



17.05.2021 / MONDAY

www.kisumu.go.ke

Volume 03, EST 2021

**KISUMU COUNTY**

# The County Review



## Eyes on the skies as Kisumu prepares to host 58<sup>th</sup> Madaraka Fete

By John Oywa

Kenyans celebrate to mark Madaraka Day. Images courtesy Noor Khamis/Reuters

The sharp-nosed Kenya Airforce fighter jets roaring and doing daring acrobatics over Kisumu's skyline has gripped the attention of locals, confirming that Kisumu is indeed getting ready to host this year's Madaraka Day.

Besides a beehive of activities at the Jomo Kenyatta International Sports ground – the proposed venue and various sections of the city, the fighter

jets have been conducting training sessions for the big day to be graced by President Uhuru Kenyatta, senior national leaders and Diplomats.

"We are ready to host Madaraka. Everything is going according to plan," said Kisumu Governor Prof Peter Anyang' Nyong'o.

Several State owed buildings including Kisumu State Lodge have been spruced up. The damaged

Kisumu-Boys-Mamboleo section of the Kisumu-Kakamega Highway is nearing completion as the County Government prepare to brand the Lakeside City for the big event.

Kisumu will be hosting the historic national celebrations for the first time ever since the state decided to be holding national days outside the Capital Nairobi. The last Mashujaa day was held in Kisii.

### PS Hinga in Kisumu

The Permanent Secretary in charge of the State Department of Housing and Urban Development Charles Hinga this week paid a courtesy call on the Governor at his City hall office.



Amongst development matters discussed during the call was the official opening of the Uhuru Business Park meant to re-settle about 5,000 traders in its first phase.

### Floods cause havoc across the county

Kisumu Governor, Prof. Peter Anyang' Nyong'o has constituted a committee to address the humanitarian needs of displaced families.

Last week, senior government officials toured the affected areas to take stock of the affected populace.

The Governor has also sent out an appeal to well wishers to support the more than 5,000 families with food and non good items.



# Big Relief as Iconic Uhuru Business Complex gets Ready for Occupation

By Evance Alala



The massive structure, painted in attractive national colours spread as far as the eye can see. From the air, it is marvelous and attractive.

The massive structure, painted in attractive national colours spread as far as the eye can see. From the air, it is marvelous and attractive.

Excitement is in the air as traders await allocation if the stalls.

The Kisumu port expansion project could well be one of the biggest projects witnessed in the lake side City over decades.

The Port project is ninety percent complete and when fully operational, will make Kisumu more vibrant than it is now and the City management is prepared to do its bit in ensuring that this project is beneficial to our residents.

The Port expansion works left most traders displaced and many felt disenfranchised by the demolitions by the Kenya Railways Corporation.

But little known is the fact that Uhuru business Complex is a child project of the port expansion and was born from relentless lobbying by H.E. Governor Prof. Peter Anyang' Nyongó who wanted the traders given a new home to do their businesses.

This modern trading complex will accommodate more than 10,000 traders when complete. Phase one is almost ready for occupation and 4000 traders will be accommodated with a chain of other value addition infrastructure. Biometric registration of traders is ongoing to guarantee fairness in allotment of stalls and also to weed out ghost or absentee traders and unscrupulous middlemen.

**MODERN TRADING SPACES ARE NO**

## LONGER JUST A SHED AND A STALL TO TRADE. THERE MUST BE ADDITIONAL AMENITIES.



This ultra-modern market complex shall be commodity based with well-marked stalls as per the commodity needed thus guaranteeing efficiency in trade and smooth sail of services.

The high mast flood lights and a well-lit trade cubicle guarantees a safe environment for 24hrs trade that the City has been lacking over time. Kisumu City is one of the cities in Africa that is

**4,000**  
traders will be  
accommodated

implementing the Sendai disaster preparedness framework. Under the resilient cities program, the City management has put in measures that guarantee safety both for the traders and the buyers through facilities like accessible wide exits and entrances, proper drainage in the market, wide alleys and roads, numerous fire hydrants and extinguishers per block of stalls.

The shopping complex will also have a police post and a medical facility.

A carwash and a mini commuter terminal will be part of this market. The city management is also in consultation with stakeholders in the transport industry to reroute town service vehicles to terminate around the Uhuru Business Complex. This will then offer seamless transportation of both goods and people.

The Kisumu City management is also guaranteeing that all traders will have a fair competition as street vending is completely outlawed once the market starts operating.

