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Three Counties, One People

The Voice of Meru, Isiolo & Tharaka Nithi

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Kawira at calvary again as MCAs list two strong counts



By Harun Mugambi

In a dramatic turn of events, Meru Governor Kawira Mwanga is once again facing yet another impeachment, marking the fourth attempt by the Meru County Assembly to remove her from office.

The motion tabled by Deputy Leader of the Majority Party, Zipporah Kinya, is accusing Governor Kawira of abuse of office and misappropriation and misuse of County resources

This move has reignited political tensions in the

county, with residents arguing that the Executive and assembly are operating at extremes, thereby sabotaging devolution.

Governor Mwanga's tenure has been a rollercoaster of controversy since she assumed office. Governor Mwanga faced her first impeachment in 2022, barely four months into her term, before the process was halted by the court for lack of public participation. The relentless MCAs initiated a second impeachment in December 2022 accusing her of nepotism, illegal appointments, and

incitement. Despite the serious nature of these allegations, the Senate dismissed the charges, allowing her to continue her term.

The third impeachment attempt in November 2023 was met by a similar fate. The Senate special committee found that none of the 62 allegations against her were substantiated. This victory was short-lived, as the county assembly has now launched a fourth impeachment motion, citing similar charges of misappropriation of county resources, unethical practices, and contempt of

court.

Governor Mwanga has consistently been denying all the allegations, attributing the impeachment attempts to political vendettas and a refusal to conform to corrupt practices.

Various youths allied to Mwanga have however staged demonstrations in Meru town and its precinct in support of Governor demanding recall for MCAs and respect for the County boss.

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MCA's shock Governor Kawira with yet another impeachment motion

...from page 1



Supporters of Governor Mwangaza carry placards with messages that praise her administration as they demonstrated along streets in Meru Town recently

Meanwhile, nine residents have petitioned President William Ruto to dissolve the County Government citing irreconcilable differences between the Governor and MCAs.

In a letter, they stated that the Meru County Executive and Assembly are operating at odds, with the two entities functioning as parallel governments under different leaders: Governor and County Assembly Speaker Ayub Bundi Solomon. The petitioners lamented that instead of working together as a single, cohesive government, the two sides are engaged in a competition over implementing projects, resulting in confusion and inefficiency. They urged the head of state to intervene and address the impasse, which they

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
IN THE MATTER OF ARTICLES 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107 & (c) 73 & 192 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF KENYA, 2010
AND
IN THE MATTER OF SECTION 123 OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT ACT (NO. 17 OF 2012)
AND
IN THE MATTER OF SUSPENSION OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF MERU
BETWEEN
JESSE MUTUMA MIRITI.....1ST PETITIONER
DORIS MUGURE KIRIGIA.....2ND PETITIONER
PATRICK GATOBU MUTHURI.....3RD PETITIONER
MONICAH NJERI KAGUMO.....4TH PETITIONER
JESSE WAITI KURUGA.....5TH PETITIONER
DAVID MUTHENGI M.....6TH PETITIONER
FELIX MUTUGI MWIRIGI.....7TH PETITIONER
PETER KITHINJI ELIAS.....8TH PETITIONER
GLORY KAGURI MAGIRI.....9TH PETITIONER
VERSUS
THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF MERU.....RESPONDENT
PETITION
TO: H.E. EXCELLENCY
DR. WILLIAM SAMOEI RUTO, C.G.H.
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA
AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
OF THE DEFENCE FORCES.
The HUMBLE PETITIONERS all adults of sound mind residing in Meru County within the Republic of Kenya and whose address for the purpose of this petition is Post Office Box number 235 - 60200, Meru is SHOWETHI.
1. The Petitioners are all adults of sound mind residing in Meru County within the Republic of Kenya and whose address for the purpose of this petition is Post Office Box number 235 - 60200, Meru.
2. Further the Petitioners are all registered voters and a resident of Meru County within the Republic of Kenya.
3. Article 102) of the Kenya Constitution, 2010 underlines the sovereignty of the people which may be exercised either directly or through the peoples democratically elected representatives.
4. Article 2 (4) of the Kenya Constitution, 2010, amplifies the supremacy of the Constitution and explicitly declares that any act or omission in contravention of the constitution is invalid.

believe has irretrievably broken.

The following are the details of the impeachment motion facing the embattled Governor Kawira which has already been tabled in the Assembly.

Count 1: Abuse of office

The Governor has grossly violated (among others)

- Articles 10 (2), 27, 41, 47, 73, 232, and of the Constitution
- Sections 10, 15, 19 and 24 of the Public Officer Ethics Act, 2003
- Sections 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 (1) (b), (f), 21, 29 and of the Leadership and Integrity Act, 2012
- Sections 2, 30(3), 45, 55, 58, 59, 59A, 63, 64, 65 and 69 of the County Governments Act, 2012,
- Section 5 of the Office of the County Attorney Act,
- Section 4 of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act,
- Section 4 of the Fair Administrative Action Act,
- Section 6 of the Meru County Investment and Development Corporation Act,
- Section 9 (7)(b) of the Meru County

Revenue Board Act, (x) section 10(6) of the Meru County Investment and Development Corporation Act, and

- Section 19 of the Meru County Water and Sanitation Services Act, by engagement, connivance and/or complicity in:

- Illegally revoking the appointment of CPA Virginia Kawira Miriti as Secretary/CEO of the Meru County Public Service Board, without a vote of not less than 75% of all the members of the County Assembly and in usurpation of the powers of the County Assembly contrary to sections 58(4) & (5) and of the County Governments Act.
- Failing to appoint the Chairpersons of the Meru County Revenue Board, Meru Microfinance Corporation, Meru Youth Service Board, and Meru County Investment and Development Corporation Board as required by law thus failing to operationalize the said Boards, and/or illegally appointing the said Chairpersons without vetting and approval by the County Assembly contrary to section 4 of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act. The respective Secretariats of the said Boards continue to draw and expend public funds without duly appointed Board members to exercise a supervisory role over the Boards' Secretariats in order to ensure accountability in the spending of funds, thus jeopardizing service delivery.
- Refusing to implement the recommendations and/or resolutions of the County Assembly requiring the Governor to:



Meru County Assembly Deputy Leader of the Majority, Zipporah Kinya tables an impeachment motion at the floor of the house

- Illegally dismissing Dr Ntoiti (CEO of County Revenue Board), Paul Mwaki (CEO of Liquor Board), Kenneth Kimathi Mbae (Managing Director of Meru Microfinance Corporation) and Joseph Kithure Mberia (CEO, MEWASS) in the usurpation of the powers of the appointing authorities contrary to section 9 (7)(b) of the Meru County Revenue Board Act and section 10(6) of the Meru County Investment and Development Corporation Act, a result of which the County Government of Meru has been slapped with costs and damages amounting to Kshs. 4 million by the Employment and Labour Relations Court.
- Irregularly and illegally appointing Irah Nkuubi Kanana as the County Attorney without vetting and approval by the County Assembly contrary to section 5 of the Office of the County Attorney Act and section 4 of the Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act.
- Deliberately and knowingly misleading the public by giving false information that Kshs. 86,000,000.00 had been raised

Upcoming!

- Public participation is on Monday, July 22, 2024, at 10.00 am in all 45 wards. Venues to be published in the media
- On Tuesday, July 23 and Wednesday, July 24, 2024, the county assembly will embark on report writing and serve the Governor with the report.
- The governor or his lawyers will be expected to appear in the assembly on Thursday, July 25, 2024, for defence when the motion will be moved and voted upon.
- On Friday, July 26, 2024 if 46 Members of the County Assembly pass the motion the Governor will be impeached and the report will be filed to the Senate which will deliberate on the way forward

~Denis Kiogora (DMK)- Minority Whip



- undertake urgent measures to appoint a County Attorney in line with the provisions of section 5 of the Office of the County Attorney Act, 2020 and Public Appointments (County Assemblies Approval) Act, 2017;
 - to dismiss the County Secretary, Dr. Kiambi Atheru Thambura, and the Chief of Staff, Mr. Harrison Gatobu Nchamba Mbithi from office for gross violation of the Constitution and other laws; and
 - blatantly ignoring or failing to submit a report to the County Assembly on the implementation of the said recommendations within sixty (60) days as required in the Report of the County Assembly dated 23rd December 2023, contrary to Article 183(3) of the Constitution.
- Irregularly and illegally dismissing Linda Kiome, her Legal Advisor, through her Chief of Staff in usurpation of the powers and in disregard of the advice and warnings of the Meru CPSB contrary to sections 59 (1) (c) & (h), 74 of the of the County

through the Paybill number 247247 Account Number 0400163917899 established after the murder of Daniel Muthiani alias Sniper while the correct position is that only Kshs. 286,516.00 was raised thus violating the moral and ethical requirements expected of State Officers, contrary to section 19 of the Public Officer Ethics Act and section 29 of the Leadership and Integrity Act.

Evidence of the Governor's engagement, connivance and/or complicity in the preceding gross violations of the Constitution and the law, and abuse of office is to be found in;

- A letter by the Governor dated 8th March 2024 illegally revoking the appointment of CPA Virginia Kawira Miriti as Secretary/CEO of the Meru County Public Service Board.
- A letter by the Chairperson of the Meru County Public Service Board dated 12th March 2024 advising the Governor against the illegal revocation.
- A letter by the Governor to the Chairperson of the Meru County Public Service Board dated 12th March 2024, in response to the advisory stated in (b) above.

