

the **VERNOR** *Monthly*

Honouring a statesman, Bomet county pays tribute to Rt.Hon Raila Odinga.



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By Mathew Rotich

Governor Prof. Hillary Barchok, has issued a comprehensive statement of condolence following the Presidential directive declaring a period of national mourning for the late former Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Raila Amolo Odinga. In the statement, Governor Barchok noted that the County Government of Bomet joins the rest of the nation in expressing deep sorrow and profound grief over the passing of one of Kenya's most iconic leaders — a statesman whose name is synonymous with resilience, reform, and democracy. He described the late Rt. Hon. Odinga as a true patriot, a visionary reformist, and a towering pillar of Kenya's democratic journey, whose lifelong dedication to public service, sacrifice, and national unity transformed the nation's political and social landscape. The Governor reflected on the Rt. Hon. Odinga's long and eventful political career, acknowledging his relentless pursuit of democratic ideals, human rights, and good governance. "The late Raila Amolo Odinga dedicated his entire life to the service of the people of Kenya," the statement read. "Through his vision, courage, and unshakable belief in justice and equality, he became a symbol of endurance and hope, inspiring generations of Kenyans to dream of a more inclusive and prosperous nation." Governor Barchok observed that the late Odinga's contributions to Kenya's transformation spanned over five decades, marked by his active participation in the struggle for multiparty democracy, his role in shaping constitutional reforms, and his steadfast advocacy for social and economic empowerment. He added that Rt. Hon. Odinga's leadership was characterized by immense personal sacrifice, integrity, and a deep sense of duty to his country, often at great personal cost. "As a nation, we owe the late Rt. Hon. Odinga a debt of gratitude for his immense contribution to the freedoms we enjoy today. His tireless efforts in promoting national reconciliation, dialogue, and unity have left a legacy that will continue to inspire leaders and citizens alike," Governor Barchok stated. "He stood for the truth even when it was unpopular, and he remained committed to peace even in moments of great political tension." In honour of the former Prime Minister's legacy, the Governor announced that flags across all County Government offices and institutions would continue to fly at half-mast throughout the mourning period, in compliance with the Presidential directive. This gesture, he said, represents the County's solidarity with the national government and the Kenyan people as they reflect on the life and contributions of a leader who devoted himself wholly to the service of his country.



Flags fly at half-mast at the office of the governor, in honour of the late Rt. Hon. Raila Amolo Odinga a distinguished statesman, visionary reformist, and fearless defender of freedom and democracy. The County Government of Bomet stands in solidarity with the nation in mourning a leader whose life's work shaped Kenya's democratic journey and inspired generations to believe in justice, unity, and progress. PHOTO | Haron

Governor Barchok extended heartfelt condolences to the Odinga family, the people of Siaya County, and the entire nation of Kenya. He praised the late Odinga's humility, resilience, and lifelong commitment to national cohesion, noting that his influence transcended political boundaries and touched the lives of countless Kenyans across all walks of life. "The people of Bomet join the rest of Kenya in mourning a leader whose vision, courage, and leadership profoundly shaped the destiny of our Republic. Rt. Hon. Odinga's legacy will remain an enduring reminder that patriotism and public service demand sacrifice, integrity, and selflessness," he added. The Governor further encouraged Kenyans to use this solemn moment as an opportunity to renew their commitment to peace, justice, and unity — the very principles that defined Rt. Hon. Odinga's life and leadership. He emphasized that true honour to the fallen leader lies not only in words but in upholding the values he championed and ensuring that future generations inherit a nation built on fairness, equality, and democratic governance. "As we lower our flags and bow our heads in respect, let us also raise our spirits in gratitude for a life that touched millions, a legacy that reshaped our politics, and a vision that continues to guide our national aspirations," the Governor stated. The County Government of Bomet reaffirmed its solidarity with the national government and all Kenyans during this period of mourning, noting that the passing of Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga marks a historic moment of reflection on Kenya's democratic journey and the leaders who paved the way for a free and united nation.



Barchok leads colourful mashujaa day celebration, unveils bold agenda for Bomet.



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"Kenya mourns a true patriot whose legacy of courage and democracy will live forever."

