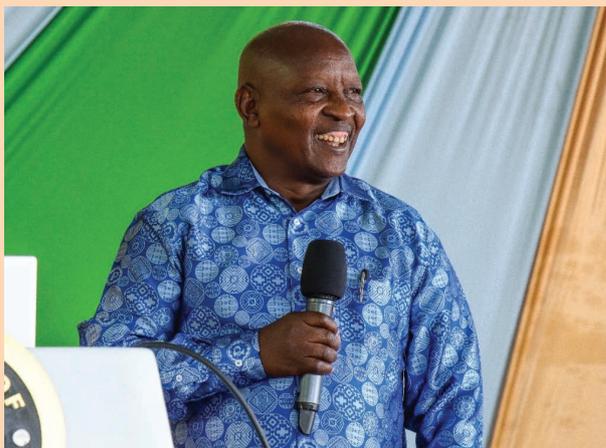


# THE COUNCIL MONTHLY



The Devolution Conference 2025 steering committee chaired by H.E Dr. Mutahi Kahiga (center) , Host Governor H.E. Gladys Wanga ( Second Left) and other stakeholders during a visit to assess Homa Bay County’s preparedness to host the Conference

## DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE 2025: HOMA BAY GEARS UP TO HOST CITIZEN-CENTRIC DIALOGUE ON EQUALITY, INCLUSION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE



CoG Vice-chair H.E. Dr. Mutahi Kahiga speaking during the visit to assess Homa Bay County’s preparedness to host the Conference

It’s all systems go for the Devolution Conference 2025 which will be held from 12th – 15th August in Homa Bay County under the theme: For the people, For prosperity: Devolution as a Catalyst for Equality, Inclusion and Social Justice.

The Devolution Conference Steering Committee chaired by H.E. Dr. Mutahi Kahiga, while on a visit to assess Homa Bay County’s preparedness to host the Conference, has announced that plans are underway, further calling upon all stakeholders and members of the public to participate and engage in shaping the Devolution discourse in Kenya.

This year’s Conference will be citizen – centric, with a keen focus on highlighting the voices of the ‘mwananchi’ on matters governance, accountability, social justice, equity and inclusion, addressing the existing challenges and exploring practical solutions that will enhance the realization of equity, inclusion and social justice. Additionally, it has adopted a multi-agency approach with the Steering Committee drawing its membership from state and non-state actors including the State Department of Devolution, Senate, County Assembly’s Forum, National Youth Council and Civil Society.

The Steering Committee conducted a field assessment of all the sites and amenities that will be utilized during the Conference. Thereafter, the Committee held an engagement with the Homa Bay Business community to discuss the trade opportunities available and their role in ensuring the success of the Conference. The Chair urged the traders to maintain standard market pricing for goods and services during the Conference and ensure delivery of exceptional services to all participants.

## NEWS INSIDE

1

DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE 2025: HOMA BAY GEARS UP TO HOST CITIZEN-CENTRIC DIALOGUE ON EQUALITY, INCLUSION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

2

HEALTH SECTOR GETS BOOST AMIDST REFORMS ON DIGITALIZATION AND SHA

3

COUNTIES PUSH FOR STRONGER ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE

4

PATH TO UNLOCK KENYA'S BLUE ECONOMY POTENTIAL

5

UGATUZI CORNER

6

KEY EVENTS OF THE MONTH

“Homa bay is proud, privileged and deeply honored to be the host of this year’s Conference. The Devolution Conference is not just about the country convening in Homa Bay but about the people of Homa Bay feeling the impact, especially economically, of this Conference and this is why the business community is an integral part of this Conference,” noted the host Governor H.E Gladys Wanga adding that the Conference would provide an opportunity for the youth to be part and parcel of the conversation on the current state and future of Devolution.

Acknowledging the need to highlight and amplify citizen voices in matters governance, H.E Dr. Mutahi Kahiga stated that the Council of Governors (CoG) in collaboration with Homa Bay County has commenced preparations for the Devolution Sensitization Week (DSW), scheduled for the end of June 2025. This initiative will be culminated by the CoG Chair delivering the State of Devolution Address 2025 providing a scorecard of service delivery by Counties for the Financial Year 2024/25.

“The Committee has held several strategic discussions with development partners, the media, private sector actors, and CSOs to foster partnerships aimed at enriching the Conference experience. The Chief Guests for the three Conference days will include H.E Dr. William Ruto, the President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E Prof. Kithure Kindiki the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya and H.E Hon. Raila Odinga, the Former Prime Minister,” added the Nyeri Governor while highlighting pre-conference activities to be undertaken including boat-racing, wrestling, Ajua, pot-balancing, football, rech-festival.

