



KISII

An Official Publication of Kisii County Government



The Home of Soapstone and Bananas

County



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Gallant Sons and Daughters of Kisii

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Kisii Town

Devolution Transforming Kisii County

Together with 12 other counties, we have formed the Lake Basin Region Economic Bloc to spur economic development of our respective counties



H.E. Hon. James E.O. Ongwae, CBS, EBS, OGW,
Governor, Kisii County

It has been an exciting yet challenging journey at the helm of Kisii County Government since we were sworn into office as the pioneer leadership of the devolved county number 45.

Residents bestowed on me the immense responsibility of laying the foundation for the long-term growth of a county with great potential, a county that is on track to transform the lives of its residents as a 24-hour economy.

Kisii has been on a progressive journey through devolution. We have improved education standards and increased funding for bursary to KShs430million to help needy students.

We have recruited over 950 Early Childhood Development (ECD) teachers and built classrooms to lay a foundation for good education for our children.

We have done over 1,000 kilometres of road network and continue to open up more using county-owned construction equipment.

In the health sector, we have hired more medical workers, while hospitals which previously had no doctors, now boast of at least two to three practitioners in the facilities. We have resuscitated theatres in Nyamache, Keumbu, Gesusu and Gucha hospitals.

Further, the county government revamped and upgraded the Kisii Level 5 Hospital to a teaching and referral hospital in collaboration with Kisii University.

We embarked on a major facelift of the facility that included renovation of the kitchen to use gas instead of firewood; establishment of a 10-bed

renal unit to offer dialysis services; installation of state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment like a 16 slice CT Scan, digital x-rays and MRI; increasing the hospital's bed capacity from 450 to 700; and construction of a hostel block. We are now putting up a new 100-body capacity mortuary to replace the current 20-body capacity morgue. In addition, we have put up an administration block for the staff, which has freed space to accommodate the High Dependency and Intensive Care units. Currently, construction works for a KShs2.1 billion cancer centre are ongoing. The project is being funded by the Saudi government and the Arab Bank for International Development.

To increase access to safe, clean water to residents and support agriculture, the county launched a programme to drill boreholes in each of the 45 wards. The boreholes are located in public institutions and fitted with handpumps. The plan is to develop the boreholes into water reticulation schemes to serve residents near the public institutions. So far, 25 boreholes have been drilled.

To empower the county's residents through wealth creation, we have positioned Kisii as an investment destination. This has been expedited through continuous improvement of infrastructure and attracting investors through the Kisii Entrepreneurship Summit, which showcased trade and investment opportunities.

After the summit, we signed three key agreements totalling KShs21 billion. We have signed an agreement with an Indian investor for the establishment of a sugar complex in South Mogirango sub-county. The sugar mill

will have a capacity to crush 5,000 tonnes of cane per day and produce 172,500 metric tonnes of sugar. Additionally, the sugar complex will produce 15 million litres of ethanol and 10 megawatts of power.

Equally in the pipeline is a new Kisii City, which is going to be built in partnership with Chinese investors.

Together with 12 other counties, we have formed the Lake Basin Region Economic Bloc to spur economic development of our respective counties.

Despite the challenges, ranging from disruptive politics to irregular disbursement of funds from the Exchequer, the county has strived to and continues to deliver on its mandate. The Council of Governors however is addressing the challenge of irregular disbursements of funds from the National Treasury.

Overall, Kisii County is an unrivalled investment destination and a key commercial hub for the region. We continue to live the dream of devolution. Join us on this journey.

To empower the county's residents through wealth creation, we have positioned Kisii as an investment destination.

This is the surest way to better serve our people



H.E. Hon. Joash Maangi, MBS,
Deputy Governor

In 2013, the Governor and I took over the mantle of leadership in Kisii County. We sought to put structures in place and promote a good system of governance.

Clearly, devolved governance is the surest way to bring services and resources closer to the people. As pioneer leaders of the County Government in Kisii, we recognise our obligation to maintain the highest standards of service delivery and craft innovative ways to attract investment. Only then can we realise the aspirations

of residents.

I would like to assure the residents of this great County that we are firmly committed to delivering on our mandate. But to do this, we need the support of all stakeholders. I urge that we exercise patriotism and work towards the betterment of our beloved county for present and future generations.

I call upon the County Public Service to strive to discharge their duty with honesty, diligence and accountability to our employer, the public. I also thank the County Assembly and the leadership of Kisii for the spirit of teamwork and dedication, which have been key in the realisation of the achievements we are showcasing today.

God bless Kisii County.



“Devolution means the benefits of growth are reaching many more Kenyans, as achievements in the counties show. Kisii Town has a 24-hour economy following the installation of 300 solar lights.”

H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, CGH
President and the Commander in Chief of the
Defense Forces of Kenya

“By and large, devolution is changing our country in ways few imagined... People are taking control of their destiny. Devolution has come with a new boss; the people. Development is what the people say it should be.”

Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga, EGH
Leader of Opposition - CORD (Coalition for Reforms and
Democracy)



Empowering citizens through self-governance



Hon. Christopher M. Obure, EGH
Senator - Kisii County

The advent of devolution ushered a new dawn in the management of political power and resources in Kenya. The object of this new dispensation was to promote democratic and accountable exercise of power to foster national unity by recognising diversity. Devolution also empowers people to benefit from self-governance and encourages participation in the exercise of powers of the State and in making decisions affecting them. Further, the devolved system of government recognises the right of communities to manage their own affairs and to further their development.

Kisii County is strategically located, with easy access and developed communication infrastructure. Kisii Town has become the commercial and financial hub of the entire southwestern Kenya. With liberalisation and removal of

market and labour restrictions within the East African Community, Kisii is poised to develop strong networks into northern parts of neighbouring Tanzania and the whole of the Lake Victoria region markets.

Kisii is today characterised by one main feature - diminishing land parcels. In an area where land is the principal resource which supports livelihoods, you will appreciate what it means to the people when land sizes are diminishing. This poses an obvious threat to the lives of the people and generations to come. What is required, in my view, is urgent transformation of our way of life, to move away from traditional methods of agriculture and embrace new and modern technologies which will help improve productivity on our smaller land parcels.

This is a huge challenge for us, but it also opens

a window of opportunity for potential investors in the field of agribusiness. By partnering with us, you will be helping us transform our lives, you will be helping our people to achieve higher productivity and earnings from their farms. This direction will lead towards job creation and greater prosperity.

There are numerous investment opportunities in processing and value addition of agricultural produce like tea, coffee, bananas, pyrethrum, milk, avocados, name it. In addition, there are many other opportunities in other sectors such as healthcare, exploitation of natural resources (for example Kisii soapstone), energy generation, water harvesting, and waste recycling and management among others.

Let us join hands as we build our county and offer valuable service to our people.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the Kisii County Government and the Governor for the exemplary work done in entrenching devolution in the county. The gains brought by devolution in Kisii County are evident and numerous. The community enjoys better public participation in decision making processes, besides improved access to resources at the grass-roots level because the organs of government have been brought closer to the people.

The Senate is constitutionally mandated to represent counties. This mandate places the Senate at the heart of efforts to ensure the success of devolution.

The Senate does this by ensuring that county governments are adequately resourced to perform their functions as set out in the Constitution. There has been an increase in the funds allocated to county governments from the national shareable revenue over the past three years from KShs210 billion in 2013/14 to KShs302 billion in the current 2016/17 financial year. The total allocation to county governments as at the end of the current financial year will be KShs1 trillion. The Senate has also, despite many challenges, done its best to oversight county governments to ensure that they

Our dream is to make Kisii great

are accountable for the expenditure of funds allocated to them.

In Kisii County, the equitable share of allocated revenue raised nationally has risen from KShs5,188,303,957 in the year 2013 to KShs7,654,114,597 in the year 2016. I am very pleased to note that this revenue has been utilised properly and key among these achievements are:

Improved health: The transformation of the Kisii hospital into a Teaching and Referral Hospital has improved service delivery in the health sector. I am happy to note that the hospital offers kidney dialysis at the renal unit established by the County Government.

We have also seen tremendous improvements in the care and staffing at our health centres and in maternal child healthcare, including antenatal and postnatal care for pregnant mothers.

Emergency services: In Kisii, there are ambulances and firefighting trucks that never existed before the creation of the county government.

24-hour economy: A street lighting programme

in the county has seen to the installation of streetlights in most of the key towns in the sub-counties. This has improved security and businesses are now operating in a 24-hour economy. The county government, I note, has created more employment opportunities and devolved offices to the wards as per its constitutional mandate to serve our community better. The affirmative fund to the counties has helped small and micro-enterprises and I hope that this can be increased so that more women, youths and persons with disabilities can benefit. It is a fact that women, persons with disabilities and youth are integral to the success of devolution and I urge the county government to address gender inequalities when offering opportunities to spur economic growth.

The county government's initiative to boost investor confidence in various forums is welcome and the Kisii Entrepreneurship Summit as a milestone.

The Senate shall continue to be the guardian angel of devolution in protecting the counties, and that is why we have passed a record of 55 Bills concerning county governments, which



Hon. Janet Ong'era
Senate Minority Deputy Whip

legislation, once enacted, will have the overall goal of transforming and empowering the lives of our people.

Like the Akan Sankofa bird, let us reclaim our rich cultural heritage by remembering our heroes and heroines and the rich heritage of our culture, so that we can move forward in deeply grounded roots as Omogusii to enable us understand why and how we came to be who we are today.



Hon. Mary Otara
Woman Representative

Working to achieve aspirations of Kisii residents

In 2010, Kenyans voted overwhelmingly for a new constitution, marking a new era of transformative government aimed at benefiting Kenyans equitably in all corners of the country. With the new constitution came new levels of government and expanded political representation to ensure the needs of vulnerable groups are also fully catered for.

One such crucial position created by the new constitution is that of County Woman Member of Parliament. My intention as the Kisii County MP is to ensure the realisation of long-term solutions to address challenges that face the people of Kisii. This includes ensuring, through

legislation and policy formulation, that a majority of the population has affordable access to basic needs and rights.

We should not wait for conditions to improve in the county to create opportunities. Instead, we should make that change by contributing as a community to the development of our county's economy.

Therefore, enabling more people of Kisii County to participate in the county's economic growth through a more favorable support environment will generate more social and economic benefits to the economy. There is need to support the people of Kisii County to realise their aspira-

tions as individuals and as a community. This is a priority in my political agenda.

As we work towards development projects, it is important that the people of Kisii County note that I am working towards more initiatives that will create a platform to empower our people. As we improve on what is already in place, let's work towards fulfilling the main objective of devolution, which is to focus on bringing resources to the people by promoting socio-economic development and providing easily and accessible services throughout Kenya.

God bless you all, God bless Kisii County!

Ours is a success story in utilisation of State resources

The Senate determines the allocation of revenue to counties as provided for in Article 217 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010. The Senate also exercises oversight over national revenue allocated to county governments. In line with this mandate, distribution of resources takes cognisance of the role youth, wom-

en and Persons with Disability (PWDs) play in the country. Our role is to ensure this segment of society is taken care of.

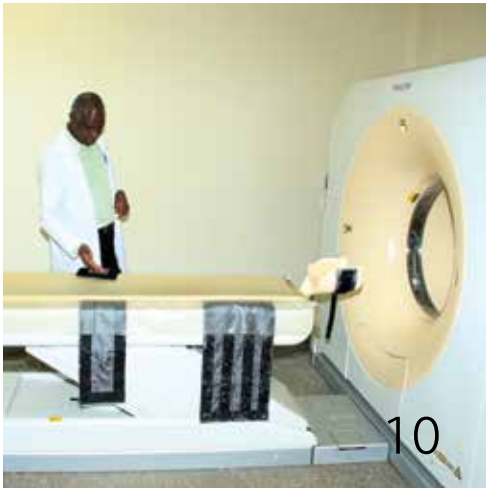
As senators, we participate in the oversight of State officers by considering and determining any resolutions

We want to applaud the Kisii County for being a success story in utilisation of State resources. Regardless of political affiliation, we continue to participate in ensuring that services are economical, efficient and effectively provided to all without fear or favour.



Hon. Hosea Ochwang'i
Nominated Senator

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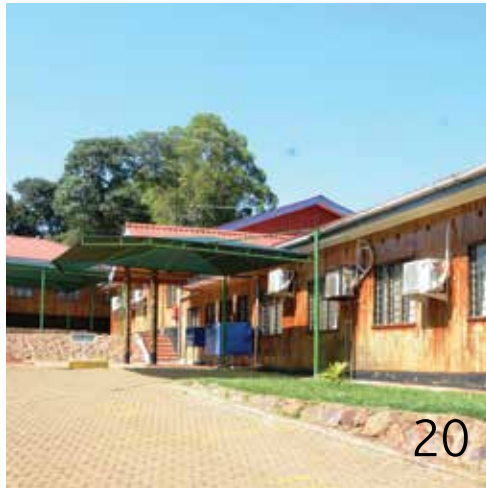
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Assembly

Building a robust legislative institution

The County Government consists of two arms that are distinct but complementary in nature; the Executive which implements the county development agenda, and the Legislature which is vested with the mandate to legislate, represent the electorate and oversight the county Executive and its organs.

As the pioneer Speaker of the Kisii County Assembly, I am proud of the tremendous progress we have made in the last three and half years of devolution.

We have progressively built a robust legislative institution, amid the myriad of challenges that come with devolved units. When we started, the infrastructure in place was wanting. We had to put in place appropriate infrastructure to help us deliver on our mandate.

In exercising its oversight role, the County Assembly continues to actively ensure that the County Executive Committee, all departments and agencies of the County Executive, carry out their mandate effectively in accordance with the

Constitution, national and county laws.

The Assembly has entrenched public participation in the legislative process where citizens give ideas and opinions on bills tabled for debate. In spite of the considerable progress realised so far, a lot has to be done to overcome the existing challenges. Indeed, we have, and continue to collaborate with various development partners as we seek means to address these challenges.



KISII COUNTY ASSEMBLY

The Constitution of Kenya, 2010 buttresses devolution as a system of governance. County assemblies find provision under Article 176 (1) of the Constitution.

The Honourable speaker was elected in the first sitting of the house and thereafter, the County Assembly Service Board was constituted in line with Section 12 (7) of the County Governments Act, 2012.

The house is comprised of 71 members including 45 elected ward reps and 26 nominated to meet constitutional requirements on gender, youth, minorities, marginalised groups and Persons with Disability.

Institutional Framework

The County Assembly Service Board is fully constituted and functional. The Board appointed a substantive Clerk of the Assembly and recruited staff with diverse competencies and skills for all directorates to enhance service delivery. These are:

- Human Resources Management
- Administrative Services
- Chamber and Procedural Services
- Finance and Budget
- Information and Research Services
- Legal and Litigation Services

The committee system

The County Assembly constituted sectoral and select committees as required by the Standing Orders. The committees are fully operational. These include:

- Lands, Physical Planning, Urban Development and Housing Committee
- Health Services Committee
- Labour and Social Welfare
- Children, Culture and Community Services
- Justice and Legal Affairs
- Early Childhood and Vocational Training
- Agriculture Environment, Water and Natural Resources
- Planning, Trade, Tourism and Cooperatives
- Transport and Public Works
- Public Investment and Accounts
- Budget and Appropriations
- Committee on Implementation

There is also a functional and active Liaison Committee that brings together all chairmen of committees that continuously ensures effective coordination of committees' operations.

Mandate

The Assembly's core functions include legislating, oversight and representation. Article 185 of the Constitution and Section 8 of the County Government Act, 2012; spell out the roles of the County Assembly. These are:

- Representation
- Legislation
- Oversight

Milestones

1. Infrastructure development

The County Assembly has put up physical infrastructure to facilitate the effective discharge of the Assembly's mandate. We refurbished and digitised the debating chamber. We have also successfully completed construction of two office blocks and committee rooms, within the County Assembly precincts for Members of the County Assembly (MCAs) and staff. In addition, the County Assembly has constructed an in house cafeteria for members and staff.

2. Human resources

Through the County Assembly Service Board, we have recruited and deployed staff at the headquarters and in all 45 ward offices. Installation and commissioning of Hansard and broadcasting equipment, complemented by a vibrant ICT unit, has made it possible for the County Assembly to accord our stakeholders access to County Assembly proceedings.

3. Support to the Executive

The Kisii County Assembly continues to support the County Executive by ensuring that all County legislation, policies and plans that support the efficient delivery of services, attract investment and support the County development agenda are expeditiously debated, passed and adopted or enacted into Law.

To date the Assembly has successfully debated and passed 36 Bills that have been enacted into Law. Currently, there are 16 Bills at various stages of the legislative process before the County Assembly. We shall endeavour to have these Bills passed and enacted into law by the end of this year.

ASSEMBLY LEADERSHIP



Hon. Protus Moindi
Majority Leader



Hon. Daniel Apepo
Leader of Minority



Hon. Shem Ondara
Deputy Majority
Leader



Hon. Kemunto Machuka
Deputy Majority Leader



Hon. Peter Omari
Deputy Minority
Leader



Hon. Henry Moracha
Majority Whip



Hon. John Ombati
Deputy Majority Whip



Hon. Francis Aburi
Minority Whip



Hon. Robert Siocha
Deputy Minority Whip

Members of Kisii County Assembly



Hon. Vincent Getene Nyatieko Ward Hon. Geoffrey Nyamache Birongo Ward Hon. Catherine Manzi Bomachoge Bassi Ward Hon. Wilfred Monyenye Kisii Central Ward Hon. Timothy Ogugu Magenche Ward Hon. Timothy Nyarango Sengera Bosoti Ward Hon. Joash Orora Masimba Ward Hon. Samwel Onuko Boochi Borabu Ward Hon. Samwel Nyanganya Bobaracho Ward Hon. Samwel Apoko Kiogoro Ward



Hon. Samson Nyagaka Nyamasibi Ward Hon. Sammy Keronche Gesusu Ward Hon. Koina Onyancha Bombaba Ward Hon. Ronald Onduso Getenga Ward Hon. Alfred Onguti Ibeno Ward Hon. Richard Machana Bogiakumu Ward Hon. Reuben Moreka Bogetenga Ward Hon. Albert Oino Chitago Borabu Ward Hon. Pius Abuki Kitutu Central Ward Hon. Phillip Motonu Riana Ward



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Members of the National Assembly



Hon. Stephen Manoti
MP Bobasi



Hon. Joel Onyancha
MP Bomachoge Borabu



Hon. Jimmy Angwenyi
MP Kitutu Chache North



Hon. Manson Nyamweya
MP South Mugirango



Hon. Zebedeo Opore
MP Bonchari



Hon. Elijah Moindi
MP Nyaribari Masaba



Hon. Simeon Ogari
MP Bomachoge Chache



Hon. Richard Onyonka
MP Kitutu Chache South



Hon. Richard Tong'i
MP Nyaribari Chache

Destination Kisii: Explore, invest and prosper

The county's administrative capital, Kisii Town, is a bubbling commercial hub characterised by busy streets where commercial buildings jostle for space. This is indicative of the efforts of hardworking residents and Kisiis in the Diaspora who continue to invest in the local economy

Rolling hills reach dramatically for the sky while their green slopes sweep down to the valleys teeming with vegetation and animal life. The scenic ridges dissected by meandering rivers that drain into Lake Victoria to the west, complement the beautiful landscape that is Kisii County, home to soapstone and bananas.

