



REPUBLIC OF KENYA



HOMA BAY COUNTY

THE FIRST (1ST) STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS

H.E GLADYS NYASUNA WANGA, CBS

**GOVERNOR OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF
HOMA BAY**

HOMA BAY COUNTY ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

29Th MARCH 2023

The Speaker of the County Assembly of Homa Bay,

Honorable Members of the County Assembly,

My Honourable Deputy Governor

County Executive Committee Members

Distinguished Guests,

People of the Great County of Homa Bay,

All Protocols Observed.

1. **Mr. Speaker and honourable members**, I have the pleasure and honour to address this **3rd County Assembly** as I deliver my **First State of the County Address** in line with the requirements of the law and as an obligation I personally have for the **people of Homa Bay County**, who bestowed on all of us here collectively, the mandate to lead them to **better lives**.

2. **Mr. Speaker and honourable members**, a wise person once said,
*People with good **intentions** make **promises**,*
*People with good **character**, keep them*

I had **good intentions** for the people of Homa Bay County; and that is why I gave the promises that made them chant '**GENOWA EN DONGRUOK**' everywhere we went, as we sought this mandate. And because I have **good character**; I will continue to work with you **elected leaders**, well-wishers and partners, and our people, to keep the **promises – so help us God**.

3. **Mr. Speaker as I embark** on this humbling legal duty, I note with great satisfaction and appreciation, the critical duty this **County Assembly** has continued to play in facilitating and driving the realization of our mission by **appropriating necessary resources, legislating on critical laws and policies; and by overseeing my Executive**. I convey my gratitude to you **Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members** for your expeditious consideration of my nominees to various offices including Boards.

4. **Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members**, **Our County is in a sound state** with a **resilient citizenry, focused leadership and assured partnerships**. A good indicator on the strength of our County is the revenue collection at **KES 428,613,099** that long surpassed what my predecessor was able to collect annually. With the electoral petition against my win behind us we will scale higher.

5. **Mr. Speaker, allow me to note** that I am delivering this State of the County Address in the midst of **extreme economic, political and social disruptions**. On politics, we hold with high regard, the contributions over the years made to our beloved Country and Continent, by the Right Honourable Raila Amollo Odinga. The devolution and constitutional dispensation we enjoy today are because of his and other people's sacrifices and commitment. This will never be erased in the annals of our history. We support his quest for electoral justice and reduced cost of living.
6. **My Government** remains desirous of accelerating the implementation of our **GENOWA EN DONGRUOK** manifesto as promised through the four-pronged development framework that is Transformation, Innovation, Empowerment and Growth. For this reason I appeal to this Assembly, to continue exercising its mandate, knowing well that we jointly serve a common Client – The Citizens of this great County with **Endless Potential**.
7. **Mr. Speaker**, in delivering this State of the County Address, I will be reporting on measures taken and progress this far achieved, in the realization of the devolved government aspirations of **Articles 174, 175, 186 and 189 of our Constitution** during the last **218 days that we have been in Office**. The **Homa Bay County State of the County Address Act, 2020** requires the address to contain; a report on measures taken and the progress achieved in the realization of the national values referred to in Article 10; a report on the implementation status of the county policies and plans; a report on the performance reports of the county executive committee and public service based on the performance management plan and a report on citizen participation in the affairs of the county government. In my address I will cover all these aspects.

8. Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members In my address I would wish to highlight achievements in each department as follows:-

- a) Public Health and Medical Services
- b) Trade Industrialization Co-operatives and Tourism
- c) Lands Housing Physical Planning and Urban Development
- d) Roads Public Works Transport and Infrastructure
- e) Agriculture and Livestock
- f) Water Sanitation Environment Energy and Climate Change
- g) Blue Economy Fisheries Mining and Digital Economy
- h) Education Human Capital and Vocational Training
- i) Social Protection
- j) Governance
- k) Finance

9. Mr. Speaker and honourable members after my 100 days in office I launched my comprehensive 100 days report that detailed our projects and interventions since assuming office.

A. HEALTH

10. Health is not only the absence of disease but the complete physical, mental and social well-being of a person. We still bear **a high disease burden** in the Country with; Infant mortality rate of 57.5/1000 as compared to the national average of 35.5/1000, under five mortality rate of 92.9/1000, compared to the national average which is 52/1000 and maternal mortality ratio of 516/100000 live births which compares to the national average of 355/100000. We are working hard to change these records.

11. In my manifesto, I promised that my tenure would have health as the anchor of growth and development. In the last seven months, the County's health services have improved tremendously. The County's core health workforce (CHW) is

14.2/10,000 compared to the national average of 15.4/10,000 which translates to a **County Health Workforce Density score of 59%**. This is still below the effective level and we are proposing to introduce locum engagement in our key facilities.

12. To ensure better health services, we have broken ground for the Construction of a four Storey **Accident and Emergency Centre at the Homa Bay County Referral Hospital**. The Centre will accommodate OPD, HDU and specialised clinics and services. We have equipped the laboratory and radiology (**CT-scan**) departments, established a cancer center, increased bed capacity and are procuring 10 ambulances including 1 boat ambulance to improve referral services. The county plans to fully operationalize its blood bank and conduct blood campaigns to increase availability of blood in the county. The county plans to procure 120 immunization fridges for level 2 and 3 facilities. We plan to construct a **Mother Child Hospital** to offer highly specialised services for mothers and children. To give our mothers, the comfortable and modern delivery we **renovated the Maternity wing at the Referral Hospital** and equipped it with modern beds. This renovation will be done in Rachuonyo South and Mbita Sub County Hospitals.

13. The stunting, wasting and underweight rates for Homa Bay County are 21.8%, 4.6% and 8.6% respectively. This means that whereas the acute malnutrition levels are within the normal range, the chronic malnutrition situation is high hence the need for long term interventions to curb the high stunting rates amongst children less than 5 years. The county has a total population of 77429 children (39114 boys and 38315 girls) spread across the 881 ECD centers in the county. The county is planning to initiate **school feeding program** in ECD centers, it's an opportunity to reduce malnutrition in our county. Further we will review and update our **Nutrition Policy**.

