



GENOWA ECHO

ENDLESS POTENTIAL

NEWSLETTER | VOL. 4 – JULY 2023

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF HOMA BAY



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A Word from CECM Communications

Welcome to the fourth issue of the Genowa Echo newsletter.

This is the last issue covering the 2022/23 Financial Year and specially, it contains what your county government under the stewardship of H.E Gladys Wanga has been able to deliver.

A recurring feature in this issue is that of change, both through the actions of individuals and the passing of time. From institutionalizing the Revenue Round-table to instilling frugal discipline in the expenditure of the said revenue; from making it a habit to sit down with the departmental staff to discuss issues of work and welfare; and from rallying leaders to meet a course to delivering what in another world would become a white elephant, this issue focuses on the upward trajectory the County Government of Homa Bay continues to soar to. Each piece in this issue is vastly different, showing that dedication to service delivery means so many different things to different people. I feel proud to be able to show a snapshot of what a working government means to you the readers.

My wish, as ever, is that we continue telling our stories – stories of transformational leadership we enjoy under this new regime. We continue to hope and take action to meet our goals. But most of all, we remember to be kind to ourselves—it is important that we take the time to do that first and foremost.

Finally, I very much hope that you enjoy this issue.

Grace Mercy Osewe (Mrs)

Waziri Governance, Administration, Communications, and Devolution

PINY LUO FESTIVAL: RESHAPING, REFOCUSING, AND REMAPPING A COMMUNITY'S WALK

Curtains Draw on Historic Luo Gathering



The Rt. Hon Raila Odinga leads the way in tero buru at Achich Beach

Never before in recent times has the Luo Nation had an opportunity to gather together in hope and happiness as happened in Homa Bay County on June 30 and July 1, 2023; and Gor Mahia's solitary goal against Luo United in a fully packed Raila Odinga Stadium offered a climax to remember at the Piny Luo Festival

A two-day Luo community cultural extravaganza drew to a close Saturday shortly before 6 pm with a thrilling football match between Kenya Premier League champions Gor Mahia and a select Luo United team in a game that won the league giants the inaugural Jaramogi Cup.

Shortly before the final game, the Luo Nation witnessed the installation of Mzee Odungi Randa as the ninth ker (community cultural leader), succeeding the late Ker Willis Opiyo Otondi after a gathering and an extravaganza that saw the

community elders, youth, religious and political leaders engage each other in activities and dialogue that sought to reignite the spirit of unity, industry, and resourcefulness among members. This is envisioned to make the community reclaim its former glory by not only reminding themselves of where they have come from but also enabling them to map their way to where they are going.

The events at the extravaganza included Luo traditional sports of canoe regatta, wrestling, chanting and appeasement, folklore, and storytelling, and an exhibition of the community's cultural artifacts and trophies. The ceremonies also saw the chief guest Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga preside over the official opening of the stadium named after him, the new Governor's office block as well as the first public recreational park in Homa Bay Town.



Luo leaders congratulate Mzee Odungi Randa after he was installed as the new Ker



Gor Mahia captain Philemon Otieno lifts the inaugural Jaramogi Cup

Luo Dialogue Reawakens Community's Resolve to Refocus



The Rt. Hon Raila Odinga walks Juba University Don Prof. Taban Lo Lyong to the dias during the dialogue session

The Luo community, predominantly located in Western Kenya, is renowned for its rich cultural heritage and traditions. On the 30th of June and 1st of July, a significant cultural event, known as the “Piny Luo Extravaganza,” took place in Homa Bay County, Kenya. This event brought together numerous Luo leaders to celebrate and showcase the vibrancy and depth of Luo culture. However, it is crucial to recognize that the Luo community also faces several challenges in the present day.

