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News Highlights

- ▶ Reprieve for Cancer and Eye Patients as Services Launched
- ▶ Running Taps Across the County as Last Mile Begins
- ▶ Progress in Fight Against Triple Threat Encouraging
- ▶ Smart Cities Conference Ignites Homa Bay's City Status Bid

Healthcare: Governor Wanga Launches Key Milestones in Oncology and Ophthalmology Services

Phoebe Asiyo Oncology Centre: A New Dawn for Cancer Care in Homa Bay

By Communication Team



The commissioning of the Phoebe Asiyo Oncology Centre at the Homa Bay County Teaching and Referral Hospital (HBCTRH) by H.E. Governor Gladys Wanga marks a transformative milestone in the County's journey towards strengthening specialised healthcare and establishing Homa Bay as a regional referral hub for quality cancer care. The centre brings high-quality, comprehensive and dignified cancer services closer to patients across Homa Bay and the wider region, significantly changing the cancer care experience for patients and their families.

For many years, a cancer diagnosis has often been accompanied by the additional burden of travelling long distances to access specialised services. Patients and their families have had to contend with the high costs of transport, accommodation, treatment and prolonged stays away from home. For vulnerable families, these logistical and financial challenges can become overwhelming, sometimes forcing patients to abandon treatment and lose hope. The establishment of the Phoebe Asiyo Oncology Centre offers a significant opportunity to change this narrative by bringing specialised cancer care closer to the people.

The centre strengthens HBCTRH's capacity to provide end-to-end cancer care across the continuum. Patients will be able to access services ranging from community screening, sample collection and proper diagnostic and confirmatory testing to specialist consultations, chemotherapy, treatment and admissions.

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The centre will also provide counselling and psychosocial support as well as palliative care, ensuring that patients are supported not only medically but also emotionally and socially throughout their cancer journey. By strengthening these services within the county, the centre is expected to reduce the need for external referrals by more than 90 per cent, easing the financial and logistical burden on patients while allowing them to remain closer to their families and support systems.

This investment also strengthens the link between prevention, early detection and treatment. Through community screening and outreach programmes, more people can be reached with information and screening services, increasing the likelihood of detecting cancer at an earlier and more manageable stage.



Strengthened diagnostic capacity will help ensure that suspected cases are properly ascertained and confirmed, while access to specialised treatment within HBCTRH will enable patients to transition more seamlessly from diagnosis to care.

The commissioning of the centre has been made possible through a partnership with the East Africa Comprehensive Women Cancer Project, implemented by the County Government of Homa Bay, the Aga Khan Foundation/Aga Khan Health Services, Kenya, Agence Française de Développement (AFD), and the Gates Foundation.



Saving Sights: **County Government Strengthens Countywide Eye Health Services**

By Abnery Pajero

The County Government of Homa Bay is taking a comprehensive approach to eye health, bringing essential vision services closer to communities while strengthening the systems needed to prevent avoidable visual impairment and blindness. Through the rollout of the recently launched Kenya Presbyopia Programme and the Lake Basin Eye Health Project, the County is expanding access to primary eye care, screening, treatment and specialised surgical services across the county.

At the community level, the Kenya Presbyopia Programme has commenced a countywide rollout that will see approximately 10,000 pairs of reading glasses made available to residents. The initiative seeks to integrate eye health into routine community and primary healthcare, moving away from a model in which residents must travel to specialised facilities even for basic and manageable vision needs.

Through the programme, Community Health Promoters (CHPs) have been trained to identify people experiencing eye-related challenges and refer them to health facilities, where trained healthcare providers undertake screening, diagnosis and prescription. The approach creates a stronger link between households and the formal health system while ensuring that eye-health needs are identified and addressed earlier.

