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The Voice of Meru, Isiolo &amp; Tharaka Nithi

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2023

KSH.50

Volume 080

NEWSPAPER

# Meru leaders clash before stunned Ruto

## GVN Kawira dumps DG M'Ethingia as political squabbles in Meru County escalate

By Rugendo Antony

A meeting between Meru leaders and President William Ruto and his Deputy Rigathi Gachagua turned into a theatre of political intolerance that pitted the Meru Governor Bishop Kawira Mwangaza, Tigania East MP Mpuru Aburi and a section of MCAs. The meeting also exposed the widening gap between the Meru Governor and her Deputy Rev. Isaac Mutuma M'Ethingia who was side-lined forcing him to speak out. GVN Kawira, Mpuru and MCAs told each other off and nearly exchanged fists as calm President Ruto and DP Gachagua watched in disappointment

during a meeting held in Nakuru, an issue that Meru Members of parliament have termed a shame.

According to the members of parliament who spoke with the media hell broke loose during Governor Kawira's speech as she claimed to be on good terms with all the MCAs, arguing to have given them ward funds among other benefits.

The Mps further revealed that the Meru Governor also blamed the Tigania East MP over the growing political feuds in Meru County.

The Ward Reps who became bitter over her statement took her head on reporting to the president that Kawira has been side-lining and favouring some of them over the others.



President William Ruto addresses Meru County leaders at a meeting held at State Lodge in Nakuru recently  
*Continued on page 2*



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# Ruto, Gachagua watch in awe as Meru leaders squabble at State Lodge, Nakuru

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The situation is said to have become worse when Kawira who has been in a political fight with MP Mpuu Aburi in the recent past, faulted the Tigania MP for the disunity with the MCAs terming him a 'thorn' to her leadership.

"Our meeting with the president bore no fruits. Instead, we washed our dirty linen in public. Some MCAs claimed being discriminated against by Governor Kawira with some saying that she does not invite them to her rallies and meetings while inviting others," Imenti Central MP Kirima Nguchine revealed.

According to Nguchine, the political brawl between the Meru leaders in front of the president made DP Gachagua upset forcing him to challenge them on why they failed to capitalize on the time given to them to outline their County development issues to the president rather than political quarrels.



**Meru Governor Kawira Mwangaza pose for a photo with a section MCAs after the Nakuru meeting**

"Our County is in tough clashes and it is only God who can help. You can imagine that even the Deputy Governor was not introduced and was not even sitting where top leaders like him were supposed to be during the meeting," Mr Nguchine added.

Igembe Central MP Dan Kiili who seemed bitter over the wrangles claimed no substantive agreement over developments were made between the Meru leaders and the president noting that their meeting

was capitalized by yelling and noise of arguments.

"We only clashed and made noise which is very unfortunate. We displayed our differences in front of the president.

The arguments were between some MCAs, the governor and

Mpuu," Mr Kiili noted angrily.

Tigania West MP John Mutunga Kanyuthia termed the incident an embarrassment to the Deputy President who had chaired the unity talks between Governor Kawira and the MCAs.

"We embarrassed the DP because we showed the efforts he made to unite the Meru leaders bore no fruits and he is not happy about it," Mr Mutunga noted.

Mutunga criticized the Meru

leaders of wasting a chance they had with the president in arguments rather than expressing the development needs in their County. "It is almost a year since the last time we had such a sitting with the president and we failed to use the meeting with him properly and instead used our time in arguments," Mutunga lamented.

According to Mutunga the president warned that he might be forced to find his own means of availing developments to Meru residents if the leaders fail to unite.

"A divided community cannot stand and its only unity that can help us move forward," Igembe North MP Julius Taitumu said.

Tigania East MP Mpuu Aburi addressing journalists called on the president to consider alternative ways of availing developments to Meru County confirming disunity among the leaders.

"No one should tell you lies that we are united, Meru County is divided

and leaders are not united. As the president you should find ways of bringing developments to this County," Mpuu said in a press conference with media rubbing Kawira's claims that he is the cause of disunity.

Apart from Picking up a new fight with the MCAs and Mpuu the Meru Governor is also in a battle with her Deputy Governor Isaac Mutuma M'Ethingia, who has been relocated from new county headquarters to the old county building.

Various political pundits have claimed that the differences between Kawira and his deputy started during the Meru Governor impeachment proceedings.

Earlier the Deputy Governor had claimed to have fought off pressure by a section of leaders to turn tables on Governor Kawira as she faced the impeachment.

*continued on page 16*

## WASREB to renew MEWASS license to provide water and sanitation services in Meru



**WASREB CEO Julius Itunga**

**By Rugendo Antony**

**M**eru Water & Sewerage Services Registered Trustees (MEWASS) has been granted a go-ahead to provide water and sanitation services in Meru for the next five years in Meru County after their water and sanitation provision license was renewed by Water Services Regulatory Board (WASREB).

MEWASS had earlier been granted a two years license by WASREB that was expected to expire this month, however, the renowned Meru water company license will be renewed for five years.

Speaking after a meeting with stakeholders in Meru town, WASREB CEO Julius Itunga, noted that MEWASS has met all the license conditions and has proved to the water

regulators as a viable water service provider making them award the company a five years license to operate in Meru County.

"After looking at the milestones they have achieved we have been pleased by their work as per the license we awarded them two years ago even though there are a few gaps but we will seal them for the company to effectively continue serving the residents," Mr Itunga noted.

Mr Itunga added that the stakeholders of MEWASS have given WASREB the go-ahead to license MEWASS for another five years.

He lauded MEWASS noting that a current WASREB performance report has indicated MEWASS in position eight out of 92 companies that were evaluated this year.

Itunga further noted that MEWASS emerged at position two in the non-revenue water category nationally. Nyeri Water and Sanitation Company was position one.

"MEWASS have an 18% water loss which is below the 20% set by the international standards which means that the company is doing well but I would encourage them to ensure the water loss would reduce more so that more people can get water," Itunga

added.

The WASREB CEO noted that the government is losing a lot of resources due to unaccounted water, also known as non-revenue water.

He noted that the government has started a crackdown against illegal water connections calling those using water illegally to visit their water providers' office.

He warned those with illegal connections that they will be met by the full force of the law.

"We have started an operation dubbed 'lipa maji linda maji' to ensure we don't lose water in the country. If we reduce these water losses more people can access water. We are calling on various stakeholders and Kenyans to work hand in hand to curb water loss due to illegal connections," he said.

MEWASS CEO Patrick Mugendi lauded the County government for its support of the company noting that this has enabled the company to perform well.

"We are happy because this puts us on the path of achieving our vision of "Making Meru happy" as per the governor's vision. This license will offer the stability that will enable us to improve efficiency in our operations, enhance customer experience, and above all increase our water coverage,"

the CEO noted.

Mugendi further noted that MEWASS is constructing a sewerage plant within Meru Town in a bid to improve public health and sanitation and curb improper disposal of human waste in Meru town, a project he said would be commissioned in December this year.

The MEWASS CEO added that the company



**MEWASS CEO Patrick Mugendi**

is in the process of launching a project to increase water coverage and reduce water shortage in Meru.

