



The Official Magazine of Kisii County Government

2020 Edition. January 1 2020 - December 31, 2020

# KISII INSIGHT

*Explore • Invest • Prosper*

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## Kisii County dream and the shared prosperity

Seven years of  
transformative  
leadership

### HEALTH

Bringing top medical  
care services and  
facilities closer home

### AGRICULTURE

Banking on value  
addition for prosperity  
and food security

### DEVOLVED SUCCESS

Powering Kisii  
County to greater  
heights through a  
24-hour economy





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Kisii County

## Editor's Note

The idea behind the *Kisii Insight*, our official county publication, is to create a forum for communication and engagement especially on development related issues in the county.

The publication, so massively resourced comes at a time when the country is set to celebrate the first decade since the promulgation of the Kenya Constitution 2010, that birthed devolution in Kenya.

Through this publication, residents of Kisii, whether at home or abroad, will be able to follow progress made in the implementation of development agenda by the county government. Essentially, it is the progress report for programmes and development projects initiated since 2013.

In this first edition of the *Kisii Insight*, we have highlighted and exhibited several complete and ongoing projects from 2013 to date, during which time His Excellency Governor James Ongwae has been in office.

Through this, the development projects initiated since devolution was anchored in Kenya are appreciated and awareness created especially to the larger population, that may not be well informed about what is happening in parts of the county, and more so in the sub-counties.

All government departments have reported on progress of programme implementation within their dockets and we have allowed a public feedback mechanism, where the people have also expressed views on what they think about the general implementation of county projects, since devolved resources started trickling down.

We have made a copy of the same available for online consumers through the county website on [www.kisii.go.ke](http://www.kisii.go.ke).

Happy New Year 2020.



**Managing Editor**  
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# Welcome to Kisii County, the Land of Matoke!

Gently undulating slopes roll out onto ridges above, gracing the blue skies yonder, replete the greenery on the well cultivated hills, full of life with people and domestic animals completing a scenic sight to behold. Welcome to Kisii County, the home of bananas and soapstone.

With an estimated population in excess of 1.2 million and a population density of over 1,000 inhabitants per square kilometre -- one of the highest in Kenya -- Kisii County forms a ready market not only for finished products but also experts in the service industry.

The county is teeming with a highly-skilled labour force essential for economic growth besides harbouring opportunities for various investment opportunities.

Residents largely lead a settled life on a small-holder land ownership system that has culminated in massive land demarcation, so much so that Kisii County is essentially one large urban dwelling, at least according to the United Nations definition of urban areas.

As one of the 47 counties in Kenya, Kisii County shares common borders with Nyamira County to the North East, Narok

County to the South and Homa Bay and Migori counties to the West.

It covers an area of 1,302 square kilometres and politically, the county is organised into nine constituencies and 45 electoral wards.

The county's administrative seat is domiciled in Kisii Town, which in itself is a beehive of activity and a commercial hub characterised by busy streets, human and vehicle traffic and an upsurge of modern high-rise commercial and residential buildings which are slowly replacing the colonial era shops.

To underline the economic importance

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Kisii County Governor James Ongwae addressing residents. Kisii town's recent upgrading into Municipality status is expected to give it the latitude to grow in leaps and bounds

of the town, 23 commercial banks, 16 insurance firms of repute and 14 Universities have made Kisii town their home.

Indeed, the immense business opportunity in Kisii town cannot be over-emphasised and statistics from the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) indicate that Kisii controls up to 60 per cent of the money market in the South Nyanza region.

Indeed, CBK is already in the process of establishing a money clearing house in Kisii town before opening a full-fledged branch to serve the region.

Kisii town's recent upgrading into Municipality status is expected to give it the latitude to grow in leaps and bounds.

Situated about 290 kilometres west of Nairobi the region is considered a vital gateway to the traditional Western tourism circuit due to its proximity to tourist attraction sites such as Ruma National Park in Homa Bay County, the Kisumu Impala sanctuary and the Maasai Mara National Reserve.

It is imperative to note that Kisii County has been tested and proven as an oasis of peace and tranquility, and is home to a highly hospitable and cohesive people.

The trajectory that Kisii has taken on matters development owes to its characteristic, being a convergence point of cultures and religions, drawing people from diverse origins to form a vibrant business community.

Visitors often cite Kisii as God's own bathroom based on the high rainfall the region enjoys all year round.

The resultant temperate atmosphere supports the cultivation of cash crops like coffee, tea, sugarcane and food crop varieties such as bananas, maize, beans

and assorted vegetables.

Livestock farming also prevails in Kisii, albeit in small holdings, and intensive zero-grazing set-ups where the county government is supporting farmers in offering subsidised Artificial Insemination (A.I) and extension services.

The varied farm produce which is harvested throughout the year readily gets markets both locally and internationally.

Perhaps, one cannot narrate the Kisii story without citing the "soapstone" phenomenon also known as the "white" gold, a rare rock that has been mined at Tabaka area since the 1800s.

The rock has unique qualities which can be manipulated to make a variety of artwork for ornamental and aesthetic figurines popular with tourists such as curios.

Soapstone carvings from Kisii are sold locally and internationally. Large-scale sculptures from Kisii adorn major world capitals such as the artist impression of the "dancing birds" sculpture at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) headquarters in Paris and the UN headquarters in New York City.

The Kisii County government has already attracted massive investment in the soapstone industry where value addition and mechanisation in the venture is being established to give residents maximum benefit from the rare natural endowment.

In the Kisii countryside, visitors also have the benefit of encountering grotesque traditional African rock formations at Sameta and Gotichaki hills, reminiscent of the ones found on the Atlas Mountains of North Africa and in the pyramids of Egypt.

Eye-catching granite rock formations are also to be found at Bogiakumu area in the outskirts of Kisii town.

Along River Gucha, one finds solace in the 20 feet high Nyakwana waterfalls as the river meanders at Nyambunde, a few kilometres from Kisii town.

Above all, in order to realise the vision of transforming Kisii County into a middle-income economy, the county government under the leadership of Governor James Ongwae is keen on tapping into the prevailing rich agricultural potential to grow the sector through value addition by venturing into agro-processing.

Tea, coffee, pyrethrum are the major cash crops grown by small-scale farmers in Kisii County.

Instructively, Kisii coffee is of the highlands variety whose processed dust has an aroma touted to have an attractive scent that rises to high heavens.

The county is engaging small-scale farmers through the Gusii Farmers' Co-operative Society to help promote coffee crop production and marketing.

Already, the county government has attracted funding from the European Union to facilitate improvement in the Banana value chain culminating in the building of a banana processing factory among other ventures such as Kisii Avocado Processing Factory, which is also under construction.

Devolution is now entrenched in Kisii County and deepened by an elaborate institutional framework.

Indeed, we are on flight mode towards prosperity for our residents and the country at large.

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# County on the brink of reaping the devolution dividends

When the Kisii County electorates gave me the mandate to be at the helm as Governor in the nascent days of devolution in 2013, it proved a challenge. There was no system in place to guide our operations as an inaugural devolved unit.

In the first term we were able to undertake a number of quick win initiatives, serving as the foundation for the fruition of future undertakings, and satisfying immediate electorate needs.

Perhaps that is why in 2017, the electorate reaffirmed their confidence and accorded me a second term in office as Governor.

Kisii County has been on a progressive journey through devolution.

Firstly, we have heavily invested in healthcare services to ensure the development of a healthy population for higher productivity.

My government is building a robust medical infrastructure at the Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital (KTRH), turning the hospital around to be among the best in Kenya today.

The reason for this investment is to give residents easy access to the best and cost-affordable specialised treatment.

We have set up a new 250-bed capacity ward, increasing the in-patient capacity at the hospital to 700. The ongoing construction of a 200-bed capacity MCH (Mother and Child Health) wing will increase the overall bed capacity at KTRH to 900.

The county now has a mortuary with the capacity to preserve 100 bodies coupled with anatomy and histology laboratories forming the basis of collaboration with Kisii University to establish a medical training school at KTRH.

An operational 64 Slice Computed Tomography (CT Scan) and a 16 Slice CT Scan has been installed at the KTRH for specialised scans and a reliable X-Ray Unit with state-of-the-art machines including mammograms, a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), and Kidney dialysis equipment among others.

Our theatres, High Dependency and Intensive Care Units are accessible at affordable rates. The infrastructure at the KTRH has been revamped with a



“My government is building a robust medical infrastructure at the Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital (KTRH), turning the hospital around to be among the best in Kenya today.”



delivery rate of up to 100,000 litres of clean water per day to ensure sufficient supply in the entire facility, for all uses.

Additionally, we have conceptualised a Sh2.1 billion cancer diagnostic treatment centre to be constructed at KTRH.

The project is funded by the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) in concert with Government of Kenya. Focus is also on expansion and refurbishment of all the other public health facilities in the entire county to ease pressure on KTRH.

A number of sub-county health facilities are having a major infrastructural facelift and adequate human resource staffing.

Already, patients are receiving specialist and theatre services at Gesusu, Gucha, Keumbu and Nyamache sub-county hospitals. While an infrastructural upgrade at Marani Sub County Hospital is also progressing well as we focus at both the KTRH and sub-counties, our staff are on notice to ensure they are diligently dedicated in giving quality service to the public.

Secondly, agriculture being a key enabler of our economy, we are leveraging it to create employment, wealth and ensure food security by adopting technology and strengthening the key value chains.

A banana-processing factory has been established in the county with a Sh110 million grant from the European Union to support the banana value chain. The county gave Sh45 million for this project.

In Kisii, tea is a major cash crop for small-scale farmers.

Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) wanted to set up Sombogo Tea Factory in Kitutu Chache North in 2005 and the onus was on farmers to raise an initial commitment premium of Sh30 million.

Farmers failed to raise the funds and for over 10 years the project stalled until the Kisii County government intervened and paid the Sh30 million on behalf of the farmers and the factory has now been built.

The avocado processing factory is also on course and we have secured an investor to help us add value on avocado fruits to enable farmers reap maximum profits.

Our plan to unveil a sugar processing factory in South Mugirango is on, consultations with various stakeholders including national agencies is currently ongoing and soon we are ground breaking after the necessary approvals from the County Assembly.

To improve access for our farm produce, the county has opened a number of roads, being our third priority, making them accessible in all weather conditions through murrasing and compacting.

Before devolution, we had a coverage of 1,133 kilometres of road network in Kisii but my administration has increased this to 3,157 kilometres.

Our fourth priority is the education sector. To help needy students access education uninterrupted, we have disbursed over Sh650 million in bursaries since 2013.

To improve learning in our vocational centres, we

have so far hired 206 instructors from various trades as tutors to train our youth in various vocational training centres in the county. This Financial Year, we have distributed Sh52 million as tuition fee for our trainees in vocational training centres.

We recruited 900 Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) teachers and built classrooms across the county. We are partnering with the Aga Khan Foundation to build capacity in Early Years Education teachers to improve quality.

As our fifth priority, the provision of safe and potable water is at an advanced stage. We have a number of water schemes being developed. Above all, we have procured a rig to help sub-counties drill boreholes affordably.

We have prioritised culture, sports and social services as our sixth pillar. To promote youth talent, we have given Gusii Stadium a major facelift to make it meet set standards. In the first phase of the Gusii Stadium upgrade, the county government erected a perimeter fence around the stadium, revamped the VIP pavilion and two bleachers. The stadium now has an underground drainage and irrigation system giving it an evergreen Kikuyu grass tuft.

Our seventh priority is the trade and industry sector where, we have fast-tracked our efforts to establish a soapstone value addition factory at Tabaka.

Already, a feasibility study conducted by the Ministry of Petroleum and Mining has indicated viability of the project, and soon investors will set base in the area.

Besides, my government has joined hands with 13 other counties within the region to form an economic bloc –the Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB).

This will facilitate sustainable economic growth by taking advantage of the obtaining economies of scale to boost trade.

Kisii is heading the health pillar in the LREB and we are positioning the county as a premier destination for medical tourism.

To empower the county residents through wealth creation, we have relentlessly packaged the county as an investment destination and already investors are venturing into value addition in various sectors such as the avocado and banana, sugar processing, and soapstone industries among others.

Already, we have made Kisii town a 24-hour business hub replete with an efficient solar and electricity lights under the urban development and planning pillar.

The Kisii Municipality is now in place and we have built a modern fire station and emergency response centre having procured modern fire engines.

Therefore, we have realised the devolution dream in Kisii County, having made it an ultimate investment destination and a key commercial hub in the Lake region. We are proud of these seven years of devolution as we celebrate the first decade under the Kenya Constitution 2010.

Karibuni.

**Hon. James Elvis Omariba Ongwae,**  
**CBS, E.B.S, OGW.**  
GOVERNOR, KISII COUNTY

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# Kisii County in brief

Kisii is one of the 47 counties in Kenya, located in the former Nyanza province. Its neighbours include Nyamira, Homa Bay, Migori and Narok. It is largely an agricultural county. Major cash crops include tea and coffee. It is well known for bananas, especially the sweet variety (kisukari), and small-scale dairy farming. Other crops include sugarcane, maize, beans. Kisii is blessed with a favourable climate throughout the year. It receives reliable rainfall. This is why its agriculture is rain-fed.

# 1.26 million

Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics



## Population

It is one of the most densely regions in Kenya, with an average of 1,000 people living per square kilometre. Many of the residents are Abagusii, the indigenous people. However, other communities such as Kikuyu, Kalenjin, Nubian, Hindu, Luo and Luhya live in the county. The county is known for peace throughout the year. Its people are industrious and hospitable.

The huge population offers ready market for farm produce and ready labour to fuel economic growth.

## Potential

The influx of people from various parts of the country is unlocking the potential of the town. This is evident through the kind of modern buildings coming up in Kisii Town.

Unlike before devolution, there is now a huge vehicle and human traffic in the town. This speaks volumes about the town's potential.

## Banks

# 24

Kisii town is host to 24 branches of commercial banks, 16 insurance firms and 14 universities. Kisii University is located about 1.2km from the town centre.

Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) is opening a money clearing house and the works are at an advanced stage. It is likely to start operating in the course of 2020.

## Administration

The county is headquartered in Kisii Town. The town also acts as the national administrative headquarters.

## Industries

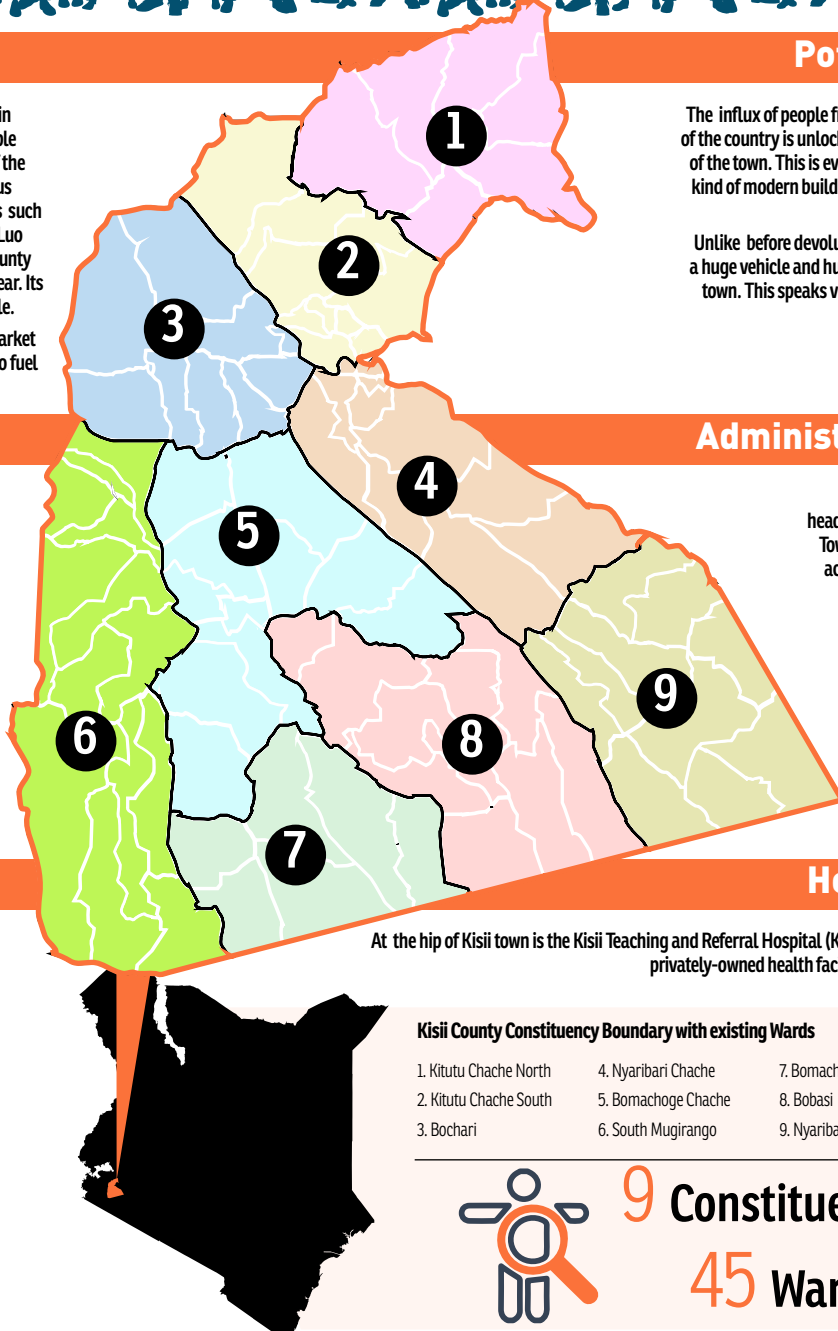
The county has potential in sugarcane, banana and avocado value addition. In Tabaka, South Mugirango Constituency, there is a rare resource, soapstone.

The stone is used to carve various artefacts which are sold locally and abroad. The rock has been exploited since the 1880s but it has not offered maximum benefits to the local people.

Apart from soapstone, there are unique rocks at Sameta and Gotichaki areas. The rocks have unique features

## Hospital

At the hip of Kisii town is the Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital (KTRH) and several privately-owned health facilities in the town.



# 9 Constituencies

# 45 Wards

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# Devolution is the best system for public service delivery

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

As pioneer leaders of the County Government, we were cognisant of our obligation to maintain the highest standards of service delivery and therefore crafted innovative ways to attract investment to help us realise the aspirations of residents.

For the last six years, we have achieved tangible deliverables in terms of county projects in all sectors under devolved government units including health, education, agriculture and water services.

We have also attracted investors to help the county deliver on mega projects, especially, in areas with constrained resources. This has improved various sectors including banana, sugarcane and avocado.

Citizen engagement is now a reality and as county government, we are able to timely get public views and feedback to help us serve the residents of the county in a satisfactory manner. Indeed, devolved governance has proved to be the surest way in bringing services and resources closer to the people.

I would like to assure the residents of this great county that we are firmly committed to delivering on our mandate during our second term in office.

But to do this, we need the support of all stakeholders. I urge that we exercise patriotism with dedication and work towards the betterment of our beloved county for present and future generations.

I call upon the county staff to strive to discharge their duties with honesty, diligence and accountability to our employer – the public.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the County Assembly and the leadership of Kisii County for the spirit of teamwork and dedication, which has been key in the realisation of the development programmes we have so far registered.

God bless Kisii County.

**H.E Hon Joash Maangi, MBS,**  
DEPUTY GOVERNOR, KISII COUNTY



“For the last six years, we have achieved tangible deliverables in terms of county projects in all sectors under devolved government including health, education, agriculture and water services.”

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H.E. UHURU KENYATTA, CGH

“

I have visited Kisii and held functions at the Gusii Stadium before but let me say that today I walked into an entirely transformed facility. Let me appreciate the efforts by the county government in refurbishing the stadium making it one of the safe spaces for youth recreation and talent nurturing”

PRESIDENT AND THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCES OF KENYA



HER EXCELLENCY MARGARET KENYATTA

“

I am encouraged and deeply reassured by the investment Kisii County government has made in prioritising women and children by dedicating a fully-fledged Mother and Child Hospital, the 200 bed capacity MCH wing being put up at the KTRH will greatly improve the health of mothers and children”

FIRST LADY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA



RT. HON. RAILA ODINGA, EGH

“

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.”

ODM PARTY LEADER



DR. FRED MATIANG'I

“

I always traverse the country in the course of duty and comparatively I rate Kisii County government as among the best in terms of projects and service delivery. I normally interact with Governor Ongwae and I can confirm that he has the interests of Kisii County residents at heart and he always offer proposals for the benefit of the people.”

CABINET SECRETARY, INTERIOR & CO-ORDINATION OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND HEAD OF THE PRESIDENTIAL DELIVERY UNIT



EUGENE WAMALWA

“

Let me hail the Kisii County government for realising a number of development projects in the county and as minister for Devolution, I can say that the county is on the right track in terms of service delivery at the grassroots. For example, the banana factory project we launched in Kisii will create employment and spur local economic development not only for the county but also the country in general.”

CABINET SECRETARY, DEVOLUTION AND ASAL



JOE MUCHERU

“

Counties should work closely with the national government in public service. I hail Kisii County government for maintaining cordial relations with the national government agencies.”

CABINET SECRETARY, ICT

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SICILY KARIUKI



The Big Four agenda includes affordable and accessible health services to all and the construction of the 250-bed capacity hospital wards at KTRH, the hospital hostel for visiting doctors, and other facilities at the hospital, goes a long way in ameliorating the president's efforts in promoting health services in the country. I congratulate Governor James Ongwae on the stance Kisii County government has taken in improving infrastructure and expansion of the scope of services offered in public health facilities in the county,"

CABINET SECRETARY,  
WATER AND SANITATION



JOHN MUNYES



We have some investors who have expressed interest in the soapstone industry. Regrettably, Kisii has lost a substantial amount of money from soapstone through the incidence of exploitation by middlemen. There is need to add value to this rare product to ensure profits for dealers in the value chain. I commend the Kisii County government for initiating this process aimed at establishing a factory for soapstone value addition,"

CABINET SECRETARY,  
PETROLEUM AND MINING



H.E WYCLIFFE OPARANYA



Having conducted a tour of Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital, I can confidently say that devolution is really working and with the remarkable infrastructural development, Kisii County is headed in the right direction to actualise satisfactory health service delivery as envisaged in the health pillar as an item both in the Lake Region Economic Bloc and the Big Four agenda,"

GOVERNOR KAKAMEGA COUNTY AND  
CHAIRMAN C.O.G. AND LREB



H.E PROF ANYANG  
NYONG'O



The tremendous infrastructure development we have witnessed at the Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital is a clear demonstration that devolution is working for Kenya,"

GOVERNOR, KISUMU



H.E. JOHN NYAGARAMA



Whatever happens in Kisii goes for Nyamira and the elevation of the Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital has gone a long way in making health services available to residents in the region,"

GOVERNOR NYAMIRA



H.E DR WILBUR  
OTTICHILLO



I appreciate the good work done by my colleague Governor Ongwae, especially in his transformative agenda of The Kisii Referral Hospital and lighting of the town to enhance a 24-hour economy,"

GOVERNOR VIHIGA

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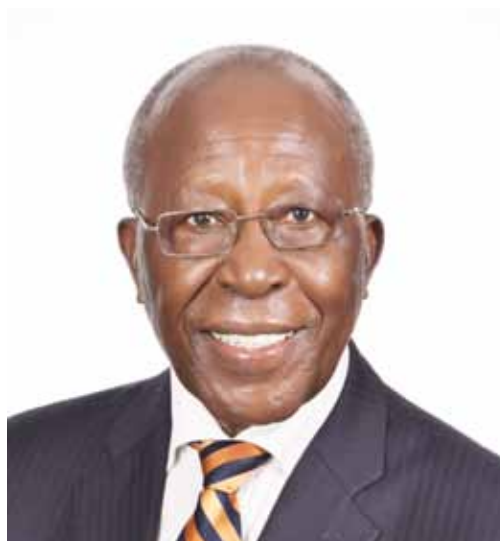


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# Devolution is empowering citizens in governance through public participation



**D**evolution has brought about a new dawn in the government structure and resource management in Kenya.

The new dispensation has promoted democratic and accountable exercise of power, fostering national unity while recognising diversity. The devolved system of government recognises the right of communities to manage their own affairs as regards development.

Kisii County is strategically located with easy access and a developed communication infrastructure. The county's municipality has become the commercial and financial hub of the entire southwestern Kenya.

With liberalisation and creation of the Lake Region Economic Bloc, Kisii is poised to develop strong networks in the whole of the Lake Victoria region markets and onto northern reaches of the neighbouring Tanzania.

However, this great county has been characterised by diminishing arable land which poses a threat to the lives of the people.

There is need for urgent transformation of our people's way of living to discard traditional methods of agriculture and embrace technology to help improve smallholder productivity through value addition, intensive farming and horticulture.

Kisii County government has entrenched devolution and the gains are evident. The community enjoys public participation in decision making and improved access to resources at the grassroots where organs of government have been devolved.

Senate as constitutionally mandated, is committed to guarantee the success of devolution, by ensuring that county governments are adequately funded and oversighted.

Funds allocated to county governments from the national shareable revenue has increased over the past six years from Sh210 billion in 2013 to Sh316 billion currently.

Notably, the revenue Kisii County, has since received has been utilised properly through key achievements including transformation at Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital, Gusii Stadium and the overall outlook of Kisii town.

The Senate shall continue to be the guardian angel of devolution in protecting the counties, and that is why we have passed a number of bills concerning county governments, which legislation, once enacted, will have the overall goal of transforming the lives of our people.

Senate Ad Hoc Committee on tea where I am a member has held a consultative meeting with farmers in Kisii and in the fullness of time recommendations for changes in the sector will be implemented to enable them reap maximum benefits from the crop.

As a member of the Senate Public Accounts and Investment Committee, I also continue being the watchdog on the utilisation of resources by the County governments including that of Kisii and ensuring that the use of resources optimally brings the desire to transform.

The proposed Sugarcane processing factory in South Mugirango, has received Senate approval and all the necessary protocols are being adhered to actualise the project.

May God continue blessing Kisii County.

**H.E (AMB.) PROF SAM ONGERI, EGH, EBS, M.P**  
SENATOR, KISII COUNTY



# Statement from County Woman Representative

It has been an exciting journey, since I assumed office as the Kisii County Member of Parliament in 2017. The great people of Kisii County entrusted me with the enormous duty of becoming their representative in championing for the rights and interests of all the affirmative action groups.

The National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF), stipulates that the key beneficiaries of this fund will be the affirmative action groups. It is for this reason that most of my initiatives focus more on empowering the Girl Child, the Youth, Women, People with Disabilities, widows, widowers and the Elderly.

My office also serves as an anchor to our shared objective of empowering the youth for self-reliance. It's for this reason that we sponsored students from across the county to undertake various technical courses at the National Industrial Training Authority. The beneficiaries of this programme are now independent some self-employed while others working in fully structured companies. I further sponsored Boda Boda riders drawn from all the 45 wards to acquire Category "A" Driving licenses. Talented youths have not been left behind as the ongoing Dimba Mashinani Na Mama Kisii County taps and exploits their football talents. Skilled players are drafted to various football clubs in the country.

Through NGAAF we have been issuing grants for value addition initiatives, and seed money for table banking activities to various groups. I initiated 'Inua Biashara na Ng'ina Banto' programme where over 3,000 traders across all markets in all the nine constituencies were issued with umbrellas for shelter.

There is nothing grander and greater than securing the future generation through education, this is why I introduced Mashinani Students of Excellence (MASE) programme that gives full scholarships to students from needy backgrounds. This is in addition to the Woman Rep Bursary that we have been issuing to total and partial orphans. Through the National Sanitary Towels Programme all school girls from Class 6 to Form 4 in all schools across the county receive Sanitary Towels.

Besides, I initiated a programme of issuing water tanks to schools to enhance access to clean water for school going students. We are currently in phase II and so far over 100 primary and secondary schools across all wards have received 10,000 litre capacity water tanks. This programme will go a long way in reducing the time wasted by students walking long distances to fetch water.

At the same time, I have been championing grassroots civic education and public awareness on the constitutional mandate that provides for the establishment of policies in both National and County government on 30 per cent procurement and contract reservation for women, youths and persons with disability and other existing socio-economic empowerment opportunities.

I will continue to address the plight of the persons with disability, street children, providing legal aid to victims of gender based violence, widows and widowers.

As I pledged during my campaigns, I wish to reaffirm my commitment to being the bridge of hope to all affirmative action groups and I urge all residents of this great county to continue taking full advantage of the services that are available in the Office of the Woman Representative.

God bless you! God Bless Kisii County!

**Hon. Janet Ong'era**

COUNTY WOMAN REPRESENTATIVE



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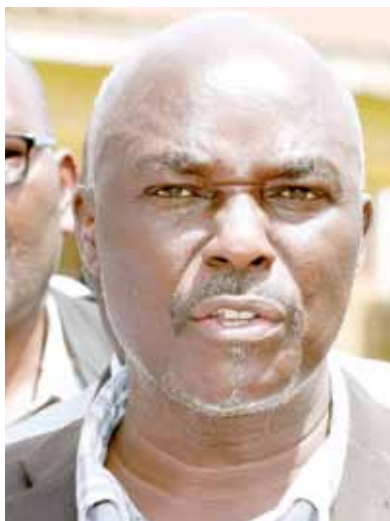
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**Hon. Innocent Obiri**  
Bobasi



**Hon. Prof. Zadock Ogutu**  
Bomachoge Borabu



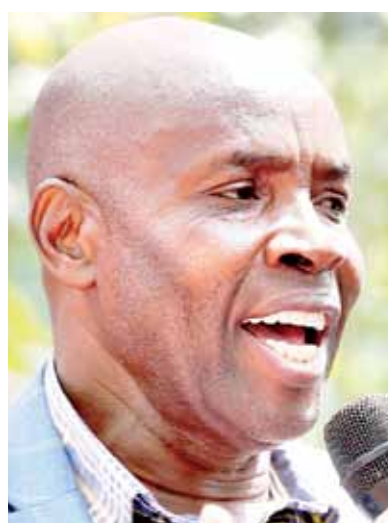
**Hon. Jimmy Angwenyi**  
Kitutu Chache North



**Hon. Silvanus Osoro**  
South Mugirango



**Hon. Oroo Oyioka**  
Bonchari



**Hon. Ezekiel Machogu**  
Nyaribari Masaba



**Hon. Alpha Miruka**  
Bomachoge Chache



**Hon. Richard Onyonka**  
Kitutu Chache South



**Hon. Richard Tong'i**  
Nyaribari Chache

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# Statement from County Speaker

The advent of devolution in Kenya gave birth to regional legislatures in various counties since 2013. This includes Kisii County Assembly.

In its second term, the Second Assembly of Kisii has 69 Members of the County Assembly (MCAs), 45 of whom are elected from the 45 wards of this county. The Assembly is made up of 46 male and 23 female representatives. Only one of those female legislators was elected.

When I was elected Speaker in September 2017, I underscored the importance of working in harmony as a government – both the legislature and the executive. To date, we have come this far because we have embraced consultation and communication between the two arms.

Learning has never stopped, and as an Assembly we are always in a learning process. This has not only helped us grasp new ideas but also foster our development as an organisation.

To spur the development for our people, the County Assembly has committed to ensuring that the pieces of legislations that can realise such developments are always put into consideration first, without partisan interests. That is why budget making process in this Assembly is followed closely and all guidelines and time-lines adhered to.

We were among the first assemblies in this region to pass the Lake Region Economic Bloc Bill into law. The Act put a legal framework to the regional economic zone, seeking to help empower people economically.

These are among legislations endeavours that this Assembly has realised in a few years of its existence and helps the county government with a legal basis to reach various individuals, groups and communities in empowerment and development of the society.



## Hon David Kombo

Speaker, Kisii County Assembly

# Statement from County Assembly Clerk

The County Assembly is one arm of the County Government vested with the mandate to legislate, represent the electorate and oversight the County Executive and its organs. It's commonly referred to as the legislature from its key mandate of legislation.

The Second County Assembly in the County Government of Kisii has a total of 69 MCAs. Of the 69 MCAs, 45 are elected from the wards of this County, while 24 are nominated to meet the constitutional requirements as per the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 with regard to gender, youth, minorities,

marginalised groups and Persons with Disability. The Constitution buttresses devolution as a system of governance. County assemblies find the provision under Article 176 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.

## Mr James Nyaoga

Clerk, Kisii County Assembly



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**Hon. Timothy Ogugu**  
Leader of Majority



**Hon. Davins Okindo**  
Deputy Speaker



**Hon. James Ondari**  
Leader of Minority



**Hon. John Ombati**  
Chief Whip



**Hon. Zablon Mokua**  
Minority Whip

## Statement from the Leader of Majority

Having been selected to serve in this office since the onset of the second Assembly, I have overseen, for over two years, a good working relationship between the two arms of Kisii County government.

The key to this harmony has been the cordial working relationship between the County Assembly and Executive arm of this government. This has ensured that development targets are achieved particularly in roads, agriculture, trade, environment and other key sectors.

