



REPUBLIC OF KENYA



HOMA BAY COUNTY

## ADDRESS TO THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY

**H.E GLADYS NYASUNA WANGA CBS, EGH**  
GOVERNOR OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF HOMA BAY

**COUNTY ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS**

**9<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2024**

**COUNTY**  
**2024**



**The Honourable Speaker of the County Assembly;**

**The Honourable Majority Leader of the County Assembly;**

**Honourable Members of the County Assembly;**

**H.E the Deputy Governor, in the Gallery;**

**County Executive Committee Members in the Gallery as well;**

**Distinguished Guests;**

**People of the Great County of Homa Bay;**

**All Protocols Observed.**



## Honourable Speaker and Members of the County Assembly,

1. It is my great pleasure to address this Assembly for the second time since my assumption of office as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Governor of Homa Bay County. This **State of the County Address** comes at a very difficult and trying moment for us as a County, and as a Nation generally, in view of the floods and increased rainfall that we are experiencing. Apart from the lives that the floods have claimed in Sindo, our roads infrastructure, shelter, farms and economic mainstays have not been spared either. **Mr. Speaker**, as of today morning, I want to report that 7 of our 9 Sub Counties have been adversely affected. **4,506 households with 22,530 individuals**, hundreds of acres of land with crops, livestock and property have been swept away. We appeal to well-wishers to assist the affected households and call on the **National Government to release the Disaster and Emergency Funds** for mitigation measures. **Please allow me to request us to be upstanding for a minute**, in honour of the 4 people that we lost in Sindo and the hundreds of others whose precious lives have been snatched from us by the raging floods. THANK YOU



2. **Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members**, despite these challenges the State of the County is strong and our people remain resilient and hopeful. In my 1st State of the County Address, I detailed the measures my Government had taken in **cutting a break with the past** and adopting new ways of delivering services and development to the 40 Wards in the County as we implement our **Genowa Manifesto** and **the transformational development agenda**. The theme of my address is **Unveiling the Transformation: Homa Bay's Journey to Endless Potential**.
3. Nearly two years on, we have found our footing and I am sure as we sit here today, our major concern is our mid-term report card. **In line with the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 that makes us two sides of the same coin**; as the two arms of government, the Executive and Legislature, I want to appreciate the fact that we have created good opportunities for engagement and this has accelerated development for the people of Homa Bay.



We must reconcile ourselves to the fact that we shall be judged as one; there will be no them and us, only US - **the elected leaders of Homa Bay. We will succeed together!**

4. For Devolution to work, we must remain vigilant and remember the many years struggle for equitable distribution of resources. To this we owe **Rt. Honourable Raila Amolo Odinga**, the **Father of Devolution**, and our sons like **Dr. Odhiambo Mbai** who paid the ultimate price. We now have health facilities in far flung areas, access roads that were hitherto impassable, connection to villages that struggled to access markets.
5. **Allow me to thank you Honourable Members of this 3<sup>rd</sup> Assembly.** I applaud your immense contributions in supporting my administration by **enacting timely legislation, appropriating resources and oversight** of my executive team. Because of you, Homa Bay now sits comfortably **among the top performing counties in the Country.** I promised that Homa Bay would be looked at from the top.

I thank the Deputy Governor for his unwavering support and the County Executive Team. I thank our Senator for lobbying for additional funds for the County. I thank our MPs for their cooperation and support.

6. **Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members**, to spur economic growth and create jobs for our youth, early this year, we put Homa Bay on the World Map with a successful **2<sup>nd</sup> Homa Bay International Investment Conference**. We were honoured at the opening of the Conference by the distinguished presence of **His Excellency the President Dr William Samoei Ruto, CGH** and are elated by his issuance of two certificates; **one delineating the Riwa Special Economic Zone**; and **another to Victory Farms Limited as an anchor investor** in the SEZ. On the second day, **the Rt. Honourable Raila Amolo Odinga** graced our event and enjoyed an evening session with the County Leaders at the **Lakefront**. This great event, the first for the 3rd phase of county governments, showed us that there are many people supporting us including **our Diaspora**.