- Advisory on leave of absence by the Public Service Commission to the Chief Officer Legal Affairs, Public Service Management and Administration dated 16th February 2023.
- A court order dated 21st March 2024 stopping the implementation of the revocation of the appointment of CPA Virginia Kawira Miriti as Secretary/CEO of the Meru County Public Service Board.
- A copy of the Notice of Motion dated 19th March 2024.
- Job Advertisement under the hand of the purported Chairperson of the Meru County Revenue Board.
- Gazette Notices showing when the Board members of the respective Boards were appointed.
- Investigation Report by the County Public Service Board dated 8th January 2024.
- Advisory dated 22nd December 2022 by the County Public Service Board.
- Report by the Joint Committee on Labour, Public Service and Social Welfare and Justice, Legal Affairs and Cohesion dated 13th December 2023.
- Pay slips for County Secretary, Dr. Kiambi Atheru Thambura, and the Chief of Staff, Mr. Harrison Gatobu Nchamba Mbithi.
- Correspondence between the Assembly and the County Public Service Board on various requests for information.
- Correspondence on termination of Linda Kiome Gakii.
- A Memorandum of Claim filed by Linda Kiome, the Legal Advisor to the Governor, in Meru Employment and Labour Relations Court Case No. E022 of 2024.
- A copy of the Decree given on 22nd May 2024 by the Employment and Labour Relations Court at Meru.
- Memorandum and Articles of Association of Meru Water and Sewerage Services Company Limited dated 11th October 2023.
- Notice of invitation for the Meru County Water and Sanitation Services Board meeting dated 18th March 2024.
- video recordings which are saved in the flash disk presented herewith.
- Bank Statement showing collections of Kshs. 286,516.00.
- correspondence relating to the bloated workforce in the Governor's office.
- Circulars/guidelines from the Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee, the Transitional Authority and the Salaries and Remuneration Commission.

Continued on page 16...

MCK schools hold colourful 2nd Annual Education Extravaganza at Kaaga

By Harun Mugambi

Under the expansive skies of Kaaga Primary School, the Methodist Church in Kenya proudly hosted the 2nd Annual Education Day for the Methodist Sponsored Secondary Schools Principals Association (MESSPA) on Friday, July 5, 2024.

Themed "Future Pathways for Learning and Learners in Kenya," the event was a beacon of innovation and collaboration, uniting educators, policymakers, students, and stakeholders alike. Keynote speeches, awards, and interactive sessions illuminated the path towards transforming Kenya's educational landscape.

Distinguished guests included the Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church in Kenya, Rev. Isaiah Deye, and Meru Senator Kathuri Murungi, who lent their wisdom and support to the occasion.



Methodist Presiding Bishop Rev. Isaya Deye presents certificate of appreciation to Sentaor Kathuri Murungi

Rev. Deye emphasized the Methodist schools' role in nurturing holistic education, aligning with Kenya's Competency-Based Curriculum in nurturing well-rounded individuals.



Senator Kathuri Murungi presents an award to Kaaga Girls Highschool students and teachers

"Methodist schools should be institutions that provide learners with the environment to grow holistically," he stated.

Senator Murungi, in his impassioned address, celebrated the achievements of Methodist institutions and advocated for broader educational reforms.

He championed the cause of Junior Secondary School teachers' rights and emphasized the importance of youth engagement in national dialogue.

The highlight of the day was the glittering prize-giving ceremony, where top schools like Miathene Boys Highschool, Nkuene Girls Highschool and Kaaga Girls Highschool were awarded in the extra county best schools' overall category and outstanding students were lauded for their academic prowess.

Kaaga girls and kaaga Boys also exhibited exemplary performance in extra co-curriculum as they were only schools awarded in this category.

County Schools that were awarded included

Multhankari girls, Kimachai secondary, Ntunene secondary, Kitheo secondary, Kathera girls and St. lukes Boys.

Other subcounty schools from different regions in Meru were also awarded including Mweteria Day Secondary school in North imenti, Thuuri Day Secondary in Tigania Central, Machaku Day

Secondary in Tigania West, Antuanduria Day Secondary school in Tigania East, Bishop Lawi Imathiu Day Secondary school in Imenti East, Muthangene Day Secondary in Meru Central, Mikubune Upper Secondary in Imenti South, St. James Tutua Day Secondary in Buuri West, Auki Day Secondary in Igembe South, Mariri Day Secondary in Igembe North, Kandubai Day Secondary in Igembe Central, and Garbatulla High school in Isiolo topped this category.

Rev. Charles Mwenda, the Methodist Education Secretary, and Mr. Moses Marete, MESSPA Chairman, joined in celebrating the success of these educational institutions.

Senator Murungi also took the opportunity to share the impact of his Kamashinani



Sentaor Kathuri awards Miathene Boys Highschool

Foundation, which has granted scholarships to over 150 deserving students, many of whom hail from Methodist-sponsored schools in Meru.

The event not only celebrated past achievements but also set a vibrant course for the future of education in Kenya, showcasing Methodist schools as pioneers in shaping the next generation of leaders and thinkers.



Senator Kathuri awards Kaaga Boys Highschool

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Business

Capital sacco leads in financial empowerment and growth of members

Capital Sacco Limited is setting the standard for financial empowerment by providing individuals and groups with efficient financial services at competitive interest rates.

Recently named the best-ranked Sacco in the region during the Meru National Show at Gitoro grounds, Capital Sacco's commitment to superior financial services and customer satisfaction is evident.

Originally established in 1972 as part of the Meru Farmer's Cooperative Union Limited, Capital Sacco has undergone significant evolution over the years.

Beginning as a service for dairy and coffee society members, it transitioned to an independent entity in 2005 known as Meru Farmers Sacco, before rebranding in 2012 to Capital Sacco.

This rebranding allowed Capital Sacco to broaden its client base to include entrepreneurs, salaried customers, institutions, youth, and children, solidifying its presence on a national scale.

With a mission to provide quality, competitive, and innovative financial services that empower members to enhance their income and welfare, Capital Sacco upholds core values of action orientation, customer focus, teamwork, integrity, open-mindedness, and nurturing smart solutions.

The Sacco is dedicated to empowering members through innovative financial solutions, reinforcing its position as a leading



Capital Sacco head of marketing Joy Nyawira receives a trophy from MP Rahim Dawood as Governor Kawira Mwangaza looks on during the ASK National Show at Gitoro grounds recently

financial institution in Kenya.

Capital Sacco offers a diverse range of products and services tailored to meet the varied financial needs of its members, positioning itself not just as a financial institution but as a partner in economic growth and stability.

Innovative and Inclusive Accounts

One of Capital Sacco's key offerings is the **Vijana Account**, which targets the youth demographic by providing a zero-opening balance and no operating balance, making financial inclusion accessible from a young age. Benefits of this account include cheque deposits, unlimited withdrawals, competitive interest rates, and opportunities for young entrepreneurs to access asset financing and business networking.

The **Current Account** caters to all members, enabling easy, round-the-clock transactions without the need for a minimum operating balance. This account offers cheque books on request, VISA ATM cards, and mobile banking access via USSD code *346#.

For dairy and coffee farmers, the **Bidii Account** offers a zero-opening balance. Capital Sacco's **Junior Account** is designed to introduce children to the concept of savings and financial responsibility. It offers free account opening, a minimum operating balance of Sh800, annual fun days for young savers, and free intra-account transfers.

The Group Account is tailored for investment groups, both incorporated and non-incorporated, with an opening balance of Sh1,000. This account requires an introduction letter, identification for all signatories, and group resolution documentation.

The Share Deposit Account allows members to become shareholders, earning annual dividends on a minimum share capital of Sh5,000. While this

account is non-withdrawable, it can be transferred to another member, emphasizing long-term investment and ownership.

Diverse Loan Products

Capital Sacco offers a variety of loan products to meet the needs of its members. The Business Advance Loan supports entrepreneurs with business finance by leveraging charged collateral for capital access.

The Coffee Development Loan is specifically designed for coffee farmers, offering development funds based on non-withdrawable deposits and past production.

For dairy farmers, the Dairy Welfare Loan provides collateralized loans to support dairy development and ensure the continuity of milk payments during the loan period.

Institutional Loan targets schools, churches, and colleges, addressing both development programs and short-term needs.

The Kilimo Tosha Loan assists small-scale horticultural farmers through a group lending methodology for production financing.

The Micro Credit Loan offers quick, competitive interest loans to micro-businesses, even to non-account holders, to enhance working capital.

Lastly, the Tea Bonus Plus Loan supports tea farmers with short-term development needs based on the average of the last two years' tea bonus payments.

Comprehensive Services

Capital Sacco's services go beyond accounts and loans to ensure a comprehensive financial experience for its members. Mobile Banking enables seamless access to funds through USSD code *346# and a forthcoming mobile banking app for real-time updates and transactions.

The Sacco's Agency Banking partnerships with leading Kenyan banks expand its service reach, allowing for cash deposits, withdrawals, balance checks, and mini statements at various branches. Visa Branded ATM Issuance provides secure and efficient access to funds, reducing transaction costs and enhancing security.

Cheque Book Issuance offers personalized, secure cheque-books to minimize fraud and ensure ease of identification for transactions. Safeguarding Services ensure the safe custody of valuable items and documents at affordable rates, reinforcing security for members' assets.

Capital Sacco's Salary and Pension Processing services deliver fast, efficient processing complemented by excellent customer support. Standing Orders facilitate timely bill payments, helping members avoid late fees and maintain good credit ratings.

