



REPUBLIC OF KENYA



HOMA BAY COUNTY

**THE THIRD (3<sup>RD</sup>) STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS  
BY**

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**AT THE  
HOMA BAY COUNTY ASSEMBLY CHAMBER  
ON**

**11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026**

**COUNTY**  
**2026**

***THEME: The Third Mile in Transforming the County of Endless Potential***

## **SALUTATION**

- 1. The Speaker of the County Assembly;**
- 2. The Majority Leader and House Leadership of the County Assembly of Homa Bay**
- 3. Honorable Members of the County Assembly,**
- 4. Fellow Citizens of the Great County of Homa Bay,**
- 5. Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.**



1. **Mr. Speaker and honourable members**, it is **with profound gratitude and deep sense of responsibility to the people of Homa Bay**, that I stand before this honourable **County Assembly** to deliver my **State of the County Address** in line with the requirements of the law in Article 10(2) (c) of the Constitution and Section 30 (2) (k) of the County Governments Act.
2. The **State of the County Address (SOCA)** is an opportunity to measure promise against performance and to assess whether the path we chose together, is delivering dignity, opportunity and transformation to the people of Homa Bay as envisioned in our **Genowa Manifesto Pillars**. As required by the **Homa Bay State of the County Address Act, 2020** I will be reporting on the measures taken and the progress achieved, in the realization of the devolved government functions during the **Financial Year 2024/2025**. The address will cover realization of national values in Article 10; a report on the implementation status of county policies, performance of the county executive committee and citizen participation in the county affairs.

3. **Mr. Speaker**, when I gave the *1<sup>st</sup> State of the County Address*, I committed my administration to a path of disciplined governance, accelerated service delivery and inclusive economic transformation. Today, I stand before you to report that we have kept that commitment. **Our County Integrated Development Plan 2023–2027 approved by this assembly**, has remained our compass. Every programme implemented, every shilling spent and every partnership forged has been anchored in the strategic framework. **We chose to govern through people-centered strategic planning with visible results in the 40 Wards. We have walked this transformation journey with our people.**
4. **Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members**, I am delivering this State of the County Address during a difficult political season as we continue to mourn the loss of the father of devolution, **Baba, Right Honourable Raila Amolo Odinga CGH**. *(I kindly request that we stand and observe one minute of silence in his honour.)*

5. **Mr. Speaker and honourable members**, allow me to reflect on **our journey of 3 Years and 7 Months since we assumed office on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2022**. We found a county that was at the bottom of many lists; from maternal and child mortality, to water provision, to own source revenue that was at negative 34% meaning we were collecting less money than Homa Bay Municipality before devolution. We started the hard task of raising our profile from ground zero. **We crafted our vision of transformation, being the best county to live, work and invest in**. Homa Bay is the County of Endless Potential, hosting 80% of the Lake Victoria Shoreline on the Kenyan side. I promised that Homa Bay would be looked at from the top. This has come to pass, we are now at the Top!
  
6. In our **first mile**, we did Revenue Reforms that saw us enact the **Revenue Laws**, establish the **Revenue Board**, hit the **Kshs. 1 Billion mark and automated revenue collection** by going cashless from October 2022. The 100 Days Taskforce saw us **commission the Outpatient Wing at the County Referral Hospital, acquire a new CT Scan and upgrade the Maternity Wing**.

We did the **Governors Park and the Arboretum** as green urban spaces. We embarked on Phase One Development of the **Raila Odinga Homa Bay Stadium (ROSH)** that led us to hosting the **Piny Luo Event in June, 2023**. The National Government partnered with us for **Phase Two of ROSH and Homa Bay Town Upgrading** towards hosting **Madaraka Day Celebration on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025**. On **12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> August 2025**, we were privileged to host the **9<sup>th</sup> Devolution Conference**. Homa Bay is now a county of choice from **Tourism, Agriculture to Sports**. We are moving forward to make **Homa Bay City in a Decade with the County HQ** commissioned.

7. **Mr. Speaker and honourable members**, I note with great appreciation the critical duty this **County Assembly** has continued to play in facilitating and driving the realization of our mission by **appropriating necessary resources, legislating on critical laws and policies; and over sighting the County Executive**.



I convey my gratitude for your dedication to the County Assembly roles. Our strong partnership was hailed and admired by many counties during the Devolution Conference.

