

GENOWA ECHO

ENDLESS POTENTIAL

NEWSLETTER | VOL. 11 – JANUARY 2024

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF HOMA BAY



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A Message from The **CECM COMMUNICATIONS**



GRACE MERCY OSEWE (MRS)
CECM COMMUNICATIONS

Welcome to 2024, and a warm welcome to our first edition of the year, our 11th overall. We had so much success last year as we moved in to diversify how we reach out to our readers, followers, and admirers, for digital, print and broadcast. Our focus has been to inform you of what the County Government of Homa Bay does on a day-to-day basis as we implement the promises and aspirations of the people as spelled out in Governor Gladys Wanga's Genowa En Dongruok manifesto.

In this Issue, we have highlighted what transpired in December and the first week of the New Year. We had remarkable successes, notably our junior football teams, becoming national champions twice in as many attempts, while our girls' football team also made a maiden podium finish. Away from the pitches, we began the motions toward hosting our second county investment conference, this time pitching for a bigger and a more impactful event as we aim to steer the county towards unprecedented investment glut.

Despite the challenges that our county faced last year, including severe drought followed by damaging flush floods, we do have cause for hope and optimism under the stable leaderships of our Governor, Hon Gladys Wanga. Our hope and optimism is based on the knowledge that we have faced many hardships before and have always overcome them, I therefore firmly believe that better days lie ahead. Let us cheer up and toast for the New Year.

Flip the pages and see more!

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Governor Wanga, DG Magwanga, CECM Opere and CO Ongere together with students from Gem East Ward display a dummy cheques worth Kshs 215 million during the launch of 2024 bursary scheme at Namba, Gem East

EDUCATION:

COUNTY INVESTS MILLIONS IN EDUCATION AND HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT PROGRAMS

By Lawrence Magware

The county government of Homa Bay is investing over KES 215 million in education and human capital development programs as Governor Gladys Wanga targets to fulfil her pledges in education.

The government has earmarked six key programs in this initiative that will be undertaken before the lapse of this financial year. While unveiling the kitty as she launched the first of the activities to be financed through this kitty, the Governor revealed that the county-wide ward-based student bursary now encompasses students in all tertiary colleges and universities, having expanded it from the secondary schools as it was previously.

To achieve this, the government increased the allocation per ward from the KES 2.5 million it was

in the last financial year to KES 4 million, translating into an increase in the number of beneficiaries from an average of 300 to 600.

The government is also going to continue with the Fins to Swim Scholarship, after a successful year of its implementation culminated into a mentorship gathering presided over by the Governor where the first cohort were awarded with their second-year school fee cheques.

In a deliberate effort at reviving the vocational education, the county government is introducing a special scholarship package targeting those interesting in joining the local vocational training centres. The scholarship dubbed Genowa Fundi Mang'ula Scholarship will admit 15 students from every ward, offering them training and post-training



Distribution of student bursaries in various wards



support. Through this, the county government aims at churning out over 600 fully equipped self-reliant handiwork youths ready to establish themselves as job creators, while at the same time shifting the public perception on vocational training.

The government will also use labour-based contracting to construct 4 early year education classroom in every ward, departing from the conventional contracting procedures. This way, the government will be proving temporary employment for a large number of skilled and unskilled labour in the localities, save in costs and alleviate poverty while making sure that it does the projects efficiently and within its means.

The programme is expected to reach 32,000 high school students, 1200 Vocational Training Centers (VTC) students through the GENOWA Fundi Mang'ula Scholarship and 240 students through the Fins to Swim Scholarship. The government is committed to fulfilling the promises of enhancing human capital development through this initiative.

GOVERNOR WANGA RELEASES FINS TO SWIM SCHOLARSHIP SECOND COHORT

By Communication Team

H. E Governor Gladys Wanga today flagged off the second cohort of the flagship Fins to Swim Scholarship program ahead of school reporting on Monday, at a colourful event held at the Governor's Park, Homa Bay Town.

The scholars, six each from all the forty wards in the county, are poised to benefit from a full scholarship package, inclusive of school fees, personal effect, subsistence and fare to and fro school.

