



Special Edition



ELGEYO MARAKWET

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County of
Kibagenge



Champions
Ko Kimnon

Bulletin

Two years on, the County of Champions is transforming

Elgeyo Marakwet Governor Alex Tolgos ranked among the best performing Governors in Kenya in a national poll as projects take shape across the County



By JOSEPH K. KOSGEI

Two years into the first regime of the County Government of Elgeyo Marakwet, a lot of transformation is taking place.

In this Special Edition, we bring you photographic evidence of the transformation that is slowly changing the face of our County and which has earned us praise in Kenya and even abroad.

This transformation is happening despite Elgeyo Marakwet County receiving among the lowest allocations, at third last among the 47 counties, from the National Government due to our low population.

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County ranked sixth best nationally

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Recently, our Governor H.E Alex Tolgos was named as among the best Governors in Kenya out of a survey conducted by an independent research firm Infotrak Research & Consulting.

Governor Tolgos came in at number 6 nationally among the 47 Counties. The County was rated highly in Health, Education & Agriculture and number 4 nationally among the happiest Counties in Kenya.

The survey was conducted between December 2014 and February 2015 and respondents were asked by the research firm to assess the performance of their counties in the delivery of services in key devolved functions.

"These include provision of health services, roads, transport and public works, early childhood education, agriculture and prevention of pollution," the survey stated.

Earlier, a Consortium of Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) had rated our County as the top performing in the North Rift region and thus the Infotrak survey only served to confirm that indeed we are the real Champions of the region.

"He (Governor Tolgos) has focused on long term initiatives, which are likely to have an impact on the community," Consortium Member Paul Mwangi noted in the report.

Tolgos scored high in agriculture, health and the general performance of public servants. He was also rated as the most accessible governor. The report also stated that Elgeyo Marakwet County had a robust communication strategy to empower its citizens.

In this Special Edition, we highlight key milestones and strides made by the County Government in transforming Elgeyo Marakwet in various sectors.

Health

The County Government has aggressively engaged in improving health services to its people by repairing, refurbishing and aligning health infrastructure to the 21st Century needs.

Among the key projects in health funded by the County Government include the upgrading of the County Referral Hospital in Iten and other facilities, purchase of medical equipment and drugs for health facilities in the County as well as acquisition of ambulances.

The County government has further ensured that all health workers in the County are well catered for and paid their salaries on time.

So much has been done in this sector that residents of neighbouring counties are coming to health facilities in Elgeyo Marakwet to seek medical services.

Agriculture

Due to the fact that Agriculture accounts for almost 80 percent of household incomes in Elgeyo Marakwet, the County Government embarked on a campaign to increase agricultural production but laying greater emphasis on agribusiness.

An ambitious subsidy programme was initiated to encourage farmers on this journey and included sale of high quality seeds for cash crops; tea, coffee, pyrethrum, mangoes, tissue culture bananas and avocado. Dubbed 'Buy one Get One' programme, farmers get to improve their crops at the same time getting free seedlings for every one bought.



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He (Governor Tolgos) has focused on long term initiatives, which are likely to have an impact on the community.

- Consortium Member Paul Mwangi

H.E Governor Alex Tolgos named the sixth best performing governor in a national poll conducted by Infotrak Research and Consulting Limited captured in the Daily Nation.

Bottom: The Governor also topped a survey conducted by a consortium of NGO's as carried in The Star Newspaper

PHOTO COURTESY

The same was replicated in the dairy sector where Governor Alex Tolgos took a deliberate move to slash the cost of Artificial Insemination (AI). For sexed semen, the County Government subsidised the cost to sh 500 from sh 6,000 market rate while for ordinary semen, this was reduced to sh 200 from the market rate of sh 2,000. In anticipation of high milk yields, the County has also bought milk coolers for use by farmers.

Sheep farmers are also benefitting from a breed improvement programme where they exchange their traditional sheep for pedigree rams sourced by the County Government.

The County is also promoting the growth of traditional high value crops also popularly known as 'orphaned crops' such as peas, millet, groundnuts, sorghum, pigeon peas and macadamia. Improvement of rams kept by farmers in highland areas is also part of this programme where farmers give up two traditional ones for one pedigree ram weighing 50-60Kgs.

Education

Aware that the foundation of education is critical in the development of human resource, the County Government rolled out a plan to establish modern Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres across the County.

They are modern ECD centres complete with a teacher's office and provide a conducive learning environment for the young ones. The County also employed ECD teachers who have already been posted to primary schools where the ECDs have been put up.

Further, the County embarked on a serious initiative to upgrade polytechnics in the County by rebranding and modernizing them to make them attractive to Form Four leavers. They will now be called Vocational Training Centres.

Tolgos tops in survey of North Rift governors

BY MATHEWS NDANYI

A survey by a consortium of NGOs in the North Rift has ranked Elgeyo Marakwet Governor Alex Tolgos as the best-performing governor in the region.

The survey shows that Tolgos performed better than governors from West Pokot, Nandi, Turkana, Trans Nzoia and Uasin Gishu despite the county receiving the lowest amount of funds by the National Treasury.

"He has focused on long-term initiatives, which are likely to have an impact on the community," consortium member Paul Mwangi told journalists in Eldoret town yesterday.

West Pokot Governor Simon Kachapin was rated second-best while Jackson Mandago of Uasin Gishu led in infrastructure development.

The report came out as Tolgos defended his record, telling critics to give him time to deliver on his election promises.

"They can continue writing and talking as we implement our mandate," he told the Star in his office yesterday.

Tolgos scored high in agriculture, health and the general performance of public servants.

He was rated as the most accessible governor.

The survey cited plans by Tolgos to increase fruit and pyrethrum production.

Tolgos said Elgeyo Marakwet received about Sh1 billion for development.

The report says that Elgeyo is the only county in the North Rift with an effective communication strategy for residents.

It says the county is the only one with a health insurance scheme for elders.

UNITY OF PURPOSE | Governor convenes meeting with all leaders to chart new path in County governance

Leaders pledge: 2015 will be year of unity for development

By SHEILA KAMAR

They start by meeting Lands CS Charity Ngilu who promised 13,000 title deeds for County residents

The year 2015 began well for our County when all our leaders jointly agreed to work together in unison for the sake of Elgeyo Marakwet County progress.

January 17th marked the change of course in the governance of the County when all leaders congregated at Lelin Resort for a unique brainstorming meeting that ended with a raft of resolutions.

The meeting was attended by Governor Alex Tolgos deputy governor Gabriel Lagat, Senator Kipchumba Murkomen, MPs James Murgor, William Kisang, Jackson Kiptanui, Kangogo Bowen and Dr Susan Chebet, Speaker Albert Kochei and all Members of County Assembly (MCAs).

Of all the resolutions agreed upon, the need for a united front to spur the development of the County featured prominently when the leaders emerged from the closed door meeting.

This agreement was to be displayed when the leaders held several public meetings on Saturday, January 17th and Sunday



The entire Elgeyo Marakwet leadership at a joint public meetings at the beginning of the year to announce that they would unite for the sake of County development.

PHOTO | EMMANUEL TALEL

18th in Keiyo and Marakwet sub counties to announce their new resolutions.

The areas of concern that the leaders discussed were County Unity, infrastructural development in the county, establishment of a county

“There is no other way to cover more milestones than to work together just like an African proverb advises that if you want to walk fast walk alone but if you want to walk far, walk with others.”
~ Dr. Chebet

university, engagement with Tullow Oil, forests and environment management among others issues.

Governor Tolgos, who convened the meeting, heaped praise on all leaders for turning up and declared that a new dawn had broken for Elgeyo Marakwet.

“I am very honored that all our leaders showed up and I appreciate the consensus reached to ensure that we all work as a team to deliver the aspirations of our people,” he said.

In the subsequent public meetings that also coincided with public forums on planned oil exploration by Tullow Oil, the leaders told wananchi they had decided to chart a new course to realize faster development.

Left and Bottom: The leaders also attended a joint prayer service to seek divine blessings over their resolve to work together in unison.



“We have agreed to work in unity so that we can pull our energies together for the greater good of our people,” said Senator Murkomen.

He said he would work hard at the Senate and further utilize his closeness to the Presidency to deliver support for the county in its development agenda.

“We enjoy a good working relationship with both the President and the Deputy President and I will use this to our advantage,” pledged Murkomen.

MPs Kiptanui, Bowen, Murgor and Kisang further said they would assist the County Government to champion the interests of Elgeyo Marakwet people in Parliament.

“You have heard us push for equalization funds to our county and we shall continue doing so alongside other agenda that will benefit our county,” said Kiptanui.

Dr Chebet pledged to align her county programmes with those of fellow leaders to ensure that they collectively have a common agenda.

“There is no other way to cover more milestones than to work together just like an African proverb advises that if you want to walk fast walk alone but if you want to walk far, walk with others,” she said.

Speaker Kochei capped it all up when he led leaders and residents who attended the public meetings in singing the Kalenjin song which derives its lyrics from the bible in Psalms 133:1-3-“ How good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in Unity...for there the Lord commanded the blessing”.

Immediately after the weekend of joint meetings, the leaders rolled their sleeves and started walking the talk.

First on the agenda was to pursue land titles deeds for residents in the County who have stayed for years without the important document.

The Governor, Senator and MPs jointly visited Lands Cabinet Secretary Charity Ngilu’s office in Nairobi and after their meeting, Ngilu promised the leaders that over 13,000 titles would be prepared for Elgeyo Marakwet.

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Transformation of EMC in top gear

RATINGS: Infotrak Survey rates Elgeyo Marakwet highly in Education, Health and Agriculture

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Roads & infrastructure

Improving infrastructure to attract investment and boost the County's economy has been prioritised through the construction and repair of roads.

To do this, the County Government has engaged several contractors and supplemented this through acquisition of road equipment to hasten infrastructural development. The equipment include graders, backhoes, rollers and trucks.

Through this, County roads continue to be improved as new ones are also being created with help from locals through the Kazi kwa Vijana programme, domesticated to suit the local populace.

The County has also partnered with the national government and local leaders for the construction of tarmac roads along key highways in Elgeyo Marakwet.

Lands, Water, Environment and Natural Resources

The County Government has also launched several water projects, some that have been completed while others are 95 percent complete. These will see residents supplied with treated fresh water which is a break from the past when they drew water from unclean sources.

Case in point is the multibillion Sabor Water project that has kicked off and is set to supply residents of Iten and Tambach with piped water. The County is also working with the Rift Valley Water Services Board to expand the operations of the local Iten Water Services Company (ITWASCO).

Apart from water projects, efforts were launched to conserve natural habitats including the rehabilitation of Embobut forest and others as well as greening of the County through planting of trees. This has been done in collaboration with partners.

Tourism

Artly described as Kenya's best kept secret, the County Government is aggressively opening up the Elgeyo Marakwet's tourism potential which is immense by branding them. Infrastructural development of these sites is in top gear.

Next, the County has moved to host national events to market the tourism sites including the Rimoi National Reserve by holding the inaugural Rimoi Jumbo Charge jointly organised with Bundu Rovers, a group of Land Rover enthusiasts.

Elgeyo Marakwet also hopes to be the first County to establish cable cars along its breathtaking Kerio Valley escarpments and is looking at a Public Private Partnership (PPP) to accomplish this.



TOP: A modern Mindililwo ECD classroom built by the County Government to replace the old (circled).



Left: Newly built Chemoibon bridge replacing the old one (circled).



Bottom Left: A new dormitory built at Kapcherop Vocational Training Centre.



Bottom Right: A murramed road in the County as part of efforts to make all roads passable in all weather.

PHOTOS | EMMANUEL TALEL

Sports, Youth, Women & Social Services

Being the County of Champions where majority of Kenya's athletics stars hail from, the County Government has developed plans that will elevate the status of the County as an Athletics and wellness destination.

The government has already created running tracks along training routes, supports participation of budding athletes in national championships and is in the process of transforming Kamariny Stadium, which was opened by Queen Elizabeth of England, into a modern facility.

Key sports fields in the wards are also being graded and will soon be made upto to standard and suitable for championships in an aggressive drive by the Department.

The County has also hosted many local and international athletes including First Lady Margaret Kenyatta who has twice made Elgeyo Marakwet her training ground. It was her last training destination before she left for Britain to run the London Marathon.

Information, Communication and Technology

Last year, Elgeyo Marakwet was honoured to have been the second best County in the use of ICT during the ICT Value Awards 2014 gala held at the Intercontinental Hotel.

The County was recognised for having carried out networking of its offices with latest technology as well as use of ICT in the running of the County Government.

For instance, the County has ensured a paperless recruitment process by its County Public Service Board where job applicants apply online without having to send any documents save for the interview day.

The County is currently in the process of setting up ICT centres in all its sub-counties to ensure a technology driven County.

Finance and Economic Planning

The County Government has initiated a number of robust strategies which include increasing revenue barriers, recruitment of additional revenue clerks and a water tight revenue collection system.

This has effectively improved the County's revenue base which has almost doubled.

The County has also worked to ensure that it adheres to Commission of Revenue Allocation and Controller of Budget requirements on prudent management and allocation of resources.

For instance, the County has allocated the stipulated percentage of its allocated financial resources to development. Pilferage of County funds or corruption has been put on check thus enabling the County to deliver services to its people effectively.

Governor reshuffles Cabinet to improve operational efficiency



CHANGES | Six CECs moved as two retain portfolios. Chief Officers not affected by the reshuffle announced in January

County Executive Committee (CECs)

By **ASENATH CHEROP**

Governor Alex Tolgos reshuffled his Cabinet in January this year in a bid to enhance his government's operational efficiency and effectiveness.

Tolgos moved seven of his County Executive Committee (CECs) to various dockets and retained two in their posts.

Those reshuffled were Dr Stella Rono who moved to Education and Technical Training from Agriculture while Stephen Biwott took up the ICT and Public Service docket from Health Services.

Eng Simon Kiplagat became CEC Water, Physical Planning and Natural Resources replacing Thomas Rutto who was moved to Health Services. Shadrach Yatich who served as

CEC Sports, Women and Social Services took up the Agriculture docket.

Monicah Rotich was moved from ICT and Public Service to Sports, Women and Social Services while Morris Rotich who was Education CEC now heads the Public Works, Roads and Transport portfolio.

Those who were retained in their dockets were Ann Kibosia who is CEC Incharge of Trade Cooperative, Energy and Tourism Development and Shadrack Chelimo in Finance and Economic Planning.

Tolgos said the changes were purely meant to bolster service delivery to county residents.

"I have decided to do a cabinet reshuffle to position the CECs in departments where their potentials can be

further enhanced and fully utilized," said the governor.

Tolgos said the CECs had performed well in their previous dockets but said more needed to be done, including more policy development, to deliver the aspirations of local residents.

The governor directed the CECs to engage and consult more in their respective dockets to create synergy and momentum for speedy implementation of projects to transform the County.

He asked them to take up their new positions positively and work towards enhancing their individual performance.

"It is my hope that the reshuffle will create an effective team spirit given that the CECs will be more knowledgeable on more than one department," said Tolgos.



Hon Thomas Rutto
CEC- Health Services



Hon Stephen Biwott
CEC- ICT & Public Service



Hon Shadrack Yatich
CEC- Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries



Hon Dr Stella Rono
CEC- Technical Training & Education



Hon Ann Kibosia
CEC - Tourism, Trade & Energy



Hon Morris Rotich
CEC - Roads, Transport & Public Works



Hon Eng. Simeon Kiplagat
CEC - Water, Natural Resources & Environment



Hon Monicah Rotich
CEC-Sports, Youth, Women & Social Services



Hon Shadrack Chelimo
CEC-Finance & Economic Planning

Leaders meet Ngilu as unity pact begin to bear fruit



“
Out of these we have titles to land in Kerio Valley where Tullow Oil has discovered oil deposits.
~ Governor Tolgos

Left: Lands CS Charity Ngilu meets with Elgeyo Marakwet leaders over the issuance of 13,000 title deeds to County residents soon.

PHOTO | GPS

Murkomen said Elgeyo Marakwet leaders would work closely and support Ngilu to ensure that County residents benefit from the reforms at the Lands Ministry.

"Out of these we have titles to land in Kerio Valley where Tullow Oil has discovered oil deposits. The issuance of these titles would greatly assist create harmony when Tullow finally starts exploration," said the governor.

The County is also planning

a major County Investment Conference in June and preparatory meetings involving all the leaders are in the pipeline to ensure that the leaders use their linkages to bring investors to the County.

"We will involve all our leaders in this and we hope that we will all rally together to bring the potential investors we know to harness the opportunities available in our County," said Governor Tolgos.