The Senate on their part reiterated their commitment to support the Devolution Conference 2025 as they have done in previous years, highlighting the critical role of the Conference in showcasing the progress of Devolution in Kenya through sharing knowledge, driving policy dialogue, and strengthening the service delivery.



CoG CEO Mary Mwiti speaking during the visit to assess Homa Bay County’s preparedness to host the Conference

“This year’s conference is civil society led. It focuses on providing an opportunity for the citizens of this country to have a conversation on what has been achieved and give feedback to the leaders,” noted Tom Were, the Executive Director Act, Change Transform.

“We are delighted that plans are in place to incentivize and facilitate young people to come to Homa Bay to contribute to the Devolution Conference 2025. We are also pleased to see young traders in the form of small



Host Governor H.E. Gladys Wanga speaking during the visit to assess Homa Bay County’s preparedness to host the Conference

“**The Devolution Conference is not just about the country convening in Homa Bay but about driving transformation through meaningful discourse on equity, inclusion and social justice. Karibu Homa Bay!**”  
**H.E. Gladys Wanga**

business holders and Boda Boda riders and the opportunities that they will have during the Conference,” added Gloria Wawira, the CEO National Youth Council.

The Council of Governors remains committed to delivering a robust and inclusive Devolution Conference 2025.

To register for the Conference visit <https://devolutionconference.cog.go.ke>



**DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE 2025**

**DATES**  
12TH - 15TH AUGUST 2025

**VENUE**  
HOMA BAY HIGH SCHOOL  
HOMA BAY COUNTY

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN



**DELEGATES** >>> **Ksh 20,000/-**

**EXHIBITION** >>> **Ksh 50,000/-**

**PAVILION** >>> **Ksh 350,000/-**

Register here [devolutionconference.cog.go.ke](https://devolutionconference.cog.go.ke)



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# HEALTH SECTOR GETS BOOST AMIDST REFORMS ON DIGITALIZATION AND SHA

Kenyans are once again optimistic as the health sector prepares for a major transformation, with the Social Health Authority (SHA) set to introduce a standardized insurance package for vulnerable populations.

The Council of Governors (CoG) led by the Vice Chair H.E Mutahi Kahiga and the Ministry of Health led by the Cabinet Secretary Hon. Aden Duale made this announcement following a high level consultative meeting on key issues plaguing the health sector held on Thursday, 24th April 2025.

“The indigents will be identified by the Ministry of Health, CoG and State Department of Social Protection and paid for jointly by the two levels of the government. The Ministry of Health will give standardized guidelines for the payment of indigents to enable Counties put the payments into consideration in the budgets for the upcoming financial year” said H.E Mutahi Kahiga and Hon. Aden Duale in a joint press statement.

The meeting also deliberated on the implementation of critical projects including: Building Resilient and Responsive Health Systems (BREHS); Assistive Technology (AT) scale project; Clinical waste microwave waste management; and Implementation of the Social Health Insurance (SHI) Act, 2023.



Health CS Hon. Aden Duale speaking during the high level consultative meeting

CoG Health committee chair on his part noted that health service delivery is one of the largest of devolved functions reiterating the need for consultation, cooperation, collaboration and partnership in order to provide quality, affordable and accessible healthcare to every Kenyan.

“Health sector reforms are not just about policy, it’s about dignity, equity, and ensuring that no Kenyan is left behind,” added Tharaka Nithi Governor H.E Muthomi Njuki.

As part of the reforms aimed at bolstering the health sector, Governors and the Ministry of Health signed Intergovernmental Participatory Agreements (IPAS) aimed at digitizing all public health facilities across the country. This initiative will see the distribution of 74,000 computers and tablets to health-care workers in all 47 Counties and national referral hospitals. Further, health workers in all public facilities will be trained on digitization to ensure the smooth rollout of Taifa Care.



CoG Health Committee Chair H.E Muthomi Njuki speaking during the high level consultative meeting

The plan also includes the development of 315 Smart Primary Care Networks and the establishment of a dynamic, highly available, and fault-tolerant, standards-based Health Information Exchange (HIE).

Additionally, the Ministry and the CoG resolved to build and maintain an Electronic Health Insurance Claims Platform for all public facilities and to implement a Pharmaceutical Information System and a Logistics Management Information System (Track and Trace System). This is expected to increase accountability and availability of medical supplies and medicines in all health facilities.

This meeting comes amidst concerns over the implementation of the new healthcare reforms. Speaking during an earlier consultative meeting with the Ministry of Health at the CoG offices in Nairobi, CoG Chair H.E. FCPA Ahmed Abdullahi, highlighted the transformative potential of digital health, stating: “Digital health is not just an upgrade, it’s a necessity. We need a system that is interoperable, efficient, and responsive to the needs of Kenyans on the ground.”