The fete was a grand occasion that showcased the diverse aspects of Luo culture, including music, dance, art, traditional attire, storytelling, and culinary delights. The event was organized to honor and preserve the cultural heritage of the Luo community and for the members of the community to have a dialogue on what the present and the future portends for them. Distinguished Luo leaders, including political figures, like the former Prime Minister H.E Raila Amollo Odinga, the four Governors of the Nyanza region predominantly occupied by the Luo and MPs, community elders, artists, and scholars, were present to demonstrate their support and encourage the preservation of Luo traditions.

- **Socio-economic Disparities:** The Luo community faces significant socio-economic challenges, including high poverty rates and limited access to quality education, healthcare, and infrastructure. These disparities contribute to the marginalization of certain segments of the community and hinder overall development. It is noted that years back the Luo community dominated in every aspect of education and leadership. They produced great teachers,

- doctors, lawyers, and even intellectuals.
- **Unemployment and Underemployment:** Lack of employment opportunities and underutilization of skills are major concerns within the Luo community. Limited job prospects lead to high rates of unemployment and underemployment, especially among the youth, exacerbating social and economic difficulties.
- **Land Ownership and Disputes:** The issue of land ownership and disputes surrounding it remains a significant challenge for the Luo community. Conflicts over land, boundaries, ownership rights, and resource allocation often lead to tension and can disrupt community cohesion.
- **Health Issues:** The Luo community faces health challenges, including a higher prevalence of diseases such as malaria and HIV/AIDS. HIV prevalence is high within the Lake region



Governor Gladys Wanga give opening remarks at the onset of the Piny Luo Dialogue

counties. There is also the issue of unwanted pregnancies among school-going girls which is a major setback in the Luo community. Limited access to quality healthcare facilities and a lack of awareness exacerbate these health issues. As a community, the elders seek to find alternatives to curb such menace.

- **Political Representation and Inclusivity:** Ensuring adequate political representation and inclusivity for the Luo community remains an ongoing challenge. While Luo leaders have made significant contributions to Kenyan politics, there is a need to address any barriers or biases that hinder the community's full participation in governance and decision-making processes.
- **Cultural Erosion and Modernization:** Rapid societal changes, urbanization, and globalization pose a risk to the preservation of Luo cultural practices and values. The influx of

modern influences can potentially lead to the erosion of traditional customs and the loss of cultural identity if not actively safeguarded and promoted.

The "Piny Luo Extravaganza" in Homa Bay County brought together Luo leaders to celebrate and promote the rich cultural heritage of the community. However, it is essential to recognize the challenges facing the Luo community today. Addressing socio-economic disparities, unemployment, land disputes, health issues, political representation, and cultural preservation are crucial for the sustainable development and well-being of the Luo community. Efforts to overcome these challenges require collaboration among leaders, government institutions, civil society organizations, and community members to create a more inclusive and prosperous future for the Luo people.

New Office Suites That Befit the Face of Homa Bay County



A group photo of leaders who witnessed the unveiling of the new offices

The new Homa Bay County Governor's office block is finally opened in pomp and color at a ceremony presided over by former premier Rt. Hon Raila Odinga.

The new offices, located off the Homa Bay-Kisumu highway overlooking the bay lakefront is a magnificent piece of architecture, offering an allure into the radiance of the Lake Victoria waters while arching its back to give one another spectacular view of the headquarters of Homa Bay. It will house the Governor's and her deputy's offices, the county treasury as well as all the components of governance and administration of the county government of Homa Bay.



The Rt. Hon Raila Odinga signs the visitors book at the new Governor's Office



Leaders Moses Kajwang, James Orengo, Ochilo Ayacko and Oburu Odinga join Governor Wanga and Raila Odinga in admiring the ambience of the new office

QUALITY HEALTHCARE: ACCESSIBILITY, AVAILABILITY, AND AFFORDABILITY



The front view of Rachuonyo East Subcounty Hospital in Ramula

Ramula Becomes the Latest Sub-County Hospital

The new-look Rachuonyo East Sub County Hospital at Ramula is finally ready to offer much-needed services to the residents of Rachuonyo East and beyond. The hospital now has a state-of-the-art maternity unit with neo- and post-natal units, a theatre room, a surgical ward, and a wellness section. The facility also has a fully dedicated male surgical theatre and ward besides a well-stocked in-house pharmacy.

