

GENOWA ECHO

ENDLESS POTENTIAL

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A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF HOMA BAY



News Highlights

*County Completes **Ondoa Kaunda Phase II***

Referral Facelift Taking Shape

Fundi Mang'ula Third Cohort Enrolled

*Homa Bay Set for **AfriCities Conference***

Education: **Second Phase of Ondoa Kaunda Complete, Classrooms Commissioned**

By Lawrence Magware



Young children attending pre-primary schools in Homa Bay County can eagerly anticipate another exciting Monday at school, thanks to the recent commissioning of newly constructed classrooms by Governor Gladys Wanga. This initiative is part of the Phase 2 rollout of the Ondoa Kaunda Classroom Initiative, which aims to enhance the educational infrastructure for young learners in the county.

The County Government of Homa Bay has completed the construction of 161 new classrooms across various pre-primary school centres. In an ambitious expansion effort, the government has also begun construction of an additional 200 classrooms, bringing the total number of EYE (Early Years Education) classrooms to 604 during the first term of Governor Wanga's administration.

Over the past two months, Governor Wanga has travelled extensively throughout the county, visiting various wards to open these classrooms officially. Some of the key areas where EYE classrooms were inaugurated include Kakiimba in Mfangano, Dunga in Kanyamwa Kologi, and Osure and Rakoro in Kanyamwa Kosewe, among others. Each of these inaugurations represents a significant step toward improving educational access and quality for the county's youngest learners.

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“ *"We are committed to ensuring that every child has access to a decent and conducive environment for learning, play, and development"* **”**

"We are committed to ensuring that every child has access to a decent and conducive environment for learning, play, and development," Governor Wanga stated during one of the classroom openings. "It is our responsibility to deliver on this mandate, and we are doing so one centre at a time." This initiative reflects the county's dedication to fostering a strong foundation for early childhood education, recognising its critical importance in shaping the future of the children and the community as a whole.

“

It is our responsibility to deliver on this mandate, and we are doing so one centre at a time.

”