I wish to make special mention of the diplomatic community led by **Her Excellency Meg Whitman**, the Ambassador of the United States, the delegation of the European Union to Kenya and the United Kingdom High Commissioner to Kenya for rooting for us at every opportunity.

7. Following this successful expo, we have prioritized our bankable value chains and investment opportunities resulting in the signing of **Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) estimated at Kshs. 17.3 Billion**. When these partnerships are realized, we will improve the livelihoods of our people and elevate us to a **producer county status**.

**The MoUs signed include:**

- a) **Oil Palm Production with Afropal Limited;**
- b) **Solid Waste Management with Australian based Arch Ento Tech;**
- c) **The construction of a 50-bed capacity Mother and Child Hospital with Yazmark International;**

- d) The Cotton value chain project with Rift Valley Products Limited which will see us develop a cotton ginnery;
  - e) The Manda University project that will see the County become a center of training in health and physical sciences;
  - f) The Housing Sector improvement project with Fairdeal Real Estate;
  - g) The Renewable Energy project with Reddington;
  - h) The Sweet Potato Pellets project with the Trans Sahara Investment;
  - i) The Livestock Value Addition Project with Tunasco.
8. I wish to further report that the **Trade Department** has initiated the development and construction of the **County Aggregation and Industrial Park (CAIP)** at **Riwa in Karachuonyo**, in collaboration with the National Government through an Intergovernmental Partnership Agreement at a cost of Kshs. 500 million.



This Assembly appropriated our share of Kshs. 250 million for the Project while the National Treasury will contribute its share. **I thank you, Honourable Members for supporting Riwa SEZ and the CAIP.**

9. In order to promote Homa Bay as a tourist & wildlife destination, we organized the first **Roan Antelope Half Marathon** which will be an annual event. This aims at conservation efforts for the rare Roan Antelope species found only in **Ruma National Park** in Kenya. The second marathon is scheduled for **12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> July 2024** and **I invite you, Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members to take part** in the 21Km Race and for those less-fit to take the 10Km race. **I invite the people of Homa Bay and other Kenyans to participate in the Marathon.**
10. **Mr. Speaker Sir**, one of the greatest challenges of devolution remains the vertical shareable revenue that does not match the devolved functions.

Together with the **Lake Region Economic Bloc** Counties we are following development of the **4<sup>th</sup> Generation Revenue Sharing Formula**. With our **Finance Department**, we have strived to increase our Own Source Revenue without burdening citizens. **As at 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024 we had collected more than Kshs. 1 Billion reflective of a 95% increment**. This has been enhanced by the accountability measures we have introduced monitoring Revenue management. While challenges remain we are committed to continued growth of our Own Source Revenue.

11. Our spending is guided by the **County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2023-2027**, which was approved by this Assembly. It outlines our development agenda and priorities for the next five years. This plan is the product of a public participation framework which my administration adopted not just to fulfill the Constitutional requirements for the budget and planning process but as an ongoing program so that both the Executive and the Legislature



can engage with the electorate closely, enabling us to be more responsive to the people who put us in office. We have a **'people centered development model' starting with the village clusters. Allow me to thank the Assembly** for anchoring this public participation model in the **Homa Bay County Education Bursary and Scholarship Fund Act, 2024**. The Bursary, **Fins to Swim Scholarship and Fundi Mang'ula** have been well received by our people.

At this point, allow me **Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members**, to report to the people of this great County, that we have since received a comprehensive report from the **Pending Bills, Lands and County Assets Verification Task Force** on the status of the eligible pending bills prior to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 which stand at **Kes. 825,461,833**. Another **Kes. 1,083,043,815** was declared ineligible by the Taskforce. All affected suppliers and contractors have been allowed to appeal and will get fair, legal and just consideration. May I assure those whose bills were adjudged eligible, that we remain committed to paying them as soon as funds become available.