The complex will be linked to the CBD and other high volume estates through the implementation of the Non-Motorized transport system which is ongoing and should be complete by July this year. The Non-motorised transport facility phase two covers Nyerere Road, Gumbi Road, Ondiek Highway, Awuor Otiende etc. The NMT is to ease access to the market by providing safe and clean walkways from and to the shopping complex.

Also nearing completion is the Mendeleo Market just next to the central Bus Park which will accommodate over 300 traders relocated from the former Kanu area.

The opening of the two markets will coincide with the completion of the Non-motorized project that has turned Kisumu into a beautiful walking City.

## Update on Covid-19

# Kisumu County COVID-19 Mental Health Response

By Atieno Otieno



The County's department of health has partnered with Kenya Red Cross Society to provide the much needed mental health support to workers and patients since the declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The response has included capacity building for healthcare personnel, routine visits to isolation and quarantine centers, clinical supervision for counselors, training of teachers in schools and airing of radio talk shows on community radio stations.

"Throughout the last one year, that is part of Twenty-twenty and Twenty-twenty one, we have concentrated on Psychological first aid (PFA) to prepare people on how to respond to immediate mental health needs in the community and in the family," said Jeremiah Okuto, who is the County lead for mental health.

The most immediate need was psychological

first aid and with partners, training was extended to Community Health workers whose are in constant interaction with the community.

The interventions have not just been on capacity building but also in terms of purchase of diagnostic equipment such as the Electroencephalogram – EEG Machine that's now available at the Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital.

This important equipment is much needed especially for patients with cognitive and intellectual disabilities.

"If you have a family member who has cognitive and intellectual disability, they'll need to be properly diagnosed for their registration with National Council for PWDs in order to benefit from disability exemptions. This machine therefore is a major boost in that area", revealed Jeremiah.

"We have further had stakeholder engagement to identify social support for people with cognitive, intellectual and psychological disabilities who are currently living on the streets and market centers. We are still grappling with how to ensure they access medication regularly and the possibility of reintegrating them with their families." Jeremiah added.

The family reintegration program that the Health department is exploring with partners will also see that patients who recover and are abandoned at the Kisumu County Referral Hospital psychiatry ward are rejoined with their families.

Did you know, that psychiatry services are available at the KCRH, and JOOTRH for inpatient as well as outpatients? Now you know. Visit these facilities help desks for more information.

## Update on Kisumu County

# Mass Distribution of Mosquito Nets in Kisumu to Prevent Malaria

By Emily Mikwa



Kenyans celebrate to mark Madaraka Day. Images courtesy Noor Khamis/Reuters

The malaria burden in Kisumu County has reduced over the years, from a prevalence rate of 50% in the early 2000 to 19% in 2021.

This is attributed to the implementation of a raft of malaria control strategies including: prompt effective treatment for malaria cases, Vector control using long lasting insecticidal nets (LLINS), Prevention and treatment of malaria in pregnancy using Sulphadoxine Pyrimethamine (SP), and Social behavior change communication.

According to (KHIS2, December 2020) report, the positivity rate in ages below 5 years and above 5 years is averagely 30%. The county has had a steady high transmission throughout the year with 3 of every 10 people with fever, testing positive for malaria however, an upsurge of malaria cases is observed during the rainy periods.

Coverage of net ownership is averagely above 90% following the mass net distribution of June 2017. Currently, the county is distributing 724,050 to all households within the county. The plan for distribution is 1 net for 2 persons.

According to the Kisumu County Director Public Health, Mr. Fred Oluoch, the county

has invested in capacity building of CHVs on malaria prevention and control.

"They treat uncomplicated malaria and promptly refer pregnant women with signs and symptoms of malaria including those with severe symptoms of malaria," said Mr. Oluoch

Concerning misuse of mosquito nets in agriculture and fishing, the county has invested in community education to forestall the vice.

The community members are enlightened on the health risks associated with ingesting chemicals on the bed nets this is done at the village level with CHVs moving from door to door educating them on proper use of the mosquito nets.

**724,050**  
nets distributed to households within the county

The County through partnerships have supported health services by offering trainings on malaria management both uncomplicated and severe malaria. They also support social behaviour change communication through capacity building of staffs as well as putting up radio talk shows and radio spots.

In his parting shot to Kisumu residents, the County Director for Public Health made a clarion call to all to join the fight against Malaria.