8. **Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members**, I would wish to highlight our key achievements and outcomes and tell the story of our Homa Bay transformation journey from Kiwa to Chabera.
9. **On Strengthening Legal and Policy Frameworks**,

This House has worked closely with the Executive to entrench a governance framework that is transparent, predictable and people-centered. We have passed and operationalized critical legislation including; the **Public Participation and Civic Education Act, Enterprise Development Act, Street Naming and Property Addressing Act, Appropriation and Supplementary Appropriation Acts**. These laws are instruments of transformation.



They formalize business, institutionalize fiscal discipline and give citizens structured platforms and village clusters to participate in governance. The **Infrastructure Financing Act** supported development of the County HQ through innovative financing.

The **Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Policy and the Co-operatives Policy**, provide structured legal frameworks to attract investment, create jobs and sustainably grow the sectors. In the mining sector, we assented to the **Sand Harvesting, Conservation and Mining Policy**.

We have introduced **the Irrigation Bill, Access to Information Bill, Administrative Justice Bill and the Agricultural Sector Co-ordination Bill**. These are designed to strengthen service delivery, entrench transparency and modernize our agricultural practices. This year, we shall bring forward amendments on **enforcement services, protection against sexual and gender-based violence, municipal by-laws, disability inclusion reforms and a comprehensive Roads and Transport Bill**. With the support of this house, we are building a **Rule of Law County**.



## 10. In Finance and Economic Planning

We have strengthened fiscal discipline, enhanced revenue performance, improved budget and planning systems, ensured prudent management of public resources to support the county's development agenda and continued to oversee county procurement systems, financial reporting, and risk management while coordinating the implementation of the **CIDP and ADPs**.

We successfully prepared and submitted statutory planning and fiscal documents to the County Assembly in compliance with the **Public Finance Management Act, 2012 (PFMA)**. These included, the **County Annual Development Plan (C-ADP) 2026**, the **County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP) 2025**, the **County Budget Review and Outlook Paper (CBOP) 2025**, and the **County Medium-Term Debt Management Strategy Paper (CDMSP) 2025**.

We ensured **timely preparation and submission of quarterly and annual financial and budget implementation reports** to oversight institutions. We provided the required financial and non-financial documentation to the **Office of the Auditor-General**, facilitating transparent audit reviews.

We continued to strengthen internal accountability systems and risk management frameworks. We established and inducted a **six-member County Audit Committee**, providing independent oversight on financial management.

We are strengthening procurement and supply chain systems to support the delivery of development projects and have **commenced utilization of eGP and e-tendering**. We are implementing the **Annual Procurement Plan**, enabling the procurement and execution of projects across multiple sectors.



## 11. Improving Revenue Performance and Resource Mobilization

The County Government recorded significant progress in strengthening its **Own Source Revenue (OSR)** performance. During the financial year 2024/25, revenue collections increased from **KES 1.20 billion to KES 1.729 billion**, surpassing the annual target of **KES 1.432 billion**. A major milestone was the **100 percent automation of all 25 county revenue streams into the Homa Bay digital revenue system**, significantly improving efficiency, transparency, and revenue monitoring.

## 12. Advancing Evidence-Based Planning and Preparation of the CSA

To strengthen evidence-based planning and decision-making, we developed the **First Homa Bay County Statistical Abstract (CSA) 2024** to provide a comprehensive repository of socio-economic data across sectors, enabling policymakers, researchers, and development partners to understand development trends and make informed investment decisions. The Statistical Abstract strengthens the county's capacity to track progress toward **CIDP targets and national goals**.



### 13. Supporting Emergency Response and Social Protection

We administered emergency and special funds to support urgent interventions across the county. Emergency funds were deployed to support **livestock vaccination against Foot and Mouth Disease**, protecting farmers' livelihoods and strengthening the county's agricultural economy.

The county mobilized resources to support **flood victims through the provision of food assistance**, ensuring that vulnerable households received immediate relief during periods of extreme weather.

### 14. Challenges in Fiscal Management

The county continues to face fiscal challenges that affect the implementation of development programs. Performance of conditional grants remained below expectations, with only **KES 1.24 billion realized against the expected KES 2.48 billion**, representing **50 percent performance** during the financial year.