Speaking MEWASS Board Members chairperson Mworio M'Mugambi lauded MEWASS for exceeding the expectations of the water companies' regulator by providing sustainable and good water services in Meru.



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The Sacco also offers fantastic loan products among them the Salary loan, Agricultural loan, business loan, and

institution loan. Some of the loan products have a repayment period of as long as 96 months (Eight years) and can be as much as four times what a member has saved. The Sacco is also very efficient in processing loans hence saving members from the

inconvenient time to pay back.

Capital Sacco has a broad selection of products customized to meet members' needs. It also educates members on the proper management of finances and sound investment practices. The Sacco is also famous for serving its mandate superbly by shielding members from exploitative commercial loans.

### Flexibility

You can access a wide range of services offered by Capital Sacco through your phone. With the M-banking service, the USSD code \*346# is all a member needs to access their account and transact from wherever they are.

### Wide branch network

Apart from the main branch in Meru town Capital Sacco has branches in Nairobi, Mitunguu, Charia, Kanyakine, Nkubu, Kiungu, Timau, Kibirichia, Igoji, Kangeta, Gatimbi, Kinoro, Githongo and Kionyo. This means that if you require some

assistance that needs financial attention or transaction, you don't have to travel all the way to Meru town.

### Competitive returns

One of the most significant advantages of investing in Capital Sacco is the potential for high returns on investment. Capital Sacco gives competitive returns year on year, with eye-catching dividends and high-interest rebates on initial deposit savings hence making it a smart choice for individuals looking to grow their wealth.

### Best Customer services

Excellent general service delivery and customer experience also attract members to the Sacco and are solid reasons for new members to join.

### Members participation

Member participation in the Sacco business, including product development, is yet another factor that makes Capital Sacco a unique Sacco. Simply, members are involved in the decision-making of Sacco matters during the Sacco annual general meetings.



**Meru Governor Kawira Mwangaza shakes hands with Capital Sacco chairperson Mr Jackson Kinoti and marketing manager Joy Nyawira during Ushirika Day fete**

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# MERU CENTRAL DAIRY CO-OPERATIVE UNION LTD



## Meru Dairy Co-operative Union success story

**M**eru Central Dairy Co-operative Union Limited, a Kenyan milk processor of Mount Kenya Milk Products, was founded in 1967 joining the thriving cooperative movement.

The Union represents over 400,000 farmers and over 80 member Cooperatives making it one of the largest milk producers and marketers in Kenya.

The powerful union which runs its own milk brand dubbed *Mount Kenya Milk* is owned and run by Dairy farmers and over the years has proved successful in helping farmers navigate complex markets.

Meru Dairy Co-operative Union Limited has proved to be vital in the Kenyan economy and has led by example in poverty reduction and providing key social services through empowering and transforming the lives of the dairy farmers

The Cooperative was formed with the objective of helping farmers market their milk produce. While many cooperative unions have collapsed due to the competitive nature of the market and dwindling economy due to the high cost of living, Meru Dairy Co-operative Union Ltd is one of

the few that have survived, continuing to operate nimbly with its committed membership and focus on value-added, small-scale production.

The union collects, processes,

increase their incomes through dairy farming without harming the land.

Currently, Meru Dairy Cooperative Union milk plant processes 406,000 litres of milk daily however the union's

export in order to increase our earnings. We have cows, but the average production of milk is still low, with an average production per farmer standing at five litres. Our agenda is how to increase the productivity of

set to establish a factory for the manufacturing of animal feeds in order to ensure that farmers have access to cheap and standard animal feeds.

"We are grateful that the government has also promised to give us Sh100 million out of the Sh200 million we require to set up the industry, and this will go a long way in boosting our milk production as a dairy union," said Gitonga.

Meru Dairy Cooperative Union has been receiving recognition as an outstanding Cooperative due to the prize-winning quality of its milk, an environment of solidarity among its members, its ability to improve the livelihood of its members, and its stable commercial relationships with its clients.

During a recent dairy farmers' field day at Gitoro in Meru County President William Ruto commended the Meru Dairy Farmers Union for its remarkable growth and pledged a sum of Sh100 million for the establishment of a feed factory.

President Ruto who visited alongside his Deputy Rigathi Gachagua, expressed his administration's commitment to providing an additional Sh100 million to supplement the union's existing Sh200 million for the facility's



**(From left) Cooperatives and SMEs CS Simon Chelugui, Meru Dairy CEO Kenneth Gitonga, President William Ruto, his Deputy Rigathi Gachagua and Meru Governor Kawira Mwangaza during the opening of phase 2 Meru Central Dairy Cooperative Union's factory**

and sells milk on behalf of farmers. It also trains members, providing information about how to manage animals to increase production, improve protein content in milk or reduce greenhouse gas emissions from cattle.

Over the years Meru Dairy Co-operative Union Ltd has shown how Kenyan farmers can improve food security and

Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Kenneth Gitonga says the plant has the capacity to process more milk. The CEO argues that farmers could potentially produce even more milk if not for the high cost of feed.

"Our main aim for holding field day is to see how we can increase our milk production both for local consumption and

our cows from five to ten litres and this will now be a dream come true following interventions by the President," Mr Gitonga said during a recent field day that was graced by President William Ruto at Gitoro showground.

According to Mr Gitonga, the Union has already acquired a piece of land where they were

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# MERU CENTRAL DAIRY CO-OPERATIVE UNION LTD



## Meru Central Dairy outlook bright as it aims setting up animal feeds factory

establishment.

"I extend my congratulations to Meru Central Dairy for the outstanding work you have done in empowering dairy farmers. The government will offer its support to help you achieve even greater heights. I have been informed me about the land acquisition here in Imenti and your plans to produce your own animal feeds, ensuring adherence to quality standards. With Sh200 million already allocated to this project, the national government will provide an additional Sh100 million to boost your project," the president said.

According to Rose Kanyua a dairy farmer in Meru, the Union has enabled farmers to cut out middlemen entirely, processing milk directly, and transporting it to market hence increasing revenue.

"Despite the high cost of animal feeds Meru Dairy Co-operative Union Limited has helped us to improve our income and livelihood," Kanyua Said.

Kanyua notes that supplying her milk to Meru Dairy Cooperative Union has guaranteed her access to a range of credit facilities such as



**President William Ruto and Meru Central Dairy Co-operative Union C.E.O Mr Kenneth Gitonga walk around as they inspect some of the dairy products made by the company**

agro-vet products, and loans among many others, an amount she says is later deducted from the value of the milk she has supplied through check-off system.

Lauding Meru Dairy Cooperative Union for its support to farmers,

Nicholas Murimi a farmer says farmers should consider rearing more dairy cows to create employment as well as improve their living standards.

"It is very clear that dairy farming is set to be the next gold mine, and

we need to grab this chance at the earliest opportunity in order to reap the benefits emanating from the ongoing government efforts," Murimi added.

Dairy farming in Kenya is one of the premier industries in terms of revenue generation and a profitable industry that has an abundant prospect of becoming a high revenue-generating segment in the future years if it is managed

efficiently. It is also one of the most sophisticated and largest industries in Africa due to the high demand for milk products and other dairy products.