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By Mathew Rotich

The Governor of Bomet County, Prof. Hillary Barchok, EGH, on Monday led residents in commemorating this year's Mashujaa Day celebrations held at Kabungut Primary School in Singorwet Ward, Bomet Central Constituency. The event attracted a large gathering of residents, local leaders, and community groups who came together to honour Kenya's heroes and heroines for their sacrifices and service to the nation. While addressing the audience, Governor Barchok paid glowing tribute to the men and women who fought for Kenya's independence, describing them as patriots whose courage and resilience laid the foundation for the freedoms Kenyans enjoy today. He reminded citizens that Mashujaa Day was not only a day of remembrance but also an opportunity for every generation to reflect on its role in shaping the nation's future. The Governor was quoted as saying that, "Mashujaa Day reminds us of the sacrifices made by our forefathers and the need for us to emulate their courage and selflessness in addressing today's challenges. Every Kenyan has a duty to contribute to the country's progress through hard work, honesty, and unity." Governor Barchok used the occasion to highlight the county government's ongoing development agenda, noting key milestones achieved in infrastructure, education, agriculture, and healthcare. He reaffirmed his administration's commitment to inclusive growth and sustainable service delivery, emphasizing that the county's success depended on collaboration between leaders and citizens.

In a major announcement, the Governor unveiled new measures aimed at tackling water shortages that have affected several parts of Bomet County. He revealed that the Bomet Water and Sanitation Company (BOWASCO) had been appointed to spearhead the county's efforts in ensuring consistent and clean water supply to households, institutions, and businesses. Prof. Barchok explained that BOWASCO would be responsible for rehabilitating stalled and dilapidated water projects, expanding distribution networks, and improving management systems to enhance efficiency and accountability. He further stated that his administration was working closely with development partners and the national government to secure funding for large-scale water projects, including drilling new boreholes and protecting water catchment areas. The Governor reiterated that access to safe and adequate water was a key priority in his development agenda, saying, "Water is life. It is essential for our people's health, for agriculture, and for economic growth. My government will not rest until every household in Bomet can access clean and reliable water."

The event was attended by Bomet Central MP Hon. Richard Kilel, Singorwet Ward MCA Josphat Kipkirui Kurgat, county executives, and hundreds of residents. Entertainment from local schools and cultural troupes added colour to the celebration.

Barchok ushers BOMWASCO into a new era of reform and innovation.

By Aron Cheruiyot

Bomet Governor Prof. Hillary Barchok on Tuesday presided over the official welcoming of three new members to the Board of Bomet Water and Sanitation Company Limited (BOMWASCO). The new appointees Mr. Eric Langat, Rev. Seline Rotich, and Hon. Clara Koech were introduced during a meeting attended by senior county officials and members of the company's management team. In his remarks, Governor Barchok said that the trio brings with them a wealth of knowledge and diverse professional experiences that will be instrumental in strengthening the company's leadership and steering it toward greater efficiency and sustainability. He emphasized that their appointment comes at a crucial time when the company is undergoing major restructuring aimed at enhancing operational performance and service delivery to the people of Bomet County. The Governor acknowledged that since its establishment in 2013, BOMWASCO has made remarkable progress and continues to expand its reach in providing clean and reliable water to residents across the county. The company, he said, currently manages 14 water schemes with 20,500 active connections serving approximately 123,000 consumers. He commended the company's management for the achievements made so far, noting that the progress has been realized despite facing numerous challenges over the years. While reflecting on the company's journey, Governor Barchok admitted that BOMWASCO has encountered operational and financial difficulties, particularly in areas of revenue collection, high electricity costs, and aging infrastructure. However, he expressed confidence that the company is now firmly on the path to profitability and improved service delivery. He outlined several interventions that have been undertaken to stabilize operations. Among them is the recent takeover of the Itare Water Scheme by the Lake Victoria South Water Works Agency (LVSWWA), which, according to the Governor, relieved BOMWASCO of a major consumer who had been a consistent defaulter. This move, he explained, has helped address persistent electricity cost challenges linked to unpaid water bills. He further cited the upcoming Bomet-Longisa-Mulot Water Project as a transformative initiative that will reduce operational costs by adopting a gravity-fed water system instead of electricity-powered pumping. The Governor also mentioned that the company's staff restructuring programme had successfully reduced the workforce to under 100 employees through voluntary early retirement, thereby enhancing efficiency and reducing the wage bill. In addition, a clear payment plan for outstanding staff emoluments



Governor Prof. Hillary Barchok welcomed three new members to the Board of BOMWASCO, reaffirming his commitment to transforming the company into a modern, efficient, and sustainable water utility. With initiatives such as solarization of water schemes, full metering of consumers, and staff restructuring, BOMWASCO is on the path to profitability and improved service delivery. **PHOTO | Chirchir**

