



**HOMABAY
COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



GOVERNOR, HOMA BAY COUNTY

**DURING CELEBRATIONS TO MARK
THE 13TH MASHUJAA DAY**

HELD AT

**THE SENA SUB-COUNTY HOSPITAL
20TH OCTOBER 2022**

The Deputy Governor, **H.E. Hon. Joseph Oyugi Magwanga,**

The County Commissioner, **Mr. Moses Lilan,**

Members of the National Assembly present,

Speaker County Assembly of Homa Bay, **Hon.**

Julius Gaya,

Members of the County Assembly present,

Distinguished Invited Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am happy to join you today, as we celebrate the **13th Edition of Mashujaa Day**, when we remember the greatness of all Kenyans who offered their sweat, blood and life to attain the **freedom** we are all enjoying now.

I also extend **my hearty congratulations**, to all Kenyans around the republic and the **good people of Homa Bay**, wherever they are **within and without our borders**, as we converge in the **Island of Mfangano** today to commemorate this year's heroes' day.

I am glad that **for the first time**, we are converging in **this Island** to celebrate our heroes. Let me thank **the organisers for coming up with the idea of** staging this event here.

There is **no greater testament of courage, than sacrificing your life for our country**. Our fore fathers **Jomo Kenyatta, Oginga Odinga, Achieng Oneko, Tom Mboya, Bieldad Kagia** among others, demonstrated relentless bravery, when they stood against the **British colonialists**, despite threats to their lives eventually, leading to the attainment of **Independence of our Country**. Today **we celebrate their heroism**.

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We also remember, **the recent day heroism**, by our leaders, who joined hands to fight for a new constitution led by the **Rt Hon. Raila Amollo Odinga**, that eventually gave birth to devolution, opening ways for the **untold flow of resources** that **previously remained stuck** at the National Government, but which is now trickling down **to the 47 Counties** of our republic.

Suba is also home to many of our national heroes in various spheres of life. On a day like this, we remember the great sons of this land including legendry footballers **Otieno Solo, Tillen Oguta, Naphtali Mattah-Humanity (Gethsemane), Senior Chief Simion Wasonga-Legendary Senior Chief and Peter Nyakiamo**.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Let me now take this **opportunity to most sincerely thank all of you**, for electing us into office. You all know that we have just come from a tiring political campaign, **but elections are now behind us**.

I know that quite a number of our people, **came out of those elections wounded and unsatisfied**, all of us are, but again we need to begin to put focus in our future.

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I want to reassure that, the **ultimate sacrifice that our people** have put for this Country will never be in vain. **I urge you never to dare lose hope.** As one day, the dreams of our people shall come true.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It's about **50 days**, since we came into office following the **August 9th General Elections**, I am in the **process of putting in place a government** that will serve our people for the next five years, as we seek to ensure that the people of Homa Bay also benefit **from billions of shillings allocated through devolution**

Our **County Assembly**, has begun the process of vetting the people, I recently **nominated to our cabinet**. Once this process is done with, we are hoping to begin the implementation of projects and programs, that I promised our people during the campaigns.

Soon, we will be recruiting **Chief Officers** in line with a **new government structure that we have already put in place**. We hope to get this done by mid of next month so that we can start putting our focus on service delivery.

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We have also kicked off **internal restructuring within various departments**, in order to align them with our manifesto and development agenda for the next five years.

We are on a mission, to ensure projects are implemented perfectly, and that we don't recede to the **dark days of white elephants**. That is why, I have created the **Governors Delivery and Monitoring and Evaluation Unit** to follow up on the **completion of projects** and ascertain value for money before government can pay contractors.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

My administration has an elaborate **development plan** for our county, running for the **next five years**. But even as we work on a **reinvigorated plan** that will ensure **our people access development**. We are already on the ground making sure that **essential services** are made available.

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When **I assumed office**, I made it clear that my **government's priority will be to ensure we develop our Healthcare systems** to make it affordable and accessible to our population. My hope is to have all services including **critical medical services** available to our people, within our borders. To this end we have so far managed to achieve the following within the **last 50 days**:

- 1) We have restored supply of drugs to all our over **250 facilities**, with drugs worth over **KES 60M** already stocked awaiting, additional supplies within **a week**.
- 2) The **Renal Unit** at the **Homa Bay County Referral**, is now fully functional, with **10 dialysis** patients daily, **7 days** a week.
- 3) The construction of the **Comprehensive Outpatient Block** at HCTRH, is currently on going as we move to turn around the face our **Referral** hospital.
- 4) The **Cancer Centre** has also been operationalised and cancer **equipment procured, delivery** is expected within the next two weeks.
- 5) New Health facilities like **Seka Kamser Dispensary** have been commissioned for public use.
- 6) Our **Blood bank** that had completely stalled is now back to full operation and Sub Counties being enabled to transfuse, with **Sena Level 4** now able to transfuse blood.