14. It is estimated that 15% of Kenyans suffer from mental conditions such as depression, substance abuse, stress and anxiety. Cumulated registered active cases on treatment clinic follow ups in the county referral hospital as at June 2022 is 4407 clients. Identified vulnerable groups include; School children 12 to 21 years, newly diagnosed HIV cases and elderly. The county plans to establish a **comprehensive mental health** clinic at HBCTRH, mental health clinics and 12 wards in major facilities.
15. We are committed to developing a strong structure for facility Improvements by ensuring that revenues from the Health facilities are ploughed back for un-interrupted service. This will be implemented through the **Facility Improvement Fund Bill** which is before this Assembly. Mr. Speaker kindly fast track it.
16. Through the **Ward based program**, we undertook completion, renovation and equipping of dispensaries and health centers (primary health facilities) in wards. We will ensure far flung dispensaries have emergency maternity services to reduce the burden of long distances for mothers during delivery. We have ensured essential drugs are distributed across health facilities on a quarterly basis and stock outs reduced.
17. To strengthen the provision of **Primary Health Care Services**, we recognize community health approach as an effective way for making improvements in health care delivery as well as addressing the heavy burden of disease and therefore contributing to socioeconomic development. We have started paying **2,954 Community Health Workers** a monthly Stipend of Kshs 2000 while Ksh. 500 goes to their NHIF premium. The CHVs will be our first line of response helping to bring integrated health services to household level. Community health services are anchored on the Kenya Community Health Policy, 2020-2030.

B. TRADE INDUSTRIALIZATION CO-OPERATIVES AND TOURISM

18. My government promised to digitize trade licensing, set up a trading fund and construct modern markets in all sub-counties to provide a safe and secure environment for our small-scale traders; and to review the licensing procedure and make it predictable and affordable for MSMEs. In keeping with these promises, we have implemented:-

- **100% cashless market revenue collection system.** We have allocated **Kshs. 210 million** for the **Homa Bay County Trade Fund**. This monies are to act as a revolving fund that will boost the capital base and liquidity of our MSMEs.
- On market development, the County Government has so far **completed the construction of 107 market toilets** thereby improving the hygiene and sanitation conditions in our markets;
- **fenced 20 markets** hence improving the security of traders and their goods within the markets
- **murramed 41 markets** hence improving the trading conditions within the market; and opened 5 market access roads.

The department has **completed the following projects** in collaboration with other development partners:

- Nyakwere Market in collaboration with UNHABITAT;
- Oyugis Market in collaboration with the National Government;
- Mbita Market in collaboration with the National Government;
- Ringa Market in collaboration with NGAAF,
- Magunga Market in collaboration with NGAAF; and
- Homa Bay Municipal Market in collaboration with the World Bank

19. We shall train and build capacity of our traders by **developing business incubation centers** which will enhance their skills to enable them competitively realize the market demands.

These centers will be constructed in all the sub counties in Homa Bay in the financial year 2023/2024. By 2027, we intend to have completed and operationalized 8 business incubation centers.

20. My government committed to **accelerate development of primary, secondary and value addition industries**; implement direct interventions such as county government investment to promote a new industrial revolution; to provide incentives to Homa Bay residents, including those in the diaspora, to invest in the manufacturing sector; dedicate space to promote investments in Special Investment Zones (SIZ) and Special Economic Zones (SEZ); and fast track the establishment of industries that use locally available raw materials and expertise.

- The **Kigoto maize milling** machine house has been completed, the milling machine installed and we are proud that our very own maize flour **Mokwa** is being sold at various retail outlets.
- We have set aside land, 536 acres for the **Special Economic Zone and Industrial Park** and are pursuing the gazettment process. The multi-purpose SEZ will host processing of various value chains including cotton ginning, livestock, fish, sweet potatoes, pineapples, mangoes and nuts produced around the county.
- These projects will directly employ many people in the production processes and create a ready market for the produce thus income generation. My friend says *pesa mfukoni chakula mezani*.

21. I promised to support establishment of **sector-based SACCOs** and to enhance government oversight in the sector and to facilitate the establishment of a central liquidity facility for cooperative financial enterprises. This year we have **registered 9 cooperative societies** including 1 Boda boda sacco, 5 agricultural cooperatives, 3 trader based saccos. We have 20 ongoing registrations. This brings the number of active cooperatives in the County to **149**. We have completed financial and management audits in 20 cooperative societies.

We have 30 ongoing audit activities around the county. These audits ensure compliance with the Cooperatives Act (as amended) 2004, and to eliminate corrupt practices.

- We have **trained 8 cooperative societies** on financial management, leadership, marketing and group dynamics.
- We have sat in **18 cooperative management committee** meetings and advised them on best practices and governance.
- In the coming year we intend to register an additional 30 cooperative societies and revive 8 cooperative societies and carry out random inspections of the cooperative societies.
- In five years, we aim to create a revolving fund of **Kshs. 700 million**.

22. Tourism

On tourism, we committed to use available resources to develop tourism sites, goods and services and connect them to Local and Regional Tourism Circuits; Establish Premium Parks and Heritage Sites e.g development of **Gor Mahia Shrine**; Establish a fully functional Directorate and Develop Lake Recreational Beaches and Jetties; and Provide incentives to investors to build accommodation facilities around **Ruma National Park** and across the County. We have so far;

- Initiated the development of Lake **Simbi Nyaima**. This entails the constitution of a management board, we have registered the land and obtained an LR number, conducted a stakeholders' forum and started the procurement process for Fencing, Construction of an Office, Construction of a 4 door Pit Latrine and one Boda Boda Shade. A Tender Notice for the development of Lake Simbi Nyaima has since been advertised.
- We have organized the **Inaugural Roan Antelope Half Marathon** that is scheduled to take place on the **5th and 6th of May 2023** at Ruma National Park. Moving forward, the Roan Antelope Half marathon will be an annual event. To this end, the County Government has secured a venue by getting an Authority letter

from the Kenya Wildlife Service and partnered with Athletics Kenya (AK). We propose to partner with **KenInvest** in the project.

In the coming financial year, the County Government plans to;

- formulate a **Tourism Policy**
- organize the Homa Bay County **Miss Tourism Beauty Pageant**,
- develop 3 Attraction sites: **Gor Mahia Shrine, Abundu Hot Springs** and to construct a **Library at the Tom Mboya Mausoleum**.