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The CS promised to fast track the issuance of the titles and even took the leaders to the Titling Centre where they saw firsthand the efforts being made by the ministry to process the titles.

Tolgos and Murkomen said they were impressed with the speed at

which titles were being processed by dedicated staff who report to work at 7 am and leave at 8 pm.

"The good Lady is doing a great job and we need to give her maximum support. I am so impressed with the Ministry and I believe our Jubilee Manifesto of issuing 3 million titles in 5 years will be surpassed," said Murkomen.

•MAJORITY LEADER'S DESK•

Majority leader: My work as the Government's advocate

UNITY | We work very well with the Speaker and other MCAs to ensure that the agenda of the County government is implemented but of course with checks and balances

By LINUS SIELE

Wilson Kipketer Boit walks us briskly into his office as we exchange pleasantries. On the door is a plank written 'Majority Leader'. As we enter the office, the ambience clearly befits the office holder.

With the warm welcome from this cheerful leader, there is no doubt that he is indeed a man of the people. Just as we are set to start our interview, a number of Members of County Assembly (MCAs) walk into his office to greet him and find out events of the day. He responds to their greetings and promises to attend to them just after he is done with us.

In the interview with Elgeyo Marakwet Bulletin, Boit reveals to us that he continues to be humbled and appreciative of residents of Kabiemit ward for electing him to represent them in the County Assembly.

Further, he notes that through their confidence in him, he was able to be elected as a majority leader by 17 MCAs of the ruling party Jubilee in the House.

"It was a big honour. To date I am greatly humbled by the confidence my electorate have in me as a representative for Kabiemit Ward and further to by my fellow MCAs for electing and entrusting me with the responsibility of being the Leader of Majority in the Assembly," he added.

Boit points to us that, as a leader of majority, he represents the ruling government in the assembly and that the title is a big post that comes second after the Speaker's.

"We work very well with the Speaker and other MCAs to ensure that the agenda of the County government is implemented but of course with checks and balances," he said.

As part of his duty, he tables County Government laws to be legislated, policies ratification and regulations to be put in place. The laws that have so far



been published under his stewardship include: Trade Bill; Alcoholic Act; Public Participation Act; Mortgage and Loan Act of the Assembly; Executive Car and Mortgage Loan and the Equitable Development Act.

Boit considers the Equitable Development Act special in that if fully implemented, it will ensure a true act of devolution to be felt by the residents of Elgeyo Marakwet County.

"The Equitable Development Act is tedious, but it's so

Leader of Majority Hon Wilson Kipketer Boit in his office.

special to me personally because if implemented it will ensure that true devolution is felt," he said.

As representative of the government in the Assembly, Boit is in dialogue with the County Executive to see which ways the Equitable Development Act can be amended to be fully actualised and implemented from the current 75% to 100%.

Unity has been the other critical aspect Boit has played in his role as a majority leader. He has been tasked the role of bringing together and accommodating specially elected and minority MCAs. He led a push to support nominated MCAs, by electing them to be vice-chairpersons in House committees.

"We are a united Assembly and we carry out peaceful deliberations unlike what we see in other counties where fist fights and war of words is the order of the day. In Elgeyo Marakwet, we disagree to agree," said Boit.

By virtue of his office as a Majority leader, Boit sits in several house committees. He sits on the County Assembly Service Board which is tasked with the responsibility of day to day running, welfare and development of the assembly.

He also chairs the prestigious Selection Committee tasked with how many house committees and with how many members each should have, after which they allocate the MCAs into appropriate committees and forward the list to the Assembly for approval. He further sits and serves in the House Business, Health, Sports and Tourism Committees.

The Majority Leader has also been at the forefront in development of the Assembly infrastructure citing the refurbishment of the former local authority chambers and precincts that now has a new look.

"Despite challenges here and there, at least we have been able to refurbish the assembly to befit the status of the legislative arm of the Elgeyo Marakwet County Government. Mind you we are not doing this for us, but for those who will come after us and those who will serve in the future," said Boit.

Despite progress at the Assembly, Boit however regrets that there are some duties he ought to have done such as tabling bills on behalf of the government.

"It is regrettable that some of my responsibilities as a Leader of Majority has been played by the various house committees in place because it was not very clear whose responsibility it was until we sought clarity," said Boit.

The Majority leader has also been on the forefront of building capacity for MCAs by forging close working relations with other arms of government.

For instance, he has written a letter to the Assembly Clerk to make appointments with Commission for Revenue Allocation (CRA), Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC) and Commission for the Implementation of the Constitution (CIC) and arrange for seven members of the House to go dialogue with the commissions to seek clarity of matters that concerns day to day operation of the Assembly.

Boit strives to see Elgeyo Marakwet County Assembly as an 'Assembly of Champions' and encourages residents in the county to engage the assembly on matters that concern them.

He wishes to hear concerns of development from the public which will be acted on by the Assembly as an oversight body to the executive.

"I do not feel offended when the truth is told by our people. The way they rate us matters a lot to me because whenever they raise issues, it is an opportunity for us to make adjustments and correct things. Government is not leaders alone, the public needs to participate in their governance as well," said Boit.



Left: Boit shares a light moment with his counterpart Leader of Minority Hon Benson Kiptire.

PHOTOS | EMMANUEL TALEL

•MINORITY LEADER'S DESK•

WATCH DOG | My role as a Minority Leader requires that I do not remain silent on matters that are of importance to the electorate

'I have attracted both friend and foe but my conscience is always clear on what I do' - Kiptire

By VINCENT BARTOO

Leader of Minority Benson Kiptire is a man known for not mincing his words when it comes to discharging his roles at the County Assembly.

But beneath the controversial politician is a soft spoken personality who opens up about the reasons he is widely misunderstood, and sought to put the record straight.

In a candid interview with Elgeyo Marakwet Bulletin, Kiptire said he was aware that many people consider him a harsh critic and a controversial politician.

"It comes with the territory. My role as a Minority Leader requires that I do not remain silent on matters that are of importance to the electorate. I am the people's watchdog. Through my roles, I am aware that I have attracted both friends and foes but my conscience has always remained clear on what I do," he said.

Kiptire, who represents Kapyego Ward in Marakwet East Sub County, is not only the Minority Leader but Chair of Administration and Intergovernmental Affairs at the County Assembly.

He was elected on a Kanu ticket in the 2013 General Elections and is among three Kanu MCAs in the House, two elected and one nominated.

"Many people know me mainly as a critic but what they do not know is

that I do not oppose things just for the sake of it. What I do is constructive criticism backed with facts and I do not just jump into every opportunity to criticise," said Kiptire.

The Minority Leader further states that he plays his oversight roles actively because of his desire to see Elgeyo Marakwet County's development scorecard raised higher.

"Raising the scorecard is my main driving force. I do this for the people of Elgeyo Marakwet and I also do it to assist the County Government avoid pitfalls and correct them in the course of implementing its mandate," he said.

Kiptire, who is also a Pastor, quotes the Bible in the book of Psalms 27: 5-6 to further explain himself. It states: "An open rebuke is better than hidden love. Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses from an enemy."

"When I criticise something that I have seen wrong, I do not do it behind the backs of those I demand accountability from. I do it when they are there and I tell them point blank," he said.

He is quick to point out that his criticism is not always directed at the Executive arm of the Government but to the County Assembly and even the national government.

"I strive hard to remain impartial so that we carry out proper oversight on all arms of government. So as for me, I would rather criticise openly than engage in backstabbing," added Kiptire.

The Minority Leader however reveals that with the same vigour he discharges oversight, he also supports well intended agenda from the Executive and other arms of government.

He further said he does not shy away from praising the County Government for milestones it has made in developing the County, citing good progress in health, education and roads infrastructural development.

"Being the Chair of Administration where the Governor's office falls, I also have defended his agenda in the House through bills and policies that I believe is well meaning and benefits our people," he added.



Leader of Minority Hon Benson Kiptire speaking to Elgeyo Marakwet Bulletin in his office PHOTO | LINUS SIELE

Kiptire said he is also on record having asked the House to approve the purchase of an extra vehicle for the Governor as well as pushing for an additional budget for the Governor's office.

"Our Governor, Engineer Tolgos, is a very humble man and not luxurious and for many months he has been operating with only one vehicle. So when he goes to Nairobi by flight, he would be picked at the airport by taxis, which was very wrong," he said.

Kiptire further adds: "We had to get him an extra vehicle because he is the President of our County. I have also asked my colleagues to increase his office budget because he has employees under him who must be facilitated to assist in delivering his mandate."

The Minority leader also reveals that his relationship with the Governor is very cordial saying both understand each other's positions and meet frequently to engage on issues affecting Elgeyo Marakwet residents.

"Those who think we are enemies with the Governor are very mistaken. We consult regularly and I respect him because he does not take things personal and he takes advice given to him," he added.

On his relationship with Speaker

Albert Kochei and fellow MCAs, Kiptire said they enjoy a good working relationship and is full of praise for the County Assembly which he says is not extravagant.

"Other assemblies in the country are known for wasting millions of taxpayers' money in many foreign trips but as for us, we chose to minimise them completely. We only do very essential trips," he added.

He further said that unlike other assemblies, the Elgeyo Marakwet House has fully recognised nominated MCAs, electing them to be vice-chairpersons of House committees.

"The fact that they are nominated does not make them lesser MCAs. They were nominated by special interest groups and they must be felt in the House," he added.

Kiptire called for a more harmonious relationship between the Executive and the County Assembly, reiterating that both form the County Government and should compliment one another.

"We should not work in isolation. If the Executive fails, we at the Assembly will also have failed and vice versa. When one arm succeeds, we all succeed. That should be the approach. This is like a marriage that should work at all costs," he said.

“Those who think we are enemies with the Governor are very mistaken. We consult regularly and I respect him because he does not take things personal and he takes advice given to him.”
- Kiptire



Painting it Red: Kiptire never misses red in his attire symbolising his commitment to his party KANU



Hon Kiptire addressing the public during the reopening of County Assembly sittings. PHOTO | EMMANUEL TALEL

UNITY | We work very well with the Speaker and other MCAs to ensure that the agenda of the County government is implemented but of course with checks and balances

County's revenue base growing steadily through robust strategies adopted



By RONALD ROTICH

The County's revenue is set to rise from sh 85 million recorded in the financial year 2013/2014 to a projected sh 132 million in the financial year 2014/2015.

This follows robust strategies being implemented by the County's Department of Finance and Economic Planning headed by CEC Shadrack Chelimo that has seen avenues for revenue increase.

This includes additional erection of 5 barriers that have been operationalized on a 24 hour basis and recruitment of additional revenue clerks hired to enhance revenue collection.

"Even though we faced some challenges and resistance to the barriers, we are not relenting and we shall continue demanding the county share for all resources harvested in the county," said the CEC.

Chelimo cited the harvesting of trees from forests in the County by timber merchants whom he said were raking in millions from the sale of forest products and yet were refusing to pay the necessary levies payable to the county government which is the legal trustee of the people of Elgeyo Marakwet.

"We are warning such people that we shall crackdown on them hard. I am also appealing to traders

within the county to pay their levies to enable the county improve infrastructure and other amenities," he added.

The CEC further noted that the County had made good strides in adherence to laid down financial regulations.

"We have enhanced financial prudence through ensuring adherence to the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act, Public Procurement Act and ensured prompt payment of staff salaries," said Chelimo.

The department has also continued to engage the public during development of the Finance Bill 2014 to ensure that the county spending is in tandem with the aspirations of the people of Elgeyo Marakwet.

"We encourage more of our people to turn up for the finance bill forums we hold each year in the sub counties. We need our people to be more involved in their governance," added Chelimo.

The CEC further said the County has continued to meet the deadlines required by law for submission of policy documents e.g County Budget Review Outlook Paper (CBROP), Budget and Annual Development Plans (ADP).

"We have also facilitated the training of department staff on Integrated Financial Management



County revenue officials led by Finance CEC Shadrack Chelimo (black suit), crack down on cess defaulters at revenue check points established by the County to collect revenue from produce harvested in Elgeyo Marakwet.

PHOTO | LINUS SIELE

Systems (IFMIS) operations to professionalise how we operate," added Chelimo.

Since the inception of the County Government, the County received and have so far disbursed Ksh 6 billion from national government to the respective devolved units in Elgeyo Marakwet.

The County has also worked hard to ensure that it pays its suppliers on time through electronic funds transfer, Government Pay or GPAY that is efficient and transparent.

"We value those who engage us for the supply of services and goods and we prioritise their payments to ensure that there are no delays. We are among the

few counties that make prompt payments save for when we have a few hitches," said Chelimo.

The CEC further expressed satisfaction with the County's allocation of its resources to development saying it had met the threshold required by law.

"The law requires that we allocate 30 percent of the resources to development and our County has done that and even surpassed this percentage," said Chelimo.

The County is also aggressively working towards a cashless mode of transacting business and one of the strategies was the availing of a Paybill Number 827600 for residents and traders to pay county levies.

State of County roads improving day by day, kilometre after kilometre

County also providing jobs to locals through engagement of casual labour in road construction

By JOSEPH K. KOSGEI

The state of roads in the County is improving by the day through concerted efforts by the county government to ensure that all roads are passable in all weather.

Following the acquisition of graders, trucks, backhoes, mixers and rollers by the county, several roads have been graded totalling 344.3 Kilometres.

“We have been able to achieve this through our own machinery and one hired from Mechanical and Transport Fund. We are working tirelessly to ensure that we do as many roads as possible while opening up new ones,” said Morris Rotich, CEC Roads and Infrastructure.

He added that grading and opening up of new roads has seen many residents of the County get jobs in road construction activities that include bush clearing, culvert cleaning, road formation and ditch clearing.

“Through the engagement of our people, mostly youths, we have been able to open several feeder roads across the wards making those places easily accessible,” said Rotich.

The CEC revealed that in the financial year 2013/14, a total of 24 road projects have been implemented under contract basis.



TOP: H.E Governor Alex Tolgos presides over launch of County Tipplers bought by the County Government to hasten construction and repair of roads.



LEFT: A roads machinery at work. The County Government has also prioritised opening of new roads to make every part of the County accessible.

PHOTO | LINUS SIELE

The milestones achieved under these projects include:

- Grading done on 12 roads to achieve 164 Kilometres.
- Cut to spoil/widening of roads was done on five roads to achieve 53 Kilometres.
- Bush clearing was done to achieve 135 Kilometres.
- Culvert installation was

done to achieve 307 metres.

- Some roads such as Emsea-Kimwarer and Chebulbai-Kondabilet had gabion boxes installed by 163m.
- A drift was repaired on Emsea – Kimwarer road.
- Graveling was done to achieve a volume of 36,934 cubic metres.

Rotich further said the department has worked closely with other departments in the county government like Education and Health to ensure that quality work is carried out in the construction of public amenities such as ECD classrooms and health centres.

“We have collaborated well to

make sure that contractors adhere strictly to Bill of Quantities (BQs) to deliver modern and quality work,” he said.

The CEC also said the county is following up on construction of rural roads and tarmac roads in the county which is under the mandate of the Kenya Rural Roads Authority (Kerra) and the Kenya National Highways Authority (Kenha).

“We are glad that H.E our Governor Alex Tolgos is working closely with area leaders including our Senator and MPs in pushing for the construction of these roads like the Nyaru-Iten road that have been earmarked for the county,” he added.

The CEC thanked H.E the Deputy President William Ruto for presiding over the launch of the Chebiemit-Kapsowar tarmac road which will end the misery of motorists and residents who have for long endured years of muddy and dusty roads.

“We also thank him for heeding our cry and demanding the hastening of the Iten-Bugar road which has taken a long time to be done given the time of the awarding of the contract by the national government,” said Rotich.

The County Assembly’s Chairman Incharge of Roads and Infrastructure William Chesigany said he appreciated efforts made to improve the general infrastructure in the County.

“We are happy with the development so far made and we are calling on the county government to continue on this path so that we can open up Elgeyo Marakwet to the rest of the world,” he said.

Chesigany called on contractors and county staff assigned to roads machinery to carry out due diligence and ensure that Elgeyo Marakwet residents get value for money in the funds allocated to the grading and opening up of new roads.