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- 7) We **re-established a Dental Unit at the HCTRH** which is now offering quality dental services.
- 8) Our **24 Laboratories** in various hospitals around the county have been supplied with new high quality **Biochemistry, Haematology** and **Urine Analyser** machines.

Over and above the projects that I have already mentioned above. We are also working on **access roads to health facilities** to make it easy for transport to and from the hospitals, the renovation of the **Maternity Unit** at the **HCTRH** is also ongoing while the procurement of a **CT scan machine** and its delivery is almost complete.

Soon, we will be ground breaking for our **Accident and Emergency Centre**. While the construction of the **Health Department Headquarters** and the construction of a **Theatre at Ramula** are also underway

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Another key priority area that I have been preoccupied with over the past few days, is **Governance and Integrity** in the government. My **commitment to fight corruption**, and to ensure we run an **accountable government** remains strong.

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A **human resource audit** is set to kick off in the county. We expect to unearth through the audit, **irregularities and illegalities** that may be jeopardizing service delivery and **sinking public money**, through a **compromised payroll** among others. We will be ruthless in dealing with individuals found to have **obstructed the law**, when the audit is finally completed.

My administration will **also restore good manners** in the management of public resources by enhancing **fiscal accountability** in management of County government affairs.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Our **Revenue collection** has performed dismally for a very long time, with **Homa Bay County ranked among poor performers** in so far as revenue mobilisation is concerned. I recently **commissioned a cashless** revenue regime in our County with a view to achieving **higher revenue returns**.

We have **set higher targets** and we **will keep improving** on our strategy to ensure we achieve our target of mobilising **up to KES 1 Billion** annually up **from KES 150 Million** that we have been collecting.

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Already we have set up a major help desk on issues to do with Revenue at **Osuru Center in Homa-Bay** town, where our people can get help when they require.

I want to urge our business community and residents to support the **cashless revenue collection initiative** and refuse to pay in cash for any form of revenue despite persuasions to do so.

Let me **sound a clear warning** to all our **Revenue Department staff**, that any of them found engaging in **unauthorised revenue transactions**, would face severe disciplinary measures.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Under the **Department of Trade**, I am set to launch the **post-harvest grain handling facility at Kigoto**, which is now complete and ready for use. It will help **stabilize maize prices** in the county. The facility will also provide **safe water to the community among other industrial and non- industrial benefits** to the locals and to the broader residents of Homa Bay County. All maize farmers will now have a market to sell their produce. The factory's production will be at **30 tonnes** of maize daily. We will make arrangements to have farmers operating through cooperative societies, most of them are already existing in the area.

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Ladies and Gentlemen:

My government is keen to promote **developmental partnership**, to enable us bring on board, partners who can help us build on our **development agenda**.

Understanding that funds from the **exchequer** are always not enough for our needs. We have opened our doors to partners to enable us achieve more than we can, with resources from **the National Government**.

Recently, through collaboration with **Kenya Ports Authority** we initiated a program aimed at developing our water fronts and beaches. This collaboration will see us create opportunities, around our lakeside beaches and beautify of lakefronts. We have initiated engagements with other partners including our **neighboring counties** as we gear up for the eventual creation of the **Lake Front Development Authority** to steer this for us.

The **bulk of our development agenda** as coined in our campaign manifesto will now find room in the **government budget** through the **County Integrated Development Program (CIDP)** whose development is currently under way.

The plan will be the benchmark for our **development program throughout the five years under this first term in office**. The process of coining this **3rd Generation CIDP** will be as participatory as possible. I want to urge the locals to **find time** to engage with the team when they come to the wards.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

My government is looking forward to a close working relationship with the national government. The intergovernmental relationship is provided for in our constitution and we must exploit to ensure we don't miss out of the extra development projects that may come from the national government.

I want to assure you **Bwana County Commissioner** that my office and yours will work together for the benefit of the people of our county because we both need each other to survive.

To **our local leaders**, I want to promise that, **we shall work together**. I urge you, to join me in unlocking the **development potential** of our county. I know that if we walk together and remain united, we shall achieve more within the next five years.

I thank you.