With a population of an estimated 1.3 million inhabitants and a population density of 997 inhabitants per square kilometre – one of the highest in the country - Kisii County is blessed with a ready market for finished products as well as highly skilled human capital essential for economic growth. By United Nations definition, Kisii County has an urban demography, meaning it is one large urban area.

The county's administrative capital, Kisii Town, is a bubbling commercial hub characterised by busy streets where commercial buildings jostle for space. This is indicative of the efforts of hardworking residents and Kisiis in the Diaspora who continue to invest in the local economy.

Twenty-four commercial banks, 16 insurance

Kisii Town's skyline is changing at high speed with highrise commercial and residential buildings sprouting to meet the high demand for office and residential space.



firms and 14 universities have presence in Kisii Town, pointing to the immense business opportunities that exist in the county. Indeed, statistics from the Central Bank of Kenya in Kisumu indicate that Kisii controls 60 per cent of the money market in the Nyanza region. The hospitality industry has experienced a boom and Kisii Town's nightlife is unrivalled in the region.

Kisii Town's skyline is changing at a high rate with high-rise commercial and residential buildings sprouting to meet the high demand for office and residential space. Situated about 290 kilometres west of Nairobi, Kisii Town is a vital gateway to the western tourist circuit owing to its proximity to niche attractions like Ruma National Park, Maasai Mara Game Reserve and

Kisumu's Impala Sanctuary.

Lying at altitudes of between 1,500 and 1,800 metres above sea level, Kisii County is a haven of peace characterised by hospitable people. It is a melting pot of cultures and religions, where diverse communities live together in peace and harmony. It covers an area of 1,317.5 square kilometres.

The high rainfall received throughout the year has led many to describe Kisii County as God's bathroom. With moderate temperatures all year round, the county is suitable for cultivation of crops like coffee, tea, sugarcane, maize, beans, bananas, as well as livestock farming. The rich agricultural produce from the farmlands is sold

in local, regional and international markets.

One of Kisii County's key attractions is soapstone, a unique rock that has been mined in Tabaka in South Mogirango Sub-County since the 1880s. The rock renders itself for manipulation to make a variety of figurines popular with tourists as curios. Soapstone carvings from Kisii are sold globally, while large sculptures carved out of Kisii Stone adorn major world capitals, including UNESCO headquarters in Paris and the UN headquarters in New York City.

A visitor to the countryside in Kisii County will encounter traditional African rock art at Sameta and Gotichaki hills, with mystical features that can also be found in the Atlas Mountains and in the pyramids of Egypt.

Kisii County has also produced pioneer world-beaters in the field of sports, especially in athletics. It is home to middle and long-distance runners such as Nyantika Mayioro, Charles Asati, Hellen Obiri, Yobes Ondieki and Hezekiah Nyamao.

In order to actualise the vision of transforming Kisii County into a middle income economy, the County Government is keen on leveraging its rich agricultural potential to grow the economy through value-addition by venturing into agro-processing, branding and marketing of high quality agricultural produce.

Devolution is now entrenched as a system of Governance in Kisii. With an elaborate institutional framework in place, the county has laid ground for take off to ensure prosperity for all.

Welcome to Kisii County.

Explore, invest, prosper!



Embracing Public Participation: Citizen engagement in devolved governance

Article 174c of the Constitution provides that one object of devolution is: “to give powers of self-governance to the people and enhance their participation in the exercise of the powers of the State and in making decisions affecting them”. Kisii County is actualizing this provision.



economic development and this is why we have invested heavily in improving our road network over the past three years. However, due to the heavy rains received in Kisii throughout the year coupled with the hilly terrain, the compacted murram roads we have built deteriorate fast. To address this, we have developed a road maintenance policy where we shall use a labour based approach to ensure regular maintenance of roads throughout the year. Using road construction equipment acquired by the County, we have embarked on an ambitious program to open up new roads across the County and so far, we have done about 400km of roads.

The NHIF program was among the campaign agendas in 2013, when is the County Government going to roll out the program? Everline Nyanchema - University student.

The NHIF support program was borne out of a survey conducted in 2013 that revealed that out of the 1.3 million residents of Kisii County, only about 70,000 were subscribed to the scheme. This means majority of our people cannot access quality healthcare. We developed regulations to operationalize the NHIF Support Act, 2014 and set aside KShs.40million to be used in subscribing NHIF for needy and selection of beneficiaries is currently ongoing. We have already formed committees at ward level and the program will kick off in the next two months.



Is the Implementation of the Modern Cancer Treatment Centre project on course? Why has it taken long to have the project implemented yet some donor had shown interest in funding the same? Jared Mekenye - Laboratory Technologists.

A. The project is on course. We plan to establish a KShs.2.1 billion modern cancer treatment centre at the Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital. The processing of project funding for such large funding takes time. The project was being funded jointly by two organizations, - the Arab Bank of Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) and the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD). So far, it is only funding from BADEA that have been secured, but the money has not yet been released.

The contract agreement for finding states that we can only access the funds once both contract agreements have been signed. Once the funds from SFD are secured, then we will be able to access the funds to embark on implementation of the project. SFD have already indicated that they are ready for negotiations so we expect to finalize financing arrangements any time soon.



Do you believe there is goodwill from local leaders to support the county government in implementing development projects? How has politics hampered your development agenda in the past three years? Osoro Okondo-Kuppet Chairman.

A. I would like to indicate that I have a good working relationship with our leaders and we hold regular meetings to discuss matters development in the County. This is because the mwananchi we serve is one and their expectation is service delivery above all other considerations. There may be occasions of negative synergy but this is not unique to Kisii. As a Governor, I have tried to separate politics from development.



What is the status of the Sugar factory that was to be set up in South Mogirango? Is there goodwill from the locals and the County government to have the factory? Meshack Andama

We signed a Memorandum of Understanding with an Indian investor for the construction of a KShs.5billion sugar complex in South Mogirango. Once complete, the mill will have capacity to crush 5,000 tonnes of cane per day and produce 172,500 metric tonnes of sugar. This factory will create jobs for locals besides addressing the marketing challenges of cane farmers. We have already obtained preliminary approvals and locals are continually involved in the process so we have their goodwill.

cially how they relate to the public.

The County has improved terms and conditions of service for health workers, and recently we promoted a number of them who had not been promoted for over 15 years.

As you know, this is a continuous effort because service delivery is nebulous and it depends on the eye of the beholder.

The very fact that we are now able to carry out many diagnostic procedures that were not available before is an indication of improved service delivery.

These procedures include renal dialysis, CT scan, MRI, cervical cancer screening and theatre services, not only at KTRH, but in outlying health facilities. In many of our sub-county hospitals, we now have at least 3 doctors where there were either one of none.



What are some of the projects that you have initiated to boost the youth and help reduce the high unemployment rates in the county? Onesimus Mesesi- Businessman

We appreciate the critical role of the youth in our society. For this reason, we

have mainstreamed youth affairs in our development agenda. We have come up with a policy on youth empowerment and I have already signed into law a bill that allows the County to disburse funds to the youth through the Kisii County Trade Credit Scheme. We work closely with the youth and support their activities. We are also constructing workshops in our sub counties to enhance training on artisan skills,

crafts and technical training which will equip our youth with skills that will enable them contribute to economic development by making them self-reliant.



There is an increase in the number of hawkers and traders along the streets in Kisii Town. Are there plans to have a large space to relocate the traders to allow for humble business space? Richard Nyabwari - Mpesa attendant - Kisii Town.

Yes; the number of traders in Kisii Town has increased over the past three years of our existence as County Government. There are challenges in terms of getting ample space for all traders and as a County Government, we have plans to redress this. Firstly, working with the National Government, we are modernizing Daraja Mbili Market to accommodate more traders. Already, a contractor is on site working on completion of the stalled market building. Secondly, we have built pedestrian walkways and opened up backstreet roads. Additionally, we plan to build markets in the suburbs like Jogoo, Nyanchema, Mwangetinge and Mwembe among other places.

Roads construction has been a major achievement in your five-year term. Have you put in place measures to ensure that these roads are always maintained? Does your government have plans to open more roads across the county? Lameck Mokua.

A. A good road network is essential for eco-



You have spent considerable good amount in improving health services in the county but service delivery is rated lowly. What are some of the measures you have put in place to boost morale among medics? Could you guarantee patients better service delivery in government hospitals within the county? Nancy Kerubo - Medical Practitioner

A. First, service delivery has considerably improved in our health sector. We are having continuous conversations with health workers to ensure that service delivery is improved espe-





Sarah Omache, HSC
CEC Health Services

Improving healthcare services

The county is committed to strengthening primary healthcare in order to prevent both communicable and non-communicable diseases.



Alice Abuki
Chief Officer
Health Services

Health service delivery is a devolved function that is critical in the socio-economic development of Kisii County. The department is mandated to provide county health services, including:

- County health facilities and pharmacies
- Curative and rehabilitative health services
- Ambulance services
- Promotion of primary healthcare

Licensing and control of enterprises that sell food to the public, cemeteries, funeral parlours and crematoria services

The main goal is to improve healthcare services to accord our people the highest possible standard of medical care.

In the Lake Region Economic Bloc, Kisii County heads the health pillar, hence the 40 per cent annual budget allocation to the sector.

Key achievements

Upgrading of Kisii Level 5 Hospital to teaching and referral status

The hospital was constructed in 1916 to treat wounded soldiers during World War I. Following the enactment of the Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital Act, 2014, the hospital was upgraded to a teaching and referral facility in collaboration with Kisii University. It also offers training for Kenya Medical Training College students.

This upgrade means that Kisii County residents will be able to access specialised treatment at lower costs. Being a research centre, Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital (KTRH) will also be able to attract more funding, besides improving healthcare provision due to evidence-based medicine training. The hospital serves a catchment population of about six million people in Kisii, Nyamira, Migori, Homa Bay and parts of Narok, Bomet and Kericho counties.

Equipment

To aid in the diagnosis, monitoring and treatment of medical conditions, the county has invested heavily in the purchase and installation of medical equipment in all health facilities.

(a) Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital

Equipment	Before devolution	After Devolution
Intensive Care Unit (ICU)	None	6*
High Dependency Unit (HDU)	None	3*
Renal machines	None	10
16 slice CT-scan	None	1
Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)	None	1
Image intensifier	None	1
Orthopantomogram machine	None	1
Digital x-ray	None	1

*Number of ICU and HDU beds to be operationalized



A worker inspects the Computerized Tomography (CT) scan machine installed at KTRH to boost diagnostic services.



A health worker inspects the Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine installed at KTRH. It is the first public hospital hospital in western Kenya to offer MRI services.



The County has completed piping to supply oxygen from the plant to all wards at KTRH. Surplus oxygen from the plant is sold to private hospitals and facilities from other counties.



For the first time since 1917, KTRH can now offer kidney dialysis services at renal unit with 10 machines installed by the County Government. The service is subsidized.

Infrastructure development

Since 2013 when the County Government was established, the health sector has undergone a major infrastructure upgrade tremendous growth of infrastructure in our health facilities both at the Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital and other outlying facilities all over county. Some of the projects that have been undertaken include: -

- (a) Completed projects at KTRH
1. Renovation and equipping of the kitchen
 2. Renovation of the laundry block
 3. Carpeting of the car park
 4. Construction of hostel
 5. Construction of oxygen production unit and piping to wards
- (b) Ongoing projects at KTRH
1. New male ward
 2. Ultra-modern mortuary/anatomy laboratory
 3. Construction and digitalisation of new pharmaceutical store.



A hostel block built by the County Government at the Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital. It houses interns and visiting doctors on exchange programmes.



The 100 body capacity mortuary under construction at KTRH. The facility with modern coolers will replace the current 20 body capacity mortuary (inset) and house an anatomy lab as well as a funeral home.



The 250 bed male ward under construction at KTRH. Once complete, it will increase the hospital's bed capacity to over 700.

Human resource

In order to boost the morale of health workers, the county has continually improved their terms and conditions of service through timely promotions, re-designation, capacity building, establishment of a conflict resolution committee, among others. We recently promoted over 1,100 health workers across various cadres. We also absorbed 30 doctors upon the expiry of their internship period. These doctors have been posted to sub-county hospitals. Each of these hospitals now has at least three doctors, where previously there was one or none at all.

The table below highlights the staffing levels before and after devolution.

Cadre	Before devolution	Currently
Doctors	79	161
Nurses	696	900
Clinical Officers	115	235
Ambulance paramedics/operators	None	28
Medical laboratory technicians	46	92
Pharmaceutical technicians	12	36
Medical engineers	6	20
Nutritionists	15	25
Occupational therapists	5	18
Orthopaedic technologists	4	9
Physiotherapists	9	14
Public health officers	30	30
Radiographers	5	10
Social workers	1	13

Preventive and primary Health services

The county is committed to strengthening primary healthcare in order to prevent both communicable and non-communicable illnesses. Focus is on reducing infant and maternal mortality, combating HIV and Aids, and easing the rising burden of non-communicable diseases.

Working with partners, we are upscaling the operationalisation of community units so that we have community health volunteers in every sub-location. These volunteers will visit households and share information on personal hygiene and lifestyle in a bid to prevent communicable and non-communicable illnesses. We have also strengthened collaborations with specialists from various parts of the world to offer much-needed services to our people.

(b) Sub-county hospitals

In the sub-counties, Levels II and III hospitals have undergone infrastructural upgrade through renovation of basic facilities and installation of core medical equipment.

We have identified 31 new facilities that were built through CDF and other agencies in the sub-counties.



Governor James Ongwae (right) inspects a surgical bed after commissioning a theatre complex at Nyamache Sub County hospital.

These facilities have been gazetted and will be operationalised this financial year.

Equipment	Sub-county hospital
Hematology analyser	Marani, Nyamache, Ogembo, Keumbu, Kenya, Gesusu, Iranda
Standard delivery beds	Marani, Nyamache, Keumbu
Baby incubators	Marani, Nyamache, Keumbu, Kenya, Gesusu, Iranda, Nduru
Autoclave machines	Marani, Nyamache
BTL set	Marani
Caesarian sets	Marani
Suction machines	Ogembo, Nduru
Oxygen cylinders	Keumbu, Nduru
Ultrasound machines	Nduru
Biochemistry analysers	Marani, Kenya, Gesusu, Iranda

Now, patients can access theatre services at Gucha, Keumbu, Nyamache and Gesusu sub-county hospitals. Construction of modern theatres is underway at Nduru, Marani and Kenya sub-county hospitals and ultimately, all Level 4 hospitals will have theatre facilities.

At Nyamache Sub-County Hospital, 71 procedures have been done, including 48 caesarean sections and one major surgery; while at Keumbu Sub-County Hospital, 39 surgeries have been done. Plans are also underway to establish others at Marani and Iyabe sub-county hospitals.

Telemedicine

To allow health professionals to evaluate, diagnose and treat patients requiring specialised treatment through the Internet, the Kisii County Government is investing in telemedicine facilities in collaboration with John Hopkins University Hospital in USA and Apollo Group of Hospitals in India to connect KTRH to the sub-county hospitals.

Moving forward, in order to improve and reduce healthcare costs, we will invest more on public health and community strategy so that we can be able to prevent the burden of communicable diseases. This will be achieved by fostering partnership with other sectors and NGOs.



Part of the 10 state of the art ambulances acquired by the County for the emergency ambulatory service. One ambulance is stationed in each of the nine Sub Counties.

Ambulatory services

Prior to the inception of the devolved governance in Kisii County, residents had no ambulatory services. As an intervention, the County Government pioneered the establishment of an Emergency Ambulatory Service, complete with trained emergency medical technicians. Currently, each of the nine sub-county hospitals has one state-of-the-art ambulance. Since it was launched, a total of 9,484 critical cases, among them expectant mothers, have been transferred for specialised care.

Residents can access this service using the emergency response telephone number; **0727600010** that is operational 24 hours a day.

KShs2.1 billion cancer treatment centre in Kisii to benefit millions



Kisii Governor James Ongwae (left) and Treasury Cabinet Secretary Henry Rotich (centre) receive documents from H.E. Yousif Bin Ibrahim, President of the Board of Directors of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) and Director General H.E. Abdelaziz Khelef (right) during the signing of a KShs2.1 billion loan agreement for the establishment of a cancer centre in Kisii. The loan will be repaid in 30 years at an interest rate of one per cent.



Onchari Kenani
Project Manager

“As we await the signing by SFD, the county has already identified a potential site, and set up a project implementation unit to oversee activities prior to the commissioning of the project that will be handed over to the Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital.”
- Onchari Kenani, Project Manager

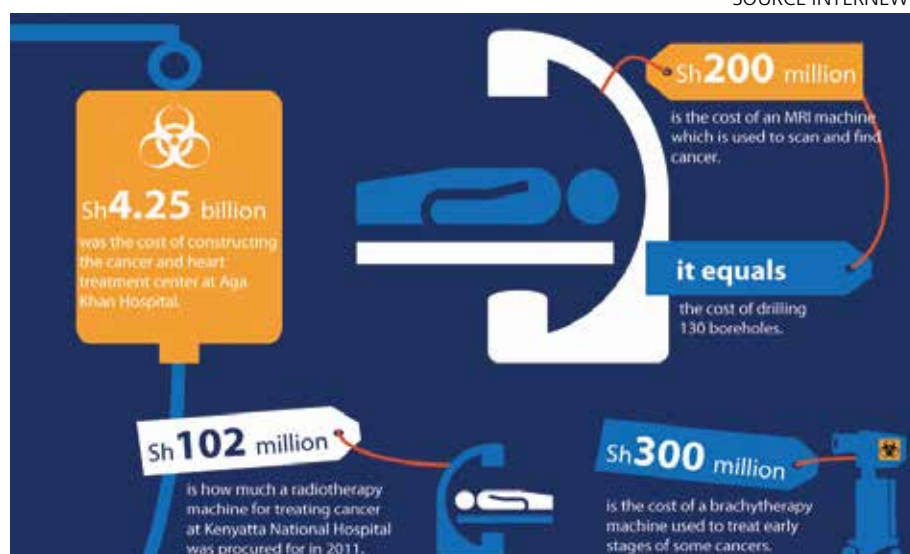
Kisii County is putting up an ultra-modern cancer treatment centre which will go along way in offering treatment services closer home.