Rachuonyo East residents will henceforth no longer need to travel to Oyugis, Kendu Bay, or neighboring Nyamira for primary healthcare needs or non-complicated operations as this facility now serves as a mini-referral facility to the health centers and dispensaries in the larger Kabondo Kasipul constituency.

Speaking while presiding over its official opening, Kenyatta University Teaching, Referral and Research Hospital Board Chairperson and former

Kenyatta University Vice Chancellor Prof. Olive Mugenda said the facility will be her project and she will be there to ensure it not only offers accessible and affordable healthcare, but it will also have to offer quality treatment and surgical operations that meet the standards of a hospital worth its stature.



The interior of the hospital's maternity ward

County Enacts Health Law Giving Hospitals Fiscal Autonomy

Governor Gladys Wanga signed the Facility Improvement Fund Bill 2023 into law, ushering in a new era of management of hospitals' own source revenues (OSR). The Homa Bay County FIF Act 2023 ensures that any finances raised by health facilities are used at the point of collection to improve the facilities. It will also ensure money generated in health facilities is used for the improvement of patient care and does not disappear into county coffers. This will lead to better health outcomes at the



Governor Gladys Wanga assents to the FIF Bill 2023 as DG Hon Magwanga, County Attorney Mr. Oregio, Speaker Hon Gaya and Clerk Ms. Apuko look on

individual health facility level. Homa Bay County joined Kakamega, Isiolo, Mombasa, West Pokot, and Elgeyo Marakwet as the only counties to have already passed the law.

There has been a push by the healthcare stakeholders for the county assemblies to enact FIF in their respective counties with a recent indicating that facility improvement funds (FIF) could be used in the development of amenity wings in public hospitals. To do this, FIF incomes need to be boosted where possible. The studies, therefore, advocate for harnessing stakeholder resources to augment incomes from FIF to make amenity wing

development fully feasible in the short term. The studies contributed to the body of knowledge by linking FIF to hospital infrastructure development, with a special focus on amenity wings. It is recommended that public hospitals should reduce reliance on the treasury by coming up with cost-cutting innovations as well as reducing loss of income in key service delivery points.

The finances include but are not limited to NHIF contributions, and direct payments and are in line with the Public Management Act 2012 and the Constitution of Kenya.

Homa Bay County, Kenyatta University Enter Agreement on Health Services

Homa Bay County government and Kenyatta University Teaching, Research, and Referral Hospital have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will see the two institutions exchange programs on training and capacity building of healthcare providers, equipment purchase and installation, and digitization of the healthcare systems and medical procedures.

While speaking during the event, KUTRRH Management Board chairperson and former Kenyatta University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Olive Mugenda revealed her excitement in leading the country's third biggest referral facility into working with Homa Bay County as part of her facility's mandate of promoting medical research and quality assurance in the county. "With this agreement, you can be sure that the quality of and output of your healthcare will significantly improve, and more and more people will be looking up to Homa Bay County as a destination for quality medication."

Governor Wanga reiterated her commitment and obligation to make healthcare in Homa Bay not only affordable and accessible but also of requisite quality that meets the needs of the people.



Prof. Olive Mugenda puts pen to paper



Governor Gladys Wanga signs the MOU on behalf of her administration

Homa Bay County Launches Nutrition Action Plan



Ms. Martha Nyagaya of Nutrition International, Prof. Olive Mugenda, Governor Gladys Wanga and DG Oyugi Magwanga pose with a dummy copy of CNAP after the launch

The County Government of Homa Bay has launched a nutrition blueprint aimed at offering a framework for coordinated

implementation of nutrition interventions by the government and nutrition stakeholders in the county. The County Nutrition Action Plan (CNAP) 2022-2024 also provides an estimation of the total resources required to achieve the goals and objectives outlined in the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy.