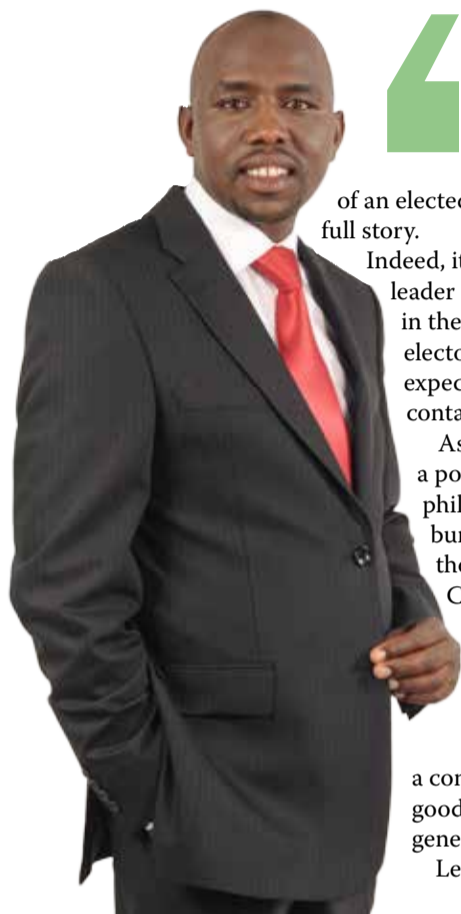


The County Government has also bought other road construction equipment that include mixers (left), backhoes and rollers (centre) and graders for the roads sector. PHOTO | LINUS SIELE

•SENATOR'S DESK•

Leadership is a public trust and responsibility to serve the people

BY HON. KIPCHUMBA MURKOMEN



Leadership is not a mean feat. The people we represent demand a lot from us. The Constitution and other enabling legislation that describe the functions of an elected public officer do not give the full story.

Indeed, it is possible for an elected leader to deliver all that is contained in the law but never satisfy the electorate. There is a lot that is expected of you than what is contained in the written law.

As you may very well know, a politician is a counselor, a philanthropist, an employment bureau and many others, but those are not defined in the Constitution or any law.

All these responsibilities must be carried with great humility; we must always provide the vision and direct our people to a common goal, a goal that is good for them now and for future generation.

Leadership is a public trust and



County r
PHOTO | EMMANUEL TALEL

responsibility to serve the people rather than the power to rule over them. As the servants of the people, we must at all times be guided, not by our personal sectarian interests, but the best interests of the people in the county as a whole.

This is important because we are likely to be tempted to talk about "this group, Constituency, Ward, this community", yet we have a greater responsibility to keep the county as a whole. When such opportunity presents itself, one is tempted to address anything and everything at once. But I would like to confine my address to one thing divided into two; on public participation for accountable county government and the link between the Senate and the county.

Kenya has one of the most liberal

Constitutions which is a product of intense public participation. I say this experience, having participated in collecting and collating public views towards the making of our current Constitution.

In the making of our constitution, Kenyans were rebelling against the big-man syndrome. They wanted to bring to an end the culture of leadership that is doing things for the people and instead put a culture of leaders who do things with the people; they wanted to determine their own programmes and projects.

In the past, there were leaders' driven programmes which led to so many white elephant programmes whose objectives was to enrich the rulers and impoverish the subjects. The struggle by the people to

emancipate themselves from the shackles of bad rulers dates back to the colonial times.

The struggle for independence was driven by the desire by the people to control their destiny. This led to the progressive and participatory independence Constitution.

The people of Kenya enacted the Constitution of Kenya 2010 where Public Participation is recognized in Art. 10 of the Constitution, as national value and principle of governance. The Constitution requires the mainstreaming of participation in all aspects of governance.

The County Assembly and its members should provide decentralized mechanisms for public engagements. Such mechanism would be like Ward suggestion boxes, petitions and memoranda. To ensure that the County Assembly is felt in every Ward, it will be necessary that there is a functional office for the county assembly member.

Devolution was not meant to be felt in county headquarters but rather to take services closer to the people. The County Assembly must carry out its oversight role robustly if they want to receive the legitimacy of the people and to enable the public feel the functioning of county assembly.

Whereas County Assembly and Executive are expected to achieve common results, this can only be achieved if you robustly check the executive. The public must feel that you are taking the county executive to task on matters that are dear to the electorate.

And that is the role of the representative of the people as early as this.

Considering that you are under immense pressure, it will take



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PHOTO | EMMANUEL TALEL



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PHOTO | EMMANUEL TALEL

strong will to resist corruption and to resist compromise by the proverbial 'dipping of your fingers in the cookie jar'. If you stand strong you will never stumble and you will win the confidence of your colleagues and the people that elected you.

County Assembly should carry out civic education on the role of county governments and the place of the various actors. Quality participation cannot be achieved where the citizens do not even know what is the role of the senator what is the role of a Governor and the role of a county assembly member. This will enable the public to carry out quality assessment with legitimate and measured expectations.

Hon. Members must be assisted and we must do civic education to tell people that this is now a parliament at the local level it is not an entity that will carry money; that county assembly members do not carry money in their pockets, because these county Assembly Members are going through the same challenge that the Senators are going through.

That every time you go they will tell you so and so has brought this but where is yours, even a councilor used to bring something? We must tell people that there is a collective responsibility of legislating and ensuring that our county is heading into account and that the development that we will achieve is collective as a county.

The County Assembly should partner with media practitioners to enhance the public knowledge and to publicize achievements of the Assembly and the County. As such, the Assembly must have a functional Broadcasting Committee and a working media department. To ensure that it is well appreciated and known by the public out there.

To achieve greater public engagement, more resources should be allocated to this Assembly to enable it carry out field engagements. I am not doing this to please Hon. Members in this House; I am on record as the Senator of Elgeyo/Marakwet and chair of devolution committee to have been one of the first senators to oppose budget ceilings to the County Assemblies.

To this end, we will work together to ensure that the stumbling blocks put in place by the Salaries and Remuneration Commission and Controller of Budget are overcome so that we can have a strong and functional County Assembly that is able to truly carry out its oversight and representation mandate."

This is Part 1 of an abridged version of Hon Senator Kipchumba Murkomen's Speech to the County Assembly during the reopening of its Third Session on February 9th, 2015

DIVINE | Day is meant to thank God for blessings showered upon the County and seek divine guidance

BY VINCENT BARTOO

Friday November 14th 2014 was a very special day for Elgeyo Marakwet as Governor Alex Tolgos set it aside for a thanksgiving ceremony where the County was committed to God as our sole provider and guide.

Psalms 48:14 was the verse the Governor read out before the congregation at Iten grounds as the biblical decree over the land of Elgeyo Marakwet.

The verse states: **“For this is God, our God forever and ever; He will be our guide even to death”.**

The ceremony was concluded at the grounds after a team of clergy first dedicated all County offices and equipment.

No wonder then that after these prayers were made, good tidings started flowing in the County among them the breaking of the World Record Marathon by our very own Dennis Kimetto, the winning of the Kass Marathon by local athlete Philip Kangogo among other athletics victories.

The County also emerged position one in the North and later number six nationally in an independent poll on the performance of counties.

Banks also started opening its doors in Elgeyo Marakwet including Trans National Bank and the list of good tidings keeps growing by the day. Other counties have started streaming

into our County to seek to duplicate best practices here and this is a good sign.

Back to the prayer day, dedication of the County was presided over by Bishop William Tuimising of the Deliverance Church in Nairobi assisted by clergy drawn from all parts of the County mobilised by their Chairman, Bishop Haron Kwambai of Outreach Ministries.

“I have come here today to pray with the leaders of this county so that God will give you the wisdom of Solomon and Joshua and that He will expand your territories,” said Tuimising.

Governor Tolgos said Elgeyo Marakwet was a unique County adding that it had been blessed by God given attributes such as the high altitude climate that has helped churn out world class athletes.

“As a County we are blessed and that is the reason I decided to set aside one day every year when we stop and give God thanks for the many blessings He has showered upon us. This is going to be done every year,” he said.

Present during the function were all leaders of the County who, in humility before God, knelt down and were prayed for by the clergy.

The leaders thanked the Governor for organising the ceremony saying it was a noble thing to do since leadership is ordained of God.

County holds first Annual Prayer Day



Vote of confidence in our County as Transnational, Postbank and Equity open doors in Iten

Former President Moi presides over colourful launch of Transnational Bank, Iten Branch

BY VINCENT BARTOO

The conducive business environment in Elgeyo Marakwet has attracted some of the leading banks in Kenya that have set up shop in Iten town.

The banks have already started spreading their wings to other major townships in the County through their newly introduced agency banking as plans are underway to establish branches in other major townships in the County.

Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) was the first bank to have confidence in Elgeyo Marakwet by establishing a fully fledged bank complete with ATMs when Iten was still a small town.

Equity was the second to open its doors in Iten and apart from just offering Elgeyo Marakwet residents financial services, it is has spread its Wings to Fly programme here, benefitting needy students in the County through educational scholarships.

The third entrant is TransNational Bank which opened its Iten branch with pomp and colour in a ceremony attended by Second President of Kenya Daniel arap Moi, Governor Alex Tolgos and counterparts, Jackson Mandago (Uasin Gishu) and Benjamin Cheboi (Baringo), former Cabinet Minister Nicholas Biwott among other high profile dignitaries.

Another financial institution that has also helped bring financial services closer to local residents is the Kenya Women Finance Trust (KWFT) which opened offices both in Iten and Kapsowar, lending to women in the County.

Speaking during the opening of Trans National Bank, former President Moi hailed the hardworking spirit of Elgeyo Marakwet residents and encouraged residents to make use of banking services to further

create wealth.

“From my days as President I remember this region had big stores of maize and other produce and the people were hardworking. Continue that way and now go to banks and borrow money to expand your wealth,” he said.

Moi however threw caution saying residents should choose friendly banks that treats clients at a personal level and deals with them in a clear and transparent manner.

“Transnational is one such bank and I urge you all to make use of this branch in Iten. Gone are the days when we used to fear loans, they are now a bridge to wealth creation,” said Moi.

Tolgos thanked the former President for gracing the occasion and Transnational Bank for choosing Iten as a business destination.



“This marks yet another milestone for our County as we open our doors to one of Kenya’s leading banks. For them to consider Elgeyo Marakwet as a business destination is a huge demonstration of confidence in us,” he said.

The Governor noted that the people of Elgeyo Marakwet County were enterprising people citing the owner of Mosop Building that houses Transnational Bank, Wilson Kiptanui, popularly known as Baitany for paving the way for the bank to come to Iten.

“A good example is the owner of this building which will house your bank who is working so hard to help us modernize Iten town. I wish to pay glowing tribute to him and others for their patriotic



entrepreneurial spirit,” said Tolgos.

The Governor said the County Government had aligned its

development plans to suit the enterprising nature of our people and was working day and night to

ensure that the County matches its plans with the expectations of residents.



Moi opens Transnational branch



Editorial & Opinion

ELGEYO MARAKWET Bulletin

Word from the Editor

I take this opportunity to welcome you to the third edition of this quarterly newspaper that keeps you informed on the happenings in the County Government of Elgeyo Marakwet.

I note with pride that this newspaper continues to grow steadily in popularity. Many of you keep asking for the next issue which is a good sign that we are delivering on your expectations.

It is also very encouraging to note that our Senator and Members of Parliament have remained committed in disseminating information regarding their constituencies using this newspaper and this is set to expand in the coming editions.

I wish to also laud the executive and the assembly for according us support in packaging this newspaper which is growing to become an authoritative source of information for Elgeyo Marakwet residents.

I specifically thank the Governor H.E Alex Tolgos for giving us editorial independence and trusting our professionalism to produce this newspaper. I also salute his direction to us that we should give everyone a chance on this platform.

To echo the Governor's sentiments, I wish to remind all residents of Elgeyo Marakwet that as Editor, I welcome any articles on any subject, except politics, for publication.

Special mention also goes to the communication department staff and interns who have worked tirelessly to ensure that we update you on a daily and quarterly basis through social media and this newspaper.

This edition is special to me because it is where we begin highlighting the projects being undertaken by the county government so that you the taxpayer may know how the resources disbursed to the county are being utilised.

We have packaged the projects in a special pullout that will become a feature in this newspaper so that we can update you regularly on the progress of projects in all the sub counties and wards.

This is in addition to information coming out of the nine departments in the county government as well as the county assembly which you usually receive from the county's social media platforms on a day to day basis.

Allow me to repeat the disclaimer at the foot of the pullout, where I have clearly indicated that the projects were captured during a specific period when the communication team went round the wards.

We found the projects at various stages of construction and therefore the status may vary from the actual ones on the ground. Nonetheless, the projects may have been completed or are nearing completion.

Some of the projects may not have been captured and this is due to limitations of space. More of these projects will be published in the subsequent editions.

As I conclude, I wish to offer a brief insider's point of view of the progress made by the county government. In this edition, we highlight results of a national poll that rated our county among the best. This did not surprise me at all.

Under the leadership of H.E Governor Tolgos, the men and women at the county government have given it their all despite the limited resources given to the county to make a difference in the lives of Elgeyo Marakwet residents.

I am proud to be associated with this county government and indeed, the County of Champions- the future of Elgeyo Marakwet is bright! ~*Bartoo*

A Publication of County Government of Elgeyo Marakwet

ALEX TOLGOS : Governor

Dr GABRIEL LAGAT: Deputy Governor

DANIEL KIPTUM: Chief of Staff

VINCENT BARTOO: Director Public Communications

LINUS SIELE: Graphics Design

County Headquarters, Iten

P.O Box 220-30700



Chief Editor: Vincent Bartoo



Graphics Editor: Linus Siele



Photography: Emmanuel Talel



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our social media
platforms

Your social media responses

Arap Kibet congrats His excellency The governor Emc Eng.Tolgos for good performance

Raymond Kips Congratz hon governor Tolgos, keep up the gud work & try to bring in investors to set up a factory in EMC ata kama ni small ya food processing like grain milling, milk processing or fruit & vegetable canning.

Kibor John Congratulation H.E Eng Alex Tolgos, i know how you have changed the livelihood of the farmers on breeding and tick

Kenn Chemisto Concratz my able His excellency Govnr Tolgos for ur exemplary performance, tuko nawe till we become position 1 next time though we r no1 in Health countrywide..!

Dennis Kebenei pongezi to our gov...am beginning to consider ths guy fr a second term...we r watching him closely

Chemaaz Korir Edwin @chemaaz_korir
Matunda ya Alex Tolgos @ElgeyomarakwetC, so far I think he is the only leader in #EMC who has Performed.

rutto wilson @RuttoWilson
@ElgeyoMarakwetC Thanks for the county assembly for passing bills that will aid in raising revenue, lets utilise our resources.

hoodrat @Naitwa_Evans
One of the richest Counties with enormous resources but not fully exploited @ElgeyoMarakwetC the economy is growing fast

kenyavision2030 @kenyavision2030
The governments of Kenya and Belgium have initiated a Sh2 billion water project at Sabor Forest, Elgeyo-Marakwet County #V2030inatendeka

Efforts towards agribusiness bearing fruits in the County

BY LINUS SIELE

The County Government has aggressively promoted various agribusiness ventures through a subsidy programme that seeks to build the capacity of local farmers to engage in profitable agribusiness.

"We want our Agriculture to be commercial and competitive so as to ensure our people satisfy their needs for food production and surplus for commercial purpose," said CEC Shadrack Yatich.

These strategies include:

Seeds Subsidy –

Where farmers and the county government meet half way and get to improve their crops with high quality seeds and seedlings bought jointly by the farmer and the county government.

The County is focussing on cash crops such as tea, pyrethrum, coffee, potatoes and horticulture that will improve income, create employment and diversification. It is important to note that maize production has not improved lives and we advice farmers to diversify production

Livestock Improvement

The amount of milk produced stands at 4/litres/cow/day. The total number of cattle at the County is 150,000. Pedigree cattle stand at 15,000 and through crossbreeds the County aims to increase to 30,000 pedigrees and over 10 litres/cow/day. Annually, the County produces 46 million litres of milk and our aim is to get to 100 million litres annually.

The County Government slashed the cost of Artificial Insemination (AI) from Ksh 2,000 to Ksh 200 for ordinary

semen and Ksh 6,000 to Ksh 500 for sexed semen. The County hired Inseminators and bought them motorbikes to improve access to these services by farmers at their doorsteps. In anticipation of high yields, the County also bought milk coolers for farmer groups. Already, we have farmers who have calves from the program.

Veterinary Services

The County also bought and distributed acaricides to farmers and carried out vaccination to control livestock pests and diseases. Over 40 dips in the County have been rehabilitated and supplied with acaricides while 4 dips are under construction.

Plans are underway to harmonize County vaccination programs with our neighbours West Pokot, Uasingishu, Transoia, Baringo, and Nandi to carry out vaccination at the same time to reduce disease spread.