Cancer is a leading cause of death globally, and is growing fast in developing countries. Developing countries now account for over two-thirds of all cancer deaths.

Globally, cancer kills more people than tuberculosis, HIV and Aids and malaria combined.

When doctors from India-based B.L. Kapur Specialty Hospital held a one-day free cancer screening at the Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital (KTRH), over 1,700 people turned up and overwhelmed the doctors. Of those who braved the long queues to see the specialists, only 500 were screened, leaving many frustrated. The specialists suspected 20 cases of cancer, while one was confirmed. These patients will have to travel to Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) or overseas in search of treatment and care at very high costs.

This is the reality in many parts of Kenya. It is estimated that there are over 39,000 new



cancer cases in Kenya every year, and the World Health Organisation (WHO) reports that 27,000 of cases are from the western part of Kenya. KNH in Nairobi and the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH) in Eldoret can handle about 9,000 cases per annum, leaving the rest to private centres locally or abroad. Unfortunately, some pa-

tients resign to their 'fate' and wait to die. Accessible and affordable healthcare is a constitutional right for every Kenyan, yet cancer treatment is not available to many, resulting in the 13,720 annual deaths, according to the 2014 Economic Survey.

Patients spend between KShs500 and KShs1,000 per session for radiotherapy

at KNH, while chemotherapy costs between KShs6,000 and KShs600,000 depending on the drugs used. Compared to private facilities like Cancer Care Kenya, it costs about KShs50,000 a week for radiotherapy, and between KShs12,000 and KShs200,000 for treatment, depending on drugs used. This explains why we need more public institutions to offer this critical service.

Confronted by these facts, and in line with Governor James Ongwae's vision to bring health services closer to the residents of Kisii County, the county prepared a project document for setting up a cancer centre in Kisii. Our proposal caught the eye of the Arab Bank of Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), who together with the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD), agreed to co-finance the project to the tune of US\$10 million each (KShs1 billion), while the Government of Kenya will contribute an equivalent of US\$ 2.8 million (KShs280 million).

The loan agreement with BADEA has already been signed, but the SFD loan agreement is still being negotiated. Nonetheless, as we await the signing by SFD, the county has already identified a potential site, and set up a project implementation unit to oversee activities prior to the commissioning of the project that will be handed over to the Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital (KTRH).

The cancer centre will serve an estimated 10 million people in Kisii, Nyamira, Migori, Homa Bay, Kisumu, Kericho and the Transmara region of Narok County.

"This centre will transform healthcare service provision in Kisii and neighbouring counties. It will bring this critical service closer to the people and support Kisii University, with whom we have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of a medical school at the hospital," says Governor Ongwae.

The project is set to commence by April next year and will take 18 months to complete. It will occupy 5,000 square metres of land and will be fully equipped with theatres, four examination rooms, mammograms, an observation ward, waiting rooms, lecture rooms, a control room, two shielded rooms for x-ray, CT Scanner, changing rooms for doctors and staff, an ICU with 12 beds, and patient wards with 40 beds.

The scope of the project includes detailed design and supervision, training and capacity building for medical staff.

"The establishment of the cancer centre in Kisii County will boost early detection of the disease and reduce the cost incurred by patients who have to travel to Kenyatta National Hospital and even abroad for the service," observed said Henry Rotich the Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury during the signing ceremony.

Kisii University Vice Chancellor, Prof. John Akama, welcomed the project, describing it as an innovative and strategic move by the County Government.

"Kisii University will benefit immensely from this project because we will use it in conducting various forms of research on causes of the rising incidence of cancer and how to create awareness on prevention. Through it, we shall attract specialists and funding from international partners," said Prof. Akama.

According to WHO, cancer incidences in Kenya have been rising over the past decade with western Kenya region recording 27,000 cases annually. Of these, 20,000 should benefit from radiotherapy, but many cannot access it, leading to deaths.

Common cancers are; cancer of the cervix, cancer of the breast, cancer of the prostate, HIV related malignancies, cancer of the oesophagus among others.



Governor James Ongwae (left) launches distribution of drugs and pharmaceuticals to outlying health facilities.



The new prefab headquarters of the department of health services at KTRH built by the County Government



The County renovated the kitchen at KTRH to allow for use of gas instead of firewood used previously.



John Omwoyo
CEC Roads and Public Works

Accessibility enhanced with better roads

In order to boost efficiency in road construction, the county purchased road construction equipment, including tipper trucks, graders, excavators, drum rollers and wheel loaders. The equipment is also available for hire to contractors.



Samuel Ongocho
Chief Officer Roads and Public Works

The Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, specifies that the National Government shall be responsible for construction and maintenance of classified roads, while the counties are responsible for the construction and maintenance of rural access roads.

The Department of Roads, Public Works and Transport is responsible for the management of engineering works and services; roads development; maintenance of infrastructure; motor vehicles and heavy equipment.

Key milestones

Enabling legislation

The department has developed the following legislations to support effective service delivery.

- (i) Kisii County Transport Act, 2014 – to streamline the transport system within the county
- (ii) Kisii County Mechanical and Transport Fund Bill – to mobilise resources through hire of plant and machinery

Roads Directorate

As at March 2013, Kisii County had 1,133 kilometres of classified roads and 962 kilometres of rural access roads, out of which 123.8 kilometres were tarmacked and 1,009.2 kilometres were rural access roads. Recognising the importance of a good road network for economic development, the county embarked on opening, gravelling and grading the new rural access roads to boost access to markets and ease transport challenges.

Item	Before devolution (kms)	Current situation (kms)
Tarmacked roads	123.8	130
Gravelled roads	340.2	1,155.2
Earth roads	669	1,359
Total	1,133	2,644.2

The county has constructed 1,505 kilometres of rural access roads, including 815 kilometres of compacted gravelled roads and opening of 690 kilometres of new roads in the sub-counties as illustrated below:

Name	(kms)
Compacted gravelled roads	815
Opened and graded roads	690
Total	1,505

(i) County roads constructed

(ii) Roads rehabilitated

Whereas it's the responsibility of the National Government to develop all classified roads, the county has rehabilitated sections of critical roads within Kisii Town and its environs. The Gusii Stadium – Itierio Primary School Road (6.2 kilometres), a critical bypass that has become dilapidated, is currently being rehabilitated.



The Nyamarambe - Coffee Factory road in South Mugirango Sub County.



Erera-Kenonka road in Kisii Central ward before and after construction by the County Government. Prices of land in the area have plummeted since the road was opened.



Part of the road construction equipment acquired by the County to boost efficiency in the sector. The equipment is available to contractors on hire.

Mechanical Engineering Directorate

In order to boost efficiency in road construction, the county purchased road construction equipment, including tipper trucks, graders, excavators, drum rollers and wheel loaders. The equipment is available on hire to contractors. The county has also pioneered in the labour-based approach, where youth are contracted to undertake works using the road construction equipment. This has allowed for construction of more roads within a short time, thus reducing costs.

Owing to the hilly terrain and heavy rains received in Kisii, the quality of roads deteriorates fast after construction. For this reason, the county has bought the following equipment to support the activities of the department.

Plant and machinery

Item	Before devolution	Current situation (2016)
Graders	1	4
Excavators	None	3
Rollers	None	3
Shovels	None	1
Tipplers	1	5
Total	3	16

Challenges

- Inadequate road reserves leading to conflicts with land owners
- Topographical problems considering that the county is hilly and rocky, hence consuming a lot of resources during construction

Way forward

- There is need to continue embracing labour-based approach to ensure job creation for the county's residents, especially the youth
- The roads that have been constructed need to be maintained



One of the graders acquired by the County works on a road in Kitutu Chache South Sub County. Using the equipment, the County is opening more roads in the Sub Counties.



Dr. Moiro Omari
CEC Water

Availing safe water closer to the people

The County has made efforts to ensure residents have improved sources of water that include protection of springs, drilling of boreholes and construction of water springs, while rehabilitating the existing ones.



Zablon Ongori
Chief Officer Water

The Department of Water, Energy, Environment and Natural Resources derives its mandate from the Fourth Schedule of the Kenya Constitution, 2010, which gives County Governments the constitutional mandate to deliver water and sanitation services. The department executes this mandate through the directorates of Water, Energy and Environment.

Though Energy is not a fully devolved function, the County Government, in partnership with the National Government and other stakeholders, has put in place measures to address energy requirements in the county.

Since the County Government came to power, it has made efforts to ensure residents have improved sources of water that include protection of springs, drilling of boreholes and construction of water springs, while rehabilitating the existing ones.

These efforts have seen the protection of 540 water springs across the 45 wards; drilling of 25 boreholes; distribution of 45 water tanks to primary schools across the county to help in harvesting rainy water and support pupils access safe drinking water; rehabilitation of seven water schemes; and construction of 18 schemes which are ongoing, while 31 are to start in the 2016/2017 financial year.

Key achievements

Enabling legislation

The following legislations have been prepared to support the operations of the Department:

- The Kisii County Public Nuisance Act, 2014
- Kisii County Polythene Bags and Garbage Control Bill, 2015

Rain water harvesting

Although Kisii County is blessed with abundant rainfall and numerous rivers, residents in urban and rural areas experience water shortages. One of the pledges of the Governor in his pre-election manifesto was to promote rain-water harvesting and utilisation as a means of addressing water shortages. In this regard, the county distributed water tanks to two public institutions in each of the 45 wards to encourage and promote rainwater harvesting.



The County launched a spring protection programme to improve the quality of water available to residents.

Spring protection

To improve the quality and quantity of water available to residents, secure water sources for future expansion and reticulation, the county launched a spring protection programme targeting 675 water springs in all 45 wards. So far, 540 springs have been protected, benefitting an estimated 24,300 households in the county.



Drilling of boreholes

To increase access to safe, clean water to residents and support agriculture, the county launched a programme to drill boreholes in each of the 45 wards.

The boreholes are located in public institutions and fitted with handpumps.

The plan is to develop the boreholes into water reticulation schemes to serve residents near the public institutions. So far, 25 boreholes

have been drilled (Boochi Tendere, Ibeno, Boochi Borabu, Bogeka, Nyamasibi, Machoge Bassi, Keumbe, Tabaka, Moticho, Boitenga, Bogetario, Kiamokama, Gesusu, Nyamasibi, Boguserio, Nyakoe, Kitutu Chache, Nyatieko, Bobasi Central).

Water schemes constructed and rehabilitated

To increase access to potable water and reduce the distance covered to access water from three kilometres to one kilometer, the county



embarked on rehabilitation and construction of water schemes.

So far, seven water schemes have been rehabilitated (Getenga, Suguta, Amasago, Igoma, Rioma, Riosiri, Mosora) and construction of 18 new water schemes is underway.

Energy

To operationalise water reticulation schemes and expand electricity connectivity, the county has partnered with National Government agencies to provide power supply. The county has connected 834 facilities with power in the last three years. Among the facilities connected are 505 primary schools, 27 health facilities and 45 households.

Since the County Government came to power, it has made efforts to ensure residents have improved sources of water that include protection of springs, drilling of boreholes and construction of water springs, while rehabilitating the existing ones.



A tree seedling nursery operated by a youth group near Storm Hotel in Kisii Central Ward.



Governor James Ongwae commissions Mosora Water Project in Bobasi Sub County. The County is reviving stalled water projects and building new ones.



Dr. Kodek Omwancha
CEC Finance

Ensuring prudent financial management

‘ In compliance with the advisories issued by the National Treasury from time to time, the department has fully implemented the use of Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) and e-procurement component in its financial management operations.



Wilfred Auma
Chief Officer Finance

The Department of Finance and Economic Planning derives its mandate from the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, the Public Financial Management Act, 2012 and County Government Act, 2012.

The department is responsible for monitoring, evaluating and overseeing the management of public finances; planning of economic affairs and policy formulation; implementing financial and economic policies; preparing and co-ordinating the implementation of the annual budget; mobilising resources for funding the budgetary requirements and managing the County Government's public debt; providing technical and operational support for ICT systems and infrastructure and procurement of goods, works and services for the county.

Key achievements

Enabling legislation and policy documents

The department has developed the following policy documents and legislation to guide the implementation of its operations:

1. The County Integrated Development Plan, 2013 – 2017
2. The County Emergency Fund Act, 2016
3. The Revenue Administration Act, 2014
4. The County ICT Roadmap 2015-2020
5. Annual development plans
6. County fiscal strategy papers (annually)
7. The annual budget
8. Finance Act (annually)
9. The Debt Management Strategy Paper (annually)

Procurement

Following an advisory from the National Treasury that Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPOs) certificates be issued at the county level, the department established an AGPO desk in January, 2015 at Huduma Centre. To date, over 200 certificates have been issued to disadvantaged groups in the categories of general supplies, provision of works and services, health services and consultancy services.

e- Government

The department, in compliance with the various advisories issued by the National Treasury issued from time to time, has fully implemented the use of Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) and e-procurement component in its financial management operations. This has led to an improvement in financial decision-making and efficient and effective delivery of financial services.

Revenue automation

In a bid to bolster revenue mobilisation and management, as well as widen the revenue base, the Directorate of Revenue has identified more revenue streams and is in the process of automating revenue collection. The procurement process for automation of revenue collection is on and the system will be introduced by September 2016.

ICT services

As part of setting up the governance structures for the County Government, there was need to set up an ICT directorate to provide the county departments with the necessary information technology infrastructure and services in the discharge of their mandates. In view of this, the department has implemented the following projects that have enhanced communication and sharing of information among the county departments and the external clients.

ICT completed projects

Going forward, the County Treasury will continue to put in place appropriate measures to improve service delivery. These measures include continuous training and capacity building of staff to enhance their reporting capability, developing and enforcing cost benchmarks for the procurement of goods and services, monitoring of budget implementation, carrying out regular value-for-money audits and allocation of scarce resources to the county's strategic priorities.

The department will also continue investing in information technology in a bid to improve access to information and timely decision-making.



Governor James Ongwae(right) and speaker Kerosi Ondieki (left) are shown how the automated revenue collection system works. The County has finalized plans to roll out automated revenue collection for all streams.

Name of Project	Objective
Installation of structured Local Area Network and Wi-Fi infrastructure	To improve connectivity, access to information and services offered over computer networks
Equipping county offices with end-user ICT equipment and devices	To capacitate staff with necessary equipment and materials required to perform their functions
Establishment of county data centre and network operation center (NOC)	To provide infrastructure for hosting all county ICT systems
Establishment of modern computer training/information centre	To improve digital literacy among staff and county residents
Installation of county IP-based telephony system complete with E1 integration	To provide cost effective reliable communication platform for both internal and external clients
Deployment of County Active Directory and Unified Threat Management Solution	To provide secure access and management of all ICT resources and services; and ensure security of data.
Installation of IP-based surveillance/CCTV system	To provide real-time security monitoring within and around County Government offices
Development and implementation of county Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) system	To manage online registration of youth, women and persons with disability in implementing the 30 per cent procurement rule



The modern ICT laboratory installed by the County at the Kisii Agricultural Training Centre.



The County Government has set up a one stop shop desk at Huduma Centre to boost e-government service delivery to the people. On the right is the modern server room.





Making devolution deliver for Kisii residents

“The county government is cognisant of the fact that unless we invest in the potential of the youth and women, we will not achieve real development that benefits everybody in future - **Governor Ongwae**”



Q. You were elected four years ago on a platform of making devolution a reality. Do you think devolution is working for the people of Kisii and Kenyans in general?

A. Yes. Devolution is working. Devolution is a reality and it is here to stay. Devolution has really been beneficial to the people of Kisii. There has been a marked improvement in the devolved functions such as water, health services and roads. Examples of development in these areas abound and people can see for themselves. I can categorically state that devolution has succeeded and will succeed even more in the years to come.

Q. During your campaigns, you unveiled your manifesto on how you would serve the people of Kisii County if elected. Have you translated your manifesto into reality?

I can say with certainty that tremendous progress has been made in actualizing my campaign manifesto. Education has improved greatly in Kisii. We were the first county to hold an education stakeholders' conference that brought together renowned scholars, both local and international, to Kisii to deliberate on issues that affect the sector. I formed a taskforce comprised of all stakeholders to implement the recommendations from this conference. Over the last three years, we have disbursed KShs430 million in bursaries to needy students. This year, our bursary allocation is KShs240 million.

We have also recruited Early Childhood Development (ECD) teachers, built ECD classrooms, and absorbed youth polytechnic tutors who were not being paid by the national government to improve the area of education within the context of my mandate. In the area of staffing in the health sector, I have recruited more medical staff, while hospitals that had one doctor or none at all, now have between two and three doctors. When we came in, a number of hospitals didn't have theatres. We have resuscitated theatres at Nyamache, Keumbu, Gesusu and Gucha hospitals.

In my manifesto, I pledged to initiate strategies to create employment for our people. The county however cannot just be driven by creation of employment, but rather by offering an enabling environment for businesses to thrive. Kisii Town is now a 24-hour economy with thriving enterprises.

Q. You have been praised for turning around the former Kisii Level 5 Hospital to a teaching and referral hospital. What kind of facelift has your government given to the hospital?

When the Kisii County Government came into power in 2013, the hospital was in a dilapidated state with poor infrastructure, patient congestion and lack of proper working equipment and general staff apathy.

We immediately embarked on addressing these challenges for better service delivery. Firstly, we collaborated with Kisii University to elevate the hospital to a teaching and referral facility. We embarked on a major facelift, including renovation of the kitchen to use gas instead of firewood, establishment of a 10-bed renal unit to offer dialysis services, installation of state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment like a 16 slice CT Scan, digital x-rays and MRI, increasing bed capacity from 450 to 700, and construction of

a hostel block. We are putting up a new 100-body capacity mortuary to replace the current 20-body capacity morgue. Further, we have put up an administration unit to house staff and this has freed space to accommodate the High Dependency and ICU units.

Establishing a medical school will bring specialist services close to the people and allow for research. We also developed a concept paper which has enabled us get funding from the Saudi government and the Arab Bank for International Development to put up a KShs2 billion cancer centre in Kisii. There is going to be continued major improvements in health services. We didn't have specialists before, but now we have seven specialists in all medical practices.

