

REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY GOVERNOR PATRICK OLE NTUTU DURING EDUCATION DAY IN EMURUA
DIKIRR, SOGET PRIMARY SCHOOL

7th July 2023

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests, educators, parents and students,

1. It is with great pleasure and a profound sense of responsibility that I stand before you today at this Education Day for Emurua Dikirr Sub County in Narok County. Education is the bedrock of any prosperous society, and I firmly believe that it is our duty to ensure that every child has access to quality education.
2. To everyone here today, more so our learners: Education is not just about acquiring knowledge; it is about shaping lives, empowering individuals, and building a brighter future. It is the key that unlocks the doors of opportunity and breaks the chains of poverty. Unfortunately, many children in our county are still denied these opportunities due to various challenges. As a society, we cannot afford to let this continue. We must strive for an education system that is inclusive, equitable, and of the highest quality.
3. I have taken note of the performance of this school, Soget primary, as one of the best performing schools in Trans Mara East Sub County, specifically here in Mogondo ward. With a total enrollment of 146 learners in the ECDE, 962 in the Primary school section and a total of 180 students in the Junior Secondary, this institution easily passes as one of the most critical in the region.
4. I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the management of this institution and the dedicated teachers for their unwavering resilience and determination to work under challenging conditions. Despite the occasional lack of conducive environment, they have shown remarkable perseverance and refused to give up.
5. As a county government, we are committed to providing unwavering support to this school, as well as all other schools in our sub-county and throughout the entire county. The construction of the Narok County Government-funded permanent classroom is just one of our efforts. We have allocated additional funds to prioritize the construction of ECDE (Early Childhood Development Education) learning centers across the county. In the near future, numerous other educational institutions will have the opportunity to benefit from these centers once they are commissioned. Furthermore, I am aware of the pressing issue regarding the ablution blocks at this school, and I assure you that we are actively addressing this challenge with the urgency it deserves.
6. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the diligent learners. Their unwavering commitment, combined with their resilience in the face of challenging circumstances, has resulted in commendable grades. However, I have been thoroughly briefed and I cannot overlook the concerning decline in the institution's performance over time. The mean score dropping from 305 in 2018 to 275 in 2022 highlights the pressing need for concerted efforts to reverse this trend. While we gather here to celebrate the

outstanding performance within our zone, it is imperative that we acknowledge the magnitude of the task ahead. I am confident that the management, teachers, and parents are fully prepared to embrace this challenge and work collectively towards a transformative change.

7. To improve education, we need to address several critical areas. We must invest in infrastructure and facilities. Many schools in our subcounty and the county at large lack adequate classrooms, libraries, and laboratories. This dearth of resources hampers the learning experience and limits the potential of our students. As part of my commitment, I will work tirelessly with fellow leaders and various stakeholders to secure funding and resources towards upgrade existing schools on a matter of priority and build new ones where necessary. Our children deserve a conducive learning environment that nurtures their talents and supports their growth.
8. Further, ladies and gentlemen, we must prioritize teacher training and professional development. Teachers are the backbone of our education system, and their effectiveness directly impacts student outcomes. I advocate for comprehensive training programs that equip teachers with the latest pedagogical approaches, classroom management skills, and subject knowledge. Additionally, I encourage mentorship programs and create opportunities for teachers to collaborate and share best practices. By investing in our teachers, we invest in the future of our children.
9. Moreover, technology has become an integral part of our lives, and its integration into education is essential. We must ensure that our schools are equipped with the necessary digital tools and resources to prepare our students for the rapidly evolving world. This, I'm aware is a challenge that the national government is taking seriously with the program dubbed Digital Superhighway. My government, together with the national government is working towards fostering partnerships with the private sector and seeking grants to provide schools in our county with computers, internet access, and educational software. By embracing technology, we can enhance the learning experience, promote digital literacy, and bridge the digital divide.
10. In addition to infrastructure and teacher development, we must also focus on curriculum reform. Our education system should be relevant, engaging, and aligned with the needs of the 21st century. The national government is working closely with education experts, stakeholders, and community members to review the curriculum and identify areas that require updating. This has already been done and a report has been tabled before the President. We must incorporate critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity, and entrepreneurship into our curriculum to prepare students for the challenges and opportunities of the future. By doing so, we will equip them with the skills they need to succeed in a rapidly changing world.
11. Furthermore, no discussion about education can be complete without addressing the issue of access and inclusivity. Education should be a fundamental right for every child, regardless of their socio-economic background, gender, or physical ability. Stakeholders must advocate for policies and initiatives that ensure equal opportunities for all students. This includes providing

scholarships, grants, and financial aid to students from disadvantaged backgrounds, improving access to education for girls, and creating an inclusive environment for students with disabilities. By prioritizing inclusivity, we can unlock the full potential of every child and build a more equitable society.

12. In pursuit of this specific objective, our government has undertaken a remarkable initiative by launching the most substantial bursary allocation in history of Narok County, amounting to Ksh370 million. This remarkable figure surpasses all other counties, with Mandera County coming in second with a total of Ksh350 million. I am pleased to announce that these funds have already been fully disbursed, benefitting numerous deserving students from every ward within our jurisdiction.
13. As we reflect upon the initial disbursement, my government has diligently taken note of valuable lessons and identified areas for improvement. These insights will play a crucial role in enhancing our ongoing efforts to support underprivileged students, enabling them to remain in school and receive quality education. Furthermore, this initiative grants parents the much-needed respite to address other pressing matters, knowing that their children's educational needs are being catered to.
14. While I don't intend to dwell excessively on this matter and repeat it unnecessarily, I find it crucial to address the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) at this particular moment. Upon assuming office nine months ago, we immediately initiated a comprehensive public participation exercise. We actively engaged with every Member of County Assembly (MCA) and citizen to identify and prioritize crucial projects. I am delighted to inform you that a significant portion of these projects are either in progress, nearing completion, or have already been successfully finalized. I will soon be commissioning these projects, and their impact will be tangible.
15. Even as you navigate this ward, it is evident that various construction projects are underway, capturing your attention from one corner to another. The entire Narok County has transformed into a bustling construction site as we tirelessly strive to fulfill the promises I made to each and every one of you. Rest assured, our collective endeavor is driven by an urgent commitment to deliver on these pledges within the given timeframe.
16. Esteemed ladies and gentlemen, as I conclude my address, I would like to emphasize the pivotal role of education in shaping a prosperous and sustainable future. Education is not a mere luxury; rather, it is an absolute necessity that demands our unwavering commitment and investment. Collectively, we possess the power to construct a solid foundation for the upcoming generation, ensuring their success and well-being.
17. God Bless you all.