



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF HOMA BAY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



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NOTES FOR
H.E. HON. GLADYS NYASUNA WANGA, CBS
GOVERNOR, HOMA BAY COUNTY
DURING THE OFFICIAL OPENING
OF THE 3RD ASSEMBLY OF HOMA-BAY
ON
22 SEPTEMBER 2022

Hon Speaker.

Deputy Speaker

The Clerk of the County Assembly

Hon Members of the County Assembly

H.E the Deputy Governor

1. It is my **great pleasure** to join you today at the **opening of this 3rd Assembly** in the history of our County.
2. I must confess that in deed, **I feel greatly honored** to be here, to address this **Honorable House**, as we open a new chapter in the calendar of the **County Assembly of Homa Bay**.
3. Let me take this opportunity **to most sincerely congratulate all Honorable Members** for your **election** into this assembly. We all understand that getting the endorsement of the people through **elections** or through **party nomination** is no mean task. **Congratulations** for having made it here.
4. **Further**, I want to **singularly congratulate** the **Hon Speaker** and the **Hon Deputy Speaker** for having won the confidence of the **House**, leading to your election as the **3rd Speaker** and probably the **3rd Deputy Speaker** of this **County Assembly**.
5. **Mr. Speaker and Hon. Members**, as we begin the life of a new government in our county. We must all understand the **enormous task** lying ahead of us in this next **five years**.
6. In our constitutional order the **County Government** is made up of the **Executive** and the **County Assembly**, when we succeed we do so together. We are **coming in** as the government that carries **the aspirations** and the **hopes of our people** and this assembly must be an integral part of delivering on this message of hope.

7. I know you **made several development commitments** to your constituents at the **ward level**. I want to assure you, that my government will work with you as much as possible to help you deliver on what you promised our people on the ground.
8. **Mr. Speaker Sir and Hon. Members**, as you are aware the **County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP)** is the basic for our budgetary processes, my administration has embarked on the development of **the 3rd Generation (CIDP)**. Early this week I commissioned a multi-sectoral team bringing together different stakeholders to start work on the plan. The final product will be as **consultative as possible** and **all stakeholders including the public will have time to share their thoughts on its development**. We **will table the CIDP report** in this **House** when we are done with our part.
9. **Mr. Speaker and Hon. Members**, it is just about a month since me and **my Deputy** took oath of office. We are in the process of **forming a new government** that we believe will help us **deliver on our agenda** and enable us to fulfil the promises we made to the **people of Homa Bay**.
10. This House as you know, has an **enormous oversight responsibility** in undertaking **the vetting** of the various persons nominated to hold various offices in the executive.
11. Now that the **Honorable Members** have been duly sworn into office, it is my hope that **this House** will swim into action, to be able to facilitate the **formation of the new government** especially where your input is necessary. It is also my prayer that you will settle down pretty soon.
12. **Mr. Speaker Sir**, as you may be aware, our **County Public Service Board** is not properly constituted. This is an integral organ in our public service management. In the **next few days** we will be seeking the approval of **the House** to enable us set up **a selection panel** to **facilitate the appointment** of the **Chairperson of the County Public Service Board** and **two members of the board**, for it to **midwife critical public service recruitments** expected in the coming days.

13. I am also planning to **forward to the House** for vetting, names of carefully selected **men and women** who will sit in **my government's executive committee, the County Secretary and Chief Officers** to help us deliver on our agenda. We will also table for your approvals a number of critical Bills including the Finance Bill and the PFM regulations.
14. **Mr. Speaker Sir**, even as we wait for the proper formation of the government. **We are already on site**, working to ensure our people get the necessary services expected from government, since there is no vacuum.
15. Recently as you may have heard, **we were forced to take necessary steps, to salvage our treasury and our human resource systems** from suspected violations, in order to mitigate on risks that could have jeopardized the integrity of the government.
16. In the **Human Resource** section, we have ordered a **payroll and personnel census audit**. We will shortly bring on board a qualified HR firm to be able to support the initiative. I urge the **Honorable Members of this Assembly** to support us as we delve into this.
17. As you know, our **revenue mobilization** has been deteriorating over the years. With our country rated among **the poorest in own source** revenue collection. In fact, the situation recently got worse. In **July and August** when we collected very low collections.
18. This was a suspicious trend that triggered a reaction from my office. I want to report to this House **Hon Speaker**, that I have appointed a **Revenue Taskforce** to go out there and find what **is ailing our revenue system** and prescribe a sustainable cure that can help us get back on track.
19. In doing this, **I recently ordered a 15 days' tax holiday** in our county to give us time **to examine the challenges facing the sector** before we can get back to productive revenue mobilization.