Q. How about infrastructure? What are some of the key successes in this area?

A. I had indicated that I would improve the road network in Kisii. As we all know, there has been a disagreement over the roads to be handled by county governments and those under the national government. It has taken us a long time to know which roads belong to us. It is only recently that the National Government released county roads to us, but this was not accompanied by the release funds for these roads. The National Government still retains funds for the roads that they have released to us. This notwithstanding, we have been able to open up the road network within the County. In the first year, we did over 500km of road and we continue to open up more roads and ensure they are usable even during the rains. Our first intervention was to purchase road construction equipment. We have also put up our own office structures at the headquarters and at the Sub Counties.

Q. The Kisii Entrepreneurship Summit (KES 2016) was hailed as a huge success. What exactly did you achieve at the KES 2016? How many trade deals did you sign during the summit and what is the status of these agreements?

The Kisii Entrepreneurship Summit was a huge success and one of its kind in the region. The summit accorded us an opportunity to showcase trade and investment opportunities in Kisii County to local, regional and international investors who were in attendance. It also provided a mentorship opportunity for our budding entrepreneurs through interaction with established entrepreneurs.

In the aftermath of the summit, we have been able to sign three agreements totalling KShs21 billion. We have signed an agreement with an Indian investor for the establishment of a sugar complex in South Mugirango Sub-County. The Sugar mill will have a capacity to crush 5,000 tonnes of cane per day and produce 172,500 metric tonnes of sugar. Additionally, the sugar complex will produce 15 million litres of ethanol and 10 megawatts of power.

We also signed an agreement with a Chinese investor for the establishment of a new city in Kisii. The firm will offer low-cost housing solutions to the South Nyanza region and create 10,000 new jobs in the area. In ICT, leading voice, data and IP provider, Liquid Telecom, will invest KShs6 billion in connectivity projects. This includes connecting the county government with its devolved units, metro Wi-Fi in Kisii Town and interconnectivity with Isebania along the Kenya-Tanzania border.

Q. What are your priority projects this financial year?

A. The priorities for this financial year are:

Infrastructural development: Adequate allocation of resources in roads, transport, public works, energy, sewerage system, market development and information and communication technology (ICT) programmes. This will reduce the cost of transport, promote competitiveness, open up business opportunities for our people, and facilitate faster and more inclusive county development. The projects will also help in employment creation and poverty reduction.

Water reticulation: Provision of equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for county residents through construction of water schemes, drilling of boreholes and spring protection.

Healthcare: Equipping Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital, while expanding and stabilising existing sub-county health facilities to facilitate accessibility of health services to our people. We will also purchase enough drugs and recruit enough health personnel in our healthcare systems, with a view to building a healthy and productive human resource base that we need for driving our county development agenda. We will also ensure adequate social safety net for our vulnerable groups.

Social protection: This is intended to open up opportunities to tap the latent talents and entrepreneurial capabilities of our youth, women and persons with disability by encouraging them to form groups and be assisted to start income-generating activities.

Further, Kisii County has pioneered in starting a National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) subscription for the poor and marginalized across the county. Through the Kisii County NHIF Support Act, 2015, we have set aside KShs.40 million to pay the NHIF subscriptions for those unable to access medical care within the County. Now the poor and elderly will be supported through NHIF subscription (social protection) to enable them actively participate in our county's development agenda. Identification of beneficiaries is ongoing as stipulated in the Act.

Economic development: We will work on developing markets to enhance revenue collection, besides providing security for traders and their properties. We will also promote food security and generation of farm income through intensified information management for the agricultural sector and enhancement of extension services through integrated efforts towards improvement of both crop and animal husbandry.

Q. Many counties inherited administrations with bloated staff from the defunct local authorities. This excessive work force has negatively impacted on county expenditure because of the huge wage bill. Are you facing the same problem in Kisii and how have you handled it?

A. When we took over, we had three cadres of staff - those from the National Government, those from the defunct local authorities, and the officers that we employed. The bulk of the staff were from the local authorities. According to the Employment Act, you cannot remove any worker from employment. However, some of them require retraining because some of the services they were offering - like in revenue - were manual and we have since gone digital. We partnered with the National Government to come up with the Capacity Assessment and Rationalisation Programme, in which I happen to be the co-chair at the Council of Governors level.

This programme is meant to ensure staff rationalisation in national and county Governments.

We now have resources in the budget for the rationalisation programme and hope that counties will be able to do this.

Q. What is your working relationship with your fellow governors, especially those from Western Kenya? Do you have a forum where you discuss issues affecting the region?

A: My working relationship with fellow governors is excellent. At the Council of Governors level, I have been appointed as the chair of the Human Resources, Labour and Social Welfare Committee. This is a very important committee charged with what is considered the most important factor of production, which is human capital. I am humbled by the confidence bestowed upon me by my fellow governors, which testifies to my good working relationship with them. At the regional level, our cordial working relationship has also seen us form the Lake Basin Region Economic Bloc to spur economic development of our respective counties.

Initially, the bloc consisted of the 10 counties of the former Nyanza and Western provinces; (Bungoma, Busia, Homa Bay, Kakamega, Kisii, Kisumu, Migori, Nyamira, Siaya and Vihiga). Three other counties (Bomet, Kericho and Trans-Nzoia) later joined the bloc, which now has a membership of 13 counties. These counties share not only vastly similar ecological zones and natural resources, but have similar cultural histories that date back to pre-colonial times.

In the wake of devolution, the governors of the 13 counties took a bold step to come together to harness the abundant natural resources of the region and benefit from economies of scale. We have identified the main economic pillars for spurring economic growth and allocated these to various counties based on their comparative advantage. Kisii County, for example, is in charge of the Health pillar. When as a bloc we negotiate for sectoral funding, we will allow more resources to go to the county in charge of a particular pillar.

We have also sought partnerships with various local and international agencies to support our development agenda and have received encouraging responses, which we will soon unveil.

We are grateful for the support we have received from Deloitte East Africa, who partnered with us in preparing the economic blueprint which was launched by H.E. the President during the Second Devolution Conference in Kisumu in 2015.

Q. How about your relationship with Kisii leaders - the Senator, MPs and MCAs?

A. I would like to indicate that I am friends with Kisii leaders even though as expected in politics, sometimes we may not agree on certain issues. In matters development, the mwananchi we serve is one.

Q. Do you hold any position at the Council of Governors? How have you used this position to improve devolution?

A. As the chairman of the Human Resources and Social Welfare Committee of the Council of Governors, I was instrumental in ensuring the setting up of a proper institutional framework

in the counties.

I was also involved in advising all counties on staffing modalities. I was the one who recommended the staffing and the type of cadres that governors needed to recruit. Working closely with the Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC), I was involved in setting up the salary structure for the new cadres of staff who came in after devolution. At the moment, I am closely involved in ensuring counties have a superannuation scheme and other human resource benefits.

Q. What are your plans for the youth, women and people with disabilities in Kisii?

The county government is cognisant of the fact that unless we invest in the potential of the youth and women, we will not achieve real development that benefits everybody in future. We are committed to the empowerment and improvement of the lives of our youth and women. We are opening up opportunities to tap the latent talents and entrepreneurial capabilities of our youth, women and persons with disability, by encouraging them to form groups and be assisted to start income-generating activities.

We are also directing resources towards the promotion of sporting activities and expansion of youth polytechnics in order to ensure sustainable youth empowerment. We are also constructing workshops in our sub-counties to enhance training on artisan skills, crafts and technical training, which will equip our youth with skills that will enable them contribute to economic development by making them self-reliant. Bursaries are also being given to needy students in all the wards.

In order to empower the most vulnerable members of society, we have set aside resources for affirmative action interventions to help people with disability and youth development to enable them actively participate in our economic transformation agenda. We are the only county that has acquired a card printer to be used in the identification and registration of persons with disability, which is a milestone as counties in the Western region can access this facility in Kisii.

Q. Kisii County is home to massive deposits of raw materials for the soapstone industry. How has this industry impacted on the economy of Kisii and what big plans do you have for the industry?

A. Kisii County is the only county with this rare rock. Soapstone renders itself for manipulation to make figurines. It can also be used to make ceramics, talc powder, paint and other products. We have written to the Ministry of Industry to help us get an investor to ensure we engage in value addition. We look forward to a day when we won't have to export soapstone as a raw product or as figurines. Currently, we have allowed investors who are doing minor value addition like the manufacture of kaolin powder.

Q. Industrialisation is key to achieving Kenya vision 2030. How fast is Kisii being industrialised?

A. The existing industries in the county comprise

manufacturing industries, bakeries and jua kali associations. There is also great potential for industries like soapstone, chalk making, hospitality, brick making, tea factories, fruit processing, sugar factories and vegetable processing.

The informal sector in the county provides employment opportunities for an estimated 60 per cent of the county population, contributing about 70 per cent of household incomes. The activities in the sector include, jembe making, repair and metal fabrication, furniture making, dressmaking, hairdressing etc. The sale of second-hand clothes has spread throughout the county and is employing a substantial number of residents. This sector has high potential for development and a big and ready market.

We have recognised the critical role that can be played by the private sector and development partners in the mobilisation of resources towards industrial development and therefore, we are using the public private partnership model to accelerate development so as to create jobs and spur county development. We are also in touch with development partners for the same. Recently, we held the entrepreneurship summit where we showcased our resources and provided an opportunity to link local regional and international investors.

Q. What are some of the challenges facing devolution today and how can they be tackled?

A. The challenges facing devolution are many and varied. The biggest challenge is that governors had to fight to ensure that devolution is accepted. There were political challenges as well that unfortunately were advanced to some extent by the media. For instance, about four months into devolution, we were already dealing with complaints that there was nothing tangible to show for devolution! It is only now that people are seeing the fruits of this new system of governance. Resources that are allocated to the counties are not enough in relation to the functions we have been given. This financial year, no county got its 12th month remittance of resources. In Kisii for instance, the National Treasury remained with over KShs700 million that is due to the county government. This essentially means that counties end up with debts they cannot pay.

The other issue is on staffing. We are in dilemma about what to do with the excess staff whom we cannot declare redundant. Another challenge is the classification of roads. Devolution, as per Schedule 4 of the 2010 Constitution, envisioned clear transfer and classification of roads. Three years down the road, the National Government is yet to decentralise this function.

Another challenge is on devolution of the health function. Increased responsibility due to devolution typically lies with counties, and the Ministry of Health should therefore have minimal responsibility in the sector. This has not been fully adhered to by the National Government. Funding of the health docket at the national level is still very high, and this means that counties have to contend with limited resources, which have continued to hamper services.

Q. Why should the people of Kisii vote you back to office in 2017?

A. The people of Kisii will vote me back because first and foremost, I am serious about what I am doing. I believe in working for the people of Kisii County. I have depoliticised the office of Governor in Kisii County and this is clear in the development projects I have initiated. Secondly, the people of Kisii are extremely intelligent and are able to evaluate good leadership.

The Kisii Entrepreneurship Summit was a huge success and one of its kind in the region. The summit accorded us an opportunity to showcase trade and investment opportunities in Kisii County to local, regional and international investors who were in attendance. It also provided a mentorship opportunity for our budding entrepreneurs through interaction with established entrepreneurs.





Vincent Sagwe
CEC for Agriculture

Championing innovative agriculture

The overall objective is to transform the sector from subsistence to a modern, innovative and commercially viable industry through value addition, branding and marketing



Samwel Mogeni
Chief Officer Agriculture

As outlined in the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, the following functions and powers are assigned to counties in the agricultural sector:

- Crop and animal husbandry
- Livestock sale yards
- County abattoirs
- Plant and disease control
- Fisheries

The overall objective of the department is to transform the sector from subsistence to a modern, innovative and commercially viable industry. The department envisions promoting food security and self-reliance through sustainable agricultural growth for employment and wealth creation.

Focus is on implementing agro-processing, improving availability of quality agricultural inputs like seeds, fertilizer and pesticides through subsidies; improving agricultural marketing for produce; improving agricultural extension services; and improving governance in the area of cooperatives.

Key achievements

Enabling legislation

The department has formulated eight pieces of legislation to support the implementation of its mandate:

- Kisii County Science and Technology Park Act, 2014
- Kisii County Animal Disease Control Act, 2013
- Kisii County Plant Health Act, 2013
- Kisii County Abattoirs Act, 2013
- Kisii County Animal Welfare Act, 2013
- Kisii County Livestock Act, 2013

Directorate of Crop Production

Achievements by this directorate include:

(a) Greenhouse demonstration kits

Due to diminishing land sizes, traditional agricultural practices are no longer tenable. The county is encouraging the use of greenhouses and has established a greenhouse demonstration centre at the Agricultural Training Centre. A total of 45 greenhouses were distributed, one for each ward.



(b) Modernised extension by incorporating e-agriculture

Agricultural extension services are critical in the sector. However, there are challenges regarding staffing and lack of equipment, especially in the dairy sub-sector. To address this challenge, the department has adopted Information and Communication Technology (ICT) through e-agriculture.

Technical material has been uploaded to the county's website and plans are underway to launch a bulk SMS platform to enable farmers access extension services on their mobile phones through a digital farm service. The county has established a modern ICT laboratory at the Agricultural Training Centre to support this initiative to enhance sustainable agricul-

tural development and food security.

(c) Provision of farm inputs

To increase food production and boost the income of farmers, the county introduced a subsidised inputs programme through which 10,000 farmers received certified maize seed, planting and topdressing fertilizer.

(d) Tissue culture banana

To encourage the cultivation of tissue culture banana that is early-maturing and disease-resistant, the county procured and distributed 5,500 tissue culture suckers to farmers in all 45 wards to promote food security and income generation.



(e) Soil testing and sampling kits

Due to declining soil fertility that experts attribute to continuous application of fertilizers rich in nitrogen, soil testing is recommended to get the right advice on fertilizer to apply, and the type of crops to cultivate. Previously, farmers had to take samples to agricultural research centres and wait for days to get results. The county procured and distributed soil testing and sampling kits in all 45 wards. Farmers collect samples and have tests conducted at the ward level. The kits give fast, accurate and reliable soil fertility status, especially PH levels.

(f) Support for the construction of Sombogo Tea Factory

The area tea farmers have been experiencing losses due to distance covered to the nearest tea processing factories. As an intervention measure, the county government has allocated KShs30 million as support to farmers, to allow for the construction of a tea factory.



(g) Construction of an avocado factory

Avocado is a nutritious fruit cultivated in nearly every home in Kisii County, with great potential for income generation. Unfortunately, farmers



Mr. Elijah Moindi inspects his avocado farm at Nyambunwa in Bomachoge Borabu Sub County. The County distributed free seedlings of the hass variety of avocado that is early maturing and has a high oil content.

have been losing earnings through middlemen who export the fruit to countries like South Africa.

To ensure farmers reap from this produce, the county licensed an investor to put up an avocado-processing factory in Kisii. The investor established a manufacturing plant and exported the first batch of 30,000 metric tonnes of avocado oil to Mexico for the cosmetic industry.

However, due to environmental concerns arising from the factory's location in the middle of town, production was stopped. The county is building a multipurpose, value-addition site at the Agricultural Training Centre and construction work is 70 per cent complete.

The county has organised farmers into a cooperative and distributed free seedlings of early-maturing Hass variety of avocado that has high oil content.



(h) Construction of a sugar factory

Following the successful hosting of the Kisii Entrepreneurship Summit (KES 2016), the county has signed an agreement with an investor for the construction of a sugar complex in South Mogirango sub-county. The sugar complex will crush 5,000 tonnes of cane per day and produce 172,500 metric tonnes of sugar, 10 megawatts of power, and create more than 10,000 direct and indirect jobs. Additionally, it will produce 7.5 million litres of ethanol. It will be the second largest sugar factory in Kenya after Mumias Sugar Company.

(i) Revival of the coffee sector

The coffee sector has over the years been marred by challenges at the farm level, production, processing and marketing. The county has

22 coffee factories that need to be modernised in order to enhance efficiency and effectiveness. A taskforce set up by the county has finalised its recommendations in areas of value-addition and branding, financial management and controls, governance challenges, management of assets and liabilities, and production and processing. Most of the recommendations have been implemented and it's envisaged that the gains will be realized soon.



Directorate of Fisheries

With diminishing land sizes, the county is encouraging farmers to diversify their agriculture and adopt fish farming as a means to wealth and employment creation and improved nutrition.

To support this venture, the County Government constructed 131 fish ponds and distributed free fingerlings to farmers in all the 45 wards.

Through the directorate, the county has identified suitable sites and encouraged farmers to start fish farming. Extension officers are on hand to provide technical advice to farmers.

Planned projects by the directorate include:



Governor James Ongwae (second from left) hands over a solar drier to a farmer group. The driers were distributed to farmer groups in each of the 45 wards to facilitate value addition especially to local vegetables.



Governor James Ongwae hands over fish fingerlings to a fisheries officer during the launch of a fish pond at Suneka Primary School.

- Completion of the Fish Multiplication Centre
- Construction of more fish ponds in all the 45 wards
- Equipping of multiplication and demonstration centers at Tendere
- Completion of construction of fish markets and a cold storage facility at the Kisii market



Some of the rabbits distributed to farmer groups in empowerment initiatives.

The department envisions promoting food security and self-reliance through sustainable agricultural growth for employment and wealth creation.

Directorate of Livestock Development

The livestock sub sector employs about 60 per cent of the agricultural labour force in the county.

It also contributes significantly to the local economy as a source of food and income. The County launched a dairy commercialisation programme aimed at increasing earnings from the sub sector. Below are some of the directorate's achievements:

(a) Dairy goats

The county distributed 179 dairy goats to farmer groups in all the 45 wards. Dairy goats are ideal for farmers with small land sizes.

(b) Improving extension services

The county procured and distributed 20 motorcycles to facilitate the mobility of agricultural extension officers at the grassroots.

(c) Livestock disease control

The county successfully conducted vaccination campaigns against foot and mouth disease (14,896 animals were vaccinated), lumpy skin disease (7,509 cattle were vaccinated) and rabies (214 dogs vaccinated).

(d) Poultry farming

To promote poultry farming, the county distributed 11,018 local poultry as breeding stock to over 6,000 farmers. To nurture entrepreneurship skills among school pupils, the county partnered with Innovation Empowerment Project to distribute 2,250 hens and cages to school children. A total of 20,000 doses of poultry vaccine were also issued to farmers.

(e) Cooperatives development

Before 2013, the cooperatives sector was plagued by governance issues and low earnings. Through an aggressive capacity building programme initiated by the county, the sector has registered tremendous growth in membership, share capital and assets, and is on its way to recovery.

(f) Agricultural Training Centre

The Agricultural Training Centre was handed over to the county government in March 2014 through legal notice number 33. The county has set aside funds to construct a retreat centre and additional hostels to facilitate the training of farmers and staff.