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# Chuka court issues warrant of arrest against an illicit brew tycoon



**Chuka Law Courts: The court has issued warrant of arrest against an illicit brew factory owner for failure to appear in court**

**By Duncan Mwirigi**

**A** Chuka court has issued a warrant for the arrest of Simon Gitari for failure to honour court summons over the alleged operation of an unlicensed brewing industry.

The millionaire brewer heads Hakim

Commercial Agencies which owns the factory located in Ndiruni village in Chuka Sub-County.

Tharaka Nithi County Police Commander Zacchaeus Ngeno led a multi-agency team in raiding the factory and seized about 250,000 litres of illegal liquor.

Present in court were Amos Mugambi,

Kawira Gitari and Tyson Mwenda who were arrested as suspects during the raid.

The three pleaded not guilty to being involved in the illegal business before Senior Resident Magistrate Herbert Mwendwa and were each released on Sh500, 000 bond or Sh100, 000 cash bail.

The matter will be mentioned on September 6, 2023.

“The warrant of arrest is hereby issued against Simon Gitari for failure to appear before this court as directed,” said Magistrate Mwendwa.

The multi-agency team also seized various unidentified chemicals which are believed to be used in the manufacture of the illegal alcohol and will be taken to a government chemist for analysis.

According to the county government, Mr Gitari's brewing company failed to qualify because it had no certificates from the National Environment Management Authority (Nema), Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) and Kenya Bureau of Standards (Kebs).

The firm was also disqualified by public health officials for not meeting the hygiene requirements while the premises also fell

short of the standards.

In May 2016, former Interior Principal Secretary Karanja Kibicho found himself in trouble after a court issued a warrant for his arrest for leading a raid at Gitari brewing factory while he had a court order barring any interference with the firm.

However, the warrant of arrest issued by the Meru High Court could not be effected due to typographical errors.

The brewer had obtained orders restraining PS Kibicho and his officers from harassing the brewer but the PS and his juniors repeatedly defied the directives.

In an effort to combat rampant consumption of illegal alcohol, drug and substance abuse, Tharaka Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki revoked all brewing and bar licenses in February this year and called for fresh applications.

The multi-agency team went around inspecting brewing firms and bars that had applied for licensing and only one out of the three liquor manufacturers who applied qualified while out of 10 beer distributors who sought to be given a go ahead, only four were considered.

Out of a total of 1,006 bars that applied for licensing, only 556 qualified while hundreds of others failed to apply.

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# GOLDEN PILLAR SACCO

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## Golden Pillar grows steadily, achieving key milestones and uplifting members' lives

Just like its name Golden Pillar, which loosely translated means lustrous gold column or shaft or support for a structure, Golden Pillar Sacco has been supporting and transforming the lives of its members for decades by offering attractive financial products and services. Since its establishment in 1972, Golden Pillar has continued to record tremendous growth and financial performance to stand tall in thriving Kenya's cooperative movement.

Golden Pillar's tremendous growth is one that many ought to learn from. However, this has not come on a silver platter, but through well stipulated ethos and principles anchored in prudent leadership and management. The 51-year-old Sacco, which has withstood the test of turbulent financial times that has seen many Saccos split and collapse, is still going strong. Golden Pillar Sacco has grown to become one of the biggest indigenous financial institutions in Meru and its environments.

Golden Pillar which was earlier dubbed as Imenti Co-operative Savings and Credit Society was registered in the year 1972 to serve employees of the Meru Central Farmers Union and affiliates.

The Sacco however widened its membership base in 2005, attracting employed and business individuals, corporates, groups, investors, employees in the national and county governments as well as professionals in various fields.

Golden Pillar Sacco was licensed by SASRA in the year 2012 and has remained compliant since then. The Society offers both Back and Front Office services to Members.

Since its formation, Golden Pillar



Golden Pillar CEO Mr Michael Gitonga shares a light moment with Meru Governor Kawira Mwangaza during the Ushirika Day at Kaaga Primary School.

Sacco has created an avenue for individuals in the informal and formal sectors to associate with persons of like minds through saving and borrowing loans from the Sacco. The Sacco has empowered its members through its affordable loans enabling them to turn their dreams into reality.

Apart from offering attractive loans, dividends, and rebates, Golden Pillar Sacco has stood out in the market as a caring and listening investment partner, as it provides a wide range of customized financial solutions to its members, giving them a hand-up in life. Members of Golden Pillar Sacco are allowed to seek various low-interest loans such as normal/development loans, medium-term agricultural sector loans, school fees, biashara booster loans, golden salary loans, salary advances, and emergency loans among others.

Through Golden Pillar, a number of employed and unemployed individuals have benefitted from the products and services offered. A number of them have been able to build houses using development loans turning many members into landlords.

Additionally, the education loan has also enabled the members to pay fees for their children while others have

started and grown businesses of their own using the biashara booster loans. This has tremendously transformed lives.

Kenneth Munene, a Kithirune-based Dairy farmer is an example of many such members who have transformed their lives using Golden Pillar Sacco products and services.

Mr Munene's dairy farming business was on the brink of collapsing during the Covid-19 period after selling his herd due to financial constraints, however, Munene says he was able to



Kenneth Munene and his wife. The couple was able to revive their dairy farming project through the support of Golden Pillar Sacco

acquire seed capital through the Golden Pillar Sacco which enable him to purchase more cows.

"Before my venture collapsed as an effect of COVID-19, my cows were producing 300 liters per day by then. I was left with a structure of more than 50 cows. In early 2022 I was introduced to

Golden Pillar Sacco and I shared my past worries but showed them my vision. Today I have ten cows and I can confess this has been made possible by the help of Golden Pillar," Munene narrates.

Over the years, Golden Pillar's upward growth trajectory has remained steady, with members receiving attractive annual investment returns. The Sacco has also leveraged technology to improve service delivery while offering relevant, reliable, and convenient banking solutions.

Members of Golden Pillar have access to 24-hour alternative banking channels such as mobile banking services, and ATM services.

Golden Pillar moreover operates with integrity whereby everything is done with transparency and honesty. Reports are audited annually and presented to members. This thus gives members confidence and assurance of the safety of their money.

The society has also complied fully with the government regulations that concern cooperatives.

Golden Pillar has also been leading in training its member on financial literacy and management aimed at keeping them abreast with the Sacco's products and services and the emerging trends in the Cooperative movement in a bid to empower them economically and socially.



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# Meru University VC handed five more years of service



**Meru University of Science and Technology  
VC Romanus Odhiambo**

**By Rugendo Antony**

**M**eru University of Science and Technology Vice Chancellor Romanus Odhiambo will continue serving the institution for another five years following the renewal of his term. In a statement dated August 7 2023, the varsity announced the renewal of Prof Odhiambo's tenure, citing his exemplary leadership during his first term in office. "After an exemplary first term marked by remarkable achievements and transformative initiatives, Prof Romanus

Odhiambo's tenure has been renewed," read part of the statement.

While congratulating the don, the institution further expressed their readiness to working with the far-sighted professor in spearheading the growth of the varsity.