**12. Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members,** I will outline the achievements of the Departments in the following order:-

- 1. Trade, Investments and Tourism that I started with;**
- 2. Finance and Economic Planning where I have explained OSR;**
- 3. Roads and Infrastructure**
- 4. Health and Medical Services**
- 5. Lands and Urban Development**
- 6. Water, Environment and Climate Change**
- 7. Agriculture and Livestock**
- 8. Governance and Administration**
- 9. Blue Economy, the Lakefront and Mining**
- 10. Education and Human Capital**
- 11. Youth, Sports, Gender and Social Services**
- 12. CS and Public Service**
- 13. County Attorney and Legislative Matters**



13. In the last one and a half years, in our **Roads Department**, we have made tremendous progress in the infrastructure sub-sector development by opening up **255 kilometers of new roads** in the entire County with **320 kilometers of new roads under the ward-based program in the current FY 2023/24**. We undertook **maintenance of 580 kilometers of county roads and construction of three-foot bridges and Abura bridge**. Today, citizens of Gwasi North Ward in Suba South Sub County, can move with ease from Kijebi through Obanga to Kitawa Villages, hitherto inaccessible areas. The same applies to people of Gwasi South who now move from Kigwa through Kumbatha to Nyamadede with ease. My administration has been able to deliver many such virgin road construction ventures across the county.
14. **Mr. Speaker Sir, health remains a key priority area** for my government and my commitment to improve our health system and make it affordable, accessible and reliable remains on course as we endeavour to build a county of healthy citizens raising our life expectancy to 70 years.



With our **Health Department**, on healthcare provision, we have prioritized infrastructure, community health services, preventative and curative health care provisions as our guiding principles with an intentional focus on maternal care with specific programs aimed at cushioning our mothers and children. Our community health services are anchored on the **Kenya Community Health Policy, 2020-2030**, with a goal of enhancing community access to healthcare to improve productivity through promotive, preventive and rehabilitative services. In order to achieve this, **261 CHAs/CHOs and 2,954 CHPs have been trained on electronic community health information system (eCHIS)**. 2,954 CHPs have been issued with phones and are currently reporting electronically. The National Government is co-funding the CHPs stipend. **I thank the Assembly for appropriating resources towards paying a stipend and insurance for our 2,954 CHVs.**

- 15. Health information** is one of the building blocks for the health sector. A strong information system is necessary for a functional health system.



We have prioritized reporting for all health services, data quality, and use of information for decision making and sharing of information with stakeholders. **Digitization of the health care system** is in progress and we have started with the HIV services that have since gone paperless with our comprehensive care centers embracing the Kenya EMR. This process is being extended to other service areas and soon we shall pilot **two health facilities** for paperless provision of all health care services.

- 16. Quality of care for TB patients** has steadily improved with Treatment Success Rate (TSR) on upward trajectory from 93% to 95%. We have **significantly reduced TB mortality from 7% to 4%** and marginally curbed defaulter rate from 2% to less than 1%. **We were ranked the best performing County in TB control nationally.** We have renovated, improved and built a cumulative number of **61 health facilities. Soklo;** from a low of 2 deliveries a month to a high of 9 per month after the opening of the new OPD and Maternity. **Rachuonyo East** Sub County Hospital; From a low of 30 delivers a month to a high of 65 per month with 8 Caesarean Sections in Nov 2023. **Ndhiwa;** From a low of 113 deliveries to a high of 209 with 34 CSs.



17. As **Malaria remains our second cause of morbidity** and a leading cause of mortality in the county, the county in collaboration with the **National Malaria Control Program** and other partners have implemented various strategies to mitigate the threat including mass net distribution in November 2023 to **246,353 households**. Malaria surveillance has incorporated training of health care workers on field epidemiology and community case management championed by our CHPs thus reduced our prevalence to 3%. Our efforts have received national attention as covered in **the Newspaper Article of 24th April, 2024 “How Homa Bay County is winning the war against deadly malaria”**. This was a lead story in the Daily Nation.
  