"Malaria is preventable and curable, though It's still the leading cause of illness in the county. It can also kill, so let us all join hands and draw the line against malaria. Zero malaria starts with me." Said Mr. Fred Oluoch.



## Afforestation

# Kisumu County in Massive Afforestation Campaign

By Emily Mikwa



**50,000  
seedlings planted in  
Kajulu forest**

The County department of Environment and Natural Resources has embarked on massive tree planting exercise to help improve the Forest cover.

To achieve this and promote agroforestry in the Seven Sub-Counties, the department has developed Four out of the eight planned tree nurseries with thousands of varieties of seedlings.

Up to date, four tree nurseries have been established in the sub counties. They are - Ogoro in Nyakach, Menara in Muhoroni, Karanda in Nyando and Pap Kadundo in Seme. The four in the last financial year produced 200,000 seedlings both indigenous and exotic trees that were meant for wood lets, riparian buffers, shade and ornamental trees.

In 2015 Kisumu county rated low in forest cover at 0.44% and now the county has increased the cover to 5% in just three years.

The County Director for Environment and Stewardship, Mr Ken Koyoo says that in this

financial year, the department targets to produce 90,000 assorted seedlings and mobilize about 100,000 seedlings from stakeholders for the rest of the four remaining nurseries: Ogongo, Usoma, Robert Ouko and Kabonyo primary schools in Kisumu West and Nyando sub counties.

“Besides the establishment of the tree nurseries, Kisumu County also has two gazetted forest lands, namely Karateng’ (25 ha) and Koguta (400 ha) The third forest earmarked for gazetttement is Kajulu forest where 50,000 seedlings were planted in the last financial year,” said K’Oyooh.

During this year’s Earth Day celebrations, the department collaborated with Kenya Wild life, Kisii University, Scouts Association and Kenya Marine Fisheries Research Institute to plant 2,000 seedlings at Nyando Training Institute.

The department has also partnered with institutions such as primary schools, Maseno University, Equity Bank, Red Cross, Members of the civil society (YWCA), Water Resources Users Associations (WRUAs), volunteer groups and individuals who donate seedlings and commit land for tree planting in schools, along the riparian and along community spaces.

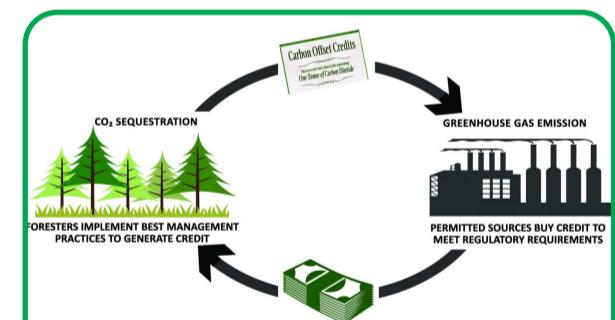
The initiative is however faced with a few setbacks that vary from survival count for the seedlings. Unfortunately, some schools are either not fenced or maintained and this leads to invasion by animals that interfere with the trees. The inadequate number of forest guards to keep watch over the forest entry points by human who find their ways in the forest and make away with the planted seedlings.



The official launch of Menara tree nursery in Muhoroni sub county

The County Executive Committee member for Water, Climate Change, environment and Natural Resources, Mr Salmon Orimba says the County was racing against time to meet the 10% forest Cover threshold.

He says the County was running a campaign for agroforestry that will see individual farmers and the County government start earning carbon credits since the trees, mostly fruits planted will help control the emission of certain greenhouse gases.



**A carbon credit is a tradable permit or certificate that provides the holder of the credit the right to emit one ton of carbon dioxide or an equivalent of another greenhouse gas – it's essentially an offset for producers of such gases.**

**The main goal for the creation of carbon credits is the reduction of emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from industries.**

**Farmers will be eligible for the credits when they plant fruit trees such as avocado in large numbers.**

Images courtesy Robert Greenfield IV

## Housing

# County's Strategic Response to Affordable Housing Crisis in Kisumu

By Fredericks Tom K'Onyango



**A**s in many other parts of Africa and other third world economies, Kenya has been grappling with the issue of meeting affordable housing for its citizens due to pressures from the ever-growing urban population. The pressures are brought about by rising birth rates across the continent, rural to urban migration, and Africa's families are getting bigger in numbers and younger by age. Due to the slow pace of economic growth rates, the affordability of housing in Africa has become a major concern.

Housing, no doubt, plays an integral role in the social life of people and is a fundamental physiological need required for human survival.

