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# ELGEYO MARAKWET

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Issue 002

November -January 2015

County of  
Kibagenge



Champions  
Ko Kimnon

*Bulletin*

**LAW** | County Alcoholic Drinks and Control Act 2014 to ensure alcohol sale and consumption regulations including issuance of bar licences. Currently, residents spend an average of 5 billion annually on alcohol

## New alcohol laws enacted to spur County development



Nacada Chairman John Mututho cuts the ribbon to unveil County's new Alcoholic Drinks Control Act 2014 flanked by H.E Governor Alex Tolgos, Speaker Albert Kochei and Deputy Governor Dr Gabriel Lagat.

PHOTO | KIPKORIR KIPCHIRCHIR

By KIPKORIR KIPCHIRCHIR

According to the National Campaign Against Drug Abuse (Nacada), Elgeyo Marakwet County spends an average sh 5 billion annually on alcohol.

Chairman John Mututho said the money is cumulative of what residents in the county spend individually in the consumption of alcohol.

Mututho said the money is twice the amount given to the Elgeyo Marakwet County Government by the national Treasury which stands at about sh 2.8 billion.

Speaking in Iten when he inaugurated the Elgeyo Marakwet Alcoholic Drinks and Control Act 2014, Mututho said the sh 5 billion could have been used to turn around the county economically.

"If wananchi used this money to uplift their economic status and the county government added the sh 2.8 billion it gets to supplement their efforts, this county would be very far economically," he said.

Mututho hailed the county for coming up with new laws that will ensure that alcohol sale and consumption is regulated so that residents can engage in meaningful economic activities.

## India gives 10 scholarships to County top students

By VINCENT BARTOO

The Indian government will offer educational scholarships to 10 top students from Elgeyo Marakwet County to pursue courses in Medicine in India.

This is part of a partnership deal struck between the County and the Indian government by H.E Governor Alex Tolgos and Indian High Commissioner to Kenya Yogeshwar Varma.

The Governor hosted the High Commissioner to a visit in the county where he revealed the good news.

"I had the pleasure to visit this beautiful county and met the Governor who is offering dynamic leadership and making a lot of rapid economic development," said Varma in Iten.

Varma also added that his country had offered to train county staff in India under the auspices of Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation

(ITEC).

"It will be an all expenses paid trip funded entirely by my government. This is the beginning of an economic collaboration that we are starting with the people of Elgeyo Marakwet," he added.

Varma said India is the 9th largest economy in the world and it was keen on partnering with Kenyans to replicate its successes in the economic front in Kenya.

"As a first step we will invite Indian companies



## County Executives



Hon Stephen Biwott  
CEC- Health Services



Caroline Magut  
CO- Health Services



Hon Dr Stella Rono  
CEC- Agriculture,Livestock & Fisheries CO - Agriculture,Livestock & Fisheries



Pius Cheserek  
CO - Agriculture,Livestock & Fisheries



Hon Ann Kibosia  
CEC - Tourism,Trade & Energy



Ishmael Chelanga  
CO -T ourism,Trade & Energy



Hon Monicah Rotich  
CEC- ICT & Public Service



Titus Aiyabei  
CO - ICT & Public Service



Hon Shadrack Chelimo  
CEC-Finance & Economic Planning



Jeremiah Changwony  
CO- Finance & Economic Planning



Hon Netty Jemutai  
CEC- Technical Training & Education



Netty Jemutai  
CO-Technical Training & Education



Hon Thomas Rutto  
CEC - Water,Natural Resources & Environment



Boaz Changach  
CO-Water,Natural Resources & Environment



Hon Shadrack Yatich  
CEC-Sports,Youth,Women & Social Services



Anita Kimwatan  
CO - Sports,Youth,Women & Social Services



Hon Eng. Simeon Kiplagat  
CEC - Roads, Transport & Public Works



John Cheboi  
CO - Roads, Transport & Public Works

## County Administrators



Meshack bowen  
Sub-County Admin Keiyo south



Christine Ngeno  
Sub-County Admin Keiyo North



Wilfred Chepkole  
Sub-County Admin Marakwet West



Philemon Cherop  
Sub-County Admin Marakwet East



Caroline Koima  
Ward Admin -Tambach



Charity Kimaiyo  
Ward Admin - Emsoo



David Kandie  
Ward Admin Cherangany Chebororwa



Emmy Jerotich Kosgei  
Ward Admin - Kapsowar



Gertrude Serem  
Ward Admin - Metkei



James Komen  
Ward Admin -Moiben Kuserwo



Joseph Kiprotich  
Ward Admin -Embobut Embolot



Justine Kwambai  
Ward Admin - Sambirir



Kimutai Kiplimo  
Ward Admin -Soy North



Kiprop Korat  
Ward Admin -Kapchemutwo



Leah Rono  
Ward Admin -Sengwer



Lydia Kipkeu  
Ward Admin - Endo



Moses Kipkosgei  
Ward Admin - Lelan



Philemon Biwott  
Ward Admin - Kapyego



Raymond Omonei  
Ward Admin - Kamariny



Sammy Chebii  
Ward Admin -Soy South



Solomon Kandie  
Ward Admin - Kaptarakwa



Theophilus Aiyabei  
Ward Admin -Kabiemit



Zeddy Chelang'a  
Ward Admin - Arror



Timothy Kipkoeh  
Ward Admin - Chepkorio

# Mango farming made him a millionaire

**Passionate:** I quit my Administration Police training a few days after enrollment to go to look after my

By KIPKORIR KIPCHIRCHIR

If you meet him 14 years ago, you would not have thought he would be where he is. But today, In his mid 50's, Francis Kiplagat, a father of seven and a resident of Kessup, can afford a smile after his long term investment in mango growing is paying him back in millions.

It is a practice that he holds dear to his heart, but the 14 years it has taken him to reap the fruits of his labour is an indication of how much patience coupled with challenges he has had to endure to see the success today.

For Francis, mango growing is not just farming but a part of life he cannot live without. His love for farming dates back to 1969, when he walked out of administrative police training in Tambach to take care of his chicken.

"Just before I went for the training in Tambach, for administration police, my chicken had hatched and it kept me worrying as I went. But after a few days

in the training, I could not hold it anymore, I stormed out, headed home to take care of my newly acquired investment," he recalls with a laugh.

It is this decision taken out of the love for his chicken that became the genesis of his success story.

Between 1974 and 1975, he planted vegetables and tomatoes, a practice he says prompted him to elevate to apple growing in 1976, on a 4 acre piece of land.

But as fate would have it, In late 80's, a fruit disease invaded his farm leaving him counting enormous losses, as fruits failed to mature as a result of the infection. This did not deter his efforts, he travelled far and wide to seek advice

and conduct a research on other people's farms. His first stop was in Marakwet, where he came across mango growing.

"I saw mangoes in a farm in Marakwet and I liked it. Furthermore, In Mombasa, Machakos and Thika, where I travelled to research, I realized that the climate was similar to ours in the valley, and so, I knew mango farming would work out well. So immediately I came back, I bought 10 acres of land in Biretwo, for mango farming," he narrates.

After preparing the land, he planted 10 varieties of mangoes, his reason being that he wanted to establish the best type. The first six varieties did well namely; Apple mango, Ngowe, Tommy Artkin, Fantaic, Kent, and Sensation. He chose the apple mango variety because of its sweetness and popularity in the market.

"From apple, I could harvest 200-500



**Farmer Francis Kiplagat showcases some of the mango yields at his farm in Biretwo.** PHOTO | GPSU

## Value:

A tree has 200-500 fruits.

Market price for each fruit is Ksh 10

An acre holds upto 800 seedlings

fruits per tree, in a season. I sold one for sh 10, and that translated to good money," said Francis.

The farmer is keen to explain that for anybody willing to venture in mango growing, land preparation and the use of certified seedlings is paramount.

"Land preparation is very

CONTINUED ON PAGE>> 4

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# Francis has built empire through mango venture

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important, at least three months before planting. After that, dig the holes for the plant, 1 meter deep, then put farmyard manure, 25kgs, and mix it thoroughly with the soil. After planting, it will take 24 months to mature, but make sure in between, you apply adequate antifungal pesticide to counter blight and other fungal infections” he explains.

Francis observes that farmers have an advantage today because seedlings are readily available in Kerio Valley Development Authority (KVDA) nurseries, in Marakwet West, Kitale, Toot, Aror and Kimwarer, unlike his time, when he had to travel to Kenya Agricultural Research Institution (KARI) in Thika, to get the seedlings.

He adds that if farmers take farming seriously, they will eliminate poverty and enhance development in the county.

For Francis, mango farming has brought success and fame in equal measure. In a competition, Permanent Presidential, Soil and water Conservation (PPSC) in mid 90's, he became the best farmer nationally. This earned him sh 100,000 worth of farm equipment as a prize, and a trip to Denmark.

“It was the best moment of my life, I met retired President, H.E Daniel Toroitich Arap Moi, we even posed for a photo together. I chose Denmark, because I had read in school that they had good cows” he says.

In Denmark, he learnt that the love for one's job is imperative and directly proportional to success earned. And so, when he came back, he was a farmer with vigour, expanding his land and planting more acres of mangoes.

As the proceeds from mangoes increased,

**Farmer Francis at one of the guest rooms at his Lelin campsite at Kessup.**

(Right) Francis attends to guests at his campsite.

PHOTO | KIPKORIR KIPCHIRCHIR



**TOWERING:** The imposing Mango House in Iten town built by Francis from mango proceeds. PHOTO | KIPKORIR KIPCHIRCHIR



Francis thought of a security once he grows old, and that gave birth to Lelin camp, a resort of its kind in Kessup, Keiyo North. Currently, the resort has a bed capacity of 12, and a conference hall is in its completion stage.

To add to his list of investments from mango planting, is the famous mango house at the heart of Iten town. He says mango house is the principal evidence of his 14 years of hard work in mango planting.

“I took a sh 3 million loan

with Agricultural Finance Corporation (A.F.C), and 3 million with Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB).I have since cleared with KCB and I am in the process of clearing with AFC .All this has been made possible because of my mangoes, Iam very happy with my progress,” said a jubilant Francis.

“Farming pays, just have patience and hard work, and you will be the next millionaire” he concludes.

At the end of the day, Francis smiles all the way to

# Scholarships to County top students, County staff

CONTINUED FROM PAGE<<1

to visit your county and explore areas of investment,” he said.

The High Commissioner cited the rich agriculture sector in Elgeyo Marakwet saying Indian investors would be willing to set up value addition chains in the county to tap the high potential horticultural sub-sector in the county.

“I know that you have a flourishing fruit farming enterprise and these can be harnessed to have farmers reap maximum benefit from their produce through value addition in form of fruit processing factories,” added Varma.

He further said India could offer Kenya and Elgeyo Marakwet expertise in the building of low cost houses to ensure the Kenyan population is housed in decent shelters.

Governor Tolgos said the county was ready and willing to partner with India to further enhance development in Elgeyo Marakwet.

He thanked the High Commissioner for the kind gesture of extending 10 scholarships to needy students in the county.

Tolgos said the County welcomes Indian investors to the county and pledged his government's commitment to ensure that they are facilitated to start businesses in the county.

“We will provide the necessary business environment to ensure that the investors comfortably set up base here and operate in a conducive way,” he told the High Commissioner.

Tolgos said the scholarships, once received from the Indian

government, would be shared out to the most deserving students in all the sub counties.

Meanwhile, Tullow Oil Company has awarded three scholarships to students in the county to pursue different courses in the United Kingdom. The three are Gladys

Chebichi who will undertake Master of Science (MSc.) in International Technology Management (Engineering and Technology) at the University of Warwick, Patrick Kimeli who will study at the University of Salford taking MSc in Petroleum and Gas

Engineering.

Ronald Kiplimo will on the other hand join University of Salford Abertay Dundee University to do an MSc in Energy Water and Environmental Management.

The three are part of 30 students in Kenya who have been awarded the scholarships by Tullow to study in prestigious universities in the UK. The 30 are also part of 100 students in eight countries in the world that have benefitted from the scholarship scheme.

Since its introduction in Kenya in 2012, 55 Kenyans have benefitted from the scheme in addition to nearly 9,000 students in local primary and secondary schools as well as local universities that Tullow continues to support through scholarships and bursaries.

“The scheme was designed

to build local capacity in key areas of the oil and gas industry and is part of our wider commitment to ensuring local people have a leading role in the development of Kenya's natural resources,” said Tullow in a statement.

Tullow Oil announced that it would start exploring oil in Kerio Valley region of Elgeyo Marakwet after it found oil deposits in the area that are commercially viable.

Tolgos thanked the company for the scholarships in addition to bursaries that it recently gave to needy students in the county.

“We need such partnerships that benefit our people and I want to extend my greatest appreciation to Tullow for these kind gestures,” said the Governor.



**H.E Governor Alex Tolgos presents a gourd to India High Commissioner as a sign of thanks** PHOTO | LINUS SIELE

# Alcohol law to tame sale and bar operational licences in the County

“With this law, the sh 5 billion lost to alcohol will hopefully now help in developing this county. I urge you all to support what the county government is doing to save you from the alcohol menace,” he added.

Governor Alex Tolgos said Elgeyo Marakwet seeks to be a champion in many fronts by emulating the success of its world beating athletes who have brought glory to our country by winning international medals.

“We are making good progress in getting every resident of Elgeyo Marakwet to aspire excellence in what they do as we in the County Government work hard to ensure that we match their efforts and uplift the living standards of our people economically and socially,” said Tolgos.

He however said that as the county takes pride of the achievements made by sons and daughters of the county on the track and other fields, residents should not ignorant of the social ills in the county that have continued to slow development, the main one being alcoholism.

“For instance, as we celebrate the success of our athletes, it is no secret that some of them have been seriously affected by alcoholism. The affected individuals have lost their hard earned money to the bottle and today, they have nothing to show for their past glory,” said Tolgos.

The Governor added that some civil servants, teachers and chiefs, have equally been affected with some having abdicated their duties and resorted to alcoholism.

Tolgos added that there are also parents who have abandoned their parental responsibilities and left their children to fend for themselves in the name of alcohol.

“We even have farmers who have left large tracks of land idle as they make consumption of illicit alcohol their daily preoccupation. We must all join forces to reverse this trend,” he said.

The Governor also said the youth too were now engaging in the consumption of deadly illicit brew and risk cutting short their lives before their time. Recently, some youth from the county were among those found dead after consuming illicit alcohol in Eldoret.

“These are the harsh realities in this county as it is in other parts of Kenya and the time to bury our heads in the sand, look the other way or fear political reprisal is over. It is time to break the silence and confront this monster head on,” affirmed Tolgos.

The Governor recalled the tough



“  
Our desire is to have an effective citizen participation which represents the effective demand for quality service.”

decision he took to outlaw illegal alcohol consumption when he assumed office as Governor.

“As a leader, you must take unpopular decisions sometimes in the greater interest of your people and that is what I did. I believe strongly in what Martin Luther said that ‘Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter,’” he said.

Tolgos extended special thanks to the County Assembly led by the able Speaker for prioritizing the debating and passage of the Act that will serve as a deterrence both to consumers and manufacturers.

“It will be a strong message from us that we will no longer tolerate manufacturers who want to make money and leave our people miserable or dead,” said Tolgos.

Speaker Albert Kochei said the new Act serves to actualize the determination by County leaders to confront alcoholism which has wrecked many homes in Elgeyo Marakwet.

He said the unveiling of Act is testament of the resolve as county leaders to rid residents from the yoke of alcoholism that has seriously retarded the county’s development.

“We are here to put a stop to this and work towards a clean and sober county for development and prosperity,” said Kochei.

The Speaker said rampant consumption of alcohol in the county had robbed the county of young and energetic youths who had resorted to alcohol at the expense of personal development.

He said that in coming up with the New Act, the assembly’s wisdom was to tailor the laws with the famous Mututho laws so as to

align the county legislation with the national laws.

Kochei said the laws were deterrent in the interest of Elgeyo Marakwet residents and tough on producers of deadly illicit alcohol.

“We want our people to prosper and that was our driving force in coming up with this Act. However we also wanted it to be stiff on those manufacturers whose intent is to ruin and kill our people,” he added.

The Speaker said the new Act does not only serve to control the sale and distribution of alcohol but will also address the social welfare of those who choose to abandon the consumption of alcohol.

“We have sections of the Act that addresses the issue of rehabilitation of both brewers and consumers which will be supported by the county and other partners like Nacada,” said Kochei.

The Speaker asked residents to familiarize themselves with the new Act and embrace it for the sake of development in the county and prevent the infiltration of illicit brews that have killed many in other parts of the country.

Tolgos further noted that he was happy that despite the initial resistance, the campaign against illicit alcohol has yielded dividends with most residents abandoning the vice and engaging in meaningful development initiatives.

“We have a group of 283 women who were former brewers of changaa and busaa who are now engaged in agribusiness and maize milling with our financial support after abandoning the vice,” said Tolgos.

The positive objective of our campaign is beginning to pay and we are building on this until we achieve total transformation of our people.

“I must also thank the national government officials, especially the office of the County Commissioner in our county for supporting this campaign. I have time and again reiterated that we in the county and those in the national government serve the same people and I appreciate the fact that we in Elgeyo Marakwet work in a harmonious manner,” said the Governor.

Kochei and Tolgos conveyed appreciation for the undivided support the county received from Nacada since it launched efforts against alcohol abuse in the county.

“Apart from the sensitization that we jointly carried out, they also came in handy to train our County Alcoholic Drinks Regulation Committees in June this year on how best to tackle this menace,” said Tolgos.

The Governor said the committees that he appointed are now fully updated on the country alcohol control laws to enable them discharge their mandate effectively, tailoring them in line with the new County Act.

“We will support initiatives at Nacada because the war against drug abuse in Kenya is still far from being won and needs collaborative effort,” said Kochei.

Tolgos cited cases of illegal alcohol destined for sale in the county that have been intercepted in various areas following a collaborative effort by state agencies in this county.

“We still have bars that operate without licenses and these are the prime suspects in the distribution of deadly illegal liquor. We should crack down hard on these and stop the mushrooming of such bars all over our trading centres to save our people from early graves,” he said.

The Governor further noted that the fight against drug abuse will not be won without the involvement of communities.

“They need proper sensitization particularly on the alternatives one can explore after quitting alcohol. I therefore call on us to engage target community members and enlist them in this fight so that they also own the process,” he said.

Tolgos reiterated Speaker Kochei’s appeal to the people of Elgeyo Marakwet to familiarize themselves with the Act (which is a pullout in this newspaper) so that they will not be found on the wrong side of the law.

“We will pursue violators of this Act with no mercy because at the end of the day, all of us should stay clean and sober so that our county can develop and prosper,” added



H.E Governor Alex Tolgos (left) shares a light moment with the Nacada chairman  
PHOTO | KIPKORIR KIPCHIRCHIR

# Engage us through public participation, Chelimo

## PUBLIC FORUMS | Enhanced public participation will contribute to county development with impact

Constitution of Kenya 2010 marked a major milestone in the way the country is governed. It created a two-tier Governance system, one being the National and the other being forty seven County Governments. It stipulated the devolution of political power and economic resources to the counties with the main objectives being to give powers of self-governance to the people and ensure equitable sharing of national and local resources

In striving to achieve these objectives, citizen participation in development process is paramount and mandatory. In ensuring that participation achieves its intended objectives, the following principles form the basis for public participation in counties;

- Timely access to information, data, documents, and other information relevant or related to policy formulation and implementation.
- Reasonable access to the process of formulating and implementing policies, laws, and regulations, including the approval of development proposals, projects and budgets, the granting of permits and the establishment of specific performance standards.
- Protection and promotion of the interest and rights of minorities, marginalized groups and communities and their access to relevant information.
- Legal standing to interested or affected persons, organizations, and where pertinent, communities, to appeal from or, review decisions, or redress grievances, with particular emphasis on persons and traditionally marginalized communities, including women, youth and disadvantaged communities.
- Reasonable balance in the roles and obligations of county governments and non-state actors in decision-making processes to promote shared responsibility and partnership and to provide complementary authority and oversight.
- Promotion of public-private partnerships, such as joint committees, technical teams and citizen commissions, to encourage direct dialogue and concerted action on sustainable development.
- Recognition and promotion of the reciprocal roles of non-state actors' participation and governmental facilitation and oversight.