The Plan focuses on nutrition specific to be measured by scaling up maternal, infant, and young children's nutritional needs besides strengthening clinical nutrition and dietetics in disease management. It also encompasses nutrition sensitivity in agriculture, school feeding programs, and the WASH programs besides advocating for an enabling environment to achieve the nutritional needs of the county.

AGRICULTURE: FARMER COOPERATIVES TRANSFORMING SMALLHOLDER LIVELIHOODS IN HOMA BAY COUNTY



Governor Wanga and DG Oyugi Magwanga inspecting the installation of milk processor at the Hosrand facilities at Sero

Agriculture cooperatives play a key role in enhancing productivity and access to markets for smallholder farmers. Most farmers' cooperatives in Homa Bay have attempted to establish inputs distribution systems for their members to access quality inputs and secure markets that offer fair and premium prices. However, most of these systems have weaknesses, lacking clear farm inputs purchase, supply structures, and market linkages. This results in low incentives for the members since the cooperative-owned outlets do not offer competitive products and prices. By understanding the market demand, a cooperative would be better placed to provide its members with improved access to seeds, inputs, fair pricing, and delivery of diverse agricultural products and services.

When farmers work together in cooperatives and inclusive groups, equitable decision-making is fostered. Members of different gender and economic classes learn different crop production and field management skills. Their knowledge in providing and accessing agricultural services, information, market linkages, and entrepreneurship is enhanced. These are the reasons Homa Bay County Government is keen on empowering smallholder farmer cooperatives in a bid to enhance productivity, value addition, and food security at the grassroots.

The County Government of Homa Bay, together with the National Agricultural and Rural Inclusive Growth Project (NARIGP), launched a partnership to empower farmers in their cooperatives by investing cash for the expansion of the cooperatives, and also training on dairy farming, milk production,

and marketing, poultry product value addition, and cotton farming.

Hosrand Dairy Farmers Cooperative in Homa Bay Central, Rangwe Dairy Farmers Cooperative in Gem East, and the Great Wang'chieng Poultry Farmers' Cooperative Society in Karachuonyo are the first beneficiaries of this ambitious grass root empowerment program by the county government and its partners. Hosrand received a total of KES 16.6 million after the Governor added to their kitty KES 3.8 million following KES 12.7 million that had already been disbursed to help the farmers and their cooperative embark on value addition on the milk products including processing of yogurt and cheese. Rangwe Dairy Farmers Cooperative, arguably the oldest farmers' cooperative in the county benefitted from the additional KES 3.1 million extended to them while the poultry farmers of Wang'chieng will be able to diversify into animal feed processing after the county government gave them a grant of KES 7.1 million for the same.

Besides enhancing food productivity, aggregation, and value addition, the county government of Homa Bay is also keen on non-food crops, especially cotton. It seeks to revitalize the cotton industry to help drive our county's economic progress. Governor Wanga, alongside Dr. Juma Mukhwana, the PS State Department of Industry, partners, and investors distributed top-quality biotechnology (BT) cotton seeds to Homa Bay Cotton Growers Union and Lambwe Cotton Farmers Cooperative and issued cheques to empower the cotton farmer cooperatives. "This sector holds enormous potential for job creation, wealth, and socio-economic growth in our County," said the Governor.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS: GOVERNOR WANGA BECOMES RED CROSS PATRON, TRAINS EYES ON DISASTER MITIGATION



Governor Wanga getting fitted with Red Cross apparel during her installation as county patron

H.E Gladys Wanga has taken up the role of County Patron for the Kenya Red Cross Society for Homa Bay, promising to use the new position to help fix the myriad of natural disasters and health emergencies perennially bedeviling the county.

