

# GENOWA ECHO

ENDLESS POTENTIAL

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A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF HOMA BAY



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- Historic Investment Conference Awakens Homa Bay
- Paramilitary Training of Officers to Enhance Efficiency
- Key Markets to be Constructed Across the County
- Bringing the Boychild back to the table

# A THANK YOU NOTE FROM THE GOVERNOR

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**A**s we closed the remarkable three-day International Investment Conference, my heart brimmed with gratitude and hope. Together, we embarked on a journey to unlock the Bay of Endless Potential, and what a journey it was and promises to be! From spirited discussions to groundbreaking agreements, each moment was a testament to the power of collaboration and vision.

From the onset we sought to answer the question why invest in Homa Bay? It is my hope and belief that this question was answered through deliberations, collaborations, networking, convergence of brilliant minds and shared aspirations. We demonstrated that sustainable investments and developments transcend boundaries and cultures, laying the groundwork for a future filled with prosperity and opportunity.

We witnessed the signing nine (9) Memorandum of Understanding with various investors both local and international. These MOUs span various sectors critical to our socio-economic development, including healthcare, agriculture, infrastructure, and education. I am pleased to say that through these MOUs we have raised approximately *17.355 billion shillings* for investments in our County. Now, we must pivot from promises to action, from declarations to deeds.

To our esteemed investors and delegates, I extend a heartfelt invitation: continue to walk with us on this journey. Return to your corners of the world as ambassadors of our County, spreading the word of the boundless opportunities that await in Homa Bay County. Come, work with us, invest in us, and together, let us write the next chapter of success.

Let me express my deepest appreciation to our President H.E. William Samoei Ruto, H.E Rt. Hon Raila Amollo Odinga, and the entire Azimio leadership, whose support has been unwavering. To my fellow Governors, thank

you for your support and solidarity. To our development partners, *Asanteni sana* for your invaluable expertise and resources. To all delegates, receive my heartfelt appreciation, your presence here signifies a commitment to a shared future of prosperity.

Let us carry forth the spirit of collaboration and optimism that defined the conference. I invite all the citizens to explore, to invest, and to become part of our journey towards the transformation of Homa Bay.

**H.E Gladys Wanga EGH,**  
*Governor ~ Homa Bay County*





# A Message from The CECM COMMUNICATIONS



GRACE MERCY OSEWE (MRS)  
CECM COMMUNICATIONS

*It is our One Year Anniversary!*

As I sit down to write this editorial for our first anniversary issue, I am filled with gratitude, nostalgia, and a sense of pride. What started as a mere idea has today evolved into a newsletter that delivers engaging content, enriching articles, and captivating discoveries month after month as we bring you what the County Government of Homa Bay under the stewardship of H.E. Governor Gladys Wanga does in meeting the aspirations of the people of Homa Bay. 13 issues down and many more to go.

On one hand, it feels like we have been doing this for a lifetime, while on the other, I find myself wondering “Where did the months go?” It’s been a year of excitement, highs and lows, long workdays, and sleepless nights, but I wouldn’t trade it for any other.

None of this would have been possible without the relentless dedication of our incredible team, scattered across the county. Their hard work and commitment have been the backbone of our success, ensuring that every issue surpasses the last. I would also like to thank our Governor for her unwavering support and for finding our content worthy to spare resources for it.

With a team rich in experience in journalism and public communication, what continues to captivate us is the unwavering excitement and enthusiasm that accompanies every aspect of the editorial process. Whether it’s the thrill of finalizing covers, highlighting key takeaways from speeches and interviews, or scouting for compelling content, the journey of curating a visually appealing issue each month remains as exciting as ever.

In this edition, we spotlight the just concluded Homa Bay International Investment Conference (HoIIC2024), giving you every detail as it unfolded, and the successes there of. There are also stories from the other departments and activities carried out over the month.

As we step into the new year, we invite you to continue this journey with us. Share your thoughts, and let us know what you love, and what you want to see more of. Your feedback fuels our growth, and we are committed to delivering content that resonates with you.

Cheers to another year of captivating storytelling, exciting discoveries, and joyous celebrations. Wishing you a fantastic round of publications filled with joy, success, and great read.

