholarship program officially launched.

Thank you all

H.E. Hon. Patrick Keturit Ole Ntutu

Governor, Narok County