

# **MOTHER HIPPO COMES OFF SHORE**

BIOGRAPHICAL WORK BY:

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In honor of the Homa bay county GOVERNOR, HE Governor Gladys Atieno

Nyasuna Wanga.

*A Trailblazer's story of leadership and advocacy.*

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### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.**

Writing this biography was like taking an adventure into a strange jungle, everything new. Therefore, for this work to merge out successfully, it has taken the efforts of many who will never go unmentioned. The Governor of Homa bay county, Governor Gladys Wanga is yet to receive accolades for availing herself into the limelight in the bid to take care of Homa bay county, a once orphaned portion at the lakeside. We would like to thank elders Maurice Odul and Samson Omany both of Kochia-kowili whose sentiments we tapped at eavesdrop were turned into this masterpiece. We do not have what to pay in full for the support that Mr. Erick Jackym pumped into this. He was a reliable resource- person who arrived whenever clarifications were of need to every part we touched and fetched. We have both been students and we still hope that we shall be, in future. Drs, Omwalo Bryson and Midega John doctored our mastery of language thereby honing our skills at Maseno University and the diction here stands to justify our sentiments. Mr. Akumu Tobias of Orero Boys High School also took us through a weaning process whose results lie herein. Parents and true siblings are gifts from the Almighty. It will be ungrateful not to appreciate our parents who encouraged us forth in one simple urge, "make us proud with the story of this woman because you are good animals with the story to tell." And to the very many friends we gathered inside and out of school, we appreciate the chitchats we had because it is some of those that we have knitted to produce this full length. You became the perfect strangers. Hats off!

### DEDICATION.

*To write is to be at war with the state-Wathiongo Ngugi, Writers in Politics.*

We have been at war with the state of our minds. We have fought intentions and inspirations and arrested both for poetic value. It is therefore that which gave birth to this one. In a special way, we dedicate it to Her Excellency Governor Gladys Wanga, the fighter off odds, the owner of honors and orders even to her gods. We also dedicate MOTHER HIPPO COMES OFFSHORE to the people of Homa Bay County at large as we do so in resolution; Read this and give us a challenge.

Mother hippo comes off shore. Help us love how we began it together. Every time our parents promised to tell us stories whose protagonists were hippos, we thronged the hearth shortly after the Sun's universal funeral in the West. In those stories hippos were strong and destructive animals if disturbed but conservatives if untouched. Those around the lake woke up to a perpetual mourning because whenever a hippo left the waters to approach the shore, it was destruction accrued. Farms around the shores were sunken because the hooves were large and unforgiving. Those were their stories. Those were their times.

Our journey today, takes us through the plains of Kano, Kisumu County. We are destined to reach the home of a councilor, who had served in the nyayo regime, very powerful and prominent. We choose to avoid several stories revolving around the Nyayo regime for the past is history meant to be buried until fossils become a commodity. A councilor is the current day Member of County Assembly.

A story is needed for one powerful, super woman who has beaten all odds and has risen through all the various ranks with a lightning speed in the political scene. This is despite the several setbacks that she has faced in her quest. She has put a spirited fight against the societal norms to have the women in a higher rank and at the decision-making table.

This is the story of one, Gladys Atieno Nyasuna Wanga, Governor. If it fails to score for what we perceive then put it right in your own heart.

Gladys Wanga was born on 7th march 1987 in the muddy plains of Kano. Every time the name is mentioned all the bells ring. That in that region natives find no joy when the rains unforgivingly graduate to El Ninos or La Ninos. However, a healthy gift was in the forming for her because she was growing up in a political family. She was the third born in a family of seven. Growing in a male dominated society was not easy. Gladys Nyasuna earned favor from her father and that facilitated her prowess.

Her father, the late John Nyasuna was a councilor, the current day, Member of County Assembly, MCA, in the Nyayo regime. He too served as chairperson of Kisumu County council.

Gladys started her education at Agha Khan primary school in Kisumu and later joined Kisumu Girls High school because her brains allowed it.

After excelling, she joined Kenyatta University for further education where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in arts. Her quest for education didn't stop there; she later registered for a master's program in the year 2012 in science and health management.

It is believed that, 'juogi'; the spirits of politics from her father have carried her all along and have seen her traverse the 'dirty' scene swiftly. 'Juogi' is a Luo word translating to spirits which are innately transferred from one generation to the other or inherited. The spirits from the ancestors among the Luo community would see one inherit the qualities of a certain person and it is because of this that children could only be named after the good people in the society so that they inherit only the virtues. That could be the right answer to why Margaret Ogola chooses to give Akoko the name of her uncle in the riveting text, *THE RIVER AND THE SOURCE*. The Luo believed on the surveillance by the ancestors who had died but still had control over the community and at times they could be consulted for answers that arrived by sign. During meals and drinks, libations could be poured as significations that they were part of the society thus were fed and eventually appeased.

Whenever disasters befell the community, it was believed that the spirits of the ancestors were not at peace with the community and therefore an appeasement ceremony was conducted to restore peace and everything was returned to normalcy. Sacrifices could be offered, prayers to the gods and cleansing rituals performed, all as measures of restoring peace. In a case where an identified individual had

committed a crime then they would be sent out of the community, to pass for banishment and considered an outcast.

In the year 2003, history was written in KU, Kenyatta University, when she was elected as the secretary general of the student's union. She therefore became the first lady to be elected in such position and became a very vocal member of the student's union.

History after history will be written as time continues to unfold.

**PARLIAMENTARY SPONSORED BILLS.**

She joined the 11th parliament in the year 2013 after triumphantly trouncing on her then opponent, Roselyn Onyuka. Having been passionate about social justice for all since her earlier days in high school, her election to parliament gave her the power and opportunity to achieve her dream.

Being a legislator and an advocate for social justice, she therefore proceeded to sponsor a number of bills that have helped raised the standards of the common man thus very instrumental in the development of the society.

Just a year after her election, 2014, Gladys Wanga came up with THE CANCER PREVENTION AND CONTROL AMMENDMENT BILL. Having been drenched by the rain, monstrous cancer disease, she thought it wise to have cancer diagnosis incorporated as part of primary health care. She further suggested and advised that the health practitioners should be trained so as to be able to detect the warning signs and symptoms of the disease that was at that time ravaging the Kenyan population and to be specific, 39,000 cases were reported in the country annually. The essence of having cancer screening as a primary health care was to have all the members of the public acquire good health care services for cancer at that time was considered a disease for the rich, and it was only the rich who were able to fly outside the country to seek medication.

With the wind of digitalization in the country, she proposed e-medicine and tele-medicine for the far-flung areas. This was to enable easier consultation among the medics, oncologists, who were and are few in the country.

In connection to that, she added that the cancer institute should be adequately funded to enable and facilitate its advisory role to the government. The bill was passed in 2016.

Attached is the bill.

*HER CANCER PREVENTION AND CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2016 A Bill for AN ACT of Parliament to amend the Cancer Prevention and Control Act, and for connected purposes— ENACTED by the Parliament of Kenya, as follows — 1. This Act may be cited as the Cancer Prevention and Control (Amendment) Act, 2016. 2. The Cancer Prevention and Control Act in this Act referred to as "Principal Act" is amended in section 2 by inserting the following new definitions in proper alphabetical order — "e-Health" means the combined use of electronic communication and information technology in the health sector; "telemedicine" means the provision of health care services and sharing of medical knowledge over distance using telecommunications and it includes consultative, diagnostic, and treatment services; 3. The Principal Act is amended in section 5 by inserting the following new paragraphs immediately after paragraph (b)— "(ba) promote the use of e-health and telemedicine for the prevention and treatment of persons with cancer; (bb) promote treatment of persons with cancer as a component of primary healthcare;" 4, The Principal Act is amended in section 31 by inserting the following new sub-section immediately after sub-section (2) — "(3) The Institute shall collaborate with the national government department responsible for public health to promote the training of medical oncologists, pediatric oncologists, radiation oncologists, radiation therapy oncologists, oncology nurses, oncology physicists and other healthcare providers." Short title. Amendment of section 2 of No. 15 of 2012. Amendment of section 5 of No. 15 of 2012. Amendment of section 31 of No. 15 of 2012. 1074 The Cancer Prevention and Control (Amendment) Bill, 2016 MEMORANDUM OF OBJECTS AND REASONS The principal object of this Bill is to amend the Cancer Prevention and Control Act, 2012 to make provision for training of health cadres in the specialized medical field of oncology, to include cancer treatment as part of the provision of primary healthcare and to incorporate the use of ehealth and telemedicine. The Bill seeks to amend section 2 of the Principal Act by introducing new definitions of the terms "e-health" and "telemedicine". The Bill seeks to amend section 5 of the Principal Act by*

*expanding the scope of functions of the National Cancer Institute to include to promote the use of e-health and telemedicine in the treatment of cancer patients and to entrench treatment to cancer patients as primary healthcare. The Bill seeks to amend section 31 of the Principal Act to make provision for promoting the training of health cadres in the specialized medical field of oncology. The Bill does not contain any provisions limiting any fundamental rights or freedom. The Bill affects the functions of county governments as set out in the Fourth Schedule to the Constitution and is therefore a Bill concerning county governments. The enactment of this Bill shall not occasion additional expenditure of public funds. Dated the 2nd November, 2016. GLADYS WANGA, Member of Parliament. The Cancer Prevention and Control (Amendment) Bill, 2016*

*1075 Section 4 of the Principal Act which it is proposed to amend*<sup>2</sup> (1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires — "Board" means the Board of Management established by section 6; "Cabinet Secretary" means the Cabinet Secretary for the time being responsible for matters relating to public health; "Chairperson" means the Chairperson of the Board appointed under section 6; "Chief Executive Officer" means the Chief Executive Officer of the Institute appointed under section 10; "Institute" means the National Cancer Institute of Kenya established by section 4; "medical institution" means a hospital, clinic, dispensary or other place where a diagnosis of cancer is made and includes a medical practitioner practising in his or her own name; "medical practitioner" has the meaning assigned to it under the Medical Practitioners and Dentists Act (Cap. 253); "person with cancer" means a person diagnosed as having cancer; "register" means the national cancer register established under section 20

(2) For the period prior to the announcement of the results of the first elections of Parliament as contemplated by section 2 of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution, reference to a "Cabinet Secretary" in this Act shall be deemed to be reference to a Cabinet Minister and reference to a Principal Secretary shall be deemed to be a reference to a Permanent Secretary.

*Section 5 of The Principal Act Which it is proposed to amend*<sup>5</sup>. The functions of the Institute shall be to — (a) advise the Cabinet Secretary on matters relating to the treatment and care of persons with cancer

*Interpretation. Functions of the Institute. (g)* 1076 The Cancer Prevention and Control (Amendment) Bill, 2016 and to advise on the relative priorities to be given to the implementation of specific measures; (b) encourage and secure the establishment of hospitals, vocational treatment and care centres and other institutions for the welfare and treatment of persons with

cancer in all counties of the Republic; (c) encourage and secure provision of diagnostic, treatment, rehabilitation and other medical care to persons with cancer in those institutions; (d) co-ordinate services provided in Kenya for the welfare and treatment of persons with cancer and to implement programmes for vocational guidance and counseling; (e) collect, analyze and disseminate all data useful in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer; (f) collaborate with international institutions for the purpose of collecting for the Register and cataloging, storing and disseminating the results of cancer research undertaken in any country for the use of any person involved in cancer research in any country; establish and support the large scale production or distribution of specialized biological materials and other therapeutic substances for research and set standards of safety and care for persons using such materials; ensure that accurate figures of persons with cancer are obtained in the country for purposes of planning; provide access to available information and technical assistance to all institutions, associations and organizations concerned with the welfare and treatment of persons with cancer, including those controlled and managed by the Government; (j) encourage and secure the care of persons with cancer within their communities and social environment; The Cancer Prevention and Control (Amendment) Bill, 2016 1077 (k) establish and support measures that seek to eradicate conditions that cause and aggravate the spread of cancer. (l) recommend measures to prevent discrimination against persons with cancer; (m) generally to carry out measures for public information on the rights of persons with cancer and the provisions of this Act; and (n) encourage and participate in the provision of training on cancer prevention and control. Section 31 of the Principal Act which it is proposed to amend<sup>31</sup>. (1) The Institute shall liaise with the national government department responsible for public health to ensure that education and information dissemination on the prevention and treatment of cancer and the care of persons with cancer including palliative care, shall form part of health care services by healthcare providers. (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the national Charges. Government department responsible for public health in collaboration with the Institute shall provide training for the healthcare providers to acquire skills for proper information dissemination and education on cancer prevention control and palliative care.

Secondly, is the famous, SKIZA TUNE BILL OF FEBRUARY 2022.

*This bill came at a very critical moment in the history of our country Kenya. The economy of our country was on its knees, still recovering from the wounds that had been caused by the deadly pandemic, corona virus or Covid\_19, to say before dying.*

With the arrival of covid-19, it banned social gatherings that acted as the mega sources of revenue for all our artists.

In this, she fought hard to ensure that the artists get the bulk from their skiza tunes citing that they labor, sweat water and blood to compose their songs, have their works produced and played.

Initially, the artist would earn 16 cents for a skiza tune, with Safaricom getting the lion's share with 50 cents while the tax would take a whopping 25 cents. This was a clear indication that the artists were not reaping well from their sweat.

The bill was thus to ensure that the skiza tunes would be exempted from taxation and further increase the artists' earning to 41 cents.

In tow was the SOCIAL WORKERS BILL OF 2017.

She proposed an act of parliament that was to establish the social worker's board. The board had its functions clearly stated as follows;

To provide for the registration of social workers and the regulation of the practice of social work; and for connected purposes.

In line is the, NATIONAL HEALTH FACILITIES BILL 2020.

This was a bill that was to ensure that each county was to have a National Referral Hospital. This sought to improve the health services across the country by reducing the overreliance on the five national referral hospitals.

This would reduce congestion in the said hospitals with corona virus requiring social distancing at that time.

Access to better health facilities would be achievable to the common man with the devolution of the health facilities thus reducing the mortality rate.

Then came, THE PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT (AMMENDMENT) BILL OF 2021.

This was a very complex bill that was intending to introduce seven key changes that moved to rescue Kenyans from taxation and eased daily life., among them being, exempting bread, flour, (wheat and cassava) and cooking items, prefabricated biogas digesters, biogas, fuel briquettes from tax.

Still with the wounds suffered from the covid-19 pandemic, the economy wasn't at its best. It was staggering, fumbling and gambling its way back to form. With the coming of this bill, the Kenyans breathed a sigh of relief, *mama okonyowa*

A sample of the bill is attached.

