



# The GOVERNOR

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 Siaya County Government Press

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Siaya County Governor James Orenge & Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Investment, Trade & Industry Hon. Moses Kuria share light moment after the launch of Siaya CAIP at Got Akara Grounds in Siaya County







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## Construction of Siaya County Aggregation & Industrial Park Takes Off

Siaya County residents are set to benefit from the Aggregation and Industrial park that is now under construction at Got Akara Central Alego ward. The Industrial Park holds the promise of transforming the region with its potential to generate employment opportunities, uplift families, enhance overall quality of life to Siaya residents, bolster local businesses and stimulate economic growth.

The Industrial park will be outfitted with state-of-the-art infrastructure, encompassing roads, utilities and communication facilities, rendering it an ideal location for wide array of industries. It is anticipated to accommodate various sectors including manufacturing, technology, agribusiness and logistics. This diversity will go a long way in diminishing the County's reliance on traditional revenue sources.

Speaking during the ground breaking ceremony officiated by the Cabinet Secretary for Investment Trade and Industry Hon. Moses Kuria, Siaya Governor James Orenge

affirmed that the project will awaken the potentialities within the County such as rice, cotton, avocado and sugar while expanding growth and development in all sectors. The Governor asked the Cabinet Secretary to consider having additional funds sent to Siaya County to enable the acquisition of equipment being brought to the park given that it will have an ICT hub.

The Cabinet Secretary while addressing participants noted that the project was going to play a major role in changing the lives of Siaya residents. He called upon youths to embrace it and ensure they maximize on its existence. He promised to work tirelessly in ensuring the importation of leather products is burnt and in future have the people of Kenya wear clothes made locally.

Hon. Kuria further assured Siaya leadership that he will look into having the Kenya Development Corporation provide affordable credit facilities to Siaya farmers to boost value addition and promote use of common user facilities to purchase the needed equipment for

industrialization.

He called upon all regions in the country to identify region-specific value chains for comparative advantage purposes in the market systems. He noted that with each region in Kenya having unique products in the market, Value Addition programs will then be easy to implement and focus will be put on products that are relevant to each region and/or county.

Given Siaya County's strong Agricultural base, the Industrial Park places a significant emphasis on Agribusiness including Agro-processing and Value Addition. It will support farmers and enhance Agricultural value chain. The Park equally holds the promise of transforming the region with its potential to generate employment opportunities, bolster local businesses and stimulate economic growth. The project sits on an 80-acre piece of land with room for possible expansion in the future. Siaya County is proud to be among twenty-one Counties in the first phase of the CAIP projects countrywide.

*By Grace Adhiambo Odhiambo*



## Bondo & Ugunja Municipalities Now Fully Operational

Siaya Governor James Orengo presided over the swearing in office of Bondo & Ugunja Municipalities Boards. It was a momentous occasion witnessing the birth of these newly devolved units that will ensure efficient and effective service delivery to the people of Siaya. With complete devolution as a key item in the Nyalore manifesto, instituting these municipalities has been central to the Governor's plans. The long process that started with the delineation of the boundaries followed by assessing the suitability of

the two entities has been lauded by Siaya residents as consequential.

Bondo and Ugunja cover approximately 128 sq. Km and 111 sq. KM with an estimated population of over 58,572 and 60,200 respectively as per the 2019 census with both towns being commercial magnets and hubs offering a springboard for quick growth and development. Bondo has traditionally been a town whose growth was dependent on fishing activities from various beaches dotting the shoreline from Osieko beach to Luanda KOTieno beach. Its growth has

spiralled recently due to the emergence of educational and vibrant financial institutions. Equally, Ugunja has been a vibrant commercial hub with major highways of Kisumu – Busia as well as close linkages with Kakamega and Bungoma counties.

The Governor while addressing guests acknowledged that the future is urban and called upon various stakeholders to seize the opportunity to develop all urban areas in terms of road infrastructure, modern markets, organized bus parks, recreational parks, management of storm

water drainage within the CBD, street lighting to enhance security, non motorized transports and sewer systems. He promised to look into expanding relationships with major development partners to support all the development agendas within the three municipalities. The Governor was accompanied by the Speaker of The County Assembly of Siaya Hon. George Okode.



## Poultry Farmer Cutting Feeding Costs With Black Soldier Fly



*Organic waste picked from food remains into fast growing protein rich larvae of black soldier flies which are happily eaten by the chicken.*



*The eggs are placed in tent – like structures together with organic waste where they incubate for three days and then hatch.*



*Finally, the flies are ready for harvesting and to be fed to the chicken.*

For years, the cost of commercial feeds has made poultry farming erratic and less profitable. Samuel Odhiambo from Sikang' Village in Sidindi Ward, Ugunja Sub–County is shifting to more sustainable sources of protein for his chicken, slashing feed costs sustainably and ensuring his poultry fetches better prices.