A central component of the programme is the demedicalisation of access to reading glasses. Presbyopia, a natural age-related difficulty in seeing objects up close, can significantly affect a person's ability to read, work, learn and undertake everyday activities. For many people, appropriately prescribed reading glasses can restore functional vision and improve their quality of life. By bringing this simple but important intervention closer to residents, Homa Bay is addressing an often-overlooked barrier to productivity, independence and wellbeing.





The community-based intervention is complemented by the Lake Basin Eye Health Project, which is being implemented by the County Department of Public Health and Medical Services in collaboration with the Fred Hollows Foundation. The project is targeting 8,000 people for eye-health screening and 800 patients for eye surgeries through outreach and static screening services at Homa Bay County Teaching and Referral Hospital (HBCTRH) and Rachuonyo County Hospital.

The project is designed to ensure that residents who require more specialised care can move seamlessly from identification and screening to treatment. By combining community outreach with facility-based services, the County is expanding opportunities for early detection, timely intervention and access to surgery for patients at risk of avoidable visual impairment.

The County is also prioritising the collection, analysis and utilisation of eye-health data to strengthen evidence-based decision-making. Better data will enable Homa Bay to understand the burden of eye conditions, identify gaps in service delivery, target resources more effectively and design interventions that respond to the actual needs of communities.

The initiatives are being implemented through collaboration between the County Government of Homa Bay, Lwala Community Alliance, Livelihood Impact Fund, The Fred Hollows Foundation, Kenya Society for the Blind, the Ministry of Health and the Council of Governors, bringing together government leadership, technical expertise and partner support to strengthen eye health across the county.





Running Taps:

Governor Wanga and CS Mugaa Unveil Expansion Plans for Urban Water Access Across Homa Bay County

By Abnery Pajero

Homa Bay County is set to benefit significantly from a substantial funding allocation of Kshs 524 million, aimed at enhancing urban water provision programs under the National Urban Water Project. The African Development Bank is financing this initiative, underscoring a commitment to improving water safety, access, and sustainability within the region.

During a courtesy visit and inspection tour of key water installation projects in the county, Cabinet Secretary for Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, Eng. Eric Mugaa, outlined the strategic deployment of these funds, underscoring the State's commitment to ensuring every household has unlimited access to safe water. He emphasized that the initial phase of the project will focus on facilitating increased water connections in critical urban centers, including Homa Bay Town, Mbita, and Sindo.

The pilot phase is designed to establish a robust foundation before the expansion efforts encompass additional towns throughout the county.

As preparations for the project progress, Eng. Mugaa and Governor Gladys Wanga officially launching the Last Mile Connectivity initiative of the Oyugis Water Supply Scheme. This vital project aims to provide comprehensive water supply to the entire Rachuonyo East and South Subcounties. The launch symbolizes a key step forward in ensuring that more households and businesses receive consistent access to quality water services.

Furthermore, the Kendu Bay Water Project is on track to expand its pipeline network to serve critically underserved areas, including Kendu Bay, Wangchieng, Kokwanyo, and Kanyaluo.



Additionally, the West Karachuonyo Water Project is set to broaden its reach into Central and North Karachuonyo, further addressing the water scarcity challenges faced by these regions. The integration of these three water schemes is anticipated to have a transformative impact on the water supply situation across the entire Rachuonyo region, enhancing the quality of life for residents.

Through these concerted efforts, Homa Bay County is making significant strides toward fulfilling its water provision goals, thereby fostering economic growth and improving public health outcomes in the area.



Triple Threat:

First Lady, Governor Wanga Unite to Strengthen Fight Against the Triple Threat

By Abnery Pajero



H.E Governor Gladys Wanga joined Her Excellency the First Lady of the Republic of Kenya, Mama Rachel Ruto, E.G.H., at Mawego Technical Training Institute for a powerful Mentorship and Advocacy Engagement under the Voice of Children Initiative, convened through the Organization of African First Ladies for Development (OFLAD).

