

JUL-SEP, 2026

Embu County Edition

EDITION No: V

EMBU NEWSLINE

The Land of Opportunities

LIGHTING UP OUR SUCCESS



MISSION

**ENSURE EFFECTIVE
RESOURCE MOBILI-
ZATION &
OPPORTUNITY FOR
WEALTH &
JOB CREATION.**

VISION

**A PROSPEROUS
COUNTY WITH
EQUAL OPPORTUN-
NITIES
FOR ALL.**

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EDITOR



AMY RURIA CHIEF EDITOR

Dear Readers,

It is both an honor and a distinct privilege to present to you the July–September 2026 edition of Embu Newline. As we navigate through the second quarter of the year, our publication continues to serve as a vital bridge between the Embu County Government and the vibrant communities we proudly serve.

Over the past three months, Embu County has witnessed significant momentum across multiple fronts. In this edition, we capture the essence of these changes, documenting key milestones, ongoing policy

implementations, and transformative programs designed to uplift livelihoods. From grassroots economic initiatives and civic engagement forums to environmental stewardship and institutional growth, these pages tell the dynamic story of a county actively building its future.

To our readers, your unwavering support and active feedback remain the cornerstone of our editorial journey. It is our earnest hope that this edition not only keeps you thoroughly informed on major policy and project developments but also inspires a sense of shared pride in the progress we are collectively driving across Embu County.

Thank you for your continued readership and belief in our shared story.

Warm regards,

Amy Ruria
Chief Editor, Embu Newline

MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGING EDITOR



ROBERT N.N.KAMWENDIA, MANAGING EDITOR

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the July–September 2026 edition of Embu Newline. As we publish this second-quarter digest, our core focus remains on delivering high-quality, comprehensive coverage of the major milestones and administrative deliverables executed across our county.

This issue highlights progress across all five sub-counties, featuring in-depth stories from core sectors including health services, infrastructure expansion, agricultural transformation, water governance, educational investments, and youth empowerment programs.

As you turn through these pages, we hope Embu Newline serves as both an informative progress report and a valuable historical record of our county’s trajectory. We remain dedicated to ensuring every edition provides balanced, factual, and compelling narratives that reflect the true spirit and industriousness of the people of Embu.

We trust you will find this edition engaging, insightful, and thought-provoking.

Thank you for taking the time to stay connected with your county news.

Sincerely,

Robert N. N. Kamwendia
Managing Editor, Embu Newline

Embu Keeps Development Agenda Moving Across the County



LONG HOUR DISCUSSIONS FOR OUR GROWTH

Embu Keeps Development Agenda Moving Across the County Health, infrastructure, agriculture, youth empowerment and urban development dominated the July–September quarter. The second quarter of 2026 brought a broad range of development and public service activities across Embu County, with attention focused on infrastructure, healthcare, agriculture, youth skills, markets and urban planning. The period also provided opportunities for the County Government to deepen partnerships with national agencies, private sector institutions and other stakeholders. Infrastructure remained visible

across the county. The Rukuriri–Kathageri–Kanyuambora road continued to attract attention because of its importance to tea, coffee, dairy and horticultural producers. The 25-kilometre road is being upgraded to bitumen standard under a Sh2.2 billion national government project. Its completion is expected to improve access to markets, factories, schools and health facilities for communities along the corridor. Urban development was another major theme. The County Government advanced plans to establish three additional municipalities at Runyenjes, Kiritiri and Siakago. The initiative is intended to strengthen planning, bring services closer to residents and provide a more structured platform for investment and economic activity. The quarter also saw the graduation of 450 young people who completed training in digital skills, innovative technologies and photography. Safaricom Foundation also become part of our success, they supported the upgrading of an ICT laboratory at St

