



## REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF HOMA BAY  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



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### **PRESS RELEASE**

***(For Immediate Release)***

#### ***THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DESPATCH***

The Executive Committee of the County Government of Homa Bay today held its 16<sup>th</sup> bi-weekly meeting at the Governor's Office, under the stewardship of H.E **Governor Gladys Nyasuna Wanga, CBS.**

The meeting observed a minute of silence in memory and honour of two departed senior staff – Benard Omuga (Advisor to the Governor on Intelligence and Security Affairs and Deputy Director, Inspectorate Division) and Kennedy Osutwa (Director, Value Chains). The Governor hailed the departed as outstanding and dedicated team members who had committed themselves to transforming the lives of the people of Homa Bay through their professional services.

**IN HER COMMUNICATION** to the Committee, **H.E the Governor commended** the County's performance at the just concluded Devolution Conference in Uasin Gishu, lauding the exhibitions and presentations on value chains, the proposed Special Economic Zone at Riwa and the showcasing of Homa Bay County's potential areas for growth and development alongside the Government to Government (G2G) and Government to Business (G2B) engagements that the County's delegation had. The Governor encouraged every Department to borrow from positive lessons learned at the Conference and use them in delivering transformative service to the people of Homa Bay, as well as follow up on all engagements reported.

**IN A FIRST EVER**, the Committee was informed that effective Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2023, Shabana Football Club from Kisii County will be using the Raila Odinga Stadium, Homa Bay as their homeground for Kenya Premier League matches; a move that is expected to positively impact on sporting in Homa Bay County, as the County continues to develop its own soccer outfit.

**IN FUTHERANCE TO** the attainment of the 4<sup>th</sup> agenda of the **#GENOWAENDONGRUOK** Manifesto on **Agriculture and Food Security**, the Executive Committee considered and approved an allocation of **Kes. 37,028,745** under the **National Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (NAVCDP)**, to go towards conducting a farmers' registration exercise. This initiative is expected to help in generating a comprehensive, shared, geo-referenced, updatable database, with relevant information on target beneficiaries to support data driven-agricultural interventions. This will in turn increase extension service delivery and increase agricultural productivity among the farmers in the County.

It is expected that this will lead to dissemination of agricultural information based on data, reduction of pre and post-harvest losses due to timely interventions that are data based and hence improved household food security. Economic transformation through agriculture is a decisive path that the current administration has chosen, given the agricultural productivity ability in the whole county, and in consideration of the value chain produce and the potential therein from emerging produce like the Oil Palm. The NAVCDP aims to address the identified challenges that smallholder farmers face, by fully aligning them with Kenya's Vision 2030 for agriculture; **the Agricultural Sectoral Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS)**. This strategy focuses on increasing participation of small farmers into commercially oriented value chains. Under this registration programme that will run for 21 days, 503 agriprenuers (enumerators) to collect the raw data, will be competitively enrolled across all the 40 wards in the County, and will work under 40 sub supervisors (one per ward), with 32 overall superiors overseeing the exercise across the County.

**ON THE SAME BREADTH** under the same Department of Agriculture and Livestock, the apex administrative organ of the County approved **Kes. 5,000,000**, towards the rehabilitation and improvement of the Oyugis and Homa Bay Municipalities slaughter houses. The current state of disrepair and run down on the facilities poses a health risk thus the need for urgent intervention.

**IN A FORWARD LOOKING** initiative, the Committee tasked the Department of Lands and Urban Planning, to immediately embark on developing a master plan for an envisioned Homa Bay City; a move that will aid in the planning and development of urban development in and around the current Homa Bay Municipality that is fast growing. A master plan to that effect would ensure orderly and proper development of the County's principle urban settlement.

**REGARDING** the maize mop up exercise carried out earlier in the month of August by the Department of Trade and Investment, the Executive Committee deliberated on a proposal for consideration of additional funding for the purchase of maize from farmers across the County, taking cognizance of a successful first phase that collected maize in just two wards out of the 40 wards in the whole County, with the earlier allocated Kes. 10,000,000/-. The maize mop up exercise was intended to cushion the local farmers from unscrupulous middlemen who had started purchasing maize at exploitative prices. The initiative also helped amass raw material for Kigoto Milling Plant for the manufacture of **MOKWA** maize flour - the County's first formally recognized value added product. The Department of Trade and Investment will now embark on a second phase of the mop up exercise in the remaining wards, as soon as funds are accessed from the exchequer.

**OVERALL**, the Committee remains alive to the practical expectations of great people of Homa Bay County and reiterates its collective commitment towards delivering on the same in line with the administration's pledges under the **#GENOWAENDONGRUOK** Manifesto

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2023.**