The engagement placed the voices, dreams and aspirations of children and young people at the centre of the conversation, with a strong focus on confronting the Triple Threat of new HIV infections, teenage pregnancies, and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). The dialogue underscored the urgent need to listen to children, understand the challenges they face, mentor them, and create opportunities that enable them to grow, learn and realise their full potential.

For Homa Bay, the conversation comes at a critical moment. Adolescents and young people are central to the county's social and economic transformation, yet the convergence of HIV infections, teenage pregnancies and SGBV continues to undermine their health, education, safety and prospects. These challenges can contribute to school dropout, lifelong health vulnerabilities, diminished economic opportunities and cycles of intergenerational poverty.



Governor Gladys Wanga reaffirmed Homa Bay County Government's commitment to protecting children and young people through interventions that address these challenges comprehensively. The County is building on home-grown initiatives including Sigand Nyi Nam, the Governor's Mentorship Camps, community campaigns and accountability scorecards, while strengthening social protection, family support, access to education, reproductive health services, HIV prevention, child protection and SGBV response.

The engagement also reinforced the understanding that ending the Triple Threat cannot be achieved by government alone. It requires sustained collaboration among national and county governments, families, schools, communities, development partners, faith-based organisations, civil society and, most importantly, young people themselves.



Accountability must remain at the heart of this collective effort, ensuring that commitments translate into tangible action and measurable change.

By amplifying the voices of children and creating platforms where they can be heard, supported and empowered, Homa Bay is investing in a generation that can shape a healthier, safer and more prosperous future. The County continues to strengthen existing interventions and embrace new partnerships to safeguard the safety, dignity and future of every child and to accelerate collective action towards ending the Triple Threat by 2027.



Smart Cities Conference: Homa Bay Hosts the 2026 Africa Smart Cities and Townships Alliance Conference at Tom Mboya University

By Collins Ogutu

Homa Bay County hosted the prestigious two-day Africa Smart Cities and Townships Alliance (ASCA) Conference 2026 at Tom Mboya University. The event brought together a diverse array of stakeholders, including government officials, policymakers, investors, development partners, technology innovators, academics, and private sector leaders, all committed to advancing the development of smart, healthy, and sustainable counties across Africa.

Under the theme, "Collaborating for Sustainable, Healthy and Prosperous Communities in Africa," the conference served as a vital platform for fostering strategic partnerships, mobilizing investment, and facilitating the exchange of innovative ideas and best practices. Discussions centered around critical areas such as digital transformation, smart healthcare systems, renewable energy solutions, climate resilience strategies, industrialization efforts, and sustainable urban development.





One of the key highlights of the conference was its role as the launchpad for Homa Bay County's ambitious Smart County Initiative. During the event, the county unveiled several flagship programs aimed at transforming the region into a model of technological and sustainable development. Notably, the launch of the Early Cancer Detection Programme demonstrated Homa Bay's commitment to leveraging technology for improved healthcare outcomes.

Furthermore, strategic implementation agreements were signed between the county government, development partners, and private sector players. These agreements are set to position Homa Bay as a pioneering smart county, serving as a scalable model for other counties across Africa to emulate.

The conference not only showcased Homa Bay's progressive development agenda but also reinforced its ambition to become a leading example of smart, resilient, and prosperous communities on the continent. By fostering collaboration and harnessing innovative solutions, Homa Bay County is taking significant strides towards sustainable growth and improved quality of life for its residents.



Fiscal Planning: **County Holds Successful Public Participation for Development Plan 2027/28**

By Collins Ogutu

Homa Bay County has successfully completed the statutory public participation process for the formulation of its County Annual Development Plan (CADP) for the fiscal year 2027/28. The initiative underscores the county's commitment to transparent, inclusive, and community-driven planning, in line with constitutional and statutory requirements that emphasize public involvement in developmental decision-making.

The countywide process, which took place across all Sub Counties and Municipalities within Homa Bay, provided residents and stakeholders with a vital platform to engage directly in shaping the county's development priorities. During these forums, members of the public were encouraged to identify key areas that need urgent attention, submit proposals, and offer insights that will inform the county's planning and investment strategies for the upcoming financial year.

