HOMA BAY COUNTY GOVERNMENT RACE SET TO BE THE BEST RUN COUNTY IN PREPARATION TO ATTRACT MAJOR UK INVESTORS, PUBLIC PARTNERS, THE DIASPORA AND INCREASED ECO TOURISM.

HE Cyprian Awiti having a word with Bill Cash, the Chair of the APPG for Kenya and for Water and Sanitation in the Third World and Agriculture and Food for Development.

Meeting Chair of Essex County

SACOMA is looking for ways to more effectively support county efforts: in particular, by bringing together development partners and county authorities together to ensure that future policies and resources are targeted at the right areas; Meeting the investors and potential partners during his trip in London the Governor HE Cyprian Awiti reiterated to vast needs of both the people and Homa Bay government. Recognising the value of integrating health interventions in development policy, including the obstacles to mobilizing private sector resources.

He called on partners to be ambitious in strengthening the HB county's Project finance management systems to help Homa Bay become most efficient; working together internationally to help strengthen the capacity of county assembly members, the county executives and outlines ways donors and investors can contribute to this process'

The Governor and the ministerial team recognises that: (i) more needs to be done at county level to support and strengthen PFM as an essential component of better economic governance; and (ii) international government partners can assist in providing a peer review mechanism as well as a platform for knowledge sharing on strengthening and using country systems. During his visit to Uk the Governor met and held discussions and negotiations with a number of Investors with commitments specifically focusing on creating opportunities for

the local people of Homa Bay in all sectors in particular agriculture, energy, water and sanitation as well as manufacturing and industry. Capacity building for health services, knowledge transfer from High Institutions of Learning, mutual exchanges, school twinning as well as direct investments is among priority agendas.

Develop and support long-term capacity development projects, to audit donor-supported projects; help raise the profile of Homa bay; and also highlights the need for development partners and investors to build stronger links to Homa Bay and the key stakeholders including employing many local people in the projects.

The community is then supported with an emphasis on partnership working to direct public sector funding, services and resources to these areas in order to address the issues that have been identified, look at the foundation blocks for engaging with the private sector

Homa Bay Governor and Team meets and partners with Essex County Council UK

In a race to attract investment Homa Governor Cyprian Awiti has taken an approach to lay firm foundation for sustainable economic development to create wealth for the people of Homa Bay including a capacity building programme for the county assembly that will see an effective working relationships between the county assembly and the executive committee.

Accountable to the investors, funders, partners, other governments and beneficiaries, having open communication with partners and all stakeholders are mandatory. Where local people are empowered to understand and participate in governance, understand opportunities for investment, work with investors and that people living in these areas should decide what is needed to tackle the problems. This will then build on the development community's efforts to strengthen developing countries' capacity to better manage their public finances.

Therefore, Homa Bay county will be undergoing a transformation with agendas which involves developing aspect of infrastructure, roads, housing, public spaces and transport networks, to business and jobs, as well as the capacitating the local community to create and sustain wealth. The shared vision is that by 2015 local communities, especially the youth and women, will have access to skills training and jobs in all sectors and other emerging sectors such as tourism, housing, quality services, vibrant town centres, a range of opportunities to increased prosperity.

Homa Bay is taking a unique approach to attracting major infrastructure investments and empowering the people of Homa Bay. Ranging from large scale activities that promote economic growth to social interventions that improve health and quality of life. These include:

- **Strengthening the development and implementation of systems, policies and strategies,**
- **Developing and strengthening human /resource Information Systems and promoting evidence based decision making so as to positively influence internal policies of the investors**
- **Strengthening the pre-service education systems for health and social welfare related professionals**
- **Addressing workforce shortages**
- **Strengthening other service providers and agencies such as the Civil society organisations and cooperatives to ensure quality of service**
- **Capacitating local institutions to attain required standards to access direct funding from development partners**

During the visit to UK coordinated by SACOMA, his Excellency CyprIan AwitI accompanied by and his ministerial team and county assembly chairman, The team held very fruitful discussions and meetings with private investors as well as UK Government . Addressing the Governor and his team at the House of lords, the Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Kenya, Bill Cash, was pleased to hold discussions with HE Cyprian Awiti the Governor of Homa Bay together with the minister for Finance, Nicholas koriko, the miser for Agriculture, David Okeyo and the Minister for Trade, Prof Ogada together with the SACoMA Directors who had planned and organised the 5 days visit to the UK. HomaBay County recognises the importance of Kenya as a member of the Commonwealth and the potential role that the Commonwealth institutions might play in this devolutionary process. To this end, and thanks to advice and support from the All Party Parliamentary Group for Kenya led by Bill Cash MP and Lord Steel with whom BUILD and SACOMA held a meeting in December 2013, we are pleased to have organised this following meetings for the Governor and his Ministers.