Over the next 5 years, we shall develop Bala Hot Springs, Ondago Swamp, Takawiri Beach front and Mbasia Island Bird Sanctuary. All these activities should lead to increased tourist traffic and provide incentives for investors to construct 4-5star hotels in the County.

C. LANDS, HOUSING, PHYSICAL PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

23. Land is a key factor of production and an enabler for investments. My administration has ensured security of land tenure by processing land ownership for various projects including:

- i) Affordable housing project in Homa Bay Municipality (Phase 1 with 400 Houses was Launched by the President)
- ii) The Fish Market in Homa Bay Municipality
- iii) The Governors Urban Green Park in Homa Bay Municipality
- iv) Proposed Tom Mboya TTC in Rusinga island
- v) Proposed Sports Talent centre in Ndhiwa
- vi) Proposed Cultural Centre in Kagan
- vii) Renewable Energy Centre in Marindi
- viii) Industrial Park and Aggregation Centre in Riwa

We are keen on establishing urban institutions to manage and spur development as per the Urban Areas and Cities Act. In addition to **Homa Bay Municipality**, I established and granted charters to 4 additional municipalities of **Oyugis, Mbita, Kendu Bay and Ndhiwa**.

24. My administration has initiated revision of the **Valuation roll** for Homa Bay Municipality towards effective and efficient management of land as well as enhancing revenue in the lands sector. Further, in an effort to enhance revenue we granted waiver on land rates between the periods of 30th January and 28th February, 2023. We have finished the construction to bitumen standard of road C19 to Tom Mboya Ring Road and Absa bank to St. Pauls' Catholic Church. We are in the process of rehabilitating the Municipal Bus Park and constructing a perimeter fence around Homa Bay Municipal Market.

25. **Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,** to make critical decisions with regard to development, it is important to have data. Practical decisions world over today, are data driven. For this reason, my Government embarked on actualizing a **Geographic Information System** (GIS Lab); a computer system that analyzes and displays geographically referenced information and uses data that is attached to a unique location. Through this system, every decision we make as a government in conjunction with this honourable house on development, will be data driven and demand based giving value for money. In partnership with FAO, we are actualizing this dream that will see Homa Bay County, rank among the top Counties in this Country with such facilities. We anticipate in a months' time, our GIS Lab will be up and running with training of relevant personnel.

D. ROADS, PUBLIC WORKS, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

26. The department has the mandate to support economic growth and development by enabling the smooth flow of goods and services, improving access to essential services and providing the foundation for the development of other sectors. The sector works in close collaboration with the County Assembly Committee responsible

for Roads, Public Works, Transport and Infrastructure to ensure that resources are **equitably allocated across the 40 Wards** in the County. Projects are implemented upholding the procurement procedures and regulations. **The citizenry is involved in the management of the projects through inclusive governance Project Management Committees (PMCs)**. A draft **Roads and Transport Policy** has been developed to operationalize the departmental plans and the Governor's Manifesto on improving and maintaining a road network across the County including access to; sugarcane growing areas, health facilities, schools, landing jetties and beaches, with emphasis of ensuring equitable distribution of county resources. The Public Works directorate develops infrastructural designs and approves building and construction plans.

27. As regards the implementation status of the County policies and plans, the department in the Fiscal Year 2022/2023, has been able to achieve the following;

- a) **Roads** - The directorate was able to tender and award 36 (Thirty-six) projects, where 11 (eleven) were Lots meant to attract Contractors with known capacities and experience and the rest as single projects. These interventions included other works to increase the County's road network. Of the awarded projects, **10 (ten) went to AGPO Women, 6 (six) road projects awarded to AGPO Youth, 4 (four) road projects awarded to PWDs** and 16 (sixteen) road projects awarded to Citizen Contractors. Amongst the projects under implementation, the department identified major drainage structures to be constructed to mitigate inaccessibility in some areas. In response to this, the department is constructing Box culverts including; Kamagak Tweta (Lambwe), Saka (West Kamagak), Oluti and Nyakwere (Wangchieng), Nyakwamba (Kanyadoto) and Kombaka in East Kamagak Ward. The projects spread across the **40 Wards**.
- b) The subsector targets to **open 460km and maintain 640km road network** in the next one year and will have opened an extra

2,340km and maintained 2,560km of road network in the subsequent 4 years. The constructions will have adequate drainage structures, enhanced climate change interventions and cognizant to the needs of Youth, Women and PWDs. The department is focusing on access roads to special facilities within the County such as; **Acakoro Sports Academy in Kanyamwa Kosewe, Homabay cultural centre in Kagan and Riwa Industrial Park in Kibiri.**

c) **Climate change mitigation measures** have been considered where planting of trees has been incorporated in most of the road projects to increase the county forest cover.

28. In the **Transport and Mechanical section**, there exist aging fleet with 1 (one) grader and 2 (two) rollers in good working condition. Even with the paltry stock of equipment, the department has been able to **twenty-five kilometers (25 km) of road network.** The plant, machines and equipment have been used to generate the department's **own source revenue** through hire services. We intend to raise the revenue collection and double the road network opened. In the current ADP, the department plans to expand the **Kabunde runway by 6,250 square metres** to attract international airlines and cargo planes. On water transport, it targets the construction of 3 (three) jetties in the first year and 5 (five) more by the end of the 2023-2027 CIDP. On *bodaboda* transport, 40 (forty) standard shades shall be constructed and boda boda riders trained to improve safety and reduce accidents on our roads.

29. **The Public Works Directorate** provided consultancy services in various facilities such as County Referral Hospital, Sena level 4 hospital in Mfangano, Kabondo Level 4 (Ramula) Hospital, Kigoto maize millers in Gwassi, Arujo animal feeds and Rachuonyo North level 4 hospital among others. It continues to

ensure that all the county infrastructural projects have proper designs and approved plans that will stand the credibility test of time. As of part of revenue streams, the fees charged on designs and plan approvals stand at Ksh. 725,540 for the month of February, 2023 and through collaboration, the directorate is targeting an increase the collection. In the next one year, the Directorate targets to construct 1(one) bus park and 2 (two) more in the subsequent fiscal year. It will construct and maintain 32 (thirty-two) street furniture, approve 600 (six hundred) project plans, acquire one supervisory pick-up and four motor cycles.