18. We laid emphasis on preventive and promotive health services resulting in six sub-counties being declared **open defecation free (ODF) areas**. To maintain the achievements in health promotion, we strengthened our disease surveillance system by training sub county teams on rapid response.



The improvements at the County Referral Hospital led to its elevation to **Level 5**. We are making progress on **construction of the Accident and Emergency Wing and the Mortuary**. We are also making plans for **Nyangoro Cancer Centre**. Suffice to note that we have so far done facility improvements in **Sena, Ramula and Ndhiwa** Level 4 Hospitals. **I thank the Assembly for the Health Facilities Fund Act that is being operationalized.**

19. **Mr. Speaker Sir**, through the **Lands and Urban Development Department**, my administration is working with the State Department for Urban Development to construct an **ultra-modern fish market in Homa Bay** and other markets at **Sindo** in Suba South, **Lwanda Nyamasare** in Suba North, **Ndhiwa** in Ndhiwa Sub County, **Rodi Kopany** in Homa Bay town sub county, **Kendu Bay** in Rachuonyo North sub county and **Misambi** in Rachuonyo East sub county. These projects, are aimed at improving market infrastructure and bolstering the local economy.



20. **Mr. Speaker Sir**, in collaboration with the National Housing Corporation (NHC), my administration is implementing the construction of 110 **affordable housing units** under Phase One of the project in Homa Bay Town. This project has empowered our local economy by employing youths, vulnerable groups, women and People with Disability (PWD). The project has provided our **local artisans** famed for their skills, with a platform to fabricate and supply windows and doors used in the affordable housing project, living to our promise of ***pesa mfukoni***.
21. **Mr. Speaker Sir**, we recently launched the **Kenya Informal Settlement Improvement Project 2 (KISIP2) at a budget of Kshs. 1.5 Billion** aimed at improving access to basic services and tenure security of residents in participating urban informal settlements and strengthening institutional capacity for upgrading of our informal settlements. This will be implemented in **Kijijini in Kendu Bay Old Town, Shauri Yako, Sofia, Makongeni, A thousand streets, Rusinga Old town, and Nyandiwa settlements**. The upgrading includes construction of roads, footpaths, storm water drainage, street lighting, water and sanitation.



**22. Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members,** climate change is a reality that we have to face. My government is committed to supporting national endeavors towards achieving the state obligations in managing the raging impact of climate change is on course. With our **Water, Environment and Climate Change Department,** we have done our best as a county to fulfill the requirements for consideration in the **financing locally-led climate action- FloCCA program.** Early this year, we launched the **County Climate Change Information Center** that has now been operationalized and has proved instrumental in providing our citizens with relevant information ranging from weather to disaster preparedness and awareness, especially those that touch on the impact of climate change. We have completed the **Homa-Bay County Climate Change Action Plan 2023-2027 and put in place a County Climate Change Grievance Redress System.**

We have planted **280,000** tree seedlings and will plant **100,000** during the **holiday tomorrow.**



23. As they say, **water is life**, to fulfill my administration's mandate of ensuring the people of Homa-Bay County have ready access to adequate safe water, I am committed to plans to **increase access to clean and safe water to residents of Homa Bay to 50% by the end of our term**, reduce the walking distance to water points to less than 1km and to increase the sanitation coverage to 60% in urban areas and 40% in rural areas.

