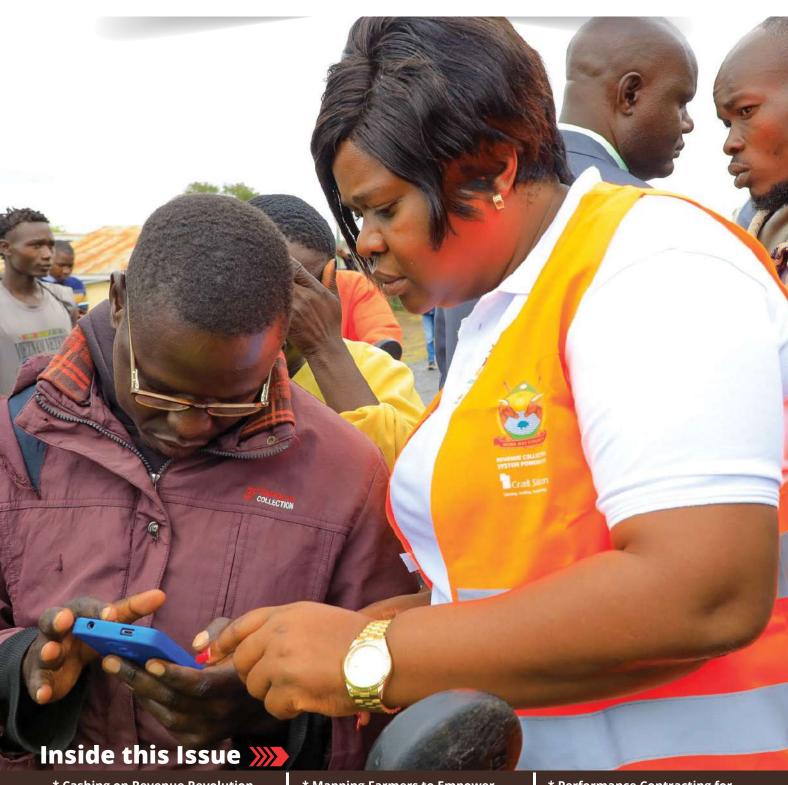


GENOWA ECHO ENDLESS POTENTIAL

NEWSLETTER | VOL. 7 - OCTOBER 2023

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF HOMA BAY



- * Cashing on Revenue Revolution
- * Driving the Climate Agenda from the Steering
- * UNGA 2023: Homa Bay to the World
- * Mapping Farmers to Empower **Them**
- * Holistic Social Welfare, Protection
- * Toward a HIV-Free Generation
- * Performance Contracting for **Chief Officers and Directors**
- * Optimizing Blue Economy **Potential**

THE EDITORIAL TEAM

Grace Mercy Osewe - CECM

Communications

Atieno Otieno - Chief Officer

and Editor-in-Chief

Steven Muga - Director

Communications

Rachel Ogutu - The

Spokesperson

Vickery Omwandho - Deputy

Director Communications

Lawrence Magware - Managing

Editor

Bushnell Odhiambo - Editor

Eunice Atieno - Photography

Livone Molo - Photography

Geoffrey Khoore - Videography

Robert Wera - Videography

Philip Ogai - Graphics

Renetech Graphics - Design and

Layout



Homa Bay County P.O Box 469 - 40300, Homa Bay.

Governor@homabay.go.ke

Word from CECM COMMUNICATIONS



CECM Communications

an extension of the sixth, with stories of how H.E Governor Gladys Wanga has continued to live up to her mandate of making Homa Bay County as competitive as possible within the league of other counties and beyond.

he seventh edition of Genowa Echo is

From stealing the show at the Devolution Conference in Eldoret in August, Homa Bay County broke the ceilings and occupied its space among its peers at the African Climate

Summit in Nairobi's KICC, as well as a maiden representation at the United Nations General Assembly in New York. These feats only serve to endear investors and development partners to look into investing in Homa Bay and mobilizing resources to buttress our service delivery and development agenda.

As a county, we have made every arrangement by launching a disaster preparedness plan to make sure that our people do not suffer the adversity of El Nino if it happens as is being forecast. But even as we do this as a government, we urge our residents that their safety begin with them first and so those living on the lowlands should begin moving to higher grounds and everyone should make sure their property, including livestock are well guarded.