## THE EDITORIAL TEAM

**Grace Mercy Osewe** - CECM

Communications

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and Editor-in-Chief

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Communications and Editor

**Vickery Omwandho**

- Deputy Director

Communications

**Lawrence Magware** -

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**Bushnell Odhiambo** - Editor

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**Eunice Atieno** - Photography

**Livone Molo** - Photography

**Geoffrey Khoore** -

Videography

**Robert Wera** - Videography

**Philip Ogai** - Graphics

**Renetech Graphics** - Design

and Layout



County Government of Homa Bay

**Homa Bay County**

P.O. Box 469 - 40300,

Homa Bay.

[communications@homabay.go.ke](mailto:communications@homabay.go.ke)

# HOBIIIC: MOMENTOUS OCCASION AS HOMA BAY HOST A HIGH LEVEL HOBIIIC 2024

## PRESIDENT RUTO ROOTS FOR INVESTORS TO CONSIDER COUNTIES



President Ruto awards Governor Wanga with the operation licence for the Riwa SEZ

By Lawrence Magware

It was a three-day fete to savour as the nation and the world at large gathered at the Tom Mboya University Grounds for the second Homa Bay International Investment Conference, with a marquee attendance and official opening by President William Ruto, with the head of state quipping that devolution represents the fastest route through which the county can expediate investments, economic and industrial growth.

The president, making his fifth trip to the county since becoming head of state, touched down at Kabunde Airstrip on day 1 at 1pm and was received by his host Governor Gladys Wanga before snaking through Homa Bay Town and to the venue where he took a quick tour of the County Government and Kenya Shipyard booths before a rapturous reception at the main plenary.

In his remarks, the Head of State stated that the conference presents a chance to discuss how to successfully implement potential to opportunities and eventually to investments adding that devolution is envisaged to be a mechanism for achieving rapid growth at the grassroots. He also

commended Governor Wanga for her proactive leadership, taking the chance to implore the investors to consider Homa Bay as a premier investment destination, guaranteeing them that it would make them create jobs, grow wealth as well as expand their enterprises.

Additionally, the President presided over the official launch of Riwa City Special Economic Zone where he warded the county government of Homa Bay an operational licence to the SEZ, making Homa Bay County become one of only three counties to fully own an SEZ. Victory Farms was given the licence to become the anchor investor at the Zone.

Governor Wanga expressed her gratitude to the President, saying that the intergovernmental relationship they have has been a mainstay in her leading from the front to make Homa Bay competitive among the league of other nations.

The Conference was a platform for Homa Bay to showcase its bankable investment opportunities, emphasising cotton, fish, edible oils and tourism value chains.



# RAILA, LEADERS PRAISE GOVERNOR WANGA, PITCH FOR HOMA BAY AS PREMIERE INVESTMENT DESTINATION

By Communication Team



Rt. Hon Raila Odinga, Governors Gladys Wanga, Wavinya Ndeti and James Orengo follow the plenary session on day two of the conference

The second day of the Homa Bay International Investment Conference was marked with speeches from the Azimio Coalition leadership, former and current governors as well as other sector players and policymakers. The undertone of the speeches was both praise and persuasion, as all lauded Governor Wanga for not only putting up the conference but also leading the way in showing how a county can be transformed for the better when there is right leadership at the top.

Former Prime Minister Raila Odinga led the way, saying that his party's choice for picking Wanga as its gubernatorial candidate has since been vindicated by what the Governor has done and continues to do. On the same breath, the ODM party leader urged a more robust intergovernmental and intercounty relations, saying that counties, and the national government need to compete in attracting investment opportunities but rather should have synergies to allow both horizontal and vertical growth across board. He further lauded the county's priorities of value chains in cotton, edible oils and fish.

Former vice president Hon Kalonzo Musyoka urged the county government of Homa Bay to maximize



Former Kitui Governor H. E Charity Ngilu pitching for investment in Homa Bay

her tourism potential, highlighting the breathtaking sceneries that are in the county, saying quite a number of tourists pay top dollars to enjoy the same views in other countries, something that Homa Bay County can tap into.

Other leaders who spoke, including former governors Charity Ngilu, Mwangi wa Iria, Nderitu Muriithi and Wycliffe Oparanya as well as the serving governors Johnston Sakaja, James Orengo and Wavinya Ndeti followed the same cue, enthusing that it would be ideal for counties to benchmark with each other on best practices besides being the first markets of the other counties.