Good housing provides an enabling environment for nurturing families, promotes better health, personal safety and the dignity. Communities and nations whose general population is properly housed normally enjoy better living standards and prosperity. Shelter, like food, water, warmth and clothing are considered part of basic needs for human survival.

In its draft 2020 Budget Policy Statement (BPS), Treasury noted that 10 million Kenyans live in informal housing and often lack basic needs such as sanitation, clean water and food security.

Poor living conditions affect entire societies, as crowded living spaces, lack of clean water, lack of hygiene and food insecurity contribute to disease transmission.

Kisumu, the third largest city in Kenya, has grown

exponentially in the last three years under the able leadership of Governor Prof. Peter Anyang' Nyong'o.

This growth and other factors have seen the demand for housing rise rapidly, prompting the Directorate of Housing to strategically think of housing solutions for both the staff and the residents of the County.

The directorate, domiciled in the Department of Lands, Housing, Physical Planning and Urban Development thus embarked on an ambitious project of providing modern and affordable houses to its residents in line with the Governor's manifesto.



### The mega project, in its implementation, has been marred with challenges notably;

- Shortage of public land for housing development
- Inadequate infrastructure and social amenities to incentivize housing development
- Historical housing debts to developers and/

or financiers

- Inadequate access to housing development finance
- Fragmented land holdings hindering conglomerated housing development schemes
- Unclear land use or spatial plans for the entire county as a master plan and reference base
- Absence of housing development lands bank in the urban and peri-urban areas
- Weak or absence of a county rents and rental houses management strategy
- Inadequate physical planning and development control that guides housing development
- Inadequate housing development standards for different typologies and rental cadres

The challenges notwithstanding, the directorate has spearheaded two types of schemes that will enhance housing supply by at least 3000 housing units and other commercial developments in their first phase.

The 3000 units will be of quality, will be decent and modern at a lower cost that will allow the county get rid of the dilapidated, archaic and old houses that are spread across the Central Business district in Kisumu City.

The two pension schemes that the county has thus partnered with are LAPTRUST and LAPFUND. LAPFUND will develop approximately 1700 units of high quality, modern residential apartments in Makasembo Estate while LAPTRUST will put up 1,300 units at Anderson Estate in the next two years.

It is important to note that the houses will be available for sale with priority being given to former tenants and to county government staff and the residents of Kisumu on a first come first served basis at an inaugural asking price of 1.6, 2.5 and 3.5 Million shillings for the one, two and three bed roomed units respectively. The details of acquiring the units will be availed upon the groundbreaking scheduled for June this year.

As a county, we continue to encourage and support private-public partnerships in housing development. We are continuously reviewing our policies to enhance the environment for housing investments while supporting research for innovative and affordable building technologies.

# OPINION

## MAY: Mental Health Awareness month

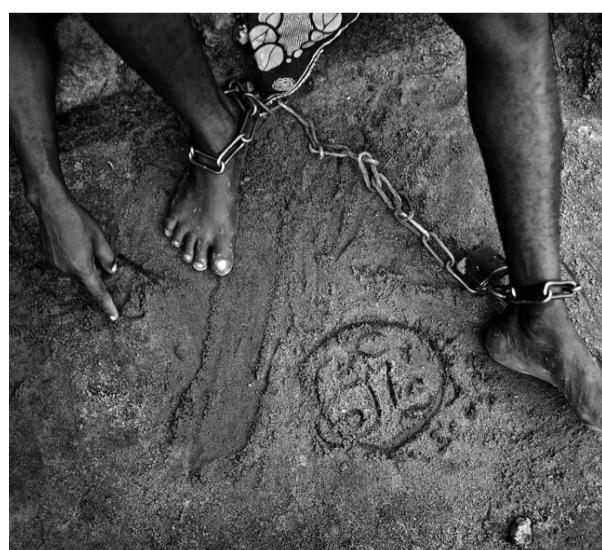
By Kaye Alianda McIlwaine

**O**ne of the biggest barriers to accessing mental health is the stigma associated with mental wellness; one is seen as weak, mad, unstable, volatile, alcoholic, "bhangi-head", weird, scary, cursed, bewitched... and the list goes on and on.... May is the Mental health awareness month, a month to spread positive awareness on mental health so that people do not suffer in silence but rather seek and access the help they need to function at their optimum.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exerted considerable impact on public mental health in Kenya and in Kisumu too. There is thus an unmet need for psychological first aid in the community.