After reading this Issue, we expect feedback and inquiries from you as we introduce the Public Engagement Segment in our next Issue. The feedback and the inquiries will be compiled and be responded to in the next edition. Feel free to send them through our Managing Editor's Contacts

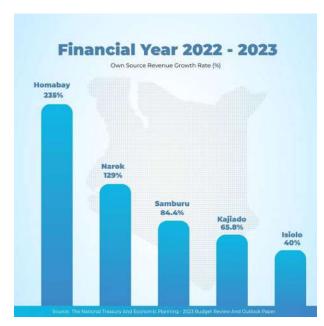
WhatsApp No. **+254 726 255 601** or

Email: communications@homabay.go.ke

Enjoy your reading!

REVENUE: DIVIDENDS BEGIN TO SHOW ON OWN SOURCE REVENUE COLLECTION

HOMA BAY COUNTY EMERGES AS TOP PERFORMER IN REVENUE COLLECTION



By Atieno Otieno

he implementation of the Cashless Revenue Collection System has proven to be successful for Homa Bay County, resulting in an impressive 235% increase in Own Source Revenue.

The National Treasury's Budget Review and Outlook Paper has revealed that Homa Bay County experienced the highest growth rate compared to other counties in the country.

The month of June marked the end of the 2022/23 fiscal year. With a total of KES 111.12 million realized that month, the county had thus collected KES 859.45 million in the 2022/23 fiscal year. While this fell slightly short of the KES 1 billion, it represented a significant increase in our OSR collection compared to previous years, earning the top rating by the National Treasury.

Most notably, it exceeded the new administration's eight-month revised revenue target of KES 818.31 million by 105%. The revision was occasioned by the two-month tax holiday of August and September last year.

This achievement can be attributed to expanded tax brackets, an enhanced revenue collection framework, and increased human resources

within the system. Under Governor Wanga's leadership, the government has continuously introduced new and strategic measures to enhance local revenue collections, with the cashless revenue collection model being one of the key initiatives. The main sources of revenue for the County include health facility revenues, business permits, business plan approvals, land rates, advertising fees, cess, and other administrative charges.

The County Government of Homa Bay emphasizes the importance of Own Source Revenue as a means of mitigating the impact caused by delays in receiving equitable shares from the National Treasury. Additionally, OSR serves as a measure of economic activity and service delivery, further emphasizing its significance to us.

With the recent introduction of the Revenue Collection App, Homa Bay County is poised to achieve its revenue targets by eliminating loopholes and enhancing the collection process, thereby generating additional funds for the county.

The latest Treasury ranking had Narok, Samburu, Kajiado, and Isiolo joining Homa Bay in the top five.



Governor Wanga scans a cyclist's motorbike in Mbita to demonstrate the new revenue collection model

GOVERNOR WANGA LEADS NEW REVENUE COLLECTION INITIATIVE



Governor Wanga assisting traders at a boutique in Mbita during the launch of County Revenue Collector

By Lawrence Magware

nder the leadership of Governor Gladys Wanga, the County Government of Homa Bay launched a new revenue collection system. As part of the County Revenue Week, the system was activated across the county to address the long-standing issue of low revenue collection and prevent pilferage of funds.

While leading the charge, Governor Wanga expressed her confidence in the new automated and digitized system when she oversaw the exercise in Mbita and Ndhiwa municipalities. Similar events led by other senior government officials were conducted in Oyugis, Kendu Bay, Homa Bay Town and Rangwe

The County Government maintains that this system will improve revenue collection efficiency and replace the previous USSD system, which lacked the necessary functionalities.

The new system, available on the Google Play store as Homa Bay County Revenue Collector, includes administrative features that enable real-time tracking, monitoring, and analysis of revenue collection.

Under the leadership of Governor Gladys Wanga, the County Government of Homa Bay launched a new revenue collection system. As part of the County Revenue Week, the system was activated across the county to address the long-standing issue of low revenue collection and prevent pilferage of funds.

