



REPUBLIC OF KENYA



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

HOMA BAY COUNTY

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PRESS RELEASE

(For Immediate Release)

DESPATCH FROM EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

H.E Governor Gladys Nyasuna Wanga, CBS, chaired the 13th meeting of the County's apex decision making organ – The Executive Committee. The Committee meets every fortnight to review progress of work on service delivery to the people of Homa Bay County, as well as plan ahead in line with the Government's **GENOWA EN DONGRUOK** Manifesto.

COGNIZANT of the pole position that health occupies in the Government's development and service delivery agenda, the meeting took note of H.E Governor Wanga's recent whirlwind meetings with all the 2,954 **Community Health Volunteers (CHVs)** in all the nine Sub Counties, given their critical role as the first line of primary healthcare.

During the engagements, it was established that in order to fully realize the potentials of the CHVs, a definite reporting structure be established for them, alongside the setting up of a digitized reporting system. The issue of stipend for the CHVs alongside other **income generating activities (IGAs)** also be looked into. **Further**, the Executive Committee in appreciation of work done by the CHVs this far, **approved Kenya Shillings seven million (Kes. 7M)** for use in the purchase of identification tags, gumboots and reflector jackets, as a first step towards responding to the CHVs' request to H.E the Governor during her interactions with them

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE meeting also **approved a request** from the *Department of Education, Human Capital development and Vocational Training*, **for the allocation of Kenya shillings Twelve Million (Kes. 12M) during the FY 2023/24;** funds that will be used **for the construction and fencing works** in various Early Years Education (EYE) and Vocational Training Centres (VTC). **Ng'ou (Karachuonyo West Ward), God Miahia (Kabondo West Ward), Kisamba (Gembe Ward) EYE Centres alongside Nyandiwa VTC IN Gwasssi North Ward** are among the institutions that are now set for increased enrollment, 100% retention, improved performance and youth empowerment through this action.

IN CONTINUANCE with the works to have a **food secure population** and develop sustainable utilization of the fisheries resources with socio-economic benefits, the Committee **approved Kenya Shillings four million (KES. 4M)** for the *Department of Blue Economy, Fisheries, Mining and Digital Economy*, towards **purchase of 32 fish pond liners**. This is in line with the mandate of the County Government of Homa Bay as provided for in the law, thus implementation of aquaculture development. The liners will be distributed to **identified model fish farmers** who have adopted a climate smart approach for the pond culture. During the meeting, operationalization of the **Homa Bay County Lakefront Development Corporation** as established under the *Homa Bay County Lakefront Corporation Development Act, 2023* was approved. The Corporation will undertake planning and development of the entire Homa Bay County lakefront through attracting investment initiatives and supporting growth of the blue economy sector.

REGARDING the provision of clean water for use by citizens in the County, the Executive Committee noted that HOMAWASCO in conjunction with Lake Victoria South Water Works Development Agency and other partners have been able to increase water production in some of the municipalities in the County.

This has resulted into high volumes of water pumped to the water treatment plants but the pipe line network has not been upgraded to match the increased volume of water. To this end, the meeting considered and gave a greenlight for capital transfer of **Kenya Shillings twenty two million, two hundred thousand, (Kes. 22.2M)** by the *Department of Water, Sanitation and Climate Change*, towards actualizing the last mile connectivity through the development of a new line around Homa Bay Stadium and Upper Sofia both in Arujo Ward at a cost of Kes. 3.7M and Kes. 10M respectively. The initiative will also finance the drilling of a borehole and equipping with solar, a water supply at the proposed ACAKORO SPORTS COMPLEX in Kanyamwa Kosewe and a new pipeline in Oyugis town at Kes. 3.5M and Kes. 4.6M respectively.

TOWARDS FULLY OPTIMIZING returns from Kigoto Maize Mill in Suba South, the Committee incisively deliberated on plans to carry out a **mop up exercise**, for maize produced by local farmers for the supply to the Mill to ensure maximum operation but more important economic support for maize farmers in Homa Bay County. The proposal will now be subjected to leadership consultation with the County Assembly and the National Government representation at the County for consideration and execution ahead of the upcoming harvesting season.

Kigoto Maize Mill has not been able to operate fully owing to a shortage and or cost of raw material. Earlier in the year, the County Government invested in the distribution of certified maize seeds, as a way of boosting harvest for farmers, to enable a reliable supply of maize to the Mill. Currently the plant is able to mill 30 tonnes of maize per single day for a maximum 20 days a month at full operation. With the price of maize at an average Kes. 5,000/=, a comprehensive mop up exercise that would sustain the Mill throughout the year will be capable to putting **Kes. 635M in the hands of farmers in Homa Bay County annually.**

Finally the Governor, the Deputy Governor and the Executive reiterated their individual and collective commitment to service delivery in pursuit of Homa Bay County' full realization of its **#ENDLESSPOTENTIAL.**

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Tuesday 12th June, 2023.