Although we are a young legislature, the County Assembly of Kisii has continued to realise its legislative agenda with key pieces of legislations which enables the executive to deliver its mandate.

Among the legislations passed by the Assembly include the finance and appropriation bills which have always been done in time and within the guidelines. We recently passed the Lake Region Economic Bloc Act that seeks to legalise an economic empowerment bloc in the region. Other key legislations from the past that have really helped realise development includes the Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital Act, the Bursaries Fund Act and Youth and Women Empowerment Act, among others. It will be worth noting that Kisii County is one of the devolved units where the budget making process has always met the required timelines and guidelines including public participation.

This has been possible through continued consultations, discussions and agreements between the Majority and Minority sides of this government. All views have always been taken on board.

We have supported the County Assembly Service Board in budgetary allocations. Members of the County Assembly (MCAs) and our staff have always been supported in capacity building.

Responses from the Executive side to queries on the floor of the House have been timely and satisfactory in

many cases. However, we are working together on emerging challenges that may include:

- Budget constraints:** Because of ceilings imposed on our budget by the national government. It has not been easy to meet the target and achieve everything. We are unable to achieve our targets on the CIDP and ADP and therefore public expectations are not met.
- Delay in funds release:** Funds from the exchequer have in some cases been delayed for long, which hinder or delay development and service delivery.
- Lack of key facilities:** We lack some basic facilities in the legislature

such as library for research and reference.

- Security:** The Assembly precincts are shared with the Executive and this has proved sometimes to be a challenge in management of flow of traffic. Sometimes members of the public end up in the chambers unknowingly.

**Hon Timothy Ogugu**

Majority leader and MCA,  
Magenche Ward

## Word from the Leader of Minority

The Minority side of the County Assembly is vested with the responsibility to ensure that the ruling side is kept under check through legislations and oversight of its work.

Among the key highlights, as we are still in the same government even though in opposition to the ruling side, is to ensure that we help them work within the rules and regulations.

So far, in my two years of leading the minority side of the County Assembly of Kisii, Members of the County Assembly (MCAs) have been representing their people well. However, satisfaction on services sought by the people we represent has sometimes been difficult, bearing in mind that reaching all of them is a challenge due to limited funds.

A lot of emphasis must be put to ensure residents are continuously involved and general public participation enhanced.

In oversight, there has been much improvement as audit reports and key departmental

performance reports have been discussed in the Assembly. However, we are yet to realise fully our mandate on this.

Implementation of House resolutions from Motions and Acts among others sometimes takes longer because of the financial challenges faced by the executive from time to time.

The bulk of legislations work in any legislative organ is derived from the Executive side of the government and we urge them to step up on their role of originating operational Bills to enhance service delivery.

Also, there is need for the executive to revisit implementation of policies and laws enacted by the First Assembly, which may still be pending.

**Hon James Ondari**

Minority leader and MCA,  
Boochi Tendere

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# Fostering a robust legislative institution

The County Assembly is one arm of the County Government vested with the mandate to legislate, represent the electorate and oversight the County Executive and its organs. It's commonly referred to as the legislature from its key mandate of legislation. The Second County Assembly in the County Government of Kisii has a total of 69 Members of the County Assembly (MCAs).

Of the 69 MCAs, 45 are elected from the wards of this county, while 24 are nominated to meet the constitutional requirements as per the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 with regard to gender, youth, minorities, marginalised groups and Persons with Disability. The Constitution buttresses devolution as a system of governance.

## **Institutional Framework Milestones:**

The County Assembly Service Board is fully constituted and functional. The Board has an appointed substantive Clerk of the Assembly and recruited staff with diverse competencies and skills for all directorates to enhance service delivery. So as to always refresh these competencies and empower the MCAs in debate and committee work, the service board has continuously trained and built capacity of the House Committees and staff.

## **Directorates:**

As the County Assembly makes strides to the future, the Kisii County Assembly Service Board rolled out a five-year Strategic Plan, with a road map on where this legislative arm of the County Government of Kisii seeks to be by the year 2023. The Strategic Plan which has 13 key strategies to guide the institution also outlines the vision, mission and the core values to drive the legislature forward. Recently, the board reviewed its organisational structure and realigned some of the directorates for effective service delivery. The new structure comprises the following Directorates:

- i. Human Resource Management
- ii. Administrative Services
- iii. Hansard and Communication
- iv. Legal and Legislative Services
- v. Committee and Procedural Services
- vi. Research and Information Technology
- vii. Finance and Accounting Services

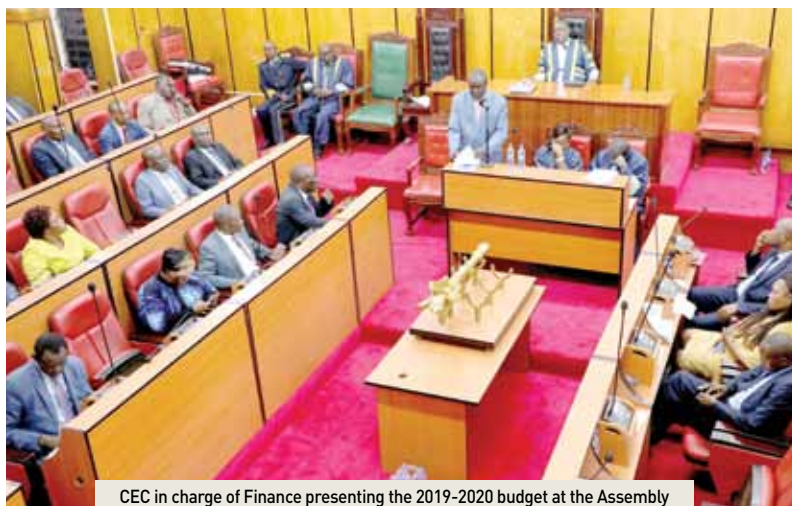
## **Infrastructural Development:**

Kisii County Assembly is one of the most effective devolved legislatures when it comes to value for money on infrastructural development.

Besides the milestones it achieved in infrastructural development during the First Assembly, the institution continues to ensure a conducive working environment for the honourable members and staff.

The Assembly continues to refurbish the hansard equipment and system. It has a twin two-storey fully-furnished office block, and a new four-storey office/library/cafe/terrace block is almost complete. Construction of ward offices is already underway in various wards even as the hired offices in those wards are fully furnished. Soon, the Assembly will have a new debating chamber as approvals for same have already been realised.

In the current offices, the latest streaming technology for the assembly sessions is working as information communication technology is put



CEC in charge of Finance presenting the 2019-2020 budget at the Assembly

into use.

## **Legislative milestones:**

Legislations being a key mandate of any legislature in the world, Kisii County Assembly has for the last six years endeavoured to make laws for this county with the aim of making the lives of its people better. Through these pieces of legislation, the Assembly seeks to either put a framework towards empowering the people financially, or bringing better and affordable services to the locals.

Among key highlights in legislations passed by the Assembly include the following Acts and Policy Papers;

## **ACTs**

- i) Kisii County Teaching and Referral Hospital Act, 2013.
- ii) Kisii County Trade Credit Scheme Act, 2015.
- iii) Kisii County NHIF Support Act, 2015.
- iv) Kisii County Bursaries Fund Act, 2014
- v) Kisii County ECDE Act, 2013.
- vi) Kisii County Youth & Women Empowerment Fund Act, 2016.
- vii) Lake Region Economic Bloc Act, 2018.

This seeks to bring together counties in the Lake Region with an aim of not only integrating more of its residents, but also in creating economic empowerment, creating employment opportunities and upgrading the health and agriculture sectors.

## **Policy Papers**

- viii) The Annual Development Plan-ADP
- ix) The Fiscal Strategy Paper
- x) The County Budget Review Outlook Paper-CBROP

The CBROP looks into how the budget performed in the previous Financial Year as per the other two policy papers that are used in planning.

Therefore, the Assembly ensures that the budget goes hand in hand with the plans.

In every Financial Year, Kisii County Assembly adheres to policy timelines as provided for in the Public Finance Management Act, 2012. The Assembly has never had a stalemate in budget making process since the guidelines and timelines are followed. Secondly, the working relationship between the executive arm of the government and the legislature is cordial.

## **Oversight and Representation**

The Oversight function is effective in the County Assembly. For instance, recently when there were issues in the County Departments of Finance and Procurements in budget implementation, it formed an ad hoc committee to investigate the matter. From the investigations, changes were recommended and effected in those departments.

It will also be noted that in the First Assembly, many village roads were opened due to the fact that the assembly followed closely and assisted the executive through framework and collaboration of the Members (MCAs).

A number of petitions have been presented seeking the government to act in needy interventions. Key on this that we can identify with is the petition by Bomorenda Ward MCA Hon John Ombati, that sought to improve Suneka Market in Bonchari sub-county.

Today, the market is under renovation and further extensions due to the interventions and recommendations that were made from the house resolutions following the petition.

## **The committee system**

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

- i Lands, Physical Planning and Urban Development
- ii. Health Services
- iii. Labour and Social Welfare
- iv. Culture, Children, Youth, Sports and Community Services
- v. Justice and Legal Affairs
- vi. Early Childhood Development, Education and Vocational Training
- vii. Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperative Development
- viii. Energy, Environment, Water and Natural Resources
- ix. Trade, Tourism and Industry
- x. Roads, Transport and Public Works
- xi. Public Accounts and Investments
- xii. Budget and Appropriations
- xiii. Committee on Implementation
- xiv. Delegated County Legislations

## **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.

## 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; are very elaborate on the roles of the County Assembly. These are: Representation; Legislations and Oversight.



# MEMBERS OF KISII COUNTY ASSEMBLY



Hon Agatha Mayora



Hon Amos Begi



Hon Andrew Kimonge



Hon Bathseba Sanaya



Hon Beatrice Doyle



Hon Beatrice Kayaga



Hon Benson Ongeru



Hon Bernard Ogari



Hon Bilancio Maturwe



Hon Calleb Ong'uti



Hon Caroline Otachi



Hon Catherine Manzi



Hon Charles Chacha



Hon Charles Nyagoto



Hon Claire Moraa



Hon Daniel Apepo



Hon David Bwana



Hon Davins Okindo



Hon Dennis Ombachi



Hon Duke Nyarang'o



Hon Edmond Mokumi



Hon Eric Janganya



Hon Evans Mokoro



Hon Geoffrey Ombui



Hon Geoffrey Ondong'a



Hon Grace Ogonda



Hon Harriet Kerubo  
Ong'era



Hon Ibrahim Mose



Hon Ibrahim Ombuya



Hon Isabella Oigara



Hon. Samuel Apoko



Hon. Samuel Ong'onoh



Hon. Samuel Onukoh



Hon. Samwel Gekonge



Hon. Timothy Ogugu



Hon. Vincent Gitene

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Hon Ismael Matundura



Hon James Anunda



Hon James Gisore



Hon James Ondari



Hon Jane Justin



Hon Jane Moseti



Hon Japhet Ombeo



Hon John Amisi



Hon John Ombati



Hon Joseph Chweya



Hon Josephine Ombati



Hon Joyce Ombasa



Hon Julius Osofi



Hon Karen Magara



Hon Kefah Kebabe



Hon Kennedy Mainya



Hon Kepha Sagini



Hon Loice Mwangela



Hon. Margret Atina



Hon. Mary Michieka



Hon. Methusela Ogero



Hon. Naomi Ronald



Hon. Norah Onyancha



Hon. Paul Angwenyi



Hon. Peter Gekanana



Hon. Protus Moindi



Hon. Richard Atang'a



Hon. Risper Ong'uti



Hon. Rosa Orondo



Hon. Samson Mogusu



Hon. Vincent Moisabi



Hon. Zablon Mokua



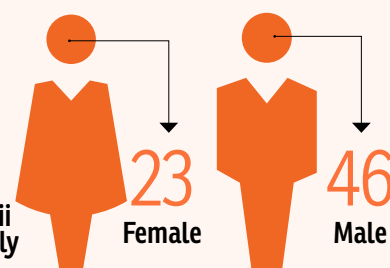
Hon. Zipporah Morere

45  
Wards

69

Members of Kisii  
County Assembly

45 elected, 24 nominated



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**Hon. James Elvis Omariba Ongwae,**  
CBS, E.B.S, OGW.  
Governor, Kisii County



**H.E Hon Joash Maangi, MBS,**  
Deputy Governor, Kisii County



**Sarah Omache**  
Health Services



**Esman Onsarigo**  
Agriculture,  
Livestock, Fisheries  
and Cooperatives  
Development



**Amos Andama**  
Education Labour and  
Manpower Development



**Dr Walter Okibo**  
Administration, Corporate  
Services and Stakeholder  
Management



**Edina Kangwana**  
Trade and  
Industry



**Dr Skitter Ocharo**  
Energy, Water,  
Environment and  
Natural Resources



**Duke Mainga**  
Culture, Sports,  
Youth and Social  
Services



**John Momanyi**  
Lands, Housing,  
Physical Planning and  
Urban Development



**Vincent Sagwe**  
Roads, Public Works  
and Transport



**Moses Onderi**  
Finance and  
Economic  
Planning



**Patrick Lumumba**  
County  
Secretary and  
Head of Public  
Service

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# COUNTY CHIEF OFFICERS



**Timothy Kambuni**  
Ag. Executive



**Abel Sagini**  
Public Works  
and Housing



**Alex Nyamweya**  
Ag. Stakeholder  
Management, Public  
participation & Disaster  
Management



**Alice Abuki**  
Health



**Beatrice Ochoki**  
Water Services



**Bernard  
Omosa**  
Ag. Revenue  
Management



**Billiah  
Mogaka**  
Trade and  
Industry



**Carolyn  
Nyaseti**  
Culture, Sports, Youth  
and Social Services



**Charles  
Nyakweba**  
Ag. Energy,  
Environment and  
Natural Resources



**Nahashon  
Onger**  
Municipal Manager



**Crispus Njoga**  
Lands, Physical  
Planning & Urban  
Development



**Dr Doris  
Nyokangi**  
Education and  
Manpower  
Development



**Dr. Alphaneus Mokaya**  
Fisheries, Livestock and  
Veterinary Services



**Nicodemus  
Okondo**  
Roads



**Wilfred Auma**  
Finance &  
Accounting Services



**Zablon Ongori**  
Planning and  
Economic  
Development



**Geoffrey Mogire**  
Administration,  
Enforcement and  
Devolved Units



**Naomi Mokaya**  
Agriculture and  
Co-operative  
Development

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# HEAD OF DIRECTORATES



**CPA Obwoye Lukio Ongeni**  
Director Accounting Services



**Chris Ibalai**  
Chief Finance Officer



**Jared Oteyo**  
Administration, Labour and  
Manpower Development



**Joseph Kiage**  
Trade



**Eng. Raymond  
Mugambi**  
Roads



**Nicodemus Orito**  
Disaster Management



**Obadiah Manyara**  
Gambling and Betting



**Pamela Kemunto**  
Commissioner  
Co-operatives



**Patrick Achoki**  
Physical Planning



**Francis Osoro**  
Administration  
Environment



**Andrew Nyamwaro**  
Livestock



**Daniel Maguto**  
Enforcement



**Duke Ongechi**  
Human Resource  
Management



**Edwin Muga**  
Fisheries



**Reuben Nyakundi**  
Public Works



**Victor Odoyo**  
ICT



**Samuel Wanyama**  
Sports



**Swanya Onkware**  
Administration Culture



**Henry Mbaka**  
Fleet Management



**Isaac Ongiri**  
Communication, Donor  
Liaison and Protocol Services



**Evans Nyachio**  
Supply Chain Management



**Ezekiel Ombaso**  
Culture



**Geoffrey Muturi**  
Tourism Development



**Harun Nyamache**  
Ag. Director  
Administration



**Jefferson Akunga**  
Ag. Director Special  
Programs



**Oyaro  
Kenyoro**  
Municipal Engineer



**Pamela Kintu**  
Director Finance &  
Administration



**Lucas Arasa**  
Director Revenue,  
Municipality



**Maseme Machuka**  
Administration Trade



**John Ayega**  
Liquor Licensing

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# Transformational infrastructural development at the Sub Counties



Governor James Ongwae admiring a new born child at the KTRH hospital when he visited the facility recently



Sarah Omache

**“ The department is determined to ensure county residents in all the 45 wards have access to quality and affordable healthcare services.**

— CEC SARAH OMACHE

— CHIEF OFFICER  
ALICE ABUKI



Alice Abuki

**H**ealth facilities in the nine sub-counties in Kisii County have undergone infrastructural upgrade through renovation of basic facilities and installation of core medical equipment since 2013.

The county plans to make the devolved unit a health destination for residents of the greater South Nyanza region. The county government is also identifying dispensaries built through CDF and other agencies through the county with a view to having them operationalised.

Kisii Health County Executive Member Sarah Omache affirms that the upgrade in the rural facilities will also help decongest Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital (KTRH).

“Our focus on healthcare development has not only been at the KTRH. We have

made great efforts to further improve healthcare service delivery at the grassroots,” she notes.

KTRH has been outstretching its resources as it seeks to prove its capability.

“We want the health establishments to live to their true status of sub-county referral hospitals. We shall upgrade these hospitals to Level Five facilities to help decongest KTRH and bring services closer to the people,” the health CEC explains.

Nyamache Sub-County Hospital now has a second theatre and a renal unit

At Kenya Sub-County hospital, the county has finalised construction of a theatre in partnership with the Aga Khan Development Network, and is now operational.

Expectant women, newborns and children

under five in Bomachoge Borabu will from now on be enjoying improved healthcare services. The facility is now fully equipped.

At Gucha Level four hospital in Bomachoge Chache, construction of a new kitchen is ongoing, while the laundry unit is complete and equipped with machines, the mortuary is also complete and machinery and equipment delivered to the facility.

Gucha is the second largest health facility in the county after Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital.

Recently, the county procured and installed a power transformer to address perennial power supply challenges at the facility.

Engineers are finalising installation of an Electrical Distribution Panel to allow the hospital operate specialised equipment including digital x-rays, dental x-ray and theatre equipment.

At Marani in Kitutu Chache North Sub County, the county government has renovated and expanded the Out Patient Department (OPD) and now patients can access ultra sound and digital x-ray services at the hospital.

Construction of a modern accident and emergency ward that will have theatre and a mortuary is ongoing.

“We plan to build theatres at Iyabe and Nduru hospitals in Bonchari and South Mogirango sub-counties to promote quality healthcare in these areas, ultimately easing pressure on the county referral hospital, KTRH,” Omache discloses.

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## MANDATE

The mandate of the health sector is wide and includes overseeing and coordinating the overall health service delivery systems by all health service providers within the county. These include County Public health systems; private for profit and private not for profit players, Non-Governmental Organisations and Development Partners.

The Department is focused on attaining the goal of "health for all, by all" working with both the duty bearers and rights holders alike through a Primary Health Care (PHC) approach. This approach embraces curative and rehabilitative care concurrently with preventive and promotive care, a continuum of care through the populations' life-cycle and integrated people-centered health care system from households.

The broad mandate of the health sector is articulated in Chapter 4 of the Kenyan Constitution (2010) under the Bill of Rights, which recognises health as an economic and social right noting that: "every person has the right to the highest attainable standards of health, which includes the right to health care services including reproductive health."

## VISION

An efficient and high quality health care system that is accessible, equitable and affordable for every resident of Kisii County.

## MISSION

To promote and participate in the provision of integrated and high quality promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative health care services to all residents of Kisii County.



President Uhuru Kenyatta commissioning the newly constructed Anatomy and Histology laboratory at the KTRH.



A newly constructed and fully furnished hostel block for doctors.

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# Kisii set to roll out UHC scheme, deliver affordable services

**K**isii residents are set to benefit from Universal Health Care (UHC) as the county moves to make treatment affordable for all.

The county joins a list of other devolved units in the country where the programme is already running.

According to Governor James Ongwae, the county will recruit more community volunteers who are key in implementing the programme.

In line with the World Health Organization (WHO), UHC means that all people and communities can use the promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative health services they need, of sufficient quality to be effective, while also ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the user to financial hardship.

UHC embodies equity in access to health services where everyone who needs services should get them, not only those who can pay for them; the quality of health services should be good enough to improve the health of those receiving services; and people should be protected against financial-risk, ensuring that the cost of using services does not put people at risk of financial harm.

Governor Ongwae notes that equitable distribution as a pillar of the UHC does not stop at drugs and infrastructure but also human resource.

"Community volunteers are the most important people because the number of nurses is not even enough for our dispensaries," he observes.

He reckons that his administration has a budgetary allocation for the recruitment saying the county is indentifying and set to increase the number of community volunteers to a minimum 80 per cent up from 50 per cent.

Dr Pacifica Onyancha from the ministry of health in the national government while in a function in

Kisii, said that UHC will only be a success if there is community participation, equitable distribution of resources, inter-sectoral coordination, embrace of appropriate technology and decentralization.

She notes that counties must forge a close working relationship with central government officials at the grassroots such as chiefs, their assistants and village elders.

For UHC to be considered a success, Dr Onyancha roots for, education of the masses, promotion of food supply and proper food nutrition, adequate supply of safe water and basic sanitation, maternal and child health care, sanitation and prevention and control of local endemic diseases are some of the necessary activities.

Notably, President Uhuru Kenyatta launched the UHC Pilot Programme dubbed Afya Care – Wema Wa Mkenya in Kisumu last year.

He said the programme enables Kenyans to access affordable healthcare without financial hardship.

Health is one of the Big Four agenda in which President Kenyatta hopes to build his legacy. He has often assured Kenyans that the rollout of the universal healthcare coverage, which seeks to provide quality, affordable medical care to Kenyans, is on course and will be completed as promised by his government.

"We are embarking on this journey in a phased manner starting with a pilot phase in the counties of Kisumu, Nyeri, Isiolo and Machakos and we expect to learn critical lessons that shall inform the rapid scale up to the rest of the country," said President Kenyatta after launching the programme and signing the UHC service charter with the four governors in Kisumu County in December last year.



The intensive care unit (ICU) at Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital



Members of Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists' board led by Prof George Magoha (now Education Cabinet Secretary) are taken round by Governor James Ongwae during an inspection of projects at KTRH.



The 100 body capacity mortuary, anatomy and histology lab at KTRH. It has replaced the previous 25 body capacity morgue. The lab has been donated to the Kisii University for training of medical students.

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**Mr Walter Nyakundi,**  
a trader in Kisii town says  
the new mortuary is of great  
importance to Kisii County  
residents and beyond. He says  
it is a key measure of success  
in the health sector.



# Taking health services closer to Mwananchi through ambulances

**Sub Counties embraced the ambulatory services as devolution spreads benefits to more people on the ground**

**T**he provision of ambulatory services by Kisii County Government has helped save thousands of lives.

The 10 ambulances acquired by the county and distributed in all the sub-counties have helped a lot in handling emergencies and referrals.

The nine sub-counties have one ambulance each with one stationed at the Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital (KTRH).

An ambulance is a medically equipped vehicle which transports patients to treatment facilities, such as hospitals.

In some instances, out-of-hospital medical care is provided to the patient. Ambulances are used to respond to medical emergencies by emergency medical teams

Health Executive Sarah Omache said the ambulances have helped improve patient transfers within and outside the county.

"Provision of healthcare for our people has been our core function. Patients within the county are transferred to the various Health facilities at no cost. Only referrals outside the county and which are very rare are charged at a subsidised amount," she said.

"We have a fully-equipped ambulatory service that has gone a



First Lady Margaret Kenyatta when she visited maternity ward at KTRH. She commended the county government for improved service delivery in the facility

long way in improving and delivering the health services in the county. The ambulances are fitted with state-of-the-art equipment complimented by well-trained Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) to attend to emergency needs of patients en route to hospital," said the Health CEC.

The ambulances have complete radio call systems for easier communication and coordination and which have helped in reducing the response time to less than 30 minutes within the county.



Each Sub-County was allocated one ambulance while KTRH also received a fully equipped vehicle for its ambulatory services

## County's ultra-modern morgue fully operating

**T**he state-of-the-art morgue at the Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital (KTRH) is now fully operational.

The 100 Body Capacity Mortuary with Histology and Anatomy Laboratories was part of the facilities commissioned by President Uhuru Kenyatta earlier this year.

During the commissioning, Governor James Ongwae indicated that the hospital which was built over 90 years has operated with a 24-body capacity mortuary.

"We now have a modern 100 body capacity mortuary with state-of-the-art cooling facility," said Ongwae.

Ongwae revealed that in support of the teaching and referral activities, and as part of the new mortuary, the county government has built Anatomy and Histology laboratories for medical research.

"The structures occupy two floors of the new structure that we have donated to the Kisii University Medical School to support training," said the Governor.

The new mortuary has a post-mortem table, body washing table, body trolley, rising and lowering roll, cooling cabinets among other state-of-the-art equipment.

Ongwae further said that a funeral parlour-cum-chapel constructed near the morgue is also operational.

"We have a chapel for the last respect used by the relatives and friends of the departed. We have employed a pastor who spiritually encourages the bereaved families before transporting their beloved ones home for the final rites," said Ongwae. The hospital Chief Executive Officer Dr. Enoch Ondari said the KTRH morgue is one of the best facilities in

the country adding that the hospital has ensured proper maintenance and professional management of the facility since it was commissioned early last year.

"There is no difference between what we have here and what one would get at those fancied morgues in Nairobi. Though as doctors we don't advocate for our patients to die, when it happens, it is proper to give a dignified send off."

The President also commissioned a 64 slice CT Scan for specialized scanning which is supplementing the existing 16 slide CT Scan launched by Ongwae alongside a Medical Waste treatment and disposal – Microwave shredder and a 250 Bed Capacity Male Ward.

KTRH also serves neighboring counties including Homa Bay, Migori, Narok, Nyamira and Bomet.



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## CANCER CENTRE

# Donors endorse Sh2 billion design for the Kisii Cancer Centre



Former Treasury Cabinet Secretary Henry Rotich (right) receives loan agreement documents from the Chairman of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Kenya (BADEA) H.E. Yousef Ibrahim Al Bassam (centre) as Kisii Governor James Ongwae looks on.

**T**housands of cancer patients are set to benefit from a Sh 2 billion Cancer Diagnostic and Treatment Centre that will be built at the Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital.

Most cancer patients face difficulties accessing treatment in Kenya due to limited facilities which number about 12, including private ones.

Kenya's two public institutions namely Kenyatta National Hospital and Eldoret Referral Hospital are overstretched.

The project is jointly funded through a loan by the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) and the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) to a tune of Sh2.25 billion.

The governor has hailed the National Government (through the Ministries of Finance and Health) for facilitating the signing of the loan agreement with BADEA and SFD to implement the project.

The Consultant has already signed relevant contracts with the health ministry in Nairobi to originate designs for the Cancer Centre.

"As you are aware, increased cases of cancer have become a matter of serious concern to my administration. And it is for this reason that two years ago, I committed to mobilise resources for the establishment

of four cancer Centres of Excellence in the country," said President Uhuru Kenyatta when he visited KTRH early this year.

Kisii is among the first beneficiaries of this initiative. Nyeri, Nakuru and Mombasa counties will have the other three centres and each will be constructed at a cost of Sh2 billion.

The government has also set up 10 chemotherapy centres across the country to ensure access to cancer management.

President Kenyatta has lauded the Health ministry which has been partnering with the devolved units to ensure better services.

Speaking in Kisii in February 2019, Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i, who was recently appointed by the President to coordinate government projects said the national government will continue partnering with devolved units to ensure development for Kenyans.

"I will ensure implementation of government projects so as to avoid wastage of public resources. The projects we have launched today are a great indication of what utilisation of public resources can lead to," said Dr Matiang'i.

Former Health Cabinet Secretary Sicily Kariuki, now Water and sanitation CS, and her Devolution counterpart Eugene Wamalwa said the cancer centre will be a

**“As you are aware, increased cases of cancer have become a matter of serious concern to my administration. And it is for this reason that two years ago, I committed to mobilise resources for the establishment of four cancer Centres of Excellence in the country,”**  
– President Uhuru Kenyatta.



A patient undergoing CT scan at KTRH

hallmark of devolution.

"The centres in counties will decongest the Kenyatta National Hospital," said Kariuki. Governor James Ongwae said the proposed Kisii Cancer Centre will serve not only Kisii County, but the wider Western and Nyanza regions. Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital is emerging to be a regional medical destination, he said.

The facility is the biggest public health institution in South Nyanza and serves over six million people in Kisii, Nyamira, Migori, Homa Bay, Kericho and Trans Mara.

Cancer is one of the leading causes of death worldwide with approximately 14 million new cases reported annually. It was responsible for 8.8 million deaths in 2015.

In Kenya, an estimated 40,000 new cancer cases and 28,000 deaths occur each year, making the disease the third leading cause of mortality and accounting for seven per cent of all annual deaths.

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The ongoing construction of the Mother and Child Hospital at KTRH. The 200 bed capacity facility will offer dedicated services to women and children.



Governor James Ongwae joined by visiting governors during a tour of various facilities and development projects at Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital.



## In brief

## KTRH grows into a model hospital as the devolution spirit bears fruits

Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital (KTRH) has since the advent of devolution undergone a major infrastructure upgrade, making it the largest public hospital in South Nyanza region.

The upgrade has led to better service delivery, with the facility now emerging to be a regional medical destination.

At least six million people drawn from neighbouring counties of Homa Bay, Migori, Narok, Nyamira and Bomet are served at the facility annually.

Governor James Ongwae holds KTRH dear to his heart and is keen to ensure its success in promoting devolution in the populous county.

The hospital was one of his flagship projects during his inauguration in 2013. During his 2017 swearing-in, he vowed to do all that is in his power to realise his dream of better and affordable health care.

A new 250-bed male ward; a 100-body capacity mortuary, an incinerator unit, a second borehole unit and pharmacy store are complete.

"We have installed a solar lighting system within the hospital to supplement the existing electrical lighting system and save on costs," said the hospital's Chief Executive Officer Enock Ondari.

President Uhuru Kenyatta last year launched more than five new medical facilities at KTRH in what he said was actualisation of devolution.

The President and ODM party leader Raila Odinga were full of praise for Ongwae over the multi-million shilling projects that will see South Nyanza residents benefit.

Further, there is now a Doctors' hostel block with 50 self-contained units of very high standards to be used by interns and visiting doctors on exchange programs.

The construction of a 200-bed capacity Mother and Child Hospital has started. This will offer specialised services to expectant mothers and children under one roof. This will enhance the bed capacity at KTRH to 900.

"To create a more conducive environment for doctors, the construction of a doctors' plaza is already underway. This will enable specialised doctors reside and attend to patients within KTRH and eliminate the practice where they attend to patients out of the hospital," said Dr Ondari.

Further, Kisii University has been accredited to offer medical training at the KTRH.

"I am glad to report to you that the Kisii University Medical School is now operational, with its first batch of 30 students already admitted. The students will complement our health delivery services as most of the teaching will be practical and will be done in our wards," said the hospital's CEO.



A radiologist explains how a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine works at KTRH. The machine is installed at the facility serving a wide range of patients from the Western and Nyanza regions.



H.E. James Ongwae during the official opening of a surgical theatre at Nyamache Sub-County Hospital



Kisii County governor H.E. James Ongwae unveiling new ambulances for the county



A modern incinerator at the Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital (KTRH)

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His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta being taken round the Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital by Governor James Ongwae when he visited the hospital to commission new projects recently.

## WALKING THE TALK

### Morale boost as Gov. Ongwae sends 64 medical doctors for specialised trainings to step up service delivery in Kisii County

**K**isii County government is committed to continually improve terms and conditions of health workers and doctors so as to boost their morale for enhanced service delivery.

Timely staff promotions, re-designation, capacity building and rational recruitment to forestall understaffing are just some of the key measures being undertaken by the county executive.

There is even staff distribution across health facilities in the sub-counties whereby sub-county hospitals now have up to three doctors each. Some of these facilities didn't have a doctor before devolution.

"In order to ensure that the investment we have put in place in our health facilities is

useful to our people, we have made sure we have enough specialised staff," said Governor James Ongwae.

At the moment, the county has 25 specialists, 179 Doctors, over 1,000 nurses while 64 doctors are attending specialised training in oncology, general surgery, dermatology, neurosurgery, and pathology among others.

"I am happy to also report that recently, we hired an additional 100 nurses to help operationalise some of the health facilities built through CDF and other agencies at the grassroots, which had been lying idle," said Ongwae.

The county has also stepped up primary healthcare in order to prevent communicable and non-communicable illnesses.



Governor James Ongwae inspects drugs consignment purchased from KEMSA at KTRH before distribution to sub counties.

"We have focused on reducing infant and material mortality, combating HIV/AIDS and easing the rising burden of non-communicable morbidity," said Ongwae.

The County government has also explored collaborations

with specialists from various parts of the world to offer much needed services to the people through avenues such as telemedicine.

There are two Cuban doctors offering specialised services in the county.



A Kisii University student carries out a test in the Anatomy lab at KTRH

Anatomy and Histology lab



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The High Dependency Unit at KTRH



The Intensive Care Unit at KTRH.