**Historical pending bills**, which are a first charge in the budget, have constrained the allocation of resources toward new projects. We are taking decisive steps to restore fiscal sustainability and have progressively reduced pending bills from **over KES 2.5 billion in FY 2023/24 to KES 1.004 billion as of January 2026**. This reflects our commitment to protect local businesses that deliver goods and services.

Withdrawal of the **Finance Bill** resulted in reduction of the county's equitable share by **KES 257 million**, affecting financing of planned development initiatives. **Delays in the disbursement of equitable share transfers** from the National Treasury continue to disrupt cash flow and slows the implementation of programs.

## 15. In Roads and Infrastructure

**Mr. Speaker**, connectivity unlocks opportunity, where agriculture, fisheries, trade, and access to essential services define daily life for our people, good roads are the arteries that carry progress to every corner of our 40 wards.



Over the medium term, we expanded and strengthened our county road network: **736 kilometers of new roads** were opened while **538 kilometers of existing roads** received routine and periodic maintenance to preserve quality and extend their usable life. **116 kilometers** of targeted access roads were **rehabilitated to connect schools, health facilities, markets, and beaches**. In FY 2024/25 We opened **280 kilometers of new roads** across the wards. **Landmark projects** have brought transformative change. The **Kongo Bridge in North Kabuoch Ward**, a flagship achievement of this administration, connects Homa Bay and Migori County.

**Critical structures**, such as the **Aoch Muga Box Culvert in Gem West Ward**, **Kawere Box Culvert in Kwabwai** and **Abura Box Culvert in Kabondo West** have improved resilience in flood-prone areas, ensuring transport continuity during heavy rains.

We have pressed ahead with additional **ground-breaking road projects that reach deep into our wards**, opening vital corridors for economic activity for instance the **Riwa Aggregation Park**.



These include: **Oнено Amoso in Rangwe, Wangapala Canaan SDA Kalawi junction in Rachuonyo East, Ndege Kojala Adek in Ndhiwa, Manywanda Koduma in Ndhiwa, Aros Lwasi in West Karachuonyo, Nyododa Kogana Nyandusi in Rachuonyo North, Maintenance of Komolo structure in Rachuonyo North, Ong'ayo Nyandiwa in Suba Central, Kabade Kaswanga Lisenye in Suba North, Tie Bao St. George's Kajienda in Rachuonyo South, Nandi Primary School Access in Rachuonyo South, Nyerere Assistant Chief Ponge Border in Homa Bay Town**, among many others, to mention but a few.

## 16. In Education, Vocational Training and Human Capital

Education is an equalizer and the most sustainable investment we can make for our children. To strengthen foundational learning, we initiated construction of **243 ECDE classrooms** dubbed “**Ondoa Kaunda**” initiative, under **Phase I** using a labour-based approach that created jobs for local contractors and communities. **Phase II** is now underway, targeting **9 modern EYE classrooms per ward** with one special school, thus **361 new ECDE Classrooms** at a total cost of **KES 361 million**.



This is an investment in dignity, safety and quality learning environments for our youngest learners. Some of EYE facilities are; **Remba Primary in Mfangano Ward, Osodo Primary in Wangchieng Ward, Ariri Primary in Kanyikela Ward, Ringa Primary in Kojwach Ward, Manyala Primary in Ruma Kaksingri Ward, Kosele Primary in Central Kasipul, Sanda Primary in North Karachuonyo, Kakelo Primary in Kokwanyo Kakelo Ward, Asumbi Primary in East Gem Ward, Kadie Primary in Kabondo East, Otok Primary in Central Karachuonyo Ward** among many others. Ondoa Kaunda initiative has led to the construction of **604 EYE** classes in 2 years compared to 23 ECDE Classes done in 10 years of the previous administration.

## 17. On Bursaries and Scholarships

In FY 2024/2025, we disbursed **Kshs. 216 Million** for bursaries and scholarships; **149.8 million in bursaries**, supporting **29,966 learners**; **Fins to Swim Scholarship** worth **KES 42.96 million**, benefited **628 students**. In equal partnership with KCB, we disbursed **Kshs. 48 Million** for the **Fundi Mang'ula Programme** supporting **1,200 youths**.