While leading the charge, Governor Wanga expressed her confidence in the new automated and digitized system when she oversaw the exercise in Mbita and Ndhiwa municipalities. Similar events led by other senior government officials were conducted

in Oyugis, Kendu Bay, Homa Bay Town and Rangwe.

The County Government maintains that this system will improve revenue collection efficiency and replace the previous USSD system, which lacked the necessary functionalities.

The new system, available on the Google Play store as Homa Bay County Revenue Collector, includes administrative features that enable real-time tracking, monitoring, and analysis of revenue collection.

This will not only expand the tax base but also include as many entities with tax liability as possible. Additionally, the rates set in the Finance Act 2023 are embedded in the app, ensuring fairness and transparency in tax assessments.

Governor Wanga used this opportunity to urge residents and traders in Homa Bay to prevent corruption by not compromising the revenue collection exercise. She emphasized that an efficient and well-funded government is crucial for providing sufficient services to the community.



Traders at Mbita Municipal Market receive Governor Wanga in jubilation before she later addressed them on the new revenue collection system

UN SUMMIT: HOMA BAY COUNTY MAKES A MEMORABLE DEBUT



Governor Wanga(front row fourth from right) with fellow delegates after a session on healthcare financing

By Lawrence Magware

rom the county of choice to the county of endless potential, within a year and everyone associated with this county is already dreaming of what next unchartered waters we will wade through. The transformation is sure manifest, and it is not only about efficient service delivery, improved infrastructure, and participatory governance but also one that has been about having a competitive edge and cutting a niche and thinking without the box.

For the first time, Homa Bay County had an official delegation to the world affairs top general assembly, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) at the UN headquarters in New York, the USA. Governor Gladys Wanga was accompanied to the US by her CECM for Governance, Administration, Communication and Devolution Mrs. Grace Mercy Osewe. The Governor was part of a strong Kenya delegation led by President William Ruto, and she particularly went on the seconding by the Council of Governors and State Ministry of Health.

On the sidelines of UNGA 2023, Governor Wanga took part in the roundtable discussions with other world leaders where they focused on how governments can reposition primary healthcare through affordable and accessible health, governance and strategic financing for primary care facilities at the county and local levels. They delved on how, as leaders with direct contact with the citizenry, it is incumbent on them to realize the effective implementation of universal healthcare for the good of local communities. This focus on health, governance, and financing in a quest to



Governor Wanga making a presentation at the Mayoral Meeting on the sidelines of UNGA

improve primary care facilities at the county and local levels, is a pointer that H.E. The Governor understands the importance of implementing universal healthcare for the benefit of our people.

Additionally, it was an honor for Governor Wanga to be a speaker at the Mayoral Meeting hosted by New York City Mayor, Eric Adams at the Gracie Mansion where Governor's presentation focused on how mayors, governors and local councils can promote public safety and community well-being while safeguarding local, more so now that we have issues of climate change, El Nino and health emergencies to deal with at the grassroots. The Governor reiterated that her resolve remains inclusion and integration to building thriving Counties and Cities Further, the Governor also attended a UNAIDS high level event as well as attending the President's address to the UNGA.



AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT: HOMA BAY'S CLIMATE CHAMPION - GOVERNOR WANGA AT THE HELM OF CHANGE

Governor Wanga at the exhibition booth with fellow delegates including CoG CEO Ms Mwiti

By Steven Muga

n an era where climate change stands as one of the most pressing global challenges, leadership that champions sustainability and environmental stewardship is invaluable. H.E. Governor Gladys Wanga has taken bold steps in the fight against climate change. As the world continues to grapple with a looming threat of climate change, Her Excellency joined World leaders, climate change experts, and activists in the week-long Africa Climate Summit at KICC to discuss bold steps being taken towards a sustainable future. This is a true testament that the Governor is committed to addressing this crucial issue head-on.

Central to the Governor's message at the summit was the emphasis on proactive, community-based solutions. She recognized that sustainable change begins at the grassroots level and shared Homa Bay County's efforts in community-led initiatives aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change. Governor Wanga highlighted how local communities have been at the forefront of reforestation, sustainable agriculture, and clean energy adoption, underscoring the importance of involving citizens in climate action.

