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COUNTY FOCUS

Three Counties, One People

The Voice of Meru, Isiolo & Tharaka Nithi



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The ultimate political gamble

Will Ruto deliver his multi-billion promises before 2027?



President William Ruto, Deputy President Kithure Kindiki, Meru Governor Mutuma M'Ethigia and other leaders during a past project launch in Meru County

President William Ruto's administration has made some of the most ambitious development pledges Meru County has seen in decades, rolling out a package of multibillion-shilling projects touching on infrastructure, healthcare, transport, and the county's national stature.

From a proposed dual carriageway, the long-awaited Nithi Bridge, a State Lodge, an airstrip, to a Sh500 million upgrade of Meru Teaching and Referral Hospital (MeTRH), the promises have raised expectations among residents — and placed enormous political pressure on both the President and local leaders allied to his government.

As the country inches closer to the 2027 General Election, a key question now dominates political discourse in Meru: Will these promises be fulfilled in time — and what happens if they are not?

The Promises: A Multibillion Development Blueprint.

President Ruto framed the projects as part of a broader plan to position Meru as a regional economic hub and a strategic anchor in the Mt. Kenya East region.

continued on page 2



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Meru leaders bank their re-election on Ruto's promised projects

From front page

The proposed dual carriageway is meant to decongest Meru town and boost trade and mobility. The Nithi Bridge, whose dilapidated state has long symbolized government neglect, is seen as critical to safety and inter-county connectivity.

The State Lodge and airstrip are political and strategic symbols — signaling Meru's elevation in national importance. Meanwhile, the Sh500 million allocation to MeTRH targets healthcare delivery for millions across Upper Eastern.

Together, the projects represent billions of shillings in public investment, making Meru one of the counties most frequently cited by the President during development tours.

Progress So Far: Mixed Signals on Delivery

Of all the pledges, the MeTRH upgrade is the most tangible, with construction of new facilities already underway. This has allowed the government to point to visible progress and defend claims that the promises are not mere rhetoric.

The Nithi Bridge has moved past political declarations into procurement and tendering stages, though actual construction remains pending. The dual carriageway, State Lodge, and airstrip are still largely in planning and administrative phases, with no confirmed timelines for completion.

This uneven progress has fueled both optimism and skepticism among residents, especially as the election clock continues to tick.

Can the Promises Be Fully Delivered Before 2027?

Analysts say partial delivery is more realistic than full completion before the next polls.

Large infrastructure projects typically face delays due to funding cycles, procurement disputes, land compensation, and shifting national priorities. With barely two years to the election, completing all the pledged projects — especially capital-intensive ones like a dual carriageway and State Lodge — will be a tall order.

However, political observers note that groundbreaking ceremonies, visible construction, and phased implementation may be enough for the administration to argue “work in progress” and seek renewed political goodwill.

Local Leaders on the Line

Meru's elected leaders — particularly MPs and senators aligned with the Kenya Kwanza administration — have emerged as the President's loudest defenders.



President Ruto and Governor Mutuma during a past event in Meru County



President Ruto leads the launch of a power station in Nkuene Ward, South Imenti



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki during the launch of a Mega construction project at the Meru Teaching and Referral Hospital

They have consistently urged residents to support President Ruto, arguing that loyalty to the government is the surest path to

development. In public rallies and forums, the message has been blunt: support the President to benefit from national projects.

This political bargain has raised the stakes dramatically.

Should the projects stall or fail to materialize, these leaders risk being viewed as conduits of empty promises, having tied their political fortunes directly to Ruto's development agenda.

If the Promises Fail: Political Consequences Loom

Failure to deliver could trigger serious political fallout:

For President Ruto, Meru could shift from being a stronghold of expectation to a symbol of unmet promises, potentially weakening his grip on Mt. Kenya East votes.

For MPs and governors backing him, the consequences could be harsher. Voters may punish leaders seen as having traded independent advocacy for blind loyalty.

Opposition figures would gain fertile ground to campaign on betrayal, neglect, and broken promises.

Historically, Meru voters have shown a willingness to vote out leaders perceived as ineffective or disconnected, regardless of party affiliation.

Between Hope and Accountability

For now, many residents remain cautiously hopeful, encouraged by early signs of progress at MeTRH and assurances on Nithi Bridge. But patience is thinning.

Civil society groups and political commentators argue that development should not be conditional on political allegiance, warning that framing projects as rewards for loyalty undermines democratic accountability. As 2027 approaches, Meru is fast becoming a political testing ground for President Ruto's development-first narrative — and a referendum on whether big promises, even if partially fulfilled, are enough to secure lasting political support.

President Ruto's multibillion-shilling promises to the Meru community have reshaped both development expectations and local politics. While some progress is evident, much remains uncertain.

Whether these pledges mature into lasting infrastructure or remain unfinished monuments of political ambition may ultimately determine not just Ruto's standing in Meru, but also the political survival of leaders who have staked their futures on his word.

Kenya releases first-ever KJSEA results as majority of learners perform excellently

By Nancy Kinoti

Kenya has marked a major milestone in the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC) journey following the release of the 2025 Kenya Junior School Education Assessment (KJSEA) results. A total of 1,130,459 learners sat the national assessment, becoming the first cohort to transition into Senior School under the new education structure.



Education CS Julius Migos Ogamba

Education officials described the performance as encouraging, noting that a significant majority of learners demonstrated strong potential in both academic and talent-based areas.

Results were issued using a new eight-point grading scale aligned to four performance

levels—Exceeding Expectation, Meeting Expectation, Approaching Expectation, and Below Expectation.

According to the national report, about 75 per cent of candidates scored Approaching Expectation or higher, indicating steady adaptation to CBC requirements.

Seven subjects recorded particularly strong performance, with Hindu Religious Education leading at over 84 per cent of learners meeting or exceeding expectations.

Other subjects with high achievement included Integrated Science, Social Studies, Creative Arts and Sports, Kiswahili, Christian Religious Education, and

Agriculture.

However, challenges persisted in key areas. Mathematics emerged as the weakest subject nationally, with only about one-third of learners meeting the expected competency standards.

Kenyan Sign Language also recorded low



performance, raising concerns over support and resources for learners undertaking the subject. Gender analysis showed a clear pattern, with girls outperforming boys in ten out of twelve subjects, particularly in languages, religious studies, and humanities. Officials attributed this to emerging classroom trends that reflect stronger literacy acquisition and discipline among female learners.

Early placement insights reveal that more than half of the candidates are poised to join the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) pathway in Senior School, owing to their performance profile.

The rest will be spread across the

Social Sciences, Arts, and Sports Science pathways based on demonstrated abilities and personal preferences.

