



# Time of epic transformation in the lives and livelihoods of the People of Kenya

It is with great pleasure and reflective nostalgia that I look back at these two past years of devolution. It has indeed been a time of epic transformation of the lives and livelihoods of our People and County, a time of shared successes in infrastructural development and remarkable improvements of the foundation of economic and social well-being of the residents of Meru County.

We embarked on a journey of inclusive transformation of Meru County with a common resolve inspired by our vision of a "united, prosperous, green, model County." Co-operatives stand out as a common fabric that achieves both unity and prosperity in one stroke. In view of this, Meru County became the pioneer county to enact the Co-operatives Act 2014, which helped streamline and enhance efficiency of our Cooperative societies. These interventions led to the formation of the umbrella Meru County Coffee Millers Cooperative Union.

The fruits of these raft of measures are visible in the payout of coffee proceeds to our farmers last year, which jumped to a remarkable Sh.530Million.

Our conviction in an economically empowered people informed our move to also form 3 Saccos in every sub county – one for youth, women and general traders respectively, with each being given seed capital of Sh.3 million.

Roads infrastructure is very close to the heart of Meru County Government. Besides ensuring that county roads in every ward are graded and built, we again became the first county in the country to introduce the probase road technology from Malaysia -on a pilot basis-that is cost effective and lasts as long as normal bitumen road.

To be able to directly touch the lives of our people, land and its attendant planning aspect



**Peter Munya,  
Governor Meru County  
Government**

is a key factor. We have carried out spatial planning of all major towns in the county and in collaboration with the ICT Authority rolled out fiber connectivity in virtually all major towns in Meru. We have further facilitated the adjudication process leading to closure of a number of adjudication sections and successful issuance of over 10,000 title deeds.

In realization of the fact that health drives wealth, we set out to improve services offered at Meru County Teaching and Referral Hospital. The staff team was taken on training for renal dialysis services and the county procured dialysis machines in October 2014. This has considerably cut down the cost of cancer treatment for the people of Meru and beyond.

Another first feather in the cap of Meru County government is the automated diagnosis

of malaria. Rather than use the traditional microscope testing for malaria, we now have a computerized diagnosis for malaria, whose level of precision is much higher.

In water services provision we have invested heavily to enable our people have access to clean water for domestic and farm use by ensuring water infrastructural connectivity across the County. In the dry belt where we have no rivers we partnered with the African Water Bank, a body that specializes in building 225,000 liters-capacity tanks using a very cost effective technology.

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Of note is the modern produce, horticulture and livestock markets constructed in all the sub counties. We are also intervening in employing veterinary officers to extend free advisory to our livestock farmers, besides providing quality and affordable semen



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across the County. We have also anchored farm diversification in our programmes. Fish farming is now increasingly becoming an acceptable economic engagement in Meru County.

To address food security in the county, we procured 18,000 improved storage bags (PICS bags) for demonstrations on post-harvest management of pests without use of chemicals, for grain storage. This translates to 400 PIC bags per ward. This has been coupled by procurement of 45 grain moisture meters. The Moisture meters will be of great importance in training the farmers on management of Aflatoxin in stored grain.

The devolution story cannot be complete without mention of education, especially pre-primary and polytechnics-which are the only devolved aspects of education. We realize our little children of pre-school rarely get attention and are always relegated to the badly dilapidated buildings. This being the scenario we embarked on a reconstruction of our pre-school classrooms to make them habitable and appealing to children so that they love the school experience from an early age. All wards now have at least 2 new modern ECDE classrooms and teachers employed by the County Government.

Last but not least Meru County is now a sporting destination. With the newly reconstructed Kinoru stadium, Tusker FC adopted it as their official home. The stadium also hosted the famous Meru Sevens, further opening the grounds to international limelight. The Talent Academy and the Meru golf club have also given a facelift to Meru as a new frontier for sports. All these sporting interventions bring not only glory, fame but also monetary boost to the economy of this great County.

Service delivery to Wananchi is central for impactful programmes and projects rollout. To achieve this we from the outset realized the need for competent work force and pride ourselves as one of best-staffed counties.

According to a study conducted by the Public Service Commission in 2014, the County has employed the most learned officers with 92 per cent of the newly recruited officers being masters graduates. The County has achieved gender parity standing at 62 per cent and 38 per cent for female and male gender respectively.

To ensure efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery, the county has signed and cascaded performance contracting to the Ward level and is coordinating other Departments who have cascaded the same to the Sub-County level.

It is indeed without doubt that devolution is the answer to the neglect and stagnated nature of the regional economies, as witnessed in the short period. It is therefore prudent to enhance the capacities of the devolved units to spur growth and prosperity of our people.