- 30. On citizen participation** the public is engaged in;
- i. identification of road projects on priority needs
 - ii. management of road projects through formation and utilization of Projects Management Committees (PMCs) at the Ward levels where each project has its own PMC; with Ward Administrators as the Secretaries and Sub County Administrators having the overall administrative roles.
 - iii. The County government intends to strengthen governance by empowering Administrative units from village to Sub County levels. So far, youths, Women and PWDs have been constructively engaged in the ongoing projects especially in the planting of trees.
 - iv. On future projection the department will focus on; Urban roads incorporating the Non Motorised Transport Systems (NMTS); Restocking the aging fleet of plant, machines and equipment; Delivery of Gor Mahia ring roads through the national government; And collaborate with KAA to deliver an improved Kabunde airstrip as we plan to acquire a new ferry to boost intra-inter-county water transport and construction of new jetties.

E. AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

31. Our county is predominantly rural thus farming and related activities make up the basic fabric of our income and food security, contributing significantly to the overall state of this county in terms of employment, business opportunities, infrastructure and environmental sustainability. 74% of our labor force is engaged in the agriculture. My Government marked the sector as **a master stroke** with focus and commitment on; **food security; modernization of agriculture; climate-smart agriculture and livestock.**

32. Let me highlight some of the achievements of my Government in the Agriculture sector under the Deputy Governors leadership;

1. A majority of our farmers rely on manual labour which is costly, time consuming and makes them loose out on cropping timelines. My Government has mobilized resources for purchase of **10 New tractors complete with implements at a total cost of Ksh 44 Million**; 4 stationed at the county department of Agriculture and 6 with the four Cotton Cooperatives of Kochia, Pala, Lambwe and Homa-Bay Cotton Farmers Union. These will help reduce the cost of land preparation and increase the acreage under crop production, ensure timeliness and efficiency with resultant increase in yields. **20 new tractor operation employment opportunities** have been created.
2. On the use of clean and certified planting materials, my government has partnered with Kenya Seed Company Limited and procured **183 MT of assorted maize and sorghum seeds** for distribution to farmers for guaranteed yields.
 - Already **46 MT** of the seeds have been distributed to all the 40 wards and another **137 MT** will be received soon
 - With this intervention, we expect our maize production to increase by 167,104 (90 Kg) bags from the current 90,000 (90 Kg) bags to 257,104 (90Kg) bags of maize and Sorghum

production to increase by 40,000 bags in the long rain season of 2023.

- **Mr Speaker, for your information, with a population of about 1,231,659 people, our county requires approximately 1,230,427 (90 Kg) bags of maize annually to be food secure.**

3. Adoption of technology and innovation in Agriculture is one way of increasing productivity and efficiency in agricultural production systems. On this end, my administration has procured and distributed various **innovation items to 28 different value chain organizations** with support from ASDSP as follows;

- 8 Motor cycles, 8 cool boxes, 8 cool carrier boxes, 8 deep freezers, 10 digital weighing machines, 2 sorghum milling machines, 8 digital crane weighing scales all at a cost of **Ksh 3.22M.**

4. Chicken is becoming a major value chain in our county. My administration has trained 40 chicken vaccinators, and provided them with 40 cool boxes and assorted vaccines as starter kits to roll out **chicken vaccination program** in the county.

5. Due to climate change, each season has become unique and requires different advisories for value chain actors to make sound decisions. My Government, With Support from Agriculture sector Development Support Program, mobilized key stakeholders and together with my technical team, developed and disseminated **weather advisory for the months of March, April and May**

6. The **National Agricultural and Rural Inclusive Project (NARIGP)** is a project co-funded by the World Bank/ International Development Association (IDA) and the County Government. My Government through NARIGP, has;

- a) Constructed **2 Banana Aggregation centers** and value addition facilities at Matunda Banana Cooperative Society in East Gem ward and Wanyama Multipurpose Cooperative

society in Rusinga Island Ward at a total cost of **Ksh 16, 484,880** to help reduce banana post-harvest losses

b) Constructed **2 cotton aggregation stores** at Magare and Lambwe

c) Constructed **milk aggregation processing centers** at Rangwe, Hosrand, Kasbondo and Ndhiwa dairy cooperatives.

d) Constructed the Kopona-Sombro Dam in North Karachuonyo Ward at a cost of **Ksh 22M**

7. Training and Extension service delivery is key in Agriculture. My administration in collaboration with GIZ-GIAE has developed farmer's guides and extension hand books for sweet potatoes value chains. To support extension service delivery, my administration is in the process of procuring 3 additional motor cycles to facilitate movement of extension staff.

8. My administration recognizes that Agriculture is the greatest causality of climate change and will implement climate smart interventions in Agriculture for sustainable livelihoods.

9. Within the next 1 year, my government will;

- Facilitate vaccination of 435, 750 livestock in the county
- Support Vector control; tse tse fly, fleas and ticks
- Support at least 150,000 farmers with subsidized seeds
- Register more farmers in the fertilizer subsidy program
- Support 4,050 cotton farmers with direct extension services and farm in puts

10. The 2023-2027 CIDP has put in aspirations to be delivered in the agriculture sector as follows:-

- Affordable farm input and agricultural mechanization
- Irrigation and market access and support program
- Livestock improvement and health management
- Postharvest management and support to Horticulture, Cotton, Sunflower, sweet potatoes value chain development

Food security is GENOWA and the real Dongruok.

F. WATER SANITATION ENVIRONMENT ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

33. Water is guaranteed in the Constitution as a basic human right. Counties are obligated through the Water Act (2016) to promote realization of access to clean, safe and adequate water to urban and rural population. SDG goal 6 expects different levels of Government in their plans and programs to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation. **Key Milestones so far:**

1. **Through** a number of initiatives, the County government has increased access to clean and safe water from **26 % to 30% of Urban population by supporting our water service provider Homa Bay Water and Sewerage Company limited (HOMAWASCO)** to realize their mandate. The county government has continued to offer subsidies to HOMAWASCO by meeting a number of her recurrent expenditure.

2. In collaboration with National government through Lake Victoria South Water Works Development Agencies and other development partners including World Vision, USAID Western Kenya Water project, the County Government projects to **increase water production** in both Urban and Rural areas.

3. The county government intends to **enhance water governance** in Urban and Rural areas in partnership with UNICEF and World Vision.

4. We are committed to reduce the distance covered by rural population in accessing water from the current 7kms to 4kms in three years and work towards reducing this further moving into the future through promotion of **last-mile water connectivity** from drilled boreholes and protected springs and establishing **more water pans**.

