



# GENOWA ECHO

## ENDLESS POTENTIAL

NEWSLETTER | VOL. 10 - DECEMBER 2023

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF HOMA BAY



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# Christmas

## MESSAGE

*from H. E the Governor*

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It is a special pleasure for my family, my administration, and myself to extend the warmest greetings and best wishes to all of you during this most joyous holiday season.

Despite the unfortunate events due to the heavy rains pounding most parts of our county, it is still by God's grace that we have made it this far.

This festive occasion is celebrated in many different ways. We exchange gifts, attend church services, decorate our homes, and enjoy family gatherings. But perhaps the tradition that most warms the heart is the sound of Christmas carols, and the heart of giving, especially to the less privileged.

We have had a good year, as a people and as a government. Most of the things we set out to accomplish in terms of service delivery have been attained. We have improved our health facilities to offer quality healthcare, we have leveraged partnerships in healthcare, agriculture, human capital development, fisheries, trade and tourism, gender and social services to a greater extent and we are still exploring more collaborations. On the same breath, we have fallen short in a few areas but that has provided us with a chance to learn, unlearn and re-learn on how best to achieve them in the coming year. Thank God, we have that opportunity in 2024.

Sometimes, in the hustle and bustle of holiday preparations, we forget that the true meaning of Christmas was given to us by the angelic host that holy night long ago. Christmas is the commemoration of the birth of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, whose message would truly be one of good tidings and boundless joy, peace, and goodwill. During this glorious festival let us renew our determination to follow His example.

Won't all of you join me in a prayer for peace and goodwill? May a feeling of love and cheer fill the hearts of everyone throughout this holiday season and in the coming year.

We hope this Christmas will be especially wonderful and that it will usher in a new year of peace and prosperity.

**H. E Gladys Nyasuna Wanga, CBS,  
Governor Homa Bay County**





Governor Wanga shares a light moment with VC Prof Ochola and Prof PLO Lumumba while presenting a token of appreciation to the renowned lawyer and public speaker

## EDUCATION: COUNTY HOSTS NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE, DELIGHTS IN GROWING STATURE

By Lawrence Magware

**H**oma Bay County was honoured to have been chosen as the host of the 5th Biennial Conference of the Education Evidence for Action (EE4A). The theme for the conference was Revitalizing the Evidence Community of Kenyan Education.

While delivering her speech at the ceremony, an event whose keynote speaker was SC Prof PLO Lumumba, Governor Wanga reiterated her administration's commitment to not only being consumers of evidence education but also playing an integral role in providing the platform and facilitation towards aligning education, especially vocational training, to the labour market and societal needs.

The conference which brought together education sector players from far and wide, including decision-makers and policymakers, was held at Tom Mboya University, Homa Bay Town.

EE4A was established in 2015 to help close the gap between research, policy, and practice in Kenya. It brings together researchers, academics, and policymakers to engage, elicit discourses in the education sector, and utilize evidence for actionable and measurable planning and outcomes. The vision of the network is an education system in Kenya where research evidence informs education decisions.

EE4A has two main objectives: facilitating an evidence-ecosystem in education and linking education evidence to inform policy and action. In line with this, EE4A coordinates evidence producers and strengthens their intervention in translating data into evidence and making the evidence accessible to policymaking for improved learning outcomes.

As a county government was delighted that the network brought together key stakeholders in education for sustained collaboration. The county department of education has had the mandate to not only use these collaborations and evidence for policy formulation but to also leverage them in human capital development and skill-based and market-oriented vocational training.

In a statement, the county government expressed the expectation that the conference would attract high-level participation from civil society, academia, and the government. Ultimately, the expectation that the gaps between the previous convening and this would be used to consolidate evidence and produce more products to drive the evidence-policy-action engagements going forward was highlighted.

This conference was very timely. The Government has committed to reforming the education sector – from basic to higher education – to improve efficiency in the system and address the challenges and concerns raised by stakeholders. A shift from the previous conferences that focused on particular aspects of education, the 2023 conference aims at revitalizing the connections and relationships among members of the evidence community.

The theme put to centrality the members of this community – government and those that need evidence to make decisions, the academia in and out of the University whose role is to avail evidence in accessible formats, and those that lie in-between, teachers and members of the civil society, including parents.