Our dream is to see our farmers increase productivity from their livestock and earn more money. Our dairy farmers face many challenges including high cost of semen and exploitation by unscrupulous AI service providers. We have introduced this service following a needs assessment and public participation

- Governor Ongwae



Governor James Ongwae flags off Artificial Insemination (AI) technicians during the launch of the subsidized service. to improve the dairy herd.



Subsidized Artificial Insemination (AI) to improve the dairy herd

The County Government unveiled a subsidized artificial insemination (AI) service to improve dairy breeds for milk production.

Dairy farmers now access the service at a cost of KShs.500 down from KShs3, 000 charged by private service providers. Farmers access this service through AI technicians stationed in each of the 45 wards who are available on call 24 hours a day. The County plans to set up a call centre where farmers will access extension services.

During the launch, Governor James Ongwae underscored the need for breed improvement to increase productivity and control animal diseases.

"Our dream is to see our farmers increase productivity from their livestock and earn more money. Our dairy farmers face many challenges including high cost of semen and exploitation by unscrupulous AI service providers. We have introduced this service following a needs assessment and public participation," noted Ongwae.

He noted that his government is committed to improving dairy breeds noting that the County's milk production was low.

The Governor called on farmers to shun the culture of using bulls for breeding saying this contributed to the spread of diseases.

"We are committed to improving livestock production and veterinary services in the County. I call on farmers to monitor the programme to ensure it meets the intended objectives. All a farmer needs to do is to monitor their animals and contact the ward AI service provider who will be available on call 24 hours a day for consultation and service," said Governor Ongwae.

He said all served animals will be tagged at a subsidized cost of KShs.100 per head followed by registration of their progeny in the Kenya Stud Book.

In the same vein, the National Government through the Deputy President William Ruto, has committed support this programme by establishing a liquid nitrogen plant in Kisii.

"I commend Kisii County for its efforts in lowering the cost of AI services. Use of high quality seed is the only way we can improve the production of meat and milk in the country. I know the hydrogen used to preserve semen is sourced from Nairobi. I direct the ministry of agriculture to set up the nitrogen plant in Kisii," the DP announced during this year's Kisii ASK Show.

This will help lower the cost of the service by 50 per cent by reducing the distance covered to access semen at Sotik.

Bringing service delivery closer to Kisii people



Peris Onsarigo
CEC Administration

The county established a 24/7 telephone number for receiving emergency calls from emergency and disaster incident scenes.



Patrick Lumumba
Chief Officer
Administration

The department draws its mandate from the County Government Act, 2012. Its primary mandate is to:

- Institutionalise governance structure
- Public service management, facilitate • and coordinate citizen participation and involvement
- Coordinate County Government functions at the devolved units Enforcement of county laws, disaster management and emergency response coordination

The department has facilitated the institutionalisation of governance structure in the county, whose focus is on devolved units with nine the sub-counties and 45 electoral wards.

To strengthen the decentralised units, the county recruited and deployed sub-county and ward administrators who are responsible for coordination, management and supervision of the general administrative functions in the devolved units, as well as facilitating citizen participation in governance.

Key milestones

Enabling legislation

To provide an efficient and effective delivery of services, the department has developed the following legislations/policies, thereby granting the department legitimate power to carry out certain actions:

- Kisii County HIV and Aids Workplace Policy
- Kisii County Transport and Fleet Management Policy
- Kisii County Disaster Management Act, 2015
- Kisii County Public Participation Act, 2016
- Kisii County Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2014
- Ethics and Integrity Policy
- Code of Conduct and Ethics for the County Public Service

The Kisii County Flag, Emblems and Names Act, 2014

The symbols were designed and developed through a consultative process before approval by the County Assembly.

The county flag, coat of arms, logo and seal are instruments that signify identity and the exercise of authority. The colours used are symbolic as illustrated below:

- Blue signifies that the sky is the limit for the county
- White represents peace and unity
- Green denotes the rich agricultural potential of the county
- The yellow rope represents unity and strength
- The seven stars exemplify the six clans in the county and other communities resident in our county
- The hills symbolise our green highlands
- The round ring (egetinge) stands for Omogusii unity
- Kisii soapstone embodies the creative art of the Kisii people
- The shield is a symbol of prosperity, opportunities, justice, courage and abundance

Emergency and disaster management

To ensure preparedness to respond to emergencies, the county established an Emergency and Disaster Management Unit.

The National Police Service's National Disaster Management Unit (NDMU) has trained officers in the unit, while the US State of Minnesota's Fire



County Enforcement Officers undergo training. The enforcement unit supports revenue collection in the markets and compliance to set regulations.

Complete Ward Offices

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masige West Ward headquarters office • Bassi Boitangare Ward headquarters office • Bassi Chache Ward headquarters office • Bassi Bogetario Ward headquarters office • Sameta Mokwerero Ward headquarters office • Moticho Ward headquarters office • Getenga Ward headquarters office • Bogetenga Ward headquarters office • Birongo Ward office • Bobaracho Ward headquarters office • Kisii Central Ward headquarters office • Kiogoro Ward headquarters office | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boochi Tendere Ward headquarters office • Nyakoe Ward headquarters • Kitutu Central Ward headquarters • Bogusero Ward office • Monyerero Ward headquarters office • Sensi Ward headquarters office • Gesusu Ward headquarters office • Kiamokama Ward headquarters office • Nyamasibi Ward headquarters office • Bombaba Ward headquarters office • Magenche Ward headquarters office • Bokimonge Ward headquarters office • Bomariba Ward office |
|--|---|

On-going Projects

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bassi Central Ward office • Tabaka Ward headquarters office • Ibeno Ward headquarters office • Bogusero Ward office | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kegogi Ward headquarters office • Ichuni Ward headquarters office • Boochi Borabu Ward headquarters office • Bogiakumu Ward headquarters office |
|--|--|

Marshals have trained the unit on firefighting, disaster handling, prevention and response coordination.

In addition, the county also acquired an additional 5000-litre fire engine, firefighting gear, and renovated six water hydrant points located at the Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital (KTRH), Ram Hospital, Nyanchwa, Getembe, Daraja Mbili and the Kisii Central Police Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

Further, the county established a 24/7 telephone number for receiving emergency calls from emergency and disaster incident scenes. The emergency number is **0727 600 010**.



The modern fire engine acquired by the County to support emergency response.

Office space

When the County Government came to office, there was insufficient office space for staff. The county therefore embarked on construction and renovation of offices at the headquarters, sub-county and ward levels.

The additional and refurbished space has now provided officers with conducive working environment and brought services closer to the people.

The lists of completed offices and those still under

construction are as indicated below

Enforcement and compliance

The county has established an enforcement unit, which is responsible for compliance with county laws and supporting revenue collection.

Performance management

Section 47 of the County Governments Act, 2012 provides that each County Executive Committee shall design a performance management plan to evaluate the performance of the County Public Service. The county has introduced performance management and, as a strategy to entrench delivery of quality and timely services to residents, all CECs, Chief Officers and staff have been put on performance contracts. Through this system, members of the public have a means of assessing



Chairman Public Service Board Hon. David Kombo speaking during the Performance Contracting ceremony

the performance of senior officers against the resources that have been allocated to them, and an objective means of rewarding and taking appropriate sanctions as per the terms of the contracts.

County Public Service Board (CPSB)

The County Public Service Board is anchored in the Constitution of Kenya 2010, Article 235(1) and Section 57 of the County Government Act, 2012 with the primary responsibility of building a strong County Public Service by attracting, retaining and developing human resource capacity and institutional capability for effective and efficient social economic transformation at the grassroots.



The County built prefab offices to house its staff at the headquarters. The County has also built ward offices similar to the Bomariba ward office (above).

Bodaboda initiative empowers the youth

By Kenan Miruka

The sight of motorcycles is a common feature in Kisii Town. Loved and loathed in equal measure, the speedy motorcycles, popularly known as boda boda, have transformed the Kisii County economy, particularly the transport sector.

From the county's capital, Kisii, to the smallest hamlets in the sub-counties, boda bodas are now the preferred modes of transport.

Kisii Boda Boda Association chairman, Mike Mose, reveals that there are an estimated 56,000 motorcycles in the county, with 12,500 operating in Kisii Town alone, the highest in the country. The business potential is immense, with the day population for Kisii Town rising to 400,000 on market days – as per estimates.

Boda bodas are a source of livelihood for thousands of residents, especially the youth who would otherwise be without income. The sector was however characterised by chaos and failure to adhere to traffic regulations, among other challenges.

"The bulk of the Kisii County population is the youth who comprise 61 per cent of the unemployed population. The county government cannot offer enough job opportunities for the youth, but the private sector can, if well supported. This is why we set out to support the boda boda trade," says Governor James Ongwae.

In order to reorganise the sector into a safe, profitable and sustainable source of livelihood for the youth, the governor formed a taskforce to identify challenges in the sector and propose a way forward. The taskforce recommended re-routing of boda boda transport in Kisii Town, training

of operators on safe riding and traffic regulations, as well as formation of a cooperative. The taskforce also identified and designated pick-up and drop-off points.

"Our first intervention was to develop a curriculum for training of boda boda operators in conjunction with the Kenya Institute of Highways and Building Technology (KIHBT) Kisii Centre. The first batch of 200 operators were trained and issued with driving licences," says Patrick Lumumba, the Chief Officer for Administration.

Working with leaders in the boda boda sector, the county administration has organised the operators into an organisation dubbed the Kisii Town Motorcycle (Boda Boda) Savings and Credit Cooperative Organisation (Sacco). With technical support from the county, the operators registered the Sacco and operate from an office donated by the county government.

Operators deposit savings in the Sacco and access credit at an interest rate of two per cent, with the minimum amount one can borrow being KShs.20,000. The Sacco has over 3,000 registered members drawn from 27 stages within Kisii Town. Members register with KShs.100 and purchase a share at KShs.1,000. They then contribute a minimum of KShs.100 monthly.

John Mogambi, 36, is a member of the Sacco, and has been in business for the past nine years. Using proceeds from his boda boda business, he has managed to put up a corrugated iron-roofed house in his rural home and send his two children to school.

He owns five bikes, which generate a minimum of KShs. 400 each per day. He rides one but has employed four other riders. "The least I can expect



Part of the 200 motorbikes acquired by the Kisii bodaboda Sacco with support from the County. Governor Ongwae (below) greets players during a past soccer tournament.

on a normal business day is KShs. 3,000. Without this business, I do not know how I would have fed my family and educated my children," he says.

Boda Boda Association Secretary, Bernard Mokua, says that Kisii Town has a total of 32 designated passenger stages.

"We have linked the Sacco with Post Bank and Cooperative Bank. Members pay monthly contributions directly to the bank through mobile money transfer (M-Pesa) that is convenient. Members can access loans of up to three times their savings from the Sacco to buy motorcycles, acquire property, pay school fees and cater for emergencies," explains Mokua.

Only 10 per cent of the youth own motorbikes – a majority are employed as riders. This is why the county government came up with a strategy to enable youth acquire their own motorbikes.

The county has developed and enacted the Kisii Trade Credit Scheme Act, 2015, which provides a legal framework for the county to provide credit for entrepreneurs at low interest rates. The county linked the Sacco with moneylender Platinum Credit and Honda East Africa, enabling 200 youth to acquire motorcycles in the first phase of the project using KShs. 2million seed money provided by the county. Through this, many of the youth who were employed as riders have now become owners, with some already diversifying into taxi business from their increased earnings. The programme has been so successful that the county is rolling it out to other urban centres within the county.

"To improve working conditions of boda boda operators, we built 200 sheds, a minimum of five in each of the 45 wards. Our focus now is to enhance capacity building on



entrepreneurship skills to address unemployment among the youth," says Governor Ongwae.

KCB Foundation trains 100 Kisii youth on entrepreneurship

To further promote youth empowerment, the county identified 100 youth drawn from all the 45 wards to join the KCB Foundation's Youth Empowerment Programme, dubbed 2Jajiri.

The pilot programme seeks to empower budding entrepreneurs to scale and upscale their business ventures. The youth were trained on entrepreneurship.

The programme includes a 12-month incubation period during which entrepreneurs will have access to mentorship resources.

Participating youth will enjoy discounted financing to support business start-ups and growth. They will also get connected to mentors, financial advisers and investors on project ideas developed.

Private investor wins big with KShs200m eye hospital



Kisii County prides itself as home to an innovative eye centre. Founded in 2013, Kisii Eye Centre uses a social entrepreneurial business model approach to address the challenging problem of blindness and visual impairment in Kenya.

In Kisii County, 25 per cent of the population is affected by visual impairment and blindness. The leading causes of blindness and vision impairment in the county include; eye defects that require glasses, cataract, diabetes, allergies and glaucoma.

The centre is dedicated to improving the lives of

people with blindness and visual impairment. The centre is led by Dr. Daniel Kiage, a consultant ophthalmologist and glaucoma specialist, in collaboration with other national and international eye care providers.

The centre provides high quality comprehensive eye care services, and is equipped with state-of-the-art equipment for the diagnosis and treatment of eye diseases. It offers world-class eye care services.

"Our medical experts are highly qualified and re-

nowned, not just in Africa, but all over the world. We aim at improving community livelihoods by providing affordable quality eye care through innovative and patient-centered approaches," says Dr. Kiage.

"I am working towards partnering with the county government through Public Private Partnerships to help our people access this rare service. This centre is the only privately-owned centre in the county," says Dr. Kiage.

The centre is dedicated to improving the lives of people with blindness and visual impairment. The centre is led by Dr. Kiage, a consultant ophthalmologist and glaucoma specialist, in collaboration with other national and international eye care providers.





Marcella Otuke
CEC Culture, Sports, Youth
and Social Services

Nurturing culture, sports and youth talent

“To provide recreational facilities and nurture sporting talent as well as preserving culture with emphasis on the youth.”



Beatrice Nyariki
Chief Officer Culture,
Sports, Youth and Social
Services

The functions related to Culture, Youth, Sports and Social Services are not fully devolved. They are under the national government, including the budgetary allocations for such functions.

The department is mandated to manage functions outlined in the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, which include betting control; liquor licensing; libraries and museums; sports facilities; and cultural activities and facilities. However, in the spirit of cooperation, the county government is supplementing the national government activities by allocating resources to support programmes that target children, women, persons with disability, sports and affirmative action.

Key Achievements

- Enabling legislation
- Kisii County NHIF Support Act, 2015
- Youth and Women Empowerment Fund
- Persons with Disability Fund

Persons with disability

We have mainstreamed the rights of Persons with Disability (PWDs) in the county's development agenda. The PWDs have an umbrella organisation, the Kisii County Persons with Disability Welfare Association, which is headed by a president.

The department has also acquired a card printer, the only one in the Western Kenya region, to facilitate registration and identification of Persons with Disability. Previously, PWDs used to travel to Nairobi to access this service. These cards will enable businesspersons with disability to be exempted from taxes to empower them economically.

Further, the cards will help Persons with Disability to conduct their businesses in a reserved manner and be recognised and identified in organisations where they apply for job opportunities. On the other hand, the county sponsored members of PWDs including their president for training in Mombasa to enhance their skills.



The County has bought a card printer to assist in profiling and identification of Persons with Disability.

National Hospital Insurance Fund

In order to ensure the needy have access to quality healthcare, Kisii County, through this department, has pioneered in this programme by setting aside KShs45million to pay National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) subscription for selected beneficiaries across the county. The NHIF policy is now in place and identification of beneficiaries is ongoing.

Support for elders' council and women

Elders play an integral role in promoting cohesion, culture and peace building in the community. To support their activities, the department constructed and equipped an office block for the Abagusii Culture and Development Council. Through the Maendeleo Ya Wanawake Organisation (MYWO), the department sponsored women leaders from each of the nine sub-counties to undergo training on entrepreneurship at the Cooperative University. The department has also set aside funds to construct an office for the women organization.

Improvement of sports facilities

To provide recreational facilities and nurture talent, the department embarked on an initiative to improve sports facilities, starting with the Gusii Stadium. A perimeter fence has already been erected around the stadium. Construction works in the first phase of the project include expansion of the running track,



The Kisii Culture Centre. It has facilities for meetings and recreation.



Kenya Community Library built by the County Government

building of washrooms, pavilions and an inner perimeter fence. In the sub-counties, the department is improving community playgrounds in each of the 45 wards. Works include levelling of grounds, fencing and erecting of goalposts. The playing grounds are currently being improved.

Governor's Cup

To enhance and promote sports culture, the Governor, through the department, rolled out the Governor's Cup programme in all the nine sub-counties, starting from the ward level. The main agenda was to identify young talented youths in the county, support and nurture them by equipping them with training skills in sports.

Inter-County Sports and Cultural Association

To promote national cohesion and nurture local talent, the county, through this department, participated in the Kenya

“In order to ensure the needy have access to quality healthcare, Kisii County, through this department, has pioneered in this programme by setting aside KShs45million to pay National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) subscription for selected beneficiaries across the county.”



Ebitinge (anklets) - wedding bands worn on the ankles

Inter-Counties Sports and Culture Association (KICOSCA) games held in Nakuru, where all the counties participated. Kisii County won two gold medals in the competitions. The county also participated in East Africa Local Authority Sports and Culture Association games held in Kampala and won one bronze medal.

Community libraries

To boost literacy and promote a reading culture, the department is constructing community libraries in each of the nine sub-counties. So far, community libraries have been built in Kenya and Ogembo towns. Funds have been set aside to equip and operationalise these libraries.



Ogembo community library built by the County Government

Alternative medicine

To promote and enhance alternative medicine, the department has recognised the establishment of Kenya Herbalists Association, Kisii Branch, headed by a chairman.

Additionally, the department is building cultural centres in Tabaka and Suneka towns, where construction works are nearly complete. Construction of town halls in Mosoch, Kenya and Tabaka towns are also complete. These cultural centres will host official and public meetings.

Rehabilitation of street children

To control and rehabilitate street children, reduce alcoholism and child prostitution, the department has set aside funds for the construction of Kiamwasi Rehabilitation Centre. The procurement process for the project is complete and the tender has been awarded to the contractor who is expected to start construction.



Dr. Skitta Ocharo
CEC Education, Labour and
Manpower Development

Honing vocational skills for employment

‘We have employed 965 ECDE teachers, built over 200 classrooms and disbursed KShs430m in bursaries to needy students to access education



David Kebiro
Chief Officer Education,
Labour and Manpower
Development

As outlined in the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, Counties are mandated to manage Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) and vocational education. Counties have been assigned pre-primary education, childcare facilities, village polytechnics and home craft centres. All other levels of education, including funding, is with the national government. Prior to the inception of the county government, pre-primary and village polytechnic functions were run by the national government and were faced by challenges, including inadequate staff and infrastructure.

