



REPUBLIC OF KENYA



COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF HOMA BAY OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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PRESS RELEASE

(For Immediate Release)

DESPATCH FROM THE 22ND COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of the County today held its final meeting for the year 2023 under the chair of **H.E GOVERNOR**, to take stock of the ending calendar year as well as plan for the coming season, in line with the **#GENOWAENDONGRUOK** manifesto. Of note for today's meeting is that it is the first time ever held in hybrid – both in person and virtually for a member who is indisposed.

IN HER COMMUNICATION from the Chair, **H.E THE Governor** announced the commencement of construction works for **the Modern Homa Bay Fish Market at Koginga Beach** at a cost of **Kshs. 345,855,837**.

In partnership with the National Government through the County Commissioner, the Governor commissioned construction of the project that is crucial in the economic transformation of the Homa Bay Municipality alongside the relevant catchment areas, in line with the administration's agenda number six. Once completed, the fish mongers and beach traders who were relocated to make way for the improvement of the Homa Bay Pier, will have a better and conducive working environment.

ON THE ISSUE OF FLOODING and the adverse effects of above normal rains in the County including displacement of citizens, the Committee considered several propositions for mitigation and approved the taming of rivers Tende, Kibuon, Miriu and Rang'wena through construction of dykes. Already the National Youth Service is working on construction of a 4KM long dyke along the Tende River, as part of the intervention in the partnership with the National Government.

COGNIZANT OF SCHOOLS opening immediately after the festivities, the Committee approved the commencement of the bursary cheques distribution programme to needy qualified students from **December 28th 2023 in all the 40 Wards** of the County. The process of identification of beneficiaries for the bursary programme is ongoing through Village Clusters made of a minimum 6 villagers. Each of the 297 Sub Locations in the County have a minimum three Village Clusters. This approach gives an opportunity for as many people as possible to have a say in the sharing of resources in Homa Bay County, in line with the administration's first agenda of establishing a **transformative, efficient and inclusive governance system.**

Under the County Bursary Programme in the FY 2023/24, **Kshs. 160,000,000** has been allocated for distribution to close to **20,000 beneficiaries** in all the **40 Wards**. Another **Kshs. 55,000,000** will go towards supporting the first and second co-hort beneficiaries under the ***Fins to Swim Governor's Scholarship Programme***.

TOWARDS FURTHERING the ongoing implementation of **agenda four** of the **#GENOWAENDONGRUOK Manifesto** in relation to ensuring food security and sustainability in Homa Bay County, the Executive Committee considered and gave approval for the **procurement of 60,000 packets of certified maize seeds and 20,000 packets of certified sorghum seeds**, to be distributed to **20,000 farmers** spread across the County. Through this initiative, it is anticipated that the Government will further entrench food security as well as move towards the goal of weaning-off government maize and sorghum seeds subsidy programme, 80% of the households in the County. During the 2023 planting season through a similar initiative, farmers in the County were able to increase their harvest commendably.

AS PART OF the administration's recognition of the role of its employees in the achievement of its set objective – **service to the citizenry**, the Committee approved a proposal by the Governance Department; to establish a **Scheme of Service for Enforcement Officers**. The Scheme of Service anticipates the provision of a well-defined career structure that will attract, motivate and facilitate retention of suitably qualified and competent enforcement officers in the County Government of Homa Bay.

Through the Scheme, job descriptions will be clearly defined and duties delineated to ensure optimum service delivery to the citizens.

TO ENHANCE access and connectivity through roads infrastructure, the Committee approved **Kshs. 464,000,000** for use in the **opening up and rehabilitation of roads across the County** during the third quarter of the FY 2023/24.

Kshs. 65,000,000 from the approved allocation, will go towards opening up and maintenance of roads to a number of **beaches, health centers and schools in 14 Wards across the County**. During the **FY2022/23** from September 2022 to June 2023, 57 Ward based road projects covering about **700 kilometres in the whole County** were either opened up or maintained. The meeting however took note of a number of impediments in this sector, including the recent rains which washed away a number of the roads, coupled with the non-remittance of fuel levy fund from the national government.

FOLLOWING THE EXCEPTIONAL performance of the County's Under 19 Boys and Girls Team in the Talanta Hela National Competition, the Committee congratulated the teams and commended the Sports Department for the achievements including the Boys Team emerging Champions and the Girls Team, second runners up. The Executive Committee also took note of the successful **Sigand Nyinam** emphasizing that **no County funds** were used in the event.

THIS BEING the last meeting in the year, the Committee sent out season greetings and well wishes to the people of the great County of Homa Bay,

reiterating their commitment to deliver on the administration's promises through sacrifice and dedication. Special mention from the Committee is to the indefatigable staff of the County who remained focused and dedicated to service delivery throughout the year 2023.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Tuesday, 19th December, 2023