Whereas stigma is one of the barriers to accessing mental health services, another major factor is the affordability for the average or below average income earning Kenyan. The cost of seeking care can range from Kshs. 3,000/= to Kshs. 10,000/= per hourly session. This cost does not cover psychiatric care or medication in the case that the person needs these further services.

Statistics retrieved from a WHO report by the Task Force on Mental Health in 2020 and compiled by Amos Mabinda on 'Kenya's Mental Health Burden' indicates that 60% of all persons



suffer from one form or another of mental disorder, that Kenya has the 4th highest number of people diagnosed with depression in Africa(1.9million people). The report indicates that what stresses Kenyans the most range from unemployment, constant negative politics and fear of violent and divisive elections. The same report by Mabinda indicates that the budgetary allocation to mental health is less than 0.1% (annually) and that the average amount that Kenya spends on mental health per person is Ks. 0.15/=. Much as this scenario pretty much leaves Kenyans on their own when it comes to seeking or in fact not seeking mental health, there is free help available within both government and the non-governmental sectors such as the public county hospitals, the Red cross Kenya, the Child helpline and Alcoholics Anonymous.

Although I do not have research on the impact of the current COVID-19 pandemic on mental health, some of the obvious effects: are loss of jobs, which leads to financial desperation, hopelessness, depression; isolation as people loose contact with their support networks; and not to mention grief arising from the death of loved ones; the massive hospital bills and the general havoc and chaos that are destroying lives and livelihoods.

May being the mental health awareness month gives us mental health practitioners an opportunity to highlight the current situation and to look for interventions to mental health solutions in the Kenyan context. Providing mental health from a preventative rather than a curative point of view would go a long way in reducing the national mental health burden. Working from a preventative point of view would mean involving people at community level, empowering them with the skills and knowledge to address matters before

they escalate serious mental issues. Such approach would give

communities an opportunity the solutions to their mental health at a primary level and so reduce the cases that specialised care.

Through our organisation, Promoting Mental Wellness in communities (Kenya) (PMWC) one of our preventative initiatives is creating safer environments using FaceUp, an application for anonymously reporting bullying and whistle blowing in schools and the work place and getting the necessary help.

The mental health situation is complex and multi-layered one that cannot be addressed at one level. As mental health practitioners we need to approach it systemically, from the individual, family, community and national (legislative and policy) levels. The first step, however, is spreading positivity and awareness on the importance of maintaining mental health. So in this month of MAY and going forward.... Let's all REFLECT, BREAK the STIGMA and be UPSTANDERS for mental health.

Kaye Alianda McIlwaine is a Mental health practitioner/Educator for PMWC (Ke)



## Culture and Arts

# Why Mama Grace Onyango Social Center is Blessing for Kisumu Artists

By Harriate Chausiku

Mama Grace Onyango Arts, Cultural and Educational Center formally known as Kisumu Social Center first opened its gates to the public on the 30th of April 1960 at an event officiated by Sir Patrick Renison who was then the Governor of the colony and protectorate of Kenya.

The centre was founded by the first European director to the Municipal Board of Kisumu in charge of housing and social services; Mr. Munderfield and was first called the African Social Hall.

"The center was established for character training for young people and a recreational center, all to keep the youth from mischievous activities. " , narrated the centre's manager, Obat Masira. The centre was also an innovation center, a place for healthy exercise habits and a center for promotion of social and cultural activities.

The center has bore different names since its foundation; from African Social Hall to Victoria Social Hall, and after independence the center was named Kisumu Social Center till last year when H. E Prof. Peter Anyang' Nyong'o changed the name to Mama Grace Onyango Social Center in honor of one of Kisumu's most iconic political leaders.

The refurbished Center was officially opened by the Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Sports, Amina Mohamed , who hailed Prof Nyong'o for renaming after the pioneer



woman MP, whom she described as a woman of Firsts.

The center has since its re-opening late last year, been busy with cultural shows, rehearsals and debates.

"This center's main objective is to promote artistic creativity particularly in performing and visual arts, and to ensure the activities are running smoothly as the first manager post renovation of this centre, one of the first things we've established is the Art Gallery. The gallery so far has six board members." Explained Obat.

On a tour of the facility, the County Review crew came across pieces of beautiful Art in display at the centre that's meant to harness and nurture young creative visual art. The gallery has a dedicated space where the artists showcase the best visual arts in the county. The artists are also mentored as they grow in the art.