*THE FINANCE BILL, 2021 A Bill for AN ACT of Parliament to amend the law relating to various taxes and duties; and for matters incidental thereto ENACTED by the Parliament of Kenya, as follows— PART I—PRELIMINARY 1. This Act may be cited as the Finance Act, 2021, and shall come into operation, or be deemed to have come into operation, as follows— (a) sections 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13(a), 13(b), 13(e), 33, 43, 49, 51, 63, 65, 65 and 66, on the 1st January, 2022; and (b) all other*

sections, on the 1st July, 2021. PART II—INCOME TAX 2. Section 2 of the Income Tax Act is amended— (a) by inserting the following new definitions in proper alphabetical sequence— "control", in relation to a person, means— (a) that the person, directly or indirectly, holds at least twenty per cent of the voting rights in a company; (b) a loan advanced by the person to another person constitutes at least seventy per cent of the book value of the total assets of the other person excluding a loan from a financial institution that is not associated with the person advancing the loan; (c) a guarantee by the person for any form of indebtedness of another person constitutes at least seventy per cent of the total indebtedness of the other person excluding a guarantee from a financial institution that is not associated with the guarantor; Short title and commencement. Amendment of section 2 of Cap. 470. 538 The Finance Bill, 2021 (d) the person appoints more than half of the board of directors of another person or at least one director or executive member of the governing board of that person; (e) the person is the owner of or has the exclusive rights over the know-how, patent, copyright, trade mark, licence, franchise or any other business or commercial right of a similar nature, on which another person is wholly dependent for the manufacture or processing of goods or articles or business carried on by the other person; (f) the person or a person designated by that person— (i) supplies at least ninety per cent of the supply of the purchases of another person; or (ii) in the opinion of the Commissioner, influences the prices or other conditions relating to the supply of the purchases of another person; (g) the person purchases or designates a person— (i) to purchase at least ninety per cent of the sales of another person; or (ii) in the opinion of the Commissioner, influences the price or any other condition of the sales of another person; (h) the person has any other relationship, dealing or practice with another person which the Commissioner may deem to constitute control; "infrastructure bond" means a bond issued by the Government for the financing of a strategic public infrastructure facility including a road, hospital, port, sporting facility, water and sewerage system, or a communication network; The Finance Bill, 2021 539 (b) by deleting the definition of "permanent establishment" and substituting therefor the following new definition— "permanent establishment" includes— (a) a fixed place of business through which business is wholly or partly carried on and includes a place of management, a branch, an office, a factory, a workshop, a mine, an oil or gas well, a quarry or any other place of extraction or exploitation of natural resources, a warehouse in relation to a person whose business is providing

storage facilities to others, a farm, plantation or other place where agricultural, forestry plantation or related activities are carried on and a sales outlet; (b) a building site, construction, assembly or installation project or any supervisory activity connected to the site or project, but only if it continues for a period of more than one hundred and eighty-three days: Provided that for the purpose of determining whether the period specified in this paragraph has been exceeded— (i) where a person carries on activities at a place that constitutes a building site or construction or installation project and these activities are carried on during one or more periods of time that, in the aggregate, exceed thirty days but do not exceed one hundred and eighty-three days, and (ii) connected activities are carried on at the same building site or construction or installation project during different periods of time, each exceeding thirty days, by one or more enterprises closely related to the first-mentioned enterprise, 540 The Finance Bill, 2021 the different periods of time shall be added to the aggregate period of time during which the first-mentioned enterprise has carried on activities at that building site or construction or installation project; (c) the provision of services, including consultancy services, by a person through employees or other personnel engaged for that purpose, but only where the services or connected business in Kenya, continue for a period of, or periods exceeding in the aggregate, ninety-one days in any twelvemonth period commencing or ending in the year of income concerned; (d) an installation or structure used in the exploration for natural resources: Provided that the exploration continues for a period of not less than ninety-one days; (e) a dependent agent of a person who acts on their behalf in respect of any activities which that person undertakes in Kenya including habitually concluding contracts, or playing the principal role leading to the conclusion of contracts that are routinely concluded without material modification by the person, but excludes the following activities where the activities are of a preparatory or auxiliary character— (I) the use of facilities solely for the purpose of storage, or display of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise; (ii) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of storage, or display; (iii) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of processing by another enterprise; The Finance Bill, 2021 541 (iv) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of purchasing goods or merchandise, or of collecting information, for the enterprise; (v) the maintenance of a fixed place of

*business solely for the purpose of carrying on, for the enterprise, any other activity; and (vi) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for any combination of activities mentioned in paragraphs (i) to (v). 3. Section 3 of the Income Tax Act is amended— (a) in subsection (2), by deleting paragraph (ca) and substituting therefor the following new paragraph— (ca) income accruing from a business carried out over the internet or an electronic network including through a digital marketplace; (b) in subsection (3), by deleting paragraph (ba) and substituting therefor the following new paragraph— (ba) "digital marketplace" means an online platform which enables users to sell or provide services, goods or other property to other users. 4. Section 4A of the Income Tax Act is amended in subsection (4) by deleting the definition of the word "control". 5. Section 12E of the Income Tax Act is amended— (a) in subsection (1)— (i) by deleting the word "person" and substituting therefor the expression "nonresident person"; Amendment of section 3 of Cap. 470. Amendment of section 4A of Cap. 470. Amendment of section 12E of Cap. 470. 542 The Finance Bill, 2021 (ii) by deleting the proviso; (b) by deleting subsection (2) and substituting therefor the following new subsection— (2) A person subject to digital service tax shall submit a return and pay the tax due to the Commissioner on or before the twentieth day of the month following the end of the month in which the digital service was offered. (c) by inserting the following new subsection immediately after subsection (2)— (3) Despite subsection (1), digital service tax shall not apply to income chargeable under section 9(2) or section 35. 6. Section 15 of the Income Tax Act is amended — (a) in subsection (2), by deleting the words "and in this subparagraph "control" has the meaning assigned to it in paragraph 32 of the Second Schedule" appearing in subparagraph (r)(iv); (b) by deleting subsection (4) and substituting therefor the following new subsection (4) Where the ascertainment of the total income of a person results in a deficit for a year of income, the amount of that deficit shall be an allowable deduction in ascertaining the total income of such person for that year and the succeeding years of income. 7. Section 16 of the Income Tax Act is amended in subsection (2) by— (a) deleting paragraph (j) and substituting therefor the following new paragraph-- (j) gross interest paid or payable to related persons and third parties in excess of thirty per cent of earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization of the borrower in any financial year: Provided that of section 15 of Cap. 470. Amendment of section 16 of Cap. 470. The Finance Bill, 2021 543 (i) any income which is exempt from tax shall be excluded from the*

calculation of earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization; and (ii) this paragraph shall apply to— (A) interest on all loans; (B) payments that are economically equivalent to interest; and (C) expenses incurred in connection with raising the finance. (b) Inserting the following new paragraph immediately after paragraph (j)— Cap. 488. (ja) an amount of deemed interest where the person is controlled by a non-resident person alone or together with not more than four other persons and where the company is not a bank or a financial institution licensed under the Banking Act. 8. The Income Tax Act is amended by inserting the following new section immediately after section 18A— Insertion of new section in Cap. 470. Returns on activities in other jurisdictions. 18B. (1) In this section— "multinational enterprise group" means a group that includes two or more enterprises which are resident in different jurisdictions including an enterprise that carries on business through a permanent establishment or through any other entity in another jurisdiction; and "ultimate parent entity" means an entity that— 544 The Finance Bill, 2021 (a) is resident in Kenya for tax purposes; (b) is not controlled by another entity; and (c) owns or controls a multinational enterprise group. (2) An ultimate parent entity of a multinational enterprise group shall submit to the Commissioner a return describing the group's financial activities in Kenya, where its gross turnover exceeds the prescribed threshold, and in all other jurisdictions where the group has taxable presence, not later than twelve months after the last day of the reporting financial year of the group. (3) The return submitted under subsection (2) shall contain the prescribed information on the group's aggregate information including information relating to the amount of revenue, profit or loss before income tax, income tax paid, income tax accrued, stated capital, accumulated earnings, number of employees and tangible assets other than cash or cash equivalents with regard to each jurisdiction in which the group operates. 9. Section 31 of the Income Tax Act is amended in subsection (1) by inserting the words "or a contribution made to the National Hospital Insurance Fund" immediately after the expression "2007" appearing in paragraph (v) of the proviso to the subsection. Amendment of section 31 of Cap. 470. The Finance Bill, 2021 545 Amendment of section 39B of Cap. 470. 10. Section 39B of the Income Tax Act is amended in subsection (1) by inserting the words "or technical and vocational education and training" immediately after the word "university". 11. Section 41 of the Income Tax Act is amended in subsection (5) by deleting the words "an individual or individuals" appearing immediately after the words "held

by" and substituting therefor the words "a person or persons". 12. Paragraph 1 of Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act is amended-- (a) in subparagraph (a), by deleting the words "on reducing balance" wherever they occur and substituting therefor the words "in equal instalments"; (b) in subparagraph (b)— (i) by deleting the words "on reducing balance" wherever they occur and substituting therefor the words "in equal instalments"; (ii) by deleting the words "under a mining right" appearing in subparagraph (xi); (c) in subparagraph (c), by deleting the words "on reducing balance" and substituting therefor the words "in equal instalments"; (d) in subparagraph (d), by deleting the words "on reducing balance" and substituting therefor the words "in equal instalments"; (e) in the proviso— (i) by deleting the words "through the national grid" appearing immediately after the word "electricity" appearing in subparagraph (0) thereof; (ii) by adding the following new subparagraph immediately after subparagraph (0) (g) civil works include— (i) roads and parking areas; (ii) railway lines and related structures; Amendment of section 41 of Cap. 470. Amendment of the Second Schedule to Cap. 470. 546 The Finance Bill, 2021 (iii) water, industrial effluent and sewerage works; (IV) communications and electrical posts and pylons and other electrical supply works; and (v) security walls and fencing. 13. The Ninth Schedule to the Income Tax Act is amended— (a) in paragraph 4, by deleting subparagraph (3) and substituting therefor the following new subparagraph— (3) The rate of depreciation for machinery first used to undertake operations under a prospecting right shall be the rate specified in paragraph 1(b)(x) of the Second Schedule. (b) in paragraph 9, by deleting subparagraph (3) and substituting therefor the following new subparagraph— (3) The rate of depreciation for machinery first used to undertake exploration operations shall be the rate specified in paragraph 1(b)(xi) of the Second Schedule. (c) in paragraph 15— (i) by deleting the expression "5.625%" appearing in item (a) of subparagraph (2) and substituting therefor the expression "ten per cent". (ii) by deleting the expression "5.625%" appearing in item (b) of subparagraph (2) and substituting therefor the expression "ten per cent". (d) in paragraph 16, by deleting the words "twelve and a half per cent" appearing in subparagraph (d) and substituting therefor the expression "ten per cent". (e) by deleting paragraph 18 and substituting therefor the following new paragraph— Amendment of the Ninth Schedule to Cap. 470. Deductibility of interest. The provisions of section 16(2)(j) shall apply to a contractor or a licensee. The Finance Bill, 2021 547 PART III—VALUE ADDED TAX 14. Section 2 of the

*Value Added Tax Act, 2013 is amended in subsection (1) by deleting paragraph (c) of the definition of the term "supply of imported services" and substituting therefor the following new paragraph— (c) in the case of a registered person, the person would not have been entitled to a full amount of input tax payable if the services had been acquired by that person in a taxable supply. 15. Section 5 of the Value Added Tax Act, 2013 is amended— (a) in subsection (7), by inserting the words "over the internet or an electronic network or" immediately after the word "made"; (b) by deleting subsection (9) and substituting therefor the following new subsection (9) For the purposes of this section, "digital marketplace" means an online platform which enables users to sell or provide services, goods or other property to other users. 16. Section 10 of the Value Added Tax Act, 2013 is amended— (a) in subsection (1), by deleting the word "registered"; (b) in subsection (2), by deleting the expression "a registered person referred to in subsection (1)" and substituting therefor the expression "the person referred to in subsection (1) is a registered person and"; (c) in subsection (3), by deleting the words "by any person". 17. Section 17 of the Value Added Tax Act, 2013 is amended— (a) in subsection (1), by deleting the word "section" appearing immediately after the words "provisions of this" and substituting therefor the word "Act"; Amendment of section 2 of No. 35 of 2013. Amendment of section 5 of No. 35 of 2013. Amendment of section 10 of No. 35 of 2013. Amendment of section 17 of No. 35 of 2013. 548 The Finance Bill, 2021 (b) in subsection (4), by inserting the words "leasing or hiring" immediately after the word "acquisition". 18. Section 19 of the Value Added Tax Act, 2013 is amended in subsection (2) by deleting the word "registered". 19. Section 34 of the Value Added Tax Act, 2013 is amended by deleting subsection (9). 20. Section 67 of the Value Added Tax Act, 2013 is amended by deleting subsection (2). 21.*

## **WANGA THE FIRST WOMAN TO CHAIR A POWERFUL HOUSE COMMITTEE.**

With the numerous incidences, history and chemistry following the handshake between President Uhuru Kenyatta and his ‘big brother’, Raila Odinga, on the 18<sup>th</sup> of march 2018. The political landscape was changed completely and that lead to a division in the ruling party, Jubilee party. The divisions arose following the cries of betrayal by the party leader. For effective administration of the final term, the president had to carry out a number of reshuffles in the committees that his party headed. The purge occurred both in the national assembly and the senate.

Loud cries greeted our ears from the media by the ‘tanga tanga’ allies. ‘Tanga tanga’ was a quick name given to a section of leaders allied to Ruto, the deputy president. They lacked stationary political ambitions hence very agile to move with the winds. Among them were, Aden Duale, who was dogwhipped having served as a very powerful majority leader, Kimani Ichungwa, Joseph Limo and many others. In the senate, the conspicuous figures who cried aloud were, Kipchumba Murkomen and Susan Kihika who had served as the majority leader and the majority chief whip respectively. The dogwhipping occurred owing to one’s allegiance, when you were suspected to be allied to the DP William Ruto, then you would be considered a traitor therefore not fit to serve in the various house groups. It is after the handshake that the relationship between the DP and his boss started to deteriorate.

The opposition party, considered as the watchdog to the sitting government, was not allowed to occupy certain committees in the house because for any reason they could act as a stumbling block to the development project in the country. The handshake made it difficult to identify the opposition party and with this, another history was written.

Gladys wanga's name was therefore submitted for consideration in the selection to chair one of the most powerful committees in the house, the finance committee. This saw her as the first woman in the Kenyan House to chair such a committee in parliament. Mother hippo had been breaking barriers and accomplishing missions that looked outwardly for the women who were considered a marginalized and a weaker gender. She was voted in unanimously and clinched the position.

After her victory, she took to her twitter handle to dedicate the victory to the different in the country. "A big win for the women leadership as this is the first time in the history of the Kenyan parliament that a woman chairs the Finance and National planning committee."

She further promised to give her best and very ready for the uphill task that now rested upon her shoulders. Thankful messages were heaped on the leadership of the ODM party and Jubilee for having trusted her with the job and believing in women leadership. Uhuru Kenyatta's government had given more space to the women and provided a conducive environment for their thriving. Thanks to his efforts. It would be remembered that his government had a majority of the women as appointees that included the state house spokesperson, Md. Kanze Dena. The tweet continued, "Deeply humbled by the appointment as the chair of the Finance and National Planning committee. I will endeavor to serve the nation diligently in this new responsibility. I thank H.E Uhuru Kenyatta for his magnality and my party leader Raila Odinga for his faith in me."