With its commitment to financial empowerment, innovative solutions, and inclusive services, Capital Sacco Limited continues to lead the way in providing a holistic approach to financial stability and growth for its members.



Capital Sacco chairman Jackson Kinoti (middle) takes a photo with Board members and staff during the annual ASK show at Gitoro showground



Capital Sacco members during a past education day

Outcry as Governor Njuki fraud case likely to be withdrawn

By Harun Mugambi

In a stunning turn of events, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) has announced plans to withdraw the Sh34.9 million fraud case against Tharaka Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki and several county officials, sparking widespread outrage and allegations of political interference.

The case, which has been ongoing since 2021, centres on allegations that county officials flouted procurement laws and procedures, awarding a lucrative contract to Westomaxx Investments Limited for the supply, installation, and commissioning of an incinerator.

The contract was valued at Sh34.9 million, and an investigation revealed that the company submitted fraudulent documents to secure the deal.

The accused, including Governor Njuki, had



Tharaka Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki at Milimani Anti-Corruption Law court in Nairobi on September 8, 2020

been facing charges of abuse of office, conspiracy to commit fraud, and fraudulent acquisition of public property.

However, in a recent letter filed in court, the ODPP revealed that it had received a request from Governor Njuki to review the evidence against him.

The decision to withdraw the case has sparked outrage among investigators, who feel their

efforts are being undermined.

"This is how all other withdrawals start...a request by the accused to review evidence," lamented an investigator involved in the case.

The case has also drawn attention to concerns about political interference in criminal investigations.

"It's like we're watching a scripted movie, the DPP is being influenced by someone higher up. We've worked tirelessly on this case for years, only for it to be dismissed at the last minute," said a senior investigator.

The controversy has also raised questions about the role of Governor Njuki's alleged links to Westomaxx Investments Limited.

According to investigations, the company installed an incinerator procured from Generation Electronic & Allied Company

Limited, a firm linked to Governor Njuki. The incinerator was imported into Kenya for Sh3.8 million.

The payments made by the Tharaka Nithi County Government to Westomaxx Investments Limited were allegedly distributed to various individuals and entities, including Japhet Gitonga Nyange (Sh8.7 million), Kenneth Mucuiya Ngai (Sh5.2 million), Kenstar Electrical and Hardware Limited (Sh4.7 million), and Caroline Sheila Wimbui (Sh0.985 million).

As the case continues to unfold, many are left wondering what happened behind closed doors. Was the DPP's decision to withdraw the case influenced by external factors? Will justice be served in this high-profile case? Only time will tell.

Governor Mwangaza faces backlash as controversial Municipal Board nominees await assembly verdict



Kenneth Gitonga Ndegwa, Meru Dairy CEO (Left) with Governor Kawira Mwangaza (right). The CEO has however turned down his nomination

By Rugendo Antony

Meru Governor Kawira Mwangaza's nominees to the Municipality Board have landed her in hot water.

Seven out of eight nominees presented themselves for vetting at the county assembly, but their questionable backgrounds and ties to the governor have raised eyebrows.

The nominees, currently awaiting the assembly's verdict, encountered probing inquiries regarding their integrity and qualifications.

Among these nominees are Bishop Kiogora Magambo, founder of the Jesus House of Praise, and Veronica Wanjiku Kariuki, spouse to Bishop Patrick Kariuki. Their nominations have stirred controversy and raised speculation about political favouritism.

Bishop Magambo's nomination drew particular attention due to his controversial past.

During the vetting Magambo faced inquiries regarding his alleged involvement in a court case with Mbeu MCA John Muguna over a debt amounting to Sh300,000.

According to Magambo, the case was resolved through an out-of-court settlement, arguing to have fully compensated the affected MCA. However, Muguna contradicted this, asserting that the matter remained unresolved.

Magambo also faced tough scrutiny over outdated certificates and conflicting information on their CVs.

The House of Praise Bishop has been a steadfast supporter of Governor Kawira, especially during her impeachment period. His nomination has been seen as a reward for his loyalty.

Magambo's public image suffered when compromising photos surfaced online, leading to allegations of marital infidelity. Bishop Kiogora vehemently denied these claims, attributing them to

social media manipulation.

Another nominee, Veronica Wanjiku Kariuki, is linked to Bishop Patrick Kariuki, who gained prominence after presiding over a high-profile prayer event attended by Governor Mwangaza.

During the vetting, Wanjiku (a spouse to Bishop Kariuki) was grilled over her involvement in a pyramid scheme that defrauded many people, but she claims she was an employee and a victim herself.

The other nominees include distinguished professionals such as Kenneth Gitonga Ndegwa (who declined the nomination citing personal reasons), Penina Kambura Mutwiri, Davis Kimathi Makathimo, Brenda Nkatha Mwitwi, Charles Kibiti Ikunyua, and Stephen Christopher Mutembei (the sole nominee for the Maua Municipality Board).

The nominations have sparked outrage on social media, with some reportedly slamming the governor for failing to include young people in her



Governor Kawira Mwangaza and her spouse in a photo with Bishop Magambo and his spouse

nominations with others accusing her of appointing outsiders.

"The nominees are mostly old men and women with no connection to the local community," said Latif Ahmed M'Kirika Mahaji.

Meru municipality was awarded municipal status in 2018, and Maua Town was accorded similar status in 2022.

Municipal boards play a crucial role in urban governance, overseeing municipal affairs, formulating policies, and managing service delivery.

STOP PRESS!

As the 7 nominees await the assembly verdict, intelligence gathered by *The County Focus* has it that the MCAs plan to reject them



Governor Kawira (left) with Bishop Patrick Kariuki on January 1st, 2022 at Baite Family Fellowship Church



Veronica Wanjiku Kariuki with Bishop Patrick Kariuki

Healthcare issues take center stage at Meru budget allocation public participation meeting



Medical professionals led by Moses Baiyenia present their memorandum to the budget allocation committee

By Harun Mugambi

The Meru County Assembly's public participation forum on the budget estimates for the financial year 2024/2025 took center stage at Kamunde Hall, with healthcare services emerging as the top concern among attendees.

The forum, led by Jacob Mwirigi, Chairperson of the Budget Committee, aimed to gather public input on the county's budget allocation, as mandated by Article 196 of the Constitution.

The air buzzed with anticipation as attendees—medics, community leaders, and concerned citizens demanded an urgent overhaul of the health services in Meru County.

In a bustling show of civic engagement, residents and medical professionals alike expressed their frustration with the current state of healthcare services in the county, citing issues such as inadequate lab reagents, lack of essential medicines, understaffing, and inefficient hospital infrastructure.

Mr Baiyenia Moses, a Secretary of the Kenya Union of Clinical Officers at the Meru Branch, criticized the reduction in funding for lab reagents from Ksh 8,371,167.96 to Ksh 8,000,000 in the proposed budget.

"Cutting the budget for lab reagents is a step backward. Without adequate lab reagents, our ability to diagnose and treat patients effectively is severely hampered," Baiyenia said.

Other speakers echoed similar concerns, including Elias Mutuma, Secretary General of the Kenya Union of Pharmaceutical Technologists (KNUPT), who lamented the lack of medicines in hospitals.



Nesbit Mugendi, the Kenya National Union of Nurses (KNUN)-Meru County Branch Union Secretary gives his views during the meeting

"We are being issued with empty boxes of medicine. There is a lot of drama surrounding the issuance of medicine." Mutuma said.

Mr Nesbit Mugendi, the Kenya National Union of Nurses (KNUN)- Meru County branch union Secretary, emphasized the need for hiring more healthcare workers.

"Our healthcare system is understaffed. All that money allocated for construction of hospitals should go to employing more



Zakiyah Juma (Rukia Asman) stresses a point during the meeting at Kamunde Hall in Meru Town recently

healthcare workers." Mugendi stated.

Zakiyah Juma (Rukia Asman), a concerned citizen, urged the county government to prioritize health by allocating funds to employ doctors and nurses rather than building new hospitals without essential resources.

The forum also saw criticism of the budget allocation for malaria funds and dewormers. Elias Murega, former MCA for Municipality ward, echoed sentiments made by medics that Meru has no malaria cases and allocating funds for a non-existent issue is a misstep.

Malaria has been allocated 400,000 and Dewormers 1.5 million in the budget estimates.

The county government has allocated Ksh 1.327 billion to health services, with public service management and administration receiving the biggest share of Ksh 5.5 billion. Residents have until July 5th to submit their views through written memoranda to the County Assembly Clerk.

As the budget deliberations continue, it is clear that residents are demanding better healthcare services and more resources. The question remains: will their voices lead to tangible improvements in the county's health sector? Only time will tell.

Kamanu: A melodic journey through culture and music



Kamanu M'tuamwari during one of his live performances

By Harun Mugambi

Mutai M'tuamwari, affectionately known as Kamanu M'tuamwari, is a musical maestro whose enchanting voice and mesmerizing melodies have captivated audiences in Meru and far beyond.

Beyond his Musical prowess, his multifaceted personality embodies and shines through his roles as a fervent environmentalist, a compelling storyteller, and a social media influencer with a global reach.

A fusion of tradition with modernity

Kamanu's musical oeuvre is a fusion of tradition and innovation, skillfully blending the traditional African Folk melodies with contemporary songs.

Rooted in Meru, Kenya's culturally vibrant region, his distinctive blend of sounds resonates deeply with listeners. Whether performed on local stages or shared globally, Kamanu's creativity knows no bounds.