List of Completed EYE Centres

S/NO	EYE CENTRE	WARD	S/NO	EYE CENTRE	WARD
1	Got Kochungo EYE	Arujo	54	Nyakwaka EYE Centre	Kojwach
2	Rabuor Masawa EYE		55	Nyaluru EYE Centre	
3	Arunda EYE Centre		56	Dudu EYE Centre	
4	Ngere EYE Centre		57	Runguu EYE Centre	
5	Manga EYE Centre	Homa Bay East	58	Ongoro EYE Centre	Kabondo West
6	Ndori EYE Centre		59	Kilusi EYE Centre	
7	Pala EYE Centre		60	Orera EYE Centre	
8	Disii EYE Centre		61	Chagere EYE Centre	
9	Magare EYE Centre	Homa Bay West	62	Kendu Muslim EYE Centre	Kendu Bay Town
10	Nyagidha EYE Centre		63	Bware EYE Centre	
11	Ruga EYE Centre		64	Kideswa EYE Centre	
12	Riwa EYE Centre		65	Wangadondi EYE Centre	
13	Nduta EYE Centre	Homa Bay Central	66	Soko EYE Centre	Wang'chieng'
14	Lake EYE Centre		67	Akwakra EYE Centre	
15	Pap Ndege EYE Centre		68	Mariwa EYE Centre	
16	Rangwena EYE Centre		69	Ochuoga EYE Centre	
17	Osodo EYE Centre	Kanyadoto	70	Ongalo EYE Centre	Central Karachuonyo
18	Komolo EYE Centre		71	Warao EYE Centre	
19	Mariwa EYE Centre		72	Nyakech EYE Centre	
20	Sasi EYE Centre		73	Bongia EYE Centre	
21	Nguku EYE Centre	Kabuoch South / Pala	74	Omboga EYE Centre	Kanyaluo
22	Ototo EYE Centre		75	Kowuor EYE Centre	
23	Andingo EYE Centre		76	Wikondiek EYE Centre	
24	Kowuor EYE Centre		77	Kobila EYE Centre	
25	Ober EYE Centre	Kanyikela	78	Wire EYE Centre	West Kamagak
26	Wiodiolo EYE Kanyikela		79	Rawinji EYE Centre	
27	Thuogweno EYE Centre		80	Agoro Sare EYE Centre	
28	Otange EYE Centre		81	Nyandiwa EYE Centre	
29	Minyere EYE Centre	Kabuoch North	82	Masanga EYE Centre	East Kamagak
30	Lwanda EYE Centre		83	Ondiwa EYE Centre	
31	Wikoonje EYE Centre		84	Ojwando EYE Centre	
32	Ongeng' EYE Centre		85	Kachieng EYE Centre	
33	Kamolo EYE Centre	Kwabwai	86	Kalanding EYE Centre	West Kasipul
34	Osogo EYE Centre		87	Katanga EYE Centre	
35	Nyagot Adundo EYE Centre		88	Kanga Omuga EYE Centre	
36	Otangre EYE Centre		89	Nyambare EYE Centre	
37	Misita EYE Centre	Kanyamwa Kologi	90	Mang'ang'a EYE Centre	Central Kasipul
38	Junction Katieno EYE Centre		91	Nyatwere EYE Centre	
39	Ramoya EYE Centre		92	Kosira EYE Centre	
40	Nyangiendo EYE Centre		93	Nyafare EYE Centre	
41	Omokokoth EYE Centre	Kosewe	94	Omollo Omado EYE Centre	South Kasipul
42	Kolualo EYE Centre		95	Kasimba EYE Centre	
43	Ligega EYE Centre		96	Kuoyo EYE Centre	
44	Kuoyo EYE Centre		97	Buoye EYE Centre	
45	Ndhiwa EYE Centre	Kokwayo Kakelo	98	Nyatir EYE Centre	West Karachuonyo
46	Oriri EYE Centre		99	Gogo EYE Centre	
47	Umai EYE Centre		100	Rabuor Koguta EYE Centre	
48	Riwo EYE Centre		101	Nyasanja EYE Centre	
49	Ragogo EYE Centre	Kabondo East	102	Nyawu Omuga EYE Centre	Kibiri
50	Atela EYE Centre		103	Nyabiage EYE Centre	
51	Wangapala EYE Centre		104	Omindi EYE Centre	
52	Otondo EYE Centre		105	Samanga EYE Centre	
53	Lwanda EYE Centre				

S/NO	EYE CENTRE	WARD	S/NO	EYE CENTRE	WARD
106	Oindo EYE Centre	North Karachuonyo	134	Olweya EYE Centre	Gembe
107	Koliech EYE Centre		135	Gode-Ariyo EYE Centre	
108	Kibaga EYE Centre		136	Obambo EYE Centre	
109	Sombro EYE Centre		137	Obalwanda EYE Centre	
110	Koyoo EYE Centre	East Gem	138	Nyamasare EYE Centre	Kasgunga
111	Nyachar EYE Centre		139	Kisui EYE Centre	
112	Wikoteng EYE Centre		140	Usare EYE Centre	
113	Rabour Ponge EYE Centre		141	Nyamanga EYE Centre	
114	Got Nyalgosi EYE Centre	Kagan	142	Bedie EYE Centre	Lambwe
115	Maugo EYE Centre		143	Aringo EYE Centre	
116	Obwanda EYE Centre		144	Kisaka EYE Centre	
117	Koga EYE Centre		145	Soklo EYE Centre	
118	God Kado EYE Centre	Kochia	146	Kakrigu EYE Centre	Rusinga
119	Ngegu EYE Centre		147	Dr Williams EYE Centre	
120	Ongeti EYE Centre		148	Temo EYE Centre	
121	Nyajanja EYE Centre		149	Kaswanga EYE Centre	
122	Orero EYE Centre	West Gem	150	Nyawacha EYE Centre	Gwasi South
123	Anind Oko EYE Centre		151	Kumbatha EYE Centre	
124	Andingo EYE Centre		152	Kinchororio EYE Centre	
125	Nyandiwa Gem EYE Centre		153	Osoi EYE Centre	
126	Kibuogi EYE Centre	Kaksingri West	154	Kirambo EYE Centre	Gwasssi North
127	Msare EYE Centre		155	Mwiraria EYE Centre	
128	Roo DOK EYE Centre		156	Soko EYE Centre	
129	Governor Awiti EYE Centre		157	Kiwa EYE Centre	
130	Nyakweri EYE Centre	Ruma / Kaksingri East	158	Ringiti EYE Centre	Mfangano
131	Nyabera EYE Centre		159	Masisi EYE Centre	
132	Onywera EYE Centre		160	Kakiimba EYE Centre	
133	Nyadenda EYE Centre		161	Sena EYE Centre	