Following extensive consultations between the Ministry of Health and CoG, it has been resolved that: To accelerate digital transformation, the Digital Health Agency to fast-track the rollout of digital systems in all 47 Counties and prompt distribution of devices to the remaining public health facilities; A joint taskforce comprising the CoG, Ministry of Health, Energy, and ICT, will address connectivity challenges such as electricity and internet access, which are critical for successful digitalization among Health facilities in Counties. As part of this joint commitment, the Ministry of Health and the Digital Health Agency will assess existing County Health Information Systems, such as AfyaKe, for integration into the National Health Information Exchange portal.

**“Health sector reforms represent a positive step toward promoting dignity, advancing equity, and ensuring that every Kenyan has access to quality health-care.”**

**H.E Muthomi Njuki.**

## COUNTIES PUSH FOR STRONGER ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE

The Council of Governors (CoG) successfully convened a high-level consultative meeting with County Executive Committee Members (CECMs) in charge of Environment, Forestry, Climate Change, Water, and Natural Resources Management from April 14–17, 2025 in Nakuru County. The quarterly forum provided a platform for County and National Government entities to deliberate on strategic and emerging issues in environmental governance.

The meeting, graced by H.E. Joshua Irungu, Governor of Laikipia County and Chairperson of the CoG Water, Forestry and Natural Resources Management Committee, underscored the importance of unity of purpose across the two levels of government. “This forum reminds us of the power of collaboration. Counties cannot walk this journey alone—synergy with national institutions and development partners is not optional,” he emphasized.



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*Chair, CoG Water, Forestry and NRM Committee H.E. Joshua Irungu speaking during a high-level consultative meeting with the CECMs in charge of Environment and NRM.*

In his keynote remarks, H.E. Dr. Wilber Ottichilo, Governor of Vihiga County and Chairperson of the Environment, Forestry and Climate Change Committee at the Council, acknowledged the progress made by County Governments in environmental reforms, particularly in the enactment of legislation, operationalization of climate funds, and adoption of clean energy technologies. He highlighted that many Counties had made strides in domestication of sustainable forestry policies, solar-powered water systems, and afforestation programs.

Despite these efforts, Governor Ottichilo acknowledged persistent structural and coordination challenges, particularly between the two levels of government. "While the Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee (IGRTC) has attempted to clarify mandates, conflicts persist especially in areas such as sand harvesting regulations. These duplications disrupt service delivery and undermine devolution," he said.

One of the major outcomes of the meeting was the collective agreement to fast-track the finalization of the Environment Sector Intergovernmental Coordination Framework, to eliminate overlaps and streamline reporting and oversight in the sector. Additionally, Counties committed to enacting localized policies and laws tailored to their unique ecological and development needs.

Governor Ottichilo also reiterated the importance of Counties understanding and engaging in the growing carbon markets space. "It is imperative that we establish rigorous evaluation criteria for carbon projects to ensure these benefit our people and promote equitable revenue sharing," he noted. To support this goal, the CoG and Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry (MoECCF) will collaborate to build county-level capacity in carbon legislation and project development.

The forum also highlighted the 15 Billion Tree Growing Initiative, where County Governments and MoECCF agreed to streamline data reporting via the Jaza Miti App to improve visibility of county contributions. Solid waste management and circular economy transitions were also key topics, with counties encouraged to explore innovative public-private partnerships like the model in Taita Taveta's Chakaleri Material Recovery Facility.

Dr. Ottichilo urged counties to stay focused on collective action. "Our mandate is clear—to collaborate in developing solutions that benefit our communities while safeguarding the environment. Intergovernmental collaboration is not an option—it is the foundation upon which we will build sustainable and resilient communities," he said.



*Chair CoG Environment and Climate Change Committee H.E. Dr. Wilber Ottichilo speaking during a high-level consultative meeting with the CECMs in charge of Environment and NRM.*

## PATH TO UNLOCK KENYA'S BLUE ECONOMY POTENTIAL



*Chair, CoG Blue Economy Committee H.E. Dr. Paul Otuoma speaking during a CoG Blue Economy Committee consultative meeting*

The Council of Governors (CoG) Blue Economy Committee held a consultative meeting on 23rd April 2024, bringing together committee members, including H.E. Dr. Mutahi Kahiga, Vice Chairperson of the CoG; H.E. Dr. Paul Otuoma, Chairperson of the Blue Economy Committee; and the Cabinet

Secretary for Maritime and Blue Economy, H.E. Ali Hassan Joho. The meeting aimed to foster collaboration and policy alignment across the two levels of government while recognizing the immense and largely untapped potential of the Blue Economy.