"As we embark on this new chapter, the Meru University of Science and Technology community expresses its heartfelt congratulations to Prof Romanus Odhiambo and looks forward to witnessing the continued growth and positive impact of the university under his visionary leadership," continued the statement.

Prof Odhiambo has led the institution since July 2018 when he was appointed by the then education Cabinet Secretary Amina Mohamed following the departure of embattled Prof Japhet Magambo.

In March this year, the varsity's former council sent the VC on terminal leave and declined to renew his five-year contract as they were unconvinced that he deserved a second term on grounds of underperformance.

In a letter dated February 27, 2023, the council chairman Prof Bosire Mwebi said that the varsity's governing body had unanimously resolved to decline his request

due to below expectations performance.

"The University council in its meeting held on February 27, 2023, evaluated your performance and found it to be below expectations. Therefore, the council declined to renew your contract as requested in your letter dated 20th December 2022," read the letter.

Prof Odhiambo challenged the decision to terminate his contract prematurely, before its July 2023 expiry, saying it was politically driven.

The professor named some of the milestones he has achieved since joining the institution that include a 100% growth in the number of students enrollment from the initial 4,500 to 11,000, ending the rampant student strikes that limited development in the university as well as completing a number of infrastructure projects that were held up due to court cases.

A crisis would later follow as both students and university staff held protests that led to indefinite closure of the university.

The student riots saw them engage in running battles with the police, which prompted the management to ask them to vacate the premises immediately.

Intervening in the matter, Education CS Ezekiel Machogu, March 8, called for immediate facilitation to reinstatement of Prof. Odhiambo as the Vice Chancellor and a subsequent immediate reopening of the varsity.

"The decision involving the sending of Prof Odhiambo on terminal leave and appointment of an acting VC is ill-timed as it was made a few days to the scheduled graduation ceremony. The decision is hereby reverted for the sake of restoring the now destroyed hopes of graduands to transit into



**VC Romanus Odhiambo during a past graduation ceremony**

the world of work immediately," said the CS. CS Machogu made reference to Section 35 (1) (a) of the Universities Act (2012) that required the council to consult the cabinet secretary for education before executing the decision thus falling short of its legal duty.

# Isiolo First Lady launches free cancer screening program



**Isiolo County first lady Habiba Guyo is welcomed by residents during a past event**

**By Duncan Mwirigi**

**I**siolo County First Lady, Habiba Guyo has kick-started a free cervical and breast cancer screening initiative in a bid to curb cancer in the County.

Speaking during the launching event at Bulapesa Health Centre, Ms Habiba said the exercise that

will be implemented in all the sub-counties within the county.

The First Lady promised to ensure about 60 healthcare workers are trained on cervical and breast cancer screening in a bid to help diagnose the disease. She further noted that only an average of 30 mothers undergo screening once a month at the Isiolo Teaching and Referral Hospital (ICTRH) against a target

of 805.

"I will assist women in this course but it is your responsibility to ensure you go for early screening and people should not be scared of going for screening," Habiba added.

"We appreciate our development partners, the office of Isiolo Governor Abdi Goyo, the office of the 'Beyond Zero' who we have worked closely with and have pledged to continue supporting

this initiative," she noted.

Additionally, she added that other issues such as Gender Based Violence, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and menstrual hygiene need to be addressed too.

The meeting was attended by several Chief Officers in the County government among other county government officials.

The Chief Officer for peace,

cohesion, and conflict resolution, Bukao Adan urged women to stop getting terrified of cancer screening arguing that although the disease is deadly, early

in 2017 and started undergoing treatment starting with chemotherapy up to October 2022.

She advised the residents to take



**Isiolo First lady Habiba Galgalo giving her speech in a past event**

screening can help in detecting and treating the disease.

A cancer survivor Miriam Githaiga narrated how she was diagnosed with cancer at stage 3

advantage of the First Lady free screening and Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine offered by the government to girls as a way to curb cervical cancer.



# Water crisis looms in Isiolo, Garissa and Meru as Ewaso Nyiro levels drop



**Ewaso Nyiro river: Water level has significantly gone down posing a major threat to Isiolo residents**

**By Rugendo Antony**

The dearth of rainfall has resulted in rivers running dry and other dropping levels in the northern parts of the Country such as Marsabit, Wajir, Garissa, Isiolo and some parts of Meru.

Isiolo County which boasts of having one of the Country's largest jewellery markets, is facing a dire water crisis as the region grapples with a drastic shortage in rainfall.

The ASAL region of Kenya has endured three severe droughts in the last decade leading to the drying up of rivers and a sharp decline in groundwater levels. This alarming situation has affected several Counties,

necessitating immediate action to ensure the availability of drinking water for the population.

Ewaso Nyiro River, which is the only river in arid northern Kenya, is on the verge of completely drying up due to increased human activity along its catchment areas. The dire consequences of water scarcity are evident in various areas within the County with more than five million Kenyans who depend on Ewaso Nyiro River raising alert.

The river is fast drying up due to increased human activity along its banks. Arid and semi-arid counties of Laikipia, Samburu and Isiolo depend on it.

According to various residents, the unregulated harvesting of

sand by young men from Isiolo and Samburu Counties has aggravated the situation.

A previously impassable river has been reduced to bare land and residents now walk under the bridge to avoid the scorching sun as the remaining water barely touches their knees.

Ewaso Nyiro River finds its source on the north-western slopes of the iconic Mt Kenya and Aberdare ranges and flows through Kenya's highlands of Nyandarua, Nyeri, and Meru and through arid and semi-arid lands of Laikipia, Samburu, Isiolo and Garissa Counties into the Merti Aquifer and Lorian Swamp in Wajir County.

Drying up of this river could lead to increased human-wildlife conflict and massive migration of wildlife due to lack of water and grass.

Illegal sand harvesting, deforestation, encroachment on riparian lands and over-abstraction of water upstream to irrigate plantation farms and support industries and facilities within the basin, such as lodges, have been blamed for the declining water levels.

"There have been complaints that upstream users are blocking the source of the water, preventing it from reaching areas it once did to the detriment of downstream communities, who are predominantly pastoralists and continue to suffer the vagaries of climate change," Hassan

Mohammed a resident at Isiolo town told *County Focus*.

Responding the Principal Secretary in Ministry of ASALs and Regional Development Dr Idris Dokota has called for a regulation on harvesting of Sand along the river.

"We are not saying they should not harvest sand, but the activity should not affect the flow of water, which is a lifeline for millions of Kenyans and wildlife.

downstream residents of the vital commodity, forcing them to move upstream along the river something that is creating tension among communities. He further claimed drying up of the river has affected tourism.

"We are going to set up a multi-sectoral team to deal with the illegal activities upstream and ensure strict adherence to laid down rules to save the river from further devastation," he added.



**Principal Secretary in Ministry of ASALs and Regional Development Dr Idris Dokota unvailing a water project**

The activity must be regulated," Dr Dokota said.

Additionally, Dokota criticized the illegal human activities upstream, which he said deprived

mpact Trust director Mali Ole Kaunga called on the local communities to embrace conservation as an alternative source of livelihood and join hands in restoring the ecosystem.