We have confirmed all our **1,608 Early Years Education teachers on P & P Terms.**

## 18. On Vocational Training Centers

Youth employability is a central pillar of our human capital strategy. We disbursed **capitation** support to **Vocational Training Centers (VTCs)** to strengthen training in market-relevant trades such as masonry, welding and ICT. Infrastructure improvements have been completed at **Kabuoch VTC in North Kabuoch Ward** and **Omiro VTC in Kabondo**, while additional classrooms and workshops are under construction at **Kasungu, Kanyaluo and Kotora VTCs** to expand access.

Development partners have contributed tools, ICT equipment and infrastructure support, including investment for facilities at **Wakiaga VTC** and modern workshop tools supplied to **Lambwe and Homa Hills VTCs**. These interventions equip our youth with practical pathways to self-employment and enterprise development.



## 19. Transforming Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock

Agriculture remains the backbone of our economy. It **employs more than 70 percent of our people** and sustains thousands of households. We made a deliberate decision that agriculture in Homa Bay must move **from subsistence to structured enterprise and income generation for farmers.**

## 20. Ward-Based Subsidized Seed Programme,

Through the **Ward-Based Subsidized Seed Programme**, a flagship initiative reaching **all 40 wards**, we distributed **136 metric tonnes of certified maize and sorghum seed to more than 34,000 households** in FY 2024/2025, the programme is ongoing this rainy season. This generated impressive results: **maize planted on 6,000 acres yielded 90,000 bags** valued at KES 270 million, while **sorghum planted on 4,082 acres produced 32,652 bags** valued at KES 130.6 million.



**Cotton production** has been revived as a viable cash crop, with the distribution of **BT and KSA cotton seeds** supporting planting on **over 15,000 acres**, generating **365 metric tonnes** valued at KES 26.3 million in FY 2024/2025. Plans are underway to establish a **county cotton ginnery** to spur value addition and stimulate the textile and apparel sector. In revival of cotton we worked with, **Pala Cotton Cooperative in Rachuonyo North, Homa Bay Cotton Union in Homa Bay Town, and Kipasi Cotton Cooperative in Suba North among others.** This high-performing BT cotton variety has enhanced yields through strong pest resistance, particularly against bollworms, while reducing the need for pesticide applications.

## 21. In Edible Oils,

We distributed **13.5 metric tonnes of sunflower seed**, planted on **3,440 acres and yielding 2,750 metric tonnes valued at KES 137 million.** To anchor this value chain, a **Sunflower Processing Unit** is being installed at the Agricultural Technology Development Centre (ATDC) in Homa Bay Town as a common-user facility to enable local edible oil processing.



## 22. On Agricultural Showcasing,

We invested **KES 21 million to modernize the Kendu Bay Agricultural Show Grounds in Rachuonyo North**, transforming it into a secure hub for agricultural technology, demonstration and innovation. We successfully hosted the **National World Food Day celebrations in October 2025**, marking **80 Years of UN Food and Agriculture Authority**. This year, we will develop the **ATC in Kabondo Kasipul**.

## 23. In Livestock,

In **livestock and apiculture**, our interventions have delivered benefits. **Honey production moved from 141,251 kilograms to 364,860 kilograms**. This growth was supported by **training of trainers and addition of modern Langstroth hives**.

Our **poultry improvement programme** distributed **5,920 day-old chicks to 80 groups, 2 per ward**, enabling rapid enterprise growth through reinvestment.



We strengthened **dairy cooperatives in Ndhiwa, Rangwe, Hosrand and Kabondo**, giving them **milk coolers** to reduce post-harvest losses.

Disease control efforts protected livelihoods across the county, with **over 170,000 animals vaccinated and treated** against diseases including **Anthrax, Black Quarter, Lumpy Skin Disease and Foot and Mouth Disease**.

#### **24. On Irrigation,**

Three schemes **Wahambla, Mikuna and Madundu** were designed and approved for implementation for **KES 110.87 million**. Once operational, these schemes will **irrigate an additional 120 hectares and directly benefit 600 households**.



## 25. In Water, Environment, Energy, Forestry & Climate Change

Under the Genowa Manifesto and CIDP, we pledged that **no woman should walk more than one kilometer in search of clean water**. We committed to expand affordable energy, protect our environment, increase forest cover and build community-led resilience to climate change effects.

