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Mutuma's Dream Team



Hon. Mutuma M'Ethigia-
Governor Meru County



Hon Linda Kiome Gitonga-
Deputy Governor Meru County



Dr. Esther Rukunga –CECM
Education, Science, Culture, and Arts



Advocate Baptista Kanyaru Muriki
CECM- Water, Irrigation, Environment,
Natural Resources, and Climate Change



David Baariu – CECM
Roads, Transport, and Energy



Joy Karwitha Kiugu-CECM
Lands, Physical Planning, Urban
Development, and Public Works



Advocate Maranya Domisioano Mari
-CECM Legal Affairs, Public Service
Management, and Administration



Rev. Carol Kareia Kaberia – CECM
Trade, Tourism, and Cooperatives



Dr. Dennis Muriungi Mugambi
CECM- Health Services



Monica Kaithiori Kathono-CECM
Finance, Economic Planning, and ICT



**Elias Murega – CECM Youth, Sports,
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Story on page 2...



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Meru County ushers in a new era of leadership and development

By Nancy Kinoti

Meru County has made a huge stride with the swearing-in of new County Executive Committee Members (CECMs), clearing the way for a new era of governance based on unity, integrity, and sustainable development. The historic ceremony, which was overseen by Governor Mutuma M'ethingia, marked a renewed commitment to service and transformation.

Nine CECMs took the oath of office on April 24, and subsequently Joy Karwitha Kiugu took the oath on May 6 as CECM for Lands, Physical Planning, Urban Development, and Public Works. This larger leadership team is endowed with vast expertise and experience in various areas and paves the way for the development of Meru.



Governor Mutuma speaking during the CECMs swearing in at the Governor's residence.

A Gathering of Leaders and Thinkers

The swearing-in ceremony drew the presence of local politicians, religious leaders led by Bishop Mburia, distinguished professors from Chuka University and Meru University, and leaders of other learning institutions. Through their presence, they underscored the common wish for collaboration between the government, universities, and the community



Bishop Edward Buria of Kambakia Christian Centre

in developing the county's future.

The church leaders and Njuri Ncheke Council of Elders praised the governor for fostering peace, unity, and inclusive leadership. They noted that there has been a dramatic change for the better in Meru, with political stability and a restored investor-friendly climate since Governor M'ethingia took office. Investors



Governor Mutuma with the Meru County assembly led by speaker Ayub Bundi [holding a mic] the newly sworn in CECMs, county secretary Dr Kiambi Atheru and the Kenyan ambassador to Somalia Kubai Kiringo

who had withdrawn from Meru are now returning to do business, thanks to the county's forward-looking policies and enhanced governance approach.

A Leadership Dedicated to Service

The new CECMs, while being sworn into office, pledged to serve diligently and with integrity and to strive to develop Meru County through viable policies and programs. The leaders personally committed to prioritizing development in their respective departments for the actual advancement of the people of the county.

Governor M'ethingia outlined key priorities that will drive Meru to a transformation, and they are:

Healthcare: Taking Meru Teaching and Referral Hospital to Level Six status, improving medical services, and increasing access to quality health care.

Agriculture: Empowering farmers with innovative solutions, good market policies, and protecting them from exploitation.

Infrastructure & Urban Development: Expanding road networks, improving urban planning, and extending water supply systems to all homes.

Youth & Women Empowerment: Reviving the Meru Youth Service, computerization, and ensuring women are actively involved in governance and economic growth.

Trade & Tourism: Establishing Meru as a premier investment and tourist destination and consolidating local industries such as coffee and miraa farming.



Ambassador Kubai Kiringo

Strengthening the Miraa Farming Sector

A key feature of the event was an undertaking by the Kenyan Ambassador to Somalia, Kubai Kiringo, to work closely with the Meru County Government to protect miraa farmers and enable them to enjoy the full fruits of their labor.

The ambassador pointed to the elimination of miraa cartels, which have long exploited



Meru county staff attentive during their meeting with Governor Mutuma at Kinotu Stadium

farmers and hindered economic growth.

This commitment will provide farmers with greater market stability, fair prices, and access to export markets, particularly in Somalia, where miraa remains a strongly demanded commodity. Governor M'ethingia welcomed this collaboration, making a commitment to his government that they would be fully supportive of the enterprise to allow farmers to obtain value for their crops.

his government utmost cooperation to allow the county to recover lost time at the earliest opportunity due to unnecessary political differences.

The assembly renewed its commitment to walk hand in hand with the executive to accelerate development and reclaim Meru's reputation as a wealthy, progressive county. The message was straightforward—leaders had to focus on service delivery and tangible development rather than useless political distractions.

Besides, the Meru County Assembly urged the County Revenue Board to step up its revenue collection activities, with a focus on maximizing resources to spearhead development activities and county growth. Efficiency in revenue collection will ensure financial stability, allowing the administration to implement flagship programs that directly

benefit the people of Meru.

Governor M'ethingia Prioritizes Staff Welfare

Governor M'ethingia also had time to comment on staff welfare issues, recognizing the difficulties that had been encountered by county employees and promising to do better in the future. He assured workers that things would be run smoothly going forward, eradicating exploitation and promoting fair treatment for all employees.

The governor pledged timely salaries and better working conditions, observing that all county workers deserve respect and gratitude for their service. With a stable and favorable working environment, the administration hopes to enhance morale, boost productivity, and uphold professionalism in public service.

A Call for Accountability and Unity

Since unity is the cornerstone of his administration, Meru County is poised for change. As the new cabinet started working, the governor told them that leadership ought to reflect the aspirations of the people and shape the county's future with wisdom and diligence.

County Assembly Pledges Cooperation and Calls for Revenue Reforms

In a strong show of solidarity, the Meru County Assembly, led by Speaker Ayub Bundi, vowed to accord Governor Mutuma M'ethingia and



Hon Ayub Bundi- Speaker of the County Assembly of Meru



AAR HEALTHCARE



The health hub with Dr Kendi Kiogora

Breaking the Silence: Addressing Mental Health Stigma in Meru

By Dr. Kendi Kiogora

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, a time to spotlight an issue that affects millions but is often hidden behind closed doors. In Meru County, known for its hard work, resilience, and strong family ties, the reality of mental health struggles remains largely unspoken. Beneath the smiles and strength, many battle mental health challenges often in silence. But silence can be dangerous. It's time we talked openly about mental health because it touches every aspect of our lives, young and old, men and women, rich and poor alike.

Understanding Mental Health

Mental health is more than just the absence of illness, it's about our thoughts, emotions, and behaviors as we navigate life's challenges. Good mental health enables us to handle stress, connect with others, and make sound decisions. However, when mental health declines, it affects everything from relationships and work to physical well-being.

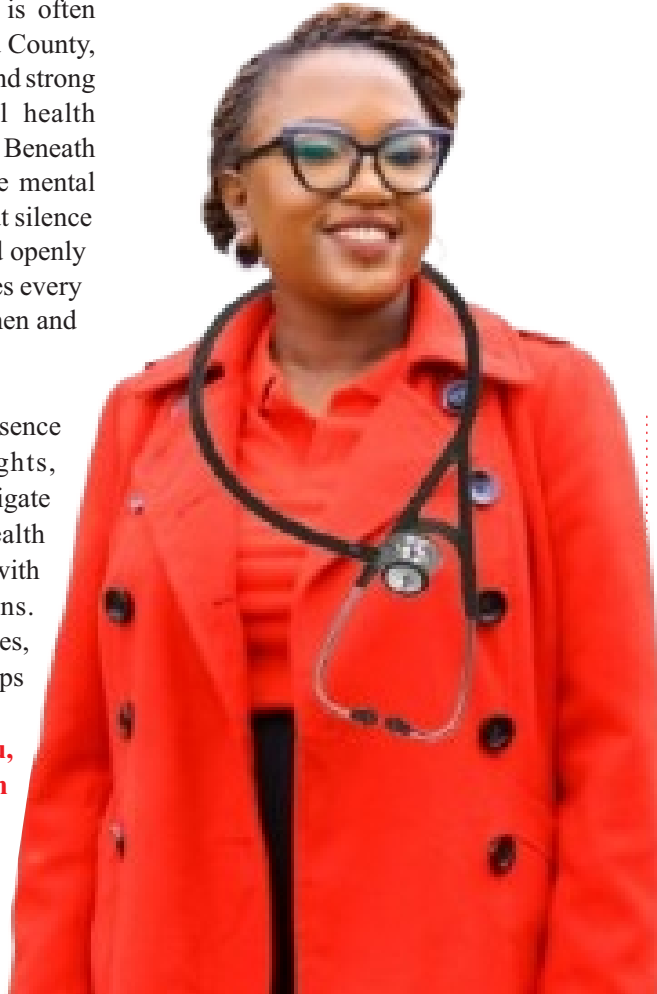
The Struggles We Face. In Meru, like elsewhere in Kenya, common mental health challenges include:

Depression—persistent sadness, feelings of hopelessness, and loss of interest in life.