## Capital Sacco satisfies members' needs with tailor-made products, services



**Governor Kawira Mwangaza inspects Capital Sacco's products during Ushirika Day event held at Kaaga Primary School grounds**

**By Duncan Mwirigi**

Driven by its mission of providing quality, competitive, and innovative financial services, Capital Sacco has over time empowered its members to undertake economic activities that aim at improving their income and financial welfare.

In a market that has a thirst for

responsive financial products that meet emerging needs and give value, Capital Sacco has competitively won market confidence as Kenya's high-yielding Sacco, giving favorable returns to investors.

The gigantic Sacco has emerged as a leading Sacco in the Kenyan market

as a result of its evolutionary Sacco banking products and services with customized financial solutions that empower its members, from the young aggressive investors to the seasoned more cautious savers.

Capital Sacco has embraced inclusivity and diversity in empowering communities with access to financial products which are tailor-made to accommodate people of all age brackets and social classes.

The Kenyans' favorite Sacco has gained a national outlook as it has endeavored to bring on bound

entrepreneurs, salaried customers, institutions, youth, and children from all parts of the country. This has been made possible through its ever-widening membership base that has led to the devolution of its functions to some fully functional 15 branches across the country that purpose to serve the ever-growing family.

Capital Sacco's focus on customers has won the hearts of many, with a

recent survey showing that about 2,000 new members have opted to join the now Kenya's premier Co-operative Society this year, with over 4,800 customers receiving services daily.

Product innovation and deployment of technology in service delivery have

monitoring of their accounts. The Sacco has remained relevant as it has endeavored to keep up with changes in technology while providing a high level of customer service. Through this, customers have grown comfortable with their favorite bank and thus willing to explore other



**Governor Kawira Mwangaza, Capital Sacco Chairman Mr Jackson Kinoti and the Sacco's marketing team**

made it easy for members to access safe and affordable money transfer options with easy access to virtual

various services available to them as there exists a strong trust between the bank and their customers.



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## Thank you for gracing our 30th Anniversary celebrations



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

On behalf of the Board of Management, shareholders, staff and the entire Solution Sacco fraternity we would like to sincerely thank those who participated and attended and supported our colourful 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration at Kinoru Stadium.

We particularly thank and

pay tribute to His Excellency Hon. Rigathi Gachagua, the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya, Hon Simon Chelugui, Cabinet Secretary Co-operatives and Micro-Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), Hon Mithika Linturi, the Cabinet Secretary of

Agriculture and Livestock Development, Hon Kawira Mwangaza, the Governor Meru County, Hon Joshua Irungu, Laikipia Governor, Mr Patrick Kilemi Kiburi, Principal Secretary State Department for Co-operatives, among other distinguished guests who graced the colourful celebration.

To all our friends, colleagues, and sponsors

who joined us, supported us, assisted us, and celebrated with us in person and in spirit, we thank all of you for making this the most wonderful and memorable day of Solution Sacco Society Limited. We look forward to an exciting journey in the future as we strive to give our customers, suppliers and all stakeholders the best services.

anniversary ever and the beginning of our exciting journey to the next years of excellence!!

Over these three decades, Solution Sacco Society Limited has grown in membership, financial strength, and impact in supporting the achievement of the dreams of its shareholders across different spheres of society. For 30 years we have continued to build

financially empowered individuals including teachers, farmers, civil

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**Daniel Kinyua Marete - CEO**



**Francis Murithi - Chairman**

their families, and their community to achieve their goals. We recognize current and past members as well as other stakeholders who have stood with the Solution Sacco Society Limited on its journey to be a leading one-stop financial institution offering

diverse products and services for members' economic empowerment. Other achievements that our Society has made include offering unique tailor-made products and services such as credit, savings, loans, and insurance solutions that have resulted in improved financial

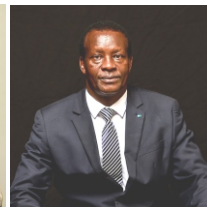
performance of the Sacco for the period ending 2022. We are also pleased to be a tier one Deposit taking Sacco with an asset base of over Sh8.3 billion as of 30<sup>th</sup> December 2022. We also pride ourselves on our loan book which has hit Sh7 Billion with efforts underway to grow this to Sh10 Billion by the end of 2023. In



**Tartisio Ituuru - Vice-chairman**



**Joseph Gitonga M'Inebu - Secretary**



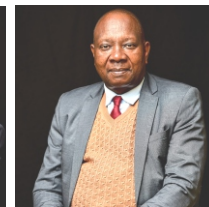
**Humprey Mwenda - Treasurer**



**Gitonga Muthaa - Board Member**



**Paul Kiogora - Board Member**



**Cyprian Kijogi - Board Member**



**Patrick Kaberia - Board Member**



**Harriet Mwithimu - Board Member**



**Victor Mwikumi  
Chairman, supervisory Committee**



**Aloise Michuki  
Secretary, supervisory Committee**



**James Ngeera  
Member, supervisory Committee**

the recent past, we have emerged as the most profitable Sacco as we pay out dividends at 18% and interest on deposits at 13%. Our housing and investment program is also unmatched with many of our

members acquiring prime land at the heart of Nanyuki. We have no doubt impacted positively thousands of people around the Counties where we have branches and satellites. The Future is Solution Sacco



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KSHS. 900,000
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KSHS. 350,000

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**FEATURES**

- WITH TITLE DEEDS
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# PAMOJA TECHNICAL TRAINING COLLEGE - NKUBU



## Yetu DT Sacco owned-Pamoja Technical Training Institute in Nkubu announces unique courses as September intake continues

**P**amoja Technical Training College- a tertiary institution owned by Yetu DT Sacco Limited has announced various technical courses as current September intake kicks off.

This arm of the college was developed to align career-connected learning with the region's rapidly evolving employment needs. Based on unique courses that the institution is offering at a pocket friendly fee, the Yetu Sacco owned-Pamoja Technical Training College will be one of the nation's first of its kind.

The inimitable college has rolled out programmes with a focus on engineering, business, IT, Catering, building technology, management,



**Pamoja Technical Training Institute's state of art building at Nkubu Town in Meru County**

the economically disadvantaged children. According to Yetu Sacco CEO Dennis Kirimi who

at affordable from Yetu Sacco

The CEO said the institution will train young people on skills that are beneficial to the country's economy.

"Pamoja Technical Training College is a dream come true to our Yetu Sacco Members who have Children seeking to enrol in various courses. The college will offer the best education services at a pocket friendly fee," Yetu Sacco CEO Dennis Kirimi said in an earlier event.

Inspired by entrepreneurial and managerial leadership and drawing on advanced technologies, Pamoja Technical Training College is innovatively delivering various diploma and certificate courses.

Also in line with the rapidly growing technological world, the Yetu Sacco Limited owned college is employing the latest technology to aid the

students in their studies whilst at the same time providing them with the technological skills to meet the future demands of business.

Beyond offering various diploma and certificate courses, the Pamoja Technical Training College has redesigned its courses taught so that they are delivered in diverse and excitable ways to equip the students with the skills and knowledge to seamlessly get jobs or

embark on their own business ventures.