A group photo with some of the representatives of the investors after the MoUs signing

## DIVIDENDS BEGIN FLOWING AS COUNTY SIGNS FIRST BATCH OF INVESTMENT MoUs

By Communication Team

**H**oma Bay County entered into investment deals with a number of investment corporations keen on establishing their investments in the county.

County signs investment pacts with Afropal, Ento Tech Africa, Yazmark International, Rift Valley Product, Manda University, Mirror Ethics, Feardeal Real Estate and Reddington on establishment of investments around edible oil cultivation and processing, waste management, maternal healthcare, cotton ginning, affordable housing, higher education and solar power generation.

Governor Gladys Wanga signed the MoUs on behalf of her administration and the people of Homa Bay with Afropal to jointly develop an elaborate framework for the development of oil palm cultivation and processing; Ento Tech Africa on sustainable waste management as well as Fairdeal Real Estate to buttress the ambitious affordable housing project already being done by the national government through the National Housing Corporation.

Rift Valley Products will be setting up a cotton ginnery in the county, just in time as the county seeks to lead in the fabric-making industry. Further, Reddington will be coming in to establish solar

power generation plants in all major centres as the county aims to shift to green economy investments as a climate-resilient intervention.

On healthcare, Yazmark International will be constructing a 50-bed mother and child specialist hospital to help the county address the challenges of maternal healthcare, while Manda University Trust, on behalf of the US-based Manda International University, will be setting base in the country with Homa Bay County set to host their main campus. To further woo more investments from overseas, Mirror Ethics will be at the forefront to package the county as a premier investment destination for firms and individuals of Chinese extraction.





# GLADYS WANGA: THE ONE WHO GOT A PLACE AND A LEVER



*Governor Wanga briefing the President shortly before the duo joined the plenary at the conference*

By Lawrence Magware

“You know, I almost didn’t come but Governor being Governor, she laid a siege on me. Everyone in my cycle couldn’t hear anything about me not coming,” said President Ruto amid hysterical laughter from the crowd.

Those who know Governor Gladys Wanga know how there is nothing so hard that she cannot pull through, conventionally, occasionally, unconventionally. As HoBIIC 2024 ends today, a successful conference by any standards, many people, those who attended and those who watched from afar have every right to give their reviews, and depending on your perspective, it was either a feat or a farce. Whichever the divide you are in, Governor Wanga pulled it through.

That nine investment pacts were signed between the county government of Homa Bay and the prospective investors as well as the receipt of eleven letters of intent just indicate how much the conference has been a success. The marquee attendance, of hallowed dignitaries from home and abroad further puts the shine on how an extraordinary vent it was.

There is one thing about Governor Gladys Wanga that sets her apart – ingenuity. Perhaps had she been born of a spiritual realm she would be sagacious! The Governor has a grasp of everything, in almost every field. She is conversant, well-read, perceptive and has a genuine hunger for knowledge. I do not know how well stocked her home library is, but I guess Nyawang’aya is an avid reader.

Governor Gladys Wanga can talk climate change with so much ease you may think she is the reincarnation of Prof. Ouma Muga, he of the ozone layer fame while at the same time talk agriculture as if her degree in health management has been commuted to agricultural science. You may mistake her for a medical doctor when you hear her talk health care before you get confused about whether she is an accountant, economist or something of the sort when you find her discussing matters of finances and budgets.

And so, when the US ambassador keeps saying that she has found the pitching of HoBIIC one of the most professionally made she has ever heard, you can rightly guess who she is going to credit for it. Moreover, the governor put together a team of those with vast knowledge and experience in their various fields. Tell me any

other county executive committee in this country with three PhD holders and the rest holders of at least a master's degree and I would commit to further research.

There is something more about her as well. Not less than the former vice president SC Kalonzo Musyoka mentioned it to the national audience. Gladys Wanga is an honest politician, one who never leaves it for anyone to guess her political stand. Her party leaders as well as the government know her stand and the convergence where she meets them both. The political class's attendance at the HoBIIIC says it all.

When she declared on her inauguration that her main duty was to return Homa Bay County to the top and make this county as competitive as possible among the league of other counties, Gladys Wanga already knew how to do that, being one-dimensional wasn't one of the ways. As the famous Greek philosopher Archimedes once said, 'Give me a place to stand and a lever and I can move the Earth,' H.E Gladys Wanga already has an inch of a place and has begun moving Homa Bay a yard forward.

