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**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

**COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF HOMA BAY**

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**



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## **H.E Hon. Gladys A. Wanga, Governor Homa Bay County Speech Delivered at the**

**60<sup>th</sup> Mashujaa Day Celebrations**

**20<sup>th</sup> October, 2023**

**The County Commissioner,  
Deputy Governor,  
The Speaker,  
County Executive Committee Members,  
The Clerk,  
Our Honorable Members of the County Assembly,  
Great Citizens of Homa Bay County,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Today marks an extremely significant day as we gather here to pay tribute to the remarkable heroes and heroines who have left an everlasting impact on both our county and our nation.

This year's Mashujaa Day theme focuses on Universal Health Care, and there is no better time to address one of the three historical challenges:

Disease, Poverty, and Ignorance, also known as 'Ugonjwa, Umasikini na Ujinga', as pointed out by my party leader Rt. Hon. Raila Amollo Odinga.

Today is a celebration of individuals who have selflessly dedicated their lives to the advancement of Homa Bay and Kenya as a whole. As your Governor, I am proud to be a part of a community that has produced its fair share of heroes and continues to contribute to the growth and prosperity of our county.

Mashujaa Day is not just a date on the calendar; it is a day of reflection, gratitude, and inspiration. It is a day when we pause to remember the sacrifices and bravery of those who fought for our freedom, stood up for justice, and worked tirelessly to improve the lives

of our people. Their unwavering commitment to our shared ideals has shaped the history of our county and our nation.

As we gather here to commemorate this significant day, let us not only honor our past heroes such as Tom Mboya, Phoebe Asiyu, Ramogi, Gor Obunga Mahia, and many others, but also look towards the future with hope and determination as we strive to make a positive impact in our county.

Heroism is not limited to the past; it exists in the present embodied by ordinary Kenyans who make extraordinary differences in the lives of others. These unsung heroes include the teachers who inspire our youth, the healthcare workers who treat and care for the sick, the farmers who feed our families (and here in Kabondo Kasipul, we have our farmers who feed the county and beyond with the best sweet

potatoes), and the countless individuals who contribute to the progress of our county.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Universal Health Coverage has been a central focus of my administration. Our main priority is to improve primary healthcare and community health services. Through partnerships with stakeholders, we aim to establish Primary Care Networks (PCNs) to ensure 100% coverage by 2024. Additionally, we are working towards incorporating indigents into the NHIF scheme.

We must not forget the challenges that we face as a county – the Triple Threats of HIV infections, teenage pregnancies, and gender-based violence. Alongside other women leaders, we are championing the

Homa Bay Triple Threat and Triple Elimination Initiative, with the goal of reducing these three threats by 75% by 2027. With heroes like you in our homes, the medical field, and as partners, mothers, and fathers, I believe we are on track to achieving this.

In the past year, we have renovated and fully equipped our county referral hospital, as well as upgraded five sub-county health facilities and maternities. These efforts have led to increased access to healthcare, resulting in a 56% rise in patient numbers and a significant increase in revenue. We anticipate these numbers to double or even triple in the future months and years ahead

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

In a world filled with challenges and uncertainties, we must continue to draw strength from our heroes, both past and present. Their resilience, courage, and unity have shown us the way through times of adversity. Their sacrifices remind us that we must remain steadfast in safeguarding our achievements and addressing the challenges that still lie before us.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

As we celebrate our heroes and heroines, I implore each and every one of us to uphold the values of integrity, inclusivity, and empathy that our Mashujaa cherished.

Let us seize this opportunity to renew our commitment to the pursuit of peace, unity, and progress. The sacrifices of our heroes should inspire us to work towards a future brimming with endless potential, where their dreams of a prosperous and harmonious Homa Bay become a stunning reality.

In conclusion, Mashujaa Day is a day to remember, celebrate, and envision a brighter future. It is a day for us to honor the heroes and heroines of our county and our nation and to aspire to be heroes in our own right. Let us cherish our rich history, celebrate our unique culture, and recommit ourselves to the shared goal of a better Homa Bay County for all.

I wish you all a joyous Mashujaa Day!

Thank you and May God bless you and Bless Homa Bay County. The County of Endless Potential and Mashujaa!