From Kiorone village to the world

Born 44 years ago into a family of twelve in Kiorone Village, Kigane area, Imenti South Sub-County, Kamanu's journey began at St. Lucy's School for the Visually Impaired, where he enrolled at the tender age of four.

Kamanu recalls, "My education journey started at St. Lucy's primary where I attended from nursery through to class eight. It was a period marked with steadfast determination and perseverance -a peculiar journey



Kamanu performs at an international stage

indeed."

His early life, steeped in local culture, set the stage for a musical journey that would span continents. Kamanu's artistic foundation rests on the bedrock of Meru's rich traditions.

Kamanu's passion for music deepened when his brother, then a military officer, brought home a black flute, igniting musical ardor in his soul as he began singing to its melodies.

"My brother brought a black flute into our household, which lay dormant as none of us was conversant with it, it was not until a benevolent foreigner who was visiting St.

Lucy Primary taught us how to use a flute," recounts Kamanu. "Since then, the flute became my constant companion especially whenever I went home for holidays," he adds.

Transitioning from Salvation Army High School for the Visually Impaired in Thika to Kenyatta University, Kamanu honed his craft while staying true to his roots.

An impromptu performance at the Cultural Week during his university years revealed his innate talent and solidified his path in music.

"Through a fortuitous twist of fate, I found myself thrust into the spotlight at the Kenyatta University Cultural Week, courtesy of my enthusiastic yet discerning roommate, Fairman, who recognized my hidden potential," narrates Kamanu vividly.

Initially against his will, this unplanned journey would soon take a melodious turn. Kamanu joined the performing band, and it was there that his latent musical talent came to the fore. The pivotal moment arrived when they performed the popular cover song

"Senorita" by Don Williams for the Vice-Chancellor who was wowed by his exemplary performance. The performance was a resounding success, marking the beginning of Kamanu's new identity as a musician.

The origin of the name 'Kamanu'

In the annals of 1992, Kamanu was given the name James at school, though he preferred his native name, Mutai. This was one of the names he bears as he would later be christened 'Kamanu'.

It was fellow artists Kajairo (Peter Kaimenyi, former Embakasi MP aspirant) and Mc KJ (currently Dagoreti South MP Kiarie John) of the Redykyulass comedy crew who bestowed upon him the appellation 'Kamanu' following the success of his eponymous hit song—a title he embraced wholeheartedly.

"Unable to recall my given name, they christened me Kamanu," he reveals.

The origin of the song "Kamanu" stemmed from a folk tune infused with elements of the French song "Aisha," a melody that resonated deeply with Kamanu.

"Kamanu was a folk song that my band and I took and gave a blend of 'Aisha' a French song I loved to sing even while doing laundry," he narrates.

Reflecting also on his early days of performing country music covers, Kamanu reminisces, "The ballad 'Senorita' by Don Williams held a special place in my heart; there was even a phase where I earned the moniker 'Senorita'."

A distinctive musical style

Kamanu's musical evolution transcends borders, blending Benga rhythms, Rhumba flair, and traditional Kimeru folk melodies.

His innovative sound, characterized by an amalgamation of African folk melodies and contemporary influences, resonates with local and international audiences alike.

"I believe music chose me; I merely acquiesced," shares Kamanu, reflecting on his music journey.

Recalling his choir days in primary school, Kamanu admits a waning interest upon entering high school, eventually finding solace in solo performances and later, collaborative endeavors with a band.

"My love for music made me enroll in the University choir but it turned out not to be my preference, so I reverted to singing alone and then later to a band," Kamanu adds.

International and high-profile performance

Performing internationally, Kamanu says, is a crescendo of joy. Kamanu's passport wears the stamps of distant lands.

In Berlin's music theaters, he has serenaded the cosmopolitan crowds with his mellifluous tunes. Parisians

Soirees have also swayed to his captivating melodies.

"The applause, the shared rhythms at both local and international stages are heartwarming," he says.

Captivating audiences in France or Germany or entertaining dignitaries at the Statehouse remain etched in his memory.

Recounting a memorable performance during the 2020 Madaraka Day celebrations, Kamanu reminisces, "Following my stage performance, I was invited to serenade President Uhuru Kenyatta at a luncheon—an honor that opened doors to perform for esteemed dignitaries."

Cultural ambassador

Kamanu's mixes have become a staple at Meru weddings, creating an enchanting atmosphere during celebratory occasions.

"Our culture is our legacy," asserts Kamanu.

Deeply rooted in his Meru heritage, Kamanu advocates for preserving the Kimeru language and culture.

"Mwenda and Makena are now the names that everyone is naming their kids," Kamanu notes.

He applauds efforts like Harvard incorporating Kimeru into its curriculum and urges the current generation to embrace African naming systems that carry lineage and meaning.

Through social media, Kamanu breathes life into Ameru proverbs and tales, weaving a vibrant mosaic of heritage from Tharaka to the wider Meru community.

Collaborative endeavors

Kamanu's collaborations with local artists underscore the unifying power of music across cultural divides, with his Meru influences infusing their compositions with newfound vitality.

He believes Akothee's choice to sing using Kimeru in their hit 'Nkoro Ndito' song, was a symphony of uniqueness. To make her stand out, and to resonate with Meru fans.

Hinting at upcoming collaborations, Kamanu reveals, "While several projects are underway, it's premature to disclose details."

A man of many facets

Beyond his musical pursuits, Kamanu's love for the environment is not just theoretical; it's practical, tangible, and deeply rooted like the trees he strives to protect. Kamanu is the founder of a community-based organization (CBO) dedicated to tree conservation, a testament to his commitment to preserving nature's grandeur.

"Back in 2019, we started an initiative dubbed Save Our Rivers Initiative (SAORI) with a clarion call which says 'bring the roar back to our rivers'"

His efforts are not just about saving trees and rivers; they're about securing the future, one sapling at a time.

Apart from singing, Kamanu was a respected lecturer at Mount Kenya University, imparting knowledge in the Department of Hospitality and Foreign Language.

"I can speak French fluently," Kamanu says as he utters some French words to showcase his prowess in the foreign language.

However, his love for music made him abandon being a



Kamanu engages in a tree-planting activity

lecturer and venture into music full-time.

"Once one harbors a passion for something, distractions dissipate, or you get them out of your way. I often penned lyrics between lectures before fully embracing music," Kamanu affirms.

His academic background and environmental advocacy underscore a multifaceted persona driven by passion and purpose.

He recounts taking part in a drama, a path he thinks he might want to explore in the future.

"I once acted as Mzungu mwenye shaba a character in a book called 'Kilio cha Haki' and I did very well," Kamanu reveals.

Resilience in the face of adversity

Kamanu's journey is not just a tale of talent and tenacity, but also one of resilience. Born with albinism, he has faced the harsh glare of stigmatization. Yet, he stands tall, his spirit unbroken, his resolve unshaken.

"Stigmatization is part of Society's fabric; I choose to let my critics be," asserts Kamanu.

His condition has not deterred him; instead, it has become a part of his unique identity, adding a distinct hue to his life's canvas.

"Like any other business, the music industry demands dedication and capital," Kamanu reflects.

Indeed, his journey has been faced with challenges. From establishing a band and acquiring equipment to navigating criticism, each note has tested his mettle. This doesn't deter him from remaining steadfast, as his music resonates with resilience.

"When I started singing the Meru music industry wasn't as enthusiastic as I was as people believed that people from our region could not sing. This gave my music a poor reception. Meru music pioneers like Samuel Muriuki, Nathan kirai, and George king'ua laid good foundations in the 20th century before experiencing what I could call a "dark age" in Meru Music. However, currently, the young generation is picking up," Kamanu elaborates.

Looking ahead

With Numerous upcoming events, collaborations, and projects in the works, Kamanu urges fans to follow his social media accounts for timely updates.

"I'm currently in the planning stage for my upcoming events, collaborations, and projects. I can't disclose details just yet, I'll keep my fans updated," Kamanu adds.

Kamanu, the troubadour and the Meru culture custodian continues to strum the strings of tradition.

His music bridges the past and present, inviting all to dance to the rhythm of Meru's prestigious culture.

"I encourage young artists to be patient, and persistent as they remain true to themselves and what they believe in. But they must remember that artistic enterprises, like any other business, must apply business principles to thrive," Kamanu emphasizes.

Beyond music, Kamanu finds joy in fatherhood, hosting gatherings, and planting trees testament to his well-rounded persona.

As each day passes, Kamanu's melodies linger with timeless echoes in the winds of change.



Kamanu donning a traditional regalia to promote culture

Business

The award-winning sacco that has transformed lives of members for decades

By Rugendo Antony

Since its inception in 1991 as the South Imenti Tea Growers Sacco, Yetu Sacco Society has been a silent force of financial empowerment and community support.

The award-winning institution has grown into a beacon of financial empowerment and community support, serving a diverse membership base across the country.

From its humble beginnings, Yetu Sacco has remained committed to its mission: mobilizing savings, providing affordable credit, and enhancing the living standards of its members.

The cooperative's journey began with a group of visionary tea farmers who pooled their resources to create a cooperative that would serve their community.

Their foresight has led to an institution that has grown beyond their wildest dreams.

Today, Yetu Sacco extends its embrace



A section of Yetu Sacco officers pose for a photo after winning a best Financial Institution Award during the Meru ASK Show

beyond tea farmers, welcoming salaried individuals, business owners, micro groups, and corporate institutions. Its evolution reflects the resilience of its founders and the unwavering commitment of its members.