Governor Wanga walks into the EE4A Conference before the official opening



Delegates at the EE4A Conference following proceedings



Governor Wangwa, DG Magwanga being taken through the operability of animal feed processor donated by FAO

## AGRICULTURE: AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS TO SPUR PRODUCTION, PROFITABILITY

### COUNTY GOVERNMENT, FAO STEP UP AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION, VALUE ADDITION

*By Communication Team*

H. E Gladys Wangwa, CBS, Governor of Homa Bay County presided over the flagging off and distribution of key farm equipment and machines to various farmer cooperatives and smallholder groups in the county.

This is a partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) through which the county government and the UN agency are jointly implementing the Livestock Feed Commercialization Project. The main objective of this project is to reduce the cost of livestock feeds within the county and create employment and decent income opportunities for the Youths and women.

In Homa Bay County, the main Value Chain supported by this project is Soya Beans and it is being implemented in three Sub Counties (Ndhiwa, Suba South, and Suba North). So far, FAO with the support from Agriculture Extension Officers and community-based coaches, has

reached 1114 farmers with varied plot sizes from 0.5 acres to 20 acres through the Farmer Business Schools (FBS) model of 25 – 30 farmers. There are 32 FBS spread across the three sub-counties.

Besides capacity building and training of extension officers, market linkages, business development services, regular farmer training, and distribution of 2 metric tons of certified Soya beans seeds, with each group receiving approximately 50 kg of these seeds, today's event will majorly focus on Equipment and Machines to enhance production, promote mechanization and value addition. The Equipment and Machines being distributed today included a Chisel plough donated to Nyadenda Youth Group to support conservation agriculture and reduce the cost of land preparation. The group hires out the implement at a fee, creating an extra income stream for them. Three group was selected for this support because it was already engaged in mechanization.



Governor Wang'a, DG Magwanga and FAO Deputy Country Director Hamisi Williams flagging off the farm equipment

There were also three multi-crop threshers and three digital weighing scales. These threshers will solve the problem of post-harvest losses and make soybeans threshing less tedious. The three beneficiary groups are Koyieko Youth Group (North Kabuoch), Kamato Afya (Lambwe), and Nyadenda Soya FBS (Ruma Kaksingri). The three groups will also benefit from the three digital weighing scales.

Three combined feed crushers and mixers and a moisture meter were also donated. The crushers and mixers are to support value addition and promote local feed production to reduce the cost and improve the availability of feeds. Three groups will benefit from these sets of equipment: Kirindo

Women's Group (Kologi), Everest Women Group (Lambwe), and Wacho gi Timo SHG (Gwasi South)

Besides value addition and reducing post-harvest losses, the equipment will also be a source of income for these groups as they hire them out or sell produce to the community. The equipment cost approximately Kes. 1.94 million. The service provider has committed to helping the beneficiary groups with the installation of these equipment and training them on how to use and maintain them.

The County Government of Homa Bay has prioritized edible oils and nuts as one of the major value-addition areas besides cotton and fish.

## KENDU BAY AGRICULTURAL SHOW SET FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024



DG Magwanga, Speaker Hon Gaya and Majority Leader Hon Ogindo at HBIIIC sideline event. The DG announced the dates for the Kendu Bay Show

By Sarah Orucho

The County Department of Agriculture and Livestock and the Kendu Bay Show Organizing Committee have agreed to revive the Kendu Bay Agricultural show previously known for its carnivore.

With the focus on improving the lives and the livelihood of the people in the region and as a way of empowering the locals economically and socially, the government promised to revive the lost glory of the then magnificent Kendu Bay ASK Show.

The county government through the Stakeholder department held public participation forums and the members of the local community welcomed the idea and asked the Governor to fast-track all the required processes to ensure that the show is held as soon as possible.

The County Government will undertake the construction of modern fencing and social amenities in the showground, the construction of permanent structures for both the community members and do a proper drainage system in the pitch for sporting activities. Additionally, the government will appoint a functional committee with a mandate to ensure proper security around the showground and expedite the rehabilitation of the Kendu Bay pier to stimulate the economic growth of the region.

The local communities have also urged the government to install a proper lighting system and improve the roads leading to and serving the showground.

The public participation process was led by the Director of Public Participation and Stakeholder Management Teddy Oginga, Chairperson Kendu Bay Municipality, and staff from the public participation and stakeholder management, among others.