Anxiety—constant worry, fear, and tension, sometimes without an apparent cause.

Substance abuse—turning to

alcohol and drugs to escape stress and trauma. Postpartum depression—often



Dr. Kendi Kiogora Health Center Manager ,
AAR Healthcare - Meru Clinic

dismissed, affecting mothers after childbirth.

The Silent Killer: Stigma

Despite the prevalence of mental illness, stigma remains its biggest enemy. Many fear being labeled "wazimu"(mad) or being abandoned by loved ones. This shame keeps people from seeking help, leading to worsening conditions and, in some cases, suicide. Mental illness, like diabetes or high blood pressure, deserves care and compassion—not judgment.

Recognizing the Signs

Understanding mental illness begins with recognizing the warning signs:

Emotional distress—persistent sadness, crying, or irritability.

Social withdrawal—avoiding family, friends, and community activities.

Drastic behavioral changes—shifts in mood, sleep, and appetite.

Suicidal thoughts—expressing feelings of worthlessness or discussing death.

Physical symptoms—constant headaches, stomach problems, or unexplained fatigue.

Seeking Help: A Path to Healing

The good news: mental health conditions are treatable. Therapy, counseling, and, in some cases, medication can help individuals regain stability and live fulfilling lives. But healing begins when we break the silence and encourage one another

to seek support.

What Can We Do as a Community?

To combat stigma and support mental health, we must:

Talk openly—bring mental health conversations into homes, schools, churches, and workplaces.

Listen with empathy—create safe spaces for people to share their struggles.

Encourage professional help—guide those in need toward counseling and mental health services.

Demand better care—advocate for improved county-level services, including public mental health centers.

Watch out for one another—sometimes, simply asking “Are you okay?” can save a life.

Final Word: You Are Not Alone

Our community's strength lies in the well-being of its people. By breaking the silence and supporting each other, we can make mental health a normal conversation—not a taboo.

If you or someone you know is struggling, reach out. Help is available. You are not alone. Because mental health is health—and everyone deserves care.

Dr. Kendi Kiogora is the Health Center Manager,
AAR Healthcare - Meru Clinic

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Setting the record straight: How fresh evidence cleared Meru National polytechnic Principal

By Gerald Mukembu

The forensic audit of Meru National Polytechnic initially cast a shadow over the institution, raising serious concerns about the mismanagement of Ksh 120 million tied to payroll irregularities and a faulty Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system. However, fresh evidence has now emerged, clearing Principal Mutembei Kigige of any wrongdoing in relation to the audit queries.



Mr. Mutembei Kigige- Principal- Meru National Polytechnic



The Meru National Polytechnic entrance

Early reports had placed Mr. Mutembei at the center of the controversy, but recent revelations have confirmed that the financial discrepancies under review occurred between 2020 and 2021, when Mr. Mutembei was serving as the Principal of Karumo Technical Training Institute. Importantly, he was not in a position of responsibility over the financial concerns referenced in the audit report; he only appeared before the National Assembly's Public Investments Committee (PIC) on Education as the current head of Meru National Polytechnic.

The audit findings originally highlighted four employees with duplicate KRA PINs, 17 workers with suspicious birthdates, and an officer who continued receiving higher pay despite being demoted, leading to an overpayment of Ksh 702,480. Additionally, one individual was found to be drawing salaries from two separate bank accounts, raising red flags over potentially fraudulent activity.

Despite the growing pressure, Mr. Mutembei maintained his integrity, and at the end of the PIC session, the chair directed the clerk to

summon former office holders to provide a clearer picture of the financial discrepancies. As a result, scrutiny shifted away from Mr. Mutembei, reaffirming that the issues stemmed from a period when other administrators were in charge.

It is worth noting that Mr. Mutembei's tenure at Karumo Technical Training Institute was marked by remarkable achievements. Under his leadership, Karumo gained national recognition and was named the Best TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) Institution in Kenya. His dedication to technical education was further recognized when he was awarded the prestigious Order of the Grand Warrior (OGW).

Stakeholders and the general public are now being urged to rely on verified information and to acknowledge Mr. Mutembei's unwavering commitment to educational excellence. His exoneration serves as a reminder that due process is vital in preserving the integrity of institutions and leaders alike.

A dream realized: Igoki Division becomes a reality

By Nancy Kinoti

The journey toward administrative independence for Igoki Division has been long and hard-fought. Established as a location in 1908, Igoki carried its identity for over a century, with generations of leaders and residents advocating for its elevation to a full-fledged division. After years of persistence, their dream finally came true when Igoki Division was officially gazetted on March 17, 2022, as part of Abogeta Sub-County.

Since that moment, anticipation has been building, culminating in an unforgettable day on May 2, 2025, when Igoki officially received its division status and welcomed its first-ever Assistant County Commissioner (ACC), Jonathan.



The new Igoki ACC Mr. Jonathan

The historic inauguration took place at Mwachione Lower Chure Primary School Grounds, led by Hon. Dr. Shadrack Mwiti, the Member of Parliament for South Imenti. The event drew a host of distinguished leaders, including Meru County Commissioner Jacob Ouma, Senator Kathuri Murungi, former Governor Kiraitu Murungi, and MCA Harun Thurairia. Njuri Ncheke elders and representatives from the Governor's office joined community members in celebrating this long-awaited achievement.

A Triumph of Unity and Persistence

Standing before the crowd, Hon. Dr. Shadrack Mwiti reflected on the immense efforts that had gone into realizing Igoki Division. He commended past and present leaders who fought tirelessly for the division's recognition and urged residents to embrace unity as they embarked on this new chapter.

"We must move forward together and ensure that Igoki thrives under its new administrative status," Dr. Mwiti declared, urging patience to allow elected leaders time to implement developmental plans.

His call for unity resonated with the crowd, who had seen the battle for Igoki's division



Hon Shadrack Mwiti receiving a gift from Igoki leaders accompanied by former Governor Kiraitu and the Count Commissioner Jacob Ouma

span decades. Many acknowledged the ACC office as a transformative milestone, one that would bring governance closer to the people and improve service delivery.

The Arrival of Jonathan: Igoki's First ACC



Meru County Commissioner Jacob Ouma

Among the many triumphs of the day was the introduction of Jonathan, the first Assistant County Commissioner for Igoki Division. With his appointment, Igoki now has dedicated leadership to oversee security coordination, administration, and public service delivery at the grassroots level. Residents expressed excitement and optimism, believing that this long-awaited office would enhance efficiency and governmental support for the region.

The Road Ahead

The historic inauguration marked not just the creation of an office but the start of a new era for Igoki. After 117 years as a location and three years since its gazettement, Igoki has finally stepped into its rightful place as a division.

For the residents who fought to see this day, the message was clear: the future is bright, and the foundation has been laid for even greater achievements. With leadership in place and administrative structures strengthening, Igoki Division is set to grow, ensuring better governance, faster service delivery, and more opportunities for development.



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The Pepea Na Capital Sacco Shares Promotion, launched in March last year, has been a landmark initiative encouraging financial empowerment and investment. Over the past year, this promotion has strengthened Capital Sacco, increasing member participation in shares investment while fostering cooperation and shared prosperity.



Capital Sacco CEO Bishop Stephen Murithi

The grand draw winners' awarding ceremony was a celebration of growth and achievement, attended by both current and former leaders of Capital Sacco. The CEO, Bishop Stephen Murithi took pleasure to welcome the dignified guests, members and staff.

Among the distinguished guests was Mr. Vincent Marangu, Director of Cooperative

Banking Division at Co-op Bank Kenya, who emphasized the pivotal role of cooperative banking in economic growth and financial inclusion.

Also present was Mr. Mugambi Sandi, Director of Cooperatives, Meru County, alongside Bishop Rev. Dr. Nicholas Mutwiri Nteere of the Methodist Church in Kenya – Kaaga Synod, and legal expert Mr. Mwenda Mwarania, and a representative of the CEO Meru Dairy all of whom championed the importance of Sacco investments and the long-term benefits of financial security through shares.

A special moment in the event was the attendance of Capital Sacco's former and the first CEO of Capital Sacco, Mr Kaburu and other past leaders, who expressed their joy over the remarkable growth of the Sacco. Their presence underscored Capital Sacco's journey of success, showcasing how cooperative banking has evolved over the years to benefit members.

Marketing Team's Role in Success

Notably, the marketing team played a crucial role in the success of the promotion, led by Marketing Manager Joy Nyawira. Their efforts in sensitizing members, promoting investment opportunities, and driving participation ensured that the promotion reached new heights of engagement and impact.

The Capital Sacco Chairman, Mr James Munyua also urged members to continue

supporting and investing with capital sacco. He also asked the non-members to join Capital Sacco for assured growth.