## LAKE REGION LEADERS LOOK TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEIR 15-MILLION-PEOPLE MARKET.

*By Communication Team*

**W**hile addressing leveraging on collaborative networks to unlock the synergies within the lake region, the Lake Region Economic Bloc leaders robustly addressed mechanisms to stimulate investment growth across the lake basin counties by bolstering economic independent.

Led by Kisumu County Governor Prof Anyang Nyongo, who is also the Bloc's chairperson, the leaders explored and identified key economic opportunities within the lake region, including sectors of with growth potential and untapped

resources. They also discussed strategies for pooling resources and expertise among counties to attract investments, foster entrepreneurship and stimulate economic development. The leaders also examined initiatives to enhance the skills and capabilities of the local workforce to meet the demands of emerging industries and attract investment.

The Lake Region Economic Bloc comprises the counties of Bomet, Bungoma, Busia, Homa Bay, Kakamega, Kericho, Kisii, Kisumu, Migori, Nandi, Nyamira, Siaya, Trans-nzoia and Vihiga. The



*LREB Governors signing agreements of cooperation at the conference*





LREB governors Prof Nyong'o, Ken Lusaka, James Orengo and Gladys Wanga conferring at the County Assembly booth

LREB has a total population of 14 million people contributing substantially to Kenya's GDP.

The overall objective of the Bloc is to leverage economies of scale and shared resources to grow the economy of the region and improve the livelihood of the people.

"In this regard we have policies and programs aimed at widening and enhancing cooperation among the member counties in economic and social development in such areas as Agriculture, Health, Education, Transport and Energy supply," Prof Nyong'o said.

The year 2024 will be a busy year for LREB Counties as we move to realize our mission. From Homa Bay, we will be moving to Kakamega for the County's first Investment Conference. In June, Kisumu will be hosting an International Economic and Investment Forum in collaboration with the Union of Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA).

Other than Governor Nyong'o, other LREB leaders present included Bungoma's Kenneth Lusaka, Siaya's James Orengo among others.



Governors Prof Nyong'o and Gladys Wanga, together with DG Oyugi Magwanga following proceedings at a breakaway session



## THE KEY TAKEAWAYS AS CURTAINS DRAW ON HOBIIIC 2024

*By Communication Team and HoBIIIC Rapporteurs*

*A section of the leaders and the delegates during the conference*

**A**s the historic event drew to a conclusive end, several resolutions and actionable items were passed and delivered as the final communique from the event.

On unlocking blue investment – adopting investment initiatives for Homa Bay’s inland blue economy and climate action, the County Government and the National Government shall collaborate to complete the construction of the Homa Bay Pier within four (4) months as well as to complete the construction and operationalization of the Homa Bay Fish Market. They shall also enhance collaboration with the private

sector to explore markets for Homa Bay County value chains including fish in the local and international markets.

The National Government shall undertake desilting of Riwa Special Economic Zone and facilitate electricity connection to operationalize the Industrial Park while the County Government shall improve infrastructural requirements at the Zone including roads, water and sewerage system to attract investors. Additionally, it shall develop strategies for environmental conservation and management for ecosystem and biodiversity sustenance of the lake.





On trade, industry, manufacturing and enterprise development, the County Government shall reduce the cost of doing business and promote economic empowerment of marginalized groups including women, youth and persons with disabilities through sourcing for affordable loan facilities for entrepreneurs from special interest groups while at the same time develop and maintain an updated database of all Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the County to ensure targeted support to formally registered entrepreneurs.

The County Government and the National Government shall collaborate in the full operationalization of the Homa Bay County Aggregation Industrial Park. The County Government shall collaborate with the National and County Government in the expansion of the market for locally produced goods in regional markets EAC, COMESA and Continental Free Trade Agreement.

Investing in the rich diversity of culture, nature and sustainable tourism will see the expansion of Kabunde Airstrip be expedited to accommodate larger aircrafts and more airlines to the County and the western circuit to unlock the County's potential in tourism, trade and investment. The County Government of Homa Bay to prioritize construction and rehabilitation of roads within the county to stimulate tourism and investment.

The County Government shall collaborate with the Ministry of Tourism in mapping, packaging and marketing of tourism products within Homa Bay County, and in implementation of the Western Tourism circuit. The County Government shall work with the private sector to encourage investment in the hotel industry within the County.