Health Facelift:

Multi-Storey Block Almost Ready, Set to Transform the Face of the County's Premier Health Facility

By Communication Team



Governor Gladys Wanga's ambitious vision for healthcare transformation in Homa Bay is coming to fruition, marked by the nearing completion of the sprawling Accident and Emergency Casualty and Outpatient Departments Block at the Homa Bay County Teaching and Referral Hospital. This multi-storey landmark is poised to revolutionise the hospital's services, significantly enhancing the standard of care for the community.

Currently, the structural work on the building stands at an impressive 75% completion. Meanwhile, critical tasks such as plumbing, electrical installation, and landscaping have commenced, laying the groundwork for a state-of-the-art healthcare facility.

In a forward-thinking move, the County Government is actively procuring advanced medical equipment that will be integral to the operation of this new block, ensuring that it meets contemporary healthcare standards.

In addition to this transformative project, the construction of the Oncology Unit at the hospital has reached completion. This facility is set to become a vital resource for cancer patients in the region, who have historically travelled to distant cities like Kisumu, Eldoret, and Nairobi for treatment and therapy. With the installation of the necessary equipment, this unit will bring much-needed relief and convenience to those affected by cancer.



These substantial improvements to Homa Bay County Teaching and Referral Hospital reflect Governor Gladys Wanga's commitment to the healthcare transformation she pledged during her gubernatorial campaign in 2022. Established in 1966 by the late Tom Joseph Mboya, the hospital has long awaited such a significant upgrade, and the completion of the new facility is anticipated with great optimism by both the medical community and the residents of Homa Bay.





Fundi Mang'ula Third Cohort Enrolled

Vocational Training: Fundi Mang'ula Scholarship Programme Launches Third Cohort to Empower Youth with Technical Skills

By Collins Ogutu



In a significant step towards empowering youth and fostering economic development, the Fundi Mang'ula Scholarship Programme successfully conducted interviews for its third cohort across the country. The initiative, co-funded by KCB Foundation, focuses on providing technical training to young individuals and aims to bridge the employment gap by equipping participants with market-relevant skills.

The interviews in beneficiary VTCs attracted a large number of applicants eager to benefit from the programme. Successful candidates will commence their training in various trades at designated Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) beginning this month. The selected trainees will undergo rigorous hands-on training in fields such as carpentry, masonry, electrical wiring, plumbing, and more, tailored to meet the demands of the local job market.



"Our goal is to provide young people with practical skills that will enable them to become self-reliant and contribute positively to their communities," said Stephen Othira, Chief Officer for Vocational Training

The Fundi Mang'ula Scholarship Programme is part of a broader initiative to address youth unemployment and promote entrepreneurship within the county. By investing in vocational education, the programme seeks to reduce dependency on formal employment and foster a culture of innovation and self-employment.



Disaster Preparedness: **County Strengthens Community Disaster Preparedness through Training for Early Responders**

By Collins Ogutu

In a strategic effort to enhance disaster resilience at the grassroots level, a comprehensive three-day training for Community-Level Early Responders and last-mile actors was held in Rachuonyo North & West, Suba South & West sub-counties. The initiative aimed to empower local actors to effectively anticipate, respond to, and mitigate the impacts of disasters and climate-related hazards.

The training, facilitated by the Kenya Red Cross Society in collaboration with the County Government of Homa-Bay and the National Disaster Management Agencies, brought together a diverse range of community stakeholders.