The Blue Economy holds tremendous promise for Kenya's sustainable development. While the national government has made notable strides, a more inclusive and devolved approach is essential to unlocking the sector's full potential. Strengthening county-level involvement, ensuring equitable distribution of resources, and fostering robust public-private partnerships will be critical to driving growth in Kenya's Blue Economy.

"The Blue Economy represents a transformative opportunity for Kenya, offering immense potential for sustainable economic development, job creation, food security, and the conservation of marine and freshwater ecosystems," stated Governor Kahiga in his remarks.

Counties have increasingly become key players in the sector. Coastal counties such as Mombasa, Kwale, Kilifi, Tana River, and Lamu are directly involved, while inland regions like the Lake Victoria Basin—including Kisumu, Homa Bay, Migori, Siaya, and Busia—also play a crucial role. Despite their vast aquatic resources, these regions contribute less than 5% to the national GDP, underscoring the sector's underutilization.

In his remarks, the Cabinet Secretary reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening the sector through policy alignment and a comprehensive review of the Blue Economy regulatory framework. He emphasized the



need to streamline licensing processes to encourage increased public-private sector participation. He further committed to seek the withdrawal of the Fisheries Management and Development Bill (FMDB) currently before Parliament to allow for broader stakeholder engagement and ensure alignment with Kenya's devolved system of governance.

"I propose the establishment of a Multi-Agency Technical Committee composed of key stakeholders in the Blue Economy sector to comprehensively review the FMDB and align it with the Constitution. This team should also develop concrete proposals to enhance the sector at both national and county levels, and review existing regulations to address the grey areas limiting the potential of this new frontier," added the CS.

It was also agreed that a High-Level Consultative Meeting between Governors and the Cabinet Secretary be convened within one month from the date of this meeting.

During his remarks, the CoG Blue Economy Committee Chair, H.E. Dr. Paul Otuoma, highlighted several challenges facing the sector. These include the slow implementation of projects, which delays community benefits; disparities in resource allocation and infrastructure development, which hinder equitable growth; and the need for capacity building to strengthen local governance and support effective implementation and monitoring of Blue Economy initiatives.



Cabinet Secretary for Maritime and Blue Economy H.E. Ali Hassan Joho speaking during a CoG Blue Economy Committee consultative meeting

## UGATUZI CORNER



CoG Planning, Monitoring, and Knowledge Management department and County Heads of Monitoring and Evaluation during a quarterly meeting.

The Council of Governors (CoG) Planning, Monitoring, and Knowledge Management department convened a quarterly meeting with County Heads of Monitoring and Evaluation to discuss key issues, including the 2023 County Monitoring and Evaluation Capacity Assessment, dissemination of the Model County Monitoring and Evaluation Policy, and promotion of knowledge management and sharing of M&E practices among counties.

The meeting also reviewed the status of M&E across counties, with CoG committing to build the capacity of County Governments in monitoring and evaluation, as well as guide the institutionalization of the M&E and knowledge management functions within county structures.

## MERU COUNTY ADOPTS DO-NOU TECHNOLOGY IN A BID TO TRANSFORM ROADS AND EMPOWER ITS COMMUNITIES

Despite the region's agricultural potential and economic vibrancy, Meru County has faced significant challenges in its road infrastructure. Many urban settlements and productive rural areas have poor road networks which limit access to markets and essential services while residents have to contend with impassable roads during rainy seasons, excessive dust during dry periods, and extended travel times that affect productivity and quality of life.

In addition to infrastructure challenges, the County faces significant unemployment issues, particularly among youth, women and People living With



Do-nou arraged in grid patterns awaiting topping with appropriate surfacing material

Disabilities. Limited economic opportunities have contributed to poverty and have contributed to poverty and underutilized human resources, making innovative approaches that simultaneously address infrastructure and employment particularly valuable for the region. In response to these challenges, Meru County Government embarked on a groundbreaking initiative funded by the Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF) and administered by the World Bank (WB).

This project, implemented by Community Road Empowerment (CORE), introduced an innovative approach to addressing rural road infrastructure. The Project sought to create employment opportunities and develop skills in labor-based road maintenance using the innovative Do-nou technology, and improve basic access for the target population in the previously underserved urban communities of Majengo, Mjini, and Gitimbine in Meru Town.

Through the Do-nou technology, 27 kilometers of road have been rehabilitated, transforming the physical infrastructure and creating economic opportunities for residents, particularly youth and women. To ensure sustainability, the County has leveraged on community-driven development and locally implemented solutions.

Additionally, the initiative has achieved significant milestones including the formation of 50 community groups and registration of these groups as Small and Micro-Enterprises (SMEs).

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# KEY EVENTS OF THE MONTH



## 48 Governments 1 Nation