Exciting Rewards for Committed Investors

The grand draw was met with anticipation and excitement, as lucky members were awarded life-changing prizes, including: Shopping vouchers, easing household expenses, Airtime, ensuring seamless communication, Smart TVs, upgrading home entertainment, Laptops, supporting education and business needs, Refrigerators, enhancing convenience, Cows, supporting agricultural investments, Knapsack sprayers, empowering farmers, And the Grand Prize—A Brand-New Toyota Probox.

Celebrating the Grand Winner

The Toyota Probox winner, the Deliverance Church Kibirichia overwhelmed with emotion, expressed gratitude to Capital Sacco for the rewarding initiative.

Their investment not only secured them the top prize but also highlighted the true potential of cooperative investment. The Deliverance Church led by Rev Mbae Leon urged other members and those who are yet to join the Sacco to invest in capital shares and savings plans since it has proven to have handsome rewards.

A Bright Future for Capital Sacco Members

As the Pepea Na Capital Sacco Shares Promotion comes to a successful close, its impact on financial empowerment remains profound. With members reaping rewards for their investments, Capital Sacco continues to stand as a pillar of economic transformation, ensuring members' financial growth and cooperative banking success.

A heartfelt congratulations to all who took part in the Pepea Na Capital Sacco Shares Promotion by investing in shares. Your

dedication to securing a financially stable future is truly commendable. Through this commitment, you have not only strengthened your personal financial portfolios but also contributed to the growth and resilience of the cooperative movement. To our grand draw winners, this moment marks the culmination of your dedication and belief in the power of investment. As you celebrate this achievement, embrace the opportunities ahead, knowing that your commitment to financial empowerment has set the foundation for future success. Capital Sacco remains steadfast in its mission to empower members through cooperative banking, ensuring that investments continue to yield valuable returns for all. Together, we grow, we invest, and we succeed.

Congratulations
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| Paul Murithi | COW |
| Phyllis Gatakaa | LAPTOP |
| Eliphas Kiogora Mwit | FRIDGE |
| Kirimi Collins | 43" INCH TV SET |
| Aphaxard Gitonga | KNAPSACK SPRAYER |
| Upstate Kenya Auctioneers | MOTORBIKE |
| Kabutu Moses | KNAPSACK SPRAYER |
| Caroline Nkirote Murithi | LAPTOP |
| Damaris Makena Muthinja | 43" INCH TV SET |
| Rueben Mugambi Ireri | FRIDGE |
| Karwanda Simon Kubai | COW |
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Capital Sacco: Empowering financial growth and securing futures

For years, Capital Sacco has stood as a pillar of financial empowerment, providing members with reliable investment opportunities, savings plans, and access to affordable credit. As the institution continues to grow, it remains committed to securing the future of all its members from seasoned investors to young individuals seeking financial independence through the Vijana Account.

Invest in Shares—Build Long-Term Wealth
With shares priced at KSh 100 per share, Capital Sacco offers an avenue for members to invest, grow their wealth, and enjoy valuable financial benefits.

Investing in shares unlocks:

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Instant Access to Dividends – Withdraw a portion in advance to cover unexpected expenses.

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Quick and Hassle-Free Loan Processing – Get

financial support without unnecessary delays.

By purchasing shares, members not only strengthen their financial portfolios but also contribute to the cooperative movement, ensuring collective prosperity.

Comprehensive Insurance Plans for Financial Security

Beyond investment opportunities, Capital Sacco provides members with comprehensive insurance coverage, safeguarding assets and personal well-being.

The available insurance options include:

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Livestock Insurance – Securing valuable agricultural assets

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Access to Loans and Savings Plans – Helping young investors fuel their dreams with financial support.

Through the Vijana Account, Capital Sacco is helping young members embrace a culture of saving and investment, ensuring their financial independence.

Seamless Digital Banking Solutions

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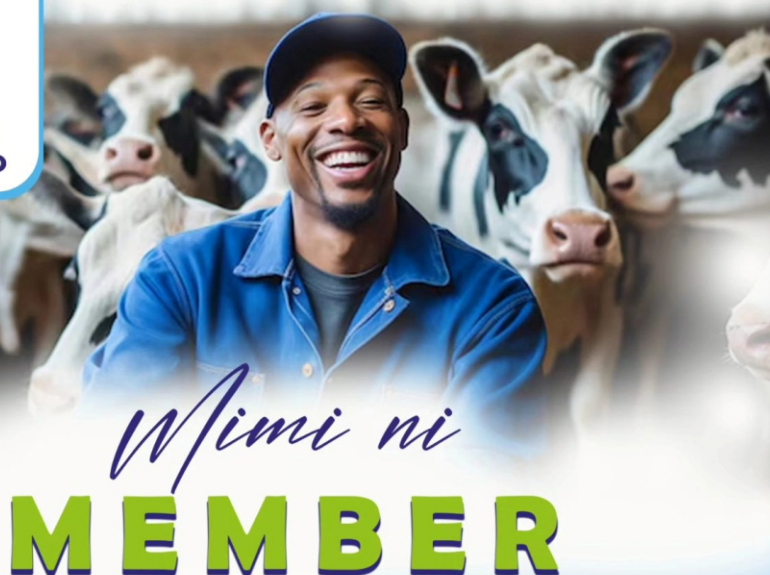
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Defending NG-CDF: communities unite to safeguard education and development

By Gerald Mukembu

After the High Court of Kenya declared the National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF) unconstitutional, ruling that it violates the principle of separation of powers, Kenyan leaders and residents have come forward in its defense, arguing that the fund plays a crucial role in grassroots development.

The ruling, issued after a petition filed by Wanjiru Gikonyo and Cornelius Opuot, ordered a halt to all NG-CDF projects by June 30, 2026. The petitioners had claimed that MPs had excessive control over the fund, allowing them to direct public resources without clear oversight. Despite the court's stance, supporters of NG-CDF insist that abolishing it would hurt local development, particularly in education and community infrastructure.

In Meru County, leaders and residents rallied to defend NG-CDF, highlighting its role in transforming schools and communities. During a public participation forum at NG-CDF offices in North Imenti, several headteachers expressed concern over the fund's potential removal, saying it would devastate learning institutions.

Local MP Rahim Dawood, alongside

nominated MP Dorothy Muthoni, dismissed allegations that NG-CDF misallocates funds, insisting that it has been instrumental in building classrooms, police stations, and providing bursaries to needy students. Muthoni praised MP Dawood for his transparent bursary issuance, urging Parliament to increase NG-CDF funding rather than abolish it.

"The fund has built classes at Gitoro Primary School, where I studied," she said. "Its impact is visible, and I fully support it."

Headteachers from different schools, including Mwiteria Primary School, echoed similar sentiments, noting that NG-CDF had modernized infrastructure, constructed toilets, and provided urgent solutions to school needs. Beyond Meru, leaders from various regions have also voiced their support for NG-CDF. National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula, along with MPs from the Western region, defended the fund, stating that it is a lifeline for grassroots development.

MPs have urged citizens to actively participate in public hearings to push for a constitutional amendment that would entrench NG-CDF, NGAFF (National Government Affirmative



Imenti North MP Rahim Dawood issuing bursary funds to beneficiaries in Imenti North Constituency

Action Fund), and Senate oversight funds, preventing future court rulings from scrapping them.

Despite opposition from civil society groups such as the Katiba Institute, MPs insist that NG-CDF remains one of the most effective tools in ensuring equitable development, filling gaps where county governments fail to meet local needs.

Supporters argue that NG-CDF has been directly responsible for improving education, offering scholarships and bursaries, building new classrooms, and ensuring modern facilities for students. Other sectors, including security, have benefitted from police station construction, helping to reinforce safety measures across constituencies.

Over the years, the National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF)

has played a pivotal role in shaping Kenya's education sector. Despite recent legal challenges, leaders and residents continue to highlight its profound impact on schools, students, and infrastructure, arguing that its removal would hinder grassroots development.

Beyond infrastructure and bursaries, NG-CDF has bridged gaps where county governments struggle to meet education needs. With its quick response to school development, leaders argue that NG-CDF should be enhanced rather than abolished.

Critics maintain that the fund undermines devolution, but defenders insist that NG-CDF complements county projects rather than competes with them.

As the debate continues, Parliament is set to review public submissions before making a final decision. After the High Court of Kenya declared the National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF) unconstitutional, ruling that it violates the principle of separation of powers, Kenyan leaders and residents have come forward in its defense, arguing that the fund plays a crucial role in grassroots development.

Sigh of relief for Isiolo residents as free cataract surgeries roll out

By Nancy Kinoti

Residents of Garbatula town and surrounding areas, including Kinna, Rapsu, and Duse, can finally see a brighter future, thanks to a week-long free eye screening and cataract surgery program. The initiative, aimed at eliminating avoidable blindness among elderly community members, is a joint effort between the County Government of Isiolo, Johnson & Johnson, and Operation Eyesight Universal.

travel to Isiolo or Meru, the Garbatula Sub-County Hospital Theatre has been identified as an ideal location for these crucial procedures.