Nairobi County recorded the highest number of candidates, while regions affected by flooding and landslides were commended for ensuring all registered learners sat their assessments despite logistical challenges.

The Ministry has already begun the placement process, with learners expected to join Senior Schools in January 2026.

The release of the KJSEA results marks the beginning of a new education phase in Kenya, one that shifts focus from raw exam scores to a more holistic assessment of learners' abilities, talents, and career pathways.



Fear and loss grip Meru as deadly cattle rustling escalates

Geofrey Gitimu

Meru County is grappling with a growing cattle rustling crisis, leaving families in fear and communities under constant threat. Recent reports indicate that in just two days, over 60 cows were stolen in Igembe North and Tigania, highlighting the persistence and scale of the problem.

Residents warn that unless urgent action is taken, communities risk being displaced from their ancestral lands. The ongoing raids have destroyed livelihoods, traumatized families, and created widespread insecurity.

Local herders have expressed frustration with political leaders, accusing them of inaction while communities bear the brunt of repeated cattle thefts.

Some herders have pledged to support only initiatives that actively address the menace until a long-term solution is implemented.

Cattle rustling in the region has evolved into a sophisticated and lucrative criminal enterprise,

allegedly involving herders, some livestock owners, and even officials across county borders. Investigations suggest that some herders coordinate raids with family networks and supportive police personnel, making

recovery of stolen livestock difficult.

Recent attacks have not only seen cattle stolen but also left law enforcement officers and herders injured or killed.

At Ngaathu in Antuambui ward, hundreds of

cows were taken, two NPR officers killed, and numerous herders injured, yet recovery has been slow due to the complex network of actors involved.

Community leaders are now calling for coordinated action, stronger policy interventions, and unity among leaders and security agencies to curb the menace.

They stress that combating cattle rustling requires collaboration, transparency, and courage, as the syndicate behind these raids appears well-organized and deeply entrenched.

Without swift and decisive action, Meru's semi-arid regions risk becoming unsafe for the very communities that have lived there for generations.

Residents hope for an approach that not only arrests perpetrators but also ensures that stolen cattle are returned to rightful owners, restoring both security and livelihoods.



Farmers taking home their cattle amidst the cattle rustling tragedy

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As the year comes to a close, we at Flopa Media Services, publishers of the County Focus Newspaper,

wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our partners. Your support and collaboration have been invaluable, and we look forward to even more successful partnerships in the year ahead.

May this festive season bring you joy, peace, and prosperity!

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YETU SACCO SOCIETY LIMITED



Yetu DT Sacco sets Shs20 billion growth target while expanding digital services and community investment

Yetu DT Sacco has unveiled an ambitious plan to grow into a KSh 20 billion institution within the next five years, signaling a strategic shift toward aggressive expansion, improved service delivery, and community-focused investment.



Yetu Sacco CEO Dennis Kirimi

During a Special General Meeting (SGM) attended by county officials, the Sacco leadership outlined growth initiatives anchored on infrastructure development, digital innovation, member welfare, and social empowerment. CEO Dennis Kirimi Announces the 20 Billion Growth Plan. Speaking at the SGM, CEO Dennis Kirimi introduced the bold 20 Billion Growth Plan, aimed at significantly expanding the

Sacco's asset base and service reach.

He emphasized that the Sacco is committed to scaling its operations while enhancing benefits for members. Chairman Mark Gitonga Highlights Sacco Growth

Meanwhile, Chairman Mark Gitonga acknowledged the Sacco's steady growth over the years and pledged that the leadership will continue striving to make Yetu DT Sacco one of the top-performing cooperative institutions in the country.

Modern Headquarters to Boost Member Experience

As part of its expansion strategy, the Sacco announced that its new multi-million shilling headquarters will be completed and officially handed over by the end of the month. The modern facility is expected to enhance customer experience by improving service efficiency and supporting the Sacco's growing membership base.

Digital Transformation Enhances Access

Yetu DT Sacco confirmed that it has significantly upgraded its digital infrastructure, allowing members to access services remotely.

Through digital platforms, members can transact, apply for loans, manage accounts,



Meru County CECM for Trade, Tourism, and Cooperatives, Rev. Caroline Kaberia

and access key services without visiting Sacco offices, advancing financial inclusion across Meru County.

Investing in Skills and Community Welfare

In line with its community uplift agenda, the Sacco has established Pamoja Technical College, aimed at equipping youth with practical, market-ready skills to enhance employability and economic productivity.

Members were urged to actively support the institution's growth, as the college is expected to strengthen the local economy.

Additionally, the Sacco organized a medical check-up program for members,

underscoring its commitment to holistic welfare beyond financial services.

Enhanced Member Benefits and Growth Drive

Members can now access dividend advances, enabling them to benefit from earnings ahead of the official payout period. Leadership encouraged more residents to join Yetu DT Sacco, noting that increased membership and collective savings will accelerate growth and help achieve the Sacco's ambitious financial goals.

County Government Reaffirms Support

The SGM was graced by Meru County CECM for Trade, Tourism, and Cooperatives, Hon. Rev. Caroline Kaberia, accompanied by Cooperatives Director Mr. Zachary Njeru.

The CECM reaffirmed the county government's commitment to supporting the cooperative movement, describing Saccos as key drivers of economic growth and social transformation. She urged cooperatives to uphold transparency, embrace innovation, and remain member-focused, noting that Saccos contribute over 80 percent to the growth of the sector.

Event Highlights



How to Turn ksh 500 into A million

Dhahabu Yetu
By Yetu Dt Sacco



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Your trusted partner in financial growth

Yetu SACCO Society Limited continues to position itself as one of the most reliable financial partners for individuals, groups, and businesses seeking sustainable growth.

With a strong track record of empowering members through innovative financial solutions, the SACCO is now calling on its members to take full advantage of the wide range of services designed to uplift their economic well-being.

The SACCO is encouraging members to utilise its affordable loan facilities, tailored for business expansion, education, agribusiness, home improvement, and personal development.

With competitive interest rates and flexible repayment terms, Yetu SACCO remains a dependable institution committed to supporting members' financial aspirations.

At the same time, the management is urging members to honour their loan obligations promptly. Timely repayment, the SACCO emphasizes, is key to maintaining high-quality service delivery,

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strengthening its credit portfolio, and upholding the credibility that has earned it trust over the years. By repaying loans as agreed, members help the SACCO grow, enabling it to offer even better products and faster services.

Members are also reminded to take advantage of the consistent dividends the

SACCO offers annually.

Yetu SACCO is encouraging members to invest more in shares, noting that increasing one's shareholding not only boosts personal financial growth but also strengthens the overall capital base of the SACCO. This translates to better returns and enhanced stability for all members.