5. In our **Strategic Focus By end of FY 2022/2023**, we have plans to increase the coverage in the urban to 35% and reduce the walking distance in search for clean and safe water in the rural areas to be achieved through:

- Putting into use the **62 community water projects** already advertised in compliance with public finance management Act 2012, public procurement and Disposal Act 2015 and regulations thereof regarding public participation.
- In partnership with Lake Victoria south water works Agency, The County Government is **extending waste water and sewerage lines** in Homa Bay town and repairing the dilapidated sewerage lines.
- USAID Water project in partnership with the County Government are rehabilitating and **increasing distribution network extensions** to 10 rural water projects: Kanyaluo; Kanyadhiang; Miti Mbili; Kochia/Ngegu; Koderia/Pala; God Agulu; Kosiga/Rangwe; Sindo; Magunga and West Karachuonyo .

As we go about our mandate we encounter challenges that we are committed to address in partnership with various stakeholders:

- Inadequate distribution network and water storage in our urban water supplies such as Makongeni, Got Rabuor and Shauri yako.
- Vandalism of water facilities in rural areas e.g. solar pumps.
- Lack of enough rural water service providers to promote and accelerate access to water for rural population.

34. On Environment we strive to involve our people in all initiatives and activities designed to guarantee a healthy and clean environment. In the CIDP 2023-2027 process, we collected the citizen's priorities for enhancing environmental protection and management: integrated waste management; ecosystems restoration; increased forest and tree cover. To improve waste collection and eliminate indiscriminate waste disposal in towns, **we procured additional fifteen (15) skips and strategically placed them in designated collection points.** This has improved temporal storage of waste before disposal to the designated dumpsites within the County. To change societal attitude

towards waste management and enhance individuals' responsibilities as stipulated in Waste management regulation 2006, we launched **monthly clean up exercises** for our towns and successfully conducted clean up exercises in Homa Bay, Oyugis and Kendu Bay Towns. In partnership with the UN –Habitat, we concluded a **waste survey** to identify source, composition, quantity and disposal mechanism (waste characterization). The survey will inform the development of **a County Integrated Waste Management Policy, Waste Management Strategic plan, and the Waste Management Act** and regulations to enhance efficient waste management. We partnered with Vasterbotten Municipality in Sweden to learn best practices in waste management to enhance our own practices.

To enhance Eco-beautification and green spacing of towns, municipalities and upcoming urban centres, the Government has recently completed development of the **Governor's Park in Homa Bay Town Municipality**. This is the first public green space in Homa Bay which will promote Human dignity due to its aesthetic and recreational value.

The government has established a **county tree nursery with production capacity of approximately 500,000 seedlings** in a year to enhance mass tree planting with an aim of increasing forest cover in Homa Bay County from 3.1 to 5.0 % by 2027. We are committed to the **national tree planting program** in an effort to combat effects of climate change in the county. We participated in the National tree planting launch. The initiative aims to plant 15 billion trees by 2032, with a goal of reducing greenhouse emissions, stop and reverse deforestation, and restore 5.1 million hectares of deforested and degraded landscapes through the African Landscape Restoration Initiative.

35. On Energy our vision is to increase access to power connectivity and enhance use of renewable sources of energy within the County. As an enabler of development, provision of energy services in the CIDP 2023-2027 prioritizes the formulation of the **Renewable Energy Policy**; promotion of clean cooking and lighting technologies in households; and increased connectivity to the national grid. The policy is expected to guide the formulation of the **County Energy Plan (CEP)** in accordance with the Energy Act, 2019. We signed an MOU with the **Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation (REREC)** to deliver last mile grid connectivity including to health facilities. Under the MOU, an **Energy Center** will be developed to serve as a center for learning of best practices on renewable energy.

We have **installed solar powered street lights and flood lights** in a number of market centers including Kodumba, Mirogi, Sikri, Homa Bay Town, Kandiege, Nember Karabok and Juakali grounds in Oyugis. We have also revived street lighting services in Makongeni, Shauri yako, Kapeter and Sofia Estates within Homa Bay Town. This has also been extended to all the main streets of our major towns in the eight Sub-Counties. The county government has already allocated additional Kshs. 500, 000 per ward during this financial year to light markets and procurement for the same will begin soon.

36. On Climate Change the County Government has crafted measures to respond to the climate change threats and put in place climate response actions to ensure a low carbon resilient growth and sustainable development of the County for the current and future generations. In compliance with the National Climate Change Act, 2016, that requires county governments to mainstream climate change actions into their development programmes and governance structures, we formulated the **County Climate Change Policy** and enacted the **Homa Bay County Climate Change Act, 2022**. In implementation of the Act we have set up the Climate Change

Directorate/Unit, the Climate Change Steering Committee, the Climate Change Technical Committee and are in the process of setting up the Ward Climate Change Committees in the 40 Wards. We have instituted the process of setting up the County Climate Change Fund Board to oversee the **Homa Bay County Climate Change Fund**. The formulation of the **County Climate Change Action Plan** is underway with full public participation. To comply with the Climate Change Policy, we have conducted **a climate change risk and vulnerability assessment for the county**. We are engaged in an inclusive process of conducting participatory climate risk assessments in the 40 Wards. The County Government has mainstreamed climate change actions in the CIDP 2023-2027 across all climate relevant sectors. **Climate Change Finance** has been prioritized and will explore carbon trading with the ultimate aim of raising funds for investment in climate change mitigation and adaptation projects.

The County Government has identified development partners on climate action and has entered into cross border partnerships. One such partnership is the twinning **programme between our County and the city of Larache in Morocco** for the design and implementation of climate resilience enhancing projects. This twinning programme is an initiative of the **United Cities and Local Governments Association of Africa (UCLGA) and the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA)**. We sent a proposal to UCLGA and GCA for urban regeneration and green growth projects for the Municipality of Homa Bay intended to develop the Lakefront; design and develop Non-Motorized Transport (NMT); green the major through ways into and out of the municipality; establish an award scheme for youth engaged in environmental protection and climate resilience enhancing activities; and, build a climate resilience hub and nodes in all the 8 Sub-Counties.