Samuel adopted the art of converting organic waste picked from food remains into fast growing protein rich larvae of black soldier flies which are happily eaten by the chicken. The larvae contain 35 to 45 percent of protein, which is crucial in the growth of birds.

We visited his insect breeding farm, a medium structure built from iron sheets that he says costed him approximately 150,000Kshs and is also the home to his 200 birds that he has put up for sale.

Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Programme (KCSAP) gave him a larvae cage, crates and traps amidst a crisis that had bestowed them when the costs of feeding the birds was becoming unbearable.

“KCSAP had earlier on, through my youth group (Future Makers) given us inputs worth Kshs.700,000 that included 1000 birds and feeds to enhance our poultry business that since 2019 had been 'traditional'. I can say for a fact that that I used to eat more than I could sell”, he said.

The 26-year-old says that he has now constructed two more units and can now produce up to 50kg of the feeds in a week, a move that he says has subsidized greatly on his expenditure on feeds.

When asked exactly how complicated this process can be especially for the youth who might not be so patient, he laughed it off and confirmed it is a simple process and any farmer can do it with basic training but he's lucky KCSAP has already given him a broader training on the same.

The eggs are placed in tent – like structures together with organic waste where they incubate for three days and then hatch.

After the eggs hatch, they form larvae which begin to feed on the waste. Within 17 days, the larvae pass to the pupae stage

before becoming flies. The flies live for about five days on a diet of water only and during that time they lay eggs that begin the process again.

They are only alive for six weeks but during that time, they reproduce generously laying 500 plus eggs in a single batch.

Finally, the flies are ready for harvesting and to be fed to the chicken.

Samuel explains that he has sold the feeds to nearby farmers, provided trainings and has therefore made good money that has built him a modern house, otherwise known as a 'Lion' in his father's compound, bought a motorcycle and even set up an apiary of 15 hives.

He attributes the achievements to the sale of birds and manure to his neighbors and other villagers.

Samuel is calling upon youths and women to embrace this mode of chicken feeding because its viable and can greatly reduce feeding costs by up to 50%.

*By Calvin Awora*





Photo Credit, Nicholas Juma 'diblo'

**“We are going to do a few dams and have boreholes solarized now that electricity bills have been on the rise sabotaging flow of the commodity to households,**

# Siaya County Receives Ksh. 137million Grant For Climate Change Intervention

Siaya County has received Ksh137million (FLLoACA) grant from the National government through Treasury to facilitate locally led Climate change interventions.

According to Water, Environment and Natural resources Chief officer Walter Okello, Siaya County Government is fully prepared to do climate change mitigation projects at the grassroots.

The department of Water, Environment and Natural resources carried out sensitization for the leaders of the climate risk assessment committees drawn from 30 wards on key projects that aimed at addressing the climate risks that has engulfed the region.

Siaya is among Counties experiencing the impact of climate change particularly floods and prolonged droughts. It's the gathered evadites that saw the proposal sailing through.

Okello affirmed that the climate change related projects prioritized for implementations were factored in this year's budget.

“We are going to do a few dams and have boreholes solarized now that electricity bills have been on the rise sabotaging flow of the commodity to households,” he said.

He revealed that part of the funds will facilitate the purchase of drought resistant seems, equipment's that will drive the climate smart agricultures, improvise gadgets that minimizes logging like energy saving jikos.

Okello was accompanied by Director public participation Jared Abayo who asked the Committee chairmen to ensure they oversee implementation of climate change mitigation projects, record its impact and report.

“We believe that the Chairmen of the Committees rose to the position by virtue of elections and those who entrusted them with the position demand for the services so they must not only oversee implementations of locally led interventions but also see to it that funds factored in the ten departments are used for the intended purpose,” said Abayo.

The strategies being made in Siaya to address the effects of climate change comes at a time when key climate change stakeholders held a summit in Nairobi to discuss workable strategies that will deal with climate changes.



By Eric Juma



# 251 Young Caregivers Trained On Nurturing Care For Early Childhood Development



“Having the men fully involved in the programme was going to be highly beneficial in the life of the children and household at large since Fathers contribute to the spiritual growth, intellectual growth, emotional growth, physical growth and social growth of a child.

**S**iaya County First Lady Mama Betty Oremo presided over the graduation ceremony of 251 young caregivers at St. Anthony Institute of Technology, Lwak who successfully completed the SCORE ECD Project. The young caregivers comprised of 36 Males and 215 females.