### ROLE OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN COUNTY DEVELOPMENT DECISIONS

In line with the constitutional and legal provisions, County Government of Elgeyo Marakwet has established public participation frameworks to engage with members of the public on various policy documents that would lead to evidence-based decision making regarding our county's development process

County development planning and budget preparation and execution processes are amongst the key areas that the county through Finance and Economic Planning Department engages the public so as to

ensure inclusive participation amongst all development practitioners at the county

The county development planning and budget policy documents which guide development and financial processes in the county and for which public participation is paramount and provided by law include; County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP), Annual Development Plan, County Budget and Outlook Paper (CBROP), County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP), Finance Bill and Annual Budget Estimates.

Other documents that are not mandated by law but are vital for the delivery of the county's strategic objectives and needing public participation inputs includes; Sectoral policies, proposed bills and performance measurement approaches.

### County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP)

The County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) is the county's development master plan which provides a framework for coordinated development, unified development planning, basis for annual budget financing, platform for effective and efficient implementation of projects and programs and mechanism for measuring performances. However, all of these anticipated benefits from county development through CIDP cannot be successful without inclusive participation.

The priorities identified in the CIDP through the citizens participation has informed the preparation of other policy documents.

### Annual Development Plan (ADP)

County Annual Development Plan (ADP) is derived from the prioritized development initiatives as captured in the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP). Apart from prioritizing on the vital human social sectors such as health, ADP has identifies areas with growth prospects whose economic gains has the potential to spur growth in other sectors.

ADP links policy, planning and budgeting for county resources while striving to undertake development initiatives in the framework of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) and collaborations with non-county development entities such as the National Government, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and International Organizations

The objective of ADP is to highlight strategic objectives with the relevant programmes and accompanying budgets whose achievement will be guided by the available budget and commitments through Public Private Partnerships and collaborations with non-county development entities. In order to avoid duplication of development initiatives by the respective development practitioners, public participation is inevitable.



*The writer, Gideon Kipyakwai (pictured above) is the Chairperson County Public Service Board Elgeyo Marakwet*

### County Budget and Outlook Paper (CBROP)

The CBROP presents the fiscal outcome for the most previous Financial Year and how these outcomes affect financial objectives set out in that year's County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP). Fiscal discipline will seek to ensure that the county's development entities are able work towards improving the residents' livelihoods by instituting mechanisms that enhances financial efficiency, effectiveness and economy.

One of the objectives of CBROP is to analyze Medium-Term Expenditure Framework. Our county's MTEF approach consists of a bottom-up estimation of the current and medium-term costs of existing policies and, ultimately, the matching of these costs with available resources in the context of the annual budget process.

MTEF is intended to facilitate a number of important outcomes: greater macroeconomic balance; improved resource allocation; greater budgetary predictability; and more efficient use of public monies. Improved economic balance, including fiscal discipline, is attained through good estimates of the available resource envelope, which are then used to make budgets that fit squarely within the envelope.

MTEFs aim to improve resource allocation by effectively prioritizing all expenditures (on the basis of the county's priorities identified inclusively). Some of the justification for public participation on CBROP includes; need to promote consultation and debate among all development stakeholders and importance of enhancing transparency and accountability through performance reviews.

### County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP)

The overriding goal for County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP) is to provide a fiscal management basis that will enable a priority-based budget and thus effective implementation of the desired priorities within a stable macro-economic environment that suits vibrant private investments and investments arrangements such as the Public Private Partnerships (PPP).

CFSP seeks to explore the global and national economic development outlook and how this will affect the county economic outlook and fiscal performance in the medium term while highlighting projections for county revenue and expenditure for both recurrent and development. It also analyses the overall deficit and financing, the underlying risks, structural measures and strategic interventions.

Public participation in the CFSP preparation process is important in

identifying key strategic priorities that the county will undertake through deliberate allocation of more funds in the forthcoming budget. These strategic priorities must be in line with the priorities identified in the CIDP.

### Finance Bill

Section 132 of the PFM Act, 2013 provides for the county to propose the revenue raising measures for the county government through submission of a Finance Bill which outlines the revenue raising measures for the county government, together with a policy statement expounding on those measures

Before the submission of the Finance Bill, the draft of the Bill is subjected to the members of the public to ascertain its acceptability, sustainability and if the Bill's proposed contents are economically realistic. The Finance Bill's objective is two-pronged and should attain an equilibrium between the county achieving its target on potential revenue while not dampening economic investments.

### Annual Budget Estimates

In compliance with the Public Finance Management Act (PFM) Act, Section 129 (2) (a), the county submits its budget estimates by 30th April annually for consideration by the County Assembly. However, before submission the budget would have undergone several consultative sectoral and public participations as required by law and in compliance with the County Budget Circular which is issued annually by 30th August. On public participation process, the Budget Circular provides for the following public participation framework;

1. Invitations for memoranda submissions will be communicated through notices in the media and notice boards at the county, sub county and ward offices and through the county website
2. Budget preparation Public Participation forums will be held across the county to capture views and areas to consider while preparing the 2015/16 budget estimates
3. All budget related documents submitted to the County Assembly will be publicized through relevant media platforms, county website and county, sub county and ward offices
4. The County Budget and Economic Forum whose membership composes of representation from county special interests groups will scrutinize the various budget policy documents with a view of ensuring residents proposals are captures in the process

*The new constitution has offered remedy to this by compelling a lot of governance processes to go through public participation at both national and county level.*

Public forums will steer to development with significance

5. In analyzing the submitted budget estimates for possible approval, the County Assembly will subject the submitted budget to public participation.

Performance Contracting

To enhance service delivery to the members of the public, the county government has initiated performance contract for all county government departments and entities. Under the performance contracting system, departments and entities through their accounting officers will commit themselves to achieving specific monitorable targets in the delivery of services for its citizens. While the County's development plan will commit the county to a series of five year projects, the performance contracts will commit departments and public officials to annual performance targets derived from Annual development plan, departmental and sector-based strategic plans. The CIDP will therefore set the pace for departmental strategic plans that will in turn guide performance contracts.

RATIONALE FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Fourth Schedule Part 2 (14), of the Constitution stipulates that the functions and powers of the county are to ensure and coordinate the participation of communities and locations in governance at the local level. Therefore the following expected benefits from public participation cannot be underestimated;

1. Opportunity for stakeholders' to offer input and share control over development initiatives, decisions and resources which affect them
2. Platform for stakeholders to influence policy formulation, alternative designs, investment choices and management decisions affecting their communities
3. Establishes the necessary sense of ownership for development sustainability
4. Strengthens local capacities
5. Guards against abuse of office by public servants and political leaders

Challenges of Public Participation so far

Although the county has complied with the constitutional and legal provisions for public participation, several challenges still need including the following needs to be tackled;

- Inter-governmental relations framework not yet operationalized thus no joint public participation throughout the projects cycle
- Legal provisions give more weight to financial processes than the implementation and impact evaluations

Way Forward

To enhance public participation and thus ensure evidence-based decisions, the following suggestions may be adopted;

- Enhance access to information by members of the public
- Members of the public must be aware of their rights and responsibilities and know the channels via which they can exercise them
- Involvement of members of public not only at the design or formative stages of development but also at the implementation and monitoring and evaluation stages.

County Assembly enacts more laws, policies & refurbishes house

Almost two years on, the County Assembly led by Speaker Albert Kochei has broken fresh ground, enacting new progressive laws and policies while at the same spearheading the refurbishment of its chambers and precincts.

"Over the past months, we have been operating in a temporary structure we built as we paved way for the refurbishment of our chambers, but this did not deter us from executing our legislative agenda," said Kochei.

The assembly embarked on a process to modernize the chambers in conformity with its constitutional mandate, build a fence around it complete with a gate as well as a cafeteria.

"These developments are geared to give the assembly the status it deserves. These are long term projects and we have made it clear to the contractors involved to deliver quality work," said the Speaker.

Close to two years since they got into office, Kochei said the foundation for the Assembly is now firm, having been laid by competent men and women at the assembly, drawn from MCAs, Staff and County Assembly Public Service Board.

"We are now operating at full capacity, with everybody on board now fully able to discharge their duties under an environment of teamwork and dedication led by a very strong assembly leadership," he added.

Among the achievements of the assembly in the last quarter include the enactment of groundbreaking laws such as the Alcoholic Drinks and Control Act and Public Participation Act aimed at checking the widespread negative effects of alcohol consumption in the county and getting citizens to be involved in their governance.

"We also have the County Equitable Development Bill, 2014 that we have come up with to harmonise implementation of projects in the county to avoid skewed development and ensure all wards are growing equally," said Kochei.

The Alcohol and Public Participation Act were the brainchild of Leader of Minority and Kapyego Ward MCA Benson Kiptire while the bill on Equitable development was initiated by Kaparakwa MCA Thomas Kigen.

The various committees that were constituted to handle House business have also covered good ground in tackling their obligations, particularly on oversight of the executive. The committees have come up with work plans that ensure that they deliver on their mandate efficiently, effectively and on time.

"This is as a result of capacity building that we carried out through support from several partner organizations. Today, our committees are very empowered and they work with a lot of vigour," said Kochei.

The Speaker added that in the work



County Assembly Speaker Albert Kochei PHOTO | GPCU

plans, the committees have derived a timetable which includes weekly sittings complete with a strict plan for deliverables.

"We have come up with a plan where two committees every Fridays inspect projects being implemented by the county government and file reports on their status within 14 days," said Kochei.

Even with the laws the assembly has already formulated, it is not resting yet and has lined up several other legislations targeting county economic growth that are to be brought to the floor of the House for debate before passing.

The legislations the assembly has proposed and are awaiting debate include the County Revenue Raising Bill, Property Rates Bill, Trade License Bill, Revenue Administration Bill, Project Management Bill among others.

"These are legislations by honorable members that seek to spur more economic growth. These will be debated and will be enacted after following all the legal procedures," said the Speaker.

Kochei further revealed that the assembly is preparing a strategic plan that will further guide how the affairs of the assembly are conducted in a structured way.

"We want to operate in a structured environment that even measures our work to see to it that we make progress day after day, month after month and year after year. We want a results oriented assembly," he added.

The Speaker said the Strategic Plan was as a result of house keeping meetings the assembly frequently holds to review progress of the House and chart the way forward.

"These periodic meetings have been helpful and allows us to pause and reflect to see whether we are delivering on our mandate or not," he added.

Kochei hailed the Assembly Clerk, Jane Kiptum, for ensuring professionalism in the running of the assembly by its

staff and also building their capacity. He added that weekly devotion led by staff had invited God's support in the assembly enabling it to scale the ladder of achievements.

The assembly has also been reaching out to other county assemblies especially those neighbouring Elgeyo Marakwet to build collaborative synergies. It has done this in the areas of oil, security and county borders.

"We have mooted the idea of having joint committees to come up with common solutions in these areas. For instance, we want a united way of engaging Tullow Oil and the national government when it comes to the oil resource that has been discovered in Elgeyo Marakwet, Baringo and Turkana counties," said Kochei.

He added that communal conflicts and border disputes could also be easily addressed through joint committees by the affected counties thus coming up with informed solutions that can be ratified through the respective assemblies.

"County assemblies are avenues where many of Kenya's problems can be solved and my appeal is for the country to accord us more support, defend our autonomy and see us transform our counties with forward looking legislations," he said.

Kochei assured the Elgeyo Marakwet electorate of the steadfastness of the county assembly in ensuring that their wishes and aspirations are taken care of by the Honorable Members through their legislative, representation and oversight roles.

"My only appeal is for the public in our county to come forth and build a more closer partnership with us so that we may build this county together. As I say this let me take this singular opportunity on behalf of the House to wish them a Merry Christmas and a prosperous Happy New Year 2015!" the Speaker said.

## ENSURING A HEALTHY POPULATION

# Health centres radically being improved for a healthy county



By EMMANUEL TALEL

**T**he County Government of Elgeyo Marakwet is aggressively engaged in improving Health service to its people by repairing, refurbishing and aligning the infrastructure throughout the County.

Among projects for last financial year in progress include renovation of County Referral Hospital in Iten where wards were put are under comprehensive upgrading to modern status.

"The entire Asbestos roof has been replaced with galvanized iron sheets to remove the risk of asbestosis while the entire floor is now finished with high quality ceramic tiles to ease cleaning.

Also the entire walkways are under improvement," said Health Services CEC Mr Stephen Biwott.

Other works in the county include construction of kitchen block for Tambach Sub-County Hospital in Keiyo North and Tot Sub-county Hospital in Marakwet East sub counties, one x-ray block at Tot hospital and Laundry block.

More renovations are also being undertaken at Sergoit Health Centre, Kaptarakwa Sub-County Hospital and; Kapchebau, Kamoi and Sisiya dispensaries which are under construction. Completion of toilet block at Chebiemit Sub-County Hospital ward and construction of 2

**An ultra modern theatre facility at the Iten County referral hospital equipped by the County**

PHOTO:  
LINUS SIELE

model public toilets at 2 market areas in the county are ongoing.

"The Department has also procured waste management equipment and tools which included 200 rubbish bins, 80 street cleaning trolleys, 4 trailers, 200 wheelbarrows, 16 mowers and other assorted tools e.g jembes, pangas, brushes, brooms among others all costing sh.7.5m," added Biwott.

Vaccination to control typhoid and other diseases was also initiated by the County and 2,000 typhoid doses, 2,000 doses of anti-rabies and 100 doses anti-snake bite vaccines were procured. So far more than 300 people have been inoculated. The program continues.

Jiggers Prevention and Control Campaigns being conducted have led to more than 500 affected families treated and their households sprayed against fleas.

"Chemicals worth KSh. 500,000 and pairs of shoes worth KSh.300,000 were procured and distributed to the treated persons. High impact interventions such as Hand washing to control fecal oral route infections have been enhanced and more than 80 schools mobilized," added Biwott.

The activity is continuous and ongoing. In Malaria Control, chemicals worth Kshs.100,000 shillings procured and more than 10 school sprayed on cost sharing basis. Program to spread to households in the near future.

The County also embarked on equipping all maternity wings in

the County starting with Iten and slowly but steadily spreading to other facilities. A new electric delivery bed and a gynaecological couch were procured and installed in Iten.

Other equipment included 4 electric suction machines, 4 baby weighing scales, 4 foetal Dopplers and space heaters. Other supporting departments to maternity were also equipped to strengthen them to directly or indirectly support the quality of services in maternity ward.

This included 5 baby incubators, 4 oxygen concentrators, 1 phototherapy machine, 4 patient monitors, 10 pulse oximeters, 3 ventilators, 1 chemistry analyzer, 1 haematology analyzer, 1 theatre operation table, 1 major laparotomy set, 2 surgical diathermy, 1 theatre operating lights and 1 laundry unit (includes washer, squeezer, dryer and ironer). This has also resulted in establishment of a full-fledged newborn unit (NBU) at Iten .

Kimnai Dispensary also received an electric delivery bed and drugs trolley. In the same year under review, World Vision provided delivery beds and major delivery sets to Songeto, Sangurur, Kapsaiya and Maron-Marichor Dispensaries; Kamogo and Kapchela Health Centres.

Health Right International supplied an assortment of medical and surgical equipment to Chebiemit Hospitals and other health facilities in both Marakwet West and East Sub-Counties. I salute the good partnership.

## Health projects being rolled out for 2014/2015 financial year

By LINUS SIELE

**D**uring this financial year, Iten County Referral Hospital will be installed with an oxygen generating plant worth sh 15 million for its oxygen use and supply to other health facilities in the County.

"Also due to poor status of mortuary services in the county, the county referral hospital mortuary will be upgraded, complete with the freezing equipment, post-mortem room, embalming room, dressing room and offices. The referral hospital theatre will also be expanded to accommodate two extra theatre tables," said Chief Officer Caroline Magut.

She added that medical records in all the seven hospitals will be automated to speed up service delivery by a procuring and installation of computers, software and internet connectivity.

"Two more Sub-County Hospitals will benefit from Construction of laundry and kitchen. Expansion of patient wards will be done in 8 health facilities to increase capacity

by 20 more patients each. Also one more theatre will be constructed in one sub-district hospital," she said.

Community health will also be enhanced by procuring treatment kits while upgrading of sanitary facilities and hand-washing equipment in school health program implemented with four primary schools in the county (1 per sub-county) targeted.

"Construction of 5 incinerators in level 4 facilities will be done complete with feed chamber, primary combustion chambers, and secondary combustion chamber and provided with particulate scrubbers, acid gas scrubbers, the stack incinerator room and waste storage and separation area," said Magut.

She added that construction of two model toilets to sub-county hospitals complete with septic tanks, urinal and hand washing equipment will be done.



**Renovated wards at the Iten Referral hospital with new beddings bought by the County Government** PHOTO: GPCU

# County buys road equipment to hasten road construction & repair

By LINUS SIELE

To supplement the construction of roads by contractors, the County has purchased road equipment that will hasten the construction and repair of roads.

The County has spent close to sh 70 million in the purchase of graders, rollers and trucks, some of which have been delivered to the County and already began work.

Roads CEC, Engineer Simion Kiplagat, said the equipment would assist the department in carrying out normal road works as well as emergencies such as opening up roads blocked by landslides.

He said drivers and plant operators for the equipment had already been hired and dispatched to do the rural access roads in a bid to ensure the pledge by Governor Alex Tolgos to ensure all roads are passable is acted upon.

"Some of the equipment we have can be able to work day and night and we are working tirelessly to ensure that we make our roads passable together with our contractors," said Kiplagat.

The CEC said trucks would soon be delivered to the county after necessary



Back Hoe and roller equipments bought by the County to help in road construction and maintainance.

PHOTO: LINUS SIELE

procurement procedures are dispensed with.

Kiplagat said the County had made good progress in the construction and repair of roads in all the sub-counties including opening up of new roads.

"We have been able to even create employment to our people through the use of manual labour in clearing road reserves and opening new roads to pave way for mechanical works," he added.

The CEC noted that some of the roads had been completed while others were in the final stages of completion according to roadmap outlined in the County Integrated Development Plan.

"While appreciating the progress, we are not also losing sight of the challenges we have encountered, some with contractors but these are normal setbacks that can be overcome," he said.

Kiplagat said they have held constant

deliberations with contractors and agreed that the road works must be done strictly in accordance with the Bill of Quantities (BQs).

"We are very keen on the BQs and we are following keenly to ensure that contractors adhered to them and deliver quality work," he added.

Tolgos and the County Assembly Chairman Incharge of Roads William Chesigany had earlier put all the County contractors on notice saying that they risked being blacklisted if they did shoddy works.

While touring some roads, the two noted that some contractors were fond of using sub standard material particularly murram.

"I am happy that wananchi are very vigilant on the ground and have raised protests whenever roads are not done in the right way," said Tolgos.

The Governor however called for patience among residents saying to ensure quality, some roads may take long in construction and repair and this does not mean contractors lack capacity.

## Iten-bugar, chebiemit-kapsowar tarmac roads on way to reality

By VINCENT BARTOO

After years of waiting and enduring muddy, dusty roads, the Iten-Bugar and Chebiemit-Kapsowar roads will finally have tarmac.

Deputy President William Ruto launched the construction work on the 22 kilometer Chebiemit- Kapsowar road which will be tarmacked at a cost of Sh 1.4billion.

Mr. Ruto directed that the road should be done within the stipulated time frame and warned that the Government will not extend time for road contractors who were behind schedule.