With all eyes globally, focusing on the climate summit, Her Excellency participated together with other governors, in a session aimed at Operationalizing Building Climate Resilience of the Urban Poor (BCRUP) which is an issue that is currently being addressed in the county to ensure that we reduce risks to communities and infrastructure resulting from climate-related disasters such as droughts and floods. During the same session, Homa Bay was the only county recognized by the state department as having been granted the green light for the affordable housing initiative.



The Homa Bay County booth the ACS23 in Nairobi

Homa Bay County has not been a passive bystander in the climate crisis. Under the Governor's leadership, the county has pioneered innovative climate resilience programs, such as building climate-resilient infrastructure, promoting climate-smart agriculture, conserving sensitive forest ecosystems, increasing tree cover to at least 10%, and enhancing access to clean water sources. Her presentation at the summit highlighted these achievements, positioning Homa Bay County as a role model for other regions striving to combat climate change effectively.

Furthermore, Governor used the global platform to display and announce ambitious plans for Homa Bay County that include the lakefront project, landing site, and special economic zone that will house the aggregated industrial park. She also took time to appreciate how other exhibitors are contributing to the efforts towards achieving a sustainable environmental future through innovative solutions. Governor pledged to accelerate the transition to renewable energy sources, with ambitious goals of renewable energy consumption within the next five years.

The summit was not only an opportunity for Governor to share Homa Bay County's achievements but also a chance to learn from other global leaders and experts in the field of climate change. On the sidelines, she also discussed bilateral partnerships, in a bid to strategically position Homa Bay County as an investment hub for investors along the areas of agriculture value chain processing; healthcare, tourism opportunities, trade, and technology exchange programs.

Governor Wanga's active participation in the Climate Change Summit was a defining moment for Homa Bay County and a symbol of her dedication to securing a sustainable and climate-resilient future for its residents. She demonstrated that local leadership can have a profound global impact when driven by a vision of a greener, more sustainable world. As Homa Bay County continues to march forward in the fight against climate change, H.E. Governor Gladys Wanga serves as an inspiring figurehead and catalyst for positive change, offering hope and practical solutions in these challenging times.



Delegates being taken through at the county booth



Governor Wanga learning some tips from a tomato farmer in Homaline

AGRICULTURE: FARMER REGISTRATION BEGINS, TO HELP IN SECTOR POLICY AND DECISION-

MAKING

By Communication Team

oma Bay County farmers have been urged to utilize the farmer registration opportunity for easy access to government subsidy programs aimed at reducing the cost of farming and agricultural production by boosting food production.

According to Governor Gladys Wanga while launching the exercise at a farm in Rawinji, Kasipul Constituency, having proper data in store will enable the government in planning, policy formulation, and decision making especially distribution of farm inputs and subsidies.

"We want to be a leader in some given value chains, especially cotton, nuts, and edible oils. The data acquired will enable us to identify suitable areas where this farming will be practiced." She said, confirming that the data will also be used to support extension services, cooperatives planning, marketing, and assignment of investors in the sub-counties among other issues related to the agriculture sector.

The exercise was done in a framework between counties and national governments to enhance collaboration in the implementation of devolved and non-devolved agriculture functions under the National Value Chain Development Project (NAVCDP).



"The framework will also help in establishing strong agricultural and marketing statistical units at county levels." Deputy Governor who is also the CECM in charge of Agriculture Hon Oyugi Magwanga said. The data collection exercise was set to begin on September 4, 2023, upon recruitment of and training enumerators, respectively.

Among information items to be collected include enumeration geography, individual farmer details, primary farm holding, agricultural enterprises, crop agriculture, livestock, aquaculture farm technology and assets, land and water management, and the financials and services.

The program is scheduled to take 21 days and targets to register 500,000 farmers in the entire County.

SOCIAL WELFARE: COUNTY SEEKS TO PROTECT ITS SOCIAL GROUPS

COUNTY ON THE ROADMAP TO ESTABLISHING ITS CHILDREN'S SOCIAL WELFARE FRAMEWORK

By Lawrence Magware

he County Government of Homa Bay may soon have a domesticated children's social welfare framework in place if the ongoing development of the Homa Bay County Child Welfare and Protection Policy is completed by the projected end-of-the-year deadline.