On the sustainable urban development, we are developing the **Green Building Guidelines** aimed at providing a central resource to the suite of regulatory and policy tools to support and promote green building design and practices in the County. We have made arrangements with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to support the certification of the affordable housing project in Homa Bay as green under IFC's EDGE Green Building Market Transformation Program. At the COP 27, the Governor, signed up Homa Bay County for the **Nature for Cool Cities Challenge**. This challenge has a target price of five million dollars and involves implementation of nature based solutions to build climate resilience in the five municipalities of Homa Bay, Kendu Bay, Oyugis, Mbita and Ndhiwa.

G. BLUE ECONOMY, FISHERIES, MINING AND DIGITAL ECONOMY

37. The Department has 4 Directorates with the mandates as outlined:

- Directorate of Blue Economy whose focus is on infrastructural development and utilization of water and wetland resources
- Directorate of Fisheries responsible for sustainable management, development, utilization and conservation of the fisheries resources
- Directorate of Digital Economy to oversee digitalization of government operations and establishment of e-commerce infrastructure
- Directorate of Mining which promotes sustainable utilization of mineral resources for socio-economic development

Blue Economy and Fisheries Sector

The Blue Economy is an emerging economic development frontier expected to contribute significantly to vision 2030. It entails sustainable utilization of aquatic resources for economic and social development. In Homa Bay County, the opportunities in the Blue

Economy sphere consist of fisheries, maritime transport, lakefront development, recreational and hospitality facilities. There is opportunity for development of sport fishing which would be associated with tourism leading to establishment of sport fishing clubs along the scenic sites on the lake shore noting **Homa Bay has 79% of the Lake Victoria shoreline in Kenya**. To realize the economic potential of this sector, the County government has prioritized the resuscitation of **Kendu Bay, Homa Bay and Mbita Piers** in partnership with the National Government at a cost of Ksh 600 million.

The lake shore line in Homa Bay County is about 520 kilometres, including the islands. A well developed and regulated inland water transport system is a priority of the Government. As part of the progress, the County Government is at an advanced stage of signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA) and working with the Kenya Coast Guard Services (KCGS).

The Department has developed **Lake Front Development Corporation Bill** that has created **Lake Front Development Corporation** to act as a special purpose vehicle to undertake lakefront development projects on behalf of the people of Homa Bay County and engage investors in the sector. We also have the **Fisheries and Aquaculture Management Bill** that will provide for sustainable development of the sector through regulating fishing boats, fishing gears, enforcement of management plans, aquaculture development, regulating placement of cages and community participation in fishing (BMU) and marketing. Both Bills were approved by the Cabinet and forwarded to the County Assembly for the legislative process. Mr. Speaker I request that you fast track these crucial Bills.

The Government in partnership with Stakeholders and Development Partners supplied **666,000 tilapia fingerlings** valued at **Ksh 6,581,384.50** distributed to 666 fish pond owners. Aquaculture Business Development Programme (ABDP) distributed **416,000 tilapia**

fingerlings valued at Ksh 3,781,384.50 to 412 beneficiary fish farmers and 4 Public Primary Schools. **Victory Farms distributed 250,000 tilapia fingerlings valued at Ksh 2,800,000 to 250** fish pond farmers. This will boost overall production of the 947 beneficiary farmers who have been supported with pond liners and predator kits. For this Financial Year 2022-2023, 91 farmers have produced 10.06 tons of fish valued at Ksh 26,964,628. A total of 480 fish farmers were trained on Aquaculture Business Management. 120 farmers were trained on Fish Handling and Quality Protocols. Under **cage fish farming**, Echo Network Africa supported 4 women groups in Suba North to acquire equipment worth Ksh 4,652,000 to improve their operations. These included wooden boats, outboard engines, solar powered flood lights, fish feeds pelletizing machines and solar powered deep freezers.

To develop the **Blue Economy projects** the Department will purchase a navigation vessel to improve water transport, construct 4 fish landing bandas, construct pit latrines, purchase weighing scales for 100 beaches, establish a modern omena drying facility and establish a fingerling hatchery in Ndhiwa. Decline of fish in Lake Victoria has led to fishermen adopting destructive fishing methods, increase of conflict amongst fishermen, theft of fishing gears, piracy, arrests, loss of income and lowered standard of living. This will be addressed by offering the fishermen an opportunity to engage in cage fish farming, while **enhancing surveillance and patrols** for 16,900 fishermen

To counter post – harvest losses experienced by the fishermen, **fish bandas** will be constructed together with potable water, hygiene will be improved by constructing latrines in the beaches, access roads to beaches will be opened, mini ice plants established, improved omena dryers installed and a fish processing plant constructed targeting 80,000 fish traders, fishermen and youth involved in fisheries. To counter high costs of fish farming inputs, the Department will establish **quality fingerling hatcheries** in each Sub County and

establish **Cottage feed industries**. In collaboration with other State agencies **acquire and formulate quality fish breeds**. There will be distribution of **subsidized fish feed** in the future. This will benefit more than 4,000 pond fish farmers in the County.

To minimize conflict between cage fish farmers and other water users, the Department will conduct **spatial zonation in the lake** and establish aqua-park zones specifically for cage farming which will benefit 100 BMU members to migrate to fish farming

38. On Performance of **Digital Economy Development** Plans the Directorate has **successfully managed to migrate Cabinet meeting to a paperless state** in line with government plans to leverage on ICT in running government operations and enhancing efficiency. The Directorate will formulate an **ICT Policy for Homa Bay County** which will be the legal framework for implementing and developing ICT and Digital Economy to escalate use of ICT. The Department has begun acquiring the **Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems** to automate government services to streamline County government operations by integrating and centralizing information. In implementation of Article 35 on citizen's right to access information, the Directorate intends to put up **5 LED Display Screens in 5 towns** within the County to communicate government projects and programs.

To move in tandem with Global digital transformation, the Department will establish **200 Digital Hubs in 40 Wards** at a cost of Ksh 1 billion to communicate plans of the County Government vide the use of LED Display Screens at strategic points, establish WiFi hotspots and equip Vocational Training Centres with computers and internet all at the cost of Ksh 150 million. 20,000 online business enterprises will be created by youths in the County through capacity building by the Department at a cost of Ksh 110 million.