# HEALTHCARE: COUNTY ENHANCES FOCUS ON PREVENTIVE AND PROMOTIVE HEALTH



Governor Wangwa, PS Mary Muthoni handed over a mosquito to a beneficiary after a demonstration of the distribution process

## KENYA MASS NET DISTRIBUTION CAMPAIGN 2023/2024 LAUNCHED AT NDIRU STADIUM RANGWE IN HOMA BAY COUNTY.

By Veronica Nyasoro

In Collaboration with the State Departmental of Public Health, USAID, and PMI Kinga Malaria, the County Government unveiled the distribution of 841,000 treated Mosquito nets to the people of Homa Bay to curb malaria prevalence.

The launch was presided over by Ms. Mary Muthoni Muriuki Principal Secretary, State Departmental for Public Health, and H.E Governor Gladys Wangwa.

“In the concerted effort to eliminate Malaria in the County, the government has embraced the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended Distribution of the Long-Lasting Insecticide Nets (LLIN) to the high-risk communities as one of the malaria elimination strategies.” Ms. Mary Muthoni said in her remark.

H.E Governor Gladys Wangwa during her speech said the malaria net launch is a significant initiative aimed at reducing malaria prevalence and improving public health nationwide. 9,111 individuals have been trained towards the campaign and successful registration of targeted households has been completed.

The mass net campaign will benefit all the nine Sub-Counties in Homa Bay County.

The Community Health Promoters will play a key role in ensuring proper net utilization.

The mass net distribution campaign introduced an innovative digitalized process to enhance efficiency and accountability in the net distribution.

Global Fund, WHO, USAID, PMI, AMREF Kenya, and KEMRI Kenya partners were present.



Leaders admiring a model bed with the net in use

## GOVERNOR WANGA LEADS DISTRIBUTION OF CHP KITS



*Governor Wanga addressing the county CHPs at Raila Odinga Stadium*

*By Lawrence Magware*

The primary healthcare program got a major boost when H.E. Governor Gladys Wanga launched the distribution of essential kits to the 2,954 Community Health Promoters (CHPs) in the county. The kits, a commitment from both the county and the national governments, contained a Blood Glucose Monitoring System, a First Aid kit, disposal adhesive plaster strips, a health scale weighing machine, a Blood Pressure Monitor, a baby scale, a vacuum cup, a flashlight, and a pocket sharps container for clinical waste.

While leading the event at Raila Odinga Stadium in Homa Bay Town, Governor Wanga reiterated that primary healthcare is a top priority in the county's transformation agenda, and the role the Community Health Promoters (CHPs) play is critical in this endeavour, and the kits are to enhance their work by enabling them to continue delivering important healthcare services and identifying health issues

early on. She added that capturing and managing health indicators at the household level allows the county government to plan, program, and execute appropriate interventions in managing healthcare.

This happened even as the Governor participated in the Inter-governmental Participation Agreement between the county and national governments on the remuneration of the CHPs. This agreement defines a better framework for primary healthcare soldiers as both levels of government seek to better capture and manage the primary healthcare indicators at the household levels. In the agreement, there will be a 50% contribution from each government towards the CHP stipend.

The country chief also took the opportunity to thank the CHPs for the splendid work they have been doing at the community level while at the same time imploring them to strive high to eliminate maternal death, and early teenage pregnancy and reduce new HIV infections.



*Governor Wanga, DG Magwanga pose with the CHPs to display the kits*

## COMMISSIONING OF SOKLO HEALTH CENTER BRINGS HEALTH RELIEF TO ISLAND'S PLATEAU

By Lawrence Magware

The Rt. Hon Raila Odinga presided over the unveiling of Soklo Health Center after its transformation from a dispensary.

The commissioning of Soklo Health Center was a monumental undertaking. The project could not have come at a better time for the residents of the expansive Mfangano Plateau. The plateau, with a population of over ten thousand residents and an accessibility challenge, did not have a substantive health facility that could meet the needs of the locals. More often, the residents had to walk between 10km to 15km to access healthcare downhill either in Sena, Uguna, or Wakula, a situation that accounted for several maternal deaths and difficulties in handling medical emergencies.

The new facility is complete with a maternity wing, outpatient department, and a community health section. It will ease the medical services burden to the residents of Mfangano Central and parts of Mfangano West, North, and South residents due to its central accessibility on the densely populated but forested and agriculturally productive plateau.



Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga confers with a patient at Soklo Health Center

The former premier, was accompanied by Governor Gladys Wanga, her deputy Joseph Oyugi Magwanga, host MP Millie Odhiambo, Senator Moses Kajwang', Rangwe MP Dr. Lillian Gogo, ODM National Chair and nominated MP John Mbadia and a host of MCAs and local leaders.



Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga leading the unveiling of the upgraded Soklo Health Center



# GENDER INCLUSIVITY: 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE KICKS OFF IN HOMA BAY.



*Cake-cutting to signal the launch of 16 days of gender activism*

*By Collins Ogutu*

Homa Bay County through the Department of Gender Inclusivity, Youth Affairs, Talent Development, Sports, Culture, Heritage, and Social Services today launched 16 days of activism against Gender-Based Violence at Raila Odinga Stadium, Homa Bay.

The 16-day activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is an international annual campaign that kicked off on November 25th. The International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women runs until December 10 with this year's theme being "UNITE! Activism to end violence against women and girls." Homa Bay will end the campaign on 11th December at Kendu Bay Municipality.

The annual event raises awareness to demand accountability and increase efforts through partnerships, coalitions, and resource mobilization to end gender-based violence, which is recognized as the most pervasive violation of human rights worldwide.

In remarks delivered on her behalf by Chief Officer Gender, Inclusivity and Women Empowerment Dolphin Ochere, Governor Gladys Wanga lauded the people of Homa Bay County for entrusting Women with leadership. "Homa Bay boasts of the highest number of elected women both in the

National and County Assembly. In this regard, we are in a league of our own." She stated.

The Governor disclosed that despite this milestone, Women and girls continue to suffer from Gender-Based Violence "We must engage local communities on candid dialogues on where they place the plight of women and girls in the most pervasive breach of human rights worldwide and we must take the initiative to stop it." Said Governor Wanga. She further called for concerted efforts for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls.

The event was officiated by Miss Megan wa Mukuria, Founder and CEO of Zana Africa Group Limited, and brought together different civil societies and NGOs championing actions against GBV in Homa Bay County.

During the event, the County Government of Homa Bay launched a chat box, and adolescents hotline system. The system developed through the support of Zana Africa Limited will engage both girls and boys to solve key gaps in the health ecosystem via a toll-free hotline and WhatsApp chat box.

Miss Megan wa Mukuria disclosed that the hotline and WhatsApp chat box will provide health information including information on social determinants of health at the touch of a button to adolescents to ensure they have information that can help them make informed choices about their lives and health.

The plan is for the hotline to respond to issues starting with child protection and sexual and reproductive health and expand issue by issue based on community needs.

Homa Bay County early this year launched the SGBV Policy that protects all citizens from all forms of sexual and gender-based violence.



*Mama Ida Odinga addressing over 2000 women who attended the convention at Raila Odinga Stadium*

## **SIGAND NYI NAM: DAUGHTERS OF THE LAKE PLEDGE TO END TRIPLE THREAT, HARNESS COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT**

*By Lawrence Magware*

**T**he inaugural two-day Sigand Nyinam Women Convention climaxed to a public show of commitment from the Luo Nyanza women leaders to fight the triple threat of sexual and gender-based violence, teenage pregnancies, and new HIV infections in the four counties of Nyanza - Homa Bay, Kisumu, Migori and Siaya.

In a unanimous acclamation, the women leaders, led by the trailblazing educational and women empowerment champion Dr. Ida Odinga and Homa Bay County Governor Gladys Wanga, the women leaders committed to using their voices, their actions, and their influence to bring an end to the triple threats of new HIV infections, teenage pregnancies, and gender-based violence in the region. They also affirmed to educate and sensitize the community on the importance of safe sex practices, to promote access to reproductive health services, and to advocate for comprehensive sex education for all young people in the region.

The event brought together women leaders drawn from all sectors including politics, business, religion, and corporate among others and together they committed to work to create safe spaces for open and honest conversations about gender equality and consent, and to challenge harmful gender norms and

stereotypes that perpetuate violence against women and girls.

The Sigand Nyi Nam Convention is part of the elaborate activities that the women leaders founded to be part of the region's edition of the global 16 Days of Gender Activism whose rallying call this year has been to unite the world against the violence of all kinds against women and the associated social vices meted on women that hinder them from realizing their dreams.