Youth Take Digital Skills into the Next Stage



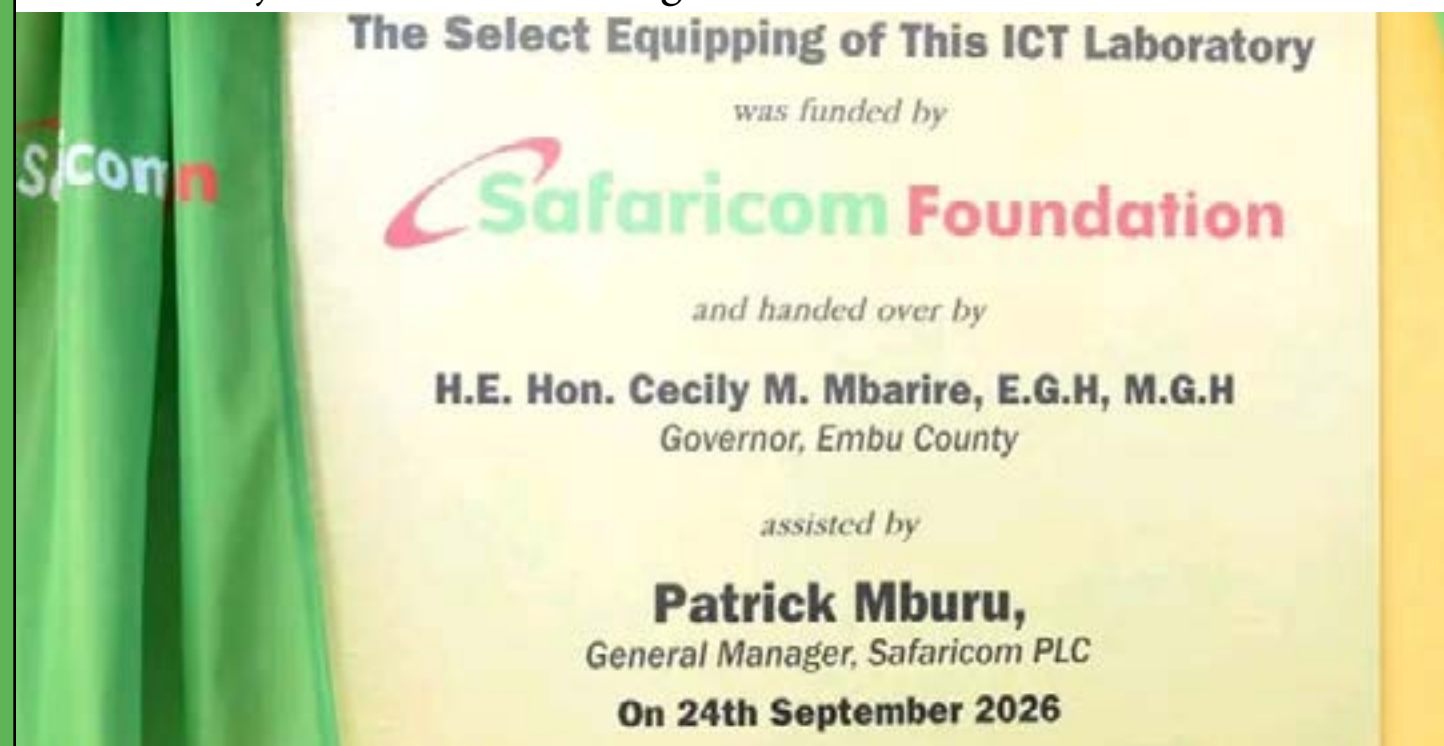
YOUTH WALK HOME SMILING AFTER GRADUATING UNDER GOVERNMENT PROGRAMME

Youth empowerment took centre stage in August when 450 young people graduated after completing training in digital skills, innovative technologies and photography. The programme reflects the changing nature of employment and the growing importance of technology in business and the creative economy. Digital skills are increasingly relevant across sectors. Young people can use technology for online work, digital marketing, content creation, photography, entrepreneurship and access to information. Training that combines technical skills with practical application can therefore create path-

ways beyond traditional employment. The graduation at Moi Stadium provided an opportunity for the County Government to highlight youth empowerment as part of its development agenda. It also demonstrated the importance of partnerships and



Thomas Kanja Vocational Training Centre.



NOT JUST PARTNERSHIP, BUT A LEGACY LEFT TO BE REMEMBERED

Agriculture remained central to the county economy, with coffee value addition receiving particular attention through a planned modern parchment warehouse at Kavutiri. Meanwhile, health services remained a significant public concern because of an industrial dispute involving healthcare workers.

Together, these developments provide the editorial thread for this edition of Embu Newslines: a county pursuing physical infrastructure, human capital and stronger systems for service delivery while working through the challenges that accompany a growing devolved government.



structured programmes that move young people from training to practical opportunities.

The next challenge is sustainability. Training alone does not guarantee employment or enterprise success. Graduates require access to equipment, mentorship, markets, finance and networks that can help them turn skills into income. The County Government and its partners therefore have an opportunity to build a support ecosystem around the graduates.

Photography and digital media also have a strong local application. Busi-

nesses, institutions and community organisations increasingly require professional visual and digital communication. Young people trained in these areas can serve local markets while also accessing opportunities beyond the county through online platforms.

For Embu, investing in digital skills is an investment in human capital. As the county continues to expand its digital economy and youth programmes, linking training to actual opportunities will remain essential.



