

## Gov't invests Sh50m in eight-bed ICU to serve three counties

BY SADIK HASSAN  
(KNA)

The government is constructing an eight-bed Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at the Malindi Sub-County hospital to serve Kilifi, Tana River, and Lamu Counties in Phase Two of the Malindi Integrated Social and Health Development Programme (MISHDP-II).

Cabinet Secretary for EAC and Regional Development, Ms. Peninah Malonza, stated that the ICU unit, expected to cost Sh50 million, will alleviate the suffering of patients from far-flung counties like Tana River and Lamu.

"I am interested in this project because during the Covid-19 pandemic when we had quite a lot of emergencies and critical cases,

we did not have an ICU in Kilifi County.

People were being referred all the way from Tana River, Lamu, and Kilifi to Mombasa," said Malonza. The CS made these remarks during an extensive tour of CDA projects in Mombasa and Kilifi counties.

The ICU is among other Phase II infrastructural projects, the CS said, which will cost Sh950 million and aims to improve the social and economic development of Malindi and Magarini Sub-Counties in Kilifi, in line with the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

Phase II of the project is funded by a concessional loan from the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) and is

implemented by the Coast Development Authority (CDA).

Through the project, the 11.5-kilometer Mjani-heri-Ngomeni road will be tarmacked, and a bypass footbridge constructed at Burangi.

Students from Ngomeni Secondary, Ngomeni Primary, Burangi Primary, Midodoni Primary and Rasi Primary Schools will benefit from modern education facilities which will also see 60 best-performing students at Ngomeni Secondary School awarded bursaries.

"It is because of that and the mandate that CDA has of initiating projects that are going to cover quite many counties and cater to a larger population. They have initiated this project that



CS Peninah Malonza (Second Right) accompanied by PS Kello Harsama (Right) inspects the construction of the ICU facility at the Malindi Sub-County Hospital.

has been funded by the government of Kenya through a concession loan from the Italian government," she added.

The CS inspected a dormitory project which is at 60 per cent completion, four classrooms, and a multi-purpose hall at Ngomeni

Secondary School.

She stated that the government is committed to ensuring learners have a conducive learning environment in schools to enable attainment of 100 per cent transition to secondary school.

"This project is not to de-

velop Ngomeni Secondary School alone; there are more than five schools that will benefit from this project," CS Malonza said.

During the tour, Malonza issued Sh300,000 bursaries to 21 students of Ngomeni Secondary Schools, she urged learners to work hard in their studies by posting good performance.

The PS for Regional Development and ASALs Kello Harsama noted that the government through the CDA is addressing problems associated with many years of marginalization and underdevelopment in Kilifi County.

"We have visited schools, communities and we have seen a lot of developmental gaps which we are trying to address through CDA," he said.

CDA Managing Director (MD) Dr Mohamed Keinan said all the project phases are determined by the needs of the communities.