"We have plans to start a school of visual arts to mentor young talented children at no fee. We aim to market the artists' products both nationally and internationally and to promote visual art s cultural exchange between Kisumu and the great lake region." says Obat.



Mama Grace Onyango Arts Gallery is a registered organization for artists based at the center which has also provided artists with space for painting, sculpting, training and exhibition. On its second renovation process, the center manager has since proposed that the inner walls be painted or even sculpted by these artists to display Luo cultural heritage in its splendor.

*Images courtesy*

# Lifestyle

With Harriet Chausiku

## Woman Mechanic Challenges Stereotypes in Kisumu



Under the scorching afternoon sun, we meet 22 years old Salome Ochieng', busy with a colleague as she sandpapers a client's car body in preparation for painting at the Western lake car garage in downtown Kisumu.

Salome has been reporting here every morning at 7am for the last three months to handle stubborn engines, solve mechanical challenges and clean up car bodies for professional painters to give them a new gloss. She proudly declares this, her happy place.

"I always wanted to be an engineer working on heavy machines. I used to watch mechanics work on car engines and found it so fascinating. After my high school level my father wanted me to pursue food and beverage training or beauty...tailoring, you know, the usual stuff that girls do but I wasn't interested. I managed to convince him to let me train as a mechanic" narrates Salome with nostalgia.

Salome joined the Ndere Vocational Center in Gem and was one of two ladies in her unit with the other eighteen being men. "The guys made fun of us for the first few months then they became supportive. College was fun", she declares. She says that her heart is full of pride whenever she walks in the blue apron and whenever her peers refer to her as an engineer.

"I enjoy engine operations/repair more than body works like panel beating because that's my area of interest," she says.

After she attains her Certificate at Ndere she looks forward to pursuing a diploma and a degree course for her desire is to earn the title "Engineer."

Her journey has not been devoid of challenges. "Some people assume that I'm weak being a woman. Those are stereotypes that I meet every day and it can be disheartening. Others even seduce me and this has really affected my relationship with some of my colleagues." She laments.

Speaking to her colleagues they describe Salome as an industrious and disciplined girl with a passion to learn everyday and they are impressed that even ladies are gaining interest in male dominated fields. They say that the garage knows no gender and Salome to them is a mechanic and not a female mechanic.

"I wish to urge ladies to have self discipline and focus in any field of work in order to gain respect and be valued by colleagues. There's nothing you cannot achieve, if you just work hard at it," she concludes.

# Travelling With... Atieno Otieno

## Ndere: The Island of Serenity and Beauty

Welcome to Ndere, the undisputed Island of Serenity and beauty is located on Lake Victoria, about one hours drive from Kisumu city centre. It is one of the Tourism landmarks in the great County of Kisumu.