An analysis by Higher Education Loans Board shows that employability is at 96 % for people with Technical Education and Training compared to 40 percent among those with a university degree. Pamoja Technical Training College is a TVET accredited institution located at Nkubu town in Meru County.

The institution boasts of spacious study halls, well equipped library and computer lab fully connected to the internet. The institution also has well secured hostels within the school for those intending to board.

The college has the following academic department; building, electrical engineering, business, automotive and mechanical engineering department. Among many of the benefits that the new college is expected to offer to learners is reaching out to industries and partnering with them to enable students from the institution to secure internships and jobs.



**Learners receive career training during an event organised by Yetu Sacco Limited in partnership with Pamoja Technical College**

agricultural courses, Banking, architectural, fashion design among other many exceptional courses.

For those in quest of advancing their education at college level, Pamoja Technical Training College is providing a first class, unique education to gifted learners including

is also the College board chairperson, Pamoja Technical Training College will help bridge the gap between high school and college, where we lose too many students due to fee problems.

Mr Kirimi added that parents of needy students who join the institution will get education loans



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## Opinion

# Open letter to Hon. Rev. Mutuma M'Ethingia, Deputy Governor of Meru County

By Mwingirwa Linguli



Meru County Deputy Governor Mutuma M'Ethingia

Dear Hon. Mutuma M'Ethingia

My worst nightmare, and I have a lot of them, is that I woke up sometimes this week to not very interesting news. Sir, remember that you are the validly elected Deputy Governor of Meru County and the Constitution of Kenya acknowledges and safeguards that role. That is a fact that no one can change unless you have grossly violated the constitution for that matter. Sir, indeed no problem is permanent and time has proven to be the solution. I still pray that it will come to pass. God is faithful. For me, all I can assure you of is my

relentless prayers and support because you are a leader in your own right. My DG, I make merry of you! I embrace you! History will remember you. The man who singlehandedly refused impunity! What a guy! I have watched in dismay a man, a Kenyan citizen and a DG being humiliated in his own county, while the whole world watches. Today, I feel ashamed to share the same county with a clueless Governor who does not care an iota to know that they together won the elections with her DG. It exemplifies a great deal of uncouthness, hypocrisy, impropriety and unprofessionalism on the side of

the said Governor, and the Bishop she is! I feel embarrassed to share the County with the "good" people who seem to celebrate that you are being relegated, side-lined, tortured and embarrassed. It pains the more to see people who should be defending the cause celebrate and even make fun out of it! What a serious joke? Anyway, it reminds me Mumiiru augire, "Ndirakuthuura itumaa ndirakweenda". I felt exhausted in body and spirit when I watched you lamenting publicly and on media, an anomalous sartorial choice for a man of your stature, a Reverend of the Methodist Church in Kenya. What do you do when your county

or rather part of it seems not to want you? I painfully remembered this song, "You only have one Count(r)y, you only have one home". But then again, who is this "Count(r)y"? I marveled.

All said and done, I can only esteem a man who stands for what he believes in even if I may not share in his philosophies. I really admire you sir! All I can urge you is to always remember and ascribe to the fact that; **'YOU ARE A KENYAN CITIZEN, and A MUMIIRU BY BIRTH'** for that matter.

As I sign off, I am amazed at how fast some things and people can change. Is it not the same people who celebrated and supported your being nominated and elected the DG of Meru? Sir, always know that nobody has ever doubted your capabilities in being the second in command in Meru County. My heart specially goes out to your wife and kids. Having to watch your father/spouse being harassed and humiliated publicly is distressing. May God give both you and them courage. I hope the great people of Meru

County who love you will find mettle and the audacity to call out and condemn in the strongest terms possible any kind of injustice meted upon any of them, and more so an elected leader/representative of the people particularly when they haven't committed any crime. Wishing you well and brighter days ahead of you Your Excellency my DG.

Signed,  
Comrade Mwingirwa Linguli

*Linguli is a Journalist/Writer, Theological scholar, Researcher, Human Rights Crusader and a Political analyst with a demonstrated history of working within the higher education sector and religious organizations.*

*He currently works as the Executive Ass/Communications Manager to the Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church in Kenya.*



DG Mutuma M'Ethingia during a recent press conference with three MCAs

## Court

## Court discharges Munya in Kimwarer, Arror dam case

By County Focus Reporter

Milimani anti-corruption court cleared former Cabinet Secretary Peter Munya after presenting himself to court following an arrest warrant against him for cross-examination over the Sh63 billion Arror and Kimwarer dams project case against former Cabinet Secretary Henry Rotich and 10 others. Munya was discharged after the prosecution declined to cross-examine him. The prosecution told trial magistrate Eunice Nyutu that they had no questions for Munya and he was consequently stood down and discharged by the court. The court issued a warning to the prosecution for failing to bring witnesses not once but several



Former Agriculture CS Peter Munya

times saying the matter was registered in 2021, and they had

for the construction of the Arror and Kimwarer dams.

enough time to bond witnesses.

Nyutu said the accused persons have a right to be provided a fair trial as provided for in the constitution and the court must be seen performing its duty as provided for in the Magistrate's Act.

The court reluctantly adjourned the matter to September 11 2023 and directed that the prosecution must bring all witnesses to court on that day.

The graft case facing Henry Rotich and ten others involves Sh63 billion which was meant

## MEDICAL APPEAL



Erick Muthamia Mbijiwe (Mwalimu)

them raise Sh2 Million for his heart surgery. Muthamia needs aortic valve replacement to restore his normal heart condition. The family has a fundraiser on 2/12/2023 at St. Joseph Mucuncu Catholic Church Machikine South Imenti from 1.00PM. Donations can be channelled through: **CAPITAL SACCO** Paybill no: 520100 Account No: 102132120100

For more information please contact Vincent Gikunda Mbogori (0724891180) Or Erick Muthamia (Mwalimu) 0723530635

The family and friends of Mr Erick Muthamia Mbijiwe (Mwalimu) are appealing to well-wishers to help



# Meru County keen on implementing Finance Act to boost revenue collection

By Rugendo Antony

The County Government of Meru has embarked on plans to oversee full implementation of the Finance Act in a bid to improve the locally collected revenue.

Confirming this Meru County Revenue Board General Manager Francis Mungai said that his team has embarked on cleaning up tax collection by ensuring total compliance with the Finance Act. In the last financial year 2020-2021 Meru County managed to collect Sh418 Million against a target of Sh 600 Million, a target

that Mr Mungai says is achievable once all the loopholes are sealed and the Finance Act is implemented fully.

Mr Mungai noted that this is part of a strategy to expand the County revenue streams and seal loopholes that resulted in the loss of some of the funds by people dodging to pay taxes. “We have laid out measures that will help us realize our target so that we do not have deficits to finance our projects,” Mungai added.



Meru Revenue Board staff led by the GM, Mr Mungai (in red tie) pose for a group photo at the head office



Meru Revenue Board General Manager Francis Mungai (centre) and his team during a press conference

Mungai who took over from John Ntoiti as the new Meru County Revenue Board Manager in August last year revealed that some residents have been dodging paying taxes as stipulated in the Act.

