



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

HOMA BAY COUNTY

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## PRESS RELEASE

*(For Immediate Release)*

### DESPATCH FROM EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**H.E Governor Gladys Nyasuna Wanga CBS**, has this morning chaired the County's Executive Committee meeting at the County Headquarter.

**TODAY'S COMMITTEE MEETING** addressed policy matters critical for implementation of the administration's transformation agenda as espoused in the **#GENOWAENDONGRUOK** manifesto which remains focused on positively impacting the lives of residents of the County

**THE EXECUTIVE MEETING SANCTIONED** the formation of a multisectoral team to spearhead the full implementation of the **Affordable Housing Project Memorandum of Understanding** with the **National Housing Corporation**, on onboarding local Sub Contractors, building material suppliers, fabricators etc. The team; from the Departments of Trade, Industry, Tourism, Cooperatives Development and Marketing, Department of Lands, Physical Planning, Housing and Urban Development and Department of Education, Human Capital Development and Vocational Training, will engage the AHCP Contractor to

mobilize and sensitize local Sub Contractors, building material suppliers, fabricators etc.

**AS PART OF THE COUNTY'S CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTABILITY AND RESILIENCE**, the Executive Committee approved Homa Bay County hosting the **2023 International Day of Forests/National Tree Planting Day on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023**. The event to be held in multiple venues will be graced by **Hon. Soipan Tuya**, Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. The two environmental conservation events, will be around the earlier approved **Homa Bay County 2023 Governors Mentorship Camp** slated for **Asumbi Girls' Secondary School**. The Mentorship Camp targets girls (and boys) between the ages 9 to 19 years with the aim of addressing the need for youngsters to view themselves as intelligent and powerful with infinite potential. It is also designed to create awareness among the communities that equality is about shared responsibility, communication and equal opportunities for both young girls and boys. This year's theme is "**Making my Environment Green**" in recognition of the International Day of Forests, and the launch of the National Tree Planting Day.

**TO FULLY TAP** the County's full potential in tourism, the Executive Committee discussed and approved **The Roan Antelope Half Marathon** to be held inside the **Ruma National Park** – the only terrestrial park in Kenya's old Nyanza Province dubbed the '**last Retreat of the Roan Antelope**' in the month of April 2023. This initiative aims at marketing Homa Bay as a tourism destination, thereby open up economic development opportunities, hence create job opportunities and grant residents of the County means of livelihood and dignified lifestyles.

**GIVEN THAT** Homa Bay County is already experiencing rapid urbanization phenomenon in its previously laidback rural trading centres; and with a steadily increasing human population growth, the demands for water are set to increase significantly. This situation may lead to a reduction in water levels, hence the need for **strategic interventions**. To this end, the Executive Committee in its sitting today, approved the development of a **County Water Policy**, designed to address the cross-sectoral issues on Sanitation, Agriculture, Energy, Transport, Tourism, Lands and Physical Planning, among others, thus promote the **integrated water resources management (IWRM)**, concept in the County's water sector. This policy sets out to create a paradigm shift in water resources management, centered on citizens' participation and stakeholder involvement for the prevailing sector challenges. This policy is premised on the constitutional order of Kenya that guarantees the right to safe and clean water in adequate quantities through universal coverage. It defines the framework within which the sector is envisaged to grow. **This County Water Policy** is a culmination of long, intensive, and robust consultations amongst a wide range of stakeholders in the sector. It portends opportunities to stimulate water and sanitation development throughout the County. In this regard it provides for agile institutional and legal framework buttressed on responsive water governance.

**ON VOCATIONAL TRAINING**, the meeting gave approval to a request by the Department of Lands, to set aside land for the construction of a **Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) Centre in Ndhiwa Sub County**. The envisaged project is to be funded by the National Government and will seek to empower the youth upon completion of their basic education, with technical skills that will enable them to pursue diverse vocational job opportunities as a means of economic empowerment.

**COGNIZANT** of prevailing stock out situation of essential drugs in a number of health facilities in the County, thereby leading to inconsistency in the quality of healthcare offered to patients, thus contravening provisions of the Constitution of Kenya in article 43(1) (a) that guarantee each Kenyan citizen the right to access the highest attainable standards of health, the Executive Committee approved the purchase of pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical products at a cost of Kes. 36M.

**THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE's** resolve to improve the lives of people of Homa Bay through viable socio economic engagements remains on course in the pursuit for the attainment of the promises made by the Administration through the **#GENOWAENDONGRUOK** blueprint.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2023**