Inside the modern KTRH mortuary. The facility has been installed with State of the Art equipment to handle body preservation.

## Relief in the county as renal system is installed at KTRH

A Renal Unit at the Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital has brought hope to hundreds of patients with kidney problems in Kisii County and beyond.

The unit can serve more than 25 clients, in addition to dozens others, for related services on daily basis.

Most patients suffering from diabetes, hypertension or both visit the facility twice a week for dialysis to undergo the process for four hours.

Dialysis is an artificial way of carrying out this process. People with failed or damaged kidneys may have difficulty eliminating waste and unwanted water from the blood.

Dialysis substitutes the natural work of the kidneys and is also known as renal replacement therapy (RRT).

The government meets the cost of dialysis for the 25 patients through the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF).

"Being an elderly person, I have been given an NHIF card and I have been able to save about Sh10,000 per session. Initially, I would spend about Sh20,000 for the two sessions every week. This is minus drugs which would cost about Sh5,000," says a Ruth Mokaya.

The 70-year-old mother of 10

says she used to visit Kenyatta National Hospital and Nairobi West Hospital for dialysis.

"The queues there were long and it was hell waiting for your turn. I had suffered for four years, before discovering that I could easily get treated just a few kilometers from my home.

Ms Mokaya started visiting KTRH two years ago and the gains are tremendous, she says.

The patient who hails from Nyabururu area near Kisii town, says she now saves about Sh4000, which was previously spent on bus fare alone.

She says she had to be there very early to avoid the long queues and so had to leave Kisii at night.

Jane Mwangi, a nurse at the facility says she and three of her colleagues find joy in serving their patients.

The nurse says they have learnt the art of bonding with their clients.

"Besides physical treatment, we ensure that they are psychologically prepared, their condition is manageable and our main aim is to ensure their good health before undergoing a transplant," she says.

KTRH Chief Executive Officer Dr Enock Ondari says the officers at the unit go a long way to ensure all patients are attended to.

"At times they work over the weekend and late into the night depending on the number of patients," he says.

Dr Ondari says Wednesdays are set aside for consultations with new clients. He says they also handle emergency cases besides their normal clients.

"We have invested in training of more staff," he adds.

The hospital has 10 dialysis machines, five of them having been purchased by Kisii County government immediately after the onset of devolution.

Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital acquired five other machines in a partnership with the National Government through Managed Equipment Services.

The hospital's CEO says the machines are a treasure for the hospital as patients from as far as Migori, Homabay, Trans Mara and Nyamira visit the facility for the specialised services.

### RENAL UNIT



A newly established and fully furnished renal unit at the KTRH.

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The modern kitchen at Ogembo Hospital constructed by the county government to ensure quality of food prepared for the patients is good. The hospital is currently using a temporary structure that houses the kitchen.

A new hospital block being constructed at the Marani Sub-County Hospital. Once complete the facility will lead to the upgrading of the hospital.



## County upgrades health facilities to improve services

**H**ealth facilities across Kisii have experienced notable infrastructural upgrade in recent years.

This, according to Governor James Ong'wa is geared towards enhancing and bringing service delivery closer to the people.

In Gucha level 4 hospital we have constructed a modern kitchen, 16 body capacity mortuary and a laundry.

The mortuary will serve the hospital and neighbouring facilities. Currently, residents are forced to preserve bodies of their loved ones either at Tabaka Mission Hospital or Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital (KTRH). This shoots their funeral expenses.

Mr Julius Ondieki, a resident of Ogembo town said they have suffered a lot when they lose their loved ones.

"Incurring body transportation costs back home from Kisii or Tabaka has been a burden for many families. The morgue will help us reduce the expenses and ensure we accord our departed ones decent send-offs.

The laundry will be crucial to the facility since it will fasten the

cleaning and drying of linen.

The hospital's staff currently clean their linen manually which greatly inconveniences services.

The construction of the modern kitchen will ensure the quality of food prepared for the patients is good. The hospital is using a temporary structure that houses the kitchen.

At Marani a new hospital block is being constructed, a move aimed at giving the rural based facility a modern outlook. The World Bank sponsored project is funded by the Kenya devolution Support Programme (KDSP).

At Kenyanya Sub County Hospital, the county government in partnership with Aga Khan Foundation has constructed an ICT centre with internet connection. The centre has created a platform for E-learning for health workers.

The ICT centre has also created a platform for consultations with Aga Khan Health facilities in Kisumu and Mombasa. The facility is a great boost to the hospital since it helps members of staff make enquiries on critical cases with other hospitals online.

Through the partnership with Aga



An X-Ray unit that has been completed at Keumbu Sub County Hospital. Residents of Nyaribari Chache can now access X-Ray services from the facility.



A theatre at Kenyanya Sub County Hospital. The unit was actualised through the partnership of the Aga Khan Development Network. The unit will help the facility to carry out various surgical procedures to patients. It will also ease pressure at the referral hospital in Kisii town.

Khan, the county government has set up a theatre unit that will help the facility in carrying out various surgeries.

A similar ICT centre has been set up in Nyamache Sub County Hospital for the benefit of the the area and its neighbours.

A bore hole has also been sunk at Nyamache Hospital to curb frequent water shortage in the hospital. Patients had experienced challenges in the facility due to insufficient supply of water.

The county government has also

completed an X-ray unit at Keumbu Sub County Hospital and machines will soon be installed at the facility to offer X-ray services.

Currently, patients who seek X-ray services at the hospital are referred to Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital.

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Ongoing construction of Marani Hospital mortuary.



The mortuary is nearly complete at Ogembo Hospital that will serve the hospital and neighbouring facilities. Currently, residents are forced to preserve bodies of their loved ones either at Tabaka Mission Hospital or Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital (KTRH).



A surgical theatre at Keumbu sub county hospital.



A Renal Unit at Nyamache sub county hospital. This will ease the congestion at KTRH.

BEFORE DEVOLUTION		AFTER DEVOLUTION
KTRH Infrastructure & equipment	ICU - 2 beds HDU - 0 beds Theatre - 3 Oxygen plant - 1 unit  CT Scan - 0 MRI - 0 Mammogram - 0 OPG (dental xray) - 0 Digital Xray - 0  Dialysis - 0 Bed capacity - 450 Morgue - 20 bodies Ambulance - 0	ICU - 6 beds HDU - 3 beds Theatre - 6 Oxygen plant - 3 units  CT Scan - 2 MRI - 1 Mammogram - 1 OPG (dental xray) - 1 Digital Xray - 1  Dialysis - 12 Bed capacity - 650 Morgue - 120 bodies Ambulance - 1
KTRH Infrastructure		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Carpark - 100 cars</li> <li>2. Increased water capacity (Boreholes - 2, water tank - 300,000 litres, Elevated)</li> <li>3. New 200 bed 3 storeyed male ward</li> <li>4. Theater/Office block/conference block</li> <li>5. Morgue/anatomy/histology block</li> <li>6. Chapel block</li> <li>7. Doctors Hostel block</li> <li>8. Microwave Shredder</li> <li>9. Doctors plaza (under construction)</li> <li>10. Mother child Hospital (under construction)</li> <li>11. Perimeter Wall (under construction)</li> <li>12. Pharmacy Store Car park (under construction)</li> </ol>
Marani Infrastructure & equipment		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ultramodern casualty and theatre block</li> <li>2. Mortuary Block (under construction)</li> <li>3. Inpatient block (100 beds)</li> <li>4. Cold room equipment (mortuary)</li> <li>5. Xray</li> <li>6. Ultrasound</li> <li>7. Assorted equipment</li> </ol>
Ogembo Infrastructure & equipment		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mortuary block</li> <li>2. Laundry block</li> <li>3. Kitchen block</li> <li>4. Fully equipped theatre</li> <li>5. Assorted equipment</li> </ol>
Kenyan Infrastructure & equipment		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maternal and Child Block</li> <li>2. Ultrasound</li> <li>3. Fully equipped theatre</li> <li>4. Power back generator</li> <li>5. Assorted equipment</li> </ol>
Nyamache Infrastructure & equipment		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dialysis - 5 beds</li> <li>2. Ultrasound</li> <li>3. Fully equipped theatres - 2</li> <li>4. Assorted equipment</li> </ol>
Nduru Infrastructure & equipment		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Upcoming inpatient/theatre block</li> <li>2. Assorted equipment</li> </ol>
Iyabe		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Upcoming casualty/theatre block</li> <li>2. Assorted equipment</li> </ol>
Keumbu		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Xray</li> <li>2. Ultrasound</li> <li>3. Fully equipped theatre</li> <li>4. Assorted equipment</li> </ol>
Gesusu		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fully equipped theatre</li> <li>2. Xray</li> <li>3. Assorted equipment</li> </ol>
Iranda		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Xray room (upcoming)</li> <li>2. Xray</li> <li>3. Dental chair</li> <li>4. Assorted equipment</li> </ol>
Dispensaries and Health Centers		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assorted equipment</li> </ol>
	BEFORE DEVOLUTION	AFTER DEVOLUTION
Hospitals	9	25
Health Centers	25	37
Dispensaries	47	79

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## KEY MILESTONES SINCE 2013

In improving healthcare, the county has invested in infrastructure, medical equipment and human resource development as a result, Kisii Level 5 Hospital has been upgraded into teaching and referral hospital.

### Human Resource Status

# 1,547

Total (medical staff) employed by the County

Cadre	Before Devolution	Current
Medical Specialist	2	36
Medical Doctors	10	100
Nurses	696	1000
Clinical Officers	115	235
Ambulance paramedics/operators	0	28
Medical laboratory technicians	46	92
Pharmaceutical technicians	12	36
Medical Engineers	6	20
Total (medical staff)	887	1,547

### Theatres

Facility	Before devolution	Current Status
KTRH	2	6
Sub-counties	1 (Ogembo)	5 (Keumbu, Gesusu, Nyamache, Kenya and Ogembo)

### Infrastructure

## 250

bed capacity completed and commissioned in male ward

- Mortuary car park
- Chapel for the bereaved
- Doctors hostels fully equipped
- Oxygen plant
- Fully equipped Histology and Anatomy labs for the medical students

## 100

body capacity mortuary

## 300,000

litres water tanks

## 200

bed capacity Mother and Child Hospital - on going

- Two new boreholes
- Water treatment plant
- KTRH fence
- Pharmacy store
- Doctors Plaza-on going
- Cancer Centre – upcoming

### Equipment

- 2 CT-Scans
- 1 MRI
- Digital x-ray
- Mammogram
- Laparoscope
- Cardiology equipment
- Digital ultrasound
- Dialyses machines
- ICU/HDU

### Sub Counties

The County is doing the projects with development partners (KDSP-Marani)

Facilities	Activities on going
Marani	New causality theater block, new mortuary block, Kitchen block
Ogembo	Mortuary, Kitchen block, Laundry block
Kenyan	Equipping of theater block, maternity block, borehole

The County is now partnering with the World Bank funded Kenya Devolution Support Programme (KDSP) to upgrade the following health facilities:

- Nduru
- Kiamwasi
- lyabe



Kisii County Governor James Ong'are lays a foundation block for a 250 bed ward at the KTRH. The facility is already in use having been commissioned in 2016.

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Esman Onsarigo

“Our economy depends on agriculture, which supports the livelihoods of up to 80 per cent of the county's population. I salute all farmers who have made sure we produce enough for food and substance.”

- CEC ESMAN ONSARIGO

#### CHIEF OFFICERS:

DR. ALPHANUS MOKAYA

MS. NAOMI MOKAYA



Dr. Alphanus Mokaya



Naomi Mokaya

## County pushes for new agriculture techniques to enhance food security

Agriculture is the backbone of the county's economy. Over 70 per cent of the population depend on agriculture for their livelihood both as a source of food as well as income. However, this sector is dogged by challenges of high population density, outdated farming practices, poor eating habits and dwindling farm sizes which in turn has drastically affected food security and wealth creation for residents.

This, therefore, calls for new and innovative ways such as developing high yield crops and animals through research into plant and animal breeding, increased fertiliser use where soil fertility has deteriorated, improved rural transport infrastructure to ease market access and

diversification from traditional cash crops into fruits, vegetables and fish farming among others.

As outlined in the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010,

The following functions and powers are assigned to counties in matters agriculture:

- 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 in-puts like seeds, fertiliser and pesticides through subsidies, improving agricultural marketing for produce, improving agricultural extension services and improving governance in the area of co-operatives.

### Enabling legislations

The department has formulated pieces of legislations 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

Diminishing land sizes in the county has undermined the amenability of traditional agricultural practices due to the incidence of meagre productivity and returns per capita.

The county is encouraging the use of intensive means of agricultural husbandry such as horticulture and the use of greenhouse farming. As such, a greenhouse demonstration centre has been set up at the Kisii Agricultural Training Centre.

To promote the uptake of greenhouse

### MANDATE

The sector comprises of the following Directorates:

Agriculture; Livestock; Fisheries; Veterinary Services; Crop Development; Agri-business and Value Addition; and, Cooperative Development.

### VISION

To be a modern, innovative, diversified, market-focused and profitable agricultural sector.

### MISSION

To promote a highly productive agricultural system that is efficient in resource management and guarantees food security and employment creation.

### GOAL

To ensure that the County is food secure and residents are economically empowered.



The ICT Lab at ATC - Kisii

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Governor James Ongwae being shown farming techniques during a past ASK show.

farming among local farmers, a total of 45 greenhouses were initially distributed, one for each ward and the exercise will be sustained for maximum coverage across the county.

## (b) Enhanced Extension Services through e-Agriculture

Agricultural extension services are paramount in ensuring sustainable and quality agricultural productivity.

However, there are challenges regarding staffing and lack of equipment, especially in the dairy sector.

To address this challenge, the department has adopted information and communication technology (ICT) otherwise known as e-agriculture.

Technical material has been uploaded to the county's website and a bulk SMS platform is being utilised to enable farmers to access extension services on their mobiles 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 agricultural development and food security.

## (c) Provision of farm inputs

To increase food production and boost incomes among farmers, the county introduced a subsidised inputs programme through which farmers are issued with certified maize seed, planting and topdressing fertilizer.

## (d) Tissue culture banana

The department is promoting the cultivation of tissue culture banana which is not only early-maturing but also disease-resistant with capacity to produce high

yields.

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 fertiliser 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 waited 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

Tea farmers in the northern reaches of Kisii County have been experiencing losses due to distance covered to the tea processing factories in far-flung areas in the neighbouring Nyamira County.

In 2006, farmers affiliated to Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) proposed to have a tea processing factory built at Sombogo in Kitutu North but the onus was on the small holders to raise an initial commitment premium of Sh30 million for KTDA to adopt the project. The farmers were unable to raise the amount and for over 10 years, the project remained a dream.

But the county government intervened in 2016 and gave the Sh30 million on behalf of farmers and Sombogo Tea factory has already been built from scratch.

## (g) Construction of avocado factory

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

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

To ensure farmers reap maximally 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 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 has now built a multipurpose, value-addition site at the Agricultural Training Centre and an investor is already taking over operations to set up an avocado processing plant afresh.

To sustain the industry, the county has organised farmers into a co-operative and distributed free seedlings of early-maturing Hass variety of avocado that has high oil content for processing.

## (h) Construction of a sugar factory

Following the successful hosting of the Kisii Entrepreneurship Summit (KES 2016), the county has an agreement with an investor for the construction of a sugar complex in South Mogirango Sub County.

## (i) Construction of the Kisii banana factory to deepen value addition

The Kisii county government will soon unveil the banana processing factory whose construction at the Kisii Agriculture Training Centre (ATC) is already complete.

The project is aimed at promoting value addition for the crop value chain to help farmers rake in more profit from the crop which abundantly grows in the region.

The banana factory project is a joint effort between the European Union and the Kisii County Government.

The European Union granted Kisii County around Sh110 million towards the development of the banana value chain.

On its part, the Kisii County government committed Sh45 million to help build a banana-processing factory from scratch.

Through the Banana value chain project, banana farmers have been supplied with high commercial quality banana suckers for planting to enhance general crop Productivity.

At the same time, over 2,000 smallholder banana producers will be trained on best practices and the county government will facilitate them to form a producer co-operative society to promote sales.

Once operational the processing factory will help address marketing challenges facing banana producers and other value chain actors, by minimising the role of middlemen and improving sales margins through preservation to increase shelf life.

To ensure a steady water supply at the facility, the county government sunk a 283-metre-deep borehole with a capacity of producing 30,000 litres of water per hour, enough to serve the Banana Processing Plant and the larger Agriculture Training Centre (ATC) where the factory will be domiciled.



## KEY MILESTONES SINCE 2013

### A.I programme

# 87,543

Calves born since inception of the subsidised A.I programme.

Animal Disease Control

### Avocado Farming



# 17,000

Hass avocado seedlings distributed

### Banana processing

# Sh45m

Banana processing plant whose construction currently stands at 90 per cent.



Sombogo Tea Factory during early stages of construction

### Fishing

# 3

Fish pond, piping system, hatchery, holding tanks and office block, construction of Sub County fish multiplication centre in Boochi Tendere Ward of Bomachoge Chache Sub County

### Seedlings



# 17,000

Macadamia seedlings distributed to farmers

### Solar

# 45

Solar dryers that have been distributed to 45 wards for fruit and vegetables value addition.

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Already, the Agriculture Training Centre has trained a technical staff of 70 officers who will be tasked with the banana value chain implementation.

It is held that banana processing and value addition will greatly minimise challenges farmers face in the hands of middlemen, address increased farmer income and reduce banana wastage from the current 32 to 40 per cent to less than 10 per cent annually.

This is because farmers will shift from selling green banana fingers per bunch to profitably selling in units through the Banana Cooperative, which will help improve the current selling rate of green bananas from Sh8 to Sh14 per kg in average thus increasing farmers' income.

## (j) 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 effective-ness.

The county commissioned a task force which gave 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 realised soon.

## Directorate of Fisheries

With diminishing land sizes, the county is encouraging farmers to diversify their agriculture and adopt aquaculture 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 in hand to provide technical advice to farmers.

Projects by the directorate include;

- The Fish Multiplication Centre
- Construction of more fish ponds in all the 45 wards

Governor James Ongwae joins Avocado processing factory workers when he toured the project piloting plant in Kisii town.



- Equipping of multiplication and demonstration centers at Tendere
- Completion of construction of fish markets and a cold storage facility at the Kisii market

## Directorate of Livestock Development

Our dream is to see our farmers increase productivity from their livestock and earn more money.

Our dairy farmers faced many challenges including high cost of semen and exploitation by unscrupulous A.I service providers.

We have introduced this service

following a needs assessment and public participation.

Before we introduced the subsidised A.I services which go for Sh500 per service, farmers paid between Sh2, 500 and Sh3, 000 on a single A.I session per cow.

The target beneficiaries of the programme are all farmers, especially those in the low income bracket.

The A.I subsidy drive is aimed at curbing the culture of using bulls for breeding as it leads to the spread of genetic diseases and the proliferation of inferior stock through line and in-breeding.

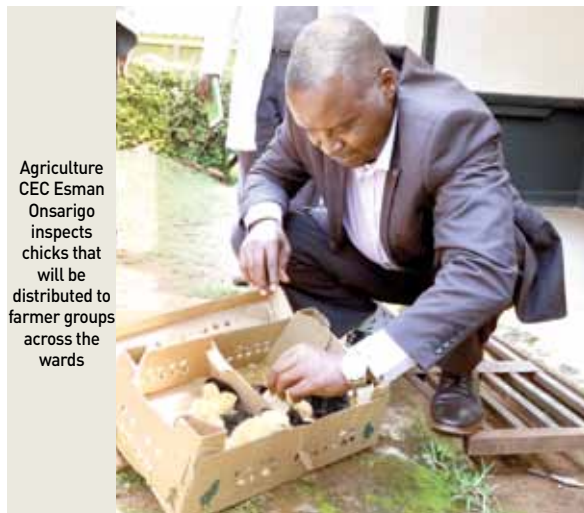
Dairy farmers access the service through A.I technicians stationed in each of the 45

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Agriculture  
CEC Esman  
Onsario  
inspects  
chicks that  
will be  
distributed to  
farmer groups  
across the  
wards



A fish vendor at Kisii fish market.





wards who are available and on call 24 hours on a daily basis.

The programme has been received well by farmers although still some want it subsidised further so as to be more affordable. Over 80,000 dairy cattle have been served courtesy of the Kisii County government A.I programme.

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

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



Coffee Research Foundation team led by Director Dr. Elisha Gitau at Governor James Ongwae's office.



Governor James Ongwae exchanging a signed MOU with the Chief Finance Officer of Kanoria Group, Vinod Vora at the Agricultural Training Centre in Kisii.

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 vaccines were also issued to farmers.

## Co-operatives development

Before 2013, the co-operatives 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.

## 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.

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# Proposed sugar factory to transform economy and support livelihoods



A section of South Mugirango residents during a public participation exercise conducted by the County government and the Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture in Moticho Ward, South Mugirango.

**P**lans are underway to establish a multibillion sugar complex in Nyangweta in South Mugirango sub-county.

The catchment area of the Sugar Complex will include Bonchari, South Mugirango, Bomachoge Borabu, Bomachoge Chache, Bobasi, Nyaribari and Kitutu Chache.

Farmers currently market their cane to Sony Sugar, Transmara and Sukari sugar factories in Narok, Migori and Narok counties.

The sugar complex will be located on a 120-acre of public land at Nyangweta and will consist of three plants including Sugar Production plant, Ethanol Production plant, Electricity Co-Generation plant.

Dubbed the Kisii Renewable Energy and Sugar Company Ltd, the investment will significantly transform the economy of the County and change the livelihoods of not only the sugarcane farmers, but also those of residents of the county at large.

Expected benefits include better prices for cane delivered, creation of employment opportunities for the residents, ready market for farm produce and other products, improvement of infrastructure and social services among others. The county government will also earn revenue in terms of rent and licence fees.

In terms of Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR), the Kisii Renewable Energy and Sugar Company Ltd is expected to develop playgrounds, roads, construct bridges, ECD centre, upgrade one school, offer free extensions services covering food crops, fruits, horticulture, dairy farming, sugarcane development, upgrade one Health Centre to offer comprehensive medical services, support a youth group to develop a tree nursery for distribution at a minimal fee among other responsibilities as per the needs of the community.

During a recent citizen participation forum, Governor Ongwae and Kisii Senator Prof Sam Ongeri detailed how the county

plans to compensate on the excision of Nyangweta Forest's 120 acres to build the multibillion project.

"The county government has an elaborate plan to plant, afforest and re-forest the aggregated forests to improve the forest cover. We have set aside enough resources in our forward budget to ensure that the areas affected are taken care of. We plan also to gazette the remaining 13 forests to accommodate the excision of Nyangweta," said Ongwae.

Senator Ongeri vouched for the factory, saying it will improve the livelihoods of the people of South Mugirango and the region as a whole. "If you look at the social dimensions of the people of Nyangweta, you will conclude that they seriously need this project to improve their social welfare. We have enough land to cover for what we will excise, he said."

In February 2016, the Kisii County Government organised an Investment Summit where it showcased trade and investment opportunities to local, regional and international investors.

It was while at the Summit that Kanoria Group of Companies from India

expressed interest in the Sugar and related products industry. Subsequent negotiations culminated in the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Kisii County Government and the Kanoria Group of companies to establish the Sugar complex in Kisii County.

A resident, Morara Kenyanya said cane farmers in the region will reap huge benefits from the venture as it will significantly reduce transportation costs incurred ferrying the produce to millers in neighbouring Migori and Narok Counties.

Governor Ongwae noted that cane farming has immense economic potential hence the decision to invest in a sugarcane factory.

"The factory will create direct and indirect employment besides lowering production costs. Our people stand to benefit from this factory through creation of social amenities like schools, health centres and access roads among other facilities. Current production stands at 245,000 tonnes per year but research shows this can rise to 600,000 tonnes annually with modern farming methods," he said.

Currently, a total of 3,500 ha is under sugarcane. Annual production stands at 245,000 tonnes per year with a yield of 75,000 tonnes per ha

In 2012, 110,000 tonnes was delivered to Sony Sugar factory in Migori County while 12,000 tonnes was delivered to Sukari sugar factory in South Nyanza. 49,000 tonnes were processed as jaggery.

Research shows tonnage can increase to 600,000,000 kilograms per year if farmers embrace modern farming methods

Sugarcane takes 22 months to mature. Currently, farmers incur lots of production costs because they meet transport costs to factories.

The factory will reduce transport costs hence more income to farmers.

## Sugar factory deal at advanced stage

Plans to construct a Sugar Complex in South Mugirango in Kisii County are at an advanced stage.

The complex will consist of three plants including Sugar, Ethanol and Electricity Generation production plants.

The Senate Committee on Land, Environment and Natural Resources having successfully carried out public participation at the site. The County Government is pursuing the final requisite procedures to establish the complex.

Governor James Ongwae says the project is of great significance to the

devolved unit, adding that it will create over 10,000 jobs and turn round the economy of Kisii County.

South Mugirango residents had asked the Government to move fast an ensure construction of the Sugar Complex. The locals further argue that the project would improve the economy of the county and country at large.

An Indian investor, Kanoria Group has already registered the Kisii Renewable Energy and Sugar Factory Company Ltd which will operate the sugar Complex.



# Kisii County banks on A.I services to improve herds, spur milk production



Hellen Torori, a beneficiary of the A.I subsidised programme admires her two-week old calf at her Birongo home.



Governor James Ongwae flags off A.I kits at ATC

Kisii farmers are banking on a subsidised livestock Artificial Insemination (A.I.) Programme to bridge milk shortages and improve dairy farming in the county. With about 172,977 heads of dairy cattle and an annual milk production of 222,498,274kg valued at Sh10.838 billion, Kisii is one of the dominant players in Kenya's livestock sector.

Governor James Ongwae believes the county can benefit more from the sector if farmers fully embrace the A.I services which are hugely funded by his administration.

"Before we introduced the services which go for Sh500, farmers paid between Sh2,500 and Sh3,000 on a single A.I session per cow," Ongwae said.

The target beneficiaries of the programme are all farmers especially those in the low income group.

"My administration is committed to improve dairy breeds. I urge farmers to shun the culture of using bulls for breeding as it leads to the spread of diseases and the proliferation of inferior stock," said Governor Ongwae.

Dairy farmers access the service through A.I technicians stationed in each of the 45 ward who are available on call 24 hours on a daily basis.

A report prepared by the county's department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries revealed that the programme has been received well by farmers although some still want it subsidised further so as to be more affordable.

"So far, we have served over 80,000 dairy cattle courtesy of the Kisii A.I programme," said Esman Onsarigo who is the County Executive Committee member in charge of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperative Development.

"We expect to feel the impact of this programme after the calves born out of this programme mature to calve," Onsarigo said, adding that there are investment opportunities in establishing a nitrogen plant in Kisii which will also serve neighbouring counties.

Richard Okenagwa, an A.I technician attached to Birongo Ward says he serves an average of 200 animals in a month.

"The uptake of the programme has been impressive and I am sure with time, our animals will have quality animals and more milk for domestic consumption and the market," he said. Tom Babu of Nyanko village in Nyaribari Chache Constituency said he has used the county service and got four calves out of it.

"It has eased the economic burden that was there because the semen sold by private practitioners was expensive and the suppliers were few," he added.

Peter Nyamwamu of Migosi village embraced A.I before devolution but says it was not easy to raise Sh3,000 charged previously per cow.

"This is why most farmers went for natural insemination using bulls. However, using bulls has many disadvantages such as spread of breeding diseases and production of poor quality calves," he said.

Farmers are being discouraged from using bulls for various reasons including the expenses incurred in taming them in their already squeezed homesteads as a result of population pressure in the county.





# Relief for avocado farmers

... as County  
Government moves to  
finalise construction  
of processing plant

**K**isii County is one of the largest avocado producers in Kenya and the county is quickly positioning for the international market being created following the recent deal signed between Kenya and China.

Even as the market prepares to shift to higher demanding continents, the County government kicked off the construction of a processing plant which will offer local farmers a remedy to help minimise their losses and exploitation by middlemen.

"The construction of the Avocado Processing Plant funded by the County government is on course. This could be ready for opening later this year," said the County Executive Member in charge of Agriculture Osman Onsarigo.

Mr Onsarigo further indicated that the plant, once ready will be at the service of all the Kisii County avocado farmers with enough capacity to accommodate collections from the neighbouring counties as well.

The Kisii County Avocado value chain is organised under Kisii County Avocado Co-operative Society.



A farmer inspects healthy avocados of the Hass variety. The fruit is early maturing and has very high oil content

The society is run by a nine super delegate executive, one per sub-county.

The county has two main varieties, namely indigenous (Kisii land race) variety grown in every home and Hass variety which was introduced by the county government from 2014.

The indigenous variety has low fat content of 3 to 4 per cent and is good for the table.

The Hass variety has a high oil content of

27 to 32 per cent and is good for processing into oils such as edible oil, pharmaceutical oil and cosmetic oil.

The county government promotes farmers with an annual budget of about Sh 9 million to enhance distribution of avocado seedlings.

According to Naomi Mokaya, the County Chief Officer for Agriculture and Cooperative Development Kisii County has

## County in talks with avocado processing plant investor

The County government of Kisii is engaging a new investor for the avocado processing plant.

The factory will help farmers get a ready market for their produce.

The plant would see farmers avoid middlemen who now dictate prices for the highly perishable fruits.

Farmers in the nine-constituency agricultural county grow large amounts of avocados, many of which go to waste for lack of markets.

Kisii is one of the largest producers of the avocado fruit in the country. Most of the fruit is normally consumed at home or sold to traders in an informal system whereby brokers dominate the market.

This leads to exploitation of the farmers especially during the peak production period.

Most Kisii farmers mainly deal with the Golden Hass variety, which produces all-year round. Hass Avocados are oval shaped, with a small to medium sized



Fernando Marques, Director Avofresh Processors Ltd.

seed. They have a creamy texture and great taste. They also have a distinctive skin that turns from green to purplish-black when ripe.

In 2013, the County government licensed a private factory run by Australian firm Old Land Trade Company.

It processed 80 tonnes daily and employed 55 workers. Farmers delivered the crop at Sh5 per kilo with the oil produced sold to the cosmetic industry in South America.

Most of the fruit delivered then was

from indigenous trees which have a low oil content of 3 per cent hence the low prices paid to farmers.

It was then that the County government introduced the Hass variety of avocado which has up to 13 per cent oil content thus can fetch better prices.

Kisii Governor James Ongwae flagged off 30 tonnes of avocado oil destined for Mexico in December 2014.

He said the avocado produced in the county annually is sufficient to run the processing plant at 80 tonnes a day.

The success of the venture was part of efforts by the County government to add value to avocado production and improve farmer's earnings.

According to the Horticultural Crops Development Authority (HCDA)'s statistics in 2012, Kisii County was ranked second nationally as the largest avocado producer in both volume and value after Nyamira County with 41,927 tonnes worth Sh1.5 billion.

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269,683 avocado farmers.

The county production potential is projected at 323,000,000 kilogrammes annually with net value of Sh2 billion annually in direct sales to the local markets and middlemen who transport to distant towns.

"In terms of acreage the county has 1,600 hectares under avocado with around

809,683 avocado fruit trees," the CO said.

The idea of creating a processing plant was put under test in 2016 when a private investor from Australia was invited to kick-start an initiative that was intended to help reduce wastages incurred by local farmers.

"In October the same year the county flagged 30,000 kilogrammes of cosmetic oil to Mexico a move that was clearly a milestone," said Ms Mokaya.

The investor did not survive due to the unrealistic lease rates for the factory premises in Kisii town set by a private landlord.

Said Mokaya: "The lease rates shot up from Sh80,000 to Sh520,000 per month leading to the county opting to construct a Go-Down to support any investor interested in this sector."

The new factory is being constructed at the Agricultural Training Centre in Kisii town.

It's expected that this year, the avocado processing will resume as a potential investor to drive the agro-processing initiative to the next level has been found. In 2019 alone about six potential investors in the avocado value chain held different engagements with the government over processing.

Before the partnership with the Ausi-investor the farmers were selling a 150 kg bag of avocado fruits at between Sh 250 and Sh450.

But the price was stabilised as the private investor set in, leading to shift in prices to Sh900 for same 150kg bag of avocados.

In order to be sure about exports of the commodities to be put under processing in Kisii including avocado, the County government is also in negotiation with the Export Promotion and Branding Agency to establish an export promotion zone in Kisii.

This would help take the county a step higher in addressing challenges in agricultural produce destined for export.

## Sweet success for bee farmers as they rake in Sh100.9 million



Kisii County produces a total of 100,850 kg of honey annually valued at Sh100.9 million.

Statistics from livestock production department also indicate that about 40,000 kg of bee wax is also produced yearly worth Sh12 million.

There are 170 active farm groups involved in beekeeping activities in the county who are supported by the County government in their farming.

The County director in charge of Livestock Andrew Nyamwaro disclosed that the county has given out honey extractors, langstroth hives and Kenya Top Bar Hives among other bee hive tools essential for beekeeping.