One of the key ways Yetu Sacco has been transforming lives is through its savings products. Yetu Sacco's commitment to financial inclusion has also helped break

down barriers that often exclude marginalized groups from accessing financial services.

Yetu Sacco's hard work and dedication have not gone unnoticed. Earlier last month, the cooperative received the prestigious Best Financial Institution Award at the Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) Meru Show, presented by Meru

County Governor Kawira Mwangaza. This recognition underscores the cooperative's commitment to innovation and excellence in providing financial solutions that meet the needs of its members.

As Yetu Sacco continues to grow and evolve, its impact on the community is undeniable. From providing financial education and literacy

programs to offering training on entrepreneurship and leadership development, the cooperative is committed to empowering its members and creating a brighter future for all.



The above poster tabulates the tailor-made savings account and loan products offered by the award winning Yetu DT Saaco



Meru Governor Kawira Mwangaza gazes as Yetu Sacco team display a trophy won during this year's exhibition show at Gitoro National showground



Yetu Sacco team display a trophy won at the ASK Show

Senior Ruto allies from Meru, Tharaka Nithi affected by the Gen-Z- provoked Govt' shakeup

By Duncan Mwirigi

In a surprising turn of events, Meru and Tharaka Nithi Counties have suffered a significant political setback following President William Ruto's recent dissolution of the Cabinet.

This dramatic move, which came just days after the widespread Gen-Z protests, has left these two counties without representation in the highest echelons of government.

The dissolution has particularly affected two prominent Cabinet Secretaries hailing from these regions.

Kithure Kindiki, who served as the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration and is a native of Tharaka Nithi County, lost his position in the shake-up.

Similarly, Mithika Linturi, the Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development and a

son of Meru County was also relieved of his duties.

Adding to the political turmoil, former Inspector General of Police, Japhet Koome, who also hails from Meru County, resigned from his position.

Koome's resignation came amidst mounting pressure following the Gen-Z protests, which had put the spotlight on law enforcement's handling of public demonstrations.

This triple blow has left both counties reeling, as they have lost significant representation and influence at the national level.

The affected counties have been vocal about their support for Ruto's Government, and the loss of these leaders is seen as a significant setback.

"It's like a nightmare has come true. We had high hopes that our leaders in the top positions would

do something for us. Now it seems like we're back to square one. However, the President had no other choice and we need to respect his decision" said Moses Murithi, a resident of Meru Town.

Political analysts suggest that this could have far-reaching implications for these regions' development and resource allocation.

Local leaders from Meru and Tharaka Nithi have expressed their shock and disappointment at the turn of events.

"This is a dark week for our counties. We had finally gained a strong voice in Nairobi, and now it feels like we're back to square one. We however hope that the President will reappoint or even consider choosing other leaders from our region," said a prominent elder from Tharaka Nithi, who wished to remain anonymous.

The Gen-Z protests, which triggered this political upheaval, were primarily focused on issues such as the controversial finance bill, the high cost of living, unemployment, and demands for greater political accountability. The youth-led movement caught the attention of the nation and ultimately led to significant changes in the country's political landscape.

President Ruto's decision to dissolve the

Cabinet is seen by many as a response to the growing public discontent. However, the move has inadvertently hit Meru and Tharaka Nithi Counties particularly hard, given the high-profile positions held by individuals from these regions.

As the dust settles on this political reshuffle, questions arise about the future representation of these counties in the national government. Will President Ruto consider appointing new leaders from these regions to maintain a balanced regional representation? Or will Meru and Tharaka Nithi have to navigate a period of reduced influence in national politics?

For now, the people of Meru and Tharaka Nithi Counties are left to ponder the impact of this sudden change on their political fortunes and the potential consequences for their local development agendas.



Former Interior CS Kithure Kindiki



Immediate former Agriculture CS Mithika Linturi



Former Police boss Japhet Koome

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Solution sacco turns land and home ownership dream into reality

Imagine waking up to the breathtaking views of Nanyuki, owning a piece of prime land in this picturesque town. Well, now you can turn this dream into reality with Solution Sacco's Estate project.

In a triumph of foresight and dedication to members' financial success, Solution Sacco, a revered cooperative society based in Meru, has made dreams of land and homeownership a tangible reality.

Their latest endeavor, the Wega Residential Estate in Nanyuki, epitomizes their commitment to transforming aspirations into achievements.

Strategically nestled in the heart of Nanyuki, this prime real estate development has become the beacon of hope for individuals yearning to secure a piece of Kenya's scenic beauty.

The journey towards land ownership began



Solution Sacco Chairman Francis Rimberia (left) and CEO Daniel Marete (centre) presents documents to a beneficiary and investor during the Solution Housing and Investment Cooperative event held at the Nanyuki Prime-Wega Estate

with Solution Sacco's foresight in identifying Nanyuki as a burgeoning real estate destination, known for its natural beauty and promising growth prospects.

Leveraging this insight, the Sacco's subsidiary, Solution Housing and Investment Cooperative (SHIC), provided members with opportunities to purchase and own land in this breathtaking town of Nanyuki.

By facilitating fully financed options with repayment terms spanning up to 60 months and without the need for guarantors,

Solution Sacco has streamlined the path to acquiring coveted plots in Nanyuki. This accessibility of finances to the Sacco members ensures that even those once deemed unable to own land can now fulfil their dreams.

Under the leadership of CEO Mr. Daniel Marete and Chairperson Mr. Francis Rimberia, Solution Sacco is committed to empowering its members to achieve their homeownership goals.

Mr Marete, speaking passionately at a recent annual general meeting, underscored Solution

Sacco's pivotal role in empowering members to realize their homeownership dreams.

Emphasizing financial literacy and responsible investment, Marete highlighted the Sacco's unwavering commitment to equipping members with the tools for securing their financial futures. This holistic approach has not only secured land for countless members but has also fostered a more secure and prosperous future for their families.

Mr Rimberia, echoed these sentiments, affirming the cooperative's dedication to driving positive change and prosperity among its members.

He emphasized their inclusive strategies that empower all members to partake in the growth of pivotal real estate markets like Nanyuki.



Solution Sacco members follow proceedings during the Solution Housing and Investment Cooperative fete



Solution Sacco members of staff pose for a photo with members present at the Wega Estate event

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- Electricity

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|--------|---------|--------------|
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| 2. | 1/4 | 700,000.00 |
| 3. | 1/2 | 1,300,000.00 |
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Solution sacco setting pace in land and property ownership

As news of Solution Sacco's transformative impact spreads, interest in joining this progressive cooperative society continues to soar.

With a clear vision to empower and inspire, Solution Sacco stands as a paragon of financial institutions that transcend traditional roles.

Their investment department remains at the vanguard, continually exploring innovative avenues to bolster the financial well-being of their members.

This unwavering commitment solidifies their stature as pioneers in cooperative financial services, setting a benchmark for others to emulate.

As word spreads of Solution Sacco's success in transforming aspirations into realities, interest in joining this progressive cooperative society continues to soar.

The Sacco's investment department



Solution Sacco C.E.O Francis Rimberia addresses attendees at the Solution Housing and Investment event

remains dedicated to exploring innovative opportunities that enhance members' financial well-being, solidifying its position as a trailblazer in cooperative financial services.

The ripple effect of Solution Sacco's success has resonated throughout Meru

Solution Sacco is setting the standard for cooperative financial services in Kenya.

So, if you're ready to make your dreams a reality and secure your piece of paradise in Nanyuki, look no further than Solution Sacco.

Join the ranks of those who have embraced a future of prosperity and security through Solution Sacco-where dreams find their true home.

and beyond, igniting a wave of admiration and emulation among other Saccos. They have set a precedent for transforming dreams into deeds, plot by plot, paving the way for a brighter future. By investing in the future of its members,



A Solution Housing and Investment official offers consultation services during the Nanyuki Prime-Wega Estate Open Day event

Don't miss out on this opportunity to make your dream of land ownership a reality. Join Solution Sacco today and start building the future you've always imagined.



Solution Sacco members in attendance during the Solution Housing and Investment event



Mr Marete (far right) introduces solution Sacco staff members during the event



Wega Estate entrance gate

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In an era where financial stability and growth are paramount, Solution Sacco emerges as a beacon for astute investors. Recently recognized as one of the best Saccos in Kenya during the Agricultural Society of Kenya - Meru and Mt Kenya Nanyuki Show, Solution Sacco has demonstrated its excellence by securing multiple prestigious awards. This accolade underscores its position as a leader in the financial sector.

These accolades include recognition for the Best Cooperative Movement/Sacco Stand, excellence in display and representation within the Insurance Services Stand, the best stand in Property and Real Estate, and the award for the stand that best interprets the current show theme in the financial industry.

These awards are a testament to Solution Sacco's unwavering dedication to its members and its leadership within the industry. With an array of robust financial products, Solution Sacco provides unparalleled opportunities to grow your wealth and secure your future.

Investing in Solution Sacco shares is not merely a financial decision but a step toward financial independence and security. Diversifying your investment portfolio with these shares enables you to tap into the stability



Meru Governor Kawira Mwangaza presents a trophy to a jubilant Solution Sacco team during the Meru ASK National Show

and growth potential that Solution Sacco consistently delivers.

Solution Sacco shares offer numerous benefits that make them a smart choice for any savvy investor.