Traditional High Value Crops

The County is also promoting the growth of traditional crops like peas, millet, sorghum, pigeon peas, macadamia and others that fetch good prices while at the same offering nutritional value to the farmers.

Pedigree Rams & Bulls

The County also introduced a program to improve livestock breeds by introducing pedigree rams and galla bucks that farmers exchange with their traditional ones. The farmers exchange 2 local rams for 1 pedigree ram and one local goat with one galla buck.

Irrigation

The County has a potential of 20,000 hectares that can be put under irrigation.



Top: H.E Governor Alex Tolgos hands over motor bikes to AI inseminators.

Beside: Tolgos participates in a public awareness campaign of the 50 kg farm produce packing act.

Below: The Governor exchanges a pedigree ram with a traditional ram



PHOTOS | EMMANUEL TALEL



Current area under irrigation is about 5000 hectares with 46 small scale irrigation schemes in place.

The County is introducing model farms in Kerio Valley for improved and efficient irrigation systems.

The County has initiated irrigation projects that are being supported by partners such as Egerton University and the National Irrigation Board to exploit the potential of the semi arid areas to boost agricultural produce.

One such project that has become a success is the Kabonon/Kapkamak Irrigation Scheme which has 900 acres of various crops. The County is keen on promoting contract farming between farmers and marketing institutions.

Egerton University has introduced contract farming in the county. We welcome other partners to engage with farmers

in production of different crops.

Green House Technologies

The County has constructed 20 green houses and will construct another 20 in schools and for youth groups to boost income from intensive crop production of tomatoes and vegetables throughout the year.

Fertiliser Distribution

The County has a demand of 60,000 tonnes of fertilizer per year.

This year the County supported distribution of fertilizer from National Cereal and Produce Board closer to the farmers.

We have received 44,000 bags from NCBP. However, the supply has been very challenging. To date farmers are still waiting for fertilizer for wheat planting and for top dressing.

CPSB launches strategic plan to up performance of county public service

One of the major milestones Elgeyo Marakwet County is known for is the full automation of the county recruitment process.

Indeed, when the County emerged position two nationally in the best use of Information Communication and Technology (ICT), the county received commendation for effective use of ICT by the County Public Service Board (CPSB), whose motto is 'Service with Integrity'.

The ICT Value Award 2014 was given to the County by the ICT Technology Association of Kenya.

Smarting from this achievement, the CPSB, headed by its youthful and dynamic Chairman Gideon Kipyakwai, has not rested on their laurels and scored another first this year with the launch of their strategic plan for 2015-2019.

The plan was launched at a colourful ceremony held at the Cheptebo AIC Centre graced by H.E Governor Eng Alex Tolgos, County MP Dr Susan Chebet, Deputy Dr Gabriel Lamaon, Members of County Assembly led by Leader of Majority Wilson Boit and Chairman ICT & Public Service Daniel Chirchir as well as guests from Uasin Gishu, Baringo, Nandi, West Pokot and Trans Nzoia counties.

The Governor congratulated the board for coming up with the plan which will further professionalise the way it conducts its affairs. He said there was need for the CPSB to be run like a business in order to guarantee the people of Elgeyo Marakwet value for their taxpayers' money.



"The money we invest into our public resource as salaries and allowances should be commensurate with their service delivery. So we must ensure that we develop structures like the full implementation of this strategic plan to improve service delivery," said Tolgos.

The Governor said Kenyans should stop viewing CPSBs as employment bureaus where anyone is employed. He said the boards are guided by rules and regulations that require them to have a structured system of employment.

"One of the major problems we have as counties is the huge number of job applicants and this is a catch 22 situation because we cannot employ everyone lest the wage bill balloons and we cannot have any money left for development," he added.

Dr Chebet hailed the strategic plan and encouraged the Board to work hard to ensure that it adopts best practices in the management of the County's human resource.

"We must ensure that there is equity, fairness and the board should resist attempts by any quarters to interfere with its semi autonomous status. The rest of us need to support the board to achieve this," she said.

Kipyakwai said the strategic plan was arrived at following engagement with various stakeholders in the county that culminated in a draft that was presented to the County Executive and later to the County Assembly for approval.

"We considered input from all stakeholders; the general public including

H.E Governor Alex Tolgos and County MP Dr Susan Chebet unveil the strategic plan at Cheptebo Rural and Development Centre. Looking on are CPSB Chairman Gideon Kipyakwai and member Nicholas Chepkiyeng.

PHOTO | EMMANUEL TALEL

unions, special interest groups and even engaged the public service commission as well as bench marking from other counties," said the Chairman.

Kipyakwai said following the launch, the onus was now on the board to implement the plan adding that already the board had worked on work plans to actualise the strategic plan.

He said the plan had a singular goal to improve overall performance of the County public service by aligning the human resource capital to the optimum utilisation of financial resources disbursed to the county as required by law.

Kipyakwai cited Section 149(g) of the Public Finance Management Act No. 18 of 2012 mandates all county government entities to have a strategic plan to guide use of public finances.

"The strategic plan covers staff development, work environment, performance contracting, supervision and day to day operations among other aspects," said the Chairman while calling on the Executive and County Assembly to consider more budgetary allocation to the board.

He said: "Investing in the board will be investing in an efficient and excellent service delivery for our County".

ICT and Public Service CEC Stephen Biwott concurred saying that public service is the catalyst responsible for development progress and special attention needs to be focussed on the human resource capital.

"It is one thing to have a workforce and it is another to have an efficient workforce. So we have to ensure that we build the capacity of our staff and even reward good performance in order to spur effective service delivery," said Biwott.

Board member Nicholas Chepkiyeng thanked the County's Economic Planning Unit for assisting in the development of the plan saying the County had cut costs that would have gone into hiring a consultant to do the job.

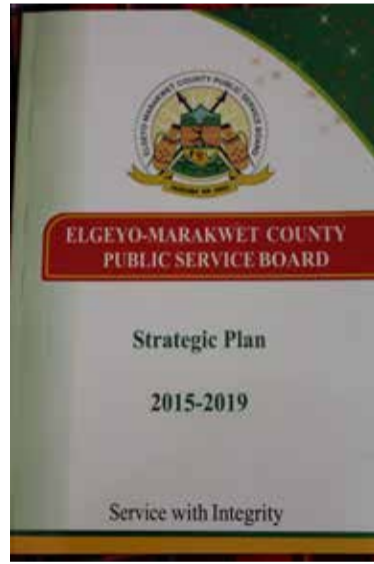
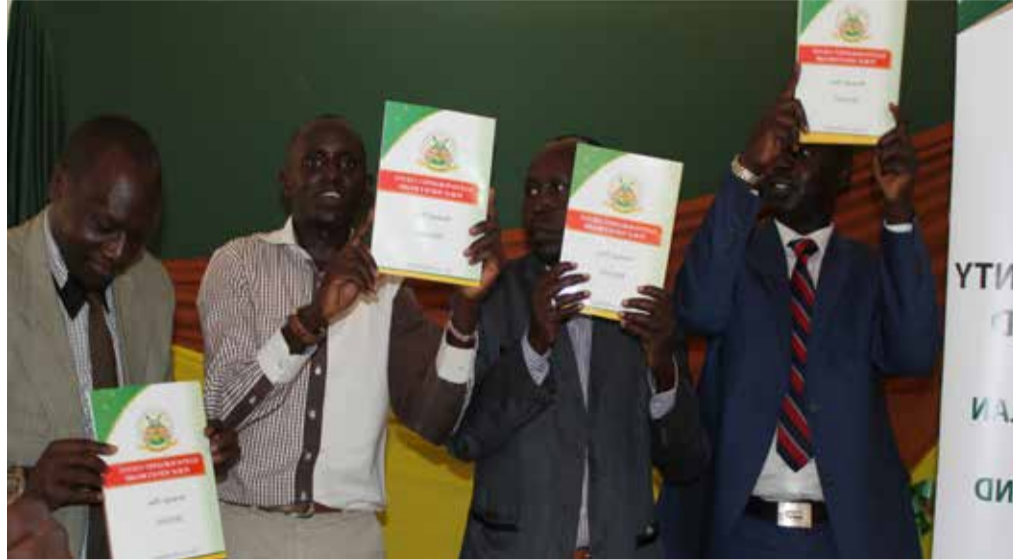
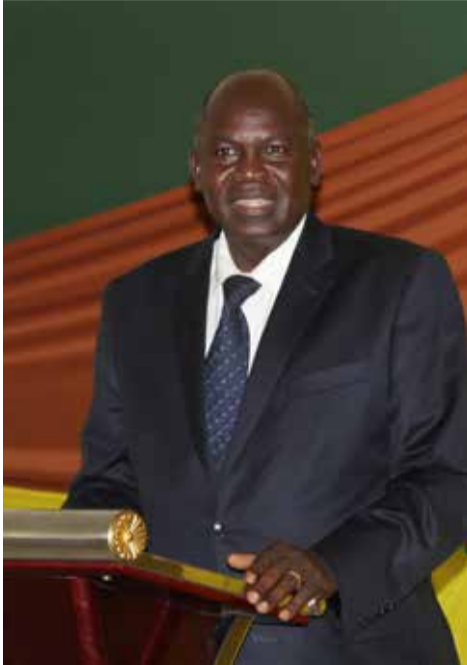
Secretary to the Board, Ms Francisca Bartoo, said the strategic plan would further supplement the gains made to lay the foundation for the board.

"Since we do not have a precedent, we alive to the fact that our board must set the right standards for the future CPSBs and we appreciate the support we have received so far as a board to be able to do this," said Bartoo.

Editor's Note: You can get the full copy of the CPSB Strategic Plan in our County Website www.elgeyomarakwet.go.ke



PICTORIAL | Strategic Plan covers 2015-2019



Is elgeyo marakwet ready for sh 16 billion injection to local economy? – Kipyakwai

RATINGS: Local Businesses and Entrepreneurs in Iten and other towns to reap big courtesy of public servants' Mortgage and Car loan benefit

BY GIDEON KIPYAKWAI

There is a Kshs. 16 billion business potential in the home-property market and car dealership businesses coming up in the entire Elgeyo Marakwet County for local businesses and entrepreneurs to partake.

This business cake is set to be multiplied several fold if other associated businesses such as land dealership, retail and wholesale services, professional services, and labour and craftsmanship is added into the equation. This is courtesy of the upcoming roll-out of mortgages and car-loans for government workers at interest rates way below the market rates guaranteeing quick uptake by the public servants.

Recently, the Salaries and Remuneration Commission issued a circular to all public entities introducing mortgages and car loans to all cadres of all government workforce. As the constitutional body mandated to manage the terms of service of everyone drawing money from public coffers, their decision is as good as law.

Looking at the scale of magnanimity, and the likely economic impact of the implementation of the circular, I am convinced that this decision was approved by economists at the cabinet, treasury and the ministry of devolution where it originated from with ease.

The main objective of the SRC circular is to harmonize terms of service of public servants across the board. Ashamedly, over the years, there has been blatant discrimination in the civil service where persons working for some corporations, commissions or those at some select offices in the government ministries enjoyed benefits such as mortgages that were not enjoyed by others. No wonder, Nairobi which hosts most of these privileged entities has the most booming property markets and by far the greatest economy.

At one point, you must have been struck by the sight of public officers who were employed at the same time, and with the same qualification living very desperate lives. This happened because their employer treats them differently.

This has been quite unfair and unjust, was against existing employment laws and best practice, and clearly unconstitutional. This sheer biasness is going to be minimized by the existence of SRC and the just issued circular is one of such equalization treats. Henceforth, all the employees working in the different sectors of government will be treated equally, thanks to the creation of SRC and her just released guidelines.

In Elgeyo Marakwet, with a total public

service workforce of about 4,000 public servants working for both the County and National government agencies, it has been estimated that the implementation of the directive, which is not optional, will avail a cumulative employment benefit of Kshs. 16 billion to the public servants to purchase owner occupier homes and personal cars. These funds will have to be spent somewhere, and it better be within the County.

This is where the story of County transformation begins.

I have asked myself several questions, for instance: Where will all public servants buy or build their homes? Is it in their home counties or far away? Will they build or opt to buy readymade homes? Who will design the structures? Who will supervise the buildings? Who will be the contractor? Where will all these professional practice come from? Which buildings will house their offices? What materials and labour mix will the contractor employ? Where will they source the building materials from? Where will the hardwares and warehouses be based? Who will transport to and from warehouses and hardwares to site? What will be the prices of land? Who will sell that land to the developer?

Who will approve the entire process? What types of homes would be built? What interior fittings will be fitted? Who will supply those materials? Who will fit the materials? Where will all the construction staff live? Who will train the construction fraternity? Where will they live? What will they eat? Where are the teachers to train them? Who will build the institutions and the staff facilities for the training schools? Where will the institutions be based? How many different categories of professionals will need to be trained?

Which professional bodies will regulate them? Where will the offices of the regulators be? Where will they buy the car with the car loan? Who will be the dealers? Will the government still require its own vehicles to chauffeur their staff? What will be the minimum requirements for the specifications for the cars? Where will they be parked? Who will service them? Who will train the mechanics, electricians and body fabricators? Where will the garages be situated? Where will all the garage workers live? Where will the spare parts be bought from? Which buildings will house the spare parts shop? Who will regulated their business? Who will sell the car insurances? And so on and so on.....

We are at the zero mile reading today, and we will finish the journey, but where do we start this journey of transformation from? Can

the county assembly legislate on where to or not to invest the money? Can the executive detail how the funds will be availed? Can the county planning team prepare guidelines for the uptake of the loan? Can the public service board sensitize the public servants to prepare themselves to take up the loan? Can the public service board sensitize the local chamber of commerce on the enormity of the business opportunity?

I firmly believe that the funds to fund this project is readily available. The optimization of the finance model is what needs to be worked on. Assuming that in the next 10 years, all public servants will have taken up the whole Kshs. 16 Billion, the multiplier effect, and resultant ecosystem of business will generate economic activities beyond ten-fold of that amount which has several transformative effects; it will create jobs to levels never seen before for the citizens, there will be improved government revenue for both national and county government entities arising from, amongst others, fees, licenses, property taxes, et cetera, arising from enhanced value addition and growth in GDP.

On the public service front, there will be improved service delivery courtesy of motivated public servants who will be enjoying better living conditions, and who will be fearful disciplinary actions will take away their interest-saving benefit.

I now know that there is a cabinet memo seeking to establish Iten and Kapsowar town management boards to lead the way in planning and managing the two major towns in the County, in fact, we already have Draft 1.0 of the spatial plan for Iten, with a master plan on how the town is going to be several years from now.

My crystal ball now tells me that we are set to transform this county and its potential, through opening up real estate opportunities. Throughout history, it is government which spurs growth, and for Elgeyo Marakwet, the seed for entrepreneurship and innovation has been boosted by the SRC circular. Investors, and entrepreneurs, need to warm and prepare and smell the coffee. The national government has done its bit, the County government is doing its bit, and the rest is gravy for public servants and local business community.

The writer is the Chairman Elgeyo Marakwet County Public Service Board

A focus on key economic growth drivers for Keiyo South



KEIYO SOUTH MP Hon. Jackson Kiptanui

Background

...As indicated in our last issue, we promised to focus on three areas namely: Agriculture, Mining and Water in this edition.

Agriculture

Keiyo South constituency is blessed and endowed with good climatic conditions favourable for good farming almost all the year round. The constituency has two topographic features namely the highlands -stretching from Metkei to Kitany, and the lowlands (the Kerio Valley) stretching from Kocholwo to Chepsigot.

The residents in the lowlands areas grow fruits and keep livestock such as dairy goats and a few cows. The area is mostly known for its high quality mangoes, papaws and groundnuts that do well in the area all the year round.

To tap into this enormous produce, I believe there's potential to process and package fruits juices in our county for both economic benefits and curb food shortages.

Bee keeping is also another key activity practiced by majority of farmers with great returns, thanks to the Kerio Valley Development Authority's honey processing plant in Cheptebo. Coffee growing has been one of the traditional farming and does well.

We encourage residents especially from Kocholwo, Kalwal, Turesia, Simit and other parts to venture into this type of farming. Through assistance from area leaders we have provided coffee seeds to some farmers with an intention to kick off planting soon.

In the highland areas, agricultural activities go on almost all year round. This is due to the nature of the topography and availability of water. Agricultural produce such as potatoes, cabbages, maize and carrots thrive in this area. As in the case of the low lands, dairy farming is also a key practice by farmers in the highlands.