"Kisii has a huge production potential because of vegetation cover. Trees and flowers in the area are favourable in beekeeping.

Mr Nyamwaro noted that there is an upward trend in bee production since devolution but expressed fear that the increased use of pesticide by farmers is leading to deaths of the honeybees.

"We advise our farmers to have apiaries (a place where bees are kept) in woodlands, hilltops and along the rivers away from homes and where there are little activities.



Avofresh Processors Ltd Director Fernando Marques with Finance and Economic Planning CEC Moses Onderi display a signed MoU for starting an avocado processing plant.

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The nearly complete Kisii County Banana Factory. It will boost banana farming by providing readily available market for the commodity.



## Banana factory set to roar to life as Sh156m European Union-funded plant nears completion

A new banana processing plant is set to be unveiled by the Kisii County government within the year in a game-changing move aimed at taking banana farming and production in Kisii to the next level.

In an idea aimed at promoting value addition for the crop value chain the move is expected to help farmers rake in more profit from the crop which abundantly grows in the region.

The County Executive Committee

member for Agriculture Esman Onsarigo said the project that has benefited from a grant from the European Union, is expected to increase profitability of the highly perishable commodity that is widely common in the county.

He said that the European Union has granted Kisii County around Sh110million towards the development of the banana value chain.

The County government, Onsarigo said has also set aside Sh45 million to help build a banana-processing factory from scratch.

"The issue of farmers selling banana bunches at a loss will be a thing of the past since the proposed factory will ensure that bananas are processed to fetch more returns," he said.

Construction works for the factory at the Kisii Agriculture training Centre (ATC) is at advanced stage of completion.

Onsarigo said that according to the concept development for the industry, the Kisii banana value chain project will involve the establishment of 135 green banana crop collection centres in the county.

"Through the project, banana farmers will also be supplied with high commercial quality banana suckers for planting to enhance general crop productivity", said the minister.

In preparations for commencement of works at the factory, the county government had sunk a 283-metre-deep borehole with a capacity of producing 30,000 litres of water per hour, enough to serve the Banana Processing Plant.

Already, according to Onsarigo, Agriculture Training Centre has trained a technical staff of 70 officers who will be tasked with the project implementation.

It is held that the factory will greatly minimise challenges farmers face in the hands of middlemen, address increased farmer income and reduce banana wastage from the current 32 to 40 per cent to less than 10 per cent annually.

This is because, in the programme, farmers will shift from selling green banana fingers per bunch to profitably selling in units through the Banana Cooperative which will help improve the current selling rate of green bananas from Sh8 to Sh14 per kilo on average, thus increasing farmer income.



Devolution Cabinet Secretary Eugene Wamalwa lays a foundation block for the construction of a banana factory in Kisii County, as Governor James Ongwae (left) and Devolution Principal Secretary Charles Sunkuli looks on.



# Farmers reap big as County bank on banana value chain to boost profits



A section farmers during the disbursement of the first tranche of Sh22 million to selected organized farmer groups through the NARIGP programme.

The Kisii County government will continue supporting efforts by the National Agricultural-Rural Inclusive Growth Project (NARIGP) aimed at increasing productivity and profitability of banana crop production.

According to Governor James Ongwae Narigp is already rolling out projects in 20 wards spread across six sub-counties including Bonchari, Kitutu Chache North, Nyaribari, Masaba, Bobasi, Bomachoge Chache and South Mugirango.

The increased productivity in the agriculture sector is a step towards enhancing food security in the county.

Narigp has conducted several stakeholder forums in the county to identify challenges, find ideas and solutions to make the banana value chain competitive and commercialise the crop.

"The role of the stakeholders platform is to bring together farmer representatives, agriculture researchers, farm input suppliers, producers, agro dealers, processors, marketers, policy makers, regulators and other development partners to consult, exchange views and put forward viable solutions to address challenges facing the banana value chain," Ongwae said during a Narigp forum early last year.

Governor Ongwae disclosed that the County government has been engaging with farmers dealing in banana production with a view to assisting them undertake best practices in farming to boost production.

Narigp project, a concerted effort



Wine made from banana juice.

involving the World Bank, International Development Association (IDA), Ministry of Agriculture and 21 County governments, is aimed at improving the livelihoods of farmers through enhanced and sustainable high end production in horticulture, poultry and livestock.

The wards covered by the project include Masige East, Bassi Central, Bassi

Bogetaorio, Bosoti Sengera, Majoge East, Boochi Tendere, Bogetenga, Boikanga, Chitago Borabu, Getenga, Bogiakumu, Bomorenda, Bomariba, Marani, Sensi, Monyerero, Kiamokama, Gesusu and Nyamasibi.

"All our nine sub-counties are arable with high agricultural potential and the learning experience from the project focal areas will ultimately spread out to benefit farmers in the entire county and beyond," said the Governor.

Kisii County is known for banana production. Over 5,000 hectares have been collectively put under banana plantation through individual farmer initiatives with a production rate of 19 tonnes of green fingers per hectare.

County Executive Committee (CEC) member in charge of Agriculture Esman Onsarigo disclosed that in 2017 alone, over 95 tonnes of green fingers were produced in Kisii, fetching farmers over Sh1.9 billion in direct sales.

"However, due to the perishability of bananas, farmers have always fallen prey to middlemen who broker green bunches at low prices, disadvantaging the farmer," he said.

Said Mr Onsarigo: "This calls for value addition and more organised ways of storage and marketing to give farmers value for their produce."

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# Governor banks on Coffee Research officials in bid to give cash crop new lifeline

The Kisii County government through the department of Agriculture is working closely with all coffee societies through the Gusii Farmers Coffee Union to energise the coffee market.

Working with the National Government, the County Government under the leadership of Governor James Ongwae is in the process of waiving debts owed by coffee societies where a total of 22 societies are expected to benefit.

"To rejuvenate the cash crop, my administration has brought together all the 22 coffee societies through the Gusii Farmers Coffee Union for the purpose of boosting the coffee market approach. The collective approach is poised to ameliorate agro-processing, branding and marketing in the coffee sector once touted as the black gold. The approach is eliminating loss of produce, thefts and exploitation by middlemen," said Ongwae.

In 2019, Governor Ongwae held talks with officials from the Coffee Research Institute led by Director Coffee Research Institute, State Department for Agricultural Research Dr Elisha Gitau to discuss revival of coffee farming in the county.

The governor said his administration is committed to revamping the coffee sector, to enable farmers reap maximum benefits from the crop. The governor expressed the need to establish new practices that will help farmers to profitably engage in coffee production.

"Coffee is a major cash crop in this area. My administration is in the process of revamping the coffee sector to make it more vibrant and

economically sustainable for players engaged in its production," said the governor.

The governor said agriculture is a devolved function, adding that for counties like Kisii where residents rely on crop production as their lifeline, institutions such as Coffee Research Institute come in handy.

Ongwae indicated that through the department of Agriculture, the county is sensitising farmers on how to increase coffee crop production per bush from the current five kilogrammes to 28 kilogrammes annually, especially through promoting and enhancing the planting of Ruiru 11 variety and Batian.

The varieties are resistant to Coffee Berry Disease and Coffee Leaf Rust, and have very good bean and cup quality.

"Kisii has the sweetest type of coffee. Its flavour and aroma are unmatched and this attracts good prices at the market. We are in the process of adding value to the crop thus need to scout for sustainable partnerships that will enable farmers improve on their earnings which will have a bearing on improved production," Ongwae said.

Gitau noted that for farmers to get better returns, they need to replace their aged bushes of coffee trees with new ones.

The director said returns from the cash crop are highest in the country despite the challenges bedeviling the sector.

The County Chief Officer in charge of Agriculture and Co-operative Development Naum Mokaya said that the department is ensuring management of society governance issues are done according to the law.



Healthy berries. The county government is working towards reviving the profitable coffee sector

## County mulls ways to alleviate food insecurity

Kisii County has partnered with the International Fund for Agriculture and Development (IFAD) to boost food production.

IFAD is set to roll out an Aqua-culture Development Programme in Kisii County this year to help increase fish production and enhance food security in the country besides creating employment opportunities.

Agriculture Executive Esman Onsarigo said the project, slated to commence in March, will provide a window of opportunity to enhance the value addition in fish production.

Mr Onsarigo said that the move to enhance fish production will not only ensure food and nutrition sufficiency, but also avail surplus harvest for export.

He urged farmers in the county to diversify their farming activities and

embrace aqua-culture so as to rake in profits.

Fish farming as an alternative profitable venture for farmers in the region which experiences favourable rain distribution the year round.

"I urge farmers to take advantage of the good rainfall distribution in the area and set up fish ponds in their farms. This venture takes minimal space but the returns are assured," said the CEC.

He revealed that Kisii County is among 15 counties selected to implement the Aqua-culture Development Programme in a deal sealed on the side lines of the international blue economy conference recently held in Nairobi.

At the same time, the Agriculture CEC said Kisii County is among 13 counties selected to implement a Food Safety Programme (AgriFi Programme) funded

by Danida beginning early this year.

The programme will deal with enhancing implementation of sanitary and phytosanitary requirements in food production and handling. This will enable access to international markets at premium prices, while building the capacity of various value chain actors.

The ministry in charge has already held discussions on engagement rules with the donors to allow its commencement.

"In the Food and Nutrition Security pillar of the President's Big Four agenda, Kisii has already submitted and agreed with the National Agriculture Coordination Committee under the Ministry of Agriculture on the value chain and drawn strategic interventions to ensure the food security agenda is a reality in the country", Onsarigo said.

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## Fish farmers to reap big as IFAD pledges to inject cash

Since inception, the Kisii County has produced 159 tonnes of fish valued at Sh48 million.

The county has over 2,170 active farmers who own 2,297 operational fish ponds covering approximately 630,611 service area. The county is among 15 devolved units that will benefit from an eight-year Aquaculture Business Development Programme to be funded by International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) because of its great potential in fish farming.

According to the director in charge of Fisheries Edwin Mugo, exploitation and utilisation of fish farming in the county is increasingly becoming a viable alternative as well as a complement to crop and livestock farming in the county.

"Due to lack of major water bodies for capture fisheries as in natural water bodies, adoption of fish ponds is the only viable way for fish farming in the county. We are sensitising farmers to take to fish farming by use of ponds which require only a small portion of land.

Mr Mugo called on residents to embrace fish farming and consume high amount of fish, saying the county conducts "eat more fish campaigns" because of its nutritional values.

The campaign aims at increasing dietary intake of fish, especially in children, pregnant and lactating mothers as it is rich in omega-3 fatty acids essential for brain development.

"Fish meat is easily digestible compared to other meats, well endowed with macronutrients and the 10 essential amino acids in equal proportions," he said, adding that two meals of fish per week is highly recommended.

He asserted that fish farming significantly contributes to food and nutritional security in the country.

The construction of a fresh fish market and cold storage facility is nearly complete. The market will offer modern facility for preservation and sale of fish.

The county has two fish multiplication and demonstration centres, one in Kisii town and another one in Ogembo town.

"We intend to have deep freezers for clustered groups in every sub-county. The county government is also constructing an additional one in Bonchari sub-county," said the director.

The initiative will enhance an enabling environment for fish trade in an hygienic environment.



Governor James Ongwae shows Land CS Farida Karoney some products made in Kisii. Key among the goods was a coffee sachet which was grown, harvested and value-added within the county.

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# Study to shore up earnings, consumption of vegetables

**T**he United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is conducting a study on the African Leafy Vegetables (ALVs) in Kisii County to boost production and consumption.

Implemented by the Kenya Crops and Dairy Market System Activity (KCDMS), the study will also address some aspects of value addition and outline the actual potential of vegetable varieties in the county.

The study follows a request by Governor James Ongwae who sought an inventory for the distribution of various vegetables and their production levels.

Speaking in his office when he met a team from KCDMS led by Beatrice Tanui last September, Mr Ongwae said the study was long overdue as it will show the volume of vegetables produced, what is consumed at the source and the percentage that goes to the market.

"The study will provide a deep assessment of ALVs production, marketing systems with emphasis on demand and market linkages as well as key destination markets in Nairobi,

Mombasa, Eldoret among other regions," said Mr Ongwae.

The governor, who was accompanied by his deputy Joash Maangi, regretted that vegetables like Managu (African night shade) and Chinsaga (Spider flower) are produced in plenty in Kisii but farmers are exploited by middlemen who buy at throw away prices.

"The study will be a turning point for our farmers especially the mama mbogas as it will save them from the hands of middlemen," said Mr Ongwae adding that it will identify and analyse emerging opportunities for private sector investments.

The governor is rooting for large production of indigenous vegetables for export to foreign markets to enable local farmers to make better returns.

"The Kisii Community has a large population of Kenyans living in the diaspora. I know that if we are able to tap this market, farmers investing in indigenous vegetables will make good money," he said.

The Governor pointed out that they will analyse the supply and demand factors and identify trends and opportunities for enhanced efficiency and quality.

Ms Tanui said that the two months study will also identify and sketch trade routes, main marketing corridors, main market catchment areas as well as sourcing areas during vegetable peak and off-peak season.

"The study will describe the key market outcomes in terms of seasonal price variations, annual market demand, deficits and potential within the main strategic wholesale markets around the county as well as main destination markets," she said.

The County Executive Committee member (CEC) in charge of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperative Development Esman Onsarigo said primary data will be collected from small scale farmers, traders, key informants including relevant government ministries, businessmen as well as consumers.

The CEC said his department is working with KCDMS to ensure successful completion of the study which will address challenges facing farmers specializing in ALVs.



**K**isii county government has invested in value addition initiatives to ensure various producers benefit fully from their ventures.

Most of these initiatives are geared towards improving incomes for rural communities especially those involved in agriculture.

Most Kisii residents, due to limited land sizes, practice subsistence farming.

Most produce is sold locally with middlemen taking advantage of farmers' desperation, exploiting them in the process.

However, Kisii Governor James Ongwae has always emphasized the need to make agriculture a lucrative venture that will positively transform livelihoods.

Already, various farmer groups have received funding to the tune of Sh22 million under the National Agricultural Inclusive Growth Project (NARIGP) to boost production.

In partnership with the National Government, NARIGP is investing in small scale holder farmers, in a project that aims to increase productivity and profitability of rural targeted communities in selected counties. In the event of a crisis, they provide



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## World Bank-funded project steers value addition mindset in subsistent farming

effective response to the affected farmers.

The World Bank funded project is currently being implemented in 21 counties with Kisii being one of the beneficiaries.

Agriculture County Executive Member Mr Esman Onsarigo said a total of 143 projects in 20 wards have been funded to a tune of Sh56 million.

"Today I am happy that cheques worth Sh22,494,929 have been issued, being the first tranche in the five-year initiative, which aims to increase productivity and profitability of rural targeted communities and vulnerable groups," he said during a recent farmers forum.

This translates to 40 per cent of the total NARIGP contribution. The second tranche, 60 per cent, will be given depending on how well the groups utilise the first tranche.

"I wish to thank our development partner for choosing Kisii County among the 21 counties implementing the project," said Mr Onsarigo.

In Kisii, the programme is operational in six sub-counties namely Bonchari, South Mugirango, Bobasi, Nyaribari Masaba, Kitutu Chache North and Bomachoge Chache.

The wards to benefit are; Bogiakumu, Bomorenda, Bomariba, Bogetenga,

Getenga, Chitago Borabu, Bassi Central, Bassi Chache, Bassi Bogetaorio, Masige East, Nyamasibi, Gesusu, Kiamokama, Sensi, Monyerero, Marani, Majoge Bassi, Bosoti Sengera, and Boochi Tendere.

The selected organised farmer groups in these wards are benefitting from the five-year programme that started in 2016.

Onsarigo urged the beneficiaries to diligently utilise the funds so as to attract further funding to the county.

The project uses value chain approach and Kisii is targeting the production value chain of bananas, dairy cows (milk), chicken, and local vegetables for support from the project.

The major principal of

NARIGP is linking rural smallholder farmers Common Interest Groups (CIGs) and Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups (VMGs) which are organised along selected priority value chains to markets.

NARIGP's components include supporting community driven development, strengthening producer organizations and value chain development, supporting county led community development and project coordination and management.

The project strengthens community level institutions through trainings that enable the institutions to plan, implement, manage and monitor the community micro-projects.

Community institutions include Community Driven Development Committees, Social Accountability Integrity Committee and Common Interest Groups which are value chain based.

It also supports community investments by offering grants along the investment windows and seeks to increase agricultural productivity and profitability of targeted rural communities in selected counties in Kenya.

Farmers across the wards have also been trained on proposal development.

Food security is one of the Agenda Four items prioritized by President Uhuru Kenyatta.



Machakos County Governor Dr Alfred Mutua and Governor James Ongwae interact with fruits vendors in Kisii town recently.

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## PYRETHRUM

# Residents urged to rejoin pyrethrum gravy-train

Kisii residents have been asked to invest in the once lucrative pyrethrum farming.

Farmers have shown excitement after receiving reports that the county government plans to revive pyrethrum farming in the region.

They are now urging the devolved unit to move with speed to implement the plan.

Pyrethrum is daisy like in appearance, with white ray flowers surrounding a yellow core. The blue-gray leaves are deeply divided. The plant is important commercially as a source of pyrethrin. *Tanacetum cinerariifolium*, as it is referred scientifically, was the main source of livelihood for most Kisii residents from the 1960's to 2006.

County Secretary Patrick Lumumba said the county has been mobilising resources to get pyrethrum farmers back

to work.

"Plans to have pyrethrum farming reinitiated in Kisii is on top gear. We believe by working with partners like the USAid and the US, we will get there," said Lumumba.

Recently, in the county's stride towards the venture, Governor James Ongwae held talks with the new US envoy to Kenya Ambassador Kyle McCarter at the US embassy in Nairobi.

"We deliberated on a number of bilateral issues touching on development. My mission to the embassy put focus on the revival of the dead pyrethrum sector," he said.

In Kenya, total production across the 18 pyrethrum growing counties, stands at a mere 350 tonnes annually.

The situation was different during its glory days.

Pyrethrum-growing counties include Nyandarua,

Nyeri, Kiambu, Trans Nzoia, Uasin Gishu, Elgeyo Marakwet and West Pokot.

Others are Nakuru, Nandi, Baringo, Laikipia, Narok, Kericho, Bomet, Nyamira, Bungoma, Murang'a, Kirinyaga and Meru.

In the 1980s and early 1990s, Kenya was the epicentre of the world's pyrethrum sector.

Being a cash crop that is always on high demand because of its use in the production of natural insecticides and pesticides while its by product, pyrethrin, is used in the manufacture of medical and personal care products, Kenya was the world's leading producer.

The country used to produce 18,000 tonnes or more than 80 per cent of world demand and earned \$200 million (Sh20.3 billion) in forex annually. Today, Kenya

produces a paltry two per cent of the world demand.

In its heyday, some 200,000 farmers directly earned a living from the crop, which also indirectly supported about four million people. Today only 7,000 farmers cultivate the crop, earning an insignificant \$147,000 (Sh15 million) annually.

Kenya has the potential to produce and process 20,000 metric tonnes (MT) of pyrethrum flowers to earn Sh7.5 billion for farmers per year and Sh5.8 billion in foreign exchange from refined extract alone.

With direct or indirect linkage to the crop, that best grows at an altitude of 1,700 to 2,900 metres above sea level, it can provide a livelihood to three million people.

Sombogo Tea Factory which is nearly complete.



## KTDA, County funded Sombogo Factory set to be operational

The Sombogo Tea Factory, whose establishment was facilitated by the Kisii County Government and the Kenya Tea Development Authority (KTDA) is expected to kick off operations soon. The factory whose construction is almost completed is located in Kitutu Chache North. Thousands of small-scale tea farmers in the northern regions of Kisii County, specifically Kitutu Chache North, Kitutu Chache South and Bonchari Sub-County have been selling their crop to the distant Tombe factory in Nyamira County. In 2005, Kenya Tea Development Authority

(KTDA) decided to open a satellite factory at Sombogo in Kitutu Chache North and tasked farmers to raise an initial commitment premium of Sh30 million before the project could start. Unfortunately, farmers were unable to raise the funds and for more than 10 years, the project remained a dream until the Kisii County Government under the leadership of Governor James Ongwae intervened and paid the Sh30 million. "The onus was on farmers to raise an initial commitment premium of Sh30 million before the agency could pick up the project. My

administration listened to the plight of farmers and paid the amount which enabled KTDA start the construction of the factory," said Mr Ongwae.

Mr Ongwae regretted that since independence, farmers in the affected areas have been getting poor returns from the major cash crop in the country because of wastage of the produce as a result of transport delays and inflation of operational costs. The county government is mobilising farmers to increase acres under tea to sustain and surpass the needs of the factory. "KTDA, in collaboration



with the county government, distributed seedlings to farmers in the lower region in April last year. The distribution is an ongoing activity to ensure sustainability of the much-awaited factory," said County Executive Committee (CEC) member in charge of Agriculture Esman Onsario.

On completion, the factory will also economically open up the area and create employment for more than 200 youths.

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COUNTY  
EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE  
MEMBER  
(CECM):  
AMOS  
ANDAMA

CHIEF  
OFFICER:  
DR. DORIS  
NYOKANG'I



Dr. Doris Nyokang'i

## MANDATE

According to the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution, County Governments are responsible for pre-primary, village polytechnics, home craft centres and childcare facilities. The education sector has not, therefore, been fully devolved because basic education (primary and secondary), tertiary and university education have been retained by the National Government. This notwithstanding, the County Government, in line with provisions of Chapter 55 of the Constitution, has taken the necessary measures, including affirmative action programmes, to ensure that our youth access relevant education and training.

The sector comprises of two directorates: Early Childhood Development (ECD) and Vocational Training. It also provides education support through disbursement of bursaries to needy students.

The department has come up with policies on registration of ECDE centres, management of ECD teachers, management of village polytechnics, registration of village polytechnics and; quality assurance and standards in ECDE centres and village polytechnics.

## ENABLING LEGISLATIONS

The department has formulated legislations 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 Bursaries Fund, 2014

## Training to spur ECDE standards, equity and accessibility

Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) is the foundation of all learning. There is a very close relationship between ECDE and school completion rates.

The importance of ECDE as a key milestone in the development of a personality cannot be gainsaid. With the advent and the implementation of the Constitution of Kenya (2010), counties heralded the management of pre-schools

among other devolved functions.

Kisii County is among the first counties to recruit ECDE teachers and has stepped up in-service training for its 950 ECDE care givers. The training, partly organised in conjunction with the Aga Khan Foundation, is meant to build the capacity of ECDE care givers so that they are well equipped with skills to handle the learning needs of children.

The programme also aims at improving the quality of ECDE and bringing uniformity to all 703 centres across the county.

Among the key areas the programme focussed on was the health of learners which adversely affects them at the early stages of education.

At the County level the ECDE programme officers are responsible for all activities and resources related to ECDE at sub-county level.

The provision of ECDE services involve households, community and government efforts in the holistic development of children between zero and five years.

Access, equity and quality of education services in this sub-sector are constrained by factors such as inadequate trained teachers and care givers, inadequate number of ECD centres, limited availability of teaching and learning materials, low morale of teaching staff due to poor remuneration, poor enforcement of ECD standards and inadequate health support services.

Apart from employing ECDE teachers, the education department has despite the challenges endeavoured to improve infrastructure in all ECDE centres across the County.

The department has managed to complete the construction of pit latrines in 16 ECDE centres and others are in progress.

The county has constructed 180 ECDE classrooms which are currently in use and many more are set for completion. The county has a total of 703 ECD centres and has employed ECDE assistant directors for the programme.



The newly build Kiabugesi ECD classroom by the county government

Kiabugesi ECD classroom in Magenchr Ward before devolution.

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## Youths now urged to embrace, tap technical education

The Kisii County Government is working in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on a programme to address unemployment among the youth in the county.

County Secretary Patrick Lumumba has said the County Government will enter into a partnership with the USAID funded Kenya Youth Employment and Skills (KYES) programme that will see thousands of youths empowered with various skills and later access to employment opportunities in the private sector.

Addressing various partners, including the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) and Kenya Youth Employment Opportunities Project (KYEOP), Lumumba said the programme targets more than 25,000 youths across the county.

"We are incorporating several private sector organisations and the business community in this project that is aimed at improving youth employability. Our youths will be trained, offered workplace internship and later employment opportunities. This will drastically reduce unemployment in the county," said Lumumba.

He said the collaboration will promote youth empowerment and transform Vocational Education and Small Enterprise sectors into highly competitive sectors delivering new employment opportunities to the youth.

"The County Government, under the leadership of Governor James Ongwae, is supporting Vocational Training Centers (VTCs) to adopt competency-based education and training curriculum in line with education reforms. The county will continue to give priority and provide training and linkages to youth to access government procurement opportunities," said Lumumba.

In return, businesses, hotels, colleges, and other organisations would provide jobs to the youth while the county government will continue to provide an enabling environment for businesses to thrive.

Lumumba said that youths with vocational skills like plumbing, masonry and carpentry are more likely to get employment opportunities than graduates and regretted that many youths are still banking on white-collar jobs only.

The beneficiaries include the business community, contractors, the civil society, youth associations and training institutions within the county.

KYEOP County Coordinator Martha Otieno said the partnership will provide youths with the much needed work experience as well as address skills mismatch.

"Currently, youths across the county who applied for the trainings are being imparted with life, core business, technical and jobs specific skills," she said.

USAID KYES County Project Coordinator David Rotich said the partnership will promote youth access to quality vocational training that meets market demand besides promoting partnership linkages that will enhance resource leveraging to support youth skill development and employability.

## Brainstorming session aid public school enrollment

To help improve education standards in the county in accordance with His Excellency the Governor's manifesto, a needs assessment was conducted in the education sector in the formative stages of the county government. The study revealed that there were financial and structural constraints which burdened parents making basic education inaccessible to needy students. As a result, the county organised an education stakeholder's conference in Kisii to deliberate the way forward.

Following the successful conference, a taskforce was formed to oversee the implementation of the recommendations.

### Bursary for students in Secondary and Tertiary institutions

One of the major findings 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, Sh650 million has been disbursed equally to each ward benefitting 160,000 learners.

Bursary	Before Devolution	After Devolution
No. of students	-	160,000
Amount	-	650,000,000

### Directorate of Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE)

Before devolution, most parents bore the brunt of paying salaries for ECDE teachers and establishment of infrastructure. As a result, enrolment was low.

To increase enrolment, expand and improve quality early years education, the county has:

- Constructed 180 ECD classrooms throughout the county
- Initiated construction works on a further 263 class-rooms
- Recruited and posted 965 ECDE teachers to public schools in all 45 wards
- Procured and distributed play equipment, including swings, slides and see-saws
- Partnered with The Aga Khan Foundation to help build capacity for ECDE teachers to improve quality in education.

- Procured and distributed Competence Based Curriculum (CBC)

These interventions have resulted in a tremendous increase in enrolment in ECDE centers 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.

	Before Devolution	After Devolution
ECDE Centres	-	703
ECDE teachers	-	965

### Directorate of Vocational Education milestones

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.

The directorate has also constructed several youth polytechnics.

### Labour and Manpower

The county has also distributed tools and equipment to 31 VTCs, including electrical equipment, sewing machines and hairdressing equipment. The county has employed 206 instructors on permanent and pensionable terms.

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

It has also recruited vocational training instructors and equipped them with the relevant equipment for the learners.

	Before devolution	After devolution
Vocational Training Centres	39	58
Workshops	39	93
Instructors	-	270
Registration of VCTs with IVETA	0	50

### Future Plans

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

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## KEY MILESTONES SINCE 2013

# Sh135 million

disbursed to 45 Wards (Sh3 million per ward) as bursary that benefited 39,026 needy students in FY2018/19.



# Sh52 million

Conditional Grants disbursed to 50 Vocational Institutions with the County received the highest grant in FY2018/19.

### Digital ICT Centres



**3** modern Digital ICT Centers established in the following VTCs

- Nyaore Vocational Training Centre
- Keumbu Vocational Training Center
- Nyaburumbasi Vocational Training Center

### Pre-Primary Teacher Training

The Department managed to:

- Train all sub-county officers on competence based curriculum and learning materials development
- One Hundred and Twelve pre-primary Board of Management members and head teachers were sensitised on CBC
- Two Hundred pre-primary teachers have been trained on CBC and learning material development to improve learning outcomes.

### Bursaries

**650m**

Bursaries distributed since 2013

County allocations for the year 2019

Universities	Sh 14,779,500
Colleges	Sh 11,577,000
Secondary Schools	Sh 106,545,500
Vocational Training Centers	Sh 2,098,000

### Vocational training

**58**

Vocational training centres benefitted from distribution of tools and equipment

	Before devolution	After devolution
Vocational Training Centre	39	58
Workshops	39	93
Instructors	-	270

#### Challenges;

There has been late exchequer fund release to counties which hinder service delivery.

At the same time, the funds allocated to counties are inadequate and that is why the Council of Governors is petitioning for the upward revision of the overall allocation of Sh316 billion for all counties in 2019/2020 Financial Year.

However, we have been trying to mitigate this inadequate funding by sourcing for development partners, investors and donors to help us offer services to the public.



**703**

schools benefited from distribution of CBC textbooks for ECDE



**133**

Classrooms constructed



**20**

ECD Centres constructed with modern sanitation facilities



**20**

Workshops constructed

■ Trained ECDE teachers on CBC curriculum delivery.

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# Kisii County recruits tutors for

BEFORE DEVOLUTION



Masakwe Vocational Training Centre in Sensi ward.

**T**he Kisii County Government has recruited more than 270 instructors for Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) since 2013.

The tutors have been working in more than 58 VTCs across the County with a population of more than 5,000 students.

Before Devolution the National Government used management committees to run village polytechnics, as they were known then, and granted them the powers to operate and consequently hire tutors.

In the 2010 Constitution, vocational training was devolved to counties and it has been a revolution since then.

Vocational training was meant to address unemployment. Since learners are equipped with technical

skills they are able to go into self-employment through self-reliance initiatives.

"We have set aside resources to avail teaching and learning materials in VTCs for effective curriculum delivery," Governor James Ongwae once said.

He said that as chair of the Human Resources and Social Welfare Committee of the Council of Governors (CoG), he had mooted the idea of forming a national taskforce to look into the affairs of VTC instructors.

Vocational Training Director Tom Ongaga said the move to recruit new tutors is a significant boost to the sector adding that enrolment in VTCs has risen tremendously as a result.

"We are offering training in so many fields to many of our youth who are completing

primary and secondary schools, and indeed those trainings have posted encouraging results and our students have benefited a lot," said Ongaga.

Some of the trainings being undertaken in the VTCs include food processing, agribusiness, metal processing technology, motor vehicle mechanics, electrical and electronics technology, hair dressing and design, carpentry and joinery, ICT, motor vehicle wiring and stone carving.

According to Chris Masanta, Assistant Director Vocational Training, male students prefer more masculine courses, for example carpentry and joinery and masonry while their female counterparts go for softer skills such as hair dressing and fashion design.

"Demand for these skills is

very high both locally and also in our neighbouring counties. There is no reported case of a graduand who has completed their courses and has remained idle. I can confidently say they have something meaningful to do either by self or through formal employment," Masanta assured.

The County Government in 2017/18 Financial Year procured training equipment in its effort to promote learning and boost enrolment.

In 2018/19, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, through the State Department of Vocational Training disbursed Sh26 million in 2018/19 and Sh52 million in 2019/20 as tuition fees.

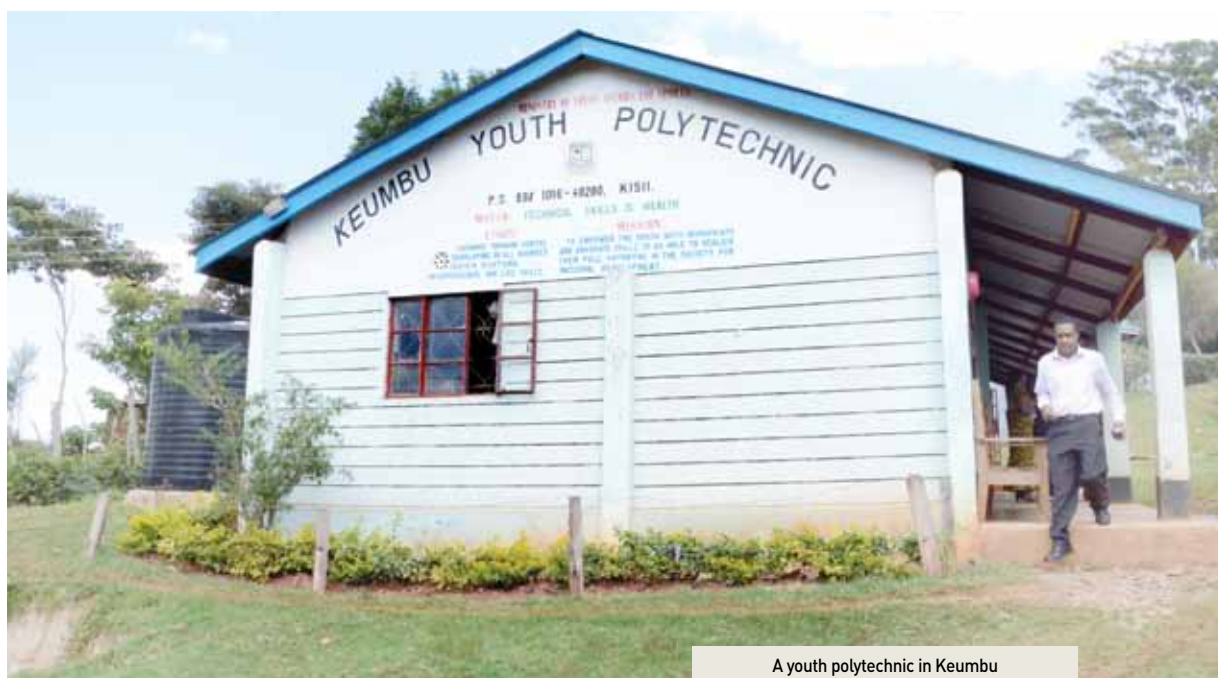
This will consequently go a long way in relieving the burden of paying tuition fees for

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A youth polytechnic in Keumbu



# vocational training

AFTER



New look Masakwe Vocational Training Centre after it was constructed using funds from Kisii County Government.

parents.