In addition, a clear payment plan for outstanding staff emoluments has been introduced and tied to the company's improved revenue collection framework. Governor Barchok also announced plans to move towards 100 percent metering of consumers, a move aimed at eliminating the flat-rate billing system and promoting fairness and accountability in water usage. He noted that the County Government of Bomet continues to play a critical role in supporting BOMWASCO's operations through subsidies and investment in infrastructure. The Governor further pointed out that solarization of water schemes is a key component of the company's modernization plan, aimed at reducing dependency on costly grid electricity. The solarization of Bomet Town Water Supply, he said, has already been completed, while the Longisa Town project is nearing completion and is expected to significantly reduce operational costs once fully commissioned. Governor Barchok, however, underscored that the company still faces several pressing challenges. These include non-payment of bills by consumers, theft of water through illegal connections, destruction of water pipes by ongoing road construction works, aging and outdated pumping equipment that require major capital investment, high electricity bills, and pending staff emoluments. He assured residents that his administration remains committed to addressing these challenges through strategic partnerships, prudent management, and continued investment in water infrastructure. He added that with the new leadership in place, BOMWASCO is better positioned to deliver on its mandate and to provide reliable, sustainable, and affordable water services to the people of Bomet. "I have full faith in the team we have put in place," Governor Barchok said. "They have my total support and the support of the County Government as they work to take BOMWASCO to the next level." The meeting was also attended by Deputy Governor H.E. Shadrack Rotich, County Secretary Mr. Simon Langat, County Attorney Mr. John Mark Langat, CECM for Water Ms. Julia Chepkuto, Chief Officer for Finance Mr. Jonah Mutai, BOMWASCO Managing Director Mr. Kipngetich Towett, and company directors Ms. Daisy Rono and Mr. William Bett.

Bomet's agrinutrition project promotes food security and better health.

The officers further emphasized that improving nutrition is not solely the responsibility of the health sector but requires a collaborative effort between agriculture, education, and community development stakeholders. Through such joint interventions, the County Government of Bomet hopes to create a more resilient population that values both productive agriculture and healthy living. Ultimately, the Agrinutrition Project seeks to transform communities by ensuring that what residents grow directly contributes to what they eat. By promoting the production of diverse, affordable, and accessible foods, the initiative envisions a healthier, stronger, and more food-secure population, capable of driving the county's social and economic development agenda.



Page 2:

Healthy Soils, Healthy Lives: Bomet County Leads the Way in Linking Food Production with Nutrition for Stronger, Healthier Families **PHOTO** | Fancy



Page 3:

Sowing Nutrition, Reaping Health: How Bomet's Agrinutrition Project is Transforming Agriculture into a Tool for Better Living

By Fancy Chepkirui

Department of Health Services has continued to advance the integration of agriculture and nutrition through the ongoing Agrinutrition Project, one of the key flagship initiatives under the County Nutrition Program. The project, recently conducted in Motigo, Bomet Central Sub-County, brought together Community Health Assistants (CHAs) and Community Health Promoters (CHPs) for a comprehensive sensitization and training exercise designed to strengthen community health and promote sustainable, nutrition-sensitive agricultural practices. According to officials from the Department, the Agrinutrition Project embraces a multi-sectoral approach that connects food production with improved nutritional outcomes. The initiative aims to promote the cultivation and consumption of a variety of nutrient-dense foods as a means of combating malnutrition and lifestyle-related illnesses, while also fostering food security and self-reliance within local communities. During the training, CHAs and CHPs, alongside selected community members, were sensitized on the importance of integrating nutrition into everyday farming activities. The sessions focused on ways to improve agricultural practices for better yields, the adoption of climate-smart farming techniques, and the enhancement of household food diversity. The participants were also encouraged to embrace nutrition education as part of their daily community health promotion efforts, ensuring that families make informed dietary choices.

The team conducted practical demonstrations on different kitchen gardening techniques, including conventional, multistorey, and conical gardens, as well as beekeeping practices. These models were highlighted as innovative and sustainable approaches that maximize limited land and water resources. By adopting these methods, families can grow a continuous supply of vegetables and other nutrient-rich foods within small spaces, improving household nutrition throughout the year. In addition to crop production, the training emphasized post-harvest handling, food preservation, and storage practices to minimize losses and maintain food quality. Trainers also discussed the nutritional value of locally available foods and the importance of dietary diversification, particularly for vulnerable groups such as children, expectant mothers, and the elderly. Speaking during the event, health officers reiterated that the Agrinutrition Project forms part of the county's broader strategy to bridge the gap between agricultural productivity and nutritional well-being. They noted that empowering households with practical agrinutrition knowledge not only enhances food security but also contributes to the reduction of malnutrition and related health challenges across the county.