At a brief ceremony held in the Governor’s boardroom graced by the humanitarian society’s county, regional and national leadership, including Hon Geoffrey Korir, the Society’s Governor, Dr. Titus Taro who is the vice chairperson, Ally Ghedi, the head of finance at the national executive, Bob Madanje the regional manager and Elly Kisuli the county chairperson among others, Governor Wanga was bequeathed the instruments of power to lead the Society within the county in line with the Kenya Red Cross’s practice of installing the president and Governors as political and leadership focal points within their areas of jurisdiction. The Governor was clad in the society’s colors and gifted the Society’s profile and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

Later, the two institutions formalized a deal to help tackle disasters and emergencies in Homa Bay County for good. Of major concern to both the Governor and KRCS are the perennial flash floods on the lower parts of *Wang’chieng* in Karachuonyo occasioned by the Mirui River breaking its banks during the long rain season. Even as the government continues to offer relief food and provide temporary shelter to the affected families, Governor Wanga

aims to find a permanent solution to the floods and called upon Society and other partners to come on board.

Regarding health emergencies, the county government and the Society will embark on training and equipping the community health workers on first aid, disease detection on the first account, data capturing and remittance, and health awareness so they are ready for whatever eventualities in their localities. The two institutions will also work closely on water and sanitation, common diseases vaccinations, and child malnutrition as well as revamping the campaign to have more residents register for the National Health Insurance Fund plan.



The boardroom meeting where a deal to work together on disaster response and mitigation was sealed

SPORTS: LAYING THE INFRASTRUCTURE

Homa Bay County Got a New World-Class Stadium



An aerial view of the new Raila Odinga Stadium, Homa Bay with the lakefront in the background

Former Prime Minister the Rt. Hon Raila Odinga officially unveiled the new stadium named after him, giving Kenya's bid for AFCON 2027 a monumental boost.

A fully packed stadium, almost twice the official capacity of 20,000, cheered on as the country's most recognizable defender of democracy, flanked by his protégé Governor Gladys Wanga, made a memorable lap of honor around the new stadium, ushering in a new wave of optimism among the locals and stamping on the county government

of Homa Bay's commitment to sports and talent development.

With a standard natural turf, an immaculately demarcated track, and three floodlight masts, the stadium is ready to host both local and international sporting events, besides possessing the ability to host social events owing to its spacious dais covered by an imposing roofed canopy.



The glitter of the stadium in the night floodlights

Kenya, alongside neighbors Tanzania and Uganda, is putting up a joint EAC bid to host the 2027 premier continental tournament, the African Cup of Nations. With the addition of the new Raila Odinga Stadium, the country now has a venue that can be used to host matches and training sessions should the bid demand the decentralization of such activities outside the capital Nairobi. After the official opening, Homa Bay and Migori County football teams faced off in a Luo Nation Inter-County third-place playoff match which saw Bernard 'Bena' Otieno win and convert a penalty in the last minute of a tense first half to register the first goal at the new stadium and give the host all the bragging rights.

Sports and Talent Academy Works Begin in Ndhiwa



The groundbreaking at Thome, Kanyamwa Kosewe in Ndhiwa

H.E Gladys Wanga presided over the groundbreaking ceremony for the Acakoro Sports Academy in Thome, Kanyamwa Kosewe, Ndhiwa sub-county, four months after the County Government of Homa Bay and the Acakoro Sports franchise entered an MoU to establish the biggest sports and talents academy in Kenya.

While commissioning the works on the 40-acre land in Ndhiwa, the Governor reiterated her government's commitment to fulfilling her part of the bargain, disclosing that her administration has already done the access roads to the site, established a consistent water supply to the site and is delivering electricity and other social amenities in earnest so the investment can kick off without further delay. Acakoro Sports Academy project director Mr. Lucas Mott revealed that the construction works for the first phase of the KES 650 million project is projected for completion by the turn of the year.