Addressing wananchi at Chebiemit trading centre after launching the road, the Deputy President said contractors who do not have tenable reasons on delay of their construction work would have their contracts cancelled with immediate effect.

"I want to make it clear that those contractors who fail to complete their work within the schedule will have their contracts terminated," said Ruto.

The DP particularly took issue with a contractor working on the Iten- Bugar road saying the contractor had already been paid and yet no work has begun on the construction of the road.

"We fail to understand why a contractor who

has been paid to carry out the construct work on the road is yet to complete the work. I want to assure residents in this county that if the work will not have started by January next year, then we will not have option but to cancel the contract," he said.

Ruto also directed the Intex construction company working on the Chesoi-Marion-Chesegon road to ensure the work on the road is completed within the stipulated period or risk losing the contract.

Elgeyo Marakwet Governor Alex Tolgos led local leaders in thanking the Deputy President and requested the Jubilee government to fast track the construction of the road.

"We thank the Jubilee government for ensuring equal distribution of development projects, the once neglected counties like ours are now rich and of revenue value just like the rest," added Tolgos.

The ground breaking ceremony was attended by all Elgeyo Marakwet County Leaders including Senator Kipchumba Murkomen, MPs William Kisang, Jackson Kiptanui, James Murgor and Kangogo Bowen.

Area residents could not hide their excitement as some of them have waited to see the road for ages.

Sylvester Kibor, a farmer from Chebiemit said he was full of expectation and belief that the tarmac will not only uplift lives in the villages but



H.E Deputy President William Ruto flags off road construction equipment to tarmac Chebiemit- Kapsowar PHOTO: GPSU

also improve the economy of the county.

"Movement of our farm produce to the market will now be easier. Businesses along the road will be competitive and will obviously improve," Kibor said.

Tolgos, the Senator and MPs raised concern over laxity displayed by contractors paid by the national government saying they did not take their work seriously.

The Governor has made calls to the

national government to devolve most of the roads to the county governments to ensure that they strictly monitor implementation of the roads projects.

"In particular, we are perturbed with roads that are being done by Kerra like a road in Kapyego ward where the contractor poured soil on a road instead of murram. Such contractors should be jailed!" said the Governor.

# County slashes cost of AI as subsidies gain momentum

By KIPKORIR KIPCHIRCHIR

**T**he County Government through the department of Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries introduced a subsidy program with an aim to support and encourage farmers to do cash crop farming.

The subsidy programme is aimed at reviving cultivation of cash crops in the county and uplift the livelihoods of Elgeyo Marakwet farmers through sale of the produce to local and export markets.

The subsidy program targets tea, coffee, pyrethrum, mangoes, tissue cultured banana and avocado farmers. The program has gained momentum since it was launched in 2013 and the uptake by farmers is growing by the day.

The County has gone a step further and introduced affordable Artificial Insemination (AI) services across the county through a similar subsidy plan which has already been rolled out.

“We are purchasing motorbikes, kits & storage facilities for AI officers to offer these services. We will also attach AI staff to all milk cooling plants in the county to improve breeds,” said Dr Stella Rono, the CEC Incharge of Agriculture.

She added that the County had also bought pesticides that have been distributed to cattle dips across the country to aid in eradicating livestock pests and diseases

while educating farmers on best husbandry practices to minimize diseases.

“We have revived all dips that had been dormant before the County Government came in. We aim to reduce pests and diseases so that we can improve on livestock production of milk and meat,” said Dr Rono.

The CEC further revealed that the County had also introduced a program to improve livestock breeds

**TOP:**  
Agriculture CEC  
Dr Stella Rono  
distributes  
subsidized tea  
seedlings to a  
farmer

**BOTTOM:**  
Vaccinating  
livestock in  
Kerio Valley  
against  
diseases

PHOTOS: GPSU

by introducing high yielding breeds starting with rams. She said the County was buying heavy kilogram rams from Molo and offering them to farmers for the exchange of two low kilo rams.

“We want those farmers in the highlands to upgrade their breeds and ensure that they reap more from the sale of wool and meat which will fetch more than they previously got,” said Dr Rono.

The CEC added that sensitization of the subsidy programs is held during public barazas by chiefs and agricultural officers and encouraged all farmers in the County to take advantage of the subsidies.



**LEFT:**  
Agriculture CEC  
Dr Stella Rono  
(right) with  
the Governor  
showcase  
hybrid sheep  
which can  
produce more  
wool than the  
local breeds  
of sheep.

**RIGHT:**  
County director  
of veterinary  
services  
hands over AI  
equipment to  
the Governor.

PHOTOS: GPSU



# County partners with Egerton and Icrisat for growth of traditional high value crops

By SIDI NGUMBAO

Fish farming in the County received a boost from the national government in 2009 under the Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP). This resulted in the construction of fish ponds in Keiyo North and Keiyo South sub-counties in the pilot phase.

The county government in 2013/2014 financial year came up with a strategy of promoting fish farming in the sub-counties which had been left out of the ESP. This was done by establishing and stocking fish ponds in schools in Marakwet East and Marakwet West which include:

- Chebiemit Boys
- Cheptulon Primary
- Kimnai Girls
- St Teresa Koibarak
- St. Mary's Mon
- Kerio Valley
- Liter Girls

The county spent sh 630,000 to purchase fingerlings sh 744,000 for pond liners, sh 275,000 on pond construction and sh 1,350,000 on fish feeds in the 2013/2014 financial year.



The county has continued to provide partial support (fish feeds and fingerlings) to farmers who benefitted from the ESP while encouraging new farmers to take up fish farming as a viable economic venture. The county intends to provide feeds and fingerlings to the farmers who will construct their own ponds. This will go a long way in making the fish farming project sustainable.

**TOP and BOTTOM:**  
Farmers receive fingerlings from the County. The Fisheries department is teaching the farmers on the health and economic benefits of fish to encourage them venture in to fish farming.

PHOTOS: GPSU

Capture fisheries (fishing in lakes, rivers and dams) is also being encouraged by the county. This started with the stocking of Singore dam with 8,000 Tilapia fingerlings. More dams will be stocked in future.

Fish farming through aquaculture is expected to be a major activity in the county. Aquaculture is basically the cultivation of fish species for commercial purposes. The commonly cultured fish species in the county is Tilapia.

Why aquaculture:

- To cater for the dwindling stocks from the traditional water bodies like rivers, lakes and dams
- For commercial purposes to enable farmers earn an additional source of income
- Health benefits-fish is an excellent source of omega III oils necessary for brain development in children. It is white meat and good for diabetic and hypertensive patients
- For food security
- Provide employment



## How to access the County's AI and 'Buy one Get one' Subsidy program

How to access the County's AI and 'Buy one Get one' Subsidy program

- To be a beneficiary a farmer has to:
1. Registration  
A farmer has to register with a ward agriculture officer in charge of the area he/she dwells. The farmer should then liaise with the agricultural officer for registration which is still ongoing all throughout the County.
  2. Requisition for the seedlings/AI Services  
The farmer should request for the specific type of subsidy and quantity which he/she desires to

- benefit from through the agricultural officer.
3. Assessment of need  
The agricultural officer will then assess the total number of seedlings/semen the farmer needs depending on the size of land and the required standard number of seedlings the farm can support.
  4. Payment  
The Agricultural Officer will then share to the farmer the cost of one seedling. For every seedling the farmer buys the County buys for him one more.  
For example, when a farmer

- registers and buys 1,000 seedlings, the county will give you 1,000 seedlings free.
- The farmer is then expected to pay cash money or make a mobile money payment to the agricultural officer. The officer is expected to record the details of the farmer (i.e. Name, I.D number, amount paid, number of seedlings to be delivered, location where seedlings will be collected from).
5. Delivery  
The County through the agricultural officer will be expected deliver the seedlings to the agreed place by the farmer and

- the officer within a stipulated period of time.
- Cost of County's AI Services' Subsidy program**
- The County Government is conducting a pilot program with four established small scale farmer groups to establish effectiveness of introducing reduced costs of Artificial Insemination (A.I) services to its farmers.
- The program which is under study has enabled the farmers to benefit from reduced costs of AI services from sh 1,500 to sh 200

- for ordinary semen and sh 5,000 to sh 500 for sexed semen.
- The pilot groups which include Metkei milk cooler, Metkei cooperative society, Mindililwo zero grazing and Kapsowar milk plant have each volunteered a skilled inseminator to conduct the AI services for farmers.
- The process of accessing these AI services are similar to the 'buy one get one' crop subsidies but farmers are advised to liaise with livestock and agricultural extension service officers near them.

# County spends over sh 120 million to build modern ecd classrooms

**Staffing** | 371 ECD teachers hired and posted to various primary schools within the county

Lamaon Primary School whose plight was highlighted in the media is one of the beneficiary of the county government’s initiative

BY VINCENT BARTOO

Elgeyo Marakwet County has so far spent sh 120 million to establish modern Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres across the county. The County has also hired 371 ECD teachers who have already been posted to primary schools in the county earning salary from the county’s payroll. The CEC Incharge of Education in the county, Mr Morris Rotich, said most of the projects already funded were at an advanced stage in construction. “We are building two ECD classrooms at a cost of sh 2 million and these are modern centres that comprise the classrooms, a teacher’s office and toilets,” said Rotich. He added that the County is also initiating income generating projects including green houses to enable the schools finance some of their

and secondary schools is still the function of the national government. Counties are only handling ECD and polytechnics,” he explained. Rotich cited that Lamaon Primary School whose plight was highlighted in the media saying it was a beneficiary of the county government’s initiative. He said despite the fact that ECD pupils at the school were still using old timber and mud structures, the county moved in last year and started building two classrooms, toilets and a green house at a cost of sh 250,000. “They are 80 percent complete and they will be ready for use by January. The green house is ready and we are just doing piping to ensure it is supplied with water,” said the CEC. Rotich said desks for Lamaon School had been donated to the county by a county development

“We are doing this even though the running of primary schools and secondary schools is still the function of the national government

operations. “We are doing this even though the running of primary schools



ECD classrooms the County is constructing at Lamaon Primary School  
PHOTO: VINCENT BARTOO

partner and have been supplied to the school. The CEC added that the Keiyo North CDF had allocated the school sh 3.2 million to build an extra classroom which is complete and ready for use. He further said the CDF under whose jurisdiction the school falls had purchased three and half acres of land for the expansion of the school at a cost of sh 1.7 million. “So we are very concerned when misleading reports are spread to the effect that we have neglected this school. Under the financial circumstances our county finds itself in, we believe we are doing our best,” said the official. Elgeyo Marakwet is among the counties in the country receiving the lowest allocation from the national government and is ranked third last. Area Governor Alex Tolgos

urged the media to play their role responsibly and in an objective manner to avoid painting county governments in bad light despite the achievements made with the ECD. “It is regrettable that the media is fast being used to discredit county governments to create a notion that devolution is failing when it is the contrary. It is succeeding,” he said.

INTRODUCTION

Chepkorio Youth Polytechnic was founded in the year 1979. The polytechnic is approximately 36km from Eldoret Town along the Eldama Ravine road. It is 200 metres from Chepkorio show ground and next to Chepkorio Sub-District Hospital.

The polytechnic is day and boarding institution with adequate facilities including workshop, machineries and appropriate teaching equipments. The institution has qualified employed instructors.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Chepkorio Youth Polytechnic is a public institution registered by Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports Department of Training with examinations by Kenya National Examinations Council (K.N.E.C) and Directorate of Industrial Training (D.I.T)

INTAKE

FULL TIME COURSE

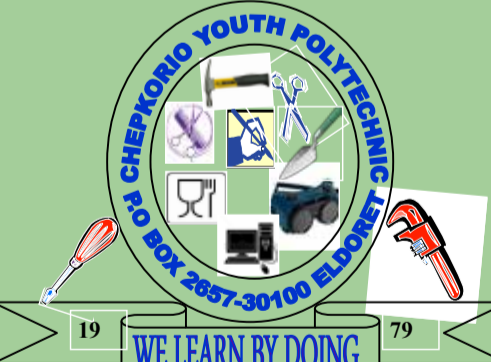
SCHOOL BASE COURSES

PART TIME COURSES

-JANUARY

-MARCH/APRIL/DECEMBER

-ANY TIME OF THE YEAR



19

79

WE LEARN BY DOING

COMPUTER PACKAGES (Part-time)

1. Introduction to computer

2. Windows XP operating system

3. MS Word

4. Internet and Email

5. MS Excel

6. MS Access

7. MS Publisher

8. Adobe PageMaker

9. Keyboarding

10. MS PowerPoint

TECHNICAL COURSES (FULL TIME)

COURSE	ENTRY REQUIREMENT	DURATION	EXAM BODY
Motor Vehicle Technology (MVE, MVM)	K.C.PE/K.C.S.E	2 Years	KNEC/NITA
Fashion Designing (Tailoring, Dress making)	K.C.PE/K.C.S.E	2 Years	KNEC/NITA
Building Technology	K.C.PE/K.C.S.E	2 Years	KNEC/NITA
Metal Processing Technology	K.C.PE/K.C.S.E	2 Years	KNEC/NITA
Appropriate Carpentry and Joinery	K.C.PE/K.C.S.E	2 Years	KNEC/NITA
Electrical Installation and Electronics	K.C.PE/K.C.S.E	2 Years	KNEC/NITA
Welding and Fabrications	K.C.PE/K.C.S.E	2 Years	KNEC/NITA
Hair dressing and Beauty Therapy	K.C.PE/K.C.S.E	2 Years	KNEC/NITA
Food and Beverage Production	K.C.PE/K.C.S.E	2 Years	KNEC
I.C.T	K.C.PE/K.C.S.E	2 Years	KNEC

# Revamping of tertiary institutions in the county firmly on course

By EMMANUEL TALEL

Technical and vocational education are extremely important in improving and progressing a nation's industries through supplying a capable work force. Vocational education can greatly reduce unemployment rates by giving people useful, moneymaking skills. Technical education can greatly improve

Vocational education can greatly reduce unemployment rates by giving people useful, money making skills and greatly improving efficiency in many industries and can lead to brilliant innovation



The County Government is putting up green houses in learning institutions to empower them financially PHOTO | VINCENT BARTOO

efficiency in many industries and can lead to brilliant innovation. Elgeyo Marakwet County wants to leverage on this in its ongoing plans to revamp the vocational and technical institutions in the county. Governor Alex Tolgos has emphasized the importance of improving the county's education in technical areas. He argued that in order to compete in the constantly evolving world, his Government needs to put more emphasis on technical education. "The young, talented, ambitious and energetic young men and women of our county

will be positively engaged if all of us put our minds together to equip them with education," he said. The County has launched a rigorous strategic plan to ensure that the technical institutions in the entire county are well equipped for the benefit of the young men and women of the county. The technical institutions are perceived by many as degrading and low level of learning and this has resulted to so many young people being idle because they lack skills to empower themselves for the future. "Our people must know that the world is moving to a world of skills, we therefore need to embrace the knowledge of skills and technical know-how," said Education and Technical Training CEC Morris Rotich. He added: "Most of our people do not value the tertiary institutions and polytechnics because of the ill perception, but our people should know that most of the time we do import skillful persons from other places to come and fix for us simple duties such as wiring, plumbing, masonry which pay well". Technical and training education in Kenya has undergone major changes since colonialists introduced it at the beginning of the 20th century. Due to tough and highly competitive world that we are living in now, the Kenyan



CEC Education Morris Rotich (pictured left) is up to task to engage more youth to enroll in tertiary institutions PHOTO | VINCENT BARTOO

Education system limits learners from joining to university directly without achieving a certain grade in ones Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education. The minimum grade to joining University under the Sponsorship of JAB-Joint Admission Board and HELB-Higher Education Loans Board is 59 points for girls and 60 points for boys, that is B Stand and above. In Kenya Youth polytechnics were started as low-cost, post-primary training centres in rural areas in the 1960s to help stem the problem of low enrolment in secondary schools. The institutions were aimed at absorbing young people who failed to enroll in secondary schools. They specialize in courses such as carpentry, accounts, welding, mechanics, catering and teaching and have been Kenya's most important institutions providing vocational skills. Today however, technical education has evolved in the areas of science, technology and innovation to provide skills



New toilet facilities the County is putting up in learning institutions PHOTO | EMMANUEL TALEL

that will propel the country to middle-level industrialized status more so as Kenya is focusing on achieving vision 2030. But the County government of Elgeyo Marakwet wants youth polytechnics to upgrade and also offer training in electrical technologies, construction, refrigeration and air conditioning technology, food processing, information and communication technology, and leather technology. Some of our Technical Training institutions the County has earmarked for refurbishing are Flax, Kiplabai, Iten, and Chepkorio.

“Most of our people do not value tertiary institutions and polytechnics because of the ill perception

## Ecde projects funding

Ward	2013-2014	2014-2015
Lelan Ward	1.kuserwa pri school 2.bishop kewasis 3.kaborowa pri school	1.kaptalamwa primary school. 2.kapchepsar pri school
2.kapsowar ward	1.kapsiw primary school. 2. Sebelit primary school	1.kapchelos pri- mary school. 2.koibarak prima- ry school
3.chebororwa /cherangany ward	1.koitugum pri- mary school. 2.yatoi primary school	1.kondabilet primary school. 2.lamaon primary school
4.kapyego ward	1.cheptomot primary school. 2. Kapero prima- ry school	1.kaptobendo primary school. 2.takar primary school
5.soy south ward	1.koimur primary school. 2. Kasar primary school	1.setano pri school. 2.kalwal pri school
6.kapchemutwa ward	1.lamaon primary school. 2. Kamotony primary school	1. Kibil pri school. 2.kapsessum pri school
7.emsoo ward	1.kipkulot prima- ry school. 2. Kangoo prima- ry school	1.kibendo pri school. 2.kabulwo pri school.
8. Arror ward	1.kilos primary school. 2. Kapkata prima- ry school	1. Chepsigor primary school. 2.Tunyo primary school
9.Metkei ward	1.Teldet ecd(kap- chorwa primary school)	
10. Embobut/ embolot	1.mungwa pri scool 2.katilil pri school	1. St. Michael 2. Cheptany pri. School
11.sambirir ward	1.Ediwa pri school. 2.Mureto pri school	1.kumbulul pri school. 2.koisabul pri school
12. Sengwer ward	1. Shoe for Africa Moses kiptanui pri school. 2.kapterit pri school	1.kipsero pri school 2.kapkanyar pri school
13. Kamariny ward	1.katalel pri school. 2.sergoit pri school	1.kutwop pri school 2.chesitek pri school
14. Endo ward	1.Bororwo pri school 2.kabetwa pri school	1.Bororwo pri school 2.kabetwa pri school
15. Moiben ward	1.Mindililwo pri school 2.Metibelio pri school	1. Chesingei pri school 2.chebunet pri school
16. Soy north ward	1.Toror pri school. 2.Surmo pri school	1.Lachasis pri school 2.kuper pri school
17. Chepkorio ward	1.yatiane pri school. 2.flax pri school	1.kapletingi pri school. 2.chebirei pri school
18. Kaptarakwa ward	1.Toroplolongon pri school. 2.kaptilol pri school	1.Biwott pri school. 2.Chepsamo pri school
19. Kabiemit ward	1.kibonge pri school 2.Menyeiwa pri school	1.Kipkabus pri school. 2.Tulwobei pri school
20. Tambach ward	1.kipka pri school 2.chepkogin pri school	1.kessup pri school 2.anin pri school

# Editorial & Opinion

## ELGEYO MARAKWET Bulletin

### Word from the Editor



EDITOR: Vincent Bartoo

Welcome to the second edition of this newspaper which captures the last quarter of the year 2014.

I must start by apologizing for the late publication of this edition, which is a quarterly publication aimed at informing and educating you our dear readers of the happenings at the county government.

It is not only your right to be informed of how your taxpayers money is utilized by the county but it is also a constitutional requirement

of the county government to keep you constantly abreast with its activities and programmes.

