



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF HOMA BAY

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



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COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF HOMA-BAY

SPEECH BY:

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

DURING CELEBRATIONS TO MARK JAMHURI DAY 2022

AT THE

ST AMBROSE SECONDARY SCHOOL

12TH DECEMBER 2022

The Deputy Governor, **on Joseph Oyugi Magwanga**,
The County Commissioner **Moses Lelan**,
Honourable **Members of Parliament** present,
The Speaker of the Homa Bay County Assembly, **Hon Julius Gaya**,
Members of the County Executive Committee present,
Honourable **Members of the County Assembly** present,
Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

My greetings to you all as we converge here today, to join the rest of our countrymen **in celebrating 59 years** since our country attained its self-rule and republic status.

This, is a great day for our country, it reminds us of the **selfless efforts that our fore-fathers put, many years ago**, to earn us the freedom, leading to the departure, from **the shackles of colonialism and imperialism**.

It is with this background, that **we pay tribute to the freedom fighters**, who led our country in the struggle to free us from the **bondage of our colonisers**. It is on the **strength of their blood and sweat** that our country has been able to build a stable nationhood and on which the future of Kenya is still anchored.

As such, **Jamhuri Day** therefore, **remains an important day in our national calendar** and should always **trigger us to jealously guard the independence** we earned as a **country and as a people**, six decades ago.

On this day, we take time out to appreciate the **gigantic journey**, that we have had to take, **as a country from the day we earned this status**, it is our hope that **a promising bright future will come** and that

a moment to bury our country's darkest history will not remain evasive forever.

As we celebrate this day, we also share in the happy moments brought in by **the post independent heroes of our country**, who fought for our **new constitution, promulgated in the year 2010.**

Now, this is what gave birth to devolution, whose benefits are currently well grounded in all the **47 counties** across or nation.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Let me **take this opportunity to thank the people of Homa bay** for passionately standing with us, and according us an overwhelming support, that led to our clear victory in the last **General Elections.**
Thank you again!

We have an **instigated election petition underway** against us, but we are very hopeful that the **will of the people of Homa Bay** shall prevail. I want to urge all our residents to remain calm as we go through this very **well calendared judicial exercise.**

Further, **in the obtaining scenario**, we are all aware of the suffering our people have had to endure, over **the past 10 years.** My government is doing everything possible to ensure that service delivery is not interrupted by the **intermittent challenges** that we have to **face along the way.**

Importantly, I need to report back to you, that I am completing the setting up of my government, Our **County Executive Committee Members** are settling down in office as they wait for the **Chief Officers whose recruitment** is also underway, to come on board.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have just **completed 100 days in office**. And I am sure our people are eager to hear us **outline the progress made so far** even as we prepare to go into the critical stage of **churning development into our villages**.

Well, let me use this occasion to outline key achievements made so far within **the 100 days** we have been in the office.

1. County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2022-2027

First, let me start with the ongoing development of the **2022-2027 County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP)**. We have employed a massive village to village consultative engagement, based on best practices. **On this one we are benchmarking with Makueni County**. Our officers have been on the ground to indulge with our people and **map development plans** they want my **government to prioritise**.

The **CIDP, Public Participation** has been going on **in the Villages**, in the **Wards** and in **the Sub Counties**. We intend to conclude this by the end of this month.

Once the **final report on CIDP is tabled before the assembly** it will guide our development **priorities for the next five years**. I urge the public and all stakeholders to continue participating.

2. Health Sector

Secondly, **Ladies and Gentlemen**, over the past 100 days my government has managed to restore drug supplies to all our over **250 hospitals** in the county as we upscale our investment in the health sector. The **Renal Unit Unit** at the **Homa Bay County Referral**, that had collapsed, is now back with **10 dialysis** patients checked

daily, **7 days** a week. The construction of the **Comprehensive Outpatient Block** at **HCTRH** is also on course.

We have reopened our **Cancer Centre**, with **additional critical cancer machines now procured, they will be installed in the coming weeks**. We have operationalized our **blood bank** now at your service. We managed to get our **dental unit** at **the HCTRH** back to work. Our **24 laboratories** in various hospitals around the county have been supplied with new high quality **Biochemistry, Haematology** and **Urine analyser** machines to support laboratory services.

And what is more, we are soon recruiting **a substantive Chief Officer for Health**, this move will further strengthen and stabilise delivery of services for the betterment of our healthcare going forward.

3. Kigoto Maize Mill

Within **100 days**, we managed to commission the **Kigoto Maize Milling plant**. This project that had stalled for over **7 years** is now up and running and will be an economic pillar in that part of our county, as maize farming can now be commercialized. The miller roared to life **on November 4,2022** in the distinguished presence of none other than **H.E Hon Raila Amollo Odinga**.

4. Revenue

Our county has lost huge amounts in **pilfered revenue over the years**. **Inside this 100 days** we have put in place structures to assist us make revenue collected by the county **beneficial to the public** and **to shut the loopholes** individuals have used over the years, to steal public funds through **unremitted but collected revenue** and also to create additional revenue streams for us to improve on **own source revenue**.

To this end we have established a new revenue **collection regime, which is 100% cashless**. We have suffered a lot of blackmail in the process, regarding this and many other new ideas that we keep bringing but we are moving on nonetheless. **I urge the residents to support us.**

To make things even better, we are in the process of setting up a **Revenue Board**. That will now take charge of our county revenue mobilization from **the first quarter of the new year**.