The Department of Gender and Social Services continues to host county government officials, members of the County Assembly Standing Committee on Gender and Social Services, officials from the state department dealing with matters of children, partners, and stakeholders to various productive workshops focused on the development of the policy that will see the county domesticate the national Children's Act, other national and international conventions and policies on children affairs as it moves to secure the present and the future of its children.

The primary objective of the workshops is to thoroughly review the initial draft of the policy, known as the zero draft which was first developed in July, and is now ready for onward transmission to the County Executive Committee after a validation forum was conducted mid-September at Cold Springs Hotel, Homa Bay. It will then be forwarded ratification before being enacted.

Homa Bay County has made significant efforts to protect children from all sorts of abuse by developing a child protection and welfare policy that will protect all children aged 0 to 18 years. This policy addresses all types of breaches and abuses, as well as mitigation strategies for dealing with them. It also provides a structure for effective coordination, resource mobilization, reinforcement, interventions, implementation, lobbying and advocacy, and monitoring and County.



Members of the technical working group in a discussion

This policy is being created by the international laws, treaties, national laws, and policy documents to which Kenya is a signatory. This provision is enshrined in Chapter 4 of the Kenya Constitution of 2010. Along with other laws, the policy shall to the County Assembly for consideration and strengthen the existing legislative framework. Homa Bay County strives to create and support all initiatives and projects that defend children's rights.

The policy framework will reinforce processes and tactics to improve accountability, coordination, monitoring, and evaluation for long-term child protection programs and initiatives, as well as collaborations for a more integrated approach to boosting child protection in the county. This policy is long-term and requires proper financial allocation by the county government to strengthen relationships and other stakeholders, as well as increased evaluation of children's challenges in Homa Bay commitments from both state and non-state actors.



Group photo of the technical working group on Child Policy taken after a workshop in Kisumu

HOMA BAY COUNTY LAUNCHES COMMUNITY DIALOGUE ON SGBV.

By Lawrence Magware

fter enacting its own sexual and gender-based violence policy framework, and with the latest surveys showing high numbers of teenage pregnancies, Homa Bay County is rolling out community dialogue forums to sensitize the community on SGBV. An event in Ndhiwa presided over by Deputy Governor Oyugi Magwanga kick-started the program on combating violence against women and girls which has been a major contributor to the triple threat consequences of new HIV infections and teenage mothers.

H. E the Deputy Governor, underscored the government's commitment to combating the vice quipping, "The perpetrators should be dead by the time we get to know them." He also disclosed the plans to have the forums cascaded down to the village cluster levels so that every citizen in the county is made aware of the repercussions of sexual and gender-based violence to fellow citizens. He also tasked the County Department of Gender and Social Services to replicate the forum held in Ndhiwa today in all the nine sub-counties.

CECM Sarah Malit who heads the department,



quipping, "The perpetrators should be dead by CECM Sarah Malit leading a procession on SGBV on the streets of Ndhiwa Municipality the time we get to know them." He also disclosed the plans to have the forums cascaded down to the village cluster levels so that every citizen in the county is made aware of the repercussions and rehabilitation measures for the victims.

Also present were the national government representatives: the children's department, youth affairs, education, probation, and national government administration as well as Civil Society Organization Network representatives.

HEALTH: A FUTURISTIC LOOK INTO COMBATING HEALTHCARE ISSUES

MOH MOVE TO END HIV/AIDS IN CHILDREN BY 2027

It will involve the adoption of a 4-point action plan to bridge the gaps and fast-track progress.



Governor Wanga, CS Nakhumicha and CECM Roseline admire a newborn at the referral hospital

By Lawrence Magware

enya has now directed her efforts towards the elimination of HIV/AIDs among children by 2027. Despite the country making progress in the elimination of the disease, infections among children remain high with the rates of mother-to-child transmission rates still at 8.6 per cent.

On Friday 8th September 2023, the Ministry of Health launched the Kenya Plan to End AIDS in Children by 2027 at an event in Homa Bay's Tom Mboya University presided over by Health Cabinet Secretary Susan Nakhumicha and Governor Gladys Wanga.