In addition, the SACCO is urging members to make use of its asset financing products, which provide accessible options for acquiring essential assets such as vehicles, machinery, and business equipment. These financing solutions are designed to help members grow their enterprises and improve their livelihoods without financial strain.

To ensure members safeguard their progress, Yetu SACCO—through Thine Insurance Limited—offers a wide range of

encouraged to explore these covers to protect what matters most, from property and motor insurance to health and personal policies.

Speaking during a recent address, the CEO issued a special reminder to groups and individuals with dormant accounts or unutilized funds.

He noted that while the SACCO safeguards member deposits, prolonged account inactivity may result in the funds being handed over to the Government's Unclaimed Financial Assets Authority (UFAA), as required by law. Members, especially group account holders, are therefore urged to actively monitor and access their funds to avoid unintended transfer of their savings to the government.

Yetu SACCO also reaffirmed its commitment to transparency, member empowerment, and financial inclusion. With a wide range of services designed for growth, security, and convenience, Yetu SACCO Society Limited remains a trusted partner in building a secure and prosperous future for all its members.

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A safe haven for growth, investment and modern financial solutions

Yetu SACCO Society Limited continues to cement its position as one of the fastest-growing and most trusted financial institutions in the region, offering members a safe and reliable environment to grow their wealth, invest confidently, and secure their future.

With remarkable expansion milestones, technology-driven services, and a solid financial performance, Yetu SACCO stands tall as a true giant in cooperative finance.

Over the past year, the SACCO has recorded an impressive 19% growth, a reflection of strong member confidence and sound financial management.

This growth has propelled Yetu SACCO into a new chapter of expansion, transformation, and innovation—making it a safe haven for both new and long-standing members seeking stable financial solutions.

To enhance convenience and accessibility, the SACCO boasts numerous branches across the

region, serving members closer to their homes, businesses, and communities.

Among the notable developments is the



ongoing upgrade of the Kionyo Branch, which is set to offer expanded space, improved service delivery, and a modern banking experience tailored to meet the evolving needs of members.

In line with its ambitious expansion plan, Yetu SACCO is also preparing to open new branches, including the upcoming Maua Branch, which will further extend the SACCO's reach and accommodate the growing number of members seeking dependable financial support.

At the heart of this growth is the SACCO's new Headquarters building, which is set for completion by the end of the month. The state-of-the-art building stands as a symbol of Yetu SACCO's rapid expansion and institutional strength. Once complete, it will serve as a central hub for administration, innovation, and member services—solidifying Yetu SACCO's status as a rising financial powerhouse.

Recognizing the need for convenience and digitization, Yetu SACCO has fully embraced modern technology. Members no longer need to travel to branches for routine services. Instead, they can enjoy seamless, fast, and

secure access to services by dialing *691#, giving them the power to check balances, apply for loans, make withdrawals, transfer funds, and manage their accounts from anywhere in the country.

In addition to mobile services, the SACCO has strengthened its reach through agency banking, allowing members to access a wide range of financial services closer to their communities through authorized agents. This blend of digital and physical service channels ensures that Yetu SACCO remains flexible, accessible, and member-centered.

With strong financial performance, expanding infrastructure, increased accessibility, and continuous innovation, Yetu SACCO remains a safe haven for growth and investment.

The SACCO's commitment to empowering members, coupled with strategic expansion and modern digital services, positions it as a leading cooperative institution shaping the future of financial prosperity.



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Building & Civil Engineering Department

The Building and Civil Engineering Department equips learners with practical construction and infrastructure development skills essential to national growth. Training emphasizes quality workmanship, safety standards, and modern construction techniques.

Students graduate with the competence to work on building projects, housing developments, and infrastructure works, or to operate independently as skilled professionals within the construction industry.



The Agriculture and Environmental Studies Department

Department at Karumo Technical Training Institute plays a critical role in promoting food security, sustainable farming, and environmental conservation.

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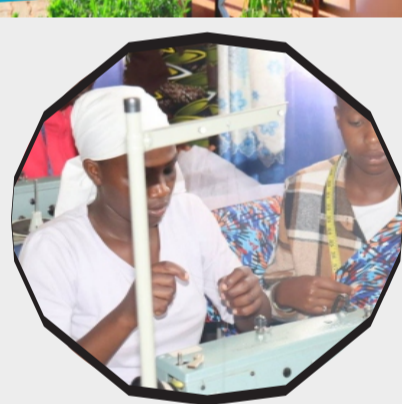
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Karumo TTI's Computing, Informatics and Business Department prepares learners for the digital and administrative demands of modern workplaces. Training integrates ICT skills, business operations, and professional ethics to ensure graduates are workplace-ready.

Learners are equipped to serve effectively in offices, institutions, enterprises, and community organizations, or to pursue entrepreneurial ventures in technology and business services.



Electrical & Electronic Engineering Department

Karumo TTI's Electrical and Electronic Engineering Department trains skilled technicians to support Kenya's growing infrastructure, energy, and technology sectors. Training focuses on safety, precision, and practical application in electrical systems and electronic technologies.

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Solar PV Installation	Module 1	CDACC	3 Months

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Course	Module	Examining Body	Minimum Duration
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Apiculture Management	Module 1	CDACC	3 Months
Aquaculture	Module 1	CDACC	3 Months

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Civil Engineering	Module 1	CDACC	3 Months
Construction Management	Module 1	CDACC	3 Months
Interior Design	Module 1	CDACC	3 Months
Land Survey	Module 1	CDACC	3 Months
Building Technician	Module 1	CDACC	3 Months
Plumbing	Module 1	CDACC	3 Months
Quantity Surveying	Module 1	CDACC	3 Months

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Daniel Kinyua - AJ says South Imenti deserves better

By Nancy Kinoti

Daniel Kinyua, a seasoned cooperative leader and businessman, has declared his intention to vie for the South Imenti Member of Parliament seat in the 2027 General Election, saying the constituency needs accountable leadership and people-centered development.

Kinyua hails from Mikumbune in Nkuene Ward and is a product of local schools, having attended Mikumbune Primary School before proceeding to Meru School. He later pursued higher education at Mount Kenya University, where he studied CPA and a Bachelor of Commerce degree.

A former farmer turned cooperative professional, Kinyua brings over 33 years of experience in the cooperative movement. His career began at Nkuene Farmers Coffee Cooperative Society, which later collapsed. He subsequently joined Meru Teachers Sacco,



Daniel Kinyua Marete AJ - South Imenti
MP Aspirant 2027

which later evolved into the now Solution Sacco, where he steadily rose through the ranks to become Chief Executive Officer.