"We saw it prudent to bring the services closer to the patients instead of making them incur further travel expenses," Nyongesa said. "Many people have been suffering in silence, and this initiative will restore their eyesight without financial burden." Hundreds Screened, Dozens Set for Surgery.



Experts at work during an operation on a patient

Bringing Eye Care Closer to the People According to Samson Nyongesa, the Johnson & Johnson program coordinator, Garbatula Sub-County was chosen due to its high prevalence of cataracts and other eye disorders. Rather than forcing patients to

The free eye care camp, led by Dr. Adan Mohamed, a cataract surgeon at Garbatula Sub-County Referral Hospital, has screened over 700 people so far. Out of these, 152 cases of cataracts have been diagnosed and scheduled for surgery this week at



A doctor attending to a patient with a cataract

the hospital's theatre.

The initiative doesn't end there—screenings and surgeries will continue in other Isiolo South locations, including Gafarsa, Malkadaka, Sericho, and Modogashe, with the goal of treating at least 1,000 people by the end of December. County Government Calls on Residents to Take Advantage Lucy Kaburu, Isiolo County's CECM for Health Services, urged residents to turn out in large numbers for the free services at Garbatula Hospital.

She thanked Johnson & Johnson and Operation Eyesight Universal for partnering with the county to provide critical eye care free of charge, acknowledging that eye surgeries remain expensive, making it difficult for many families to afford treatment. Apart from surgeries and screenings, patients requiring optical glasses will also receive them free of charge, thanks to the

initiative.

Residents Hail Life-Changing Initiative Among those benefiting from the program is Garbatula Hospital Board Chairman, Duba Kara, who underwent successful cataract surgery.

"This initiative will transform lives by restoring vision and giving people their independence back," Kara said. Nassir Shariff, another resident, expressed gratitude to the county and its partners, saying the program has lifted a huge burden off families whose loved ones had suffered from vision loss. "Seeing our relatives regain their sight at no cost is truly a relief," Shariff noted.

As the initiative expands to more areas, the county government hopes to continue addressing eye health challenges, ensuring thousands more regain their vision and lead healthier lives.



Building Meru Together



Meru County's commitment to development and excellence

A New dawn for Meru County

Governor Isaac Mutuma: Leading Meru's transformation with vision, integrity, and action

Meru County is experiencing a remarkable transformation under the leadership of Governor Isaac Mutuma. With over 60 days in office, his administration has ushered in a new era of political calmness, unity, and development, setting the foundation for a prosperous future. Guided by his slogan, "Building Meru Together," Governor Mutuma has prioritized inclusive governance, ensuring that every resident plays a role in shaping the county's progress.



Governor Mutuma M'Ethingia

His leadership is rooted in collaboration, transparency, and service, with a commitment to driving change across key sectors. His administration has already made significant strides in, Restoring Political Stability: Bringing leaders and communities together to foster unity and cooperation.

Agricultural Revitalization: Empowering farmers with modern techniques, improved resources, and fair market opportunities to make Meru an agricultural powerhouse.

Infrastructure Advancement: Expanding road networks, upgrading healthcare facilities, and ensuring access to essential services for all residents.

Youth Empowerment & Job Creation: Equipping young people with skills and opportunities to thrive in a competitive economy.

Ethical Governance: Strengthening transparency, accountability, and effective service delivery to create a county that thrives under honest leadership.

Governor Mutuma's leadership marks a fresh chapter for Meru—a chapter driven by innovation, determination, and an unwavering commitment to the people. His vision for transformation is not just a promise but a collective mission, bringing the county together to build a stronger, brighter future.

As Meru embarks on this exciting journey, citizens are inspired to work alongside their

new leader, ensuring that progress is not just imagined but realized. Under Governor Mutuma's stewardship, Meru County is set to thrive, making his administration the foundation of a legacy that will shape generations to come.

"Building Meru Together"—a call to unity, growth, and prosperity.

Great minds for Meru's prosperity

With helping minds like the capable Dr. Julius Mbijiwe, who also served as the MCA for Mwanganthia Ward, Meru County is set to rise to new heights under the leadership of Governor Isaac Mutuma. Guided by the powerful slogan "Building Meru Together," this administration is proving that unity, expertise, and ethical governance are the pillars of true transformation.

Dr. Mbijiwe, now serving as the Chief of Staff, brings a wealth of experience in governance and development. His deep understanding of project planning and management, coupled with his commitment to service, makes him a key figure in implementing Governor Mutuma's vision. His leadership ensures that county operations run efficiently, fostering a culture of accountability and progress.

Since taking office, Governor Mutuma's administration has already made significant strides in restoring political stability, fostering community unity, and driving economic growth. The county has seen renewed efforts in agriculture, with farmers receiving better support and resources to enhance productivity. Infrastructure projects are underway, improving roads, healthcare facilities, and access to essential services.

Dr. Mbijiwe's role in coordinating county



Dr. Julius Mbijiwe- Chief of staff Meru County

affairs has been instrumental in ensuring that development plans are executed effectively. His ability to bring leaders together and streamline operations has strengthened the county's governance structure, making it more responsive to the needs of the people.

Championing Community Initiatives to Strengthen Governor Mutuma's Vision for Meru's Transformation

Governor Isaac Mutuma M'Ethingia has embraced a hands-on leadership approach,



GVN Mutuma and the deputy governor Linda Kiome addressing residents in a past event

ensuring that Meru County remains open to opportunities, partnerships, and development initiatives. His active engagement with local leaders, his cabinet, the county assembly, national leaders, and investors has positioned Meru as a progressive and inclusive county.

Unlike traditional leadership styles that rely heavily on office meetings, Governor Mutuma has prioritized direct interaction with the people, fostering trust, collaboration, and transparency. His strong rapport with national leaders and investors ensures that Meru does not miss out on key benefits and development projects.

Since taking office, Governor Mutuma has made it his mission to restore investor confidence in Meru County. Many investors had previously abandoned the region due to political instability, but his administration has worked tirelessly to rebuild trust and create a business-friendly environment. In a recent address, he urged investors who had left Meru due to toxic leadership in previous years to return and help revitalize the county's

economy. His message was clear: Meru is open for business, and his administration is committed to fostering a stable and prosperous investment climate.

Beyond economic partnerships, Governor Mutuma has also focused on uniting Meru's leadership. Recognizing that cohesion among elected officials, religious leaders, and community elders is essential for progress and development, he has actively engaged with

leaders across different sectors to ensure collaborative governance. His leadership style is inclusive and consultative, ensuring that every stakeholder has a voice in shaping Meru's future.

His commitment to economic growth was further demonstrated in his recent engagement with the Meru Chamber of Commerce, where he explored ways to enhance the local business environment and create new opportunities for entrepreneurs and investors. During the meeting, he assured business leaders of his unwavering support, pledging to address pending bills and open new avenues for development that would benefit both local entrepreneurs and investors.

Governor Mutuma's open-door policy has transformed Meru into a thriving hub of investment, unity, and sustainable development. His leadership is breaking barriers, ensuring that every resident, leader, and investor feels valued and included in the county's progress.



Building Meru Together



Meru County's commitment to development and excellence

Leading by example in health and environmental transformation

Governor Isaac Mutuma M'Ethingia has emerged as a leader who leads by example, demonstrating his commitment to public service, health, and

forefront of a mass blood donation drive at the Meru County Headquarters, an initiative aimed at bolstering the county's healthcare system. The event, conducted in partnership

Rather than simply endorsing the campaign, Governor Mutuma personally donated blood, setting an example for county officials, healthcare workers, and residents. His message was clear: every drop counts, and every donation saves lives. He shared stories of individuals whose lives had been saved by timely blood transfusions, urging Meru residents to embrace the culture of donation as a community responsibility.

But his leadership extends beyond healthcare. On May 30, 2025, Governor Mutuma is set to lead the county's largest-ever clean-up campaign, dubbed "Ng'arisha Jiji – Meru Edition", at Gakoromone Market. This initiative, supported by NEMA, Kenya Red Cross, NextGen, and Grace Park Hospital, aims to restore cleanliness, order, and dignity in Meru's towns and trading centers.

Governor Mutuma has called on all residents—youth, elders, clergy, business owners, students, boda boda riders, and herders—to actively participate in this historic event. His leadership by example is expected to galvanize the community, reinforcing the idea that a clean environment

is essential for business, health, and overall well-being.

Through these initiatives, Governor Mutuma is proving that leadership is not just about making decisions—it is about taking action, standing with the people, and inspiring change. His hands-on approach to governance is setting a new standard for service-driven leadership, ensuring that Meru County thrives in health, environmental sustainability, and community development.



Governor Mutuma leading in the blood donation exercise

environmental sustainability through direct participation in transformative initiatives.