Bomet unveils ambitious transport overhaul to decongest and modernize town traffic.

By Stacy Binsari

Bomet Municipality has embarked on an ambitious plan to enhance the transportation system within Bomet Town, in a move aimed at improving order, easing congestion, and promoting efficiency in public transport operations. According to officials from the Bomet Municipality, the new strategy focuses on consolidating transport operations under one central system to streamline services and improve traffic management across the town. The main bus park has been identified as the central hub for all bus, car, and Nissan operations, an initiative expected to significantly reduce congestion within the town's central business district. Municipal authorities explained that the main bus park will now serve as the sole transport station in Bomet Town, featuring two main entrances and a designated exit point. They noted that this new layout is designed to create a more organized environment for both passengers and transport operators while ensuring smoother traffic flow within and around the town. In addition, the construction of a new exit at the main bus park was highlighted as a proactive measure aimed at addressing persistent traffic bottlenecks along the main highway. The new traffic management plan, officials emphasized, will not only enhance safety but also improve accessibility and reduce unnecessary delays for commuters. The municipality further stated that this initiative is being implemented through a collaborative approach involving the Departments of Lands, Housing, and Urban Planning, in partnership with the Kenya Traffic Police. This joint effort, they said, reflects a coordinated and multi-sectoral commitment to improving the overall transport infrastructure in Bomet Town. Beyond addressing congestion, municipal leaders pointed out that the reorganization of transport operations is expected to improve revenue collection, streamline parking management, and eliminate illegal pick-up and drop-off points along the highway. Such improvements, they added, are vital for ensuring the long-term sustainability of urban transport systems.



Moreover, municipality officers have begun sensitizing matatu, taxi, and bodaboda operators about the new changes. They indicated that engaging transport stakeholders and the wider community is an essential step in ensuring successful implementation and compliance. The sensitization efforts are also meant to foster understanding and cooperation among operators, passengers, and enforcement officers. In conclusion, Bomet Municipality affirmed its commitment to building a safe, efficient, and sustainable urban transport system. Officials reiterated that the ongoing reforms form part of a broader urban development strategy designed to support economic growth, enhance public safety, and improve the quality of life for residents and commuters in Bomet Town.

Bomet Municipality has undertaken a benchmarking visit to Narok and Nyamira Counties to enhance service delivery and urban management. Officials said the delegation of technical officers gained valuable insights into municipal planning, technology adoption, and regulatory enforcement. In Narok, the team learned about the use of modern tools such as RTK machines and GIS systems for accurate land mapping and improved transparency. They also noted Narok's strong collaboration with agencies like NEMA and NCA to ensure compliance in construction and environmental management. The visit, officials reported, inspired new strategies for strengthening technical capacity, embracing digital systems, and fostering accountability in Bomet's municipal operations. They affirmed that the lessons learned will guide ongoing reforms aimed at making Bomet a model of efficient and transparent urban governance.

Bomet Municipality benchmarking with neighbouring counties.



Bomet Municipality has undertaken a benchmarking visit to Narok and Nyamira Counties to enhance service delivery and urban management. PHOTO | MULOTY



Bomet county partners with Kalro to boost production of high-iron and zinc bean varieties.



By Sharon Chelangat

Bomet County has taken a significant step towards enhancing food security, nutrition, and farmer empowerment through an ambitious partnership with the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO). The collaboration aims to scale up the production of the Waithera and Angaza varieties of High Iron and Zinc beans two nutrient-rich bean types that have positioned Bomet as one of Kenya's leading producers in the legume sector. According to the Department of Agriculture, the County Government of Bomet has entered into a contract farming agreement with KALRO to promote the large-scale production of bean seeds. In the initial phase, 17 farmers from across the county have been contracted to cultivate the high-nutrient bean varieties on a total of 34.5 acres of land. The number of participating farmers, officials noted, will be progressively increased in subsequent phases as part of the county's broader agricultural transformation strategy. Speaking during a recent monitoring visit, County Executive Committee Member for Agriculture, CPA Bernard Cheruiyot, said the initiative reflects the county's commitment to supporting smallholder farmers with opportunities that enhance productivity and profitability. He emphasized that through structured contract farming, farmers would be assured of ready markets, improved incomes, and consistent access to certified seeds.