One of the significant advantages is the assurance of a secure retirement. Solution Sacco shares are designed to provide a reliable source of passive income, ensuring a comfortable and stress-free life after years of hard work.

As a member of Solution Sacco, you gain access to a suite of exclusive services, including low-interest loans and financial education. These services empower you to

make informed financial decisions and take control of your financial future.

Moreover, Solution Sacco shares offer high dividend returns, with rates reaching up to 15%.

This impressive return on investment means your money not only remains secure but also grows significantly over time.

Additionally, investing in Solution Sacco shares grants you ownership and control.

As a shareholder, you become a member-owner, allowing you to participate in decision-making processes and have a say in the direction of the Sacco.

For those looking to make their savings work harder, the Solution Sacco Fixed Account presents a compelling option.



Solution Sacco staff showcase the various excellence awards scooped during the show

Unlike traditional savings accounts, a fixed account with Solution Sacco offers a higher interest rate and greater flexibility, ensuring that your money does not sit idle.

The Solution Sacco Fixed Account provides an attractive annual interest rate of 13%, which is significantly higher than what is typically offered by conventional savings accounts.

Furthermore, Solution Sacco allows you to choose a fixed deposit term that aligns with your financial goals, offering flexibility without compromising returns.

Solution Sacco's recent awards reflect a steadfast commitment to providing exceptional financial solutions and services. They serve as a reminder of Sacco's mission to support the financial well-being of its members.



Solution Sacco team had the privilege to host Governor Kawira Mwangaza and Meru ASK Chairman Stanley Ng'entu who visited their colorful stand at the Meru National ASK Show

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|----------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 50,000-300,000 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 300,001-500,000 | 7.25 | 8.25 | 9.25 | 10.25 |
| 500,001-1,000,000 | 8.5 | 9.5 | 10 | 10.5 |
| 1,000,001-5,000,000 | 10.25 | 10.75 | 11 | 12 |
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Meet the new focused, visionary VC of the iconic KeMU

By Ann Rita Murugi

Kenya Methodist University (KeMU) is abuzz with excitement as it welcomes its new Vice Chancellor, Prof. John Kobia Ataya, a distinguished scholar known for his bravery, sagacity, and exceptional academic credentials.

With a doctorate and a decade of leadership experience, Prof. Ataya embodies KeMU's vision of nurturing professionals and transformational leaders as well as leading the institution towards a new era of innovation and integrity.

His impressive track record in research and strategic leadership, coupled with a deep commitment to the university's Christian values, signals a new era of transformational leadership.

His intellectual acumen and bold approach to education are anticipated to catalyze groundbreaking research and foster an environment where knowledge thrives.

Who is Prof Ataya?

As KeMU embarks on this ambitious journey, the academic community eagerly anticipates the transformative impact Prof. Ataya will bring. But who is this remarkable individual?

In the serene region of Meru, Prof. Ataya's story of resilience and scholarly excellence began.

Born into a humble background, his journey from Ntalami Primary School to Miathene Boys High School in Tigania West is a testament to the indomitable human spirit.

Despite financial hardships, his thirst for knowledge led him to St. Paul's University, where he earned a degree in theology and specialized in Greek language.

His relentless pursuit of knowledge took him to the University of Birmingham, where he earned a master's degree and a PhD.

"I have studied Linguistics, religious studies and translation with thesis studies of Kimeru Bible translation," he shares.

His dedication made him the family breadwinner despite being the youngest sibling.

Prof. Ataya's career in higher education began in January 1997 at KeMU, teaching Greek language.

After earning his PhD, he was promoted to lecturer in 2006. His roles included chair of departments, pioneer of distance learning at KeMU, registrar of academic affairs, and later



A photo of the serene environment at Kenya Methodist University Main Campus

Deputy Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs. He also served as the chairperson of the Karatina University Council and Acting Chancellor of Karatina University.

Prof. Ataya's journey also included a tenure as Vice Chancellor of Great Lakes Regional University in Uganda. "I did not finish my term because of the Corona outbreak in 2020 that led

amplify our capabilities in combating these ailments," he states.

Student Experience and Safety

Recognizing the importance of a positive campus life, Prof. Ataya plans to work in partnership with the KeMU Students Organization (KeMUSO) in a bid to address issues affecting the learners.



The new Kenya Methodist University Vice Chancellor Prof. John Ataya in a recent interview with *The County Focus*

to the shutting down of the world," he notes. Since assuming his position as KeMU's Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ataya is poised to elevate the university to new heights.

His vision includes ensuring world-class programs, maintaining quality education, and fully implementing the curriculum.

Research and Innovations

Prof. Ataya aims to usher in a new era of research and innovation at KeMU. He plans to establish the first-ever diagnostic center in the county, focusing on diseases like cancer.

"We seek to unite with esteemed partners to

Prof. Ataya is passionate about student experience and safety, recognizing the importance of providing a positive campus life experience.

He plans to collaborate with the KeMU Students Organization to understand their activities, funding sources, and programs. He also emphasizes the importance of fairness in grading and certification.

Support for Underrepresented Groups

Prof. Ataya is committed to fairness and transparency in student elections and leadership, providing scholarships and seeking bursaries for needy students. He highlights the

importance of skills alongside knowledge and advocates for regular curriculum revisions to keep pace with technological advancements.

Mental Health and Wholeness

Prof. Ataya's approach includes addressing mental health issues aggravated by drug and substance abuse. He emphasizes the importance of a balanced support system and the need for conducive social setups, including church attendance, to promote holistic well-being.

Technology and Inclusivity

Prof. Ataya aims to ensure KeMU embraces technology and inventions, collaborating with stakeholders like Safaricom and Google.

"We must find a way of securing the examination process and ensuring timely delivery of exams including those taking distance learning," he adds.

Staff and Community Collaboration

The new University head values the staff and students as KeMU's greatest assets. He pledges to work collaboratively with all stakeholders, including the local community, to ensure the university's financial viability and sustainability.

New Programs and Alumni Involvement

Under Prof. Ataya's leadership, KeMU plans to introduce new academic programs, including a Bachelor of Law at the Nairobi Campus and a Bachelor of Economics and Political Science at the Meru campus. He also aims to harness the power of KeMU's alumni network for the university's development.

Long-term Goals

In the next 5 to 10 years, Prof. Ataya envisions KeMU as a world-class university recognized globally for its academic excellence, research innovations, and societal contributions. His blueprint includes diversifying revenue streams, enhancing employability, and fostering a spirit of philanthropy within the alumni network.

With a clear-eyed focus on the future, Prof. Ataya's roadmap positions KeMU to navigate present challenges and emerge as a beacon of knowledge and progress in the decades to come.



Professor Ataya speaks to the *County Focus* Newspaper team, Ms Ann Rita Murugi (centre) and Mr Antony Rugendo (right in suit), during an interview recently



VC Ataya stresses a point during the interview

Tharaka Nithi

Universities unite to combat climate change, prevent disasters

By Harun Mugambi

The Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice concluded at Chuka University with a resounding call for increased climate financing and enhanced youth engagement in climate action.

Gathering participants from across the globe, the event highlighted the critical role of young leaders in addressing global climate challenges.

Founded by the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) four years ago, the Nairobi Summer School has graduated over 1,500 alumni who continue to champion climate justice across Africa and beyond. This year's program, held in partnership with seven universities in the Mount Kenya region, focused on integrating climate education into Kenya's educational curriculum.

During the opening of the event Education Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu emphasized the importance of climate education during, highlighting its role in equipping young people with the knowledge and skills necessary for sustainable development and resilience building.



Participants during the Nairobi Summer School for Climate Justice training at Chuka University

Throughout the two-week course, participants engaged in practical modules aimed at promoting grassroots organizing and community action. Dr Mithika Mwenda, Executive Director at PACJA, reiterated the school's impact on global climate dialogues and its role in nurturing future climate leaders.

The closing ceremony reiterated Kenya's efforts to reform financial frameworks to facilitate access to climate funds, essential for implementing nationally determined contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. Discussions underscored the challenges faced by developing nations in securing adequate resources for climate initiatives.

In parallel, a recent Town Hall session brought together experts and stakeholders from eight universities in the Mount Kenya

region to discuss climate disaster adaptation and mitigation strategies. Organic waste, power plants, deforestation, overfishing, and offshore drilling were identified as major contributors to climate change,

exacerbating global temperatures, extreme weather events, and rising sea levels.

Prof Anne Andayi Sande, a disaster management specialist at Chuka University, stressed the importance of understanding hazards such as fires, floods, earthquakes, and droughts, which disproportionately affect vulnerable communities. Proposed measures included comprehensive planning, risk assessment, public awareness campaigns, infrastructure improvements, and insurance schemes.

The Town Hall also emphasized the pivotal role of education and training in enhancing community resilience, integrating early warning systems, and fostering effective response strategies such as emergency relief and coordinated communication efforts.

PACJA Executive



Chuka University VC Prof. Henry Mutembei addresses participants during the Nairobi Summer School for Climate Justice training

Director Mithika Mwenda underscored the urgency of youth involvement in climate action, stating, "Climate change presents not just an environmental challenge, but a profound economic, livelihood, and agricultural crisis with moral imperatives."

Chuka University Vice Chancellor Prof. Henry Mutembei reaffirmed the institution's commitment to facilitating dialogue on climate change and disaster management, emphasizing their influence on national policies and the promotion of environmental sustainability.