The sports academy is expected to have three football pitches built to international standards, a primary and a secondary school, a community

center, and a health and wellness clinic. It is expected to employ hundreds of locals both during and after its construction as well as help initiate an economic boom in a region where agriculture is the main economic activity.



Sports CECM Sarah Malit addressing locals during the groundbreaking ceremony

CLIMATE CHANGE: COUNTY BEGINS IMPLEMENTING CCAP

After enacting the County Climate Change Act and meeting the threshold for government and donor funding for climate change resilience and mitigation, the County Department of Water and Sanitation, Irrigation, Environment, Energy, Forestry and Climate Change has moved with speed to capacity build its staff and stakeholders on what the move portends and also lay bare the standard operating procedures of climate change resilience and mitigation plans. To achieve this, the department organized a training workshop for climate change committees and County Dialogue forums.

The workshop was funded by Hivos through Consumer Unit Trust System (CUTS) International and aimed at equipping the County Dialogue Forum from Lambwe, Kaksingri West, and Gwasssi North Wards with the necessary skills to tackle Climate Change challenges effectively.

During the one-day training held at Staridge Hotel, Dr. Joash Aloo, the CEC member for Water and Sanitation, Irrigation, Environment, Energy, Forestry and Climate Change emphasized the need for collective action to combat the increasing effects of climate change. "The global community has been grappling with climate change over the years therefore we need concerted efforts by all stakeholders to conserve the environment," said Dr. Aloo.

His Chief Officer Prof Donald Ogweno stated that climate change is multifaceted hence the County Government is keen on addressing the challenges posed by climate change. He stressed that the County Government is strongly advocating for climate change adaptation and mitigation and further urged them to act as leaders and ambassadors at the grass root level.

Hivos Project Officer Vincent Ondieko stated that structured partnership will continue with Homabay County to advocate for adaptation and sensitization of the county residents on the needs that come with climate change.

Additionally, the Department also organized a two-day induction workshop for Homabay County Climate Change Steering and Technical Committees in Kisumu. This comes after the County Executive Committee approved the first-ever Homa Bay County Climate Action Plan (HCCAP) aimed at enhancing climate change adaptability and resilience.

While giving her opening remarks, Governor Gladys Wanga reiterated her Administration's commitment to the climate change agenda of adaptation, mitigation, sensitization, and resilience.



Members of the County Climate Change Steering and Technical Committees pose for a group photo after the opening of the retreat in Kisumu

EDUCATION: REDEFINING EDUCATION FOR ALL

Governor Wanga Builds a School Where There Has Never Been Any



Governor Wanga is escorted by jubilant residents of Nyakoria to the site of the new school



Education CECEM Martin Opere flagging off learning materials to be distributed in all EYE centers in the county

The Gwasi Hills are imposing and intimidating. The slopes are so steep and the valleys so ragged. The terrain was so livid and the weather so unpredictable. But people live there and have lived there since time immemorial. Deep into the interiors of these hills, valleys, and ridges, a village is seeing a school for the very first time.

Nyakoria is the last village and you reach wuoth ogik, to borrow the local parlance. Located in Tonga sub-location, Gwasi West location within Gwasi North Ward, this village is so remote that no one has ever thought of bringing to them any social amenities, despite this being one of the most agriculturally productive areas in the entire county. But they now have hope and a new lease of life. Governor Gladys Wanga braved the weather, the distance, and the terrain and reached Nyakoria to

a grander reception from a people who have only heard of a government over the radio.

They are now going to have a school – EYE and primary school and with that the access road to the school. It was all joy when the Governor and her entourage of both the area MP and MCA reached the site for the construction of the Nyakoria ECDE Center.

