



**HOMABAY
COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

www.homabay.go.ke

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF HOMA-BAY

INAGURATION SPEECH BY

**H.E. HON. GLADYS NYASUNA WANGA,
CBS GOVERNOR, HOMA-BAY COUNTY**

DURING THE ASSUMPTION OFFICE OF THE
GOVERNOR CEREMONY

**AT THE HOMA-BAY STADIUM,
25TH AUGUST 2022**

H. E. Mama Ida Odinga
Hon. Martha Karua
The outgoing Governor H. E. Cyprian Awiti,
The Deputy Governor H. E. Hon. Oyugi Magwanga,
The County Commissioner, Mr. Moses Lelan,
Hon. Lady Justice Asenath Onger
Senator Moses Kajwang
Hon. Joyce Atieno Bensuda
Hon. Members of Parliament,
The elected members of the Homa-Bay County Assembly
Political Leadership
Clergy
Council of Elders
Assumption of Office Committee
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good afternoon the great people of Homa-Bay County.

Let me take this opportunity to first and foremost thank the Almighty God for his favour and the voters of our great **County of Homa-Bay** for their clear decision, that led to our resounding and historic victory in the just concluded elections held on **August 9, 2022**.

I want to salute our party leader **Hon. Raila Amollo Odinga**, the father of **devolution** and **our party ODM** for having faith in me and backing my bid to become the governor of Homa-Bay.

Allow me to thank mama Ida Odinga for being my mentor over the years and Hon. Martha Karua for joining us in our campaign and gracing our occasion today.

In a special way, let me thank the outgoing **Governor H.E Hon. Cyprian Awiti** for being there with us for the last **10 years** and for midwifing the start of devolution in our county.

3

Let me also recognize the role played by our political leadership, **outstanding teams of professionals**, and ground campaign team. I am also grateful to the assumption of office committee, clergy council of elders and various groups that partnered with us such as teachers, health workers, fisherfolks, boda-bodas, business community, women leaders, youth leaders among other actors who stood with us.

To our Members of the County Assembly, I would wish to reiterate that we will work together. The County Government of Homabay is in two parts: The County Executive and the County Assembly.

To my worthy competitors, **Dr. Evans Kidero** and **Mr. Mark Rabudi** you put up a good fight in this election, it is my humble appeal to you, to join hands with us in building and developing our great county, going forward.

4

To my family members, led by **my husband George Wanga**, I can't thank you enough for the moral support you offered, during this treacherous period.

Indeed, the people did the **unthinkable**, by electing me the **first female governor** in the region. The wide margin of victory, was an affirmation that our campaign message, that gravitated around the **desire for change** and our **hope (genowa)**, sunk deep into the villages in our vast county. Let **hope reverberate** in every corner in Homabay County, from Kiwa Island to Magina to Chebera Kajabedo, to Homa Hills, to Kochia to this stadium here.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I know, that for the past 10 years, since the introduction of **DEVOLUTION** through the **Constitution of Kenya 2010**, our people have been hopeful, that one day, like the rest of Kenyans Homa-Bay County will benefit in a big way from the fruits of the devolved funding to counties.

5

As my administration takes over, I want to commit to **a satisfactory service delivery, an all-inclusive government** geared towards realizing remarkable milestones in **good governance and development**.

My administration **will restructure and reorganize** the government in line with the manifesto we presented to our people. As we engage in this, our intention will be to invite into the government **men and women of high integrity, committed to service delivery** and those who are ready to help us to achieve **radical changes** and **rapid development** for our people.

We will know our staff, reward, and promote honesty and hard work, on the same breath we will deal **ruthlessly** with ghost workers who seek to reap where they did not sow. We will ensure timely salaries for our staff and a medical insurance program.

6

I know we are inheriting **immeasurable liabilities** as we have seen through reports on pending bills and the fact that our wage bill is exceeding the standard margin standing at 45%.

I have heard your cry against corruption. I want to promise you today that I will deal with it thoroughly, perpendicularly, and decisively. **And there will be casualties.** I want to assure our suppliers and service providers for those who do an honest job, I will ensure you are paid.

For the people of Homabay, procurement systems will be open and transparent with public participation. I will **implement 30%** procurement allocation for youth, women and Persons with Disabilities.

7

In order to initiate the implementation of my government's agenda, we shall shortly embark on the development of the **3rd generation County Integrated Development Plan** (CIDP). We will include into the CIDP all the **priority development ideas** and identified **flagship programs** as captured in our campaign manifesto and through public participation.

Having **assessed the state of our county**, let me announce that **health** will remain a high priority area in my government. I remain alive to our health challenges such as HIV, Malaria, Gender Based violence and teenage pregnancies.

Firstly, as I promised **during the campaigns**, I will prioritize the development of an accomplished **health infrastructure**, in order to put in place a **quality, affordable and accessible** health care system in our county.

8

I intend to provide solutions in this sector, by investing a huge chunk of our budget in reengineering and upgrading our **health infrastructure, such as elevating Homa-Bay County Teaching & Referral Hospital** to a working, functional, well-equipped, fully staffed, and operational Level 5 hospital with a dignifying funeral parlor.

My administration, will also go for the **upgrade of the Sub-County hospitals and health centers** to make them fully equipped, adequately staffed, and operational including Sena, Aoch-Muga, Ramba among others.