Her selection and election to the said committee came following the purge that had landed on the chairman, Joseph Limo, who was deemed to be one of the allies of the deputy president, William Ruto. She was to be deputized by Roysambu MP, Waihenya Ndirangu. Apart from her there, there were a number of MPs who also reaped big from the purge and they included, Muturi Kigano (Kangema), who was elected to chair The Justice And Legal Affairs Committee, (JLAC), Kanini Kega Kieni) who was to now chair the Budget committee and William Kamket(Tiaty) to chair the Delegated Legislation Committee.

True to her words, she remained faithful to her promises that she made to the citizens upon her appointment. It is through this committee that she was able to do the unthinkable. She tabled a number of bills to the floor of the house among them the finance bill, the skiza tune bill among the many others. All these were done geared towards good service delivery to the citizens and to raise the bar of women leadership in the country and by that not disappointing her bosses.

By successfully doing this, it is therefore a clear indication that mother hippo had done her best in terms of the legislative roles that were bestowed upon her. It is through her that she also proved beyond doubt that women are also capable, *mine nyalo*. She had therefore raised a notch high the bar and the flag were already flying high such that some leaders, both men and women had become jealous of her prowess.

## **THE PASSION TO SERVE**

The vigor, energy, enthusiasm and zest in Mother Hippo are so unmatched. At some point, it may be thought to be an innate activity. But who knows? Let's have a look.

Hon. Gladys was born in a political family. Her father was councilor John Nyawangaya. Mother hippo still at a tender age, could accompany her father to his various political platforms. During the course, she was very instrumental and therefore was being groomed to learn and hum the rules of power.

*‘Yuko jamna’* was already in place at the time. It is a term used as a cover up for voter bribery. The father could give out certain commodities as a measure to entice the electorates. He gave out packets of salt which Gladys would help in distributing and it is through this, which she learnt about service to humanity.

As days unfolded, it was time for her to join school. She was enrolled at Agha Khan primary school, Kisumu and later on proceeded to Kisumu Girls. Her quest for service delivery to the commoners continued to grow day by day. Her enthusiasm in the advocating for students’ rights saw her elected as the head girl. Her quest did not go well with the administration. They accused her of growing horns and was fighting every cow in the shed.

A decision was plotted to dehorn her. She was expelled in form 3 after a successful strike in the advocating for the rights of the prefects who felt mistreated by the administration. Things seemed dark, and it was to end there but she appealed against the decision and won. She was later readmitted to school a year later where she sat for her KCSE successfully and scored a B+(plus). With the exemplary performance, she secured a chance in Kenyatta University. Fighting from within can be easier, it is by this that she fought so hard to be elected into the student’s union and became the first secretary general of KUSO, Kenyatta University Students Organization, in 2003 where she became a vocal advocate for the rights of the students in the university.

Fighting for justice and fairness seemed to be existing naturally in mother hippo and it is by this fact that was able to leave behind scars that are clear indicators of her good work that she does continuously. In the political arena, things have remained the same.

Her decision to run for the woman representative position in Homabay County in 2013 under the new constitution was powered and driven by the passion for the fight for justice and fairness. In this case, she needed to empower and be an inspiration to the youth and women who had been long marginalized by the existing societal taboos. Women were meant to be seen and not to be heard, in fact the furthest they could go apart from the bedroom was the sooty kitchen. They could not take part in serious decision-making plans of the community.

Her speedy rise in the political space was a clear indication that everything is possible if everybody is served with equal opportunities. She was also a source of inspiration to the youths and women who were suffering from the fear of the unknown as they felt that the political field was for the chosen few.

As the women representative and county Member of Parliament, she performed numerous functions according to the provisions of the office of the women representative and beyond.

She began by working on the women SACCO that would ensure that women in the lowest levels in the villages are empowered in a number of instances. The SACCO provided loans for the women and youths with lower interest rates so that they could start or boost their businesses thereby making them independent.

To the youths who wish to venture into the boda-boda sector, low interest loans are provided so that they acquire the motor bikes that will enable them put a meal on the table and also have a bike of their own so that they don't work for masters all through their life. It is beyond doubt that the sector employs majority of the youths in the county and country at large. In Kenya 58 percent of the population is employed in the boda-boda sector.

The Jua-kali artisans were not left behind, as they also reaped bountifully from the office of the woman representative through the National Government Affirmative and Action Funds (NGAAF). In the various towns across the county, then men and women have been equipped with a range of facilities that could ease their operations and provide better opportunities for their working environment.

Nelson Mandela, once talked about sports and this is what he had to say. He said and we quote, “sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite the people in a way that little else does. It speaks to the youths in a language that they only understand. Sports can create hope where once there was despair. Mother Hippo has truly lived to this. She had had the opportunity to sponsor a number of tournaments across the county through the Wanga Mashinani NGAAF Tournament that provided opportunities for the youths to participate.

The tournaments provided youths with a chance to interact closely with the distinguishable professional footballers in the country and beyond. Michael Olunga who is a professional baller, currently playing in the Qatar League, AL Duhail SC who also hails from the county was a guest in the 2018 NGAAF Tournament. This interaction offered motivation to many of the uprising stars in the grassroots. Apart from that it also gave room for the club officials to identify young and promising talents from the elementary levels. The tournaments also provided a chance for a number of football and netball teams to acquire sponsorship to participate in the various leagues in the county and country.

Education is power. Education is the light to the society. Through the NGAAF funds, the woman representative came up in support of the youths across the county who had their dreams deferred owing to some other issues. She enrolled them to various tertiary institutions so as to have a literate society. In the year 2021, for purposes of clarity, a total of 250 students were enrolled for National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) countrywide under full sponsorship of the Homa Bay NGAAF kits.

Her election as the woman rep in the year 2013 provided her with the opportunity and power to raise her county and the larger country Kenya, to greater heights. This was evident in the milestone achievements that she had had across her tenure so as to have the flag of Homa Bay competing fairly with their counterparts.

The power has been very significant for the residents of the county in a number of ways. It was used to ensure that essential services are delivered to the people by ensuring that the less fortunate are offered necessary support to ensure that they achieve their dreams so that we all jubilate at their success for we embrace the spirit of communalism, ujamaa.

In connection to the spirit of communalism, power has enabled thinking big in her as the feeling of empathy and compassion for others the way they used to feel for her. The feelings therefore cease to be restricted to an individual leader and now have feeling for the electorates.

Through the oversight role in parliament, power can be used to safeguard the already existing natural resources thereby ensuring protection from mismanagement and embezzlement of the various resources so that we avoid unnecessary damages and injuries. The several activities that mother hippo did for the county and country at large have all been anchored on the basic significance of power as clearly illustrated:

## **WATER PROJECTS**

Water is life. That is according to science. Geographical research has shown that close to 75% of the planet earth is covered by water. Homabay County is not an exemption as it too enjoys the largest share of the great Lake Victoria, *nam lolwe*.

Despite Homa bay town sitting at the shores of the lake, it is quite ironical that the natives and residents still face a puzzling circumstance in their quest to gain access to clean water services. Recent reports have shown that only 50% of the county's population enjoys access to clean water. Under normal circumstances, a few pipes are needed so that water from the lake is pumped to a central point, tower where the necessary treatment processes are carried out and the water distributed to the residents but this seemed an uphill task. Lack of clean water to our people has ensued a spike in the cases of transmission of waterborne disease in the county that has led to an increase in the mortality rate within the county.

In ensuring the wellbeing of her people, mother hippo tried everything possible within her reach to ensure that the people do not walk for long distances of up to 8 km in search of clean water. She had very recently launched a water project for the natives of Kochia, Lwaho community who were very jolly with the initiative. The project, centered in the secondary school would be very significant to both the secondary and primary school and to the community at large. Now this is what is called killing two birds with a single stone. By guaranteeing easy access to water, the burden on the school going pupils and women is eased and thereby their extra energy is preserved for either their academics or more productive activities in the day that boosts their daily income.

## **FUNDRAISERS**

When we achieved our independence in the year 1963, after a long battle between our fore fathers and the colonialists, the faded flowers left and we were charged with the sole responsibility of ensuring that we develop and grow our country, an infant. To ensure success, three philosophies were brought about among them the harambee spirit which meant pulling together and has become part of us till today.

The harambee programs led to rapid development of schools, hospitals and many other social centers including churches. A good number of students were enrolled to schools as money was raised to facilitate their mission. All these were done in the mission to kick out the three major enemies at the time of independence, which were, ignorance, diseases and poverty.

The church plays a very significant role in the inculcation of morals to the people in the society and has been able to assist in offering pastoral and moral services across the county. The different churches have also not only sponsored schools but also students to pursue education. Whenever need arose in which the different churches could be in dire need of initiating or continuing with their various projects, Gladys Wanga always arrived in handy with the respective materials. She participated and led numerous fund drives across the county including Got Kojowi SDA, Monato SDA to aid in construction of a guest house among others.

She was also very significant in the St. Paul's Cathedral Homabay ahead of the installation of the bishop elect, Rt. Rev. Bishop Michael Odiwa.

Plato tells us that if a man neglects education, he walks lame to the end of his life. To avoid the plaque, mother hippo led a series of fund drives to ensure that the vulnerable children had easy access to quality education whenever she fell in the position to. In the just concluded form one admission of the year 2022, in one of our most treasured schools in our county and country, Orero Boys High School, a student by the name, Joshua Otieno arrived in school just with a bible and a few exercise books citing abject poverty back at home.

The principal Mr. Dickens Bula coordinated with the staff members and got a few items to realize the young boy's admission. This was in line with the directives from the Ministry of Education (MOE) that required the principals to admit even those students with no money to pay for their fees.

It later took the intervention of Mr. Elly Nyiero who linked up with a close ally of the women representative to help the young boy achieve his dream. Before close of business in less than 48 hours after Citizen TV aired the sad and disheartening news, mother hippo had already come to the rescue of the young boy. Flurry pictures flooded the internet in praise of the good and compassionate seen from the governor to be. It is believed that all the students vowed to rally their parents behind the candidature of Hon. Gladys Wanga because she had depicted qualities of good leadership by resurrecting Joshua's dreams and a true sense of motherhood.

Besides assisting individual students, several schools have also been beneficiaries to the many fund drives that have been spearheaded by mother hippo to ensure construction of new and good classrooms to provide a conducive both for the

learners and the teachers in the schools. Ongoro primary school, Ondiche primary school among others...

## **ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

Hon. Gladys Wanga is known for breaking barriers, thinking not only outside the box but also without the box. This has seen her perform functions that are not prescribed to her office. The roads and infrastructure docket were never one that fell in the docket of the women representative office. She had gone beyond the functional restrictions to ensure that the constituents had the best and able to easily carry out their day-to-day activities.

It is not easy to forget when the residents of Kochia following the Olare - Mariwa road complained of poor roads connecting them to the main road, she lobbied through the ministry of lands to ensure that a routine maintenance was carried out.

Not so long ago, when the Riat – Oria Bridge in Ndiwa collapsed, a bridge that connected the Sukari industry to the main land that is the raw materials from the farmers. The woman representative moved with speed to provide for temporary solutions through the Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KERRA) to the locals who were now going to languish by its break. It was a measure to ensure that the locals don't have their cane dry in the farm when it should be in the industry, thereby increasing their livelihoods.

KERRA therefore installed a 12-tonne capacity modular bridge as a temporary solution promised to bring it to completion when elected as the area governor in the upcoming general elections. This saw the residents rally behind her candidature to ensure that her promise to them is accomplished for the betterment of their livelihoods.

## **INTERACTING AND STAYING CLOSE TO THE PEOPLE**

Stay with the people, live with the people and speak to the people in their mother tongue, you win the people.

Mother hippo showed a lot of compassion to her constituents. Unlike other leaders who put up palatial houses in the big towns and cities across the country, she decided to build her home in her matrimonial land. This provided her with the opportunity to constantly interact with the locals instead of the people booking appointments to see her in the city or elsewhere.

The constant interaction with the natives enabled her to build a strong political base in her backyard for they felt that she was one of them and they were ready to die for her.

‘A friend in need is a friend indeed,’ goes the old adage. As per the dictates of the Christian doctrines, from the holy book, Christians are expected to show compassion to their fellows in their times of need. Mother hippo truly lived by this, as she continued to join hands in condoling with her people regardless of their social status in the society.

Not only was she available during grief, she also availed herself for the better ceremonies, attended birthday parties of her county residents and other momentous occasions in the county like the recent installation of the new Homabay Catholic Diocese, Bishop Michael Odiwa, who is a son of the soil.

## **WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES**

The Kenyan constitution of 2010, created the office of the woman representative to perform a number of functions both at the national and county level. The creation of this post was a measure to try and achieve the 2/3 gender rule in the national assembly and majorly to economically empower the women across the county. This helped to bring the women leaders to the bargaining table so that they could also form part of the decision-making organs in a measure to ensure that the women's needs are put into consideration and are not left behind to avoid the marginalization.

Living by this, mother hippo was in the forefront apart from her exemplarily roles performed in the legislative assembly with women empowerment as the epicenter of her agenda. She did everything within her reach to ensure that her fellow women became economically independent. She spearheaded, through patronizing the powerful Savings and Credit Corporative Society (SACCO) that just as the name suggests performs the basic roles of sensitizing the members on the benefits of saving for future use and also offer low interest rate loans to the members and grants to the small-scale business women across the county.

### **HOMABAY COUNTY WOMEN SACCO.**

This was a commission established way back in the year 2015, under the patronage of the women representative. At the point of its commencement, the guest of honor of that particular was HE.RT. Hon. Raila Amolo Odinga, in a colorful event in the St. Paul's Secondary School – Ligisa Secondary school grounds. A mammoth crowd had converged in the ground ready to witness the launch of such a great SACCO that would be beneficial to the locals of Homabay County.

The SACCO was formed with the aim of enhancing easy access to financial capital for the small- and large-scale women traders across the county. It also performed the advisory role to the traders on the importance of saving in their daily lives so that when it comes to a point that they couldn't make it to the markets should old age catch up with them for none stays young forever. The amount of one's savings would also influence the amount of money that one was able to borrow.

Owing to the fact that the members of the SACCO comprised of people from across the county, their interactions here in would ensure a peaceful and conducive environment among the members of the business community across the county.

Information about the different market situations in the county was easy to access that one would move with his/her goods whenever they are needed. It has also ensured a free flow of ideas among the traders thus informative. A number of benefits have accrued following the interaction of members within the county and beyond.

At the beginning, the constitution provided for a 70% composition of the women and the remaining 30% was set aside for the youths and a few men. The efficiency in the service delivery to the people has been reflected in the rapid growth of the membership to the SACCO.