During his eight-year tenure as CEO, Kinyua is credited with transforming the Sacco, growing its asset base from KSh 4 billion to KSh 10 billion, and strengthening its standing as one of the region's leading financial cooperatives. Speaking on leadership and governance, Kinyua criticized what he described as a growing trend of self-serving politics, arguing that many elected leaders are not people- or service-oriented, a situation he says leaves citizens suffering soon after elections.

He said leadership anchored on dedicated service attracts favor from God and delivers lasting impact to communities, adding that political power should be viewed as a responsibility rather than an opportunity for personal enrichment. On his political journey, Kinyua revealed that he

lost hope and faith in the Kenya Kwanza Alliance led by President William Ruto, a development that strengthened his resolve to seek elective office.

Kinyua said his decision to contest the South Imenti parliamentary seat in 2027 is driven by a desire to bring meaningful change, urging residents—particularly the youth—to take responsibility in shaping the future by identifying and electing competent leaders.

“Good leadership is the foundation of a strong future,” he said, calling on voters to collectively shoulder the burden of removing unfit leaders and replacing them with individuals committed to integrity, service, and development.

Described as disciplined, resilient, and goal-oriented, Kinyua maintains that his track record in cooperative leadership demonstrates his capacity to deliver results and provide transformative leadership for South Imenti.

Njuki calls for tourism revenue sharing to empower local communities

Governor Muthomi Njuki has launched a bold campaign urging the National Government to ensure counties bordering national parks benefit directly from tourism revenue.

The initiative aims to empower local communities while safeguarding the county's

rich natural heritage.

Speaking at the newly inaugurated Kajiunduthi Stadium in Muthambi Ward, Maara Constituency, Governor Njuki highlighted that tourism in Tharaka Nithi generates income for the nation, yet local residents see minimal financial benefit.

“Our people live alongside these parks. They protect wildlife and conserve our forests, yet they rarely benefit from the tourists who visit.

It is only fair that they share in the revenue,” Njuki said, citing successful arrangements between the National Government and Narok and Kajiado counties, which support communities around the Maasai Mara and Amboseli National Parks.

The governor urged residents to uphold strict conservation practices, stressing that environmental protection is central to sustainable community prosperity. “We must safeguard our forests and wildlife, including rare species like the pancake tortoise. Our development depends on a healthy ecosystem,” he warned.

County Commissioner David Gitonga joined the governor in addressing social challenges affecting the youth, expressing concern over rising teenage pregnancies and exploitation by older men.

A monitoring campaign has been launched to tackle the problem. On the issue of illicit alcohol, county leadership vowed tighter oversight after reports surfaced of some licensed traders illegally

selling brews.

Governor Njuki emphasized that collaboration between the county and national government is critical for unified development.

He said revenue-sharing agreements with tourism hotspots would not only improve local livelihoods but also strengthen conservation and create new opportunities for residents. “This is about fairness and sustainability.

When our communities thrive, our environment thrives, and tourism flourishes,” Njuki concluded, sending a clear message that economic empowerment and environmental stewardship must go hand in hand.



Governor Njuki with Traditional dancers during the Jamuhuri day celebrations

Alarming teen pregnancies, sexual violence in Meru prompt Senator Kathuri and ZK to call for action

By Gerald Mukembu

A surge in teenage pregnancies, school dropouts and sexual violence has ignited public outrage in Meru County, prompting renewed calls for coordinated intervention to protect minors and enforce the law.

Concerned county leaders say families, security agencies, education officials and religious institutions must work together to confront what they describe as a growing threat to children's welfare.

Meru Senator Kathuri Murungi disclosed that 17 girls sat their Grade Six and Grade Nine exams from the maternity ward at Maua Level 5 Hospital this year, underscoring the gravity of the crisis.

Speaking during a mentorship forum for more than 400 students under his Kamashinani Foundation, the senator said he was “deeply shocked” to meet teenage mothers who should have been in class. He further noted that over 4,000 girls have dropped out of school in the last two years due to pregnancy.

Murungi criticized the increasing practice where families and perpetrators privately negotiate to settle statutory rape cases, often using livestock or other gifts as compensation.

“It is heartbreaking that girls as young as nine are dropping out of school, yet no legal action is taken because the matter was handled outside court,” he said, adding that some offenders are “older men who should be protecting children rather than exploiting them.”

He urged chiefs, assistant chiefs and Nyumba Kumi units to step up vigilance and ensure all offenders are arrested and prosecuted. “You have a duty to defend our children. There should be no negotiations,” he insisted.

The warnings follow the circulation of a disturbing video last week showing a young woman being gang-raped in Meru—an incident that has drawn widespread condemnation and intensified calls for accountability.



Senator Kathuri, MCA Zipporah Kinya and the students schooling under Meru Senator Kathuri Murungi's Kamashinani Foundation

Religious leaders were urged by the senator to support awareness campaigns and community guidance, with Murungi describing the rising cases of sexual violence as “extremely disappointing and embarrassing.”

Nominated MCA Zipporah Kinya also

expressed concern, appealing to teenage girls to prioritise their education and personal safety. “Never make a wrong choice because it will haunt you,” she said.

“It is your responsibility to ensure you don't get pregnant — not your parents', not your teachers', and not even the man who impregnates you.”

Kinya challenged Meru leaders to invest more resources in addressing gender-based violence, defilement and teenage pregnancies, saying some leaders were failing their communities.

“It is shameful that excuses are made while budgets exist for sensitization on GBV and drought-related challenges,” she said.

She added that a personal vow she made in school to avoid early pregnancy helped her stay focused on her ambitions, urging girls across Meru to do the same.

Meru National Polytechnic holds 6th graduation, celebrates major milestone

By Nancy Kinoti

Meru National Polytechnic on Monday held its 6th Graduation Ceremony, marking a major milestone for the institution as 3,370 trainees were awarded certificates and diplomas across various technical and vocational disciplines.

The colourful ceremony was presided over by the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Hon. Julius Migos Ogamba, EBS, who lauded the institution for its consistent contribution to strengthening Kenya's technical workforce.

The CS underscored the critical role of modern Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions in driving the country's economic transformation, job



Education CS Hon. Julius Migos Ogamba
During the Meru National Polytechnic 6th Graduation ceremony

creation, and industrial growth agenda.

During the visit, Hon. Ogamba also inspected ongoing multi-million-shilling construction works at the polytechnic, being implemented with support from the World Bank under the East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP). The projects are expected to significantly expand training capacity, modernize learning facilities, and enhance the quality and relevance of skilled graduates produced by the

institution.

Institutional leadership received widespread commendation for the seamless organization and execution of the ceremony.