In actual fact, this is work in progress and courtesy of the water reticulation rehabilitation rapid result initiative by **HOMAWASCO**, we launched a water pipeline extension to **Makongeni, Rang'wena and KaPeter areas** that had never had water supply for the last 11 years since the old Municipal Council. To paraphrase **Min Owino**, a 73 year old resident of Makongeni at Tie Othoo area...**"Nyar Wang'aya, itimonwa hono, pok waneno pii ka higni 11 sani..."**. And Min Owino is not alone. Across all the 40 Wards, the story of relief in many places because of available water is retold;



**Minyere Community Water Project** in Kanyikela Ward, **Othoro Water Project** in Kabondo Kasipul and many others. In the last financial year 2022/23, we contracted **71 water projects, 59** of which have been drilled and equipped on solar and are fully functional. By the end of this financial year 2023/24 we will have contracted 82 water projects across all the 40 Wards. We are on course to attain our goal – ensure **nobody travels more than 1 Km to access clean safe water**. In the water project we have undertaken, we have connected 15 km in Homa Bay Town, 12Km in Oyugis and 10 km to cover mawego Girls and Mawego National Polytecnic. The new projects will extend water supply to **Sindo, KanyaLuo, Tende to Adiedo and Lambwe**.

Furthermore, my government will mobilize and support irrigation farmers into **Irrigation water user associations** for better management of the irrigation schemes including **Kimira Oluch irrigation Scheme**; initiate solar powered irrigation projects and develop modern irrigation infrastructure.



On electricity supply, I am happy to report **Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members**, that we entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the **Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation (RRECC)**, aimed at maximizing the last mile connectivity of electricity to all our health facilities across the County and as many market centres as possible through a matching fund facility, and in partnership with elected Members of the National Assembly, to all our leaning institutions. Through this initiative, many more of the residents of Homa Bay County will have access to electricity. To enable business we have put **solar lights** in the markets in 8 sub counties.

- 24. Mr. Speaker Sir**, Agriculture remains the backbone of our economy with our **Agriculture Department led by my very able DG**. We have profiled our top **three key value chains as cotton, fish and edible oil (sunflower, oil palm and groundnuts)** to position ourselves as an Agricultural County.



This year we procured **183.154 tons of seed worth Kshs 38,299,840 comprising 166.904 tons of maize and 16.250 tons of sorghum** seed which were distributed to local farmers. We acquired **four new tractors** for use by the government and another **six for our cooperative societies** through the **National Agricultural and Rural Inclusive Growth Project – NARIGP**.

**Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members,** agricultural transformation is real. Just last week while leading the sunflower seeds distribution exercise in Yao Kaditonge Waradho in Central Kasipul Ward, Kasipul Sub County, my Deputy and I, met a group of youth aged between 16 and 23; 3 of them actually students in high school and university, who have a very interesting story of their journey of transformation. They are engaged in bee keeping from which they make almost Kes. 50,000/= per harvest of honey and have now fully adapted sunflower farming as a source of nectar for the bees, over and above the money they make from the pressed sunflower oil.



They have a vision, they have seen our objective as a government and they have joined our mission towards a transformed society. I urge other youth across the County, to visit **Julius** and his peers at Yao Kaditonge and learn from them.

25. In creating opportunities for our people through agribusiness engagements, we have undertaken construction of several facilities in the County as a way of improving production and market access. These include: **four dairy milk aggregation and value addition factories in Homa Bay Town, Ndhiwa, Rangwe and Kasipul; animal feeds processing factory at Wang' Chieng' Ward; banana aggregation and value addition plants at Miriu; one earth dam of 45, 000 cubic meters capacity in North Karachuonyo Ward; 96 farm ponds lined with pond liners and supported 96 solar water pumps.**
26. We successfully undertook a sensitization and mobilization exercise for farmers for the flagship value chains.



This has resulted in registration of **30,515 farmers targeting 29,696 acres under sunflower; 20,567 farmers targeting 24,671 acres under oil palm and 35,025 farmers targeting 40,056 acres under cotton.** Through the **National Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (NAVCDP)** we registered countywide **245,000 farming households, the 5th largest number among the Counties.** In partnership with the **EU Funded Kenya Cereal Enhancement Programme Climate Resilient Agricultural Livelihoods project,** **3,000 farmers received subsidized farm inputs through e-voucher system** and the remaining 3,000 are to benefit from a capacity building plan for the targeted **value chains of Maize, Sorghum, Beans and Sweet Potatoes.** Through collaboration with JICA, we will upscale **Smallholder Empowerment and Agribusiness Promotion in groundnut commercialization** through groundnuts production, processing and marketing. We are supporting **870 Community Development mobilized farmer groups with 4,000 farmers in banana, involved in expansion of tissue culture banana (TCB) from suckers.** Our dairy sector has not been left behind, **3,000 farmers are supported in fodder conservation and feed formulation.**