On May 6, 2025, the Governor stood at the

with the Kenya Red Cross, was designed to increase blood reserves at the Meru Blood Transfusion Centre, ensuring that hospitals have adequate supplies for patients in need.

**NG'ARISHA JIJI
MERU EDITION**

HIS EXCELLENCY HON. REV. ISAAC MUTUMA M'ETHINGIA
THE GOVERNOR MERU COUNTY
 Cordially invites all stakeholders, business community, banks, churches and government employees in Meru County to join hands in launching a mass Meru Clean-Up exercise in our municipalities, markets, and towns.
 Motto: "Building Meru together"

Friday, 30th May 2025
 Time: at 09.00 am
 Venue: Gakoromone
ALL ARE WELCOME
 Powered by NextGen Strategies Marketing Ltd

A new era of recognition and involvement

For the first time in Meru's history, creatives and athletes are feeling recognized and supported by the county government. Under the leadership of CECM Elias Murega, the Department of Sports, Gender, and Social Development has embarked on a transformative journey, ensuring that talent, inclusion, and youth empowerment take center stage.

The upcoming Mwanki Festival, set to take place in August, is a groundbreaking initiative designed to celebrate and uplift local creatives. Headlined by Daniel "Churchill" Ndambuki, Kenya's most celebrated comedian, the festival will provide a platform for artists, performers, and young creatives to showcase their talents while receiving mentorship and exposure.

Governor Mutuma M'Ethingia's administration has fully backed this effort, acknowledging the creative industry as a key pillar of youth empowerment. The festival is not just about entertainment—it is about marketing Meru globally in tourism and the arts, while building a lasting talent development



CECM Murega with the Furaha Centre CEO Marek Krakus Director Jadlyne Makena

platform for future generations.

Beyond the arts, Meru's sports sector is undergoing a major transformation, with collaborations between the county government and investors aimed at uplifting young athletes. One of the most significant partnerships is with Furaha Centre, an organization dedicated to supporting children with disabilities, particularly those affected by neurological disorders.

Recently, CECM Elias Murega hosted Furaha Centre CEO Marek Krakus and Director Jadlyne Makena, strengthening a growing partnership that seeks to enhance inclusion and support for children with disabilities in

Meru and Marsabit counties. During the meeting, Furaha Centre leadership formally invited Hon. Murega to participate in their annual event, "Walk and Wheel With Us," scheduled for June 14, 2025. This event aims to raise awareness on disability issues, celebrate inclusivity, and generate support for children and families navigating life with neurological conditions.

Governor Mutuma's administration has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting such vital initiatives, ensuring that sports and social development go hand in hand. The county is actively collaborating with organizations advocating for the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities, making Meru a model for inclusive development.

With the Mwanki Festival celebrating creativity, and sports partnerships ensuring inclusion, Meru County is entering a new era of recognition and empowerment. Governor Mutuma's leadership is breaking barriers, ensuring that every young person—whether an artist, athlete, or differently-abled individual—has the opportunity to thrive.



Sports CECM Elias Murega attending a scouts event



Building Meru Together

Meru County's commitment to development and excellence



Advancing healthcare, infrastructure and water accessibility in Meru

A healthcare revolution

Governor Mutuma has placed healthcare at the forefront of his administration, recognizing that a healthy population is key to economic prosperity. His commitment to strengthening health infrastructure has been evident in his inspection of Miathene Sub-County Hospital, where he pledged major upgrades, including a maternity wing, power backup systems, and additional staffing.

At Meru Level 5 Hospital, his administration is



GVN Mutuma inspecting the ongoing construction of the ward block at Miathene Level IV Hospital.

working toward completing a new ward block by year-end, aiming to ease congestion and improve service delivery.

Beyond infrastructure, cancer care advocacy has become a priority for the Governor. He has engaged in active negotiations with the National Cancer Institute of Kenya to establish a cancer diagnosis and research center, reaffirming his commitment to reviving the stalled Sh2 billion cancer institute. His administration is also encouraging residents to register with the SHA healthcare program, ensuring affordable medical services for all.

Governor Mutuma has also prioritized health worker welfare, focusing on timely promotions, salaries, staffing, and improved working conditions. His ongoing engagement with KMPDU aims to resolve labor disputes, ensuring that healthcare professionals can deliver quality services without disruptions.

Infrastructure Development: Connecting Meru to Growth

Recognizing the importance of infrastructure in



Governor Mutuma addressing the residents in Akithi ward accompanied by the area MCA Hon. Mwenda Ithili

economic development, Governor Mutuma has launched aggressive projects to stimulate



New Solution Sacco CEO Esther Ebuthania during the recent AGM

growth and connectivity. His administration has initiated road grading works in Akithi and Kianjai wards, improving transport and accessibility for residents.

Additionally, his support for the Horn of Africa Gateway Development Project (HoAGDP) is set to link Meru to regional trade routes, integrating community development initiatives that will boost commerce and mobility.

Water accessibility: A lifeline for communities

Access to clean water remains a top priority for Governor Mutuma's administration. His leadership has seen the commissioning of a 2.3



Governor Mutuma with the Co-operatives board members led by the director of co-operatives Meru County Mugambi Sandi.

km water distribution system from Ngundune VTC borehole, benefiting over 1,000 households.

Further, his oversight of the handover of Ngundune Livestock Market site to SIVAP marks progress in water and market infrastructure, ensuring that farmers and traders have access to essential resources.

Economic empowerment & Cooperatives: strengthening livelihoods

Through strategic partnerships, Meru County is creating platforms for farmer and youth empowerment. The Gakoromone Market, currently undergoing Sh800 million construction in collaboration with the national government, is set to enhance trade and economic activity.



Governor Mutuma groundbreaking and handover of the Ngundune Livestock Market to SIVAP. Meanwhile, the Meru County Aggregation and Industrial Park (CAIP) is 80% complete, with

partnered with investors to secure better macadamia market access, ensuring higher returns for farmers.

Additionally, his engagement with the President's Council of Economic Advisors

aligns Meru's agricultural agenda with the

national Beta Agenda, focusing on value chains in miraa, coffee, macadamia, avocado, tea, and bananas.

His administration is also encouraging value addition in grains, livestock, cotton, and edible oils, ensuring that farmers benefit from diversified income streams.

A vision for a prosperous Meru

Governor Mutuma's first 60 days in office have been marked by proactive leadership, citizen-centered development, and strategic partnerships. His unwavering focus on service delivery is laying a firm foundation for a prosperous and united Meru County.

"We are building a county where every resident can access quality services, opportunities, and a future filled with hope," he affirmed.

plans for launch by December 2025. This facility will focus on sorting, grading, packaging, and direct payment systems for farmers, curbing exploitation by middlemen and boosting youth employment.

Agriculture transformation: Elevating Meru's economic pillar

Governor Mutuma is committed to transforming agriculture into a high-value economic sector. His administration has



Governor M'Ethingia during an inspection tour at Meru level 5 hospital



Building Meru Together



Meru County's commitment to development and excellence

Restoring investor confidence and strengthening governance

Since taking office, Governor Isaac Mutuma M'Ethgingia has reshaped Meru County's investment climate, earning trust from local and international stakeholders while fostering a calm and development-focused political environment.

One of his key achievements has been restoring investor confidence, reversing the previous trend where investors were hesitant to commit to Meru. The renewed optimism is reflected in a flurry of partnerships, high-level engagements, and tangible development initiatives.

Strategic Partnerships Driving Growth

On May 18, Governor Mutuma secured a transformative partnership with Polish investors, aimed at youth empowerment, vocational training, and expanding Meru's agricultural exports. Under this agreement, three advanced training centers will be established in Imenti, Igembe, and Tigania, equipping young people with practical skills in welding, professional driving, and painting. Additionally, the deal opens pathways for Meru's coffee farmers to access European markets, boosting incomes and strengthening the county's agricultural sector.

Just two days earlier, on May 16, the Governor announced a partnership with Equity Bank, a collaboration designed to support financial literacy programs, agricultural marketing, ECDE teacher assistance, and enhanced school feeding programs. The deal was witnessed by key county officials and Equity Bank leadership, reinforcing Meru's commitment to economic empowerment.

On May 15, Governor Mutuma met with Kenya's Honorary Consul in Greece, Ambassador Vicky Pantazopoulou, to enhance Meru's banana exports. As Kenya's leading banana producer, Meru seeks to enter European markets and support Agri-processing ventures such as juice production and waste recycling.



The Governor held a meeting with Ambassador Vicky Pantazopoulou to deliberate expanding its banana exports to the European market.

That same day, the Governor signed an MoU with Haclif Company, led by CEO Omar Noor, to explore investment opportunities in Miraa, macadamia, avocado, and livestock farming. The focus is on breaking cartel dominance, improving market access, and capacity



SHOFCO CEO Dr. Kennedy Odede with the Governor building, ensuring that Meru's farmers receive fair value for their produce.