Initiated last year, this year's program will draw from the Kshs 215 million education and human capital support kitty that the Governor unveiled on December 28th last year, which among others, also caters for the school bursaries and soon-to-be-launched Genowa Fundi Mang'ula VTC scholarship.

In her remarks, the county chief expressed her optimism that the student beneficiaries are not only going to benefit from the school fees but also going to be the game changers and future drivers of society. She challenged them to put effort and stay true to the commitment they swore to embracing the challenge of attaining the best through hard work, perseverance and persistence.

The ceremonies were also attended by Deputy Governor Oyugi Magwanga, the Homa Bay Civil Society Network, the leadership and members of the Homa Bay County Assembly, the beneficiary student parents, educational stakeholders and the general public.



Governor Wanga pose for a group photo with all the second cohort of the Fins to Swim Scholarship

INVESTMENT CONFERENCE: COUNTY READIES FOR SECOND INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

By Communication Team

The Homa Bay International Investment Conference is off to a strong start with its pre-conference events in Homa Bay, Nairobi and Mombasa 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 have already been conducted in Homa Bay, Nairobi and Mombasa, while Kisumu will host one within this month.

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.



Delegates at the Pre-Conference event held at the Carnivore, Nairobi

Overly, the investment conference is to showcase bankable investment opportunities, provide a platform for interaction and sharing of investment ideas that will lead to strategic partnerships and the signing of MOUS. It will unveil investment opportunities available in diverse sectors within the county and open the county for wealth creation in a sustainable environment and is expected to increase business linkages and collaborations as well as feature structured and highly interactive plenary discussions, breakout sessions, and site visits.



Governor Wanga pitching for the investment opportunities in Homa Bay during an event in Mombasa



Delegates during the event in Mombasa

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: GOVERNOR WANGA, EU AMBASSADOR HOLD BILATERAL TALKS



Gifting the Ambassador with Homa Bay County's sweetest pineapple

By Communication Team

European Union ambassador to Kenya, who also serves as the permanent representative for both UNEP and UN-Habitat H. E Henriette Greiger became the latest envoy to visit Homa Bay County, for among other things, to establish areas of mutual partnership with Governor Gladys Wanga's administration.

While making her maiden tour to the county, Ms Greiger noted with enthusiasm the enormous potential the county has which would be fully exploited with a mutually beneficial partnership, saying that Homa Bay County's strategic location as both a blue economy and green initiative hub makes it an ideal county for EU funded projects in the country.

During the day-long tour, the European envoy visited the Thomas Odhiambo Campus of the International Center for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) in Mbita where she toured the centre's green economy hub and drought-resistant crop nurseries before being given a state reception at the county headquarters by her host Governor Gladys Wanga.

The two, alongside the entire county cabinet, held talks where the envoy outlined what the EU would be interested in including education support, strengthening of the governance and people-involvement initiatives, climate adaptation and resilience among others. They later addressed a joint press conference where they reiterated their

commitments to foster a mutual partnership.

The envoy's last activity was a public lecture to the students and faculty members at the Tom Mboya University on the EU Commission's Erasmus Scholarship program and the bloc's green economy projects.

The EU and Kenya are committed to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement on climate. The European Union has a long-standing partnership with Kenya, and Homa Bay County stands to benefit.

The EU-Kenya partnership is exemplary of what Global Gateway means in practice. In Kenya, it focuses on public and private investments in the green and digital transitions, to help reach the country's full economic potential and to mitigate the effects of climate change.



The session at the bilateral talks



SPORTS: HOMA BAY SHINES ON THE PITCH - HOME AND AWAY

PRESIDENT RUTO CROWNS HOMA BAY COUNTY NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

By Livone Molo

It has never been this bigger, it has never been this ecstatic, it has never been this thrilling. Millions of Kenyans watching the lads on national television, thousands watching inside the national stadium and Homa Bay County are the national champions, not once, but for the second time in a single year, but this time watched by the nation's leadership not less the President, the Deputy President, the Prime Cabinet Secretary, Sports CS, FKF leadership and a special appearance by Homa Bay Governor, Gladys Wanga."

Those were the commentaries of Kenya's equivalent of Peter Drury as Genowa Boys edged out Kisumu County in a six-goal thriller to be crowned the champions of the inaugural Talanta Hela National Inter- County Under 19 Championship, exerting their dominance in national football once again.