Under the visionary leadership of Chief Principal Dr. Kigige Mutembei, PhD, OGW, the Management Team was praised for its exceptional coordination, tireless planning, and steadfast dedication.

Dr. Mutembei was commended for steering the polytechnic through a period of notable growth, innovation, and transformational TVET

delivery.

The Governing Council, chaired by Dr. Anthony Njagi Getambu, was also recognized for providing strategic oversight and consistent support that has contributed to the institution's steady development and

rising profile as a center of excellence in technical training.

Parents, guardians, trainers, industry partners, and invited guests joined graduates in celebrating the achievements of the Class of 2025, with speakers urging the newly qualified trainees to seize opportunities in the rapidly evolving labour market, embrace innovation, and uphold the values of excellence, professionalism, and integrity instilled during their training.

Meru National Polytechnic reaffirmed its commitment to expanding access to quality, market-driven technical education, as it continues to position itself as one of the leading TVET institutions in the region, aligned with national and regional skills development priorities.



The Chief Principal, Dr. Kigige Mutembei



Thousands of Graduands present during the graduation ceremony

Meru Municipality, Arsenal Kenya partner in cleanup drive as Nteere Park rehabilitation plans take shape

By Nancy Kinoti

Meru Municipal Manager Dr. Jotham M. Kirimi on Monday hosted Arsenal Kenya – Meru Branch during a cleanup exercise conducted at the former Tusks Taxi Stage and Nteere Park, as part of the group's annual Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives.

environment for all residents. He emphasized that sustained cleanliness and environmental stewardship significantly reduce public health risks, curb environmental degradation, and lower the cost burden associated with preventable diseases.

He added that a clean and well-organized urban environment enhances the municipality's attractiveness, particularly as Meru advances preparations for its bid to attain city status.

Nteere Park is one of Meru Municipality's long-established public green

spaces and has for decades served as a central meeting and recreation point for residents, traders, and visitors within the town. Owing to its proximity to major commercial and transport corridors, the park has traditionally supported informal gatherings, cultural interaction, and leisure activities.

However, rapid urban growth, increased human activity, and years of limited

maintenance have exerted pressure on the facility, leading to gradual deterioration of its infrastructure and environmental quality. Despite these challenges, Nteere Park has remained a critical urban ecological asset, offering much-needed green space in a fast-growing municipality.

Recognizing its strategic importance, the county government has already put in place plans to rehabilitate Nteere Park to the highest urban park standards, in line with modern urban planning and recreational requirements. Dr. Kirimi revealed that the Meru Municipal

Board Chairperson will soon formally present the detailed designs for the park's redevelopment.

Once completed, the rehabilitated Nteere Park is expected to serve as a safe, inclusive, and vibrant recreational space for families, youth, and visitors.

The project is also expected to support environmental conservation, social cohesion, and tourism growth, while strengthening Meru Municipality's case for city status.



Arsenal Kenya team with the municipal manager during the clean-up exercise at Nteere Park

The exercise aligns with ongoing efforts by the Meru County Government under the leadership of H.E. Governor Mutuma M'Ethgingia to promote environmental conservation, public health, and community responsibility within Meru Municipality.

Dr. Kirimi noted that the Governor remains committed to deliberately creating a clean, safe, and conducive working and living



Tension escalates along Isiolo, Samburu border after fatal clashes

By Nancy Kinoti

Security has been tightened along the Isiolo–Samburu border following fresh clashes in Chari Ward that left two people dead, reigniting long-standing fears of wider violence in one of Kenya's most volatile pastoral regions.

The latest incidents highlight the fragility of resource-sharing arrangements, particularly during drought recovery periods when livestock movements increase. Police have stepped up patrols and surveillance along grazing corridors as local administrators warn that retaliatory attacks or opportunistic raids could further escalate the situation.

The deployment follows a weekend confrontation between armed groups, believed to be rival herders. Such clashes have become a recurrent trigger of instability as communities compete for pasture and water.

During a visit to the affected villages on Monday, Isiolo Governor Abdi Goyo issued a 48-hour ultimatum for herders from a neighbouring county to vacate grazing areas within Isiolo's jurisdiction. He warned that failure to comply would lead to the creation of a buffer zone aimed at reducing direct contact between rival groups.

While the ultimatum addresses local anxieties and political expectations, questions remain over its practicality and long-term impact. Buffer zones have previously provided temporary calm but

have rarely addressed deeper causes of conflict, including disputed boundaries, unclear grazing management frameworks, and widespread arms possession.

Governor Goyo condemned the killings and pledged that his administration would prioritise community protection and the restoration of stability.

His visit included meetings with bereaved families and affected households, reaffirming the county's authority in a region where security response has often been perceived as slow or inconsistent.

The political temperature rose further on Tuesday when Samburu Governor Lati Lelelit toured Kulu, on the Samburu side of the contested border. While urging restraint and assuring residents of ongoing engagement between leaders, his presence highlighted concerns of an emerging inter-county rift.

Despite past collaboration on peace initiatives, the recent violence underscores how fragile relations remain when lives and livestock are at stake. Local elders and community groups from both counties are calling for strengthened inter-county coordination, arguing that security responses alone cannot deliver sustainable peace.

They are pushing for renewed commitment to long-standing resource-sharing



Members of the community during a past public engagement forum

agreements, some dating back decades, which historically allowed pastoral communities to move livestock across administrative boundaries during droughts or seasonal shifts. Breaches of these arrangements—often driven by population pressure, climate-related stress, or political interference—have repeatedly sparked cycles of suspicion and conflict.

Analysts warn that while the current clashes appear isolated, they reflect a broader pattern of militarised pastoral disputes across northern Kenya. The Isiolo–Samburu border has often been a flashpoint, with incidents escalating quickly due to illegal firearms and the cultural importance of livestock. The challenge for county governments and national security agencies remains balancing immediate security needs with

long-term peacebuilding measures, which requires cooperation rather than unilateral ultimatums.

For now, multi-agency security teams are on high alert, patrolling the border and monitoring movements.

Local administrators are mapping hotspots, engaging herders' associations, and working to prevent further confrontations. As the 48-hour ultimatum expires, attention will focus on whether herders comply voluntarily—or whether enforcement sparks new tensions.

What remains clear is that while the latest clashes prompted swift action, the underlying issues persist. Without sustained dialogue, transparent resource-sharing mechanisms, and coordinated county action, the Isiolo–Samburu border is

Health workers praise Governor Mutuma for tackling their challenges

By Gerald Mukembu

Health workers in Meru County are crediting Governor Mutuma M'ethingia with improving relations between the county administration and medical staff, saying long-standing concerns are finally receiving attention.