The SACCO today boasts of a total of SH. 95 million as amount already loaned to the registered members. Members saving wallet says a sum of SH. 45 million has been collected to the SACCO.

No man is an island, is a saying that is used to signify the importance of togetherness. In the spirit of effective functioning, the SACCO has tried to partner with other organizations that may include Women Enterprise Fund and is set to open Front Office Services Activities (FOSA) across the county.

## **ABEDO GRANTS**

Abedo is a Luo word meaning I am seated. The name is symbolic to the target audience. These grants are given to the small-scale traders, also known as Jo ohand aswekra, who operate using a capital base of not more than 500 shillings. The aswekra trades are existent in our markets as having sat down on the ground when selling their little garden products or any other in small scale. They have no specific bases of operation and are therefore like the Maasai nomads thereby acquiring the name *Aswekra*.

The reason for initiation of this grant program was to boost their businesses and compete fairly with the other traders. This was driven by a famous Luo proverb that translates to; one does not dry where he bathed. This would see them venture into larger businesses thereby facilitating their movement into the women SACCO so that they keep the fire burning.

This docket was fully supported by the office of the women representative. Through this, over 30,000 traders have been reached out to across all the 80 markets in the country and a total of over Ksh. 40 million disbursed to the traders to support their business.

## **MARKET CENTRES.**

To ensure a conducive environment for the traders across the county, several market centers have been put up. This helps provide shelter in times of high temperatures and seasonal rains to the trader. This has also been an initiative to ensure that the buyers purchase their goods in a clean environment. The construction has been fully funded by the NGAAF funds. She has too facilitated the construction of pit latrines in almost all the market centers as a measure to increase the levels of hygiene.

By this a number of markets have been commissioned and are already offering their desired purposes. Among the already completed are, Rangwe and Magunga while the Ringa Market is yet to be commissioned.

## **OWN FAILURE ARCHITECTS.**

Even as the globe continues to embrace and dance to the tune of women empowerment, it is quite absurd that the same women alone still offer setbacks on themselves. The women are known to suffer from, “I – can’t –do –it syndrome.” This therefore offers a hindrance block to them as they continue to pursue their dreams and would therefore be jealous of other successful women questioning how it happened on their side.

Low self-esteem and lack of confidence has seen our women languish in the patriarchal societies owing to the fear of the unknown or criticism. Male chauvinism that exists in most of the African communities has too become a hard nut to crack as the women are only meant to be seen and never to be heard. For the faint- hearted, they will be discouraged by this and opt to walk away as they lack the power to put up a fight.

To the brave, they go into the bitter and bloody battle and their courage, recognition of true value and self-worth see them successful. Sadly enough, because they are not able to put in the same energy for the struggle as their male counterparts some succumb to the pressure in due course. Women are always considered a weaker gender with the male being more masculine than them.

Beyonce and J.K Rowling have written a lot in the view of empowering women. They have had the following to the women. They have advised the women on the need to reshape their own perception of how they view themselves. They have advised the women to step up make a step ahead so as to overcome the traditional patriarchy. And that no magic is needed to transform the world citing that the power needed to overcome the different challenges is already within ourselves.

Mother Hippo has been a true reflection of the brave women in this country who have stood up to put a spirited fight against all the odds. She dares even posts that are considered very big for the women. In January 2016, she put up a fight in her quest to become the ODM party county branch chair person. A struggle in which she emerged victorious in beating her bitter rival at the time, Hon. Peter Opondo

Kaluma, something that created great animosity between the two leaders. It therefore required the intervention of the party leader, H.E. Hon. Raila Odinga, to restore tranquility. That was a seat that was considered too heavy for a woman to bear on her shoulders. As if that was not enough, she is today running for the gubernatorial seat, Homabay County.

Her speedy and swift rise in the political arena has caused her jealousy from the other female counterparts. Having suffered from the “I –can’t –do- it syndrome, they have in turn resorted to calling her names. They have called her *siruda*, a Luo word for a showy person.

They were seen running parallel campaigns even though they all had the ODM ticket, snubbing Hon. Wanga’s campaign trail as she traversed the whole county in a course to woo the voters to vote her in as the second governor. They never gave clear reasons pertaining to their mischievous behaviors. Coming together, to help drum up support for a fellow woman, would be beneficial on their side as they would have one of them who would easily articulate their issues in the decision-making table

This comes at a time when our major competitor in the 2017 elections, the Jubilee party, had elected three women governors on their side. The three included, Hon. Anne Waiguru, of Kiambu County which also happens to be the president’s backyard, Hon. Charity Kaluki Ngilu, of Kitui County, Hon. Dr. Joyce Laboso, now the late of Bomet County. This was very challenging on Raila Odinga’s side as his NASA coalition did not bring up any woman as a governor. They therefore viewed him as a person who had very little or no passion for women leadership.

On the contrary, he had some other reasons to smile. In Homabay County, out of the eight constituencies, three constituencies had elected women as their members of parliament. The three members included, Hon. Lillian Achieng’ Gogo, of Rangwe, Hon. Eve Akinyi Obara of Kabondo Kasipul and Hon. Millie Odhiambo.

Owing to the critics from the opponents, when time came for the 2022 general elections, Raila needed to field a female governor, so as to counter the attacks from his opponents in one his three major strongholds, the coast, western and Nyanza regions. The coastal counties had not fielded any female candidate. The western region had Hon. Florence Mutua trounced over by Hon. Paul Otuoma in Busia County. The only option left was now Nyanza, Homabay County.

The gubernatorial race had attracted a total of eight candidates who were battling for the ODM ticket. Out of the eight, we had only one woman, Hon. Gladys Wanga. A number of sacrifices were made in a measure to ensure that a woman governor was reached at. John Mbadi, serving as the ODM party national chairman was given a call by his party leader and they talked at length about issues pertaining women leadership and his significant presence in the national politics that would now have him susceptible to better and higher positions in government. Mbadi therefore, owing to the respect he had accorded the party leader, bowed out of the race something that he said was a very hard decision to make citing shifted focus on the Raila Odinga presidency. It was also evident in his closest allies who were now very disappointed in him but he would later address them so that a season of tranquility is reached at.

Then followed a consensus meeting with the other seven but one candidate, Dr. Evans Odhiambo Kidero, skipped the meeting. He later came out and claimed that all the other aspirants were forced to bow out of the race for the sake of Wanga, in a meeting that he did not attend. He promised to continue with the race and would vie as an independent candidate. In the consensus meeting, chaired by H.E. Hon. Raila Amolo Odinga, a resolution was arrived at that Hon. Gladys Wanga, would be left to fly the party flag in the general elections with the others promised benefits from the county and national governments. '*Dhian'g iye lach.*' This is a phrase that is used to smoothen the souls of those who might have not merited to the party nominations list or if a close ally of the presidential or gubernatorial

candidate, who clinches the seat, would land a lucrative job as a minister, a present day, cabinet secretary.

## **THE FORERUNNER**

With the wind of change blowing, a number of women had risen and were available in the political arena. Very conspicuous evidence was the nomination of one Martha Karua as the running mate of the Azimio-One Kenya Alliance. Her nomination was highly welcomed by the women of the country who addressed the members of the press just after the event in KICC. Gladys Wanga, present during the briefs, appreciated *jakom*, Raila Odinga, for his belief in women leadership. She further added that, no seat was too big for a woman to occupy in this country and advised women to come up and battle for positions and not to be afraid. Being that the women are the voters; it was now very evident that the Raila-Martha ticket was going to emerge victorious as everybody votes into a basket that he has his interests served best.

His nomination came a day after his major competitor, on the UDA-Kenya Kwanza ticket had had a vigorous 17 hours activity in a measure to come up with a suitable running mate for the deputy president. They later settled on Rigathi Gachagua as the running mate as a measure to win the central Kenya votes for they are the majority. His decision to settle on Rigathi was not welcomed by the members. Inner sources revealed that senator Kithure Kindike had become victorious in the votes that were casted but the deputy president would later settle on Rigathi based on the three principles as had been set by the late Moses Otieno Kajwang, loyalty, faithfulness and fidelity to the party.

Senator Kithure had appeared the following day to address the press on his dissatisfaction with the decision to lock him out of the race. In registering his anger, he vowed to be out of active politics and was not available for nominations to any positions even if his party leader would clinch power.

Raila's decision was likened to the USA president, Joe Biden, who nominated a woman, Kamala Harris, as her running mate and they emerged victorious. The

political analysts across the country said in one voice, that the decision was final and would see Mr. Odinga clinch power.

The women rising revolution was very evident even in the other two presidential candidates, Prof. George Wajackoya and David Mwaure, who also settled on women as their running mates. Sensing defeat, the deputy president, moved with speed to sign a number of charters among them the women charter in which he promised a 50% cabinet slots to the women and other positions in his government. This idea was later countered by his own running mate who in a public rally declared that the women agenda was a non-issue...

As time continued to fly, campaign trails traversed the country spreading the message of baba Na mama ticket and it really sold. The survey polls conducted by the different organizations placed Raila Odinga ahead something that was attributed to the gender card. It was now time for him, to take his campaigns to his backyard, the Nyanza region. Like in the bible, John the Baptist was sent ahead of Christ, so as to clear the paths in preparation for the coming of the 'Messiah,' Martha Karua was sent ahead of 'Jakom.' Homabay County is known to be leading in the loyalty to 'jakom' than any other county in Nyanza and their turn out was always very impressive in the elections.

Having a number of elected women, in the county, a women's convention was organized to facilitate the women empowerment agenda now that they had one of them as the second in command designate. The convention brought about all the leaders across the county including, Hon. John Mbadi, Hon. Opondo Kaluma, Hon. Millie Odhiambo and Hon. Lillian Gogo, who were viewed as not supporting her bid.

Hon. Gogo in her speech used an analogy of a delivery process, having six children to deliver. This was an analogy that was used to emphasize on the six-piece voting method, which would ensure all those with the ODM party ticket are voted in to give 'jakom' an easy time.

Hon. Millie Odhiambo, confessed having left her meet-the-people sessions with her people, something that she had recently began citing illness that had befallen her. She declined running against her fellow woman and vowed to offer full support to her sister Gladys.

Hon. Opondo Kaluma stood up and talked about being a student in Raila's school and would therefore follow his commands. He went further to give an analogy of a football set up and he described Raila Odinga as the coach with them being team players and was therefore subject to total discipline and respect to the coach. Whenever the coach tells you to get up and warm so that you get in as a substitute then you would do exactly that. If he tells you to sit down then you would do the same. Owing to utmost respect to his coach he cited his willingness to support Hon. Gladys at all levels and champion for all the other ODM candidates with the aim of achieving the best for 'jakom.' He has recently accompanied the governor designate in a series of rallies in his Homabay town constituency with an aim of wooing the voters to camp all their votes in one basket.

When time came for the party national chair, Hon. John Mbadi, having led a delegation and even officiating new Azimio offices in Migori, it was time for him to do the same at home. In a roaring voice, he blasted at those people who had claimed that ODM as a party had overpowered their other counterparts in the Azimio coalition citing that Luo Nyanza was the ODM party bedroom and would therefore sweep the region like a tsunami. His promise would see him campaign for all the party candidates. He further added that he would provide any force and authority and everything within his reach to ensure that mother hippo emerges victorious in the upcoming elections.

The guest of honor, Hon. Martha Karua, then brought down the curtains at the event by heaping praises on mother hippo, citing a number of changes that she had championed and urged the residents to come out in large numbers to have Hon. Wanga elected. It was this event that brought another twist in the county politics as the message was clear and chants of 'chama ni Moja' rained in the air as that would give 'jakom' an easy time executing his duties when elected in as the president.

### **FROM DRINKING- MILK TO CHEWING BONES.**

Growth and development are very significant in living all the things. Human beings, attribute growth and development to success in reputation, comprehensive resource availability, and rise in the social status among many other things. The two processes are very significant as they are indicators of a successful process.

When a child is born, it feeds solely on the mother's milk. The milk at that time is very nutritious and contains all the required nutrients for the child. The nutrients are responsible for the necessary multiplication of the body cells that are very effective in the human body.

As time continues to unfold, the child's digestive system develops and therefore facilitating weaning. At this time, the child begins to feed on the different variety of foodstuffs available to him by the mother gradually. There are reasons as to why the weaning process is not introduced rapidly; this is to avoid further complications within the child's system as the system is still in the developing process. The teeth

then start to grow and perform a number of functions among them, biting, cutting, chewing and crushing. The child is now ready to chew bones after the growth of the premolar and molar teeth.

The child's analogy has been used here to illustrate the different gradual and procedural steps that mother hippo have gone through as she has been rising to various positions in the country. Inclusive are the stages from birth, her interaction with the people of Kano, through to the primary and secondary school and campus politics then to the national politics.

Her elementary skills developed from her assistance in distributing salt to the villagers when popularizing her dad's bid and Kisumu Girls when advocating for the rights of the prefects. She was then weaned in Kenyatta University when she was first elected the first woman Secretary General of the students' council. Her entrance into politics in 2013 also acted as part of the weaning process for she was now exposed to a more difficult task, from dealing with student-related issues to addressing the issues of the citizens of Homabay County, a task that she has given her all to ensure the best for her constituents.

Having passed exemplarily well in the test, like a good student who has exhibited the zeal and zest to achieve the best in her short- and long-term goals, is promoted, she has therefore been promoted and is ready to battle out for the governor's seat. The teeth are already grown and therefore the child is ready to chew the bones. Her decision to run for the seat is being driven by the passion to salvage her people from the yoke of suffering.

Her slogan, 'Genowa,' meaning our hope, has been a clear indication of whatever plans she has for a better Homabay County. The slogan has become a chorus to stimulate and charge the audience in her campaigns in which she uses to make known her plans for the Homabay electorates.

Her: *kachwadi e nyawangaya to chwada e genowa..*

*Nyar wangaya!*

*Crowd: genowa...*

*Her: kidwaro pii maler!*

*Crowd: genowa...*

*Her: ndara mayom!*

*Crowd: genowa*

*Her: yath e hospital!*

*Crowd: genowa...*

*Her: county bursary!*

*Crowd: genowa...*

*Her: mondo nyithindwa osom!*

*Crowd: genowa...*

*(As the crowd waves at her) ayaa fwaa na badi kamaa x3*

Those have been the major problems that the residents of Homabay had been facing and by readily accepting to help in solving the problems then she would easily win the public trust. Homabay being the county of choice and the home of legends having hosted most of the famous people in the Luo nation deserved better as indicated in her detailed manifesto to salvage the county and its residents.

The legends include, chief Gor Mahia, Nyam Gondho Wuon Obare, Prof. Odhiambo Mbai, the good brain of Kochia, who was the major proponent of the devolution idea in the Kenyan constitution and Tom Mboya, of Rusinga who was assassinated as he was in the forefront championing for multiparty democracy.

**OUR HOPE: GENOWA**

Mother Hippo had come with a detailed manifesto that was set to salvage us from the yoke of suffering. With a clear vision and mission for the county, Mama County remains the most suitable candidate in the race.