39. The Directorate of Mining is in the process of developing a comprehensive **Mining Policy and Bill** that will support the mining sector in the County so as to optimize economic benefits accrued from the sector. The Government will **map mineral sites** for ease of identification and planning of exploitation. The Department identified areas where mining is taking place including Kosele around God Nyango, Chuowe, Kobala, and some parts in Rachuonyo. The latest National Geological Survey has revealed that the County has **deposits of coltan mineral** used in the manufacture of mobile phones. There are deposits of **rare earth minerals** that are critical in various industries. The National Government will conduct ground-truthing exercise to establish the quantities and economic viability of these minerals from which point extraction may begin. If successful, this will generate additional revenue to the County Government in several millions in terms of royalty. The Department intends to train 10,000 **artisanal miners on the best mining practices**, which will mitigate and minimize incidences of mining accidents. At the same time the Directorate will ensure compliance with the regulations and track royalties due to the county government for the next 5 years.

H. EDUCATION, HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

40. The department comprises of three sections; Early Years Education, Human Capital Development and Vocational Training.

Bursary Fund

The department planned to disburse a total of Kshs 110,000,000 bursary fund to 22,000 beneficiaries across the county. We have so far disbursed **Kshs 103,085,000** to **20,617 beneficiaries**. The funds were aimed at supporting students from low-income families to access education with the identification of beneficiaries done at Ward and

Village Levels. The disbursement process was done in a transparent manner, and all eligible students received their allocated funds. This well received process has helped to reduce the burden on parents.

41. On Scholarship Fund the department planned to disburse a total of Kshs 30,000,000 to 300 beneficiaries across the county and has so far **disbursed Kshs 22,960,000 to 287 beneficiaries**. The scholarships were awarded based on merit and were aimed at encouraging academic excellence. The beneficiaries were carefully selected from each Ward, and the award process done in a transparent manner.

42. On Grant Capitation to Vocational Training Centers (VTCs) the department has disbursed a total of **Kshs. 5,172,208.25 to 34 Vocational Training Centers** in the county. This is aimed at improving the quality of technical training in the vocational training centers by purchasing instruction and training materials, tools, equipment as well as aid in general operations of the VTCs. My Government will soon introduce before this house, **a policy framework aimed at developing a model VTC in each of our Sub Counties**. This will see them fully equipped with modern relevant training material and make them attractive to trainees, thus increasing the number of technically sound youth in the society who can be self-employed.

43. On Ward-Based Projects for EYE classrooms the department has initiated the process of construction of **37 EYE classrooms** across the county because of the poor conditions of infrastructure in the EYE centers. So far, the projects have been advertised, bidding done and we are at the evaluation stage to award the tenders to qualified contractors and flag off construction. Suffice to note that there is an **ongoing court case by ECDE Teachers** regarding the SRC salary scales. My administration continues to engage with all partners on pertinent matters. Dialogue is the way to address such matters. Infact if I could deviate for a minute to national matters, this is the call – **Dialogue**. We have to talk to each other not at cross purposes.

44. On Draft School Feeding Program Policy the department has developed a **draft policy** aimed at improving the nutrition status of learners in all public EYE centers in the county. The policy is under review and is expected to be implemented after the cabinet and the assembly approvals. We have set aside funds in the budget for the roll out of the EYE school feeding programme and are working to get a partner to support us with matching funds. **On Teaching and Learning Materials for EYE centers** to ensure quality training in our EYE centres, the department has initiated the process of **procurement of teaching and learning materials at an approved budget of Kshs 4 million.**

45. On Drama Festivals the department has organized for pupils to go for the annual drama festivals. During such festivals, learners participate up to national levels and in this year's festival, our learners are at the County level with various sub counties represented. The drama festivals are aimed at promoting the cultural diversity of our county and showcasing the talent of learners in various schools. The festival is well-planned with support of the current administration.

46. On Distribution of Chairs & Tables through good collaboration with our development partners (Vestergaard) to improve the learning conditions the department has been able to distribute in consultation with the schools 140 chairs, 28 tables and 1 Tank as follows:-

- a. Adegga EYE center in Rachuonyo East
- b. Maguti EYE center in Rachuonyo North East
- c. Nyandiwa EYE center in Rachuonyo South East
- d. Aoch Muga EYE center in Rangwe East
- e. Manga EYE center in Homabay East
- f. Wiga EYE center in Suba South East
- g. Utajo EYE center in Suba North East
- h. Ralang EYE center in Ndhiwa East (including 1 water Tank)

I. SOCIAL PROTECTION

47. Social Protection, Culture and Recreation Sector comprises all sections under the County Department of Gender Equality and Inclusivity, Youth, Sports, Talent Development, Cultural Heritage and Social Services. The sector plays a strategic role in empowerment of communities and vulnerable groups, safeguarding rights of children and the elderly and nurturance of diverse cultures, arts and sports to enhance county cohesiveness and competitiveness. The sector envisions a sustainable, equitable and socio-culturally developed county with a vibrant and globally competitive sports, culture and creative industry. The department exists to formulate, mainstream and implement responsive policies towards the realization of resilient, equitable and informed communities enriched with vibrant and globally competitive sports, culture, heritage and the arts.

The Genowa manifesto aims to empower women, youth and persons living with disability harnessing their cultural potential with focus on;

- 1. Strengthening the coordination environment for implementation of Gender, Youth, PWDs, Cultural and Sport Policies.**
- 2. Promotion, Identification and Naturing of talents, development of sports and sports facilities**
- 3. Integrated community empowerment**
- 4. Mainstreaming of gender and social protection issues in planning, budgeting and implementation of program.**
- 5. Development and promotion of cultural and creative industry**
- 6. Provision of safe spaces for vulnerable persons and victims of abuse**

Mr. Speaker and Honorable Members, am delighted to highlight some of the achievements in this sector;