## SOME OF THE COUNTY PROJECTS

### MERU COUNTY TALENT ACADEMY:

The talent Academy programme is an initiative to support the youth population in Meru County to harness their individual talents towards enhanced livelihoods while contributing to economic growth of the county. The department planned and started the academy on December 2013. A total of 300 (three hundred) have so far graduated from the academy in sports (football and volleyball), music and dance.



### 10KM TRIAL PROBASE ROAD

The 10km Kianjai-Miathene-Mikinduri trial probase road constructed with Malaysian technology. The technology reduces road construction costs of convectional road making technologies in use in Kenya today. On completion of the 10km trial probase road the county will roll out construction of 300km of roads in the entire county to open up accessibility to all rural areas market centres and urban centres in the next 3years.



Project Sum - Kshs **300** Million



### SOME OF THE COUNTY PROJECTS - Continued

#### CONSTRUCTION OF ECDE CLASSROOMS

The government has embarked in construction of 135 modern ECDE classrooms in the county. Several of them have been completed and commissioned by the Governor. Each ward was allocated three classrooms.



The old ECDE classrooms



The new ECDE classroom

#### KINORU STADIUM UPGRADE

The county government of meru through the department of sports whose major function is to promote and develop sports at all level. The department embarked on various sports programmes to help achieve the dream of making meru sports destination of choice namely



#### TUSKER PREMIER LEAGUE

The county has successfully hosted several premier league matches including the top 8 knockout final in the year 2014 at Kinoru Stadium when tusker football club decided to use the stadium as their home ground therefore kinoru becoming the home of tusker.



#### MERU RUGBY SEVENS.

The meru rugby seven was the first of its kind event in Meru County. The event was supported by the county government of meru, the event came to life on the heels of launching the meru rugby club that has been nurturing talents for young rugby players in the county.



An Artistic impression of the complete Kinoru Stadium.

#### RIVERLAND BUS PARK

The project involved improvement of surfaces of the bus park which were natural earth to cabro surface standards. This increased the parking capacity in the town and eliminated the perennial problem of dust and mud which were a nuisance and health hazard to operators and commuters alike. The project has improved the image of the town.



Project Sum - Kshs **16.4** Million

#### ACQUISITION OF MACHINERY

The county has acquired 2 motor graders, one tracked dozer, one buckhoe, one prime mover, one Lowbed carrier, one tipper and two supervision pick ups. With these machineries we have been able to open over 250km of new roads, graded over 700km of roads. The prime mover and low bed carrier has assisted in cutting down the cost of mobilization of machinery by the County Government. This financial year we are acquiring 2 graders, 2 tracked dozers, 2 tippers, 1 drum roller, and 1 grid roller, 1 water bowzer and 5 supervision vehicles.



Project Sum - Kshs **137** Million

#### FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT

For increased fish production and promotion of fish farming, the county has developed 140 fish ponds across all the nine sub-counties. This translates to 15 to 20 ponds per sub-county. Fish production from the 140 fish ponds is expected to increase the overall annual fish production by an estimated 28,000 Kgs. Annual fish production from Meru County currently stands at 300,100 kgs, valued at 84m. The target is to produce over 1,500,000 kgs of fish annually.



Stocked fish pond in Tigania West Sub-County

#### MILLENNIUM - GAKOROMONE SURFACE DRESSING.

The project involved improvement of roads reserves along the Meru-Mikinduri Road from Kairanya JNC to Millennium petro station from earth surface to sealed bitumen surface to improve parking space and surface conditions.

Project Sum - Kshs **12.3** Million



#### NERICA PROMOTION

NERICA stands for New Rice for Africa. It is interspecific hybridization rice between the cultivated rice species of Africa (for environmental suitability) and Asia (for high yield). The rice is early maturing, tolerant to acidity and drought, has many grains per panicle and it is resistance to rice blast disease and rice yellow mottle virus. 4 tonnes of rice (NERICA) distributed to farmers for Up Scaling on Nerica production. The rice can grow well in the highlands and farmers are adopting the technology well.



#### COUNTY SUBSIDIZED FERTILIZER DISTRIBUTION



The major objective is to support Meru county farmers to access national government subsidized fertilizers by transporting the same to designated points at the ward level. In 2013/14 F.Y, the department distributed a total of 1860 assorted bags and in 2014/15, F.Y approximately 10,000 bags were distributed. The county government will continue to support farmers to access subsidized fertilizers through this endeavor

#### MERU COUNTY TEACHING AND REFERRAL HOSPITAL.

Some of the state of the art equipment acquired for Meru County Teaching and Referral Hospital.



#### WATER TANKS



The Governor launching one of the 225 cubic meter water tanks constructed across the county