The Chief Officer for Agriculture, Dr. Kibet Sitienei, added that the program is not only about production but also about building agricultural resilience and sustainability in the face of climate change and shifting market demands. He explained that farmers under the initiative are receiving comprehensive training on Good Agronomic Practices (GAPs), ensuring that production meets both quality and environmental standards. A delegation from KALRO, led by Dr. David Karanja, visited contracted farmers in Nogirwet Village, Chebunyo Ward, Chepalungu Sub-County, to assess the progress of the program. The visit also included representatives from the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), who expressed optimism about the potential of Bomet's farmers to transform bean production into a commercially viable and nutritionally impactful enterprise. Dr. Karanja commended Bomet County for its proactive approach to agricultural research adoption and technology transfer, noting that such partnerships are key to achieving Kenya's national goals on food and nutrition security. He highlighted that the Waithera and Angaza bean varieties developed for their high iron and zinc content play a crucial role in combating malnutrition, particularly among women and children in rural communities.

Dr. Karanja commended Bomet County for its proactive approach to agricultural research adoption and technology transfer, noting that such partnerships are key to achieving Kenya's national goals on food and nutrition security. He highlighted that the Waithera and Angaza bean varieties developed for their high iron and zinc content play a crucial role in combating malnutrition, particularly among women and children in rural communities. Officials from both KALRO and the County Government reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening farmer capacity through continuous training, extension services, and access to improved seed varieties. They underscored that the initiative aligns with Bomet's long-term agenda of promoting value chain development, increasing household incomes, and fostering sustainable agricultural growth. As Bomet County continues to champion partnerships that blend innovation, research, and farmer empowerment, this collaboration with KALRO stands out as a model of how county governments can drive local development while contributing to Kenya's broader food security and economic agenda.



Bomet and KALRO Are Empowering Farmers Through Nutrient-Rich Bean Production. PHOTO|FAITH



Chief officer agriculture (Right)

Bomet reaffirms commitment to nurturing every child's future.

By Mathew Rotich

The County Government of Bomet has once again demonstrated its commitment to improving the wellbeing and future of its youngest citizens through enhanced investments in Early Childhood Development (ECD). During a three-day sensitization workshop held in Bomet, officials from the Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB) through the Smart Start Initiative underscored that Early Childhood Development (ECD) remains one of the most critical investments any society can make. The discussions emphasized that ECD determines not only a child's lifelong physical growth and brain development but also their overall wellbeing and future productivity. According to the facilitators, the foundation of a child's health and development begins long before birth. Factors such as the mother's health during pregnancy, postnatal care, breastfeeding, nutritional intake, environmental safety, and the early learning experience in ECDE centers all play an essential role in shaping a child's cognitive and physical development. The LREB Smart Start team further explained that Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development (NCECD) requires a holistic and multi-sectoral approach. This involves not only health and education sectors but also agriculture, finance, and community engagement. The team emphasized that governments at both county and national levels must strengthen interventions that promote NCECD, including policy formulation, budgetary allocation, and effective implementation of relevant programs. The ongoing sensitization workshop in Bomet brought together key county officials for three separate sessions—dedicated to County Executive Committee Members (CECs) on Day One, Chief Officers (COs) on Day Two, and Directors on Day Three. The training aimed to enhance understanding among policy makers and senior administrators about the importance of nurturing care in early childhood and to inspire integrated planning and budgeting across sectors. Speakers at the forum commended Bomet County Government for being at the forefront in promoting child welfare and nutrition. The county has implemented a range of innovative interventions, including the School Milk Program, which ensures ECDE learners receive a nutritious supplement during school hours, improved maternal and child health services, and community-based nutrition programs targeting new mothers. Additionally, the county has introduced a high-iron and zinc bean initiative distributed to selected schools—an initiative designed to combat hidden hunger and improve nutritional outcomes among young learners.