In her vision for the county, she is determined to have a healthy and wealthy county where its resident's endeavor to live in harmony with the environment. The vision is a resemblance of the short-term goals that she has in place for the county residents. To live in harmony with the environment will ensure the maintenance of the already existing natural features within the county. Nature itself is beautiful and one would just be at peace whenever it is not disturbed.

With the existence of Ruma National Park, that is in possession of the most endangered species of the antelopes, the roan antelope, nyakech, Homabay will attract a large number of tourists who will be paying us a visit more frequently which in turn boosts our economy.

In the islands of Rusinga, there are a number of natural physical features that can be very attractive and appealing to the eyes, among many other features thus the focus of mother hippo on the importance of being at peace with the natural environment.

For her mission, she is focused in transforming Homabay County into the best county to live, invest and work in. the mission on the other hand is a simile of the long-term goals that are set to be achieved and would be beneficial to both the current and future generations that are yet to come in Homabay County. By creating a conducive environment for investors within the county, the youths within will easily gain access to many employment opportunities that would see better livelihoods within the county and help eradicate or reduce the poverty levels within the county.

To innovate, transform, empower and grow are her major building blocks to her strong foundation that would ensure a success in the whole county with everybody on board. One definitely leads to another, wherever something new is introduced to the people, it raises eyebrows as each and every person would be working towards achieving or try to march the set standards. The change would necessitate a total overhaul in the manner of doing things among the people so as to adapt to the changes in the society.

For the innovation and transformation to occur, empowerment of the people will be very necessary. The empowerment comes in both dimensions that will include financial empowerment and human capital. A number of designs are put in place to ensure that the people are either empowered financially through the various groups and SACCOs that will be in place or offer the necessary sensitization to educate the people on the requirements to meet the raised bars. By this, a steady growth of the economy will be realized thereby achieving a wealthy county.

Her manifesto was anchored on five major pillars that would guarantee a better county. The pillars are believed to be the backbone of our great county that has been neglected. The five include:

- Establishing a transformative, efficient and inclusive governance system
- Improving the health and citizen's well being
- Ensuring food security, job creation and poverty eradication.
- Developing full economic potential through trade industry, environment services and blue economy.
- To empower women and youth and harness cultural and tourism potentials.

In a quest to provide good and efficient governance to the people, a number of measures have been put by Mother Hippo. Just like devolution, Mother Hippo has promise to put up administrative offices in all the eight sub-counties of Homabay County. This helps reduce overcrowding in the headquarters and will have the problems addressed effectively and in good time. With the continuous blowing wind of change about digitization, measures are already in place in Mother Hippo's government to provide services to the people, anywhere, at any time without fail. This will include the revenue collection measures that will the county treasury collect good amounts of money from different points across the county without losing even a single coin. The collected revenue would help boost the national government allocation annually so as to steer a number of projects to the people.

Digitization will also help to reduce amounts of paper work in the offices and prevent instances of some missing documents. This again is a measure to counter the corrupt who when in fear of audition would resort to burning down the procurement and finance offices by destroying the evidence in the files that have gathered dust.

The biggest foe that hinders development in the counties and country Kenya has been the increased rate of corruption. This has been an effort of the few egocentric individuals who forever are always concerned by their own stomachs at the expense of the citizens with a branded name, cartels. The cartels are never supposed to be seen anywhere closer to the county offices for they have let our great county down and the pending bills done away with as they are a result of the corruption in the previous government.

Every Kenyan is entitled to quality health care services. This has been the exact opposite not only in our county, Homabay. Our health sector has been faced with a number of challenges that has hindered good service delivery despite it being devolved. Ranging from the constant health workers strikes, lack of drugs in the hospitals forcing the residents to purchase drugs at a much-hiked prices in chemists around the town, low quality services and poor and limited structures that has seen crowding in the wards that leads to further spread of communicable diseases.

A robust plan is in place through Mother Hippo to help improve the health sector. Construction and equipping a referral hospital in the county is her number one priority so that the county residents are not subjected to struggles whenever they need health services. In coordination with the national government, she will ensure full implementation of the universal health care that is a measure put in place by the government to ensure easy access to health facilities by the citizens. This is done in partnership with the National Hospital Insurance Funds (NHIF).

In a measure to help even the less fortunate have access to quality health services, Mother Hippo has promised to issue to every home a NHIF card that will facilitate their medication process. This offers a sigh of relief to majority of the citizens who live below the poverty line.

**NHIF. *Dala ka dala.***

Further, to reduce the mortality rate caused by the waterborne diseases, she has a detailed plan to ensure that all the residents within the county have access to clean water. This even greatly affects our aquatic life in the end influencing success in our blue economy and domestic animals. The clean water in our lakes would ensure increased recreational activities; our farmers around the lake can pump clean water to their farms, and the different manufacturing companies to pump clean water thus clean products.

Consequently, efforts to have the rate of poverty levels among the county residents across the county, a number of issues are in line to ensure the set standards are achieved.

Pillar number five talks about solving the issues revolving around food security, job creation and measures that ensure poverty eradication. First things first, with the ECDE department devolved to the county government, there are a number of challenges that the children and their teachers go through. Mother Hippo is committed to have well-constructed ECDE classrooms to provide a conducive learning and teaching environment. That is a measure that would work to reduce the rate of infections in our children that arises from inhaling the dust in their classes.

With the high rate of poverty within the county, many children do not find food for their lunch at home. A well laid program is put in place to provide a feeding program to the ECDE pupils so that they have an easy time to concentrate on their studies and strongly build their educational foundation.

For their teachers, an increased remuneration will work for them and boost their morale. A permanent and pensionable employment will save them from languishing after their retirement. This would see an increased output from the teachers.

In a move to ensure and benefit from a good infrastructure, so that investors are attracted to our great county. The first major step would be to expand the Kabunde Airstrip, maintain and construct the roads that are set for the county government. In close working with the national roads, all the roads will be in good state to ensure free flow of goods into and out of our county.

Mother Hippo intends to work closely with the KPLC, Kenya Power and Lighting Company, to ensure that the people of Homabay have access to modern energy and leave out the use of pollutants as our major sources of energy. In connection to that, working towards a sustainable use of the natural resources and environmental conservation. This is also in line with the vision that is to live in harmony with the environment. This will further aid in addressing the issue of climate change.

The fourth pillar is seeking to address the effective use of the blue economy and expand our trading activities within the county. There is a need for development of SACCOs that will offer sensitization and finances at subsidized interest rates to our farmers. Again, her county government will set aside a trade funds kitty that will offer support to the small-scale farmers to help them boost their activities.

Consequently, for a conducive environment for the trades, the county government will construct modern markets across all the eight sub-counties. In the modern markets, it will be pleasurable to have goods that are manufactured and processed within our county. This will be achieved by the construction of industries where needed in the county. A pineapple factory will be good for the people of Kochia as they are already producing the raw materials.

For the people of Rachuonoyo, who are well known for the production of cotton, a cotton ginnery is promised to them. This will prevent them from suffering in the hands of the middlemen who have forever benefited on their behalf.

The kind of *rabuon*, sweet potatoes produced in Kabondo can never be only left for domestic consumption. The climate and soil allow them to produce large amounts of the sweet potatoes thus a factory is needed so that the farmers do not see potato planting as a waste of time.

To our great brothers from Suba, with the high rate of maize production, a maize miller will do for them so that apart from ugali, they can have a variety of products from their maize. This again will see a number of farmers venture into the production of maize as there is a ready market for their products.

It is therefore evident that Mother Hippo intends to solve the issues of our people based on whatever they already have in place, so that the needs of the people are solved gradually and with ease.

For the sensitization efforts, an annual benchmarking session will be conducted in the county to provide our traders and farmers show case their products and tactics against those of the invited guests so that our farmers get to learn and adopt new ideas on the current trends in the sector.

For the blue economy, a sector that has been marred by a number of challenges in our county and country, an elaborate plan has been developed by Mother Hippo to ensure its success.

For the fishermen, the county government would support their attempts to acquire modern fishing equipment that would ease their work, the safety gears that they put on during their sessions, this helps to prevent cases of fishermen drowning in the water and also ensure their security in the lake as they have faced a number of challenges in the hands of the Ugandan soldiers.

After the fish is brought to the shores, and because they are perishable, they need some cooling facilities by the shores. With the help of the county government, cooling facilities will be installed in the different beaches so that the fishers don't struggle trying to beat time.

Further, a fish and fish products processing plant is set to be established in one of the beaches in our county so that would see Homabay producing finished products of fish that are readily available within the county instead of transporting our fish to Thika. Capacity building, training and research programs are to be in place so as to sensitize the people on the basics and dynamics in the fishing profession. Modern water transport infrastructural development that will include construction of piers along the bays in Homabay, Kendu Bay, Mbita among others will offer a boost the transport sector.

The very last pillar in her manifesto which was also very vital was to empower the women and the youths and harness cultural and tourism potentials. Homabay boasts of being a county of legends thereby having very many and

significant historic sites that attract tourists. Rusinga Island is the place where the remains of the Neanderthal man were discovered by Richard Leaky. Again, it is in the same Rusinga that is the residence of the great man, Tom Mboya, a man whose flamboyance had been silenced by two bullets on the chest. Today it is a tourist attraction site.

Next to them in Ndhiwa, exists the home of the great chief, Gor Mahia, the old Rapedhi SDA church in Rachuonyo, we have the sunken village, Simbi nyaima. With the necessary constructions and measures set, the sites are a very good source of income to the county government and will boost the livelihoods of those around in due course.

A cultural annual event that will provide an avenue for an exchange program of both ideas and goods will be organized by the county government. This exposes our cultural heritage to the outside world through those in the Diaspora thereby opening up our county.

To the energetic youths in schools, the Mother Hippo government will provide for the county awards where there will be competition in the county schools. The awards are to boost the morale of the boys and girls in the schools so that their efforts are geared towards achieving the best in their studies. For those with the talents, a youth talent academy will be established to ensure that the available talents within the county are nurtured and exposed to the relevant personnel so that they live to achieve their dreams.

To solve the issue of gender-based violence, Mother Hippo was set to initiate a program, ‘mama county says program’, that is meant to sensitize the women in

the county on their rights so that they avoid oppression by their male counterparts.

In instances of defilement, a nearby gender desk in all the eight sub-counties so that they find easy rescue in times of need without navigating through the police offices where occurrences are recorded in files but would later only gather dust so that the victims never find justice.

Again, ‘a girl support program’, to help the little girls in the villages who are from poor families. A number of adolescent girls face a lot of challenges when it comes to their menstruation and need a lot of help. Through the program, sensitization will be done to avoid and reduce the rate of teenage pregnancies within the county. This will help to secure the lives of our young boys and girls who drop out of school.

Surely, Mother Hippo had a robust plan for the effective development of our county and it is for this that many were beseeched to vote her in so as to have the dreams realized. Everything one sees presently is informed by ways of Her Excellency Gladys Wanga which therefore calls for tracing the tracks.

### **LIFE IS CRUSTS AND CRESTS.**

The year 2017 and the subsequent developments was another rigorous moment marked by vigorous activities and turns for the National Super Alliance, NASA, and a coalition that had decided to endorse Raila Odinga as its flag-bearer in the presidential race. The skies cried red rain. Darkness had enveloped and captured the nation because it looked like MAU MAU had given birth to a small child. Events that followed were those horrific ones which no author finds no desire to

touch again. History can be a painful cut circumcising through our hearts but just to let the waters go untouched, the body of ICT manager, one Chris Musando had been recovered at the usual dumpsite-Ngong forest after a few days of missing from searching- sights. Like the African thunderstorm, something else came to birth; Victory was stolen from Raila and 'the country' was not ready to swallow the sweet and sour milk.

One should vividly remember how many littered the streets of Nairobi city. We never missed a single day even though hope seemed to dwindle away every time the sun was in the west celebrating a universal funeral. The moment had seen Raila out of the country to seek the intervention of the white man. many other things happened but which now are all non-issues and unwanted for this particular course. Again, one remembers how many encountered those who have called themselves maintainers of law and order when they dodged the bullets but the unlucky ones put the morgues to task. They merged and marched together in the city like ravens singing songs as;

*"onge ng'ama Baba osenego... one ng'ama Baba osenego!"* for;

"Baba has killed none

...x2"

*Any African child questioning the onset and essence of police*

*Brutality should find answers from which they are able to find*

*Satisfaction. Several decades ago, times that*

*Have been called colonial periods, the white man was in Africa and*

*To be specific, Kenya to lure and rule. 'He' interfered with all systems and slapped a region they called 'Black*

*Continent' with a rude interruption. To justify this, books say some*

*Had come to explore*

*The region; finding the sea route to India, doing inventions and*

*Discoveries, perpetuating*

*The gospel of Christ making it too late to strike back. The white man*

*Had coated the*

*Country with heavy lead.*

*The British had come to Kenya and in a bid to see their interests served, they allowed*

*Imperial British East African Company, IBEACo under William*

*MacKinnon take care of*

*The primitive corner of the world.*

*Africans had been conscripted and recruited as home guards to*

*Fetch reinforcements that were aimed to fetch full allegiance to tax*

*Payment and working on European farms as char-men on meagre*

*Wages.*

*'There is a time for everything. A time to come and a time to leave... '*

*Coming they did but going back they had to; they would be going*

*Back to their countries after the birth of Kenya on a day that has*

*Forever been called Independence Day.*

*The overzealous African*

*Had anticipated good stay after the grand goodbye making Kenya*

*New and naive with independence.*

*One major mistake followed; Kenya later slipped into the hands of  
Conservatives who had  
Not played any major role in the struggle for liberation. The African  
Leader aped the white man by alleviating the guards into police so  
They would exist to maintain law and order because man is forever  
Turbulent. Brutality was served on everyone; Generous  
Kicks, whips and hits became a rule rather than an exception to  
Become part of what was considered 'a noble cause.'*

*Questions which scored highly however arrived to that. Did they  
Have order themselves when they were very ready to cause  
Stampede giving birth to ruckus and fracas.*

*Those were the police, causing helter skelters and mayhem all over  
The nation in the name of dispersing and dispensing crowds using  
Barrels. It was true that the then 'government' was using the  
Police to tighten grip only to cause grief on a country that was  
Taking a different course in the hands of liberation.*

Raila had been quickly gifted the name 'the father of the nation,' and so was he supposed to be henceforth. To make those efforts bear success, a new thing visited. A movement, National Resistance Movement, NRM, had been formed as a

tool for echoing demands, demands that were directed to an aristocratic group of the time. The daughter of John Nyasuna of Kano, Gladys Wanga was not an absentee in the hunt for justice so that we could not have justice read 'just ice.' Together with other figures like their self-declared general Honorable Miguna Miguna, a man with same name twice, she had put all her feet and heat forth in the struggle for what looked like the third phase of liberation struggle in Kenya that would see the birth of a new phase of the country.