The late publication of this edition was occasioned by hitches in the procurement process which held us back as we waited for the process to be ironed out. Note that procurement laws in government are strict rules that must be abided by.

That aside, I wish to thank you the residents of Elgeyo Marakwet for overwhelmingly engaging us in our various communication platforms which we launched in the month of July.

We launched our rebranded website, facebook page, twitter as well as this newspaper to open up channels of engaging you and getting your feedback concerning service delivery to you by the county government.

Since then, we have received a lot of interest especially on our facebook page which has grown to become your source of constant updates from us. Hongera and may you keep up the spirit.

I must also thank you for the support you have shown this newspaper since its first publication. Many of you have called to find out when the next issue would be out and this shows you have faith in this quality product.

I also pay tribute to businessmen in the County led by Mr Baitany of Baitany Agrovets for believing in this newspaper and advertising. I wish to urge other businessmen to take advantage of our free distribution and advertise to reach the people of Elgeyo Marakwet.

We further thank those who showed interest and contributed articles for this edition and special mention goes to the Chairman of the National Irrigation Board Dr Sammy Latema and the County Coordinator Transition Authority Sam Kalya for penning articles for this edition.

Look out also for a thought provoking article by the Chairman of the County Public Service Board Mr Gideon Kipyakwai in this edition on why it is time for Elgeyo Marakwet to arise. I totally agree with him.

I encourage all stakeholders in the county to make use of this platform and engage the Elgeyo Marakwet public in various issues to drive the development agenda of our county.

In this edition, we have a special coverage on a County Hero Francis Kiplagat who rose from selling mangoes to a multi-million businessman. The segment on County Hero/Heroines will be a permanent feature in this newspaper to showcase success stories in our county.

Merry Christmas and a Happy Prosperous New Year 2015!

### A Publication of County Government of Elgeyo Marakwet

ALEX TOLGOS : Governor

Dr GABRIEL LAGAT: Deputy Governor

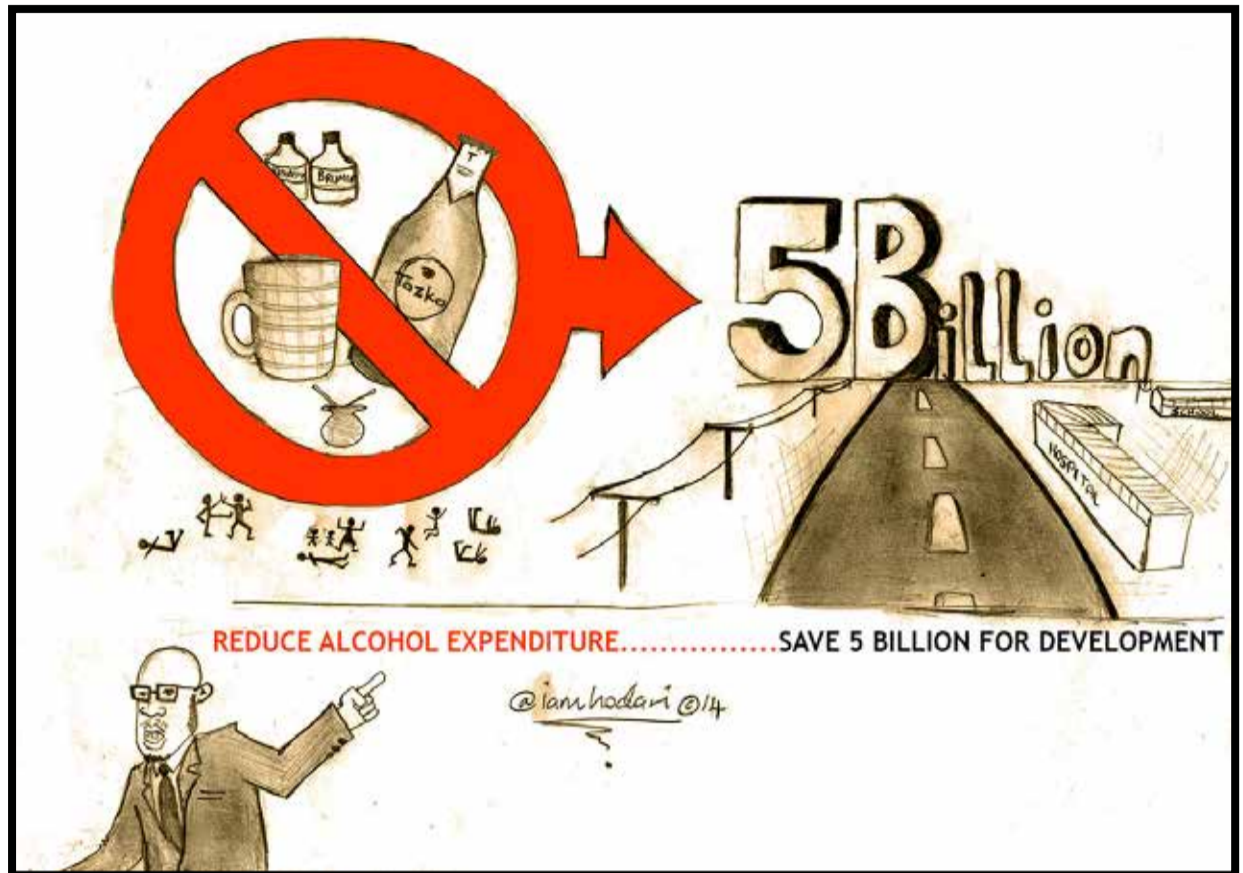
DANIEL KIPTUM: Chief of Staff

VINCENT BARTOO: Director Public Communication

LINUS SIELE: Layout and Design

County Headquarters, Iten

P.O Box 220-30700



### Your social media responses

### Reach us through our social media platforms



County Government of Elgeyo Marakwet

Follow on us on Twitter



@ElgeyoMarakwetC

**Dan C. Kiptoo** I think investors should start “planting” wind mills along the escarpment. We will have promoted green energy, reduced cost of energy and perhaps make our county beautiful.

**Roy Dangote Chelagat Chemusian** congrats to elgeyo marakwet county government, creative ideas like the 4x4 Jumbo charge will surely increase traffic to our national reserves.

**Jonathan K. Mengich** Well done. And encourage your employees to utilize county resources like Houses, ETC

**Barkutwo Sokomo** Yes as a parent i support the NO to FGM mission and i would like to say that that's not enough, we've to take this to the villages why should you do this only in towns.

**Vincent Kemboi** Hongera my County....Am truly EMC patriot.

**Charles Kimutai** This could be another world's Nine wonder after the Mara's Wildbeest migration in the Masai Mara!

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

**Kerio Adventures @kerioadventures**  
One from Birdwatching event that went down at Tugumoi organized by @ElgeyoMarakwetC and @Baringo\_county

**Leeland Investment @enock\_tarus**

Miss Tourism EMC, CEC Tourism and @enock\_tarus at the Miss tourism Kenya Final CC: @kip-murkomen and @ElgeyoMarakwetC

## Editorial & Opinion

### Commentary

The editor welcomes commentaries and letters to the editor on topical issues touching on the county. They may be edited for space, clarity and legal considerations.  
Send via email to [emcbulletin@elgeyomarakwet.go.ke](mailto:emcbulletin@elgeyomarakwet.go.ke)

## Two years into devolution and Kenya is rapidly changing

The advent of devolution as a new system of governance in Kenya will be one of the most iconic things that happened to this country when history will be written in years to come.

I say this with a lot of conviction, as an insider watching what the County Government of Elgeyo Marakwet has done in just two years and the grand plans in store that are to be implemented.

I have had the privilege to traverse the county on various occasions with Governor Alex Tolgos as he launches and supervises projects his government initiated and I marvel at the promise ahead when these projects have their roots sunk deep.

The four sub counties in our County namely Marakwet East and West and Keiyo North and South, each have unique God given attributes that Governor Tolgos's government has mapped out and initiated projects tailored to suit them.

Gone are the days when projects were launched haphazardly for the sake of spending budgets by the national government and donors without due diligence to establish the resultant impacts on the people.

When the first Elgeyo Marakwet County Government got down to business after the swearing in ceremonies, one area that was identified as seriously ill was the health sector.

Most of our facilities had stores full of drugs that were just lying there unutilized. For instance you would find anti-malarial drugs in facilities in Kerio Valley where chances of contracting malaria is almost impossible because of the hot weather.

This was reversed and the county adopted the pull system of procuring medical supplies for our facilities instead of the push model where drugs worth millions were pushed to counties without regard to whether they will be used or not.

Now we are buying drugs and other supplies based on the needs of the different health facilities spread across our beloved County.

When I look at our road

network being rapidly opened up going with the number of all weather roads being done by the County, I see an economic giant in Elgeyo Marakwet that will soon rise.

One of Governor Tolgos's pledges is that by 2017, all roads in the county will be passable. It is an aspiration I believe in, going with the pace at which rural access roads are being done with the help of our people through the genuine Kazi kwa Vijana model.

Together with other leaders, Governor Tolgos has pursued the construction of tarmac roads in our County like the Chebiemit-Kapsowar road that was launched recently by H.E Deputy President William Ruto. The other one is the the Iten-Bugar road whose work has already started.

Others are still in the pipeline and include the Nyaru-Iten road and the road from Biretwo into the Pokot side that we hope will be granted by the national government soon.

Governor Tolgos's subsidy programme that offers farmers one seedling for one bought and low cost AI services is one that will make us an agricultural producing giant.

One, the cost of production by our farmers will be lowered and when they eventually sell their produce, there will be more money in their pockets whether it is tea or milk.

The revamp of Rimoi National Reserve and other tourist attraction sites as well as the county efforts to establish the first cable car in the country will not only bring visitors to our county but our economy will radically sky rocket.

In Education, the number of ECD centres being built across the county is another success story. I see young children starting their educational foundation in modern classrooms with qualified teachers teaching them. The good news is, it is already happening!

The ECDs are almost 90 percent complete but teachers, about 400, have already been hired and posted across the sub counties. I see champions beginning their journey to stardom in conducive environments that were hitherto



Chief of Staff Daniel Kiptum at work at the County headquarters at Iten Town

PHOTO | EMMANUEL TALEL

Kagoech Foundation Trust, a Non Governmental Organization (NGO) championing for the conservation of Mau and Cherangany water towers

non-existent.

Not to mention the efforts launched to ensure that athletes in our county continue to bring us glory. The running tracks along the roads being created and smoothened by the County graders is among the milestones.

The athletes can now run on secure areas unlike the past when they ran along roads with speeding vehicles. I cannot lose sight of the grand plan to rebuild Kamariny Stadium to world class status. Already a master plan is out and construction will soon follow.

I see Kamariny resembling the Safaricom Kasarani Stadium in Nairobi and your guess is as good as mine on the results when that finally happens.

What of the ICT centres that are almost taking off after months of planning and getting the best designs. Silicon valleys in Elgeyo Marakwet is what Governor Tolgos's government is upto.

These plans were given momentum the other day when our County was voted second best in the use of ICT in the counties after Kitui. This was testament that we are in the right direction.

The construction of numerous water projects in the county will in due course supply homes and farms with water. The flagship Sabor multi million water project that will soon be launched will be the icing on the cake.

Interestingly, some of our people have even donated land to allow the County establish these projects. What a show

of confidence in the county government. Hats off to these gallant EMCians.

Lastly but the most important is the prudent use of funds by our county. We are among the few counties that have not been found to be misusing funds due to tight controls by our Finance docket. Governor Tolgos's tough stance on corruption is ensuring no pilferage of public funds and value for money for residents.

Ladies and gentlemen, I could go on and on and fill pages of this newspaper with the good tidings devolution has brought but I end here saying devolution is the best gift we gave ourselves as Kenyans when we ushered in the Constitution 2010.

As we unwrap this gift day by day through the implementation of projects, lives will be transformed one by one and Kenya will never be the same again.

*Daniel Kiptum (pictured above is the Chief of Staff in the office of the Governor.*

# Time for Elgeyo Marakwet to awaken is now



*The writer, Gideon Kipyakwai (pictured above) is the Chairperson County Public Service Board Elgeyo Marakwet*

Where is the place of the resident of Elgeyo Marakwet in the national milieu now and in the future?

For decades since independence, and of course for millennia, majority of our people have lived in relatively extreme isolation - the villages. The way of life in the village is predominantly basic and subsistent, almost cut out from the progress of the wider society.

And this did not have much risk then. Now, things will get worse for the village - climate change, specifically global warming, capitalization and globalization of economic activities including individualization of resources will endanger the life and the livelihood of the villager.

To cure this, we need heavy investment in infrastructure and cultural awakening. Without a clear framework that is concerted, a larger part of our population will remain highly vulnerable and prone to the risks of the dark age.

Culturally, we have pushed ourselves to the periphery of both national and global affairs. The Elgeyo Marakwet resident is born with a subservient disposition. When you hear us participating in geopolitical affairs, we are often superficial and mostly casual if not rhetorical.

It almost feels like we are not stakeholders at all. We call Kass FM and other stations to comment on themes set for us. Are we incapable of real interrogation?

The new constitution has offered remedy to this by compelling a lot of governance processes to go through public participation at both national and county level. Our people don't seem to be taking sufficient advantage of this great opportunity to demand or critique service delivery.

This is compounded daily by our socialist life in a capitalist world and country. Our

very nature has made us easy prey to the sharks who harvest our forests, buy our mangoes and potatoes at dime-prices and our animals and milk fetch the least of the prices because we have no bargaining power. We are yet to learn to cooperate to build complete value chains around our own products.

Management of all the above issues have now been devolved to the county governments.

Since independence, our share of resources have been diverted to build infrastructure and superhighways elsewhere. And we rejoice! The laughable things is that we have most recently, out of our own volition, willingly and deliberately stated that we are against pesa mashinani.

And for that reason, we will continue to score very poorly on almost all socio-politico-economic indices.

Clearly, and politically speaking, the gap between the haves and have-nots in Kenya and even in Elgeyo Marakwet is deepening and widening.

To cross from one side to the other becomes a tall order for the newly graduated youth and those historically disenfranchised by the socio-economic system. The challenge for the new leadership in the county is to find an innovative solution to create possibilities for all to be what they want to be!

In theory, we should know by now what ails Africa, Kenya and Elgeyo Marakwet, and the solutions. As I write this article, the world and Kenya in particular mourns the death of Prof. Ali Alaman Mazrui.

When I was a graduate student in the US, I was lucky to study some courses in the department of political science, and it is here that I interacted with the profoundly high quality scholarly works of Prof Mazrui.

My then, University-mate and friend Sam Opondo, now a professor at Vassar

University in New York, soured me two of his books - The Africans: A triple heritage, and Cultural forces in world politics- which I have kept to date.

It is these books that inspire my thinking around Africa's and particularly indigenous Africa's positioning in globalization. Technological innovations have flattened the world, the whole world is now basically one big village.

In Elgeyo Marakwet, this is more understood through the lens of athletics - today, you are with Ezekiel Kemboi, tomorrow, you see him in the news winning and then he is back in a day. But the same reality is hardly felt and experienced in other spheres of life.

Of all the academic disciplines that I have studied, none has had such a lasting impact in my hippocampus than futures. If you think Ali Mazrui's analysis of Africa is controversial, you need to seat through Jim Dator's classes.

Prof. Jim Dator taught me futures of political systems. Clearly, futures posits that everything you know was once not there. Think about seating in a classroom - that was nowhere 500 years ago. As a county we must embrace both technological, social as well as other innovations. Here, I wish to pay tribute to the framers of the constitution and the subsequent legislations, notably, our own senator, Onesmus Kipchumba Murkomen.

Since 4th March 2013, Governor Alex Tolgos has been deliberate in instituting innovative resilient programs. He did not go for cosmetic programs that need a lot of operation and maintenance budget.

Suppose the county beautified Iten at the expense of giving out tea/coffee seedlings, high breed semen, and other programs geared directly at improving the economic activity of the rural folk. Every month, additional money would have been needed to weed, trim, water and maintain the beauty. That opportunity cost could have been very expensive.

I am not saying beautification is not important, but before ordinary mwananchi has money in their pocket, no amount of beautiful

town will be justified. I share offices with Mr. Sengech and his team, I think they deserve more praise for coordinating the organizing of Iten, and the relocation of hawkers tents. These too are quite innovative!

You are wrong to think that Mpesa, or the airplane, are successful because of their usefulness. Nothing could be far from the truth. Both are great because of how they are managed rather than their very usefulness.

Similarly, without proper management of the transitions from the old order to the new devolved system of government, we would not have been able to have such opportunities for advancement, including this progressive piece of newsletter.

The success of the transition, albeit with the little hitches, should not be taken for granted. Special appreciation must be given to the transition authority team headed by my high school alumni Mr. Kinuthia Wamwangi. He innovated KDF (Kenya Devolution Forces) which he says he is very proud of for creating uniform norms in all counties. The KDF is his own innovation.

At the County Public Service Board we have made our own social innovations, we have led the way in how recruitment is done, how records are managed and the policy environment around designation of idle capacity.

We have exhibited great desire for consultation and partnership, which is celebrated by both the executive, the assembly, our two unions and the staff fraternity. Our interactions with Public Service Commission (PSC) has increased our efficiency. We are able to mirror and borrow from the rich history of the 60 years old institution.

We are glad that this partnership has borne fruits and we have commissioners freely supporting us. Special mention goes to PSC Commissioner Veronica Birgen who has been our consultant in regards to OD and performance. As we strive to turn around Elgeyo Marakwet, the place of Elgeyo Marakwet in the national and global milieu depends heavily on the quality of the public servants.

**The new constitution has offered remedy to this by compelling a lot of governance processes to go through public participation at both national and county level.**

H.E Governor Alex Tolgos  
& the entire County Staff  
wishes you all

Merry Christmas  
& Happy New Year 2015

# High potential for irrigation investors in the County

## Potential Mega Irrigation Projects in Elgeyo Marakwet County

Elgeyo Marakwet County has diverse variation in terms of climatic conditions ranging from wet to arid and semi-arid (ASAL) conditions, with permanent rivers crisscrossing them.

Definitely irrigation in ASAL areas is imperative for food security and in building community livelihood support resiliency. Irrigation in the County is an age-old technology in Kerio Valley involving the artificial application of water to supplement rainfall for the purpose of crop production.

There is evidence that the Marakwet community in Kaben practiced some form of irrigation for the last 500 years. This makes Kerio Valley as one of the oldest irrigation practices in Kenya. However, this irrigation technology is yet to be modernised.

The major rivers in the ASAL part of the County that have high potential for supporting irrigation activities are Torok, Chesegon, Embobut, Embomon, Arror, Mong, Enoo and Kimwarer.

Therefore, Elgeyo Marakwet County has a huge potential for the development of irrigation projects. The table gives description of acreage and irrigation infrastructure requirement of potential mega irrigation projects in the county:

No.	Name of Project	Potential (Acres)	Potential Beneficiaries	Irrigation Infrastructure	Estimated Cost (Billion)	System
1	Kinchukuku Imigation Project	1,500	3,000	Headwork, Conveyance and Infield system	0.45	Gravity fed
2	Siromet Imigation Project	500	1,200	Headwork, Conveyance and Infield system	0.15	Gravity fed
3	Mulwaper Imigation Project	6,000	8,000	Intake, Conveyance and Infield system (1.8 Billion) Storage dam (2 Billion)	3.8	Gravity fed
4	Chepsirei-Koimur Imigation Project	1,500	1,800	Intake, Conveyance and Infield system	0.45	Gravity fed
5	Tot-Koibuir Imigation Project	5,000	5,000	Intake, Conveyance and Infield system	1.5	Gravity fed

The approximate cost for the 5 mega irrigation development projects is Kshs. 6.3 billion, which would bring under irrigation about 15,000 acres. If the above projects are implemented, Elgeyo Marakwet County will contribute significantly towards realization of food security in the North Rift, Kenya in general, and in improving the living standards of the people. Therefore, there is need for resources to exploit this potential to meet the region and country's food security needs.