*Section of the women leaders at the Convention*



A section of the PWDs during the ceremony at Kabunde Social Hall

## **PWDS: HOMA BAY COUNTY JOINS THE REST OF THE WORLD IN MARKING INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

By Lawrence Magware

**W**ith a disability prevalence of 4.3%, Homa Bay County ranks second after Murang'a in the number of people with disabilities. In that regard, the County Government has made it a priority to escalate disability inclusion, empowerment, and social welfare.

In marking this year's day at Kabunde Social Hall in Homa Bay Town, CECM Sarah Malit, in charge of county social services, reiterated Governor Gladys Wanga's administration initiatives towards improving the well-being of those abled differently. The county government has already distributed over 600 assistive devices and tools of trade to the PWDs besides rolling out mapping their households and business premises.

Themed around the inclusion of the disability towards meeting sustainable development goals, participants underscored the need for disability mainstreaming, integration and involvement in decision-making processes and implementation of affirmation actions towards enhancing their welfare.

The event was hosted in partnership with the State

Departments of Social Services and that of national administration, development partners Light of the World, PS Kenya, Active Action, KenGen, Humble Heart, Africa Harvest, Ajira Digital, and UDPK among others.



CECM Sarah Malit making her remarks

# CLIMATE CHANGE: EXECUTIVE, ASSEMBLY, PARTNERS JOIN RANKS ON RESILIENCE

By Communication Team

Climate Change Resilience remains top of the county government agenda even as the county delegation, headed by Governor Gladys Wanga heads to Dubai of COP28 conference.

Despite already having in place legislation and regulations on climate change mitigation and adaptation, the county government still moved in to whip the assembly to continue supporting initiatives on climate change and environmental conservation. At a high-level summit for the executive and the assembly, Governor Wanga implored the legislators to provide the much-needed political goodwill at the grassroots so the public can be part of the resilience programs.

Elsewhere, Homa Bay County Government's Directorate of climate change together with CUTS International under 'the voices of Just Climate Action' launched the Draft Climate Change Budget Tracking Toolkit.

The event convened by CUTS International at Sindo forest station in Suba South Sub County aims to provide a comprehensive data on climate change relevant budget and spending.

The County Director for Climate Change Roy

Odongo in his remarks confirmed that the climate change Directorate is committed to accountability towards successful implementation of climate action programs and transparency on financial applications towards climate change projects.

Mr. Daniel Asher, Center Program Coordinator CUTS International Nairobi disclosed that the toolkit will enable the County Government make climate change informed choices. "This toolkit will aid Homa Bay County Government make informed choices and prioritize climate investments. This is necessary in building trust, accountability, and commitment with regard to climate investments in the County." Added Asher.

The template comprises of sampled direct and indirect actions drawn from various county departments with itemized budgets as configured in the IFMIS platform, an avenue through which one can trace what was approved and what has been spent so far based on prioritized projects.

The event brought together Environmental Officers, Kenya Forest Service Officers, the Ward Climate Change Planning Committee representatives, and climate change champions drawn across the county.



Executive and the Assembly after a day-long workshop on Climate Change at Rusinga Island Lodge

# HBIIC 2024: HOMA BAY PRE-CONFERENCE SETS THE STAGE FOR INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT



Exhibitors and exhibitions at the first pre-conference event

By Michael Otieno

The Homa Bay International Investment Conference is off to a strong start with its pre-conference event in Homa Bay town showcasing the county's readiness for international investors.

Set to take place from February 27th to 29th, 2024, the investment conference aims to draw both international and local investors to tap into the county's investment potential. The event is anticipated to lead to the signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) between the county government and businesses, as well as business-to-business agreements.

Homa Bay County, with 80% of Lake Victoria within its borders, also foresees a surge in tourism once investment opportunities are realized.

In preparation for the February 2024 conference, pre-investment conferences are being conducted in Homa Bay town and other major towns across the country.

The Homa Bay pre-investment conference drew a robust turnout of local investors eager to contribute to the county's development.

Key county officials, including the Deputy Governor, H.E Oyugi Magwanga, and several County Executive Committee Members (CECMs) and Members of County Assembly (MCAs), were in attendance, demonstrating the government's support for local investment.

The Deputy Governor encouraged local investors to prioritize creating employment within the county, which he believed would help reduce crime. He also emphasized the potential for



tourism development along the lakefront and urged investors to consider this opportunity.