- 27. Mr. Speaker Sir,** we have registered **20 farmers SACCOs in 20 wards and supported them with digitization and automation.** Implementation of digital agricultural technology (DAT) with Kuza Biashara in digital extension has achieved training of 2,815 farmers; Ujuzi Kilimo involved in soil testing has achieved 2,016 tests; Mshamba involved in market linkages has achieved 1,200 linkages; Amtech company targeted to automate 10 farmer producer organizations (FPO) to on board 10,000 farmers and have achieved automation of 10 FPOs; Hello tractor involved in digital tractor management have installed 10 tractors with management trackers.
- 28. Mr. Speaker Sir,** in order to improve our governance structures, the **Department of Governance, Administration, Communication and Devolution** domiciled in my Executive office. As an initiative of the department, we have completed the training and pass-out of **250 enforcement officers.**



An exercise undertaken in collaboration with the Kenya Forest Service's Forest Law Enforcement Training School in Londiani focusing on critical skills that will transform our enforcement and compliance. Further, we are reviewing the **County Enforcement Act** to align it with the administrative structures and other existing laws.

**Let me appreciate the Assembly for joining us on important events like the Pass-Out of Enforcement Officers at the Raila Stadium.**

29. Through a partnership with URAIA Trust and Integrated Development Facility (IDF-Kenya), we are in the final stages of formulating a **Citizen Service Charter** that will outline the rights and responsibilities of various stakeholders with clear commitment to service quality and standards. To address the concerns, complaints and grievances of our citizens, we have a Grievance Redress Mechanism to offer redress, feedback mechanism and a public complaints center that is domiciled at the county headquarters.



In order to leverage technology for better governance, we have developed an **Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)** System for Grievance and Complaints Management which enables us to respond swiftly and transparently to citizens' concerns.

Allow me to appreciate the **Communication Department** for keeping the citizens informed on our programmes. I urge the Honourable Members to read the **Genowa Echo** every month.

30. We are activating the utilization of the **Geographic Information System** to help with data analysis and display the geographical referenced system to further enhance governance and collection and accurate data for our planning and development. **We are adopting evidence based decision making.** To ensure efficient planning, execution, and monitoring of development and investment projects within the county, we have developed a **Project and an Investment Management** dashboard to enhance project monitoring and transparency.



31. The **County Emergency & Disaster Management Act 2020** has enabled us galvanize inter agency humanitarian players in development of the county **El-Nino Inter Agency Contingency Plan, The County Drought Contingency Plan** and the **draft County Emergency Disaster Risk Management Plan**. These will be complimented by the **County Disaster Policy** which is anticipated to expand operational plans.
32. **Mr. Speaker**, as the proud beneficiaries of the largest front of Lake Victoria in Kenya, with our **Blue Economy Department**, we have embarked on a transformative utilization of the unique resources we have within and around the lake. My administration created the **Homa Bay Lakefront Development Corporation** to maximize this massive resource. In partnership with the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) and Kenya Shipyards Limited we have embarked on **the construction of the ultra-modern fish market in Homa Bay, the lakefront promenade, Homa Bay pier and Kendu Bay pier**. The beautification of Homa Bay lake front and the Lakefront Conservation project and Rescue Centre are set to kick off in collaboration with Victory Farms and Kenya Maritime Authority.