On May 13, Governor Mutuma partnered with Shining Hope for Communities (SHOFCO), led by CEO Dr. Kennedy Odede, to expand access to education, build safe shelters, and improve healthcare services, especially cancer care. SHOFCO has already supported over 1,200 youths in training and apprenticeships in Meru, catalyzing local entrepreneurship and employment.

Strengthening National and International Ties

Governor Mutuma's close collaboration with President William Ruto and Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has helped restore political goodwill in the county. Their frequent visits to Meru signal strong national support,



Ameru Professionals and business forum during their meeting with the governor

Governor Mutuma's commitment to strengthening local businesses was further demonstrated in his engagement with KCB Foundation, where discussions centered on supporting SMEs, offering interest subsidies, and youth-focused programs. His administration remains dedicated to uplifting the Meru community, investing in grassroots entrepreneurship and corporate social responsibility initiatives.

something the county lacked under the previous administration.

A Vision of Empowerment and Sustainability
Governor Mutuma's leadership emphasizes sustainable development, education, youth empowerment, and transforming Meru into an innovation and agri-business hub. His administration is centered on actionable, community-first policies that enhance livelihoods and foster long-term economic

growth.

Grand Return of Ameru Professionals

A recent high-profile engagement saw Governor Mutuma meet with Ameru professionals, led by their Chair, Hon. Dr. Mithika Mzalendo. Their discussions focused on uniting Meru professionals and entrepreneurs in Nairobi, creating a collaborative effort to support the county's growth.

Governor Mutuma emphasized that the forum is driven by a clear mission—to give back to the community, contribute to Meru's



Hon. Dr. Mithika Mzalendo-chair the Meru professionals and business forum

development, and shape its social, economic, cultural, educational, and political future.

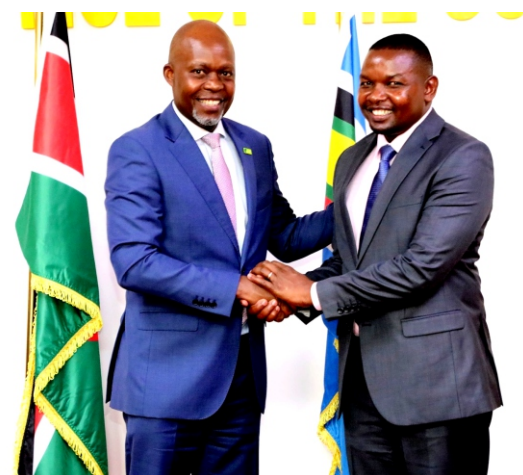
"We used this time not just to share ideas but to truly connect and explore how we can lift each other, and by doing so, uplift our county and our country as well," Governor Mutuma affirmed.

A Future Built on Stability and Growth

Governor Mutuma's leadership has transformed Meru into a thriving hub of investment, stability, and opportunity. His commitment to inclusivity, economic empowerment, and strategic partnerships is ensuring that Meru County remains politically stable, economically vibrant, and socially progressive.



Polish investors during a meeting with Meru County executives led by Governor Mutuma



Mr. Lawrence Kimathi, Finance Director KCB Group with the Governor



Building Meru Together

Meru County's commitment to development and excellence



The Meru County agricultural revolution Governor Mutuma's bold vision for farming prosperity

Meru County is undergoing a remarkable agricultural transformation under the leadership of Governor Isaac Mutuma, with a strong focus on modernization, sustainability, and farmer empowerment.

Through strategic partnerships, innovative projects, and inclusive governance, the county is setting new standards in agricultural development, ensuring that farmers benefit from enhanced productivity, market access, and economic growth.

A new era of agricultural excellence

Since assuming office, Governor Mutuma has prioritized agricultural development, recognizing it as the backbone of Meru's economy.

His administration has worked tirelessly to modernize farming practices, improve market access, and empower farmers through



Murungurune potato farmers with KOPIA representatives strategic collaborations with national and international partners.

One of the most groundbreaking initiatives has been the modernization of agricultural marketing, particularly in the potato sector. The Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries, in collaboration with potato farmers from Katheri and Murungurune Village, has introduced packaged ware potatoes in standardized bag sizes of 10kgs, 15kgs, 25kgs, and 50kgs. This move provides



Dr. Ji Gang Kim from KOPIA

greater flexibility and convenience for buyers while ensuring better pricing and market stability for farmers.

In a generous contribution, Dr. Ji Gang Kim donated over 10,000 packaging bags to help kickstart the program, reinforcing the county's commitment to value addition and agribusiness empowerment. Additionally, the farm gate price of potatoes has risen from Ksh30 to Ksh50 per bag, significantly improving income prospects for local farmers.

Advancing beekeeping and climate-smart agriculture

Meru County is also making significant strides in beekeeping, positioning it as a climate-smart and income-generating venture. The Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries, led by Livestock Director Dr. David Mugambi, conducted a beekeeping training session in Kianjai Ward, Tigania West Sub-County, supported by the Smallholder Irrigation Value Addition Project (SIVAP).

Farmers were trained on:
Hive management and honey harvesting techniques.

Value addition strategies to enhance market competitiveness.

Kenya Top Bar Hive demonstrations and guidelines on proper hive house establishment to optimize production.



CECM for Agriculture Jenaro Guantai leading a tree planting exercise aimed at supporting the national goal of planting 15 billion trees by 2032.

The Meru Universal Beekeepers Cooperative Society, comprising over 800 members from 60 organized groups, played a key role in mobilizing farmers for the training. Strengthening cooperative structures remains vital for value chain development and collective marketing efforts.

Strengthening agricultural infrastructure and value addition

Governor Mutuma's administration has also prioritized agricultural infrastructure, with



Meru CECM [in the middle] for Agriculture Mr. Jenaro Guantai receiving a reward for Meru county's exemplary performance under the NAVCDP project

the official opening of the Thuura Coffee Growers Factory in Nyaki East Ward, Imenti North Sub-County.

This state-of-the-art facility is set to



Agricultural officers holding a beekeeping training session in Kianjai ward

revolutionize the local coffee industry, specializing in coffee farming, processing, roasting, high-quality cupping, and packaging.

During the launch, CECM Carol Kaberia and Agriculture CECM Jenaro Guantai emphasized the county government's dedication to strengthening cooperatives and empowering farmers. They highlighted that this investment will:

Create numerous job opportunities for locals.
Enhance market access for coffee farmers.

Increase income generation capacities within the coffee sector.

Boost Meru County's reputation as a hub for excellence in coffee production.

Environmental Conservation and Sustainable Farming

Meru County is also playing a key role in environmental conservation, with the Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries leading a tree planting exercise under the Small-Scale Irrigation and Value Addition Project (SIVAP).

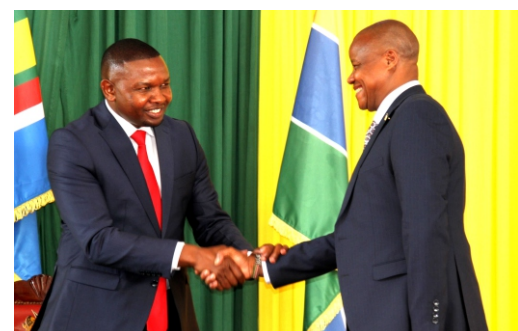
This initiative supports Kenya's national goal of planting 15 billion trees by 2032, reinforcing the county's commitment to climate-smart development.

Additionally, the County Government of Meru has partnered with Alinea International to implement the Gender-Responsive One Health (GROH) program in Buuri and Tigania East sub-counties, ensuring that women and vulnerable groups receive adequate support in healthcare and agricultural resilience.

National Recognition and Future Prospects
Meru County's agricultural excellence has earned national acclaim, with the county receiving a Certificate of Recognition for emerging Best in Service to Community Institutions Development under the National Agricultural Value Chains Development Project (NAVCDP), a World Bank-funded initiative.

Governor Mutuma's administration continues to champion agricultural resilience, leveraging expert-driven strategies to position Meru as a leading hub for agribusiness innovation.

With strong partnerships, modernized farming techniques, and inclusive governance, Meru County is on a path to agricultural prosperity, ensuring that farmers thrive and the county remains a pillar of food security and economic growth.