OVER 450 YOUTHS BENEFIT FROM YOUTH DIGITAL PROGRAMME

President's Embu Visit Highlights Infrastructure and Health Investment

President William Ruto's visit to Embu in July provided an opportunity for national and county leaders to highlight development programmes being implemented in the county. The President attended a church service at Full Gospel Church Gatunduri, where he was



received by Governor Cecily Mbariire and other local leaders. The engagement came at a time when infrastructure and health projects were prominent in discussions about Embu's development. National leaders highlighted ongoing road construction and other investments, while the County Government con-

tinued to engage national agencies on projects that have a direct impact on residents. Agriculture was also part of the development conversation. Embu's economy is heavily dependent on agriculture, with coffee, tea, dairy, macadamia and horticulture supporting household incomes across the county. Improved roads and market infrastructure are therefore not simply transport projects; they are part of the wider agricultural value chain. The visit also drew attention to healthcare investment, including plans for a new Level Five hospital in Embu town. The proposed facility is expected to strengthen the county's capacity to provide specialised and referral services and reduce the need for residents to travel outside the county for some forms of treatment. For Embu residents, the significance of national and county cooperation is ultimately measured by what reaches communities: reliable roads,

Community Health Promoters Gain Attention in Primary Healthcare



YOUR HEALTH REMAINS OUR KEY FOCUS

Community Health Promoters remain an important link between households and the formal health system. During the quarter, attention was drawn to their role in preventive and promotive healthcare and to efforts to strengthen their access to health protection under the Social Health Authority. CHPs work at the community level, where they support health education, early identification of illness, referrals and follow-up. Their work is particularly import-

ant in rural areas, where distance and cost can delay access to health facilities. For Embu, strengthening community-level healthcare is relevant to





RUTOS' VIST LEAVE MORE NEW OPEN PROJECTS

functioning health facilities, markets, water, electricity and opportunities for young people. The July engagement reinforced the importance of sustained coordination between the two levels of government in delivering these priorities.

As the county enters the next quarter, the focus will remain on implementation, project completion and transparent communication on the status and responsible agency for each development project.



the broader objective of reducing pressure on hospitals and improving early intervention. A resident who receives timely health information or referral at household level may avoid a more serious condition re-

facilities. Each level has a role, and CHPs form an important connection between households and facilities. The quarter also demonstrated the sensitivity of the health sector, with



ENSURING GOOD WORKING ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR HEALTH OFFICERS
quiring hospital treatment.

The County Government's health system depends on a chain that includes community services, dispensaries, health centres and referral

As Embu continues strengthening primary healthcare, support for CHPs, adequate staffing, reliable supplies and functional referral systems will remain important. The



goal is to ensure that residents receive appropriate care as close to home as possible while referral facilities are available for cases requiring higher levels of treatment

Rukuriri-Kathageri-Kanyuambora Road Opens New Possibilities for Farmers

A major road project linking productive agricultural areas in Runyenjes and neighbouring parts of Embu remained one of the most significant infrastructure developments during the quarter. The Rukuriri-Kathageri-Kanyuambora road is being upgraded to bitumen

expected to reduce the difficulty and cost of transporting green leaf to collection centres and factories. The road also serves coffee, dairy and horticultural producers. Better road access can reduce vehicle operating costs, shorten travel times and make it easier for collection vehicles to reach farms, particularly during periods of heavy rain. For farmers,



ROAD UPGRADE REMAINS OUR PRIORITY

standard at an estimated cost of Sh2.2 billion.

The approximately 25-kilometre corridor connects farming communities with processing facilities, trading centres and major highways. Tea farmers are among the direct beneficiaries, as improved access is

such improvements can have a direct effect on the efficiency of the entire value chain.

Residents have also identified broader social benefits. The corridor serves schools, health facilities and

shopping centres, meaning improved transport can strengthen access to essential services as well as markets. Better roads can also encourage businesses to establish themselves in areas that previously faced high transport costs.

Health Sector Navigates Labour Dispute and Service Pressures



PUTTING HEALTH AS A PRIORITY FOR OUR PEOPLE

The County's healthcare system faced a prolonged industrial dispute during the quarter, bringing workforce and service delivery issues into sharp focus.

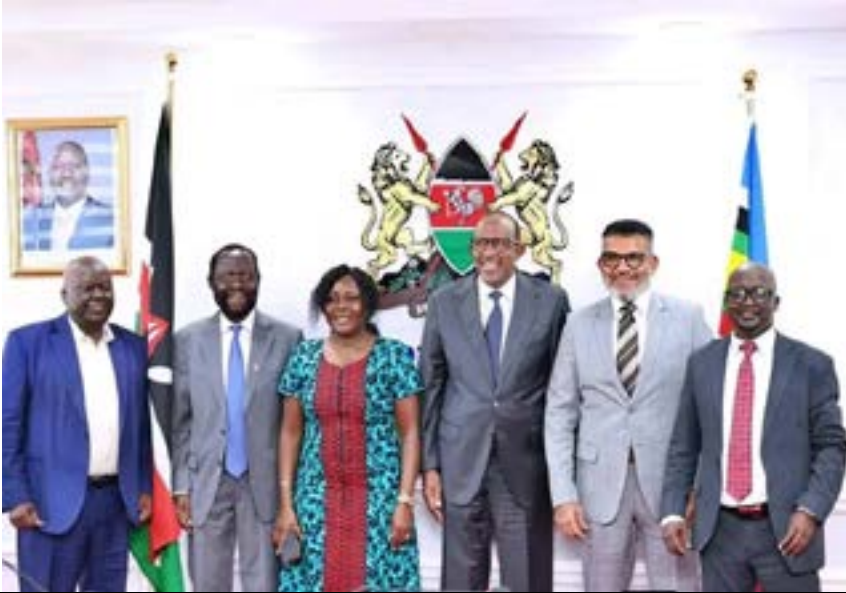
Healthcare was one of the most challenging areas during July and August as health workers engaged the County Government in an industrial dispute. The disagreement centred on employment and labour issues, including promotions, statutory deductions and the terms of engagement of some workers.

