



# REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF HOMA BAY

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



Homa Bay County Headquarters  
P.O. Box 469-40300 Homa Bay - Kenya

E: [governor@homabay.go.ke](mailto:governor@homabay.go.ke)  
[www.homabay.go.ke](http://www.homabay.go.ke)

**Speech by H.E Gladys Nyasuna Wanga, EGH  
during the Zipline Drone Medical Emergency Launch  
at Kitare Health Centre  
on 29.04.2025**

It is with great pleasure and optimism that I welcome you all to this historic occasion as we mark a transformational milestone in strengthening healthcare delivery in Homa Bay County.

Over the past few years, our health system has made remarkable strides. However, persistent challenges have continued to confront us: delayed medical supplies, difficulties in reaching remote island communities, and urgent needs for faster emergency responses. Today, we take a bold step forward. We are investing in the future — a future powered by Zipline, the world's largest autonomous logistics system — to build a more resilient, equitable, and efficient healthcare system for our people.

With Zipline's cutting-edge drone technology, Homa Bay becomes a leader in last-mile healthcare delivery in Kenya. This innovation

means that essential medicines, vaccines, blood, and critical health commodities will now be delivered within minutes to our most remote communities. Zipline's drones, operating autonomously at high speeds and across vast distances, guarantee that no resident is too far to access lifesaving supplies. This new model will save lives by reducing delivery times from hours to minutes, eliminate stock-outs at health facilities, cut operational costs, and allow our healthcare workers to focus solely on their core duty — caring for patients.

Having successfully worked with Zipline before on decentralized HIV service delivery model that targeted adolescents and young adults, we were encouraged by this success and are now expanding the scope of deliveries managed by Zipline. Beyond HIV

medications, we are now incorporating the delivery of blood and blood products, routine vaccines including malaria and HPV vaccines, essential maternal health medicines such as oxytocin, insulin for diabetic patients, anti-snake venom, anti-rabies treatments, and emergency hypertension medicines. To complement this expansion, the County Government will procure additional critical supplies, ensuring that these essential commodities are centrally stored and managed through Zipline's advanced system, providing real-time tracking, accountability, and seamless replenishment.

This expansion aligns closely with our strategic objective of strengthening primary healthcare and improving maternal and child health outcomes. In Mbita Sub-County and Suba North —

areas where over 70% of health facilities have struggled with medical supply challenges — this intervention is poised to be transformative. Facilities that once waited days for essential supplies can now receive them within 30 minutes. Such reliability will build trust in our healthcare system, encourage greater utilization of health services, and lead to a significant reduction in maternal and infant mortality rates across the county.

Moreover, this partnership will help us close the immunization gap. It is unacceptable that children in our rural and hard-to-reach areas continue to be left vulnerable due to vaccine shortages. Through this initiative, no child in Homa Bay will miss a vaccination because of stock-outs. We anticipate a minimum 15% increase in routine immunization rates within the first year of expansion. Healthcare

workers will now spend more time focusing on patients, while Zipline ensures uninterrupted vaccine supplies.

Additionally, this system strengthens our emergency response to preventable but life-threatening conditions such as snakebites and rabies, which remain significant risks for our rural and farming communities. The swift delivery of anti-snake venom and anti-rabies treatments will greatly improve outcomes and save lives.

Today, as we launch the expanded Zipline healthcare delivery system, we are not merely deploying new technology; we are embracing a new future for Homa Bay County — a future where healthcare is faster, smarter, and more inclusive. A future where geography no longer determines who lives or dies. A future where

technology serves the most vulnerable and ensures that no one is left behind.

As we move forward, let this partnership stand as a reminder that when leadership, innovation, and collaboration come together, there is no limit to what we can achieve. Together, we will build a healthier, stronger, and more resilient Homa Bay County.

Thank you, and God bless you all.