Governor Prof Nyong'o presses the buzzer as he unveiled the digital platform for digitization for synchronization of inter-county investment opportunities



Governor Wang, Prof. Nyong'o and PS Teresia Mbaika display the copies of the signed communique from the conference





Group photo of the summit and the secretariat of LREB after the discussion on Malaria and Climate Change interface

## LAKE REGION LEADERS CALL FOR INCREASED COLLABORATION TO END MALARIA AS GOVERNOR WANGA ACCEPTS CHAMPION'S ROLE

By Veroncia Nyasoro

**A**t the Health Breakaway Session during the just concluded Homa Bay International Investment Conference hosted by the county government of Homa Bay, Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB) leaders issued an urgent call-to-action on the final day of the conference to ramp up malaria elimination efforts through multi-sector collaboration.

“Climate change is worsening malaria in the Lake Region counties,” said Homa Bay Governor Gladys Wanga, who is the newly appointed Champion for the Malaria End Game initiative.

She added: “We need elevated global and national interventions and financing.”

Kisumu Governor Anyang’ Nyong’o, who is the LREB chairperson stressed the critical linkage between knowledge and action.

“Each time the climate changes, more people are

at high risk of malaria. We must find permanent solutions,” he said.

Key recommendations focused on improving healthcare access, especially in remote areas, by exploring innovations like telemedicine.

Creating an enabling environment through public-private partnerships was also highlighted as pivotal to pool expertise and resources.

“Integrating youth in health initiatives promotes ownership and sustainability,” added Kisumu Governor Anyang’ Nyong’o.

Other suggestions included ramping up data collection for improved monitoring, reforming healthcare delivery systems, and educating community health workers to boost preventative maternal and child health.

“We must support research and ensure findings



inform future policies,” said Governor Gladys Wanga

The LREB consists of 14 counties spanning western Kenya around Lake Victoria, but most governors were represented by the chairperson at this conference.

Malaria remains a leading cause of mortality in the region, responsible for thousands of deaths annually.

Officials and partners expressed hope that acting on recommendations with an integrated regional approach could help the bloc progress towards malaria elimination by 2030.

Among dignitaries present in the breakout session included H.E. Hon Prof. Peter Anyang’ Nyong’o, Governor Kisumu County, and chairperson LREB; H.E. Hon. Kenneth Lusaka, Governor Bungoma County; and H.E. Hon. James Orengo, Governor Siaya County. Partner CEOs included, NHIF, Amref, LVCT, KMET, MCGL, KEMSA, USAID, KMTC chair and Council of Governors representative.



Bungoma Governor Ken Lusaka addressing the conference

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## ADMINISTRATION: GOVERNOR WANGA PRESIDES OVER COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS PASS-OUT PARADE

By Collins Ogutu

**G**overnor Gladys Wanga on Friday February 16 presided over the first pass-out parade of trained County Law Enforcement Officers at Raila Odinga Stadium, Homabay.

The County boss oversaw the graduation of 250 Law Enforcement Officers who successfully completed a one-month training conducted by Kenya Forest Services Law Enforcement Academy in Londiani.



In her remarks, Governor Wanga lauded the Officers for their resilience at the training academy and congratulated them saying, “ For the past 30 days, you have dedicated yourselves to acquiring new skills and knowledge, pushing yourselves physically and mentally, and preparing to serve our County with renewed commitment, professionalism, courage and vigour.”

Governor Wanga commended the Kenya Forest Services (KFS) for focussing the training on the County Government’s needs.

The officers will help the County Government in combating a myriad of challenges including but not limited to revenue collection, enforcement of County by-laws and service delivery among others. The Governor said that she was confident the 240 men and 10 women will have a significant impact on the County.

“ I have been briefed that you have been properly equipped to effectively enforce county by-laws and procedures leading to improved compliance and revenue collection. You will gather intelligence, investigate offenses and contribute to a safer and more secured county” she said.

She urged them to maintain professionalism and integrity in their interaction with the public and to uphold human rights and ethical standards.

Mr. Titus Kori, Chairman of the Kenya Forest



Services Board congratulated Homabay County for the bold step of supporting the training and capacity building of the trainees.