A trainer lectures learners during the Nairobi Summer School for Climate Justice



Cohort IV learners during the Nairobi Summer School for Climate Justice in Chuka University

Elders urge Gen-Z to forgive MPs, call for reconciliation

Isiolo

By Ann Rita Murugi

In a bid to steer the country forward, a group of elders from Isiolo communities has called on the youth to forgive Members of Parliament who voted for the unpopular Finance Bill 2024.

Led by National Council of Elders Treasurer Ahmed Sett, the elders believe that reconciliation is key to moving forward and that the legislators have shown a willingness to listen to their constituents by rejecting a salary increment proposed by the Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC).

"We appreciate the recent protests led by the youth, which have shown that leaders are slowly embracing accountability and following the right path," Sett said. "It is prudent that we forgive them because they have realized their mistakes and are willing to learn from them."

The elders also urged citizens to allow politicians to redeem themselves and exercise



Some of the elders led by National Council of Elders Treasurer Ahmed Sett address the media in Isiolo town

their powers on the ballot in 2027 if they fail to protect their interests.

They faulted politicians for allegedly planting goons to disrupt peaceful protests, resulting in deaths, looting, and destruction of properties

across the country.

Noting that continued violence during the protests has created fear and tension in the country, the elders implored leaders to cease interfering with citizens exercising their democratic rights.

"Every Kenyan, regardless of their position, is bound by the law. Officers who failed to uphold human rights by killing innocent unarmed youths must be

held accountable," Sett emphasized.

Borana Council of Elders Chairperson Abdulahi Gonjobe added that Kenya is a peaceful country that has always offered

asylum to citizens experiencing unrest in neighbouring countries and must be protected from descending into anarchy.

"The young people have raised concerns, some of which the President has promised to address. We beseech them to call off protests and embrace dialogue," he said.

Samburu elder Joyce Nairesiae called for responsible parenting to ensure children become responsible citizens.

"As elders, we must instil values in our children that will help them become responsible members of society," she said.

The elders' plea comes as Kenya continues to grapple with the aftermath of protests that turned violent, resulting in loss of lives and property damage.

The government has been urged to expedite investigations into the death of protesters killed by police officers and take action against those responsible.

MNP holds 5th graduation with first CBET cohort passing out

By County Focus Reporter

In a vibrant display of pomp and colour, Meru National Polytechnic celebrated its 5th graduation ceremony, marking a major milestone in its journey towards providing high-quality education and training.

The ceremony saw 5034 highly qualified students receive their Diplomas and Certificates, making them the first batch of graduates under the innovative Competency-Based Education and Training (CBET) curriculum.

Meru National Polytechnic's Chief Principal, Mutembei Kigige, hailed the transition to CBET as a groundbreaking approach that focuses on practical skills and real-world applications.

"Today, we celebrate the fruition of a dream as we present the first cohort of competent graduates who have been trained, assessed, and certified under the CBET curriculum," he said.



Graduands celebrates the 5th Meru National Polytechnic Graduation Ceremony

The Polytechnic has made significant strides in adopting innovative education methods, including Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), which acknowledges the diverse backgrounds of learners and enables them to acquire formal qualifications that match their knowledge and skills.

This approach has broken down barriers in education, enhancing employability, mobility, lifelong learning, and social inclusion.

The institution has also been accredited as a Qualification Awarding Institution (QAI) by the Government, a testament to its commitment to providing high-quality education and training that meets national and international standards. With over 47 approved CBET curricula, Meru Polytechnic is well on its way to becoming a leader in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Kenya.

The ceremony was graced by Dr. Esther Thaara Muoria, Principal Secretary of the State Department for Technical and Vocational Training (SD-TVET), who lauded the polytechnic for aligning with the CBET module and emphasizing practical and industrial exposure.

In his remarks, the Chairperson of the Meru National Polytechnic Council, Dr. Anthony Njagi, emphasized the importance of strong industry partnerships in providing

students with valuable internships, apprenticeships, and real-world project experiences.

"We ensure that our graduates are not only knowledgeable but also job-ready and adaptable to the ever-changing demands of the workforce," he emphasized.

As Meru Polytechnic looks to the future, it is clear that its



Principal Kigige addresses attendants at the graduation ceremony

commitment to providing high-quality education and training will enable learners to acquire relevant skills that meet the needs of the job market, ultimately contributing to Kenya's economic growth and development.



Meru National Polytechnic Principal Mutembei Kigige (left) and Principal Secretary, state department of TVET Dr. Esther Thaara Muoria during the schools' graduation ceremony



PS Muoria issues a TVET certificate to a Meru National Polytechnic graduate

Isiolo

Verdict looms for man accused of Killing Isiolo-based activist



Meru Law Courts: The court is set to determine the fate of a man accused of stabbing Isiolo-based human rights activist

By County Focus correspondent

In a gripping courtroom drama, the fate of Patrick Naweet, the man accused of fatally stabbing Isiolo-based human rights activist Elizabeth Ekaru, hangs in the balance.

The Meru High Court presided over by Judge Edward Murithi, heard compelling arguments from both sides. Defence lawyer Hillary Mugambi passionately asserted Naweet's innocence, claiming that the act

was an act of self-defence provoked by circumstances. Zainab Kombo, representing the deceased's family, stood resolute as the lead counsel. Prosecution Counsel Erick Masila painted a vivid picture of the crime scene, emphasizing the excessive force used by the accused.

The multiple injuries inflicted on Ekaru's thighs and hands, he argued, indicated that she had desperately shielded herself from repeated attacks.

Masila cited consistent and credible testimony from several witnesses, all pointing to Naweet's culpability.

The defence invoked customary law, urging the court to consider the context where men oppress women, an argument Masila

dismissed as unreasonable.

He maintained that the excessive force employed by Naweet was neither necessary nor reasonable.

Mugambi countered, suggesting that manslaughter, not murder, should be the charge. According to him, the accused had been choked by the deceased before resorting to his weapon. He criticized the incomplete police investigation regarding the disputed land ownership.

Witness Vincent Mutua, a DCI officer, provided crucial evidence. His photographs captured the aftermath of the incident, revealing a blood-stained knife hidden in the thicket.

Dr. Mohammed Abdikadir, who conducted the postmortem, testified about Ekaru's extensive injuries. Her brain had a

10cm-deep wound, her thigh a 20cm cut, and her right hand another wound. Major blood vessels were affected, leading to fatal bleeding.

As the court awaits the DNA results from the Government Chemist, the question remains: Was Naweet acting in self-defence or committing murder? The verdict, set for July 25, 2024, will determine the fate of both the accused and victim



Human rights activists stand outside the Meru Law Court

The mystique behind Meru Town's name: Mutindwo Kangangi

By Harun Mugambi

In the annals of history, Meru Town emerges as a gem, its roots stretching back to the pivotal year of 1908.

It was during this time that Edward Butler Horne, the intrepid first colonial District Commissioner, arrived in the verdant lands of what would become the heart of Meru County. Tucked away in Kenya's former Eastern Province, Meru town is a thriving administrative centre and commercial hub that has undergone significant transformations since its humble beginnings in 1908.

The town stands tall as the administrative hub of Meru County, ranking as the country's seventh-largest urban area.

Wrapped in the embrace of the northeast slopes of majestic Mount Kenya, this vibrant town is home to over 80,000 as per data from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics dated 2019.

Geographically, Meru Town is a sight to behold, with its coordinates at 0.047035 degrees north and 37.649803 degrees east.

The soothing Kathita River meanders nearby, dividing administrative facilities to the north and residential areas to the south of its tranquil waters.

As the country's seventh-largest urban area, and home to Ameru people, a proud Bantu ethnic group, harmoniously coexisting with a mosaic of diverse cultures, religions, and backgrounds, Meru town commonly known as *Mutindwa jwa Kangangi* boasts as one of the most famous towns in the Country.

But have you ever wondered how this vibrant town got its name? Let's embark on a journey to uncover the fascinating story of Meru Town's moniker.

The Arrival of Edward Butler Horne

In 1908, Edward Butler Horne, the first colonial District Commissioner, arrived in the Meru region, marking the beginning of a new era for the area.

Born in 1881, Horne was known for his adventurous spirit and hunting prowess. He spent years in Canada and Wyoming, working as a lumberjack and ranch hand before turning his attention to Africa.

Horne, fondly dubbed "Kangangi" by the locals due to his diminutive stature and perpetual wanderlust, quickly endeared himself to the community.

Unlike his predecessors who preferred settled abodes, Horne alias Kangangi was always on the move, traversing the rugged landscapes from Chuka to Igembe, ensuring justice and progress followed in his wake.

From Mutindwa to Mutindwa jwa Kangangi

Initially, the area was known as Mutindwa, which means "a place where people go to while away."

This name was derived from the traditional gathering spot for Meru warriors, where they would prepare for potential attacks from neighboring communities.

According to local lore passed down through generations, Meru Town owes its name to a



Njuri Ncheke monument located along Njuri Ncheke street in Meru Town

strategic decision made by 'Kangangi' (Horne) himself.

The name Mutindwa Jwa Kangangi (Mutindwa of the little wanderer) was coined due to Horne's constant travels across the district, enforcing laws and promoting education.

M'Rutere, 85 years old, notes.

Horne's penchant for wandering reflected his efforts to establish law and order in the region, as recounted by Nathan Mwenda, 72, a former councillor.