## Partnership in Irrigation Development

Development of mega irrigation projects is a daunting task given the colossal amount of resources required and the intense competition for scarce resources by various communities, counties and regions. Besides, Elgeyo

Marakwet County receives about 2.8 billion per year, with about 2 billion for recurrent expenditure, leaving a meagre sh 800 million for development.

Given the myriad devolved functions, it is unlikely that the County can support the development of mega irrigation projects outlined above on their own. Therefore, partnership is imperative for their realization.

The strategic institutions that can mobilise resources and spearhead these developments in partnership with County Government, are the National Irrigation Board (NIB) and Kerio Valley Development Authority (KVDA). Fortunately, current chairman for NIB and CEO for KVDA hails from this County. Therefore, the County can utilise this comparative advantage to develop the mega irrigation projects.



## Challenges in Development of Mega Irrigation Projects

Development of mega irrigation project in the County is hindered by a number of factors:

- Lack of feasibility studies and design plans. Despite the huge irrigation potential in this County, neither NIB nor KVDA in the past did send a mission to assess the irrigation potential and development arrangements. Thus no resources can be allocated without feasibility and design plans being completed.
- Weak political support. Political leaders in the County are not aggressive enough to frequent and pressurise national institutions to allocate resources for projects in the county.
- Lack of irrigation master plan. Despite strategic institutions in place that can collaborate in development of irrigation projects, however, a master plan to coordinate them is lacking.
- Weak resource base. The County currently has a weak resource base to raise adequate resources for development of mega irrigation projects.
- Tenure insecurity. ASAL parts of the County are not alienated, thus are bedevilled by land conflicts. This jeopardises development of mega irrigation projects.
- Weak extension services. Whereas developing irrigation infrastructure requires colossal amounts, its sustainability requires extension services and value addition. County Government inherited almost dysfunctional extension services, which is yet to be strengthened.
- Lack of linkage between irrigated agriculture and value addition funds. Business entrepreneurs in the County are yet to utilise value addition funds set aside by National Government for agricultural development. Whereas cooperatives in other Counties have received hundreds of millions, our County entrepreneurs shy away from such low cost government subsidised development funds.

## Way Forward

Irrigation is a powerful instrument in reducing rural poverty, not only through the direct impact of increased yields and farm returns, but also through indirect impacts, such as increased rural employment and the feedback of multiplier effects associated with the provision of irrigation infrastructure.

There is need, therefore, for County Government to develop small-scale irrigation projects; whereas the mega irrigation projects are left to national institutions such as NIB and KVDA. Given the nature of competition for national institutions resources, the national leaders, both political and technocratic, should lobby intensely for resource allocation for the mega projects.

The political and technocratic comparative advantage that the County enjoys in the National Government needs to be harnessed and transformed into projects for the benefit of people of Elgeyo Marakwet County. Otherwise history will judge them harshly.

Mega irrigation projects require large economies of scale for value addition. The County Government should aim at coordinating development of extensive acres of single crop for value addition and facilitate private entrepreneurs to putting up factories' for value addition.

Note that once upon a time we were hunters and wrestlers in the countryside. But with modernisation, the County has sent eminent sons and daughters abroad to hunt for medals and National Government to hunt for resources. We should utilise this God given favour to our advantage.



The writer, Dr Sammy Letema, (Pictured) is the Chairman, National Irrigation Board (NIB)



**Sam Kiprotich Kalya**  
County Transition Coordinator

# Devolution is Kenya's game changer if implemented well

The Constitution of Kenya 2010 fundamentally altered the governance structure of the Country. It established two levels of government, the National and County Governments and stipulated the functions to be performed by each level of government.

It further stipulates that if a function or power is transferred from one level of Government to the other, arrangements should be put in place to ensure that accompanying resources for the performance of that function, including human resources, are transferred.

The enactment of the current constitution is one of the greatest milestones in Kenya's history- it is a game-changer in the socio-economic-political-legal environments. It is transformative in nature.

Albert Einstein defined insanity as doing the same thing over and over again using the same methods and expecting a different result. The constitution has or is expected to create a paradigm shift in the way we do things, and if properly implemented, is expected to take Kenya to the Promised Land.

The two levels of government are interdependent in some respects and autonomous in certain aspects. The aim of devolution is to decentralize power, resources and decision making to the grassroots-a system of government that should have been adopted immediately after independence.

## Establishment and functions of Transition Authority

The Transition to Devolved Government Act 2012, in anticipation of the necessity to coordinate the National and County Governments in the processes of implementing devolution, and address any evolving challenges, established the Transition Authority (TA).

TA was established to mid-wife devolution process to ensure it is smooth and coordinated. Among the specific statutory functions of the TA, as

contained in section 7 of the act are to:

1. facilitate the analysis and the phased transfer of the functions provided under the fourth schedule to the constitution;
2. determine the resource requirements for each of the functions;
3. develop a framework for the comprehensive and effective transfer of functions as provided for under section 15 of the sixth schedule to the constitution;
4. coordinate with the relevant state organs or public entities in order to;
  - facilitate the development of the budget for County governments during phase one of the transition period;
  - establish the status of ongoing reform processes, develop programmes and projects and make recommendations on the management, reallocation or transfer to either level of government during the transition period; and
  - ensure the successful transition to devolved system of government;
5. prepare and validate an inventory of all the existing assets and liabilities of government, other public entities and local authorities;1/3
6. make recommendations for the effective management of assets of the National and County governments;
7. provide mechanisms for the transfer of assets, which may include vetting the transfer of assets during the transition period;
8. pursuant to section 15(2) (b) of the sixth schedule to the constitution, develop the criteria as may be necessary to determine the transfer of functions from the National to County governments;
9. carry out an audit of the existing human resources of the government and local authorities;
10. assess the capacity needs of the National and County governments;
11. recommend the necessary measures required to ensure that the National and County governments have adequate capacity during the transition period to enable them undertake their assigned functions;
12. coordinate and facilitate the provision of support and assistance to National and County

governments in building their capacity to govern and provide services effectively;

13. advise on the effective and efficient rationalization and deployment of human resource to either level of government;

## Achievements

During the time of its existence, TA has been able to:

- draft regulations by which counties were to apply for the transfer of functions. Thereafter, the authority successfully transferred the county functions applied for to the County governments within the provision of the law.
- determine resource requirements for each of the functions
- do capacity building and capability development.
- coordinate preparation of integrated development plans.
- manage human resources at the counties.
- unbundle functions.
- provide guidance on the implementation of transition plans.
- issue advisories and guidelines on human resource management in the counties including rationalization, deployment and secondment of staff to the county during the transition period. Guidelines for secondment were gazetted on 7th February, 2014.
- develop mechanisms for the transfer and management of assets and liabilities and the formation of a technical committee to oversee the process.
- Form, in conjunction with other stakeholders, Capacity Assessment and Rationalization of Public Service (CARPS). The programme is ongoing and is expected to address skills gap, facilitate right placements ensure effective and efficient delivery of service
- and weed out ghost workers.
- develop functional analysis framework
- review, prepare and publicize regulations and guidelines relevant to the transition process including county Public Finance Management Transition Act, County Assembly Standing Orders, Procedure for election of county speakers, Assumption of office for governors.

## Challenges

In the sixth schedule of the constitution of Kenya 2010, it was provided that the transfer to devolved functions from National government to County government would be phased over a period extending to three years.

However, in three months, following the election of the leaderships the election of the two levels of government in March 2013, there was rapid transfer of most of those functions. In this transition, issues and challenges in human resource deployment were prominent.

## Appeal to the public

While the national government and county government continue to play their roles it is important for the public to:

1. involve themselves in the management of county affairs via public participation platforms such as Finance Bill, project visits by county officers and barazas, among others.
2. monitor and oversee the activities of their elected leaders in the management of public resources and raise and alarm if certain anomalies are noted. Politicians are currently answerable to no one.
3. ensure that they report cases of grabbing of public assets.
4. support devolution as the surest way to address their concerns and as a means to faster and equitable development-devolution should have been used as a governance model right from independence.

## Conclusion

Considering the short period the county government has been in existence, it is my humble submission that it has done fairly well. The fact that there was no strike by health workers in county in the in the recent labour unrest is clear demonstration that health services are being delivered.

The County Assembly has also done quite well by enacting several laws such as Public Participation Act, alcohol and Drugs Act. There is however room for improvement if the county benchmarks itself against the best.

*The writer is the County Transition Coordinator.*

# The future for Marakwet East is bright



MARAKWET EAST MP Hon. Kangongo Bowen

During my pre-election campaigns, I made a series of commitments in various fora. I pledged to work with all stakeholders to liberate people of Marakwet East from abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty and to make the right to development a reality for everyone.

My across-the-board promises include efforts to address food insecurity, environmental degradation, gender inequality, improve access to education, health care and clean water, provision of leadership and direction in the optimal utilization of devolved funds for equitable development and poverty reduction.

I am passionate about solving the water crisis in our constituency, using CDF and other endowments from willing partners to fund water projects. We, as a constituency, have made tremendous progress in setting up water projects that will ensure that the locals have access to clean and piped water as well as water for irrigation.

So far, we have 7 water projects spread out in the constituency such as Koibatek water project, Kipkaner water project, Kiteche Water Project, Chesongoch water supply, Mokoro Water Furrow and Biretwo-Emusot Water Furrow funded by CDF and Chemworor Water project funded by NIB.

It is my ardent desire that every child should be given the opportunity to learn. For the past 19 months I ensured that I have worked with other stakeholders in building strong academic foundations, creating satisfying learning experiences, and helping them reach their academic goals.

Some of the major projects that I commissioned include infrastructural improvement of 11 secondary schools and 14 primary schools and a community library. These schools are Nyirar, Kaptora, Sangach, Ratia, Tenderwa, Chesongoch small home, Kaibarak, Kimong'o, Kapkobil, Embomir, Chesawach, Kapkeny, Queen of Peace and Chemisto primary schools. The secondary schools include Kipkaner, Mogil Day, St.

Mary's Mon, Kamasia Mixed Day, Kaptich Girls, Lukutet, Ishmael Chelang'a, Liter, Chesewew, Tot and Sambirir community library.

It is my plan to ensure that in the next three years, primary and secondary schools are well equipped and the necessary infrastructure established. I have put in place requisite strategy for effective and sustained investment in these institutions.

This will ensure that the schools continue to support the changing needs and demands of the knowledge economy.

I also promised to progressively ensure the empowerment of the special categories of the society such as youth, people with disabilities and women.

To realize this, I instituted MEWEO, steered a fundraising to aid the organisation facilitate itself; MEWEO is a strategy that aims at boosting available funds for table Bankers and their borrowing capacity for Marakwet East Women. So far we have 129 active women groups that can access credit directly at lower interest rates. Through this therefore, the bottles necks that our women faced for long has become history. In the fundraising held in the month of March 2014, we managed to raise above 16 million.

Security is a necessary component of development. I have worked to ensure that cases of insecurity are scaled down. We have improved the welfare of the security officers by constructing 5 police stations and staff quarters that include, Tot police station, Mogil, Liter, Kapyego and Embobut police posts. This will help motivate the security personnel and therefore work effectively and efficiently in dealing with security matters in the area. I also liaised with the national government to ensure the construction of security roads along the Kerio Valley.

The stated security roads will be of greater help in mitigating cases of insecurity, specifically issues relating to stock rustling and roadside banditry that for long, hampered development progress along the Kerio Valley. For years, the security personnel have had it rough in pursuing cattle rustlers or criminals in the area due to bad roads.

The two roads linking Baringo East and Marakwet are 105 kilometers apart, i.e. Tot-Kolowa and the road linking Aror and Kinyach. Opening the four proposed roads; i.e. Tirber-Kerio River road, Luguget-Kerio river road, Kabetwa- Kerio River Road and Sangach-Kerio river road, will boost security in the area and promote agribusiness along the Kerio river.

For years, our people have restricted agriculture to the production of basic food crops. It is high time that our people are encouraged to venture into other agricultural fields for commercial purposes such as forestry, fruit cultivation, dairy, poultry, bee keeping, etc. At the moment, my office is developing proposals and sourcing for funds to aid in bolstering irrigation

projects within Marakwet East.

A radical improvement of the health infrastructure is also needed. So far I have facilitated infrastructural improvement of five health facilities that include Kapchebau dispensary, Kamogo health centre, Chemworor dispensary, Kabaldamet dispensary, Segut dispensary and Kabetwa dispensary.

Unemployment is a major crisis in our country and It is my appeal to the affected youth to think of alternative ways they can adopt to better themselves for instance venturing into the agribusiness sector and other positive entrepreneurial activities.

I am however working out a scheme that will result to a youth exclusive platform from where they can initiate youth-led development initiatives. So far transformed the Sambirir Youth Sacco, which I am a member, and elevated it to Marakwet East Youth Saving and Credit Co-operative society limited to accommodate youth across the sub-county. We also have several others.

Such efforts, augmented with other micro-credit facilities can contribute greatly to the constituency's prosperity, economic competition and reduced unemployment.

We came up with the above idea because most traditional financial institutions had avoided lending to youth due to their relative inability to comply with the high transaction costs, difficulty in assessing and managing their risk profile, and lack of the required financial documentation as well as collateral.

No great task is easily accomplished. Ours is no exception. If we incessantly continue politicking, then our development dream will be at jeopardy. It is my wish that we as people of EMC channel our energies on politics of tolerance, politics that will soar our development goals. The consistent conflicting political stands have only deepened the political uncertainty in the county. While it is hard to settle this controversy down till the basic political problem is addressed, there are some fundamental development issues that are a priority. Let us focus on these development programmes for now as a County.

I wish you a Merry Christmas  
&  
A happy new Year 2015!

God bless Marakwet East,  
God bless Elgeyo Marakwet County

*The Writer is MP for Marakwet East.*

# Marakwet West transformation is back on the right track

First and foremost, I want to again thank the people of Marakwet West for granting me the mandate to be their MP. Secondly, I want to extend my appreciation for the support they have continued to accord me.

Since March, 2013 when I assumed office as MP, I have worked tirelessly to ensure that I deliver on the promises I made to my constituents. This I did by first harmonizing my plans with those already initiated by my predecessors.

When I got down to work, my focus was trained on the several initiatives but most of them have revolved around education, roads, agriculture, security and energy. These sectors needed various interventions to ensure that my people proceed to the next level of development.

On matters security, I continue working hard to ensure that insecurity is wiped out in our constituency to ensure that our people go about their lives and businesses without worry as has been in case in selected areas of the constituency.

With support from the national government, we are going to upgrade several police posts to become fully fledged police stations and these include Chebiemit, Makutano, Aror and Chebororwo. We are also constructing an AP post at Kipkundul.

This will ensure that these and other areas we have identified have the necessary police capacity to deal with crime that is slowing down development.

My office is also working very closely with the national and county governments to ensure that farmers in my constituency benefit from their toil in agriculture. My aspiration is to see our people earn more from their farm produce through initiatives such as value addition.

For instance, we want to save our people in Kapcherop and outlying areas the trouble of travelling long distances to National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) in Moi's Bridge and even Eldoret to deliver their maize. We have ensured that an NCPB store is established at Kapcherop which will be a milestone for the people of that area.

My office has also supported initiatives to establish milk coolers at Cheptongei, Chebiemit and Kibigos to aid our dairy farmers reap their rightful income in the sale of their milk produce. We will consider other areas as well based on the needs of farmers.

Roads in my constituency is also key in my development plan and I wish to note the start of good things to come with the launch of the Chebiemit-Kapsowar tarmac road by H.E Deputy President William Ruto recently. We are pushing for more roads to be done by the national and county governments to supplement what we are doing through CDF.

In Education, my pledge is that God willing, all primary schools in the constituency will have permanent structures. My aspiration is to see our pupils learning in very conducive environments. I am also working hard to ensure that power is supplied to these schools before the Jubilee laptop project is rolled out.

I also have an ambitious plan to ensure that I establish low cost boarding primary schools in every ward of the constituency. The implementation of this plan will commence next year. It has been established that boarding schools create a good environment for top performance and through the boarding schools we will establish, it is my belief that our performance as a constituency will go up.

We are also working on a plan to establish educational resource centres and libraries in the constituency to supplement our educational institutions. These are important for purposes such as research. I plan on setting up the first resource centre in Kapsowar and a library/social hall in Aror in coming months.

In my tenure, we will also work together with our partners in development to ensure that a Technical Training Institution is established in Kapcherop. This is part of my plans to enhance higher education access in the constituency.

Fellow constituents, I immediately embarked on the above plans as soon as you elected me as your MP, but a lot more is in the pipeline. Early next year, I will be inviting you for the launch of my strategic plan that will capture my future aspirations. This strategic plan will entail laying the foundation for a 21st Century compliant Marakwet West. It will include my greater vision for the constituency aligned with the Jubilee government vision.

I wish to let you know that no vision is unattainable. With the right attitude, energy, drive and combined efforts, we can achieve a lot in our time. Let us rally together and steer Marakwet West to greater heights of development.

As I conclude I would wish to thank our deputy President William Ruto for honouring this County with his presence, coming here to preside over development projects.

I appeal to all of us to support him, especially as he faces the hurdle at the International Criminal Court. Let us pray for him to overcome it so that he may be free to serve us with the vigour that he has displayed.

As leaders and residents of Elgeyo Marakwet, I would also appeal to us to maintain unity of purpose so that we may drive this county forward. Someone once said that unity is strength and that divided we fall.



MARAKWET WEST MP Hon. William Kisang

Let us identify and bring out those aspects that make us unique as a county instead of focusing of those issues that divide us. I also call upon our people to abandon negative vices like alcohol, FGM and crime that give us a bad name.

Let us shun these practices and adopt the Jubilee or digital way of doing things. We call ourselves the County of Champions and we must live up to this billing and be champions in all aspects of life just like our athletes have shown us by shining good examples.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate our athletes who have put us on the world map and shone the spotlight on us again this year. It was a year of grand winnings by our athletes and I must commend them.

I wish you a Merry Christmas  
&

A happy new Year 2015!

God bless Marakwet East,  
God bless Elgeyo Marakwet County

*The writer is Marakwet West MP*

# Keiyo South: “we have come a long way, we are headed for bigger achievements”



KEIYO SOUTH MP Hon. Jackson Kiptanui

## Background

**K**eiyo South constituency is an electoral constituency in Kenya established in 1969. It is one of the four constituencies of Elgeyo Marakwet County and has 6 wards. The Constituency consists of two topographic features namely the highlands stretching from Metkei to Kitany and the lowlands (the Kerio Valley) stretching from Kocholwo to chepsigot

The main economic activity in the constituency is Agriculture with majority of the residents practicing peasant-both dairy and subsistence farming on small scale.

*In this edition we shall focus on two sections i.e (a) Education and (b) Infrastructure. In the following editions we shall focus on other sectors including: Agriculture, Mining and Water*

## Education

Keiyo South constituency has had great improvements over the years and as Elgeyo-Marakwet County celebrated its splendid performance in 2012 KCPE that saw it placed second nationally and leading in the Rift Valley, St Brigids Academy in Keiyo South district led the County.

On the other hand, Metkei Girls emerged among the excellent schools that performed well in the KCSE Exams. The school was rated number ONE in the County and number 30 Nationally.

This was impressive and reflects the good cooperation that exists between parents, teachers, students and stakeholders working in synergy towards a common goal. In 2013, Metkei Girls was number two in the county. We trust and believe that with good preparations and hardwork put in by all stakeholders Keiyo South will do better this year in both KCPE and

KCSE.

The few youth Polytechnics in the constituency require more funds for improvements of infrastructure. These polytechnics play a key role in absorbing many young people who either fail to join form one or other colleges as they become a training ground for the many artisans needed in the region.

We are optimistic that the proposed Chepsirei Technical Training Institute will start this coming year. Keiyo South CDF has budgeted Kshs 10million for its start and the government's support will come in handy to complete the Technical Training institute. I wish to thank all the stakeholders in Education for their big and tireless efforts to improve our performance in this sector.