The Caregivers were taken through immense training for 18 months on Integrated Mother and Baby Course, Mental Well-being, SMART Couples integrated with Household Economic Empowerment interventions through Savings Internal Lending Communities.

According to the First Lady who has been at the forefront in advocating for male involvement in Nurturing Care, having the men fully involved in the programme was going to be highly beneficial in the life of the children and household at large since Fathers contribute to the spiritual growth, intellectual growth, emotional growth, physical

growth and social growth of a child. She appreciated FSSA Sisters and Partners for pulling resources together for this noble course.

The First Lady also appreciated the Community for embracing the Savings Internal Lending methodology to develop themselves and promote household wealth for sustainability saying that a household that struggles financially will automatically deprive the child from accessing most of the components comprised in the Nurturing Care Framework. She affirmed the importance of Nurturing Care saying the approach applied will go a long way in ensuring all children thrive.

She encouraged mothers present not to shy away from going for cancer screening saying early detection makes it easier to manage and possible treatment.

The male caregivers graduates were amused at how they took so much for granted such as playing with their children and

helping out with house chores unaware of the positive impact it has on the household. They promised that moving forward they will ensure they are present in the life of their children. They also assured the First Lady and her team that they will make it their responsibility to ensure children have play items considering their newly acquired skills on how to make toys from locally available materials.

*By Grace Adhiambo Odhiambo*



## Animal Health Students Handed Full Scholarship In Siaya

The County Government of Siaya in Partnership with Kenya Livestock and Commercialization Project (KELCoP) sponsored 20 Students drawn from several wards within Siaya for a 2-year course on Animal health at both certificate and diploma levels.

This is courtesy of a collaboration between Kenya Livestock & Commercialization Project (KELCoP) and the County Government of Siaya through the department of Agriculture, Irrigation, Food, Livestock & Fisheries.

According to Mr. K'Okoth Sylvestre, CECM for Agriculture, Irrigation, Food, Livestock & Fisheries the students will study at Ahiti Kabete, Ahiti Nyahururu, Ahiti Ndonga, Kirinyaga and Wajir

Livestock training institutes at a cost of KES 3.3 Million. “We are committed to empowering our youths to fully engage in Agricultural enterprises as both service providers and investors”, he added.

County KELCoP Coordinator, Maurice Rangoma said that this is an investment by the people of Siaya for the people of Siaya in terms of future livestock disease control and breed improvement.

KELCoP is funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) whose overall goal is to contribute to the Government's Agricultural transformation agenda of increasing rural small – scale farmers' incomes, food and nutrition security.

“This is courtesy of a collaboration between Kenya Livestock & Commercialization Project (KELCoP) and the County Government of Siaya through the department of Agriculture, Irrigation, Food, Livestock & Fisheries.

By Calvin Awora



## Kemri To Construct A Biotech Project In Yimbo, Siaya County.

**M**asamba and Nyamonye residents have welcomed the idea by Siaya Governor to give KEMRI the vast land in Yimbo to host a multi-billion Biotech project.

According to the locals, they had negotiated with County government of Siaya under the Leadership of Ex-Governor Cornel Rasanga and given out the said land in the previous year with the hope that the project would kick off but that was not the case.

The 80 acres of land is strategically placed along Nyamonye-Dominion Road.

The residents acknowledged that the Governor and his delegation visiting their area was a clear manifestation that something serious is going to happen and are ready not only to embrace the project but also offer direct and indirect services during project implementations.

“There will be no land

disputes here because the County government of Siaya had purchased the lands and lumped them together and completed the compensation. We are only waiting for the day the implementation of the project will kick off,” said Odhiambo the Village elder.

“We are aware that once the project is implemented it will not only transform the region but also see to it that our sons and daughters are absorbed,” she added.

The residents applauded the decision by Governor Orenge to hand over the 100-acre land title deed to the Kenya Medical and Research Institute (KEMRI).

According to KEMRI board Chair Dr Abdullahi Ali, they came to Siaya to see the land set aside by Siaya County government, gone around and established the boundary, concluding it fit for the project.

Ali said they gathered facts and found locals around not as hostile as certain parts of the

Country, and this indicates that they are for the project.

“We have been taken through the maps, boundaries and we shall now request the County government of Siaya to present the title deeds to us as they work on partnership modalities,” said Dr Ali.

Ali's team had earlier met the Governor and discussed various strategies and modalities that ought to be followed for the implementation of Research Biotech Complex to kick off.

Ali noted that Siaya has played a key role to various research programs touching on Malaria including Rotavirus Vaccines and so the long-standing relation can only be cemented with the establishment of the research institution here,” said Dr Ali.