20. **Hon Members**, reports indicate that our county has the potential to collect up to KES 1 Billion annually from on source revenue. My government is keen on ensuring we collect enough revenue for ourselves. To enable us to be able to initiate additional development projects. Since as you know, we **only expect minimal allocations from the national government**, that may not be enough to support our development agenda as anchored in our election manifesto because of the many competing interests which are also of high priority.
21. Once we get the **report from the Taskforce**, my government will implement its recommendations. We will also be holding individuals responsible if any is found capable in **the suspected revenue looting** that may have led to the **dismal revenue collection records** in our county.
22. As we move to improve **on our governance**, it has been clear from day one that my government will be **intolerant to impunity** and corruption. This is the only way we can ensure; our people benefit from the **billions that will be trickling** into our county for development.
23. As **a temporary mitigating measure**, I recently made some minor personnel changes in the **Department of Finance and Economic Planning**, a head of a robust policy and government reorganization that I and my team will be putting in place soon.
24. I was **compelled to take action** because of the obvious **financial and accounting gaps**, which **posed risks to the safety of public funds**; that we detected immediately we took over office.
25. **Mr. Speaker Sir**, Over and above some of the issues that I have already talked about. **My government has an elaborate 100-day program** that we are already rolling out even as we wait for everything else to take shape. Let me take **Honorable Members** through some of the programs that are on the table for implementation during this initial stage of my administration.
26. Health being **a key pillar in my agenda**, we have already circulated a huge load of **pharmaceuticals valued at an initial KES 60**

million to our over **200 health facilities across the county**. This, is in line with my promise to ensure we ensure and maintain drug supplies in all public hospitals in the counties.

27. We have embarked on a plan **to change the face of our Referral Hospital here in Homa Bay**. A part from developing a **master plan** that we shall rely on, **for a long-term development plan at the hospital** we will be implementing some key projects to **turn around the facility** and make it a health service provider that can sustain the needs of our people as our own major referral facility as **we move to make health services affordable**.
28. Already we have activated the **renal unit at the hospital** which is now fully operational. We have also set out plans to ensure some of the critical equipment that should be in place are made available. In this regard, we have advertised for the supply of a **CT scan machine** which we hope will be in place within the next few weeks.
29. Indeed, I want to promise **the Honorable Members** and **the people of Homa Bay**, that our health sector is set for a major transformation. Not only at the referral hospital but across the county **in the next five years**.
30. As we move on, **Mr Speaker Sir**, we are also looking at some of the projects that were not **completed by the time the previous administration** was exiting. These includes the **Arujo Animals Feeds Project** and the **Kigoto Milling Plant**. We are already working on the completion of the two projects and we are hopeful they will be commissioned before the end of the year.
31. I know **Mr. Speaker Sir**, that in order to make thing move. **We will be requesting the House to support us** by **allocating** and **appropriating** enough resources to facilitate the roll out many other development programs in our plan going forward. We will soon be requesting the House to appropriate funds through the **supplementary budget** to accommodate some of key the projects we may want to reintroduce within the **Financial Year**.

32. On the **Legislative Agenda**, I will make an elaborate pronouncement on the areas we may need your support in, for us to be able to deliver the promises we made to the people.
33. However, **I am aware that we have some proposed legislations** and policies that may have been **tabled in the House sometimes back** for your deliberations, which **I am requesting Mr. Speaker Sir**, that this house may have time to consider.
34. In focus, is the **Climate Change Bill**, that will be **very critical for the support of policy formulation** intended to open up, the donor engagement plan for related projects and more so the revival of a friendlier ecosystem in our county.
35. We also have a major plan to develop our water fronts. And in so doing 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. Your input in creating necessary legislations would be greatly appreciated.
36. In **conclusion**. It is my hope that my administration and this assembly will work harmoniously with both sides putting focus on their constitutional mandates, to be able to **midwife development to the expectant residents of our county**. We hope to foster a good relationship with you for the sake of development for our people.
37. We hope to adopt a consultative approach as a way of making sure we get everything right and carry everyone on board as we move forward with our agenda.

Thank you.