As part of the Lake Region Economic Bloc's Smart Start Initiative, Bomet County has become a hub of dialogue and innovation in early childhood development. The three-day sensitization workshop for county leaders is paving the way for stronger policies, targeted programs, and a shared commitment to secure the best possible start for the youngest generation. PHOTO|Enock

The LREB team noted that such interventions reflect a practical understanding of how early nutrition and care contribute to a child's lifelong health and educational performance. The opening day of the workshop was attended by several members of the County Executive Committee, among them Hon. Agnes Ngeno (Education), Hon. Rosa Bett (Finance), Hon. Dr. Benard Tonui (Gender), Hon. Ambrose (Roads), Hon. CPA Bernard Cheruiyot (Agriculture), Hon. Julia Chepkuto (Water), and Hon. Justus Maina (Administration). Also present were County Attorney John Mark Langat, Chief Officer Dr. John Keter (Education), and other senior staff from various departments. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to champion policies and programs that promote the holistic development of children in Bomet. They agreed that investing in nurturing care is not just a social obligation but a strategic economic decision, as it shapes the future productivity, resilience, and prosperity of the next generation. The sensitization workshop is part of a broader regional effort under the LREB Smart Start Initiative, which seeks to influence policy and budget decisions across member counties to ensure that early childhood development remains a central pillar in local governance and development planning.



CECM Education Hon. Agnes Ngeno

“We recognize that investing in Early Childhood Development is not just about education—it is about shaping healthier, smarter, and more productive generations. Through programs such as the School Milk Initiative, improved maternal health services, and nutrition-based interventions in our ECDE centers, we are laying a strong foundation for the future of Bomet. We will continue to strengthen partnerships with stakeholders like the LREB Smart Start Initiative to ensure that every child in Bomet gets the best possible start in life.”

Barchok wishes success to all candidates.



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H.E Prof. Hillary Barchok, EGH
Governor, Bomet County

Bomet county reels in change through climate action.



From Ponds to prosperity Bomet county's growing fish farming movement is inspiring change, empowering women and youth, strengthening food security, and proving that local innovation can turn climate challenges into thriving opportunities.
PHOTO | Chirchir

By Stacy Binsari

The Department of Fisheries in Bomet County reported that the county's growing passion for fish had sparked an inspiring wave of transformation across local communities. Officials explained that what began as a simple effort to encourage fish consumption had evolved into a powerful movement reshaping livelihoods and promoting environmental sustainability. Through initiatives under the #FLLoCA and #ClimateAction programs, residents were turning climate challenges into opportunities that strengthen food security, boost household incomes, and build resilience against the effects of changing weather patterns. The department highlighted that fish farming was no longer seen as a small-scale activity but as a major economic driver creating jobs and supporting local markets. Women and youth, in particular, were stepping into leadership roles in fish farming groups, managing ponds, and marketing their produce to schools, restaurants, and neighboring counties. Officials further emphasized that beyond income, the initiative was improving nutrition among families, especially children, who now have regular access to affordable sources of protein. They added that the community's success story had become a model for other counties, showing how local innovation and climate action can go hand in hand to build sustainable futures. According to the department, Bomet's journey reflects how determination, collaboration, and creativity can transform challenges into thriving opportunities for every household involved.

Bomet county marks the 2025 international day of the girl child in Siongiroi.

By Mathew Rotich

The County Government of Bomet joined the global community in commemorating the International Day of the Girl Child 2025 at Siongiroi, under the theme “The Girl I Am, The Change I Lead: Girls on the Frontlines of Crisis.” Officials noted that the theme strongly aligns with ongoing county and national efforts to empower girls, advance gender equality, and eliminate social barriers that hinder their potential. They emphasized that while notable progress has been made over the years, more work remains to be done to ensure every girl enjoys equal rights, opportunities, and protection. Speakers highlighted that many girls in Bomet and across the country continue to face critical challenges, including Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), child marriages, menstrual poverty, and harmful cultural taboos. These injustices, they observed, not only violate the rights of girls but also slow down the overall social and economic development of communities. The gathering was informed that the County Government of Bomet, through the Department of Gender, Culture, and Social Services, has been implementing a range of interventions aimed at promoting the safety, wellbeing, and empowerment of girls and women. These efforts include active participation in anti-GBV campaigns, provision of psychological support to survivors, and close collaboration with security agencies to enhance protection mechanisms. Officials further reported that the department continues to mentor girls and has distributed sanitary pads to support menstrual hygiene and school retention. Additionally, women have been economically empowered through programs such as the donation of tools of trade, entrepreneurship and financial literacy training, and the establishment of income-generating groups aimed at improving livelihoods. It was also revealed that the county is in the final stages of developing the Bomet County SGBV Policy, which will serve as a comprehensive framework for the prevention of gender-based violence, response to survivors, and protection of victims. Once adopted, this policy is expected to strengthen coordination among stakeholders and enhance accountability in addressing gender-related issues.