So far, the County Government has managed to build three Digital Information and Communication Technology Centres in Nyaore Vocational Training Centre, Keumbu Vocational Training Centre and Nyaburumbasi Vocational Training Centre.

The centres have been provided with state-of-the-art equipment for learning, research, business innovation and incubation and also serves the ICT needs of the surrounding communities.

The County has also employed quality assurance and standards

officers to improve supervision of VTC curriculum.

For instance, for the last two years, Nyaore VTC has been ranked top countrywide in producing best students.

This is a clear indication that the resources injected into these institutions are bringing forth value.

In encouraging partnership in this sector, a beauty product manufacturer, Style Industries, in partnership with the County, has refurbished hairdressing workshops at Nyaore and Keumbu Vocational Training Centres in Kisii County.

AFTER



Magenche DOK ECD classroom built by the county government

BEFORE



Magenche DOK ECD classroom before devolution

## Aga Khan Foundation pact set to benefit ECDE in Kisii County

The Kisii County Government has committed to closely work with the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) to improve Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE) in the county.

Governor James Ongwae witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the County Executive Committee member of Education Amos Andama and the foundation's chief executive Graham Wood at the County headquarters in 2019.

The foundation's agency Madrassa Early Childhood Programme-Kenya (MECP-K) will implement the programme.

In the agreement, the MCEP-K organisation will support the county realise its ECDE targets and aspirations as spelt out in the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP).

"I welcome MECP-K programmes that will align with and compliment the County ECDE sectoral plans to improve quality of education in line with Vision 2030," said Governor Ongwae.

Wood said the programmes include offering professional development of pre-primary school teachers working in public institutions in the county, supporting the County Government to establish model pre-primary schools, enabling teachers to access teaching and learning resources required to promote child-centered learning.

"MECPK will provide professional development courses to government officials within the department in charge of ECDE and complement County Government capacity to monitor and support ECDE interventions in pre-primary schools. This will increase quality and impact on children's learning and on their holistic wellbeing," said Wood.

He reiterated the importance of building a strong education for beginners adding that he will work with the county leadership to ensure the success of the programme.

Through this partnership, the County Government demonstrates its commitment to offer quality education to the young learners so as to give them a solid foundation for their future wellbeing.

The county has a population of more than 70,000 ECDE learners admitted in 703 centres across the county.

The Aga Khan Development Network agencies have significantly invested in Nyanza region with a focus on ECDE, education and health

Through the County Government - Aga Khan Foundation Partnership, the Education Department has managed 200 pre -primary teachers on Competence Based Curriculum and learning material development to improve learning outcomes in schools.

Also the 112 pre-primary Board of Management members and their respective headteachers have been taken through a sensitisation workshop on the need to support pre-primarieducation and the new Competence Based Curriculum (CBC).

# Government unleashes Sh650 million in bursaries



A Nyabururu high school student Viona Kemunto Marucha, receives a cheque after the county government offered her a scholarship in 2019.

Since 2013 the County Government has disbursed Sh650 million as bursaries to the needy in Kisii County. In the Financial Year 2018/19 alone, the County Government disbursed Sh135 million to 45 Wards (Sh3 million Per Ward) to 39,026 successful applicants who come from humble backgrounds.

In the allocations, Universities have received Sh14,779,500, Colleges Sh11,577,000, Secondary Schools Sh106,545,500 and Vocational Training Centers, Sh2,098,000 for the year 2019.

## Digital ICT Centres

Three modern Digital Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Centres have been established in the following Vocational Training Centres ; Nyaore Vocational Training Centre, Keumbu Vocational Training Centre and Nyaburumbasi Vocational Training Centre.

The centres are networked with state-of-the-art equipment for learning, research, business innovation and incubation and serve the ICT needs of surrounding communities. More centres will be established before the end of this year.

## Tuition Grants for Vocational Training

In FY2018/19 Sh52 million was disbursed

as Conditional Grants to 50 Vocational Training Institutes to cater for tuition fee for learners which is the highest in the country.

We urge more youth to join the Vocational Centres so as to acquire skills that will enable them contribute to President Uhuru Kenyatta's Big Four agenda while at the same time generating an income.

## Pre-Primary Teacher Training

In pre-primary education, the department has managed to train all Sub-County Officers on the Competence Based Curriculum and learning

## Materials Development

One Hundred and Twelve pre-primary Board of Management members and their respective headteachers have been taken through a sensitisation workshop on the need to support pre-primary education and the new Competence Based Curriculum (CBC).

Two Hundred pre-primary teachers have received CBC coupled with learning material development training to improve learning outcomes in our schools.

These training programmes are being funded through a partnership between the county government and Aga Khan Foundation. The Department continues to train more teachers, headteachers and

Boards of Management as the programme is still on-going.

## Infrastructure

The department has managed to complete a number of infrastructural projects which are now in use.

A number of pit latrines for Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) centres have been constructed in various institutions. The 703 ECDE centres have received the new Competence Based Curriculum (CBC) materials.

One Hundred and Thirty Three ECDE classrooms are complete and in use. The county has strived to ensure adequate infrastructural development to facilitate early learning in various parts of Kisii County.

"We have also completed 20 Vocational Training Centres and five hostels are at various levels of construction," said Education County Executive Member Mr Amos Andama.

Mr Andama said the County has also delivered teaching and learning materials as well as supplied slides, climbers and swings to these centres together with tools and equipment to all 58 Vocational Training Centres.



Governor James Ong'wa presents a cheque to beneficiaries at the launch of the Kisii County Bursary Fund.

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Dr. Walter Okibo

“The County Government has acquired a modern fire engine and a rapid response vehicle to enhance disaster preparedness. Residents can report disaster outbreaks using emergency call number 0727600010 which is operational 24 hours a day.”

- COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER (CECM):  
DR WALTER BICHANG'A OKIBO

#### CHIEF OFFICERS

- GEOFFREY MOGIRE (ADMINISTRATION, ENFORCEMENT AND DEVOLVED UNITS)
- ALEX NYAMWEYA (AG. STAKE HOLDER MANAGEMENT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT)



Geoffrey Mogire



Alex Nyamweya

## MANDATE

In realization of its core mandate of linking the other sectors with key stakeholders and coordination and supervision of County Government affairs, the sector realised the following achievements:

1. Developed a Strategic Plan for the department.
2. Introduced and coordinated Performance Contracting for senior county officers
3. Constructed and equipped Sub-County and Ward offices.
4. Constructed pit latrines for Ward offices.
5. Hired and trained sub-county and ward administrators
6. Purchased motor vehicles for sub-county administrators.
7. Established a county enforcement unit.
8. Established an Emergency and Disaster Management Unit to ensure preparedness to respond to emergencies.
9. Trained officers in the unit on firefighting, disaster handling and prevention, and response coordination.
10. Held sub-county devolution conference dialogues and public participation and civic engagements in all sub-counties to enable public participation in County governance.
11. Developed various human resource manuals including the Employee Code of Ethics.
12. Coordinated national and county celebrations.
13. Carried out stakeholder mapping and civil societies.
14. Established a County Disaster Fund.
15. Acquired assorted firefighting equipment through partnership with development agencies.
16. Carried out several disaster rescue operations in collaboration with the national government.
17. Recruited and deployed human resource officers in the County.
18. Developed HIV/AIDS Policy for the workplace.

## VISION

A leading department in public policy formulation, implementation, coordination, supervision and prudent resource management.

## MISSION

To provide overall leadership and policy direction in resource mobilisation, management and accountability for quality public service delivery.

# Delivering seamless services to residents of County, businesses

The department derives its mandate from the County Government Act, 2012, primarily to:

- Institutionalise governance structure
- Oversee 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 sub-counties and 45 electoral wards.

To strengthen the decentralised units, the county has 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.

## Enabling legislations

To provide 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:

COLOUR/ SYMBOL	MEANING
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.
Yellow rope	Represents unity and strength.
seven stars	Exemplify the six clans in the county and other communities residing in our county.
The hills	Symbolizes our green highlands.
The round ring (egetinge)	Stands for Omogusii unity.
Kisii soapstone figurine	Embodies the creative art of the Kisii people.
The shield	A symbol of prosperity, opportunities, justice, courage and abundance.

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CS Matiang'i inspects a quarter guard staged in his honour by the Kisii County enforcement officers during a previous visit to Kisii.

## Directorates

The department has several other sub-departments managed and run by directors of various capacity which include

SNO	DIRECTORATE	DIRECTOR
1	Devolved unit	Oisebe Albert,
2	Human resource management	Ongechi Duke,
3	Enforcement and compliance	Daniel Maguto
4	Fleet management	Mbaka Henry
5	Disaster and rescue management	Nicodemus Orito
6	Civic education and stakeholder management	Geofrey Omwocha
7	Ag Director Administration	Harun Nyamache

## Enforcement and Compliance

The Department of Enforcement and Compliance is mandated to undertake the following functions:

1. Enforce County financial bill and other county laws so as to enhance Revenue collection.
2. Security of county buildings and facilities.
3. Enforcing county Acts (e.g. Public Health Act, Physical Planning Act, Environmental Act).
4. Traffic control in town and during market days.
5. Nuisance and menace control.
6. Ensure law and order is maintained in collaboration with the national government structure.

## The Directorate of Human Resource Management Achievements

- The directorate, through the Kenya Devolution Support Programme, World Bank support programme and AHADI, was able to train officers in the following areas; performance management, staff plans, records management IPPD, guidance and

counseling, minute and report writing, rapid results initiative, senior management course.

- The directorate has customised three national policies namely; Human Resource Policies and Procedures Manual for the County Public Service, April, 2014.

Internship Policy and Guidelines for the county service, April, 2014. Competency framework for Public Service, 2018.

- The payroll has been successfully run by 23rd of the month hence employees are paid on time.
- All employees under permanent and contract terms of service enjoy a comprehensive medical cover by NHIF.
- In partnership with LAPFUND and National Aids Council (NAC) HRM sensitises employees on management of HIV/AIDS.

## Fleet and Management Achievements

Already 200 drivers have been retrained on vehicle management policy which provides them with guidance on their day to day activities.

The department has always ensured that insurance companies undertake to restore our vehicles to road worthy conditions where accidents have occurred, the most recent being vehicles attached to revenue department which were involved in accidents as well as ambulances.

## Civic Education and Public Participation

The department has ensured efficient management and engagement with the public through frequent public participation foras.

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

In addition, the county has acquired a 10,000 litre firefighting engine and a support truck, assorted firefighting gear and renovated six water hydrant points located at the KTRH, Ram hospital, Nyanchwa, Getembe, Daraja mbili and Kisii Central police station.

The County Government of Kisii partnered with World Bank in the construction of a state-of-the-art fire station which has capacity to serve the entire Western Kenya region. The fire station will house the Disaster Management Directorate and provide an enabling environment for their routine activities. The facility will in future be accredited as a training school for capacity building on emergency response and preparedness in the region.

## 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.



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# Banking on external, internal trade to spur investment and development



“

Positioning  
Kisii to attract  
investments.”

COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE MEMBER  
(CECM): MS EDNA  
KANGWANA

CHIEF OFFICER:  
MS BILLIAH MOGAKA

Edina Kangwana

Billiah Mogaka

We are creating an enabling environment for business operations throughout the county. Kisii is a diversified economy and has a long history of private sector development. The County has a wealth of investment opportunities in agro-processing, healthcare, education, tourism, power generation, agriculture and horticulture, transport, housing, infrastructure development, mining, sports and ICT.

The sector is comprised of trade, tourism and industry sub-sectors. The mandate of the sector is to promote both domestic and international trade, tourism and industry in the county through creation of an enabling business and investment environment.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

### Enabling Legislations

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;

### Policies

- Tourism policy
- Investment Policy;
- Investment Guide.

### Market Development

The County is improving markets across the 45 wards through the construction of new ones while providing basic facilities to the existing markets.

Challenges such as inadequate space for selling products and lack of basic amenities like toilets and shelter bedeviled traders in various market centres before the inception of devolution.

To address this, the department of trade facilitated the construction of markets across the County.

The County Government in collaboration with Nacada is in the process of constructing a rehabilitation centre at Kiamwasi for people suffering with Alcohol and Substance

## MANDATE

The mandate of the department is promotion of domestic trade through creation of an enabling business and investment environment.

## VISION

To be a leader in promoting competitive domestic trade in Kenya by 2030

## MISSION

To facilitate orderly growth and development of domestic trade in Kenya.

Abuse (ASA). Department is rolling out sensitization programs to all the 45 wards on effects of ASA.

Projects	Project location
Construction of Market Toilets	Bogusero, Boochi Tendere, Keumbu, Kiogoro, Bombaba Borabu, Bogeka, Nyatieko, Sensi, Ichuni, Gesusu, Nyamasibi, Bogiakumu, Riana.
Construction of sheds (ongoing project)	Chitago Borabu, Bomorenda Ward, Omosaria, Matunwa, Matierio, Nyamache, Riosiri, Tabaka, Sengera, Kiobogi
Market toilets	Kenyerere, Rionyiego, Kisii Town, Keumbu, Omoringamu, Eronge, Nyakeyo, Gesieka, Nyabitunwa, Igembe, Ramasha, Ibacho, Nyabieyo
Starting soon	Nyamarambe, Tabaka
Rehabilitated markets	Ogembo in bomachoge, Marani, Kiango market

Market sheds done	Kegogi, Raganga, Sengera, Ramasha, Eronge, Gesusu, Matongo, Gesieka, Nyamaiya, Gesonso, Ekerubo, Nyanturago, Kiobegi, Igare, Kegati, Kiogoro, Nyamasibi, Magenche, Daraja mbili 3 sheds...mama omena, fruits vendors and Mali mali., Ongoing, Bobaracho, Nyangusu, Mogonga
Shomap markets 6 Collaboration with national government collaboration with national government	Riosiri, Mosochi, Riama, Kenya
Projects in collaboration with national government	Daraja Mbili Market, Nyakoe Market

### 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, is upgrading the market. Phase I of the project, including completion of the stalled market building at a cost of Sh204 million, has been concluded awaiting space allocation to 3,000 traders.

The county has constructed access roads around the market, additional sheds, washrooms and stone pitching on Rivers Nyakomisaro and Nyanchwa which cut through the market.

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 2016, 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 including an agreement with an investor on the establishment of a Sh5 billion sugar complex in South Mogirango.

Modalities to actualise this project are on course and preliminary approvals for the project have been given.

When ready, the sugar complex will

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Governor James Ongwae interacting with traders in Kisii Town recently.



Governor James Ongwae (R) hands over a motorcycle to Kisii bodaboda Sacco led by their chairman Michael Mose (C) at Gusii Stadium in January, 2015.

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 as it will not only improve earnings to farmers but also create about 10,000 direct and indirect jobs for our people.

Through the summit, we forged a partnership with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) for training innovators in Kisii County.

### 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 traders, the County government initiated a revolving credit scheme that provides affordable access to business finance to the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

With the enabling legislations in place, we have set up a board to manage the funds and the County assembly gave the necessary approvals. Through the scheme, MSMEs can apply for funds from this scheme.

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

**Boda boda sheds:** The boda boda

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

**Soapstone:** Soapstone is a unique rock that is only found in Kisii County. The bedrock of this stone spreads more than 40 square kilometres and experts estimate that only 20 per cent 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 artists 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.

Already, the County government has roped in the Ministry of Petroleum and Mining to establish a value addition factory for the Kisii Soapstone at Tabaka in South Mugirango.

A joint public participation exercise involving the county and the Ministry of Mining has been undertaken while a feasibility study, which was commissioned by the government, has returned a positive verdict on the viability of industrialising exploitation of the soapstone.

Besides, we have engaged the Property Organisation (WIPO) and the Kenya

Intellectual Property Institute (KIPI) to protect soapstone as a geographical feature and safe-guard the intellectual property rights of artists.

Already, an investor has set a private processing factory in South Mugirango to engage in value addition. The factory will produce fine soap-stone powder to be used as an additive in the manufacturing of Kaolin.

### 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 per cent of the money market in Nyanza.

To support this growth, CBK is establishing a money-clearing house in Kisii.

### Weights and measures

To ensure the use of accurate weighing and measuring equipment, encouraging fair trade practices and protecting the consumer against unscrupulous traders, the directorate has ensured that all scales and volumes used by traders are up to standard through routine inspection and verification.

### Tourism

The directorate of Tourism is tasked to facilitate sustainable development, management and marketing of our County tourism and hospitality products.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

**Soapstone:** We have widened visibility of soapstone through installation of stone monuments at the County Headquarters office such as the 'Sakawa' legend Granite carving.

The county, in partnership with the National Government through the ministry of Mining, is exploring other value addition avenues on the Kisii Soapstone. Already, there has been a joint stakeholders and public participation forum organised by the Ministry of Mining.

**Miss tourism:** We introduced the Annual Miss Tourism event that is a platform for young people to showcase their talents in modeling, fashion, dance, cultural art and poetry.

### Mapping of tourist sites in Kisii

**County:** A report has been finalised in readiness for protection, conservation and product development on tourist sites.

### Mapping of hospitality outlets:

Mapping and profiling of the County Hospitality is ongoing.

**Tourism hub:** We have finalised visibility studies on the proposed Kisii County Tourism Hub. This is for the purpose of conserving our culture and Marketing our unique curios and products.

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# Tabaka soapstone factory comes to the aid of miners

Soapstone miners in South Mugirango, Kisii County, have a reason to smile as the national and county governments have finalised plans to set up a soapstone factory.

The National Government, through the Ministry of Petroleum and Mining, has already engaged experts to identify a viable international market for the Tabaka soapstone.

The Cabinet Secretary in charge of Petroleum and Mining Peter Munyes and a team of experts have conducted a visibility study on the amount of soapstone deposits in the area.

A tentative survey had showed that the region has deposits that may be exploited for more than 200 years.

Governor James Ongwae said, through the factory, locals will have an organised way to export and sell value-added products.

"Recently, the CS and his Principal Secretary Mr Omenge were here and we toured Tabaka

area in South Mugirango sub-county where the unique soap stone is mined. We all know that it is only Kisii County in the whole world that has extensive deposits of the unique stone," said the Governor.

Mr Ongwae said the factory is a dream come true for residents adding that after the value addition, the investment will contribute to the housing sector in the President's Big Four agenda.

He thanked President Uhuru Kenyatta for fulfilling his promise to have the factory in Kisii.

"When President Uhuru visited recently, I petitioned him, on behalf of miners, to help us in setting up the soapstone factory. I am happy that he listened to the plea of county residents," said Mr Ongwae.

Soapstone in Tabaka, whose mining has been going on since 1880, has a bed rock of approximately 25 kilometre running 800 feet deep.

It is estimated that Got Chaki area contains five million tonnes



State Bank of Mauritius (SBM) Chairman Mr. Kee Chong Li Kwong Wing receives a gift from Governor James Ongwae after he paid a courtesy call in his office.

of the stone, Bosinange area has 6.8 million, Tabaka 2.2 million while Sameta has 12.5 million deposits of the precious stone.

"The upcoming investment will be a gamechanger since it will provide direct and indirect employment to close to 10,000 people mostly locals besides

enhancing county and national government revenue," said Mr Ongwae.

The governor regretted that for years, locals have been exploited by middlemen who buy the stone at a throw away price, take it for value addition elsewhere before it is exported to international markets.

Mr Ongwae thanked the National Government for listing Kisii soapstone among the major minerals it is keen on promoting adding that his administration will continue partnering with the ministry to actualise value addition on the Tabaka soapstone.

"Kisii is blessed with minerals like soapstone and granite found in Bonchari sub-county. We have also received reports that there are petroleum deposits in some parts which need to be confirmed," he said.

Mr Munyes said that plans by the national government to construct a value addition center in Tabaka will greatly benefit miners from the area who have been exploited for years by middlemen.

"Once the value addition initiative becomes a reality, locals will market soapstone products like chalk, ceramics and pharmaceuticals to countries like Europe, China, US, Japan, New Zealand among other countries," said the CS



Governor James Ongwae (r) receives Mining CS John Munyes (c) and the ministry's Principal Secretary John Omenge in Kisii. National Government officials were in Kisii to examine the viability of starting a soapstone factory in Tabaka.

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## KEY MILESTONES SINCE 2013

## Markets

85%

In partnership with National Government, the County has constructed Daraja mbili market which is at 85% complete. The County has also constructed markets and mama mboga sheds across the County.

## Construction of sheds

## Ongoing projects

Chitago Borabu, Bomorenda Ward, Omosaria, Matunwa, Matierio, Nyamache,

## Construction of Market Toilets

Kenyerere, Rionyiego, Kisii Town, Keumbu, Omoringamu, Eronge, Nyakeyo, Gesieka, Nyabitunwa, Igembe, Ramasha, Ibacho, Nyabieyo

Bogusero, Tendere Boochi, Keumbu, Kiogoro, Bombaba Borabu, Bogeke, Nyatieko, Sensi, Ichuni, Gesusu, Nyamasibi, Bogiakumu, Riana.



## Mama mbogas set to benefit from Nyakoe market facelift deal

Upgrading of Nyakoe modern retail market in Kitutu Chache South sub-county has started.

The project, which is implemented by the Lake Basin Development Authority (LBDA), will be constructed at a tune of Sh107 million. Its construction follows President Uhuru Kenyatta's directive in 2016 when he visited Kisii.

Speaking in his office when he held a consultative meeting with officers from LBDA led by the Managing Director Dr Raymond Omollo, Governor James Ongwae said that after the completion, the market will create an enabling trading environment for traders especially mama mbogas.

"The market will benefit our traders as they will be operating in a conducive environment. The youth and women will be the major beneficiaries," said Ongwae.

Mr Ongwae said his team has successfully conducted a public participation exercise adding that other aspects like relocation plans and preliminary works for tender documentations will be finalised soon.

The Governor revealed that since the President gave an order three years ago, his office has been making constant follow ups to ensure it succeeds.

Dr Omollo expressed the commitment of the authority towards full implementation of the project.

"I cherish the relationship my office has with that of the Kisii County government. We will closely work to ensure that the project is actualised within the stipulated time," said Dr Omollo.

## Businesses to re-energise in Sh10 million credit deal

Registered small scale traders in Kisii County are set to benefit from a Sh10 million County Credit Scheme to boost their business.

Beneficiaries, who will include youth and women groups across the 45 wards, will access the funding after undergoing a vetting process.

The County Executive Committee Member (CEC) in charge of Trade and Industry Ms Edna Kangwana said the department has set up a board to oversee the operations of the fund.

"We have done a public participation exercise to identify possible beneficiaries. Further, the department has done vetting of groups that will benefit," said Ms Kangwana.

She revealed that already they have identified the facilitating bank which will be giving soft loans on behalf of the county and a fund manager for the scheme as per the Public Finance Management (PFM) act.

"Beneficiaries will get a minimum of Sh10,000 and a maximum of Sh200,000 depending on the strength of their business.

A training has been conducted targeting the scheme's board members,

the Assembly Trade Committee members, a representative of Maendeleo ya Wanawake Organisation, Chairman Chamber of Commerce and a nominee from all the 45 wards.

The scheme was passed as an Act of the Kisii County Assembly to establish a Trade Credit Scheme with an objective of providing access to affordable credit for start-ups, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and agribusiness and producer groups to promote trade development and economic growth of the locals.

The fund also aims at creating employment opportunities and facilitates investment in MSMEs that benefit the youth, women and persons living with disabilities.

Mrs Kangwana said that the fund would be increased in the next Financial Year stressing that the initial amount will be used to pilot the project.

"We intend to transform the scheme to a Biashara fund that can attract funding from donors. We assure the public that only the deserving groups will benefit from the fund after undergoing a vigorous vetting process," she added.

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Dr Skitter W. Ocharo

**“ The County Government continues to implement various projects aimed at reducing the distance covered to access water across the county.”**

**- COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER (CECM)**

**DR SKITTER OCHARO**

**CHIEF OFFICERS:**

**- CHARLES NYAKWEBE**

**(AG ENVIRONMENT)**

**- BEATRICE OCHOKI (WATER SERVICES)**



Charles Nyakweba



Beatrice Ochoki

# County Government taps strategic partners towards clean water for all

## MANDATE

To ensure adequate, clean and reliable supply of water; effective and efficient sewerage services, expansion of electricity supply and adoption in usage of renewable sources of energy, and protection of environment from all forms of pollution and destruction.

County governments have been given the function of delivering water and sanitation services, according to the Constitution of Kenya 2010.

This express duty to counties has been given in the fourth schedule of the Constitution and this is where the Kisii County Department of Water, Energy, Environment and Natural resources derives its mandate.

The energy function is not fully devolved but the county government, in partnership with the national government and other stakeholders have put in place measures to address the energy requirements in the county.

## Enabling Legislations and Policies

- The Kisii County Public Nuisance Act, 2014
- Kisii County Polythene bags and Garbage Control Act 2015
- Executive Order No 2/2019 on Eucalyptus replacement and removal of structures from wetlands and riparian areas.

To provide our people with clean and potable water, the County has invested in the following programmes.

Item	Before devolution	After devolution
Spring protection	-	250 springs
Water schemes	-	675
Community Boreholes	-	45
Water tanks	-	237
Drilling Rig	0	1

## Rain water harvesting

In order to take advantage of the abundant rains in Kisii region, the county government, as per Governor James Ongwae's manifesto, has undertaken to promote rain water harvesting and utility as a means of addressing water shortages.

To actualise this, the county has distributed water tanks to two public institutions in each of the 45 wards to promote rain water harvesting. This is a continuous programme aimed at reaching all public institutions across the county in the fullness of time.

## Drilling of boreholes

To increase access to safe and clean water for residents for domestic use and support agriculture through irrigation, the county embarked on a programme to sink boreholes in each of the 45 wards.

The boreholes are located in public institutions and are fitted with hand pumps.

The end programme is to develop the

boreholes into water reticulation schemes to also serve residents surroundings the public institutions.

Up to 25 boreholes were initially drilled through contractual terms in Boochi Tendere, Ibeno, Boochi Borabu, Bogeka, Nyamasibi, Machoge Bassi, Keumbu, Tabaka, Moticho, Bogetenga, Bogetaorio, Kiamokama, Gesusu, Bogusero, Nyakoe, Kitutu Central, Nyatrieko, and Bassi central wards.

But to make the effort affordable and efficient, the county procured a rig to help in drilling of boreholes and this machine is expected to speed up the work in several sites across the county.

## Water Schemes

In a bid to improve access to potable water and reduce the distance residents cover to obtain the commodity from three to less than a kilometre, the county initiated the construction and rehabilitation of water schemes. So far, seven water schemes including; Getenga, Suguta, Amasago, Igoma, Rioma, Riosiri and Mosora are done while 18 others are under construction.

We have earmarked the construction of 31 other water schemes across the county.

To step up water supply to Kisii town and its environs we have, in partnership with development partner KfW German Bank, rehabilitated and expanded Kegati water supply at a cost of Sh1.2 billion including;

- Construction of treatment plant
- Construction of storage tank at Bobaracho with capacity of five million litres
- Construction of a storage tank at Nyanguru with capacity of three million litres.
- Construction of a sewer line and water distribution lines.

The Sewer ponds and wastewater treatment plant at Suneka is also being expanded and improved to accommodate enhanced water supply besides taking care of environmental concerns in the surroundings.

This sector comprises of Water and Sanitation; Environment; Energy; and Natural Resources sub-sectors.

## Water:

Since inception of devolution, the county government has made deliberate efforts to ensure that residents have access to improved sources of water including the protection of natural springs, drilling of boreholes and reticulation and construction of water springs while rehabilitating existing ones.

These efforts have seen the protection of 250 springs across the 45 wards drilling of 45 boreholes, distribution of 237 water tanks to selected centres and schools in the county to boost rain water harvesting; rehabilitation of seven water schemes and construction of 675 water schemes while 31 others are ongoing.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

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## KEY MILESTONES SINCE 2013

# Sh1.2 billion

Amount the Government of Kenya, in partnership with KfW German Bank, has injected into the rehabilitation and expansion of Kegati water supply. The county government is facilitating citizen engagement and other issues such as way leaves and land through GWASCO.

## 27m

the water quantity in litres distributed in average per day.

## 5m

litres of water the storage tank constructed at Bobaracho will carry

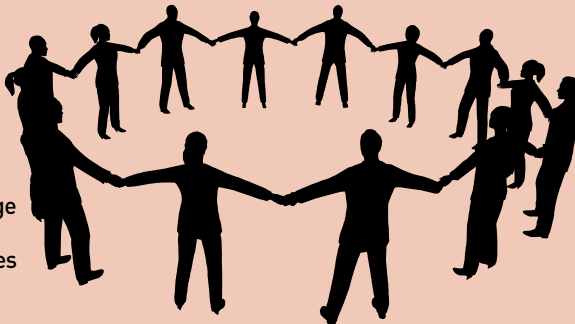
## 3m

litres of water the storage tank constructed at Nyanguru will carry



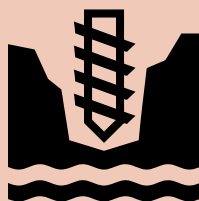
## 1.2m

people receive an average rainfall of 1500 mm annually, which recharges springs



## 450

springs across the 45 wards, drilling of 45 boreholes and distribution of 45 water tanks to selected centers and schools in the county to boost rain water harvesting



## 25

boreholes have been drilled so far through contractual terms in Boochi Tendere, Ibeno, Boochi Borabu, Bogeka, Nyamasibi, Machoge Bassi, Keumbu, Tabaka, Moticho, Bogetenga, Bogetaorio, Kiamokama, Gesusu, Bogusero, Nyakoe, Kitutu Central, Nyatrieko, and Bassi central.

### Environment

To help conserve the environment, the county has already embarked on the restoration of wetlands and riparian areas.

This follows the signing of the executive order 2/2019 by His Excellency the Governor James Ong'wa.

The order directs the public and mandates the relevant authorities to remove buildings, structures and the eucalyptus tree species growing on riparian areas and wetlands.

Already, residents have taken heed and there has been an ongoing drive to replace the eucalyptus trees on wetlands with water friendly varieties.

This move is aimed at restoring the water levels in the county to ensure adequate water supply from the schemes and boreholes the county has been investing in.

Importantly, the county government is taking over a number of tree nurseries formerly owned by the defunct local authorities with a view to having them operationalised to supply desirable trees seedlings



Members of the Public quench their thirsty at the Keumbu Water point that is part of a wider water project commissioned by Governor James Ong'wa at Amasago.

to residents in the sustained county re-afforestation drive.

At the same time, the county, in partnership with the multi-agency task force, is working to remove all structures along rivers Nyakomisaro and Nyanchwa so as to ensure that the rivers which cut through Kisii town to Riana are clear of any water contaminating effluent emanating from raw sewerage and solid garbage.



The newly purchased drilling rig by the county government.

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**R**esidents of Bomachoge Chache, Bomachoge Borabu and South Mugirango sub-counties are set to benefit from a multi-million shilling water project initiated by the Kisii County Government.

Construction works for Mokubo water project funded by the Unicredit Bank of Austria to a tune of Sh800 million that will be pumping one million litres of water per day is set to begin following successful negotiations of the deal facilitated by the Ministry of Finance.

Speaking when he received a delegation of officials from the Austrian government led by Kimani Rebo, representing MUT Austria company, Governor James Ongwae lauded the donor for considering the county's proposal for coming up with the project that is set to address water shortage in the area.

"I am happy to announce that the major project has been approved. It covers a 40 kilometre radius from Mokubo area, meaning that it will serve the entire Bomachoge Borabu, Ogembo, Northern parts of Etago, and parts of Bobasi," confirmed Ongwae.

He said the project covers water and sanitation and a major treatment facility, adding that it has facilitations for water kiosks which will serve homesteads, schools, markets and other public institutions.