Through the CDF, farmers and other donors, we have managed over the last few years to assist farmers in putting up Milk cooling plants across the constituency. The cooling plants include Chepkorio, Metkei, Timor and Kaptarakwa- serving the respective areas and their environs. These facilities have helped farmers preserve their milk enabling them to deliver upto twice a day

hence improving on their return on investment.

The County government is also in the process of putting up additional cooling plants at Lolgarini and Kocholwo Trading Centres. To improve the management of dairy farming, through CDF has constructed and renovated a number of cattle dips including:- Charma, Chebirei, Cheboge, Tambul, Kipchiloi, among others.

In an effort to improve the agricultural produce, a few cooling plants for potatoes and vegetables have been put up by farmers with some donors in some parts of the constituency. Once we see the performance of these then we can roll out the same in other regions of the constituency.

Tea growing is also being practiced in some parts of the constituency especially in Kaptarakwa area. It is worth noting that the county government is encouraging and partnering with farmers who are interested in venturing into tea farming.

The county government has come up with a program dubbed 'buy one seedling get one free' to motivate the residents to plant tea. In order to assist farmers transport their tea to the markets at low cost, a lorry has been purchased through CDF.

Value addition for farmers is key, if the constituency has to realize economic benefits from farming. We believe there's greater potential in future if there's collaboration amongst key stakeholders, donors and county government.

Mining

Keiyo South is also blessed with one of the greatest and rare mineral -the flourspar which is the second largest mining activity in Kenya. The mineral is exported and used as a flux for smelting, and in the production of certain glasses and enamels.

Since 1970s, Fluorspar has been commercially mined in Kimwarer areas of Soy Division, and has contributed immensely to our nation's economy in terms of export and foreign exchange. Currently an average of 360,000 tonnes is produced annually making Kenya the 7th largest producer of fluorspar in the world.

The mineral mining over the years has had sociological and economic impact both at the location, regional and the national levels. The company has established a school, health centre and maintained roads over the years not to mention the employment opportunities that the locals benefit from the company's absorption.

Through the partnership of CDF and the Company's Corporate Social Responsibility's (CSR) outreach, we have constructed and maintained roads infrastructure serving the Nyaru-Kimwarer which is in good condition and passable all seasons.

Kenya Fluorspar Company has also assisted in funding other projects across the constituency and supported in the provision of water to a number of health centres and schools. Over the years, KFC has also been offering scholarships to needy students from Soy Division. We're grateful for their support.

Recently, there has been a discovery of possible oil deposits in the entire valley which Keiyo South is a part of. We belief that with the exploration by the Tullow Oil and other exploration companies and stakeholders, our people will stand to benefit from these discoveries, lifting the social, and economic standards of the Constituency and County at large.

Water

As they say "Water is Life" Keiyo South Constituency recognizes that water is a precious and essential commodity useful for both human, animal and plant life. However, the techniques for water harvesting are being practiced at a low rate; leading to insufficient availability of water for domestic and irrigation purposes.

The Constituency therefore has made efforts in providing her residents with clean water. Apart from the water bodies like rivers and streams that provide water downstream, through CDF, we have enhanced water availability by providing pipes constructing dams/ pans, drilled boreholes and building tanks to serve communities.

The water projects include Chepsamo, Kaptile, Korober, Kapkee, Kitany, Nyaru, Koptega Secondary School, Luguity, Tairop, Molol, Epke, Kapchorwa, Kipkoro, Kipchorwa, Cheboen, Tambul, Tulwetab kerio, Toot, Cherota gravity among others.

The projects through rain harvesting have made the lives of residents easy who in the past have had to travel long distances in search of the commodity during dry spells. Recently, the Ministry of Water and Natural Resources has mapped out and started construction of Water pans in some areas including Koimur, Sesia, Kalwal, Kibomet, Silanga, among others.

This will go a long way in alleviating the water shortage challenge and we hope that in a few coming years every household shall access clean and drinking water for domestic and irrigation use readily at their doorsteps.

In conclusion and as stated in the last edition, Keiyo South is committed through a strategic plan to ensure equitable allocations and distribution of resources for the economic development of every citizen and the constituency a large. I challenge each one of us to remain committed and work as a team to make his dream come true.



Here is to a fruitful 2015!

*God bless Keiyo South,
God bless Elgeyo Marakwet County*

Mid term status of projects in Marakwet East constituency



MARAKWET EAST MP Hon. Kangogo Bowen

It gives me great pleasure to have this opportunity to connect with my constituents using this platform to appraise them on the status of implementation of projects in the constituency.

We continue to do well, notwithstanding the challenges we face, but we remain optimistic that the work currently ongoing in various parts of the constituency will eventually lead to the transformation of the lives of our people.

Alot is changing on the ground and development seems to be going faster especially with the introduction of devolution which is greatly supplementing the work that was only previously done by the Constituency Development Fund (CDF).

But of importance to me is the unity of purpose that we the leaders of this county have forged to ensure that development moves with speed to uplift the economic status of our people and make their lives better. This is good.

My office has been steadfast in the development agenda of the County and as Marakwet East, we will play our role. For instance, I wish to thank my constituents for instance who donated land for the establishment of the County University. This is what we mean by Kusema na Kutenda.

Allow me now to go step by step, informing my constituents and the County at large of the strides we have made in developing Marakwet East using the table besides.

God bless Marakwet East,

God bless Elgeyo Marakwet County

Sector	Project	Status
1. Communication Network	Kapyego Ward	The ward is now fully covered by Safaricom and was officially commissioned.
	Sambirir Ward	A booster was established.
	Endo Ward	Surveys being carried out.
2. Security	Liter police station	Complete, 8 officers posted
	Embobut/Kapyego/Mogil	Complete
	Tot	Completed and OCPD will be based.
3. Water	Kipkenyer	Ongoing. Sh 4 million allocated, additional sh 4 million will be added to complete it.
	Kiteche	Completed and commissioned.
	Tenderwa	80% complete, 2 tanks remaining
	Meuono, Kesum, Mogoro & Wewo	Starting
4. Irrigation Schemes	Chemworor	Allocated sh 35 million, 70% complete.
	Kaben Water Furrow	Working with County Government to implement.
5. Education	Primary schools	Built & completed 34 schools, classes & offices
	Secondary schools:	
	a) Queen of Peace	Held successful fundraising for modern classrooms and dining hall raising sh 6 million.
	b) Sambirir Girls	Raised sh 13.4 million to construct classrooms, library and dormitory.
	c) Liter	Constructing classroom & library.
	d) Chesewew	Construction of modern ICT centre.
	e) Mogil	Building 4 classrooms & modern administration block.
	f) Sambirir Boys	Constructing 4 classrooms and dormitory.
	g) Kapchebau Girls	Constructing 130 bed dormitory.
	h) St Michael	Constructing 8 classrooms & doing additional dormitory.
	i) Kaptich Girls	Constructing a 45 bed dormitory & 2 classrooms.
	j) Kamasia	Constructing one storey building hosting various facilities.
	k) Kapyego	Raised sh 2 million for a model library.
	l) Kerio Valley	Constructing a library and laboratory.
	m) Kapkondot Girls	Allocated sh 2 million for renovations.
n) St Marys Mon	Finished 6 houses for staff quarters.	
o) Leguket Secondary	Constructing four classrooms.	
p) Kipkenyer Secondary School	Allocated sh 6 million for administration block and library.	
6. Electricity	Primary schools	Connected all of them.
	Secondary schools	Most are connected except 6. Embobut
7. Roads	Security roads:	
	i) Kerio Valley to River Kerio	Under construction and progressing well. In next one year most of the roads will be complete.
	ii) Tot-Kolowa	
	iii) Murkutwo	
	iv) Arror-Chesongoch-Tot	
	v) Liter-Tirap	
*Tarmac for Chesoi-Chesongoch		
*Embobut-Kapyego	Is 50% complete. Feasibility work done with County Govt.	
8. Empowerment	Uwezo Fund	Sh 10 million disbursed to the youth, women and various groups.
	Marakwet East Women Empowerment Organisation.	Have over sh 50 million revolving fund managed under table banking.

Current status of projects in Keiyo North implemented through CDF



KEIYO NORTH MP Hon. Dr. James Murgor

I am glad to have yet another opportunity to appraise the people of Keiyo North about the status of projects in the constituency as this is a constitutional requirement.

I must thank my constituents for the support they have continued to accord me as their MP as well as the many suggestions, positive criticism, encouragement and offer of ideas to move our constituency forward.

I also thank the County Government for working very closely with us to ensure that development in the constituency flows unhindered. This spirit of unity for a common purpose should be upheld for the sake of our County's progress.

Allow me now to go through what we have done for the people of Keiyo North during the quarterly period under review. This is a brief status report and the full version and details can be accessed from my constituency office in Iten.

I wish to note that the implementation of the above projects and any other in the near future is done by the specific committees in collaboration with the main CDF committee and the relevant departments.

I remain committed to transforming Keiyo North and also fulfil my pre-election pledges. I have told my team that we ought to be devoted to ensure that these projects are done within the stipulated timelines to offer the required services by our people.

My office will always be open to welcome any ideas and solutions that will take us to the next level. Let us rally together as Keiyo North and drive our development agenda forward because our destiny is one.

*God bless Keiyo North,
God bless Elgeyo Marakwet County*

	Sector/Project	Achievements	Status
1.	Security	Construction of 4 Chiefs offices; Songeto, Tambach, Kapteren and Kapchemutwa	-Work Ongoing
2.	Education/Bursary Fund	-Construction of classrooms/dorms/laboratories in 85 institutions -Total of 2,073 students benefited from the bursary kitty with 710 students in tertiary colleges & University. -Donated over 20,000 text books to all primary and secondary schools in the constituency.	-Work ongoing in both primary and secondary schools. -Constituency bursary committee in place and vetting was done at sub locational level. -Through Children International Kenya.
3.	Health Centres	-Construction of staff houses in 6 health centres; Kapchelal, Sergoit, Kapteren, Msekekwa, Kapchebar and Chegilet.	-Work in progress under project management committees.
4.	Medical Training Centre	-Construction of a modern dining hall and kitchen at Iten MTC.	-Tuition block completed. -Iten MTC Committee in place to foresee the construction works.
5.	Electricity	-Purchase and installation of transformers to 6 groups/centres/institutions.	-Done through the Rural Electrification Authority (REA)
6.	Technical Training Institute	-Construction of Kipsoen TTI	-Funded by CDF and the Ministry of Education. Work in progress.
7.	Uwezo Fund	-Total of 135 cheques issued to: a) 66 youth groups b) 68 women groups c) 1 pwd	-An additional 33 groups are set to benefit soon. -Constituency Uwezo Fund committee in place.
8.	Livestock	-Already installed a milk cooler with a capacity of 5,000 litres of milk per day at Kapteren Centre.	-Funded by the local society and livestock Department. The society has already completed renovating the premises.
9.	Sports	-Purchases for Volleyball teams a) Boots to 4 teams b) Nets/Balls to 8 teams -Purchases for Football teams a) Uniforms to 4 teams b) Balls to 10 teams -Facilitated 4 teams from the constituency for tournaments outside the constituency.	-Constituency sports committee in place.
10.	Roads	-Opening up of 2 new roads -Maintenance of 20 roads -Construction of 3 foot bridges	-Work in progress -Constituency roads committee in place.
11.	Environment	-Rehabilitation of gulleys in Songeto Chief's office. -Planting of trees (afforestation) in 20 institutions and 2 dams. -Protection of 5 springs	-Work in progress and Constituency Environmental Committee in place.

Kapcherop TTI construction on course as constituency projects take root



MARAKWET WEST MP Hon. William Kisang

It is yet another chance that I have been accorded to update you on the progress of our Marakwet West Constituency, two years into my term in office.

I wish to state here that alot of progress is going on and through your support, we have been able to undertake several projects that are taking root across the constituency while we embark on others.

I wish to thank all of you who turned up at the launch of the Constituency's Strategic Plan held in Kapsowar last month. This is the road map that we will follow in order to realise faster development of the constituency.



We will delve deeper into the details of the strategic plan in the next edition of this newspaper, allow me today to update you on the status of the projects as at the period under review.

The Kapcherop TTI is progressing well and we are now on the first floor in construction. I am pleased with the rate at which this project is moving and it is my hope that the contractor will complete it in due course.

Still in Kapcherop, the maize store that we have been building is almost ready as roofing was being done. I am optimistic that it should be completed by end of this month or early July.



In Education, I want to appreciate all the stakeholders in the constituency who worked hard to ensure that we received very encouraging results in the national examinations last year. I wish to offer my undivided support to schools in the constituency so that they can build on these successes.

My plan is to construct more low cost schools in every ward in the constituency as we have started, and in my strategic plan, we expect to construct two schools per ward.

In the roads sector, my office through CDF is working jointly with other relevant government authorities to ensure that our roads are passable.

These roads include the Kapsowar- Aror, Mindililwo-Kondabilet, Chebiemit-Kapsowar, Kipsaiya-Lagam, Kibigos-Kipkundul. We have jointly done this mainly with the County Government where CDF has come in to fund the road designs for instance the Kipsaiya-Lagam.

I wish to appreciate the teamwork that we currently enjoy with the county government ensuring that we work together in harmony avoid duplication of projects in order to cut costs and undertake meaningful development.

In Agriculture, we have installed the Chebororwo cooler funded by the national government and we now have electricity already supplied to the facility. This is good news for farmers in the area who will now get a steady supply of their milk and boost their incomes.

My office is working with farmers groups and the county government to see to it that their hard work in the farm is rewarded through access to markets.

In the water sector, I wish to laud Tullow Oil Company for funding the construction of Koikoi water project in Aror which will

greatly assist locals get access to clean water for their consumption and farms. We will continue to encourage public private partnerships like this one in order to supplement public resources in bringing meaningful development to the constituency.

As I pause to continue in the next edition, I wish to thank the people of Marakwet West and Elgeyo Marakwet in general for the support they have given their leaders to discharge their mandate. You have given them space to work for you.

Yet despite giving them space, you have actively engaged your leaders in matters that touch on your governance. This is a unique attribute of this county and is very commendable.

Wishing you all the best in your endeavors.

God bless Keiyo South,

God bless Elgeyo Marakwet County



County MP wants a better change for Elgeyo Marakwet

Dr Chebet launches strategic plan to uplift youth and women socially, economically and politically

BY DR SUSAN CHEBET

I still want to again thank the people of Elgeyo Marakwet County for granting me the mandate to be their County MP. Secondly, I want to extend my appreciation for the continued support they have accorded me. Since I assumed office I launched a strategic plan which I am rolling out to achieve its goals of helping the people of Elgeyo Marakwet County at large transform socially, economically and politically. The main areas of focus include; Education, Empowerment of Women, Youth and people with special needs, socio-cultural activities through Tumndo Ne Leel program and the annual exhibition and trade fairs. The activities outlined will only be accomplished if we work together, share the vision, provide solutions to the shared problems and together we will accomplish milestones in our lives and County.

Empowerment

I continue extra hard to ensure that our community gets social-cultural and economical transformation for improved livelihoods through empowerment of women, youth and people with disability. My office is working hard to rally women leaders from ward, constituency and County to mobilize women and youth groups to participate in social-cultural and economic activities, using group resource pooling, saving and credit services i.e. Table banking, Uwezo fund, Saccos and self help groups.

Education Fora

On education, my office has held several motivational talks targeting university, secondary



“ I have been at the forefront in crusading against the outdated FGM by encouraging parents in our County to give girls a chance to excel devoid of these traditions. - Dr Chebet

County MP Dr Susan Chebet addressing a past public meeting in the County..

Below: Dr Chebet with H.E Governor Alex Tolgos during the graduation of alternative rite of passage

PHOTO | JEMMANUEL TALEL



schools and primary schools in the entire County. This will help the students focus on their education and future careers and also nurturing their talents for gainful employment. It has also encouraged students to improve their academic performance in the County. Our County has had great improvement over the years on education and this year they have shown splendid performance in last year's KCSE.

Uwezo Fund

As the County Patron of Uwezo fund, I am happy with the ongoing turnout of youth and women groups seeking Uwezo fund to uplift their economic status. I urge more groups to mobilize themselves and take advantage of this fund to uplift their economic status and to improve their livelihood. I wish to urge people of Elgeyo Marakwet to embrace entrepreneurship and help create jobs for our people.

Annual Exhibitions and Trade Fairs

The exhibitions are meant to spur social and economical development at grassroots level where 20 wards participate in the exercise by showcasing their products. Last year's exhibition held in August marked the beginning of our annual exhibition so that all groups from the county will have a chance to participate in the exhibition and trade fairs.