Cecil Miller opened the scores in the 41st minute from a tight angle to send the Nyayo Stadium crowd into raptures before Ian Otieno doubled the

lead five minutes after break. Geoffrey Omondi benefited from Kisumu's poor clearance to riffle home the third before Kisumu pulled one back from the spot, but Ben Ogutu's fourth meant Kisumu's second became only a consolation.

In other results, it was a rollercoaster of a journey, and one that ended on a high. From trailing at the regionals to making it through the qualifier playoffs, Homa Bay County Ladies Under 19 team walked to cover every blade of grass. A debut in a national tournament semi-final ended in a disappointment but the subsequent sealing of a podium finish after beating Uasin Gishu 4-1 in the 3rd Place playoffs atoned for the tears of the previous 24 hours.

Genowa Ladies finished as second runners-up at the inaugural National Talanta Hela Football Under 19 Tournament.

GENOWA GOVERNOR'S CUP GROWS IN COMPETITIVENESS



CS Soipan Tuya and Governor Gladys Wanga unveil the trophies ahead of the finals

By Lawrence Magware

The gathering at the Raila Odinga Stadium on December 31st was a culmination of a month, and some more, of enthralling sports action across the county, right from all the 40 wards to the 9 sub-counties. The tournament kicked off with a symbolic kick by H.E Gladys Wanga, under the heavy sky on 25th November 2023 at Okota Grounds in North Kabuoch. From then on, it became an action-packed, sell-out and high-octane games of football, netball, and volleyball.

Last year's tournament saw over 10,000 participants across the board, with over 320 grassroots teams registering to take part. It saw traditional giants being humbled while newbies took up the challenge. The elimination of 2022 champions Nyamrich were just a small indicator of how competitive the Genowa Governor's Cup has become.

All these could not have been possible were it not for the huge support and goodwill of, H. E Gladys Wanga. She has led from the front in youth

empowerment, talent nurturing and development. Her commitment to this course made it possible for the sports department to organize and run this magnanimous event.



Homa Bay's Oyala FC lifts the main trophy after emerging winners in the 2023 edition

GENOWA GOVERNOR'S CUP 2023 LEADER BOARD

Football Men
1. Oyala (H/Bay)
2. Raongo (Karachuonyo)
3. ASYD (Kasipul)
4. Oyugis United (Kasipul)

Football Ladies
1. Mwangaza Ladies(H/Bay)
2. Ruma Kaksingri(SS)
3. Sikri (Kasipul)
4. Victoria Watoto (SN)

Netball
1. Endless Potential (H/Bay)
2. Bware (Karachuonyo)
3. Nyakango (Karachuonyo)
4. Magoria (SN)

Volleyball
1. Ligisa (Rangwe)
2. Ober (KK)
3. Jodongo (Karachuonyo)
4. Gamblers (SN)



MP Peter Kaluma joins Mwangaza Ladies in celebrating their victory



Governor Wanga and AK President Lt.Gen. Jackson Tuwei shake hand after unveiling the plaque at the Raila Odinga Stadium

CLIMATE CHANGE:

HOMA BAY COUNTY UNVEILS SENSORS FOR MONITORING AIR QUALITY

By Lawrence Magware

The County Government of Homa Bay unveiled sensors for monitoring air quality in the County at a function held at the Raila Odinga Homa Bay Stadium. The project involves partnership between the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) Africa Center, Athletics Kenya (AK) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

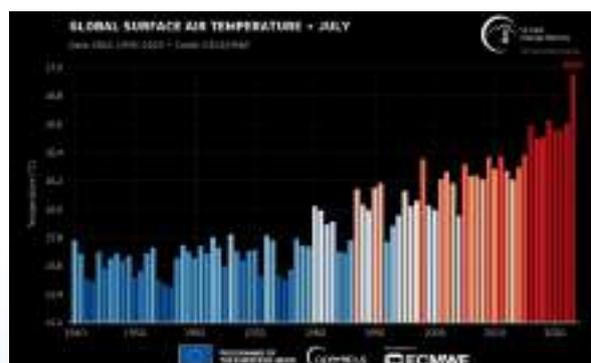
The deployment of the sensors for air quality monitoring is part of wider efforts to promote actions that ensures that residents in cities breath cleaner air that enhances their health and wellbeing. The monitoring is focused on sports facilities and stadiums, health centers, hospitals, and schools and enable stakeholders take the necessary remedial action to avoid and address air pollution.