The literate gardener from West Africa, Professor Wole Soyinka, notes that 'A tiger does not proclaim its tigritude, it pounces.' While in NRM- Kenya she had chosen to pounce on mediocrity by going 'overboard' to dare the police even to shoot her while at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport where they were receiving Raila from the international community? That seemed like a good spice to make a good flavor but not the best for a patient who had lost his appetite. What did she do again? The lioness from Kano stood boldly before cameras, the world watching her give press statements that gave prophesy of the end of aristocracy and a wake-up call to every Kenyan to join in the war against woes. They believed that both Uhuru Kenyatta and William Ruto had won the elections without winning.

On one afternoon, both the sun and the police doing a similar thing to the people, she boldly faced cameras and echoed the following:

" Every Kenyan who is interested in this walk or journey is hereby asked to shun products from the following companies, she read, cameras flashing out and clicking achieving something for the small ceremony. "Reject Bidco, Safaricom, Tuzo and Brookside!"

The words of her tongue left many agape, most of them who were men. Most still lived with the unhealthy notion and archaic perception that had long existed for women. She defied by doing her roles religiously in the fight and left in the hope that her bullets would begin to flower immediately. What ensued was unbelievable; Safaricom had lost an accumulative sum of sums because many had yielded to her request. Every Kenyan at that time can confess that it was very necessary to have things the way they were because allegations baptized Safaricom a new name. That it had compromised by allowing a few to use it in the

affairs of the year's elections. That was sweet and sour milk and what one can comfortably call food for worms. The tussle between police and fighters for the best reigned for a long time without ceasing including Raila having himself sworn in as The People's President, the best after winners. Many pursuers of law argued that such actions scored for treason that would attract no further negotiations away from hanging.

"If diplomacy fails, wage war." Diplomacy had failed to score so war was the nearest resort at reach. But for how long would it go? For how long did it go? It was the relentless and undying efforts of the likes of Honorable Gladys Wanga that gave birth to a Handshake between Raila Odinga and Uhuru Kenyatta in January 2018, making her and Kenya Makers of History although some white rebates that 'Africa has not made any history yet.' That was the thought of an imperial and patronizing white, however. They had sat at tables to negotiate terms so that just at the onset of 2018, the two men Uhuru Kenyatta and Raila Odinga were seen walk out of a uniting room to put the lid on by shaking hands before the whole world. One could see why and how the daughter of Kano fought that particular course whose fruits and results are today enjoyed by many. It was henceforth a season of harmony across the country because the whole country did not have a replica of what the universe witnessed in 2007-2008 scenario which has been called Post Election Violence-PEV. Herself she had attracted the lion's share of votes from electorates in Homa Bay County to allow her retain her seat as the county's Woman Representative again; Good work was commended by another term, thanks to Raila and his devolution. As a representative she would be in the Assembly representing the county and giving oversights to the daily rhythms in parliament. It was the same year-2017 that she was ending her membership as a member of Departmental Committee and House Business Committee both which she had risen to by 2013. What a positive trajectory! It was also during such times that she handsomely beat Honorable Opondo Kaluma of Homa Bay Constituency in the race to Homa bay County ODM chairmanship, earning another healthy political tittle, commissioner. One can now see the events that informed her full basket of political gifts and mints. That undoubtedly

turned winds for her because in areas prevailed by 'political harmattans' there were great green changes to the monsoons.

July 2020 also arrived with much for her. She had assumed another rang in the ladder when she became the Chairperson of Departmental Committee of Finance, planning and trade so that there would be relevant control on the country's annual budget and her efforts would inform the journey to economic equilibrium. The aftermath was also another exotic experience for Gladys Wanga. It did not take so long before the newspapers arrived with fresh news as:

'Gladys Wanga emerges as Kenya's champion in parliament!'

She had emerged as a clear champion as she had time and again been called to bat to oppose certain proposed legislation and amendments that would have hurt the common wananchi.

Her peers in parliament too had recognized that as she had then received plaudits

For amending the finance bill which had proposed a raft of new taxes.

While speaking in parliament, Wanga had thrown her hands by standing her ground to reject the taxes fronted by Treasury Cabinet Secretary, Ukur Yatani. As the Chairperson of the Finance Committee of the House she had lamented that for a long-time citizen had been grappling with the economy and it would be imprudent and sound inhuman to inject more burden into the already interrupted economy. This is how she dressed the matter creating a rift valley between her politics and those of her peers.

"As much as we want to raise funds to finance our budget, we should be

Livid about the fact that Kenyans are already struggling."

Going ahead to implement the new taxes would look like killing the already dying future, who forgets the words of Francis Imbuga in Betrayal in the City? "It was better while we waited. Now we have nothing to look forward to. We have killed our past and are busy killing our future!" Gladys Wanga was not going to watch pepper cook before her hawk-eyes or served to the nestling-citizens.

Many things happened like the moving of times that gave birth to the year 2022, a year that would see the dissolving of governments to form new governments. The year brought to the attention of everyone her new aspirations. She had hoped to succeed the incumbent Homa bay governor Cyprian Awiti once his term ended the same year. To see her hopes harvest justification she had decided to present them physically to make it crystal clear.

"The people of Homa bay have elected me to serve them in the  
Capacity of Woman  
Rep and I am focused on that, though one has to aspire so when  
It comes a time and  
They say they want to move you to a different post they will  
Evaluate and decide." She Said.

Her new hopes and quest to run for the gubernatorial seat had been received handsomely by many across the county and elsewhere in the country. That is why it would be fresh in newspapers almost each day. "NYANZA SET TO HAVE FIRST WOMAN GOVERNOR" and it sounded healthy because it would be the greatest gift Nyanza could dance to.

That sounded healthy and juicy for many who had seen that which the naked eye can refuse to see because having a woman as a governor would be the only greatest gift Nyanza would dance to. It would observably regain the lost glory and dying joy that seemed to race down the abyss following the 'unfruitful' long such for presidency through their own Raila Amollo Odinga.

Her hopes to make an upward trajectory in the political arena received doubts from individuals who one can comfortably call blind skeptical. They had questioned her style of leadership which compromised integrity according to

them and their basics were informed by Wanga's tenure as the Woman Representative. 'They' accused her of grafts and crafts over the NGAAF (National Governmental Affirmative Action Fund) premiere. Any sober soul should continue to realize that for a full package one must gather enemies who arrive to arrest one's development by painting their fat envy onto her ambitions.

"What does a woman have to offer to a county, one at the verge of losing its shine and sheen when there are able men around? Whi bewitched us?" A group of men maimed by male chauvinism would ask several times. As a governor she would be in charge of the four sub counties of Homa bay as Rangwe, Ndhiwa, Rachuonyo and Suba sub counties.

They did not realize that the optimistic had fodder-talk about a woman of women and mother of all odds:

“Hon Gladys Wanga is not just a woman, she's coming into

This race with the best track record having been in the

Category of the best performing Woman.

Representatives in the Republic of Kenya into the last

Decade.

No politician with meagre resources as Hon Wanga ever

Constructed five ultra-modern markets, sponsored 600

To NITA Kenya for vocational training,

Midwifed creation of a Sacco to inculcate the culture of

Wealth creation, saving

And investment not to mention Annual Mentorship

Targeting the girls, 30

Complete water projects, Kendu Bay Ginnery, first ever

Successful County

Tournament organized from all the 40 wards and played

Up to the county levels.

The best is on the ballot," and actually the best was on the ballot to win and zoom the county's development status by letting it unbounded.

That sounded healthy and juicy for many who had seen that which the naked eye effuses to see because having a woman as a governor would be the only greatest gift Nyanza would dance to. It would observably regain the lost glory and dying joy that seemed to race down the abyss following the 'unfruitful' long search for presidency through their own Raila Amollo Odinga.

Nobody holds Aristotle captive when he said that 'there are people born to rule and those to be ruled.' Gladys Wanga from the gauge of weight, had arrived from Kano having been happily married to one George Wanga of Homa bay county, Rangwe Sub County, Kochia ward to confront masses with a judicial face. It had worked for her acutely well in the years 2017 to 2021 when she served the county as a woman representative. Nyanza was therefore for the first time producing a woman who would surge through beyond the kitchen and bedroom to see the region wake up to a new realization. One could question where the likes of Mama Grace Onyango and Grace Ogot among others in the list of that list would be placed because their efforts in intellectual and political discourse still painted the walls. Old is gold but very rare so the two would be the rare lot whose times had been passed by time. Devolution had arrived to help salvage the people sailing around the shallow shores of life so the system required a correspondent who would sail them to impending tides and waves in the region. What a salvation

would that be! That meant that all the drowning necks would find something to clutch at.

There was however a lot that had arrived with bags of hurdles to litter the paths of Gladys Wanga- life is crests and crusts and all make life interesting however. Nobody understood the heat birthed by tension in a family that was dividing because of political differences more than Gladys Wanga and her husband.

It has been said that life has to attain a state of equilibrium for all. Gladys Wanga was not an exemption in the assumption because she shortly suffered the dictates of life. Nobody understood the drama resulting from political tension at home better than mother hippo. She was torn between taking care of her family and embracing politics that was uncontrollably becoming poisonous for her family. To have the claims reaffirmed, the media arrived to make headlines.

We have kissed and made up with '*Baba Watoto*' - Gladys Wanga. Homa Bay Woman Representative Gladys Wanga.

Gladys Wanga has assured her electorate that she is now in good terms with her husband this is after rumors went around that they were not in good terms over their political differences the two had supported different candidates for the Homa Bay gubernatorial seat

Homa Bay Woman Representative Gladys Wanga has assured her electorate that she is now in good terms with her husband after political differences ahead of the recently concluded General Election.

Gladys and her husband George Wanga had conflicting political convictions over the Homa Bay gubernatorial seat. Wanga's latest comments are now clearing the air on rumors that were doing rounds in the county that they were not in good terms over their political differences.

In the contentious gubernatorial race, Wanga was a staunch supporter of Governor Cyprian Awiti, while the husband supported Awiti's main rival and immediate former Kasipul MP, Oyugi Magwanga.

Magwanga became second after Awiti in the race that attracted four candidates.

During the campaigns, Wanga was one of the top strategists who propelled Awiti's campaigns. On the other hand, George was among the top strategists who led Magwanga's campaigns in the county.

In Rangwe Constituency, where the couple hail from, each struggled to stage campaign rallies to ensure their preferred candidate got the highest number of votes.

But last week, the Woman Rep visited Homa Bay market where she admitted that the politics polarized her family. She said they had ironed out their differences.

"We have to admit that the gubernatorial race in this county polarized many families, including mine. But we have got a solution and everything is now smooth in my family," said the legislator.

The Woman Rep told area residents to iron out their differences, which emerged in their families over the gubernatorial race.

She told them to emulate her family as an example in recuperation from political discontent.

"We have to come to terms with the fact that Awiti is now the Governor of Homa Bay regardless of whom we supported. I call on all families and Homa Bay residents as a whole to shun political differences and move on," she said.

She noted that politics had been overtaken by events hence the residents should focus on development agenda.

Wanga promised to serve all the area residents regardless of whom they voted for and appealed to her fellow legislators to do the same.

She was on a mission to distribute 50 bags of cement, 50 pieces of iron sheet and umbrellas to traders who lost their property in an inferno which razed down business premises at the market.

Her hopes to make an upward trajectory was coming shortly before His Excellency Governor Cyprian Awiti left office. The man from Karachuonyo, Kodondo had coughed the engine of devolution for the people of Homa Bay after leaping away with the lion's share of votes against his strong political rival, Honorable Oyugi Magwanga in the year 2013 and subsequently 2017. That meant that the former had served for two terms even though his last term did not plough much as observed by many. Man does not lack what to say because all his wants are insatiable and the only resort would be lachrymation even in the times of festivities. Hunger would call for food and a full stomach would still wonder about the following day even though God in his confusing commands and demands reminds man to worry not of tomorrow. Birds of the air do not have that. 'Genowa,' having been wittily formed, had arrived to snatch the corridor of miseries from the throats of individuals who were ready to swallow it whole after making greed their creed. One should have seen how triple-chinned men and women wallowed around in the name of building the place even though one could call it drilling the place.

You haven't been told that individuals who one can unapologetically call enemies arrived with stinging accusations 'of her having misused funds' specially called NGAAF; Non-governmental Affirmative Action Fund whose progress lied in her hands as a woman representative.

" Why NGAAF?"

" What is its function?"

" Who are supposed to handle it and how?"

" How much is disbursed every financial year?"

Their worries should have begged the above questions, whose answers should have also arrived to help them grow with deserving humility and humanity of a less fortunate hunter. You see that kine in pharaoh's dream, that is how thin their lenses were because many things were lying all over, most of which had been birthed by the same funds; Market stalls of Rangwe, Ringa trading units, lucrative tournaments that opened a fresh forum for the youth within the county to display skills and talents, market latrines and lights and many more that would make an endless list.

Their negative comments did not bear any fruit because man proposes while God disposes. One should have seen how they opined to be investigators but investigators of nothing. She eventually earned hearts and trusts of many across boards after engaging several in the language that went into those hearts after which most took a deep-swollen vow to trail behind her to the ballot.

Just like her own father Nyasuna, an astute politician who had been a long serving councilor and chairperson in the new defunct Kisumu County, Wanga Gladys stepped out with both feet to begin by launching her campaigns to the gubernatorial race. But before that many things happened among them the arrival of several other men in the race, creation of hot contest pushing her bid to the fjords. What a man can do a woman has done. She had been in parliament dehorning some of very men on her way, campaigned against Honorable Opondo Kaluma of Homa bay constituency and triumphed to become the county's ODM commissioner way back in the years.

Honorable Oyugi Magwanga of Karachuonyo was in the race. Isaiah Ogwe joined the race. Akelo Misor, Homa bay county KUPPET chairperson joined the race. Evans Kidero 'wuod Asumbi,' the man from Asumbi arrived to shoot his shot. Jared Kiasa from Suba arrived to check his worth. The minority leader, ODM party chairman and member of parliament for Suba South constituency, honorable John Mbadi had finally arrived like a released arrow to strongly campaign against Gladys Wanga. one interesting but intriguing thing about the race that had invited more than ten was one; half of all the candidates were ODM officials who almost shared strength and delegacy in equal measure! When all were out to contest for

the ODM ticket whose flagbearer would use it to represent the party to the race. It was the type of war that had scaled new heights to become a war between the shepherd and his flock. Subsequent things happened all which passed to cause mayhem and tension as far as Wanga's bid was of concern. Jared Kaiasa had chosen to drop his bid and join John Mbadi in the race. That was one major blow that however appeared to be much more pricking than the space Honorable Oyugi magwanga was creating for himself each day. If the 'great' Karachuonyo had decided to bet out their over eighty thousand votes then he would carry the day.

Raila Amollo Odinga, the enigma, had swiftly arrived to intercede by convening a meeting that would supposedly be used to cause agreement and harmony. That would mean that concensus was a good thing to pester so as to intercept the looming danger in Homa bay county, a move that came barely before twenty-four hours of the arrival of Jared Kiasa into Mbadi's camp. The following were the deliberations of the meeting;

Wanga awarded the certificate to become the ODM flagbearer

Honorable Oyugi Magwanga to remain deputy governor.