Participants included Community Health Promoters (CHPs), Beach Management Unit (BMU) members, Ward Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Committee members, village elders, persons with disabilities (PWD) champions, youth, early warning champions, and representatives from local civil society

and representatives from local civil society organisations.

This broad participation underscores the inclusive approach adopted to ensure all vulnerable groups and key community figures are equipped with the necessary skills.

Over the course of the training, participants engaged in practical sessions and discussions focused on community-centred early warning systems, disaster risk reduction (DRR), climate change adaptation, and anticipatory action strategies. They learned how to develop and disseminate early warning messages effectively, interpret meteorological forecasts, and coordinate community responses during emergencies. The training emphasised the importance of proactive measures in reducing disaster risks and enhancing community resilience, especially in the face of increasing climate variability.

The program aligns with several strategic frameworks and policies, including the Homa Bay County Disaster Risk Reduction Communication Strategy 2026–2030, the Kenya Anticipatory Action Roadmap 2024–2029, the Kenya National DRM Strategy 2025–2030, and the internationally recognised Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. These alignments aim to integrate local efforts into national and global disaster risk management initiatives, ensuring sustainability and coherence in disaster preparedness efforts.

Technical expertise and forecast data were provided by leading institutions, including the Kenya Meteorological Department, the National Disaster Operations Centre, the National Drought Management Authority, and the Water Resources Authority.



Their involvement ensured that participants received accurate, timely information to inform early warning and response activities at the community level.

During the closing ceremony, participants expressed a strong commitment to applying the skills and knowledge gained. They pledged to strengthen early warning dissemination channels, improve community engagement, and establish efficient response mechanisms to safeguard their communities from emerging risks such as drought, floods, and other climate-induced hazards.

“This training has been transformative for our community,” said Charles Juma, a PWD representative from Suba Central Sub-County. “We now have a better understanding of how to interpret weather forecasts and communicate early warnings to our neighbours, which can save lives during emergencies.”

Another participant, George Okeyo, a youth early warning champion from Rachuonyo North Sub-County, emphasised the importance of inclusive participation: “Our role as youth is critical in raising awareness and mobilising our peers to act swiftly when hazards strike. We are ready to lead by example.”





Commemoratives:

County Joins International Community in Marking Global Days

By Veroncia Nyasoro, Antonine Abiero and Abneri Pajero

Homa Bay County continued with the long-held tradition of joining the global community in marking days set aside to commemorate significant environmental, health and social protection milestones, a major way through which the county government has always domesticated ratified policies, treaties and laws aligned to the SDGs.

The County Department of Environment on 5th June 2026 commemorated World Environment Day at Governor's Park under the theme, "A Global Call for Climate Action," where the activities involved raising 5,000 tree seedlings, conducting environmental clean-up campaigns, and organising a climate awareness walk to encourage public participation in environmental protection and sustainable development.

The event aimed to create awareness, promote climate resilience strategies, and strengthen partnerships that support long-term environmental conservation efforts. It also provided a platform for bringing together government agencies, communities, educational institutions, environmental organisations, youth groups, women's groups, and private sector stakeholders to collectively address climate change and environmental degradation.

The county also hosted this year's National Day of the African Child celebrations, reaffirming its commitment to championing children's rights and well-being. Held under the theme, "Ensuring Universal Access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Every Child in Africa," the event brought together leaders,

stakeholders and children from across the country to advocate for a future where every child can thrive in a safe, healthy and inclusive environment to achieve their full potential.

The commemoration of World Blood Donor Day 2026 in Ndhiwa marked a significant milestone for healthcare delivery in Homa Bay County, bringing together health professionals, biomedical laboratory scientists, development partners, stakeholders, and voluntary blood donors to celebrate the gift of life and strengthen health systems.

Under the theme "One Drop of Humanity: Give Blood, Save Lives," the event honoured the selfless individuals whose blood donations continue to save mothers during childbirth, accident victims, surgical patients, cancer patients, and many others in need of lifesaving transfusions.