The Revenue Board manager added that his team has set measures to increase efficiency in collecting the revenue as stipulated in the law.

“We have realized that there are various categories of people who are not paying despite the County Finance Act indicating the amount that they should pay,” Mungai revealed.

He cited Bodaboda Segment, contractors and flower farms as some of the categories of the

sectors that have been evading paying tax as stipulated by the Finance Act.

Mungai gave an ultimatum of fourteen days to the flower farmers and the Kenya Flower Council to visit his office for consultation noting that a court in Meru had directed them to do so after the latter sued the Meru County Government over the collection of cess on flowers

A Court ruling dated 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019 barred the Meru County Government from collecting cess for fresh cut flowers meant for export after the Kenya Flower Council (KFC) went to court.

“A permanent stay of collection of flower cess by and remittance

of flower cess to the County Government of Meru for fresh cut flowers meant for export until the proper mechanism of collection and harmonization of cess thereto is reached through consultation of stakeholders,” a Meru Court ordered in part of its ruling.

Mungai added that they are also in negotiation with the Bodaboda Sector leaders over the payment of their stipulated fees.

“There has been politics on payment of the tax by Bodaboda sector despite the Finance Act indicating the amount they should pay but we are engaging their leaders over the same. Bodaboda sector is a key segment in the economy of the Country and in other Counties they are paying so I do not see why riders in Meru shouldn't pay,” Mungai added. He further noted that his team is following up on contractors through the County Finance office to ensure that they pay taxes as required.

“We are glad that our Governor Kawira Mwangaza has been prioritizing on local contractors however most of them have not been paying their contractor fees as required but we are following up,” the Revenue Board Manager added.

# Multi-million stalled Tharaka Nithi Assembly project is an eyesore



Tharaka Nithi CECM for Finance and Economic Planning Mr Lawrence K. Ireri poses for a photo outside Tharaka Nithi County Assembly with some MCAs

By Rugendo Antony

Tharaka Nithi County MCAs have raised concerns over their stalled county assembly building in Kathwana an incident that has forced them to continue holding sessions in congested chambers made of iron sheets in the tenth year of devolution.

The MCAs led by their speaker Mr John Mbabu have appealed for funds from the

National Government to restart the construction of their stalled multi-million shilling chambers and offices in Kathwana.

Mr Mbabu called on the government to hasten funding the stalled project noting that the MCAs deserve a better working place and facilities to deliver on their mandate to the people.

According to Mbabu, the assembly has even resolved to slash their earlier budget of Sh360 million down to Sh200 million following a demand by President William Ruto during his visit to Tharaka Nithi County some months ago.

“During the thanksgiving ceremony at Kirubia, the president asked us to reduce our Sh360 million budget to Sh200 million so that he could look for the funds to construct our assembly. We are now appealing to the Interior CS Kithure Kindiki to help us follow up,” Mbabu added.

Supporting the speaker's statement, Budget and Appropriation Committee Chairman Godfrey Gaturo who doubles as the

Karingani Ward MCA said the government ought to help them be at the same standard as other County assemblies arguing that they need a proper sound system, media gallery, and other facilities to effectively achieve their mandate.

The stale County Assembly building has been causing mixed reactions and disagreements among leaders including the County Governor Muthomi Njuki.

Speaking some months ago Njuki claimed the county assembly offices had remained in Chuka town because the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) stopped the construction of multi-million shilling chambers and offices in Kathwana over an alleged fraudulent tendering process, making the construction of the building to stall, a statement that the Assembly speaker

rubbished. “The EACC stopped

construction of the chambers and offices at the foundation stage in 2015 to investigate a suspected fraudulent tendering process,” the governor had been recorded saying.

According to Njuki EACC had barred the Controller of Budget from allowing any payments for the work until the investigations were concluded.

Dismissing the claims, Mbabu accused the governor of sabotaging the construction of the building as a way to ensure the assembly offices remained in Chuka town.

The speaker accused the governor of diverting money allocated for the building every year despite allocating it to the budget.



The stalled multi-million Tharaka Nithi County Assembly project at Kathwana



## Is it time up for 'YouTube man'?



2015 world javelin champion Julius Yego

Many sports fanatics have a feeling that Yego's time at international sports arena is diminishing and the lad should pave way for young talents.

This follows a series of frustrating results posted by the 'youtube man' in subsequent international competitions that he has represented the nation.

Yego, the 2015 world javelin champion managed to throw 78.42metres to finish eighth in Group "A" and failed to qualify for the final at the just concluded World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary.

Reigning Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra from India claimed victory in the group with a season's best 88.77m to position himself for better tidings after he claimed silver last year in Oregon, United States.

European Games champion Julian Weber from Germany was second with a throw of 82.39m.

Yego wasn't the only shock. Two-time defending champion Anderson Peters from Granada failed to reach the final after finishing seventh with a throw of 78.49m.

The 34-year-old Yego had hoped to reach the final on his sixth appearance at the world championships, having reached the final in Oregon where his first three throws went off the course to exit.

Yego, the 2016 Rio Olympic Games silver medallist, made his debut at the world championships in 2013 Moscow where he settled fourth in 85.40m.

Yego would then make history as the first Kenyan and the second African to win a world javelin title at 2015 Beijing World Championships in an African Record throw of 92.72m.

A groin injury sustained during the 2016 Rio Olympic Games marked the start of Yego's battle with the form that saw him finish 13th at the World Athletics Championships in

London in 2017 and in 2019 Doha where his first three throws went off the course.

Kenya finished fifth in the world and first in Africa with a total of 10 medals that comprised 3 golds, 3 silver medals and 4 bronze medals.

USA, Canada, Spain and Jamaica clinched the top four in the medal tally list.

Mary Moraa claimed one gold while Faith Kipyegon added two gold medals to her cabinet.

Double Olympic champion Faith Kipyegon won Kenya's first gold



World 1,500M and 5,000M champion Faith Kipyegon

clocking three minutes, 54 seconds (3:54.87) before winning another in the 5000m race. Commonwealth Games champion Moraa ensured the Hungarian crowd would be treated to one of her usual post-victory dance celebrations by storming to gold in the women's 800m in a personal best time.

World record holder Beatrice Chepkoech and fellow-Kenyan Faith Cherotich claimed silver and bronze in the women's 3 000m steeplechase behind Kenyan-born Winfred Mutile Yavi, who now represents Bahrain.

Chepkoech was second in 8:58.98 and Cherotich third in a personal best time of 9:00.69.

There was another podium performance for Kenya in the men's 5 000m final. While Norway's Jakob Ingebrigtsen made up for the disappointment of missing out on a 1 500m victory by clinching gold in the longer distance, young Kenyan Jacob Krop claimed the bronze.

## Nairobi wins big as curtain falls on KICOSCA games hosted by Meru County recently

This year's Kenya Inter-County Sports and Cultural Association (KICOSCA) games that carried the theme 'Celebrating Devolution through Sports and Culture' came to an end in a style after six days of action-packed display in Meru County.