The department discharges its mandate through the directorates of Early Childhood Education and Vocational Training. The department has come up with policies on registration of ECDE centres, registration of ECD teachers, management of village polytechnics, registration of village polytechnics and; quality assurance and standards in ECDE centres and village polytechnics.

Key achievements

Enabling legislation

The department has formulated four pieces of legislation to support the implementation of its mandate:

- Kisii County Bursaries Fund (Amendment) Act, 2016
- Kisii County Village Polytechnics Management Act, 2015
- Kisii County Childcare Facilities Bill, 2014
- Kisii County Home Craft Centre Bill, 2014

Education stakeholders conference



In line with H.E. the Governor's election pledge of improving education standards in the county, a needs assessment conducted for schools at the inception of the County Government revealed that there were both financial and infrastructural constraints that burdened parents. It also indicated that there was a gap in transition rates from primary to secondary school. This was followed by the first Kisii County Education Stakeholders Conference at Kisii University to deliberate on critical educational issues with the aim of improving academic standards in the

county. Following the successful conference, a taskforce was formed to oversee the implementation of recommendations. One of the major recommendations from the Education Stakeholders Conference was that due to the prevailing poverty in the county, many bright students were unable to continue with their education, thus denying the county human capital that is crucial for development.

This became the basis for the establishment of the County Bursary Fund whose prime objective is to boost transition rates and promote retention in the county's school system. So far, a total of KShs420 million have been disbursed equally to each ward and benefited 117,669 learners.

Directorate of Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE)

Before the inception of the County Government, most parents bore the burden of paying salaries for ECDE teachers and provision of infrastructure. As a result, enrolment was low.

To increase enrolment, expand and improve Early Childhood Care and Education, the county has:

- Constructed 180 ECD classrooms throughout the county
- Initiated construction works on a further 263 classrooms that are ongoing
- Recruited and posted 965 ECDE teachers to public schools in all 45 wards
- Procured and distributed play equipment, including swings, slides and seesaws

These interventions have resulted in a tremendous increase in enrolment in ECDE centres within public primary schools, which stands at 79,182, compared to 64,440 previously. The quality of learning has also improved, given that the current teacher-student ratio has advanced from 1:46 to 1:38



Governor Ongwae addresses newly recruited ECD teachers after their induction training.

Directorate of Vocational Education

- Achievements by this directorate include:
- Youth polytechnic workshops

To support this sub-sector, the county has invested in the construction of modern classrooms and workshops. The goal is to have at least one modern Vocational Training Centre (VTC) in each of the 45 wards.

Number of VTCs and workshops



Governor James Ongwae presents a cheque to beneficiaries during the launch of the Kisii County Bursary Fund. Deputy Governor Joash Maangi (left), KCB John Momanyi and KSSHA Chairman Jairus Onchoke look on.

	Before devolution	After devolution	Total
Vocational Training Centres	39	19	58
Workshops	39	54	93

The county has also distributed tools and equipment to 31 VTCs, including cookers, sewing machines and hairdressing equipment. The county has further employed 120 instructors on permanent and pensionable terms. An additional 150 instructors will be employed in the current financial year.

To improve supervision of curriculum instruction in VTCs, the county has employed quality assurance and standards officers.

Future Plans

- The county will implement a business model approach in the youth polytechnics to guarantee sustainability in the management of the institutions
- The county also plans to incorporate e-learning for the ECDE and vocational training centres.

Bursary enabled me pursue my education dream - Barongo

I am proud of the Kisii County Education Bursary Fund. It enabled me offset my fee balances on time and prepare for my final exams at the Kenya Medical Training college, Kisii campus.

I come from a humble background, being the third-born in a family of six. My father died in 2006 when I was in Standard Eight. But my dear mother has ensured we go to school.

I was unsure of completing my studies within three years because you cannot be allowed to sit for the final exams if you have fee arrears. So, when I heard that the kitty was open specifically for needy college students in 2014, I applied by filling the official forms and returned them to our Riana Ward offices. I was awarded the bursary days later. I again applied successfully last year.

With an assurance that if I combined the bursaries and what my mother raised I would offset the fee balance, I had a peace of mind to prepare well for the Kenya National Examinations Council exams. God willing, I will graduate in December with a Diploma in Medical Laboratory, which will be a key milestone in my life. It will help me secure a stable job from whence I will earn an income and help my mother pay fees for my siblings.

I want to dismiss the notion amongst needy students that it is difficult to get bursary. Your institution has a segment in the forms where they comment about you. You need to prove that you deserve the money through your good performance in class. The bursary committee receives several applications and closely scrutinise each case and ensures fairness.

While the bursary cannot entirely support every needy case, it is my belief that going forward, cash allocated to the kitty will be increased. This will in turn mean that an individual student gets an amount commensurate to the arrears he or she has.

In short, this bursary is the best thing that has ever happened to total and partial orphans and all needy students in Kisii. I encourage them to take advantage of the kitty, study to the best of their ability and transform the lives of their families and the county at large in future. Kudos to the Kisii County government!

-Francis Barongo from Bokora village in Riana Ward is a proud beneficiary of the Kisii County Education Bursary. He is a former student at the Kenya Medical Training College, Kisii Campus and will graduate in December 2016.

Story by Joshua Araka/Kisii County



‘With an assurance that if I combined the bursaries and what my mother raised I would offset the fee balance, I had a peace of mind to prepare well for the Kenya National Examinations Council exams.



BEFORE



AFTER

Vocational training centre at Masakwe Youth Polytechnic in Sensi Ward



BEFORE



AFTER

An ECDE classroom at Matongo Primary School in Bogiakumu Ward, Bonchari Sub-county before and after devolution



Kebati Osoro
CEC Trade, Tourism and Industry

Positioning Kisii to attract investments

“We have improved market infrastructure to attract investors, supported entrepreneurial ability, as well as positioning Kisii County as an unrivaled commercial hub in the region.”



John Obwocha
Chief Officer Trade, Tourism and Industry

The Department of Trade, Tourism and Industry is one of the ten line departments in the County. It is charged with the promotion of trade, industrial development, investments and Liquor licensing. It discharges its core mandate through the directorates of Weights and Measures, Trade, Liquor Licensing and Tourism respectively. Projects implemented in this department are aimed at providing necessary market infrastructure, attract investment, enhance existing entrepreneurial ability as well as reinforce the position of Kisii County as a commercial hub in the region.

Key Achievements

Enabling Legislation

The following legislations have been enacted:

- Kisii County Trade Credit Scheme Act, 2015;
- Kisii County Trade and Markets Act, 2015;
- Alcoholic Drinks Control Act, 2015;
- Tourism policy
- Licensing policy;

- Investment Policy;
- Investment Guide.

Market Development

The County embarked on the improvement of markets across the 45 wards through the construction of new ones and providing basic facilities to the existing ones as summarized below.

Completed Projects	Ward
Construction of Market Toilets	Bogusero, Tendere Boochi, Keumbu, Kiogoro, Bombaba, Borabu, Bogeka, Nyatieko, Sensi, Ichuni, Gesusu, Nyamasibi, Bogiakumu, Riana.
Construction of Sheds Ongoing Projects	Chitago Borabu, Bomorenda Ward
Market Toilets	Kenyerero, Rionyiego, Kisii Town, Keumbu, Omoringamu, Eronge, Nyakeyo, Gesieka, Nyabitunwa, Igembe, Ramasha, Ibacho, Nyabieyo.
Market Sheds	Omosaria, Matunwa, Matierio, Nyamache, Riosiri, Tabaka.

Before the County government came into being, such challenges as inadequate space for selling their products traders in various market centres had problems of inadequate space to sell their products, The department in this regard, has constructed markets in the 45 wards in Kisii County.

Daraja Mbili Market improvement

Daraja Mbili market is the second largest open-air market in the Nyanza region after Kibuye in Kisumu and therefore, places the county as an economic hub in the region. However, the market has been facing challenges of inadequate basic facilities.

The county, in collaboration with the National Government, has embarked on upgrading the market. Phase I of the project involves completion of the stalled market building at a cost of KShs204 million.

Construction works include three additional floors to house a wholesale market, cold rooms, a police post, cyber cafes, ATMs, offices and kiosks. The market will have loading bays and once complete in June next year, traders who currently sell their wares along the road will be relocated to the new facility.

The county will construct access roads, additional sheds, washrooms and stone pitching on Rivers Nyakomisaro and Nyanchwa.



A washroom at Gesonso market in Bogiakumu ward

The Kisii Entrepreneurship Summit (KES 2016)

There exists viable investment opportunities in the county derived from the local resources but the opportunities have for a long time remained untapped due to lack of a platform to showcase existing and potential investment and business opportunities to the local, regional and international investors and a network platform for negotiating joint ventures and

partnerships. In February this year, we successfully held the first ever Kisii Entrepreneurship Summit (KES 2016). The three-day high impact Summit brought together local, regional and international investors to a platform where we showcased trade and investment opportunities in Kisii County.

Following the summit, we have managed to sign contractual agreements with a number of investors. Firstly, we have signed an agreement with an investor on the establishment of a KShs5billion sugar complex in South Mogiran-go. Modalities to actualise this project are on course and preliminary approvals for the project have been given. When ready, the sugar complex will crush 5,000 tonnes of sugarcane per day and produce 172,500 metric tonnes of sugar making it the second largest sugar factory in Kenya after Mumias. Additionally, the sugar complex will produce 15 million litres of ethanol and 10 Megawatts of power.

The factory will be a major boon to our county's agriculture sector of our economy as it not only improve earnings to farmers but also create about 10,000 direct and indirect jobs for our people.

Secondly, we signed a KShs12 billion agreement with another Investor for the building of a new city in Kisii County. This project will address the need for residential and commercial space while creating over 20,000 direct and indirect jobs for our people.

To implement the project, the firm will set up one pre-cast plant in Kisii County and will train 1,000 youth and women for employment in the first year. The plant will serve 13 Counties in the

We are in the process of identifying a site for the construction of the city and already, we have in place a technical liaison committee to liaise with the National Government and other stakeholders. Thirdly, we forged a partnership with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) for training innovators in Kisii County. I have tasked the Departments of Trade and Administration to fast track



Governor James Ongwae (centre) hosts UNCTAD Secretary General Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi and CoG chair Peter Munya, Governor Wycliffe Oparanya and other guests during the Summit.

the actualization of this partnership. Finally, we signed a deal with leading voice, data and Internet Service Provider Liquid Telecom who will invest KShs6billion in connectivity projects. The firm will invest in connecting the County Government with its devolved units, set up metro Wi-Fi in Kisii Town and interconnectivity with Isebania along the Kenya-Tanzania border. The effect of this investment will lead to improved mobile phone services, better retail facilities in Kisii Town and boost entrepreneurship due to the free Wi-Fi. We continue to realize more fruits as we conclude discussions with other investors.

The Kisii County Trade Credit scheme

Inadequate business finance is one of the principal causes of business failure in the County. To address this challenge facing the traders, the County government initiated a revolving credit scheme that provides affordable access to business finance to the micro, small and medium enterprises.

With the enabling legislation in place, we have set up a board to manage the funds and the County assembly has given necessary approvals. Once the board is gazetted, small and Medium Enterprises can make applications to get funding from this scheme.

Through this scheme, 200 youth have acquired motorcycles (bodaboda) through their Savings and Credit Cooperative Society. Most the beneficiaries were initially working as riders for owners of the motorbikes but now they have been empowered to become entrepreneurs.

Boda boda sheds

The boda boda is a fast growing sector that has created jobs for thousands of youth in the County. To support this thriving industry, the County has built 200 boda boda sheds (four per ward) to improve the working conditions of the boda boda operators.

Soapstone

Soapstone is a unique rock that is only found in Kisii County. The bedrock of this stone spreads over 40 square kilometres and experts estimate that only 20 percent has been exploited so far. Much of the soapstone is mined crudely and exported as a raw material or used to make figurines. Soapstone can be manipulated to make products including talc powder, ceramics and paint among others. However, miners, carvers and artistes have not benefitted fully from this unique rock.

The County has developed the Soapstone Mining Policy that outlines what soapstone is, ownership, trading, value addition and marketing of its products. It also spells out measures to ensure owners of soapstone benefit and prevent exploitation from middlemen.

We are working with the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and the Kenya Intellectual Property Institute (KIPI) to protect soapstone as a geographical feature and safeguard the intellectual property rights of artistes. Already, an investor has set a private processing factory in South Mogiran-go to engage in value addition. The factory will produce fine soapstone powder to be used as an additive in the manufacture of Kaolin.



A sculpture made from Kisii Stone. The County has plans to support soapstone mining in Kisii.

Creating an enabling environment

Since the inception of the County Government, the financial sector in Kisii has experienced tremendous growth with the number of commercial banks rising from 13 in 2013 to 22 currently. Insurance firms present in Kisii have grown from nine in 2013 to 17 currently. Indeed, statistics from the Central Bank in Kisumu indicate that Kisii controls 60 percent of the money market in Nyanza. To support this growth, CBK plans to establish a money-clearing house in Kisii.



A boda boda shed at Motonto market in Bomachoge Chache.



Moses Onderi
CEC Lands, Housing, Physical
Planning and Urban
Development

Planning urban areas to spur economic growth

The county has installed over 200 solar lights in Kisii Township, 230 across all the nine sub-county headquarters and 32 market centres. This has helped transform Kisii Town into a 24-hour economy.

The department derives its mandate from the Forth Schedule to the Constitution of Kenya, 2010; the County Government Act 2012; and the Urban Areas and Cities Act, 2011. It is responsible for dispensing devolved functions such as:

- Land surveying and mapping
- Provision of infrastructural facilities
- Land use planning
- Provision of affordable housing

Streetlighting

- Vetting and verification of building plans
- Waste removal services
- Land use regulation

The department discharges its mandate through three directorates namely; Lands and Physical Planning, Urban Development and Housing.

Our motto is: Excellence in Land Management for Sustainable Development



A section of the solar streetlights intalled by the County in Kisii Town sparking the growth of a 24 hour economy.

Key achievements

Enabling legislation

The department has prepared the following pieces of legislation to operationalise its mandate:

- Kisii County Rating Act, 2015
- Kisii County Pounds Bill
- Kisii County Directorate of Building and Construction Bill
- Kisii County Housing Bill, 2015
- Kisii County Survey and Mapping Bill, 2015

As per the provisions of the Urban Areas and Cities Act, 2011, the department has created the Kisii County Land Management Board.

Urban Development

Integrated street lighting

Before the inception of the County Government, the defunct county and town councils had 70 streetlight poles spread across the county.

These have since been taken over by the County Government. In order to extend the working hours of businesspeople in Kisii and enhance secure environment, the directorate has managed to put up streetlights - both high-mast and solar lights - across the main urban centres and markets. It managed to install 200 solar lights in Kisii Township, 230 across all the nine sub-county headquarters and 32 market centres across the county. The streetlights have had a tremendous impact on the economy of Kisii Town by making it a 24-hour economy.

Integrated street lighting

Project	Before devolution	Current state
Streetlights (high-mast)	0	34
Energy streetlights	70	70
Solar Streetlights	0	430
Total	70	534

During the 2016/2017 financial year, the department will install a further 360 solar streetlights in 30 new centres throughout the county and increase the number of high-mast lights in some centres.

Waste management

Before devolution, Kisii County had only one waste management site in Kisii Township. But the county has since purchased another waste management site at Etor in Bomachoge Chache Sub-County and is in the process of purchasing other sites to decongest the existing ones.

The county is also purchasing two more tipper trucks and two compactors for the same in other urban centres such as Ogembo and Nyamache.

Waste management sites, equipment and groups

Project	Before devolution	Current situation
Waste management sites	1	2
Tractors, tipper trucks and compactors	2	3 tractors, 2 compactors
Youth groups	0	Kisii Town (5), Keumbu (1), Keroka (1)

The county plans to have cleaning groups in each of the nine sub-counties. The county is also in the process of seeking private investors to recycle waste and process it into usable items, manure and green energy. This will create jobs for the people and decongest the waste management sites.

Urban roads and bus parks

In a bid to increase the road network for people to access amenities like markets, schools and hospitals as well as reduce congestion of the markets and Kisii Town, the county has constructed access urban roads in Keroka, Ogembo, Kisii Town and Suneka.

The county has been able to do cabro works in Kisii Town as well as pedestrian walkways. The construction of bus terminuses in Keumbu, (80 per cent complete) and Ogembo along the Kisii-Kilgoris road, has created ample space for disembarking and picking up of passengers, and led to the reduction of accidents that were frequent in these areas.



A pedestrian walkway built by the County in Kisii Town.

Kisii Town

To enhance access to Kisii Town from both the main and backstreets, and to decongest population pressure on the CBD, several access roads have opened to decongest the CBD and enhance business activities in those areas. Some of the access roads opened include:

- Daraja Moja- Culture Hall
- Ram Hospital - Tuskeys,
- Hashi Petrol- Umoja Centre
- KCB – AM Taylor
- Kanyoni - Masaba Hardware
- Dados - Nyachae Flats
- RAM Mortuary – Rehema Academy Road
- Makutano – Getare Junction Road, among others

The county has also completed Mashauri- County Executive Frontage-Police line-Co-operative Bank walkway, which provides safe



Alice Nyariki
Chief Officer Lands,
Housing, Physical
Planning and Urban
Development



The County launched an Integrated Cleaning Service and bought refuse compactors to ensure improved cleanliness of urban areas.

and spacious passage for pedestrians.

Ogembo town

A number of roads were rehabilitated to enhance access and create an enabling trading environment in this second largest town of Kisii County. The roads include:

- Petrol Station - Nyabiuto Road
- Ogembo PAG - Bw'ondege Road
- JANS Hotel Road
- Kemboa - Aspen Road,
- Grinsphere Shoppers Road
- Kenya Women – Police road
- Ogembo Open Air Market
- Public Works - Posta Road
- Fortcrest – Gucha Tech – Elsa Road
- Okindo – Getare Road

Keroka town

The county has opened/rehabilitated backstreet roads up to murram level to improve accessibility and enhance businesses in the backstreets. The roads include:

- Gucha Hospital –Etundubari (tea buying centre)- main tarmac road
- Gucha Hospital- Riondabu Road
- Kenol Petro Station – Otinge along the main road and Etundubari market

Keumbu

Keumbu is a growing town due to its strategic position next to the Kisii-Nairobi Road. Farmers in the town enjoy a ready market for their fresh farm produce like bananas, vegetables, avocado and sugarcane. To promote these farmers' business, the county has invested



Part of the construction work at Keumbu bus park. The County is expanding the facility to accomodate traders who currently sell wares on the roadside.

a lot in the market to make it safe and conducive for business. A robust street lighting project has resulted in extended trading hours, which has greatly benefited the farmers. A modern bus park is in construction to help disembark passengers from the trading area.

