



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



HOMA BAY COUNTY

SPEECH BY GOVERNOR, H.E CYPRIAN AWITI
DURING THE MASHUJAA DAY- OCTOBER 20,
2015.

- The County Commissioner- Mr Hassan Farrah,**
- Members of the County Executive Committee,**
- The Speaker of the County Assembly, Hon. Samwel Ochillo,**
- Members of the County Assembly,**
- All political leaders,**
- Distinguished People of Homa Bay,**
- Ladies and Gentlemen,**

- ❖ **We are gathered here once again to celebrate and pay tribute to our heroes and heroines. The people who have sacrificed their lives to shape the destiny of this Country.**

- ❖ **It is through the efforts of these brave and selfless men and women that we broke the yoke of colonialism.**

- ❖ **It is through their determination and resilience that gave birth to a new constitution and the subsequent creation of the 47 County governments.**

- ❖ **Some of our gallant sons and daughters paid the ultimate price as they fought to liberate Kenyans from the dark past.**
- ❖ **Among them was one of our own- the late Dr. Crispin Odhiambo Mbai who was brutally murdered at a time he was chairing a crucial committee on devolution during the constitution making process. May his soul rest in peace.**
- ❖ **Ladies and Gentlemen, on this day, we must salute and remember the Kapenguria Six – the late Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, Achieng' Ouko, Kungu**

- ❖ **Karumba, Paul Ngei, Bildad Kagia and Fred Kubai.**
- ❖ **These brave nationalists were jailed under harsh conditions for confronting the colonial government.**
- ❖ **I also wish to pay tribute to one of the greatest heroes of our times - the late Thomas Joseph Mboya who hailed from this County. He was only 39 when he was assassinated.**

- ❖ **At that tender age, Mboya had done a lot, including organizing the famous education airlifts to the United States of America.**

- ❖ **We have honoured this great man by naming our first ever University after him.**

- ❖ **Indeed, the Tom Mboya University College, which is a constituent of, opens its doors next week on November 2, 2015.**

- ❖ **I wish to sincerely thank all those who made the establishment of this University a reality.**

- ❖ **But Ladies and gentlemen, I wish to emphasize that we have many other heroes and heroines in Homa Bay County some of whom are seated amongst us here.**

- ❖ **These are the men and women, boys and girls whose acts of courage and compassion have saved or improved the lives of other people.**

- ❖ **I wish to salute police officers who have foiled serious crimes in this county.**

- ❖ **I also feel indebted to that villager who put a side selfishness to rescue a neighbor from a burning house, those who have rescued accident victims and rushed them to hospitals and the many Community health Workers who attend to sick villagers every day.**

- ❖ **We must not forget the old grandmothers taking care of orphans using very meager resources. These are the *Washujaas* we are celebrating today.**

- ❖ **Ladies and Gentlemen, as we celebrate this day, I wish to update you on the progress of various development projects in the county.**

- ❖ **In the past one two years, we have tried to implement the many projects we documented in our**

County Integrated Development Plan and I want to report that we are on the right track.

- ❖ There have been serious challenges –including irregular and inadequate remittance of funds from the National government but work must continue.**

- ❖ We are opening roads as we promised you.**

- ❖ The biggest break through is the tarmacking of the Kadongo-Gendia road, which started two days ago.**

This is the first tarmac road to be built by the County government, a clear proof that devolution is working.

- ❖ This project delayed because we discontinued the first contractor. Now, we have three different contractors simultaneously working on the road. The road will be ready in a few months' time and more will follow.**

- ❖ The Kenya National Highways Authority are also finalizing plans to tarmac the Kendu- Oyugis and**

Mbita- Sindo- Magunga -Sori roads. These are important economic roads and I have personally spoken to President Uhuru Kenyatta and his deputy about them.

- ❖ To help industrialize Homa Bay, my government is undertaking two major projects--- the Animal Feed factory at Arujo near Homa Bay town which will cost Sh 500m and the Maize milling plant at Kigoto at a cost of Sh 160m.**
- ❖ These projects will employ up to 500 people once completed.**

- ❖ **Further to our efforts in improving trade and investment, I am pleased to announce that we are set to build a modern market in Oyugis township at a cost of Sh 250m.**

- ❖ **This project which is a joint venture between the County government and the national government will include an ultra –modern market, complete with stalls, a parking bay and wash rooms.**

- ❖ **Work on this project will start in January next year. Traders are already being prepared for a smooth and organized relocation to an alternative site to give room for the new project.**

- ❖ **In fact, we are also looking for investors to put up more modern markets in Homa Bay and other sub counties.**

- ❖ **Ladies and Gentlemen, the County Government of Homa Bay has done a great job in the provision of water to our people. We have sunk about 70 bore holes throughout the 40 wards and more are coming.**

- ❖ **There have been challenges in upgrading the Homa bay town water supply to help meet the demands of a growing population but I wish to report that the frequent shortages are being addressed and will soon be history.**
- ❖ **On Health, I wish to inform the people of Homa Bay that we are racing against time to improve the delivery of health care services. We have put a side Sh 43 million to help upgrade the County referral hospital.**

- ❖ **The hospital has also been equipped with a dialysis machines to help patients with kidney problems.**

- ❖ **We have also installed modern X-ray machines and theater equipment. Our development partners- UNICEF and UNFPA have boosted our healthcare with donations of essential medical equipment to help reduce maternal and infant deaths.**

- ❖ **We recently employed 285 health highly trained health workers who have been distributed in all the 8 sub counties.**
- ❖ **The County Government is also building new medical facilities. We have put up Maternity wards in Karachuonyo, Rangwe and Ndhiwa.**
- ❖ **Distinguished People of Homa Bay, a healthy population is an important ingredient in development. To this end my government has scaled up the**

war against HIV & AIDS and other health burdens, in collaboration with our development partners.

- ❖ The US Ambassador to Kenya, H.E. Robert Godec visited us on Sunday and delivered good news that the US government would continue to support us in the fight against HIV & AIDS. I want to appeal to other countries and donor agencies to also help us in this war to help reduce new infections to zero.**

- ❖ **I wish to reiterate our commitment in improving the welfare of the youth, women and people with disabilities. My government has now put in place policies that would ensure these special groups also benefit from devolution.**
- ❖ **Ladies and Gentlemen, as we continue to roll out development project across the county, I wish to appeal to our people to be patriotic and help guard these projects against vandalism.**
- ❖ **I am particularly concerned that the solar street lights we installed in Homa Bay are being vandalized.**

This is unacceptable and I am appealing to residents to help us arrest these criminals by reporting them to my office or the police.

❖ In conclusion, Ladies and Gentlemen,

❖ I wish to assure the people of Homa Bay that we are adequately prepared to mitigate against adverse conditions of the El-Nino weather.

- ❖ **Our Sub County and Ward administrators are working closely with the national government and have formed disaster committees right from the County headquarters to the village levels to prepare for any eventuality.**
- ❖ **I want to sincerely thank the people of Homa bay, including our political leaders, church leaders and Non State actors for supporting this government.**

- ❖ **May all of you have a blessed Mashujaa Day !**

❖ **THANK YOU.**