Nairobi County Government officials receive a trophy from Meru Governor Kawira Mwangaza after emerging position one overall in the KICOSCA games held in Meru County this year.

The serene but relatively hot weather of Meru provided a perfect atmosphere for the showdown where counties showcased their talents in field and indoor games as well as cultural diversity.

From the calm and jovial coastal people, the rich Maasai culture, the cosmopolitan Nakuru county, the confident, outspoken Nyanza people, the friendly and jovial Meru people, and the athletic Rift Valley talents, all Kenyans were well represented.

The KICOSCA games that were officially opened by host Governor Kawira Mwangaza and West Pokot Governor Simon Kachapin who is the chair of sports in the Council of Governors (COG) saw various counties compete in various games including football, tug of war, basketball and table tennis among other games.

The heightened competitiveness provided enormous drama among the 35 counties that took part in the competition.

Among the venues that hosted the six-day extravaganza included Kinoru Stadium, Meru Teachers Training College, Meru Polytechnic, KEMU University, Meru University and Meru School.

Nairobi County accumulated the greatest number of trophies after bagging trophies in Men's handball 1st position, Women's handball 3rd Position, basketball men 2nd position, women basketball 1st position, netball 1st position, squash 1st position, badminton 1st position, chess 2nd position, Men's volleyball 1st position, ajua 3rd Position, table tennis 1st position, darts 1st position, Set piece 1st position. Cultural dance and choir competition where we

emerged top 3.

After a brilliant show during the games, Kisumu bagged the second overall trophy after Nairobi. This means Nairobi and Kisumu have continued to dominate the games for the second consecutive year.

The Nakuru County Choir once again proved their musical prowess by successfully defending their title in the Own Composition category, as well as clinching another trophy in the set-piece category.

Speaking during the closing ceremony, the host Governor and patron of KICOSCA Kawira Mwangaza expressed her gratitude to the KICOSCA National Governance Council (NGC) and all participants for putting Meru County on the map.

She further noted that, apart from the competitions, the games offered a perfect opportunity for interactions with Kenyans from different cultures.

"For the last one week, we have experienced a major economic boost in this county economically. Most of our accommodation facilities were full. We have experienced each other's cultures, we are all Kenyans. Let this be a platform to embrace each other," Mwangaza stated.

On his part, West Pokot Governor Simon Kachapin reiterated the commitment of the Council to make sports a unifying factor in the country.

It was sweet revenge for Kakamega County Tug of War women's team against Kisii County at this year's KICOSCA games as they demolished their opponents Kisii 3-0 to reclaim the title they lost to them last year in Kisumu County.

This year's final was a repeat of last edition's final at Mamboleo Stadium in Kisumu County where Kisii

served Kakamega a bitter pill with an unexpected win to end Kakamega's dominance in the game in KICOSCA competitions.

Laikipia County Tug of War were the surprise team of the tournament bullying opponents from the pool stage, including favourites Kisumu and Nairobi Counties, to lift the overall men's title.

West Pokot lifted the football trophy after trouncing highly rated Nakuru County 1-0 in a scintillating match played at Kinoru Stadium. Nairobi County triumphed in Table Tennis while Bungoma County ladies emerged champions in Handball. Meru County Football team emerged third in Group F qualification stage with five points behind Nyeri and Machakos.

Nandi County athletes dominated middle and long-distance races. Kelvin Kiprono, dominated the men's 10km race. Kiprono receiving cheers from fans lined up on the course, stepped in the lead after the first round and enjoyed the lead until the finish line. Gilbert Kosgei came home third behind Bomet County's Gilbert Sang who closed the gap coming in second position.

Keneth Yegon won 5000m men's race and position 3 in 1500m race. Timon Kosgei (Sungura) won in 100m hits to storm into the finals and came 3rd in men's triple jump. Nandi County also reigned supreme in the Women's 1500m and 800m with Jacinta Jepkoech dominating both races.

Under the Persons With Disability (PWDs) category, the Nandi County Women team continued with their dominance with Violet Bitok winning both in Discus throw and Shot Put while Josephine Jepkemboi won in her Short Put category.



# Now Kawira throws out embattled deputy from his posh County HQ office, telling him off

...from page 2

In an escalation of differences between the county's top two leaders, the deputy governor's office has been relocated from the new County Headquarters (formerly the Meru Hotel) to the old County Headquarters Annexe that was formerly the Meru municipality offices.

In a letter seen by County Focus, only the office of the Governor, Finance, Economic Planning and ICT Department, Health Department, Roads, Transport and Energy Department, Education Department, and Legal affairs and public Service department will be left in the new classy county headquarters building, an incidence that has rattled the deputy governor.

"In order to ensure the department align their roles and responsibilities with the priorities and objectives set out ...it has been decided offices of the departmental heads (physical address) be spread in the County Government Headquarters building," read part

of the letter signed by the Chief of Staff and copied to the Governor.

Kawira's allies led by former Nkuene MCA Nick Mburugu who have been pointing a blame finger at M'Ethingia have been claiming that the wrangles between Kawira and M'Ethingia burgeoned after the governor learned that his deputy was plotting to overthrow her during her impeachment that she survived by whiskers, claims the M'Ethingia has rubbished terming mere politics.

Mr M'Ethingia who has been tight-lipped in the past over his tumultuous relationship with Governor Kawira has also confirmed the widened gap between them.

He however failed to deny pressure to overthrow the governor during her impeachment, especially by people from the Igembe region where he hails from claiming he resisted the temptations to betray his boss.

M'Ethingia further expressed disappointment over the move by



Governor Kawira Mwangaza addresses people as her embattled deputy (right) looks on in a past event

the Chief of Staff to relocate his office from the new headquarters building to the old building.

"How can I be comfortable being relocated from the office that I am used to and an office that was built using taxpayers' money for the governor and deputy governor among other staff members" the deputy governor said during an interview with media.

"I am ready to work from anywhere for the people of Meru even if it means under a tree," the Deputy Governor added.

The deputy governor revealed that his row with the government has lasted for almost a year since they

assumed the office.

"I am in a problematic situation; I do not know if I am the government or I am an outcast. My relationship with the governor is not good. People have been asking me to speak out but I remained silent because I thought things would be better with time. I have been facing a lot of challenges for almost a year now," M'Ethingia added

M'Ethingia further disclosed that he was not involved in the appointment of the County government cabinet.

"There were no dockets that were given to me. I was never asked to submit names for appointment and didn't appoint any County Executive Committee Member anywhere. Everybody was appointed by the governor," M'Ethingia revealed.

Additionally, the deputy governor accused Kawira of failing to facilitate activities meant for his office and failing to invite or inform him of government such as

cabinet meetings.

He further accused the Meru Governor of sacking his office secretariat a statement that Kawira rubbished claiming some of the employees had fake academic documents.

The Meru governor instead dared his deputy to resign if dissatisfied with her government.

However, likening his woes to what President William Ruto faced during his tenure as Former President Uhuru Kenyatta's Deputy, M'Ethingia vowed to stick in the office despite the humiliations.

"I would rather die than resign. Mama should get used to my presence" Mutuma said.



A happy DG at his former posh office. He has now been kicked out of his office



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