Addressing the visiting HB team, Bill Cash reminded that although the focus of the visit is on attracting investment, it is important that we don't lose sight of other important interventions like improving access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), vaccines and medicines in the fight against child mortality. It is also vital that we recognise the effectiveness of integrating these interventions to provide lasting solutions to development. Bill Cash encouraged the governor to recognise the value of integrating health interventions in development policy. Bill Cash, demonstrating the strong interest of UK Parliamentarians from all parties in this vital issue. According to UNICEF, diarrhoea is a leading cause of death in children under the age of five. It causes more deaths than AIDS, malaria, and measles

Discussion of APPG Kenya Secretariat being established in the Palace of Westminster (POW), to build on the excellent work of the APPG Kenya, to foster good relationships between the UK and Kenya through the facilitation of bi-Monthly Plenary Groups hosted in the House of Commons (HOC) for Kenyans in the Diaspora. Once established, Annual Topics of discussion will be agreed by APPG Kenya's cross Party Members made up of MPs and Peers and Governors, Senators and MPs, e.g. Education, Health, Water and sanitation, Inward Investment and Trade Missions to Kenya, Tourism, Security, etc

Essex County has agreed to start a long running partnership with Homa Bay county Governemnt to support the development of systems and activities across the HBcounty. Essex county is recognised nationally as having a well run governance and financial systems. This means Homa Bay getting the best out of twinnings and exchanges including a visit by the HomaBay County Assembly team to sit and observe the running of a county assembly in the United and Revenue collection – benchmark
Commenting on his visit at the county assembly, the chair of the Homa Bay county assembly said this was giving all the county asebly members the best opportunity to learn how to effectively run the assembly learning from a 150 years success in Essex.

Chair of the Homa Bay county assembly, Mr Joel Otuoma takes a picture with the chairwoman of the Essex, County assembly in the UK

...Picture of the meeting Chair of Essex County together with Cllr Joe Pike MBE

The key agenda for the devolved government of Homa Bay includes complete eradication of Poverty so that its 963,794 people live a healthy and fulfilling life. To that extent, the Governor was keen to attract investors and partners to support a rigorous programme on agricultural production, fishing, health sector, education, energy, infrastructure and tourism to be the key engines of growth. His Excellency the governor Cyprian Awiti also recognises the key role that the Homa Bay Diaspora can play in this agenda to invest in Homa Bay County.

The key challenge is to ensure that devolution of power and resources to the county works for the majority of the population. UK has a long history of parliamentary democracy and devolution and Homa Bay County was quite keen to learn from that history. Devolution of power and resources is a new concept with various results in Africa.

Homa Bay wants to get it right from the beginning and this opportunity to meet the UK partners will begin that journey.

At another tele- meeting with the Homa Bay Minister for Health, Hon,Lawrence Oteng and the Royal College of Physicians the head of International affairs, Matthew Foster, spoke about the role of the Royal College of Physicians and its international work not least with the West Africa College of Physicians and the support for training at all levels primary and

secondary that the RCP gives He mentioned the plans that they had to work in South Sudan which had had to be placed "on hold" given the security problems in that country.RCP International is working regionally on training programmes in East Africa in Tanzania and Uganda and there are opportunities to extend that work to Kenya. Matthew agreed that it might be possible for him to visit Homa Bay in the next six months potentially to look at the training needs of health care professionals in the County and ways in which the RCP might support those needs.

Coyal College of physicians work includes a wide range of projects and programmes of activities aimed at improving standards of clinical practice and public health.

Nick Maurice spoke about the work that Sacoma and BUILD had done over the past week (24-28 February 2014) during the visit of the Governor of Homa Bay and four of his Ministers and in particular mentioned meetings with THET and with Senior Executives including the Leader and the Head of Education of Essex County Council and with Anglia Ruskin University and the potential for the development of partnerships between the Counties of Essex and Homa Bay and health care and educational institutions in the two counties. He stated that Andrew Jones at THET had said that he would be willing to support the development of partnerships between such health care institutions and might be able to identify someone to support an analysis of health care needs in Homa Bay.

It was clear from the tele meeting that much could be achieved in terms of support for training and professional development of health care workers in Homa Bay.

I was agreed that it would be important to have a copy of the Homa Bay health care strategy for the next five years which outlined a) the health problems facing the population (both communicable and non-communicable diseases) b) the measures that are currently being taken to face those problems i.e. both preventative and curative c) the infrastructural resources that are currently available at community and district level e.g. health posts, clinics, hospitals etc d) the healthcare manpower resources available i.e. community health care workers, TBAs, community midwives, doctors (and their specialisations), nurses etc and the current plans for facing these problems.
It was agreed that the Hon Minister would supply a copy of Homa Bay's health care strategy for the next five years so that RCP International, THET and other potential supporters in UK might look at what interventions might be most effective in supporting that strategy.

Popularly known as the Bay County, because of its many bays, Homa Bay County has population of 963,794 and an area of 3,183.3 km². About 80% of Kenya's Lake Victoria is in Homabay County, making the county the leading supplier of fresh lake fish in Kenya. With breathtaking islands, hills, valleys and the longest shores of Lake Victoria, Homabay provides unrivalled investment opportunities. The County government welcomes investors to the county, and is committed to making Homabay the County of Choice for investors.