Speaking during the unveiling of Homa Bay Governor H.E Gladys Wanga said her government said her government is deliberate on improving on sports through the establishment of facilities and nurturing talent. She appealed to AK to consider accrediting the Roan Marathon whose second edition will be in May 2024, as well as

laying a synthetic track at the Raila Odinga Homa Bay stadium whose altitude is ideal for churning sprinters for the Country.

Renewed impetus for clean cities

Air pollution is linked to hundreds of thousands of deaths every year across Africa and is a growing public health issue in Kenya, causing around 18,000 premature deaths annually, as well as millions of cases of respiratory illnesses. SEI Africa with UNEP has embarked on a plan to deploy air quality sensors in various towns to measure the quality of health for residents in rapidly growing cities in Africa.



SEI Africa director Dr. Philip Osano said “Air pollution contributes heavily to the health burden that negatively impacts the economies of African countries. In 2019, almost 400,000 premature deaths in Africa were attributed to outdoor air pollution. The sports community, including athletes, stands to benefit immensely from improved air quality, especially in stadiums and sports facilities which are used for competitions and recreational activities. That is why SEI supports the monitoring of air quality in sporting facilities across Africa, to promote measures such as greenbelts around stadiums to protect athletes and fans during sporting events.”

Air pollution and climate change threaten Africa’s development because of their negative impacts on human health, well-being, and productivity. Air pollution and climate change reduce agricultural productivity, for example, with implications for food and nutritional security. Urgent, large-scale action is needed at all levels of government and the targeting of counties is in furtherance of this cause.

Athletics Kenya (AK) president Lt. Gen. (Rtd.) Jackson Tuwei said “Athletics Kenya partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Stockholm Environment Institute

(SEI) Africa on air quality and climate action has led to the installation of air quality monitoring sensors in 12 stadiums and sports facilities in five countries in Africa. Today, the Raila Odinga Stadium in Homa Bay has become the 13th stadium to join this list which includes sports facilities in Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Senegal, and Zambia. Across all these stadiums, the monitors have enabled us to know the status of air quality and the extent to which our athletes and fans are exposed to air pollution during training and competitions. It also helps us to take remedial actions such as creating greenbelts around stadiums through tree planting.”

With a seating capacity of 20,000, and essential sporting infrastructure such as the natural turf, track and floodlight masts, the Raila Odinga Stadium is equipped to attract local and international sporting events. The air quality monitor will provide state of the art data to facilitate the hosting of major international athletics events in the venue. Homa Bay County and in particular the stadium joins other major urban centres and cities in Kenya that have benefitted from this capacity building including Migori, Nakuru, Nairobi, Eldoret, Kapsabet, Kilifi and Mombasa and several other African cities including, Addis Ababa, Kampala, Dar es Salaam, Dakar, Ndola, and Lusaka.



SEI African director Dr. Philip Osano explaining the working of the air sensors to the Gover



EL-NINO: NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND HOMA BAY COUNTY GOVERNMENT STEP UP EFFORT FOR FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN FLOODS-HIT REGIONS OF THE COUNTY.

By Collins Ogutu

The County Government of Homa Bay together with the National Government scaled up distribution of relief food in Homa Bay County.

The distribution spearheaded by Education CS Ezekiel Machogu, County Disaster Management Team and the Kenya Red Cross was done at Wang' Chieng' Divisional Headquarters, Rachuonyo North and Nyatoto in Suba South Sub Counties in response to El nino rains and flooding that have ravaged several parts of the County causing displacement and destroying livelihoods.

In Rachuonyo Sub County, the residents of Osodo, Kobuya, Simbi and environs received a consignment of 200 bags of Rice, 50 bags of beans, 150 blankets, 10 boxes of soap, 80 jikos and sanitary pads.

CS Ezekiel Machogu insisted that the collective efforts by both the National and County Government of Homa Bay is an indication that the two levels of government are committed to providing immediate relief and support to those affected by the calamity.

