



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF HOMA BAY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



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PRESS STATEMENT (For immediate release)

LAUNCH OF THE BURSARY FUND AND GOVERNORS FINS TO SWIM SCHOLARSHIP

Governor H.E Gladys Wanga presided over the 4th County Executive Committee Meeting at the County Headquarters. In this meeting the roll out of the bursary fund and the scholarship programme were both approved. These funds are geared at **enhancing retention of students**, giving better literacy outcomes for the County and fighting poverty through investment in education.

The **Kshs. 100 Million Bursary Fund** will be administered as per the **Homa Bay County Education Bursary Fund Act, 2015**. The Cabinet approved that Kshs. 2.5 million will be spent in every ward with **each student awarded Kshs. 5,000**. Each Ward will have 500 beneficiaries thus **a total of 20,000 students** in the County targeted for support. The Department of Education will oversee a transparent process with very robust public participation starting at the village level, sub-location, ward and sub-county committees. With the institutional set up we are ready to issue the bursary application forms.

I am happy to announce the **Steering Committee for the Bursary Fund**:-

1. The CECM in charge of Education Mr. Opere
2. The Chief Officer in charge of Education who shall be the Secretary
3. A representative of the County Education Board
4. A member of the Civil Society Organizations
5. A member representing special interest groups
6. The CEC Finance will designate a fund administrator whose roles are provided for in Section 8 of the Bursary Fund Act.

I would wish to make it very clear that the **forms will be availed freely**. There are **no processing fees** to any of the County Government offices. The bursary forms will be picked and submitted between **21st December 2022 and 3rd January 2023**. The forms can be picked up in the following public offices:

1. The Ward Administrators Offices
2. The Assistant County Commissioners, Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs Offices
3. The Offices of the Members of the County Assembly in the Wards
4. The County Website

After the close of submission of bursary forms on **3rd January 2023 at 5pm**, the identification, selection and vetting of the beneficiaries will be done and cheques issued before schools open on **23rd January 2023**.

Further, I would wish to announce the launch of the **Governors Fins to Swim Scholarship Programme** targeting bright and needy students. The eligibility criteria includes minimum 350 marks in KCPE and admission to a national, extra county or county Secondary School. The scholarship will look out for special groups for instance children with disability and teenage mothers return to school. The Cabinet approved the establishment of the **County Scholarship Committee** chaired by one of our leading educationists and members to include the CEC Education, the County Secretary, a representative from non-state actors, private sector and persons living with disability while respecting the two thirds gender rule.

The scholarship forms will be available in public offices as above. The shortlisting and processing will be done by the Ward Bursary Committee that will submit information for final vetting and approval by the County Scholarship Committee. The Scholarship Programme has a budget of **Kshs. 30 million**. This is a new dawn on management of bursary and scholarship funds in Homa Bay County. **Transparent corruption free processes**. All those eligible are encouraged to apply.

Signed

H.E. Gladys Wanga, the Governor