The Governor said his administration was committed to provision of safe and clean water to the residents, adding that the Mokubo water project is part of his initiatives in line with his County's development manifesto.

"The project is a major boost to the county's water projects which include boreholes, water schemes and reticulation

## Sh800m Mokubo water project to quench thirst of Kisii County residents

programmes," said the Governor.

"Visibility study is being finalised. Public participation is underway while the process of transferring of land ownership is almost complete," added Ongwae.

The Governor who was accompanied by his deputy Joash Maangi, the County Secretary Patrick Lumumba, County Executive Committee Members Skitter Ocharo (Energy, Water, Environment and Natural Resource) and Moses Onderi (Finance and Economic Planning) among other senior officers confirmed that other forms of due diligence have been undertaken and the contractor, Lake Victoria South Water Works Development Agency (LVSWWDA) is ready to commence the project.

The Austrian government delegation commended the county for initiating the project which is focused in boosting water supply to the rural folks and coordinating relevant stakeholders for the project to take off.

Kimani said MUT, a renowned water and sanitation company, is willing to do more related projects in Kisii.

"We thank Governor Ongwae for letting us have the first milestone from Austria that will have a lot of impact to the rural folk.

LVSWWDA'S Manager, Asset Development

Paul Aowanda noted that the agency will

be offering the technical support on the project to guide the implementation that will be done by the Kisii County Government together with MUT.

"The constitution of Kenya 2010 requires that water is a human right, we are here to fulfil this fundamental requirement. We are looking forward to the commencement of the project," said Aowanda.

The Governor note that water supply in the county has been a challenge and appealed for the preservation and restoration of water sources.

He decried the haphazard planting of eucalyptus trees in water catchment areas and riparian lands which has been blamed for the dwindling of water levels and appealed to residents to replace the trees with water friendly varieties even as the county government undertakes a campaign for the total removal of the blue gum from near water sources.

Recently, Governor Ongwae signed an executive order compelling the locals to cut down eucalyptus trees planted on wetlands and marsh areas and ordered the department of environment to give residents viable indigenous trees for replacement.



Governor James Ongwae holding discussions with a delegation from the Lake Victoria Water Basin Authority to help actualise construction works for Mokubo water project in Bomachoge Borabu Constituency. The project funded by the Unicredit Bank of Austria is an initiative of the county government and is implemented by the Lake Victoria South Water Works Development Agency (LVSWWDA).

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The major water pump installed at KTRH to enhance water circulation at the facility.



## No more water shortage at KTRH hub as County sinks master boreholes

Safe and clean drinking water and sanitation was declared a human right on July 28, 2010 by the UN General Assembly who voiced their deep concern over 900 million people who lacked access to safe drinking water.

County governments are mandated to deliver water and sanitation services by the Constitution of Kenya 2010 that birthed devolution.

Kisii County which has a population of 1.2 million people receives an average rainfall of 1500 mm annually, which recharges springs.

Since the inception of devolution, the county government has made deliberate efforts to ensure that residents have access to improved sources of water including the protection of natural springs, drilling of boreholes, reticulation and construction of water springs while rehabilitating existing ones.

These efforts have seen the protection of 540 springs

across the 45 wards drilling of 45 boreholes, distribution of 45 water tanks to selected centres and schools in the county to boost rain water harvesting; rehabilitation of seven water schemes and construction of 18 water schemes while 31 others are ongoing.

The department of water, led by County Executive Member Dr Skitter Ocharo has managed to prepare key legislative pieces that have been passed in the county assembly.

They include; the Kisii County Public Nuisance Act, 2014, Kisii County Polythene Bags and Garbage Control Act 2015, Executive Order No 2/2019 on eucalyptus replacement and removal of structures from wetlands and riparian areas.

### Rain Water Harvesting

Governor James Ongwae, through his 2017 election manifesto, promised to promote rain water harvesting

and utility as a means of addressing shortages.

The county has distributed water tanks to two public institutions in each of the 45 wards to encourage rain water harvesting.

This is a continuous programme aimed at reaching all public institutions across the county in the fullness of time.

In efforts to increase access to safe and clean water to residents for domestic use and to support agriculture through irrigation, the county embarked on a programme to sink boreholes in each of the 45 wards.

The boreholes are located in public institutions and are fitted with hand pumps.

The end game is to develop the boreholes into water reticulation schemes to also serve residents surrounding the public institutions.

So far 25 boreholes have been drilled through contractual terms in Boochi Tendere, Ibeno, Boochi Borabu, Bogeka, Nyamasibi, Machoge Bassi, Keumbu, Tabaka,

Moticho, Bogetenga, Bogetaorio, Kiamokama, Gesusu, Bogusero, Nyakoe, Kitutu Central, Nyatrieko, and Bassi central.

But to make the effort cost affordable and efficient, the county procured a rig to help in the drilling of boreholes and this machine is expected to speed up the work in several sites across the county.

### Water Schemes

To improve access to potable water and reduce the distance residents cover to obtain the commodity from three to less than a kilometre, the county initiated the construction and rehabilitation of water schemes.

So far, seven water schemes including; Getenga, Suguta, Amasago, Igoma, Rioma, Riosiri and Mosora are done while 18 others are under construction.

The county government has earmarked the construction of 31 water schemes across the county.

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# GWASCO rolls out new strategic plan to support delivery of clean water

Gusii Water and Sanitation Company (GWASCO) launched its second Strategic plan 2017-2022 in line with its mission to support multi-billion donor projects in the area.

The plan also supports the need to have safe water supply to all residents in the region by 2030 as per Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number six.

GWASCO was established to spearhead increased water and sewerage services in Kisii and Nyamira Counties. This, according to the Company management, has not happened owing to low investments.

Over the years, the total installed capacity for water supply under GWASCO Ltd is 18,230 cubic metres from 10 water schemes. This serves around 600,000

people in urban areas of Kisii and Nyamira Counties.

Water supply coverage in the area is only at 47 per cent against a National coverage of 55 per cent. For more than 30 years, sewerage services have only been covering 15 per cent of Kisii town and other urban centers in the region are served by exhausters run by the company.

GWASCO management says the company look forward achieving its milestones set in the Strategic Plan.

They intend to attract increased funding from the National Government and other development partners to achieve full cost recovery by 2022 and increase sanitation coverage to at least 90 per cent.

The plan envisions the development of

water and sewerage infrastructure that may demand substantial financial development. The commercial funding will address both medium and long-term infrastructural development.

The overall goal of the strategic area is to contribute to Kisii County government's target of providing sustainable access to potable water and preservation of the environment as set out in the CIDP (2018-2022), the Kenya Vision 2030 and SDGs.

It is the responsibility of County Governments to provide clean and safe water for domestic use to its residents.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has set standards for the minimum quantity of water per person per day for a healthy life at 50 litres, to meet four basic needs, that is, drinking, sanitation, bathing and cooking. These standards underscore the importance of supplying safe water to poor communities.

Provision of clean and safe water will result in increased survival rates of County residents through reduction of water-related diseases including diarrhea, dysentery, and cholera.



The Kegati water project initiated by the county government that will serve residents within Kisii municipality and its environs.

## BRIEFING

### Kisii marks major milestone in Kegati water project partnership

A collaborative effort to deepen water security in Kisii Town and its environs saw the county government tap development partner German KfW rehabilitated to expand Kisii water supply at a cost of Sh1.2 billion at Kegati.

Once complete, the project will produce water targeting more than one million people in the area. The body managing water distribution in Kisii and Nyamira; Gusii Water and Sewerage Company

(GWASCO) is expected to increase its water supply per day as well as increase its revenue.

The project includes the expansion of Suneka Sewerage treatment plant.

Sewerage expansion will increase uptake from the current 400 metres cubic per day to approximately 4,000 cubic metres. Water supply coverage stands at 47 per cent against a national coverage of 55 per cent. Sewerage

services cover only 15 per cent of Kisii town, while other urban centers are served by exhausters run by the company.

A five-year plan for the firm, launched in July last year, envisions the development of water and sewerage infrastructure that will demand substantial finances.

Commercial funding will address both medium and long-term infrastructural development.

The project scope involves;

- Construction of a treatment plant
- Storage tank at Bobaracho with a capacity of five million litres
- Storage tank at Nyanguru with a capacity three million litres.
- Construction of sewer lines and water distribution lines.
- The County has also rehabilitated sewer bonds.



Grevillea seedlings that are one of the species recommended to be environmental friendly



Residents of Nyamokomba planting trees that are environmental friendly along the river. This is as a result of removing of eucalyptus trees from riparian land.

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# Eliminating water guzzlers, felling the menace that is Eucalyptus trees

To reclaim its wetlands, Kisii County Government has recently undertaken a vigorous initiative that is part of a wider County regeneration campaign by the devolved unit and other stakeholders.

The campaign is anchored in the County's Executive order on the removal of eucalyptus trees planted on riparian land.

Years of poor planning, coupled with the expanding need for human settlement has seen both the formal and informal sectors take over riparian areas and wetlands. Due to these prevailing circumstances the County recently started demolishing structures along riparian areas.

A riparian zone is a vegetated strip of land located on each side of a watercourse or adjacent to a stationary water body. These zones are ideal spots for a merger of ecological, social and economic functions.

Kenya's riparian laws state that there should be no permanent structures constructed between six to 30 metres of the high watermark of the river. This varies according to the size of the river.

The general provision is two times the river's width with a minimum requirement of six and a max of 30 metres. Dams, oceans and lakes are allocated a riparian area of 100m.

Governor James Ongwae issued an executive order on July 1, 2019 which directed residents to cut down trees planted on wetlands and marsh areas.

The order also includes demolition of informal settlements erected on the wetlands and riparian areas as stipulated in the Environmental Management and Coordination Act of 1999, in the Laws of Kenya.

The County Government had given 90 days to residents to willingly cut down eucalyptus trees from water catchment areas as they negatively affect ground water level. To realise President Uhuru Kenyatta's food security agenda, the county is on course to reclaim water sources and protect rivers.



Governor James Ongwae launches the reclamation of wetlands project following the county executive order on the eucalyptus trees he issued on July 1st 2019.

For years, all rivers, streams, springs, wetlands and catchment areas in the region have been encroached by the "water guzzlers". The County has been facing serious water scarcity issues with boreholes and other water sources drying up.

Officers in charge of implementing the programme were well trained before the launch. The areas affected were surveyed and mapped with proper public sensitisation undertaken.

Other stakeholders drawn from various departments including public health, lands, physical planning and urban development, Water Resource Users Association (WRUA), National Environment Managing Authority (NEMA), forestry, the office of the County Commissioner, Sub County Commissioners chiefs and their assistants, village elders and even members of Nyumba Kumi were also sensitised on the programme.

Occupants of temporary and permanent structures along riparian lands are polluting rivers through dumping of solid waste and releasing raw sewer into the water source.

The County Government, working together with security personnel under the leadership of the County Commissioner, is determined to remove all eucalyptus trees on riparian land and other fragile ecosystems.

"Eucalyptus have been replaced and we will continue to supply locals with suitable indigenous trees, natural vegetation or fruit trees like avocado, loquat or guava," said Mr Ongwae.

All homesteads, social amenities like schools and hospitals need to have constant water supply.

The alternative tree species will boost the cottage industries in the long run.

## ENVIRONMENT

### County uproots structures from riparian land

To help conserve the environment, the county has embarked on the restoration of wetlands and riparian areas. This follows the signing of the executive order 2/2019 by his Excellency the Governor James Ongwae.

The order directs the public and mandates the relevant authorities to remove buildings, structures and the eucalyptus tree species growing on riparian areas and wetlands. Already, residents

have taken heed and there has been an ongoing drive to replace Eucalyptus trees on wetlands with water friendly tree varieties.

This move is aimed at restoring the water levels in the county to ensure adequate water supply from the schemes and boreholes the county has been investing in.

Importantly, the county government is taking over a number of tree nurseries formerly owned by the defunct local authorities with a view to having them operationalised, to supply desirable tree seedlings to residents in the sustained county re-afforestation drive.

At the same time, the



county, in partnership with the multi-agency task force, is working to remove all structures along rivers Nyakomisaro and Nyanchwa so as to ensure the two, which cut through Kisii town to Riana, are clear of any water

contaminating effluent emanating from raw sewerage and solid garbage. Several structures were demolished in the course of 2019 to clear the areas for tree planting and conservation.

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Duke Mainga

“ The department is nurturing culture, sports and youth talent in all our nine sub counties.”

- COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER (CECM): DUKE MAINGA

CHIEF OFFICER:  
CAROLINE NYASETI



Carolyne Nyaseti

# Embracing a vibrant year for Kisii County in sporting activities

Since the functions related to Culture, Youth Sports and Social Services are not fully devolved, the budgetary obligation for such functions is under the national government.

However, the department is mandated to manage the functions outlined in the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya 2010.

These include; betting control, libraries and museums, sports facilities, cultural facilities and activities.

In the spirit of cooperation, the county is supplementing the national government activities by allocating resources to support programmes targeting children, women, persons with disability, sports and affirmative action.

## Roles

- Policy formulation, interpretation and advice, guidance, planning on all cultural matters and programmes at the county.
- Overseeing coordination and implementation of all cultural programmes, exchange programmes, monitoring and evaluation.
- Promotion of unity, cohesion, positive value and integration programmes or activities in cultural diversity at the county.
- Foster the commitment of all citizens towards the development of the spirit of nationalism, patriotism and identifying heroes and heroines in the county for honors.
- Capacity building programmes to empower cultural practitioners and communities to take part in cultural festivals and art exhibitions
- Promoting the indigenous language (kegusii), sign language and Kiswahili.
- Creating awareness on cultural and intellectual property rights of the people of Kisii County.

- Development of creative cultural industries and construction of community cultural centers as focal points of promoting cultural dialogue, expression and as a source of livelihood.
- Research, documentation, preservation and dissemination of cultural information, indigenous knowledge and other elements of intangible cultural heritage (ICH)
- Encourage formation and registration of associations by cultural practitioners for promotion of various aspects of culture.
- Establishment of museum, libraries, recreation parks and conflict resolution, cultural forums and mechanisms to mitigate against inter and intra-community conflicts.
- Promotion and coordination of county sports
- Development of sporting facilities and talent search academies
- Gambling, gaming and betting control
- Social protection for the vulnerable and people living with disability.
- Youth and women economic empowerment.

## Achievements;

### Enabling legislations and Policies

- 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 operates a card printer to facilitate registration and identification of Persons with Disability and we have succeeded registering and issuing PWDs with more than 3,000 cards.

Previously, PWDs used to travel to Nairobi to access this service. These cards will enable business persons with disability to be exempted from taxes to empower them economically.

Further, the cards will help PWDs to conduct their businesses in a reserved manner and be recognised and identified in organisations where they apply for job opportunities.

**Community Libraries:** To boost literacy and promote a reading culture, we have constructed two libraries, Ogembo and Kenyena, which are fully equipped and ready for community use. We endeavour to have community libraries in all the nine sub counties.

## Support for elders' council and women

### The Abagusii council of elders

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.

The primary role of the Abagusii council of elders is to solve inter conflicts especially between its neighboring communities like Kalenjins in Sotik, Luos in Migori and Maasai in Kilgoris.

### MYWO

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 up an office for the women organization in Kisii town.

### Improvement of sports facilities

To provide recreational facilities and nurture talent, the department embarked on an initiative to improve sports facilities across all the 45 wards in the county, starting with the Gusii Stadium which now meets international standards as a sporting facility.

### Gusii Stadium

A perimeter fence has been erected around the stadium. The first phase of the stadium project, including expansion of the running track, inner perimeter fence, and a new VIP pavilion with a capacity of 700 and two spectator bleachers, have been put up.

At the same time, the football pitch at Gusii Stadium has been fitted with an underground irrigation and storm water drainage system which ensures the maintenance of a green Kikuyu grass tuft all year round.

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Ogembo community library built by the County Government. This is to boost literacy and promote a reading culture among people..

Already, the stadium is attracting local FKF, national league football matches, rugby sevens and major Athletics Kenya events.

Last year the county hosted the Inter-County Sports and Cultural Association (KICOSCA) and Kenya Communication Sports Organisation (KECOSO).

#### 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.

Construction of town halls in Mosoch, Kenyenyia 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.

#### Promoting Abagusii Culture

The department, in December last year hosted a cultural festival at the Kisii Culture headquarters which was attended by HE the Governor and HE the deputy Governor.

Kisii culture has been showcased in the past years and the aim has been to see how the County can preserve the culture of the omogusii before its eroded by the western culture.

#### Kicosca Games

Kisii County, being a member of the KICOSCA games, has participated in several editions since the inception of the games.

During the 2016 games, our county won the most coveted soccer trophy, trouncing Kiambu County through the penalty shootout. In 2018, Kisii County was given the honor to host the games and out of the wise leadership by HE the Governor the County was nominated and awarded the trophy for the most organised and best host of the KICOSCA games in the country.

In 2019 KICOSCA games held in Kericho County, Kisii County Tug of War women team took position one. As a result of this exemplary performance, they won a place to represent team Kenya at the EALASCA games in Kampala, Uganda where they won gold medals.



The Kisii Culture hall complete with facilities for meetings and recreation



Down Memory Lane. Governor Ong'ware excites residents by riding a bicycle in Kisii School where hundreds of bodaboda riders were issued with riding licences after a training supported by the office of the County MP Janet Ongera.



President Uhuru Kenyatta with Governor James Ong'ware at Gusii stadium. The President applauds the upgrade of the stadium.

## Gusii Stadium get makeover

One of the most imposing physical features that welcomes one to Kisii town is the newly upgraded Gusii Stadium.

The stand-alone facility situated right in the center of the town is a multi - purpose stadium mostly used for athletics and football matches.

The stadium was established in 1940's and was put under the management of the municipal council until 2013 when the Kisii county government took over.

The stadium has a state of the art new dais and can accommodate over 20,000 people, 10,000 seated on the pavilion and others on the 2 bleachers. Athletes enjoy the new standard eight-lane running track complete with facilities for steeplechase.

The stadium boasts of a smooth playing surface, an underground drainage and irrigation system that is used to irrigate the grass during dry spells.

It is only the second facility in Kenya with such features after Moi International Sports Centre Kasarani in Nairobi County.

Security has been enhanced, by building a perimeter wall and the erection of an inner barrier, preventing spectators from accessing the inner field.

To ensure regular water supply, the County



The newly refurbished Gusii Stadium

Government sunk a borehole within the facility. Fans can access fresh drinking water from any of the 10 water points in the facility.

Also, there exists two additional spectator stands and terraces built directly opposite the main dais each with a capacity to hold 700 fans.

The County Government has also put in plans to build six more stands as part of the stadium's long term expansion so as to attract more spectators.

Gusii Stadium now has two new changing rooms fitted with modern amenities including an ablution block, VIP holding areas, flood lights as well as parking areas.

One major beneficiary of this upgrade is home team Shabana Football Club that will use it as their home ground. Appreciating the importance of Shabana Football Club, His Excellency the Governor has granted the team one-year free access to the Gusii Stadium.

Also the Gusii Starlets, a local female

football club hosts its home matches at the stadium, the Kisii Rugby sevens also hosts its matches at the facility.

Furthermore, the county allows the Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) to host their annual show at the stadium besides other official public functions.

In 2018 the stadium successfully hosted the 6th edition of Kenya Inter- County Sports and Cultural Association (KICOSCA) and recently it hosted the Kenya Communications Sports Organizations (KECOSO) among many high profile sporting activities.

Schools and colleges utilize the stadium for their yearly ballgames and athletics, athletics Kenya holds their events at the stadium whenever they organize races for the Western circuit. Other activities that have been hosted at the stadium include, church crusades, conferences for professional groups like KNUT, Kenya School heads associations AGMS.

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John Billy Momanyi

“The County has rolled out the integrated street lighting programme to improve working conditions for traders across the county and spur the growth of a 24-hour economy through improved security and longer business hours.”

- COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER (CECM): JOHN MOMANYI

CHIEF OFFICER: CHRIS NJOGA



Crispus Njoga

## MANDATE

The department draws its mandate from the Urban Areas and Cities Act No. 13 of 2011; the Physical Planning Act, 2012; the Kisii Municipal Charter; the Survey Act, (Revised) 2012 and the Land Act, 2012.

It is responsible for;  
Physical planning  
Land Survey and Resource Mapping  
Land administration  
Coordination of Urban Development within the county

## VISION

To achieve excellence in land management and sustainable urban development in Kisii County.

## MISSION

To be the lead department in physical planning, efficient land administration and effective management of urban centres for sustainable urbanization.

## INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK:

The department is comprised of four directorates, which are: Physical Planning, Survey and Mapping, Land Administration and Urban Development. It also has a Municipal Board that manages Kisii Municipality on behalf of the County Government.

## KEY MILESTONES:

### Physical Planning

- Completed the Integrated Strategic Urban Development Plan for Ogembo Town.
- Completed the land use plan for Nyamache Town.
- Finalizing land use plans for Marani, Masimba, Mosochi and Nyamarambe urban centres to facilitate their elevation to town status.

# Street lighting powers a 24-hour economy for residents of Kisii County

## Land Administration, Survey and Mapping

- Completed beaconing of gazetted forest land at Ndonyo, Nsaria Hill, Nyangweta, Ngeri Hill, Bassi Masige and Ritumbe.
- Finalizing establishment of a Geographical Information System (GIS) lab for county resource mapping and preparation of a valuation roll.
- Secured land for county public projects
- Worked with the National Land Commission to ensure revocation of titles of illegally acquired parcels of land in Kisii County

## Urban Development

- Installed over 600 solar streetlights and over 60 high mast lights through the integrated street lighting project to spur growth of a 24-hour economy.
- Contracted youth and women groups to conduct regular clean-ups in major urban centres across the county.
- Built urban roads and opened backstreet roads in urban centres across the sub counties
- Purchased and deployed garbage collection tractors and trailers to improve efficiency in solid waste management across the county.
- Built a bus park at Keumbu town to improve safety of traders at the urban centre
- Constructed washrooms at Keumbu, Marani, Ogembo and other urban centres to improve working conditions for traders.
- Constructed cabro paved pedestrian walkways and access roads in Kisii Town's CBD.
- Working with the private sector and other stakeholders to promote waste reduction, re-use, recycling and energy recovery.

## Street lighting

Item	Before devolution	Current Status
Street Lighting (high mast)	0	65
Solar Street Lights	0	660
Energy Street Lights	70	350
Total	70	1,075

## Kisii Municipality

Kisii Municipality is now one year old. Following the enactment of the Kisii Municipal Charter, Governor James Ongwae conferred Municipality status on Kisii Town.

A board chaired by Jamaludin Shamji Rajwani manages the Municipality. As provided for in Section 13 of the Urban Areas and Cities Act, 2012, the members are drawn from professional associations, the private sector, registered associations in the informal sector and neighbourhood associations.

With support from the World Bank through the Kenya Urban Support Programme (KUSP), the Municipality has implemented a number of projects that have impacted positively on the lives of residents.

## The Municipal Board

NAME	DESIGNATION
Jamaludin Shamji Rajwani	Chairman
Pius Abuki Onger	Vice Chairman
Albert Otungu	Board Member
Alfred Onwong'a	Board Member
Elizabeth Orenge	Board Member
Judson Nyambane	Board Member
Philip Motonu	Board Member
Linet Bosibori	Board Member
John Billy Momanyi	Board Member

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**Jamuldin Shamji**  
Chair Municipal Board



**Pius Abuki**  
Vice Chairman,  
Municipal Board

## Key achievements so far

- Construction of BLACKHOUSE – CATHEDRAL – MWEMBE SDA-ETANGI road.
- Rehabilitation of BOSONGO – BOTORI ROAD.
- Construction and Completion NATIONAL BANK – ST JUDE.
- Construction and Completion BANK OF AFRICA- GOLF HOUSE.
- Construction and Completion of a very robust FIRE STATION
- Construction and Completion of access road to NEW DARAJA MBILI MARKET
- Construction and Completion of GALILAYA – LOMA ACADEMY JUNCTION ROAD
- Construction and Completion of SOKO MJINGA – GENESIS PRI – KISII EYE HOSPITAL ROAD
- Protection works for drain at YWCA – DOWNSTREAM.
- Protection works for drain behind UMOJA BUILDING – DOWNSTREAM.
- Construction and Completion of MASHAURI JUNCTION – KISII UNIVERSITY JUNCTION (ALONG KISII- KILGORIS ROAD).
- Construction and Completion of KISII PRISONS BOX CULVERT ALONG RIVER NYAKOMISARO.
- Construction and Completion of BRIDGE INTERNATIONAL SCH – CATHEDRAL RD DRAIN.
- Construction and Completion of



One of the Farm Tractors purchased by the department to support solid waste management.

## NATIONAL CEREALS AND PRODUCE BOARD- DARAJA MBILI BY PASS.

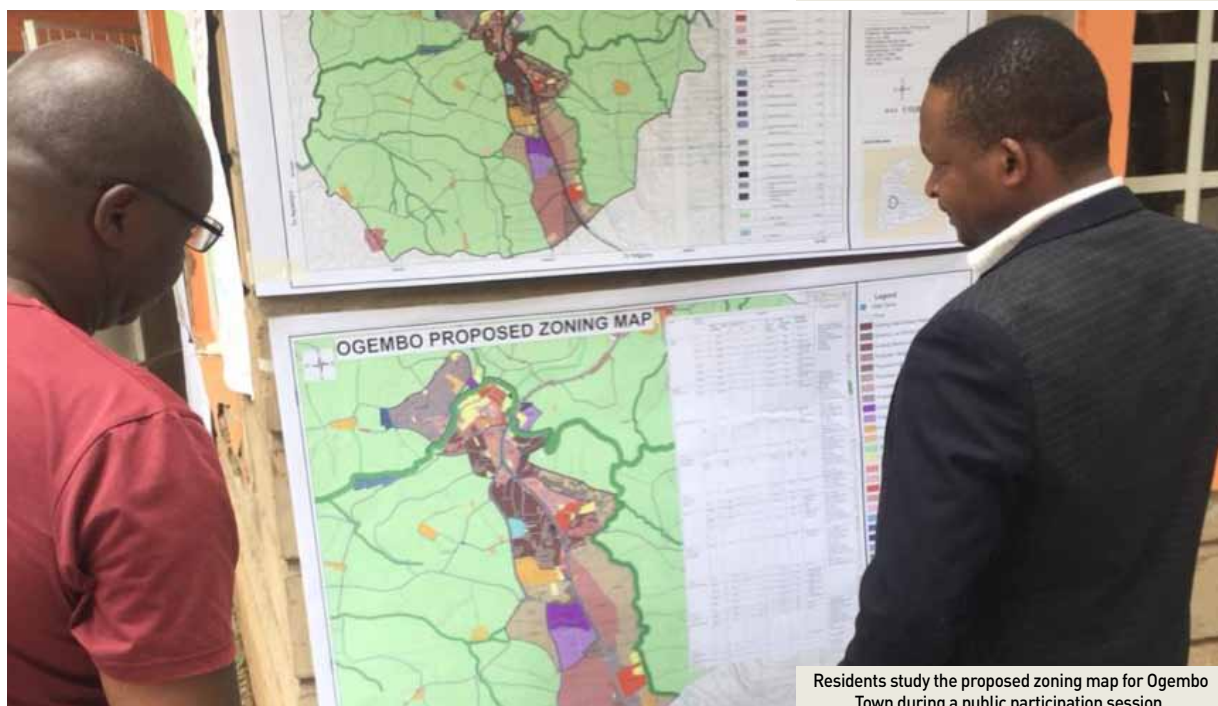
- Construction and Completion of BLACKHOUSE – GUSII HIGHLIGHTS DRAIN
- Construction of the Kisii Fire Station.

## Challenges:

- Encroachment onto public land
- Negative attitude of residents towards public land
- High population density (950 inhabitants per sq.km as per the 2019 census)



Garbage collection trailer working at Keumbu market.



Residents study the proposed zoning map for Ogembo Town during a public participation session.

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The newly constructed Kisii County Fire Station. The station with self contained stand by facilities is situated next to Storm Hotel

# County acquires modern fire station and fire engines

**K**isii County Government has been experiencing challenges in responding to disasters especially fire outbreaks because of lack of sufficient firefighting equipment.

It also did not have well trained staff to handle fire and other disasters.

When Governor James Ongwae assumed office in 2013, the county relied on one old fire truck and an ill trained disaster response team.

Aware of the challenge and the significance of the department in the wellbeing of residents, the County Government has significantly invested in the purchase of equipment.

Recently, the County Government acquired a modern fire engine and a rapid response vehicle to enhance disaster preparedness.

The vehicles were launched in September 2019 at a ceremony officiated by Governor Ongwae at the County Headquarters.

"The fire engines have a liquid carrying capacity of 10,000 and 750 litres respectively. The machines are capable to effectively extinguish fierce fires without refilling. This will ensure that hard earned investments and lives are saved at any given time," said Mr Ongwae during the launch.

The County Government has constructed a major fire station in town that will also be used as a training centre for disaster management, not only for the benefit of the



county, but also the neighbours.

The fire station is located near Storm Hotel, 300 metres from the County Government offices.

The Governor said that the county fire station, will be the biggest in Western Kenya, with a capacity to operate up to four high capacity fire engines, is nearing completion.

"This will be state-of-the-art disaster response and training centre which will serve the entire Lake Region," said Ongwae.

He said the disaster department has developed a crisis management plan which is due for ratification by the Cabinet.

During the launch of the firefighting vehicles, Mr Ongwae told residents to report disaster outbreaks using emergency call

number 0727600010 which is operational 24 hours a day.

The Governor said that the vehicle has ladders that can reach up to forth floor of any building adding that the county has opened all hydrants in Kisii town to ensure that the engines can be easily filled.

"I am happy to announce that we now have three fire engines including an old Renault engine which we inherited from the defunct municipal council. This will improve our fire services," he said adding that the county will also purchase another fire engine to be stationed at Ogembo to effectively serve the Gucha region.

"A number of our officers in the fire department have been trained in disaster response to ensure effective service delivery. We will be seeking partnerships with established groups both locally and internationally to help us build capacity in this area going forward," said Mr Ongwae.

He said, already, the officers have undergone intense training in various disaster management courses at Kiambu Fire Academy sponsored by Polish Centre for International Aid (PCPM) and another one Co-sponsored by PCPM and Kenya Fire Brigade Association (KENFIBA).

During the launch of the machines, the then acting commissioner Leonard Mgute and the Kisii County Assembly Speaker David Kombo commended the Governor for acquiring the machines.

Kombo recalled that in 2017, the county experienced numerous fire accidents especially in schools saying the incidents will be a thing of the past and urged the emergency team to be on a high alert.

Dr Walter Okibo who is the Administration, Cooperate Service and Stakeholder Management CEC said that with the coming of the fire engines, the county will be able to respond swiftly to all forms of disasters thereby serving stakeholders effectively.

Dr. Okibos department is responsible for the management of fire disaster equipment.



The newly purchased Fire engines.

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Vincent Sagwe

“Infrastructure development is an enabler of economic growth. To cut transport costs and improve access to markets, the department is investing in road infrastructure development across the county.”

COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MEMBER (CECM) – MR. VINCENT SAGWE

-CHIEF OFFICERS: OSORO OKONDO (ROADS)  
ABEL SAGINI (PUBLIC WORKS AND  
HOUSING)



Nicodemus Okondo



Abel Sagini

## Government expands road network to create linkages for county farmers

One of the key priorities of the County Government is opening up the county for development.

The opening up of villages routes to motorable transport is boosting access and enabling farmers to deliver their produce to the market within reasonable time.

This mandate rests in the Department of Roads, Public Works and Transport.

The department is making use of the little available funds to deliver a good road network across the county.

This is because, road infrastructure development remains a key priority area in Governor James Ong'wa's government.

However, it must be noted that only a small fraction of funds available for roads development is accessible to County governments. A huge junk of the resources are held by the national government.

Sadly, when a road becomes impassable, residents direct their eyes and rage to the county government with little understanding that roads are classified.

Nevertheless, the county government is opening and continuously maintaining a number of County and Village roads.

In order to achieve the most from the little resources available, the county entered into a contract with the Mechanical Transport Fund (MTF) in 2017.

Since then, the MTF has helped us open, grade and compact 546 kilometres of roads across the 45 wards.

Plans are underway to grade five to eight kilometres of roads in each ward totalling 250 kilometres.

However, this has been constrained by heavy rains which caused the depletion of gravelled deposits.

Moving forward, the county government will be exploring alternative road construction materials and techniques which will withstand the vagaries of weather.

To ease transport challenges and boost market access for agricultural produce, the county government is doing at least one road in each ward every Financial Year.

In this Financial Year, 90kms of village roads have been done.