## Infrastructure

The Constituency has a fair road network that serves and connects the lowlands and the highlands and there is easy movement of goods and people across the entire Constituency. Over the years we have managed to rehabilitate and maintain most of the feeder roads and these are passable most of the year round. The Construction of new roads have been carried out from time to time through the CDF funds and various stakeholders including Kenya Fluorspar Company and KERRA.

In particular, the following new roads are being constructed and I thank our Governor for having allocated more resources to complete these projects which were started a few years back. They are:-

- Rokocho – Changach Barak-Kaptere-Chemwabul
- Taiya- Kiptengwer road
- Koisoen-Simit road

I believe that these roads will be completed and be in use by next year. Thanks for the support from CDF, KERRA, Kenya Fluorspar Company and the County Government.

I wish also to thank the National Government for the support they have continued giving us over the years. We have requested for more funds for this sector and hopefully most of the existing roads will be in better state in due course once they are improved.

As leaders from the County we are pushing the Government to tarmac our flagship project- Nyaru-Iten-Kapsowar road and we are pleased to note that more money has been allocated to Iten-Kapsowar road and the work will progress soon. (The Deputy President, H.E William Ruto commissioned this road on Saturday 15th November 2014).

We have the assurance from the government that the Nyaru-Iten road will be commissioned early next year through the program of upgrading over 2,000km of roads in the country into bitumen standards. Once completed these major roads will make transportation

of goods and services to our Headquarters faster and cheaper. (next issue we shall touch on other roads).

## Electricity

Over the years, electricity supply has been boosted and over 90% of all the trading centres and primary schools have been connected with electricity. This is one of the greatest leaps that has helped improve results in education sector as more students can now study in the night and or board. The remaining centres and schools will be electrified by next year.

## Challenges

Like many other constituencies in the country, Keiyo South faces many challenges including:

- Rampant Alcoholism and drug abuse- Both the National Government and County Government should work hand in hand to reduce the high levels of consumption of alcohol and drugs.
- Persistent landslides along the escarpment during rainy seasons. A permanent solution is needed urgently as we are tired of losing lives every time there are heavy rains followed by landslides. We trust that the promises made by the government in providing a long lasting solution are not in vain.
- Deforestation- Our Constituency boasts of having one of the largest forest cover in the region. We have thousands of hectares under tree plantations which is good for the county and country at large. But the high levels of deforestation may be a big environmental disaster in the future. Companies licensed to harvest mature trees should put in place mechanisms for reforestation. Kenya Forest Service should also ensure this is done and the County government and her residents benefit from this huge resource.

In conclusion, Keiyo South has put in place elaborate measures through a strategic plan to ensure equitable allocations and distribution of resources for wealth creation and increased self reliance amongst the constituents. The plan is anchored on the four strategic pillars of development; economic, education, socio-cultural and political leadership and governance. This has been implemented over the years and they continue to be monitored so as to safeguard the benefits and strides so far gained.

*I wish you a Merry Christmas*

*&*

*A happy new Year.*

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

*The writer is Keiyo South MP*

# Keiyo North is moving forward in all sectors

## Education

I am happy to report that following a proposal I wrote to Children International based in the USA with a country office in Nairobi, our constituency received books for our primary and secondary schools worth over sh 20 million.

These were books numbering between 17,000 to 20,000 that we distributed to our schools as well as to schools in neighbouring constituencies. The books comprised a wide range of subjects including sciences, languages and mathematics for both primary and secondary.

The donation was free of charge and the only cost we incurred as CDF was in transporting the books from the Port of Mombasa after they arrived from the US. I wish to extend my hearty gratitude to Children International for the donation.

It is my hope that the beneficiary schools will use the books to further their educational performance now and into the future.

As for Bursary, the allocations will be disbursed once the money is released from the government treasury and those set to benefit will include our students in secondary, tertiary colleges and universities. In the previous year, we began giving out the bursaries from locational level but this year we will start from sub location level.

The people themselves will do the vetting to give us the needy students and not the office as was done in previous years.

Regarding Tambach Teachers College (TTC), a County institution, the people of Tambach and Keiyo North have decided to have the TTC upgraded to be a University. It is my view that it becomes a university because it will be among other colleges that were upgraded to become universities. These include:

- Nairobi University upgraded from Royal Technical College
- Maseno University upgraded from Government Training Institute
- Kenyatta University upgraded from a Secondary School
- Maasai Mara upgraded from a TTC
- Mombasa University upgraded from a Technical Training College

These are just but to mention a few. Then why not upgrade Tambach given the existing infrastructure and the ideal location?

On transition rates from primary to secondary, it is my considered view that since we have 66 primary schools and 21 secondary schools in Keiyo North constituency, it shows that many primary school pupils do not transit to secondary schools when they complete class eight because the schools are few.

It is my wish that we could increase the streams in our secondary schools to become three streams to accommodate the pupils transiting from the 66 primary schools. I urge all Keiyo North residents to consider this proposal and together with our educational stakeholders come with a way forward on this issue which is a great concern to me.

## Technical Training Institute (TTI)

The Government through the Ministry of Education allocated money for the construction of TTIs in 60 constituencies within the country. Keiyo North was among the beneficiaries and the TTI will soon be built within the constituency.

The people of Keiyo North are happy about it for it will assist all students interested in pursuing technical courses from all over the constituency and the county. When locating the TTI, the Government through the relevant ministry establishes a suitable place for its construction where there is electricity, water accessibility and many other technical considerations.

## Health

Completion of all incomplete or ongoing dispensaries and health centres is work in progress. Further, the building of staff houses in the health centres is on course and will include the following:

- Kapteren
- Sergoit
- Msekekwa
- Kapchelal
- Chegilet
- Kapchebar

The Kenya Medical Training College in Iten will soon be opened tentatively in March 2015.

## Milk Cooler

My office in cooperation with the Government's Department of Cooperatives Development will establish a milk cooler at Kapteren Centre to benefit dairy farmers in the area, the constituency and the county at large.

## Women Empowerment

Through the able leadership of the Patron, Keiyo North Women Table Banking Mrs Mary Murgor, sh 10.6 million was recently raised to empower the women in our constituency and uplift their economic status.

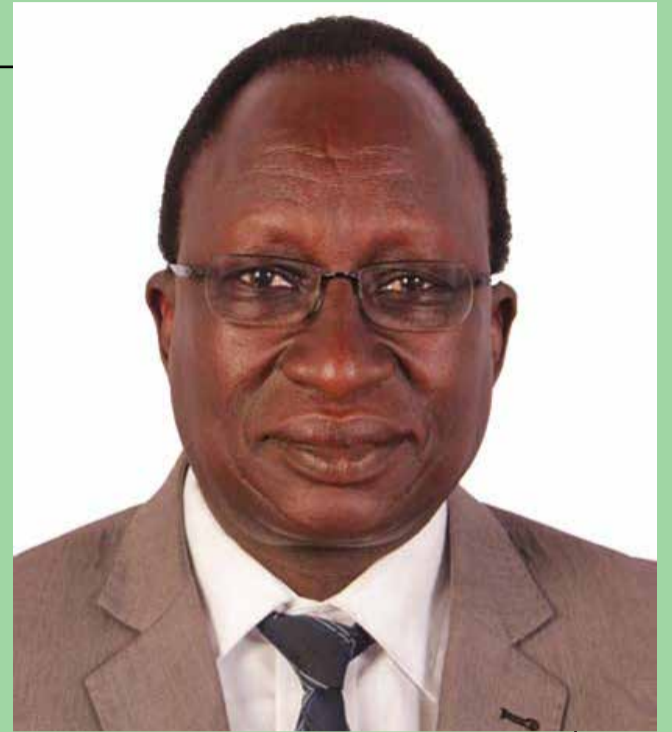
We thank H.E Deputy President William Ruto for gracing the fundraising occasion as Chief Guest alongside our leaders including our Governor Alex Tolgos, Senator Kipchumba Murkomen, MPs William Kisang, Kangogo Bowen and Jackson Kiptanui among many other guests.

## Uwezo Fund

I am happy with the ongoing turn out of youth and women groups coming out to seek Uwezo Funds to uplift their economic status. I urge more to organize themselves and take advantage of this fund created by our Jubilee government.

The first lot of 44 groups have already been vetted and their applications forwarded to the Uwezo Fund board for approval before the funds are released to them. We are hoping that the board will speed up the process so that the groups can embark on their projects.

I wish to urge my constituents to embrace entrepreneurship and help create jobs for our people. Self reliance is the way to go with our government



**KEIYO NORTH MP** Hon. Dr James Murgor

having paved the way for this to be attainable through Uwezo.

## Water Projects

My office is closely working with the national government and the county government to ensure that the multi-million Sabor water project is rolled out soon to benefit the people of Iten and Tambach.

We are also in the process of establishing two water pans for the residents of the valley as well as rehabilitating several dams including Yetio, Emiat, Kimaisbai, Kombasago, Kimengech and Kombaemit dams to supply enough water for our people.

Lastly, allow me to call upon Elgeyo Marakwet people and particularly in Keiyo North to work together irrespective of divided opinion on any matter. It is good for us to speak to each other but not at each other.

Keiyo North is bigger than all of us and we must sometime put our differences aside for the sake of development. As your MP, I wish to state here that I am open to all and I will always be willing and ready to sit in a round table to discuss issues that will move us forward.

Let us desist from falling into the temptation of forces whose intention to incite and divide us along any form of ideology be it political. I call upon leaders to support current office bearers be it at constituency level, county or national.

Elgeyo Marakwet County is blessed with God given attributes that need all of us to pull together to exploit for the good of our present and future generations.

Let us emulate our athletes who have made our County name proud out there and also do the same to bring glory to this wonderful county.

**I wish you a Merry Christmas  
&**

**A happy new Year 2015!**

**God bless Marakwet East,  
God bless Elgeyo Marakwet County**

*The writer is Keiyo North MP*

# Second phase of greening schools launched in Elgeyo Marakwet

**Tree planting** | North Rift counties to benefit from carbon credit for planting trees. 3 million trees have been planted and 10 million other seedlings targeted in the next five years

By VINCENT BARTOO

The second phase of the greening of schools project bringing together North Rift counties was launched in Iten that will see learning institutions benefit from carbon credit by planting trees in global conservation efforts.

Elgeyo/Marakwet County Executive Committee (CEC) member in charge of natural resources Thomas Rutto thanked the programme organizers for choosing Elgeyo Marakwet to launch the second phase.

He blamed the low forest cover on huge chunks of land, both in private and public land, lying unplanted.

"We have forest sections across the county that were harvested over two decades ago but are yet to be rehabilitated," said that CEC.

The Kagoch Foundation Trust, a Non Governmental Organization (NGO) championing for the conservation of Mau and Cherangany water towers launched the second phase of the program in a bid to bolster the realization of 10 percent tree cover across the country.

The foundation has so far planted 3 million trees and envisages to plant over 10 million trees in five years promotes tree planting in schools and among communities and planting directly in gazzeted government forests in an attempt to address environmental degradation.

The foundation through its patron Micah Kigen noted the threats posed by climatic change noting that enhancing tree cover across the country would reverse the apprehension.

"The changing global climatic conditions



Pupils participate in the school greening program

PHOTO | VINCENT BARTOO

Kagoch Foundation Trust, a Non Governmental Organization (NGO) championing for the conservation of Mau and Cherangany water towers

will continue posing great challenges to the livelihoods of both farming and pastoral communities in the country," said Kigen.

He said that the situation is aggravated by the harsh reality that Kenya is considered a low tree/forest cover because it does not meet the international standards of 10 percent.

"It is against this backdrop that realities of

climate change calls for well coordinated concerted efforts to support tree growing initiatives aimed at mitigating the harmful effects of climatic change," offered the Patron.

The Standard Group which is among the corporate sponsors and will rehabilitate 100 acres of Embobut forest presented a cheque of sh 200, 000 to support the Kagoch foundation.

Other sponsors included Kerio valley development Authority (KVDA), Kenya Forest Service (KFS), Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, Ministry of Education and Commercial banks among others.

But Kigen said that the declining financing to the forestry sector in the country was disappointing.

"The government should make a deliberate effort and increase financing to the environment financing the environment sector as a way of increasing and conserving the forests," he said.

He also said the country needs increased investment in a robust national and county forest extension service targeting tree growers on farmlands and dry lands that represent over 80 percent of the total land area as a way increasing the forest cover and ensuring trees are taken as business venture.

However the KFS chairman Peter Kirigua who graced the event said that the government has allocated sh 7 billion towards the Green Schools Programme across the country.

"We are targeting 20 schools in each constituency across the country and this would help us in mitigate the effects of global climatic change," said the KFS chairman.

He said that KFS has also laid down elaborate scheme to rehabilitate forests across the country and urged all corporate bodies and individuals to partner with them.

"I want to laud The Standard Group for its support to Kagoch foundation and also the willingness to rehabilitate the Embobut forest and it is my request that other corporate bodies follow suit," said Kirigua.

## Residents donate land for setting up of water projects

When the County Government embarked on the establishment of water projects across the County, little did it know that residents would be as generous in their support.

As soon procurement processes were complete and contractors identified to do the projects, residents came out to donate their parcels of land, allowing the County to construct tanks and pipes to supply water to them and their neighbours.

From Kamoi in Marakwet East to Kap-sowar in Marakwet West and Chororget in Keiyo South sub-counties, residents said they felt obligated to allow the County passage into their land to supplement its development efforts.

"We are really encouraged by these acts of selflessness displayed by our people. This will help us hasten the process of supplying the much needed water to our people both for household and farm use," said CEC In-charge, Thomas Rutto.

He said that said from this goodwill from residents, the County had successfully

launched several water projects across the county presided over by Governor Alex Tolgos.

"We launched are almost completing those we launched for the financial year 2013/2014 as well as launching those for the 2014/2015 financial year which are ongoing," said Rutto.

The CEC said contractors had also expressed satisfaction with the project designs and pledged to complete the projects in under three months.

"Most of them gave us assurances that



Governor Tolgos addresses the press after a water project launch

PHOTO | LINUS SIELE

they would complete the projects within three months and this is commendable because we do not want projects delays," said Rutto.

Apart from water projects, the CEC added that efforts to conserve natural habitats had been launched by the County together with partners including the rehabilitation of the Embobut Forest which is slowly regaining forest cover.

"We are glad that partners have come on board to support our conservation efforts and we are moving forward especially with the improvement of our forest cover by supplying tree seedlings to residents to plant," said Rutto.

The CEC further revealed that Spatial planning for towns in the County to make them attractive for investment had started in earnest beginning with Iten town.

"We have a team of experts who are re-drawing how Iten will look like since it is our headquarters. We want to transform Iten into a modern town that will attract huge in-

vestments. This will cascade down to other main towns in the County," he added.

The CEC said the County was also working closely with the Rift Valley Water Services Board to expand the operations of the Iten Water Services Company.

"I am glad to announce that the County recently received a water bowser for ITWAS-CO while the Water Trust Fund constructed a clean water kiosk for residents in Iten," said Rutto.

On engaging residents, the CEC added that the County was in the process of training water committees on water resources management, financial management and bee keeping.

"We are also supporting Community Forest Associations in the management of forest stations across the County which will ensure that forests are managed in a sustainable manner," said Rutto.

The CEC further said the County was promoting use of green energy such as the use of biogas for institutions and homes.

# County keen on value addition to revive and promote trade



In an attempt to improve trade and value addition of farm produce, the county, through the Department of Trade and the Export Promotion Council (EPC) hosted residents to enlighten them on how to access overseas markets for produce from the county.

The targeted groups were farmers, jua kali artisans, cultural groups, Saccos and Co-operatives members who were given a raft of opportunities they could exploit in the value addition chain to improve their incomes.

The Executive Incharge of Trade, Ann Kibosia, reiterated the importance of selling finished products instead of produce and

said the county is putting in place strategies to establish a proper infrastructure for value addition of products in the county.

"The main challenge that we have is the market, second, the middle man, and so, farmers have become disillusioned, but the EPC is coming in handy to advise us on how best to go about it," she commented.

She also added that farmers in the county had for a long time relied on maize farming alone and that it was time to explore other opportunities available, including dairy farming, tissue banana growing and horticulture.

"There is a lot of over-reliance on maize

farming, mono-cropping, and it's a big challenge, especially, as maize crop faces a deadly disease, lethal necrosis disease, that is destroying plantations of maize leaving farmers with huge losses, and loss of livelihood," added Kibosia.

She expressed optimism with the efforts being put by the county government through provision of cash crops seeds and seedlings at subsidized rates to farmers. For farmers planting mangoes, avocados, and tissue bananas, for every seedling purchased, the county gives one for every one seedling bought.

"This will certainly help the people earn alternative source of money than just relying on maize. So after all this produce, we need a ready market and that is why we are rooting for value addition," she added.

She said the other reason the county government is keen on processing of produce for value addition, is to create job opportunities for the young people in the county.

Ann Tanui, the Regional Manager of EPC noted that Kenya has a trade imbalance and that there is need to turn that around and make Kenya a net exporter, not a net importer.

She thus called on all counties to come up with an export agenda. She pointed on the

importance of each county having at least one processed product that goes to the export market.

"Elgeyo Marakwet County has a lot of potential and the only thing lacking is the right information. The presence of a good climate that encourages horticulture and dairy farming is prove enough, the only remaining thing is to reach that product, package it, labeled it and link it to the right market," she said.

The EPC is rolling out a program in 29 counties on product development for light manufacturing industries, looking out for entrepreneurs and helps them improve products to compete in the export market.

The groups that attended the forum had a chance to interact with the experts and access information. Farmers were delighted that the county government has their interests at heart.

"It is true we have a lot of products, market and value addition is what is lacking," said Wilson Bii, a farmer and sub-county Agricultural officer, Keiyo North.

The workshop ended with farmers registering with the Export promotional council.

**H.E Governor Alex Tolgos and other leaders from the County sample out a variety of processed fruits at a produce value addition promotion event**

PHOTO:GPSU

## Sandra beats field of 13 beauties to clinch miss tourism crown

By LINUS SIELE

A 21 year old Kabarak University student Sandra Kipkore has clinched the Miss Tourism Elgeyo Marakwet title.

Kipkore, a Bachelor of Commerce Marketing option student, beat stiff competition from a field of 13 beauties in the county to emerge winner.

The event, which was held at Tambach Teachers Training College recently was graced by Governor Alex Tolgos, County MPs Jackson Kiptanui, James Murgor, William Kisang, Kangogo Bowen and former MPs Nicholas Biwott and Lucas Chepkitony.

Others were Kerio Valley Development Authority (KVDA) Managing Director David Kimosop

and Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital Director Dr John Kibosia.

Kipkore won herself sh 50,000 which was the prize money in addition to sh 20,000 from the KVDA MD and an all expenses paid trip courtesy of Finance Cabinet Secretary Henry Rotich.

She will now be incharge of marketing the county's tourism both locally and abroad in a bid to position the county as a top tourist destination.

Leaders who spoke during the colourful event said they would jointly work to market the county, which they described as Kenya's best kept secret.

"We have abundant tourist sites like the Kureswo hot springs that are yet to be explored apart from the spectacular escarpments, amazing wildlife and rich culture,"

said Governor Tolgos.

Bowen said leaders would ensure that the road network in the county is proper to facilitate the flow of tourists, especially to interior parts of the county that has largely remained unexplored.

"In my constituency, we have one of Kenya's richest culture that is still intact. We want to have tourists going down there to sample this wonderful experience," said the Marakwet East MP.

Bowen disclosed that the Iten-Kapsowar road that has been a nightmare to motorists would finally be tarmacked with the Deputy President William Ruto expected to preside over the groundbreaking this month.

Tolgos further announced plans by the County to transform the Kamariny Stadium that was opened

by Queen Elizabeth of England in the 1980s into a modern sports facility to attract sports tourists.