"The Meru community affectionately called him 'Kangangi,' meaning 'the little wanderer,'



A section of Njuri Ncheke Street in Meru Town

"There is another place called Mutindwa Jwa Mbogori in Chogoria, but what sets Mutindwa Jwa Kangangi apart is its association with a white man who governed the area," Stanley



Stanley M'Rutere

due to his short stature and constant travels across the district. Unlike the settled ridge-top communities of the Meru people, Kangangi was always on the move, enforcing bans on traditional brews, promoting education, and modernizing the region. The Miriti and Riungu age sets bestowed this nickname upon him." Mr Mwenda adds.

Horne's Legacy

Seeking a secure location for administrative purposes, Horne chose a ridge near the Kathita River-elevated, easily defensible, and blessed with fertile lands. This spot, formerly known as Kaithe, was christened Mutindwa Jwa Kangangi in honor of the esteemed commissioner who shaped its destiny.

Horne's arrival brought significant changes to

the area. He built a permanent camp at Mwitari's homestead, which would eventually become the nucleus of modern Meru Township.

The Construction of the First Stone House

Horne's office was built using local materials and became the first stone-constructed house in the area. The building now serves as the Meru National Museum, which was established in 1916.

The museum has undergone several renovations and now preserves the town's rich history and cultural heritage.

A Brief History of Meru Town

Over the decades, Meru Town blossomed into a bustling urban center, its growth spurred by a favourable climate and strategic connections to Nairobi via the B6 road and Isiolo International Airport.

From its humble beginnings as a colonial outpost to its current stature as a pivotal player in Kenya's economic landscape, Meru Town continues to thrive as a living testament to the enduring spirit of its namesake and the resilience of its people.

Today, Meru Town thrives as a bustling commercial and educational hub in Northern and Eastern Kenya.

Its favourable subtropical highland climate, strategic location, and vibrant economic landscape have made it a beacon for agriculture and tourism.

With its strategic location, the town also serves as a gateway to Samburu and Buffalo Springs National Reserves, Lewa Conservancy, and Meru National Park.

From its exquisite hotels to its array of financial institutions, Meru Town offers a dynamic blend of modernity and tradition.

Educationally, the town nurtures young minds through a network of schools and higher learning institutions, setting the stage for a bright future.

The town is home to numerous schools, technical institutions, and universities, including the Meru University of Science and Technology (MUST) Meru Town Campus, Mount Kenya University, and Kenya Methodist University (KeMU) among others. Non-governmental organizations like Ripples International play a crucial role in advocating for education among vulnerable children.



Nathan Mwenda

Kipyegon, Omanyara send warning to rivals ahead of 2024 Paris Olympics



Double world record holder Faith Kipyegon poses for a photo after setting a new world record in the women's 1500m race at the Paris Diamond League recently

By Ann Rita Murugi

Kenya is scheduled to compete at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris from July 26 to August 11. In light of this, Kenya's Faith Kipyegon has once again taken the globe by a storm after smashing the Women's 1500m world record at the Paris Diamond League.

Kipyegon clocked 3:49:04 to come home in first place, finishing ahead of Jessica Hull of Australia who put her personal best of 3:50:83 in second.

Laura Muir of Great Britain also clocked her personal best of 3:53:79 to finish in third place.

This is the fourth time in under a year that Kipyegon - a two-time Olympics 1500m champion has broken a world record.

Kipyegon began the season in style, clocking 3:53:98 during the national trials for the Olympics held in the month of June in Paris.

The two-time world 1500m champion is also the mile world record holder, after clocking 4:07:64 at the Monaco Diamond League in France.

Kipyegon will be representing the country in the women's 5000m at this month's Paris Games and is hopeful for more of the same crowd support on her return to the French capital for the quadrennial games.

"The crowd was really cheerful, that was why the energy was so strong, it is really pushing us towards the finish line. With my injury I was really scared, because I didn't know if I was going to make it. But I took my time and trusted my team and stayed out of competition for long. I will absolutely do the double in Paris, in the 1500m and 5000m," Kipyegon said.

The other Kenyan in the race, Susan Ejore, warmed up for her Olympics debut with a sixth-place finish on a personal best of 3:57:26. Elsewhere, Commonwealth Games 100m champion Ferdinand Omanyala continued his

quest for glory at the Paris Olympics with a win at the FBK Games in Hengelo, the Netherlands.

Omanyala clocked 10.01 to cut the tape, and finish ahead of United States' Ronnie Baker (10.03) in second place and Canada's Andre de Grasse (10.07) in third place.

Omanyala is rubbing his hands with glee at the prospect of a historic performance in the Paris Games, with this being the first race for the



Commonwealth Games 100m champion Ferdinand Omanyala celebrate after winning the 100M race in Hengelo, the Netherlands

African record holder since he clocked a season's best of 9.79 at the national trials for the Paris Olympics at the Nyayo National Stadium, in June.

In the men's 5000m, Kenya's Nicholas Kimeli clocked 13.02.25 to finish second, behind Haile Telahun who crossed the line in 13.01.12.

Ethiopia's Tadese Worku, took third spot in 13.02.56 and Cornelius Kemboi of Kenya coming in fourth clocking 13.09.76.

Kimeli will represent Kenya in the Men's 10,000m at the Olympics, alongside Daniel Mateiko and Bernard Kibet.

Flying doctor: The medic who makes difference on and off the soccer pitch



Dr Stone Guard of Honor at Kinoru stadium during Regional League match between Al azizia and Meru police / Photo by Empress Damah

By Dominic Gitari

In sports, some are known for their exceptional skills on the field, but some make a difference off the field. Dr Johnstone Kimathi, affectionately known as Dr. Stone, is one such individual.

Dr Stone has been volunteering his services to injured players for over a decade as a doctor by profession and sports physiotherapy expert.

Known for his selfless dedication to his craft, Dr Stone has worked with various teams, including Chogoria Allstars, Tharaka Nithi County KYISA teams, and even the Harambee Stars U17 team during their travels to Rwanda and Morocco for international tournaments.

The medic's passion for sports is evident in his work, and he takes pride in making a positive impact on the lives of young athletes.

"I am happy when I make someone happy, but not when someone makes me happy," Dr

Stone quotes, revealing his selfless nature.

Dr Stone's remarkable journey began when he started working with Chogoria Allstars during their Division I tournaments.



Dr stone attends to an injured Al Azizia FC player

He has since become an integral part of the team, providing medical assistance whenever needed. His dedication has earned him the nickname "The Flying Doctor," and he is widely respected in the sporting community.

In his free time, Dr Stone can be found at various pitches in Tharaka Nithi, Embu, and Meru Counties, where he offers his services to young athletes.

His slogan, "Mungu mbele," reflects his optimism about the future of sports in the region.

"I would like to extend my gratitude to the County governments for their support of sports and request more volunteers to join me in various areas of support. I believe that with the help of dedicated individuals young sportspersons can realize their potential and nurture their talents," Dr Stone says.

Dr Stone's selfless dedication to his craft and his passion for making a difference in the lives of young athletes make him an inspiration to many.



Dr stone attending to an injured Meru Police FC player

Dominic Gitari is a sports enthusiast/promoter with wide experience in grassroots football.

GVN Kawira confronted by two key counts as MCAs initiate third impeachment bid

...from page 2

- w. Documents evidencing illegal appointments.
- x. Documents relating to the appointment of Vincent Murithi Kirimi in the office of the Governor, and
- y. Petition to the County Assembly by residents of Meru County (No. 5 of 2023), a copy of which is produced on pages 426 to 496 of the Exhibits.



Meru County Assembly Minority Whip DMK Kiogora addresses the Media shortly after the motion to impeach Governor Kawira was tabled by nominated MCA Zipporah Kinya aka ZK

Count 2: Misappropriation and Misuse of County Resources

The Governor has grossly violated (among others) Articles 10, 73, 201, 226 (5), and 232 of the Constitution, sections 8, 12, 13 (1) and of the Leadership and Integrity Act, 2012, and sections 45 (2) and 46 of the Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Act by engagement, connivance and/or complicity in:

1. The irregular payment of emergency call allowances to 161 doctors and medical officers using the wrong rates leading to excessive payment of Kshs. 74,340,000, contrary to sections 45 (2) and 46 of the Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Act, sections 11 and 15 of the Public Officer Ethics Act and section 12 (1) of the Leadership and Integrity Act;
2. Use of manual payroll to pay personnel emoluments amounting to Kshs102.94 million (3.1% of Personnel Emoluments costs) contrary to Section 6.7.6 of the County Financial Accounting and Reporting Manual;
3. Employing a bloated workforce, of at least 111 personal staff in the office of the Governor, thus contributing to an increase in the wage bill by more than Kshs500 million, and an excessive wage Bill that is 49% of the annual revenue allocation far beyond the 35% limit set by section 25(1)(a) and (b) of the Public Finance Management (County Governments) Regulations, 2015; and

4. Paying Kiambi Christus Manyara, a Public Communication Officer in the office of the Governor his full salary and benefits while in remand and despite being accused of murder contrary to section 4.2 of the Public Service Commission Discipline Manual for the Public Service.

Evidence of the Governor's engagement, connivance and/or complicity in the preceding gross violations of the above cited provisions of the law is to be found in:

- a. The Report of the Auditor General on County Executive of Meru for the year ended 30th June 2023.
- b. The Report by the Controller of Budget on County Governments Budgets Implementation Review Report for the first nine months FY 2023/24 dated April 2024.
- c. Pay slips for Kiambi Christus Manyara.
- d. The Public Service Commission Discipline Manual for the Public Service, and
- e. The Chargesheet in Kiambu High Court Criminal Case No. E001 of 2024, down the county government.

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