He implored residents living in flood prone areas to move to higher grounds. " I urge those living along the rivers and flat areas to be vigilant and remain cautious" said, adding that the Metrological Department forecasts indicate that rains will intensify into the new year.

He further thanked the county government of Homa Bay for the elaborate plans already put in place to mitigate such calamity and appealed to the County leadership to allocate funds to deal with such disasters.

Homa Bay County Commissioner Moses Lilan pointed out that 7,814 households have been affected by the floods, 8,690 acreages of land submerged in water and about 2,000 livestock displaced.

Notably, he revealed that there are intergovernmental efforts to find a long-term solution of flooding River Miriu by desilting and building dykes along it to prevent the river from bursting its banks during heavy rains.

The Chief Officer for Disaster Management Dr. Maxwell Majiwa said the County Government is committed to work with various partners through a coordinated approach to ensure successful response during flooding.

AGRICULTURE:

HOMA BAY COUNTY FARMER PRODUCER ORGANIZATIONS AND SACCOS TRAINED, ON BOARDED INTO AUTOMATION SYSTEM

By Abnery Pajero



Automation is crucial for financial institutions for several reasons, chief among them is streamlining operations by digitizing processes like member registration, updating member contribution, loan processing, accounting, and reporting.

This enhances efficiency, reduces errors, improves customer service, and allows them to scale their operations more effectively.

Automated systems also provide better insights through data analytics, aiding in informed decision-making for growth and sustainability.

To this end, Homa Bay County Government's Department of Agriculture and Livestock through the National Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (NAVCDP) today conducted an automation training and onboarding targeting bookkeepers of

the selected 16 SACCOs and 11 Farmer Producer Organizations at Dicese Hall.

The training conducted by Amtech Technologies Limited Company; an automation service provider seeks to capacity build the bookkeepers as the process of onboarding their organizations into the online system commences.

The knowledge and skills acquired will be key in enabling the bookkeepers, who will function as system administrators, navigate the online platform which hosts all activities and operations, as well as define and assign roles to various system users in the platform.

The training, in addition to payment of the system license for a period of two years, is part of the ongoing support package provided by World Bank in collaboration with the County through NAVCDP.



Governor Wanga, DG Magwanga inspect consignment meant for distribution

COUNTY FLAGS OFF ANIMAL FEED, MITIGATES DROUGHT

By Abnery Pajero

Governor Gladys Wanga flagged off the distribution of range cubes (animal feeds) and other assorted animal health supplies (vaccines and dewormers) to beneficiaries across 11 earmarked wards in Homa Bay County.

The distribution would be carried out by the Homa Bay County Department of Agriculture, Livestock Production and Veterinary Services through the Project Implementation Team (PIT) for the Livelihood and Drought Mitigation Project.

The Project was part of the County Government's partnership with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO) and German Cooperation being implemented by First Bridge Foundation (FBF) which are the service providers.

The wards earmarked to receive the items included Gwassi South, Gwassi North, Kaksingri East and Kaksingri West wards in Suba South Sub County, Lambwe and Gembe wards in Suba North Sub County and Kanyikela, Kwabwai, Kanyadoto, Kosewe and Kabuoch South wards in Ndiwa Sub County.

About 1000 beneficiaries are expected to benefit from approximately 250,000 kgs (5000 bags of 50 kgs) of animal feeds and animal health supplies (80,000 doses of vaccines and 1200 litres of dewormers) targeting about 15,000 cattle and valued at approximately Ksh. 25 million with each farmer expected to receive 5 bags.

Speaking during the flag-off ceremony, Governor Gladys Wanga expressed her excitement at the Project interventions.





Governor Wanga doing the flagging off

“I am pleased that the program has taken good shape. We were here a couple of months ago to flag off the distribution of sorghum to our farmers. Today we are here to flag off distribution of vaccines and dewormers and there has also been issuance of cash transfers to beneficiaries,” she said.

Deputy Governor and CEC-M in charge of Agriculture, Hon. Oyugi Magwanga on his part thanked the Governor for gracing the exercise and thanked First Bridge Foundation and FAO for partnering with the County Government to address issues of food security.