The day saw the launch of the Homa Bay County Integrated Specimen Referral Plan, a transformative initiative designed to improve access to timely and quality diagnostic services across all sub-counties. The plan will streamline specimen transportation, reduce turnaround time for critical tests, strengthen the hub-and-spoke laboratory network, and ensure that patients in remote facilities receive the same standard of diagnostic services as those accessing higher-level hospitals.

Elsewhere, in partnership with PSK and SHOFKO, Homa Bay County commemorated International Widows' Day at Rusinga Chief's Camp under the theme "Justice, Dignity, and Economic Power." Speakers highlighted the importance of registering widows into groups to facilitate access to government funds and emphasised mentoring young widows on survival strategies and economic empowerment.



Social Protection:

Validation of Sexual Violence Bill Concluded, Set for Assembly

By Antonine Abiero



The importance of this legislation was underscored by the participants, who reaffirmed the county's strong commitment to fostering a community that is free from sexual and gender-based violence. They highlighted the necessity of legal reforms, active community involvement, and collaboration across multiple sectors in order to effectively combat SGBV. Stakeholders expressed optimism that the implementation of this bill would lead to a marked reduction in incidents of SGBV and would promote greater gender equity and social justice throughout Homa Bay County.



In 2024, Governor Gladys Wanga officially launched the SGBV Policy aimed at addressing the prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence in the region. Following the implementation of this policy, there has been a notable decrease in such incidents. With the policy now evolving into law, there is hope and expectation that cases of sexual violence, particularly those involving teenage girls, will be treated with greater seriousness and rigour, thereby ensuring that justice is served and protection provided for them.



The County Government of Homa Bay, through its Department of Gender Inclusivity and Women Empowerment, has collaborated with the East African Centre for Human Rights (EACHRights) and the Gender Recovery Centre (GVRG) to advance the proposed Homa Bay County Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Bill 2026.

A validation workshop was held to bring together a diverse group of stakeholders, including Members of the County Assembly, representatives from various national government departments, the Judiciary, Civil Society Organisations, and the Technical Working Group.

During this workshop, participants engaged in thorough discussions and reviews of the bill's provisions, which are designed to significantly strengthen the measures for preventing, responding to, and protecting victims of sexual and gender-based violence. The goal is to cultivate a safer and more inclusive environment in Homa Bay County.

This dual milestone underscores the County Government's commitment to strengthening healthcare systems, improving patient outcomes, and ensuring that no life is lost due to delayed diagnosis or lack of safe blood.



AfriCities Conference: **Homa Bay Ready for Africa Smart Cities Conference**

By Oketch Bernard



Homa Bay County is set to take centre stage on the continental and global development map as it prepares to host the highly anticipated Africa Smart Cities and Township Alliance (ASCA) Conference from 19th to 20th August 2026. The landmark event is expected to bring together approximately 50 international delegates from South Korea, China, Singapore, Malaysia, India, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and several African nations.

ASCA, a premier public-private partnership platform connecting more than 30 African cities, champions sustainable urban transformation, innovation-driven development, and smart city solutions aimed at improving the quality of life for citizens across the continent.

In readiness for the high-profile conference, the planning committee, chaired by the Deputy Governor H.E Danish Onyango, convened a strategic meeting to kick-start preparations and ensure the county delivers a world-class event.

The conference presents a unique opportunity for Homa Bay to showcase its investment potential, urban development initiatives, digital transformation agenda, and commitment to sustainable growth while fostering international partnerships and knowledge exchange.

The hosting of ASCA underscores Homa Bay's growing stature as an emerging hub for innovation, investment, and smart development in Africa, placing the county firmly on the global stage.



Africa Smart Cities & Townships Alliance

ASCA Week 2026

August 17–22, 2026 | Kenya & Tanzania

ASCA WEEK 2026

Collaborating for Sustainable, Healthy and Prosperous Communities in Africa

LAKE VICTORIA
A Shared Resource, A Shared Future

AUGUST 17–22, 2026

**NAIROBI • KISUMU • HOMA BAY (KENYA)
MWANZA (TANZANIA)**

OUR THEMES

- Early Cancer Detection Programme**
Saving lives through early detection and innovative care.
- Water, Waste, Sanitation & Hygiene**
Building healthier communities through clean water and sanitation.
- Sustainable Energy**
Powering communities with clean, reliable, and sustainable energy.
- Capacity Building**
Empowering people through training, education, and knowledge exchange.
- Cultural Exchange**
Celebrating diversity, building friendships, and strengthening partnerships.