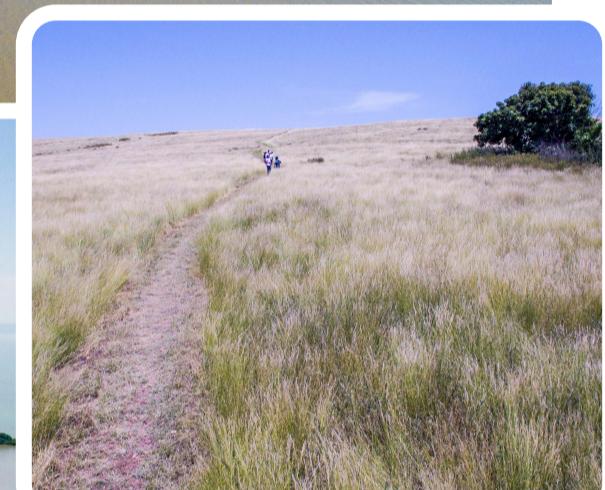
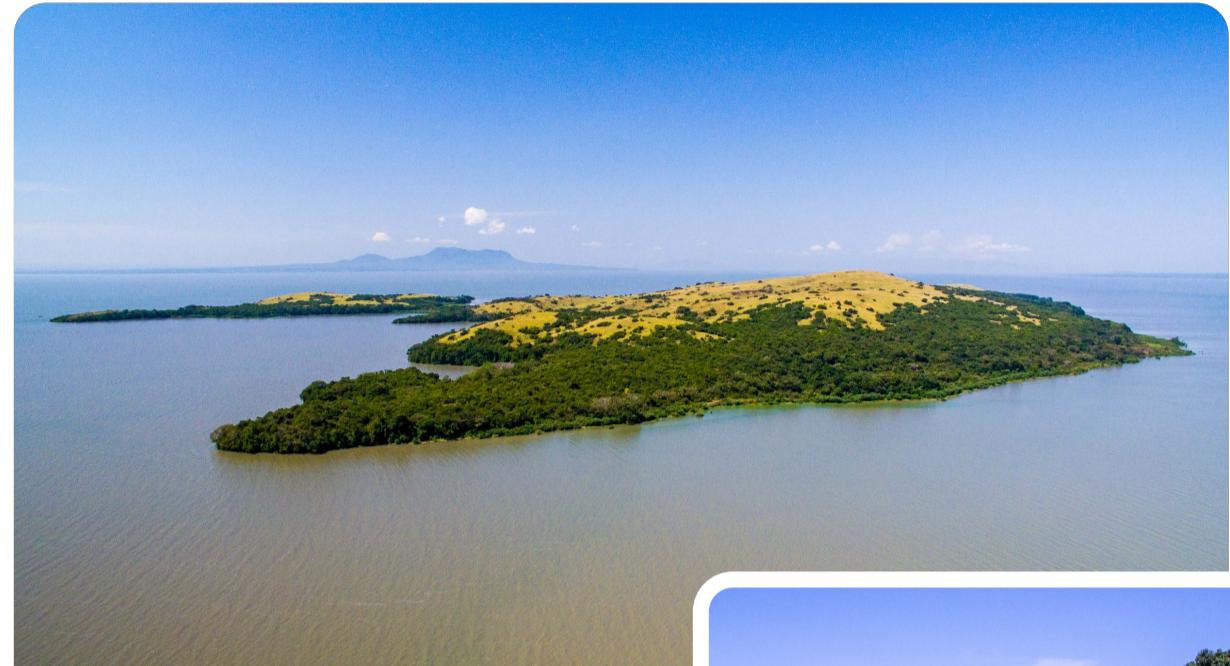
To access the Island, one needs to travel by road to Kaloka Beach, visit the KWS offices and pay the required fees. Thereafter, take a boat ride on one of the KWS recommended boats and disembark on the shores of the lake.

Covered mostly in grassland, Ndere Island provides an enchanting hiking trail.

Upon arrival at the Island, you will hike from point to point enjoying beautiful scenic views of the Homa hills to the south, Mageta Island to the east and the glimpses of Kampala in Uganda beyond the south west horizon.

Besides, the lake shore supports a wide variety of animals including hippos, monitor lizards, Nile crocodiles, several fish species, snakes baboons, impalas, the rare sitatunga antelopes, water bucks, zebras and warthogs. For bird watchers, there are over 100 different species of birds that have made the island their home including African fish eagles, black headed gonoleks and grey headed kingfishers. The island is indeed a haven for birds.

The 4.2 square kilometres Ndere Island was gazetted as a national park in 1986. It is forested and very beautiful. Attractions include hiking, walking, optional traditional fishing, and optional boat safaris at a cost. You will enjoy your picnic lunches before your transfer by boat to Kaloka where you will be transferred further to Kisumu by your driver to end this excursion.



Hippos and Crocodiles, including the lesser known Spotted Crocodiles, are a familiar sight. Impalas have been introduced to the woodland which fringes the shores.

**Visiting Ndere Island? Here's what you should bring;**

- Comfortable hiking shoes
- A sun hat
- Binoculars for bird watching
- Water. Lots of water for drinking
- A camera

- Fishing rod for those who love fishing
- Snacks

Remember to have at least the contacts of the KWS warden on duty and two boat operators for your boat ride back to Kaloka Beach.

## Education

# The Changing Fortunes of Vocational Training in Kisumu

By Matilda Atieno



Kisumu County is blazing the trail in the development of Vocational Training as many school leavers enroll for various courses in the middle level institutions.



The Vocational Training has led to success of many young people opting for vocational diplomas after completing O-level in Kenyan Education system. For decades many have been a wrong impression that vocational training was only meant for students who were weak in their High school classes. However, today more students have undertaken Vocational education to sharpen their skills in various areas of interest.

In the past few years, the county government of Kisumu has demonstrated strong commitment to bringing youths into the labor force through skills development particularly through the formal training system.

As demand for specialized skills surges, the county government guided by the goal to improve skilled labor particularly through vocational education.