The dispute affected public health services and prompted interventions from leaders, professional groups, commu-

nity representatives and other stakeholders. Reports during the period described disruptions in a number of facilities and demonstrations by striking workers. The County Government's position included a denial that

processed salaries were in arrears, while other concerns remained part of the wider labour dispute. Because different parties presented different accounts, the public interest lies in clear documentation of what was agreed, what was implemented and what remains outstanding.

Healthcare workers are central to





LOCAL PEOPLE EARN A LIVING THROUGH ONGOING CONSTRUCTIONS

The project is being implemented by the National Government, and this distinction is important in communicating development information accurately. The County Government's role includes coordination, advocacy and ensuring that local concerns are communicated to the relevant national agencies.

For communities along the route, the expectation is clear: completion of the remaining works should translate into safer and more reliable movement of people and produce. As construction progresses, residents will continue to watch for timely completion and quality workmanship



the functioning of hospitals and health centres. Staffing shortages, delayed promotions or unresolved employment disputes can affect morale and service delivery, while patients bear the consequences when

the established legal and labour frameworks. For workers, predictable employment terms and professional progression are important components of a functioning health system.



INSIDE THE PUSH FOR BETTER HEALTH SERVICES

facilities cannot operate normally. The quarter therefore underscored the importance of structured labour relations. Dialogue, collective bargaining mechanisms, compliance with court decisions and timely communication can help prevent disputes from escalating into prolonged service interruptions. For the County Government, the priority remains maintaining essential services while resolving legitimate employment issues through

The experience provides an opportunity to strengthen the County's human-resource systems, labour relations and internal communication so that future disputes can be addressed before they significantly affect patients

Kivwe–Kevote Road Strengthens Rural Connectivity

Road connectivity remained an important issue during the quarter, with works on the Kivwe–Kevote corridor attracting attention in Manyatta and neighbouring areas. Improved rural roads are critical to Embu’s economy because agriculture depends on reliable movement between farms, collection centres, markets and processing facilities.



For farmers, poor roads can raise the cost of transporting inputs and produce while increasing travel time. During rainy periods, difficult sections can also affect access by public transport, school vehicles and emergency services. Road improvement therefore has implications be-

yond transport alone. The Kivwe–Kevote works formed part of wider infrastructure activity in the county, where county and national agencies are implementing different roads according to their respective mandates. This makes accurate public communication particularly important: residents need to know which institution is responsible for a road, the stage of

construction and the expected benefits. For the County Government, road development is closely linked to the wider objective of opening up rural areas for economic activity. Improved access can support the growth of small

trading centres, make agricultural collection more efficient and encourage service providers to reach communities that have previously been difficult to access.

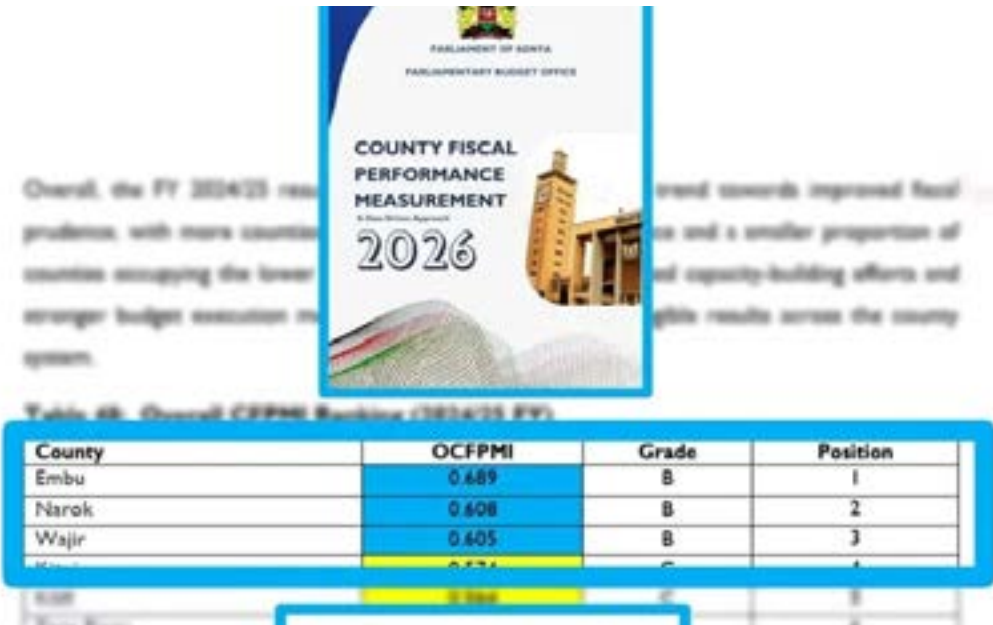
The county’s agricultural base also

Embu Records Strong Fiscal Performance

The county received Grade B in the Parliamentary Budget Office’s County Fiscal Performance Measurement Index for 2024/25.