He applauded KFS Trainers for doing a sterling job and asserted that the trained officers were fit to respond to duty as required.

Mr. Kori disclosed that the training program covered a wide range of topics from policy concepts and basic law to communication skills, physical fitness, and ethical conduct.





# LABOUR: HOMA BAY COUNTY BECOMES THE FIRST TO LAUNCH THE LABOR-INTENSIVE COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAM UNDER KISIP2



By Abnery Pajero

**H**oma Bay County Governor Hon. Gladys Wanga officially launched the Labor-Intensive Community Work (LICW) Program, which is expected to benefit Approximately 5000 individuals living across all the 8 Informal Settlements in Homa Bay County, becoming the first among 23 Counties participating in the Project, to roll it out.

The program is being implemented by the Socio-Economic Inclusion Component of the Second Kenya Informal Settlements Improvement Project (KISIP2), in collaboration with the County Government of Homa Bay, through the County Project Coordination Team (CPCT).

Speaking during the launch, Governor Gladys Wanga revealed her excitement at rolling out the program saying that, “I am glad to officially kick off the start of this vital program that is oriented towards maintaining pace with population growth, environmental and socioeconomic challenges including poverty levels, inadequate housing, low

access to water and sanitation, rising insecurity, diminishing opportunities, poor drainage, inaccessibility and frequent power outages.”

The Governor pledged to “transform all the Informal Settlements of Shauri Yako, Sofia, Makongeni, A Thousand Street, Kendu Bay Kijijini, Ndhiwa, Nyandiwa and Rusinga Old Town into Centres of Economic Growth by addressing the deplorable living conditions through matching population needs with utilities in line with vision 2030, the constitution of Kenya 2010, Millenium Development Goals 7 and international laws that mandate us to guarantee human dignity.”

She added that her administration is committed to addressing housing shortages sustainable urban development as a critical aspect of socioeconomic development, saying that “We must plan urban growth, secure land tenure, improve quality of life, create an enabling environment for business and enhance access to pivotal utilities.”

Homa Bay County Deputy Governor Hon.



Oyugi Magwanga on his part lauded the timely interventions of the program, coming in the run up to the soon to be held Homa Bay International Investments Conference (HOBIIIC), saying it will improve the overall cleanliness and hygiene within the town and its environs.

The representative of the National Government Principal Secretary in charge of Housing, Mr. Julius thanked the Governor for her efforts in ensuring the County becomes the first to roll out the program saying, “as a policy preference should be given to the people living in those settlements.”

The program will see residents undertake various labour-intensive activities ranging from digging trenches to control flooding, unclogging of blocked drainages, clearing bushes, collecting garbage, planting trees, art drawings, among others.

The exercise will run for 2 months and will engage 150 individuals per cohort working differently in 4 cohorts. Each casual labourer will receive Ksh. 700 per day while each supervisor will receive Ksh. 800 per day.

The County Government of Homa Bay through the Department of Lands, Physical Planning, Housing and Urban Development has already procured Protective Personal Equipment and tools including wheelbarrows, spades, and brooms to be distributed to the labourers in readiness for the work.

## URBAN UPGRADING: NDHIWA, SINDO MARKETS CONSTRUCTIONS TO BEGIN IN EARNEST

By Communication Team



Governor Wanga, receiving an acclamation from traders at Sindo consenting to market construction

**G**overnor Gladys Wanga revealed her administration plans to immediately begin the construction of two ultramodern multipurpose markets at Sindo Trading Centre and Ndhiwa Municipality.

While holding public engagement fora in the two busy centres, the county chief said the twin project costs approximately KES 120 million and will help unlock the economic potential of the agriculturally bustling municipality and the fish haven lakeside town, thus improving the lives of the residents while creating sustainable economic progress.

The project aims to build in each centre a storeyed modern market complex with a capacity of 204 market stalls, an ICT hub, an administrative office suite, a cold storage facility, a lactation room and





*Community representatives giving their views*

a refuse collection closet among other business-oriented facilities.

Governor Wanga also revealed that her government will redevelop urban plans with the County's Spatial Plan already being undertaken by the Directorate of Housing and Urban Planning, adding that it is the only way to fix the perennial challenges of housing, construction and drainage often bedeviling major centres in the county.

Additionally, the markets will also be constructed at Luanda Nyamasare in Suba North, Rodi-Kopany in Homa Bay, Kendu Bay in Rachuonyo North and Misambi in Rachuonyo East sub county.