And it starts by making investors confident in the systems to manage large cale infrastructure projects and viable investment opportunities ensuring due diligence and licensing issues and investments policies are all known and understood by the investors and Corporate Social Responsibility package for the local communities.

The second day of the UK visit saw the Governor several investors very keen to invest in Homa Bay. Said his Excellency Awiti, 'we are keen in creating and developing industries through partnership; Develop industries in Mining and production of steel; sugar cane; Agro-processing; Cotton – textile industries; dairy farming, energy Focus on integration of various power sources (Total Power Solution) - Solar, Wind, Hydro, Commercial, domestic. Other investors met to discuss building of state of the art factory to manufacture from waste materials, a new range of green cements that are very high performances and low in cost - for building industries and for civil works.

A very firm consideration for the factory to for making paper from stone

The governor explained that HBC had CIDP Document – available to guide the investments in the county and other key investment policies were in process of completion. Dialogue to start straight away with follow up vsist of Uk investor to Homa Bay the aim of closing deals in 3 Months

Meeting with investors

The team's objective now is develop an outward looking strategy on joint needs assessment involving the participation of all actors locally and internationally. Objective was to form investment strategies for the county to create a county Model to translate wealth in the ground into long-term sustainable benefits for the local people

He governor and his team held several other closed discussion with investors in the airs of energy, geothermal,

The governor is also looking to discuss deals with schools of textile in the UK in knowledge transfer partnership that will see Cotton Textile Industrial Cluster – several institution build around. This would then lead to the School of Textiles working with farmers in Homa Bay to add-value to their cotton. They would then train technicians and designers to ensure that Homa Bay adds value to its cotton. The focus would be to focus on organic cotton and

support the farmers to own a co-operative that would go into spinning and garment production in Homa Bay. They will also train local young people to be designers with a view of re-cycling some of the imported second clothes into fashion products like handbags and other high value items.

This project partnership will allow the 3rd year students at the School of Textiles to work with farmers in Homa Bay to add-value to their organic cotton and re-recycle all the imported second hand denim materials.

The governor and team also met grant funders very keen to fund projects on Rehabilitation of cotton farming to engage the unemployed youths.

Other knowledge transfer partnership will see the county send it's small to medium enterprises for short summer courses on management and other specialist areas such as climate change and adaptation.

Meeting at the Anglia Ruskin University
HE Cyprian awiti meets– Dr. Aled Jone, Director, Global Sustainability institute
Deveope a programme on Environment Conservation

At another meeting with private investors, HE the governor Cyprian Awiyi and his team discussed investment in fish storage and transport. Said the governor, ''If fish farming and wild fisheries in Homa Bay were allowed to flourish together at their optimum, sustainable levels, the benefit to local employment and economies, remote fishing communities, would be enormous. The aquaculture will be allowed to expand with limited consideration given to its impact upon the environment or wild fisheries interests''. Thanks to other investors very keen to work with the governor on containerized solar cooling system.

Innovations in capture fisheries are an imperative for nutrition security in the Hoam Bay county development plan. An impediment to achieving this is that the current research and policy discourses on environmental sustainability of fisheries and food security remain only loosely and superficially linked. Overcoming this requires adoption of a broader sustainability science paradigm to help harness synergies and negotiate tradeoffs between food security, resource conservation, and macroeconomic development goals

At another function the governor attended dinner hosted by the Diaspora from Homa Bay County living in the UK.

'We are opening a desk for managing the Diaspora and investments' said the Governor

The Diaspora are exploring how to focus their remittances to infrastrure projects as well as to publicize and promote tourism based on the niches of Homa Bay Ruma Park with some of the rarest animals and other wonderful attraction and hot water springs and Improve linkages with other sectors.

The Diaspora of Homa Bay is a well-resourced expert and the Governor was overwhelmed with several offers of technical support in areas of ICT, food security, urban planning, education and health. All roads will lead to Homa in August as the Homa Bay Diaspora Conference and an effective start of Tourism – with Online Local bookings facilities being planned by the diaspora themselves through a panned ICT infrastructure.

Other specailst fields included doctors and Biotechnologist.

meeting other funders and Investors

On day 4 the Governor and team also met Michael Lake CBE, Director; the Royal Common Wealth Society. To explore ways to Support civil society in Homa Bay as they play a key role in supporting the county Government in social development; and in particular work with young people of homa bay Exchange of periodicals and writing essays, help Identify and encourage young entrepreneurs (talent) that need mentorship

The Governor's visit is being organised through collaboration between the UK based, Commonwealth accredited organisation BUILD and the Kenyan Diaspora organisation SACOMA. In addition as a Commonwealth accredited organisation BUILD works through Commonwealth institutions to promote community based partnerships across the Commonwealth.

SACOMA is partnering with devolved governments in Kenya to support programmes, which can address challenges of acute poverty and governance. SACOMA heavily borrows from the UK systems to extend this learning to the Home Counties in Kenya *and enhance the contribution that Africans in the Diaspora make to Africa's development*

Sacoma team welcomes he Governor