In water and sanitation, we have made steady, measurable progress toward the manifesto goal. **5 major rural water schemes have been rehabilitated: Sindo in Kaksingri West Ward, Ramula in Kabondo West Ward, West Karachuonyo in West Karachuonyo Ward, Kochia/Ngegu in Kochia Ward, and Ndhiwa in Kanyamwa Kosewe Ward.** These rehabilitations, together with **121 ward-based community water projects** implemented across all 40 wards and **52 new water points**, have brought reliable, safe water closer to households, thereby reducing the burden on women and girls and supporting year-round domestic, agricultural, and hygiene needs.



Some of the water projects are; **Magunga CWP in Gwassi South Ward, Nyambori CWP in West Kamagak Ward, Nyakune CWP in Homa Bay West Ward, Wiga CWP in Homa Bay Central Ward, Ranjira CWP in Kanyamwa Kologi Ward, Nyamwala CWP in Kibiri Ward, Kunya CWP in Kendu Bay Town Ward, Nyabola CWP in West Kasipul Ward, Kakatko CWP in East Kamagak Ward and Nyakasera CWP in Gwassi North Ward.**

Through HOMA WASCO, the water pipeline network expanded by **53.65 kilometers**, with targeted extensions transforming access in urban and peri-urban areas. This included **18 kilometers** reviving the **Ogande line** to supply **Wiga, Ogande School, the Airport and the County Headquarters. Mbita Line 9.52 kilometers** will supply **Mbita Town and its environs. We have extensions in Oyugis, Makongeni, Sofia-Pedo, Rodi, and low-income zones like Shauri Yako, Madhare, Lala, Kapita Got Rabuur, and Rabuur Masawa.** In addition, we have solarized the **Got Asego** Dozing Chamber for sustainable water pumping.



## 26. On Renewable Energy and Solar Lights,

**In 80 markets, we installed and maintained 200 solar lights** across the county, improving security, extending trading hours, and boosting local revenue in; **Omoya Market in Kochia Ward, Nyakuru Market in West Gem Ward, Kodula Market in West Karachuonyo Ward, Bala Market in Kibiri Ward, Kagwa Market in Wangchieng Ward, Omakokoth Market in Kanyamwa Kologi Ward, Amoyo Market in Kanyadoto Ward, Ondati Market in Kabuoch South Ward, Kuoyo Market in Kanyamwa Kosewe Ward, Manera Market in Gwassi North Ward, Ligongo Ogeda Market in Gwassi South Ward, Litare Beach in Kaksingri West Ward, Uozi Market in Mfangano Ward and Kolunga Beach in Rusinga Island Ward.**

In **Nyandiwa Market**, Gwassi North, Fish trader **Min Achieng** says she used to close her stall before sunset for fear of insecurity. Today, with solar lighting in the market, she can safely trade into the evening when most customers arrive from the beaches, allowing her to sell more fish and earn more for her family.



## 27. On Climate Change Interventions,

**60 improved cooking stoves** were installed in the **Modern Fish, Municipal and Rodi Markets**, slashing firewood costs for women fish traders from **KES 1,200 to KES 300** per cooking cycle. For environmental protection and forestry, we established **82 community tree nurseries** led predominantly by **youth and women's groups** to drive reforestation and push forest cover toward the national **10% target**.

Waste management improved with expanded services to major urban centers and markets, increasing collection efficiency and reducing complaints. Climate action has been community-driven through the **FLLoCA program**.

## 28. On Water Challenges,

The full rehabilitation of **Awach Tende Kanyaluo, a Rural Water Scheme**, will deliver reliable water to thousands of households. Challenges persist, notably vandalism and theft of solar and water infrastructure. We are countering this by deepening community ownership and involvement in asset protection.



## 29. Harnessing the Blue Economy, Mining and Digital Growth

The blue economy is no longer a peripheral sector; it is steadily becoming one of the pillars of our county's economic transformation. We constructed **modern fish bandas** across key landing sites and **sanitation facilities** to improve hygiene and public health along the lakeshore. **The fish bandas**, are spread out in strategic beaches: **Achich fish banda in Homa Bay East Ward; Kaugege fish banda in Kasgunga Ward; Ragwe fish banda in Kaksingri West Ward; Wayando fish banda in Rusinga Ward; Alero fish banda in Gembe East; Ongoro fish banda in Kendu Bay Town Ward and Kiwari fish banda in Mfangano Ward.**

We have equipped **64 Beach Management Units (BMUs)** with electronic weighing scales, distributed **240 life jackets** to improve safety on the lake, and provided **3 fiberglass patrol boats in Sare, Chwowe and Koginga Beaches** to strengthen enforcement and curb illegal fishing. In addition, **KES 6 million** was extended to the Homa Bay County BMU Networks SACCO to improve access to affordable credit within the fishing community.