He said that already, a master plan for the stadium was being developed to pave way for the mega construction.

"We will also build a museum that will preserve our rich athletics

history that will also be a tourist attraction. Plans are also underway to erect a monument in honour of our athletes who have brought glory to our nation," said the governor.

Tolgos added that the County had also completed marking the numerous tourist sites in the county to make them easily identifiable and accessible.



Miss Sandra Kipkore ( Third left) pose for a photo with friends

# County plans first cable car in Kenya along Elgeyo escarpment



**A sample of cable car used to ferry people on transit along the escarpments. Elgeyo Marakwet is in the process of establishing cable cars along the Kerio Valley escarpment.**

PHOTO:<http://achensee.info>

**E**lgeyo Marakwet is set to break fresh ground by establishing the first cable car in Kenya along the Kerio Valley escarpment. The ambitious plan is aimed at taking

advantage of the largely unutilized escarpments to market the County as a top destination for tourists. “People pass by the County and marvel at the escarpments but we want them to now

stop and experience the drive down the escarpments in a cable car,” said the CEC Incharge of Tourism Ann Kibosia. A cable car in the context of mass transit is a system using rail cars that are hauled by a continuously moving cable running at a constant speed. Kibosia said already the County has commissioned feasibility studies to establish the cost and location of the cable car along the escarpment to facilitate the eventual establishment. The CEC together with Governor Alex Tolgos travelled to South Africa early this year in efforts to seek partners and borrow a leaf on how best to establish this tourist attraction. Tolgos disclosed plans by the County to spend about sh one billion to set up cable cars along the Kerio Valley escarpment to ferry tourists down to the valley including to the rehabilitated Rimoi Game Reserve. He said the money would be sourced both from County funds as well as those from external donors. He however said preliminary studies

show that the cable cars are a big source of revenue as tourists flock them. “Others countries like South Africa which have similar escarpments are reaping big from these ventures and we want to go this way to make our county the first to have cable cars,” said the governor. Tolgos said apart from the aerial cable cars the county was also considering establishment of ground cable cars that run on rails that can also be constructed along the escarpments, down to the valley. “These are cars similar to those used in developed countries that pass through crowded cities to reduce traffic jams otherwise known as trams. We have been told these can also work to create tourist pathways down the valley,” he added. With the establishment of the cable cars, Elgeyo Marakwet will make Kenya join few countries that include New Zealand, Brazil, China, New York in the USA, South Africa and Switzerland that have these tourist attractions.

## Snapshots of the 4x4 Rimoi Jumbo Charge to promote park conservation



## Communication | County unveils website, social media, newsletter, electronic payment services and Local Area Networks to improve communication and delivery of service to public

# Pomp as county communication platform launched

By GEORGE KIMAIYO

It was all pomp and colour as Elgeyo Marakwet County launched its communication platforms on 25th July 2014. The event was graced by His Excellency the Governor Eng. Alex Tolgos and Chief Guest Dr Masibo Lumala, a Communications lecturer from Moi University.

They unveiled the following communication platforms:

### a) Website

([www.elgeyomarakwet.go.ke](http://www.elgeyomarakwet.go.ke))

The website provides vast

information resources concerning the county. Some of which includes current affairs, job applications and updates, tenders and adverts, departmental news and activities, Latest News and downloads of county Publications

### b) Social Media

The county provides updates on news, events and current affairs on the social media platforms below: Facebook: County Government of Elgeyo Marakwet (<https://www.facebook.com/elgeyomarakwetcounty>)



xxxxxxxxx,

PHOTO | KIPKORIR KIPCHIRCHIR

### c) County Newsletter

The public can keep abreast on county news in the Elgeyo Marakwet News bulletin that is published on a quarterly basis. The newspapers were distributed across the county free of charge.

### d) Electronic Payment System

Our revenue officers can receive payment via our MPESA Paybill No.: 827600 as follows:

Go to MPESA, Lipa na Mpesa, Pay Bill, Enter Business No. (827600), Enter Account No. (id No.

), Enter amount, Enter MPESA Pin, Confirmatory message received.

### e) Local Area Network (LAN)

The county has established a Local Area Network that is connected through fiber optic cable within the metropolitan which will then build onto a County Wide Area Network.

### c) Online Recruitment portal

Interested job applicants can apply online and monitor status through our online recruitment portal [www.elgeyomarakwetcpsb.org](http://www.elgeyomarakwetcpsb.org)



**Clockwise from top:**  
1. Dr Masibo Lumala (left), Governor Tolgos, CEC ICT follow an explanation on how the Mpesa paybill will be used by the County;  
2. Dr Masibo follows a demonstration of how social media works  
3. County residents peruse the Elgeyo Marakwet Bulletin  
4. A snapshot of the county website

PHOTO | EMMANUEL TALEL AND LINUS SIELE



## We are working hard towards a technology driven county

By DANIEL CHIRCHIR

I am delighted to be associated with this second edition of the county news bulletin. The County Assembly Committee on Industry, ICT and Cooperative

Development truly supports robust ICT and communication platforms that will not only see our citizens informed but also engaged in our county affairs.

I sincerely congratulate the Public Communications Unit and all the stakeholders and contributors who have made this publication a success. We are committed to see our county being a benchmark to other counties in ICT services for an efficient and effective public service.

This quarterly release is a progressive step towards strengthening our intellectual capital, public communication and public participation in the county

and also serves as a common forum for the County citizens to hear from and engage with the county government in delivering services to wananchi.

We appreciate that the department of ICT and Public Service has been able to establish a reliable and working network that has facilitated a conducive working environment for our staff by ensuring Internet Access and establishment of an IP Telephony voice connectivity for easy, cheaper and faster communication between our offices. We expect that fiber optic connectivity will be extended gradually to link all parts of our county.

The County Assembly has also been at the forefront in embracing technology. Our County Assembly proceedings have now gone paperless. We intend to save taxpayers money by having our meetings, proceedings and



activities recorded digitally and made available to the public online.

We are also committed as a County Assembly committee to ensure that the Department of ICT and Public Service realizes its plans to establish ICT centers in the County that will be a 'one stop shop' for the county wide citizen service.

In that regard, we expect that job applications, tenders and many more services are available on our online platforms. We also seek partnerships from well-wishers to

see that Elgeyo Marakwet citizens access mobile telephony, Internet and library/information services. Our goal is to have projects that empower our citizens both rural and urban to access services and catalyze social change through modern technologies.

In line with the County Integrated Development Plan 2013-2017 (CIDP), we are expected by 2017 to ameliorate our current ICT infrastructure through: improved management of information systems and also Improved ICT in public institutions and communities through establishment of ICT centers across the county and lobbying for mobile network coverage to reach all areas of the county.

According to Article 35 of Constitution of Kenya every citizen is guaranteed the right to information held by the State or by any other person that is required

for the exercise or protection of any right or fundamental freedom and that is what keeps us motivated to ensure that the county residents have an easy access to it any time when needed.

I invite all to contribute to make our county to be a bench mark for other counties in one form or the other and I am certain that with our sustained efforts, we will make this endeavor a grand success. I am confident of the success of this bulletin and looking forward to better & more brilliant issues in future.

*God bless our great county and its great people.*

*The writer (pictured above) is the Member of County Assembly, Metkei Ward and Chairman, County Assembly Committee on Industry, ICT and Cooperative Development.*

# Finally county ict centers construction set to begin

By GEORGE KIMAIYO

The County Department of Information Communication Technology (ICT) has undertaken to establish ICT Centers in Elgeyo Marakwet County as indicated in our County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP).

The first one will be established at Iten, the County headquarters, and construction is slated to start early next year adjacent to the AFC offices.

According to CEC ICT & Public Service Hon. Monicah Rotich, "The ICT centers will be rolled out starting this Financial Year 2014/2015". "Currently there is no ICT centre in the county. We intend to start with one ICT center in each of our four sub-counties", she added.

These centers will be Internet enabled Information and Communication Technology (ICT) access points that are meant to provide high quality and cost effective video, voice and data content, in the areas of e-Government, Education, Health Services, Entertainment, Tourism, Sports, Youth as well as other possible government and private services.

The goal of the ICT Centers Project is to empower our citizens both rural and urban to access services and catalyze social change through modern technologies.

With a large, heterogeneous and unique geographical terrain in Elgeyo Marakwet County. The private sector, if sufficiently encouraged, can play an active role in development and implementation of the ICT Centers Project in supplementing the County and National Governments' efforts to realize its vision for the project.

## Why Establish ICT centers

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) include a whole range of technologies used for communication and for processing information. Elgeyo Marakwet County seeks to establish ICT centers as community based physical spaces that provide shared public access to ICTs, primarily through computers, satellite radios, telephones (fixed and mobile) and various telecommunication

devices.

Over the last two decades, community ICT centers have gained prominence as physical hubs for bringing the benefits of ICTs to communities where the technological infrastructure is inadequate and/or the costs of individual technology access are relatively high.

The Chief Officer ICT & Public Service, Mr. Titus Ayabei asserts that: "The centers will provide opportunities for access to information by overcoming the barriers of distance and location. Through facilitating this access, the centers have the potential to foster social cohesion and interaction and enhance economic development."

Mr. Ayabei further adds that these centers will be purpose-built around the provision of digitized and wireless services, or alternately, digitization and connectivity might be integrated into an existing information or learning center.

In this regards, the ICT centers will not function as isolated information stations, rather, they form part of existing facilities and institutions, such as health centers, schools, libraries and other hubs, which provide a mix of services for the community.

The establishment of County ICT centres is also inspired by the need to have one-stop service points within the county to ensure ease of access to efficient and effective government services to the public.

## Socio-economic significance

Generally, rural incomes in Kenya are low because of lack of enough income generating opportunities. Low incomes, in turn, result in an inability to access information, knowledge, goods or services, which can help citizens earn more. As a result, such limitations lead to development gaps that can be attributed to lack of access to three essential resources necessary for development namely Information, Infrastructure and Services.

Access to information, backed with relevant infrastructure and services, can not only allow rural-based citizens to improve their quality of life but also support and supplement their existing

incomes in a sustainable way.

Therefore, what Elgeyo Marakwet County needs is a new paradigm - in which there will be reliable infrastructure that is affordable and innovatively addresses citizen needs. Access to information and services like e-Governance, micro-credit, literacy, education, health services, opening up our tourism potential etc through such infrastructure, can provide a solid foundation for the economic prosperity of Elgeyo Marakwet County.

## Expected Benefits of the ICT Centers

The ICT centers are expected to play a critical role in unlocking the potential of Elgeyo Marakwet County. Specifically, the following are the expected benefits:

### (a) Economical access to information and services to rural citizens

Successful implementation of ICT Centers would offer economical and instantaneous access to key information and services to citizens across Elgeyo Marakwet County. Information in the form of agricultural inputs, weather, commodity prices, health, as well as services in the form of e-Government, land rent, rates tele-medicine, bill payments & bookings, data entry, digital pictures, entertainment, education & e-learning, micro-finance, etc. can not only save precious monetary resources but also provide an ideal platform for betterment of quality of life in Elgeyo Marakwet county.

### (b) Small businesses for local entrepreneurs

The ICT Centers, essentially, will provide for Business Process Outsourcing avenues in which prospective entrepreneurs will set up small businesses in Elgeyo Marakwet County that would be run by trained and empowered rural youth as social entrepreneurs.

### (c) Improved governance at cheaper costs

The ICT Center would allow County and National government agencies to directly link up with citizens without a long chain of intermediaries. Such a system would not only save huge costs but also reduce systemic red tape and bureaucracy as well as service delays, thereby leading to better quality of governance.

### (d) New channels of distribution

The ICT Centers would open up new channels of distribution in Elgeyo Marakwet County for products and services. Since ICT Centers would lead to cost savings and provide income enhancement opportunities for rural villagers, a substantial portion of rural income would be available for consumption of such products and services, thereby giving boost to retail marketing and rural economies.

## County bags top ICT award



By LINUS SIELE

Elgeyo Marakwet County has emerged second best in the country in the use of ICT in the counties in a ceremony held in Nairobi recently.

The County followed Kitui County which was number one while Kericho County came third out of 13 counties nominated for the awards held at Hotel Intercontinental in Nairobi.

The ICT Value Awards (ICTVA) 2014 ceremony was organised by the Information Communication Technology Association of Kenya.

The second position was awarded to Elgeyo Marakwet by Chairman of the Parliamentary ICT Committee, Engineer James Rege who hailed the County for the milestone achievement.

At hand to receive it was the ICT team led by County Assembly ICT Chairman Daniel Chirchir, CEC Monicah Rotich, Chief Officer Titus Ayabei and Directors George Kimaiyo and Vincent Bartoo.

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 where job applicants apply online without having to send any documents to the county.

While appreciating the award, Chirchir affirmed that the county was indeed a pace setter in the country saying the assembly would support efforts to fully digitize Elgeyo Marakwet.

"When we call ourselves the County of Champions, it is not by default. We are actually leading in several fronts and I am very proud to be the Chairman of ICT which has carried our County flag high," he said.

The CEC said the award was testament of the hard work the department has put in ensuring that operations at the county are efficiently driven by ICT.

"We are so encouraged by this award. It will make us work harder to ensure that we scale even greater heights. I want to thank my staff for their tireless efforts that have made us reach this far," said Rotich.

The Chief Guest during the event, South Sudan Ambassador Professor Julius Bitok, hailed the counties that won during the event.

"For you to win these awards barely two years into your existence shows that there are counties which are really working hard to improve the lives of their people and this is very commendable," he said.

Bitok said the world had moved fully into the digital era and there is need for both the public and private sector to look for ICT solutions that will help in advancing the country.

"I urge counties to think big on ICT because this is the main driver of the 21st Century economies, now and into the future," he said.

Governor Alex Tolgos said he received the news of the award with excitement and called on the Department to leverage on this to ensure the county moves to the next level in ICT.

"We are honored by this award and we are not stopping here. We will work hard hard to make Elgeyo Marakwet a centre of excellence for the country," he said.



A model of a modern ICT centre

## EASY SUDOKU

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Argos  
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Athens  
Babylon  
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Carthage  
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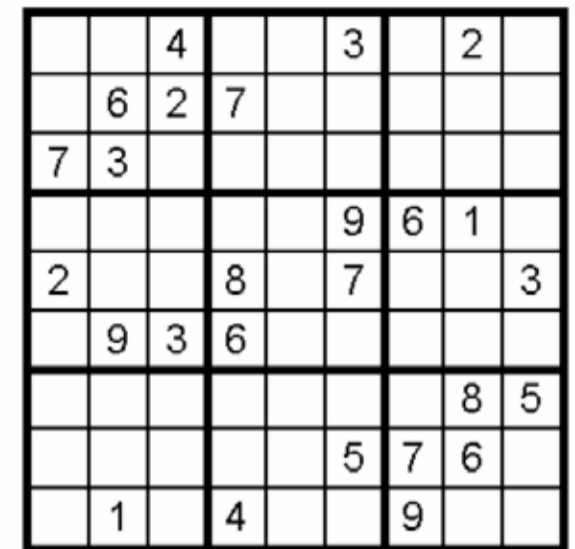
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Knossos  
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Persia  
Rhodes  
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## HARD SUDOKU

## Rule

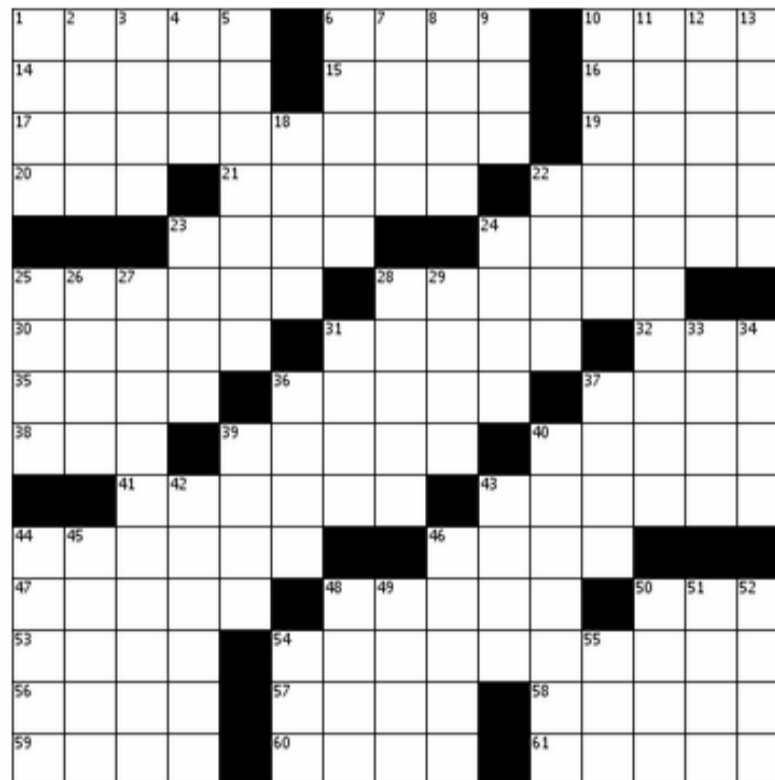
Each column of nine squares,  
each row of nine squares,  
and each box of nine squares  
(three squares by three squares)  
must have the numbers 1 to 9



## COMPLEX CROSSWORD

## Across

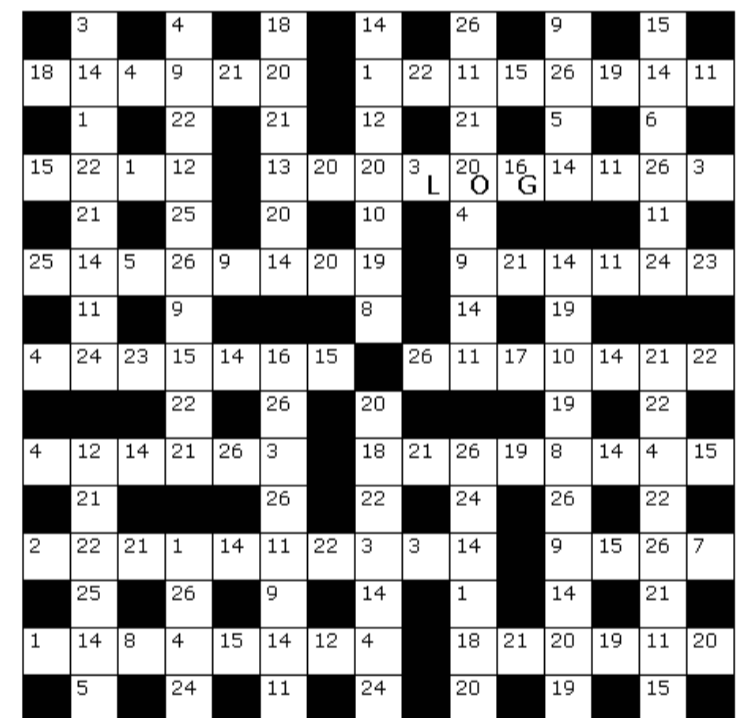
1. One-time Winter Palace dwellers
6. Agrippa's wrap
10. Drink without a pause
14. Open, as a bottle
15. Graven image
16. Sprinter's assignment
17. Alternative to a towelette
19. Word with catch or hang
20. Chest thumper
21. Terrier type
22. Reversed an action
23. Lollobrigida of "Hotel Paradiso"
24. Increase threefold
25. Bordeaux wine
28. Kampala is its capital
30. Pervasive emanations
31. Practices on the canvas
32. Greenskeeper's supply
35. Exemplar of innocence
36. Geographic depression
37. Stew pod
38. Deal prerequisite
39. Backing for an exhibit
40. Like Alexander
41. Scale's reading
43. Bug on the road
44. Pipe types
46. Presidential power
47. Word with charlotte or Ballet
48. Field of endeavor
50. Cul-de-\_\_\_
53. Climax beginning
54. Where to find time on one's hand?
56. Point of honor settler, once
57. Suggestion
58. See ya in Hawaii?
59. Agile
60. Equalizing allowance
61. Went off course



## Down

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|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Porous limestone         | 22. Upscale coffee pots         | 40. Brief vacation      |
| 2. Salon sound              | 23. Type of bag                 | 42. With little effort  |
| 3. Teenager's bane          | 24. Mountain pool               | 43. Misshapen           |
| 4. Newspaper, derogatorily  | 25. Advanced math course        | 44. Finishing nails     |
| 5. Biological subdivision   | 26. Island feast                | 45. Accumulate, as a d  |
| 6. Fibula neighbor          | 27. Supplier of pressure?       | 46. Bulletproof appare  |
| 7. Fragrance                | 28. Sports surprise             | 48. Saharan             |
| 8. Surgeon's work attire    | 29. Olympic medalist            | 49. Natural coat        |
| 9. Word with thumbs or ears | 30. Devers                      | 50. Place in a hold     |
| 10. Replicated, in a way    | 31. Window frame                | 51. Feel pain           |
| 11. Certain woven container | 32. Verbalized                  | 52. African republic    |
| 12. Up to such time as      | 33. Dinner and a movie, perhaps | 54. Reporter's question |
| 13. Crystal-lined stone     | 34. They may be checked         | 55. In the style of     |
| 18. Bombastic speech        | 37. Nabisco cookie              |                         |
|                             | 39. Leprechaun land             |                         |

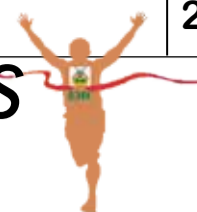
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Find the alphabetical letter represented by each unique number.  
To start you off the T is represented by 19, O by 23, and P by 24



# Kosgei does county proud by winning standard chartered marathon

It requires more than just a hardened soul for upcoming athletes to prepare and easily win a local marathon – due to the talent glut in Kenya.