Sanitation blocks

The county has constructed washrooms across the urban centres in the county for traders and members of the public. This has improved sanitation in urban centres and eased the functioning of the business community in Kisii. The youth and women groups manage the ablution blocks as income-generating activities.

Table 3.

Project	Before devolution	As at 2016
Kisii Town	3	7
Keumbu	1	3
Keroka	1	3
Masimba	1	2
Nyamache	1	2
Ogembo	1	3
Suneka	1	2
Marani	1	2
Kenyenya	1	2
Nyamarambe	1	2
Total	12	28

The county will construct more washrooms in upcoming urban centres and markets like Daraja Mbili.



A backstreet road built by the County using cabro behind Kenya Commercial Bank in Kisii Town.

Lands and Physical Planning

To enable land allocation between competing uses and ensure the creation of sustainable human settlements, the department undertakes land use planning. The county has completed plans for Nyamache. The preparation of the Integrated Urban Development Plan for Ogembo town is ongoing. The county has also revised the local physical development plan for Mogonga, vetted and verified building plans, and taken stock of public land, which it has also beacons.

Challenges

The county faces challenges, such as lack of land for waste management in the main urban centres due to lack of willing sellers. The county is seeking willing sellers within Keumbu to acquire land for a waste management site that will help in decongesting the old site in Kisii Township.

Sub County	Solar Lights Installed
Bonchari	19
Bobasi	29
Bomachoge Borabu	30
Bomachoge Chache	23
South Mugirango	40
Kitutu Chache North	38
Kitutu Chache South	25
Nyaribari Masaba	6
Nyaribari Chache	13
Kisii Town	231
Total	454

In a bid to increase the road network for people to access amenities like markets, schools and hospitals as well as reduce congestion of the markets and Kisii Town, the county has constructed access urban roads in Keroka, Ogembo, Kisii Town and Suneka.

Sub County	High Mast Lights
Bonchari	3
Bobasi	3
Bomachoge Borabu	2
Bomachoge Chache	4
South Mugirango	2
Kitutu Chache North	3
Kitutu Chache South	2
Nyaribari Masaba	5
Nyaribari Chache	3
Kisii Town	8
Total	35



Part of the solar street lights installed at Suguta market in South Mugirango Sub County.



Nyantika the barefoot runner who made history at the world stage

On competition day, barefoot Maiyoro Nyantika was busy warming up when the 10,000-metre race started. His trainer, Archie Evans, did not hear Nyantika’s name being called out over the public address system, but a sympathiser came looking for him.

Some forty-six years ago, an African ‘native’ travelled by ship to the French colony of Madagascar to represent Kenya in its first international athletics competition. The young man and his English trainer faced many handicaps, including a language barrier and the oppressive humidity on the island. On competition day, barefoot Maiyoro Nyantika was busy warming up when the 10,000-metre race started. His trainer, Archie Evans, did not hear Nyantika’s name being called out over the public address system, but a sympathiser

came looking for him. By the time Nyantika arrived at the stadium, the pack was already 100 metres into the race. Nyantika rushed onto the track like a possessed man amid jeers from the spectators. By lap 23, he had closed the gap. He was level with the leaders on the 25th lap. A smile spread across the face of the pitch-black runner. What followed was folklore repeated many times today. Nyantika took out a dry monkey’s tail from under his shirt and stuck it in the back of his shorts. To shouts of “monkey! Monkey!” Nyantika moved out

ahead of the pack and opened up a huge gap, which he maintained to the end. From a monkey to a hero, Nyantika’s fame spread like bush fire. Assembled journalists were as interested in his colour as with his bare feet, which were cracked from years of walking on Gusii terrain. Two years later, Nyantika was among six athletes who represented the Kenya Colony in its first appearance at the Olympic Games in Melbourne, Australia. He finished sixth in the 10,000 metre race.



Traditional African Rock Art

“Ong’esa, a retired fine art tutor, has agitated for the preservation of traditional rock art sites on soapstone and other limestone rocks within Kisii since 1968.

A short climb up the steep slope of Sameta hill in Kisii County leads to a clearing surrounded by a mixture of indigenous and exotic tree species.

Shiny rocks of varying sizes lie by the winding path up the hill. Almost all the rock surfaces appear scratched, but a closer look reveals abstract patterns that are repeated on many of the rocks.

Local and foreign tourists visiting the site engage in heated arguments about the meaning of the patterns.

Cupules similar to those of the traditional ajua game appear on some of the rock surfaces, while others have snake-like patterns with four holes.

On another rock, the cupules are large and have furrows that open into a cusp at the base.

These are part ancient traditional rock art sites that are threatened with destruction by human activity. They could be well over 1,000 years old.

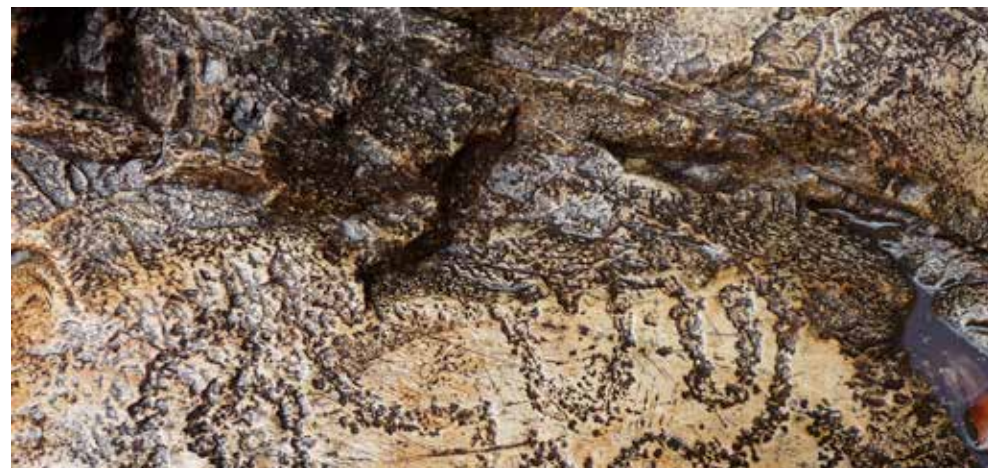
Local and international sculptors taking part at the African Stones Talk Symposium in Kisii took a day off to visit the rock art sites.

“This is not graffiti. These patterns were usually done for spiritual reasons and have an attached meaning that cannot be easily discerned. Cu-

Cupules similar to those of the traditional ajua game appear on some of the rock surfaces, while others have snake-like patterns with four holes.

pules in rocks have been found in other parts of the African continent like Egypt, Zimbabwe and Sahara Desert,” says Trust for African Rock Art (TARA) chairman, David Coulson.

Coulson, a facilitator at the symposium, said the rock art is recognized as having spiritual significance and is protected in other countries. “The snake-like marks described the route up this hill. Our forefathers used to play ajua on



Ancient Traditional African Rock Art at Sameta in Bobasi Sub County. The County has mapped out tourist attraction sites to boost the sector.

the rocks as they waited for their colleagues,” explains John Onsare Mayieka, 52, a local resident.

Other elders argue the patterns used to give directions, while others claim men and women used to grind powder from the limestone rocks for ornamental purposes.

Yet other people claim the cupules were created for use in preparing medicine. “We were told that Kisii men used to grind powder (em-bondo) from the granite for use during ceremonies. Some of these patterns have been covered by soil, while others have been used as building material,” says Meshack Marita, 60.

Similar rock art sites can be found at Gotichaki and Nyabigena near the soapstone-rich Tabaka region, but miners quarrying for the valuable Kisii stone have destroyed them.

“This is arguably the artistic origin of the Kisii people which is now in danger of destruction. It is a heritage that will disappear if not protected,” warns renowned international sculptor, Elkana Ong’esa.

Ong’esa, a retired fine art tutor, has agitated for the preservation of traditional rock art sites on soapstone and other limestone rocks within Kisii since 1968.

“These art forms may have been fairly representational and some confuse them for ajua boards, but some of the patterns lie on steep rock edges. It is not practical to play any game on a vertical surface, meaning these patterns have a hidden meaning,” he argues.

He goes on to explain that the traditional Kenyan ajua game has eight rows and 10 holes aside, while the Kisii rock art has four rows and 10 holes.

“Some shapes are zigzagged, while others form human faces and the same have been found in Egypt and the Atlas Mountains. Some represent human beings, animals or possibly the planetary system,” he claims.

Ong’esa says that rock art in Kisii may have been made by other cultures that occupied the region before as the history of the Gusii community is barely 400 years old.

He calls for the preservation of the rock art sites as technology used to study the art form is not yet fully developed.

“There may be findings from future studies that can reveal the history of the region. Similar prehistoric art patterns have been found in Karamoja and other parts of the region along the River Nile. This may have been a language of expression that could have a message for

us,” he notes.

Experts called on the government to step in and compensate owners of lands around the sites and protect them for posterity.

Coulson says traditional rock art is a heritage that should be accorded the same treatment like the Egyptian pyramids, for tourism purposes.

Lydia Galavu, a curator with the National Museums of Kenya, urges Kenyans to notify the Sites and Monuments Directorate in the Ministry of National Heritage and Culture of heritage sites at risk of destruction.

“The community can notify the museum if some heritage is at risk of being lost and our officials will take appropriate action. We support all forms of creative art,” she promised.

Ten international artists worked with local artists in an apprenticeship programme to carve granite and soapstone as part of the month-long symposium.

“The museum will host the products of the symposium at our Uhuru Gardens site for a year as a way of promoting and protecting visual art,” Galavu added.

“We have received training and support from the county government, and this has enabled us improve on the quality of the bananas - Askah



A sweet story of banana crisps

The success story behind complete value addition process in Kisii County can only be told by highlighting the story behind Askah Nyakwara, the KShs1 million winner of the county’s innovation award.

For Askah, value addition has enabled her make as much as KShs2,000 per bunch of bananas, besides prolonging the shelf-life of the produce.

“Value addition helps eliminate oversupply in the market and boosts a farmer’s bargaining power,” says Askah.

She won the KShs1 million at the Kisii Entrepreneurship Summit innovation competition. Askah’s success story began with her desire to offer something different through complete full crop value chain process initiated by the county government early in 2013.

In 2004, she decided to dry bananas and make crisps from a bunch she had harvested from her parents’ farm in Nyangorora. The crisps were so sweet that her mother, Norah, encouraged her to consider packaging the product to make it more appealing.

Askah, who comes from a very humble background, dropped out of college in 2004 due to lack of fees. All she had was a certificate in business management from a college in Kisumu.

“I came back home and started deep-frying and salting bananas. I sold a bunch for KShs1,200. My journey as a banana crisps manufacturer began there,” she says.

“I sold the crisps to people in my village, including primary school pupils. More than 90 per cent of those who sampled the product loved it.”

Through Nyangorora Banana Processing Plant, Askah has been producing banana crisps since May

2013 in a pilot project funded by the Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (Kirdi), in partnership with the Kisii County government.

“We have received training and support from the county government, and this has enabled us improve on the quality of the bananas,” she says.

The 34-year-old mother of two, nicknamed ‘the banana queen of Kisii,’ says the award was a highly appreciated recognition for her seven-year struggle to introduce improved banana products into the Kenyan market.

Her firm won the hearts of the over five judges during the inaugural Kisii Entrepreneurship Summit. The processing plant produces banana flour, crisps, wine and cake, among other products.

Farmers in Kisii have for long protested the poor banana prices, with a bunch going for as little as KShs100.

“Middlemen buy a bunch of our produce for KShs100. This is very discouraging to hardworking farmers,” she explained. “But with our technology, we can offer farmers higher returns,” she added.

Askah is not worried of running short of raw bananas for her plant. Kisii is a renowned banana-producing region in the country. In fact, she wants to scale up her production and supply wholesalers and retailers in the wider Nyanza region.

Her goal is to set up a complete banana processing plant at a cost of KShs25 million. “We are targeting 12 different snacks from bananas,” she revealed.

The burgeoning entrepreneur says her major challenge is marketing and competing with established players in the market.



Investment opportunities

‘ Favourable climatic conditions leading to high agricultural produce, especially tea, coffee, fruits and vegetables. These provide readily available raw materials for agro-based industries

The county's investment policy framework aims to ensure that the development and growth of the economy contribute to improvements in the lives of all Kisii County residents and provide a sustainable environment for the future.

Following the advent of devolution, the people of Kisii, in collaboration with the county government, can now determine their development priorities. This ambition can also be achieved by working with local, regional and international investors.

The county government promotes investment in Kisii through several initiatives, including the Kisii Entrepreneurship Summit (KES). The county is harnessing its competitive advantage to position Kisii as the preferred regional investment hub and has published the Kisii County Investment Guide, Kisii County Investment Policy, Kisii County Fact Book and Best of Kisii to attract investment to the county.

The county's investment policy framework aims to ensure that the development and growth of the economy contribute to improvements in the lives of all Kisii County residents and provide a sustainable environment for the future.

The policy provides various incentives and guarantees to potential investors as well



<<< Governor James Ongwae (left) signs an MoU with Boleyn Magic Wall Panel CEO Jack Liu for the construction of a KShs.12billion new city in Kisii.

as a one-stop centre to process investment related protocols.

The competitive advantage

- Strategic positioning of the county as a gateway to other destinations like Maasai Mara, Kisumu International Airport, Tanzania and Ruma National Park
- Favourable climatic conditions leading to high agricultural produce, especially tea, coffee, fruits and vegetables. These provide readily available raw materials for agro-

based industries

- Infrastructural development and improved inter-county connectivity
- Stable, secure and vibrant economic activities by a hard-working population
- Entrepreneurial, hardworking and skilled human resource, and a big a population that provides a ready market for goods and services



Investment opportunities

The Kisii County Investment Policy has identified the following sectors to drive the investment process in the county:

Manufacturing

- Animal feeds production
- Bottling of soft drinks, fresh juice and drinking water
- Maize milling and production of flour
- Tanneries for leather processing
- Honey processing
- Plastic crushing and recycling of waste
- Edible oil extraction
- Milk packing and processing into yoghurt, cheese, ice cream, mala etc.



Agro-processing

- Sugar factory to cater for sugar production in the county, as well as processing of cane juice
- Banana factory to process banana flour, banana crisps, dried bananas, chips, and wine
- Avocado factory to extract oil, process juice, soap and shampoo etc.
- Pineapple factory for juice extraction
- Tea processing, packaging and marketing
- Coffee processing, packaging and marketing
- Sweet potato factory for dried chips and potato chips
- Canning for preservation

Trade

- Establishment of new modern markets (as Build Operate and Transfer projects) equipped with cold rooms, warehouses, office space, eateries, parking space, indoor sports

facilities, recreational parks and other amenities.

- Construction of shopping mall in Kisii Town, business stalls/exhibition centres
- Establishment of modern wholesale and retail markets
- Development of marketing infrastructure for fresh produce

Tourism



- The establishment of three-star hotels and conferencing facilities
- Development of eco- homes, home stays and cultural tourism
- Development of sporting facilities, casinos, movie theatres, entertainment spots and film locations
- Establishment of nature walks and trekking tracks within the agro-forestry tourism circuit
- Provision of travel and tour operation services
- Provision of recreational facilities for local and international tourist

Housing

- Construction of commercial buildings
- Production of building materials such as bricks, ballast, roofing materials, nails, electrical materials etc.
- Development of office and rental parking space
- Consultancy in construction and housing development
- Real estate agencies

Mining



- Establishment of soapstone factory for manufacture of

ceramic tiles, paint, chalk, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, coatings and insulators

- Supply and production of modern mining tools
- Production of ballast for construction
- Production of carvings moulds and handcrafts
- Production of whisky stones

Infrastructure development

- Construction and maintenance of roads
- Road machinery and equipment for hiring and leasing
- Consultancy and capacity building in road construction
- Clearing and forwarding

Energy

- Provision of alternative forms of energy like solar, fireless cookers, biogas and wind energy
- Establishment of mini hydroelectric power plants at river Gucha and Mosoch
- Street lighting, pole treatment and fabrication of electricity lamp poles
- Garbage collection and disposal



Water

- Mineral water bottling
- Production of carbonated soft drinks



Elizabeth Ongwae
First Lady- Kisii County

Empowering women, girls and the vulnerable

Elizabeth Ongwae has cut her own niche and embarked on projects that resonate with women, girls and the vulnerable.



Mrs. Elizabeth Ongwae (centre) hosts First Lady Margaret Kenyatta at the Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital during the launch of Beyond Zero campaign. They visited women who had undergone corrective fistula surgery.

Mrs. Elizabeth Ongwae an educationist by profession and the spouse of the Governor James Ongwae has forged a unique platform to champion important social and development goals and made strides by mobilizing resources and rallying residents to support the cause of women and girl children. Milestones of the Office of the First Lady Inadequate access to quality healthcare, Gender Based Violence, low financial literacy, high dropout rates especially among the girl child, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and a high HIV prevalence rate are some of the challenges facing womenfolk in Kisii.

With the support of the County Government and other collaborators, Mrs. Ongwae has made strides in addressing the plight of the disadvantaged in Kisii County.

Support to the vulnerable

Mrs. Ongwae supports children with special needs, orphans, and street children. She donates foodstuffs, beddings as well as teaching and learning materials to special schools and children homes.



Abandonment of FGM

Mrs. Ongwae has upped efforts to protect the girl child from harmful cultural practices like Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) that is still widely practiced in the Gusii community.

Statistics from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) indicate that the FGM prevalence stands at 95 per cent which is a high figure considering the spirited interventions by the government and NGO's.

"Dangers of FGM are enormous but the practice is still considered important. Our girls have lost their lives during the process, others have developed complications like Fistula, HIV/Aids and infertility and this is why we advocate for abandonment of this practice," she explains.

With Partners, Mrs. Ongwae organizes anti- FGM camps annually where girls drawn from each of the 45 wards undergo alternative rites of passage.

The training equips girls with life skills to avoid teenage pregnancy, reject FGM and fight for their rights.

"As a mother I clearly understand that the joy of a woman is to give birth to a healthy baby. It pains to learn that mothers die in preventable causes. It is my wish to help the vulnerable women and children who form a substantial percentage of the populace of the county," she says.

The Girl Child

In order to ensure retention in school particularly for the girl child, she has worked with well wishers to distribute sanitary towels to underprivileged girls. She says that she is touched by the plight of young girls who miss school because they cannot afford sanitary towels.