### 30. On Aquaculture

Beyond capture fisheries, we are expanding aquaculture as a reliable income stream for inland Wards and youth groups. Under the Aquaculture Business Development Programme, **12 community fish cages** were established in **Ngeri Bay, Kaksingri West Ward**, while 100 additional farmers were supported with fishpond predator kits to protect their investments. In 2025, **fishponds** across the county produced over **42,000 kilograms** valued at **KES 12.36 million**, demonstrating that aquaculture is viable beyond the lakeshore.

### 31. On Digital Transformation

We installed **modern LED digital screens** in Homa Bay and Oyugis towns. These platforms not only disseminate government information in real time but also provide advertising space that contributes to county revenue.



## 32 On Health Sector Highlights,

Health remains a cornerstone of our social and economic development agenda. A strong health system begins with a strong workforce. We are at the tail end of **on boarding 79 new health workers across all cadres**. These recruitments will boost staffing levels, reduce workload pressure on existing staff, improve service delivery and ensure timely, compassionate care in our health facilities.

We have recognized and rewarded dedication and performance through structured career progression and promoted **583 health workers**.

We have strengthened health infrastructure across the county. Construction of a **modern funeral parlour** at the County Referral Hospital is now complete and is providing dignified, **safe and culturally appropriate final respect** for families.



We are committed to completing the new multi-storey **Accident and Emergency block** by the end of this year. Once completed, the facility will significantly reduce patient backlog and enhance our capacity to deliver responsive healthcare.

To further elevate specialized and diagnostic services at the Homa Bay County Teaching and Referral Hospital, we purchased and installed **five new dialysis machines**, which are now operational. This has increased our renal care capacity, reduced session backlogs, lowered health risks for patients with chronic kidney disease, and minimized the need for costly out-of-county referrals, bringing life-saving treatment closer home for our patients.

We have installed advanced **Laparoscopic, Echocardiographic, and Endoscopy Tower machines** at the Referral Hospital. These state-of-the-art tools enable minimally invasive surgeries, precise cardiac assessments, and detailed gastrointestinal diagnostics, improving treatment outcomes, shortening recovery times, and enhancing the overall quality of surgical and diagnostic care.



In addition, we have prioritized the **consistent restocking** of both **pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical supplies** across our facilities.

### 33. On Maternal and Child Health,

Through our localized, data-driven **Maternal Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR)** programme, we have institutionalized **weekly review meetings** across facilities to interrogate every maternal and perinatal outcome, identify gaps and implement corrective measures. As a result, we achieved a monumental milestone: **over five consecutive months with zero maternal deaths**

### 34. On Non-communicable Diseases

Homa Bay continues to face a high burden of **non-communicable diseases**, including cervical, breast, prostate and esophageal cancers. To address this, we have broken ground for a dedicated **Cancer Centre** at the County Referral Hospital. Once operational, the facility will enhance early screening, diagnosis, treatment and palliative care services and improve survival outcomes.



We are implementing targeted **community health interventions**. Our **eye care programme**, which addresses presbyopia at the community level, is restoring sight and productivity among older residents. Through our **primary healthcare, outreach services and community health promoters**, we are improving early detection and management of chronic conditions closer to the household level.

We launched a groundbreaking partnership with **Zipline** to revolutionize **emergency medical deliveries** through cutting-edge **drone technology**. This innovation enables rapid, on-demand delivery of lifesaving commodities, including **blood products, vaccines, emergency medicines and laboratory supplies directly to health facilities** across the county, particularly in hard-to-reach island communities.



### 35. On SHA,

We have made progress in expanding financial risk protection, with **55.6% registration under the Social Health Authority**, more households are now shielded from catastrophic health expenditures. We will intensify registration drives through community health promoters and facility-based outreach forums.