The four-point action plan seeks to eliminate AIDS in children by 2027, including ending mother-to-child transmission of HIV, Syphilis, and Hepatitis. Globally, an estimated 1.3 million women and girls living with HIV become pregnant each year. In the absence of intervention, the rate of transmission of HIV from a mother living with HIV to her child during pregnancy, labor, delivery, or breastfeeding ranges from 15% to 45%. As such, identification of HIV infection should be immediately followed by an offer of linkage to lifelong treatment and care, including support to remain in care and virally suppressed and an offer of partner services.

Representatives from UNAIDS, UNICEF, the World Health Organization, and the Global Fund were also present.

"This performance is concerning as adults are near the 95 percent mark for the same indicators. Children have been left behind and their voices remain unheard," the CS said.

"Within the next three years, Kenya will implement 4-point actions to bridge the gaps and fast-track the progress of ending pediatric AIDS," Nakhumicha added.

The focus, according to the CS, will be on strengthening, leveraging, and accelerating a multi-sector approach to address the Triple Threat of new HIV infections, pregnancies, and sexual and gender-based violence facing the youth. The ministry will also advocate for the inclusion of benefits for vulnerable households of children and women living with HIV within socio-protection, nutritional support, and social health insurance frameworks.

"We will invest in community-led peer-to-peer models such as mentor mothers and the robust network of Community Health Promoters," the CS said. Nakhumicha noted that through partnerships and collaboration, Kenya reduced new HIV infections by 57 percent and AIDS-related deaths decreased by 68 percent over the last 10 years.

Elimination of MTCT of HIV is strongly supported by global commitments and the promotion of integration of prevention of MTCT interventions into maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health services, as well as strengthened health systems. In addition, improved access to sexual and reproductive health services — including preventing unintended pregnancies and screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections in women and girls living with HIV — is being actively promoted.



Governor Wanga, CS Nakhumicha unveil the blue print of the government's plan to end newborn HIV infections by 2027

LAKE BELT GOVERNORS, CDC STRIKE DEAL ON HIV



Nyanza Governors pose with representatives of CDC after a meeting at Ciala Resort, Kisumu City

By Lawrence Magware

overnors from Nyanza and the US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have brokered a deal on a road-map toward sustainable financing of HIV programs in the counties of Homa Bay, Migori, Siaya, and Kisumu.

At a breakfast meeting in Kisumu last month chaired by Governor Gladys Wanga, the governors of the four Lake region counties and the representatives from the American body agreed on a broad road-map for the commodification of HIV, health financing opportunities, and HIV critical care programs, committing to the advocacy for the counties to develop a transition and sustainability road-maps so fighting the AIDS epidemic can be more sustainable and to also build on the gains already made.

The lake region has the highest burden of HIV in the country with Homa Bay County alone recording a prevalence of 16.2% according to the latest statistics. Part of the problem is new infections which also stand high in the region despite a sustained campaign of Triple Threat that also includes combating teenage pregnancy and sexual and gender-based violence.

With technical support from the CDC, the counties will be able to implement the integration of HIV/TB services into the general outpatient services as part of the transition roadmap besides its ongoing collaboration and capacity building on health systems strengthening, HIV surveillance, program evaluation and emerging epidemics and pandemic response towards control and prevention.

GOVERNOR WANGA JOINS PRESIDENT RUTO FOR THE CHP KITS LAUNCH



President William Ruto and Governor Gladys Wanga hold off the flag to wade off the CHP Kits consignment for Homa Bay County

By Geoffrey Khoore

he long-awaited kitting and paying of stipends to the Community Health Promoters (CHPs) by the state finally arrived with national and county leaders joining at a colorful ceremony held at Uhuru Park, Nairobi as President William Ruto flagged off consignments of smartphones and personal protective equipment to all the forty-seven counties in the country.

This collaborative program between the state and the counties aims to avail over 100,000 CHP kits, smartphones, and stipends to promote healthcare uptake from the household level.