Financial management was another important theme during the quarter after the Parliamentary Budget Office’s County Fiscal Performance Measurement Index placed Embu among counties receiving an overall Grade B for the 2024/25 financial year. Embu, Narok and Wajir were reported as the only counties receiving the overall Grade B classification, while no county achieved Grade A.

Fiscal performance assessments are important because county governments manage public resources intended for services and development. Budget credibility, expenditure management, revenue performance and other financial practices influence the ability of counties to implement programmes. The assessment also points to areas that require continued attention. Reporting on gender allocations and expenditure was identified as an area



where tracking remains difficult. Strong fiscal systems therefore require not only overall performance but also transparent reporting of how resources are allocated across different priorities and groups. For Embu, the assessment provides an opportunity to build on existing financial-management practices while strengthening areas where information can be made clearer and more accessible to the public. Residents have a legitimate interest in understanding how county resources are planned, spent and reported. Fiscal performance should ultimately be connected to service delivery. Financial management is not an end in itself; it creates the conditions



NEW LOOK ON OUR TRANSPORT SECTOR

means that road investment has a multiplier effect. Coffee, tea, dairy, macadamia, avocado and food crops all depend on transport infrastructure at different stages of production and marketing.

As projects progress, residents will expect continued coordination between the County Government, national road agencies, contractors and local communities. Public participation and timely communication can help address concerns over drainage, access, safety and construction schedules while keeping the public informed about progress.



for roads to be built, facilities equipped, staff paid, markets completed and programmes implemented.

As the County enters the next phase of the financial year, continued attention to budget implementation, procurement, own-source revenue, expenditure controls and public reporting will be important. The goal is to ensure that financial discipline translates into visible and sustainable benefits for residents.

Embu Modern Market Moves Closer to Completion

The four-storey facility is designed to provide more organised trading space for farmers and businesses.

Construction of the Embu Modern Market reached an advanced stage

during the quarter, with the lower three floors structurally complete and work continuing on the fourth floor. The project is designed to provide modern and organised trading space for thousands of traders.



COMPLETION UNDERWAY OF THE NEW EMBU MODERN MARKET The facility began construction in October 2024 and is designed to accommodate 2,144 stalls and 450 shops when complete. Its strategic importance goes beyond providing physical space. Embu is an agricultural county, and a modern market can create a stronger link between producers, traders and consumers.

Embu Modern Infrastructure Supports Agricultural Economy



IMPROVING OUR ROADS FOR EASY CONNECTIVITY

Roads and markets are being developed as connected components of a county economy built around farming and trade. Agriculture remains the backbone of Embu's economy, and the quarter's infrastructure developments demonstrate why roads, markets and urban facilities are essential parts of agricultural policy. Farmers need reliable transport to move produce, while traders need functional markets where goods can be sold. The Rukuriri–Kathageri–Kanyuambora road illustrates this connection. The corridor serves tea, coffee,

dairy and horticultural areas and links producers to processing facilities and markets. Similarly, the Embu and Runyenjes modern market projects are designed to provide organised outlets for agricultural produce and other goods. Infrastructure reduces the friction between production and consumption. When roads are poor, farmers spend more on transport and face delays. When markets are overcrowded or lack adequate facilities, traders face operational challenges and consumers may have less convenient access to goods. For the County Government, the challenge is therefore to plan these investments as part of a connected economic system. Road access should support production zones, markets should be linked to transport corridors and urban planning should provide room for future growth. The proposed municipalities at

Farmers require dependable outlets where produce can be sold in an orderly environment. Traders, meanwhile, need secure premises, better

management arrangements and the integration of traders who depend on the market economy. These issues will be important in ensuring



SITE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MODERN MARKET

sanitation and facilities that can support growing businesses. The new market is expected to contribute to these needs while strengthening Embu town's role as a commercial centre. The development also reflects the wider national investment in markets under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation agenda. For Embu, the facility is expected to complement other urban infrastructure and contribute to a more organised town centre. As construction continues, attention will increasingly turn to completion, allocation of trading spaces,

that the physical investment translates into practical benefits. The County Government's role in urban development includes planning, coordination and creating an enabling environment for trade. The completion of the modern market will therefore be an important milestone in the county's broader effort to strengthen commerce, improve public spaces and support livelihoods



Runyenjes, Kiritiri and Siakago add another dimension to this planning. As trading centres grow, the county will need to anticipate demand for drainage, water, waste management, lighting, roads and public spaces.