The head of the First Bridge Foundation Dr. Bernard Kochola thanked the County Government for the support and cooperation. He also urged the beneficiaries to ensure they administer the supplies

strictly to lactating cows to boost milk production.

Also in attendance were a host of MCAs drawn from the beneficiary wards.

This marks the penultimate phase of the project which has already completed the distribution of seeds and issuance of cash transfers.

The final phase of the project will include the provision of animal health services (vaccination and treatment), expected to be rolled out next week. Thereafter, the project will undertake monitoring and evaluation before closure.

The goal of the project is to, “improve the standards of life of the most vulnerable members of the community.”

FISHERIES: CAMPAIGN AGAINST STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION WITHIN THE SECTOR TO BOLSTER FIGHT AGAINST HIV.

By Bernard Oluoch

Department of Blue Economy, Fisheries, Mining and Digital Economy in collaboration with Liverpool Voluntary Counselling and Testing Center (LVCT) and Beach Management Unit

(BMU) Network held anti stigma and discrimination workshop against HIV /AIDS at Hippo Buck hotel.

While officially opening the one-day workshop;

Fisheries Director Mr. George Okoth emphasized on discrimination as a key ailment in today's society. He insisted that Stigma serves as a barrier to treatment keeping our people in a potentially life-threatening situation. He further urged all Beach Management Unit leaders to be role models in their beaches. "Discrimination occurs when individuals unjustly deprive others of their rights, it's our collective responsibility to fight the menace", he said.

Speaking at the event, County Aids /STIs Control Coordinator (CASCO) Dr. Steve Obunga urged participants to vigorously campaign against dehumanization of individuals or groups based on their social identity. "Stigma identify members of community as criminals, slaves or traitors to be shunned", he added.

Members present unanimously agreed to cascade



Triple Threat advocates at a past event

the campaign to a lower level to help eradicate stigma and discrimination. Friendly gender-based desks to be established in all the beaches to help fight stigma, discrimination as well as triple threats.

YOUTH AFFAIRS: HOMA BAY COUNTY REPRESENTED AT THE YOUTH SUMMIT

By Communication Team

The County Director for Youth Affairs Mr. Silas Rabah led a delegation that represented Homa Bay County at the 6th edition of the Pan-African Youth Connekt Summit at KICC, Nairobi City.

The organizers, YouthConnekt Africa Hub is a Pan-African platform that seeks to empower young people by enhancing their knowledge, experiences and skills while investing in their ideas, innovations, and initiatives so that Africa makes progress in harnessing its demographic dividends by 2030.

Hosted by the Government of Kenya in partnership with the UNDP, the 6th edition of the YouthConnekt Africa Summit convened over 20,000 young people, government officials, corporate leaders, and development champions.

This year's Summit shed the spotlight on Youth leadership and innovation for Africa's integration through policy discussions, storytelling and networking, and entrepreneur-focused

programmes including marketplace and investor meetings.

Homa Bay County is in the process of developing the Youth Policy and the Internship Policy, two key framework that will help streamline and prioritize the youth agenda in the county.



Plenary session at the Youth Connekt Summit at the KICC, Nairobi



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: ESSENTIAL BILLS TO STEER INFRASTRUCTURAL AND BLUE ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT

By Steven Muga

In a significant move toward progress and sustainable development, H.E. Governor Gladys Wanga of Homa Bay County assented to two pivotal bills: the Homa Bay County Infrastructure Financing Bill 2023 and the Homa Bay County Fisheries and Aquaculture Management Act 2023.

The Homa Bay County Infrastructure Financing Bill 2023 represents a strategic leap forward in bolstering the county's infrastructure landscape. Governor's assent to this bill paves the way for innovative financing mechanisms aimed at revitalizing roads, bridges, and essential transportation networks. This legislation is poised to usher in a new era of connectivity, safety, and economic growth for the residents of Homa Bay County.

Simultaneously, the enactment of the Homa Bay County Fisheries and Aquaculture Management Act 2023 underscores the administration's commitment to the sustainable management of aquatic resources. This landmark legislation provides a comprehensive framework for the prudent management of fisheries and aquaculture within the county, ensuring the preservation of marine ecosystems and the livelihoods of those dependent on these resources.