33. Working with Victory Farms, we have been able to stock various dams with 250,000 fingerlings, distributed in Rangwe, (**Kosiga & Randung dams**), Suba South (**Kibwer, Gwendo & Yongo dams**), Suba North (**Oseno, Tweta, Kamato & Nyasangra dams**), Rachuonyo East (**Gero & Okiso dams**), Ndhiwa (**Kombwayo & Onyango Rabuor dams**) and Homa Bay Town (**Swao dam**). Rachuonyo North (**Kowuor dam**) and Rachuonyo South (**Pap Orage, Orimba & Ayueche dams**). In the Blue Economy, **Security of the Lake remains a major challenge** being addressed in partnership with the National Government. Security is important for our fishermen and we urge them to employ safe and modern fishing practices while abandoning **Abunglu** that is dangerous. We continue to support our BMU with fish bandas, beach access roads and toilets.
34. We are working hard to revitalize the **mining sector**, to ensure the minerals discovered within our territory make economic sense for our citizens.



To this end the department is developing a **Sand Harvesting, Conservation and Mining Policy** that will help in addressing our socio-economic issues like exploitation by sand dealers, degradation of farm lands, destruction of roads, power lines, water pipes, rehabilitation of used sites, sharing of revenue, and ensuring decency to deceased family members by ensuring graves are not exposed during excavation.

- 35. Mr. Speaker Sir**, the future of our county depends on human capital development. With our **Education and Human Capital Department**, we have invested heavily on education to spur the necessary momentum for growth. My government released **Kshs. 271 million** to **various bursaries and scholarship programs**, targeting brilliant but needy learners within the society in all the 40 wards in our county. Under the program some **32,000 students** benefited from **Kshs. 247 million** disbursed to support bursary and scholarships.



An additional **Kshs. 24 million** was further allocated to support **600 students in the Vocational Training Colleges in collaboration with the KCB Foundation 2jiajiri Scholarship**. Our Early Childhood Learning Programme is on course. We recently put on **permanent and pensionable terms, 1087 of our EYE Teachers**. The journey to the construction of decent classrooms for these early learners is progressing well. We have done at least a classroom per Ward and plan on doing under the ward based development programme this financial year, another 4 classes per ward. This will continue every year until such a time that all our children will be able to learn in a dignified environment.

**Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members**, please visit the EYE Centre at Gina Primary School in South Kabuoch. A good ECD Classroom for the young children, ushering them into the education system. We went, we saw and we built it! We will stop at nothing to deliver for our children, our future.



**36. Mr. Speaker Sir**, in the **Youth, Sports, Gender and Social Service Department** we completed and commissioned the **Raila Odinga Stadium in Homa Bay (ROSH)** that is used by some national teams. We did well in sports with good results in **KYISA** and **Talanta Hela** competitions. We also recently successfully hosted our County edition of the **European Day Soccer Tournament**. As a matter of fact, let me extend an invitation to you

**Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members** to travel and cheer our own Kobala Girls from Wang' Chieng' Ward and Oriwo Boys from Kibiri Ward who will be representing us during the EU Day National Soccer Championship at the Ulinzi Sports Complex on 17th May 2024. Mark you, again Homa Bay is only one of four Counties in the whole Nation taking part in this tournament courtesy of our good relationship with the European Union! To bolster the fight against the **triple threat of teenage pregnancies, HIV and GBV** we held a beautiful **Sigand Nyinam** event graced by **Min Piny Mama Ida Odinga**. We held the Governors mentorship camp for both boys and girls to fight tripple threats.



As a lead up to the Investment Conference I hosted my colleagues' **women governors** led by the COG Chair as we prepared to **launch the G7 Caucus and Strategy**. The G7 Strategy was launched in a Presidential event as a precursor to the International Women Day. I **will soon bring to the Assembly the Enterprise and Affirmative Action Fund Bill** that will anchor the **Boda Boda Sector Fund** as well as the **Women, Youth and PWD empowerment funds**. Our motto is the SDGs one, **leave no one behind**.

37. **Mr. Speaker Sir**, building a strong, disciplined, incorruptible and **professional public service led by the County Secretary and Head of Public Service** remains at the core of my agenda, to ensure satisfactory service delivery to our citizens. My administration has embarked on Human Resource Reforms to achieve greater productivity in the public service as we tackle the **vexing wage bill question**.



