



COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF MERU

Welcome to Meru County - Kenya

Vision

A Green Unified Prosperous Model County

Mission

To facilitate commerce, industrialization and sustainable utilization of resources for development through agro-industry development, bio-diversity conservation, socio-cultural development; technological advancement and exploitation of natural resource as well as promotion of tourism for poverty alleviation.

Meru County is located on the Eastern side of the Mt Kenya covering 6,936 square kilometers. It is strategically placed bordering Isiolo County to the North, Tharaka County to the South West, Nyeri County to the South West and Laikipia County to the West. The county has a population of 1,356,301 million people.

Our County Objectives



H E Peter Munya
Governor - Meru

County Government

The county headquarters is in Meru town. The County has eight constituencies namely South Imenti, Central Imenti, North Imenti, Igembe South, Igembe North, Tigania East, Tigania West and Buuri. The Meru County is richly endowed with various resources and potentials as outlined during the Meru uprising conference aimed at exploiting the county's competitive advantages.

In Meru's economic Blue print that spans five years the county intends to attract massive investments to the tune of 30 billion based on four pillars that include Tourism and hospitality, agro processing, agriculture and dairy sector and petrochemical industries development.

The County hopes to realize an ambitious but achievable development agenda within the short time possible. Already the County has rolled out its development strategy to be financed through Public- Private Partnerships (PPP).

- To integrate environment and natural resources management into the economic development activities and to utilize environmental and natural resources sustainably.
- To create enabling environment for Agriculture sector development, increase productivity and value addition to ensure food security and promote market access.
- Development and maintenance of maps and plans to support registration of title deeds. To ensure equitable and efficient access to land and facilitate planned human settlements
- To promote economically viable cooperative sector, increase market access and improve access to affordable credit.
- Promote growth of micro, small and medium enterprises and promotion of cross-county trade, export business and domesticating bilateral & regional trade.
- Develop urban and rural settlements as integrated areas of economic and social activity
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- To create an effective leading infrastructure network and to regulate the infrastructural sector.
- To alleviate levels of illiteracy and promote education from early stages and to promote research and innovation for social economic development
- Empower the marginalized and enforce affirmative action, promotion and preservation of positive cultural practices and heritage. Explore, exploit and nurture talents.
- To ensure a well Coordinated Meru County Health System responsive to the needs of residents and ensure quality health services are accessible to all residents
- Make linkages between the National and County economic planning and improve data collection and management systems.
- To make Meru County an ICT Hub by providing a robust platform for quality technology driven service delivery.
- To put in place measures to respond effectively to reduce the effects of disasters on human lives and property
- Establishing water projects to provide water for domestic use in all locations of Meru County
- To monitor, evaluate and oversee the management of public finances and economic affairs of the county government

Infrastructure

The County has some of the best developed road infrastructure in the country. It is well networked through major tarmac roads which are in turn linked to feeder roads. The County is easily accessible through road from Nairobi and other major trading centres such as Nyeri, Embu and Isiolo.

The Great North Road linking Nairobi to the northern frontier passes through the county

In addition the LAPSET corridor linking the Port of Lamu and Southern Sudan among other trading destination will pass through the County.

This includes a major road, rail and pipeline.



Air

The County is served by two airstrips. The Isiolo airport now under construction falls in the border of the two counties and thus will also serve Meru County.



Climate

Because of its proximity to the highest mountain Mt Kenya and Nyambene hills, the region generally enjoys good climatic conditions. It has an altitude of approximately 5,199 metres above sea level that contribute to cool temperatures.

However the county has climatic diversity ranging from the escarpments of Mt. Kenya Forest which are very fertile to the semi arid areas bordering Tharaka Nithi County and Ukambani and the arid Northern Kenya.

The soils are fertile and volcanic with an average annual rainfall of 1300mm in the highlands and 380mm in the low lying areas of Meru County. There are many seasonal and 15 permanent rivers thus water scarcity is not major issue.

During the hottest months temperatures rise up to 33 degrees Celsius and 20 degrees Celsius in the cold months.

Education

The County is an educational hub for the Eastern region of the country. Apart from having a high number of high ranking primary and secondary schools in the country, it is also home to number of middle level colleges and tertiary institutions and polytechnics. The County government has invested heavily in development of early childhood education by employing teachers.

Students from across the country and mostly the eastern region are flocking Meru with major universities having campuses in the town.

The Universities include the Kenya Methodist University, Mount Kenya University (KEMU), Meru University, Africa Nazarene University, University of Nairobi, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), Daystar and Chuka Universities among others.



Economic Sectors



Meru a green County because of combination of good soils and favorable climatic conditions. Meru is one among the most food secure counties in Kenya. Agriculture is the main economic activity of the Ameru people. Crops vary depending on the ecological zones. In the highlands farmers grow maize, horticulture and fruits, sorghum, millet, yams and cassavas. Livestock rearing is a vibrant economic activity. Important cash crops for the county include the multi-billion controversial Khat (Miraa) grown in Maua and Nyambene areas. It is also the largest producer of bananas after Kisii County. Meru produces about 25 percent of Kenya tea, while coffee, pyrethrum, sisal, wheat and tobacco are important income earners.

Agriculture

Tourism

Numerous Opportunities exist in further development of tourism sector.

There are a number of National Parks and conservancies that attracts tourists to the region.

These are served by numerous hotels and lodges. Meru has one of the developed tourism regions.

It is well surrounded by Central and Northern tourism circuits both of which are equally high potential tourism areas. Half of Mount Kenya sits in Meru and thus the county enjoys good climatic conditions and is among leading tourism destinations. It has the Meru National park, The Lewa wildlife conservancy, and the Nyambene complex. It sits next to Mount Kenya national park, Shaba national reserve in the north. The county government is working towards developing the county's conference tourism to tap from its many lodges. Eco tourism is also being developed. Sports tourism is also shaping up into international dimension with the first international county marathon held in Meru. In addition the Safaricom Lewa marathon has been attracting thousands of local and international visitors to Meru every year.