CECM Polycarp Okombo outlined plans for the upcoming international investment conference, highlighting the potential attendance of US and Polish ambassadors. He emphasized the investment prospects in agribusiness, focusing particularly on edible oils such as palm oil.

Other county officials presented viable investment opportunities in their respective departments, showcasing the diverse range of options available to potential investors.

Local investor Mr. Aguko Juma, a successful farmer and former CECM, underscored the profitability of agriculture and encouraged attendees to consider investing in the sector for community development. The Homa Bay pre-investment chapter demonstrated the county's dedication to attracting both local and international investment, setting the stage for a successful international investment conference in February 2024.

# RELATIONS: HIGH-LEVEL VISITS KEY TO ENHANCING VISIBILITY, COURTING PARTNERS, AND INVESTORS



## AMBASSADOR MEG WHITMAN ENDS HOMA BAY TOUR WITH A COMMITMENT TO SUPPORTING THE COUNTY'S DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

By Lawrence Magware

U.S. Ambassador to Kenya H.E. Meg Whitman concluded her highly productive tour of Homa Bay County with a commitment to Governor Wanga for partnership on the development agenda. The two-day working tour included visits to various sites of interest within the county.

During the tour, Ambassador Whitman visited Trees for The Future offices, where she appreciated the organization's and the county government's climate resilience intervention. She also toured a cotton plantation in the Pedo area of Homa Bay Town, expressing her embassy's willingness to lobby for investors to support the cotton value chain.

The second day of the tour included a grand reception at the county headquarters, a courtesy call on the governor, and a joint press briefing where both Governor Wanga and Ambassador Whitman affirmed their commitment to collaborate on key areas including lakefront development, healthcare, and economic investment.

Ambassador Whitman also visited Kendu Bay Fish Banda to gain an understanding of the fishing and fish value chain, discussing potential strategies to make the fishing industry more vibrant and create

wealth for the local population. She also visited the historical site of Lake Simbi Nyaima and later met with a women's group in Homa Bay Town East where, in partnership with Governor Wanga, they donated solar-powered water pumps to support the women in organic farming initiatives.

The tour concluded with a visit to the Homa Bay County Teaching and Referral Hospital, where the ambassador and the governor visited the maternity section to appreciate the various initiatives, H.E. Governor Wanga has put in place towards achieving zero maternal deaths and child mortality.

Ambassador Meg Whitman's visit marked the third foreign envoy to visit Homa Bay County during Governor Wanga's tenure, following visits from ambassadors of Austria and Iran.





## SWEDISH DELEGATION HOLDS A PARTNERSHIP DISSEMINATION WORKSHOP IN HOMA BAY

By Collins Ogutu

The Department of Water, Sanitation, Irrigation, Environment, Energy, Forestry and Climate Change together with the Swedish delegation from Lyckselle Municipality today held a dissemination workshop in Homa Bay after a successful five-day exchange program in the County.

The County Government of Homa Bay had partnered with Lyckselle Municipality in a three-year solid waste and water project which is ending.

The overall objective of the workshop was to bring on board different stakeholders and policymakers with the aim of disseminating the results and impact of the partnership program.

Before the program, Homa Bay County had issues of poor government structure in solid and liquid waste management that has so far improved with the initiation of the partnership.

Through the partnership, the Department has been able to draft the County Solid waste management policy bill and regulations, Water and Sanitation Policy

Bill and regulation, Waste Survey, Climate Change Policy Bill and regulation, Improved holding and dumping sites, and improved communication on waste management which has led to resource mobilization structure for sustainably of these results.

The Chief Officer of Forestry and Energy Professor Donald Ogweno disclosed that the County Government of Homa Bay is currently engaging the Swedish Government in partnership on village sanitation where two pilot villages of Kaswanga in Mbita Sub County and Pala Koguta in Ndiwa Sub County have been identified.

The village sanitation project has numerous components including health, education (Early Years Education), solid waste, and sanitation.

During the five days, the delegation visited various water and sanitation projects across the county.

The main objective is to eliminate open defecation in the County by 2027 through village sanitation.

## RAILA ODINGA VISITS SUBA, COMMISSIONS KEY PROJECTS



*Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga helps a woman fetch water after commissioning the Kamasengre Community Water Project in Rusinga Island. Looking on are Governor Gladys Wanga and Suba North MP Millie Odhiambo*

*By Lawrence Magware*

**T**he two-day productive tour of the ODM party leader Rt. Hon Raila Odinga of Suba North climaxed to a mega rally at Mbita's Onundo Stadium where he reiterated the party's stand on an array of local and national issues pertinent to the people including the cost of living, punitive taxation policies, and skewed development priorities.

