



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF HOMA BAY

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ON THE OCCASION OF THE

COUNTY EDUCATION DAY

26TH MARCH 2024

Good afternoon,

It is an honour to address you today at the County Education Day, a significant occasion to celebrate academic excellence, recognize our top-performing schools and students, and reaffirm our commitment to quality education in Homa Bay County. This day provides an opportunity to appreciate the efforts of teachers, parents, and all education stakeholders in shaping the future of our children.

Education is the cornerstone of development, and as a county, we must continuously invest in it. Today, we reflect on our progress, identify challenges, and chart a way forward to ensure that our children receive the best education possible. Special attention must be given to students preparing for their final year of high

school, helping them transition smoothly to the next phase of their education and careers.

Our Commitment to Education

During my campaign, I pledged to transform the education sector by expanding access to vocational training, strengthening early childhood education, and ensuring equal opportunities for all learners, especially those from underprivileged backgrounds. Today, I am proud to report that we have made significant strides in fulfilling these commitments.

Scholarships and Bursaries

Our flagship **Fins to Swim Scholarship** has supported over 500 bright but needy students across the county. Each year, six students from each of the 40 wards are awarded scholarships to pursue

secondary education. The first cohort, now in their third year, has demonstrated great potential, and we are committed to sustaining this program even as the country transitions into the new curriculum.

The **County Bursary Program** remains one of the most structured and timely initiatives in the country. We have disbursed over **KES 500 million**, benefiting more than **100,000 students** in secondary schools, colleges, and universities. By using the **village cluster model**, we ensure that every deserving student receives support, enabling them to stay in school and focus on their studies.

Vocational and Skills Training

To equip our youth with practical skills for the job market, we introduced the Genowa Fundi Mang'ula Vocational Training Scholarship Program. The first cohort of 600 trainees, drawn from all wards, is set to graduate next week after completing their courses

and industrial internships. These graduates are now skilled in masonry, garment making, beauty therapy, hospitality, plumbing, welding, and more, positioning them for employment and self-reliance. The selection for the second cohort has already been completed, ensuring the continuity of this transformative program.

Early Years Education (EYE) Infrastructure Development

To provide a solid foundation for our youngest learners, we have undertaken the **Ondoa Kaunda Initiative**, a labour-based program that has delivered **243 new EYE classrooms** across the county. This initiative ensures that every child learns in a conducive environment while also creating economic opportunities for local artisans and workers. My government remains committed to ensuring that all EYE centers are fully modernized to support early childhood learning effectively.

Recognizing Excellence in KCSE 2024

Before we move forward, let us take a moment to recognize the exemplary performance of our schools in the 2024 KCSE examinations. Homa Bay County continues to shine as a center of academic excellence, thanks to the unwavering commitment of our teachers, students, and education stakeholders.

This year, Orero Boys led the county with an outstanding mean grade of 9.4, setting a high standard for excellence. Agoro Sare and Mbita High followed closely, both achieving a mean grade of 9.1.

Among the girls' schools, Asumbi Girls, who registered the highest number of candidates at 752, emerged as the best performer with a mean grade of 9.1. Bishop Linus Okok Girls secured a strong position with a mean grade of 9.0, while Moi Girls Sindo posted an

impressive 8.7. In total, our schools took a total of 15,941 to university. Quite a remarkable achievement.

These results are a testament to the dedication and hard work of our educators. I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the principals, teachers, and support staff of these schools for their tireless efforts in nurturing academic excellence. Your commitment has placed Homa Bay on the national map, and we celebrate you today.

As a county government, we recognize that quality education is the foundation for a prosperous future. We will continue to invest in education infrastructure, teacher motivation programs, and student support initiatives to ensure that our schools remain among the best in the country.

A Whole-of-Society Approach to Education

Education is not just the responsibility of teachers and students; it requires collective effort from the entire community. I urge all stakeholders to remain actively involved in nurturing our learners.

To Parents and Guardians: Your role in education is invaluable. Beyond providing financial support, you must instill discipline, responsibility, and moral values in your children. Let us work together to ensure that our children grow into well-rounded individuals who contribute positively to society.

To Students: You hold the key to your success. Discipline, hard work, and determination will take you far. Take full advantage of the opportunities provided and always strive for excellence. Remember, the future of our county and country lies in your hands.

To Teachers and Education Stakeholders: Your dedication and sacrifices in moulding the next generation are commendable. The county government remains committed to supporting your work through training, infrastructure improvements, and policy interventions that enhance the quality of education.

Conclusion

Let us all commit to making the future of our children one they can dream of and live for. Together, we can build a strong, educated, and prosperous Homa Bay County.

Thank you, and may God bless you all.