Ali further asked Orenge's administration to work closely with KEMRI teams in Siaya and Kisumu to formulate a workable Memorandum of Understanding.

He also asked them to factor in the budget some allocation that will help meet certain conditions.

The Governor affirmed that KEMRI's presence in Siaya will see exponential growth in research and open up employment opportunities for residents





## Value Chain Actors Benefit From Innovation Equipment To Spur Productivity In Siaya

**3**7 Value chain Organizations received innovation equipment worth KES 7.2 million to help increase productivity of their enterprises in selected value chains of fish, mango & indigenous chicken.

This is courtesy of a collaboration between the County Government of Siaya and Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP II) which has seen about 2,895 value chain actors benefit from the same to a tune of KES 22 million so far.

Siaya Governor James Orenge confirmed that the actors received incubators, chopper grinders, chicken roasting equipment, feeders, fireless brooders, electric deep freezers, feed mixers, motorized spray pumps, personal protective equipment, pruning secateurs, manual sprayer pumps, predator nets, electric weighing scales, cooler boxes among others.

“These items will assist producers, marketers and processors

to reduce post-harvest losses, minimize production costs and promote mechanization for the sake of income generation, food and nutrition security within our boundaries”, said the Governor during the handover occasion at the County Headquarters,

Also present was the CECM for Agriculture, Irrigation, Food, Livestock and fisheries, K’Okoth Sylvester who mentioned that the 193 value chain organizations who benefitted from the initiative are undoubtedly the baseline for economic and industrial transformation in Siaya.

Despite the programme scheduled to come to an end later this year, it will continue to impact on lives and ensure enterprise blossoms. According to County ASDSP 11 Coordinator Mr. Ken Oduro, the last five years has seen a number of households impacted within all the 30 wards within the County.

*By Calvin Awora*



## Nyamira Girls Hockey Team Emerge The Best In The Federation Of East Africa Federation

**N**yamira Girls Hockey team from Siaya County emerged the best in the Federation of East Africa Secondary School Sports Games 2023 that took place in the City of Huye in Rwanda. The two-time national champions saw off Kakungula Memorial 2-0 and finished top of the round robin stadium with 16 points.

The journey to this historic victory saw them rise through various ranks, starting from being the Siaya County Champions, progressing to conquer the Nyanza Region and ultimately emerging victorious as the Kenya Secondary Schools Sports Association National Champions. According to their Coach Mr. Eliakim Obondo the girls attributed their success to discipline, rigorous training, strategic approach and dedication to the game.

Siaya Governor who welcomed them home appreciated the effort they put up and thanked them for putting Siaya on the regional and world. The Governor who had earlier donated Hockey playing items to the team before they proceeded for the competition expressed his gratitude to the team and promised to continue supporting them even as they prepare to participate in the World Secondary School Games Championship that is scheduled to take place in Belgrade, Serbia.

“The County Government of Siaya takes pride in this excellent performance at the Continental level and will continue to support all forms of sporting activities,” said the Governor.

*By Grace Adhiambo Oduor*





## Siaya County Awarded For Being The Best Performer In The Prevention Of Mother To Child HIV Transmission.

Siaya County received an award during the 7th Maisha Conference that was held in Mombasa County. The Three-day conference organized by the National Syndemic Disease Control Council brought together researchers, scientists, programmers and stakeholders in the HIV response both in the Country and globally.

Siaya County was awarded for being the best by achieving 4.3% a target of less than 5% which was achieved in 2022 on HIV Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission. According to the Director Public Health Dr. Kennedy Orwenjo this was achieved as a result of collaborative work and the desire to eliminate and eradicate HIV infections.

The Conference which took place at Pride Inn Paradise Resort saw the Permanent Secretary State Department for Medical Services Mr. Harry Kimitai appreciate the immense work the County was doing in ensuring babies are born free from HIV. While handing over the award to the Director Public Health, the PS noted that Siaya scored above average as this was the first time such percentages were achieved in Kenya.

Prevention of Mother to Child transmission is a program that sees expectant Mothers who are HIV positive give birth to children who are HIV negative through following the procedures as guided by MOH experts.

Dr. Orwenjo confirmed that the results were attained as a result

of the efforts the Community Health Volunteers commonly referred to as Nyamrerwa are putting up at the community level.

Siaya Governor recently met up with all the CHV's drawn from the six Sub Counties in Siaya and assured them of his continuous support in improving working conditions for them to deliver primary healthcare services at the Community. The Governor promised to provide them with kits, working tools and prioritize having their remuneration increased by pushing for an amendment through the Assembly and have their name changed to Community Health Practitioners and not volunteers.

*By Grace Adhiambo Odhiambo*





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