The CHP program launched thus could not have come at a better time for our primary healthcare heroes as it complements the efforts the county government of Homa Bay had already made when it began paying its 2954 CHP monthly stipends for the last three months as well as a monthly subscription to the national health insurance funds scheme. This was done under Governor Gladys Wanga's Genowacare Program whose primary objective is to improve healthcare access across the county and this payment, complimented by the stake from the state, is a significant step towards this goal.

SERVICE DELIVERY: COUNTY GOVERNMENT ROLLS OUT PERFORMANCE CONTRACTING TO LOWER CADRES

By Bushnell Odhiambo

fter H.E Gladys Wanga, the Governor of Homa Bay County oversaw the signing of performance contracts with members of her government's executive committee in August, they moved swiftly to have their Chief Officers and Directors perform the same as the government moved in to not only comply with various statutes of governance, administration, and service delivery but also to enhance the quality and timeliness of services provided to citizens by every government official.

By implementing performance contracts, the government aims to promote efficiency, effectiveness, and competence within public administration and service delivery. This initiative is designed to improve service delivery by reducing operating costs, increasing revenue and output, and optimizing resource allocation. These desirable outcomes will be achieved through the implementation of an evaluation system that comprehensively assesses performance and ensures accountability and transparency among departmental heads.

Further, to bolster governance and administration in the sub-counties, the county department of Governance, Administration, Communication, and Devolution through Chief Officer Isaac Ongiri also oversaw the signing of performance contracts with sub-county administrators, aimed at improving efficiency and effectiveness in public service at the local levels.

During these deliberations, the team engaged in key discussions covering various facets of governance, including performance assessment, revenue generation, and addressing pressing administration challenges.

"I believe that these performance contracts mark a crucial step towards elevating governance standards in our county," Ongiri said.

He added: "By setting clear expectations and objectives, we aim to drive efficiency and effectiveness in public service."

The chief officer formally sealed performance contracts with the administrators of the eight sub counties. These administrators will, in turn, spearhead the signing of performance appraisals with their respective staff members, setting a clear framework for goals and expectations.

This proactive approach shows a strong dedication to good governance and highlights the department's firm commitment to serving the people of Homa Bay at the sub-county and ward levels.

He was accompanied by a contingent of officials from the Department of Governance, Administration, and Devolution.



Mr. Isaac Ongiri addressing ward and sub county admins on their roles to achieve the set targets in their PCs

BLUE ECONOMY: DEPARTMENT ROLLING PROGRAMS ON SECURE AQUACULTURE PRACTICES, CURBING POST-HARVEST LOSSES

By Communication Team

he Homa Bay County Department of Blue Economy and Fisheries is rolling out interventions that seek to not only make the lake waters safer for the fishermen and fish farmers but to also ensure the fishing practices meet the legal and ecosystem thresholds.

Over the month of September, the Department held a stakeholder's validation workshop on National Maritime Transport Education and Training policies at Kabunde Social Hall, Homa Bay Town. The event organized by Kenya Maritime Authority aimed to ensure maritime safety and security, promote the preservation of the maritime environment, and coordinate maritime search and rescue for ships and persons distressed at high waters. The state agency has a program of partnering with County Governments to ensure that integration of maritime basic education and enhancing maritime courses in tertiary institutions and universities take shape, with Homa Bay County aiming to open a Blue Economy Academy in Mbita.

The Department also secured partnerships with various companies operating in the Blue Economy space to support the county government in the sustainable empowerment of the fishermen and promote aquaculture in the county. Notably, were Renewable World and Adili Solar Hub Ltd. Both

are youth-led social enterprises that focus on building and running clean energy solutions for the advancement of rural economies. They own and operate solar-powered cold chains that reduce post-harvest losses, increase food security, grow the fish market, and provide employment opportunities for women and youth. The two entities will install solar power lights at Takawiri Beach in Suba Central. They also intend to employ youths and women in that region.

Keep It Cool, another partner, will support fish farmers in fish filleting and post-harvest loss reduction after it opens its branch in the county and joins forces with the county government to support the fish value chain programs. The firm has already issued three cooler boxes and tones of ice blocks to operators in Remba, Takawiri, Sena, and Mbita to support storage before selling.