Roads which are developed courtesy of a conditional grant from the national government under the road maintenance

### MANDATE

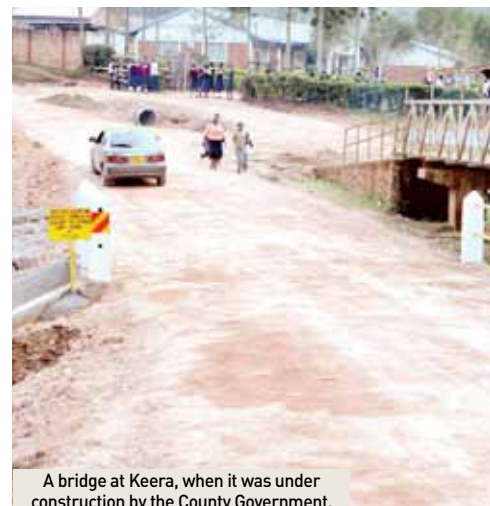
The mandate of this sector is to provide and manage engineering works and services within the jurisdiction of the County. These works and services include development and maintenance of infrastructure, maintenance of motor vehicles and heavy equipment, licensing of public motor vehicles and development control.

### VISION

To be the leading provider of engineering works, goods and services within Kenya.

### MISSION

To provide quality engineering works, goods and services to enhance the development and maintenance of infrastructure within the jurisdiction of County.



A bridge at Keera, when it was under construction by the County Government.

fuel levy fund have been negatively affected following significant reductions in annual allocations.

However, under this arrangement the county government will lay 526 kilometres of roads by the close of this Financial Year 2019/2020.

To provide timely and quick solutions in the servicing of county vehicles, the government has established and operationalised the County Mechanical Unit. This has helped to reduce fleet maintenance costs.

The mechanical department has been further organised to also provide professional building mechanical services such as design drawings and inspection of county building projects to ensure they adhere and conform to mechanical standards.

The unit is in the process of repairing and rehabilitating all County Machines and Heavy Equipment to ensure they are available for utilisation in supporting road maintenance, opening and construction.



Matibo - Nyasike Road in Nyaribari Masaba.





County excavator on site. The county has been opening up a number of roads across the 45 wards, every Financial Year.



Makutano- Nyankongo - Getare road built by the county government.



Rehabilitation of Itongo Bumburia road.

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## Kisii County leadership embarks on driveways expansion spree, deals

When we took office seven years ago, our task was to establish governance structures, institutionalise devolution and lay the foundation for a prosperous Kisii County. Today, the administration is proud that we have established a government serving the people of Kisii County.

According to the fourth schedule of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, County Governments 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 department, maintenance of infrastructure, motor vehicles and heavy machinery.

To achieve the above mandate we the Executive together with the County Assembly have to raft and pass the following legislations to aid in effective service delivery.

The laws include the Kisii County Transport Act 2014 – to help streamline the transport system within the county and the Kisii County Mechanical and Transport Fund Bill –to help mobilise resources through hiring of plant and machinery.

Before devolution, Kisii County had 1,133 kilometres of classified roads and 962kms of rural access roads out of which 123.8kms were tarmacked and 1,009.2kms were rural access roads.

Cognisant of the importance of a good road network for economic development, the county embarked on opening, graveling and grading of the new rural access roads to boost access to markets and ease transport challenges.

The county has constructed 1,505kms of rural access roads including 815kms of compacted graveled roads and is opening 690kms of new roads in sub-counties.

Even if it is the responsibility of



One of the graders purchased by the County Government. The County has built over 500 kilometres of compacted murram roads in the wards.

the National Government agencies to rehabilitate classified roads according to the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution, the County government has still taken initiative to maintain such roads over time.

These include some critical roads within Kisii Municipality such as: The Gusii Stadium-Itierio road which has undergone major re-carpeting works and the Makutano-Nyankongo-Getare road which has been re-carpeted by the county government and is already in use.

Equally, the county has successfully reconstructed and expanded the bridge on Nyakomisaro River near Kisii Prisons/Storm hotel which is on a National Government road.

ITEM	BEFORE DEVOLUTION (KM)	CURRENT SITUATION (KM)
Tarmacked roads	123.8	210
Graveled roads	340.2	1,330.9
Earth roads	669	1,826
Total	1133	3157

### Mechanical Directorate

To boost efficiency and cut costs in road construction and maintenance, the county purchased road construction equipment including graders, tipper trucks, drum rollers, excavators, low loaders and shovels.

As part of AIA generation, the equipment is also available to contractors and also available to the general public for hire.

However, the county sometimes falls back to labour based modes of basic road construction especially in bush clearing where the youth come in handy. This has promoted the construction of more roads in a timely schedule while cutting cost.

It is worthy to note that with the increase of the number of machinery and the heavy workload we encountered while opening

roads, the rate of wear and tear went up because maintenance of the equipment was outsourced.

We have operationalised a county mechanical unit where all the machines and government vehicles are serviced and maintained by our own mechanical engineers thereby reducing operational costs.

However, overall, the challenges facing our bid to improve the county road network has been the unavailability of adequate reserves coupled with encroachment and this occasionally pits the county on a collision course and litigation with residents.

Topographical formations in Kisii border is in the extremes; from swampy areas to hilly and rocky areas hence consuming a lot of resources in the course of road construction.

This has been countered by the use of the MTF mode where we are able to cost affordably and source more machinery relevant to the topographies.

Besides, the decision to use labor based approach ensures a cost effective means of constructing our roads apart from being an avenue for employment creation for the locals especially the youth.

The county has purchased the following equipment to aid in road construction:

### Acquired Plant and Machinery

ITEM	BEFORE DEVOLUTION	CURRENT STATUS
Graders	1	4
Excavators	-	3
Rollers	-	3
Shovels	-	1
Tipplers	1	5
Garage	0	1
Total	2	16

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# Key Milestones Since 2013

## URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Kisii Town has now attained Municipality status and has a functional municipal board that manages its operations. In improving trading conditions, the County has invested in various programmes.

### Street lighting

**24 hours economy.** The installation of street lights has enhanced security in major towns and markets in Kisii Town resulting in increased trading hours.

Item	Before devolution	Current Status
Street Lighting (high mast)	0	65
Solar Street lights	0	660
Energy Street lights	70	350
Total	70	1,075



### Urban roads and bus parks

To enhance access and decongest the CBD, several access roads have been opened thereby increasing business activities as a result. Some of the roads opened include:

- Makutano Junction-Nyankongo-Getare Road
- Keumbu Bus Park
- Ogembo Bus Park
- Daraja Moja-Culture Hall road-under construction
- Ram Hospital-Tuskys chingware road
- Hass Petrol-Umoja Centre road
- KCB- A M Tailor road
- Kanyonni -Masaba Hardware
- Dan's hotel-Nyachae flats
- Capital Round-Main stage
- All walkways in Kisii CBD
- Parking at outside the stadium



### Sanitation blocks

The County has constructed washrooms across urban centres improving sanitation and easing the functioning of the business community.

Urban Centre	Before devolution	Current status
Kisii CBD	3	10
Keumbu	1	3
Keroka	1	3
Masimba	1	2
Nyamache	1	2
Ogembo	1	3
Suneka	1	2
Marani	1	2
Kenya	1	2
Nyamarambe	1	2

### Disaster Management

To avert risks the County has invested in disaster management infrastructures as summarized;

Item	Before Devolution	Current status
Fire engines	1	2
Fire station	0	1

### Spatial Plans

To coordinate infrastructure development in our urban centres we have developed spatial plans in the following urban areas: Ogembo, Marani, Mosoch, Nyamarambe, Kenya, Nyamache.

### Waste Management

The County has invested in infrastructure in management of solid waste which has improved hygiene as summarized below:

Item	Before devolution	Current Status
Land fill (waste management sites)	0	2 (Nyatieko, Etor)
Garbage trucks	0	2
Tractors and trailers	1	5
Cleaning groups	1	22

# Agriculture department pockets top prize for seamless service delivery

The Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Co-operative Development was ranked the best performing county ministry in Kisii in 2019 following a performance evaluation conducted by an independent consultant hired by the County. Our reporter JOSHUA ARAKA spoke to the CECM for Agriculture Mr Esmen Onsario

**1 Q. Your department was recently ranked number one out of 10 in terms of service delivery. What strategies did you put in place to achieve that position?**

**A.** As a team leader, I always ensure that there is teamwork across all the directorates. We delivered our Performance Management Unit (PMU) reports in time.

**2 What makes your Department different from the rest?**

The department offers real time practical approach on modern agricultural technology trainings and demonstrations to both farmers and stakeholders. This has helped improve on the capacity of growers hence improved food security and household income.

**3 Artificial Insemination (A.I) is one of the milestones in your department. How is it implemented?**

The County offers quality affordable semen across the 45 wards. Service providers are adequately equipped and are located strategically in all ward offices. We charge a subsidised fee of Sh500 per insemination down from Sh3,500 offered by private providers.

**4 To what extent have residents benefitted from A.I?**

So far, we have inseminated more than 89,441 dairy cows since the A.I programme commenced. More than 64,136 calves have been born from various wards since the programme begun in June 2016. Farmers are now better equipped in dairying. Our farmers no longer incur costs for rearing of bulls. More importantly, incidences of breeding diseases have been reduced.

**5 What are you doing to uplift the poor, especially through poultry and goat rearing?**

The County Poultry Improvement Programme is a project for the poor in the society. More than 150 youth groups have been given start-up material, knowledge and skills to start commercial chicken production. In the next two years



more than 500 youths will have been empowered. The number of women in poultry and dairy-goats farming has been increasing over time. Our role is to provide the necessary training, visits and access to markets.

**6 Land sub-division is a challenge in Kisii. What are you doing to discourage residents from the culture?**

Productivity is adversely affected by small farm sizes in the county which on average ranges from 0.5 to one acre. These sizes of land are uneconomical for agricultural production. Sub-division is a cultural practice that ensure the sons in the family inherit land. Inappropriate land use policies and scramble for human resettlement (purchase and selling of land for residential purposes) are also some of the factors fueling land sub-division. In order to address and curb continuous sub-division of agricultural land the County is working on appropriate legislative policy, sensitisation on cultural change and dissemination of urban and peri-urban agricultural technologies that utilise and intensify production in the small pieces of land.

**7 What are you doing to ensure that farmers embrace the use of quality and certified farm inputs?**

We engage our inspectorate and regulatory services in conjunction with Kenya Vet Board (KVB) and Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) to undertake constant sensitisations and insist that sellers must be KEPHIS compliant. Our clients are told to ensure that the container/bags are labeled and sealed in original containers and in its original state at the time of purchase or

importation. Moreover, fertilisers should not be mixed with foodstuffs, not sold in open air markets and in opened bags and should be compliant of Pest Control Products Board (PCPB). The seeds should meet packaging and expiry dates/ shelf-life requirements. For seedlings, the nursery operators must be KEPHIS compliant and issued with operator's license by the Crops Directorate.

**8 Tell us briefly about fish farming in the County.**

Fish farming or aquaculture is the farming of aquatic organisms that include finfishes, molluscs, crustaceans and aquatic plants in controlled or semi controlled environments. Management activities include interventions such as stocking, feeding and protection from both diseases and predators with the aim of enhancing productivity. Kisii is blessed with an abundance of water which is a prerequisite for the establishment of an aquaculture enterprise. Currently, the potential from the existing ponds stands at close to 512 metric tonnes per annum worth more than Sh128 million. The main species of fish cultured are Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) and Catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*).

**9 Your Parting shot.**

More support for the sector in terms of resource allocation is needed. Ten per cent of the County Budget should be channeled to the sector as per the Maputo and Malabo declarations. This will help us deliver the Governor's manifesto, SDGs, Vision 2030 and the Big Four agenda. Thank you to all sector holders including our farmers who made these achievements possible.

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Governor James Ongwae with World Bank Sanitation and Water Officer Dr Yolanda Coombes addressing the media after a Sanitation and Hygiene forum in Kisii.



Chairman of the Gigawatt Global Yosef Abramowitz consults with Governor Ongwae when they met in Eilat, Israel.



Kisii Governor James Ongwae (right) and Minnesota State's Fire Chief and Commander Kenneth Prillaman look at some of the modern fire safety equipment they donated to the County.



Israeli Ambassador to Kenya Noah Gal Gendler conferring with Governor James Ongwae when the county boss paid him a courtesy call at the embassy in Nairobi in 2019



Turkish Ambassador to Kenya, Deniz Eke and Kisii County Governor James Ongwae when the Ambassador and her delegation visited the county.



Some of the vehicles donated to Kisii County by the Rotary Club of Coventry to enhance disaster management activities in Kisii County.



## Kisii County sets up new unit to liaise with donors, partners to top up exchequer cash

The County Government of Kisii has set up a Donor Liaison Unit whose responsibility is to initiate relationship and engagement with donors and potential partners.

The recently created unit is domiciled in the Office of The Governor under the Directorate of Communication, Donor Liaison and Protocol Services.

The unit has been working to enhance relations with donors especially in areas underfunded by the exchequer.

The decision to set up a Donor Liaison Unit was born out the conviction that resources availed to the county through the National Treasury may not always be enough to help pursue delivery of services as desired by the County government.

Attraction of interested donors and partners can help establish additional resource basket for the benefit of the people of Kisii County.

The unit officially established in May 2019, is also mandated to work with various county teams to engage and cultivate prospective donors and opportunities.

Further, the unit is also expected to develop a grants calendar and to track fundraising opportunities.

It also coordinates and support creation of concept notes, proposals and reports by working with relevant program teams to ensure timely submissions.

Since inception, the unit has coordinated and arranged quite a number of donor engagement activities including high profiled interactions between Governor James Ongwae and the American Ambassador to Kenya Kyle Mc Carter and also the Israeli Ambassador to Kenya Noah Gal Gendler to discuss matters related to possible partnerships in investment and possible development.

Several potential partners and investors interested in green energy, agriculture, waste disposals and water related projects have also visited and engaged the county government courtesy of the unit.

The unit is currently mobilising partners to facilitate the equipping of the newly constructed fire station with additional donated fire-fighting machinery and ambulances.

A Rotary Club in the United Kingdom has offered donations of two fire engines and two accompanying ambulances to support the course.

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Governor James Ongwae applauding the First Lady H.E Margaret Kenyatta after she unveiled a plaque at KTRH during ground breaking for the MCH.



First Lady Margaret Kenyatta laying a foundation block for the construction of the Mother Child Health Centre at KTRH as Governor Ongwae looks on.



A multipurpose value addition centre that will mainly serve as an avocado processing centre.



Sombogo Tea factory



The newly constructed Kisii County Fire Station.



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Ongoing upgrade of Kegati water project



Kisii County Governor James Ongwae flags off road construction equipment bought by the county. They include graders, shovels, tippers, excavators and low loaders.



The newly refurbished Gusii Stadium



The nearly complete kisii county banana factory. It will boost banana farming by providing readily available market for the commodity.



The newly constructed 250-bed capacity ward at Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital. This has greatly reduced congestion in the previous wards.



Masakwe Vocational Training Centre constructed by Kisii County Government at Sensi Ward. The county government is looking forward to setting up VTCs in every ward.

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## THADEUS MAKORI

### - Resident, Bobasi

As a resident of Bobasi, I am thankful to the Kisii County Government for the superb road network in our area.

We have seen many roads being opened and others being upgraded and maintained. For so many years, those roads have been impassable especially during the rainy seasons.

Our agricultural produce can

now reach various markets in time without spoilage.

As a result of a good road network, residents have been able to venture into other income generating activities.

For instance the bodaboda industry has flourished because of good passable roads. Cases of insecurity and crime have decreased since our youth are fully engaged in gainful employment.

## WYCLIFFE MATONGO

### - Resident, Bomachoge Borabu

I want to thank the County Government of Kisii for undertaking numerous development projects in Bomachoge Borabu.

A resident, we have greatly benefitted from the opening of feeder roads that connect most parts of Bomachoge Borabu.

New facilities have been opened at the Kenyena Sub-County Hospital. We now have a theatre at the facility which offers

specialised treatment and cuts referrals to to Kisii Hospital.

One of the landmark structures in Kenyena town is the newly constructed market. The market has enabled traders to sell their wares in a secure environment.

Finally, I thank the County Government for the construction of a community library to help our people who like reading to access literary materials.

We are keenly awaiting its opening so that the benefits can be felt.



## JOHN OKEYO

### - Resident, Nyaribari Chache

I thank Governor James Ongwae for introducing subsidised Artificial Insemination (A.I). This has controlled the spread of disease amongst our cattle. I have also gotten quality calves from the project. Bulls offer poor quality offsprings. Additionally, the A.I services from the county are a phone call away. I thank the Governor for this project.

The county is charging Sh500 for A.I

services. This is way below the average of Sh3,500 which we initially used to pay for the service before the advent of devolution. We have now gotten rid of bulls.

Apart from reproduction, bulls did not fulfill any other needs in our homes. Since land has diminished, majority of farmers no longer use oxen to till.

I thank the Governor for saving us the burden of taming bulls which in turn gave us poor quality calves and increased feeding expenses.

## HELLEN TORORI

### - Resident, Nyaribari Masaba

Since I started using A.I, my cows' yield has been impressive. I now get quality calves. I also do not need bulls at home. I encourage other farmers to embrace A.I because it is very cheap. You only pay Sh500 and the inseminator comes to your home. I salute Governor James Ongwae for this noble idea.

The construction of walk ways has also enabled pedestrians walk safely along the roads preventing congestion along the streets. We appreciate these efforts.

However, we urge the county government to look into the drainage system in town. Flood waters from heavy rains, commonly associated with Kisii, becomes a major menace during the wet seasons.



## JERUSA MORAA OSONGO

### - Resident, Kitutu Chache North

I take this opportunity to thank Governor James Ongwae for the effort he has put in place ensuring development is brought closer to our area.

I must mention the construction of Gesieka market and the erecting of solar powered street lights which have

tremendously changed the business landscape of this area. We can now do business for longer hours and earn more income.

Initially, weather conditions were very harsh but now we have a roof over our heads. Thank you to the county government for constructing such a market that has accommodated many.

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**SIMBA JOSEPH****– Sports Enthusiast, Kisii**

Gusii stadium is one of the best stadiums in Kenya. Before devolution, the stadium was in a terrible state. Thanks to devolution, the stadium has received a major face lift and is now able to attract various sports activities.

Our local Premier League side, Shabana FC and the Gusii Starlets host their home matches at the stadium. This gives our people the opportunity to watch this matches live.

In 2018, Kisii County successfully hosted

the sixth edition of the Kenya Inter Counties Sports and Cultural Association (KICOSCA) which brought together teams from all counties. The facility played a key role, since most of the games were conducted within the stadium.

This year, the 40th Kenya Communications Sports Organisation (KECOSO) games were also held here.

Kisii RFC is equally using Gusii stadium as their home ground during their games hence boosting talent among our people.

The facility is also accessible for other uses.

**CYPRIAN KARURU****– Resident, Bomachoge Chache**

As a young person, I want to commend the County Government for the work it has done on our youth polytechnics. Most of our young men and women who complete Class Eight and Form Four have an opportunity to enrol in the youth polytechnics and take a course of their choice.

This will minimise idleness and enable the youth engage in income generating activities.

**JULIUS NYANDIKA****– Resident, Bonchari**

For many years, Bonchari had been referred to as the most underdeveloped area in Kisii. That has since changed thanks to the County Government.

We thank the County Government for an improved road network, rehabilitation of

water springs, development of markets and many more.

Our Sub County hospital has been elevated to a level four hospital and has been offering specialised treatment. We no longer have to go to Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital in search of basic treatment.

**ONKANGI SAMWEL****– Resident, South Mugirango**

I commend the County Government for the work it has done on ECDE. The County has constructed hundreds of ECDE classrooms and hired teachers.

This has relieved us of the burden of paying for teachers' salaries and construction of classrooms. The learning environment in these centres has greatly improved learning for our pupils.

As a bodaboda rider, I wish to acknowledge the work that our governor has done on our roads, especially village roads.

Our movement has been made easier.

We only ask the County Government to repair and maintain those roads and drainage systems that have been destroyed by heavy rains.

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Kisii County has a healthy relationship with the National Government. In this photo, Governor Ongwae interacts with National Government officials led by Interior and National Coordination Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiangi, when the team visited Kisii for the opening of an Immigration office.



USAID mission director to Kenya Mark Meassick share a light moment with Governor James Ongwae when he paid him a courtesy call



Performance contracting session for Executive Committee Members

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Governor James Ongwae shares a light moment with a delegation from KfW German partners when they visited him. The county government in collaboration with the partners are committed to improving various water projects in the county.





Governor Jame Ongwae presents a gift to the former U.S. Ambassador to Kenya Robert Godec



Governor James Ongwae consulting with Israeli Minister of National infrastructure, energy and water resources during a past conference in Eilat-Israel in 2018.



Governor James Ongwae receives Chief Justice David Maraga in his office. Looking on is Deputy Governor Joash Maangi.



Kisii Governor James Ongwae chats with a team from Sustainable Economic Development Programme (SUED) led by their National Director Simon Eliot (centre) outside his office after they paid him a courtesy visit.



Governor James Ongwae during a photo session with other Kisii leaders shortly after the 2017 General Election



Governors Mutahi Kahiga (Nyeri), Prof Peter Nyong'o (Kisumu) and John Nyagarama (Nyamira) share a light moment with their host and colleague James Ongwae (Kisii) at his office.

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# Performance contracting for timely, deepened service delivery

## 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 and timely services to the public. All CECS, Chief Officers and staff have been put on performance contracts and appraisal system respectively.

Through this system, members of the public have a means to assess the performance of senior officers against the resources that have been allocated to their departments.

The performance contracting system is therefore an objective means of rewarding and apportioning appropriate sanctions accordingly as per contract terms.

## 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 Functions of the County Public Service Board includes;

- Restructuring through establishment and abolition of county offices and appointing persons to hold or act in those

offices as the case maybe.

- Establish and abolish Offices in the County Public service
- Appoint persons to hold or act in offices of the County Public Service including in the boards of cities and urban areas within the County and to confirm appointments.
- Exercise disciplinary control over, and remove, persons holding or acting in those Offices.
- Prepare regular reports for submission to the County Assembly on the execution of the functions of the Board.
- Promote in the County Public service the values and principles referred to in Article 10 and 232 of the Constitution:
- Evaluate and report to the County assembly on the extent to which the values and principles referred to in Articles 10 and 232 of the Constitution are complied with in the County Public service.
- Facilitate the development of coherent, integrated human resource planning and budgeting for personnel emoluments in counties
- Advise the County government on human resource management and development:
- Advise County government on implementation and monitoring of the national performance management system in counties;
- Make recommendations to the Salaries and Remuneration Commission, on behalf of the County Government, on the remuneration, pensions and gratuities for County Public service employees.



Evans Mamboleo, Chairman



Vincent Mirera, Secretary



Jackson Bogonko, Member



John Machuka, Member



Jeriah Sangae, Member



Nancy Nyamwange, Member



Patrick Momanyi, Member

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# County employees tap comprehensive NHIF cover in revolutionary agreement

**W**orkers in Kisii County Government are now enjoying a comprehensive National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) cover.

The cover, which has been operational since July 2019 after the County government signed a contract with NHIF, is greatly benefiting county employees and their dependants.

Celebrated by all staff, the cover has addressed the burden of raising cash for medical bills individually.

The comprehensive health insurance cover encompasses inpatient, outpatient, prescription drugs, maternity, optical, dental, last expense and group life cover.

The inpatient cover package includes hospital accommodation, nursing care, diagnostic, laboratory or other medically necessary facilities and services.

Physicians, Surgeons, anesthetics or physiotherapists fees are also catered for besides operating theatre charges, specialist consultations and all drugs dressing or medications prescribed by the treating physician for in-hospital use.

Day care services for surgery and medical services deemed fit by the physician as defined in NHIF benefit package are also catered for.

Members also benefit from pre-hospitalization charges including laboratory, X-ray or other necessary medical diagnostic procedures which results in a member getting admitted.

Other services like Local Road ambulance services for transportation and transfer of a sick member or dependant for treatment from a place of incident or facilities where adequate care is not available to the next available NHIF accredited hospital.

Emergency air rescue services are provided for transportation and transfer of an injured member to a facility where adequate hospital or medical facility.

Governor James Ongwae noted that his administration came up with the initiative owing to the increasing cost of accessing medication making it difficult for individuals to cater for their own medical bills and those of their dependants.

He said, to help raise funds for medical bills, individuals find it necessary to involve their friends, relatives and ad hoc fundraisers have been the order of the day.

"I am sure each one of us has been listed in a number of 'WhatsApp' groups sometimes involuntarily and whereas it is not bad to pool resources to bail out a friend, the frequency of such has been a burdensome worrying trend," lamented Governor Ongwae.

"The scenario calls for a lasting solution and that is why I initiated an arrangement which culminated in the contract for the



**“ We are keen to ensure that civil servants working for the county government benefit from a good medical insurance cover”**

— PATRICK LUMUMBA

provision of a comprehensive medical, last expense and Group life cover for county employees between the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) and the Kisii County Government,” he added.

Ongwae thanked NHIF for agreeing to provide medical cover for the county staff, putting them in the same level with their counterparts in the mainstream civil service in matters hospital insurance.

“The core business and mandate for NHIF is to provide accessible, affordable, sustainable and quality health insurance for all Kenyan citizens and that is why I engaged the medical scheme to help insure my staff in line with the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) programme,” said the Governor.

County Secretary Patrick Lumumba said the government has made staff welfare a top priority adding that the NHIF premium cover is meant to support county workers who for a long time have had to resort to out of pocket expenditures when faced with medical emergencies.

“We are keen to ensure that civil servants working for the county government benefit from a good medical insurance cover” said the county secretary.

A staffer, Periz Bonareri Moturi attested that the cover is helping workers access timely medical attention with ease.

“Employees don’t have to worry on how they will foot medical bills for self and dependants in both outpatient and inpatient treatment, a scenario which sometimes affects work output,” said Moturi.

In the medical scheme, the principal members of the cover are employees of the Kisii County Government who are actively in service. It covers the principal member, one declared spouse and five children.

However, a member may add dependent children, at an additional individual premium.

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Stephen Kihara. Kisii County Commissioner

## Huduma Mashinani brings services closer to rural populations

**M**ore than 2,000 people visit the Kisii County Huduma Centre everyday. This is an increase from 800 people who used to seek services from them in the initial stages.

All this has been so due to an awareness programme being run by the centre.

According to David Jones, the station's deputy manager, the centre takes services to rural communities through the programme dubbed Huduma Mashinani.

"We want to create awareness for our people and take our services closer to them. This will save them time and resources that would have otherwise been used for travel to Kisii to seek the services," said Jones.

The centre has also introduced a piloting system and shifts which extend its working hours.

All these, according to the manager, will go a long way in improving service delivery.

This kind of arrangement can also be found in Nairobi, Mombasa and Kisumu.

Services offered at Huduma Centre include processing ID Cards, birth certificates, National Hospital Insurance Fund and National Social Security Fund cards, Kenya Revenue Authority pins, Certificate of Good Conduct and many other services.

This is the most innovative government programme in Kenya where citizens get most of the government services under one roof within a short period.

The programme has been praised by Kenyans, especially in Kisii, where residents used to travel long distances to Nairobi in search of services.

They deliver over 25 services to the citizen of Kisii County.

These services include:

- Providing birth certificates (within 2days)
- Pensions (with follow up)
- KRA pin
- HELB loans

**“ We want to create awareness for our people and take our services closer to them. This will save them time and resources that would have otherwise been used for travel to Kisii to seek the services”**

— DAVID JONES

- Public works
- Access to government procurement (AGPO)

They also provide other major services including those from state law that registers companies, state departments, name searches and reservations and also registration of groups under social services.

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission also has a dominant presence at the centre. They also have CRB clearances, police abstract and certificate of good conduct departments which are very active.

The Office of the Ombudsman has also been established at the centre. This is helpful to the public in raising and registering their complaints to the government.

Some of the services which previously took three weeks to be effected in the past are now done in a single day.

Huduma Centres are found in regions such as Nairobi, Siaya, Kisumu, Mombasa, Nakuru, Nyeri, Thika and other major towns in Kenya.

In its efforts to improve service delivery, the Government of Kenya is using Huduma Kenya as a platform for efficiency and orderliness for government institutions offering crucial services to the people.

These are one-stop shops, citizen service centres that provide National Government services from a single location. The centres are built to enhance transparency, efficiency and easy accessibility for all.

Huduma Centres have become one of the most reliable units in Kenya since the Jubilee government took over leadership and they have since then gained massive popularity across the country.



# Unveiling the Kisii immigration office

Since Interior Cabinet secretary Fred Matiangi inaugurated an Immigration Centre in Kisii, residents no longer need to travel to access passport services in Nairobi. The new facility has been a bee hive of activity with residents swarming the office for the much needed document.

The centre, which opened its doors to the public in May this year, is part of plans seeking to ease congestion in the issuance of the new digital passports at Nyayo House, Nairobi which houses the headquarters of the Immigration Department.

According to the Immigration Department, this will enhance national security and social economic development by maintaining a comprehensive population database, proper migration management and timely registration and issuance of secure identification documents.

Reports show that more than 11,000 new passport applications have been received since the office opened its doors in May 2019.

During an interview in his office, Mr Peter Okal, the officer in charge, said they receive between 120 and 150 new applicants daily but the numbers are set to decrease once the rush for international job offers close.

"We have been experiencing a high number of applications especially during the US lottery applications window after the United States government made it

mandatory for one to possess a passport before applying," said Okal.

He asked applicants who are yet to collect their passports to do so.

"However, more than 900 passports are lying at the Kisii Immigration office despite the fact that the owners have been notified through short text messages (SMS) to collect them," he lamented.

"I ask residents of Kisii and the neighboring counties to seize this opportunity and apply for their passports here. We are very ready and willing to serve you," Mr Okal added.

Okal continued: "Majority of the people had visited the facility either as fresh passport applicants or seeking the e-passports."

Kisii Town is strategically located in the Western circuit owing to the number of Counties it borders, making it a strategic point to set up the immigration office.

Kisii Governor James Ongwae praised the government's choice of Kisii Town to set up the immigration office.

During the official opening of the facility in Kisii Town, Mr Ongwae said that it will ease the process of acquiring passports for those who seek to travel abroad.

"I commend the National Government for opening an immigration office in Kisii County and particularly in Kisii Town. Our people no longer need to travel all the way to Kisumu or Nairobi for passports," said Mr

Ongwae.

Ezra Otondi, a Kisii resident could not hide his joy after he successfully applied for his passport at the Kisii Immigration Office.

"I am very happy since I have been able to apply for my passport right here in town. I know I would have had to travel to either Kisumu or Nairobi if CS Matiangi had not thought of this idea," Otondi said.

This has offered relief to residents who have been spending days on end in Kisumu or Nairobi to apply and collect their passports. The move has saved residents from lots of costs associated with traveling long distances for the document.

Some of those who applied for their passports in Kisumu say it was not only time consuming but tedious as well.

Kisii are known to be go getters and this regional office will catapult their appetite for travel in search of green pastures abroad.

This is evidenced by the number of people especially in the United States of America which has sufficient number of Kisii in New Jersey, Minnesota and North Carolina.

It is important to note that the government started the issuance of the E-passport in September 2017 and gave a two-year period for those who have the machine-readable (old) passports to renew them, after which they will become invalid.

The Immigration Department has also opened passport control offices in Eldoret, Nakuru, Embu and Garissa.



Interior CS Dr Fred Matiangi when he opened an immigration office in Kisii. This office is key in facilitating issuance and renewal of travel documents.

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Moses Onderi

“ Instilling a sense of prudent financial management”

CECM: MOSES ONDERI

“The department is managing County expenditures through the use of Integrated Financial Management System (IFMIS).”

CHIEF OFFICERS:

- WILFRED AUMA (ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE)
- ZABLON ONGORI (PLANNING)
- BENARD OMOSA (AG. REVENUE MANAGEMENT)



Wilfred Auma



Bernard Omosa



Zablon Ongori

## MANDATE

The department is charged with the responsibility of resource mobilisation, formulation of economic and fiscal policies and public finance management.

In realising this, the sector has achieved the following:

- i. Developed a departmental Strategic Plan.
- ii. Successfully coordinated the formulation and implementation of County budget estimates and mobilisation of resources for funding budgetary requirements.
- iii. Offered advisory services on financial and policy matters to all County government entities.
- iv. Coordinated appropriate County enhancing policies and plans.
- v. Coordinated the development of Strategic Plans for County departments.
- vi. Monitored government procurement practices to ensure compliance with laid down regulations.
- vii. Facilitated accountability, governance and oversight by promoting efficient, transparent, economic and effective resource management.
- viii. Managed County expenditures through the use of Integrated Financial Management System (IFMIS).
- ix. Automated County operations and services.
- x. Instituted reforms aimed at increasing local revenue and the County government's ability to provide public services. Some of the reforms instituted include, improved procedures for assessment and collection of revenue, mapping all revenue streams, automating or application of electronic systems in revenue collection and harmonising revenue rates and levies through the Finance Bills.
- xi. Established the County Budget and Economic Forum.

## VISION

To be the most excellent County Treasury in terms of resource mobilization and allocation to foster economic and financial management

## MISSION

To formulate sound economic policies, maximise revenue mobilisation, ensure efficient allocation and accountability for County resources.