1. The department has embraced multi-sectoral approach to strengthen a coordinated environment for implementing social services programs i.e. by Mainstreaming Gender programs in all the sectoral development programs. With support of our development partners, we have mobilized resources, Developed and Launched the **Homa Bay SGBV Policy 2023** to address the rise of sexual gender base violence in the County and one of the measures to curb the rise on teen Pregnancy. We are preparing a **Teenage Pregnancy Prevention and Eradication Policy for Homa Bay County**.
2. On matters youth, we are dicussing a **Youth Policy and Bill** that shall aid us in budgeting and planning of Youth programs within the County by forming a **Homa Bay County Youth Technical Working Group** by the close of Financial Year 2022/2023.
3. On talent development the department is the process of training youths with necessary skills to help them commercialize their talents into gainful ventures, it's on this background **honorable members** we did commit;
 - 25 million to roll out a county wide tournament across the 40 Wards dubbed **GENOWA GOVERNOR'S CUP TOURNAMENT**.
 - To develop sport infrastructure, we have overseen the construction of **HOMA BAY COUNTY STADIUM** up to 90% construction completion with an allocation in the Supplementary budget 2022/2023 of **Ksh. 111,121,334** for completion of phase 1 with absorption of Ksh. 57,344,674 million.
 - We have partnered with Acakoro Academy under Public private partnership to develop A Football academy that will include 4 football pitches; One Primary and Secondary School within Kanyamwa Kosewe ward. As a government our commitment towards the partnership is to ensure that we provide: 1. Access Road to the facilities, 2. Electricity 3. Drilling of bore hole to the facility and 4. Approval of land leasing.
 - Represented the County in Kenya-intercounty sports and cultural association (KIKOSKA) in Kisumu County Costing 10 million.

48. The 2023-2027 CIDP has put in place an elaborate program:-

a) Establishment of **Women Economic Empowerment Policy and Fund**

for poverty reduction, wealth creation and widows' empowerment

b) Dissemination and implementation of the **Disability Mainstreaming policy** with full implementation of the **County Disability Act**

c) Establish **women for women movement business mentorship**

d) Establish girls support programs by transforming "MAMA COUNTY SAY'S PROGRAM" to **Governors mentorship Program.**

e) Develop **Child Welfare and Protection policy** and Children safe spaces and Parks.

f) Provide **paid internship opportunities** for university graduates/tertiary colleges annually to gain the experience necessary for the job market

Mr. Speaker, on this note as a government we hosted the inaugural summit of the **GOVERNORS MENTORSHIP PROGRAM** in Asumbi on 24TH March 2023 with 5,000 students majority girls but with some boys too. We used the opportunity to plant trees and launch a competition.

49. On Development and promotion of culture creative industry is important for development of the creative economy emphasizing:

- Establishment of cultural festivals and industries to market youth talents especially in performing arts and story writing
- Create partnerships with the Kenya Film Commission, private sector and the National Museums of Kenya, UNESCO, Kenya tourism Board, UNEP and other strategic agencies
- Participation in exchange programs with other county, national and international agencies
- Establishment of county museums
- Engagement of traditional herbalists in the promotion of alternative medicine

- Establishment of cultural and heritage promotion centers especially for theatre artists and traditional musicians.
- We have identified a site for Proposed Construction of multiplex cultural center at Ndiru Kagan to be christened “**HOMABAY COUNTY CULTURAL CENTRE**” with an allocation of Kshs. 8 million in the Supplementary 2022/2023 for the development. The land was acquired and public participation done as required by law.

J. GOVERNANCE

50. Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members I have created a new department of Governance Administration Communication and Devolution that has embarked on the following:-

1. Creation of **people centered governance system** by establishment of citizen engagement structures promoting peoples dignity and putting public interest first similar to the **Makueni Model**.
2. Supporting **citizen participation in policy making** and implementation of inclusive governance at the village level.
3. Driving and providing leadership in **development of CIDP 2023 – 2027** document through citizen engagement in taking the views from village cluster level and validation at the ward level.
4. Development of Project Management Committees and formulation of guidelines for projects and induction module for road ward based projects PMCs, to understand the project scope.
6. Official handover of projects to contractors in the presence of PMCs
7. Public participation for the bursary and scholarship (Fins to Swim).
8. Implementation of the Homa Bay County Inspectorate Act to enhance enforcement of laws at the County.

My Government will introduce the **Public Participation Bill** to anchor the makueni model in the law and provide for the village clusters and village administrators. This Bill will also support budgeting for public participation forums in the wards and sub-counties.

To ensure optimum service delivery to our people in strict adherence to the provisions of the law, Human Resource Management is critical. We embarked on fully constituting the **County's Public Service Board**. I have to reiterate with gratitude, the role played by this Assembly, in expeditiously and meticulously vetting the nominees we send for the position of membership to the Board, and approving on merit those who met the threshold. The Members have since been sworn in and taken office together with the **Revenue Board Members**.

May I report that we inherited a huge wage bill. One that would not allow us to put emphasis on development due to constraints of funds. My Government thus professionally engaged a reputable **Human Resource Management firm – PriceWater House Coopers (PWC)** to conduct a thorough staff audit among the county Employees. Upon completion of the Audit, we will be able to have value for money, on what we spend on staff wage bill. We will have staff engaged in their rightful positions giving value to the citizens of Homa Bay; qualified and deserving staff in our payroll accounting for every coin that is spent on remuneration of our staff. **Mr. Speaker, it is in the Bible that people should earn where they work by working!**

K. FINANCE

51. Mr. Speaker and honourable members as I move towards conclusion let me talk about our Finance Department that has achieved a lot in **streamlining our finance management processes** and **enhancing our own source revenue through cashless revenue collection**. We have now institutionalized the monthly **Revenue Roundtable** and would wish to extend an invitation to join us in the next one. We aim to raise Kshs. 1 Billion in own source revenue in this financial year. We have tripled our levels of revenue yield. We have so far collected **KES 428,613,099** Own Source Revenue for the last

three quarters ending last week since 5th October 2022 when we resumed taxation. With your support through legislation, we have established **Revenue Board** which is expected to streamline and enhance our revenue management activities once fully operational.

52. We appeared before the **Senate Public Accounts Committee** where we responded to queries raised by the Auditor General in the Audit Report for the Financial Year 2019/2020. To deal with the heavy pending bills we inherited I have established a **Pending Bills and Assets Verification Task Force**. The Committee challenged the Assembly to also clear the review of the audit reports. I am ready to engage in these oversight processes with my county executive committee members. Together we can make **Homa Bay County a model for governance and public finance management.**

CONCLUSION

53. Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members let me end on the note of all of us working together to make Homa Bay County a model county for benchmarking on many fronts. We are on the right trajectory. With God on our side, working together we will achieve a lot. We will make Homa Bay County No.1!

God Bless Kenya, God Bless Homa Bay – the County of Endless Potential.

Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir and Honourable Members.