In signing these bills into law, Her Excellency emphasized the critical role these measures play in positioning Homa Bay County as a hub for progressive infrastructure development and responsible fisheries management. Governor highlighted that these legislative actions are fundamental pillars for fostering economic resilience, job creation, and sustainable growth in the region.

These legislative milestones come as a result of extensive consultations and collaborative efforts involving various stakeholders, experts,



and community representatives. The Governor expressed gratitude to the departments and assembly members, who all played a crucial role in the drafting and reviewing process for their dedication and input in shaping these comprehensive and forward-thinking bills.

The assent to these bills reaffirms Governor Wanga's commitment to steering Homa Bay County

towards a future marked by robust infrastructure, sustainable resource management, and enhanced livelihoods for its residents.

These landmark legislations not only mark a significant step forward for Homa Bay County but also serve as a testament to the administration's unwavering dedication to fostering a prosperous and sustainable future for all its citizens.

COUNTY NEWS ROUND UP



RECOGNITION

President William Ruto conferred Governor Wanga with the Elder of the Order of the Golden Heart (EGH) award as Kenya celebrated 60 years of independence during the 2023 Jamhuri Day celebrations. EGH is the second-highest civilian award in Kenya conferred by the Head of State to exemplary citizens in various sectors – H. E Gladys Wanga, EGH, and Governor for Homa Bay County.



HEALTH

State Department of Medical Services has now accredited the Homa Bay County Teaching and Referral Hospital as a fully-fledged Level 5 health facility. With this elevation, the hospital is now the region's secondary referral hospital that will provide a more comprehensive set of services besides a licence to offer internship services for medical staff, conduct research, and serve as a training centre for paramedical professionals. It joins Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital (JOTRH), Kisumu and Kisii County Referral Hospital as the only other Level 5 hospitals in the Nyanza region.



EDUCATION

Aiming at equipping teachers with techniques and modern pedagogy strategies that help them to be better connected with, manage and teach their learners in a manner which ensures that all students are learning and benefitting, the County Government of Homa Bay under the department of

Education Human Capital and Vocational training conducted a four-day training for all the Early Years Education teachers. speaking at day Four of the training, the CECM for Education Mr Martin Opere emphasized on the need to conduct such trainings more often as it would enable the teachers manage classrooms effectively by establishing rules with logical consequences; deal with difficult behaviours by working on collaborative solutions and give clear instructions, organize pair and group work and develop positive relationships. On the issue at the workplace, he assured the teachers that the county Government promised to change the state of the current classrooms by allocating a bigger share in this financial Year. The CECM also confirmed that the county Government has made plans to confirm permanent and pensionable status to qualified teachers.



CLIMATE CHANGE

During the session on transforming Africa's food system through Weather Intelligence and Partnership, with our key partners, TomorrowNow and KALRO, Governor Wanga highlighted available opportunities to leverage on modern technological farming solutions. These included, our Climate Information Centre and the Special Economic Zone, among others. We aim to enhance our agricultural production and disaster preparedness through smart interventions.

catalyst and facilitator of sustainable development, which can be achieved only by integrating cultural factors into sociocultural strategies. Governor Wanga and the entire community have full confidence in Ker Odungi Randa to guide the Luo community towards the exciting vision of unity and cohesion for a progressive community. Rt. Hon Raila Odinga led the political class at the event.



GOVERNANCE

In a collaborative effort, the county department of Governance, Administration, Communication and Devolution (GACD), URAIA Trust and Integrated Development Forum (IDF) conducted a validation meeting in Homabay Town on the Citizen's Report Card for social accountability in Homa Bay County. The report card seeks to generate evidence to inform development of Service Charters for the Department responsible for Governance. Stakeholders assessed and validated data, enhancing transparency. The Department is committed to develop a Departmental Charter in line with article 174 and 232 of the Constitution of Kenya 210 on objectives of devolution, values, and principles of public service. The Service Charter details the service offered, the entitlements and obligations delivered from relevant policies in the sector and put the service delivery units on an accountability path.



CULTURE

The coronation of Ker Odungi Randa as the 9th leader of the Luo Council of Elders at the Ofafa Memorial Hall in Kisumu City marks the end of change of guard at the Council, following his election in Homa Bay earlier last year. Culture serves as a