Elsewhere, the County Government of Homa Bay has begun the distribution of teaching and learning materials worth over KES 4 million to all the Early Years Education (EYE) learning centers across the county. This will ease the burden on parents on buying the same while also improving the ease of learning and teaching of our young ones

Governor Wanga Adopts a Son



Master Sharif Mashar Omogi of Wang'apala High School, Kabondo, is the latest of bright and needy students to receive H. E Gladys Wanga's motherly embrace when the Governor volunteered to adopt him as his guardian.

Omogi, whose guardian was the deceased Retired Senior Chief Mzee Samuel Ondigo Obilo whom the Governor had traveled all the way to Kisegei, Gwasi North to go bury had his Form One fee balance of KES 30,000 paid on the spot to the amazement and cheers of fellow mourners. The Governor then instructed the young lad to be inducted into the Fins to Swim scholarship program and be part of the biggest education support program in the county.

Governor Wanga with Sharif Mashar Omogi at their home in Kisegei, Gwasi North

TRANSPORT: HOMA BAY BACK IN THE SKIES



The inaugural Renegade Air flight touching down at Kabunde Airstrip to aviation rites

We are back with the big boys; we are back with the top league. Homa Bay County resumed being only an hour away from the country's capital, thanks to the resumption of passenger flights between Kabunde and Wilson Airport. Renegade Air is the carrier as you embark on a journey to explore the gem that the County of Endless Potential offers and as you disembark from a journey of a lifetime in the land that heroes – Gor Mahia, Tom Mboya, Odhiambo Mbai, which also boasts the longest freshwater lake shoreline in the region.

The plane carrying the Transport Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen, Governor Gladys Wanga,

Transport CS Kipchumba Murkomen commences the passenger flight between Homa Bay and Nairobi

and a host of other state and county government officials on 12th June touched down at the Kabunde Airstrip to a reception never seen before. After the water flash salute and pleasantries, the CS declared Homa Bay open again to the skies, promising that this time it is for the long haul.

Part of this long haul will be carrying out major improvements on the airstrip. This will entail extending the runway to meet international standards, erecting a world-class passenger lounge, and attracting more flight operators.

TRADE AND INVESTMENT: HOMA BAY CAIP ALREADY ATTRACTING INVESTORS



Iranian Ambassador to Kenya H. E. Jafar Barmaki when he visited the county of Homa Bay

After the county joined the G14 of the counties to have met the thresholds for the ambitious County Aggregation and Industrial Parks, Governor Gladys Wanga and the county Department of Trade, Industry, and Investments have gone full throttle courting investors and partners to come and put their wealth in Homa Bay County once the park is done.

This saw the Governor sign an MoU with Tunasco International Ltd, a reputable industrial investment company through its CEO Mr. Abdulwalli Sharif, that will see a collaboration in the establishment and operation of a state-of-the-art holding grounds, feedlots, cattle breeding regimes for livestock keeping as well as the establishment of and operation of a modern abattoir, cold rooms and packaging rooms for milk, yoghurt and cheese production; and guava jam and ginnery in Homa Bay County. These investments are in line with the plans to establish a County Industrial and

Aggregation Park for agricultural value addition and achievement of food security.

In the same breath, the Governor hosted H.E Jafar Barmaki, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran. They did a tour of our Referral Hospital, Pier, Airport, and Stadium, discussing prospects for

investments and collaboration. They also explored partnerships in advanced healthcare where Iran has good medical equipment that Homa Bay looks to learn and adapt from, economic opportunities at the Pier; connectivity at the Airport, and events at the Stadium.

GOVERNANCE: MAKING THE STAFF PART OF THE PROJECT



Members of the health department in a session with the Governor

Modern governance, administration, and service delivery is a business that strives for efficiency to keep pace with the competition. For all of the technical proficiency and automation that we have come to rely on, it is still people who run the government, making it all the more important to get the best effort from your employees, and increasing their productivity must top the list of the employer's priority.

Since coming to office, Governor Wanga has sought to institutionalize quarterly staff meetings with employees from all the county departments for comparing notes to synergize and optimize service delivery for the people of Homa Bay. This she does to provide a platform where the spirit of collaboration flourishes.