Kenya National Union of Nurses (KNUN) Meru Branch chairperson Mugambi Bakari said the governor's approach to dialogue has eased tensions that previously led to repeated industrial action.

"Compared to past administrations, we now

feel heard. The reason we have not seen any strikes during Mutuma's term is because there is open engagement between us and the county leadership," He said.

Bakari, who represents seven unions in the health sector—including those for clinical officers, public health officers, nutritionists, laboratory staff and doctors, said communication with the Governor Mutuma's administration has improved significantly.

"We used to struggle to get our issues on the table, but now discussions are regular and

productive," he said.

Henry Mwenda Marangu, chair of the clinical officers' union in Meru, echoed these sentiments, noting that career stagnation has been a major grievance across the sector.

"Promotions have been one of the toughest issues for health workers, and we appreciate that steps are finally being taken to address them," Marangu said.

He noted that union leaders have met the governor several times since he took office, alongside additional meetings with various departments.

According to Bakari, the consistent dialogue has led to timely salary payments for health workers, a shift from previous periods of delayed compensation. "For the first time in years, our members are receiving their salaries before the month ends," he said.

Bakari added that supplies to health facilities have become more reliable. "Drug shortages were common in the past, but deliveries have become more frequent and in larger



Governor Mutuma and Deputy Governor Linda Kiome during the inspection of a ward block construction at Miathene level 4 Hospital

quantities," he said.

He further highlighted progress on staff promotions, a persistent concern among health workers. "Promotions have begun moving, especially for common cadre staff, and many expect to be upgraded by the end of the year," he said.

Bakari added that the governor had "committed to increasing the Sh21 million set aside for promotions and the Sh100 million budgeted for new employment in the next financial year."



Kenya National Union of Nurses Meru branch chairman Mugambi Bakari speaks at a press briefing

Meru County intensifies anti-GBV campaign as leaders condemn brutal sexual assaults in Igembe North

By Gerald Mukembu

Meru County has renewed its commitment to ending sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) with the launch of the 16 Days of Activism Against SGBV awareness caravan, even as leaders and elders strongly condemned a shocking sexual assault incident that has horrified residents.

The caravan was flagged off by the Meru County Government in partnership with the National Government and Ripples International, marking a decisive step in mobilizing communities against gender-based violence.

Speaking during the launch, Deputy Governor Linda Kiome Gitonga pledged free legal support to survivors to ensure perpetrators are brought to justice. “As an administration, we are declaring total war on SGBV. Our society must be safe for all,” said Kiome, an advocate of the High Court.

She urged men to take the lead in protecting women, girls, and boys, and to actively speak out against abuse.

The awareness drive begins in Meru town and will make key stopovers in Laare and Tiira—areas historically associated with high cases of female genital mutilation (FGM) and gender-based violence.

However, the campaign comes against the backdrop of public outrage following the circulation of a disturbing video allegedly showing a young woman being gang-raped in Laare, Igembe North Sub-County. The incident



Meru Deputy Governor Hon. Linda Kiome [in a blue blazer] present during the 16 day activism event in Meru Makutano

is believed to have occurred on November 29, 2025, and reportedly shows several men restraining the victim as others cheered and recorded the assault.

Meru Woman Representative Karambu Kailemia condemned the act, describing it as a shameful reflection of moral decay within society. “My heart is heavy and troubled. We cannot continue being bystanders as such evil is committed,” Kailemia said, calling on law enforcement agencies to swiftly arrest all involved, including those who filmed and encouraged the crime.

She urged the public to actively participate in the fight against gender-based violence by speaking out and raising awareness within their communities.

Mitunguu MCA Mawira Kaaria also condemned the incident, saying the video was

too disturbing to watch in full. He appealed to members of the public with information to help identify the survivor or the suspects, noting that no formal complaint had yet been filed. “I appeal to anyone with information about this incident to come forward,” Kaaria said, announcing a Sh10,000 reward for information that would lead to the identification of the perpetrators or the survivor.

Njuri Ncheke Elders Issue Warning

The Njuri Ncheke Supreme Council of Elders joined in condemning the assault, terming it an insult to Ameru culture and a serious breach of community values.

Secretary General Murangiri Kiriinya demanded immediate forensic investigations and arrests, warning that if the suspects fail to surrender within seven days, the council would invoke the Kithiiri curse—a severe traditional

sanction reserved for grave offenses.

Murangiri also expressed concern over a growing pattern of violence in the region, citing reports of forced re-circumcision of a young man in Kiegori and the alleged sodomy of another young man in Athiru, both in Igembe South. “If such crimes can happen, then something is fundamentally wrong with the security apparatus,” he said, urging the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) to act swiftly.

County Launches Imarisha Mahusiano Program

As part of long-term efforts to address violence at the household level, the county also marked the close of the 16 Days of Activism by launching the Imarisha Mahusiano Program, funded by the UK Government through the Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW Kenya). Gender and Social Development Director Hellen Kaberia represented the County Executive Committee Member for Youth Affairs, Sports, Gender and Social Development, Hon. Elias Murega, during the launch.

The program seeks to promote healthy relationships, reduce intimate partner violence, and equip couples with communication and conflict-resolution skills. It will directly support 400 couples across Igembe Central, Igembe North, Tigania East, and Tigania West, and another 400 couples in Tharaka Nithi County. County officials said the initiative aligns with Governor Mutuma M’Ethingia’s manifesto, which prioritises strong family units, enhanced social protection, and cohesive, peaceful communities.

Mohamed Moti & Sons: from pioneer trader to commercial landmark in Meru Town

Editors Pick

In 1896, a young Indian entrepreneur named Mohamed Moti set sail from his native India, intending to settle in South Africa. A stopover in Mombasa, however, changed his course.

Persuaded by fellow Indian travelers, Moti decided to make Kenya his home. Traveling inland by foot and ox wagon, he briefly lived in Nairobi before venturing to the Northern Frontier District.

By the time Meru was declared a township in 1911, Moti had already established a thriving business there.

Building an Empire in Early 20th-Century

Kenya Moti’s early enterprise, which started with groceries, textiles, and basic commodities, quickly expanded to meet the needs of both colonial officials and local communities.

Known locally as “Duka la Serikali” (“the government’s shop”), the business dealt in hardware, maize milling, petroleum products, and acted as a major distributor in the Mt Kenya region and Northern Frontier District.

At its height, Moti operated over 60 shops across Kenya, becoming a trusted supplier

for both institutions and households.

Trust, Legacy, and Continuity.

Moti passed away in 1930, but his legacy endured. The business, now known as Mahomed Moti & Sons, has remained a symbol of quality, reliability, and trust. Situated on Njuri Ncheke Street, Meru’s historic commercial artery, it continues to serve as a go-to destination for businesses and individuals alike, trading in electronics, spare parts, machinery, equipment, and hardware.