The Department also hastened its conflict resolution mechanisms and elimination of illegal fishing by holding consultative meetings and community dialogues on various beaches across the county to discuss the saftety of both humans and the fishing ecosystem. Such meetings were held at Litare, Kiumba, Ngegu, Kobunga and Achich beaches.



CECM Blue Economy and Fisheries Dr. John Agili addressing fishermen and fish traders of Remba Island at the main fish landing site on the tiny island

HOMAWASCO: MORE TAPS, MUCH WATER



By Geoffrey Khoore

fter getting a new board and inaugurating a new operations manager, Homa Bay Water and Sanitation Company is set to increase water supply in Homa Bay and Rodi Kopany Township once the ongoing rehabilitation works are complete by mid-October.

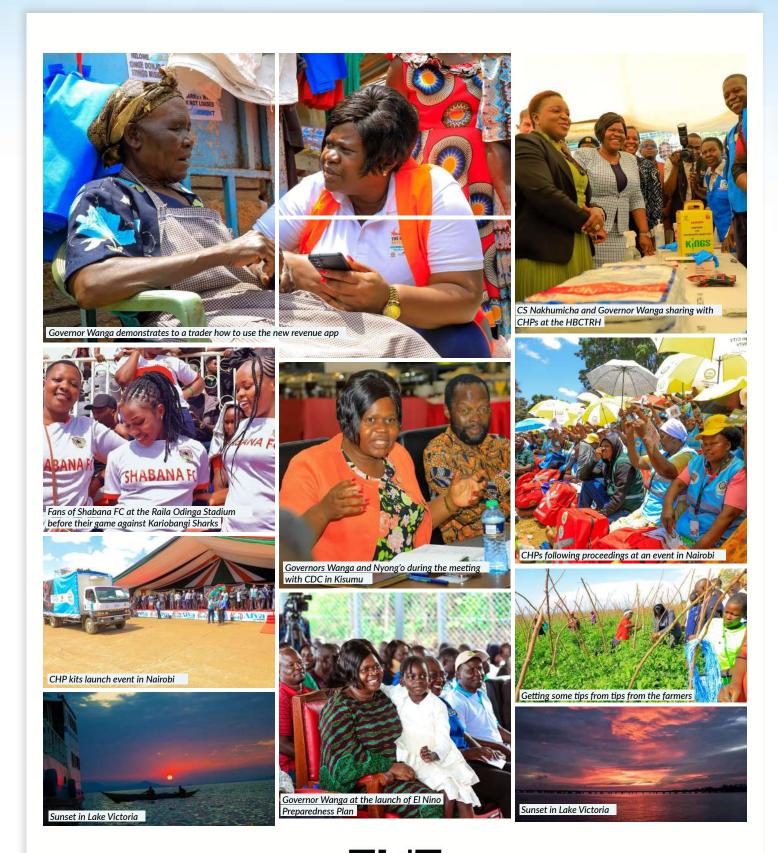
In Rodi Kopany while on an inspection tour in the area, Managing Director Mr Dan Oketch and company engineers revealed that the works include installation of a new 13km pipeline, putting up seven water kiosks and construction of an ablution block within the trading center. Once handed over, the buzzing township will see additional 1,500 to 2,000 new customers connected to the grid as the company tries to keep up with its commitment to supply the Homa Bay County urban residents sufficiently and efficiently with water.

In Homa Bay Town HOMAWASCO, in partnership with Dunea from Netherlands, is doing comprehensive water works at the Makongeni Water Works Project. This initiative is vital in providing water last-mile connectivity to residents in Makongeni, Kapita, Got Rabuor, Rang'wena, and nearby areas. HOMAWASCO remains committed to ensuring access to clean water

in every household, and we are making steady progress towards achieving this goal.

Homa Bay County Water and Sanitation Company with the support of The County Government has embarked on an RRI that would see them double their income in the next one hundred days. The management-led initiatives bring both the board and management in a rigorous 100-day exercise to turn around the fortunes of the company to meet 100% of its operation costs. Key on the agenda is reduction of non-revenue water to a maximum of 38% and expansion of production and pipeline coverage.







Homa Bay County P.O. Box 469 - 40300, Homa Bay. Governor@homabay.go.ke