Anti-FGM Crusades

I have also been at the forefront in crusading against the outdated Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) by encouraging parents in our County to give girls a chance to excel devoid of these traditions. I thank partners like World Vision and the County Government for supporting us in these initiatives to eradicate this vice. I was part of a colourful ceremony that trained girls and boys from our county on the alternative rite of passage and I encourage all residents of the County to support this new direction we are taking.



County completes 14 water projects, planning of towns underway

PHYSICAL PLANNING |

Spatial planning of Iten town complete as Kamwosor, Kapsowar and Aror to follow to make the towns attractive for business and investment



A recently bought water truck through a partnership by the County and the Rift Valley Water Services Board PHOTO| EMMANUEL TALEL

Water

The department was able to complete the implementation of 14 water projects in this period most of which are currently serving the intended beneficiaries.

The department was also able to support 6 water projects with pipes and fittings two of which were secondary schools. The fittings and pipes have already been laid and the water projects are currently benefiting the intended beneficiaries.

In collaboration with other stakeholders and partners the department was able to collaborate with the following major water sector actors in implementation of projects in both design monitoring and implementation:

1. Rift Valley Water Services Board- 7 no. water pans,
2. Lake Victoria North Water Services Board- 2 no. water pans and 4 no. boreholes,
3. Kerio Valley Development Authority- 2 no. water pans,
4. World Bank (through LVNWSB)- Kapcherop Water Project Phase II,
5. World Vision Kenya (Emsoo Water Project)
6. Belgium Government- Iten Water Project (Sabor),
7. KWAHO- Capacity building of Water Resources Users Associations (WRUAs).

The department further carried out community mobilization for projects and dispute resolution to ensure unity and sustainability of water projects.

Lands

The survey department managed to document public land within the county. They are currently in the process of doing

ground verification to ensure that the land exists as it is in the records and also forward cases of grabbing and illegal allocation to the County Land Management Board (CLMB).

In liaison with the National Land Commissioning (NLC) the Swearing in of the CLMB was done in October which so far has eight sittings and is currently handling a number of cases in the county to do with public land. The CLMB has also employed the use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) to fast track the process of land adjudication in the county.

The department has also been able to do ground demarcation and sub division of several public land in wards in the county and held several barazas to resolve disputes and prepare the communities for spatial planning.

Procurement of modern surveying equipment (one Total station and 10 High resolution GPS) has also been done. Currently, they are being configured and will soon be delivered to the county; this will ensure efficiency of the survey team and fast track their work.

Planned construction of Ardhi House whose design is now complete and when fully constructed, the department intends to store all its records and maps and also use the same as an office for the survey team.

The department is supporting the land adjudication department in fast tracking the land adjudication processes in the county.

Physical Planning

Currently the department physical planning, through a consultant, is conducting the spatial planning of Iten. The Zero draft for Iten Spatial plan was presented to the stakeholders on 20th of February, this year and it is expected that the plan will be ready for presentation to the County assembly soon after approval by the executive.

The following towns are also under

planning process: Chesoi, Aror, Tambach and Kamwosor. To boost the activities of the department, we are in the process of recruiting a County Physical planner who will be responsible for the department. To cope with the demands there may still be need to recruit two more physical planners in the department in the next financial year to ensure proper service delivery.

Housing

This far, the only houses that we are sure belong to the county government are those that belonged to the defunct local authorities. The Transition Authority (TA) is in the process of distributing the assets to both levels of government and a report has already been submitted by the county TA to the headquarters on the same. This financial year, the housing department will be doing renovations of selected houses as we await a clear communication from the national government.

Urban Administration

The urban administration department has four staff who are manning the affairs of urban areas.

The department carried out the decongestion exercise of the town in Iten and clearing of road reserves within the towns. The department was also able to relocate kiosks at Iten, Kapsowar and Kapcherop towns.

The department facilitated public participation and engagement especially in the preparation of spatial plans in the towns

in Kamwosor, Kapsowar and Aror. Formation of development control committee to ensure there is controlled and orderly development of the urban areas has also been done.

Challenges

- Delays in some of the projects due to the disagreements by communities on the water projects in most cases the upstream communities claiming ownership of the water sources.
- Accessibility to some of the sites were a challenge to the contractors, a case in mind is Kalwal Tairop, Olot Ketut and Tirich water projects where the contractor had to use human labour to move the materials to the site a distance of almost half a kilometer and above
- Budget limitations led to the department allocating more funds to the projects that were done last financial year (2013/2014) and thus leading to the department doing one project for two financial years.
- Insufficient staff in some departments such as physical planning leading to delay in preparation of spatial plans.
- Few enforcement officers and works staff to enforce laws and regulations governing urban areas.
- Lack of enough vehicles for the staff to move to the field and carry out planned activities on time.

The writer is the Chief Officer, Department of Lands, Water, Environment & Natural Resources

TOP and BELOW:

Some of the water projects the County has been implementing in various parts of the County

PHOTOS | EMMANUEL TALEL



Project to inject fresh, clean piped water to Iten and Tambach as well as adjacent areas. Governor Tolgos hails Belgium government for funding the project

Sh 1.8 billion Sabor water project kicks off, progressing steadily



The Sabor - Iten / Tambach water supply project construction at Sabor. The project will ensure the steady supply of water in Iten Town

PHOTO | JEMMANUEL TALEL



By LINUS SIELE

The much awaited Sabor multi-million shilling Sabor water project finally kicked off and is now at full steam.

The project is set to elevate the status of Iten, which is the County headquarters, and Tambach township which also has a rich heritage and where locals want a University set up as is documented in the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP).

"I have been a resident of Iten town for over 30 years now and we have never had a steady supply of water. We are glad that with the start of this project, that problem will now be addressed once and for all," said Yusuf Keitany.

The project, funded by the Belgium Government, will be implemented in two phases. Phase one will be the supply of water from the Sabor dam to Iten water reservoirs and phase two will be the supply of water from the reservoir to recipients of the commodity.

"Phase one will cost sh 1.5 billion while phase two will cost sh 300 million bringing the total cost to sh 1.8 billion," said Iten Water Services Company (ITWASCO) Director Simion Lagat.

ITWASCO Chairman, Dr Christopher Saina said the project is set to cut the costs of the company by 70 percent since the water will be flowing from Sabor by gravity.

"This project will surely come in handy for us as a company and recipients. The operational costs will be slashed and at the same time our people will get steady supply of water," said Saina.

Governor Alex Tolgos together with Senator Kipchumba Murkomen

flew to Belgium in 2013 to facilitate necessary talks and approvals to pave way for the project to start.

The governor said one of the main reasons investors were shying away from investing in Iten and Tambach was due to lack of steady supply of water.

"But this project should assure investors that Iten and Tambach is now ready for business. We expect that 80 percent of the project will have been done by the end of this year and mid next year we should be nearing completion," he said in his office.

The governor said the county government had also launched a spatial plan to modernise Iten town adding that the plan and the Sabor water project would greatly supplement these efforts.

"The plan has provision for a sewerage system for Iten, which has for years lacked one and which has also denied this town investment in many areas," added Tolgos.

The governor assured both local and international investors that Iten and Tambach will never be the same, further revealing that the county government would improve other infrastructure development in Tambach such as the road network to ensure it attracts business.

"I want to assure Tambach residents that my government is finalising plans to upgrade the township to a modern one by first fixing the road network which I know requires repair," said Tolgos.

The governor said once complete, the Sabor project would be handed over to ITWASCO to manage. He thanked the Belgian government for the financial support saying the people of Elgeyo Marakwet will forever remain indebted for the kind gesture.

Chairperson calls for support from Elgeyo Marakwet residents and all stakeholders

County land board sworn in to take charge of land matters



By LINUS SIELE

A nine member County Land Board was inaugurated and sworn in at the High Court in Eldoret in a ceremony witnessed by Governor Alex Tolgos.

The members of the board were approved by the County Assembly after they were interviewed and nominated by the National Land Commission (NLC).

The board will now take charge of all land matters in the county as per the requirements of the Constitution with Chairperson Monica Cheruiyot calling on county residents to accord them support to discharge their mandate.

During the swearing in ceremony, the governor asked the board members to ensure they work in accordance to their oath of office and handle all matters forwarded to them with fairness and impartiality.

"We know land issues are sensitive and I pray that God will give you wisdom to help you deal with all matters coming to you in a just manner. I know you are capable and I ask you to uphold the trust which the people of Elgeyo Marakwet have in you,"

said Tolgos.

The board members comprise of Monica Cheruiyot (Chairperson), Joseph Korir (Secretary) and members Irene Cherop Masit, Joe Kipkoskei Tomno, Josephat Kibiwott Tanui, Evans Biwott Limo, Bernard Kipkorir Kimutai, Samwel Kimosop Rotich and Timothy Kiptanui Yator.

According to the NLC Chairman Dr Mohammed Swazuri, counties will fully take charge of all land matters in their jurisdiction following the setting up of county land boards.

"We have embarked on this exercise as per the Constitution that advocated for the devolution of land issues. By setting up county land boards, we are sure that the plight of Kenyans who have been travelling to Nairobi to seek help over land issues will come to an end," Dr Swazuri said.

Dr Swazuri said the county land boards will have the same functions as NLC only that they will be operating from the county level.

"The documentation for land issues had been centred in Nairobi since independence. However, according to the Constitution, the issue was also set for

Top:
County land board chairperson Monica Cheruiyot takes oath of office at Eldoret High Court.

Besides:
Members of the County land board

PHOTOS | EMMANUEL TALEL

“We know land issues are sensitive and I pray that God will give you wisdom to help you deal with all matters coming to you in a just manner. I know you are capable and I ask you to uphold the trust which the people of Elgeyo Marakwet have in you - Tolgos

County land board members pose for a group photo with County executives led by Governor alex Tolgos to witness the oath of office swearing.

PHOTOS | EMMANUEL TALEL

devolution through the setting up of county land boards, an exercise we are currently undertaking in the 47 counties," he said.

Among the duties cut out for the Elgeyo Marakwet Land Board will be the adjudication of land in Kerio Valley, whose residents have lacked title deeds as most of the land has been communally owned.

Tolgos said the board would be very instrumental in ensuring that the land adjudication process in Kerio Valley where oil has been discovered is done in a peaceful manner.

The board chairperson recently accompanied the Governor and

Tullow Oil officials on sensitization tours in Kerio Valley where residents were called upon to work closely with the board to ensure their land issues are addressed in an amicable manner.

"We are glad that residents of this county are peaceful people and I have no doubt that we will work harmoniously in ensuring that all land matters are addressed in a consultative manner and all that we ask is support from everyone," said Cheruiyot.

Additional information courtesy of the Daily Nation



Monica Cheruiyot
Chair Person



Joseph Korir
Secretary



Bernard Kipkorir Kimutai
Member



Evans Biwott Limo
Member



Irene Cherop Masit
Member



Joe Kipkoskei Tomno
Member



Josephat Kibiwott Tanui
Member



Samwel Kimosop Rotich
Member



Timothy Kiptanui Yator
Member



Tullow oil holds consultative meetings in the County ahead of oil exploration



H.E Governor Alex Tolgos addressing the press after a consultative meeting with Tullow officials at Lelin Campsite. Looking on the right is Senator Kipchumba Murkomen and County MP Dr Susan Chebet

PHOTOS | EMMANUEL TALEL

By VINCENT BARTOO

Elgeyo Marakwet County is among the counties in the country where oil has been discovered by Tullow Oil, the firm contracted by the government of Kenya to carry out exploration.

Early this year, the firm held consultative meetings with all county leaders and held public forums in the areas where the oil will be explored to sensitise them on the upcoming activities involving the exploration.

Tullow Oil officials led by Mr Robert Gerrits, the firm's Social Performance Manager, gave the leaders and locals a road map to drilling of Lekep (Flamingo) Well, Block 12A in Elgeyo Marakwet.

"The purpose of Tullow Oil Kenya is to safely deliver an exploration and production business in a responsible manner to maximise value and build mutually beneficial stakeholder relationships," said Gerrits during the leaders meeting at Lelin Campsite.

He said apart from the oil exploration, Tullow would carry out Social Investments in health/water, education, environment and sustainable/alternative livelihoods to enable host communities to access opportunities for lasting benefit.

Oil and Gas Exploration Cycle

Gerrits gave a breakdown of the cycle that will be followed in the exploration and was quick to point out that exploration wells were high risk and an oil find is not guaranteed.

"Two scenarios are possible. One, drill an initial well to establish the presence of oil or gas. If there is none, or if it will not be commercially viable, the well is abandoned. Second, drill a series of appraisal wells and possibly further exploration wells to determine the size and quality of the discovery," he said.

The 10 year Cycle

- **Exploration Phase:** Aerial surveys to determine areas of interest, detailed seismic surveys to find prospects and exploration drilling to test whether prospects contain hydrocarbons.
- **Appraisal phase:** Additional & more detailed seismic, additional wells to determine field size and properties and well test to measure flow and reservoir characteristics.
- **Development Phase:** Determine best development option for maximum recovery, drill production wells, construct processing facilities and pipeline infrastructure and then produce.

The exploration and appraisal phases takes 5 years cumulatively while the development phase alone takes 5 years.

Gerrits said the Tullow exploration programme was currently being finalised but said exact timelines could not be confirmed as programme agreed could change due to work slippage or programme revision based on results from other wells.

"Detailed location (XY Coordinates) to

be advised before commencement of drilling. It will take potentially 6-8 weeks of pre-civil activities (roads and drilling pad etc) and 6-10 weeks mobilising, drilling and demobilising," he added.

- Result of exploration drilling will determine next steps.
- Overall global Oil and Gas downturn may impact next steps if a discovery is made.

Programme of what follows

- During drilling the rig will take core samples for analysis to assess presence of hydrocarbon and permeability of the rock.
- What are called 'logging runs' will be carried out to collect data used to assess presence of hydrocarbon and water.
- This will be compared to previous seismic data and an overall picture developed.

Pre-drilling Activities:

Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Study (ESIA) submitted to NEMA, Site specific EHS risk assessment, Security Risk Assessment, Scouting; roads, site, airstrips, accommodation and general infrastructure, Social mapping, Stakeholder Engagements & Stakeholder Consent Processes, Specific Site staking and layout, Water planning, Planning contract and supply strategies and Shallow gas seismic surveys.



TOP and BELOW:

Tullow Oil representatives during a meeting with County leaders at Lelin Campsite to discuss and sensitise on the Oil exploration process.

PHOTOS | EMMANUEL TALEL

Potential Civil Work

Scope: Infrastructure activities based on local scouting; Road access to site (national, county approvals) & river crossings, Construct wellpad, laydown areas and access routes, Based on scope, plan contract, plant and material requirements, period site circa 6-8 weeks.

Leaders who included Governor Alex Tolgos, Deputy Gabriel Lagat, Senator Kipchumba Murkomen,

MPs Dr Susan Chebet, Jackson Kiptanui, James Murgor, William Kisang, Kangogo Bowen, Speaker Albert Kochei and MCAs thanked Tullow for holding the consultative forums.

The leaders urged the firm to cultivate an open policy where residents will be kept abreast of all its activities right from the start to the end of the exploration.

"This is a good start. We want this openness to continue because any cards under the table will breed suspicion and will ultimately affect our relationship (between Elgeyo Marakwet and Tullow)," said the leaders in a joint statement issued later.



Editor's Note: Part of the details above are extracts of a presentation made by Tullow Oil during the Lelin meeting. In the next edition, we will delve into Tullow Oil's Land Access and National Content policies, whose aim is to seek temporary land access and build the capacity and capability of local people and businesses through opportunities for provision of goods and services during the exploration.

The new look Iten County Referral Hospital



Elgeyo Marakwet health sector rated among the best in Kenya

By MERCY KIMUTAI

The County government's vision to extend quality health care is progressing well and is receiving accolades nationally.

This is due to the improvement of health facilities across the County and human resource enhancement through hiring of additional health workers.

The status of health in the County was recently recognised as among the best in the country with Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA) highlighting its success during the Devolution Conference held in Kisumu in April.

CRA Chairman Micah Chesherem hailed the County's efforts to improve provision of health services to its people saying there was no better county to get sick in than Elgeyo Marakwet.

This was captured in the Standard Newspaper, which had also earlier carried a report by the Ministry of Devolution and Planning that rated Elgeyo Marakwet as the best county where expected mothers can deliver safely.

Cognizant that the costs and consequences of illness far outweigh the cost of making quality healthcare accessible and affordable to all residents, the County Government remains committed to bring quality healthcare closer to residents.