A Cornerstone of Meru’s Urban Identity

As Meru Town has grown into a bustling regional hub with modern infrastructure, Mahomed Moti & Sons has remained not just a business but a commercial landmark.

Njuri Ncheke Street, historically known for its concentration of pioneering traders, continues to thrive, with Mahomed Moti & Sons acting as an anchor for the town’s commerce and identity.

Shaping Meru’s Skyline:

The New Moti Commercial Building In a move that signals both continuity and modernization, the Moti family is



constructing a 10-storey commercial building near the Meru Police Station — set to be one of the tallest in the town.

This development represents more than commercial expansion; it is a symbol of Meru’s evolving urban landscape and a physical reminder of the town’s growth from its early days to a modern city.

Legacy Beyond Commerce

Mohamed Moti’s contributions extended beyond business.

He was a community leader who helped establish foundational institutions and advocated for projects that benefitted both residents and the broader urban environment.

Anchor of Tradition and Beacon of Progress

Over 129 years later, Mohamed Moti & Sons stands as a living chapter in Meru’s identity. It combines heritage, trust, and innovation, while the new building under construction signals a bold leap into the future, cementing its status as both a commercial reference point and a landmark shaping the face of Meru Town.

2027 political battle looms

From back page...

The verbal exchanges between the two leaders signal a growing divide in Meru's political landscape.

Linturi and Mpuru now represent opposing factions—WANTAM and TUTAM—each seeking to influence the direction of local politics ahead of the next general election.

traction ahead of the 2027 polls.

The ongoing tussle highlights the fragility of local political alliances, signaling that national leaders will need to actively engage Meru stakeholders to secure loyalty and maintain electoral strength.

If unresolved, the Linturi-Mpuru feud could reshape the balance of power in the region, affecting both parliamentary and presidential election outcomes. Mpuru Hits Back, Declares His Wealth

In a swift rebuttal, Mpuru Aburi urged Linturi to "leave him alone," saying he had nothing to show for his years in government.

The self-declared General and NOPEU Party Leader insisted he was financially independent and did not depend on "handouts from the President."

His remarks followed accusations by Linturi that some Meru MPs had been frequent visitors to State House seeking favors, claims that stirred political tension among leaders aligned to the Kenya Kwanza administration.

In response, Mpuru publicly listed his assets, insisting he is a wealthy man in his own right and challenging anyone questioning his independence to verify the information.



Governor Mutuma and Senator Kathuri have become close political buddies leading the Pro-TUTAM campaigns in Meru



Tigania East MP Mpuru Aburi

Political observers note that the ongoing confrontation may extend well into the 2027 campaigns, with both leaders expected to play central roles in shaping voter sentiment.

For now, the feud shows no signs of cooling, with residents and leaders alike closely watching how the rivalry will impact Meru's political future.

The split among local leaders threatens to weaken the cohesion of political blocs that have traditionally supported the Kenya Kwanza administration in the region.

President William Ruto's influence in Meru, a key stronghold in Mt. Kenya East, could face challenges if the rivalry deepens, as voters may become divided between the WANTAM and TUTAM factions.

Political experts suggest that the dispute may embolden opposition movements, providing an opening for alternative candidates to gain

Governor Guyo survives petition over alleged political defection

Isiolo Governor Abdi Guyo and his deputy Dr. James Lowasa have won a legal reprieve after a High Court bench dismissed a petition seeking their removal over alleged party hopping.



Isiolo County Governor Abdi Guyo

The ruling, delivered on Friday, December 5, 2025, stressed that legal evidence is required to prove defection, including formal resignation from the sponsoring party in accordance with the Political Parties Act.

The petition, filed in June 2023 by Guyo Ali, Mohammed Wario, Teddy Muturi, and Steven Kihonge, alleged that Governor Guyo and his deputy had defected from the Jubilee Party to the United Democratic Alliance (UDA).

Petitioners argued that this supposed defection automatically disqualified the leaders from holding office, necessitating a by-election.

They also sought a conservatory order barring the leaders from running the county pending resolution.

However, the court found no evidence of formal resignation submitted to Jubilee or the Registrar of Political Parties.

Justices Jairus Ngaah, Lawrence Mugambi, and John Chigiti ruled that public association with

another party or political alignment does not constitute legal defection unless the strict resignation procedures outlined in Sections 10 and 11 of the Political Parties Act are followed and verified in court.

Governor Guyo welcomed the ruling, dismissing the petition as "baseless, ill-intended, and driven purely by political mischief." He said, "The court threw out the petition after establishing that there was absolutely no evidence that we ever resigned from or defected from the Jubilee Party."

While the court acknowledged that unregulated party hopping poses risks to democratic stability and raises ethical questions under Article 10(2) of the Constitution, it emphasized that judicial action is only warranted when the legal threshold of proof is met.

The decision offers significant relief to Governor Guyo and Deputy Lowasa, clarifying that removal from office cannot be based on speculation or political perception.

The ruling also reaffirms that governors exercise executive authority on behalf of the people, distinguishing constitutional office from political loyalty.



Isiolo County Deputy Governor Dr. James Lowasa

Muthomi Thiankolu becomes first ever Senior Counsel from Meru

By Nancy Kinoti

Meru has reason to celebrate as Dr. Muthomi Thiankolu, a distinguished constitutional lawyer and academic, has been conferred the prestigious title of Senior Counsel, the highest



professional honor for advocates in Kenya.

The conferment, one of only 54 awarded this year, took place at State House, Nairobi, in a ceremony presided over by President William Ruto.

Dr. Thiankolu, a partner at Muthomi & Karanja Advocates and senior lecturer at the University of Nairobi Faculty of Law, is the first lawyer from Meru to achieve

this distinction, cementing his status as a trailblazer in the county's legal landscape. The Senior Counsel title recognizes lawyers who have demonstrated exceptional legal excellence, professional integrity, leadership, and significant contribution to the development of the law in Kenya.

Among the distinguished cohort elevated alongside him were high-profile legal figures including National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula, NIS Director-General Noordin Haji, and constitutional scholar PLO Lumumba.

Dr. Thiankolu's career spans constitutional, electoral, and administrative law, with involvement in key national cases and mentorship of young advocates.

His conferment marks a milestone not only for his personal career but also for Meru's legal community, inspiring upcoming lawyers from the region to aspire for excellence at the national level.

With this achievement, Dr. Thiankolu joins an elite circle of Kenya's most respected legal minds, solidifying his reputation as a leading advocate and academic whose work continues to shape the country's legal landscape.