The Governor is keen to make productivity central to the culture, reward innovations and efficiency, make workplace rules crystal clear, create a healthy environment, stoke morale, supply professional development opportunities, assign tasks people enjoy, and spotlight excellence.

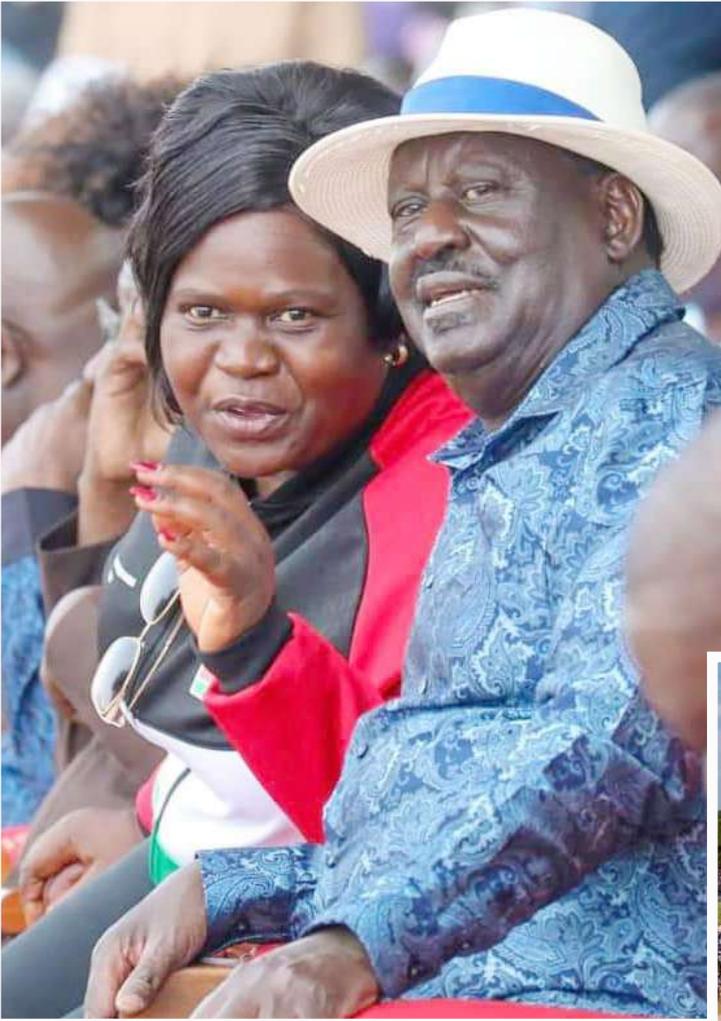
Governor Wanga believes that there are few more effective ways to boost productivity and increase profits by getting more out of her team members. By taking a comprehensive approach that includes setting high standards and expectations, lending necessary support, and supplying tangible incentives for innovation and achievement, she can energize her entire staff while building a culture of hard work, collaboration, and accountability.

FEEDBACK: ECHOES FROM THE PUBLIC

“ We did not have a chance to sit down with the former governor to discuss matters staff welfare, neither did we ever have a platform to raise our welfare issues. This is something totally new and we want to purpose to deliver. The Governor is showing real leadership and she is turning out as the HR Manager of the year.” – *Winnie Mirambo, HR Manager, Department of Environment.* ”

“ Now Homa Bay town has landmarks you can be proud of. And the photos being circulated are just beautiful. May we live to see more of these,” – *Janet Apondi, clerical officer at Equity Bank, Homa Bay Branch.* ”

“ We will no longer buy those yoghurt coming from Thika and Delamere. We are now going to produce our own here in Rangwe, – *Ododa Mito, farmer and member of Rangwe Dairy Farmers Cooperative.* ”



Endless Potential