John Mbadi '*Nyang*'(an aquatic animal with powerful jaws and many conical teeth and short leg with clawed webbed toes) to drop his bid and join Raila at the rooftop.

That was affirmed and confirmed when the certificate was handed to Gladys Wanga on the basis of consensus. It had been a great shock to many who knew little about the many people had arrived to question the stand and place of democracy in the country when 'ODM denied them the opportunity to exercise their democratic rights in the nominations.' The individuals who proved loudest in the crowd did not however fathom much about the party's move to pour water on the bornfire. one thing stood out like a fractured bone in a wounded antelope of Got Asego. Evans Kidero, a candidate in the race proved renegade when he decided 'to remain home' to avoid the meeting convened by his political father,

Raila Amollo Odinga and that is how and why the former became a worthy competitor against Mama Gladys Wanga as many had baptized her.

What as a mother (mama) would she do? She would arrive with full jest and shield the people of Homa Bay County from the hawks that inspected from above.

That meant that her presence would help identify the drifts and draft each to finally produce a seal that would become antidote henceforth. One would agree with this, that and in the words of James Orengo many years ago, 'We are Children Bereft.'

Why did one have to be confronted by those lines?

Homa bay referral hospital had missed drugs and turned into seedy sordid wards. Additionally, it was even conspicuous to see a wrongly spelt '*referral*' lie broadly about and above metals that stood for a gate to a hospital. Hearsays flooded the place. That people responsible for drug distribution had become responsible for their own colons by stocking their own hospitals elsewhere with the same drugs meant to lie in the hospitals where they were the service providers. Paradox. We vividly remember how we lost a close one when we visited the place to have him admitted only to be asked to purchase all tools. And in the sentiments of one;

"You have brought your patient. Not bad. But how do I touch him

Without gloves, syringes, drugs and a mask?" We were quick to understand him and brought the items upon paying thick money. We unfortunately lost him because the charges of the subsequent attention slapped us on the face, putting the filthy morgues to task.

Human wants are insatiable but theirs had scaled new heights and turned the place into a helpless heaven. What did that translate to? It would mean that maternity wards would forever remain mourning wards of mothers losing their babies. Cancerous infections would continue to ravage unforgivingly and mosquitoes around the shores of the depression would continue to give birth to seedy deaths each day of admission.

The Tourism Sector had lost its shine and sheen. One of the parks that are supposed to contribute to the county's basket of honey, Ruma National Park, had lost the meaning of its existence. Advocates for the reservation and preservation of the corner of natural beauty and heritage, Achieng' and his brother, must have been reeling in pain for the new developments. Some say the erection of the lofty hotel in the heart of the town, Cold Spring, was so to act as a reservoir of the ill-gotten wealth from the horses of the county. Wait for it! Cold Spring was created to accommodate eco-tourists and those visiting from abroad. They would be coming to feed their eyes with the splendor available at Ruma until everything turned pale.

The stench from the shores of the lake set many visitors aback. If you know a spittle at a dumpsite then give Cold Spring a similar treatment.

Most roads turned into little rods leading nowhere like the independence railway that was said to be leading nowhere. That still happened even in the face and phase of huge allocations for Infrastructural Development.

Water services had turned pale when most taps and paths met their sunset days. Lake Victoria or 'Nam Lolwe' in a language that goes into hearts, proved a large mass of useless depression because it failed to deliver. It seemed to be a good home for the poisonous water hyacinth and a pit of drowning rowers of thin boats.

Most farmers were quickly losing it all a thing that meant that the county was quickly losing its backbone to poor governance in the hands of avarice remembering that Agriculture is the backbone of Kenya's economy. Kochia pineapple farmers had lost money of unknown value when their products failed to serve the intentions for which they were created. Ndhiwa was all- teeth out because their sugar was useless. Mbita's fish played no healthy role to the optimistic fishermen. Cotton and sisal farming of Rachuonyo had become a thing no longer sweet for the ear and years. It was a thing disheartening to see the waters of Oluch Kimira in Rangwe stream into Victoria having done a lot of nothing behind its course. Instead, it had brewed fights and feuds among politicians masquerading as project movers and mowers in the region. In fact, two

rivaling politicians were struggling to take account for the little that was done at the dam.

Any lover of history should turn binoculars to check what prevailed just after the British left Kenya even though it seemed like they never left. Kenya was a naïve country and the immediate rulers proved masters of wanton and cynical abusers of political power, perpetuators of rampant corruption that arose from political erosion of individual freedom giving rise to a satirical climax.

It was at that time that Ngugi wa Thiongo' had arrived with his reassuring novel, *Weep Not, Child*. Ngugi served the disillusioned Kenya in the hands of individuals who took no active role in the struggle for independence.

And in the opening poem in the words of Walt to portray an awful time in Kenya and colonial history, he inks;

*"Weep Not, Child*

*Weep not, my darling.*

*With those kisses let me remove your tears*

*The ravening clouds shall not be long victorious*

*They shall not long possess the sky..."*

True to those lines, Gladys Wanga had arrived to beseech the people of Homa bay county to wipe their tears and weep not. The mother hippo would be around to sit on them just like a hen sits on her eggs and cackle whenever an intruder shows up. That the prevailing situation in Homa Bay County would not stay long since she had arrived with the armor of God.

Drugs, Clean water, clean and operating market centers, education, revival of the county's economy through agriculture and infrastructural development would be

her very first priorities and that is why when she finally received the last gift into office, Gladys Wanga fumigated the county's health sector that had gone mad.

How would she finally achieve if the voters had not planned it with her.

To see her quest and new course score and ring a bell in the ears of the many believers in her course, she had decided to set aside one of the days. She had painted the county orange, flags preaching a similar gospel hoisted at strategic points welcoming all to it. THE LAUNCH OF HER GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATURE. It was as necessary as the birth and death of Christ. Word was sent to all corners of the country and that is why on the very day women from the mountain; Sabina Chege and Charity Ngilu, among other prominent figures, arrived to grace the day at Homa Bay Sports Ground. Ramogi TV, a newly born vernacular station had busied itself to cover the event that would give Homa Bay a new look. In fact, that is why after the event a hashtag 'Genowa En Dongruok' gained momentum and had forever worked well for Gladys Wanga. Thanks to think-tanks of the place. Any observant eye of the particular day should have seen how wittily she presented her manifesto that received a big YES from many, encouraging her to go ahead and salvage the county from the hands of vultures. One should have also seen how her husband, George Wanga had introduced her to the happily chanting world in a way to show their love for the man's efforts. " You have given us a good thing son of Korayo!" They would say as he called to the podium the guest of the day, Gladys Wanga to crown it off. Korayo is a unit among others forming Kochia ward. One does not forget that Kochia had produced the eloquent like Mr. Okundi of West Kochia and later a woman representative of Homa bay county in 2013 and subsequently 2017. The likes of Ambassador Meshack Dwallo, Engineer Dan Ogenga, elders Maurice Kabaraka and Mr. Omanywa among others have all been birthed by Kochia. All these prominent figures have been at decision- making tables and their efforts lie broadly everywhere so that when one day one decides to write about THE METAMORPHOSIS OF KOCHIA POLITICS, it will be a duty to consult those brands.

Because man does not miss what to say, Honorable John Mbadi had arrived like a released arrow to question the day's event. Mbadi was a candidate in the race

before being given his room in the nation's politics. That mother Hippo had spent much for a launch instead of using the money to help the women and that the motorcade of the day had caused a hitch on roads. That was 'Nyang' a name he had earned from his followers maybe because he had come from near a lake like a crocodile but had not been aware that no water animal beats a hippo. He also did not realize that Gladys Wanga was an arrow of God sent to shoot to kill hyenas masquerading as shepherds. 'When the shepherd strikes, all sheep scatter.' One simple illusion was necessary for that too. That she had arrived to put back things together.

*There were people who had arrived and put a razor on the*

*Things that held the people of Homa bay together.*

Homa bay was crumbling and coming down like the Tower of Babel giving people 'unfathomable languages to pursue.' That too did not set her back because her subsequent events went on uninterrupted. Gladys Wanga began to plan her campaigns across the county and each day was a day of making steps. Success was ascribed to Mr. Solomon Obiero of Karachuonyo, Professor Omuok, the chairperson of Homa bay county professionals and Mr. Owuor Ojalla of Kwabae and Engineer Nyobange of Kochia. Homa Bay County encompasses Rachuonyo, Ndiwa, Suba and her own Rangwe Sub County. She was therefore bound to set foot in all the sub counties with similar energy in the hunt for votes. She was however not a lone fighter in the war. During most of her journeys, Honourable Oyugi Magwanga, her-would-be deputy governor, was in toe. Oyugi Magwanga is a vocal man and it is one of the things that helped mother hippo fetch more into her basket. Rachuonyo is a sub county rich in votes so that any candidate who was able to dig the wells well would definitely carry the day.

Sometimes women can be their own enemies. A rumor had cooked 'from nowhere' that Honorable Millie Odhiambo of Suba and Wanga's neighbor, Honorable Lillian Gogo of Rangwe were enemies of a progress.' That they had not liked how quickly mother Hippo was making it to the bars.' Remember they were rumors because shortly after, it went like it had come and normalcy resumed but still with more fresh hurdles.

A few men from Kochia, the very place she calls home away from home, decided to turn away from her new developments and acted renegades when they said that it would be a sacrilege to see a woman lead them as Governor. Men maimed by masculinity ferried thoughts that didn't hatch much.

That is why after the endorsement conducted at Ligisa Secondary School they had arrived with the swiftness of a hawk to rebate.

That what business a woman had sitting on the Traditional Stool holding a spear, shield and whisk, tools that have only been wielded by elders. They continued to 'reel ' in the pain of 'seeing the people of Kochia call for curses from the ancestors who had given the above-mentioned instruments to elders of the community and not an alien and a woman.' That was parallel to the perception of another group of elders of the region who had gone ahead to endorse her for the top seat. A named was quickly coined for the Baptists of the time and they were called 'Council of beggars. 'After the historical event, the executors were tasked to give an explanation for their 'unheard-of 'actions and because wit had never left their grey heads, they arrived to commit.

"We have put her onto a weighing balance and now we know her

Worth." Odul Kabaraka, a Kochia elder mentioned. That traditionally, it meant that they had given Homa Bay County their very best, and culturally, they had identified a woman with leadership qualities all round.

Mother hippo had not allowed bad men spray venom on her new development.

"It is historical because never in the history of our community

Have we had a woman being put on that seat of power and given

This crown that I have on my head. It is for me to use it to bring

Back power." She had given one full injection that silenced parrots in the cage.

Man proposes but God disposes. The omnipotent one had disposed off their thoughts and rendered them useless to allow the fast of firsts pursue her ways to completion.

Very many things happened like the moving times and the moving us into daily crowds in a bid to make her daily campaigns achieve success. The times had however given birth to a new thing. Evans Odhiambo Kidero, a man who had served as the governor of Nairobi County in the first phase of devolution arrived to give mother hippo a worthy competition. The second phase had however refused to yield fruits when he lost to Mr. Mike Mbuvi Sonko and in 2022 had decided to 'come home' to try crowing there.

The wise man does not forget. Kidero had been a renegade when he refused to heed to Raila's call before party primaries. He had taken that ironical step even after being in the forefront championing for consensus in his previous dialogues. Whatever worm that stung that man should be sent to the cross for salvation.

He was quick to accuse mother hippo of being partisan in the mess that had enveloped Homa Bay County. That Gladys Wanga as a woman representative for two terms had failed in playing oversight roles. But how does one play oversight roles in a ditch and her head in the fjord? Only the devil's advocate could deliberately close one eye and pretend not to see anything. Evans Kidero had managed to convince a portion of men and women in the county who moved to the peripheries and formed a movement, Homa bay Manyien for 'Reformed Homa Bay.' That meant that the county already was witnessing a division. One thing was evident. That those who chose to join Kidero's camp were either staunch chauvinists or the vengeful ones in a bid to 'punish' Raila for failing to allow them participate in the primaries. How do you promise to punish your father when he reminds you that the compound belongs to him and his decrees?

That would look like a waste of energy because that lot seemed to lack much about the democracy, they were accusing to have lost its meaning in the hands of Raila. People do not see the log in their own eyes. Evans Kidero had been a figure in almost all the dailies with graft cases. At least every fortnight put the court to

the task of allowing him plead guilty or not guilty. His name 'was 'attached to loss of certain assets every time it was mentioned in the newspapers.

"Homa bay is a small baby that will be swallowed in one simple

Gulp if fate allows this man to win." Many would comment.

That is why the move to write a letter to IEBC, Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission, became a necessity. One still scores for mentioning that it was a bad idea to call it 'independent ' even when it did not look like one.

We vividly remember how we had written to IEBC and copied the same letter to EACC, Ethics and Anti-corruption Commission, but lost the game when we walked to a poster and asked to pay ksh 400 for the letter to reach Nairobi. This what we wrote:

*OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL AND BOUNDARIES COMMISSION,*

*THROUGH,*

*CHAIRPERSON*

*P.OBOX45371-00100,*

*NAIROBI, UNIVERSITY WAY ANNIVERSARY TOWERS, 6TH FLOOR.*

*COPIED TO: ETHICS AND ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION.*

*Dear Sir,*

*RE: APPEAL TO BLOCK DR. EVANS ODHIAMBO KIDTRO FROM HOMA-BAY COUNTY GUBERNATORIAL RACE.*

*Our country's economy is at its knees and is being ravaged by the increased corruption cases in the country. The Ethics and Anti-corruption Commission has been giving a list or lists of red-carded individuals seeking elective positions in the August polls. This was after a total of 21,863 individuals were under scrutiny by the body. EACC considers the few whom the hammer fell on and were deemed unfit to hold public offices thus*

*failed to meet the set standards for elections. Our attention is drawn to the one we consider the strangest. One Dr. Evans Kidero has been officially cleared to run for the gubernatorial seat in Homa Bay County. This has been achieved even after EACC littered our eyes with news of huge and fat graft cases which painted the man unfit.*

*The grounds to which this final decision was arrived at even before the court gives a go-through leaves us disillusioned. Everybody else knows that no verdict has come to birth to make Dr.Evans Kioero a clean man to run. We are in the journey of cleansing our economy but it cannot be a success when we are still going to hoard the leaders, we have considered inappropriate and incompetent as their ways are maimed by avarice, a vice that will forever send our economy to the looming abyss.*

*The ball is now on your coat, to determine his fate soon before our county becomes a dumpsite where warm and cold spit find homage. Your decisions should be guided by the provisions of chapter six of the Kenyan constitution which provides the adequacies on Leadership and integrity. The best thing you can therefore do is to help block him as we await a court verdict because this way you shall have saved us the dangers of telling a single story. Please save our country from the ravenous wolves in sheep skin. We look forward to a prompt step towards our request.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*OWINOELPHAS*

*+254798823...*

*OMONDI WILLIAMS*

*+2547001022...*

That is a letter we religiously drafted but where could hobos like us get that when a day's meal was like killing a hippo single-handedly?