The script was, however, different when little-known Peter Kosgei broke the rule book to win the 12th Standard Chartered Marathon run in Nairobi that attracted 17,000 participants.

Kosgei pulled all stops to emerged top and returned home with his head held high, having entered into the millionaire class bagging sh 1.5 million in prize money.

The Winners received Sh1.5m, runner-ups Sh650,000 and second runner-ups Sh350,000 while fourth (Sh150,000), fifth Sh10,000 and sixth (50,000) as the prizes trickled to the tenth finisher.

It was sweet for Kosgei, who has been tirelessly striving to win a marathon after podium finishes in Kass Marathon (third, 2011) and second in 2012.

Kosgei, who comes from Kaptarakwa in Keiyo South, did not look outside his village for inspiration –he comes from a region with a rich long athletics pedigree in 5,000m and 10,000m.

Within a radius of three kilometres from his home in Kaptarakwa lives the world's long distance greats among them double world champion Vivian Cheruiyot, former Military Games 5,000m champion Sammy Kipketer and Kenyan-turned-Qatari Albert Chepkurui.

Kosgei formed the leading pack of 11 runners which had a sizeable number of new names among them Eliash Barno, 2012 Kass Marathon winner Weldon



Peter Kosgei holds to his award trophy shortly after he won the 12th Standard Chartered Marathon run in Nairobi.

PHOTO | COURTESY THE STANDARD

Kirui and Kiprop Tanui.

The 26-year-old Kosgei broke away just 200m to the finish line to win an impressive two hours, 12 minutes and 24 seconds –a fairly faster time for a high altitude marathon.

Barno (2:12.28) and Kirui (2:12.44) sealed the podium spots as Kiprop Tanui (2:14.10), Duncan Maiyo (2:14.31) and David Chepkwony (2:15.07) followed.

Kosgei, who started his preparations for the Standard Chartered Marathon, said he never expected the win.

“I entered the race with feelings that I would finish in top 20 but I am grateful to have registered my first marathon win. I think I am beginning to actualise my dreams. I really wanted to be an elite athlete and I one day visited Vivian (Cheruiyot) for pieces of advice, which she assured me that victory is attainable.

“I will use the money to buy land in Eldoret; just in the same place other top athletes have built their homes,” said Kosgei, a first born in a family of five.

- Standard Digital

# Elgeyo Marakwet rewards rehabilitated brewers with heifers and farm inputs



A decision by a group of women formerly brewers of illicit alcohol to abandon the vice and undergo rehabilitation has finally paid off.

The women, who heeded a call by Governor Alex Tolgos to quit the trade and be rehabilitated by the County Government, recently got a boost when the governor fulfilled a pledge he had made to them.

Tolgos had promised that his government would initiate meaningful economic ventures for

the women if they successfully went through rehabilitation and expressed willingness to completely abandon their former trade.

The first beneficiaries of the 283 women drawn from the four sub counties received heifers and farm inputs from the Governor at a colourful ceremony held in Iten, which heralded a new beginning for them.

The women were rehabilitated by the County's Department Incharge of Women Affairs with CEC Shadrack Yatich, expressing his excitement at

Reformed illicit brewers fundraising Ksh 4.5 million in order to establish a maize milling plant

**Top: Governor Alex Tolgos** (third right) hand potato tubers to a team of reformed brewers.

**Bottom: Governor Tolgos** (left) Dr Susan Chebet look admiringly at dairy cows given to the reformed brewers  
PHOTO | LINUS SIELE

the new life prospects for the women.

“It has been a journey of transformation for them and I would like to laud their commitment to undergo this change for the betterment of their lives and those of their families,” he said.

Yatich added that the women also received posho mills to enable them process the maize, they previously used to brew changaa and busaa, into flour to feed their families and communities.

“It is a big break from their past when they used to brew alcohol that wrecked the lives of their communities to feeding them and making them positively contribute to the development of their County,” he added.

Anita Kirui, one of the women, thanked Governor Tolgos for keeping his word and vowed that the women would never go back to brewing alcohol.

“You are God sent. As be brewed we had

no option because we needed to fend for our families. But since you (Governor) has come to our aid and started economic ventures for us, we are not going to let you down,” said Kirui on behalf of the women.

Tolgos asked the women to focus on their new ventures and engaged in agribusiness to reap them the income lost after abandoning their illicit brew trade.

“It is for you to now focus on your new preoccupation. Let me warn those who will be tempted to go back to the former trade that I will not hesitate to come and take back my cows. Please change for the better because we are now here to uplift your economic status,” he told them.

The women assured the Governor that they would never retreat to the trade and further announced plans to establish a main maize milling plant in the County owned by the women.

Elizabeth Keitany, of the Gracious Empowerment Women Organisation (Gewe), that helped the County reach out to the women, said they were fundraising in order to establish a sh 4.5 maize milling plant.

“From the money they will get from the projects initiated by the County, they have decided to set aside some funds towards this main project that will be fully owned by them,” said Keitany.



## SPORTS

# Keitany proves to the world, new mums can triumph in tough races

By GPSU

Mary Jepkosgei Keitany did just about enough for the world to notice her comeback from maternity –and, at best, confirmed the theory on Kenyan new mums.

It's has not been a common norm for Kenyan women to post brilliant shows right after their sabbatical leave.

And Keitany did exactly that when she won the New York City Marathon, usually held on the first Sunday of November.

Earlier on, Keitany surprised the athletics world by making a podium finish on her full marathon debut by finishing third in the New York City Marathon, one of the Big Five races that count towards the World Marathon Majors series.

Keitany, the 25km world record holder, has battled Boston Marathon winners Salina Kosgei and Teyba Erkesso of Ethiopia in the London and New York marathons.

Among the great marathoners who have previously made their debuts on the streets of New York include past winners Grete Waitz (1978), Tecla Loroupe (1994), Deen Kastor (2001), Marla Runyan (2002), Kara Goucher and Kim Smith (2008) as well as American Shalane Flanagan.

Keitany started running while a Standard Four in 1996 at Kanjulul Primary School before moving to Kisok Primary School in Koibatek where she was born.

She however got married to a son of Elgeyo Marakwet, Charles Koech, who hails from Sergoit.

She seemed to be destined for great things when she set the 25km world record of 1:19:53 at the Big 25 road race in Berlin May in 2011.

Having maintained a winning streak since winning the Lille half-marathon in France in October 2007, Keitany will certainly be the woman to beat in the London race.

"I knew New York was going to be

competitive. But I felt I was mature enough for a tough course like New York. That's why we decided to train along these hilly terrain," said Keitany, who does her long runs along the Sergoit hills in Elgeyo Marakwet County.

She trains alongside her husband, Charles, also a half-marathon runner.

She says training with him earned her the required strength to overcome the strong challenge in the American race.

"He takes me through the long runs in a fast but fine pace. I believe the New York race organisers considered my best times in half marathon and having won it in 2011," said Keitany, who completed Form Four at Nairobi's Hidden Talent Academy in 2005.

The New York City Marathon victory certainly put Keitany on the same wavelength with the top guns of marathon running.

She bagged a silver medal at the World Half Marathon Championships in Udine, Italy, in 2007, losing it out to Kenyan-turned-Dutch woman, Lorna Kiplagat, before romping to victory at the IAAF World Half Marathon in Birmingham, England, 2009.

The shy runner lives near Iten town with her husband.

Keitany pays a glowing tribute to road race queens Catherine Ndereba, Susan Chepkemei and Tegla Loroupe. With her rise in stature, she certainly will emulate her great role models.

"People were always praising people like Ndereba and Chepkemei and I need to fit into their big shoes," she said.

Although she had a burgeoning career in athletics, Keitany, 31, participated in school competitions for fun, reaching district level at 5000m while in Standard Seven.

Her running talent bulged out in 2002 when she joined Nairobi's Hidden Talent Academy for her secondary school education, specialising in 1,500 and 5,000m.



## Kipsang clinchs TCS New York marathon

By GPSU

After every major championship or big city marathon, Iten – the Home of Champions – lays out the usual royale reception.

It's the home of immediate world record holder Wilson Kipsang, two-time world champion Edna Kiplagat and New York Marathon winner Mary Keitany.

Edna and Kipsang live 600-metre apart at Mindililwo area on the sidelines of Iten, while Florence Kiplagat, the 21km record holder, lives a kilometre away on the Eldoret-Iten highway.

Kipsang owns Keellu Resort on the Iten-Kaptarakwa road, which is a stone's throw distance from High Altitude Training Centre owned by Lorna Kiplagat, the former world 21km record holder.

Interestingly, the hotel is located in the area where world 21km record has gravitated in recent years.

From Lorna Kiplagat's (66.25) set at World Half Marathon un Udine, Italy then to Mary Keitany (65.50) set in Ras Al Khaimah half marathon United Arab Emirates before Florence Kiplagat lowered it at the Barcelona half marathon to 65.12. The three live within a stretch of 400 metres along Iten-Eldoret highway.

They are nearly one kilometre and train together in Iten and mostly, they share training at Kamariny Stadium, which is 500m away from ultra-modern Lorna Kiplagat Sports academy tartan track.

The grand homecoming fetes befits Iten, which is billed as the world's best athletics training centre slightly better than St Moritz in Switzerland, the Boulder in Colorado and the high altitude camp in Albuquerque in USA.

Kipsang, an alumnus of Tambach High School who qualified to join university but

opted to be recruited into Kenya Police, says academics plays a key role to his athletics success, where physics and biology were his pet subjects in high school.

The 32-year-old runner from Muskut village in the rough terrains of Kerio Valley had his sizzling 2:03.23 mark he set in BWM Berlin Marathon as the world record.

Just like double world 3,000m steeplechase bronze medalist Milkah Chemos, the highly religious Kipsang took up athletics after he was recruited into Kenya Police –and the law enforcement experiences must have honed his wit and running strategy.

"As a police officer, I have learned to gauge and plan my races well. I know going for a world record is quite a heavy task and I am happy my body responses are okay," said Kipsang.

As it is the tradition, global athletics stars normally land at Eldoret International Airport where family members, friends and elite runners are at hand to welcome them back home –with a guard of Mursik (sour milk) and the Kalenjin traditional ornamental plant, Sinendet.

But Kipsang's wife Doreen has always stunned the Germany city when she offered Mursik to her husband in what almost overshadowed the usual victory champagne.

Kipsang, a police officer, says: "I am happy to romp home with victory. I felt good running before my wife and that actually motivated me a lot."

The decision to take sour milk and offer him at the finish line surprised many people and that forced the international media to ask why she could not give him the German milk.

That is not bad for a boy who ventured into athletics when training at Kenya Police College turned out hectic.

"At the college, I just realized opportunities in sports were

quite open. And because I loved athletics, I went for it," said Kipsang.

Upon completing Form Four, the third born in a family of nine began buying potatoes from the outskirts of Nakuru town in Kaptembo and Njoro and transporting it with a bicycle to the Nakuru town market.

"I had to struggle for survival as poverty impoverished our family. But the police was a God send to me," said Kipsang.

After his mandatory nine-month training, he was posted to Kuria District where he served for some time before he was released for full-time training.

He says a police officer's mindset and religious teachings as well as his concepts from science classes have been quite helpful.

"As a police officer, I have learned to gauge and plan my races well. I believe that God guides me well to mix police duties and athletics programmes effectively," said Kipsang.

He said academics largely contribute to the athletics success, with his physics and biology as his high school pet subjects.

"There are tactics an athlete requires in competition. And you must understand mechanism of the human body....This will assist in setting body stability by shading off some body weight, which enables the easy movement of the arms to the required pace in long distance running," he said.

Kipsang, an avid reader of the Bible and human science materials, said: "I usually read them for my own benefit, get to understand stress management and everything that contribute towards success. As a believer, I look at its positive impacts since faith is our driving force."

He also draws inspiration from his biblical verse to propel him to glory. Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."



## Athletics|Kamwosor Homeboy Kimetto snatches record held by county-mate Kipsang

41st BMW BERLIN MARATHON: Dennis Kimetto makes history setting a new world record to win in under 2:03 hours

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Not bad for a man who first burst on to the international scene in 2012 and now, at 30, he is confident that he can have at least another five years at the very top.

“Actually, I think I could still be a very good runner ten years from now, at 40,” he said.

The journey has not been easy, even by the standards of a boy growing up in a family of four brothers and three sisters, and parents who were subsistence farmers near Kapng’etuny Athletics Club.

For much of his childhood, Kimetto had to work on the small landholding rather than attend school. However, when he decided in 2008 to devote time to running, his parents gave him their full support.

“My father said, ‘train as well as you can and go for it, you can change your life,’” said Kimetto.

Training near his home one day, he encountered what had become a familiar sight to young Kimetto: the group led by Geoffrey Mutai, now ranked as the second fastest marathoner (2:03.02).

1:01:30, but the altitude made the performance worth a significantly faster time.

Having become the first man in history to break 2:03 for the marathon and improve Wilson Kipsang’s previous record by 26 seconds, he can now relax a little and contemplate the future.

Kimetto, Mutai and Kipsang are managed by Dutch track and field agent Gerard Van Veen of Volare Sports.

The three have inspired many upcoming athletes, especially in their training base in Kapng’etuny



“Actually, I think I could still be a very good runner ten years from now, at 40

Mutai invited him to join their run that day, liked the look of his stride and asked whether he would take up running.

The move paid off as Kimetto won 11 domestic races in 2011, including the Nairobi Half Marathon, clocking



Kimetto celebrates just before getting to the finish line. He is the new world marathon record holder:

PHOTO: Bmw Group

Athletics Club, which stands out as the training base for marathon trailblazers.

The name Kapng’etuny, incidentally, means “a lions’ den” in Kimetto’s Keiyo mother tongue and has no doubt churned out three world’s fastest marathoners -Dennis Kimetto (2:02.57), Geoffrey Mutai (2:03.02) and Wilson Kipsang (2:03.23).

Mutai persuaded Kimetto to take up athletics becoming one of his pacesetters.

“I knew I had talent and would run around the village for fun. We never had a track in Kamwosor Primary School then,” said Kimetto, a fourth born in a family seven.

Mutai, who has finished second in eight marathons, said he would strive to break the runner-up finish.

Tolgos and AK President Isaiah Kiplagat said Kimetto’s win made Kenya to be synonymous with world records.

“We are proud of what Kimetto did. Not only did he set a new world

Kimetto’s win makes Kenya synonymous with world records

record in Marathon, but ensured that the title remained in Elgeyo Marakwet,” said the governor.

## Kimetto and kiplagat receive global marathon awards

County athletes awarded Association of International Marathons (AIMS) awards second year consecutively



By GPSU

Dennis Kimetto and Florence Kiplagat have received their Association of International Marathons and Distance Races (AIMS) best marathon runner of the year awards at a gala in Athens, Greece.

Kimetto became the first to run a sub-2:03 marathon with his 2:02:57 world record at the BMW Berlin Marathon in September, while

fellow Kenyan Kiplagat broke the world half marathon record with 65:12 in Barcelona in February and followed that up with a runner up spot at the Virgin Money London Marathon in April.

“It is incredibly special for me to receive this prestigious award,” said Kiplagat. “It makes it extra special that I have received it in the spiritual home of the marathon in Greece.

“I am well aware of the 2500 year history of the marathon and I am delighted to feel a small part of it. I would like to thank AIMS for recognising my achievements.”

The winners were selected by AIMS members, made up of over 370 of the world’s leading and most prestigious distance races from over 100 countries and territories.

Kimetto had been named as the only candidate for the male award by the association, while New York City and Chicago Marathon winner Rita Jeptoo had been removed from the list of candidates for the female award following the news that she had failed a doping test in September. This left Kiplagat as the only remaining candidate.

A statement released by AIMS on November 1 read: “AIMS has decided that due to the current circumstances surrounding athlete Rita Jeptoo it is no longer appropriate that she be considered a candidate for this year’s AIMS Best Marathon Runner of the Year Award due to be announced next Friday the 7th of November 2014 in Athens, Greece.”

Last year’s inaugural AIMS Best Marathon Runner Award Gala saw Wilson

Kipsang and Edna Kiplagat receive the honours, with that gala having replaced the AIMS World Athlete of the Year Award which had been presented by AIMS annually to the top male and female athletes since 1992.

Also recognised was the BMW Frankfurt Marathon which won the AIMS Green Award for the event’s “excellent environmental practice”.

The AIMS Social Award went to the Tokyo Marathon for its work raising money for charity, while American marathon executive and magazine publisher George Hirsch received the AIMS Lifetime Achievement Award.

Hirsch (pictured above, left, with – L-R – president and CEO of the Tokyo Marathon Koji Sakurai, Kiplagat, Kimetto and Frankfurt Marathon race director Jo Schindler) was recognised for the “significant role” he has played in the development of the marathon movement, particularly in the USA.

-Athletics Weekly



# Elgeyo Marakwet holds firm grip on marathon world record



By GPSU

**E**lgeyo Marakwet County re-affirmed its status as the world's athletic superpower –with a back-to-back men's world 42km record in the 2014 season.

Dennis Kimetto, who rose from trapping moles in Kamwosor Village in Keiyo South to global fame, stunned the world when he ran a jaw-dropping 2:03.57 time in 42km –becoming the only man to run a sub-2:03 in marathon.

He shattered Wilson Kipsang's record by 26 seconds at the BMW Berlin Marathon last September, sending athletic pundits into speculating whether it's possible for a human being to run 42km under two hours.

Not a mean feat for Kimetto, who did odds jobs such as setting traps in order to flush out moles in people's farms in his rural Kamwosor village in Elgeyo Marakwet County.

When he charged a fee for every mole that he trapped to avoid destruction of crops so as to guarantee residents their food security, the entire villagers never expected that he would one day rise to the pinnacle of global athletics.

His humble background revolved around striving parents who focused on small farming and who realized later that their son was talented in athletics.

That came to pass and, in fact, he momentarily forgot it when boarded a private helicopter back home, where he made a brief stop at Elgeyo Marakwet Governor Alex Tolgos's office then headed to the grand reception in his Kamwosor Village.

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