The Governor was accompanied by her deputy Hon Oyugi Magwanga, a section of her cabinet and a host of members of the county assembly.





# GENDER PARITY: COUNTY HOLDS FIRST BOYS MENTORSHIP CAMP



*Governor Wanga, Hon Dr Eve Obara and Hon Babu Owino arriving for the camp*

*By Communication Team*

**W**ang'apala Boys High School last month played host to over 3,000 students who took part in the first-ever boys' mentorship camp, taking the cue from the decade-old girls' edition.

Themed 'Guiding the Way, Shaping the Future', the boys' edition of the Governor's Mentorship Camp is a response to the need for constructive engagement with the boys, offering a unique opportunity for a platform for open dialogue but also addressing the specific challenges faced by the teenagers.

The camp thus sought to empower them with accurate information about positive masculinity, life skills, a sense of belonging, and career advice as the County Government of Homa Bay envisages a generation of young adults who are better equipped to overcome obstacles, make informed decisions, and contribute positively to their communities. The sessions also included how boys can overcome the adversities posed by the triple threat of new HIV infections, teenage pregnancies and sexual and gender-based violence.

"The 21st century is undergoing rapid changes driven by globalization, information technology, and artificial intelligence, I urge you to firmly believe that this century is destined to be the African century, with predictions indicating that a significant share of the world's economy will be

in your hands by 2030," said Governor Wanga as she challenged the boys to uphold enduring values such as honesty, integrity, striving for excellence without compromise, seizing opportunities, facing life's challenges with courage, and recognizing the importance of continual learning beyond the classroom.

While drawing from his humble upbringing in Nyalenda slums in Kisumu, the event's chief guest, Embakasi East MP Hon Babu Owino challenged the mentees to pull it together, opining that life, at its best, is never a bed of roses but a continuous wave of ups and downs. He urged the young ones to be inventive, work smart and be industrious since at the very end of the day, there is a slice of fortune for those who work and wait.

The camp was supported by County Pensions Fund (CPF), PS Kenya, Child Fund, National Syndemic Diseases Control Council, President's Awards, Centre of Studies of Adolescents among other civil and private sector organizations.



*Embakasi MP Babu Owino speaks to students during the mentorship*



*Governor Wanga conducting a mentorship session*





G7 members, and President Ruto(middle) display copies of the strategy after the launch in Nairobi.

# WOMEN LEADERSHIP: WOMEN GOVERNORS CAUCUS STRATEGIZE ON LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE

By Communication Team

The Council of Governors Women Caucus, popularly known as the G7 held their pre-launch of a strategy to advance women's leadership in economic transformation, governance, and accountability before they launched it, presided over by President Ruto early this month in Nairobi.

Under the leadership of Kirinyaga County governor who is also the Chairperson of the Council of Governors Ann Waiguru, the women governors Susan Kihika of Nakuru, Cecily Mbarire of Embu, Wavinya Ndeti of Machakos, Kawira Mwangaza of Meru, Fatuma Achani of Kwale and their host Governor Gladys Wanga held an elaborate ceremony at the Governor's Camp in Homa Bay Town where they pledged to leave no stones unturned in their pursuit to empower more women to take up political leadership, lead by example in governance and transparency as well as advocate for the elimination of the triple threat of new HIV infections, teenage pregnancy and sexual and gender-based violence.

The G7 Strategy also espouses the women governors' agenda of increasing their number



CoG Chair and Kirinyaga governor Anne Waiguru inspects a guard of honour on her arrival for the G7 launch

to 16 in the next general election as they aim to achieve the 30% gender threshold stipulated in the constitution. To this end, the women leaders plan to mount serious campaigns for fellow women, especially in the counties where the male governors will be exiting after exhausting their second terms.

In the launch at Safari Park Hotel in Nairobi, the Head of State reiterated his support for the increase of women in key leadership positions, both in the corporate and public sectors, he further vouched for major political parties to be considering women either as outright presidential and gubernatorial candidates or as the running mates.

The event was supported by Kenya Women Parliamentarians Association (KEWOPA), UN Women, Council of Governors, and Oxfam



CoG Chair and Kirinyaga governor Anne Waiguru inspects a guard of honour on her arrival for the G7 launch