The County Executive Committee Member for Education, ICT and Human Resource Development, Mr John Awiti, himself a former veteran teacher, has embarked on improving the quality and relevance of technical and vocational education and training to produce skills that respond to the labor market's demand, and

contribute to Kisumu's economic development.

In order to increase youth participation in technical and vocational training programs, more efforts have been put towards involving the residents, employers and government in action plans that can succeed in transforming negative attitudes towards VTCs.

Currently the county has 26 registered and accredited VTCs across the county, each of which offers various certificate, diploma and craftsmanship training to students in Kisumu. The beauty with VTC is that they offer flexible entry and fee requirements to students wishing to study in these institutes.

The programs offered include, Agribusiness, ICT, Food Processing Technology (FPT), Building technology (Masonry) Motor Vehicle technology (MVT), Fashion Design and Garment Making (FDGM), Appropriate Carpentry and Joinery, Metal Processing technology (MPT) Electricals and Electronics Tech (EET), Hair Dressing and Beauty Therapy (HD & BT) and Leather works technology.

Mr Awiti also recognizes the functional and analytical ability of vocational training centers and thereby opened up opportunities for individuals and also groups to achieve greater access to labor markets and livelihoods.

The county also has set aside 45M Scholarship program Tuition Grant for VTC trainees. This Grant will defray tuition fees of Kshs. 15,000 per trainee for each of the 3000 beneficiary trainees distributed per ward for each of the 35 wards. The other KShs. 15000 is granted by the national government giving a total of Kshs. 30,000 in tuition fee.

**45 M**  
Scholarship program  
Tuition Grant for VTC  
trainees

The Chief Officer for Education and ICT, Madam Peninnah Onyango, has disclosed plans to expand the VTC through introduction of specialized courses, employment of more instructors, expansion of infrastructures, and establishing of baby centers for breastfeeding students and modern equipment's to bolster enrollment levels, while equipping trainees with skills to address local challenges. Madam Onyango is optimistic that VTC curriculum will be enhanced to include courses intended to focus on exploiting local opportunities and those that promote retention of students in the institutions.

"the government is committed to equipping the institutions to keep up with physical distancing guidelines and nurture a generation of young innovators who will spur economic growth nationally and internationally".

The Director TVET Madam Pascalia Ouma also expressed optimism that population of trainees in VTCs have grown noting that the current population of 32000 is an improvement.

Plans are also underway to establish day care centers for the three VTCs including Akado, Ahero and Obange as a way of attracting and supporting young mothers to continue with learning even as the child grows healthy.



## Education - Pictorials

By Jacob Owiti



Akado VTC Mechanical practicals class



Akado VTC students take part in their Building and construction course practicals.



Wachara VTC masonry student displays fencing poles made at the centre.



An instructor takes his Mechanical Engineering students through practical course at the Akado VTC in Kisumu East.



Electrical installation students during practical lessons at Akado Vocational centre



Mariwa VTC Food and Beverage students display meals they made during Education officers visit at the centre.



## COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU

# 100% WAIVER OF INTEREST AND PENALTIES ON LAND RATES

His Excellency The Governor of Kisumu County, Prof. Peter Anyang' Nyong'o is pleased to announce to all property owners a 100% waiver on all outstanding interest and penalties on land rates to cushion them from the effect of Corona Virus pandemic.

All property owners are advised to take advantage of this waiver period to clear all outstanding arrears, failure to which the original amount owed will be reinstated and legal redress shall be instituted.

### **Payment should be made to:-**

1. Kisumu County Revenue Account: No. 01141766976600 at Co-operative Bank of Kenya.
2. Kisumu County Revenue Account: No. 1141991705 at Kenya Commercial Bank, and;

Deposit slips to be presented to respective Sub-County revenue offices for database update.

Due to movement restrictions, you are kindly asked to liaise with the respective Principal Revenue Officers for Demand Notices, which will be sent via WhatsApp App.

- Kisumu City (Central & East) Sub-County Revenue Officer - 0723 731 767
- Nyakach Sub-County Revenue Officer - 0727 864 000
- Muhoroni Sub-County Revenue Officer - 0716 818 560
- Nyando Sub-County Revenue Officer - 0721 615 020
- Kisumu West/Seme Sub-County Revenue Officer - 0720 111 287

Take advantage of the waiver and avoid further penalties. The waiver is valid from **17<sup>th</sup> May to 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2021**.

**GEORGE OKONG'O  
CECM FINANCE & ECONOMIC PLANNING**