"We have been engaged in aggressive programmes to increase access to quality healthcare through health infrastructure improvement, recruitment and deployment of health personnel to facilities and efficient distribution of adequate medical supplies," said CEC Thomas Rutto.

Upgrading and expansion of Iten County Referral Hospital is steadily progressing and this will make the hospital a critical provider of quality healthcare and thus ease the costly burden of referrals of patients to hospitals outside the County.

Further, the County Government acquired 5 ambulances which have been distributed across the County for effective medical emergency response. More will

be acquired in the subsequent financial years.

"Our policy is to provide every sub county with modern health facilities. Apart from Iten County Referral Hospital, major construction works are also ongoing in 6 hospitals, including Chebiemit, Kamwosor, Kaptarakwa, Tambach and Tot," added the CEC.

Rutto said in order to best serve patients in this age of modern medicine, healthcare facilities must have and maintain equipment that is state of the art.

"To this end we have equipped Iten County referral hospital with modern equipment and plans are underway to equip health facilities across the county with equipment including delivery sets, fridges and other critical laboratory equipment," he added.

Rutto disclosed that the county will receive a conditional grant amounting to Kshs 44,253,988 in support of Free Maternal Health Care to facilitate access to free maternal health care in order to reduce maternal and child mortality rates.

"We will also receive another conditional grant worth Kshs 24,927,284 to facilitate the purchase of modern specialized health care equipment at Iten County referral hospital and Chebiemit District hospital over the medium term. This will facilitate easy access to specialized health care services," said the CEC.

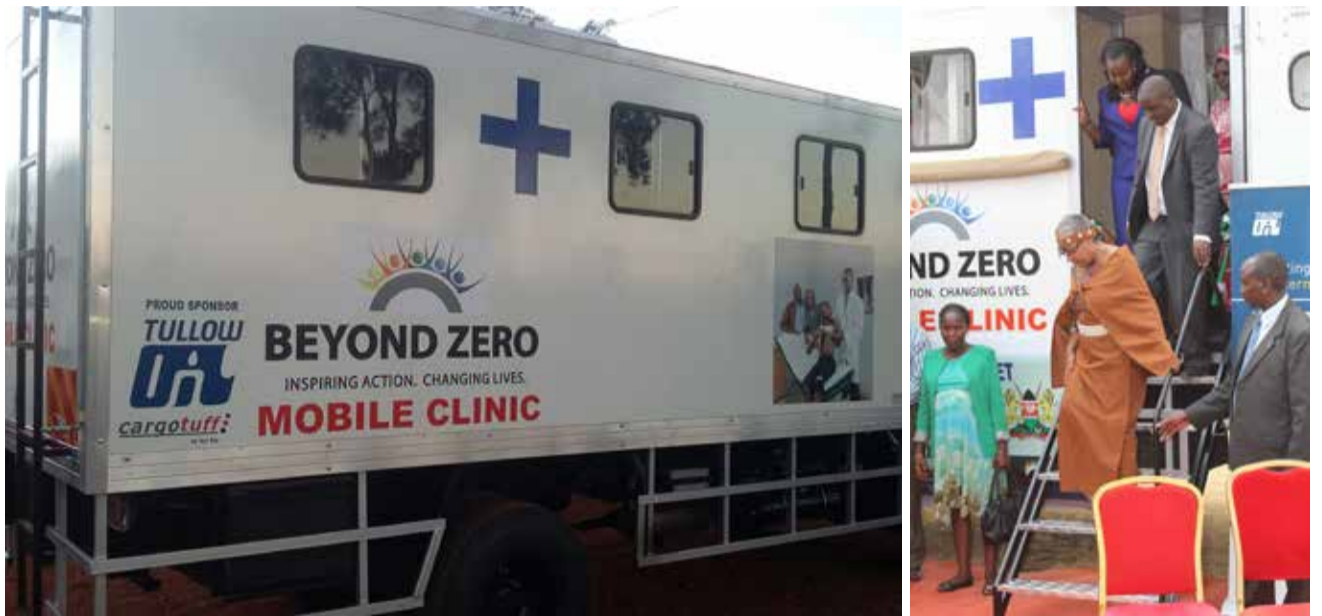
This is under the national government's Managed Equipment Services programme that Governor Alex Tolgos has already signed up for on behalf of the County.

The CEC also said the County Government had gazetted the hospital management boards and that it would work with the County Assembly to develop relevant legislations to guide the operations of these boards and committees.

"These boards which will comprise local residents will ensure that wananchi help is us in monitoring and managing these facilities to the highest standards," said Rutto.

PICTORIAL

County receives Beyond Zero clinic from H.E First Lady Margaret Kenyatta





Tourism Cabinet Secretary, Phyllis Kandie and H.E Governor Alex Tolgos are taken through the a map showing the layout of the expected cable car installation.
PHOTOS |RONALD ROTICH

By MERCY KIMUTAI

The County in collaboration with the Kenya Wildlife Service is set to restock the Rimoi National Reserve with various kinds of animals to restore its lost glory and attract tourists.

This is in readiness to reopen the reserve officially to members of the public and the world at large. The animals set to be translocated to the reserve include giraffes, buffalos, water bucks, zebras, impalas and antelopes.

"This exercise is going to happen soon and we shall have a ceremony to receive these animals. We have opened access roads to the reserve for ease of patrol and movement of visitors," said CEC Anne Kibosia.

She however warned that efforts by the County to improve to reserve is facing threats of wildlife poaching and over grazing of livestock and called for a collaborative effort to address this.

Kibosia further said the County's plans for the cable car construction were still on course adding that recently, the plan was endorsed by the Ministry of Tourism. Cabinet Secretary Phyllis Kandie visited Iten and said the government would assist the County source for a partner to undertake the project.

"We need about a billion shillings to do this and we are glad that the CS assured us of the government's support in this. We feel this is a shot

in the arm for our plans and we are optimistic that we will achieve this dream," said the CEC.

Kibosia said the department had mapped most tourism sites, opened roads leading to sites like the Kureswo hot springs, Kipkabus and Kiplachoch and went ahead to develop a documentary capturing tourist attraction areas in the County. The County also has plans to tap the opportunities of our dams as tourism sites.

This is in addition to activities held and meant to market the tourism potentials in our County and these included the Jumbo Charge in Rimoi jointly organized by Bundu Rovers and Tugumoi Bird Watching.

"The County further held sensitization meetings for hoteliers and paragliding at Kerio View hotel and community sensitization on protection of wildlife in Kerio Valley. In collaboration with Baringo County, we also held joint community sensitization meetings at Chebloch gorge with the plan of developing the site fully for tourism," added Kibosia.

The County successfully participated in the Miss Tourism event to the nationals level and our County Miss Tourism Sandra Kipkore was awarded Miss Tourism 2014/2015 best Cultural dress.

In Trade, the County sought to enhance fair trade by inspecting and verifying weights equipment to discourage the use of non-trade weighing and measuring equipment by traders.

Rimoi Reserve set to receive wildlife as rehabilitation almost complete

"We have also initiated projects aimed at boosting trading activities in the county including construction of market stalls for Kapcherop, Kapsowar and modern toilets for Iten market. We have also supported the Kapsowar Jua Kali sector," said Kibosia.

The County also conducted a one day education tour for purposes of benchmarking for Kapcherop market women group at Kimumu, Eldoret Wholesale, Eldoret retail and West markets where they learned on market operations.

"We have also undertaken capacity building trainings for our traders including one held for 49 Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and another export awareness training in conjunction with the Export Promotion Council (EPC)," added the CEC.

The County also held a stakeholders forum with Export promotion council for a programme on Value addition for Agriculture & Livestock products.

In co-operative development, the County carried out capacity building of co-operatives and Saccos in all the sub counties in terms of study tours for bench marking and training of management committees.

"We have carried out revival strategies for Sambirir, Sangurur, Cheptongei, Moiben, Mosop Soy, Kaptarakwa, Nyaru and Irong Pyrethrum farmers co-operatives societies. We have further registered 12 new cooperative societies," said Kibosia.

The County has also conducted audits for 70 co-operative societies to guide the county department ascertain the kind of support that should be given to them under the development vote.

Already, the County has tendered for the supply of various support products for farmers for example wool cleaning machine for Kaptich, pulping machines for Simit, fencing materials for Chebororwo, 250 bags of cement to Kowow and development of pyrethrum and coffee nurseries in Metkei and Kocholwo respectively.



Above is the Rimoi Reserve gate near its completion and a warden's patrol car bought by the County government. . PHOTOS |RONALD ROTICH



Construction of some rebranded Vocational Training Centres complete, while others nearing completion

ECDE centres complete across the County as program enters phase 2.

By MAUREEN KOECH

The County Government has been working to improve the quality of education in the County, especially at the basic level and began with building and equipping modern ECD classrooms in all the wards.

The classrooms have been established in all the 20 wards in the County and comprise a class and a teachers' office all equipped with modern desks and chairs.

The second phase of the programme will start in the financial year 2015/16 with additional ECD centres set to be constructed as soon as handing over of sites is done.

"Our next agenda is to have 40 ECD centres in the County that will offer our

children the best foundation for their education. If this foundation is secured early enough, then the future generation of this county will be secure," said CEC Incharge of Education, Dr Stella Rono.

The County also employed 374 teachers and deployed them in all the sub counties to be stationed in the centres, which were in a state of neglect before the county government came in.

The County has continued to put in place concerted efforts to rebrand Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) and give it the important attention and support it deserves in the development of the county and nation at large.

"Already, we have completed the construction of dormitories in four VTCs that is Chepkorio, Iten, Chesongoch and

Kapcherop," said Dr Rono.

She added that the County Government also spent sh 10 million to purchase vocational training equipment to be sent to all the VTCs.

The CEC further said that the County also hired 18 instructors in addition to the 30 devolved VTC instructors and a training officer.

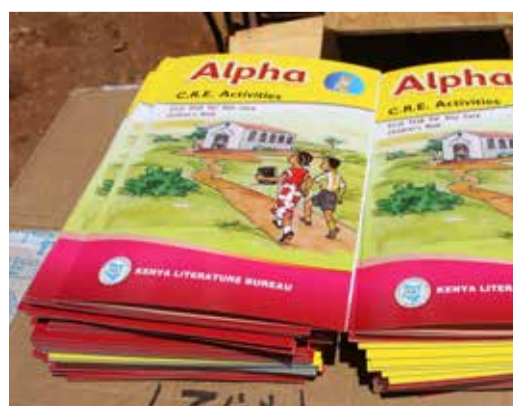
"Our aim is to transform these centres to attract students seeking to learn technical skills that are today in demand for instance in the oil and gas sector in the country following the discovery of oil in Turkana, parts of Nyanza, Baringo and Elgeyo Marakwet," added Dr Rono.



Top Most: H.E Governor Alex Tolgos takes a look at the course book bought for ECDE teachers. Looking on are the ECDE teachers who were present to receive the furniture and books.

Besides: Newly acquired EDDE furniture and textbooks by the County

PHOTOS | RONALD ROTICH



County university on the way as kisii sets up campus at chebara

After extensive consultations among county leaders and other stakeholders, plans are afoot to set up a University in the County.

A 13 member task force set up by the County Government to provide the roadmap for the University proposed that Tambach Teachers Training College be upgraded into the start up university campus.

The task force also recommended that the University's main campus will be located in Marakwet East at St Pauls Kapkondot.

Article 26 of the Universities Act 2012 provides the establishment of public universities in each of the Counties, giving priority to Counties that do not have universities immediately after following the coming into force of this Act. The Elgeyo Marakwet County is one of the counties without a university hence the need to establish one.

The people of Elgeyo Marakwet

County have been advocating for the establishment of a university in the county since the late 1970s.

The county government in its County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) for the period 2013-2017 also considered establishment of a county university as one of the priorities. This led to the setting up of a County University Establishment Committee to work out modalities of establishing a university.

The committee finalised its work and presented its findings to leaders and County Government officials recently. The County is now scouting for a mentoring university to help establish the institution.

This follows hot in heels of a decision by the Kisii University Senate to set up a campus in Chebara which is a big boost to the county. Finer details on these plans will be captured in the next edition of this newspaper.

County assembly gets major facelift as chambers undergoes refurbishment

By LINUS SIELE

After they were sworn into office, they hit the ground running by establishing Elgeyo Marakwet's first County Assembly and immediately got down to serious business of legislation.

The Members of the County Assembly did not mind the state of the former Local Government Chambers as theirs was a tough task of ensuring the County Government of Elgeyo Marakwet began its operations by passing necessary legislation.

They continued discharging their duties in the former chambers undertaking their oversight, representation and legislative functions for close to two years.

Over this period, the assembly has among others enacted new and progressive laws and policies, some that are ground breaking and have put the assembly a cut above the rest.

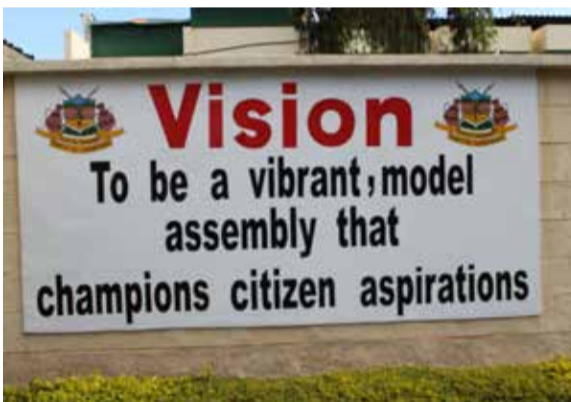
Transitional Authority Chairman Kinuthia Wamwangi recently visited Iten and announced that the assembly was one among the forward thinking assemblies in the country given the quality of bills it had passed.

It is also worth noting that the assembly is among the few in the country that conducts itself with decorum and dignity, avoiding the all too familiar scenes in other parts where fist fights and drama is the order of the day.

The assembly has also exercised restraint in the management of its resources in comparison with the bad publicity associated with county assemblies making numerous trips abroad. Elgeyo Marakwet has reduced these to only the bare minimum.

The assembly is also professionally run, with staff adhering to very high standard code of ethics that is also enviable.

After almost two years, the assembly moved to a temporary



Before renovation

After renovation



structure adjacent to the old chambers to allow for the major refurbishment. With the works, it was out with the old and in with the new as the assembly assumed a modern look.

These developments are geared to giving the assembly the status it deserves as per the requirements stipulated by the Transitional Authority. The assembly is also constructing a cafeteria to host members, staff and visitors as is standard procedure worldwide.

Apart from the chambers, the assembly precincts is also undergoing a facelift with a perimeter fence erected around it while its lawns are well laid giving it a welcoming feel.

Recently, the assembly has been conducting outreach programmes to educate the public on its roles while encouraging Elgeyo Marakwet residents to visit the assembly and follow proceedings from the public gallery as part of public participation in governance.

The assembly has also been reaching out to former leaders including MPs as it seeks to borrow a leaf from leaders of yesteryears in the management of the affairs of the present and future generations.

During the reopening of its third session recently, former MPs Lucas Chepkitony, Nicholas Biwott, Francis Mutwol and Robert Kipkorir among others were invited. The latter honoured the invitation and offered wise counsel at the garden party.

"Whenever there are disagreements among you, either here at the assembly or with the Governor's side and all leaders, you should shut yourselves in a room, thrash out those differences and move on. Do not let them spill over to wananchi," said Mutwol.

Senate committee lauds County for embracing ICT in its operations

TECHNOLOGY: Free wireless internet to be operationalised soon in Iten

By NELSON KIMELI

The County Government of Elgeyo Marakwet has been lauded by the Senate Committee on Information Communication Technology (ICT) for its use of ICT to make its operations efficient.

The Committee led by Hon. Mutahi Kagwe made the remarks during their visit to the County, to cross check the progress of ICT adoption to improve service delivery to the public.

Speaking at Iten the county headquarters hosted by the Governor H.E Eng Alex Tolgos, Hon Kagwe alongside the members of his committee, said that Elgeyo Marakwet has set pace for other counties to emulate despite the minimum funding from national government.

The committee, which was on a fact finding mission to access how the county has embraced technology in its services, lauded the county for ICT milestones and achievements despite financial challenges.

He further said that, by embracing information technology (IT) the county would realize full potential of devolved government and reiterated that for



Senate ICT committee chairperson Hon Mutahi Kagwe addresses the press after a consultative meeting with the Governor and the County ICT team.

PHOTOS | RONALD ROTICH



devolution to succeed, counties must digitize their services.

"I am totally impressed by how the county has embraced ICT in their daily transactions, this is going to allow the locals to fully utilize the devolved systems and organs of the county," said Senator Kagwe.