Bomet County Joins the World in Celebrating the International Day of the Girl Child 2025 under the theme ‘The Girl I Am, The Change I Lead: Girls on the Frontlines of Crisis.’ The event echoed powerful messages of hope, equality, and empowerment as leaders and partners reaffirmed their commitment to ending harmful practices, promoting girls’ education, and ensuring every girl in Bomet grows up safe, confident, and free to shape her future. Together, we rise for a generation of fearless girls leading change and transforming communities. **PHOTO | BRIAN**

Speakers urged girls and women across the county to believe in themselves, work hard, and continue pursuing their dreams, assuring them of the government’s full support. They affirmed that empowering girls was not only a moral obligation but also a key driver of sustainable development. The event concluded with a renewed call for collective action to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against girls. Stakeholders reiterated that by empowering girls and women to lead change, society as a whole becomes stronger, fairer, and more resilient. The commemoration was held in collaboration with various partners, including the Anti-FGM Board–Kenya, civil society organizations, and community leaders, all united in the shared mission of safeguarding the rights and dignity of every girl child in Bomet and beyond.



Governor Barchok (Right) and Cs Hanna Wendot Cheptumo (Left)

Bomet accelerates infrastructure transformation.

By Haron Kipkurui

The County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Roads, Transport, and Public Works, Hon. Ambrose Koech, conducted an extensive inspection tour of key infrastructure projects currently underway in Konoin Sub-County. The visit was part of the department's continuous monitoring program aimed at ensuring that all ongoing works across the county meet the required standards of quality, safety, and sustainability. During the field visit, Hon. Koech assessed progress on the near-completion of the Targambei Bridge in Embomos Ward and the Kolongei Box Culvert, a major linkage point connecting Kimulot and Chepchabas Wards. These projects, he observed, are among the strategic infrastructural interventions being undertaken by the County Government of Bomet to enhance mobility, improve transport efficiency, and promote equitable access to services across all wards. Speaking during the inspection, Hon. Koech emphasized that roads, bridges, and drainage systems form the backbone of socio-economic development in any region. He explained that once the projects are completed, they will not only provide safer and more reliable routes for residents but also boost trade, agriculture, and business activities by facilitating the smooth movement of goods and people. Farmers, he noted, will particularly benefit from easier access to markets, while students and patients will have shorter and safer routes to schools and health facilities. Hon. Koech lauded the progress made so far, noting that the projects were in advanced stages and on course for timely completion. He urged contractors to maintain the pace of work while strictly adhering to engineering specifications and safety standards. He further reiterated that the county government remains committed to transparency, efficiency, and quality assurance in the delivery of all its infrastructure projects. The CECM underscored that regular field inspections are not only essential for tracking progress but also serve as a mechanism to ensure accountability and the prudent use of public resources. He stated that such oversight visits provide an opportunity to engage directly with contractors, engineers, and local leaders to address any emerging challenges early and guarantee smooth implementation.



The County Government of Bomet, through the Department of Roads, Transport, and Public Works under the leadership of CECM Hon. Ambrose Koech, continues to transform the county's infrastructure landscape by investing in quality roads, bridges and drainage systems that enhance mobility, boost trade, and connect communities. **PHOTO | Haron**

He also noted that the administration of Governor Prof. Hillary Barchok continues to prioritize road and transport infrastructure as a key pillar in realizing Bomet County's development agenda. By improving connectivity between wards and sub-counties, the county aims to unlock economic potential, spur investment, and improve the overall quality of life for its residents. Hon. Koech further reaffirmed his department's unwavering dedication to fostering inclusive growth through the development of resilient and accessible infrastructure. He remarked that the government's long-term vision is to establish a robust road network that links rural areas with major economic centers, thereby ensuring that no community is left behind in the county's development journey. As he concluded the tour, the CECM commended the technical teams and engineers overseeing the works for their professionalism, teamwork, and commitment to excellence. He assured residents that the County Government of Bomet will continue to invest in transformative projects that drive development, create jobs, and make transportation safer and more efficient for all. He reiterated that infrastructure development remains one of the county's most important investments — a foundation upon which education, health, trade, and other sectors can thrive — ensuring that Bomet stays on the path of growth, resilience, and prosperity.

Relocation of the Bomet dumpsite, to a new site.