### 36. Youth, Sports, Culture, Gender and Social Services

A county's future is its young people. We support our youth to get tenders through implementation of the 30% preferential procurement for women, youth and pwd companies. **In Homa Bay, this translates to KES 1.220 Billion or 33% of the annual procurement budget.**

We hosted the **Governors Mentorship Camps**, for boys in **Wang'apala Boys** and girls in **Ratang'a Girls High School**.

A landmark intervention was the allocation of **KES 40 million at KES 1 million per ward, to boda boda cooperative societies**, benefiting over **4,000 riders and supporting asset acquisition and business growth.**



We gave the boda boda youth co-operatives **40 Motorbikes** one for each Ward, for income generation.

### **37. In Sports Development,**

We have combined infrastructure investment with structured youth engagement to turn talent into opportunity. We are constructing and upgrading **40 ward playgrounds** across all sub-counties, while completing upgrades at **Kosele Stadium**. This has positioned our county as a competitive sporting hub. In April 2025, we hosted the **KYISA Inter-County Games** in a powerful display of unity and collaboration. We also participated in the **KICOSCA and Talanta Hela Games**.

At the grassroots level, the **GENOWA Governor's Cup** has continued to engage over **10,000 young people**, creating structured platforms for mentorship and talent development. To institutionalize talent development, we launched the **Acakoro Football Talent Academy Ndhiwa**, creating a clear pathway for promising players to transition from community fields to professional opportunities.



### 38. On Culture,

We have invested in the preservation and promotion of our cultural heritage as a pillar of identity, unity and socio-economic development. The County actively planned and participated in both the regional **Piny Luo Cultural Festival**, mobilizing 30 cultural dancers and showcasing over 50 traditional artifacts that reflected the richness of our heritage. We have made progress with **Ndiru Kagan Cultural Centre**, preserving important heritage sites.

### 39. On Gender Empowerment and PWDs Inclusion

We operationalized gender desks in all sub-counties, launched the **County SGBV Policy**, and established safe spaces, including a **54-bed facility in Ndhiwa in partnership with SHOFCO**. These facilities provide counselling, protection and reintegration services for survivors. We distributed **250 wheelchairs** to persons with disabilities and employed **64 PWDs across government sectors**.



In combatting the triple threat we participated in the **Sigand Nyinam** Activities and hosted the **National Celebration for the International Women Day in 2025**.

#### 40. On Trade, Industrialization and Investment

We **rehabilitated five markets**, including **Nyakwere, Oyugis, Nyatoto, Ouru and Pala**. We completed **191 ward-based trade projects** that include fencing, solar lighting, access roads, pit latrines and boda boda sheds that transform trading centers into safer, cleaner and more productive and dignified economic spaces.

**Riwa SEZ and County Aggregation and Industrial Park** stands at **52 percent** with the goal of completing it within the year. It will make Homa Bay a **producer county**, expand own-source revenue base and enhance our position as an **investment-ready county**. At Homa Hills, **Victory Farms** are putting up their **Headquarters, a regional logistics center and a fish feeding plant**.

At the micro level, we are unlocking capital for ordinary citizens. **The County Enterprise and Affirmative Action Act** anchors the operationalization of the **County SMEs Grant Fund** across all 40 wards, ensuring affordable capital reaches youth, women and small-scale traders. This Act will be implemented this year.

#### 41. On Co-operatives

Over the last three years, **127 new cooperatives** have been registered, and 10 dormant ones revived. Membership has grown from approximately **29,000 in 2022 to over 40,000 by June 2025**. Cooperative assets have expanded from about KES 200 million to over **KES 500 million**, reflecting restored confidence and stronger financial management.

#### 42. Governance, Administration, Communication and Devolution

Guided by the CIDP, we have institutionalized structured public participation frameworks across all 40 wards, ensuring residents directly influence development priorities and resource allocation **from the village clusters to the County level**.



Through ward-level forums and sector consultations, the county achieved **100 percent ward coverage**, guaranteeing that every community has a voice in governance. The results are tangible. **More than 80 percent of citizen proposals were incorporated into the FY 2025/2026 county budget**, strengthening trust between government and the people. **Digitization of public participation** allowed the county government to reach more residents. Participation has become more inclusive. **Women now account for 52 percent of participants, youth 35 percent, and persons with disabilities 10 percent**, supported through accessible forums and sign language interpretation.