He added: "We need health services and revenue collection to be digitalized as this are two major areas that will determine the success or failure of devolution".

Kagwe noted that though the industry standards recommends 10% of total working budget goes to ICT, Elgeyo Marakwet County has only managed to allocate 1%.

He nevertheless commended the county for the efficiency and effectiveness with which they have managed to utilize the small budget to realize

significant ICT milestones.

County Executive Committee (CEC) ICT and Public Service Management Hon. Stephen Biwott indicated owing to the fact that the county is pursuing Public Private Partnership (PPPs) it will work to ensure key ICT infrastructure projects are implemented.

"We are partnering with ICT authority and the World Bank to develop an ICT road map towards this direction," revealed Biwott.

The Chief Officer ICT Titus Ayabei said despite the challenges in resources, the County was able to clinch an award during the ICT Value Awards held in Nairobi last year where Elgeyo Marakwet emerged second in the best use of ICT in the counties category.

"We are among the few

counties that has completely done away with papers in our recruitment process which has gone paperless using an ICT portal and this is a major milestone for us," said Ayabei.

He added that the ongoing construction of ICT centres across the County would make Elgeyo Marakwet an ICT compliant County and leverage on opportunities in ICT including the setting up of incubation units within the centres to tap the youth talent in ICT.

The ICT Director Mr. George Kimaiyo pleaded with the senate committee to take into account the unique and diverse topographical terrain in Elgeyo Marakwet which possess challenges in infrastructure development so that additional funding can be availed to the county to help them avail more resources to ICT.

"Our county cuts across the escarpment and despite the fact that it gives the county uniqueness, this is also a great challenge in developing the infrastructure in the region and therefore we are asking that the national formula for revenue allocation to counties be revised," emphasized Kimaiyo.

Governor Tolgos revealed that the County Government had entered into a joint venture with the National government to install free wireless internet within Iten town.

"As part of making our towns attractive for investment, we are currently in talks with the Office of the President to see to it that we roll out free wireless internet in Iten, which is known worldwide due to athletics," he said.

The Chairman ICT Committee in the County Assembly Daniel Chirchir commended the Senate Committee for their facilitative role and further assured them of his committee support to ICT in the County.

"We will work hand in hand with the Executive to ensure that we back efforts aimed at ensuring our county is technologically driven as per the demands of the 21st Century," said Chirchir.

Kamariny stadium refurbishment finally kicks off



CONTINUED FROM BACK PAGE <<

The process of repossessing the Stadium land was done and a temporary fence erected around it to mark the boundaries. Those who had encroached on the land have

willingly agreed to relocate to pave way for the works. The CEC however said the Stadium requires heavy capital investment to match world standards and appealed

for partnerships to enable the master plan bear fruit.

"We cannot do this on our own and we are looking for potential partners to help fund this massive transformation under a Public Private Partnership," said Rotich.

The ongoing works at Kamariny has become a source of employment for many locals around the area, who have been hired by the contractor for various jobs.

"These are the fruits of devolution. Apart from benefiting now, residents here will accrue other benefits when the Stadium is up and running since we anticipate to host many national

and international events given we have the God given high altitude," said the CEC.

Meanwhile, Governor Alex Tolgos has revealed that the Qatar Government is finalizing plans to finance the construction of a sports facility in the County.

Tolgos said finer details of the plans would be relayed to the public in due course but expressed his gratitude to the people of Qatar for the kind gesture.

"This is a blessing to us and with such friends, we will work tirelessly to make our County the world class hub of athletics," he added.



Elgeyo Marakwet affirmed as athletics power house at World Cross Country Title in China

WORLD CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS, GUIYANG CHINA: Geoffrey Kipsang Kamworor wins men's category in 34:52:8 hours



Kamworor does it again for the County of Champions

By GPSU Team

Kenya won gold in the men's categories at the World Cross Country Championships in Guiyang China in March courtesy of another son of the soil, Geoffrey Kipsang Kamworor, who hails from Chepkorio, Keiyo South.

Kamworor proved Elgeyo Marakwet's prowess in what is considered the toughest category of races to take the top position in 34:52:8 time ahead of Kenyan 5,000m specialist Bedan Karoki. Ethiopia's Muktar Edris finished third.

Kamworor is the reigning world half-marathon champion and has five marathons under his belt with a best of 2:06:12. But he had too much strength in the closing stages for his rivals as he powered away from fellow Kenyan Karoki to win by eight seconds.

At only 22, Kamworor won the junior men's title at the World Cross in 2011 and in China he became only the third man after Ethiopians Kenenisa Bekele and Gebre Gebremariam to complete the junior and senior double at this event.

Behind, Mukhtar Edris and Hagos Gebrhiwet finished fourth and fifth as Ethiopia had four in the top 10 to give them a narrow victory in the team contest over Kenya.

"It was a very tough race and the course was very difficult but I've done well," said Kamworor. "We are working as a team and we did it. I also hope to go to Beijing in August."

Governor Alex Tolgos and Sports CEC Monica Rotich hailed Kamworor for the win and said he had affirmed to the world that Elgeyo Marakwet was indeed the athletics power house in Kenya.

"He has added another feather to our cap. We were still happy that the Marathon title was retained in Elgeyo Marakwet and Kamworor added the icing on this cake by bringing the world cross country title to our county and Kenya," said Tolgos.

Athletics in the blood

The athlete has been training with great athletes among them Olympics and world champion Stephen Kiprotich, all season

athlete Eliud Kipchoge, renown athlete Brimin Kipruto among others at Global Sports Communication (GSC) had his interests in athletics in his childhood and one day dreamt of becoming a professional lawyer and an athlete.

Coming from an athletics rich area, he drew his inspiration from middle and long distance runners like double world champion Vivian Cheruiyot.

"I grew up watching athletes like Vivian and Sammy Kipketer train at Kapkenda Girls forcing me to sneak through the fence to witness how they did their training and look where I am now," said Kamworor.

A confident and fluent English speaking athlete was sported by his games teacher Joel Ruto and advised him to take running seriously.

"I used Ruto's (Joel) of being serious in my career. He kept on inspiring me but training was hard work for me since I had public fear," said the police officer who aspires to be a lawyer in future. "My ambitions of being a lawyer are not dead," added Kamworor.

Kamworor's Profile

Kamworor has maintained a consistent and impressive record in long distance races. He first competed abroad in 2010, when he travelled to Finland and set track bests of 3:48.15 minutes for the 1500 metres and 7:54.15 minutes over 3000 metres.

The 2011 IAAF World Cross Country Championships proved to be a turning point for Kipsang's career, taking the lead immediately with a very fast start, out running the field on the final lap to take the world junior title.

A month after his, he entered the Berlin Half Marathon and won in a time of 1:00:38 hours. In June he competed on the 2011 IAAF Diamond League circuit and set 5000 metres best of 13:12.23 minutes at the Adidas Grand Prix in New York, then improved his 10,000 metres time to 27:06.35 minutes at the Prefontaine Classic.

He knocked over half a minute off his half marathon best to win the Lille Half Marathon that September. Kamworor was employed as a pacemaker for the 2011 Berlin Marathon and his work resulted in a new world record for Patrick Makau. In his final

outing of the year he ended the Delhi Half Marathon's runner-up.

Kamworor marked his entrance into the senior cross country ranks with a win at the 2012 Cross Internacional de Itálica in Seville. He was the runner-up at the Elgoibar Cross Country behind Paul Tanui the following week. He set a half marathon best at the CPC Loop Den Haag in March, recording a time of 59:26 minutes for fourth place in a high calibre competition.

He was enlisted to pace the Rotterdam Marathon and led the runners quicker than the world record pace up to 30 km. He won the World 10K Bangalore title, beating a large field of prominent runners. His marathon debut came in September, where he ran a fast time of 2:06:12 hours to claim third place at the 2012 Berlin Marathon.

In the 2013 season he ran a series of half and full marathons. He won the Ras Al Khaimah Half Marathon with a time of 58:54, a new personal best and just two seconds outside the course record.

He was the winner of the Bogotá Half Marathon in July and was runner-up to Atsedu Tsegay at the Delhi Half Marathon. He placed fourth at the Rotterdam Marathon (2:09:12 hours) and his best performance that year was a run of 2:06:26 hours for third at the 2013 Berlin Marathon.

Additional sources: www.athleticsweekly.com, Sabuni Sports Centre & Internet



BRANDING | First Lady Margaret Kenyatta graces Nairobi launch at Galleria Shopping Mall

Lornah Kiplagat launches global sports wearline

By VINCENT BARTOO

Celebrated female athletic icon from Elgeyo Marakwet County, Lornah Kiplagat, has no doubt exemplified the popular adage 'what a man can do, a woman can do better'.

She has risen above societal inhibitions that placed women on the periphery of matters considered too heavy for a woman. Today, Lornah is a role model not only for women in Elgeyo Marakwet where she was born, but across the country and globally.

Her achievements on the track have earned her a place among the greats in international athletics. But these are almost being obscured by her current exploits, which are well thought out ventures making heads turn.

The latest exploit is her bold decision to create a global sportswear brand with her name on it, a mean feat attempted by a few if any African athlete. The sportswear has attracted a lot of interest globally.

"In my 20 years as an elite athlete, I was looking for an apparel that would be fashionable and happy, but unfortunately I did not find any, and that's why I decided to make the bold move and launch one myself," said Kiplagat whose stellar career is highlighted by three IAAF World Half Marathon gold medals and victories in the Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Osaka and Los Angeles marathons.

Before the sportswear, this trail blazing woman constructed a tartan track at the Lornah Kiplagat Sports Academy in Iten, another major milestone given it is one of the few

privately owned tartan tracks in Africa.

It also goes without saying that Lornah is also among the few athletics camp owners in Kenya and among the pioneers in Iten where she set up the High Altitude Training Camp (HATC) that has seen it host international athletes like Mo Farah and Paula Radcliffe.

Lornah has also ventured into business with interests in various sectors of the economy including real estate and hospitality, investing and running them with her humble and warm hearted husband Pieter Langerhorst, a Dutch national.

Lornah was born in Kenya and became a Dutch citizen in 2003. The long-distance runner has several world records to her name, has won four world titles and one European title.

In 2007, she became a world champion in cross-country and she participated in three Olympic Games: Athens (2004), Beijing (2008) and London (2012). She won the marathons of Los Angeles (twice), Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Osaka, was second in Chicago and third in the New York City marathon.

Lornah is renowned for her powerful, offensive running style that evokes associations with a lion. Her nickname is Simba, Swahili for lion. The lion is therefore inseparable from the sports brand Lornah.

"Wearing Lornah is feeling the spirit of Africa. On your skin, in your soul, in your life. Lornah offers unique feminine African designs, fine fabrics," her sports



First Lady Margaret Kenyatta showcases one of Lornah's global sports wear brand at the launch of the 'Lornah' brand at Galleria Shopping Mall in Nairobi.

PHOTOS | COURTESY

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Wearing Lornah is feeling the spirit of Africa. On your skin, in your soul, in your life. Lornah offers unique feminine African designs, fine fabrics - Lornah

brand quotes.

Lornah launched the sportswear in October 2014. "The brand 'Lornah' focuses on the active, modern and aware women, who think sport is as important as fashion. The first items were subsequently showcased at the Running Expo from the Amsterdam Marathon (17, 18 and 19 October 2014)," adds the website.

The Lornah sports brand is inspired by the African spirit, no wonder the African prints and designs on the clothing. The sportswear is meant to make the wearer feel elegant, sporty and have a feminine fit.

First Lady Margaret Kenyatta, who has twice visited Lornah's stadium in Iten to train, graced the official launch of the sportswear in Nairobi at Galleria Mall as chief guest.

Mrs Kenyatta has already signed up with the 'Lornah' brand and has been using the new African apparel in her training for the Beyond Zero charity's flagship event - the First Lady's Half Marathon, whose second edition was held in Nairobi.

"Last year, during my training stint at the High Altitude Training Centre in Iten ahead of the London Marathon, Lornah told me that she was designing a new sports line, and indeed showed me a sample of the apparel that I immediately fell in love with," Mrs Kenyatta.

She added: "As a mother, and as a supporter of the Beyond Zero campaign that stands for healthy living

and better lifestyles for our mothers and children, I was overjoyed that, finally, we have a brand that resonates well with our daily lives and indeed with our campaign for a better future for Kenya's women".

The First Lady said that she was happy to learn that besides producing sportswear, the 'Lornah' brand will also organize runs, have coaches, personal trainers and other consultants to support the development of the brand and of athletics.

"This makes the 'Lornah' brand stand out from other brands and this is a step in the right direction," the First Lady added before flagging off a two-kilometre fun run around the Galleria Shopping Mall to celebrate the apparel's launch.

The new 'Lornah' line is currently available at a special, pop-up launch shop at the Galleria Shopping Mall where a shop was opened with further shops expected to be opened in Nairobi and other major Kenyan towns.

The collection, where sports and fashion comes together, consists of running shirts, shorts, pants, jackets and our special item the Jember Running Dress. This dress is specially designed to feel free and is very fashionable! This one-piece-style has an integrated sportsbra and a little short which is covered by an all-over African print. A real eye catcher!

Additional information from www.lornahsports.com and the Daily Nation





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On your marks, get set, go!

Kamariny refurbishment finally kicks off



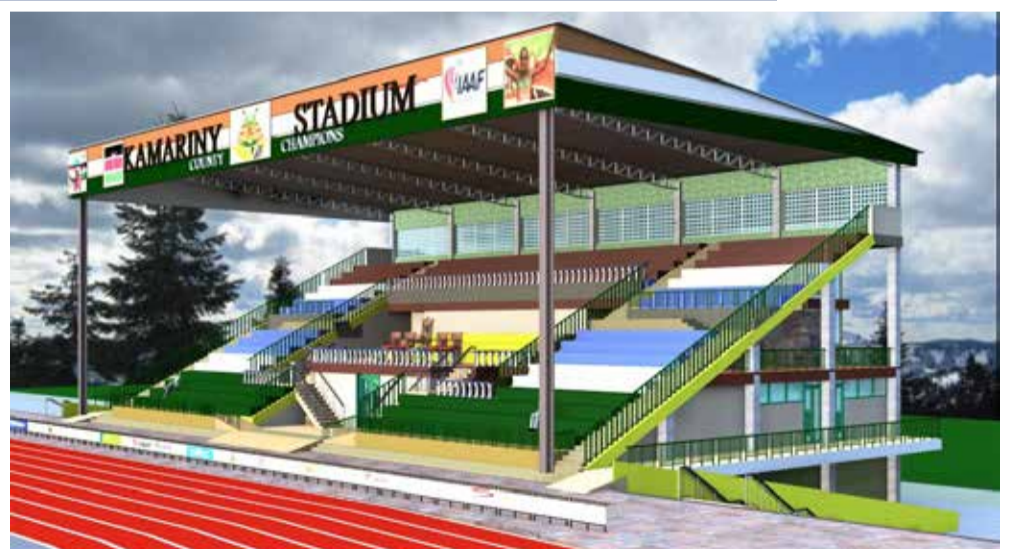
An artist impression of Kamariny Stadium.

Left: The front view look of the Kamariny stadium pavilion.

Bottom Left: The landscape view of the artistic impression showing part of the play ground and the pavilion.

Bottom Right: The right sideview of the pavilion.

PHOTO: COUNTY ARCHITECT



By LINUS SIELE

On your marks

When the County government came into office, one of the key projects it set out to undertake was the refurbishment of Kamariny Stadium which was opened in the 1980s by Queen Elizabeth.

This started by boardroom meetings that laid the roadmap for the rehabilitation that eventually led to the decision to develop a master plan for the grand reconstruction of

the stadium into a modern facility.

Through a competitive process, a consultant was hired to develop the master plan that comprised various proposed developments.

Get Set

The master plan outlined the developments both short and long term that include a tartan track, VIP lounge, podiums, changing rooms, athletes' hostels, a museum, medical centre and a library among other facilities.

In the long run, the stadium is expected to have an indoor facility that can host indoor games as well as a modern gym for physical fitness.

In future, the County also plans to establish a three star hotel overlooking the Elgeyo escarpment at the Kamariny grounds to give the stadium a one stop shop feel in a bid to further attract sports tourists.

The master plan split the reconstruction of the Stadium in phases owing to limited funds by the County to undertake this massive transformation.

Go!

"Currently the works that are ongoing are the construction of a 4,000 seat pavilion and a changing room. It is expected to be complete by February 2016," said CEC Incharge of Sports, Monica Rotich.

She added that in the Financial Year 2015/2016, the department plans to construct a perimeter wall and a gate and hostels for athletes.

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