Have you been called names before, names you do not deserve? Mother hippo had been given a name 'Thapki.' 'Thapki' was a Hindi film aired on Ramogi TV. The protagonist of the same was a beautiful girl forever fighting hurdles in her path to win the love of Bihan. Bihan was the turbulent man always in *Thapki's* mind. Was it because she was stammerer? Beautiful? Master of misfortunes or what? Those attributes are created for man so she soldiered on with support from her husband, George Wanga and her brother Robert Nyasuna. Charity begins at home and for sure it was doing some good work at home.

Plans were quickly drafted to help seal looming faults. The plans saw the inclusion of young ambitious men and women into the campaign team. Homa bay county Youth League headed by one Erick Jackym from Kochia saw the thing come to pass. With the combined efforts of Molo Desmond Odongo, Rhoda, Yvonne Becky, General Collins, Muok 'Reformist'. The latter was for sure a reformist. Muok is a Luo word for a given wild animal that is known to have thick skin and not susceptible to any danger. Amicus Otunga, odul Morvine and Alito Jakorayo were all actively engaged and occupied as online soldiers. That was a group that had initiated an active group named 'Aput' and elsewhere 'Genowa Movement.' The two comprised of young but swift soldiers who worked tirelessly to make sure that all waters turned into wine.

Kidero's foot began to lose its shine and sheen soon after it dawned on him that the waters were causing submergence in his own room. Choices have consequences and his would bite and leave him pale.

Indicators were lying all over because indicators which pointed that Evans Kidero was likely to lose the Homa bay gubernatorial contest stood firm.

His campaigns had deflated with professional Nairobi cartels running the show at the expense of village point men and well-known opinion shapers and influencers.

Unlike mother hippo, Kidero did not have a functional command or a coordinating centre since he chose to operate from his Asumbi home. Charity begins at home but one thing missed his camp. That charity had been home for long a matter that complicated everything, making his home a preserve of a few. It is such loopholes

which mother hippo used to knit her subsequent steps as the devils Kidero had praised continued to clap on her face threatening to slap. Gladys Wanga had on time secured a centre, Genowa Centre in Homa bay town from where everything would be brewed. Early to ripe is early to rot. The political windmill had moved and pointed away from him.

The Member of Parliament representing Kasipul Kabondo, Mr. Charles Ong'ondo Were was a man to mention. He must have seen the star early enough because it was in his sentiments that Wanga's energy to seek the seat rekindled. He had started it from way back in 2018 when he unforgivingly urged mother hippo to come out of the waters and face the masses with the new idea. One Mr. Ogingo Richard was The County Chief Coordinator of the campaigns. It would be remembered that he was elected to the county assembly in 2017 and became the leader of majority in the house. He however lost the taste along the way and the plate taken away from him. Sophy Koweje a nominated member of County Assembly for Lambwe became a good orator in the good course by preaching the gospel so well that she was able to fetch many faces. We did not however understand why some called her '*Modher madhere*.' Man is inventive and innovative. Hats off. A good man, Mr. Julius Gaya also met our eyes and ears in the fields. Because of being a good ground mobiliser, he almost tasted the cup of deputy governorship. Hard work is rewarded.

How did the message reach the eyes? A media team was also in place to create snapshots of each day's efforts and that is why young men and women wielding cameras pitched up themselves strategically. Madam Eunice 'Chogo' led a team of young hands behind the lens. 'Chogo' is a Luo word meaning youngest or the last born. She was comfortably assisted by Mr. Wera and Molo Livonne of Kochia.

There are numerous ways of killing a rat that gives you no peace in your room. Opponents were busy putting traps for the hippo to force her become victim of their expeditions. If a previous ploy did not taint and tarnish the mother of all like anticipated then another method would be devised immediately. An old fox knows all traps. We remember that one day an image littered the social media of her in an attire whose design matched that of Mr. William Ruto a thing which

caused the similarity either out of coincidence or fate. It was said that her move to design a matching dress with that of the enemy meant that she was secretly brewing with the enemy and pretending to drink home. Still dangerous. Much still awaited her downstream. Another one of her close allies, Mr. George Owuor of Kochia, painted the media yellow when he was made to appear in a yellow jacket with the following morphology; '*UDA. KAZI NI KAZI.*' That was also quickly followed by another sour accusation of him going into secret meetings with the enemy. Mr. William Ruto was running against Raila Odinga and such a man would be treated with the contempt of a spittle at a dumpsite. "The inventor of the internet should be given the key to the city, put on a horse and tied to a standpost..." Wole Soyinka was right. That was the power of morphing causing new orogenies in a land whose fate lied in the hands of two galloping horses with little disparity.

It was almost during then that numbers started retreating and changing course. 'If the deal is too good, think twice and when a young bird dances in the middle of the path know that the drummer is by the bushes.' Mother hippo was not shaken even by an inch because she was pregnant with the certainty of a Jewish prophet that her drummers, which translated to votes were still around her with full baskets. The individuals who had crossed burning bridges were the lousy ones whose interests were only to see their colons full. When a farmer frees his farm from weed, he is assured of plumpy harvest, excusing rains for a moment.

The erection of a center within Homa bay town, Genowa centre, scored well. It was there that the little things were made to go through the rigorous process of fractional distillation to manufacture HOPE for the hundreds of thousands. Many had loved mother hippo and not the man from the city sun. Many had blamed Evans Kidero for being a conservative and a sympathizer of Uhuru's regime when the opposition was on roads looking for justice for millions back in 2017.

Bertolt Brecht's text, Caucasian Chalk circle can be used to produce an analogy. He presents Jusup, a man in his death bed but ready to marry a girl and would soon die after giving legitimacy to a child on Grusha's breaking back. A dramatic

irony shows its face to the readers that Jusup is only avoiding being conscripted in the ongoing war. Such is cowardice. The analogy fitted the times because Mr Kidero had chosen to hide his face in the phase of turbulent times when sons and daughters of a father were out fighting to see their bullets begin to flower. Homa Bay County had given birth to wolves, hyenas, stray dogs, cats and stray dogs of a jungle which required bravery of mother hippo and not the timidness of one.

Mother hippo suspended sleep and the comfort of a woman with surplus, to walk to all corners of the county in a bid to sell her bid to the lachrymating thousands. It is during such rallies that we witnessed hosts present their predicaments to the new moon who had arrived to voice for the voices. She continued to gather much each day because along her course, Honorable Moses Kajwang', Honorable John Mbadi and Joyce Bensouda had chosen to give her company to her campaigns. The latter from Karachuonyo had proven an equal measure to Gladys Wanga and her presence at the House of Laws would play vital roles. Kajwang' was running again as senator while John Mbadi was present to help achieve the meaning and mission of a consensus they had had. It was an urge preached to everyone to embrace six peace whereby only ODM candidates in each of the slots were to receive unanimous bunch of votes.

One thing helped charge crowds. Mother hippo had adopted Milka Odhiambo's irrigating song and used the refrain 'Yesu Tiyo Taling'a ling'a for 'Jesus works at my comfort' to make many believe in her course. It was then that we wished her one thing realized in the following sentiments;

" May God shower you with luck like Polycarp

Igathe as you sit on

Your executive chair, removing steak from your

Teeth using toothpick imported from Japan."

Igathe was a candidate in the Nairobi Gubernatorial race, running against Johnson Sakaja who at all times received fresh blows and hurdles in his quest for the seat.

A degree saga, a thing which had soaked the country at that time worked against him. Every time, the court and IEBC were tasked with changing roles in determining if Sakaja had a quinine degree from The University of Nairobi or a weaning degree from Uganda's Team University.

Elsewhere, Igathe was enjoying the healthy gift birthed by times. That was the kind of luck we wished mother hippo. Sunrise and a universal funeral in the West continued to pursue natural course making times move quickly towards the bath tub, 9th August 2022. Mother hippo had kept her head and heights tall to the final days of the battle.

As the Azimio la umoja train continued to traverse the country with the aim of painting the country blue and wooing the voters to turn out in large numbers and vote for their respective candidates, Homabay wasn't left behind. When the brigade arrived, they had a series of rallies in six of the eight constituencies and H.E Raila Odinga promised to be back to visit Ndhiwa and Rangwe constituencies, a promise that he fulfilled.

The final rally was to be conducted in Homabay Town in the stadium that Governor Cyprian Awiti had suggested that should be named after Raila Odinga. When the crew arrived for the final rally to wind up the day's activity, a young boy, Aroji chogo, was on stage performing his new song, 'Ruoth oparowa' which translates to The Lord has remembered us. What a coincidence, the boy's luck had been spotted and would not go unrewarded. The famous Azimio song, '*Leo Ni Leo*' wasn't played, an indication that nurturing young talents was part and parcel of the Azimio manifesto.

The song continued to trend with a number of people calling for the boy's support. Barikiwa studio's manager, Eng. Wuod Fibi, was quick to offer the boy space should somebody come in to his support because being alone wasn't even good in Paradise and a good friend comes uninvited.

In a move to heed to the call of the people, Senator Moses Kajwang' whose name featured so many times more than anybody, came to the boy's rescue. Flowery

pictures watered the social media with Aroji chogo in a meeting with the youthful senator who later on provided everything needed for the fresh production of the song. As if that was not enough, he offered his office to be used for shooting videos that would help in supporting the song in the various social media platforms.

Just before the final laps to the touch line, she had convened a Youth Convention for College and University Students at Goono Konyuka. The meeting was used to give the tip of the ice barge. What it would mean to have her as governor and the healthy gifts the young generation would receive if they all trailed behind her with their votes. It was also during then that members like engineer Dan Ogenga and Homa Bay County Youth League Chairman, Mr. Erick Jackym preached a similar sermon. That was an oath well drafted and, on the 9th August, not even a single vote was wasted.

Small Retailers within Homa bay town also received a share of the food for the ear, the Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) and numerous groups felt the warm heat too. In a formal and unanimous agreement, many voters vowed to play cards well. After the conventions sentiments praising and raising her flooded the county.

*We have a story not because it is a hobby, but this one figure one cannot afford to forget her.*

*All men are born Superior each endowed with great strength but this one*

*Has surpassed the Mere talk.*

*We have called her **Genowa** to say our only hope. **Odiso nyar Wang'aya** she has been called. Aristotle was not wrong: "that some should rule and others be ruled is a thing not only*

*Necessary but also right." And from the hour of birth, she was marked to rule.*

*She was born and immediately embarked on building her nest. She built her nest as the*

*Rest watched and now it will be too late to have the nest destroyed because she even laid*

*Strong eggs under our roofs.*

*A home without a daughter is like a spring without a source. Homa Bay County is glad to*

*Have her for she will irrigate all dry lands and hands.*

*'A rock for our slings she is.'*

*We will take a swift move and rest one arm on Homa hills, the other on Got Asego.*

*We will continue to take snapshot of the series of developments.*

*She has promised to release the arrested development to realize bounties.*

*We will call Kabondo to Ndhiwa, Magunga to Kirindo, and Koyani to Luanda. We promise to sail*

*Through the quiet Victoria to summon the Men and women of Rusinga, Sindo, Nyandiwa and the famous Mbita.*

*Her politics have scaled new heights. See how she races fast past the men.*

*Her projects are well knitted and there is only one thread left to complete the story she had started. Our votes will sell us not for it will guarantee a rejuvenation. For hope will arise in*

*Us like a boiling milk and poverty given a death sentence.*

Back at home, Mr. Fred Nyakwar Apiera Faruk of Kagan, preached like John the Baptist in the 'desert' when he urged people to turn away from sin and prepare the way for one, he was not worth to tie his shoe laces. The former was obliged to preach the gospel in full strength to all within Kagan.

"Do not turn away from a good thing. Vote in ODM

Candidates and not individuals who stand lonely on the banks because he is standing on sand." He would urge his listeners who cheered because of the love they had for mother hippo.

The final declaration at Ndiru grounds saw Gladys Wanga score highly even in the face of a heavy downpour. It was one round lap that saw every present figure take a deep-sworn vow to vote Gladys Wanga as the county's Governor. She would be rising to the top after leaving the women and youth in the hands of one Joyce Atieno Bensouda who was running as a woman representative.

One round win with the lion's share of the votes after the elections made mother hippo dock having achieved her mission. Nyanza had gotten her first woman governor in the history of history. It would reap big, Rangwe would reap big and Rachuonyo too would be at the negotiation tables because Oyugi Magwanga shared a similar fate. In was in the joy of the celebration of victory that we decided to make it look like the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. The only difference was that one did not find a donkey to give burden.

Mother hippo had given her opponent the fastest sprint that left the latter leap home with much to nurse. Few days before the official announcement of the gubernatorial election results, Mr Evans Kidero made a quick rush to his Facebook page and gave it a paint. He confusingly thanked the people of Homa bay who had come out in large numbers 'to make him the new governor of Homa Bay County.' He would be right because it was rumored that he had beaten mother hippo in Homa bay town. When the results finally met our faces, it was so except that out of five constituencies, mother hippo had reaped almost all the votes in four. That meant that her opponent was left to smile faintly to the anemic win in Homa bay town. Confusion and hiccups continued to hit the insiders because shortly after

Kidero's announcement, Gladys Wanga also painted her Facebook page with reassuring revelation that she had won. Did it mean that both had won? Pigs fly! Only the Chief Returning Officer would cut the rope and bring an end to the tug of war. It took the police their time to find it an obligation visiting Tom Mboya University premises as it was the county's tallying center. Supporters from the two rivaling camps decided to camp around the place each waiting for favorable results. But because the sheep will always remind the dog of their enmity, the two camps would stage periodical wars that occasionally gave birth to tension within Homa bay town.

The results finally met our sore eyes after one week of standing in the cold with butterflies rummaging our stomachs. 'What is meant to be shall be because all that starts well ends well.' It had started well for mother hippo and when the time of delivery came it happened though after hours of struggle in the maternity, giving credit to the say, 'when a woman visits a maternity the baby must be delivered. 'In given cases the baby does not get delivered but that was not the time for miscarriages, breech births, still births and other rotten births.

The victory meant one thing. It meant that Homa bay county would rise and see the revival of a tree that only stood on a short trunk, marking the essence of devolution. Hats off to Raila Odinga. Mr. Evans Kidero promised to make another journey. He would be walking to a court of law to question Wanga's win. He was quick to indicate that the elections were marred with errors. That was according to him while according to Martha Koome the country's chief Justice, a verdict passed indicated that the elections were faithfully conducted, giving a religious pass to Ruto's win.

Moses of the Old Testament slaughters an animal and sprinkles blood on the people of Israel to seal the covenant he was having with God at the foot of Mount Sinai. Gladys Nyasuna Wanga had graced the day at Homa bay sports ground to allow the people see her off to the office of governor through a SWEARING-IN CEREMONY her bullets having flowered.

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