ABOUT ASCA WEEK
ASCA Week 2026 brings together leaders, experts, and communities to address Africa's key development challenges and build smart, sustainable, and people-centered cities and townships.

DELEGATION
Leaders and partners from EAC, South Korea, China, Singapore, UK, India, Morocco, Senegal and other nations will come together in unity.

Logos: Homa Bay County, Kenya, Kisumu City, WSCF, Africa Cancer Research, CJF.

ASCA Week 2026
Africa Smart Cities & Townships Alliance (ASCA)



Feature Story:

How Governor Wanga has Steered the Rise of Homa Bay County Teaching and Referral Hospital into a Regional Referral Hub

By Abnery Pajero



Before the inauguration of H.E. Governor Gladys Wanga, the old Outpatient Department at Homa Bay County Teaching and Referral Hospital (HBCTRH) stood as a visible symbol of neglect and a strained healthcare system. Today, the facility tells a different story of a rapidly expanding referral hospital that is increasingly serving patients from Homa Bay County and neighboring counties.

Through sustained investment in healthcare infrastructure, equipment, commodities, and human resources, HBCTRH has strengthened its role as a regional hub for specialized healthcare services.

The current administration constructed a new modern Outpatient Department, improving patient flow, access, and the overall care experience. The old structure was demolished to create space for a state-of-the-art Accident and Emergency Wing, which is currently over halfway complete. This investment is designed to expand emergency capacity and improve rapid response to critical cases.

HBCTRH's revamped Renal Unit now has the capacity to dialyze 21 patients per day, translating to approximately 84 dialysis sessions per week. Patients who previously traveled to other counties for treatment can now access life-saving dialysis services locally.

The unit is already serving patients from neighboring counties, reflecting the hospital's growing regional reach.

The modern Maternity and Newborn Unit is handling an average of 10 deliveries per day and caring for roughly 30 newborns daily. Homa Bay County once recorded among the highest child mortality rates in the country. Today, the hospital reports near-zero neonatal deaths and has emerged as a center of excellence in maternal and newborn care. The county now provides peer support and shares best practices with other counties working to reduce child mortality.

The hospital's Blood Bank ensures the availability of safe blood and blood products for emergencies, surgery, and critical care. Diagnostic capacity has also been significantly strengthened through the installation of CT Scan and MRI services. The CT Scan unit alone now serves approximately 30 patients daily and has become a regional diagnostic asset, reducing referrals, shortening waiting times, and enabling faster, more accurate diagnosis.



State-of-the-art laparoscopic equipment has enabled minimally invasive surgical procedures that were previously difficult or unavailable locally. The Eye Unit continues to restore sight and improve quality of life for patients with various eye conditions, reducing the need for patients to seek specialized care outside the county.

Improved availability of medicines and essential medical commodities means more patients can receive comprehensive care under one roof. The hospital's Funeral Parlour also ensures dignity and respect for families during difficult moments.



Before Governor Wangari



Where we are



The progress



Where we are going





The completion of the Cancer Center underscores the county's commitment to bringing specialized oncology services closer to the people. Once fully equipped and operationalized, the center will further reduce referrals and improve access to lifesaving cancer care.

HBCTRH's transformation is no longer defined by a single building or equipment purchase. It is defined by a growing healthcare system characterized by modern infrastructure, specialized services, advanced diagnostics, skilled healthcare workers, reliable medicine availability, and expanding referral networks.

Beyond improving healthcare outcomes, the County Government of Homa Bay continues to steer the transformation of HBCTRH into a regional referral hub capable of delivering specialized, high-quality healthcare to patients from across the wider region.



“

Let us empower our people by expanding our Blue Economy opportunities: aquaculture, fish processing, value addition, digital fish marketing, cold chain logistics, and innovation

”

H.E Gladys Wanga, EGH