5. Staff Welfare and Human Resource Audit

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Within **100 days in office**, we have done our best to address the **welfare of our county workers**. Our healthcare staff were in the streets every month **complaining about salary delays** and arrears. Today, **staff salary is paid by the 5th of every month** and no arrears is outstanding.

On this grid, we have also initiated an **elaborate human resource audit , which I launched last week**. A staff headcount is ongoing. We brought on **board a reputable HR company, Pricewaterhouse Coopers** to help us enumerate all our public officers, unearth irregularities in the payroll, review the status of the existing manual payroll among others.

My administration is looking forward to **thorough cleaning** of our public service and to put in place **a proper and working restructure for our organization**, in order to be able to deliver services to the people as per their expectations.

6. Education

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Our promise to establish and set up **Governor's Scholarship Fund** to support our most **needy but brilliant** students is set to be fulfilled as envisioned. We have allocated resources through the supplementary budget and our officers have been working on an implementation framework to roll out **this initiative from January**. Upto **100 learners** will benefit from this full scholarship program every year, up to the end of **their "O" levels**.

This program will be transparently managed, and it will give children from poor families a chance to attend schools of their choices and nurture their skills at the same level as those from enabled families.

We have also allocated money to the already **existing bursary plan** that we intend to proceed with on a tripled budget from the next new year. From around **KES 30 million** previously, we will now have **KES100 million** for our children's bursaries within the **Financial Year**.

Under this sector, we are also working on structure to initiate a **feeding program** in our **EYE centers** which we will roll out, **first on a pilot program next year**, to test its sustainability and effectiveness before we can full go big on it.

7. Waterfronts

Lakefront Development, Ladies and Gentlemen has been another **major preoccupying issue recently**, since I came into government I have been moving from office to office to try and find ways of developing our beaches and lakefronts.

We have since developed partnerships with the **National Government through Kenya Ports Authority and Kenya Railways** to reclaim and start rebuilding our waterfronts and piers. This is progressing well.

This will go a long way in boosting our resolve to make **Homa Bay a tourist destination** even as we wait for **the improvement of the water transport** to enhance communication between us and other major towns within our country and across the national boundaries covered by the lake.

8. National Housing Corporation partnership

Further, through partnership with the national government, through the **National Housing Corporation**, we recently signed an **MoU**, that will see the development of **over 1,500 affordable** housing units in **Homa Bay town**.

I want to urge the locals to prepare to purchase this very easy to acquire homes, in order to ensure this program that the national government is rolling out in various counties around the country doesn't end up benefitting people who do not come from this county.

We have an agreement with NHC, that they should use the opportunity to create jobs for **our local juakali artisans** when this project starts.

Let me reiterate once more, **that my government will cooperate and partner** with the **National Government** and **His Excellency William Samoei Ruto**, to ensure we get as much development as we can from the resources under the national government. The constitution has provided tools for intergovernmental relations, we will also make personal efforts to reach out to ensure development thrives.

9. Climate Change

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As you may have witnessed recently. **My administration's interest** in matters **climate change is on a high**. We live in a world **badly affected** by the rapidly **changing climate positioning**. As a county, we may not be anywhere near major global polluters of the environment, but we must be part of the global order to save the planet by fighting for a cleaner environment.

That is why I recently launched the county climate change governance framework that includes; **Homa Bay County Climate Change Policy, Homa Bay County Climate Change Act, Homa Bay County Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Report**.

We must be ready to work with the rest of the world to mitigate on the losses attributed to the challenges brought by climate change.

Let me thank **Members of the County Assembly and our staff** for working round the corner to ensure we join the world in the race to save the globe.

10. Roads

As we enter the critical stage of my administration going forward. We still have a lot in store for you, as we wait **to unveil the implementation of the CIDP**.

We are planning **a major rehabilitation program for our village roads**, in close working relationship with our county assembly members. We want to repair **at least one major road per ward** and make accessibility possible everywhere.

11. Agriculture

As you all know, **ladies and gentlemen, agriculture is a key pillar of our economy. We are going to work** with our farmers to **help them produce more** so we can make our **county food secure**. Despite the many challenges that our farmers experience in the course of production. Most parts of our county **receive fairly enough rainfall**-good enough to enable **production of sufficient food** for our people.

In **maize farming**, we have at least created **our own market** to encourage our farmers to go **into partial cash-crop production** when they sell to our county owned **Kigoto Maize Milling Plant**. This is an opportunity that we can exploit to enable us to sustain the **millers with locally produced maize**.

A lot of effort is being put into the **revival of cotton farming** in our county even as we work on **the re-establishment** of the **cotton ginnery** that collapsed many years ago. Our potential cotton growing farmers in **Rachuonyo North, Ndhiwa and Suba –Sub counties** are urged to take note of the ongoing activities in the sector, to resume production as we **complete creation of the value addition structures** for their produces, which will allow them market for their cotton.

In general, we will be working with various partners **to support farmers with agricultural inputs** as well as enhanced mechanization as we move forward.

Last but not least, my administration is **urging a friendlier working relationship with the entire leadership in our county**, including the **representatives of the national government** led by the **county commissioner** and all our political leaders.

I want to welcome all my brothers and sisters, with whom we were elected together in the **last General Elections to join** us in supporting development in our county. We also welcome ideas that can make us work and deliver a better County.

Finally let me wish all our **Christian brothers and sisters** in the County and all over the country a **Merry Christmas** and to all the residents a **Happy New Year 2023**.

Thank you and God Bless you all.