The Directorate of Budget and Economic Planning officials highlighted that the participatory approach aims to foster greater accountability and shared ownership of development initiatives. By involving citizens early in the planning process, the county hopes to ensure that its development agenda for FY 2027/28 reflects the genuine needs and aspirations of its residents.



Speaking at one of the forums, Chief Officer for Budget and Economic Planning, Dr. Smith Gworo, noted, "This process is crucial because it ensures that the voices of our people are heard and considered. It's about building a development plan that is inclusive, transparent, and responsive to the needs of our communities."

This inclusive planning approach is part of Homa Bay's broader strategy to foster sustainable development, improve service delivery, and ensure that every resident benefits from the county's growth initiatives. The successful completion of this public participation process marks a significant milestone in the county's journey towards more transparent and participatory governance.



Food Security:

Government Distributes Sunflower Seeds to Boost Production

By Bernard Oketch



The Homa Bay County Government, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock Development and the Agricultural and Food Authority (AFA) Directorate of Nuts and Oil Crops, has significantly enhanced support for local edible oil farmers through the Edible Oil Crop Promotion Project (EOCPP). This initiative has led to the distribution of 7 tonnes of high-quality sunflower seeds, 4 tonnes of soybean seeds, and 20,000 oil palm seedlings across various regions including Suba South, Homa Bay Town, Rachuonyo South, and Rachuonyo North.

As part of this comprehensive effort, the county has successfully concluded a two-day event dedicated to the distribution and promotion of sunflower seeds, specifically targeting farmers in the Suba South and Suba North areas. During this event, crucial farmer sensitization sessions were also conducted, educating participants on the numerous benefits of sunflower production and sharing best practices to optimize their cultivation processes.



This initiative is expected to be a game-changer for local farmers, providing them with essential resources and knowledge that will open up new avenues for increased agricultural production. Furthermore, it aims to enhance household incomes by enabling farmers to engage more effectively in the edible oil market. The project not only strengthens the local edible oil value chain but also aligns with broader efforts to reduce Kenya's reliance on imported edible oils, fostering self-sufficiency and sustainability in the agricultural sector.



Open Governance: County Government Strengthens Accountability Through Grievance Redress Mechanism Training

By Raymond Kirui



To enhance accountability, transparency and responsive service delivery, the County Government of Homa Bay, in collaboration with the World Bank under the Kenya Devolution Support Programme II (KDSP II), conducted an induction training for the newly appointed Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) Committee members and GRM Champions.

This initiative underscored the importance of the GRM in promoting good governance and ensuring compliance with KDSP II requirements and demands the newly appointed members and champions to uphold integrity while effectively handling public complaints and feedback.