The tour saw the former Prime Minister visit Mfangano Island in Suba Central sub-county where he held a three-hour meeting with the island grassroots and opinion leaders before presiding over the commissioning of Soklo Health Center which the county government had upgraded from a dispensary. The health facility is set to offer a huge relief to the residents of the expansive plateau who will no longer need to travel 10km to 15km downhill to Sena, Wakula, or Ugina for maternal clinics and other ailments.

The ODM leader then concluded his island tour with a major rally at the Mfangano Ferry Jetty grounds where he rallied the islanders to remain loyal to the ideals of social democracy as espoused by the orange party.

In Rusinga Island, Hon Odinga commissioned the Kamasengre Community Water Supply Project, a giant 100,000-litre water reservoir that is supposed to serve over 2,400 households in Rusinga West with safe and clean water for domestic use before witnessing the handing over of Kiumba Modern Multi-purpose Fish Banda to the County Government by the Suba North NG-CDF.

A meeting with ODM delegates from all the wards in Suba North at Kisui then ensued and he used the occasion to officially launch mass party registration.

Throughout his tour, the Azimio la Umoja-One Kenya Coalition was accompanied by Homa Bay County Governor Gladys Wanga, Senator Moses Kajwang, host MP Millie Odhiambo, ODM National Chairperson Hon John Mbadi, a host of other ODM MPs, MCA and other leaders.



## SPORTS: K'OGALO 'OFFICIALLY' OPENS ROSH

By Communication Team

What a game at what a time, in what a place! Wow, just wow! This was the most scintillating moment of pure football, and a true culmination of the many transformative efforts Governor Wanga has put on and off the field in this county.

Somewhere else, defending champions Gor Mahia and league strugglers Muhoroni Youth would not pair for a big match, but this was Homa Bay and inside the Raila Odinga Stadium. This game will not be remembered for the scores but for where it was played, and for who was in the stands – Raila Amolo Odinga. It was the grand opening of the iconic stadium named after Kenya's living father of democracy and social justice.

Benson Omala's early strike and Christopher Ochieng's late goal were enough to return Gor Mahia to winning ways as they beat Muhoroni Youth 2-0 at the Raila Odinga Stadium in Homa Bay on Sunday. In what was Omala's first goal in five games, the striker found the target in the 16th minute after getting on the end of Austin Odhiambo's pass.

The striker had come close to breaking the deadlock after 10 minutes, but his shot was blocked before he made amends six minutes later.

With former Prime Minister Raila Odinga, Homa Bay Governor Gladys Wanga and ODM Party National Chair Hon John Mbadi among those watching, K'Ogalo did not disappoint their fans in Homa Bay as they made life difficult for their opponents.

Johnathan McKinstry's men could not add to their tally in the opening half as they went into the break leading 1-0. There was a moment of scare after the break when defender Rooney Onyango went down injured and although he was attended to by medics and continued, he was replaced in the 68th minute by Pual Ochuoga.

The Gor Mahia defense, which has conceded just four goals this season, remained resolute restricting Muhoroni to long-range shots. As the game wore on, McKinstry opted to keep the points safe by taking off Odhiambo and Omala for Kevin Juma and Patrick Kaddu to shore up the midfield.

With the game almost done, Christopher Ochieng slotted home Gor's second goal to settle the nerves and make the points safe in the 90th minute. Victory saw Gor end a spell of two straight draws although they remain second on the table with 24 points, one behind leaders Posta Rangers.



Patron Raila Odinga, Governor Wanga and Hon Mbadi share a light moment during the Muhoroni Youth and Gor Mahia match

# COUNTY NEWS ROUND-UP



## FISHERIES

The 26 illegal fishing nets that were confiscated in the waters of Lake Victoria were burnt at Homa Bay Fisheries ground following a court order that had earlier okayed the destruction. The event was presided over by the Homa Bay court Admin and the department chief officer Mr. George Orero. Mr. Zakary Winam of the fisheries department explained that the action was necessitated by the unauthorized nets leading to unsustainable fishing in Lake Victoria. “The illegal nets are very dangerous because they catch all fish sizes including underage ones leading to depletion of fish in the lake,” Winam said. He appreciated the key role played by the Beach Management Unit (BMU) in ensuring that there is peace within the lake and its environs.