The County Government of Bomet has embarked on a transformative initiative to relocate the existing dumpsite and establish a new, well-managed waste disposal facility. This bold step aims to protect residents' health, enhance environmental safety, and support the successful implementation of the Bomet Affordable Housing Project. PHOTO|Mathew

By Kipkurui Sang

The County Government of Bomet, through the Department of Lands, Housing and Urban Planning, in collaboration with the State Department for Housing and Urban Development, the National Youth Service (NYS), and the Bomet Prison, held a consultative meeting to deliberate on the relocation of the existing dumpsite and the development of a new waste disposal site near the Bomet Cemetery. It was reported that the State Department for Housing and Urban Development is currently implementing the Bomet Affordable Housing Project (AHP) under the National Affordable Housing Programme. During the implementation process, it was observed that the existing dumpsite located adjacent to the Bomet AHP site posed serious environmental and public health risks to both the housing development and the surrounding community. Owing to these challenges, the stakeholders agreed that there was an urgent need to relocate the dumpsite to a more suitable location.

The County Government was said to have identified a new site for the relocation of the dumpsite, situated opposite the Bomet Cemetery. During the meeting, it was agreed that the existing dumpsite adjacent to the Bomet AHP would be relocated to the newly identified site near the cemetery. It was further resolved that a masonry block fence would be constructed around the new site to ensure proper containment and enhance security. Additionally, the access road to the new dumpsite would be graded and improved to facilitate the smooth movement of waste management vehicles and equipment. A detailed cost estimate would also be prepared to guide the next steps of engagement and implementation. It was further reported that the State Department for Housing and Urban Development had committed to providing the necessary financial resources to support the execution of the proposed works, subject to agreement on the final scope and cost estimates. The intervention was said to be a major step towards enhancing environmental sustainability, improving public health, and creating a safer and more conducive living environment within the Bomet Affordable Housing Project Phases 1 and 2.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Officer for Lands, Hon. Haron Kirui; the Assistant Deputy County Commissioner for Bomet Central, Madam Florence Akumu; Mr. J.M. Kaguchia from the National Housing Department; Mr. Ben Nzwaka from the NYS; and departmental directors, among others, under the leadership of County Secretary Mr. Simon Langat.



County Relocates Dumpsite to Safeguard Affordable Housing and Promote Environmental Sustainability

Bomet staff shine in thrilling sports day as the county gears up for KICOSCA 2025



By Aron Cheruiyot

The Bomet County Government staff sports day was marked by energy, excitement, and strong team spirit as employees from various departments converged at multiple sporting venues to demonstrate their athletic talents and teamwork. The events were held at Bomet IAAF Stadium, Green Stadium, Dallas Pool Arena, and the County Assembly Grounds, served as a selection exercise for participants who will represent the county at the upcoming Kenya Inter-County Sports and Cultural Association (KICOSCA) Games scheduled to take place in Siaya County. According to the organizers, the day's activities were designed not only to identify potential representatives for Team Bomet but also to promote physical fitness, unity, and camaraderie among county staff. The atmosphere across all venues was vibrant and filled with enthusiasm as participants and supporters cheered one another through a wide range of competitions, including athletics, football, volleyball, pool, badminton, table tennis, darts, chess, and tug-of-war. Reports indicated that while the contests were highly competitive, participants displayed remarkable sportsmanship and mutual respect throughout the day. The spirit of teamwork and fair play remained evident, reflecting the county's broader goal of fostering collaboration and wellness within its workforce.

The event was graced by the County Executive Committee Member for Education, Youth, Sports and Vocational Training, Hon. Agnes Ngeno, who was accompanied by the Acting Chief Officer for Youth and Sports, Dr. Nelson Tore. Other senior officials present included Chief Officer for Health, Mr. Felix Langat, Chief Officer for Urban Development, Hon. Haron Kirui, Director for Youth and Sports, Mr. Vincent Langat, and departmental representatives led by Ms. Ann Chelangat and Mr. Philip Rotich. Hon. Ngeno commended the participants for their dedication and sportsmanship, noting that such events play a crucial role in enhancing employee welfare, strengthening interdepartmental relationships, and promoting a culture of unity within the county government. She further encouraged the selected athletes to train diligently and uphold the county's values as they prepare to represent Bomet in the forthcoming KICOSCA 2025 Games. The Department of Youth and Sports expressed confidence that Team Bomet would put up an excellent performance in Siaya, building on the county's growing reputation for excellence in sports and teamwork. The department extended its congratulations to all who participated and best wishes to those who made it into the final team.



Bomet County Staff Light Up the Track in a Spirited Sports Day Filled with Energy, Teamwork, and Determination as the County Prepares for KICOSCA 2025 Glory in Siaya. **PHOTO | Haron**



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