During a public participation forum in **Kanyamwa Kosewe Ward**, parents raised concerns about overcrowded early-year classrooms in their local school. Their proposal was captured in the ward priorities and informed the **construction of new EYE classrooms at Rakoro Primary School, under the Genowa Ondoa Kaunda initiative**. Today, young learners who once studied in congested classrooms are learning in modern facilities prioritized by their community. This is the power of **participatory governance**.



### 43. On Positioning Homa Bay as a hub for hosting national events

In 2025, the county successfully hosted the **9<sup>th</sup> Devolution Conference**, bringing together **over 12,000 delegates** from county governments, national government, development partners, civil society and international institutions. Beyond the policy discussions, the conference stimulated local economic activity in hospitality, transport, and tourism showcasing Homa Bay's investment potential to a national and international audience. It accelerated key urban improvements, including **road upgrades**, the introduction of a **road naming system**, and the establishment of the **Homa Bay Arboretum celebrating local heroes**, leaving lasting benefits for the residents.

Homa Bay made history by hosting the **62<sup>nd</sup> Madaraka Day National Celebrations**. The celebrations catalysed major infrastructure upgrades, including: **Lakefront Development and the Homa Bay Pier, Modernization and Phase 2 Development of Raila Odinga Stadium, Refurbishment of Kabunde Airstrip, Upgrading of over 35 kilometers of roads within Homa Bay Town and Construction of a New State Lodge.**



#### 44. On Strengthening Disaster Preparedness

We have a duty to protect lives, property, and livelihoods in times of disaster. Through international partnerships, Homa Bay received **two modern fire engines** donated by the Cumbria Fire Brigade in the United Kingdom. County firefighters underwent a **17-day specialized training program** delivered by UK fire service experts, significantly improving emergency response capacity.

The impact is already visible. Earlier this year, firefighters responded to a residential fire in **Homa Bay Town**, containing the blaze before it spread to neighbouring homes. Residents credited the new equipment and improved response capability for preventing a much larger disaster.

#### 45. On Improving Public Service Delivery

A major milestone in strengthening institutional capacity was the **completion and occupation of the modern Homa Bay County Headquarters in Arujo Ward**, officially opened by the President in **August 2025** during the Devolution Conference.

This landmark facility has **created a central hub for governance** while improving **citizen access to county services**. The facility houses **600 county staff**, improving coordination across departments and enhancing efficiency in service delivery. The complex includes; **1,000-Seat Amphitheater for public forums and official functions**, **Huduma Centre providing integrated county services in one location** and **Modern office infrastructure to enhance departmental collaboration**.

#### 46. On Digital Innovation in Governance

The county launched the **Homa Bay Digital Participation and Disaster Alert System**, strengthening both civic engagement and emergency communication. Through **SMS and USSD platforms**, the system has already reached **over 150,000 residents**, improving access to government information while strengthening public awareness on budgeting and civic processes. The platform provides **early disaster alerts**, helping reduce losses during extreme weather events.



To ensure inclusivity in areas with limited connectivity, particularly island communities, the county has deployed **mobile outreach units and local radio partnerships**, ensuring critical information reaches residents across the county.

#### 47. On County Public Service

While acknowledging the challenge of a huge wage bill, we have moved to adopt digital **HR Systems and Solutions that enhance staff performance.**

#### 48. Conclusion,

The State of Homa Bay County is defined by real substance and transformation:-

Simply Put...  
Youth are engaged.  
Farms are producing.



Markets are expanding.  
Water is reaching homes.  
Women and Girls are safe.  
The vulnerable are protected.  
Children are learning in dignified spaces.  
Efforts are being made to make roads passable.  
We are building systems and foundations.  
We are united in purpose.  
The best days for Homa Bay are ahead of us.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, for the transformation work we have done in Homa Bay County, **we deserve a 2<sup>nd</sup> Term!** We deserve to be re-elected to continue the work of building Homa Bay County. We say thank-you to the People of Homa Bay who inspire us to walk this journey of transformation. **May God Bless Homa Bay County, May God Bless Kenya.** Thank-you Mr. Speaker Sir!



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
HOMA BAY COUNTY