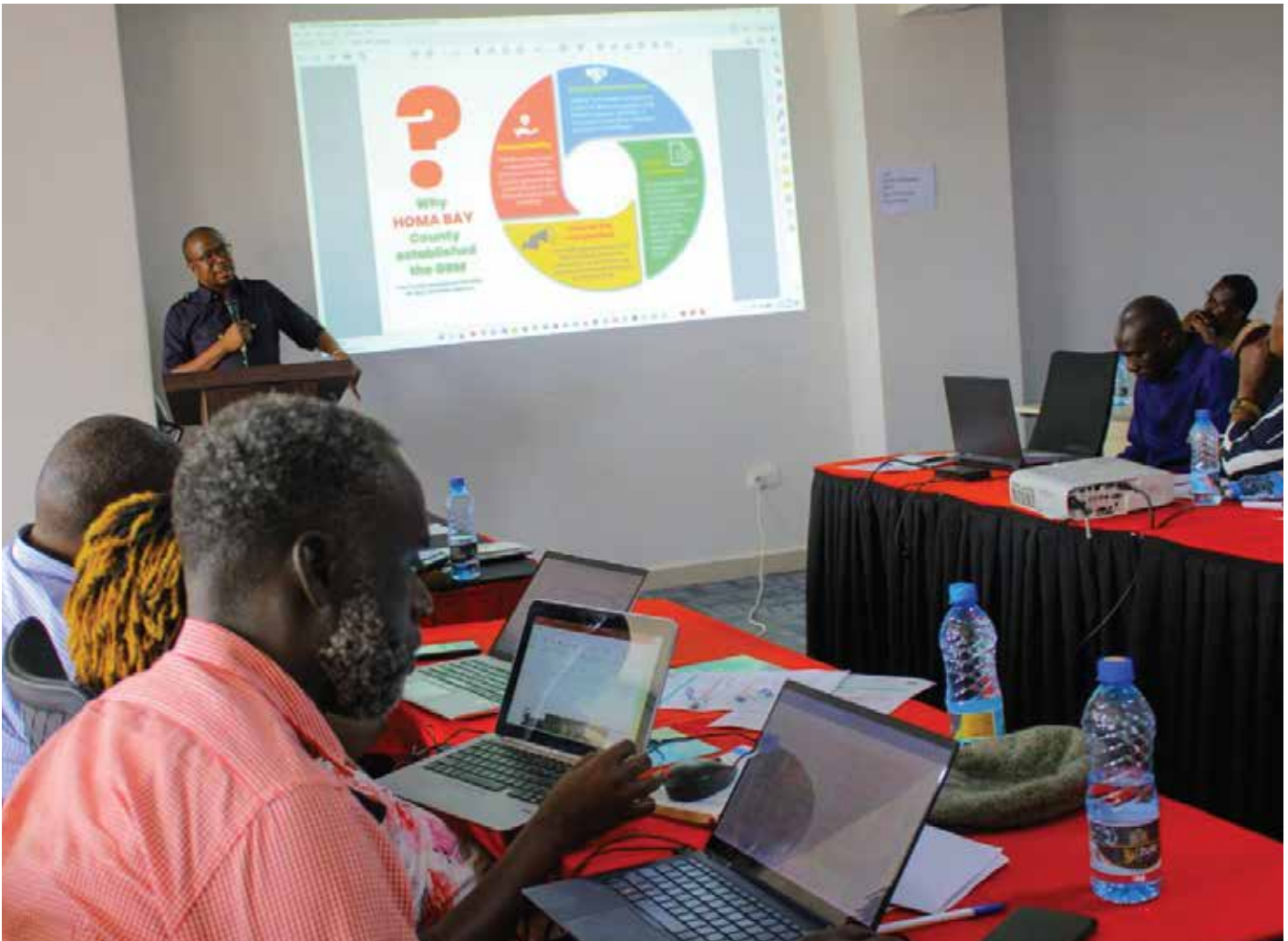
Participants were trained on their roles, responsibilities and accountability, as well as the implementation and operationalization of the GRM framework within county governance systems to strengthen transparency, accountability and citizen-centred service delivery.



toll-free line

0800 000 889

report.grievance@homabay.go.ke
report.corruption@homabay.go.ke



The County Government reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening governance by providing structured channels through which citizens can raise concerns. Members of the public can report complaints related to corruption, abuse of office and maladministration through the toll-free line 0800 000 889 or via email at report.grievance@homabay.go.ke and report.corruption@homabay.go.ke

The induction was presided over by CECM for Governance, Administration, Communication and Devolution, Isaac Ongiri, who challenged the committee members and champions to apply the knowledge gained in fostering a transparent, accountable and responsive governance system across Homa Bay County.





"In Hon. Danish Onyango, I am certain that we can build on the momentum, leverage our partnerships and network to deliver quality services to our people. On behalf of the people of Homa Bay, I congratulate him on his swearing-in as the third Deputy Governor of Homa Bay" ~ Governor Gladys Wanga