We will introduce a program for poor households to benefit from a county supported **NHIF** plan.

We are shortly taking steps to ensure the **restoration of pharmaceutical and other essential commodities supplies**, to all our healthcare facilities begin, within the next few days.

My administration will be addressing the issues of health care workers and community health volunteers.

Turning to the water sector, my administration considers this **another high priority area** of investment. Our promise to deliver **clean and potable** water to our people must be realised.

Top in order of priority is the water supply in Homa-Bay Town. Our County headquarters, that sits at the bank of the world's largest fresh water lake.

We will be sourcing for more funds and increasing our investment in water reticulation to increase water supplies in Homa-Bay town and other major urban areas in our county. We will support water projects such as Wire-West Karachuonyo, Kindu-Kanyadhiang', Oyugis and Mbita.

My government will revamp the operations of **HOMAWASCO** to enhance water service delivery within our urban settlements. We shall **renovate existing boreholes and water pans** to make them beneficial to the people and go further **to sink more boreholes** around the county. We will improve and upgrade sewerage and sanitation and clean our towns.

Our commitment is that **no mother should walk for more than a kilometer** in search of clean water.

Agriculture is a major enabler of our economy, which essentially supports the livelihood of up to **80 percent** of our population, we will be putting in place a raft of measures aimed at supporting **value addition** on local produces through agro-processing. As we promised, we shall provide subsidized inputs specifically seeds and fertilizers i.e. **Maize and sunflower in Gwasi, groundnuts in Ndhiwa, sweet potatoes in Kabondo, Cotton in Karachuonyo and Pineapples in Kochia**. We will optimize the Oluch Kimira irrigation scheme, we will invest in value addition and expand markets so farmers can get full value.

On blue economy, Homabay has 56% of lake front stretching from Nyakwere to Remba. This is a God given resource that my administration will use to put money in our pockets. The **fisheries sector** will be revamped. We will work with the 145 Beach Management Units, to improve access roads to our beaches, cold storage, security for our fisherfolk and revive the fish processing plants.

I have had engagements with fisherfolk and in these discussions we have agreed that my administration will support them with fingerlings and fish cages.

Our intention is to tap into investments on value addition and modern fish processing for **targeted export** initiatives. In this sector, we shall also support **aquaculture initiatives** to increase fish production.

As you may recall, as the chair of the finance and planning committee in the National Assembly, we allocated Kshs.300million for the purchase of a ferry to Mfangano. My administration will work with our MPs to ensure the realization of this ferry project.

To achieve the desirable economic growth, we shall put in place policies geared towards revitalizing and **expanding manufacturing, trade, and blue economy** in order to optimize the full potential.

As the county women representative I developed several markets. I intend to continue with modernization of markets, slaughter houses and livestock markets in various places such as Ndhiwa, Sindo, and Kosele.

We will create a digital economy that fully harnesses the power of technology and innovation to achieve the **fourth industrial revolution (4IR) and sustainable development**. Our Government shall create an enabling environment for investors that will make Homa-Bay an economic powerhouse in the region on areas including tourism especially maximizing on the potential of Takawiri Island, Simbi Nyaima, Nyamgodho and Ruma.

Our boda boda sector is a major pillar and has been growing significantly. My administration promised during the campaign that we will support their saccos.

I will upgrade roads to every school and health sector. My administration will partner with the National government to build the Gor Maria Ring road in Ndhiwa.

In the area of youth, gender, arts, sports and inclusivity we note that women and youth are the foundation of our economic success. Their **potential in economic impact is significant**. Our Government will focus on addressing gender disparity and empowering women, youth and people living with disability to fully participate in the County's inclusive economic development and decision making.

You all know that **our county is the home of legends**. This is the **cradle of Gor Mahia** and the **home of football**. My administration will do its best in uncovering the sporting potential, in our country by making sure talents in our midst, do not go to waste under our watch.

We shall complete the ongoing construction of the **Homa-Bay stadium** and go ahead to make it the home ground for the legendary **Gor Mahia FC**.

Homabay has been an academic giant. I would like to thank the teaching fraternity for the effort and as promised we will have a liaison desk for our teachers. We thank President Uhuru Kenyatta for the Charter for Tom Mboya University.

My administration will invest in ECD and vocational training.
I will implement the school feeding for the ECD in Homabay.

I am planning to initiate a **Scholarship Program** to **support our brilliant but needy children**, this will be complementary to the already existing bursary program, which my government intent to give a major boost in terms of budgetary allocation by doubling the allocation in **our first budget**.

I am aware of the ongoing developments in the **urban and housing sectors** in our country. In order to open ways for development of our towns, I will be considering upgrades for our towns by conferring municipal charters for **Oyugis, Kendu-Bay, Ndhiwa and Mbita** towns soon. This will attract development from partners that will assist the towns to achieve the necessary urban modernization as desired.

Finally, you all know the state of our country, following the disputed Presidential Elections held on August 09. We as Azimio have chosen the legal route of engaging justice through the courts. If called upon to return to elections we are ready!

In conclusion, I have laid out my vision and shared our program, I thank our partners who have been working in Homabay and look forward to even more partnerships with donors, development partners, and investors. **To our MCAs we have a vision to actualize, promises to keep, let us roll our sleeves and get down to work for our people.**

God bless Kenya, God bless Homa Bay.

Thank you.