Governor Mutuma shaking hands with the CECM for Agriculture Mr. Jenaro Guantai



Building Meru Together

Meru County's commitment to development and excellence

Governor Mutuma's inclusive leadership: Uniting Meru for progress

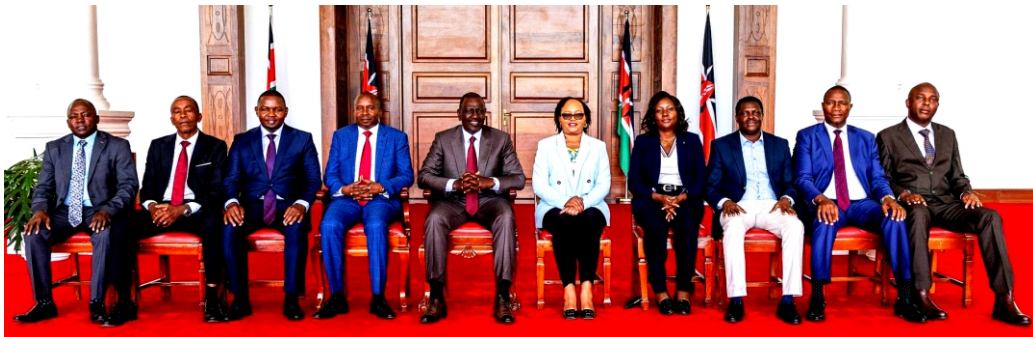
Meru County is experiencing a new era of inclusive governance under the leadership of Governor Isaac Mutuma. Since taking office, he has prioritized unity, collaboration, and transparency, ensuring that every stakeholder plays a role in shaping the county's future. His administration is built on the philosophy of "Building Meru Together," a vision that embraces all sectors of society to drive sustainable development.

development and economic prosperity.

Governor Mutuma has also reached out to international investors, urging those who had previously left Meru due to political instability to return and contribute to the county's economic growth. His administration is focused on creating a business-friendly environment, ensuring that investors feel confident in supporting Meru's development.



Meru residents happily welcome Gvn Mutuma



Governor Mutuma[3rd from right] with Deputy President Kindiki, President Ruto and other Governors at the state house

Governor Mutuma has actively engaged leaders from diverse backgrounds, fostering a governance model that thrives on inclusivity. His meetings have brought together church leaders, the council of elders, politicians, former and sitting elected leaders, the county assembly, administration officials, security teams, community leaders, international investors, NGOs, and the national government to discuss key development priorities.

One of his most significant engagements was



Governor Mutuma with Church leaders at the Governor's residence

a consultative meeting with President William Ruto and Meru leaders at State House, Nairobi, where they discussed road infrastructure, agricultural development, security, healthcare, student accommodation, affordable housing, and fresh produce markets. This high-level dialogue reinforced the county's commitment to national

Additionally, Meru County has strengthened its collaboration with NGOs, with over 26 organizations actively working in the region. These NGOs, including Ripples International and AMREF, have been instrumental in addressing healthcare challenges, poverty alleviation, child protection, and the fight against female genital mutilation (FGM). Governor Mutuma's administration is working closely with these organizations to enhance service delivery and improve the lives of Meru residents.

A key pillar of Governor Mutuma's success has been the support of the Meru County Assembly, which has fully backed his development agenda. The assembly has demonstrated its commitment by approving his County Executive Committee Members (CECMs), ensuring that his administration is equipped with competent leaders to drive progress. The assembly's endorsement reflects a shared vision for Meru's prosperity, with leaders working together to deliver effective governance and impactful development.

Beyond government officials, Governor Mutuma has reached out to grassroots leaders,

engaging with community elders, religious leaders, and business stakeholders to foster unity and resolve underlying issues. His commitment to political stability and cohesion has been instrumental in restoring trust among leaders and residents, marking a fresh chapter for Meru County.



GVN Mutuma with Njuri Ncheke representatives at the governors' residence

Furthermore, Governor Mutuma has significantly improved the working environment for county staff. Recognizing the challenges they faced, he ensured that delayed salaries were paid, restoring their motivation and dignity. His administration has also reinstated office tea, a small but meaningful gesture that enhances workplace morale and productivity. In his engagements with county employees, he has urged them to work diligently and remain apolitical, emphasizing that service delivery should be driven by professionalism, not politics.

With a governance style rooted in inclusivity, efficiency, and service, Governor Mutuma is proving that true progress is achieved when leadership is people-centered. His administration is laying the foundation for economic growth, social transformation, and sustainable development, ensuring that Meru rises to the top through unity of purpose.

Governor Mutuma's Leadership Ushers in

Political Stability and Development in Meru

Since Governor Isaac Mutuma assumed office, Meru County has experienced a remarkable shift toward peace and unity. The county, once marked by political tensions, is now witnessing a harmonious and collaborative leadership that prioritizes development over division.

One of the most notable changes has been the absence of politically charged rallies that previously fueled conflicts and insults among leaders. Instead, Governor Mutuma has fostered an environment where leaders engage in constructive dialogue and focus on serving the people.

His administration has emphasized inclusive governance, ensuring that all leaders, regardless of political affiliation, work together for the county's prosperity. A testament to this positive political environment is the governor's active involvement in grassroots development.

He has been seen accompanying Members of the County Assembly (MCAs) to their respective wards, personally overseeing development projects and engaging with residents to understand their needs. This hands-on approach has strengthened trust between the government and the people, reinforcing the idea that leadership is about service, not politics.



Wakili Linda Kiome Gitonga- Deputy Governor Meru County



Governor M'Ethigia with the Meru county assembly MCAs led by Speaker Ayub Bundi, the newly sworn-in CECMs, county secretary Dr. Kiambi Atheru and Ambassador Kiringo

Isiolo schools embrace digital literacy for CBC learners

By Gerald Mukembu

Grade Four to Grade Nine learners in 12 public primary and junior schools in Isiolo County will benefit from a digital literacy program designed to enhance their skills in the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC).

The program is an initiative by the Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC), a regional economic bloc comprising ten county governments in the arid and semi-arid regions of Northern Kenya. It is being implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and funded by the Raspberry Pi Foundation.

The Ministry of Education identified 12 schools in Isiolo County to benefit from the program, including Mwangaza Primary and Junior, Shambani, Isiolo Barracks, Waso, Oldonyiro, Kiwanja, Ngaremarara, Wabera, Kambi Garba, St. Kizito, Elsa, and Kilimani. Speaking during a training session for 15 ICT teachers, who will equip learners with digital literacy skills across the selected schools, Isiolo County Director of Education Caroline

Mugo hailed the initiative as transformative for public primary schools.

She highlighted the positive impact observed during the pilot phase, which ran from January to April last year and initially included ten schools. With the official rollout now underway and two additional schools onboard, expectations are even higher. Mrs. Mugo expressed gratitude to FCDC and the Raspberry Pi Foundation for donating laptop computers for learners and teachers, particularly in schools that previously lacked ICT labs. She emphasized the importance of digital literacy in modern-day life, underscoring the need to equip learners with essential technological skills early in their education in line with the CBC.

Isiolo County Government's Deputy County Secretary for Partnerships and NGO Coordination, Mohamed Boru, urged other organizations and the National Government, through the National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NGCDF), to support FCDC and the



FCDC official awarding qualified teachers after the training

Raspberry Pi Foundation in expanding the program to all public schools in the region.

He noted that the current beneficiary schools are in Isiolo Central, where electricity and mobile network connectivity are largely available. However, he called for the program to be extended to learners in remote sub-counties such as Merti, Cherab, Sericho, and Garbatula.

Additionally, Boru highlighted the County Government's efforts in promoting digital literacy, including the establishment of the Youth Innovation Center in Isiolo town, where young people receive basic ICT training that enables them to earn a living.

ICT teachers from the 12 participating schools, who have undergone capacity-

building sessions since the pilot phase, commended the program's impact on learners. They observed that it has significantly influenced students' attitudes toward computer studies, encouraging them to embrace technology from a young age.

The teachers emphasized that the program's strong foundation will be invaluable when learners transition to Grade 10, where they are encouraged to pursue the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) pathway.

This digital literacy program is being implemented across all ten counties under the FCDC, including Isiolo, Marsabit, Samburu, Garissa, Wajir, Mandera, Tana River, Lamu, Turkana, and West Pokot.



Educators from Isiolo certified after their digital literacy enlightenment

Governor Njuki issues stern warning to medics operating private clinics

By Christine Ngitori

Tharaka Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki has issued a strong warning to healthcare workers employed in public hospitals who allegedly prioritize their private clinics over their official duties, vowing to take disciplinary action against absenteeism and negligence.

Sunday, the governor emphasized that the county government was closely monitoring medical staff, stressing that such behavior betrays public trust and puts lives at risk.

"It is unacceptable for doctors and nurses to abandon their posts in government hospitals and operate in their own clinics during official working hours. This is a betrayal to the public and will not be tolerated," the governor declared.

He reiterated that medical professionals must prioritize service delivery at their designated county health facilities, emphasizing that public hospitals rely on their dedication to function effectively.

The governor also addressed concerns about a recent power outage that disrupted operations at Chuka General Hospital, assuring residents that the issue had been fully resolved.

He also mentioned a power outage at Chuka



Medics at work during their experimental sessions

General Hospital, but I want to assure residents that everything is now in order. Services have resumed fully, and we are working to ensure such interruptions are prevented in the future," he stated.