Through the **County Public Service Board** that has been steadfast in fulfilling its mandate, **1087 Early Year Education (EYE) teachers who were on contract have been confirmed and upgraded to permanent and pensionable terms.** Allow me to share on **the challenge of corruption** that continues to rear its ugly head. You know **the story of the Malaysia Road** that Baba loves to tell. I commit to fight corruption in Homa Bay County.

**38. Mr. Speaker,** allow me to appreciate the great work that the County Assembly has done in the past year in the legislative process as well as review and approval of policies and plans presented by the County Executive. Working with the office of the **County Attorney**, the Assembly has achieved the following:

- 1) **The Homa Bay County Finance Act, 2023 which was enacted, assented to and operationalized.**
- 2) **The Homa Bay County Appropriation Act, 2023 which was enacted, assented to and operationalized.**



- 3) The Homa Bay County Lakefront Development Corporation Act, 2023, which was enacted, assented to and operationalized.
- 4) The Homa Bay County Health Facility Improvement Act, 2023 which was enacted, assented to and operationalized.
- 5) The Homa Bay County Fisheries and Aquaculture Management Act, 2023 which was enacted, assented to and operationalized.
- 6) The Homa Bay County Infrastructure Financing Act, 2023 which was enacted, assented to and operationalized.
- 7) The Homa Bay County Supplementary Appropriation Act, 2023 which was enacted, assented to and operationalized.
- 8) The Homa Bay County Education Bursary and Scholarship Act, 2024, was only recently signed into law.

**Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members**, I am grateful to the Assembly for reviewing and approving the following Policy documents:

- 1) **The Homa Bay County Sexual and Gender Based Violence Policy, 2022.**

- 2) **The Homa Bay County Roads and Transport Policy, 2024.**
- 3) **The Homa Bay County Water Policy.**

**39. Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members** in this last quarter and the next financial year, the County Executive will present legislation for consideration by the County Assembly, notably:

1. **The Homa Bay County Finance Bill, 2024.**
2. **The Homa Bay County Appropriations Bill, 2024.**
3. **The Homa Bay County Inspectorate (Amendment) Bill**
4. **The Homa Bay County Access to Information Bill, 2024.**
5. **The Homa Bay County Irrigation Bill, 2024.**
6. **The Homa Bay County Agricultural Sector Coordination Bill.**
7. **The Homa Bay County Public Participation Bill, 2024.**
8. **.The Homa Bay County Disaster and Emergency Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024.**
9. **The Homa Bay County Roads and Transport Bill, 2024.**

10. The Homa Bay County Water Bill, 2024.
11. The Homa Bay County Labour Based Contracts Policy.
12. The Homa Bay County Enterprise Development and Affirmative Action Fund Bill, 2024.

40. **Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members** as I **conclude**, I want to reiterate the **pillars of my administration; transparency, consultation with the Assembly and service delivery**. My Government's main focus remains the efficient provision of services. The County Government and the County Assembly are working together "kama chanda na pete" in synergy to make the people of Homa Bay proud of their County. All Homa Bayians are walking tall wherever they are, they will walk even taller once the **Lakefront** and the **Fish market** are completed.

**Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, I saved the best for last.** We will soon invite you for the ground breaking ceremony of the County Headquarter in Arujo, a project whose legal framework and funds you approved in this Assembly. I thank you County Assembly No.1 in Kenya; just as I am the best Governor having scored 70% from the results in one of the recent opinion polls. **Together we are No.1!** Together we will achieve a lot and will in a big way positively transform the lives of our people. Together we have just started and with God on our side, the sky is the lower limit. **Our vision of transformation remains strong until we achieve the Homa Bay City and a booming thriving Riwa City. Our call is for transformative leadership to achieve our endless potential. With the work we will do, and the results we will achieve, the happy people of Homa Bay will re-elect us. My hope is that All the MCAs will be re-elected!**

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