## FISHERIES

Department of Blue Economy, Fisheries, Mining, and Digital Economy in collaboration with Victory Farms today, stocked Randung’ and Kosiga dams in Rangwe sub-county with 15,000 and 18,000 fingerlings respectively, and two extra Gero and Okiso dams in the Rachuonyo East sub-county with 7,500 fingerlings each. The project is to boost fish production and facilitate sustainable management and development of fisheries resources for accelerated socio-economic growth.



## WOMEN CONFERENCE

H.E. the Governor participated in the AFAWA Finance Series hosted by the Africa Development Bank (AfDB) and Africa Guarantee Fund (AGF) with other women leaders. The roundtable focused on accelerating women’s empowerment and improving financial literacy among women in small and medium-scale entrepreneurship at the grassroots level. As the female population surpasses that of men, we must take on leadership roles in driving our local economies forward. She is committed to empowering women and ensuring they have the necessary resources to thrive in the business world.



## INDUSTRIAL PARK

Alongside 18 other governors, H.E Governor Gladys Wanga participated in the signing of the Inter-governmental Participation Agreements that spell out the collaboration agreement on Phase I of the County Aggregation Centers and Industrial Parks (CAIPs). These parks aim to boost industrial production, add value to local resources, create new jobs, and bolster the national GDP. Each county will receive KES 250 million from the national government to kickstart this transformative industrial revolution plan. The construction of the Homa Bay CAIP is already underway at Riwa, Rachuonyo North sub-county.

## TALANTA HELA



Homa Bay County is one of the 16 counties at the inaugural National Talanta Hela Football Tournament to be held in Nairobi from 3rd to 12th December 2023. After finishing second in the North Nyanza regional qualifiers, both Genowa boys and girls had to overcome challenging playoffs in Nyeri for a slot to join Kisumu, Kisii, and Nyamira as Nyanza representatives at the government-sponsored tournament.

## SPORTS

Governor Gladys Wanga officially opened the 2023 edition of the Genowa Governor's Cup. A symbolic kick from the county chief at the Okota Grounds in North Kabuoch Ward in Ndhiwa midway preliminary match between Obera FC and Kanyangasi FC marked the official kick-off of the county-wide tournament. The tournament runs from today till 31st December 2023, with games to be played in each ward whereupon two successful teams from each ward proceed to the sub-county levels. The county finals will be played at the Raila Odinga Stadium, Homa Bay. Football, netball, and volleyball are on the show.



## SPORTS



A delegation from the Kenya Communications Sports Organization (KECOSO) led by the secretary general Mr. Omole Asiko is in the county on invitation of the Governor to inspect sports and hospitality facilities within Homa Bay as

the county bids to host the KECOSO 2024 Games. They were received and toured around by the top leadership of the county department in charge of sports including CECM Sarah Malit, Chief Officers Elly Nyiero and Dolphin Ochere, and Director Francis Guma. KECOSO brings together all state parastatals and agencies within the ministries of transport, tourism, sports, and communication in sports and fitness competitions. Homa Bay County, if successful with the bid, will be hosting the Games' 43rd edition.

## TOURS AND TRAVEL: GOVERNOR'S PARK, HOMA BAY TOWN

The Governor's Park in Homa Bay Town is what Central Park is to Manhattan New York. The first public park in Homa Bay Town occupies one and a half acres of land in Central Homa Bay, giving you a spectacular view of the buzzing Homa Bay downtown. It is not only the first but also the largest and most important public park in Homa Bay County. It was one of the first Kenyan parks to be developed using landscape architecture techniques.

Before the park was erected, the place was everything but a bush and a dump site. The new county government heeded the public calls for a new, large recreational park to be built in the town.



The completed Governor's Park was officially opened in June by former premier Raila Odinga, and it is one of the greatest achievements in artificial landscaping. The park's terrain and vegetation are highly varied and range from flat grassy swards, gentle slopes, and shady glens to steep, rocky ravines. The Park affords interesting vistas and walks at nearly every point. A public pavilion for concerts and ceremonies is in the park. There is also a waterfront, a skating rink made of colored cabro paving, an open-air theatre, a band shell, and children's playgrounds.