ENSURING EASY TRANSPORTATION OF OUR GOODS AND SERVICE

A development approach that connects farms, roads, markets and towns can create stronger local economic linkages. It can also make Embu more attractive to investors looking for reliable access to agricultural products and growing consumer markets. The July–September developments therefore point to a broader strategy: build infrastructure that supports the economy residents already de-



pend on while creating conditions for new opportunities

Runyenjes Modern Market Takes Shape



SMART MARKET IMPROVING BUSINESS IN OUR COUNTY

Construction of the modern Runyenjes market continued during the July–September quarter, offering traders the prospect of a more organised and better equipped trading environment. The project has been valued at approximately Sh180 million. Runyenjes is surrounded by productive agricultural areas, making the market an important link between farmers and consumers. Traders also depend on a functional market environment for storage, display and daily business. The new facility is intended to provide additional space while

improving sanitation and other basic amenities. The project is expected to ease congestion at the existing market and provide more room for traders and businesses. Improved market infrastructure can also contribute to wider economic activity by making commercial centres more attractive to customers and investors. For farmers, a modern market provides a closer and more predictable outlet for produce. For consumers,



OUR MARKETS UNDER IMPROVEMENT

Embu's Agricultural Value Chain Gets a Stronger Policy Focus



VALUE ADDITION AS A TOOL TO MAXIMISE ON PROFIT

Coffee, tea, dairy and horticulture remain central to efforts to increase household incomes and strengthen local enterprise.

Agriculture remained one of the most important themes during the quarter because it touches a large

proportion of Embu households. The county's high-potential zones support coffee, tea, dairy, macadamia, avocado and horticultural production, while the drier areas require more deliberate investment in water and climate resilience.

The coffee warehouse at Kavutiri is an example of value-chain investment. Rather than focusing only on production, the project addresses storage and marketing infrastructure. Such interventions can help farmers and cooperatives manage produce more effectively and improve the conditions under



better organised spaces can improve access and convenience. For the wider town, the development can support cleaner public spaces and stronger local commerce.

As the project moves towards com-

pletion, the success of the facility will depend not only on the physical building but also on transparent trader allocation, effective manage-

ment, sanitation, security and main-

tenance. These operational issues will determine whether the investment delivers the intended long-term benefits. The Runyenjes project forms part of the county's wider urban development agenda, which also includes proposals to establish new municipalities. Together, these initiatives are aimed at ensuring that growth in



TRADERS APPRECIATE THE NEW LOOK OF THIER MARKET

Embu's trading centres is supported by planning, infrastructure and services that respond to the needs of residents.



which coffee is marketed. Road development also supports agriculture. The Rukuriri–Kathageri–Kanyuambora corridor connects productive zones with factories and markets, making transport a direct part of agricultural productivity. In Mbeere, climate-smart farming and community water initiatives demonstrate a different response to the same challenge: ensuring that agriculture remains productive despite unreliable rainfall. Irrigation, water conservation, crop diversification and extension support can help households reduce dependence on a single season.

extension, infrastructure, market linkages, water coordination, value addition and partnerships. The long-term test will be whether these interventions increase productivity and household incomes. Farmers need access to technology, markets and information, while agricultural projects require proper maintenance and transparent management. For Embu, strengthening the agricultural value chain remains one of the most direct ways of supporting livelihoods. The quarter's developments provide several building blocks, but their impact will depend



SMART AGRICULTURE, IMPROVING FARM PRODUCE

The County Government's agricultural role is therefore broader than distributing inputs. It includes

on sustained implementation and farmer participation.

Three New Municipalities to Drive Balanced Urban Growth



PROPOSED MUNICIPAL AMID URBAN PLANNING

Runyenjes, Kiritiri and Siakago

are being considered for municipal status as Embu expands urban planning.

The County Government of Embu has embarked on a process to establish and charter three additional municipalities at Runyenjes, Kiritiri and Siakago. The proposed municipalities will complement the existing Embu Municipality and are intended to bring urban services and planning closer to residents.

The process includes work on delin-

ation and boundary review through ad hoc committees. The objective is to create a stronger institutional framework for planning, service delivery, investment and management of growing urban centres.

Runyenjes, in the high-potential agricultural zone, serves

a large farming and trading population. Kiritiri is an important commercial centre in Mbeere South, while Siakago serves communities in Mbeere North. Their development as municipalities could provide a structured platform for investment in markets, roads, drainage, sanitation, lighting and other urban services.