# Leveraging on prudent financial management

The Public Finance Management Act, 2012 bestows the Department of Finance and Economic Planning the operational mandate as derived from the Constitution of Kenya 2010.

The department is responsible for monitoring, evaluation and overseeing the management of public finances, planning of economic affairs and policy formulation, implementing financial and economic policies, preparing and coordinating the implementation of annual budget, mobilising resources for funding county governments public debt, providing technical and operational support for the ICT systems, infrastructure and procurement of goods, works and services to the county.

## Enabling legislations

The department has developed the following policy documents and legislations to guide the implementation of its policies;

The County Integrated Development Plan 2013-2017, 2018-2022, the County Emergency Fund Act 2016, the Revenue Administration Act 2014, annual County Fiscal Strategy Papers, the Annual Budget, Finance Act (annually) and the Budget Management Strategy paper.

## Procurement

In ensuring public resources are spent properly, the Department of Procurement has adhered to the directive from the National Treasury on Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPOs) and

Name of projects	Objects
Installation of structured Local Area Network (LAN) and WIFI infrastructure	To improve connectivity, access to information and services offered over computer network
Equipping county office 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 centre (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
Development of county active directory and unified threat management solution system	To provide secure access and management of all ICT resources and services, and ensure security of data
Installation of IT 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 percent procurement.

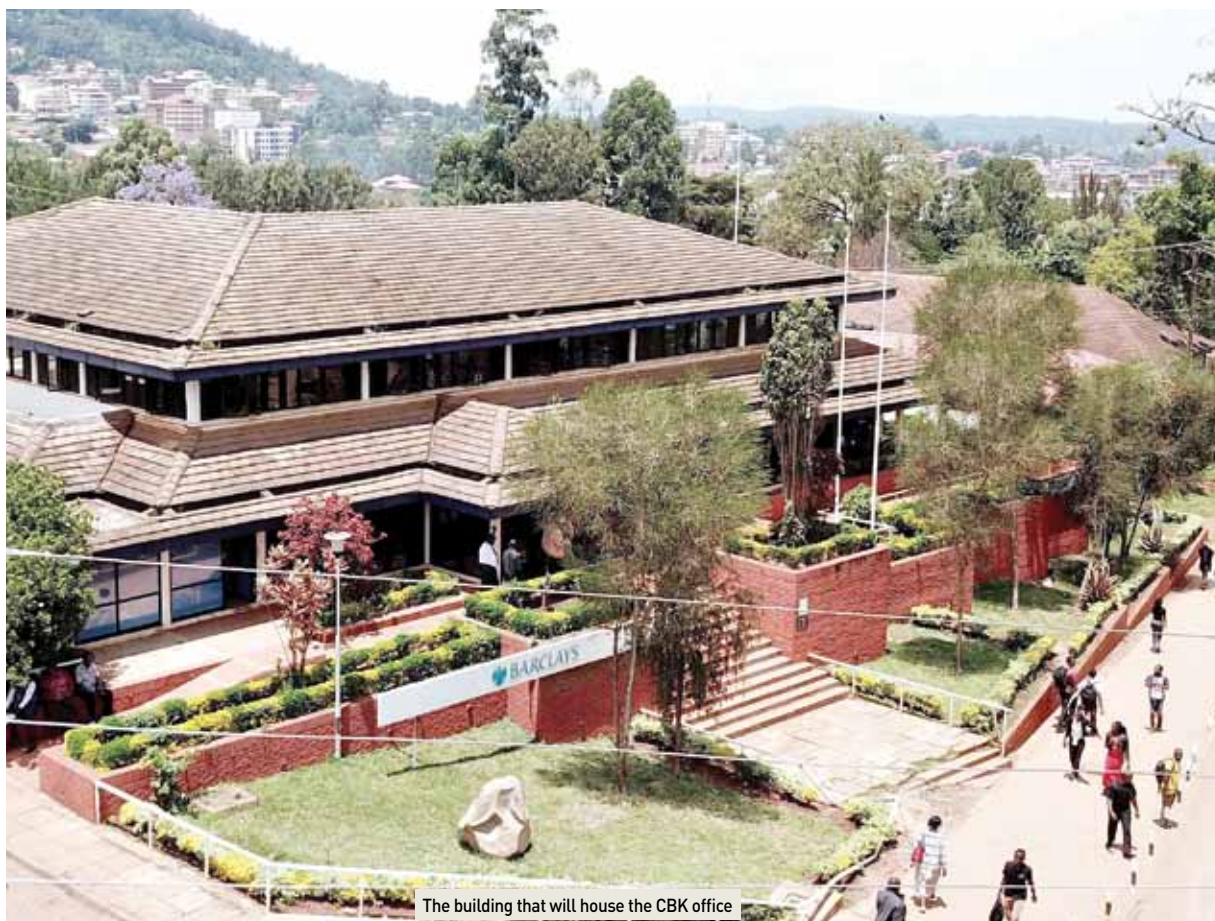
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The building that will house the CBK office

## CBK opens door in Kisii to ease travel, costs

Kisii enters 2020 with a money clearing house in Kisii Town.

The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) outlet will be the fourth of its kind in the country.

Kisii joins Nyeri, Nakuru and Meru to become the only towns in the country that play home to CBK money hubs.

The bank's main branches are in Mombasa, Kisumu and Eldoret.

Governor James Ongwae expressed optimism that it will open its doors in January.

"This is a breakthrough for banks in Kisii and by extension the people of Kisii who they serve," Mr Ongwae said.

The outlet will share a compound with Barclays Bank of Kenya which has a branch in the town.

The place is strategic and is in close proximity to government installations, including the County Government headquarters as well as National Government offices.

Mr Ongwae says it will significantly cut costs incurred by the more than 25 commercial banks in Kisii town who collect their cash stocks from CBK's Kisumu branch on a daily basis.

"I had written to the government requesting the centre and its establishment here this is a prayer answered. We hope it will go a long way to help not just the banks but also boost the local economy," said the Governor.

"Kisii is a cash-rich area since it controls 60 per cent of the money market in Nyanza region. This centre will mean bringing services closer home. It is all about devolving services to reach the targeted groups."

The Kisii Barclays Bank of Kenya branch officials assured the governor that they will accord CBK maximum support to beat its deadlines.

"It is a sigh of relief for our banks who have often been forced to use vans to

restock cash from Kisumu," the Governor said.

Regional head Ann Mufira confirmed the money centre will be housed at the ground and second floor of Barclays Kisii branch.

"Work at the site started in June, the flagging of operations is expected early 2020," Mufira said.

Currently CBK Kisumu branch serves the whole of Western Kenya region.

Once the Kisii branch is operational, commercial banks in neighbouring counties like Homa Bay and Nyamira will equally benefit.

In 2017, Kisii was recognised for contributing 2.1 per cent of Kenya's gross domestic product.

This is partly due to the huge inflow of money from the diaspora where a number of people who trace their roots to Kisii live and work.

disadvantaged groups are being awarded contracts in organised categories of general supplies, provision of works and services, health services and consultancy services. In Kisii County, all procurable contracts are awarded competitively in a transparent and open manner.

### e-Government

We have complied with various advisories from the National Treasury in implementing

the use of integrated Financial Management System (IFMIS) and e-procurement in our financial management operations. This has led to efficient financial decision making and effective delivery of financial services.

### ICT services

The department has implemented various projects to enhance communication and sharing of information among departments and external publics.

### Revenue automation

To bolster revenue mobilisation and management, as well as widen the revenue base, the government has created a fully fledged revenue department. The new department has identified more revenue streams and has automated most aspects of revenue collection while in the process of automating all revenue streams.

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Governor James Ongwae presents a soapstone curving to Raila Odinga during the 5th Devolution Conference in Kakamega. Looking on is governors Okoth Obado and Anne Waiguru.



Governor James Ongwae (R) is shown some of the traditional products by Nyamache Traditional Artefacts group during a past Gusi Cultural Exhibition.



US ambassador to Kenya H.E Kyle McCarter with Governor James Ongwae when they toured the newly built Fire Station in Kisii town. It has been built through a partnership between the county government and the World Bank.



Governor James Ongwae holding discussions with a delegation from the Lake Victoria Water Basin Authority to help actualise construction works for Mokubo water project in Bomachoge Borabu Constituency. The project funded by the Unicredit Bank of Austria is an initiative of the county government and is implemented by the Lake Victoria South Water Works Development Agency (LVSWWDA)

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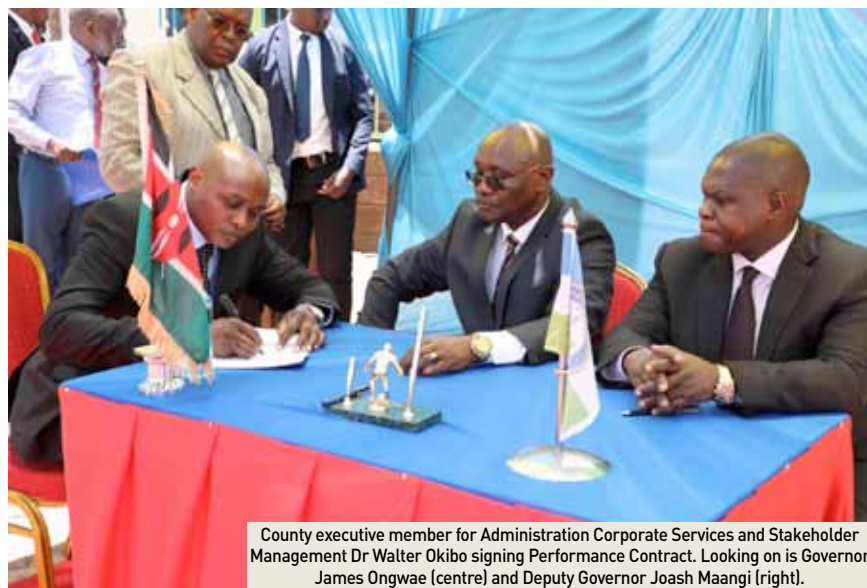
Governor James Ongwae admires a group of women grinding wheat during a Gusii Cultural Exhibition at Cultural Hall.



Governor James Ongwae commissioning Omosobwa Borehole water project.



Governor James Ongwae joins a group of youth in a dance during a youth function at Kisii County Culture Hall.



County executive member for Administration Corporate Services and Stakeholder Management Dr Walter Okibo signing Performance Contract. Looking on is Governor James Ongwae (centre) and Deputy Governor Joash Maangi (right).



Governor James Ongwae addresses Cabinet Secretaries Fred Matiangi, Joe Mucheru, Prof George Magoha and Kisii Senator Prof Sam Ongeri in his office.



First Lady Elizabeth Ongwae presents a traditional woven basket to Victoria McCarter at KTRH. She accompanied her husband US ambassador to Kenya H.E Kyle McCarter when he visited the facility.

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# Lighting up candle for vulnerable groups

**K**isii County First Lady Elizabeth Ongwae (pictured), an educationist by profession and the spouse of the Governor James Ongwae, is a champion of social and development programmes, where she has been mobilising resources through well-wishers.

Several times, she has rallied residents to support the cause of women, the girl child and other vulnerable members of society, including the orphans and persons living with disability.

## 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's office 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 stepped up efforts to protect the girl child from harmful cultural practices like Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) that is still practiced among 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 State and non-State actors. With partners, Mrs Ongwae organises 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.

## Correcting obstetric fistula

Many women who give birth at home lose their children in the process or develop either Vesico Vaginal Fistula (VVF) 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 organises 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 for residents free screening and treatment.

She appreciates the County Government's



Mrs Elizabeth Ongwae donates an assortment of items to Kisii Special School. She supports children with special needs and orphans.

contribution towards improving health services by equipping all hospitals and purchasing ambulances which have helped women with complications to access medical services in a timely manner.

## The Girl Child

In order to ensure retention in school particularly for the girl child, Mrs Ongwae has worked with well-wishers to distribute sanitary towels to under-privileged 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, who 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. The first lady also runs a successful scholarship programme whose beneficiaries are currently in both national and provincial schools.

## Breast cancer screening

The First Lady's office has intensified charitable activities across the county in a move aimed at ensuring the disadvantaged persons in the society are granted access to services.

She urges women to go for breast cancer screening, saying routine cancer screening saves lives and reduces costs of treatment, regretting that the disease is claiming thousands of lives daily. Speaking in Kisii recently, Mrs Ongwae said earlier detection has enabled doctors treat the disease before it spreads to vital body organs.

"Earlier diagnosis helps treat cancer related symptoms. I call upon women to embrace routine screening to avert the high numbers of mortality rates," said Elizabeth.

Noting that most women fear screening, Mrs Ongwae said the procedure is fast and relaxed with minimal discomfort.

"Many lives will be saved if we all go for earlier cancer screening. Most women seek medical advice when the disease has advanced to late stages which cannot be cured," she said. Mrs Ongwae wants women to observe a health lifestyle saying it contributes to the increase of cancer cases. "Studies show that being obese and over consumption of alcohol increases risks of breast cancer. I urge women to stay healthy because cancer kills and the cost of treatment is extremely high," said Elizabeth.

## Free Kisii off Gender-Based Violence.

According to Mrs Ongwae, it is time to galvanize action to end Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Kenya, calling for an integrated approach to voice against gender-based violence. She says that it is high time that all joined hands to make the fight a success.

"Elimination of Gender-Based Violence is very close to my heart. I call upon Kisii residents to join hands as we eradicate it. I will ensure mass mobilisation of all communities to promote collective responsibility in the fight to eradicate this scourge in our communities," she says. "Violence against women, men, youth and children is not a government responsibility but an issue that all of us have to take into consideration. Let us be proactive as we seek to make Kisii County a gender free zone," Mrs Ongwae adds.

She says there is need to also address issues of violence between women and also urges residents of the county to address issues of child labour as a broader tack towards curbing gender-based violence.

## Kenyans urged to embrace children with special needs.

Kisii County First Lady also wants Kenyans not to discriminate against children living with disabilities.

Mrs Ongwae says all children have equal rights, adding that they should be treated with dignity and respect. She notes these children have a right to access special education and that they need special assistance while undertaking their daily chores.

The First Lady regrets that some parents in Kisii County restrain autistic children from interacting with others because the society believes that they are either cursed or bewitched.

"It saddens me to learn that parents imagine that those children are cursed. Regrettably, they are denied rights like access to education and proper diet. I want to remind all of us that we no longer have disabled children. Children with this condition are actually able in a different way. Given a chance and an enabling environment, they can thrive and make a mark in the world," says Mrs Ongwae.

## Mrs Elizabeth Ongwae

First Lady, Kisii County



# Trailblazers from Gusii



## Simeon Nyachae

Simeon Nyachae was born on February 6, 1932. His father, Musa Nyandusi, was a colonial chief.

He is among the first people from Kisii to get formal education.

He studied in London and when he returned to Kenya, he joined the civil service at the rank of a District Officer in Kangundo Division. He then rose through the ranks and became the Provincial Commissioner in charge of Central Province.

In 1979, Nyachae became the Chief Secretary in the Civil Service before he plunged into politics in 1992 when he was elected the Member of Parliament for Nyaribari Chache.

Nyachae served as Cabinet Minister for Agriculture and Finance before he resigned in 1999 on claims that he was moved to the Ministry of Industry.

He formed his party, Ford people and used it to run for the Presidency in 2002. The party won all parliamentary seats in Kisii and Nyamira counties. The presidential election was won by MwA.I kibaki.

Nyachae supported Kibaki and was in turn appointed the Minister for Energy and later Roads.

He lost his parliamentary seat in 2007 and has since retired from politics. He is a business magnet with interests in real estate, transport, agriculture and industry.



## The late Dr Zachary Onyonga

Born in 1939, Dr Zachary Onyonga attended St Mary's Nyabururu in 1949 before he moved to St Mary's Yala where he studied up to 1958.

He was employed by the Gusii County Council and worked until 1960 when he benefited from the famous 'airlift

scholarships' to study in Puerto Rico in San Juan where he graduated in 1965.

He joined Syracuse University in 1966 for a Master in Economics course and undertook his doctoral studies there.

He returned to Kenya and became a lecturer at the University of Nairobi. In 1969, he ran for the Kitutu West parliamentary seat and won.

Between then and 1996, he served in the Trade, Foreign Affairs, Education, Planning and Development ministerial dockets.

He is one of the few leaders who held their elective positions for many years without defeat until his death.



## The late Lawrence Sagini

Lawrence Sagini was born in Gesonso on the outskirts of Kisii Town in 1926.

He was the first-born son of Ndemo Kibagendi and Esther Nyanganyi. His father worked as the president of the African Tribunal Court in Kisii.

He studied at Mangu School and helped construct Ria'Sagini Catholic chapel, among other church and self-help projects.

He was selected by the Catholic Church to visit the Pope and was honoured with a knighthood.

Interestingly, most of his family members including the mother were SDAs. His mother was reluctant when the son joined Mangu, which is a national school, but she later lived with the reality.

Sagini got his formal education at Isecha Sector

School which he had joined in 1934. In 1937, he joined Kisii Government African School (now Kisii School) and later Kabaa Mangu Holy Ghost College.

After Mangu, he went to Kagumo Teachers' College in Nyeri where he graduated in 1950. He became a teacher and rose to be headmaster, then education officer in Central and South Nyanza.

He quit teaching in 1957 to study Sociology and Political Science in the Allegheny College in Pennsylvania, United States where he graduated in 1959.

He returned to Kenya and taught briefly at Asumbi Teachers' College and was appointed Assistant Education Officer, a position he served until 1961.

Sagini also served as a member of the Provincial Council of the University of East Africa.

He was the first person from Gusii to be elected to the Legislative Council (LEGCO) in 1961 and became MP for Kitutu West in 1963.

Sagini was awarded the post-humous doctorate for his role in the development of education in Kenya in 1995.

He died in 1996 in a car crash aged 69.

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### The late Zephaniah Mogunde

Zephaniah Mogunde was born in 1935 to Heradion Mogunde and Peninah Nyamanyi.

Mogunde studied at Isebania High School and Bugema Missionary College in Uganda.

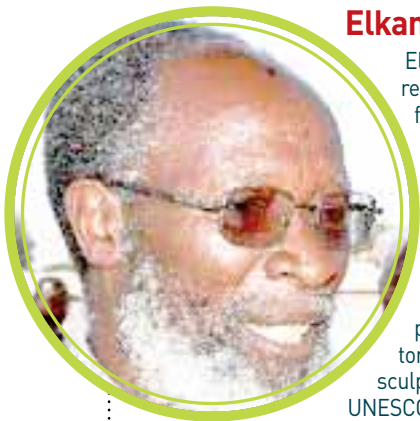
He made an attempt for the Legislative Council seat in 1958. Mogunde joined Parliament as

the first MP for Majoge-Bassi constituency in 1963.

He was a resolute politician and stunned many when he resigned from KANU and joined the late Jaramogi Oginga Odinga's opposition party KPU. This cost him his seat in 1966.

His star shone once again when he reclaimed the seat in 1974 and served up to 1979 when he lost to Christopher Obure.

Mogunde spent much of his time in an out of the legislative house championing for soil conservation and afforestation. He died in 2014.



### Elkana Ong'esa, HSC

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

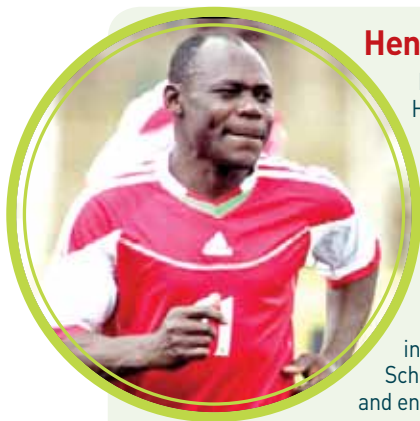
The sculpture, which took him two years between 1976 and 1978 to build from soapstone,

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 studied fine art at universities in Kenya and Uganda and his postgraduate thesis at McGill University in Canada was on "East Africans Stone Carving in Kenya." He has taught creative arts in various institutions, both locally and inter-nationally.

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.



### Henry Motego

Henry Motego was born in 1964. He is a well-known striker, now retired from active football.

In 1992, he shone during an international encounter between national team Harambee Stars and Tunisia. Kenya beat Tunisia and qualified to the finals for the African Cup of Nations

He started his footballing career in 1983 at Boitangare Primary School. Shabana FC identified him and enlisted him in the team while he

was a student at Cardinal Otunga High School, Mosochi and Itierio High School between 1983 and 1987.

He played for Harambee Stars and this endeared himself to Kenyans. He was also signed by Kenya Breweries Ltd as their striker but was retrenched in 2005.

Motego signed for Omani league side Al-Oriba for two seasons between 1991 and 1992 before he returned home to play for Kenya Breweries until 2000 when he retired.

He played for the national team in 1988, 1990 and 1992 and now works at the Kisii County Government's department of sports.

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### Claire Kwamboka Omanga

Claire Kwamboka'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 female Mayor

in Kisii, she was instrumental in fighting for the girl-child to remain in school.

She has also contributed her resources 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 becoming Kisii Mayor, a first in the region.

She took a stab at a parliamentary seat but was not successful. She also served as Nyansiongo Tea Factory Company Board chairperson, in yet another first for a woman in Kisii.



## The late James Nyamweya

James Nyamweya was born in 1927. He studied law in the United Kingdom in the 1950s. He is an old boy of Nyanchwa SDA Primary School and Kamagambo Mission School. He got his earlier secondary education in Kamagambo Secondary School but was discontinued after the secondary school section was stopped by the management. He joined the teacher training section for a course and later taught at Nyanchwa, Sengeru, Isecha and Sirona primary schools. He got his undergraduate from the Kings College, University of London where he graduated with a Law Degree in 1958.

He served as MP for Nyaribari between 1963 and 1979. He also served in ministerial portfolios and parastatals during the Kenyatta and Moi regimes. Nyamweya served

as the Permanent Secretary (PS) in the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Assistant Minister in the Office of the President, Minister in charge of External Affairs, Minister of Provincial Administration, Minister of Works, Minister of Labor, Minister of Power and Communication and chair of the Electoral Boundaries Commission.

He died on September 25, 1995 after a robust career. At the time of his death, he was National Vice chairman of the Democratic Party. Nyamweya left an indelible mark in the country's labor laws.



## Hellen Onsando Obiri

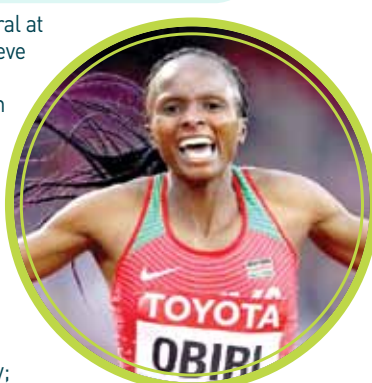
Born in December 1989 at Nyacheiki in Bobasi, Hellen Obiri is among the greatest middle and long-distance runners. She holds the world and African record in 1,500m. Obiri attended Ekeonga Primary School before joining Riruta Central Secondary School in Nairobi after being sponsored by a well-wisher who 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.

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 suddenly pulled level with Defar before zooming away from the Ethiopian great to cut the tape

at 8:37.16 in full speed. The corporal at the Kenya Air Force could not believe she had beaten Defar, a world champion, who settled for silver. In 2019, Hellen Obiri, won the 5,000 metres in the IAAF in Doha.

### 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 3000m is 8:35.35 a fete recorded in Birmingham, Great Britain on February 18, 2012.



## The late Prof. Joseph Nyasani

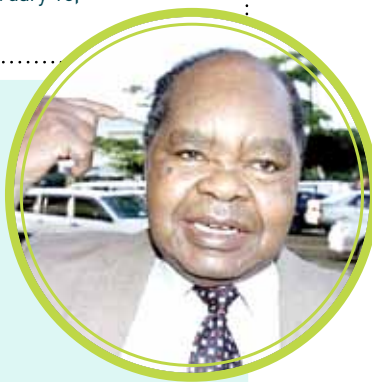
The late Prof. Joseph Nyasani was a renowned scholar who made a mark both in academia and media. Born in Kisii in 1936, Prof Nyasani wanted to become a Catholic priest but when he grew up, his destiny took a different direction and he ended up becoming a philosophy professor and a TV personality fluent 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 academia, his humble mien shocked 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.

In 1994, he survived a bullet fired above his eye, which went through his skull. He died in February 2016.



## 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 finals 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 Stockholm by over nine seconds. From 1989 to 1993, Ondieki was ranked top five in the world in the 5,000m race by Track and Field News, with his number one ranking coming in 1991. In 1993, Track and Field News ranked him number one in the world in the 10,000m race.



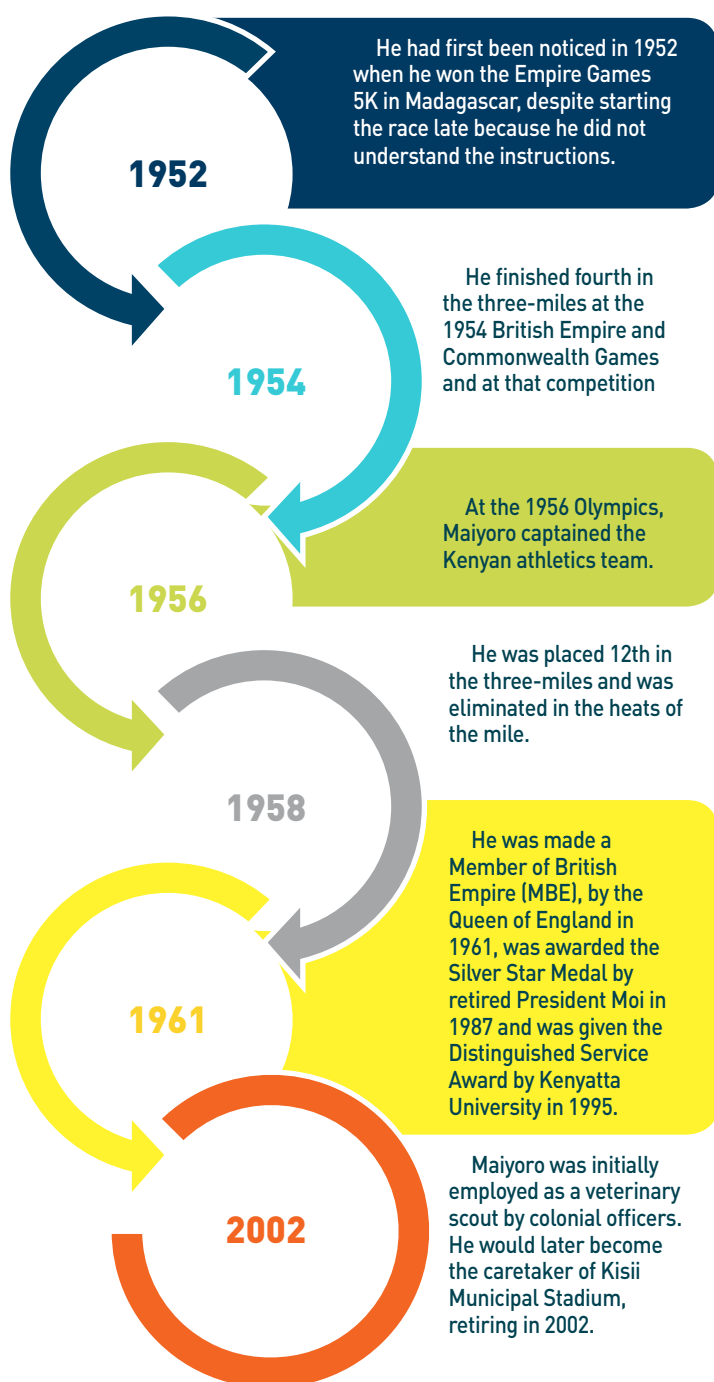
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# Remembering World athletic superman, Mayioro



World legendary and the Country's Athletics pioneer, the late Nyandika Mayioro, helped to highlight to the World that it is not the skin color or the race of an individual that matters but determination always leads to success.

Mayioro, belongs to the class of the self-starters of this world. He died last year aged 89 and his remains were interred at his Nyaribari Chache home having achieved his lifelong dream of representing his country in an international event.

Running barefoot in marathon races, he stunned the world when he went ahead to win Gold for Kenya.

He showed persistence and determination overrides all others factors in achieving a set goal.

Mayioro was the first top Kenyan long distance runner. He finished fourth in the three-miles at the 1954 British Empire and Commonwealth Games and in the same competition in 1958, he was placed 12th in the three-miles and was eliminated in the heats of the mile.

At the 1956 Olympics, Maiyoro captained the Kenyan athletics team. He had first been noticed in 1952 when he won the Empire Games 5K in Madagascar, despite starting the race late because he did not understand the instructions.

At the 1954 AAA Championships in London, Maiyoro was placed fourth in the three-miles, stunning the British crowd, who had never seen African distance runners at the top level.

Mayioro was initially employed as a veterinary scout by the colonial officers. He would later become the caretaker of Kisii Municipal Stadium, retiring in 2002.

He was made a Member of British Empire (MBE), by the Queen of England in 1961, was awarded the Silver Star Medal by retired President Moi in 1987, and was given the Distinguished Service Award by Kenyatta University in 1995.

Maiyoro religiously attended national public functions at Gusii Stadium distinguishing him as a patriot at heart.

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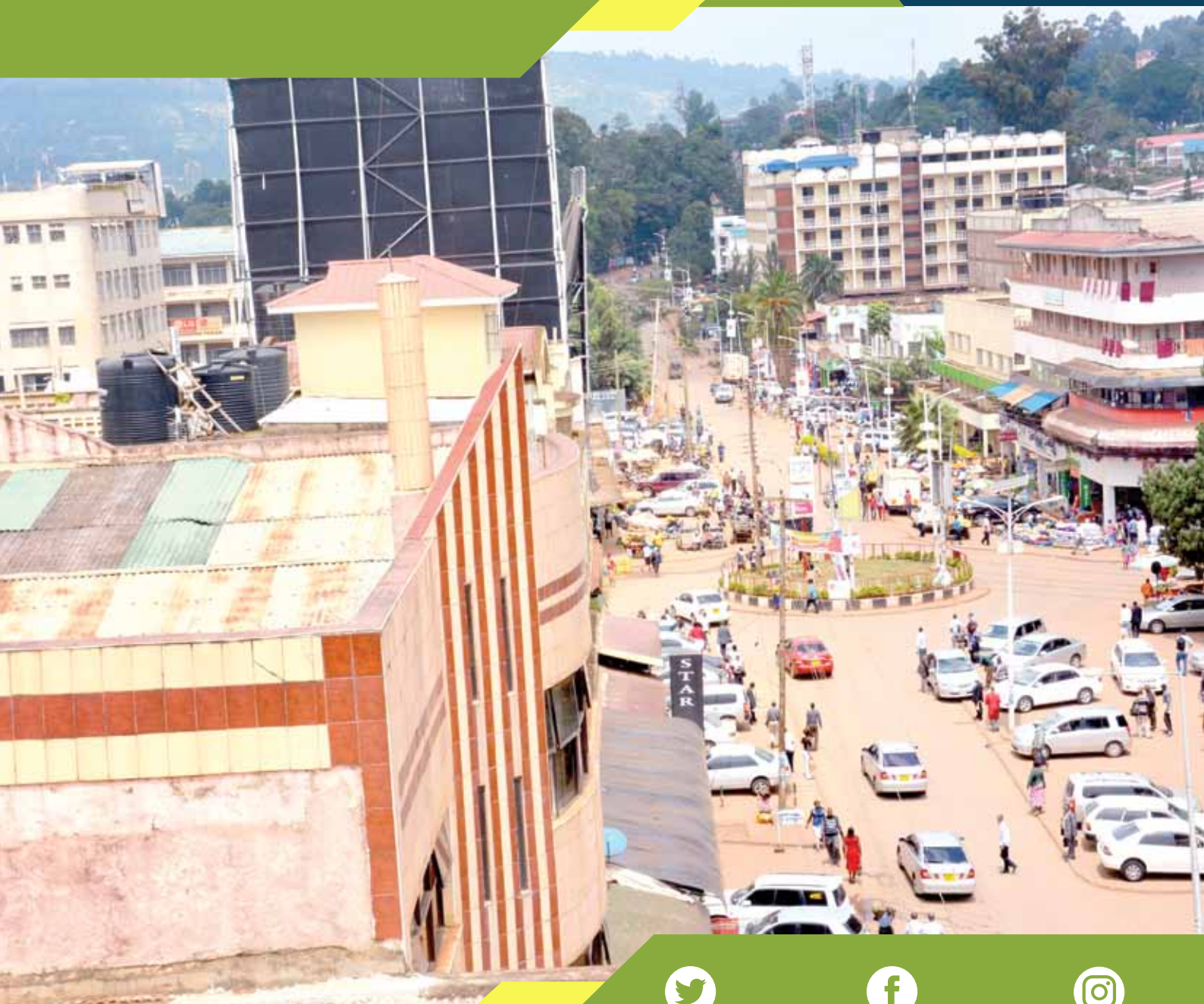


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