The county government reaffirmed its commitment to improving healthcare services and ensuring that all health facilities remain operational and efficient.

Meanwhile, Karingani MCA Muriithi Gaturo urged residents to faithfully pay taxes,

emphasizing that tax contributions are vital for development initiatives across the county.

"Paying taxes means development. Let's all pay our taxes faithfully to support more projects in our county. Those who tell others not to pay are enemies of development," Gaturo said.

With growing concerns over accountability and service delivery, the county government has vowed to strengthen healthcare services and enhance oversight to ensure public resources are utilized effectively.



Hon Muthomi Njuki-Tharaka Nithi Governor

Government steps in to revive Isiolo and Meru stadiums Marking a new era for sports infrastructure

By Gitary Dominik

After years of neglect and growing frustrations, the youth and sports enthusiasts of Isiolo County have finally seen their calls for action bear fruit. Following a series of peaceful demonstrations highlighting the dilapidated state of Isiolo Stadium, stalled construction works, and the county government's apparent neglect, the national government has stepped in with a firm commitment to revive the facility.



The Stalled Isiolo stadium

Cabinet Secretary for Youth, Sports, and Creative Arts, Salim Mvurya, recently visited Isiolo County to inspect the long-abandoned stadium project. Despite an allocation of Ksh 700 million, construction had stalled for over six years. Addressing the concerns, CS Mvurya confirmed that the ministry, through Sports Kenya, would officially take over the completion of the stadium. "The ministry, through Sports Kenya, will oversee construction and ensure the facility meets the required standards," he announced.



Sports CS Salim Mvurya with leaders from Isiolo during the Isiolo Stadium visit

Additionally, he revealed that Sports Kenya had been tasked with developing fresh architectural designs for a modern stadium adhering to international standards. These designs are expected to be completed within two weeks, after which construction will commence. Joining CS Mvurya during his visit were Isiolo County Senator Fatuma Dulo and other key stakeholders, highlighting a unified effort to address the county's sports infrastructure challenges. Senator Dulo emphasized the need for the county government to properly utilize the sports fund to support youth and local teams. Expressing his hopes for the future, football enthusiast Abuu Hassan remarked, "For so long, we felt forgotten. The stadium is more than just a building—it's a place where dreams are made." Meru County Joins the Push for Sports Excellence.

CS Mvurya's tour extended to Meru County, where he inspected Kinoru Stadium and unveiled ambitious plans for a comprehensive

facelift. Planned upgrades include:

- Replacing the playing surface with high-quality grass
- Installing high-mast floodlights
- Adding a digital scoreboard
- Enhancing spectator seating
- Upgrading auxiliary facilities

Additionally, surrounding facilities such as the Deputy County Commissioner's office and the police post located nearby will be included in the renovations, ensuring a holistic improvement of the stadium precinct. These upgrades aim to transform Kinoru Stadium into a hub capable of hosting national and international tournaments, thereby creating vibrant opportunities for young athletes and boosting the county's economy. During the Meru visit, Elias Murega, the County Executive Member (CECM) for Youth, Sports, and Gender, appealed to CS Mvurya to



Sports CS Salim Mvurya and the sports CECM Meru county Elias Murega establish at least two national sports

academies in Meru County. He emphasized that such academies would provide structured platforms for nurturing young talent and fostering athletic excellence. CS Mvurya responded positively, assuring him that Meru would be considered in the next phase of development. Accompanying CS Mvurya on



Aerial view of Kinoru Stadium

the tour were Sports PS Elijah Mwangi, Sports Kenya CEO Gabriel Komora, FKF officials and other key figures.

A Renewed Commitment to Youth Empowerment and Sports Development.

This decisive intervention marks a significant milestone in addressing long-standing concerns raised by young athletes and sports stakeholders. It signals the government's renewed commitment to empowering youth through sports. The revival of Isiolo Stadium and Kinoru Stadium will not only elevate Kenya's sporting profile but also foster community development and economic growth in these regions.

FKF Division 2 Northern Zone B set for reforms amid longstanding challenges

For years, clubs competing in the Football Kenya Federation (FKF) Division 2 Northern Zone B have persevered through tough conditions with limited recognition.

Despite investing significant time, financial resources, and enduring long-distance travel to honor fixtures, many teams have felt demoralized by the lack of meaningful rewards. Historically, champions of this fourth-tier league received only modest trophies and medals, often valued at no more than a single referee's match fee—with promotion being the sole major incentive. However, this narrative is set to change. FKF

National Executive Committee (NEC) Member for Eastern Region, Mr. Charles Njagi, has assured clubs that significant reforms are on the horizon.

Speaking during a recent meeting attended by all Division 2 Northern Zone B teams, Mr. Njagi emphasized the need to recognize and motivate high-performing teams through improved rewards at the end of the current season. "There is a need to appreciate these teams for their commitment. The federation is working tirelessly to ensure they are rewarded accordingly," he stated.

Addressing Poor Officiating: A Step Toward



FKF NEC Member Charles Njagi.

Fair Play beyond the issue of inadequate rewards, stakeholders raised concerns about poor officiating, a key challenge affecting the league's integrity. In response, the federation has pledged to increase the training of referees and match commissioners to enhance the standard of officiating. Notably, Division 2 Secretary General, Mr. Benson, announced that match officials for the promotion mini-league will no longer be selected by branches as had been the practice in previous seasons. Instead, the FKF National Office will directly deploy officials, ensuring greater neutrality and fairness. "Fair officiating is key to the integrity of the league," Mr. Benson emphasized.

Improving Equipment Standards
Recognizing that many teams have been using substandard match balls, the federation took steps to address this challenge.

Following lobbying efforts led by Mr. Njagi and Eastern Region Branch Chairpersons, the FKF National Office supplied each team with two high-quality match balls and four size-four balls for junior teams.

Promoting Sportsmanship and Positive Competition Team officials were urged to uphold sportsmanship both on and off the pitch, with an emphasis on fostering a positive playing environment that discourages excessive complaints and match abandonments.

Officials stressed that such behavior not only enhances the integrity of the game but also sets a positive example for fans and players alike. A Brighter Future for Grassroots Football Clubs expressed appreciation for the current FKF administration's commitment to improving the league. Many see these reforms as a crucial step toward creating a more competitive and supportive platform for nurturing young talents and increasing opportunities for exposure to local and international scouts. As the league enters its second half of the season, teams have been encouraged to foster fair play and respectful competition, underscoring the federation's broader goal of raising grassroots football standards across the country.



NEC Member Njagi issuing balls to Club official.

Jukwaa la Usalama: A security awakening in Meru and beyond

By Nancy Kinoti



Governor Mutuna and the CS interior Hon. Kipchumba Murkomen

Jukwaa la Usalama Meru Edition, a forum, part of a larger nationwide initiative, was designed to tackle Kenya's security concerns at the grassroots level. While similar forums had already been held in Baringo, West Pokot, Turkana, and Marsabit, today's spotlight shone on Meru County, a region grappling with unique security challenges.

The State of Security in Meru

Meru, a land known for its agricultural prowess and vibrant culture, has been haunted by security threats, particularly along its borders. The Meru-



Security leaders led by the interior Cs Kipchumba Murkomen, County Commissioner Jacob Ouma and the Governor Rev. Mutuma M'ethingia at Kinoru Stadium during the Jukwaa la Usalama Event.

Isiolo border has long been a flashpoint for cattle rustling, pitting communities against each other in a cycle of theft and retaliation. Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen wasted no time addressing these concerns.

"We will no longer tolerate banditry disguised as tradition," Murkomen stated firmly. "Livelihoods are being destroyed, and the government is determined to put an end to this."

The forum also delved into the rampant issue of illicit brew, which had infiltrated villages, wrecking families and dimming the future of youth. Community leaders recounted

heartbreaking stories of addiction and violence tied to the unchecked alcohol trade.

Voices from the Ground

One by one, residents stepped forward, sharing their experiences. Mzee Mwenda, an elder from Igembe, recounted how cattle raids had forced his family to abandon their farm for safety. Meanwhile, Mama Ndunge from Muthara spoke about her nephew, a promising student who had succumbed to alcoholism at a young age.

The testimonies painted a grim reality, but the purpose of Jukwaa la Usalama was not just to recount problems—it was to craft solutions.

Beyond Meru: Lessons from Other Counties

As discussions deepened, Murkomen highlighted success stories from other editions of the forum. In Turkana, peace committees had been instrumental in reducing inter-community conflicts. In West Pokot, local leaders had spearheaded initiatives to rehabilitate youth entangled in crime.

Would Meru follow suit? That was the question hanging in the air.

A Pledge for Change

By the end of the forum, tangible actions had emerged. The county commissioner announced increased police patrols along the border, the local government pledged to tighten regulations on alcohol distribution, and a task force was



Security personnel attending the Jukwaa la Usalama meeting

formed to engage youth in economic opportunities to divert them from crime.



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