Municipal status also has implications for planning. As populations grow and economic activity expands, unplanned development can place pressure on roads, water, waste management and public spac-

Kavutiri Coffee Warehouse to Strengthen Value Addition

The County has committed Sh25 million towards a modern parchment coffee storage facility. Coffee remained central to Embu's agricultural development agenda during the quarter, with plans for a modern parchment coffee warehouse at Kavutiri. The County Government has committed Sh25 million towards the facility, which is expected to accommodate about 30,000 bags of parchment coffee. Storage is an important part of the coffee value chain. Without adequate facilities, farmers and cooperative societies can face pressure to move produce quickly even when market conditions may not be favourable. A properly managed warehouse can provide better storage conditions and strengthen the ability of farmers and cooperatives to plan marketing. The project is also part of the wider push for value addition. Embu is one of Kenya's important coffee-producing areas, and the crop supports thousands of households directly and indirectly. Improving infra-

structure around coffee handling can therefore have effects beyond the warehouse itself.

A modern facility can support quality management, orderly handling and improved logistics. It can also strengthen the position of local co-operatives and farmer organisations when engaging buyers.

For the County Government, the investment represents an opportunity to move beyond production towards a more complete agricultural value chain. The long-term objective is to ensure that farmers benefit not only from producing coffee but also from better handling, marketing and value addition.

The next phase will require close attention to construction quality, management arrangements, farmer access and integration with existing cooperative structures. The facility's ultimate value will be measured by whether it contributes to improved market access and better returns for producers.

es. A clear urban governance framework can help local authorities plan for growth rather than respond to problems after they arise.

The County Government has emphasised that the initiative is intended to bring services closer to residents and create opportunities for socio-economic development. The process will require public participation and careful



MUNICIPAL DISCUSSIONS ONGOING IN THE GOVERNORS' OFFICE

consideration of boundaries, infrastructure needs and institutional arrangements.

For residents, the measure of success will ultimately be visible in everyday services: cleaner towns, better markets, improved roads and drainage, more predictable

development control and an environment that supports businesses. The three proposed municipalities therefore represent a long-term urban plan-

NEWS

EMBU COUNTY HAS STARTED PLANS TO ESTABLISH MUNICIPALITIES IN RUNYENJES, KIRITIRI AND SIAKAGO TO IMPROVE SERVICE DELIVERY, PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT AND ATTRACT DONOR FUNDING.

Climate-Smart Agriculture Gains Ground in Mbeere

Water and climate-smart farming are helping communities in the semi-arid parts of Embu pursue year-round production. Agriculture in Mbeere has traditionally been constrained by unreliable rainfall and water shortages. During the quarter, attention continued to focus on climate-smart approaches that enable farmers to produce food and income despite changing weather patterns.



ROAD CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY

Community-led water initiatives and modern irrigation techniques are helping farmers diversify into vegetables, fruits and other crops. Such approaches are important in areas where rain-fed farming alone

can expose households to significant production risks. Climate-smart agriculture combines water management, efficient irrigation, soil conservation, crop diversification and improved farming practices. The objective is not simply to produce more, but to make production more resilient to drought and other climate pressures. For households in Mbeere North and Mbeere South, reliable water

can transform farming from a seasonal activity into a more predictable source of food and income. It can also support small-scale enterprises around horticulture, livestock and agricultural trade.

The County Government's role includes supporting extension services, coordinating water and agriculture programmes and linking communities with partners that can provide technology and technical knowledge. Partnerships are particularly important because

Partnerships Expand the County's Development Capacity



PART OF [ARTENERSHIP MAKING EDUCATION ACCESSIBLE

The July–September quarter demonstrated the importance of partnerships in delivering development projects and strengthening public services. No county government operates in isolation; infrastructure, health, skills, agriculture and urban development often require cooperation across institutions.

The upgraded ICT laboratory at St Thomas Kanja VTC is one example. The facility was supported by Safaricom Foundation, showing how private-sector resources can complement public investment in skills development.

National Government projects provide another layer of partnership. The Rukuri–Kathageri–Kanyuambora road and other major infrastructure investments are implemented through national agencies but have direct effects on county residents and local economic activity.

The County Government's role in such projects includes coordination, advocacy, public participation and communication. Effective collaboration ensures that local concerns such as access, drainage, environmental issues and community disruption are addressed during implementation.

Partnerships are also important in agriculture. Coffee value addition, climate-smart agriculture and water initiatives require technical expertise, capital and community participation. The County Government can help bring these actors together while ensuring that projects respond to local priorities.

For residents, partnerships should ultimately be judged by practical



INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT WE DESERVE

climate-smart farming often requires initial investment in irrigation equipment, water storage and improved inputs. The experience emerging from Mbeere demonstrates why water and agriculture cannot be treated as separate development sectors. A reliable water source can improve household food security, strengthen farm incomes and reduce vulnera-

bility during dry periods.

Going forward, scaling successful community models, maintaining water infrastructure and providing farmers with practical extension support will be critical to sustaining the gains made in climate-smart agriculture.