Mrs. Ongwae, an Educationist, has also donated education packs to needy children in remote schools says that she started supporting education long before her spouse was elected and vows to continue supporting the course.

Currently, she also runs a successful scholarship program whose beneficiaries are in both national and provincial schools.



Mrs. Elizabeth Ongwae (right) hands over sanitary towels to pupils at Tabaka primary school.

Correcting obstetric fistula

"Many women who give birth at home lose their children in the process or and develop either Vesico Vaginal Fistula (FFV) or Obstetric Fistula. I am happy that my efforts are bearing fruits as records indicate that more women are giving birth in health facilities," she said.

Mrs. Ongwae has partnered with Freedom From Fistula (F3) to support women who undergo fistula surgeries at the Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital (KTRH). Mrs. Ongwae organizes free medical camps in collaboration with the KTRH and Kenya Health, an Australian Charity that provides medical care and education to mothers and children.

Using the Beyond Zero Mobile Clinic donated by First Lady Mrs. Margaret Kenyatta, she has facilitated residents in remote parts of the County to access healthcare.

During the medical camps, the County's Beyond Zero Mobile Clinic is availed and residents are provided free screening and treatment from various ailments.

"We appreciate the County Government's contribution towards improving health services by equipping all hospitals and purchasing ambulances which have helped women with complications," she notes.



Mrs. Elizabeth Ongwae (3rd from right) when she was crowned for championing the menstrual hygiene management in Kisii County.

Women Empowerment

On women empowerment, Mrs. Ongwae has partnered with the Coca Cola Company to equip vulnerable women to start business.

The women drawn from all the 45 wards received coolers and crates of sodas through the company's 5 by 20 initiative aimed at empow-

ering the economic lives of women.

"Beneficiaries of the initiative are widows, women living with disabilities and the poor who cannot put food on the table. Women in Kisii carry the biggest burden of supporting their families thus need to empower them," she said.



Mrs. Elizabeth Ongwae presents cheques from the Women Enterprise Fund to a women group in Kisii.

Some gallant sons and daughters of Kisii

Here is a profile of some of iconic personalities who have defined Kisii history and heritage. We salute them and their contributions.



HON. SIMEON NYACHAE, EGH

Simeon Nyachae was born on February 6, 1932 to the then powerful colonial chief Musa Nyandusi.

His father facilitated Nyachae's earlier exposure to western education, having been a mission educated graduate.

His long career in the civil service began after his studies in public administration in London.

Upon his return to Kenya in 1960, Nyachae was posted as a District Officer in Kangundo Division. He became a District Commissioner by December 1963 when the Kenya gained independence, and steadily rose through the ranks within the provincial administration to the apex as a Provincial Commissioner (between 1965–1979), before moving on to become Chief Secretary in the Civil Service in both the Kenyatta and Moi regimes.

Nyachae was elected Nyaribari Chache MP in 1992. He served as Cabinet minister for Agriculture and then for Finance in 1998. In 1999, he resigned from government after being moved to the less influential ministry of Industry. He quit Kanu and formed his own party, Ford-People, with which he vied for the presidency in 2002, sweeping all parliamentary seats in Kisii. When President Kibaki's NARC-Coalition started to crum-

ble, the support of Ford-People became most welcome and in 2004, Nyachae became the minister for Energy and later for Roads in the Kibaki regime.

Nyachae lost his parliamentary seat in 2007 after which he retired from active politics. The doyen of Gusii politics has invested in real estate, agriculture, transport and manufacturing.

HON. DR. ZACHARY ONYONKA, EGH (Deceased)

Zachary Theodore Onyonka was born on June 28, 1939, in Meru, where his father, Godrico Oeri Mairura, was a policeman. The family left for Kisii after his father resigned from the police force to join the Provincial Administration as an assistant chief.

He attended Catholic schools — St Mary's Nyabururu in 1949 and St Mary's Yala, where he studied

till 1958. His schoolmates at Yala included Peter Oloo Aringo who later became a fellow Cabinet minister.

After school, the Gusii County Council employed Onyonka until 1960. He was a beneficiary of the famous education airlifts with a scholarship to the University of Puerto Rico in San Juan. He graduated in 1965 and in 1966, joined Syracuse University, New York, where he enrolled for a master's degree in economics, specialising

in money and banking. Upon completing his master's, he embarked on a doctoral degree at the same university. Later, he joined the University of Nairobi as a tutorial fellow while working on his PhD, before his graduation in 1969.

Thereafter, the University of Nairobi employed him as a lecturer in the Department of Economics. His peers included Chris Obure (now a Cabinet minister), politician David Kombo and former Permanent Secretary, Sospeter Arasa.

Dr. Onyonka served as the Member of Parliament (MP) for the then Kitutu West Constituency. He served in the Cabinet from 1969 to 1996 in the ministries of Trade, Foreign Affairs, Education, Economic Planning and Development.

He is remembered as the youngest MP the country has ever had, having joined elective politics at the age of 25 years. He retained his parliamentary seat until his death.



HON. JAMES MIYIENDA NYAMWEYA (Deceased)

Nyamweya was born in 1927 in Kisii. In the late 1950s, he left for the United Kingdom to study law. His daughter, Joyce (a former Permanent Secretary), was about a year old, and his son, George (former MP), only two weeks old at the time. When he returned in 1959, the two children could not recognise him. Nyamweya went to Nyanchwa SDA Primary School

and later Kamagambo Mission School, where he excelled and earned a reputation as an avid reader. He later joined Kamagambo Secondary School. Unfortunately, the missionaries discontinued the secondary school section at the school. But Nyamweya stayed on and joined a teacher-training course, after which he taught at Nyanchwa, Sengeru, Isecha and Sironga. He then got admission to Kings College, University of London, for undergraduate studies. He

graduated in 1958 with a Bachelor of Law degree.

Nyamweya served as the MP for the then Nyaribari Constituency from 1963 to 1976. He also held several ministerial, parastatal and political party leadership positions in both the Kenyatta and Moi regimes, from 1965 to 1995.

He was the Permanent Secretary (PS) in the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Assistant Minister in the Office of the Presi-

dent, Minister of State in charge of External Affairs, Minister of State in Provincial Administration, Minister for Works, Minister for Power and Communication, Minister for Labour, and later, Chairman of the Electoral Boundaries Commission.

Nyamweya died on September 25, 1995 while serving as the National Vice Chairman of the Democratic Party. He is remembered as the architect of Kenya's labour laws.

HON. LAWRENCE GEORGE SAGINI, EGH (Deceased)

Lawrence George Sagini was born at Gesonso, Kisii, on January 1, 1926. He was the first son of Ndemo Kibagendi and Esther Nyanganyi. His father was the president of the African Tribunal Courts in Kisii.

Sagini was baptised when he was a student at Mangu School. He helped construct Ria'Sagini Catholic Chapel which is named in his honour. He also supported other churches and self-help projects.

In appreciation, the Catholic Church in Kenya selected him, and seven others, to visit the Pope

and be honoured with a 'knight-hood.' Paradoxically, the religious background of Sagini's family was Seventh Day Adventist (SDA). His mother was an SDA deaconess when Sagini joined Mangu, a Catholic school. But she later converted to Catholicism, along with some members of the Ndemo family.

Sagini started his primary education in 1934 at Isecha Sector School. His father and five wives would in turn meet Sagini halfway with porridge or food as he walked home from school — those days pupils walked long distances to school. In 1937, Sagini joined the Kisii Government African School

and then proceeded to Kabaa Mangu Holy Ghost College. His schoolmates included Andrew Omanga, Moody Awori, Mwai Kibaki, Tom Mboya, Lawrence Oguda and Christantus Ogari. One of the memorable events of the time was when missionaries discouraged students from using family names. This explains why officially, Sagini did not use his father's name, Ndemo. After Mangu, Sagini went to Kagumo Teachers' Training College in Nyeri. After graduation in 1950, he became a teacher and rose to the rank of headmaster before being promoted to an education officer in Central and South Nyanza.

In 1957, he quit teaching to pursue a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology and political science at Allegheny College in Pennsylvania, United States. He graduated with honours in 1959. Upon his return, Sagini rejoined the teaching profession and taught briefly at Asumbi Teachers College. In 1960, the government appointed him Assistant Education Officer, a position he held until 1961. He also became a member of the Provincial Council of the University of East Africa.

Sagini was the first elected Kisii representative to the Legislative Council (LEGCO) in 1961 and lat-



er became MP for Kitutu West in 1963. The University of Nairobi awarded him a post-humous doctorate for his role in development of education in Kenya in November 1995. He died in a car accident in 1996 aged 69



HON. ZEPHANIA MOGUNDE ANYIENI (Deceased)

The late Hon. Zephania Mogunde Anyieni is one of the veteran Kisii politicians. He was born in January 1935 to Heradion Mogunde Anyieni and Peninah Nyamanyi. He attended Isbania High School

and later Bugema Missionary College in Uganda for his education. Anyieni started his political career in 1958 by attempting to be elected to the legislative council. He served as the first MP at independence in 1963 in the then Majoge-Bassi Constituency. He was a resolute politician who

resigned as a matter of principle from the ruling party KANU to join the late Jaramogi Odinga's opposition party KPU at a time when people hardly dared resign. Consequently, he lost his seat in 1966.

Anyieni reclaimed his seat in 1974 and served until 1979, before he was dethroned by current Ki-

sii Senator, Christopher Mogere Obure. The charismatic politician spent much of his time in and out of Parliament championing the cause of soil conservation and afforestation. He passed on in March 2014.

PROF. JOSEPH NYASANI (Deceased)

The late Prof. Joseph Nyasani was a renowned scholar who made a mark in academia and media. Born in Kisii in 1936, Prof. Nyasani wanted to become a Catholic priest but when he grew up, his destiny took a different direction and he ended up becoming a philosophy professor and a TV personality fluent in numerous languages including English, French, Italian, Spanish, Latin,

Kiswahili and Ekegusii. He actually trained as a priest but quit on the eve of his ordination.

He is remembered for breaking a 300-year record by writing his dissertation in Latin while doing his doctorate in Germany in 1963. At the time of his death, he had published 41 titles and authored several books in philosophy especially metaphysics, logic, cosmology and legal philosophy.

Despite scoring many firsts and rising to the highest pinnacle of aca-

demia, his humble mien was confounded many. He had a brief stint at the UN secretariat in New York as a political affairs officer in 1971. While working at the University of Nairobi as a lecturer, he worked part time as a news anchor at the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) TV, the only television station at the time.

He remains an inspiration to many through decades of writing, academic and media work. "He was the first person to tell me that phi-

losophy was the study of reality in its histotality," recalls Governor James Ongwae – his student. He thought that everyone at university regardless of their disciplines should study philosophy in order to arrive at logical answers.

Prof. Nyasani survived a gun attack outside his home in 1994 in which a bullet fired above his eye went through his skull. He passed on in February 2016 at 79. He had been living with the bullet lodged in his skull for 21 years.



MRS. CLAIRE KWAMBOKA OMANGA

Claire's public life was not a walk in the park. She attended Nyabururu Primary School before proceeding to Loreto Girls, where she attained Division II in her Form Four examinations. She married the late Andrew Omanga in 1961.

She has fought many battles in a male-dominated political world.

Her ambition is to ensure that the girl-child gets better education. As the first woman Mayor of Kisii, she was instrumental in fighting for the girl-child to remain in school.

She has also contributed her re-

sources to improving the education standards in Gusii. Her love for education is seen through a children's storybook she wrote, The Girl Who Couldn't Keep a Secret.

She defied odds to be elected Councillor for Bobaracho Ward in the early 1990s, eventually be-

coming Kisii Mayor, a first in the region. She made a stab at a parliamentary seat but was not successful. She has served as Nyan-siongo Tea Factory Company Board chairperson, yet another first for a woman in Kisii.

HELLEN ONSANDO OBIRI

In 2012, four-time 3,000m defending champion Meseret Defar was on her way to a fifth straight world title at the World Indoor Track and Field championships in Istanbul, Turkey.

In the final lap, little known Hellen Onsando Obiri pursued and pulled level with Defar before zooming away from the Ethiopian great to arrive home at 8:37.16. The corpo-

ral with the Kenya Air Force could not believe she had beaten a world champion Defar who settled for silver.

Born in December 1989 at Nyacheiki in Bobasi, Hellen is a middle and long-distance runner. She holds the world and African record in 1,500m.

Obiri attended Ekeonga Primary School before joining Riruta Central Secondary School in Nairobi

after being sponsored by a well-wisher who had spotted her talent. In 2008, she was recruited to join the armed forces, thanks to her athletic prowess and was posted to Nanyuki Air Base where she works. It is while at the military that she became established, taking part in the world military games in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil where she finished in third position.

Career highlights: Finished in 11th

position in 1500m at the 13th IAAF World Championships in athletics in Daegu, South Korea; finished in first position (8:37.16) to win gold at the IAAF World Indoor Championships in Istanbul, Turkey; ranked 14th in women's 1,500m and 101 women's overall ranking in the world. Her personal best in 300m is 8:35.35 that she recorded in Birmingham, Great Britain on February 18, 2012.



HENRY MOTEGO

Born on 21 May 1964, Henry Moteogo is one of the lethal strikers Kenya has ever produced in the recent past. He electrified the football scene in Kenya with his ball artistry and courage. He is remembered as a stocky, fast player who could characteristically waltz past defences, before unleashing powerful rockets past opposition keepers.

Such were Henry Moteogo's exploits against Tunisia in 1992 — that saw

Kenya knock out the north African giants in qualifying rounds to sail through to the Africa Cup of Nations competition after a long spell in the cold.

Moteogo began his career in 1983 at Boitang'are Primary School and was spotted by Shabana FC coaches during the national school games and drafted him.

He played for Shabana while still a student at Cardinal Otunga High School, Mosochi and Itierio High School, between 1983 and 1987.

He helped Shabana gain promotion to the Kenyan top-tier league in 1988. He played for Harambee Stars with the likes of J.J Masiga, Bobby Ogolla, Ambrose Ayoyi and the late Sammy Onyango Jogoo.

Following his success at Shabana, he was signed by Kenya Breweries Limited, starting as a clerk and doubling as their club's striker until 2005 when he was retrenched. He also served as Tusker FC coach, winning the league in 2005.

Moteogo signed for Omani league side Al-Oruba SC for two seasons from 1991 to 1992 and thereafter returned to play for Kenya Breweries until 2000 when he retired.

Moteogo made several appearances for the Kenya national football team and played for Kenya at the 1988, 1990 and 1992 Africa Cup of Nations finals. He currently works in the Kisii County Government's sports department.

YOBES ONDIEKI

Yobes Ondieki was a man of many firsts. The 5,000m runner won the World Championships' gold medal in Tokyo in 1991. In the same year, he set a temporary Kenyan 5,000m record of 13:01.82 in Zurich.

He participated in the Olympic fi-

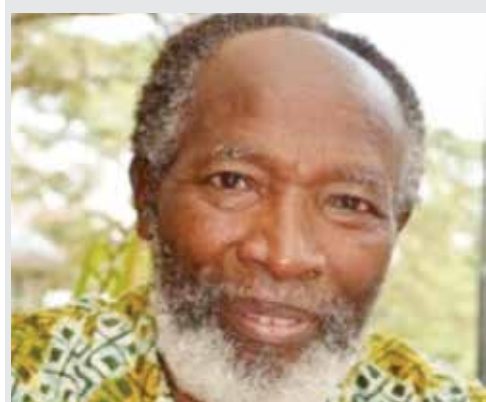
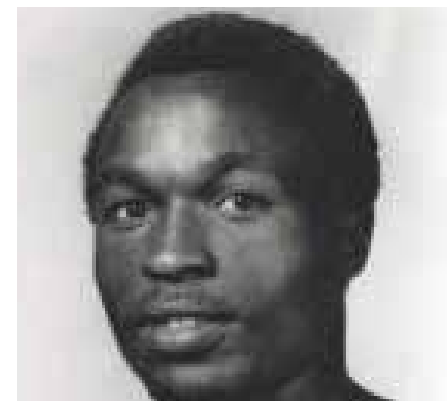
nals of 1988 and 1992, but did not win a medal. He is the first ever athlete to break the 27:00 mark in the 10,000m race in 1993.

Ondieki attended Iowa State University, where he captured four Big Eight conference titles, three of them in cross country. He received All-America accolades six times in Iowa State.

Ondieki was known for his demanding training sessions and his ability to run constantly at a high pace. In 1993, he became the first athlete to break the 27-minute barrier over 10,000 metres, when he clocked 26:58.38 at the Bislett Games in Oslo on July 10. His time broke the mark set by Richard Chelimo only five days earlier in Stock-

holm by over nine seconds.

From 1989 to 1993, Ondieki was ranked top five in the world in the 5,000m race by Track & Field News, with his number one ranking coming in 1991. In 1993, Track & Field News ranked him number one in the world in the 10,000 metre race



ELKANA ONG'ESA, HSC

Ong'esa is an internationally renowned stone sculptor who hails from Tabaka in South Morigirango. He was born in 1944 in a family of craftsmen, a heritage he developed to become Kenya's most recognised artist.

Ong'esa is well known for his sculptures and has exhibited his works around the world. He is perhaps best known for his seven-

tonne 'Bird of Peace' (Enyamuchera) sculpture that adorns the entrance of UNESCO headquarters in Paris, where it has remained since 1980.

The sculpture, which took him two years between 1976 and 1978 to build from soapstone, is an abstract representation of a bird that symbolises peace.

His other carving, 'Dancing Birds,' is in permanent display at the US

Embassy in Nairobi. It symbolises peace, happiness and international cooperation.

Ong'esa studies fine art at universities in Kenya and Uganda and his postgraduate thesis at McGill University in Canada was on 'East African Stone Carving in Kenya.' He has taught creative arts in various institutions, both locally and internationally.

Working with visual artists from

his Tabaka home, Ong'esa has successfully organised three editions of the African Stones Talk International Sculpture Symposium in Kisii, where local and international stone sculptors interact and exchange cultural experiences.



See you in Kisii County

It has been our pleasure to have you on this great journey to showcase the beauty and productivity of Kisii County and present to you the opportunities that abound in this progressive land.

Our doors are always open and our team is more than willing to respond to your questions or clarify any matter that may arise.

We also take this opportunity to welcome you to our beautiful county explore the culture and warmth of our hard working people. Karibu Kisii and enjoy the beauty, cultural diversity and investment opportunities in this great county as you delight in the hospitality of our hardworking people.

There is so much we would have wished to share with you, but unfortunately we don't have the space on this platform to capture everything in one place. How about you joining and engaging us on social media?

Together we will make Kisii great!

Au revoir!



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