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Eastern region Football giants under siege as Division One reality hits hard

By Gitary Dominik

The 2025/2026 FKF Division One campaign has proven to be a bruising battleground for clubs from the Eastern Region, who are now grappling with a reality far harsher than they had anticipated. After an impressive run in the lower tier, the former Division Two Northern Zone Pool B-teams once the pride of the region, stepped into Division One with high hopes but they are now struggling with the tempo of a higher League and the heat is intensifying with every matchday.

Ishiara FC and Dummen Orange FC all from Embu County, have endured the roughest start, going seven matches without a single victory. Their winless streak has cemented them deep in the Danger Zone, raising alarm among supporters and football stakeholders. These two sides, once known for their resilience, now seem

overwhelmed by the pace, physicality, and tactical sharpness demanded at this level.

Their struggles reflect not just technical lapses but structural weaknesses that need urgent intervention.



Ishiara FC Players warming up before a match

Al-azizia FC and KAPA FC have managed only one victory. Though they have managed a handful of draws, their inconsistency has kept them dangerously close to the relegation zone. Their performances have been a mixture of flashes of brilliance and moments of costly indecision, a reminder that experience and squad depth matter immensely in this league.

FC Dynamo, another Eastern hopeful, has also found the terrain steep. Narrow losses and tough lessons have defined their season, showcasing the thin margins that separate triumph from frustration.

If the current trajectory persists, the Eastern Region could witness multiple teams slipping into the FKF Conference League next season. To prevent this downward spiral, strategic changes must be embraced.

Clubs need to invest in qualified and experienced coaches who can read games, build strong systems, and inspire confidence within the squad.

Also, teams should bolster their squads with quality and experienced players capable of handling pressure and guiding younger talents. Division One demands not just skill but composure on the pitch.

The lifeline of every football club is the fans, who must rally behind their teams. Their support, presence, chants, and their unwavering encouragement during match days can ignite belief, lift spirits, and turn difficult fixtures into memorable comebacks.

The season is far from over, but the message is crystal clear: unity, smart planning, and renewed fighting spirit can rescue Eastern giants from the jaws of relegation.

Governor Njuki opens the newly refurbished Kajiunduthi Stadium

By Gitary Dominik

Tharaka-Nithi County witnessed a major breakthrough as Governor Muthomi Njuki officially opened Kajiunduthi Stadium and made a bold commitment to revive sports. For years, the Sports docket existed as a ceremonial office, leaving many local teams struggling with financial constraints, travel challenges, and limited support.

funds will be allocated for a new, fully equipped bus to support our teams, with all travel expenses covered by the County Government," he assured.

CECM for Sports, Ms. Moreen Kariuki applauded the governor's commitment and urged the public to protect the new stadium from vandalism. The governor further



Players delighted after the opening of the completed Kajiunduthi stadium

During the opening ceremony, the governor renewed hope in the sports fraternity by supporting with Ksh 1,047,000 to support six county teams participating in the FKF Conference League. The cheque was issued on the spot, signalling a fresh start for the local teams.

Governor Njuki also vowed to purchase a fully furnished modern team bus to ease the burden of transport during away matches. "In the upcoming supplementary budget,

announced plans to construct the county's first-ever public swimming pool at the facility and to upgrade Kibugua and Rwatha grounds next financial year.

Earlier in the week, PS for Youth and Sports Affairs Samuel Mwangi toured the long-stalled Kirubia Stadium alongside county officials, assuring residents that its completion will finally be achieved within four months.

Flashback: When the Crème de la Crème of women sports in Universities came to Meru

By Hillary Mukasa

The 14th Kenya University Sports Federation (KUSF) Women Championship was hosted by Meru University of Science and Technology (MUST) on 7th to 9th March 2025. Basketball matches were played at KeMU.

The theme was "Accelerating Health and Talent for University Women through Sport." There were about 2000 participants. The Local Organizing Committee (LOC) was on top of things with preparations in all the necessary departments.

The Championship brought together over 30 Universities and over 20 sports disciplines. The Championship encouraged teamwork, health and talent development. Two exciting new sports, pool and Frisbee were introduced expanding the diversity.

The Director of Sports in Meru University Dr. Timothy Ramara said the LOC had the blessings of the Vice Chancellor Prof. Romanus Odhiambo Otieno and the KUSF executive. The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic and Student Affairs) Prof. Simon Thurairira also supported the event fully.

The LOC appointed by the VC was headed by the Registrar Administration Dr. Elijah Walubuka who spearheaded the preparations for the event.

KUSF President Mr. Alfred Kibet Rono expressed his gratitude to Meru University for the warm hospitality and encouraged participants to embrace fair competition.

Meru University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Romanus Odhiambo, represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Ag.) Prof. Hilda, reaffirmed the institution's commitment to sports. She emphasized that sports play a crucial role in students' personal and professional growth, and the university

would continue to uphold its rich sporting culture.

The opening ceremony was graced by former Meru County Woman Representative Hon. Florence Kajuju, who served as the chief guest. She commended KUSF for setting dedicated dates for women's sports and applauded Meru University for being at the forefront of promoting athletics in the region. Edwin Oduor a sports officer and basketball coach at Meru University said "Hosting of the games brought high caliber teams closer to the MUST community. The influx of visitors from all over the country did not only bring business to traders around Meru University but also open the eyes of the MUST community to other positive aspects that the visitors brought."

The closing ceremony was led by Fridah Makena Mugambi, the Principal Education Officer from the State Department for Education and Research. She praised the participants for their effort and teamwork, emphasizing that sports not only create lasting bonds but also teach vital lessons in discipline and perseverance.



WANTAM vs TUTAM: the big political split in Meru ahead of 2027

By Nancy Kinoti

The political rivalry between former Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Mithika Linturi and Tigania East MP Mpuru Aburi has escalated, drawing in residents and reshaping alliances as Meru heads toward a heated 2027 election cycle.

A section of residents from Igembe South has defended Linturi following recent remarks by MP Aburi, accusing the legislator of unfairly targeting the former CS in his public utterances. The residents said Linturi has made notable contributions to the

community over the years and urged local leaders—particularly Members of Parliament—to prioritize unity and development over personal attacks.

Linturi Dismisses Mpuru's Leadership

Linturi, currently serving as the DCP Organizing Secretary and leading the WANTAM movement in Meru, faulted Meru MPs for allowing Mpuru Aburi to spearhead the TUTAM brigade in the region.

He dismissed the Tigania East MP as “unfit to lead,” claiming he lacked the educational background and leadership qualities needed for effective representation.

Linturi further encouraged Tigania East residents to vote Mpuru out “at the earliest opportunity.”

continued on page 14



Former Agriculture CS Mithika Linturi

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