



County Government of Isiolo

SPEECH DURING LAUNCH OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT BURSARY AT THE COUNTY HEADQUARTERS

DELIVERED BY

H.E. Abdi Ibrahim Hassan

GOVERNOR, ISIOLO COUNTY

22nd MARCH 2023

Speaker of the County Assembly,

Honourable Members of the County Assembly,

Honourable Members of the National Assembly and Senate Present,

The County Commissioner and National Government Officials,

County Executive Members and Chief Officers,

Members of the County Public Service Board

Representatives from Our Development Partners,

Invited Guests,

Fellow Residents of Isiolo County,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Fellow Residents of Isiolo County,

I am delighted to be here today to launch the 2022/2023 Isiolo County Government's Bursary program, and as your Governor, put more emphasis on the importance of education.

We have come together today for one reason: **to raise the bar for our children's education.** In the same vein, allow me to assert the fact that, education remains an enabler for fighting abject poverty. Accordingly, my government remains committed to working closely with the national government and our development partners to ensure no child in our great county misses out on education.

Fellow Residents of Isiolo County

High levels of poverty have over the years led to a high number of bright students in our county drop out of schools. This coupled with disruptions to livelihoods like the current prolonged drought has had huge impacts on our learners' academic performance.

To address this, my government has today launched and will disburse bursaries worth **Ksh.35 million** to students in secondary schools, colleges and universities for the financial year **2022/2023**. Noteworthy, for the same purpose, as a responsible government, I am happy to report that we are in the process of sourcing an additional **Ksh.65 million**. This will bring the total bursary to **Ksh.100 million** that my administration will have disbursed to deserving students this year.

Allow me to also announce that the beneficiaries of the bursary kitty today were vetted by the Ward Bursary Committees and approved by the Isiolo County Education Bursary Board.

Fellow Residents of Isiolo County

I wish also to remind all of us of my administration's commitment in bridging our human resources gaps in technical fields. In this regard, my government has, in the recent past in partnership with **Direct-Aid secured scholarships for fifty (50)** of our youths to study medicine, engineering among other courses abroad. It is my hope that we will double this in the near future and it will be a continuous commitment from our partners to support the needy bright students from Isiolo County.

Further to this, my government, will soon in partnership with Direct-Aid sponsor twenty (20) of our youth to go for studies in technical courses in China. It my strongest belief that, beneficiaries of this particular programme will form the much-needed human capital for our great county.

Fellow Residents of Isiolo County

Quality education is key for growth and development. Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE) is a pivotal ingredient towards nurturing a holistic child in terms of personal development and social well-being.

To this end, my government has plans of recruiting an additional **170 ECD teachers** on permanent and pensionable terms and deploy them to all **165 ECDE centres** across the County. I strongly belief this will help us achieve a teacher/ student ratio of 1:40 which most counties haven't achieved. Further to this, for efficient management of ECDE services at ward levels, we envision to employ 10 ECDE coordinators.

Fellow Isiolo People, hungry children cannot perform well in their academics. In addressing hunger in schools, my government has in the past few weeks worked in partnership with World Food Programme and USAID/Nawiri to formulate the **Isiolo County Early Childhood Development and Education Meals Policy**. It is my strongest belief that, once complete the policy will help us ensure enhanced access, retention and transition in the ECDE sector.

Going forward, my administration, will also strengthen the Isiolo County school feeding programme to ensure that pupils not only continue with their education but perform well.

Further, to strengthen ECDE in our county my government has partnered with the **Aga Khan University-Institute for Human Development** to train officers from various sectors on the **science of ECDE**. This will help us realize huge numbers in access, retention and transition to the next level.

Fellow Residents of Isiolo County

We must all appreciate that technical skills expand an individual's potential to secure a meaningful source of income. In this regard, my administration will put more investment in our Vocational Training Centres through staffing and programmes and equipment. I am also happy to report that we also intend to increase the VTCs footprint to cover each ward in Isiolo County.

Equally, we will also put in place resources that will ensure we have incubation centres and libraries all directed towards elevating creativity and education.

Fellow Residents of Isiolo County

As I sum up, I wish to register my commitment to work with other elected leaders in ensuring our children get quality albeit affordable education. We will make sure no child is left behind.

It is now my great pleasure to declare the 2022/2023 Isiolo County Government Bursary Fund in the amount of **Kenya Shillings Thirty-Five (35) million** officially launched.

Thank you

God Bless You and God Bless Isiolo.

Signature

Date

H.E. ABDI IBRAHIM HASSAN
GOVERNOR
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF ISIOLO