Embu Stadium Remains a Major Investment in Sport and Youth

The stadium project forms part of efforts to provide modern sporting infrastructure and nurture talent.

Sport remained an important component of youth development during the quarter, with the Embu Stadium project continuing to feature among major county infrastructure investments. Modern sporting facilities can provide space for organised competition, training, talent development and community events.

For young people, sport offers more than recreation. It can support discipline, teamwork, physical fitness and pathways into professional competition. A functioning stadium can also create opportunities for coaches, event organisers, vendors and other businesses that benefit from sporting activities.

outcomes. A successful partnership is one that improves a service, creates an opportunity, builds infrastructure or strengthens an institution. The County Government will therefore continue to require clear agreements, defined responsibilities, transparent implementation and measurable results from partnerships.

These principles help ensure that collaboration strengthens rather than duplicates government programmes.



STEP TOWARDS REDUCING DIGITAL DEVIDE



The County Government has linked youth empowerment with development priorities that include skills, enterprise and talent. The stadium can complement these efforts by providing an appropriate venue for competitions and talent identification.



A RARE PHOTO OF MOI STADIUM EMBU

Its wider economic value should also be considered. Well-managed sports facilities can attract tournaments and events that bring visitors into the county and generate business for accommodation, food, transport and other services.

As the project progresses, attention will need to remain on construction quality, accessibility, maintenance and programming. Infrastructure alone does not create a sporting

ecosystem; athletes need coaches, equipment, competitions and pathways to higher levels of participation.

The stadium therefore represents a long-term investment whose value will depend on how effectively it is used. With proper management, it

can serve schools, clubs, county teams, national competitions and community programmes.

For a youthful county, investment in sport is also investment in social development. The next stage should ensure that the

facility becomes a practical platform for talent, healthy lifestyles and community engagement.

A Quarter of Development, Challenges and Lessons

July–September combined visible progress with difficult questions that require continued attention from government and communities.

The July–September quarter was neither a simple catalogue of completed projects nor a period without challenges. It combined visible infrastructure and skills investments with difficult issues in health, labour relations, public communication and governance.

On the development side, the quarter highlighted the Embu Modern Market, Runyenjes Modern Market, the Rukuriri–Kathageri–Kanyuambora road, the Kavutiri coffee warehouse initiative, new municipality plans and youth skills programmes. These investments address infrastructure, economic opportunity and human capital.

The health sector presented a different picture. Industrial action among healthcare workers affected services and exposed the importance of effective labour relations, staffing and implementation of employment commitments. Resolving such matters requires dialogue, compliance with legal processes and clear com-

munication.

The quarter also reinforced the importance of accurate public information. A clarification over responsibility for roadworks demonstrated why government communications must be verified before publication. In a devolved system involving many agencies, attribution is not a minor detail; it affects accountability.

Fiscal performance provided another dimension. External assessment placed Embu among counties receiving Grade B for 2024/25, while also highlighting areas where reporting could be clearer.

Taken together, these developments show a county in the middle of an ongoing transformation. Infrastructure is expanding, urban centres are being planned, young people are gaining new skills and agricultural value chains are receiving attention. At the same time, institutional systems must keep pace with these ambitions.

The next quarter provides an opportunity to consolidate progress, resolve outstanding challenges and communicate clearly with residents about what has been achieved and what remains to be done.

Looking Ahead: From Projects to Lasting Impact

When next phase will require completion, maintenance, accountability and stronger links between investment and household livelihoods.

As Embu closes the July–September quarter, attention shifts from announcements and construction milestones to the more demanding task of turning investments into lasting benefits. The county has a substantial portfolio of projects and programmes that will require sustained implementation.

For infrastructure, the priority is completion and quality. Roads must be finished to the required standards, markets must become functional and urban projects must be supported by drainage, water, sanitation and other services.

For agriculture, value addition and market access will remain important. The Kavutiri coffee warehouse provides one platform, while improved roads can strengthen the movement of tea, coffee, dairy and horticultural produce. In Mbeere, climate-smart agriculture and water management will remain essential to building resilience.

For young people, the focus should move from training to opportunity. Graduates from digital and creative programmes and trainees in vocational institutions need pathways into employment, enterprise and further learning. Partnerships with employers and private-sector organisations can help close this gap.

In health, resolving labour issues and strengthening human-resource management will be essential to reliable service delivery. Community-level health services, including the work of Community Health Promoters, must also be connected effectively to health facilities and referral systems.

Finally, public communication must remain accurate, timely and accessible. Residents deserve clear information on projects, budgets, responsible agencies and service points.

The story of the next quarter will therefore be measured not only by new projects announced, but by projects completed, services improved, jobs and incomes supported, and problems resolved. That is the standard by which devolution is ultimately experienced at household and community level

EDITORIAL MASTHEAD & CONTRIBUTORS CREDITS

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